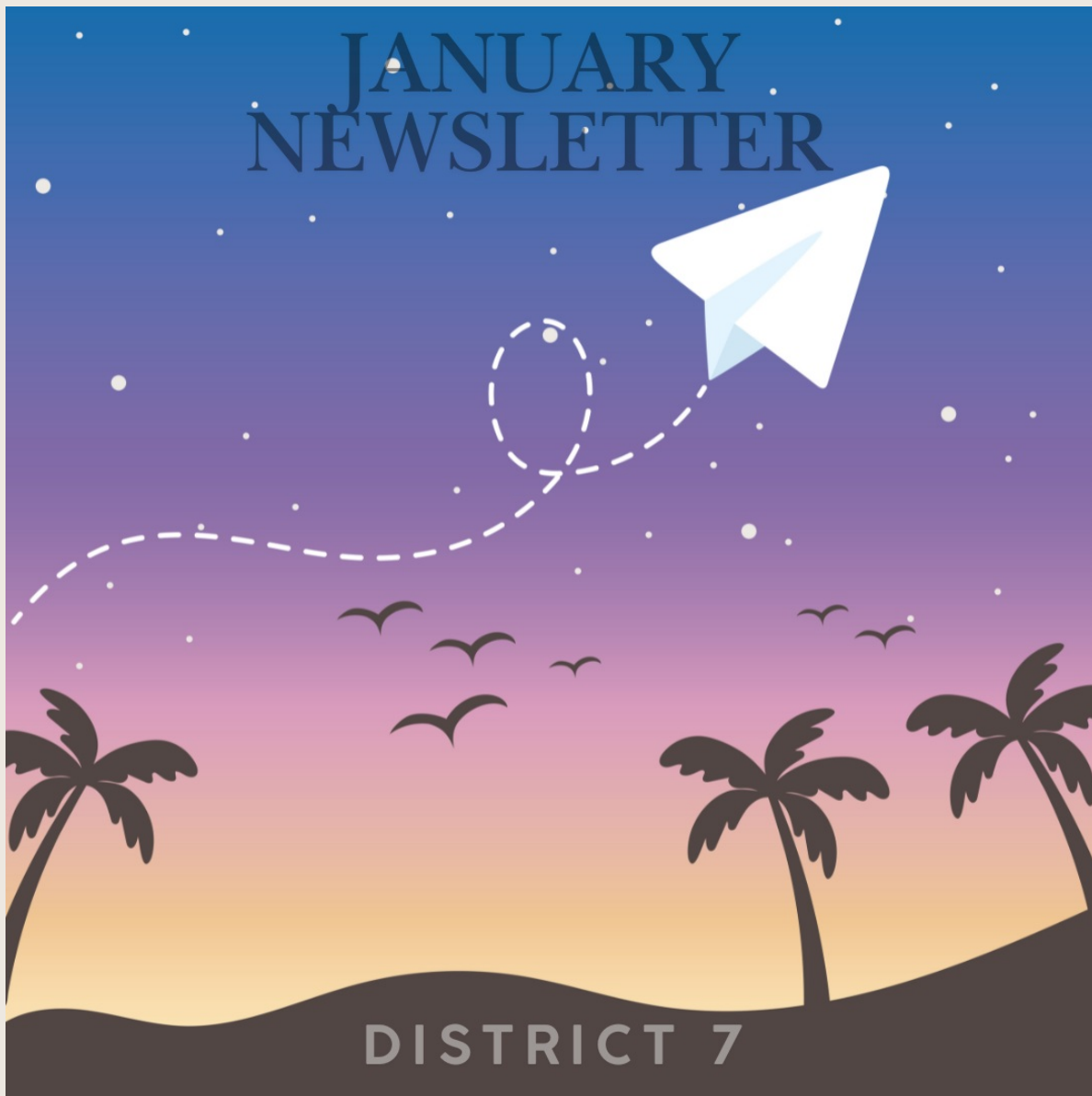




# Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

January of 2025



**Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,**

As we welcome the start of a new calendar year, we reflect on the challenges and opportunities ahead. The transition to a new administration in Washington, D.C., has brought a flurry of executive orders and raised concerns that directly impact tribal sovereignty and the well-being of our citizens. Rest assured, we remain vigilant and committed to addressing these issues with the determination and

strength that define the Kiowa people.

Amidst these shifts, we are thrilled to share updates focused on preserving and advancing our identity as a sovereign nation. Of particular significance is the resolution to affirm the mission of the Kiowa Education Agency (K.E.A.). Education is a powerful tool, not only for personal growth but also for cultural preservation and empowerment. This renewed commitment underscores that pursuing education is not an abandonment of our cultural heritage but a means of amplifying it. Together, we can ensure that Kiowa individuals thrive in a rapidly changing world while remaining steadfast in their identity.

Additionally, resolutions such as the establishment of the Tribal Employment Rights Office Ordinance updates to the Gaming Commission Ordinance, as well as preparations for the tribal budget vetting, reflect our unwavering focus on the resilience, economic security, and governance of our tribe. These advancements are essential for safeguarding the rights, resources, and future prosperity of the tribe.

This January, we stand together with renewed strength and purpose. The coming months will be pivotal as we carry forward the legacy of our ancestors while forging pathways for future generations.

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## Thoughts from an Elder

### Communication!

This past week's deportation news and federal fund freeze had many of our tribal members running scared and declaring their faith. My personal first thought was what is our tribal government doing to inform and keep us updated on these national developments as it relates to the tribal people? As of the printing of this newsletter I have not heard/read anything related to these developments from our Kiowa tribal officials, even though other tribes within the nation are scrambling on addressing possible fall out from such orders. Maybe I am a little ahead of official tribal news since I keep up to date with national developments that may impact tribal governments across the country. For some reason I thought this is what news networks were supposed to do? After a long pause I thought no news, or even slow news, is better than the current news. Maybe the tribal news just needs to catch up on what is going on at the national level (tongue in cheek). However, I realized that tribal news has a low priority within the Kiowa tribe unless it relates to culturally related activities. Let's face it, the Kiowa Tribe needs to update its attitude toward getting relevant information news to the Kiowa public. Tribal people need to be informed about activities that affect their lives. We have not heard from the tribal chair or vice-chair over the past months. Transparency? Yea, sure. Being quiet and inaccessible to your people is not transparency.

Over the past week tribal governments and people have been threatened by the new administration's immigration announcement on deporting immigrants and freezing federal funds which make up a substantial number of tribal budgets. I'm not a tribal official but have had several calls from elderly Kiowa citizens about what to do in case they are detained and questioned about their

citizenship. I felt so bad for these people that I called the tribal chairs office to ask for directions and guidance not realizing it was a Friday (no one in the office). Our tribal citizens need to be informed about local, state and national affairs that have a direct effect on their lives. Our Kiowa tribal news line(s) seemingly are ran through Facebook and thus subjected to misinformation, disinformation, rumor, and some cases, no information at all. Transparency may be defined as “seeing through something” but in this case it means not informing people. Who oversees providing the news relevant to the tribe?

### **News Questions**

- Where is the tribe regarding the Hobart Casino development?
- Where is our vice-chairman?
- Where are we with the Indian City development?
- What is our long-range plan for economic development? Has it been updated recently?

I could go on and on about areas like education, health, state tribal relationships, KIC news, social community news. Etc., etc. but I believe you get my point. What can we look forward to as tribal members?

**GIVE US THE NEWS!**

\*Please note, after this article was written, there has been a public statement regarding ongoing events in the United States. Please scroll down to read the notice from Chairman SpottedBird

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## **Legislative Update**



- Ensure workplace equality and safety for both Indian and non-Indian employees within the Tribe's jurisdiction.

The ordinance thus reflects the Tribe's determination to safeguard its workforce and promote economic opportunities within its boundaries.

### **3. Gaming Commission Ordinance**

Revisions to the Gaming Commission ordinance focus on fortifying regulatory frameworks to ensure operational transparency and ethical integrity. By refining oversight structures, the updated standards will enhance the governance of gaming enterprises, maintaining trust and adherence to shared principles within the community.

### **4. Blood Quantum Discussions**

Ongoing deliberations concerning blood quantum continue to center on the critical themes of cultural preservation, community identity, and belonging. Engaging all voices in these discussions is a priority as the Tribe reflects on matters essential to its future cohesion and cultural continuity.

### **5. Legislative Procedural Updates**

Updating legislative procedures has been implemented to foster efficiency and accountability in decision-making. These adjustments are designed to streamline governance processes, ensuring that future legislative actions support effective, informed governance in service of the Tribe's collective needs.

### **6. Preparing for 2025 Tribal Budget Vettings**

Preparations are underway for the critical tribal budget vetting sessions for 2025. These discussions will be instrumental in prioritizing the allocation of resources to align with shared values and communal objectives. Citizens are strongly encouraged to participate in these sessions, contributing to decisions shaping the Tribe's vision and goals.

## **Western History Collection at OU**

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My name is Codie Horse-Topetchy, [Gu:[dòhìñ Mà à [Gáuíkàũñ. I come from the Whitehorse, Huntinghorse, Toyekoyah, and Autdau (Ware) families. I am currently interning at the District 7 Office in Norman. I am a junior at OU majoring in Native American studies.

While working at District 7, I learned more about how our legislative office operates and embarked on different projects. One project I have had the honor of working on is the Indigenous Media Portal, a project initiated by the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma in collaboration with our Kiowa Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

The Indigenous Media Portal will be an online website that will house photos of different tribes. The Kiowa tribe was one of the first tribes to be selected for this project. I have worked on this project with Ramon Granado, a Kiowa student at OU, and Lina Ortega from the Western History Collections.

I have had the opportunity to visit the collections every week and help select which photos will be published on the portal, and there are over 1,000 photos! The chosen images will be available to tribal members only and will encapsulate our people and culture for the community to see forever.

Digitizing our history is an important way of preserving it for us and future Kiowa generations. I have come across photos of my ancestors that I have never seen before, and I have shown them to my family. I recognize many family names in the images, and I hope we can digitize them so they have the same experience.

I remember the first time I came into the collections; it was uplifting. I want to investigate the faces of those who came before me and see their eyes looking back at mine. It makes me smile and makes my heart feel warm. I like to think they are happy, too, knowing their granddaughter is sitting with them. I know they aren't physically here, but it feels like it.

Mr. Granada says, "It is nice to see a photo to compare stories about how they lived in old times." He reflects on the family stories he has heard and can help visualize them with these photos.

Our work will help other Kiowas feel this connection to our ancestors and reflect on the stories those old ones shared with us. This project has been a meaningful one and I am blessed to take part in it.

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## In Need of a New Tribal ID?

Enrollment has an online application that allows you to submit a request for a replacement ID. You can also stop by the District 7 office in Norman or Tulsa for help with submitting this form.

For new enrollment, please contact the enrollment department, [enroll@kiowatribe.org](mailto:enroll@kiowatribe.org) or 405-901-9239

<https://www.kiowatribe.org/department/enrollment>

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## Notices from Chairman SpottedBird



# Kiowa Tribe

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

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

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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January 30, 2025

Tom Cole  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
2207 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cole and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs:

Greetings from Carnegie, Oklahoma, the headquarters of the great Kiowa Nation. In recent and alarming news, we have received word that the Department of Education has mistakenly misrepresented American Indian Education work and the Office of Indian Education as "DEI", which it most certainly is not. We would like to send clear communication to all decision-makers and those new to our realm of government and law that American Indian citizenship and political status should in no way be classified nor characterized as DEI. We are firmly set in Constitutional and Statutory rights as well as Supreme Court Ruling.

In particular, Donna Bussell, a Program Officer for the Office of Indian Education under the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education has been mistakenly placed on administrative leave for DEI work. We would like to give immediate attention to this error so that it may be corrected and further confusion and misrepresentation can be avoided.

Thank in advance for hearing these concerns and giving due attention.

Sincerely,

Chairman Lawrence Spotted Bird  
Kiowa Tribe

cc: Adriane Riase  
Randall Homburg, Kiowa Tribe, Attorney General  
Toni Tsatoke-Mule, Phd, Kiowa Education Agency, Executive Director



# Kiowa Tribe

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

Phone: (405) 247-0574 · Fax: (580) 654-8714

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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January 31, 2025

Dear Kiowa Tribal Citizens:

There have been recent concerns regarding the new President's robust illegal immigration effort involving ICE and other federal agencies. Although unsubstantiated at this point, some have claimed that immigration enforcement officers may possibly detain or arrest non-illegal immigrants which could include tribal citizens in their effort to institute the President's new policies. At this time, no reported improper detentions are reported in our area, but it is our priority to provide some advice should this contingency ever come to light. As your Chairman, I offer the following suggestions to protect your safety if this should ever occur. To be safe, Kiowa Tribal Citizens are encouraged to:

1. Always carry with you during travel, your Tribal ID and One or more form of identification, including your current Driver's License, Social Security Card or valid state issued ID. This is general common sense if you are operating a vehicle on any public roadway within the state in the event you are pulled over for a traffic offense by any law enforcement agency.
2. Remain calm and polite, ask for identification of the person you are speaking with in a courteous manner, especially if the identified officer is with ICE. These are federal agents tasked with enforcing the law.
3. Do not try to flee or resist. Calmly and respectfully present your identification. Being rude or combative will seldom have a good outcome. To resist or become combative is generally a losing proposition with trained law enforcement.
4. Have personal contact information available so you can notify friends or family of what has happened so they can locate you and assist you if you are detained or placed under arrest.
5. Know your rights, which include the right to speak to an attorney and the right to remain silent other than when providing information of your identity.

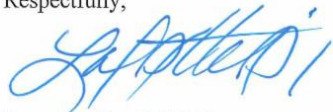
As a second matter, by Executive Order a freeze has been placed on certain federal funds pending review by all federal agencies, many of whom supply funding for tribal programs. That Executive Order has been stayed temporarily pending Court review. This may affect certain tribal programs being funded during the freeze, if allowed to move forward. We are keeping an eye on this delay and working with NCAI leadership and other tribal leaders to ensure that our grant funded programs continue to receive funding once the temporary freeze has lifted. We are working with our fellow tribal leaders to formulate a collective strategy with the participation of our Kiowa Treasury and Finance Director to minimize the impact of this freeze and program funding delay by taking necessary steps to preserve the present funds and reinstate the future funding for these programs.



We are diligently monitoring all developments which are coming from the newly elected executive administration. We do not foresee stoppage of these federally funded programs, although there may be some adjustment to certain award amounts. These recent events have caused confusion and fear, but this administration is working on finding the best solutions for our tribal government and tribal citizens who may be affected by these recent political changes.

If you have lost or misplaced your tribal ID, please contact our enrollment office at (405) 247-0502 for a replacement ID card. If your state identification Card or Driver's License is expired, renew it for your own protection and safety within your locality. In the meantime, be safe and take measures for your own wellbeing as we will be working as your Tribal leadership to preserve and protect our Tribal Sovereignty and our citizens.

Respectfully,



Lawrence SpottedBird  
Chairman

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## Upcoming Events



WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS  
**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

# RUGGLES NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

## OKLAHOMA FANCY DANCERS

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12

Sharp Concert Hall

Catlett Music Center

Open to the Public  
Complimentary Admission



The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. [www.ou.edu/eop](http://www.ou.edu/eop)



# TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

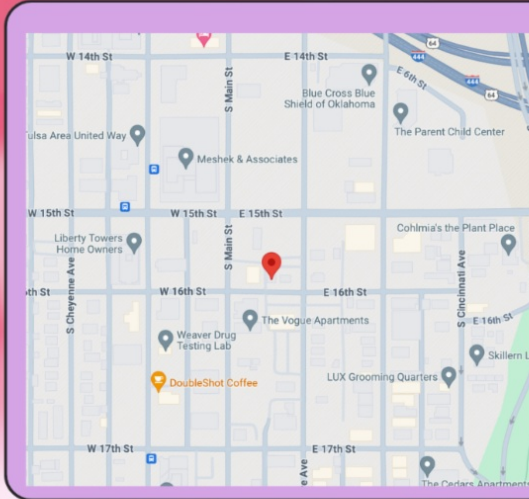
**LET'S LEARN  
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:  
WARREN QUETON**

**WHEN**

**FEBRUARY 24TH  
6 TO 7:30 PM**

**POTLUCK**



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

**WHERE**



**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**



## EPISODE 11 OF IDÓN:GYÀ!



A CONVERSATION WITH KIOWA TRIBAL  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,  
AMANDA HILL



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:

- Our January Tulsa language class
- Episode 11 of our podcast. We have Amanda Hill on as our guest

To access these videos, please visit our linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

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### 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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