



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

May of 2025



Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,

As we step into May, we are reminded of the integral work being done across our legislative platforms. This month, the Kiowa District 7 newsletter highlights the significant intersection of policymaking and community progress, offering a closer look at initiatives that are shaping the future of our tribe. Significant challenges are presenting themselves before our tribal communities, and we must work together to protect our sovereignty.

We invite you to join us in exploring the highlights within this month's newsletter, which sheds light on these efforts and their implications for our district and beyond. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more connected community through informed decisions and collective participation.

With gratitude for your continued engagement,

Warren Queton
District 7 Legislator



THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

Elimination of D.I.E. (Ah, I mean D.E.I.) Thrusts in Oklahoma's Colleges

What Does It Mean For Our Tribal Students?

Hey! Kiowa parents with college-bound children. Alert: Diversity, Inclusion, Equality (DIE) programs...I mean Diversity, Equality, Inclusion (DEI) programs and services are being eliminated in Oklahoma's colleges. Those colleges who continue with these programs are subject to having federal funding cut off. The services from these types of programs are the major reason many of our tribal college students graduated from college. These programs helped many high school tribal graduates and college enrollees in the 60s and 70s. Without these types of programs, especially in colleges, no telling what the college participation, retention, graduation and employment rates of tribal citizens in Oklahoma would be today. I doubt if it would be any different than what it was before the advent of these programs. I want to encourage you as parents of college bound and participating students to ask from Oklahoma colleges why these programs are being eliminated. It would be interesting to know which college enrolls the largest number of Kiowa college students. I rather the colleges tell you why and explain how they intend to keep our students in college. Prior to DEI thrusts the colleges contracted with the BIA to provide "counselors" to address DEI related activities and they were damn good at it. The history of Indian college counselors is well known among tribal college graduates from all over the United States, many who are very successful professionals. Civil Rights era figures assert that services for tribal students have significantly impacted Indian populations today.

Here is my dilemma: if DEI programs were so beneficial to our Indian students, why are they being eliminated from colleges and universities? I have not read or heard one word about the effect of eliminating DEI programs from our tribal leaders. I am puzzled as to why our tribal nations have not gotten loud about this development. Even when Haskell was to lose almost half their faculty/counselors because of cutbacks, a few of the Oklahoma tribes mumbled some push-back but most remained silent even though Oklahoma tribal students make up a substantial percentage of Haskell's enrollment. What about those that are alumni/alumna of Haskell? Where were/are you?

Bacone College is in such a financial dilemma it probably will close its doors before the fall term. Sad. My mother and sister attended Bacone. I never knew it was just a college. It was the Indian University all my life. Our tribe needs to focus on contributing more energy to our college students. This is a tough time for them in terms of finances, preparation, life skills, culture, careers. What can we do as a tribe to expand our services/assistance to them? Ask the question to our elected tribal leaders and see if you can get them to answer/respond. Good luck.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



KIOWA TRIBE

P.O. Box 369 • Carnegie, Oklahoma • 73015
Phone: (580) 654-6338 • Fax: (580) 654-1788
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATURE

May 25, 2025

UPDATE FROM THE LEGISLATURE ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET

Building a budget that best serves the needs of Cauigu families is an undertaking that requires collaboration among – and input from – a variety of stakeholders: each branch of the Tribe government, the professionals tasked with leading programs and departments, and the Kiowa people at large. In prior years, the process of developing the Annual Budget has followed the blueprint defined in the Constitution with construction of a proposal by the Chairman and the passage of same proposal (or, alternately, a Legislative budget proposal) by the Legislature to the election ballot.

However, that sequence has historically overlooked a vital priority: you. Kiowa citizens are the lifeblood of our sovereign nation; our governmental infrastructure must foreground their interests above all else. Budgets are nothing less than a blueprint of values. How resources are allocated reflects what we hold most important.

On March 31, 2025, the Legislature published an update on the Annual Budget for the forthcoming fiscal year commencing July 1st. At that time, the Legislature had devised several key initiatives to better support Tribe Members including a 29% increase in Emergency Assistance funding; a \$220,000 earmark for Back-to-School Assistance; an Emergency Respond Fund to streamline aid in the aftermath of natural disasters; a boost in the Kiowa Princess stipend; and line-itemized security to sustain the \$1,000 disbursement rate for the Elder Payment.

Those are positive steps on which the Legislature is committed to making further inroads. However, there remain a number of variables with significant impact on the overall financial health of the Tribe about which the Legislature has sought more definitive clarity from the Executive Branch over the course of the past two months. Those points of concern include the following:

1. The status of an investigation initiated by the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) in November 2023 into “potential misuse of gaming revenue” and violations of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), NIGC regulations, and the Tribe gaming ordinance. The NIGC has characterized its inquiry as “ongoing” as of March 2025 and raised the possibility of a civil fine. This contradicts public comments authored by the Chairman of the Kiowa Casino Operations Authority in January 2025 on social media which suggested a final determination had been issued by the NIGC. With federal programmatic funding already in flux, the prospect of

civil penalties introduces troubling implications for the fiscal welfare of the Tribe at large and its gaming enterprise specifically. The Legislature reached out to agents of the Executive Branch on December 12, 2024; March 28, 2024; and April 9, 2024, to formally request documentation related to this matter before receiving any records.

2. The \$8,530,134 in questioned Tribe applications of Coronavirus Relief Fund monies identified in a Memorandum published by Deborah Harker, Assistant Inspector General for Audit at the United States Department of the Treasury, on December 20, 2024. A desk review analyzing the Tribe's use of CFR funds from March 1, 2020, through September 30, 2022, was formally launched by Castro & Company, LLC. (Castro), on January 22, 2024, in coordination with the Treasury Office of Inspector General (OIG); although extensive dialogue ensued between Castro and the Kiowa Tribe Executive Branch, the Legislature only learned of the probe in March 2025 via social media. The Chairman has expressed confidence that information supplied to OIG will be sufficient to positively address the claim and avoid any clawback of federal monies, but the Castro review expressly notes that, "the transactions selected for testing were not selected statistically, and therefore results could not be extrapolated to the total universe of transactions." Given the consequent possibility that unsupported expenditures could thus exceed the amount already subject to scrutiny, the Legislature asked, both verbally and in writing, the Executive Branch to relay comprehensive clarifying documentation. Following multiple requests in March and May 2025, records were transmitted from the Finance Department on May 10, 2025, and are presently under evaluation.
3. The financial state of Kiowa, Inc., and details of the failed Indian City Screen Printing business venture. The net loss of \$448,294.19 in Tribe monies by same enterprise between July 2022 and December 2023 raises pressing questions about the viability and funding sources of other economic development undertakings initiated by the Chairman. The Legislature has formally requested additional information regarding the financial mechanics of Kiowa, Inc., and several affiliated forecasted endeavors but received no response to date that supplies full clarity.
4. Inflated compensation for select positions under the umbrella of the Tribe Executive Branch, including the \$206,000 salary assigned to the role of Attorney General. Same rate of pay exceeds the compensation of the majority of state Attorneys General across the U.S.
5. The inequitable implementation of raises for Tribe staff as proposed by the Chairman, with a concentrated sampling of personnel slated to receive pay hikes between 8.05% and 17.02%, increases far in excess of the standard 3% projected for most employees.

The Legislature is diligently continuing its work to finalize an Annual Budget for FY 2025 – 2026 that both centers Kiowa families and responsibly stewards your Tribe money. As previously noted, the Executive Branch missed its deadline for submission of the Chairman's Budget. Because the Legislature cannot legally advance that late submission to the ballot, it will develop its own in accordance with the standard Legislative Process for final ratification by Cauigu voters.

However, a systematic and organized approach to any budget nevertheless entails the free exchange of data. Despite invitations issued by the Legislature, the Chairman has declined to participate in any meetings to discuss the Annual Budget since March 19, 2025, and legislative efforts to ascertain facts have been met with routine delays.

Transparency and accountability require consistent actualization. With the enumerated questions and concerns lingering over Tribe finances, the Legislature will not be sending a final budget to the Election Commission for the forthcoming fiscal year until the Executive Branch provides more thorough clarity. There will be minimal interruption to programmatic funding as the Constitution stipulates, "If a new budget is not approved by the beginning of the fiscal year, then the most recently approved budget shall remain in effect until a new budget is approved."

The Legislature will fulfill its duties with the seriousness of thought and analysis that the Kiowa people deserve. In his weekly address to the Kiowa Talk radio program audience on May 24, 2025, Chairman Spottedbird asserted that the Legislature is "not working in concert with the Executive Branch" and "making things more difficult for no reason." If the Chairman believes that "Kiwos Standing Together" inherently precludes the Legislature from seeking information and facts about your Tribe monies, then that is cause for grave worry and unease among our people.

The Legislature encourages all Tribe Members to stay engaged. Contact information for each legislative office is available at www.kiowatribe.org/legislative. The Legislature looks forward to growing a future that benefits all Kiowas, not just a favored few.

In service to our citizens,



Michael Primus
Speaker of the Legislature
The Kiowa Tribe Legislature

**Episode 15 available now on
YouTube and Spotify.**



EPISODE 15 OF IDÓN:GYÀ!



**A CONVERSATION WITH KIOWA TRIBE
VICE CHAIRMAN, DAVID SULLIVAN**



Links can be found on our Linktree, linktr.ee/kiowaD7

Art Contest



Kiowa Child Care

Seeking Kiowa Enrolled/Decedents for Artwork - Contract Based.

Artwork Submissions Drop Off Locations:

The Kiowa Tribal Complex

Carnegie, OK

The Kiowa Education Agency

Anadarko, OK



Directly Email to:

mbointy@kiowatribe.org

Selected Artist Will Be Notified:
Via Phone and/or Email.

**Artist Will Be Required to Sign
a Release Statement of the Artwork(s) to the Kiowa Tribe.**

Artist need to submit three
samples of work styles

Landscape

Human

Freestyle/artist choice

Artwork size no bigger than

11x14

All artwork summations are
due by June 1, 2025



Kiowa Tribe Child Care Art Contest Rules

The Kiowa Tribe Child Care Program will be producing teaching tools for the classroom and community. These projects will require art to illustrate the project. KTCCP would like to offer a platform and opportunity for Kiowa artists to be printed and published. These submissions can be of any topic. We are looking at the style of the artist and what project they would fit best.

1. Must be Kiowa enrolled and or a Kiowa Descendent and can prove it by documentation. This platform is meant to allow Kiowa Tribal members to be highlighted as an artist.
2. If you are chosen to illustrate one of the projects, you must sign a release form. This allows the art to be printed, published and used as an educational tool.
3. The art submitted must be printable and no larger than 11x14 inches. The art will be used for print and must be able to be digitally scanned.
4. Artist will submit three art samples; landscape, human, and freestyle. Each project will have a different style. Various artist and styles are needed to accommodate the project.
5. You can be under eighteen (8) years of age; however, the standards of the art, deadlines, and submissions will be the same as those over 18. If you are under eighteen (18) years of age, your legal guardian must sign all legal documents to receive payment and art release.
6. All art work is due by June 1, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. to one of the designated sites: Kiowa Tribe Complex, front desk, Kiowa HHS building Anadarko, email Mbointy@kiowatribe.org



Upcoming Events

Kiowa District 7 Language Class

JUNE 16TH

SUMMER LANGUAGE STUDY

JOIN IN 2ND LEVEL CREDENTIALING
WITH TEACHER CANDIDATES

IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS

@ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS

@ 8:00 PM

POTLUCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

**Location : Kiowa District 7 Office
123 24th Ave NW
Norman, Oklahoma 73069**

ZOOM OPTION

Meeting ID: 876 3205 2759
Password: kiowa



FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS CONTENT PLEASE
CONTACT KRICKET CONNYWERDY AT RHODSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM



**DISTRICT 7 AND
OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES
PRESENTS**



Making a Will Workshop

Keaton Esselstrom
Staff Attorney
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services



District 7 citizens can learn
how to make a will

Appointment Only:

Please call to schedule
an appointment

405.943.6457

June 18th

10am–4pm

1604 S. Baltimore Ave
Tulsa, OK 74119



DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG



539-525-0437



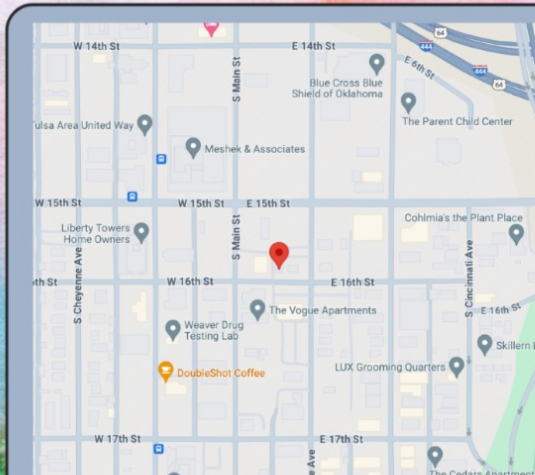
TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

**JUNE 23RD
6 TO 7:30 PM**

**SANDWICHES
AND
POTATO BAR**



Kiowa District 7
Tulsa Office:
15th E 16th Street,
Tulsa OK 74119

ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Zoom link available on our Linktree:
[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowad7)



(539) 525-0437



DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG

YouTube Channel

District 7 has a YouTube channel. We aim to record and upload our webinars and different events so everyone can stay involved.

This month, we have uploaded the following:

- Episode 15 of our podcast- Kiowa Hymns
- Our May Webinar with the KADAP
- Tulsa May language class recording

To access these videos, please visit our linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowad7>

THE KIOWA TRIBE HAS UPDATED SOME PHONE NUMBERS!



KIOWA COMPLEX
(405) 901-9229

TAX COMMISSION
(405) 901-9271

ENROLLMENT OFFICE
(405) 901-9239

JUDICIAL COURT
(405) 901-9237

HIGHER EDUCATION
(405) 648 -0916

SOCIAL SERVICES
(405) 648-0417

D7 Links



@kiowaD7

Kiowa Tribe District 7

district7legislature@kiowatribe.org

[Website](#)



[Sign Up for Our Newsletter](#)



[Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton](#)

[YouTube Videos](#)

[September Zoom Meeting \(PIN 381420\)](#)

Please bookmark and save <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7> this page will be updated with easy-to-navigate links.

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 123 24th AVE NW | Norman, OK 73069 US

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