



Press Release

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes | Office of the Governor | Communications Office

405.422.7928

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Brings Chief White Antelope's Blanket for Viewing

April 28, 2021

Concho, Okla. – Governor Reggie Wassana humbly announces this historic viewing of Chief White Antelope's blanket to be held at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Headquarters, Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

The initial viewing will coincide with the Tribes' Sand Creek Massacre Monument Dedication the same day at 11 a.m.

The blanket was taken from the body of Chief White Antelope at the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864. In 1929, it was privately sold to the Indian Arts Fund, now Indian Arts Research Center, School for Advanced Research (SAR) where it has remained all these years.

Chief White Antelope's blanket has great significance to the Cheyenne people and the Sand Creek Massacre descendants. Some present-day Cheyenne elders and descendants of Chief White Antelope believe that White Antelope may have confiscated the blanket during a raid into Navajo territory.

Over the years, the blanket has traveled to Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. In 1997, the blanket was brought to Watonga, OK, in response to a request from Cheyenne elders. It was viewed by a large gathering of Cheyenne chiefs and elders, including Chief Joe Antelope, the grandson of White Antelope.

Since then, a cooperative relationship has developed between SAR and the Sand Creek Massacre Descendants Trust (SCMDT), which represents the Sand Creek Massacre descendants including Chief White Antelope's descendants.

“This is a historic event, the Chief White Antelope blanket is home, and its legacy continues to live through the Sand Creek descendants,” said Gov. Wassana.

The Tribes will provide three viewings for Chief White Antelope’s blanket beginning at the Concho R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Gym Tuesday, May 11, followed by Seiling ERC on Wednesday, May 12 and Clinton ERC on Thursday, May 13. All begin at 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

COVID-19 guidelines will be practiced at all viewings. For more information, contact the communications office at (405) 422-7928.