



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

November of 2023



Happy Holidays District 7 Citizens!

As we gathered around the dinner table with our families and loved ones last week, let us reflect on this holiday's true meaning. While many of us may have been taught that Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks and celebrating abundance, it is also essential to acknowledge the flawed history behind this holiday. As we continue to work towards reconciliation with our Indigenous communities, let us use this holiday as an opportunity for education and understanding.

Let us unite in solidarity with our families with renewed empathy and compassion this holiday season. Let us embrace understanding and show love for one another in all aspects of our lives. May this holiday season be filled with love, joy, and fellowship for our District 7 community.

Thoughts from an Elder

District 7, Kiowa Tribal Perspectives

A Tribal Elder Thoughts

I had a well-known, respected, concerned Comanche elderly (80+ years) call me in spiritual despair this past week. The tone of his words was terse and angry but also filled with anxiety and stress. *"I am at the end of my life but have no one to talk with you except you, my one friend. I am so tired of all the loneliness, same physical and mental issues, and the feeling that nobody cares about us when we get old."* I let him talk until I sensed a little relief when he said *"Thank you for listening heights. Believe it or not, it helps me get through the day. I'm sorry if I brought you some imbalance but I did not know what to do and I had some crazy thoughts in my head."* Although not a Kiowa tribal member he reminds me of the many baby boom generation of Kiowa tribal members living outside their traditional homes (tribal service area) in southwest Oklahoma as a result of personal choice or past programs of assimilation like relocation. Sure many of them left home to make a better life and did so in most cases. Some returned to the Kiowa communities and made up the gist of tribal elders the conventional government looked to for input and support. They are also the elders who benefit the most from the related tribal services because they live in the tribal service area. Tribal elders who live outside the service areas for whatever reason(s) are in need of attention and assistance today in proportion to the current changes that have impacted the quality of life for all, however, they are not "eligible" for many of these services from the tribe because they live outside the tribal service area. Who made that rule, law, policy, or decision? This question is a rhetorical question intended for our elected and selected tribal leaders. Are we a sovereign tribe or not? As a sovereign tribe what prohibits us from negotiating and making changes in our rule of government? We have a constitution that we are having a difficult time following, in my opinion, and we have a political relationship with the most powerful country on the face of Mother Earth. Both are subject to change, good and/or bad. Why have a constitution if we are not going to abide by it (sounds like some dynamics happening today on the national scene, haw?)? My point? The tribe must make changes in government/governance to accommodate its tribal citizens and not always live/operate in the traditional mode dictated by the federal government, otherwise, we are not a government but a service organization, organized by rules from others, not our people. All Kiowa elders, regardless of where they live, are entitled to those services available through the tribe if we are a government according to our constitution (?). Sure I understand 638 contracts, federal grants, and federal services have their boundaries, especially among tribal entities. And that to receive related funding we must adhere to the funding agency's rules and regulations. Times have changed but change is nowhere to be found as my grandchildren constantly tell me (they are all college-educated professionals). That doesn't mean we, as a sovereign tribe, cannot negotiate changes to today's situations/conditions/politics. The Kiowa Tribal government has an obligation to all Kiowa citizens to work in their best interest to achieve a quality life, including the negotiation of changes in rules and regulations of the federal, local, state, and corporate entities. Our elected and selected tribal leaders must address this situation for current and future generations of Kiowa people.

Just because that old Comanche friend of mind lives outside the tribal service area designated by federal rules and regulations doesn't mean he is not alive and entitled to assistance from his tribal government. Unfortunately, he may not be around when change occurs but at least his relatives can say he contributed to a change that should have happened generations ago. Times have changed but change in times has not occurred with all due respect. Our Kiowa Elders need attention as they approach the final turn in their

lives. Organize a voluntary means of checking on them within the areas of District 7. I do that for Indian people in my area as communicated by the aforementioned experience with my Comanche friend.

In my last column, I addressed the concept of tribal sovereignty and that our tribal citizens might need to learn what it is in policy and practical terms. One of our illustrious Oklahoma representatives highlighted Native American Heritage Month in this morning's editorial page of our local newsletter and closed with a comment I read as rhetorical: "*This month and always, it is important Americans celebrate Native American Heritage Month and remember the role tribes and tribal leaders have played in American history*". I thought to myself, how can one celebrate NA Heritage Month when they don't know or understand the role tribes and tribal leaders have played in American History as demonstrated by their attitudes and behavior yesterday and today? Tribes must be aggressive in teaching and perpetuating their being and existence today by teaching their tribal members about tribal histories, culture, government, language, etc. under the rubric of sovereignty, from their perspectives. Our tribal existence requires understanding and support of tribal sovereignty today and tomorrow. What is the tribe doing to teach its citizens about the concept of tribal sovereignty as it relates to our continuation as a government? Better yet, what is the tribe doing to teach non-citizens about the responsibility of tribal sovereignty living and working together for the tribe and state? Go ahead and ask your tribal leaders that question but be prepared to know and understand their responses. Simply stated, the tribe needs a mechanism within tribal government to teach and perpetuate tribal sovereignty to and for its citizens. I would suggest the tribe organize an advisory committee of professionals and laypeople for this and other citizenship engagement projects to become a permanent component of tribal self-perpetuation, especially for future generations. Teach your citizens about being a tribal citizen, state citizen, an American citizen, and the responsibilities that come with such membership.

Finally, my family lost a younger member to Cancer this past week. He was an inspiring, loving, caring, talented, and proud Kiowa man. He battled the disease for over 10 years and never once complained to us as a family. Cancer, diabetes, covid, heart disease, social disease, have taken many of our people in the past five years. Our Kiowa people have a strong passion for one another in many ways. We should try to remember to demonstrate it to fellow members and others. Take care of your family members, guide and direct the younger generation as God guides you, watch over your elders, and try even harder to take care of your well-being, and spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional health because you are the caregivers of our people.

Here is wishing the best for all our veterans during and after Veteran's Day, and to all Kiowa people, the best possible family gathering and the healthiest Thanksgiving traditional feast in the Name of Our Creator.

Happy Holidays to all.

Legislative Update



Latest Legislature News

Legislative Update: Kiowa Tribe

Greetings, citizens of the Kiowa Tribe! It is our duty as tribal leaders to keep you informed and updated on key legislative matters that may impact our community. In this update, we will discuss two critical issues, the Nominations and Appointment Act and the ongoing issue regarding Tribal Car Tags.

Amendment to the Nominations and Appointment Act

The Nominations and Appointment Act was introduced to ensure a process is being followed for nominations and appointing members to commissions and boards for the Kiowa Tribe. As the Kiowa Tribal Legislature, we must utilize this process for appointing tribal commission and board members. Those individuals must be qualified and fully vetted to serve on identified commissions and boards. This act also limits—the Chairman’s ability to appoint acting or interim individuals into an appointed position.

Ongoing issue with Tribal Car Tags in Oklahoma

As some of you may know, there has been an ongoing issue with our Kiowa tribal car tags in Oklahoma. There has been a lot of misinformation released, and it has caused a lot of confusion for tribal citizens.

Here are the facts as I understand them:

- A 1993 Supreme Court ruling states, “There are two circumstances in which

an Indian living in Oklahoma may use a tribal tag in lieu of a state-issued tag.” Those circumstances include drivers who have registered their vehicle through the tribe and “reside and principally garage their vehicle in the tribe’s Indian country” and “for tribes with a valid compact with the state, members of those tribes may lawfully use a tribal tax no matter where the person lives.”

- There is no current compact with the State of Oklahoma and the Kiowa Tribe. Given our existing relationship with the State of Oklahoma, there is yet to be a clear resolution if Kiowa can compact with the State.
- The Kiowa Tribe leadership met with other tribal leaders at the National Congress of the American Indians in November. The Kiowa Chairman is meeting with an attorney and is seeking to meet with other tribal leaders to send a collective response to the State of Oklahoma.
- Only three tribes have current compacts for vehicle tags with the State of Oklahoma. Those are the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. Reading the current compacts, the Tribal Nations receive approximately 85%, and the State of Oklahoma gets 15% of the revenue. The State of Oklahoma Tag Agencies issue the Choctaw, Cherokee, and Chickasaw tribal tags and can access tribal Kiowa citizens’ address information.
- The State of Oklahoma also charges Choctaw, Cherokee, and Chickasaw tribal citizens for tolls on the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority toll roads.
- If a Kiowa citizen receives a ticket for an invalid vehicle registration. Contact the Kiowa Tax Commission and immediately provide the incident's citation number, date, time, and location.

As your District 7 Legislator, I want to assure you that we are actively addressing this issue and fighting for our sovereignty as a tribe. Our tribal leadership is working closely with other tribal authorities to find a resolution and ensure that our car tags are recognized as legitimate forms of identification.

In the meantime, we urge all tribal members to carry an additional form of identification when driving in Oklahoma and ensure citizens have updated insurance cards. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause; we are committed to finding a solution that upholds our sovereignty and protects the rights of our citizens.



Kiowa Tribe

P.O. Box 369 · Carnegie, Oklahoma · 73015

Phone: (580) 654-6343 · Fax: (580) 654-8412

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

TO: All Tribal Citizens
FROM: Chairman Lawrence SpottedBird
DATE: October 22, 2023
RE: Tribal Tag Issue

I want to address all our Kiowa Tribal citizens – especially those who have a Kiowa Tribal license plate on their vehicle. You all have already probably been aware that the Oklahoma State Highway Patrol has been stopping cars around the state that have Tribal license plates. Supposedly, they only stop cars for speeding, faulty lights or other violations. However, we and other tribal leaders consider this a form of targeted harassment that we will not let continue without a fight.

Many of us tribal leaders are planning to meet next week to determine how we – as an intertribal group – will address this issue with the State of Oklahoma. Until this issue is resolved, rest assured that we are here to support all our Kiowa Tribal citizens. Just make sure you are obeying all traffic laws to minimize the chance for you to be stopped.

If you are stopped anyway and receive a ticket for any reason, please notify the Chairman's office and provide a copy of this ticket. If we determine that you received a ticket due to being targeted as a Kiowa Tribal citizen, the Kiowa Tribe will pay the ticket for you. We will continue to notify all tribal citizens of the status of discussions with the State of Oklahoma as soon as we have new updates to report.

Take care and let's all pray for each other as we are once again experiencing the racial bias of our state leadership. Be aware that we will fight for you vigorously to make this right and stop this nonsense.

Aho Daukee.

Kiowa Tribe at Fort Marion

On November 14-17, the Kiowa Tribe honored our ancestors at Fort Marion, Florida, in collaboration with the U.S. National Park Service.

Fort Marion, also known as Castillo de San Marcos, is a historic fort built by the Spanish in the late 1600s. It has served as a military stronghold prison and is now a popular tourist attraction. However, for the Kiowa Tribe, it holds more significance than just being a historic site.

During the late 1800s, Fort Marion was used as a prison for Native American warriors and chiefs who were captured during conflicts with European settlers.

Among these prisoners were Kiowa Warriors and Chiefs, who endured harsh conditions and forced assimilation during their imprisonment.

The visit by the Kiowa Tribe to Fort Marion was a way for them to pay tribute to their ancestors who suffered at this site. The event was filled with traditional Kiowa ceremonies such as the Empty Saddle Song, Victory Dance, Scalp Dance, and Charging Songs. These ceremonies were a way to honor the bravery and resilience of their warriors and chiefs who faced immense challenges during their time at Fort Marion.

The Kiowa Tribe also had the opportunity to work with and educate the U.S. National Park Service to help preserve and promote the true history of their ancestors at Fort Marion. This collaboration has allowed for the creation of educational materials, exhibits, and events that highlight the rich cultural heritage of the Kiowa people. It also highlighted the importance of collaborating with the Kiowa Historic Preservation Officer on any cultural and Kiowa intellectual property.

Through this visit, the Kiowa Tribe was able to honor their past and share their traditions and values with others. The event served as a reminder of the importance of reconciling our history and keeping those who came before us.

In conclusion, the Kiowa Tribe's visit to Fort Marion was meaningful for the tribe and the U.S. National Park Service. It was an opportunity to honor their ancestors, promote cultural preservation, and share their traditions with others. This visit serves as a reminder of the strong connection between history, culture, and identity for indigenous communities like the Kiowa Tribe. So, we must continue to recognize and respect the cultural significance of places like Fort Marion to honor and preserve the legacies of those who came before us. Let us learn from the past, reconcile in the present time, and protect our shared history for future generations. This is a responsibility that we all share and must strive towards together.





placement by www.FloridaFast.com



More photos are posted on <https://www.kiowatribe.org/district-7>
Near the bottom under "Photos from Ft. Marion"

Job Listing



Kiowa Tribe Judicial Commission

WE'RE HIRING

Legal Coordinator

- 6 month contract
- Remote position

Qualifications:

- Research and work on highly technical legal documents and codes to establish central files for various required policies and procedures
- All work is under the auspices of the Judicial Commission using electronic means for modifying drafts for review and approval by the Judicial Commission.

Email a letter of interest, resume, and two letters of recommendation to Chairperson, Marilyn Bread:

mbread@kiowatribe.org

Upcoming Events

Southern Plains Beadwork at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

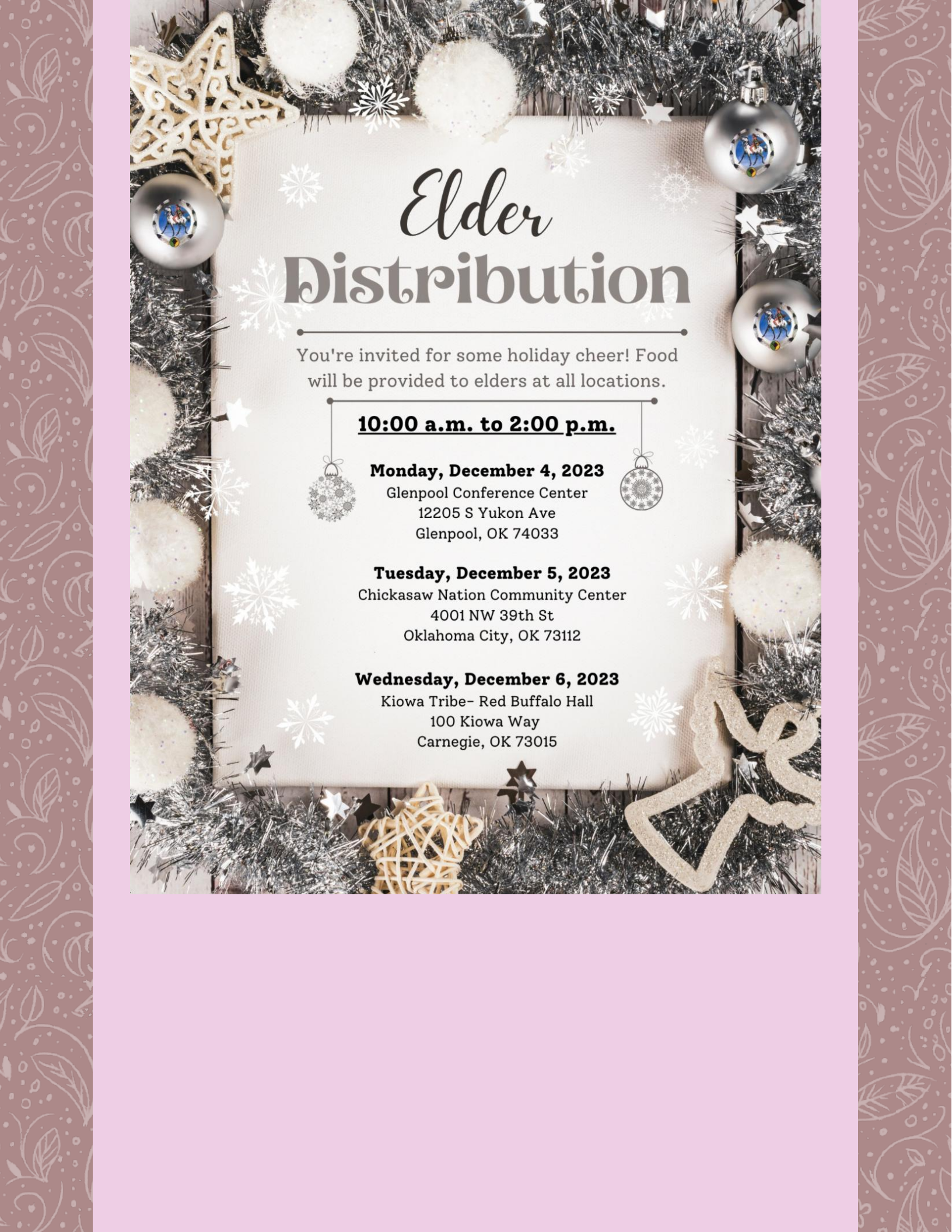


Wednesday, Nov. 29th 2-4pm

**First Americans Museum
Studio Classrooms
659 First Americans Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73129
For directions call: 405-594-2100**

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science cares for a large collection of Kiowa beadwork. A portion of this collection will be traveling to Oklahoma next fall. Tribal citizens will have an opportunity to view and study these pieces. Come learn more about these opportunities. The presentation will feature detailed photographs of a number of items including cradles, dresses, and moccasins. Dr. Michael Jordan, Associate Professor of Ethnology at Texas Tech University, will be discussing the origins of the collection and efforts to better understand the cultural contexts in which these objects were made and used.





Elder Distribution

You're invited for some holiday cheer! Food
will be provided to elders at all locations.

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 4, 2023

Glenpool Conference Center
12205 S Yukon Ave
Glenpool, OK 74033

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Chickasaw Nation Community Center
4001 NW 39th St
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Kiowa Tribe- Red Buffalo Hall
100 Kiowa Way
Carnegie, OK 73015



ATTENTION:

TO ALL OUT OF STATE KIOWA ELDERS

**THE REMAINING CHECKS
WILL BE MAILED OUT AFTER THE
FINAL DISTRIBUTION IN
CARNEGIE, DECEMBER 6, 2023.**

KIOWA TRIBE DISTRICT 7

Kiowa District 7 Language Class

DECEMBER 11TH

IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS

@ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS

@ 8:00 PM

POTLUCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

SPEAKERS

DELORES HARRAGARRA
VELMA EISENBERGER
MARTHA POOLAW

**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 RHOADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM



KIOWA TRIBE DISTRICT 7

NORMAN CHRISTMAS EVENT

- Snacks
- Enrollment will be in Attendance
- Sensing Session
- Door Prizes



**DEC
15**

12P.M.-3 P.M.

**123 24th Ave NW
Norman, OK
73069**

district7legislature@kiowatribe.org
405-857-8408



New Tulsa Language Class



**ZOOM AND REGISTRATION INFO CAN BE FOUND:
HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7
IN PERSON: 15 E 16TH ST TULSA, OK 74119
EMAIL: DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG
PHONE: 405-857-8408**

Our Upcoming Tulsa language class is still on its way.
To Sign up please visit: [here](https://linktr.ee/kiowad7)

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 405-857-8408

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