



# Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

December of 2023



## Happy Holidays District 7 Citizens!

Let us also take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate the beautiful traditions and customs of our Kiowa Tribe, passed down from generation to generation. From the powwows to the church hymns and services, let us continue to honor our heritage and preserve it for future generations.

As we celebrate this special time of year, let us not forget to thank the Daw-K'ee for all the blessings we have received. Let us also remember those who are no longer with us, but whose memories live on in our hearts.

As we exchange gifts and indulge in delicious holiday treats, let us also be mindful of our environmental impact. Let us strive to make sustainable choices and protect our land for future generations.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work and dedication of our Kiowa Tribe District 7 staff and volunteers. Once again, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all! May the spirit of the holiday season bring warmth and happiness to your homes and hearts.

Day own day Aho! (Thank you!) Let us spread love, peace, and joy this holiday season and throughout the year. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday filled with love, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

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## Thoughts from an Elder

Kiowa Indian tribal entities deserve credibility and respect on a broader scale from the general population, businesses, and media of Oklahoma. Tribes are totally responsible for millions of dollars toward the historical, current, and future economy of Oklahoma and could be doing even more if state entities could somehow overcome their weak understanding of tribal presence and invest some attention on formulating long-term partnerships, especially in business. Small towns within the Kiowa tribal service area must be introduced to the tribe and understand that they are responsible for the economic status and opportunities for the citizens that live in the towns. I like to use the Choctaws of Mississippi and the small town of Philadelphia, MS as an example of what towns and tribes could do if they put their social, racial, cultural politics aside and respect one another's capacities, and use their heads to do more together for all concerned in their domains. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) was once identified as the poorest tribe in the poorest state in the country. Tribal citizens living on the small reservation in east Central Mississippi once had a yearly income of less than \$2,000 per family, sub-zero political respect from the non-Indian populations, and unemployment over 80 percent, to put conditions mildly. The tribe experienced a miracle shift in these areas over a period of ten years under the LEADERSHIP of Mr. Phillip Martin, a full-blood member of the tribe and a visionary. Under his leadership and diplomacy, a bi-lineal structure of investment surfaced and became profitable. He established productive communication, partnerships, and rapport and brought manufacturing, gaming, tourism, small business development, and community respect to not only his people but also the non-Indian communities.

The MSBI story reminds me of southwest rural Oklahoma, our tribes and the small communities/towns living by one another but seldom putting their heads together to make business happen for their citizens. Phillip Martin sought and lobbied a major car manufacturer to locate its wire harness manufacturing focus on the reservation with a partnership of tax savings, quality employees, and tribal/local community support/partnership. Mr. Martin had a vision of bringing economic independence to his people through productive training, responsible management/administrative, and leadership training and partnerships within his tribe with the assistance in partnership of the car manufacturing company. The timing was excellent because about that time the gaming thrust became alive and giving. The tiny MBCI, with the vision and leadership of their popularity elected tribal chief, became the talk of Indian Country with its magnificent economic visionary plan, anxious tribal community members hungry for employment, and full of pride from being one the most improvised tribes in the nation to one of the leaders in economic development, partnerships, manufacturing, education, housing, and tribal health, while still maintaining a strong degree of cultural identity. You don't have to give up your culture to be economically profitable, balanced, stable, and secure. Needless to say, the local nonIndian communities also flourished with the influx of gaming and tourist minded visitors from all over the United States coming to eastern central Mississippi to spend their monies. Today the tribe, local communities, state, and region are still reaping the rewards

of Phillip Martin's vision and leadership.

Our Kiowa Tribe is in a similar condition/situation here in southwest Oklahoma yet we, seemingly, are more concerned about yesterday and today with little attention to securing our future as a sovereign tribal nation. We still allow others to tell us who we are and how we should follow their rules when they can't follow their own rules. It is time for a new era of renegotiation for our tribe. Our leaders must be even more responsible for leading us into the era of technology and improving the opportunities for us to experience a better quality of life.

As Indian people move on into the next decade of being, it is imperative that they set the stage for the next generation especially here in Oklahoma. Why be specific to Oklahoma? Mainly because the politics are shifting focus from tribes being viewed in a zero political position, to one of becoming major players, particularly in the state political arenas. Oklahoma has taken the spotlight in Indian Country with its state governor attacking sovereignty with minimal knowledge, thus understanding of the unique status of tribes as political entities rather than a race of people. Money has much to do with this shifting focus with conventional state politics trying to generate more revenue and seeing Indian gaming as a major source of state funding with its status as a billion dollar plus business controlled by tribal governments. States want more leverage in increasing a share of gaming profits and demanding more control with little respect for the federal relationship with tribes. Oklahoma has over 200 gaming facilities and is one, if not the largest, of the riches Indian gaming industries in the country. Tribes in Oklahoma must protect their sovereignty and be ready to face the challenge, once again, of nonIndian invasion with a goal of gaining control of the gaming industry instead of land ownership.

President Biden just signed an Executive Order of continued recognition/respect for the sovereignty of our Kiowa Tribe and the over 570 other tribes occupying this nation. The EO would offer tribes a productive partnership whereby the federal government would reinvest in partnerships with tribal governments, consult with them for input in developing new/reinforced laws, rules, regulations, policies, making it easier to provide federal services to tribal citizens, increasing more financial assistance/support, and assuring the current and future special relationship between tribes and the federal government. Our elected Kiowa officials have a great opportunity to meet a higher, productive level of responsibility to/for us as tribal citizens of a sovereign, tribal entity. They have an opportunity to renegotiate new, relevant parameters of Indian federal funding which are reflective of today, rather than out-dated of tribal governance methods, and inhibiting standards under the rubric of Indian policy. I encourage our tribal officials to offer ideas for change such as refining the out of date "tribal service area" policy for participation in many federal programs (products of treaties and the federal trust responsibility factor). A vast majority of our Kiowa citizens live in District 7 which is totally out of this tribal service area concept and are not eligible for a majority of services funded by the federal government sources. Yet we continue to be counted in the formulation of the amount of funding the tribe is eligible to compete for. Sure, we are appreciative for the one time annual Christmas funding but I would be more than happy to give up my Christmas allocation for eligibility in all tribal service activities.



# Latest Legislature News

Greetings, citizens of the Kiowa Tribe,

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you all on some of the important work currently being done in our Tribal Legislature. As your legislator, I must inform you about the legislative decisions affecting our community.

At present, I am working with Anita Johnson on three resolutions that have the potential to impact our Tribe greatly. These include:

## 1) Kiowa Tribe Territorial Expansion Act

This resolution aims to expand the territorial boundaries of our Tribe to protect and preserve our land and resources. It is crucial for us as a sovereign nation to have control over our territory; this act will help strengthen our sovereignty.

## 2) Kiowa Tribe Leasing Code

The second resolution I am working on pertains to leasing our Tribal lands for various purposes, such as minerals, agriculture, and energy development. This code will outline the rules and regulations for leasing our tribal land to ensure fair and responsible practices are followed.

### 3) Creation of a four-division structure for the Executive Branch

Our Tribal Executive Branch is structured into one division overseen by one Executive Director. However, there has been a need for a more organized and efficient structure. This resolution proposes the creation of a fourth division to handle the responsibilities of the Tribal government better. These four divisions will include Tribal Operations, Health and Human Services, Tribal Education and Housing and Community Development,

These resolutions are all in various stages of development, and I am working diligently with my fellow council members to ensure they are thoroughly researched and thoughtfully crafted. I'd like to present these resolutions to the legislature for consideration soon.

As always, I welcome your feedback and input on these matters. Your voice as citizens of this Tribe is important, and I encourage you to reach out to me or any member of the Kiowa Legislature with your thoughts and concerns.  
([district7legislature@kiowatribe.org](mailto:district7legislature@kiowatribe.org))

I am committed to serving the best interests of our Tribe, and I believe these resolutions will help us move forward in a positive direction. Thank you for your continued support and trust in me as your representative.

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## A Huge Thank You to Head Start



A huge thank you to Head Start and the Marine Corps for organizing this event. Both of our Norman and Tulsa offices are out of toys. A total of 9,340 gifts were given out from the official sites in Lawton and Carnegie.

We want to thank Jacob Tsothigh for delivering gifts to our District 7 office despite us not being an official site for Toys for Tots.

## Update from the KCOA

As of December 13th, 2023, the final payment on the Red River loan has been paid. The casino is now paid off!

Red River - Loan 4669-3

Principal Balance

Next Payment Date

\$0.00  
Dec 31, 2023

Red River - Loan 4669-1

Principal Balance

Next Payment Date

\$0.00  
Dec 31, 2023

## Upcoming Events

# Kiowa District 7 Language Class

## JANUARY 15TH

**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 [RHODSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RHODSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM)



## 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)

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## D7 Links



@kiowaD7

Kiowa Tribe District 7

[district7legislature@kiowatribe.org](mailto: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.

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