Kiowa Tribes Gives Over 1,000 Gift Cards

"Thank you, Kiowa Tribe, we are grateful for this [gift cards]." stated one parent, as he received his son’s voucher cards. He explained that his son has gotten used to being relaxed in and out of class because of virtual learning; but, now that he is attending school, he is wanting his son to dress more formally. He said the gift cards will allow them to purchase shoes, clothes, and school supplies for a successful academic year.

"Our [Kiowa] children are going to look nice this year," expressed Chairman Komalty. The gift cards were from stores that offered quality clothing and shoes. Macy’s, Kohl’s, JCPenney, H&M, Forever 21, GAP, Children’s Place, Nike, Finish Line, Footlocker, and Famous Footwear were among the choices provided in addition to a $100 gift card from Staples for ages 6 & up for school supplies. Komalty expressed that it is their [Executive Branch] desire to help the children have a successful year. "Many parents were extremely grateful to the Kiowa Tribe. A few stated that the assistance was much needed for their household and children," Thank You Kiowa Tribe.

The card disbursement events were a part of the Kiowa Tribe and its business as tribes continue to schedule events and conferences there. The card disbursement events are able to submit the application through the Kiowa Tribe website, www.kiowatribe.org, along with required documents to email address ARPTamors@kiowatribe.org.

The plan moving forward is to complete the gift card applications that were received online. The parents that were not able to attend the disbursement events are able to submit their application through the Kiowa Tribe website. The plan moving forward is to complete the gift card applications that were received online. The parents that were not able to attend the disbursement events are able to submit their application through the Kiowa Tribe website. The plan moving forward is to complete the gift card applications that were received online. The parents that were not able to attend the disbursement events are able to submit their application through the Kiowa Tribe website.
Kiowa News

From the Editor...

K’eé oohn dah, K’yoh dah mah,
Iye yone oohn

Hi friends,

I am happy to announce that Kiowa News is now at its 4-year anniversary, Volume IV. We have certainly come a long way since our beginning with only 8 subscribers; currently, we reach an audience in 22 states and thanks to your support, we are getting close to a total of 300 subscribers. I’ve also recently learned that there are a few in Canada who read Kiowa News online. I think that’s amazing! Regardless if you subscribe or follow us online, we would love to hear from you.

As summer slowly fades into fall I can’t help but think about the old folks and harvest time. I remember riding inside my great grandfather’s white Chey pick-up with our sacks as we drove to the countryside to pick herbs and tea. I didn’t mind picking but cleaning and preparing was a different story. I learned quickly that if a breeze came through or I breathe too hard my herbs and tea would end up on the floor. Needless to say, I was super quiet and tried not to breathe too much when picking.

I do love summer more; however, I enjoy fall full because of the color and crisp air. It is also during this change of season that I set aside time to clean my leggings and repair this change of season that I set aside however, I enjoy fall because of the quiet and tried not to breathe too much when prepping.

In closing, I encourage all of you to be cautious. News of another Covid variant has caused a number of cases to increase in certain areas. No one knows what the future holds but we do understand that it is important to take special care of ourselves. Let’s hold and keep our Tribe in your prayers.

Take care,
Iye yone oohn

Georgie Growingthunder, a Native youth actress works on film, television, and theatre projects as talent representation. Georgie’s recent work includes “Killers of the Flower Moon,” based on the New York Times best selling book by David Grann, adapted by Eric Roth, the movie to be released in 2022, produced by Martin Scorsese’s Sikelia Productions. She can be seen in “Reservation Dogs,” by creators Sterlin Harjo (Muscoge/Creek) and Taika Waititi (Te-Whanau-A-Papua) Hulu series, and most recently as Rose Home Gun, in short film “Dogwood,” written and produced by Director Maya Rose Dittloff (Blackfeet).

Georgie’s acting career started as a youth participant taking part in online gatherings hosted by Lakwone Oaken (Mohawk), a New York organizer who supports arts and culture projects. Today, Georgie participates in programming with the North American Indigenous Center of New York taught by artistic director of Eagle Project - Ryan “Opalnicket” Pierce (Leni-Lenape), and mentorship with actor and producer Tanis Parenteau (Metis/Cree) where Georgie and her sister Graceyawn join online programming geared toward including Native Youth in film, television, and theatre entertainment. Georgie says “when the pandemic started, we didn’t have much to do other than school work. We had a chance to gather with kids from across the country, to learn about the industry and practice our talents.” Georgie’s older sister Graceyawn has set her sights on the other side of the camera. Known to most in the Kiowa tribal community taking photographs around various tribal gatherings, Graceyawn is expanding her art into film and screenwriting. She has hopes of being an animator of digital art for film, and has already published written works for First American Art Magazine as a freelance and art review writer. Both Growingthunder sisters are inspired by the influence of Indian women on both sides of the camera, and the support of tribal communities coming together to foster the shift on screen. They both share their excitement when Sterlin Harjo stopped during production to introduce himself to the girls. Graceyawn says, “it was awesome, Sterlin shared that we need to always do art, it was cool cause he said that’s how he got to where he is today in film. Sterlin told my sister and I to never let anyone get after us or stop us from being creative, that means alot to me.”

You can find “Reservation Dogs,” on Hulu FX, as a streaming service. New episodes air each Monday at 12:00 am. Please note: shows discretion advised for language and adult humor. The film “Killers of the Flower Moon” is set for release in theaters on December 31, 2021, and on DVD/Blu-ray April 8, 2022.

The independent film “Dogwood” is in development as it is in pre-production. Visit Director Maya Rose Dittloff website for more information https://mayaarosedittloff.com/maya-rose-dittloff/

Graceyawn and Georgie are the granddaughters of Sharon Ahlone Harjo (Kiowa), and Amos Harjo (Muscoge/Creek).
Greetings Kiowa Tribal Members,

I am happy to report to this present time that the Kiowa Tribe American Rescue Plan (KTRAP) team has successfully distributed nearly all adult tribal members' Individual Lump-sum Payment of $22,000. The application became available online on July 2, 2021. Checks began printing on July 23, 2021, and continues to be in production.

Many of the checks were picked up in person for those within driving distance but, as the number of positive COVID-19 cases spiked, the checks were no longer available for in-person pickup. Presently, all checks are being mailed to safeguard the public and the KTRAP team.

It is never my intent to put anyone in harm's way. To date, more than 80-percent of the Kiowa Tribe workforce has been vaccinated. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 49-percent of the U.S. population has received the vaccine. Those are statistics I am pleased to report, proving that we are doing our best to keep you and our campus safe. Unfortunately, it has forced us to keep our doors closed to the public. Yet with a healthy workforce, we are able to still be here for you and working full force to provide services for our Tribal Members.

In addition to the individual payment, we have plans for tribal members to receive additional assistance through programs such as medical/dental debt payback, household assistance, a fresh start program for those re-integrating, school loan payback, and a wellness program to name a few.

Another proud announcement is that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has allowed us to help our youth and children during this time of need for school supplies and clothing. We made several personal visits to areas heavily populated with our tribal children such as Talua, Okla City, Anadarko, Lawton, Carnegie, and Hobart. Minors along with their parents (or guardians) were able to walk away with $5–hundred worth of debit gift cards to shop on their own. Just seeing their faces and their gratitude made it all the worthwhile amidst a pandemic. It gave me, and my staff a chance to meet and greet many of our tribal members, an act we haven’t been able to enjoy for nearly two years now.

I understand that many of you have been asking and wondering when will our youth and children (17 years old & under) receive their $15–hundred payment. I can tell you this, the KTRAP team is rapidly working on it now. We hope to have a mass mail out by September 20, 2021. There will be no in-person pickup for this disbursement. For those children who have not received the $5–hundred gift cards, we know who you are. We will be sending it via two-day priority mail along with your $15–hundred payment.

For any Tribal Member who has not applied yet, you may still apply, and we strongly encourage you to do so. If you, or know of someone, who has not applied, please go to www.kiowatribe.org. It is an online-only application process. If you do not have internet access, please call 580-951-0365 and a Navigator will help you apply.

I want to say in closing that it has been challenging during these unprecedented times; but, I also want to encourage you to look after one another and check on our elders. Be kind and mask up.

Matthew M. Komalty
Kiowa Tribal Chairman

We need all of you to Vote John Emholah Jr. for the remaining of Denver Public Library Byers Branch name. Back it June/July they requested nominations for the remaining with the following criteria which I entered Kohn:

1) Person
If you are recommending the branch be named after a person, please consider the following:

Person must be deceased.
Significant civic service and contribution to the local neighborhood/area surrounding the Byers Branch or Denver. Neighborhoods include Lincoln Park, Baker, Alamos Place.
Member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.
Historical figure.
Cultural, ethnic and diverse background.
A connection to the library, reading or literature.

I submitted my Kohn John Emholah’s name to be entered. He has made the top 5. You can only vote once. Can you all please cast your votes for Kohn?
https://www.denverlibrary.org/Byers

Note: when voting, they are ranked 1-5. Can’t just select his name, must select his name first.

Follow Us on Facebook page: Kiowa Higher Education Grant Program.

Monday-Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Phone: (580) 654-6324
Email: highered@kiowatribe.org

From the desk of Kiowa Tribal Chairman - Matthew Komalty

We are all connected, we all need each other.

From Baulene Whiteshield:

We need all of you to Vote John Emholah Jr. for the remaining of Denver Public Library Byers Branch name. Back it June/July they requested nominations for the remaining with the following criteria which I entered Kohn:

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https://www.denverlibrary.org/Byers

Note: when voting, they are ranked 1-5. Can’t just select his name, must select his name first.

Follow Us on Facebook page: Kiowa Higher Education Grant Program.

1) Name: Haley Unah
2) Kiowa Name: N/A
3) Hometown: Hobart, Oklahoma
4) School: Hobart High School
5) Family: Rachel Unah is my grandma; Unah family
6) College/University: Cameron University
7) Major/Degree: Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Associate degree in Business Administration
8) Cultural Activities/Hobbies/Clubs/Events you attend or are involved in: Biology club
9) Community Events you attend or are involved in: Click or tap here to enter text.
10) Honors/Scholarships you have received: National Honor Society, Lions Club Scholarship
11) Future/Career Goals: Once I graduate, I hope to be accepted into Law school or to continue my education in psychology.
12) How long has the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program funded your education? This program has funded my education ever since I started college as a freshman. That has been for three years or 6 semesters.
13) How has the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped you to get to where you are? This program helped me get to where I am today by allowing me to focus on my school work and not having to worry about how I’m going to pay for book or tuition. It has also helped push me to maintain my grades and my GPA.
14) Please state anything else that you would like to share: I am so thankful for having this opportunity to further my education and cannot thank the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program enough!

1) Name: Pierce Justice Fragua
2) Kiowa Name: Páu-Áh-Tsán
3) Hometown: Anadarko but was raised in the big city of Mountain View
4) School: Mountain View - Gotebo Tigers
5) Family: My grandparents were Justin Poolaw and Lucille Biglow. My mother is Arlene Provalos. I am married to Jana Fragua and we have four sons; Benjamin, Isaiah, Lucas, and Uriah
6) College/University: I received my BA in sociology from USAO. I am currently at Cameron University in graduate school.
7) Major/ Degree: I am currently pursuing a masters of science in behavioral science in order to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
8) Cultural Activities/Hobbies/Clubs/Events you attend or are involved in: I enjoy watching movies, going to concerts, church events, and the occasional date night with my wife. I also enjoy saving mankind from alien invasions or machine uprisings on Xbox.
9) Community Events you attend or are involved in: I attended Grace Church in Anadarko
10) Honors/Scholarships you have received: I have recently been invited to join the Phi Kappa Phi honor society
11) Future/Career Goals: After I finish graduate school, I would like to eventually have my own practice as an LMFT
12) How long has the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program funded your education? I began receiving help my first semester of graduate school in 2019
13) How has the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped you to get to where you are?

Through help with tuition, books, equipment, and more the KTHEGP is enabling me to pursue the career I want. Without their help, I would have put graduate school off for a lot longer.
We come together to celebrate something that is very important to all of us, education,” stated Warren Queton, Kiowa Higher Education Grant Program (KHEGP) Director, during the opening of a special luncheon that was hosted by KHEGP. “This luncheon is about our students who are ready to embark on their educational journey. We’re proud to see them continue to pursue their dreams.”

Kiowa education leads to hotel tax exemptions for tribal governments in Norman

Tribal governments will no longer pay city taxes on hotel stays in Norman, after the city council voted unanimously late Tuesday to change the rules.

Other public agencies have been exempt from the hotel tax since it was approved four decades ago. Tribal governments were left out. Their exclusion came under scrutiny after hotel staff told Kiowa Tribe officials their tax-exempt status was not valid in Norman.

The situation shed light on the complicated nature of tax laws in Oklahoma, where state and local tax rules don’t always extend the same benefits to tribes that other governments receive.

Jacob Tustig, who serves on the Kiowa legislature and lives in Norman, said the council’s vote not to impose hotel taxes on tribes recognized them as the sovereign governments that they are. Governments spend money on the public good and generally do not tax one another when they are carrying out those duties.

“We all contribute to the wellbeing of the state of Oklahoma,” Tustig told the council. “We all contribute to the progress of this state, this city.”

Kiowa Tribe pressed for change

The Kiowa tribe often does business in Norman, which is located about 80 miles east of tribal headquarters. Tustig’s legislative office is in Norman. Maya Torralba, the director of the tribe’s language and culture revitalization program, also lives in the city.

In June, Torralba set up a two-day meeting at the University of Oklahoma campus. Tribal elders and staffers came together to adopt proficiency standards for teaching the Kiowa language. The tribe has helped train teachers at every level, from preschool to college, to ensure the language’s vitality.

Tribal officials arranged for people who attended the meeting to stay at the Embassy Suites in Norman. When one employee went to check out, she noticed taxes had been added to the tribe’s stay, Torralba said.

She said she was called to help sort out the dispute after a hotel employee said, “You need to take your tribe’s letter (outlining the tribe’s tax-exempt status) and go back to your reservation.”

Torralba said she had never encountered a similar situation, because other businesses recognize the tribe’s tax-exempt status as a routine matter. “I told him he’s insulted our elders, our staff and the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma,” she said.

Norman officials apologize to tribes

In the weeks since, the hotel’s manager has apologized that the tribe’s tax waiver was denied in an offensive way. The manager met with tribal leaders and pledged to provide diversity training to staff.

Norman Mayor Breca Clark and several council members also apologized during Tuesday’s council meeting. Clark called the treatment unacceptable. She said she wasn’t aware tribes weren’t already exempt from the city’s lodging tax.

Kiowa leaders lobbied the council to add tribal governments to the list of organizations that do not have to pay the tax.

Councilmember Lee Hall said several residents asked her to support the change. She noted the council’s vote to change the tax rules showed that public bodies can move quickly to address issues soon after they appear.

Kricket Rhoads Connywerdy attended the council meeting with Torralba to represent the tribe and its language program. “We’re happy that the city is acknowledging our tribes,” Rhoads Connywerdy, of Norman, said. “The tribes do enjoy the city and spend a lot of time in Norman here.”

Councilmember Brandi Studley said she wanted to make clear tribal governments are welcome. “I hope that you will do business with us again in Norman and continue to do business, because your money counts,” she said.

Tustig said he has lived in Norman for 30 years and has learned the city recognizes the rights of those who are underrepresented.

“We have 39 sovereign independent nations within the state of Oklahoma who have lived here for over 150 years,” he said. “We need to recognize the value of that presence.”
Kiowa Teen Suicide Prevention Program Host Life Skills Camp

By: Linda Ramnarine

Kiowa Tribe Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Participant & Kiowa Tribe Public Relations Guest Writer

ANADARKO, Okla. - The Kiowa Tribe Teen Suicide Prevention Program (KTSPP) was put together to raise awareness and prevent teen suicide in Southwest Oklahoma. According to KTSPP, in the United States, Native American communities hold a higher rate of suicides than any other ethnic group. Suicide is the second major cause of death for Native American youth under the age of 24, and native youth suicide rates are close to 2.5 times higher than the national average.

Native American youth who suffer from abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD, don’t have access to opportunities and education that are more likely to be at risk. This is why the KTSPP creates programming to lend opportunities and resources to the native youth, so they can make positive impacts in their lives and their communities.

On July 19-20, 2021, the KTSPP held a free ‘Life Skills’ camp at Randlett Park in Anadarko, Okla. The camp was started at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and was open to all from ages 9-15. The purpose of this camp was to teach the kids ‘Life Skills’ in a fun way. Some of the skills that they went over consisted of communication, leadership, giving back, team building, and asking for help. The reason for these lessons is to teach them how to handle life situations, create goals, and help encourage them to use these skills over time.

14 kids attended and were also exposed to physical fun through games and fundamental exercises such as cornhole, basketball, passing games, and group games. Organizers say these games require the kids to work together, which is practicing communications skills.

In many young kids, especially natives, it can be difficult for them to deal with their emotional problems. By working on communications skills, it motivates them to talk and ask for help when they feel they need it. In other games they played, it required them to split into two teams and choose a leader for each team. By doing this, it teaches the kids leadership abilities. The role of the leader of each team is to encourage their team members to do their best whether they are good or not at the activity they are participating in. The leader’s role also consists of brainstorming and coming together with their team to improve their actions for the future rounds. By letting the kids get interactive and perform these skills it helps engrave the skills into their head, so they can use them for future life experiences.

KTSPP partnered with Indian Health Services (IHS) to sponsor this event. In the past the KTSPP has partnered with other programs that are a part of the Kiowa Tribe. Organizers say it really shows how Kiowa Tribal programs work together to help their people as much as they possibly can.

IHSS handed out dental bags that included toothpaste, toothbrush, and floss to all the kids who attended the camp. They also provided all the camp kids with free teeth cleanings. This is a great resource for the kids that only benefits and gives opportunity to them.

This program is made possible through the five-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or SAMHSA grant, which gives the ability to encourage kids away from substance abuse that can often lead to suicide. The main goal this program tries to project is to decrease the number of Native American suicide and substance abuse by meeting as many young people as they can and doing as much in the community that they can service.

(*From Guest Writer Linda Ramnarine: After recent observations over the Kiowa Tribe programs, I can see how much they [Kiowa Tribe] care and support Native members from the youngest to oldest. The KTSPP is a very resourceful program for Native American youth that lets them know that they have people there for them no matter the situation. This program teaches the kids to encourage, give back, team build, communicate, and share ways to get better as an individual. The program involves many activities to be sure the kids can find the coping skill that is right for them. The KTSPP directors and stuff made it very clear to the kids that it is important to focus on self-care and do things that you enjoy. By doing this it allows your spirit to be uplifted and generate happy vibes.)
KIOWA NEWS
KIOWA LEGISLATURE

Get Involved, Call Your Representative

All Seven District Legislators can be reached by the numbers listed below:

KYLE ATADDLEY SR
District #1 - Anadarko
Tribal Cell: 580-951-0235
Email:kialladdley@kiowatribe.org

MICHAEL Q. PRIMUS II
District #2 - Carnegie
Tribal Cell: 580-730-1592
Email:mprimus@kiowatribe.org

MARIYL BREAD
District #3 - Medicine Bluff
Tribal Cell: 580-699-6428
Email:mbread@kiowatribe.org

JESSEE SITVAK
District #4 - Lawton Area
Tribal Cell: 580-574-1393
Email:jsvitak@kiowatribe.org

ANITA JOHNSON
District #5 - Red River
Tribal Cell: 405-313-5419
Email:ajohnson@kiowatribe.org

BENJAMIN LUCERO WOLF
District #6 - Elk Creek
Tribal Cell: 580-919-9235
Email:bwolf@kiowatribe.org

JACOB TSOTIGH
District #7 - All Kiowa
Tribal Cell: 580-951-0406
Email:jtsotigh@kiowatribe.org

The Kiowa Legislature holds monthly meetings every second Saturday of each month in accordance with the Kiowa Constitution. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM. All Kiowa Tribal Members are Invited to Join!

The Kiowa Tribe Fastrans

The Kiowa Tribe Fastrans is a program that gives Kiowa Tribal members, and non-tribal members transportation around the Carnegie, Hobart, Anadarko, and Lawton areas. Open to the public. Tell Your Friends!

Call and schedule a ride today!

Open Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

1-855-820-6164
or
(580) 654-2053

The Kiowa Tribe provides a comprehensive benefits package including: leave benefits, (13) paid holidays, health insurance plan providing eligible employees access to medical, dental and vision care insurance benefits, $25,000 Life and $25,000 Basic AD& D insurance coverage at no cost to employees, and 3% employer contribution into the Employee Savings Trust Plan (401K).

NOTE: The Kiowa Tribe waives application fees for the following programs:

- Elderly (60+) 55 and over
- Disabled
- Military

Kiowa Tribe Human Resources

Get Involved, Call Your Representative

The Kiowa Tribe provides information on job openings, career development, and benefits. To apply, please visit the Kiowa Tribe Human Resources website or call 580-654-6317 or 6335.

The Kiowa Tribe Human Resources Department
F.B.O. Kiowa MIddle Carnegie, OK 73017 Phone: 580-654-6635 Fax: 580-654-6080

Job Opportunities

Please visit the Kiowa Tribe website, kiowatribe.org to view or download job announcements, fillable job applications forms, and obtain information on how to apply. You may also contact the Human Resources office at 580-654-6317 or 6335.

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Applicant Supply File

The Kiowa Tribe departments can fill temporary and regular full-time positions through advertisement and/or the Applicant Supply File. The Kiowa Tribe is now accepting applications for our Applicant Supply File for the following positions:

The Kiowa Tribe is now accepting applications for our Applicant Supply File for the following positions:

1. Clerical Positions
2. Maintenance Positions
3. Security Officer Positions
4. Transit Driver Positions

Applicants are valid up to 60 days. To maintain in the Applicant Supply file an updated application is required every 60 days.

For an application, go to: https://kiowatribe.org/job-opportunities

Application forms can also be picked up at the Main Complex front foer in Carnegie, Oklahoma.

Submit your application either online to: hris@kiowatribe.org or fax to: 580-654-6255 OR drop off at the Main Complex front foer in Carnegie, Oklahoma.

The from the desk of Kyle Attadlety, District 1 Kiowa Legislator

My office is open at 125 W. Main St, we are aiding under COVID-19 precautions with Social Services, Indian child welfare, and Housing applications, Etc. If you need assistance, you may contact our office at (580)339-8567. I would like to welcome my new Office Manager, Kysa Kacalaty and our Office Assistant, Donna Davilla (AARP) to become a part of my staff. As the District 1 Legislator, I want to provide a place for our District 1 tribal members to come together and voice any questions or concerns, also for informational and educational purposes. The goal of our monthly community meetings is to inform our tribal members of different programs that the Kiowa Tribe offers. So far, our monthly meetings have been a success and we are very grateful for the turnout. We have had four meetings and plan to continue for as long as I am in office. We are privileged to have had special guests such as: Darla Tartaria (Kiowa EPA Program), Billy Kornschat (Kiowa Housing Director), and Davetta Geimausaddle (Kiowa ICW Director). My goal is to keep District 1 tribal members informed of upcoming programs and to have more representatives attend these meetings. Monthly meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of every month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship of Anadarko, OK. Ah-ho! God Bless
Kiowa Language & Culture Revitalization Program
100 Kiowa Way Carnegie, Oklahoma 73015
Phone: (580) 654 - 2556 Email: language@kiowatribe.org

Phonic description: Gkoy-bay-goo ate mau-hay(n)-mau
The approximate translation is “We are learning Kiowa ways” or “We are learning the Kiowa way of doing things, thinking, and speaking”. In the early phases of the program, it was decided that, when possible, we will use the Kiowa name for the program (as opposed to the English name). The elder mentors at that time decided thathaving language knowledge was not the only thing at stake. We were also learning about the "Kiowa way" of doing things and Kiowa thinking. It was decided that this title encompassed all of those ideas.

For more content and video,
Follow Us on our Facebook page:
Kiowa Language and Culture Revitalization Program

Finished the drawing using markers, colored pencils, or crayons.
Aricle 1

Audrey Delon Palmer, 80, was born on December 12, 1940 to Gus Palmer Sr. and Alice (Sobal) Palmer in Lawton, Oklahoma. She passed away on June 26, 2021 at Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma.

She attended Carnegie Public Schools and Chicoros Indian School. After graduating high school, she attended cosmetology school. She loved to travel, visit her family, and styling hair (especially her own). She spent most of her adult life in Dallas, TX with her family returning back to Carnegie, OK.

Audrey was a Kiowa princess, a member of the League of Women Voters in the 70's, a member of the Kiowa Black Leggings Auxiliary, and chairman for the Board Member Comanche County Kiowa Pintos.

She was the most amazing, beautiful, and outgoing woman that you ever could have met. Memories of her will be cherished forever, and she will be missed by all who loved her.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Leo Griego (1994); second husband, Ron Fordham (2020); son, Reginald "Reggie" Griego (2020); sister, Donna Jameson. She is survived by:

- Donna Jameson.
- Reginald "Reggie" Griego (2020); sister, husband, Leo Griego (1994); second husband, Ron Fordham (2020); son, Reginald "Reggie" Griego (2020); sister, Donna Jameson.

Survived by:

- Son: Cindy Griego & wife, Christie of Cedar Creek, NM
- 3 Brothers: Lyndreth "Tugger" Palmer of Cedar Creek, NM, Joseph Lujan of Seattle, WA; Leonard "Len" Autaubo Sr. and Claudette Yvonne Autaubo of Chickasha, OK. She graduated from Carnegie High School in 1954 to Wesley Tapedo and Oma (Tofpi) Tapedo in Lawton, OK. She was the youngest of eight children. She passed away on July 1, 2021, at Integris Memorial Hospital in Lawton, OK. She was born on July 14, 1945.

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Bridgette Lynn Satapewich was born on April 7, 1960, in Okemah, OK, to LaVerne and Martin Satapewich and was called to her heavenly home on August 7, 2021, after a brief illness.

Bridgette was a full-blood member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. Although she was a life-long resident of Carney, she didn’t venture outside of the area after graduating from Carnege High School in 1978 when she went to continue her education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, OK and Rose State College in Midwest City, OK.

She was later employed by the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma for many years, serving in several different capacities that enabled her to be the Director of Procurement until leaving her employment in May of 2017.

Bridgette was an excellent crafter. She could sew, bead, bake, design, and could even do carpentry. Her greatest satisfaction was doing projects for her family, which she would carry out in record time. She also enjoyed reading Harlequin romance novels, collecting movies, and babysitting her numerous nieces and nephews.

Bridgette moved to Dallas, TX for a short period of time in 1999 to 2000, and it was there that she met Richard Smith. This union blessed her with her only child, Hyapatia Damish Smith, who later followed with the addition of addition of Ashley in 2005.

Bridgette’s parents and siblings include: Martin “Pepper” Iktatok, Marla, Robert, Larry, Lynn, Lynard, Corin, Billy Curad, Cherrone Sebedra, and Stephanie Sebedra.

Survivors include:
- Daughter: Hyapatia Damish Smith
- Brothers: Martin “Pepper” Iktatok, Marla, Robert, Larry, Lynn, Lynard, Corin, Billy Curad, Cherrone Sebedra, and Stephanie Sebedra.
- Sisters: Donna Sebedra, LaDonna Kim, Cassie Anmay, Sandra Marhaba, and Hyapatia Damish Smith.
- Nieces and nephews

Rachel A. Unah (Tsotigh) passed away peacefully on Monday, August 16, 2021, in Okemah, OK. She was born on December 9, 1940, in San Diego, CA, to Edward and Janice Tstotigh. She was the middle child of 5 siblings and 2 brothers. She graduated from cosmology school and received her licensure. She worked as a factory worker and beautician for most of her life until she retired. She married Raymond Unah on May 23, 1963, and was happily married until his death in 1995.

Rachel was a proud member of the Kiowa tribe and was involved in many clubs such as: the War Mothers, Grand Canal, and Tsiapah society.

Survivors:
- Sons: Merk Unah, Hobart, OK
- Darren Unah, Oklahoma
- Gary Unah, Cache, OK
- David Unah, OK
- Grandchildren: Shantay Unah, Courtney Unah, Lacie Unah, Holy Unah, Shana Unah, Karaun Unah, Drika Unah, Blue Unah, Eliah Unah, Hannah Grace, Nova Unah
- Great-grandchildren: 7 total great-grandchildren: two girls and five boys.

Funeral: 2:00 pm, Friday, August 20, 2021.

First American Baptist Church, Hobart, OK.
Say His Name, “Silas Lambert”

It was a quiet evening on 111 Nixon Drive in Anadarko, Oklahoma on August 21, 2021. Friends and family gathered for a candlelight vigil to remember the life of Silas Lambert.

“He was such a good person,” expressed Halana Jay. She stated that she couldn’t believe the news of his passing because she saw him earlier that day. Silas was one of the volunteers that helped with the Opioid Awareness event that her organization hosted. Ms. Jay explained that Silas often offered his assistance and spoke to the people that came in. He just wanted them to know that someone cared. She said, “He saved lives, literally, the way he talked to people and tried his best to help us.”

Silas was a remarkable young man and full of ambition to help people. His high school coaches often had great things to say about his personality and talent. Not one to focus on his end but to remember the things that mattered most. The Native American Church (NAC), Kiowa Chapter, also remembers him as someone who they could count to help. He had the desire to learn what he could about our [Kiowa] ways, stated a member of the NAC.

Candles were lit at 7:00, those in attendance had a moment of silence then stood in a large circle together holding their candles. They then offered encouraging words and prayers for the family.

Fawn (Tsatoke) Bear, MMIP-Kiowa Chapter, explained that the purpose of the event was to remember and honor the things that mattered most to him. He then focused on his end but to remember the life he lived and the things he stood for,” she stated.

The MMIP-Kiowa Chapter also hosted a benefit powwow at the Tiaah-piah park, northeast of Lawton, Oklahoma, to raise funds for the Lambert family as they continue to seek justice. According to statistics.com, a total of 603 people were shot to death by the police in the United States (January through August 2021). Silas Lambert was among the 82 people who were shot and killed in April 2021.

Karen Jean Parler departed from this life August 21, 2021 in Hobart, OK. Karen was born July 31, 1950 in Lawton, OK to Howard C. Geimausaddle Jr. and Velma Toppah Geimausaddle. Karen started her mornings praying and reading her bible. She enjoyed cooking and caring for her brothers in the family home. She truly enjoyed spending time with the grandkids and had fun with her sisters as they went to the casino. Although Karen never had children of her own she was a mother to Matthew Taptto and very motherly to all nephews, nieces and grandchilren. Karen received her GED from Hobart High School and then moved to Dallas, TX to attend Flatt’s law school. Karen was born July 31, 1950 in Lawton, OK to Howard C. Geimausaddle Jr. and Velma Toppah Geimausaddle. Karen started her mornings praying and reading her bible. She enjoyed cooking and caring for her brothers in the family home. She truly enjoyed spending time with the grandkids and had fun with her sisters as they went to the casino. Although Karen never had children of her own she was a mother to Matthew Taptto and very motherly to all nephews, nieces and grandchilren. Karen received her GED from Hobart High School and then moved to Dallas, TX to attend Flatt’s law school.

Karen was survived by: siblings: LaDonna Boyd and husband James, Hobart, OK; Gordon L. Geimausaddle, Hobart, OK; Kathy McCullar, Lone Wolf, OK; Daria Geimausaddle, Denver, CO; Roberta Blocker and husband John, Hobart, OK; Karen Geimausaddle, Hobart, OK; Terrence Geimausaddle and wife Elaine, Lawton, OK; Nephews and Niece: Robert Clayboy, Jr. and Don Dr. Jordan Boyd, Howard L. McCullar, Lorre M. Mandrell, Charles A. Blocker, Coley R. Blocker; 46 grandchildren and a host of cousins. Provened in death by: Floyd Parler, husband Howard L. and Velma Geimausaddle, Gwendolyn Geimausaddle, Howard C. Geimausaddle III, and baby girl Geimausaddle.


The family of Silas Lambert told FOX25 they believe the police department should be held accountable for Lambert’s death. Dirk Lambert, Silas Lambert’s father, said police should have done more to talk his son. Those that knew him most stated that he was never a bad kid.

The officers involved in the shooting have been cleared of any wrongdoing by the district attorney’s office. “I don’t agree that with that at all,” Derik Lambert said. The Anadarko Police Chief, Eric Harlan also said according to Lambert’s toxicology report, he was not under the influence at the time of the incident.

The MMIP-Kiowa Chapter announced that they achieved their goal and raised over $1,500 later in the evening. Members of AIM (American Indian Movement) and the Warrior Women were also present to show their support. The singers and dancers didn’t seem to mind the heat as they continued to progress. For some it was a humble feeling to be able to sacrifice their comfort in the blazing heat, because they felt like they did it for Silas and for the others who were stolen and killed.

The MMIP-Kiowa Chapter said special thanks and love goes out to the dancers, volunteers, donations, and the Kiowa Tribe for supplying bottled water.

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Photography Taking During the 4th of July Celebrations, Kiowa Gourd Clan & Kiowa Tia-piah Society
The Center for Curatorial Leadership (CCL) selects Kiowa Tribal Museum Curator Tahnee Ahtoneharjo as one of the 2022 short fellows. The CCL is an organization that trains museum curators to advance their careers as visionary leaders in museums. When the demands of cultural institutions and the public are rapidly evolving, CCL provides essential tools to guide today’s museums and anticipate future challenges. The program provides intensive instruction from Columbia Business School, leadership certification, and mentorship where curators are paired with top museum directors.

Tahnee Ahtoneharjo’s mentor partnership is with Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Matthew Teitelbaum. Through sponsorship of the Center for Curatorial Leadership, Tahnee engages in monthly meetings with the MFA Boston where they exchange professional insights to strengthen the bond of curator and director connections.

Matthew hosted Tahnee in Boston in late June, 2021 on behalf of the CCL. As a week-long inclusive view of the Director’s role for the MFA Boston, the two museum professionals covered each aspect of the MFA’s involvement in Native relations. Tahnee and Matthew both state, “It is important to establish the reciprocal practice of large museums’ tribal museum consultation and sharing of knowledge.” Tahnee spent a week learning more about the museum—and meeting with a number of staff across departments. The MFA Boston states, “We were honored to host CCL 2022 Horizon Scholar, and Kiowa citizen has spoken to us about her experience, “It’s very surreal. To see students will attend OU in the fall. Jada Sink, a and dedication to their tribal communities, these fellows. The CCL is an organization that trains museum curators to advance their careers as visionary leaders in museums. At a time when interests as native students thus far one to enjoy and be proud of.

CARNEGIE STUDENTS PICKED FOR PRESTIGIUS HORIZON SCHOLARSHIP

By Vivian Dietrich

Kiowa Tribal Workforce Development and Opportunity Act (Kiowa) Participant & Kiowa Tribal Public Relations Guest Writer

CARNEGIE, Okla - The University of Oklahoma is home to many students from across the United States and other countries. This college is also the home of the American Indian Programs and Services, a department committed to supporting indigenous students in all aspects, including the Horizon Scholarship.

The Horizon Scholarship is a $20,000 grant that is highly selective and offered to incoming freshmen at OU. This year, only four students were chosen to receive this honor, three of which are Carnegie graduates this year.

This is thanks to a $5.4-million-dollar donation that will aid in letting the university become the premier center for Native American research and teaching.

Awarded for their service, perseverance, and dedication to their tribal communities, these students will attend OU in the fall. Jada Sink, a Horizon Scholar, and Kiowa citizen has spoken to us about her experience, “It’s very surreal. To see us native youth being recognized for our experiences as well as our contribution to the community.”

The Horizon award is just another example of the success that is being seen in Kiowa youth. As a Horizon Scholar myself (Vivian Dietrich), I can attest to the fact that it is a tremendous honor to be recognized for our dedication to the Native American Community. Rural areas like Carnegie are often overlooked, but OU has exceeded the expectations that I have had concerning inclusion and diversification. I believe I am speaking for the three of us when I say attending the University of Oklahoma is the best choice I have ever made. It is brought into a better perspective when it is known that 3 of approximately 4,500 students were chosen for this scholarship, all of which coming from Carnegie.

Scholarship recipient Alysa Tahkoper (Kiowa), said her hard work and out of the classroom paid off, “it doesn’t just inspire us for our help, it makes us want to keep helping and use our education for bettering our tribe.”

The Horizon Foundation President Rod Sanders said “We believe it is important that there is a better understanding of Native American cultures, spirituality, values, and views of the world. The highly regarded University of Oklahoma, situated as it is in a state where 39 Tribal Nations are headquartered, is the perfect location for an initiative of this size, scope, and relevance.” There is no doubting the lengths OU has gone to ensure a quality education for all students.

These three scholars would also like to extend a special thanks to Antonia Belindo (Kiowa) and Dorian Billups, who have made our experience as native students thus far one to enjoy and be proud of.

Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association Holds Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - On Wednesday, August 31, 2021, the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association held its annual conference in the new Oklahoma City Convention Center. Part of the convention and trade show highlighted the breakout panel discussions with topics such as problem gambling, state of the gaming industry, increasing productivity, thriving through a pandemic, and innovations in marketing to name a few.

One of the new topics of discussion this year was Public Relations in the Gaming Industry. Three members were seated on the panel, Christine Eddington, Principal of Eddington Communications, Jennifer Bell, Public Relations, Citizens Potawatomi Nation, and Neely Tsoodle, Kiowa Tribe Public Relations.

The discussion was moderated by Katy Gustafson, Gooden Group. Topics included the orchestration of communication and the flow of your organization's message amid crisis and everyday operations.

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The Kiowa Tribe Youth Sports and Activities Program (KTYSP) sponsored team Oklahoma Runners to compete in two divisions, comprised of grades 9th - 12th at the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) in Phoenix, Arizona.

NABI is one of the most well-known Native basketball tournaments in the United States. NABI Founders recognized the sport as a perfect tool to unite Native youth at a week-long educational program, based on knowledge, talent, and the love for the game of basketball. The program inspires and creates opportunities, such as earning a college scholarship to earn a degree. Since its launch in 2003, NABI has become a nationally recognized educational youth program for Native American high school students. NABI has awarded over $290,000 in scholarship funds since its inception.

Approximately 128 Native American traveled to Phoenix, Arizona this year. Our KTYSP and Oklahoma Runners arrived during the early morning hours after a tiresome drive. The teams were anxious to show everyone what they can do.

The Oklahoma Runners Team 1, made up of grades 11th and 12th; and Team 2, composed of 9th and 10th graders, has competed in many Native and Non-Native tournaments winning 1st, or 2nd, and 3rd place throughout the summer of 2021. The teams are consisted of young men from various tribes, Kiowa, Cheyenne, Arapaho to name a few. Coaches of the teams were Derek Tofpi (Kiowa) and Reggie Island (Cheyenne and Arapaho).

During their week’s stay the teams traveled to different gyms throughout the city. Thanks to Kiowa Casino, Oklahoma Runners were able to ride comfortably in our Kiowa Tribe Charter Bus. Their times varied from the morning to afternoon hours, and evening. “It was exhausting at times,” the players expressed. Yet the teams continued to give their all throughout the day. Game after game, the teams would travel from one to another to make it on time. Their determination allowed them to make the final four and finals. Oklahoma Runners team 2 lost in the final four; however, the tournament was double elimination, which meant they had another chance to place. So, Team 2 had to compete in at least two back-to-back games spanning on about 5 hours of game time. The Oklahoma Runners Team 2 lost in the final game against Young Guns; but they gave it their absolute best for they loved the game and still felt like winners.

Throughout the week, Oklahoma Runners team 1 competed against the best teams and won each one. They battled with their hearts but lost in the final game against Young Guns. Team 1 didn’t come home empty handed; they placed Runner Up and received medals and a Golden Ball.

All in all, it was a great experience for the youth and coaches. Since the Pandemic began, NABI was not able to have tournaments in 2020. “Returning back to basketball and the excitement of the games was a breath of fresh air for our youth; and will be something for each player to remember for the rest of their life,” expressed by coach Tofpi.

The Oklahoma Runners Team 1 competed at the NABI Tournament against the best teams and won each one. They battled with their hearts but lost in the final game against Young Guns. Team 1 didn’t come home empty handed; they placed Runner Up and received medals and a Golden Ball.

Student Athlete Spotlight 2021
#KiowaAthletes

Congratulations to the Carnegie Wildcats XC teams. They participated in the Watonga XC meet Saturday & had some runners place. Good job to all the young ladies & young men. Keep up the hard work, we're proud of you.

Congratulations to the Comanche/Wichita/Kiowa/Caddo & Leyla Saldana (Wichita/Kiowa) on coming in 1st for varsity boys & girls. Keep up the hard work, we're proud of you.

Kiowa Tribe Youth Sports and Activities Program

Kiowa Sunray

Congratulations Kowi Sunray (Kiowa) on winning 1st place in the middle school boys XC meet at Geronimo on Friday, September 3. Kowi goes to Indiahoma Middle School, were he is an 8th grader there. He was the only runner representing his school for this meet. His parents are Cedric and Randi Sunray. Good job Kowi! Way to work hard. Keep it up, we are proud of you.

Congratulations to the Anadarko Warriors & Lady Warriors XC teams on both placing first in the Geronimo High School meet on Friday. Also to Xavier Cozad (Comanche/Wichita/Kiowa/Caddo) & Leyla Saldana (Wichita/Kiowa) on coming in 1st for varsity boys & girls. Keep up the hard work, we're proud of you.

Kiowa Tribe Youth Sports and Activities Program

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Phone: (580) 654-6375
Email: ktysp@kiowatribe.org.
PEACE
By Harlan Hall

I have been looking everywhere for a very long time. I have been searching but, it has escaped me again. This very elusive, hard to catch frame of mind.

Not on hills where I played and rode Grandpa’s horses
When I was but a boy.
Not on the prairie where we ran or canyons where we climbed.
Not in the winds of time or the beating raindrops.
Not in fallen snowflakes nor the blowing sleet.
Or, when the sun slants and bears down on my shoulders.

Adding on years now. Better find it soon. I want to again feel it. Experience its rhapsody. Hold onto it. Keep it locked away.

Maybe in the cold waters where I was baptized when my spirits were lifted to new heights when I saw a turtle dove as the waters came away.

That was it! There is a place for me. A place so glorious, so real, the clean feeling finding that elusive spirit. Peace. Wonderful peace.