



# Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

November of 2024



**Dear Tribal Members, Community, and Elders,**

November is especially busy as we unite to honor and celebrate Indigenous culture in our schools and work organizations. It's also a time for handgames, gatherings, hunting, and deepening our connections within our Kiowa community. We're fortunate to have had many events to participate in, including the Kiowa and Crow handgames, Veterans Day Celebrations, Buffalo Butchering, and American Indian Heritage Celebrations. We also had the opportunity to honor our Kiowa Elders with their elder check distribution.

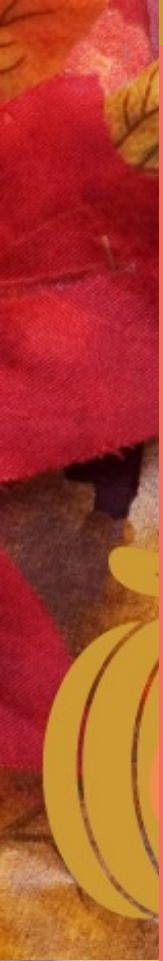
While I have strong opinions about the rhetoric surrounding Thanksgiving and the romanticized story of its origins, I do appreciate the chance for us all to cherish time with family, friends, and relatives.

I hope these events have brought joy and unity to us all.



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# Kiowa Holiday Prayer







DÀU:K'Í DÉOÑ:DE GYÀT KÀULÉ TÉN:TS'Ò:ÀU:MÈ.  
DAW-K'EE DAY-OHÑ-DAY GYAHT KAW-LAW TAYN-  
TSOH AW-MAY.  
GOD, IT IS GOOD YOU HAVE GATHERED US TOGETHER.

DÁU [DÁ:DÒ DÈ.  
DAW TDAH DOH-DAY.  
KEEP WATCH OVER US.

GÀU GYÀT [BÉ:GYÀ [GÂUM.  
GAW GYAHT PBAY-GYAH KHAWM.  
AND GIVE US WISDOM, TOO.

GYÀT TÁÑ:ÀUM.  
GYAHT TAHÑ-AWM.  
HELP US.

ÓBÀHÀU.  
OH-BAH-HAW.  
THAT IS ALL.

AH-EE KAWÑ PBAY-DOH  
IN YOUR SON'S NAME

AH-HO  
THANK YOU





## Legislative Update



# Latest Legislature News

### **Legislative Update for the Kiowa Tribe**

Greetings, Kiowa Tribe members! I am writing to inform you of the latest legislative developments to enhance our governance and honor our rich heritage. Here's a comprehensive update on the recent legislative activities within our tribe.

### **Revision of the Kiowa Gaming Commission Ordinance**

For over a year, the Kiowa Legislature has been engaged in productive discussions with key stakeholders, including the Kiowa Casino Operating Authority, Kiowa Gaming Commission, and our Executive Branches. These discussions have been centered on revising the Kiowa Gaming Commission Ordinance. The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) is currently reviewing a draft of the revised ordinance. Once we receive their feedback, a public hearing will be organized to ensure transparency and community involvement before proceeding to a vote.

### **Amendments to the Kiowa Code of 2017**

Our Legislature is collaborating with the Judicial Branch to sponsor an amendment to the Kiowa Code of 2017. This initiative stems from constructive

feedback from Court Attorneys, focusing on the Criminal Code. These amendments aim to refine our legal framework to serve justice better within our community.

### **Support for the Truth and Healing Commission**

Legislative Speaker Michael Primus is sponsoring a resolution to support the Truth and Healing Commission on the Indian Boarding Schools Act. Although its future support with the incoming White House administration is uncertain, the Kiowa Tribe wholeheartedly backs initiatives focused on boarding school truth and reconciliation.

### **New Tribal Resolutions**

Several resolutions were also read into the record and working through the legislative process:

- **Resolution KL CY 2024 0XX allows the Kiowa Tribe to conduct business with the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration for American Indians. Sponsored by Timothy Satepauhoodle, District 3.**
- **Resolution KL CY 2024 0XX is dedicated to honoring Kiowa Veterans who have received the Purple Heart Medal, spearheaded by Warren Queton, District 7.**
- **Resolution KL CY 2024 0XX authorizes the Bank of Oklahoma, detailing account management and limitations, sponsored by Michael Primus, District 2.**
- **Resolution KL CY 2024 0XX, also sponsored by Michael Primus, District 2, authorizes sovereign bank accounts and outlines signers, powers, and limitations.**

### **Impact on the Kiowa Tribe**

The ability to draft and enforce new laws and resolutions lies with our legislative power, ensuring we effectively maintain control over our governance and resources. The Kiowa Legislature remains the significant body steering our collective legislative efforts. We thank all stakeholders, including the Judicial, KCOA, KGC, and Executive Branches, for their dedication and collaboration in these significant undertakings.

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## **Kiowa District 7 Strongly Opposes OU's Plan to Close Native Language Program**

The Kiowa District 7 leadership has publicly condemned the University of Oklahoma's (OU) recent proposal to eliminate the world language requirement from its general education curriculum. The Kiowa District 7 Legislator asserts that the decision threatens to undermine critical academic and cultural initiatives, chiefly its esteemed Native American Languages Program (NALP).

Writing to OU President Joseph Harroz Jr., the District 7 representative articulated the potential ramifications of this decision in a strongly worded letter that emphasized the value and necessity of preserving programs like the Kiowa language course, among others. The correspondence highlighted the rich cultural heritage these programs protect and framed their existence as essential to the university's academic excellence



and responsibility to Indigenous communities.

## **A Legacy and Reputation Built on Indigenous Language Preservation**

For decades, OU has been recognized for its leadership in endangered language preservation, with its Native American Languages Program winning international acclaim. The Kiowa language program, a centerpiece of this initiative, offers three levels of instruction and continues to fulfill the university's world language credit requirement. More than just an academic endeavor, the program serves as a cultural bridge, strengthening linguistic knowledge within Kiowa communities while fostering cross-cultural understanding for non-Kiowa students. This dual mission aligns with OU's broader diversity, inclusivity, and cultural enrichment goals.

According to Kiowa District 7, OU risks undermining the credibility and significance of programs that have long garnered national and international recognition by eliminating the world language requirement. The letter describes this move as an erosion of the university's academic foundations, as it inhibits meaningful efforts toward global awareness, intellectual diversity, and cultural understanding—tenets fundamental to higher education today.

## **The Impact on Native American Communities**

At its core, the proposed policy change risks disproportionately impacting Oklahoma's Indigenous communities. With over 1,100 Native American students enrolling at OU annually, the NALP plays a pivotal role in their academic and cultural education. Offering courses on endangered languages—like Kiowa—programs within NALP also create opportunities for Indigenous students to reclaim, preserve, and connect with their linguistic heritage.

Beyond Indigenous students, these courses benefit the broader university population. For many students, especially those from resource-constrained high schools, the NALP bridges gaps in access to language education. Furthermore, it supports interdisciplinary fields such as Native American Studies and linguistics, providing a unique academic layer to OU's offerings.

In its letter, Kiowa District 7 emphasized that dismantling the world language requirement would hinder not only language reclamation efforts but also broader initiatives aimed at promoting global competency and equitable education.

## **Cultural and Academic Excellence at Risk**

The letter to President Harroz also underscored that the proposed policy sends a troubling message about the university's commitment to Indigenous communities. Removing the world language requirement—a decision that would undermine the ethos of institutions of higher education—would overlook the vital relationship between academic excellence and cultural awareness.

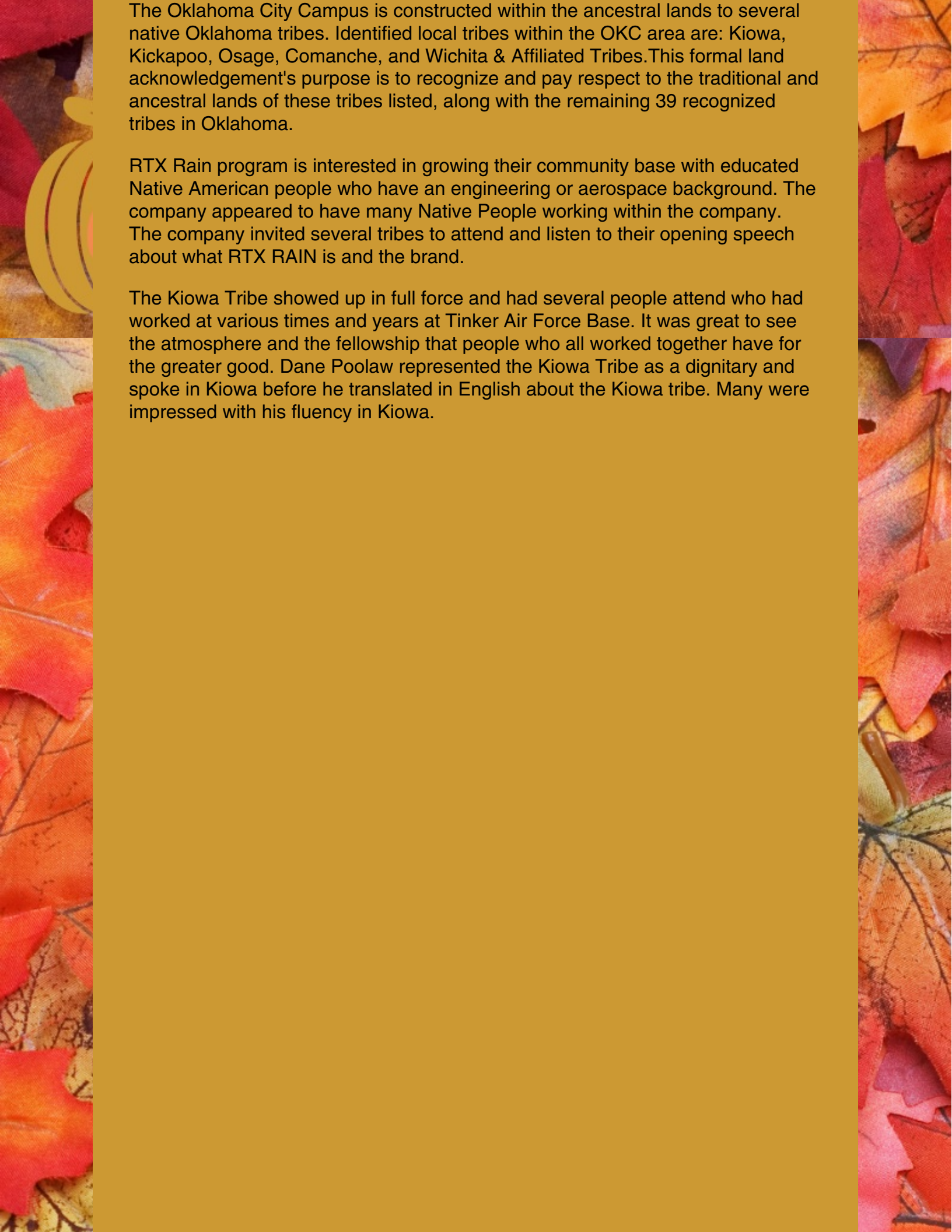
The statement points out that courses like the Kiowa language program transcend their academic function by enriching cross-cultural interactions, fostering empathy, and broadening perspectives among students. These outcomes, it argues, directly prepare students to meet the global challenges of an interconnected world.

## **An Urgent Call to Action**

Kiowa District 7 joined a growing coalition of students, faculty, alumni, and local stakeholders in urging OU to reconsider its plan. The letter concluded by calling on the university to reaffirm its dedication to diversity, cultural engagement, and academic innovation—values that programs like the NALP embody.





The page features a decorative border with autumn-themed elements. On the left side, there is a vertical strip showing a pumpkin and various autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. On the right side, there is another vertical strip showing a dense arrangement of autumn leaves in similar colors. The background of the page is a solid, light yellow color.

The Oklahoma City Campus is constructed within the ancestral lands to several native Oklahoma tribes. Identified local tribes within the OKC area are: Kiowa, Kickapoo, Osage, Comanche, and Wichita & Affiliated Tribes. This formal land acknowledgement's purpose is to recognize and pay respect to the traditional and ancestral lands of these tribes listed, along with the remaining 39 recognized tribes in Oklahoma.

RTX Rain program is interested in growing their community base with educated Native American people who have an engineering or aerospace background. The company appeared to have many Native People working within the company. The company invited several tribes to attend and listen to their opening speech about what RTX RAIN is and the brand.

The Kiowa Tribe showed up in full force and had several people attend who had worked at various times and years at Tinker Air Force Base. It was great to see the atmosphere and the fellowship that people who all worked together have for the greater good. Dane Poolaw represented the Kiowa Tribe as a dignitary and spoke in Kiowa before he translated in English about the Kiowa tribe. Many were impressed with his fluency in Kiowa.





## Meet Kiowa Legislative Intern, Codie Topetchy

Codie Horse-Topetchy, [Gu: [dòhìñ Mà (Eagle Woman) comes from the Huntinghorse, Whitehorse, Toyekoyah, and Ware families. She is the daughter of Marisa Horse and Gregory Topetchy. She is the granddaughter of the late Curtis and Penelope “Penny” Horse. She is the great-granddaughter of James Myers Horse and



Mae Whitehorse, Matthew Toyekoyah Komalty, and Vena "Gertie" Ware.

She is an enrolled Kiowa tribal Otoe-Missouria, Comanche, and Pawnee descent member.

Codie is a junior at the University of Oklahoma majoring in Native American studies with minors in political science and linguistics. She is also a research assistant for the Native American Studies Department. Her research interests are cultural preservation, oral histories, and language revitalization within Native communities. She is proud to be Kiowa and always tries to learn more about her language and tribal history. Codie is also active in the community and attends dances and ceremonials whenever possible.

Her future goals are to continue with school, get a master's in Environmental Studies, and eventually attend law school. After completing her schooling, Codie wants to return and work for her Kiowa people and community.

## **Honoring Kiowa Traditions: A Community Gathering Around the Buffalo**









The Kiowa Historic Preservation Office hosted an extraordinary and culturally significant event on tribal property in Indian City, USA. Through collaboration with THPO Director Amanda Hill and District 7 Legislator, the gathering emphasized the deep connection between the Kiowa people and the Buffalo, or *áúñ:gáubìñ*:



(*Aw-Gaw-Pee*), a being steeped in spiritual and cultural resonance within Kiowa traditions. The event celebrated this sacred relationship and brought the community together in an atmosphere of community, tradition, and reverence.

### **A Day of Ritual and Community**

The event began with a Kiowa prayer, setting a solemn tone for what would follow. This prayer marked the respectful and humane taking of two Buffalo facilitated by Clifton Queton, whose expertise ensured the act aligned with ethical practices rooted in tradition. This ceremonious opening reflected the Kiowa people's deep respect for the Buffalo, considered a pillar of their sustenance and spiritual identity.

The energy throughout the day was terrific, as over 150 people gathered to participate in and observe this communal event. The spirit of collaboration and togetherness was unmistakable as attendees worked collectively to handle every aspect of the butchering process. Their efforts demonstrated skill and the enduring importance of kinship and community within Kiowa culture.

### **From Tradition to the Table**

Once the Buffalo were butchered, much of the meat was cooked and shared among attendees in an open feast. The menu exemplified traditional practices, featuring heart, liver, kidney, backstrap, lungs, and bote. A particularly memorable moment was when some Kiowa individuals enjoyed marrow straight from the bone using tree twigs. The remainder of the meat was divided among those who contributed to the butchering and preparation, ensuring that the Buffalo's offerings were distributed fairly to honor the animal and the community's collective effort.

### **Cultural Significance of áuñ:gáubiñ:**

For the Kiowa people, the Buffalo is more than a source of sustenance—it embodies their historical and spiritual relationship with the natural world. The word áuñ:gáubiñ: directly translates to Buffalo and underscores its role as "our main food" in the Kiowa language. This linguistic and cultural connection speaks to the profound dependence the Kiowa historically had on the Buffalo for physical nourishment and spiritual grounding.

By coming together in such events, tribal members are reminded of the importance of respectful interaction with nature and the enduring relevance of traditional practices. This gathering also served to educate and inspire younger generations, ensuring these traditions persist amidst the evolving dynamics of modern life.

### **Looking Ahead**

Participants' feedback highlighted this event's remarkable success, with many expressing hopes that it marks the beginning of a recurring tradition for the Kiowa tribe. Annual gatherings like this would celebrate Kiowa heritage and foster stronger bonds within the tribal community and with their ancestral practices.

The Kiowa Historic Preservation Office and District 7 Office would like to extend their deepest gratitude to all those who joined and contributed to making this event meaningful—from facilitating the Buffalo's humane taking to ensuring the butchering and cooking processes ran smoothly. The enthusiasm and commitment of everyone involved demonstrate the enduring vitality of Kiowa customs—big thanks to the Kiowa Tribe Maintenance, Language, and Land Management Departments for assisting with the event.



It is our collective hope that, through events like these, the tradition of honoring the Buffalo and its profound meaning to the Kiowa people will thrive for generations to come.

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## District 7 Podcast



### EPISODE 10 OF [DÓNÑ:GYÀ!



### A CONVERSATION WITH STEVEN PAUL JUDD



Episode 10 is available now on Spotify and Youtube

This month we had Steven Paul Judd on the podcast

Links can be found on our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

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## Upcoming Events



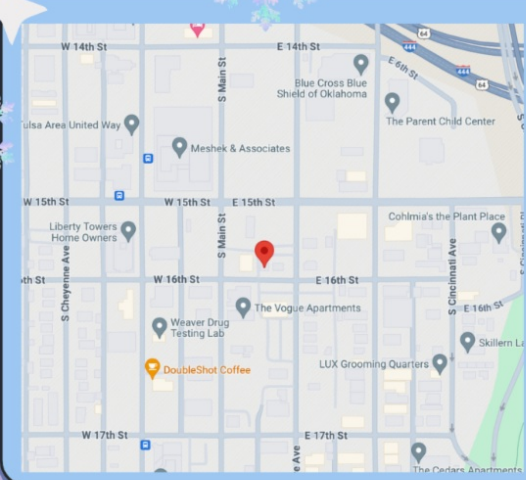


# TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

**LET'S LEARN  
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:  
WARREN QUETON**

**WHEN** **DECEMBER 16TH**  
**6 TO 7:30 PM**



**WHERE**

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

**PARKING  
ON SITE**

**ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM**  
Zoom link available on our Linktree:  
[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowad7)



**(539) 525-0437**



**DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG**



# Kiowa District 7 Language Class

## DECEMBER 30TH

**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

**\$10 gift  
exchange**

**Bring Sende  
stories**

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS CONTENT PLEASE  
CONTACT KRICKET CONNYWERDY AT [RHOADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RHOADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM)



## YouTube Channel

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:

- November Webinar with Summer Palmer to discuss Elder distribution
- Our November Tulsa language class

To access these videos, please visit our linktree, <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 US

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