



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

October of 2026



Photography by the Kiowa Tribe Media Department (Dianna Hadley)

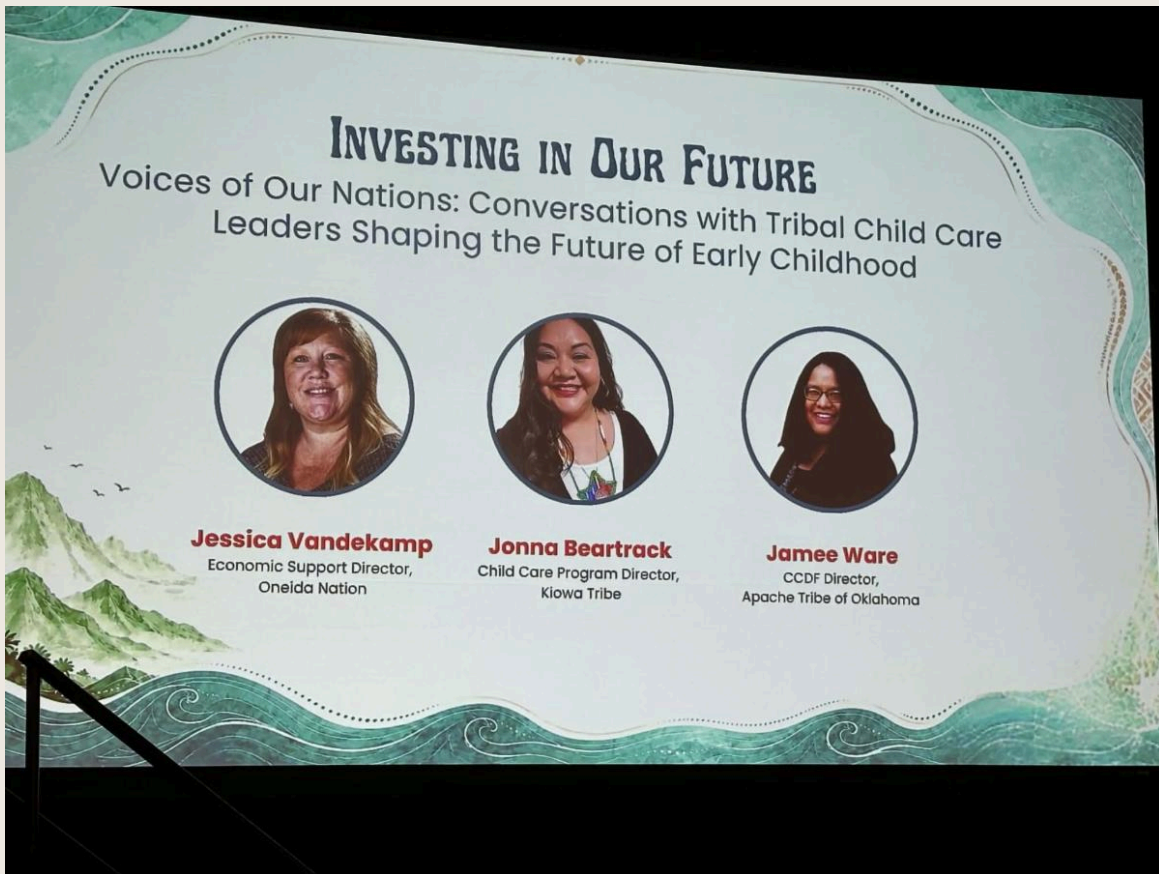
Greetings, District 7 Families,

It is finally getting cooler; it has been warm here in Kiowa country for the past three months. District 7 remains active in service to our people—strengthening our cultural traditions, engaging in tribal governance, and representing Kiowa interests on the national stage. This report shares an account of our work throughout October 2026, so that every citizen of District 7 remains informed and connected to the efforts undertaken on their behalf.

This month also brought the honored Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremony, held October 10th and 11th. This ceremony stands among our most spiritual ceremonies of the Kiowa Tribe, honoring the service and sacrifice of Kiowa Veterans past and present. Photographs from this ceremony accompany this report, capturing the dignity and pride present throughout the dance

With respect and gratitude,
Warren Queton
District 7 Legislator

Kiowa Child Care Department Earns National Recognition Following Conference in Hawaii





The Kiowa Child Care Department recently returned from a National Indian Child Care Association (NICCA) Conference in Hawaii, where staff and tribal leaders attended a conference hosted by the NICCA Board. The trip highlights the department's growing national profile, as the Kiowa Tribe was selected as one of only nine programs nationwide to participate in an Urban Institute case study examining language implementation and programming in child care.

NICCA extended the invitation to elected Kiowa Tribal officials and tribal leaders, recognizing the importance of strong governmental support for culture- and language-rooted child care initiatives. The Urban Institute case study, recommended by the funding agency HHS/ACF, highlights the Kiowa program on a national platform at urban.org, placing the tribe's efforts to preserve language

and culture through child care at the forefront of a broader conversation among tribal nations across the country.

Ten books are currently in production for Kiowa children, featuring stories, rabbit dance songs, art, and culture, and will be made available to Kiowa families in all districts. Warren Queton, District 7 legislator, contributed to this cultural learning effort, lending his song knowledge to a dedicated book on Rabbit Dance teachings and ensuring this important tradition is passed down to the next generation in a form children can hold in their hands. The Kiowa Child Care program presented on Rabbit Dance Songs and the Rabbit Initiative, which focuses on teaching Kiowa values through traditional knowledge and oral tradition.

The department has also developed an observation tool for infants aged 0 to 12 months that incorporates Kiowa culture into early childhood care, giving the youngest citizens of the Kiowa Nation a foundation rooted in tradition from their first months of life. School-age children in the program remain active participants in Kiowa language and culture, having competed and placed multiple times at language fairs.

Over the past three years, the Kiowa Child Care Department has doubled in size, a growth made possible in part by ARPA funding. The Director, Jonna Beartrack, also serves as a board member of the National Indian Child Care Association, further strengthening the tribe's voice in national conversations about tribal child care. Many now view the Kiowa program as a prototype other tribal programs can look to for guidance on integrating language and culture into child care. As the department continues to grow and serve Kiowa families across all districts, continued support from tribal administration and legislative leaders remains essential to sustaining this momentum for the children of the Kiowa Nation.

About the Kiowa Child Care Department

The Kiowa Child Care Department serves Kiowa families by providing quality child care rooted in Kiowa language and culture. Over the past three years, the department has doubled in size and expanded access to services across all districts, supported in part by ARPA funding. Its programming includes culturally grounded tools for infants and active language and culture participation for school-age children, earning the department national recognition as a model for tribal child care programs.

Kiowa Community Gathers at DMNS to Reconnect with Ancestral Beadwork

On Saturday, October 3, 2026, Kiowa community members gathered at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science to examine beaded belongings returned from the Southern Plains Beadwork Project, tour the Avenir Conservation Center, and share a day of discussion, food, and cultural renewal. The event, led by Kiowa Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Amanda Hill and Kiowa District 7 representative Warren Queton, marked a milestone in the project's Phase II efforts to engage Denver-area tribal citizens in the ongoing care of their cultural belongings.

This gathering represented far more than a single afternoon. It continued a multiyear partnership between the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and the Avenir

Conservation Center (ACC), built on the principle that cultural belongings carry knowledge, relationships, and responsibilities that extend well beyond museum walls. For the families who attended, the day offered a rare opportunity to sit with items their ancestors made, examine them closely, and pass that knowledge to the next generation.

The Southern Plains Beadwork Project is a multiyear collaboration between the Avenir Conservation Center of DMNS, Texas Tech University, the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and the First Americans Museum (FAM). The project aims to study, document, conserve, and display beaded belongings in direct partnership with Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Arapaho citizens, ensuring decisions about these items reflect tribal direction rather than museum convention alone.

Phase I of the project unfolded in stages. DMNS curators and conservators, together with Texas Tech University researcher Dr. Michael Jordan, first held community meetings in Oklahoma to present images of the collection items and ask each tribal nation how they wanted the project to proceed. From there, members of each community traveled to Denver to examine belongings firsthand and select roughly fifteen pieces for travel to Oklahoma, where the items were "in residence" for ten months.

While in Oklahoma, the belongings became the focus of listening sessions held at the First Americans Museum — three day-long sessions per tribal community, each with six participants, recorded with the participants' permission. The belongings then traveled to each community for two days of beading workshops, taught by community members using materials supplied by DMNS. For the Kiowa Tribe, these workshops took place at tribal headquarters in Carnegie, Oklahoma.

October 3rd Gathering Overview:

The day began at 1 p.m. with arrival, greetings, and a light lunch, giving families time to settle in before the afternoon's programming. From 2 to 5 p.m., attendees moved into the Avenir Conservation Center and Anthropology collections storage area on the museum's lower level, where Kiowa beaded items and other collection belongings were laid out on tables for close examination, photography, handling, and conversation. Conservation reports accompanied each item that had traveled to Oklahoma, giving community members insight into the condition and treatment history of their ancestors' work.

This period also included community-led programming: tribal updates, informal discussions, and time to focus on specific categories of items. Attendees also visited the Native Garden site on the museum's south lawn and viewed Amanda Hill's dress installation discussion in the museum's exhibition space. A coffee and cookie break, provided by museum catering, offered a pause before the evening's events.

From 5 to 7 p.m., the community gathered for dinner and an evening program, closing out a day structured — much like its opening hours — around shared meals and shared presence.

Highlights for the Kiowa Community:

For many attendees, the most meaningful moments came from direct, hands-on interaction with belongings their families had not seen in person for generations.

Sitting at tables in the conservation lab, examining stitching patterns, and discussing the techniques used by ancestral bead workers created a tactile connection that photographs and exhibits cannot replicate.

The conservation lab tour itself offered insight into how DMNS stabilizes and protects these belongings for future generations, demystifying the technical side of preservation for community members. The installation of the Kiowa women's dress, leggings, belt, and beaded bags — curated by Amanda Hill — gave families a chance to see their belongings displayed with intention and cultural context. And the visit to the Native Garden added a living, growing dimension to a day otherwise centered on historical objects, linking the preservation of beadwork to the broader preservation of Kiowa relationships with land and plant life.











LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



Kiowa Tribe Legislature Approves Co-Management Agreement, Reviews Four District 7 Bills

The Kiowa Tribe Legislature convened Legislative Regular Session CXIV-(114) on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Kiowa Tribe Complex, where legislators approved a resolution to join the Mountain Plains Inter-Tribal Coalition and enter into a Co-Management Agreement with the State of New Mexico, extending Kiowa stewardship over approximately 50,000 acres of ancestral homelands in the northeastern part of that state.

The Co-Management Agreement, sponsored by District 7 Legislator Warren Queton, formalizes the Kiowa Tribe's role in a tribally led coalition responsible for the long-term care of lands tied to the historic migration and range of the Cauigu people. The agreement designates Chairman David B. Sullivan, or his authorized designee, to represent the Kiowa Tribe within the coalition, with Vice-Chairman Donna Richey and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Amanda Hill serving as alternates. The resolution preserves the Tribe's sovereign immunity in full. District 7 also advanced four additional measures during the session. The Kiowa Emergency Management Act establishes the Kiowa Tribe Department of Emergency Management, creating a comprehensive, all-hazards framework for preparedness, response, and recovery across Tribal lands. The Kiowa Tribe Free and Independent Press Act creates an Editorial Board and protections to ensure the Kiowa Tribe News and related media operate free from political interference. The Kiowa Probate Act of 2026 establishes a formal Kiowa Tribe Probate Code. The Kiowa Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Act, also known as the Elder Abuse Act, amends the Kiowa Criminal Code to strengthen protections for elders age 55 and older, establishing mandatory reporting requirements and felony-level penalties for abuse.

Beyond these headline items, the Legislature addressed extensive Old Business, including amendments to the Kiowa Flag and Seal Designation Act, the 2022 Kiowa Tribe Election Law, the Revenue Allocation Plan, the Baby Bonds Act, the IHS Self-Governance Compact, and the Kiowa Broadband Business Act, among others. New Business included the Kiowa Gaming Commission Ordinance Act and several bank account authorization resolutions. The Kiowa Tribe General Welfare Act was read into the record, along with resolutions honoring Kiowa Women Warriors and Kiowa Code Talkers.

The Kiowa Black Leggings Ceremonial: Warrior Legacy at Indian City





Photography by the Kiowa Tribe Media Department (Dianna Hadley)

The Kiowa Tribe's warrior tradition is a living society, renewed each year through our songs and dances. On October 10 and 11, 2026, that tradition was reaffirmed once more at Indian City, south of Anadarko, Oklahoma, where tribal citizens gathered for the Kiowa Black Leggings Ceremonial. This gathering is not merely commemorative. It is a structured, disciplined act of remembrance that binds the present generation to the warriors who came before it.

The 2026 Ceremonial at Indian City

This year's observance unfolded over two days at Indian City, with proceedings beginning at 2:00 p.m. on both October 10 and October 11. Preceding the afternoon program, the Society hosted a noon meal open to the public at 12:00 p.m., a gesture consistent with longstanding Kiowa practices of hospitality by our Tsatoke and Toyebo Families. Under the leadership of Commander Lyndreth "Tugger" Palmer, the ceremony proceeded with our drum as the heartbeat of our dance. Our families were inspired by the singing and dancing in honor of our veterans.

Honoring the Fallen: The Flags of MSG Eddie Larra and Rudy Bantista

Central to this year's ceremony was the flying of two flags in memory of MSG Eddie Larra and Rudy Bantista. The act of flag-bearing within the Black Leggings tradition carries weight beyond symbolic tribute; it constitutes a formal act of institutional memory, situating the names of individual warriors within a continuous roll of honor maintained by the Society. In this way, the ceremonial functions much as a regimental memorial does within a standing military tradition: individual loss is absorbed into collective identity, ensuring that no warrior's service is forgotten even as Society itself endures across generations. For those encountering this practice from outside the tribal community, it is worth noting that such tribute is not an isolated gesture of grief but part of an ongoing institutional structure, renewed annually, through which the Kiowa Tribe actively maintains its relationship to its own military history.



THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

Good day, my older friends and relatives! How has life been treating you and your being? I wanted to visit with you more recently, but unfortunately, I encountered some of my own turns; with the Hand of Our Savior, I am using my assets to do what I do well-talk. Kiowa people can be outspoken, maybe too much; they also know when to keep it closed, haw? Simply put, there is too much going on at the national level, and people are leery to speak their mind. The political weight lightened somewhat at the state level, but we stopped hearing from tribal members, except the politicians of the tribes. I guess it is tough enough to manage the affordability reality we are facing right now. We don't have enough time to speak about our issues, keep working hard, and be grateful for what we still have right now.

I'd like to understand where the tribe is heading right now. Do we have meaningful plans for our direction, goals, and objectives for our people as a government? If so, great! If not, when will we see our direction as a government? I hope tribal leadership has a "plan" for the tribe's future by now. It seems as though the concept of a strategic plan is unknown to the tribal leaders. What about communication, technology, health, economic development, education, housing, A.I., the younger generation, our elderly, sovereignty, etc.? If some work has been done on a strategic plan for the tribe, why not let your tribal people know about it and what to expect along these lines as they live today? Our younger Kiowa would benefit immensely from knowing that the tribal leadership and Kiowa population care about their well-being as Kiowa tribal members and want to do more than talk about their issues, concerns, ideas, lives, identity, parents, grandparents, and how we all live better and more productive lives today and tomorrow.

Maybe I am behind our lead, so why don't someone fill me in on what is planned for the tribe's strategy? Better yet, let's ask our elected tribal leadership where the tribe is and where it is headed. They should have a clearer idea of the tribe's direction. Does anyone have an idea of where the tribe will be next year? The year after? What are we doing with the A.I. development as a tribe? What about our own funeral home as a big plan for economic development? Manufacturing in line with employment, or is Carnegie too dead for growth? Housing, especially for our needy? Education, since we as a whole state rank near the bottom of education for the country? Health for citizens? Oh well, let's see what our leadership sees and has in mind for the next few years. We might truly get excited and start looking forward to something meaningful for the future. Seriously!

I have more to express on behalf of our D7 elders and will be more precise in our next edition (promise). Until then, keep reading, thinking, analyzing,

Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2026

PRESS RELEASE



Kiowa Tribe and Oklahoma Indian Legal Services announce landowner workshop and wills clinic

Free sessions in Lawton and Anadarko open a series the Tribe is taking to all seven districts.

CARNEGIE, Okla. — The Kiowa Tribe and Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) will hold two free events for Kiowa landowners this month, each with a different purpose. They are the first in a series the Tribe is bringing to all seven Kiowa districts.

Landowner workshop, Lawton. Friday, October 23, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Impact Center, 2713 NW 22nd Street. OILS attorneys will cover trust Indian land ownership and the rights that come with it: how the probate process works, what fractionation is and why it happens, land records and title, leasing, and the assistance programs available to Kiowa landowners. This session is about understanding what you own and what you can do with it. No appointment is needed, and participants will have time to ask questions. No wills will be drafted at this session.

Wills and trust clinic, Anadarko. Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kiowa Education Agency, 208 Hardee Street West. Attorneys will sit down with landowners individually and help them draft a will for their estate. A will is how a landowner directs trust and restricted land to the people they choose, and it is the single most effective tool for stopping an allotment from fracturing further across each generation.

Fractionation is what happens when an owner passes without a will. The interest divides among the heirs, then divides again, until a single allotment can carry dozens or hundreds of owners, and no one among them can make a decision about the land.

Bureau of Indian Affairs representatives will join the Anadarko clinic to cover farming and grazing leases, rights-of-way, land management practices, and the technical assistance available to individual landowners.

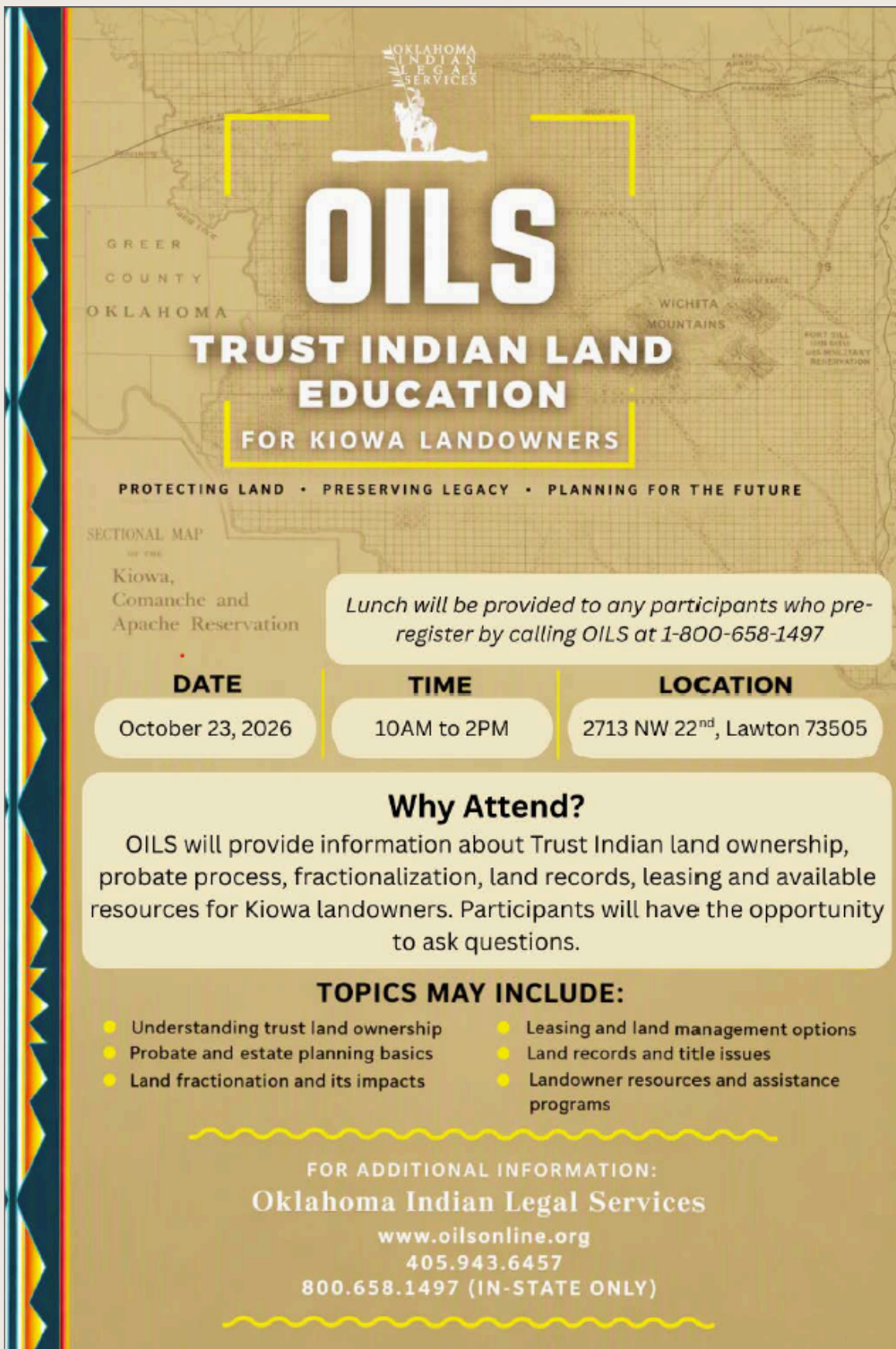
"Most of our families have a story about land that got away, or land where nobody could ever agree on what to do with it," said Chairman David Sullivan. "A will is how you stop that story from repeating. The Tribe is buying land back where we can, and at the same time I want our citizens walking out of those rooms knowing exactly what they own and exactly how to pass it on. That is legacy, and it is yours to direct."

Both events are free. Lunch will be provided to anyone who pre-registers by calling OILS at 1-800-658-1497. Walk-ins are welcome.

More sessions are coming. A wills and trust clinic is scheduled in Carnegie for Wednesday, December 2, with the location to be announced, and the Tribe will continue adding dates until all seven districts have been served. Landowners who cannot make an October session should watch for the one nearest them.

About Oklahoma Indian Legal Services

OILS is a nonprofit legal aid organization that has served Native people in Oklahoma for nearly four decades. Its estate planning and probate practice clears title to restricted land, prepares wills, and protects mineral interests at no cost to eligible clients. More information is at www.oilsonline.org or 405-943-6457.



The flyer features a background map of Oklahoma with a grid overlay. At the top center is the OILS logo, which includes a silhouette of a Native American on horseback and the text 'OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES'. Below the logo, the title 'OILS' is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath 'OILS', the words 'TRUST INDIAN LAND EDUCATION' are written in bold, white letters, followed by 'FOR KIOWA LANDOWNERS' in a smaller, bold, white font. A yellow rectangular border surrounds the title. Below the title, the text 'PROTECTING LAND • PRESERVING LEGACY • PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE' is written in a smaller, bold, white font. To the left of the title, there is a small inset map labeled 'SECTIONAL MAP OF THE Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Reservation'. Below the title, there is a yellow box containing the text 'Lunch will be provided to any participants who pre-register by calling OILS at 1-800-658-1497'. Below this, there is a table with three columns: 'DATE', 'TIME', and 'LOCATION'. The table contains one row of information: 'October 23, 2026', '10AM to 2PM', and '2713 NW 22nd, Lawton 73505'. Below the table, there is a yellow box with the heading 'Why Attend?' and a paragraph of text. Below this, there is a yellow box with the heading 'TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:' and a list of six topics. At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text 'FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Oklahoma Indian Legal Services', followed by the website 'www.oilsonline.org', the phone number '405.943.6457', and the toll-free number '800.658.1497 (IN-STATE ONLY)'. The flyer is decorated with a yellow wavy line at the bottom of the text area and a colorful geometric border on the left side.

OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

OILS

TRUST INDIAN LAND EDUCATION

FOR KIOWA LANDOWNERS

PROTECTING LAND • PRESERVING LEGACY • PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

SECTIONAL MAP
OF THE
Kiowa,
Comanche and
Apache Reservation

Lunch will be provided to any participants who pre-register by calling OILS at 1-800-658-1497

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
October 23, 2026	10AM to 2PM	2713 NW 22 nd , Lawton 73505

Why Attend?

OILS will provide information about Trust Indian land ownership, probate process, fractionalization, land records, leasing and available resources for Kiowa landowners. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions.

TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:

- Understanding trust land ownership
- Probate and estate planning basics
- Land fractionation and its impacts
- Leasing and land management options
- Land records and title issues
- Landowner resources and assistance programs

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services
www.oilsonline.org
405.943.6457
800.658.1497 (IN-STATE ONLY)

Elder Distribution



Elder Distribution

Monday, November 16, 2026

Glenpool Conference Center
12205 S. Yukon Ave.
Glenpool, OK 74033

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Chickasaw Nation Community Center
1004 NW 39th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Friday, November 20, 2026

Kiowa Tribe Red Wolf Community Center
100 Kiowa Way
Carnegie, OK 73015

Event schedule for each location:

Check Disbursement: 10:00 a.m.

Lunch Served: 11:30 a.m.

Event Concludes: 2:00 p.m.



NEW FOR 2026

Elder Payment Mailing Option

Kiowa elders have the option to receive their Elder Payment by mail. Checks will be mailed on November 6, 2026.

Want your check mailed?

Complete The Elder Check Form by October 23, 2026.

Complete the form on our website:

<https://www.kiowatribe.org/form/elder-check-form>

Attending in Person?

Elders residing in the following ZIP codes must attend the Carnegie Elder Payment Distribution: 73005, 73006, 73015, 73038, 73062, 73507, and 73651.

If you need assistance completing the form please contact our Enrollment Office at (405)901-9239.

Scan Here for Mailing Option!



Link to application: <https://www.kiowatribe.org/form/elder-check-form>

Upcoming Events

Link to join the Zoom can be found on our Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>



KIOWA HYMNS AND LANGUAGE LESSON CLASS

**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

**OCTOBER 27TH
6 TO 7:30 PM**

October



**LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS**

**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



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 | 15 E 16TH ST | Tulsa, OK 74119 US

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