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**JULY 2022** 



#### NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | JULY 2022

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VISION MAKER MEDIA, FUNDS NATIVE FILM

# $04 \, \mathrm{catv}$

ative Oklahoma Magazine is a publication not only for the visitor to Oklahoma, but also a resource for our Native community and neighbors. Every month, Native Oklahoma's awardwinning writers showcase Native artists, cooks, foods, culture, and crafts, as well as current events and powwows. Our issues include event calendars and lists of Native American attractions across Oklahoma. Native Oklahoma also includes a list of gaming venues, places to stay, and the location of tribal headquarters.

#### **\*ON THE COVER:**

his month's theme is Native Film! Read our various stories on the impact Native Film is having on Indian Country and the world.

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# CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES TELEVISION STATION CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Latoya Lonelodge (CONCHO, OK) A decade of programming.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Television Station (CATV) celebrate its 10-year anniversary of producing guality educational videos and film. CATV is a low power public educational TV station owned by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in operation since 2012. It was the first Native owned television station in the state of Oklahoma. Since its inception, Randy Burleson, CATV director, and Darren Brown, senior content producer, have been working and producing content alongside talented staff members of the CATV program throughout the years. Current CATV staff includes Adam Youngbear, producer, Diego Hartico, videographer/ editor, and Savannah Stein, administrative assistant. Throughout the years, CATV has had to adjust and transition with the changing demands of a television station on antenna TV to reach more viewership in communities. While striving to produce guality content for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and reach more communities, CATV airs on antenna TV channel 35 and has expanded their content to be viewed on Vimeo, YouTube and social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram. "Facebook and YouTube have been around for most of how our audiences engage with us and that's a huge thing because even if everybody around here had an actual antenna, we still couldn't reach them, we post something on Facebook and we have over 10,000 or so friends across the country, all different tribes," Brown said. Brown said when the program posts content to Facebook, people see it all over the world and react to it. "We can see that they did that and that's pretty cool," Brown said. While the station reaches into Oklahoma City on air, Burleson said if everybody had an antenna their viewership could potentially reach a million viewers, however that wouldn't be realistic as most people have cable or satellite ... but that'll soon change, Burleson said. "We are working on apps for Amazon, Fire TV, Apple TV, Roku and television apps so we'll have our own apps that people can download, if they can't get our signal over the air, they can download our app and get it on their phone, their iPad, their computer or their smart TV," Burleson said. Having worked in CATV for as long as the program has been in operation, Burleson said it's been interesting to work every day as there's always something new and different to do. "I haven't been bored one day in this job there's always something for me to do whether it's a technical challenge I have to face,



planning or helping these guys with their projects, there's always something to think about, to plan to do to keep up with the demand of the TV stations, so we're always busy," Burleson said. For Brown, 10 years at CATV has been relatively short in terms of how long he's spent in production with tribal media. "Ten years may sound like a long time to someone but really when you talk about tribal media, tribal television, that's still a brand new thing all across the country and I find that very exciting because there are other tribes around the country who are doing this as well, so really what we're doing is still pretty new," Brown said. Brown said other tribes may be producing other content such as documentaries and feature films that

#### CATV probably couldn't do as well as they can.

"However, those tribes couldn't do what we're doing as well as we do it and that's awesome. The success of each tribes' media, I think, builds on the others and we don't really see it as a competition," Brown said. CATV also serves as a support service for other programs within the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education, such as the Language program who uses their video services to make videos featuring the Cheyenne and Arapaho languages. "We want to keep the quality up like we always have and I know we will, the hardest part is getting the volume part of production in because a TV station runs 24/7, seven days a week, 365 days, and to

get fresh content on there all the time is really hard," Burleson said. In the 10 years CATV has had to produce quality content, Brown said since the beginning the program hasn't put anything on air that isn't quality.

"I want people to hear our name and know that we do good work and so far, it takes time to build that and we've had turnarounds here and there but I think ten years in, I think we made a name for ourselves," Brown said. Brown said working with other tribes has been a great part of their job as well as collaborating with them. "Hopefully there will be more of that so we can share our knowledge with them as well and learn things from them because like I said, I don't do documentaries but l'm more than willing to learn from other tribes who do and vise-versa," Brown said. CATV has continued to receive positive feedback on their content for the most part. "People love the shows, they love seeing themselves on TV, or their family members, they love saying, 'I know that person," Burleson said. And Brown said Cheyenne and Arapaho

people love seeing their relatives on film.

"I love the fact that when we started no one knew who we were, people didn't necessarily trust us, why would they interview with us they don't know us but now we've been here for so long it's almost expected," Brown said. And what has been long expected since the beginning of CATV is the need for more tribal youth involvement in tribal media. Brown said being 10 years in, he thought there would be Cheyenne and Arapaho students graduated from college with degrees in journalism, broadcasting or other forms of mass media. "Until that happens I don't feel my job is done at all and I just want to make sure that Native kids see broadcasting in whatever form it may be, TV, film, public relations, that they see it as a viable career path," Brown said. Looking back over the years, Brown said

#### he's grateful for his job at CATV.

"I don't take it for granted because I get to tell native stories about Native people for a Native audience generally, there aren't many people in this country that can say that and that's really cool, there are not many jobs like this out there and we're extremely fortunate to have it," Brown said. When creativing CATV in 2012, Carrie Whitlow, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education executive director said the tribes wanted a television station to provide quality programming through a Cheyenne and Arapaho perspective. Through the years CATV has adapted and transitioned to being more

> than just a television station as they've become more of a media communications program in expanding their content to social media sites. Whitlow said CATV is the one program that does endless partnerships and program building with every program within the Department of Education, whether it's with Head Start, Language, Child Care or other programs. "They're the main program that works well with others, is always willing to cover events or come up with new ideas, do PSA's, I feel like they keep us going and keep our events, our staff and our people highlighted," Whitlow said. That's always been their main goal, Whitlow said. "But also, to always include that Cheyenne and Arapaho perspective and telling stories from that angle, that's the primary objective always." CATV has garnered many awards over the past decade including: Native American Journalist Association Awards 2013 First Place "Best TV Feature Story" 2013 Second Place "Best TV Feature Story"

2014 Third Place "Best TV Feature Story" 2014 First Place "TV General Excellence " 2015 First Place "Best TV Feature Story" 2015 First Place "TV General Excellence" 2017 Second Place "Best TV Feature Story 2017 Second Place "TV General Excellence " 2019 First Place "TV General Excellence" Advanced Television Broadcasting Alliance Awards 2016 Best TV Special Program for "Sacred Steps: Sand Creek Run" 2018 Best Creative TV Programming "Frybread Flats" Telly Awards 2018 Bronze General – Childrens TV "Frybread Flats"





CATV Producer Darren Brown works with tribal youth for the series "Frybread Flats."

CATV Producer Darren Brown regularly visits students at various schools to give hands on instruction in film making.

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# TULSA-BASED NATIVE AMERICAN FURNITURE MANUFACTURER LAUNCHES SIX SHOWROOMS ACROSS NATION

Tulsa-based Native American furniture manufacturer launches six showrooms across nation

TULSA (June 13, 2022) – Amatoya, a Tulsabased manufacturer of custom-designed Native American furniture, will launch its collection in six showrooms this summer.

"Amatoya has set a new bar for timeless, true Native American design, quality, and craftsmanship," said founder Cray Bauxmont-Flynn. "Since starting our company three years ago, our handsome, sculptural pieces have caught the eyes of discerning designers, hotel proprietors, and even set decorators. Now we are offering our collection in showrooms across the country."

Dallas, Denver, and Washington, D.C., showrooms will debut on June 22. Locations in Chicago, Seattle, and Tulsa will launch the following month.

The Dallas showroom, the sole location operating under the Amatoya brand, will open in The Gallery at the Dallas Market Center. It will feature 38 pieces from the Tulsa company's home and hospitality collection, ranging from tables and chairs to sofas, cabinets, and textiles. The other locations will display eight to 12 pieces within partner showrooms. These include: Carter Inc., Denver. The deAurora Showroom at Chicago's Merchandise Mart.



The Dixon Group in the Seattle Design Center. Duvall Atelier, Tulsa. Hines & Co., Washington, D.C. These six locations represent the only sales points for Amatoya's made-toorder lines. Customers may choose from product samples along with a variety of unique fabrics and finishes. Amatoya will manufacture and deliver these custom orders using its Oklahoma network of Native American artisans.

Amatoya – a Cherokee word meaning "rainmaker" – develops residential and hospitality furniture that embraces Native American cultures across the continental United States.

"I want to help keep the Native American spirit and artistry alive for the next generation," said Flynn. "I'm a proud Cherokee, but I don't want the Amatoya line to just be about my culture and heritage. We will include everyone, from the Iroquois in the Northeast U.S. to the Navajo in the Southwest and the Nez Perce in the Northwest."

Due to COVID's impact on staffing, markets, and supply chains, Flynn said it took Amatoya several months to develop its marketing and production infrastructure. He said the firm's reliance on made-to-order products should allow Amatoya to stay ahead of inventory concerns.

"It was hard to pull together the people who can produce those pieces and manufacture them with the best quality," he said. "We're delighted with the craftsmen and artisans we've gathered.

"The synergy of Amatoya's partnerships is captured with multiple workrooms," said Flynn. "It is apparent in each piece that it is custom fabricated and consistently reviewed throughout the entire process. This hands-on approach is a tenet practiced in all facets of our business."

To learn more about Amatoya, check out www. amatoya.com. You may contact the company by phone, 918.812.8860, or email, info@amatoya.com.





# MICROGRIDS 101: ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIAN COUNTRY

# MICROGRIDS 101: ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Electrical utilities and designers, like other technical organization, use a lot of acronyms and compound words to reduce complicated ideas or components of their systems into manageable industry speak. Over the last decade, one term with many different levels of meaning has arrived on the scene; Microgrid.

We are all familiar with 'The Grid,' an interconnected system comprised of wires and poles and generation plants keeping the lights and air conditioners on. It is a wonderful thing, until it breaks! Trees fall on wires and storms knock down poles and since it is all interconnected, an outage event in one place may take many customers down with it. Just ask a Texan how they managed during the last big winter storm without electricity or natural gas. Additionally, with the connection of variable power sources to the grid i.e. wind/solar, those sources must be backed up by some form of base load generation or storage or the grid goes down.

So, what is a microgrid and what benefits does it offer? As the diagram below details, the microgrid is a smart controller connected to various forms of distributed generation and critical loads to form either a safe "island" away from the utility grid and/or a potential source of revenue to sell capacity or Kw hours back onto the grid when available.

Many hospitals, colleges, data centers, military operations and

other critical facilities that have buildings in close proximity already have some level of microgrid in place to protect their critical loads, generally with stand-by generators. With the addition of a system of control, like the modern microgrid controller,

many different distributed energy sources can be added into the microgrid and then optimized for lowest cost of electricity and resilience.

Tribal Nations are especially well situated to enhance their energy sovereignty and control their electrical destiny and costs by creating their own microgrids or even form their own electrical utility as the ultimate solution. The Department of Indian Energy offers grants, loans and assistance for just this type of endeavor.

If your Tribe has an interest in finding out more about this opportunity to expand your energy sovereignty, please contact us at www.nativeenergysource.com We offer consulting, feasibility studies and construction management on each of the systems contained within a microgrid.

David L. Thomasson, CEO | Native Energy Source, LLC





# UNDERSTANDING CREDIT & HOW IT AFFECTS YOU & YOUR BUSINESS

Understanding Credit and How it Affects You and Your Business

As an entrepreneur, it's important to understand the difference between personal credit and business credit. Scores are heavily weighed when considering lending and mitigating risk. Personal credit is what you build by demonstrating trust when it comes to paying your bills on time and/or in full, regardless if it's credit cards, auto loans or a mortgage. By paying on time, it increases your credit standing. Most do not know that personal credit is separate from business credit. You can start building business credit as soon as you have a business bank account.

Your business credit score assists in determining how trustworthy your business is before you're approved for a business loan. Business credit also measures lending risk and how likely you can pay back the loan. One of the most misunderstood things entrepreneurs deal with is business credit and how it impacts their business. In addition to a personal credit score, you have a business credit profile. Unlike a personal credit score, there isn't a certain "magic score" that helps lenders evaluate your business' creditworthiness (financial history) and EIN number, which includes how timely you pay the business utility bills, lease payments, vendors paid on-time, and any business debt currently obtained. A business score ranges from 1-100 and the higher the number, the more likely lenders are to extend you credit. Also considered on your business profile are legal filings i.e., liens, lawsuits, judgments, delinquent taxes, etc. Like personal credit, it's important that you regularly monitor both your business and personal credit. Doing so will increase your approval odds and builds your track record (reputation).

Most people know that personal credit is directly related to personal financial spending history; Credit that's extended to you for personal reasons, like credit cards, car loans, or student loans. Your personal credit is tied to your social security number and is compiled by three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and Transunion. Your personal credit score is a summary of your personal spending history, ranging from 300-850. The higher the score, the better creditworthiness. Your score is calculated based on credit reports that report monthly and include debt owed, length of credit history, types of credit (credit mix) and new credit. Lenders use your score to lend to you and your score also determines your interest rate. Other factors include your debt-to-income ratio, which can be difficult to understand. A good mix is under

30% of vour debt, which translates to your ability to pay back the debt on-time and according to the terms of the debt agreement. Other factors that affect your credit are max limits and credit inquires, which

all affect your score.

If you have a startup or have been in business less than two years, lending criteria is based on your personal credit, also known as a personal guarantee. Some debate that personal credit and business credit are entirely separate. Eventually, yes but not immediately. Business owners should monitor both personal and business credit frequently. For more information, please visit: https://www.luksiconsulting.com

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#### DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS NEVER OKAY

# FINDING A SHELTER IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Presently, there are 259 Native-centered service providers that are culturally appropriate for Native Americans and Alaska Natives; and that includes only 62 shelters nationwide.

Written by Osage News Staff

#### By StrongHearts Native Helpline

There is a severe resource gap (see current Resource Impact Summary) impacting the ability of tribes to address intimate partner violence in their communities. Presently, there are 259 Native-centered service providers that are culturally appropriate for Native Americans and Alaska Natives; and that includes only 62 shelters nationwide. In addition to the Native service provider database, through an invaluable partnership with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, StrongHearts' advocates have access to more than 3,500 non-Native service providers in the U.S. What You Should Know

Shelters prioritize clients based on the lethality of their situation. That is why it is important to share all of the lethality concerns in your situation. Consider the following:

Has the perpetrator increased physical or sexual violence?
Is there a history of strangulation, or threats of suicide or homicide?
Are you pregnant?

•Are there weapons in the home?

**Overcoming Challenges** 

A shelter can be very overwhelming if you have not been in one before. It's important to differentiate between shelter types. Avoid saying the word "homeless" when looking for shelter. When fleeing an abusive relationship, be careful not to say you are homeless. This could result in being referred to a homeless shelter instead of a domestic violence shelter. A shelter for unhoused people can be used in a pinch but if you are a survivor of domestic and sexual violence it's best to seek assistance from an intimate partner violence

service provider. They will be more informed on your situation and rights and will likely have other services available for you. It's important to be aware of who may work at the shelter for your tribe. Indian Country is small, and a relative or a friend of a family member may work at your tribal shelter. If you feel like there may be a conflict of interest or you feel unsafe, you may want to seek shelter on other tribal lands if they allow citizens of other Native Nations. If you have no other options you may consider staying at a non-Native shelter. You can still receive other services from a Native provider. If you stay in a non-Native shelter, it may be a good idea to ask about using your traditional medicines. Some shelters may have rules about smudging or using traditional medicines/herbs inside or on-premises. If you struggle with substance abuse, it may be difficult to avoid other users. Be aware that although the shelter may have rules around substance use on their campus, oftentimes these rules are ignored. It's important to be aware that this may happen and find a system to help keep yourself in check may be part of your safety plan. If you have livestock, farmlands or even ceremonial duties in your Native community, it may be difficult to reach out to a shelter because of your responsibilities. Be aware that although these are all important, your safety is also important and should be prioritized. It can be helpful to reach out to your trusted community network to get assistance to care for your livestock and farmland or make arrangements to get support from other community members to help with ceremonial duties. You may need to seek help from more than one organization to get all of your needs met. Don't be afraid to seek more than one resource. Depending on how comfortable you are with churches, they often offer programs to help with bill payments. You can also use AuntBertha.org and search by zip code to find local resources for assistance, food, health, housing and employment. Oftentimes depending on what's available, you can find various programs that offer grants to help you get back on your feet. Native Parents and Children

Shelters offer little privacy for families. If you have children the best shelter type for you is a transitional housing facility. They are often long-term, which means you will not need to





leave every night and they help set you up with permanent housing when you're ready to leave their program. Don't be afraid to have a conversation with your children to make sure that they understand what is happening. They should have the space to have their feelings validated and understand that they are not at fault for what is happening. Talk to them about your ground rules. It can be challenging to a parent in a new environment with different rules and other families with varying values. Remember, our children are sacred beings and can help bring healing into our lives and our communities. Native Men

Very few Native-centered shelters are able to house male victimsurvivors though several do offer non-residential services for men. Sometimes a shelter may be able to help support a survivor with a hotel room, legal advocacy or counseling services and case management. It can vary from shelter to shelter so it's always best to clarify what services they are able to offer men. Native LGBTQ2S+

Within the 2S+/LGBTQ+ community, intimate partner violence occurs at a rate equal to or higher than that of the cis-heterosexual community. Additionally, they may have concerns about being outed, not having inclusive restroom facilities, not being addressed with the correct pronouns and facing bias from other residents and staff members may prevent them from seeking a placement in a shelter. If you identify as a part of the LGBTQ2S+ community and are seeking shelter, here are a few questions to consider asking: •Ask questions about sleeping arrangements, restrooms and privacy so you know what to expect

Ask if there are any additional accommodations for your identity
Ask if the staff has training in working with the LGBTQ2S+ community
Ask about the safety and complaint procedures
If you experience bias or feel unsafe in the shelter,

notify staff immediately and file a complaint. Shelter Tips

Choosing to seek a shelter may be a part of your individual safety plan. Be aware that sometimes shelters are not immediately available and your safety plan should include some additional options while going through the process. Shelters can be overcrowded and Nativecentered shelters may take some time to get into for families. Important things to consider when seeking a shelter:

It can take a while (and a lot of calls) to find shelter space.
If there is an emergency shelter directory in your area, our advocates may suggest contacting them directly to help you find a vacancy. These directories maintain current information on all of the shelter vacancies in their area so calling them can be easier than calling each place individually.

•Despite the potential for uncertainty, be respectful of shelter advocates during the intake process. They only want to help you. Speaking to a StrongHearts advocate before calling the domestic violence program may help you navigate some of the challenges. •Remember that some shelters won't serve people who live out of the county, or out of state. If you desire to relocate to



a different county or state, some shelters require a referral from the local shelter. Call the out-of-county/state program to learn more about the policies for accepting survivors. •Call the shelter two to three times a day to check for space. Bed availability changes very quickly every day and many times it is given out on a first come, first served basis. Ask the shelter worker to recommend the best time to make a return call. •In the event that the shelter becomes undesirable, refrain from talking badly about it when speaking with a new shelter. •If the shelter is full, shelter workers may be able to provide motel vouchers or know about alternative options at other nearby shelters. Multiple needs require multiple programs which take time and considerable effort on the part of an advocate, please be as patient as possible. Our advocates are working hard to keep you safe. Staying in A Shelter

Every shelter is different so get clarification on rules beforehand so there are no surprises. Some may have different rules on cell phone use and curfews. Discrimination and/or mistreatment by shelter staff is not okay and there may be a way to address a grievance through proper channels. Contact the state domestic violence program to ask if there is a way to address the issue or file a complaint. Avoid the drama. It's good to find support if you can but recognize this is only temporary and sometimes it's best to keep your head down and get the services you need. It's hard living in a place with so many varying perspectives so be aware there may be conflicts among your new neighbors. Self-Care

Stress can greatly impact your health so it is important to consider self-care. Participating in self-care activities like exercise (if safe to do so), eating healthily, counseling and journaling could be helpful. Be gentle with yourself mentally and physically. Connecting with your cultural pregnancy practices during this time can be uplifting. Also, you can practice resilience by smudging, praying or sitting with your traditional medicines. StrongHearts Native Helpline

If you consider leaving an abusive partner, StrongHearts Native Helpline can help you with safety planning and finding a Native-centered shelter.

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 culturallyappropriate, anonymous, confidential and free service dedicated to serving Native survivors, concerned family members and friends affected by domestic, dating and sexual violence available by calling or texting 1-844-762-8483 or clicking on the chat icon on Strongheartshelpline.org



STRONGHEARTS Native Helpline

# -FUNDING NATIVE FILMAKERS-





(LINCOLN, Neb., June 14, 2022) — This year, Vision Maker Media has funded \$1 million to 11 documentaries through its Public Media Fund for future television broadcasting and \$180,000 through its Creative Shorts Fellowship fund to emerging Native filmmakers and their film mentorships. Through these projects, Vision Maker Media's total support provides representation in media to filmmakers from 19 Native nations in the United States. Film topics range from social justice, climate and environment, health and wellness, democracy and arts. "Through the support of many, this year Vision Maker Media is able to offer nearly \$1.2 million in direct film funding support to Native filmmakers," says Executive Director Francene Blythe-Lewis (Eastern Cherokee, Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota and Diné). "The honor is ours, for everyone at Vision Maker Media, to be part of the creation of these important stories." Projects Selected for the 2022 Public Media Fund Through Support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting: Funding categories included: Research and Development (\$5,000 to \$25,000); Production (up to \$150,000) and Post-Production (up to \$100,000). Decolonizing the Plate (Working Title) (funded for \$131,000 for Production) A Diné woman follows the story of a Peruvian-born chef

who is reconnecting with his Indigenous, culinary roots as she herself seeks to understand the role food plays in her own healing from intergenerational trauma. Natalie Benally (Navajo) from New Mexico, writer/executive producer/host The Good Relative (Working Title) (funded for \$67,613 for Production and Post-Production) "The Good Relative" is the story of Faith Spotted Eagle, an internationally-renowned and revered elder of the Yankton Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, as she confronts the state of South Dakota to protect their tribal water rights — a fight that has continued since her childhood and is the battle of her lifetime. Judith LeBlanc (Caddo) from New York, executive producer Under the Battle Tipi: Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society (funded for \$84,137 for Production and Post-Production) The Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society is a revival of the 19th century Ton-Kon-Gah, one of several military societies still active among the Kiowa Tribe. Charles Kennedye (Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma) from Oklahoma, producer/director Alaska Native Health Equity Project (funded for \$120,000 for Production) The "Alaska Native Health Equity Project" documentary short film will be focused on the lack of water and sanitation access in Alaska Native villages, how it is affecting community health, and those pursuing solutions to the health disparities. Jaclyn Sallee (Iñupiaq) from Alaska, executive producer Without Arrows, Long Documentary (86:46) (funded for \$150,000 for Production) Delwin Fiddler Jr. left his reservation as a young man to escape a trauma that splintered his family and built a new life in Philadelphia, but thirteen years later he abandons it all and returns home to attempt to heal the past. Elizabeth Day (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe) from Minnesota, director/producer CROSSING THE LINE; Episodic (Series) (funded for \$91,450 for Production) "Crossing the Line" is a four-part docuseries that will examine





the epidemic of violence that exists within towns surrounding the Navajo reservation, identifying and exposing much of the racial tension that exists in these towns and hearing the stories of not only the victims of the violence but also of those who are fighting to make change in these spaces. Ramona D. Emerson (Navajo) from New Mexico, director/writer/co-producer Boucha (Working Title); Long Documentary (56:46) (funded for \$150,000 for Production) "Boucha" is not about winning and losing - on the ice or in the courtroom; it's about a man uncovering hidden pride for his people and culture. Leya Hale (Dakota, Diné) from Minnesota, director/producer Indigenous Genders (Working Title) (funded for \$135,800 for Production) "Indigenous Genders" (working title) is a 5-part docuseries exploring the lives of people across the U.S., from various nations, who are challenging gender norms through living their varied and full lives. Raven Two Feathers (Cherokee, Seneca, Cayuga, Comanche) from Washington, producer/director Whose Land? O'odham Land! (Working Title); Long Documentary (56:46) (funded for \$25,000 for Research and Development) "Whose Land? O'odham Land!" (working title) explores the impact of the expansion of the U.S.-Mexico barrier through the personal stories of O'odham peoples in southern Arizona and Sonora,

Mexico whose ancestral lands and culture have been harmed by its construction and who are resisting the U.S. government's violations of tribal sovereignty, environmental protections and human rights. Victoria Westover from Arizona, producer/co-director; Mike Wilson (Tohono O'odham Nation), from Arizona, co-director

> RED POWER RISING: Heirs to the Revolution (Working Title) (funded for \$25,000 for Research and Development) At heart, "Red Power Rising: Heirs to the Revolution" (working title) is a radical retelling of the American Indian civil rights struggle that will use the intimate journeys of sons, daughters and grandchildren of movement leaders to reveal the deeper tale of when a defiant group of modern warriors wielded nonviolent protest, global TV coverage and, at times,

even the end of a gun to reclaim the 'Indian soul.' Jeff Bieber from Maryland, co-executive producer The Bigger Picture: Frances Densmore and ef (1916) (funded for \$20,000 for Post-Production)

Mountain Chief (1916) (funded for \$20,000 for Post-Production) "The Bigger Picture" is a short-form, historical documentary series hosted by historian Vincent Brown that uses iconic photographs to explore key moments in our shared past and the ways in which photographs have shaped our understanding of that past. This intriguing image seems to show a white ethnographer, Frances Densmore, documenting a disappearing culture in a photograph with Blackfoot Piegan Mountain Chief. However, as this episode



demonstrates, Mountain Chief was very media savvy and took an active and public role in protecting the rights of and meeting the needs of the people of the Blackfeet Piegan Tribe. Stephanie Carter, executive producer Projects Selected for 2022 Creative Shorts Fellowships: Emerging Native filmmakers submitted a short film documentary, drama, experimental or animation — with topics, including Native cultures, values, histories, contemporary life, environmental justice, social justice, youth, elders and/or Native empowerment. Funding for production is up to \$25,000, which

includes \$5,000 to support a film professional's mentorship.

The Circle of Chawce (funded for \$25,000)

A Native American boy's family mythology comes to life in a 4th grade classroom.

Fellow/Writer/Director: Randi LeClair (Pawnee Nation) from Oklahoma Mentor: Ramona D. Emerson (Navajo Nation Northern Navajo Agency) Four Nights and a Fire (funded for \$15,000)

"Four Nights and a Fire" is a narrative dramatic short. This film revolves around an Ojibwe ceremony performed upon death of a loved one, where the spirit of a recently departed makes a four-day journey to the afterlife and must overcome temptations along the way. This is my interpretation of the spirit's journey, based on my own experience with grief upon the unexpected loss of my father, and the resilience that I've found by following in his footsteps. Fellow/Writer/Director: Alexander Nystrom (Red Cliff Band of Chippewa Indians) from California Mentor: Amman Abbasi

Meritor, Amman Abbasi

[Native] Fire as Medicine (funded for \$25,000)

"[Native] Fire as Medicine" follows California First Nations firefighters, ecologists, and cultural burn leaders as they use fire for Native cultural revitalization and catastrophic fire prevention. Fellow/Writer/Producer/Director: Tisina Ta-till-ium Parker (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation/Kudadiki Paiute/Kashia Pomo) from California Mentor: Cecilia Shakerley

#### Glenburn 12WP (funded for \$25,000)

Roberta, an urban Mohawk woman living in New York City, has her best friend from the rez, Krystal, come to the city. Krystal goes missing and her body is eventually found. Krystal sadly ends up being a MMIW statistic at the hands of a white man. Roberta returns to their regular watering hole to try and figure out what happened. Fellow/Producer/Lead Actor: Tanis Parenteau (Métis Nation of Alberta (Cree) from New York Mentor: Yvonne Russo (Rosebud Reservation – Lakota)

#### Lookout 32 (funded for \$23,210)

"Lookout 32" highlights the importance of Native folklore, superstitions and traditions, and how members of the Native community from different tribes and backgrounds can remain connected to their heritage. Isolated, a firewatcher discovers a terrifying Native American legend. Fellow/Director/Producer/Writer: Littlebear Sanchez (Lipan Apache) from California Mentor: Nathan Harrison

About Vision Maker Media:

Vision Maker Media (VMM) is the premier source of public media by and about Native Americans since 1976. Our mission is empowering and engaging Native people to share stories. We envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate. We work with VMM funded producers to develop, produce and distribute programs for all public media. VMM supports training to increase the number of Native Americans and Alaska Natives producing public broadcasting programs. A key strategy for this work is in partnerships with Tribal nations and Native organizations and communities.

#### Vision Maker Media is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) funded in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), For more information visit visionmakermedia.org.





#### CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES' GOVERNOR BECOMES MEMBER OF U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### **Rosemary Stephens**

(CONCHO, OK) The U.S. Dept. of Interior, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announces the members of the first ever created Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). Among the members, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Governor Reggie Wassana has been appointed as the alternate member representing the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Southern Plains Region. The appointment is for a one-year term. The STAC committee is made up of primary Tribal representatives from each of the 12 BIA regions and one alternate member from each region. In a letter addressed to Gov. Wassana, dated June 15, Haaland wrote, "It gives me great pleasure to notify you that you have been selected to serve on the Department of Interior's (DOI) Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). The letter goes on to state, "The STAC is important as it creates a department-wide strategy to incorporate Tribal guidance on DOI priorities, policies and budget as well as improve the Government-to-Government relationship between DOI and Tribes. Your membership as an alternate member on the STAC is instrumental to moving our work and partnership forward and honoring our Nation-to-Nation relationship." Part of the STAC's purpose is to ensure Tribal leaders have direct and consistent contact and communication with the current and future DOI officials to facilitate discussions and provide advice and recommendations regarding departmental programs and funding that impact Tribal Nations to advance the federal trust responsibility. Gov. Wassana released a statement stating, "Truly honored to be selected as a member of the historic, first-ever Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee. I pray that Indian Country benefits and the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples' issues are addressed for the betterment of our future." Below is a full list of members, by BIA region, who will serve for the first year on the STAC committee. Alaska Region

Primary member: Robert Keith; President, Native Village of Elim Alternate member: Gayla Hoseth; Second Tribal

Chief for the Curyung Tribal Council

Eastern Region

Primary member: Kelly Dennis; Councilwoman,

Shinnecock Indian Nation

Alternate member: Stephanie Bryan; Tribal Chair, Poarch Creek Indians Eastern Oklahoma Region

Primary member: Gary Batton; Chief, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Alternate member: Del Beaver; Second Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Great Plains Region

Primary member: Dionne Crawford; Councilwoman,

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate for the Lake Traverse District

#### SECRETARY'S TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) MEMBER

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland

<sup>44</sup> Truly honored to be selected as a member of the historic, first-ever Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). I pray that Indian Country benefits and the Cheyenne and Arapaho people's issues are addressed for the betterment of our future. <sup>99</sup> Governor Reggie Wassana

> Alternate member: Cora White Horse; Councilwoman, Oglala Sioux Tribe **Midwest Region** Primary member: Whitney Gravelle; President, **Bay Mills Indian Community** Alternate member: Michelle Beaudin; Councilwoman, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin Navajo Region Primary member: Jonathan Nez; President, Navajo Nation Alternate member: Daniel Tso; Council Delegate, Navajo Nation Northwest Region Primary member: Kat Brigham; Chair of the Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation Alternate member: Timothy Greene; Chairman, Makah Tribe **Pacific Region** Primary member: Erica Pinto; Chairwoman, Jamul Indian Village of California Alternate member: Reid Milanovich; Chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians **Rocky Mountain Region** Primary member: Jody LaMere; Councilwoman, Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation Alternate member: Jordan Dresser; Chairman, Northern Arapaho Business Council Southern Plains Region Primary member: Walter Echo-Hawk; Chairman, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma Alternate member: Reggie Wassana; Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma Southwest Region Primary member: Mark Mitchell; APCG Chairman, Pueblo of Tesuque Alternate member: Christopher Moquino; Governor, Pueblo de San Ildefonso Western Region Primary member: Amber Torres; Chairman, Walker River Paiute Tribe Alternate member: Terry Rambler; Chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe

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**SOUTHERN PLAINS INDIAN ART** 2720 Ave J | Lawton, OK 73505 580-699-2983 | www.mitchellearlboyiddleok.com

**OKLAHOMA INDIAN ARTS & CRAFTS** 214 NW 2nd St. | Anadarko, OK 73005 405-247-3486 | Facebook: Oklahom Indian Arts & Crafts Co-Operative

#### American Indian Cultural Center & Museum

900 N Broadway Ave | Oklahoma City, OK 73102 405-239-5500 | www.famok.org

**S & L GALLERY** 511 W. Main St. | Henryetta, OK 74437 918-652-5387 | Facebook: @SAndLGallery

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**CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER** 1899 Gordon Cooper Drive | Shawnee, OK 74801 405-878-5830 | www.potawatomiheritage.com

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#### **CHEROKEE HERITAGE CENTER**

21192 S. Keeler Dr. | Park Hill, OK 74451 918-456-6007 | www.cherokeeheritage.org

# **SOUR SOFKEE: CLUELESS G.O.P**

over the screen and soaked his shag carpeting.

"Heyluh! What are you doing to my TV, chebon?" Tarpalechee demanded. "I just can't stand it anymore," Fixico said. "All these political ads are driving me crazy!" "Me too," Yahola said. "It is crazy! They all keep saying the same thing." Me, Fixico, and Yahola were hanging out in Tarpalechee's Creek house that was built in the 1970s. Hence the shag carpet that Tarpalechee refuses to replace. The popcorn ceiling also dates the place. I was sitting in one of Tarpalechee's Barcaloungers that had been handed down from one of Tarpalechee's many cousins. Tears in the faux leather had been repaired with duct tape. The chair had a decided battleship gray color. Its left leg was broken and thus the chair was listing like a sinking ship. Its acute tilt was throwing out my back. cracked open another beer to dull the pain.

"It doesn't matter if it's Lankford, Drummond, O'Conner, Holland or Dahm & Dahmer," Fixico complained. "They all are preaching the same message." "Yeah, well you don't have to throw a beer can at my TV," Tarpalechee complained. "That old thing," I said. "It looks like someone bought it from Radio Shack back when disco was all the rage. And its not even a flat screen. Look at the size of that thing!"

"I got it for \$25 from my cousin," Tarpalechee protested.

We all howled with laughter. Fixico continued.

"It's like all these candidates are competing to show how many times they can kiss Trump's butt. That is their highest qualification for elective office." "I agree," Fixico said. "It's like they worship Trump."

"Many would say that Trump has replaced Jesus as their personal lord and savior," I said.

"Amen!" Yahola interjected. "They are all competing to see who can be the most kkkonservative!"

At that moment, another political ad appeared. It was one more prayer ad from U.S. senate candidate Luke Holland. He was prayerfully imploring Trump, er, God, to "Bring us back. Bring us back."

"That's what I'm talking about," Fixico screamed as he tossed another beer at the TV. "Bring us back? To where? 1950s segregated America? 1850s slavery America? Is that what they mean?"

"Heyluh! Stop throwing beer cans at my TV!" Tarpalechee demanded. Me and Yahola could not stop laughing. I threw a \$20 bill at Tarpalechee. "This is grand theater, and I don't want the show to stop," I told

Fixico tossed his beer can at Tarpalechee's television. Beer splattered all — Tarpalechee. "Twenty dollars is far more than your old hand-me-down TV is worth."

> "That Holland character reminds me of the biblical story of the Pharisee praying loudly in the Temple. Desperately trying to show everybody how holy and godly he is," Fixico said.

"Ha! Exactly! Saint Luke," Yahola agreed. "All these far right-"

"You mean 'far white'?" Fixico interrupted.

We all cackled with laughter.

"All these far-right extremists can talk about is God, whipping up fear about illegal immigration while attacking Biden and Pelosi," Yahola continued.

"Yes!" Tarpalechee agreed. "And in so doing they are wholly ignoring the most pressing and most prominent issues of the day."

"Ok, I'll bite," I said as I chomped on Tarpalechee's stale potato chips. "What would those be?"

"Mass murders, white supremacy, and the Jan. 6th clear and present danger to democracy," Fixico answered. "Those are the most critical issues that the white wing kkkonservatives wholly ignore."

"Hmmm. So true. I have not seen a single ad from a Republican candidate that mentions mass murders, white supremacy, or the Jan. 6th riot,' Yahola said. "And these are the most pressing issues in America today." "Clueless Republicans," I said. "They energetically try to distract our attention from the significant issues of America by whipping up fears about illegal immigration."

"Gotta always blame the brown man and persons of color," Tarpalechee said. "That's what the white wingers always do."

"The FBI Director, Chris Wray, has identified White Supremacy as the number one threat to America," Yahola said. "Yet not a single mention of this from any of the Republican candidates."

"Probably because they are all white," Fixico said.

We all guffawed at the truth of Fixico's comment. At that moment, yet another white wing kkkonservative political ad appeared on the TV. It was praising all things about The Wall. Suddenly, Tarpalechee's fortyyear-old TV began flickering and then went blank.

"Even the TV is tired of the clueless Republicans," Fixico said as he tossed yet another beer can.



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# FIVE REALITIES

#### John Morris

Five realities to remember when life is crushing you. We all go through different phases in life and we need to remember that God is always close. We have expectations that are not met by God and people in our lives. Or we have devastating circumstances that happen to us. We may even get side swiped by life in general. We need to look at the following five realities and focus on getting better through the reading our Bible, Prayer, meditating on God's Word, being the church-love one another, Sharing our Jesus story, and tell all nations about Jesus!

#### 1. God sees me.

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, observing the wicked and the good.

-Proverbs 15:3

I am always reminded that God is omnipresent! I also know that God is all knowing and loves me!

#### 2. God knows everything about my story.

'Lord , You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, Lord . You have encircled me; You have placed Your hand on me. This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it. ' —Psalms 139:1-6

Even before time began God knew my story and how it plays out! I love the fact God knows me and I was thought about by God himself!

3. God is working in and on my story, even though I might not see it.

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths. Don't consider yourself to be wise; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. '

#### -Proverbs 3:5-7

I need to remember trust God and allow Him to work my story for His glory and I must walk the right paths and know that He always knows best for me.

#### 4. God is greater. Period.

'But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things <u>are poss</u>ible." ' —Matthew 19:26

God is the Master of the universe! I am in awe of who He is and how He created us all! I know that God can do all things. We must always remember that now matter what we think, God is in control and all is possible, period!

5. God will use my present pain in my future story for my good and His glory.

'For I know the plans I have for you" — this is the Lord 's declaration — "plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. ' —Jeremiah 29:11-13

I realize that in my life, even the preachers kid, I went through the pain of losing my Dad, that was a missionary, at a young age and was able to get through the pain and know that God has plans for us! We need to seek God no matter what you are going through!

I pray that you all read this and find a hope in Jesus Christ! I have been through many events in my life and have always been able to see that God has a plan for me and my life and the lives of my family! I love you all!

John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is supported financially by faith partners. If you are interested in more information on FCA or being a faith partner go to this link https://my.fca.org/johnmorris. John can be contacted through email: johnmorris@fca.org or by cell number (785-760-1627).



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1.800.760.6700, cherokee.golf@cnent.com, 770 West Cherokee Street Catoosa, OK 74015, RV PADS | 18, AMPS | 72, Accommodations: Restrooms | 6635, Showers, Wi-Fi, Picnic Area, Club House, Meeting Room

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 OTTAWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
 918-431-1818

 13 S. 69 A, Miami, OK
 918-540-1536
 WICHITA A

**OTOE-MISSOURIA TRIBE** 8151 Hwy 177, Red Rock, OK 877-692-6863

PAWNEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA Pawnee, OK 918-762-3621 **PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA** 118 S. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, OK 918-540-2535

**PONCA TRIBE** 20 White Eagle Drive, Ponca City, OK 580-762-8104

QUAPAW TRIBE OF INDIANS 5681 S. 630 Rd., Quapaw, OK 918-542-1853

**SAC AND FOX NATION** 920883 S. Hwy 99, Stroud, OK 918-968-3526

SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA Junction Hwys. 270 and 56 P. O. Box 1498, Wewoka, OK 405-257-7200

**SENECA-CAYUGA NATION** 23701 S 655 Road, Grove, OK 918-542-6609

**SHAWNEE TRIBE** 29 S. Hwy. 69A, Miami, OK 918-542-2441

THLOPTHLOCCO TRIBAL TOWN 09095 Okemah Street, Okemah, OK 918-560-6198.

**TONKAWA TRIBE OF INDIANS** 1 Rush Buffalo Road, Tonkawa, OK 580-628-2561

**UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS** PO Box 746, Tahlequah, OK 918-431-1818

WICHITA AND AFFILIATED TRIBES (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, Tawakonie) Hwy. 281, Anadarko, OK 405-247-2425

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