



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

July of 2023



Gáuik'yágôñbàu, déóñ:dé bà bóñ: éñ:hàudèkì

(Kiowa People it's good to see you all today)

Hello, fellow Kiowa Citizens! It is with immense pride and gratitude that I serve as your District 7 Legislator. Before diving into the heart of my message, I want to take a moment to express my sincerest appreciation for each one of you. As Kiowas, we acknowledge that we are all related through our community, our societies and our extended families shown through our camps and ceremonial life. Now, let's talk about the values we hold dear. Our Kiowa traditions and shared principles have always been the bedrock of our tribe. However, it is essential that we consistently embody these values of dignity and respect. Recently, we came together for the Kiowa Gourd Dance ceremonies, a powerful time of spiritual rejuvenation. Let's carry that uplifting energy forward and anchor ourselves in our cherished traditions.

Being a citizen of District 7 is no easy task. Having spent my entire life in this

district, from Fort Worth, Texas, to Norman, Oklahoma, I am intimately aware of the challenges we face. We often miss out on tribal services and struggle to stay informed about the latest developments within the Kiowa Tribe. Over the past year, my primary focus has been understanding the changes we need to overcome these difficult times collectively.

The Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office is diligently collaborating with our Kiowa Indian Council and Executive Branches to better support one another. Together, we are working on legislation that will improve the lives of every citizen in our District 7 community. However, I must emphasize that this process is not without its obstacles. Nation-building is a complex endeavor, and our tribe is working hard to catch up with other nations, but change takes time and a collaborative spirit to ensure it is implemented correctly.

Remember, you are valued members of our tribe, and we are all in this together. Our strength lies in our unity, so let us continue to come together and build a brighter future for our beloved citizens.

Grand Opening of Tulsa Office

GRAND OPENING DISTRICT 7 TULSA

JULY 21ST 10AM-3PM



Join us for a
Meet and Greet
Food/Snacks

Enrollment will be in attendance

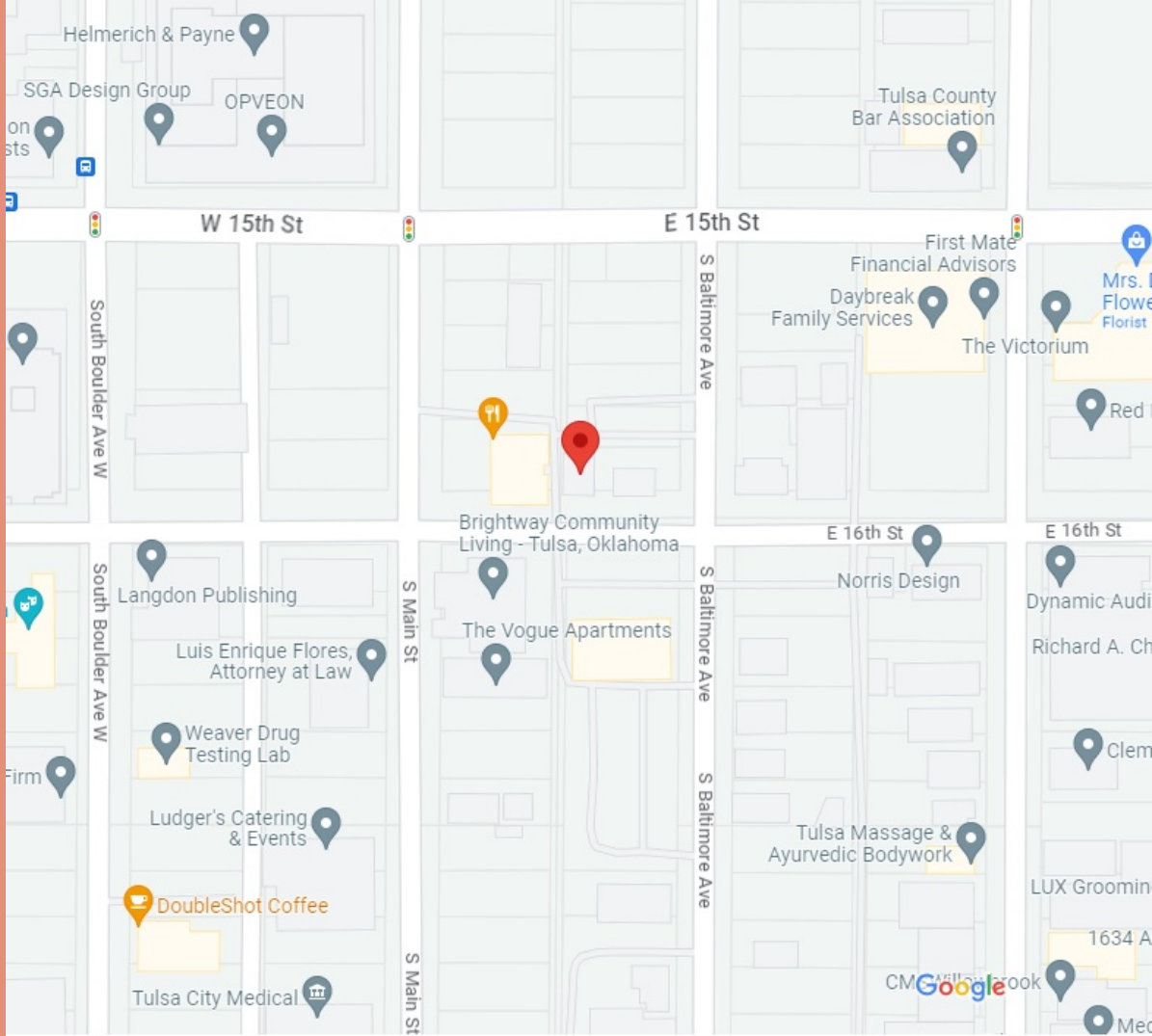
New picture/updated picture ID * New ID with change of address * Replacement ID
Name change on ID* New enrollment * Election Registration *Application for Eagle Permit

15 E 16TH ST

TULSA, OK 74119

405-857-8408

DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG



Exciting Update on Kiowa Tribe District 7 Office!

We're thrilled to announce that starting August 1, the Kiowa Tribe District 7 office in Norman will become a shared space with the Executive Branch. This decision was made as the Legislative Branch plans to open an office in the Tulsa Area. But don't worry, we'll keep our presence in the Norman/OKC area to better serve you! Considering these changes, we'd like to introduce you to our amazing Outreach Resource Manager, Ms. Manilla Whitehorse. With her expertise in accessing tribal programs, she'll be your go-to person for all things related to Kiowa assistance and services. She has been an integral part of the District 7 Legislative Office and we're thrilled with her transition into the new role with the Executive Branch.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all, and during these challenging times, the Legislature been working diligently as an extended social services office. However, with Ms. Whitehorse stepping into her new role, we're excited to focus on streamlining our services and ensuring that the Executive Branch takes the lead in providing services to all Kiowa citizens.

By fostering collaboration between the Legislative and Executive Branches, we are proud to present an outreach office dedicated to helping you access your benefits.

We believe that together, we can make a positive difference in our lives and strengthen our community.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to Manilla Whitehorse. She can be contacted via email at mwhitehorse@kiowatribe.org or by phone at (405) 857-8408.

Let's move forward together and make the most of this exciting new chapter at the District 7 office!

Kiowa Language Class



**Nau Cricket Rhoads
Connywerdy a dau**
(I am Cricket Rhoads
Connywerdy)

He dema a gauikau .
(My Kiowa name is
Storyteller woman.)

**Rhoads gau
Keahbone gau
Henry depgop né dau.**
(My families names are:
Rhoads, Henry, and
Keahbone.)

Meet Cricket Rhoads Connywerdy, a language advocate who is passionate about preserving and promoting the Kiowa language. Every month, Cricket organizes and leads a Kiowa Language class at the District 7 office in Norman. With the incredible support of the community, esteemed elders like Ms. Delores Harragarra, Velma Eisenberger, and talented instructors such as Dane and Martha Poolaw from the University of Oklahoma. The class has become a thriving hub of linguistic and cultural exchange.

Cricket's roots are deeply intertwined with her heritage. She is a proud member of the Kiowa Keahbone family, as well as the Henry Family, representing her Caddo roots, and the Rhoads Family, with Bohemian origins. Born in Lawton and raised in Tulsa, Cricket now calls Norman home, where she continues to nurture her passion.

Cricket's journey began as a ballet dancer and studied under Moscelyne Larkin who is one of the Five Moons Prima Ballerinas. She would later attend Kiowa language classes in Tulsa being taught by Evans Ray Satepauhoodle and Perry Onco. Once completing these courses, she contemplated her transfer to a university, and news of a Kiowa Language class taught by Dr. Gus Palmer at the University of Oklahoma captured her attention, leading her to choose OU without hesitation. Immersed in the teachings, Cricket excelled in all three levels of the Kiowa Language course and, concurrently, embarked on a new chapter of her life, meeting her husband Kevin

Connywerdy, and starting a family of three children.

Kricket's story is a testament to the power of language and culture. Her dedication to preserving the Kiowa language, alongside the support of the community and respected individuals, highlights her unwavering commitment to her heritage. Through her efforts, she is ensuring that the spirit of the Kiowa language thrives for generations to come.

Kricket realized that for her future children to be exposed to the Kiowa language, she needed to learn it herself. With the guidance of Dr. Palmer, she recognized that the next step in her Kiowa language journey would involve conversation and community engagement. Taking on the role of Director at a Native arts center in Norman around 2009, Kricket wasted no time developing two valuable programs: singing classes and language classes. The Kiowa language class was taught by Dane Poolaw and his grandmother, Carole Botone Willis. Kricket engaged the young students by incorporating games like "Red Light/Green Light," spoken entirely in Kiowa. A year later she would also begin Caddo language classes.

In 2016, Kricket organized her inaugural language summit, bringing together educators from prominent universities and respected community figures. After this summit, Dr. Melody Redbird Post successfully applied for a grant that would support the program for 5 years (later extended to 7 years due to Covid) with 1.8 million dollars in funding. The program's success was evident when the tribes presented their statistical data to Congress, proving the importance of continued funding.

With the necessary resources in place, thanks to the support of the community and elders, Kricket had a strong foundation to pursue her goals. However, she knew that achieving success would require a multifaceted approach. In the grant, there were three key areas that needed to be focused on: outreach, teacher development, and materials development. Each of these areas presented ongoing challenges, but Kricket was determined to overcome them.

The District 7 office encourages everyone to take the opportunity to bolster and strengthen our nearly extinct language. We need to get people interested to ensure our sovereignty. What becomes of our identity if our unique language dies? Learning Kiowa may be tough, but giving up is not an option. It requires dedication and practice every day, even if it means embarrassing ourselves. Let's learn together as a community and keep our language alive. **Bé [bét [dè** (never give up).

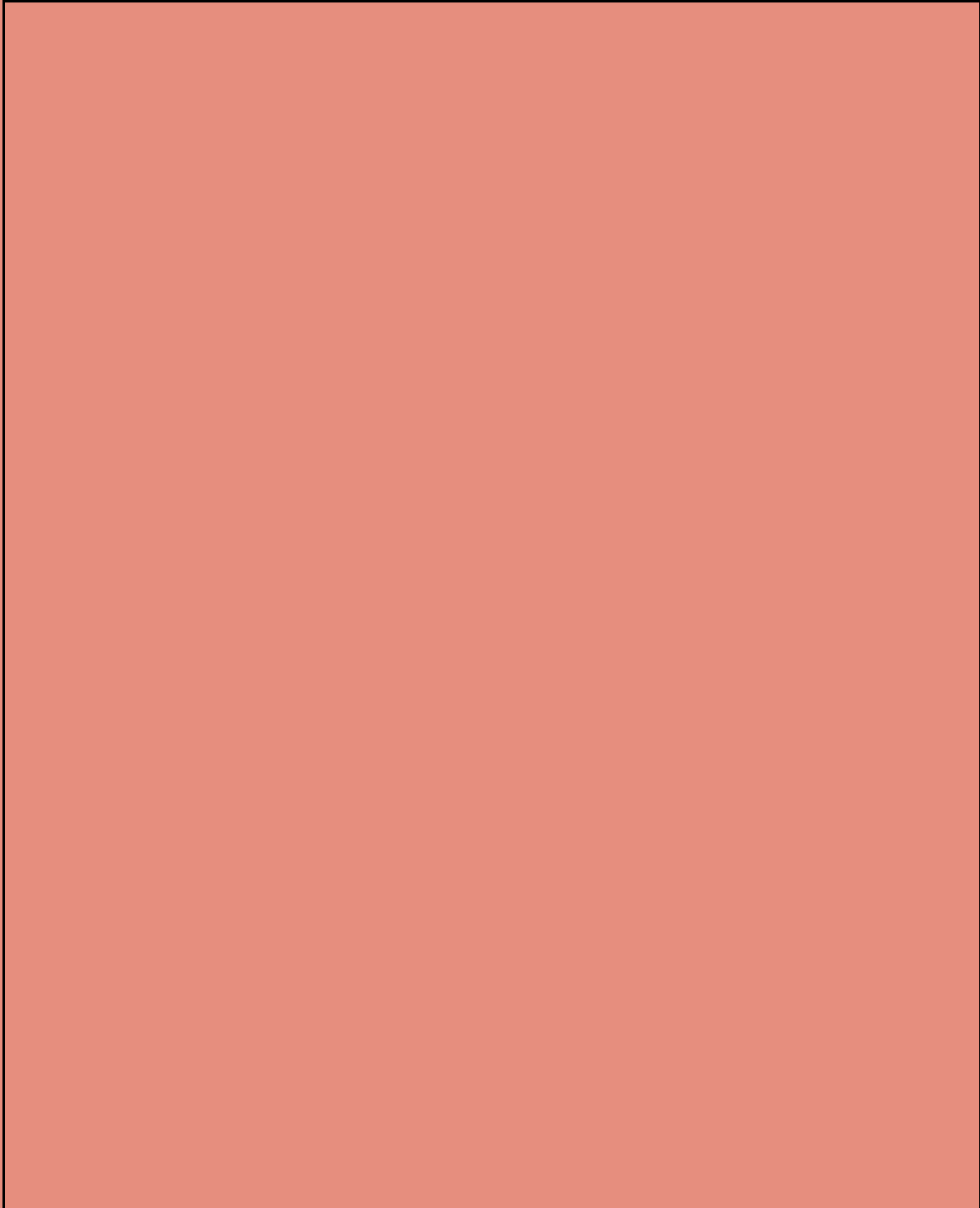
Developing teachers may be challenging, as they must first become students and learn. It's a gradual process, but a natural progression. This is an ongoing task. Currently, we have resources like Kricket's handouts on our website, kiowatribe.org/district-7, and more Kiowa language material can be found on kiowatribe.org/department/kiowa-language-department, learnkiowa.org, and studystack.com/kiowa.

Our class meets once a month, and event notifications are shared on our website and social media. For those unable to attend in person, there is a Zoom option available. With the support of our community and elders, we can learn together. We are learning not only Kiowa hymns but also conversational Kiowa that can be used every day. Additionally, learning Kiowa hymns helps young men in times of need, as they can start these songs for their families.

We invite you to join Cricket and the welcoming community, learn Kiowa together, and keep our tribe's language strong. **Hègáu èm âuiboñ:[dàu:**

Upcoming Events

Enrollment



KIOWA TRIBE DISTRICT 7

TRIBAL ID CARD DAY



TULSA

FRIDAY, JULY 21ST 2023

15 E 16TH ST TULSA OK 74119
10 AM - 3 PM CST
PHONE NUMBER: (405) 857-8408

July Zoom Meeting



JULY 25TH 12-2PM

**DISTRICT 7
MONTHLY
ZOOM MEETING**

TOPIC: EDUCATION
GUEST SPEAKER, DR. TONI TSATOKE-MULE,
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
EDUCATION



**FOLLOWED BY A Q&A
WITH LEGISLATOR WARREN QUETON**

ZOOM MEETING: 824 5626 0532
PASSWORD: 108665

district7legislature@kiowatribe.org
<https://www.kiowatribe.org/district-7>
405-857-8408

New Website

← ↻ 🔒 https://www.kiowatribe.org/district-7





Norman Language Class

This is a monthly meeting organized by Cricket Connywerdy, please see our events calendar for the next upcoming class





Zoom Meeting ID: 876 3205 2759

Password: kiowa

Handouts

-  [conversation_2_070723.pdf](#)
-  [greeting_070723.pdf](#)
-  [kinship_chart_070723.pdf](#)
-  [songs_070623.pdf](#)

New Handouts 07/10/23

-  [hymn42.pdf](#)
-  [conversational_071023.pdf](#)
-  [kinship_my_071023.pdf](#)
-  [kinship_your_071023.pdf](#)

We will be updating our [Kiowa Tribe District 7](#) site with new handouts from the language class.

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[Unsubscribe wqueton@gmail.com](mailto:wqueton@gmail.com)

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