Kiowa Tribe Disagrees with Governor Stitt

On New Year’s Eve 2019, three of the state’s most powerful tribes filed a federal lawsuit against the governor asking the court to help resolve the dispute. The governor has been summoned to respond or file a motion with the court. To read more go to www.kiowatribne.org for the complaint, a letter from the plaintiff’s tribal leaders and the press release.

Carnegie, Oklahoma
January 2020
Volume 3 Issue 5

Kiowa Tribe Applications Are Now Available for 2020-2021

Kiowa Princess Applications
Kiowa Creative Applications at (405) 627-9940 or email at

We are united with our fellow tribes across Oklahoma. We pledge to work together to promote our tribes and continue making life better for our tribal members and non-tribal members in our communities.

Both sides are increasingly signaling that the dispute is likely to end up in federal court. Stitt said that he is finalizing an agreement with a law firm experienced in tribal litigation.

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

Just one day before the new year, three of the state’s most powerful tribes filed a federal lawsuit against the governor asking the court to help resolve the suit.

Chairwoman Rhonda Ahhaitty was among tribal members standing united at the press conference in Tulsa. She told Kiowa News, “we are fairly small tribes in Southwestern Oklahoma compared to our brother and sister tribe’s around eastern Oklahoma and we contribute not only to our tribal members but to our surrounding communities.

Chairwoman Terry Parton spoke on behalf of the seven tribes located in southwestern Oklahoma. She told Kiowa News, “we are fairly small tribes in Southwestern Oklahoma compared to our brother and sister tribes in eastern Oklahoma and we contribute not only to our tribal members but to our surrounding communities.

Governor Stitt seems to ignore the fact whatever affects the tribes, affects all of Oklahoma.”

Stitt said he is finalizing an agreement with a law firm experienced in tribal litigation.

While the governor looks for ways to further negotiate with the tribes, Komalty said his focus is on the future of the Kiowa Tribe and refuses to let his people be deprived of what is rightfully theirs.

“As we move forward to be assured as the Tribal Chairman, we will work tirelessly to ensure that our Kiowa people will benefit from the casino revenues and will not be a rubber stamp for the State of Oklahoma,” Komalty said.

Both sides are increasingly signaling that the dispute is likely to end up in federal court. Stitt said that he is finalizing an agreement with a law firm experienced in tribal litigation.

Chairwoman Rhonda Ahhaitty was among tribal members standing united at the press conference in Tulsa. She told Kiowa News, “we are fairly small tribes in Southwestern Oklahoma compared to our brother and sister tribe’s around eastern Oklahoma and we contribute not only to our tribal members but to our surrounding communities.

Governor Stitt seems to ignore the fact whatever affects the tribes, affects all of Oklahoma.”

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”

“Instead of asking the largest, wealthiest industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections,” Komalty said.

Stitt said he refused to give up hope. “I am disappointed that the tribes turned our offer down and refused our requests to negotiate new compact terms that better address the parties’ changing needs,” Stitt said in a statement Thursday. “I will continue to work to protect the state’s interests, and I hope that those running the casino industry will negotiate with the state in good faith as these compacts expire.”
Grand Opening of Indian City Exhibit at Museum of the Great Plains

LAWTON, Okla. — A number of Kiowa names, photos, and artifacts were featured during the grand opening on December 22, 2019 of the Great Plain’s Museum newest exhibit, Indian City. Archaeologist, Deborah Baker, stated how much her team has been looking forward to the opening. “We just knew from the very beginning that this [Indian City collection] was special,” expressed Baker as she welcomed Kiowa Tribal Chairman, Matthew Komalty and other tribal members.

It was during a conversation with Dr. Baker when Chairman Komalty asked, why isn’t this region’s history not taught in schools? In response, Dr. Baker said that it is a good question. She believes that there is indeed a rich history. “The tribe’s ran these regions which is why there is such a rich history here [SW Oklahoma].” She continued by explaining that this is very reason why her team and herself has worked so hard on preserving all that they can.

Fawn Tsatoke-Bear, a former employee of Indian City, was especially excited for the exhibit. She and several members of her family attended the event as well as the reception that followed. Fawn stated that overall it was enjoyable because of the opportunity to see at the Great Plains Museum Exhibit. There were so many items that she had the opportunity to see at the Great Plains Museum Exhibit. There were so many items at the Indian City, Museum I only imagine how long it will take to clean & prepare it all for display. There were a couple of big items I was looking for but did not see. I asked the museum and some items they were aware of others they hadn’t. I am appreciative as a Kiowa Tribal member, Tsatoke & Bigbow family member to see so many of my families being so well taken care of. I’m looking forward as I am sure others are to what we will get to see on display next from our beloved Indian City Museum.

One of the main attractions at the exhibit was the display of hand painted dancers done in acrylic (Stephen Mopepe, Dixon Palmer, Mark Kealdbone, Spencer Ash, and Gus Palmer). Baker explained that each panel was carefully cleaned and preserved to show the special details of the artist. She said, “you just never know what you’re looking at till you begin to research and learn their story and what they mean to the people.” Deborah feels that the paintings show more than a dancer, they also give an idea of the time period.

Hanley Short, another Kiowa Tribal member, stated how surprised and happy he was for the turnout. “I was so pleased to see so many Kiowas from Carnegie and Anadarko come to this.” He continued by expressing his memories of Indian City and how often he had gone there to visit.

The Kiowa Chairman, Matt Komalty, stated how surprised and happy he was for the turnout. “I was so pleased to see so many Kiowas from Carnegie and Anadarko come to this.” He continued by expressing his memories of Indian City and how often he had gone there to visit.

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

The government of the tribe shall not make or enforce any law which prohibits the freedom of speech, expression, or of the press, or the right of the People peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

Kiowa News is a monthly publication; the staff consisting of writers and photographers are proud members of the Native American Journalism Association (NAJA).

Contributing writers & photographers: Dianna Hadley, Neely Tsosdile, and Adriel Clements.

Kiowa News: Gaui Tauke:De'Gya is available at the following locations:

Carnegie, OK - Kiowa Tribal Complex, Carnegie Library, Hop n Sack, IHS Clinic, and the corner store by 4-way stop; Anadarko, OK - IHS Clinic, Kiowa Offices, Kiowa Housing Authority, Apache Housing, Oklahoma Arts & Crafts, and Warrior Mart; Lawton, OK - IHS hospital, Kiowa District 4 Legislature Office; and Comanche Gift Shop; Apache, OK - Hop n Sack; Mt View, OK - Hop n Sack; Hobart, OK - Sunny’s Convenience Store; Oklahoma City, OK - Kiowa Clinic; Norman, OK - Kiowa District 7 Legislature Office.

The government of the tribe shall not make or enforce any law which prohibits the freedom of speech, expression, or of the press, or the right of the People peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances.
Happy New Year!

This year's goal is to help more families consider at-risk and to complete home visits to address positive changes through employment, education, and rehabilitation.

Transportation is a barrier to our communities. A service we offer that helps address the need is the Kiowa Transit. It offers affordable rides to folks to their job sites or to run errands. We've been keeping an eye on the roadways and going strong. The big push for 2020 is more visible to the public.

We've worked hard to make sure there's adequate staffing in your public transportation system, and I'm working on building a new fence to accommodate everyone. Don't you have to be Native American or Kiowa. This year we will launch a new marketing public relations campaign to increase rides. We are happy to report in the year 2019, we recorded no accidents or incidents.

The old head start building on the west side of the new complex is home to our Kiowa Tribal District Court. The priority of the project is to complete the courtroom (which is near complete) so that cases could be filed and heard. The head start center’s service area such as staffing in order for the judicial branch to do its job. This is an exciting time in our tribal history and we appreciate your support.

Speaking of history, we’ve made great strides in our internal controls. Our employment rate is at its highest. There are approximately 180 employees within the tribal roster, the most ever recorded. The tribe is one of the major employers in the area. The tribe’s finances are in good shape. The audits on the tribe's financial statements are completed each year. We are looking for added safety to name a few of the enhancements in 2020.

Another program that continues to do great things is our Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program (KDAP). KDAP will be turning 35 years old, it’s one of the tribe's oldest programs. Last year KDAP assisted more than one hundred tribal and non-tribal members sobriety training and awareness and treatment. That is not counting the number of youth who attended ‘head start’ workshops.

In the year 2020 KDAP hopes their program will not be needled at all, but sadly the addiction still exists. They hope to increase services to the number of individuals needing assistance through treatment, sobriety services, and the ability to host more prevention and community activities for the youth and adults.

Indian Child Welfare continues to be an important part of the services we offer. In its constant effort to find foster homes, the Kiowa Tribe Indian Child Welfare (KTICHW) program strives to meet the needs and goals of 2020. I aim to find more foster homes. Many applicants get discouraged because of the time back and forth. One way to solve this problem will be through the new Department of Justice Tribal Access Program (TAP). The partnership with the BIA TAP is the use of a new kiosk that will give you instant results. The objective is to develop a tribal ICW supportive prospective to current foster, adoptive, and kinship placement for

Follow Us on Facebook: page: Kiowa Higher Education Grant Program.
Essay Winners to Attend National Conference

Four Kiowa Tribal Youth were selected to attend a national conference titled Close Up: American Indian & Alaska Native Youth Summit, in Washington D.C. Students were selected based on essay submissions. This year's winners are Hoizhona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, Codee Topouchy.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions 750-1000 words. Here are the questions they were asked to write about.

1) Name an issue that Kiowa citizens currently face and explain how you would remedy this particular issue. Be specific regarding any changes you would make or how you might advocate at a tribal, state, and/or national level.

2) Explain what education means to you and to the future of the Kiowa Tribe.

3) How do you believe attending this leadership conference will sharpen your leadership abilities? What is your expected outcome?

4) Do you think goal setting is important? What are some goals you are working toward?

Close Up’s mission is to inspire young people for a lifetime of civic engagement and participation. The Close Up conference will be held February 9 – 14, 2020 in conjunction with the NCAI winter session. We want to congratulate and wish these students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Beaver, Andrea Botone, Codie Topouchy.

winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, Codee Topouchy.

Youth Summit, in Washington D.C.

Four Kiowa Tribal Youth were selected to attend a national conference titled Close Up: American Indian & Alaska Native Youth Summit, in Washington D.C. Students were selected based on essay submissions. This year's winners are Hoizhona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, Codee Topouchy.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions 750-1000 words. Here are the questions they were asked to write about.

1) Name an issue that Kiowa citizens currently face and explain how you would remedy this particular issue. Be specific regarding any changes you would make or how you might advocate at a tribal, state, and/or national level.

2) Explain what education means to you and to the future of the Kiowa Tribe.

3) How do you believe attending this leadership conference will sharpen your leadership abilities? What is your expected outcome?

4) Do you think goal setting is important? What are some goals you are working toward?

Close Up’s mission is to inspire young people for a lifetime of civic engagement and participation. The Close Up conference will be held February 9 – 14, 2020 in conjunction with the NCAI winter session. We want to congratulate and wish these students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, Codee Topouchy.

Students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Beaver, Andrea Botone, Codie Topouchy.

winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Youth Summit, in Washington D.C.

Four Kiowa Tribal Youth were selected to attend a national conference titled Close Up: American Indian & Alaska Native Youth Summit, in Washington D.C. Students were selected based on essay submissions. This year's winners are Hoizhona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions 750-1000 words. Here are the questions they were asked to write about.

1) Name an issue that Kiowa citizens currently face and explain how you would remedy this particular issue. Be specific regarding any changes you would make or how you might advocate at a tribal, state, and/or national level.

2) Explain what education means to you and to the future of the Kiowa Tribe.

3) How do you believe attending this leadership conference will sharpen your leadership abilities? What is your expected outcome?

4) Do you think goal setting is important? What are some goals you are working toward?

Close Up’s mission is to inspire young people for a lifetime of civic engagement and participation. The Close Up conference will be held February 9 – 14, 2020 in conjunction with the NCAI winter session. We want to congratulate and wish these students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Beaver, Andrea Botone, Codie Topouchy.

winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Youth Summit, in Washington D.C.

Four Kiowa Tribal Youth were selected to attend a national conference titled Close Up: American Indian & Alaska Native Youth Summit, in Washington D.C. Students were selected based on essay submissions. This year's winners are Hoizhona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions 750-1000 words. Here are the questions they were asked to write about.

1) Name an issue that Kiowa citizens currently face and explain how you would remedy this particular issue. Be specific regarding any changes you would make or how you might advocate at a tribal, state, and/or national level.

2) Explain what education means to you and to the future of the Kiowa Tribe.

3) How do you believe attending this leadership conference will sharpen your leadership abilities? What is your expected outcome?

4) Do you think goal setting is important? What are some goals you are working toward?

Close Up’s mission is to inspire young people for a lifetime of civic engagement and participation. The Close Up conference will be held February 9 – 14, 2020 in conjunction with the NCAI winter session. We want to congratulate and wish these students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Beaver, Andrea Botone, Codie Topouchy.

winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Youth Summit, in Washington D.C.

Four Kiowa Tribal Youth were selected to attend a national conference titled Close Up: American Indian & Alaska Native Youth Summit, in Washington D.C. Students were selected based on essay submissions. This year's winners are Hoizhona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions 750-1000 words. Here are the questions they were asked to write about.

1) Name an issue that Kiowa citizens currently face and explain how you would remedy this particular issue. Be specific regarding any changes you would make or how you might advocate at a tribal, state, and/or national level.

2) Explain what education means to you and to the future of the Kiowa Tribe.

3) How do you believe attending this leadership conference will sharpen your leadership abilities? What is your expected outcome?

4) Do you think goal setting is important? What are some goals you are working toward?

Close Up’s mission is to inspire young people for a lifetime of civic engagement and participation. The Close Up conference will be held February 9 – 14, 2020 in conjunction with the NCAI winter session. We want to congratulate and wish these students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Beaver, Andrea Botone, Codie Topouchy.

winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Youth Summit, in Washington D.C.

Four Kiowa Tribal Youth were selected to attend a national conference titled Close Up: American Indian & Alaska Native Youth Summit, in Washington D.C. Students were selected based on essay submissions. This year's winners are Hoizhona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions 750-1000 words. Here are the questions they were asked to write about.

1) Name an issue that Kiowa citizens currently face and explain how you would remedy this particular issue. Be specific regarding any changes you would make or how you might advocate at a tribal, state, and/or national level.

2) Explain what education means to you and to the future of the Kiowa Tribe.

3) How do you believe attending this leadership conference will sharpen your leadership abilities? What is your expected outcome?

4) Do you think goal setting is important? What are some goals you are working toward?

Close Up’s mission is to inspire young people for a lifetime of civic engagement and participation. The Close Up conference will be held February 9 – 14, 2020 in conjunction with the NCAI winter session. We want to congratulate and wish these students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Beaver, Andrea Botone, Codie Topouchy.

winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Youth Summit, in Washington D.C.

Four Kiowa Tribal Youth were selected to attend a national conference titled Close Up: American Indian & Alaska Native Youth Summit, in Washington D.C. Students were selected based on essay submissions. This year's winners are Hoizhona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions 750-1000 words. Here are the questions they were asked to write about.

1) Name an issue that Kiowa citizens currently face and explain how you would remedy this particular issue. Be specific regarding any changes you would make or how you might advocate at a tribal, state, and/or national level.

2) Explain what education means to you and to the future of the Kiowa Tribe.

3) How do you believe attending this leadership conference will sharpen your leadership abilities? What is your expected outcome?

4) Do you think goal setting is important? What are some goals you are working toward?

Close Up’s mission is to inspire young people for a lifetime of civic engagement and participation. The Close Up conference will be held February 9 – 14, 2020 in conjunction with the NCAI winter session. We want to congratulate and wish these students, were selected based on essay submissions. This year’s winners are Hozshona Post, Mariah Beavers, Andrea Botone, and Codee Topouchy.
Featured Jobs

Job Title: Child Care Teacher (2 positions)

Job Summary: The teacher will be responsible for putting into operation a quality program and lesson plans within the classroom and for maintaining all licensing and accreditation standards in accordance with OKDHS. The Kiowa Tribe regulations and standards. The teacher will provide and maintain a positive learning environment beneficial to the well-being of young children utilizing evidence based practices according to the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Ethical Code of Conduct and the latest developments and family style dining. Furthermore, the teacher will implement the Kiowa Language and culture in the assigned classroom.

Qualifications: Have high school diploma or GED,Possess or working towards obtaining a Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials/coursework. OR college credit hours in Early Child Development. Child Development or related field. OR have at least 1 year experience with working with children. Meet and maintain all OKDHS Child Care Licensing standards for health safety and learning environment, as well as an awareness of applicable federal regulations from the Office of Child Care. Must be able to lift children assigned to your care and maintain classroom cleanliness. Be computer literate. Have excellent communication skills and report with adults and children. Have no felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions for offenses relating to children or violent offenses.

Closing Date: Open Until Filled


TULSA, Okla. - US President Candidate, Senator Elizabeth Warren was happy to announce that he was going to attend the Kiowa District 4 Christmas Breakfast during her visit to Tulsa on December 30, 2019. Representing the Kiowa Tribe was Kiowa District 4 Legislator, Jessie Svitak. Mr. Svitak expressed how passionate she is about Indigenous People and wishes her well on her campaign.

Presidential Candidate Meets with Oklahoma Tribes

LAWTON, Okla. – Everyone seemed happy at the Christmas Breakfast hosted by Kiowa District 4 Legislator, Jessie Svitak, on December 21, 2019. Those who attended were able to enjoy a catered breakfast and have an open discussion with their legislator. Mr. Svitak did his best to make everyone feel welcomed and gave back to his constituents. Each child was able to receive a toy and gifts were given to the oldest Kiowas in attendance which included a frozen turkey and ham for their families to enjoy this past Christmas. A great many of topics were discussed between Svitak and Kiowa members of his district.
Nancy Lonelodge, 80, beloved Mother and Grandmother, was called to her eternal resting place on December 23, 2019. She entered this world on June 17, 1939 in Oklahoma City, OK. Nancy was the daughter of Wilson and Mildred (Ashley) Abboah. She grew up in Stocker, OK. Nancy married her husband Charles Lonelodge, Sr. and together they raised 6 children. Nancy enjoyed traveling and competing in the woman's golden age dance category. She especially loved to participate as a member in the Native American church: peyote meetings and sweats. Her greatest love was playing bingo in bingo country and playing pennies on the hill.

Nancy is preceded in death by her parents Wilson and Mildred, her husband Charles Lonelodge Sr., three children Alice Ann Lonelodge, Velma Ruth Lonelodge and Charlene Lonelodge, and siblings George Abboah and Norma Wahnee. Nancy is survived by her children Charles Lonelodge Jr., Regional Aiken, Christine Talton, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Debbie Kay Abboah, Wililama Buckwheat Abboah, Ronnie and Donnie Abboah and Jearney Abboah, and many nephews, sons, daughters and grandchildren.

A Funeral to honor Nancy's life will be held on Monday, December 30, 2019, at 11:30 AM at the Wichita Tribal Complex in Anadarko, OK. Burial will follow at the Rock Springs Cemetery in Anadarko. Services are under the direction of Ingram, Smith & Turner Mortuary in Yukon.

Zorina (“Zee”) Frances Testerman passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2019, with her loving family by her side. She was born to Abner and Ruby (Franklin) Stewart on Sunday, November 17, 1927 in Oklahoma City and was the granddaughter of Cheyenne- Arapaho Chief Nelson and Frances Taunkzhahmul Franklin.

Zorina attended Capitol Hill and Mount St. Mary's high schools. She had various managerial positions during her lifetime but her favorite job was being a stay at home mom. She was a proud member of the Kiowa and Cheyenne-Arapaho tribes. She was active in the Governor’s board for autism awareness. She loved music, movies, football and her Church, and most of all she loved her family.

Zorina was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, her sisters Veronica (“Romnie”), Krista (“Keira”) and Floretta, her nephews Aaron Rodriguez and Aaron Allford.

Zorina leaves behind many adoring family members to cherish her memory forever. Her devoted husband Michael Testerman of the home; daughter Heather (Stefan) Tittjung of Broken Arrow; son Tristan Testerman of the home; granddaughter and son in law Katie and Tim Dunagan of Moore, OK, daughter in law Bointy of Mustang, OK. Son, Jami Bitseedy. He is survived by his wife Catherine Bitseedy Bointy, and the last of a blended family. He passed December 19, 2019, in Miami, OK. Jack attended elementary at Alden, School, Graduated high school from Fort Cobb in 1975 and attended college at Southwest Oklahoma State University to study Industrial Arts. Jack married Vickie Latimer on January 5, 1980. He graduated from SWOSU in May of 1982 with a bachelor’s degree in education. Jack taught in Sweetwater, OK for one year. Afterwards he worked at Keller Company in Clinton, OK and Walmart Weatherford, before starting at River检验 Indian School. During this time, three children were born, Clayton, born in October 1983, Jami, born September 1985, and Katie born in March 1989. Jack started at Riverside August 1989 and continued to teach and inspire to August of this year, retiring in 2019.

Jack enjoyed eating hot salary, telling stories, laughing, woodworking, making cedar boxes, visiting with friends and watching the older western movies. He loved attending and supporting all the activities that his kids and grandkids were involved in. One of his favorite past times was to visit antique stores but looking for junk.

Jack is proceeded in death by both parents, Warner Bointy Sr. and Catherine Bitseedy Bointy, one brother and brother in law, Merline and John Haunppy, and another brother, Wallace Bointy. He is survived by his wife Vickie Bointy of their home, son and daughter in law, Clayton and Jessica bointy of Mustang, OK. Son, Jami Bointy of Moore, OK, daughter in law Jeri Tucker of Moore, OK, daughter and son in law Katie and Tim Dunagan of Collinsville, OK.

Eight grandkids, Eli, Cooper, Chloe, Robbir, Lexi, Bonnie, Ty and Ben. Also, lovingly known to Jack as Klhone, Goose, Lil Bit, Boofhoo, Monkey, Button, Lucky, and Benji.

His brothers and sisters include Milton Bointy, Suneal, CA, Warner Bointy Jr., Anadarko, OK, Ruth Gonzalez, San Leandro, CA, Mary Lou Cruz, San Juan Pueblo, NM, Marie Boyd, Muskogee, OK, Ann Bointy, Anadarko, OK, and Joycette Stanley, Carnegie, OK. Many other uncles, cousins nieces and nephews.
Kiowa Child Care Reopens

ANADARKO, Okla. – On December 18, 2019, the Kiowa Child Care Assistance Program held a grand reopening for the staff and directors. The Kiowa Child Care Center in Anadarko, Okla., shut down three months to renovate its bathrooms, replaced the entry door, new outside benches, patio porch cover, laminated wood flooring, ceiling tiles, electrical work, and new appliances.

“It’s always nice when you can spruce up your facility. It not only makes it look great, but it gives the program a boost. And that is always great for the tribe and families,” said Rheta Harjo, Kiowa Tribe Human Resources Director. Respected tribal elder, Lonnie Emhoolah cedared the building. Kiowa people use this smoking ritual as a sacred way to cleanse and bless the premises and those present.

The program was awarded a budget increase for the past 3 years, which allowed more staff that includes an administrative assistant, six child care staff and two teachers. Chairman Matthew Komalty said this is a blessing, “the new look is a great way to kick off the new year. We just want to provide a nice, safe and healthy environment for our families.” All of the staff have obtained CPR training, first aid, health and safety, and infant and toddler certifications. The program provides assistance to Kiowa children under 13 years of age.

Kiowa Student Participates in the 2020 Rose Bowl Parade

PASADENA, Cal. - What a way to begin the new decade for one very special 17 year old, Caitlyn Sloan McKenzie. A Kiowa and twelfth grade senior from Awwaso High School was able to march in the 2020 Rose Bowl Parade with the Pride of Awwaso marching high school band on January 1, 2020.

Caitlyn family is very proud of her and do their best to support her in every way possible. This trip was very exciting for the 17 year old not just because of the parade but also the opportunity to sight see. One of the many places she had the ability to visit in California was also the Naval Hospital where she was born.

If you would like to learn more details about the Rose Bowl Parade visit tournamentofroses.com.

2019 Christmas Dance hosted by KTHS & Policy Council (Class Parents)

APACHE, Okla. - “You can be a superhero” was the theme for the students who wanted to dress as their favorite superhero on December 20, 2019 at the Comanche Community Center. The Kiowa Tribe Head Start Students and families from all three centers (Carnegie, Anadarko, & Lawton) were specially invited to attend the school dance with refreshments and door prizes for everyone. Plus the children had a chance to see a very special guest, Santa Claus!

The children had a joyous time showing off their dance moves thanks to the interactive screen and music provided by the Fuse DJ.

The event was such a huge success; the Kiowa Tribe Head Start (KTHS) and Policy Council, consisting of class parents, are beginning to think about having another school dance.
CARNEGIE, Okla. – December 21, 2019, was the third annual celebration Christmas Dinner for the elders of the Kiowa Administration of Aging (AOA) building in Carnegie. More than 230 elders packed inside the building, it was a nice sight to see each elder come to see their loved ones they haven’t gotten to see over time. Christmas is a great holiday to bring in old memories of loved ones, and to give thanks for each other. Executive Director Ernest Redbird opened the celebration giving love and prayers over the staff, the KAOA, and most importantly the elders.

The elders were the honored guests, but the centerpiece(s) of the day consisted of the traditional cedar tree fancied with homemade decorations. The treat bags with the apple, orange and Christmas hard candy always makes an appearance. The program consisted of Kiowa youth Anthony Tartsah who performed two Kiowa hymns. Later Martha Perez, a noted tribal elder narrated a Christmas skit in the Kiowa language. The skit was the ever-popular story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The elders from the Zoletone area played Santa’s reindeer. The unrehearsed cast made the skit even more endearing seeing each of them improvise and delight the elders and their guests over dinner.

The event closed with bingo and prizes for the winner. The importance of the event is to bring people together, and the fellowship always ends the year healthy thoughts. Although this year’s gathering was missing some faces, we will always remember. This goes in the books as the largest elders Christmas gathering to date, AOA is already gearing up for 2020. KAOA looks forward to serving you all and many blessings in this New Year.

Call 580-654-6315 Darin Zotigh, 580-654-6314 Janelle Horse, or 580-654-6331 AOA Center for more information about upcoming events and hours of operation.

CARNEGIE, Okla. - It's not every day folks in the nursing homes have the opportunity to see family and friends. But on December 23, 2019, folks at the local nursing home got a special treat. No, it was not Santa. It was a visit from the Kiowa Tribal Chairman Matthew Komalty. Komalty told Kiowa News this is something that he wanted to do. So the Kiowa Casino loaded him up with gift boxes and away he went. “I made this a priority to visit the elders and those in nursing care. I wanted to let them know that I care,” said Komalty.

Thanks to the Kiowa Casino, Komalty gave every Kiowa Tribal member in the nursing home a gift box. The gift box contained a treat bag, socks, a blanket, and other trinkets to help make their living space feel more like home. Kiowa News along on this trip. You could easily see the surprise and appreciation each recipient had. The chairman took the time to ask how they were doing and helped them open their gifts. “It made my heart feel good seeing the expressions on their faces. I don’t ever want to forget our loved ones, especially during the holidays.”

Many thank you’s to the Carnegie Nursing Home for allowing us to visit and for taking care of our citizens.

More than a dozen tribal members were visited this day. Komalty plans to expand his visits to the outlying areas this holiday season.

YOU'RE INVITED

Elder Christmas Dinner

The Joy of Giving

Have a story or poem that you would like to share? Give us a call at (580) 654-6356 or (580) 654-6403. Email: pr@kiowatribe.org.

We would love to hear from you.