



# NATIVE

## *oklahoma*

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2022



# CREDITS

## NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

### NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | NOVEMBER 2022

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**NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE** is a monthly publication provides content from the Native community. For more information, to sell on our shop or to advertise, please call Adam Proctor at 918-409-7252 or email [adam@nativeoklahoma.us](mailto:adam@nativeoklahoma.us)

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## ON THE COVER:

**I**ndian Blanket by MaryBeth of Moon Hawk Art shows her love for Oklahoma wildflowers. She has traveled and participated in art shows and other venues around the country, winning many awards along the way.





# CHOCTAW POWWOW 2022

NOVEMBER 4 - 6

Choctaw Chief Gary Batton and  
Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. are proud to  
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the country's largest powwow's.

**NOVEMBER 4**  
CHOCTAW DAY AND  
GOURD DANCE  
AT CHOCTAW CULTURAL CENTER

**NOVEMBER 5 - 6**  
POWWOW COMPETITION  
AT CHOCTAW EVENT CENTER



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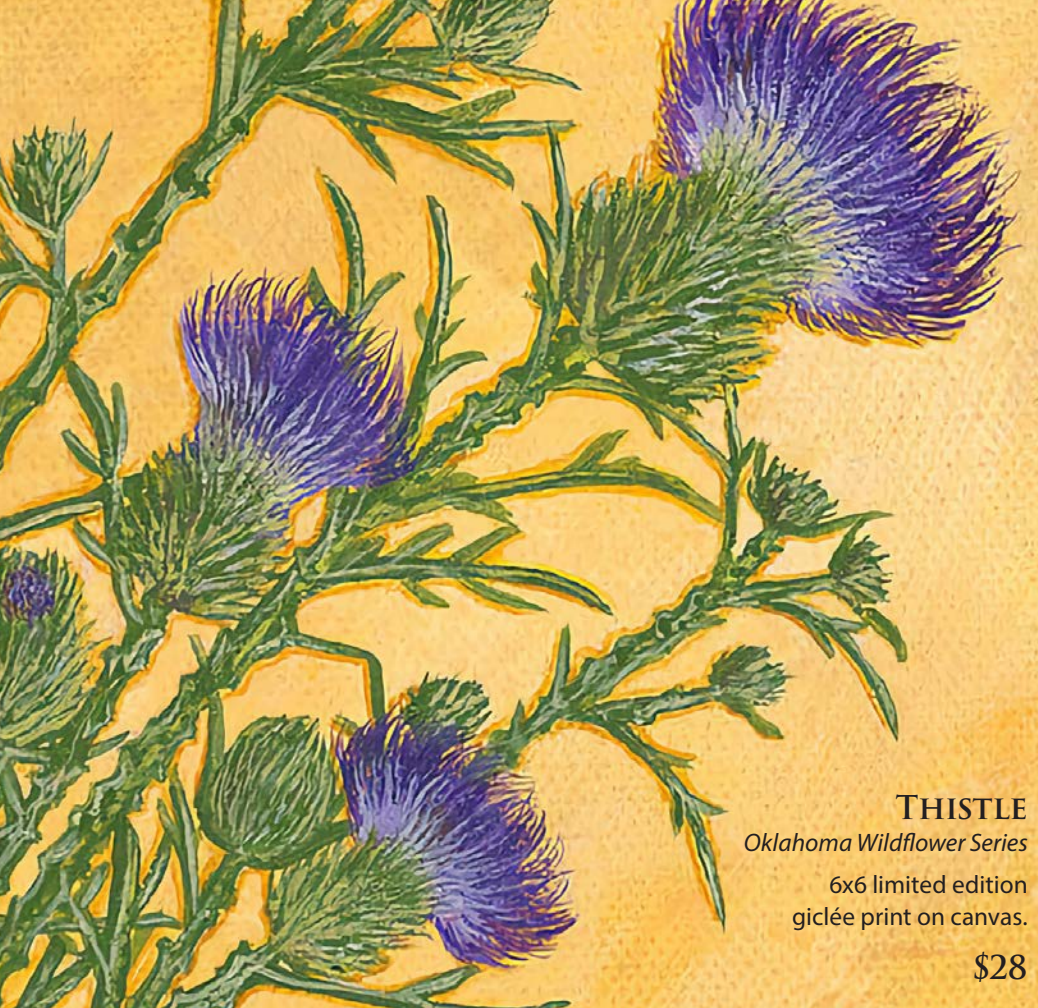
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Runners take their place in Concho, Okla., to begin the next track of the 2022 Sovereignty Run with National Congress of American Indians President Fawn Sharp front and center.

# TAKING STRIDES TO BRING AWARENESS TO TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND HONORING ONE OF THE GREATEST ATHLETES OF ALL TIME, JIM THORPE

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY ROSEMARY STEPHENS

(CONCHO, OK) Sovereignty Run 2022 taking steps to bring awareness to the attack on Tribal Nations' sovereign rights to govern.

On Oct. 3 the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President, Fawn Sharp, along with her delegation, including Bright Path Strong and the House of Tears Carvers of Lummi Nation, began the Sovereignty Run 2022 on the lands of Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Okla.

The run will cover an 1800-mile trek across Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and into California, with the final destination at the annual NCAI conference in Sacramento, Calif.

On Oct. 6, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma welcomed the Sovereignty Run 2022 delegation to the lands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho.

"Thank you to the Cheyenne and Arapaho people ... this is a wonderful event. We came in last night and had dinner at the REZ Restaurant and got a little nourishment. We felt the hospitality last night and

we feel it here today, and we are so honored and privileged that you opened your homelands and welcomed us and join the fight for tribal sovereignty because it matters to all of us," Sharp said.

The run has a two-fold purpose, to bring awareness to the new attacks on Sovereign Tribal Nations, not only in Oklahoma by the Oklahoma governor, Kevin Stitt, but the pending Supreme Court hearing looming Nov. 9 threatening the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). And to honor Jim Thorpe, one of the greatest athletes to ever live.

Thorpe was an Olympic gold medal winner in 1912. He had his medals stripped from him by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) who stated Thorpe had been paid to play minor league baseball over two summers, which they called an infringement of the Olympic amateurism rules. It was described as the first major international sports scandal of its time. Over a 100 years later, thanks to efforts by Bright Path Strong and the NCAI, Thorpe was reinstated as the sole winner of the 1912





Seth Littleman leads a young bison up to the totem pole.

Olympic pentathlon and decathlon held in Stockholm.

Welcoming in the delegation was Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana, Lt. Gov. Gib Miles, and many tribal citizens as well as Comanche Nation Chairman Mark Woommavovah, all who came to not only welcome the Sovereignty Run 2022 delegation, but to also participate in the run.

"The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are honored and privileged to host such an event for a great cause. The issues on tribal sovereignty and the cause to educate about sovereignty came about because I think we feel we are being stripped of our natural born rights to govern ourselves," Gov. Wassana said.

Part of those Tribal Sovereignty rights involves protecting tribal children and protecting ICWA, which has been the law of the land for Tribal Nations since Congress enacted ICWA in 1978.

The United States Supreme Court has set oral arguments for Nov. 9, 2022 in the case of Haaland v. Brackeen, to determine the constitutionality of ICWA. The Supreme Court will decide whether

the ICWA placement preferences violate the U.S. Constitution. Their decision could potentially harm Native children and their families, including threatening the future of Tribal Nations.

"On June 29 of this year the United States Supreme Court issued a decision that was a direct attack on Tribal Sovereignty, and like many tribal leaders before us, we cannot let that decision go unanswered. Twenty years ago, we ended a Sovereignty Run on the steps of the Supreme Court and rallied for Tribal Sovereignty," Sharp shared on a video released Sept. 21, 2022.

"We are going to gather again, at ground zero of sovereignty attacks in Oklahoma for a 20th anniversary Sovereignty Run 2022."

Along with Sharp, Phreddie Lane Lummi Nation, House of Tears Carver merged their Totem Pole journey with the Sovereignty Run, and joining the delegation was Dedra Darling of Bright Path Strong.

"This will be the only journey this totem makes, and we are so honored to be here for the first time coming through Oklahoma. This is that sacred moment right here with our relatives, with those we commune with, and that we have a sacred obligation to see them (bison) to come back like we hope to see our salmon come back. Thank you to everyone here, to all the runners, to Gov. Wassana, to President Sharp, just thank you," Lane said while in the midst of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' bison herd for a blessing of the totem pole.



NACI President Fawn Sharp, along with her delegation, and Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana, and Lynda Steele, candidate for Oklahoma Attorney General, celebrating Tribal Sovereignty with a blessing of the totem pole.





# Mahota

## CHICKASAW MAP II BLANKET

\$320

Originally painted on deerskin, The Chickasaw Map of 1723 is an important visual of Chickasaw history as it illustrates how the world was viewed by our ancestors. The map outlines in an artistic way, waterways, trade routes, and the relationships with other tribes at that time. Experiences and memory were depended on by the Chickasaw people who knew what lay beyond the southeast region, which was coveted by colonists who needed maps. The Chickasaw Map is credited to Fani' Minko' (Squirrel Leader or Squirrel King), a Chickasaw warrior and leader.



kohsetawaataawi meekaahkiihpanaki

(Showing Respect to our Veterans)

\*Photo by Scott Kissell, Miami University

# SECOND ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DANCE

kohsetawaataawi meekaahkiihpanaki

**NOVEMBER 12, 2022**  
**HONORING ALL VETERANS**  
**WELCOMING ALL COLOR GUARDS AND**  
**GOURD DANCE GROUPS**

**MIAMI TRIBE COUNCIL HOUSE**  
**2319 W. 65 Road - Miami, OK 74354**

**Master of Ceremonies: R.G. Harris (Sac & Fox/Ponca)**

**Head Singer - John Arkeketa (Otoe)**

**Head Gourd Dancer - Josiah Hair (Cherokee)**

**Head Man Dancer - Cecil Gray (Cheyenne/Kiowa)**

**Head Lady Dancer - Heaven Pahsetopah (Osage/Creek/Pawnee)**

**Arena Director - Chuck Bread (Kiowa/Cherokee/Creek/Seminole)**

**Northern Drum - Young Buffalo Horse**  
**(Ojibwe/Choctaw/Cherokee/Lakota/Dakota/Sac & Fox)**

**Gourd Dance - 1:00 - 5:00**

**Supper Break - 5:00 - 6:00**

**Gourd Dance - 6:00 - 7:00**

**Intertribal - 7:00 - 11:00**

**Contact: Charla EchoHawk 918-540-2535, Julie Olds 918-541-3131**  
Supper break will be served at the Title VI building next door to the Council House.

*Bring your own lawn chairs! This is a family friendly event.*  
*Absolutely NO alcohol or drugs allowed. NO firearms allowed except*  
*for law enforcement officials. We are not responsible for lost or stolen*  
*items and/or accidents.*



**PEORIA TRIBE**  
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA







# INDIGENOUS BREWERS TACKLE HOPS AND HISTORY WITH NATIVE CRAFT BEER

*Words by Tony Rehagen, photos by Abby Housman*

**AT BREWERIES LIKE OKLAHOMA CITY'S SKYDANCE, EVEN A VISIT TO THE TAPROOM IS A TEACHABLE MOMENT.**

It's 11 a.m. on a Saturday, and beer drinkers line up out the door of Oklahoma City's Skydance Brewing. They've come to toast the downtown taproom's one-year anniversary with pints of special-release juicy IPA and snifters of one-off pastry stouts. The tipplers are doing more than just celebrating an occasion—they're also tacitly acknowledging the place's Native American heritage.

According to a 2021 audit from the Brewers' Association, only .4% of craft breweries are owned by American Indians or Alaska Natives, compared with 93.5% by White owners. But places like Skydance are proudly touting their culture, not only to differentiate in a crowded marketplace, but also to tell the stories of their peoples.

At Skydance, patrons look up to see American Indian art, like the portrait of a war-painted Cheyenne Dog Soldier rendered by a local Iowa tribesman. They order the flagship Fancy Dance Hazy IPA, named after the popular powwow ritual, or the Rez Dog American Blonde. The Skydance "S" logo emblazoned on the windows, tap handles, and glasses comprises two eagle feathers, a hallowed symbol of dignity in many Native American cultures. "It symbolizes bringing people together," says Jake Keyes, vice chairman of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, who launched Skydance out of a local brewing incubator in 2018. "Our culture has always been mysterious to a lot of non-Natives, because it was illegal for us to practice our culture for a long time. We were taught to

not talk about it. Now we put the stories on the cans and start a conversation. It demystifies it, and that brings people together."

Few things about Native Americans are more misunderstood than their relationship with alcohol. Although it was illegal for indigenous people to even buy spirits until 1953 (20 years after Prohibition ended), the stereotype of the "Drunken Indian" has endured. Even in more sophisticated circles, beer is assumed to be a purely European import to the so-called New World. But Natives on this side of the globe knew plenty about fermented beverages, from the Chicha corn beer of the ancient Incans to the Tiswin corn beer/wine brewed by Apache in parts of Arizona. "That history is still being discovered," says Shyla Sheppard, founder of Albuquerque's Bow & Arrow Brewing Co. and a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation of North Dakota. "The idea of alcohol is not something foreign that was brought to us."

Perhaps the most natural connection between Native culture and craft beer is the shared tradition of living off the land around you. That's why Sheppard started the Native Land beer campaign, in which brewers across the country, regardless of ethnicity, put a local spin on a base recipe (this year, it's a Mexican lager). Participants must donate proceeds to Native nonprofits and, on the can, acknowledge upon whose ancestral land they are located. As the campaign tagline says: "All beer is brewed on Native land."

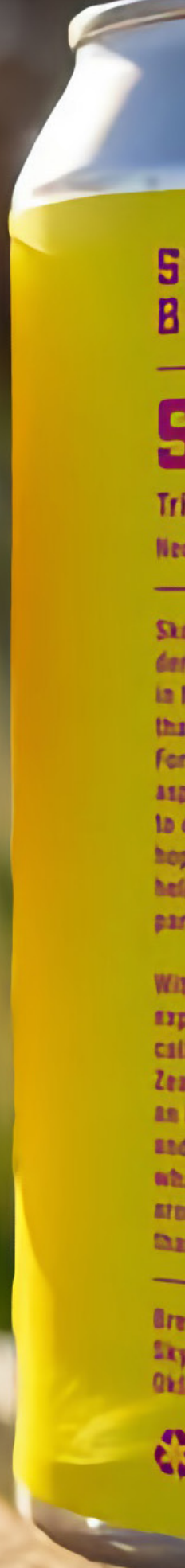
But American Indian history is only half the story that Keyes and Sheppard are trying to tell through their beer. The other part is the story of their present and future—showing Native youth that they can be successful entrepreneurs in any business. "You can never count on somebody else to tell your story for you," says Keyes. "If you want it told right, you've got to tell it yourself."





**SKYDANCE  
BREWING**

**THIS IS NATIVE**



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NATIVE AMERICAN BREWS TO KNOW

SKYDANCE SKODEN  
*Oklahoma City*

ABV: 9%

Named for a Native slang term that means “let’s go, then,” this rotating series of triple IPA pairs different hop combos to accentuate the juicy while de-emphasizing the kick of the high ABV.



BOW & ARROW  
FOEDERLAND  
*Albuquerque*

ABV: 6.3%

A farmhouse ale sourced from local hops, barley malt, and even the onsite peach tree and nearby lavender fields, this effervescent treat bubbles over with a funky fruitiness.

7 CLANS BREWING  
BENDED TREE  
CHESTNUT BROWN  
*Asheville, N.C.*

ABV: 5%

Majority female-owned by members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Tribe, 7 Clans models this malty brew after traditional sweet Cherokee chestnut bread.



RINCON  
RESERVATION  
ROAD BREWERY'S  
LUISEÑO HAZY IPA  
*Ocean Beach, Calif.*

ABV: 6.5%

The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians are considered the original Californians. The tribe, which owns 3R Brewery, thought enough of this dry-hopped hazy to give it the tribal name.





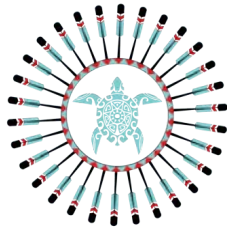
Buffalo Gouge Art



Buffalo Gouge Art

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## YOUR ONLINE BUSINESS PRESENCE

**W**hy is it important for business to have an online presence? In the 21st century, most customers are introduced to a business by finding the business online. Online business presence is crucial for every business. Not only will it increase your brand's reputation, it will create visibility and provide an avenue, which place you directly in front of your target market. Technology creates ease of access to customers, but it also creates challenges with brand competition. So, how can you grow your online audience and increase your online presence, which will attract more customers?

### BELOW ARE 5 RESULTS-DRIVEN METHODS FOR BRAND ONLINE PRESENCE:

- 1. Optimize your website.** Can you believe only 51% of small businesses have a website? Lack of awareness and knowledge of online presence are two reasons why businesses aren't online. Studies show that 97% of customers search for products and services online. Your website needs to be simple and easy to navigate. The average customer spends approximately 7-10 seconds on a website. You have up to 10 seconds to make the experience count. Keep it simple by showcasing content with your work, a bio, contact information, testimonials, and blogs where you can share your expertise to engage your customers and prospects. Make sure your site is optimized, or mobile-friendly, which loads quickly and fits to any screen. Do your best to update your information frequently. You can also add live chats or create a mobile app feature. SEO (Search Engine Optimization) is also critical for your business to appear in search engines. Use hashtags that directly relate to your product, service or industry to #optimize or #increase your customer experience.
- 2. Choose your social channels.** Social media is here to stay. Consistency and engagement are the ideal ingredients or "secret sauce" to social media success. Interacting with influencers and customers via social media is one of the simplest and most effective ways to grow fast online presence. You don't have to spread yourself or your brand too thin by having all platforms. Instead, research where your target market is on social media and focus on one or two primary channels. Facebook and Instagram are ideal for product awareness and marketing. Facebook for business offers tools to help simplify and manage your time on social media by providing the ability to generate and schedule posts, automate message replies and schedule appointments with prospects and customers. You can also do it all from your phone! LinkedIn is a great platform to build a close network and generate business-to-

business leads. 85% of organic leads come from LinkedIn. Twitter is great for conversational marketing and networking.

- 3. Go beyond blogging with digital products.** Blogging is a great way to maintain your online presence and helps build your brand's platform by creating and sharing useful content. Developing multiple forms of content will help build trust with customers and create sustainable relationships. Examples include videos, podcasts, creating infographics, developing case studies and publishing an eBook or online course.
- 4. Guest blogs and email marketing.** Teamwork makes the dream work! Increase your brand credibility by inviting industry experts as guest bloggers. Social proof helps solidify your credibility and expertise in your industry; This strategy will help you gain targeted exposure and increase your website's traffic. A recent study conducted by McKinsey & Company found that email remains a significantly more effective way to acquire customers than social media, nearly 40 times that of Facebook and Twitter combined. They found that 91% of all U.S. customers still use email daily. Studies show that people are 76% likely to purchase items directly from links within email. Email is here to stay. When creating email marketing campaigns, optimize it by segmenting your lists i.e., engaged customers and new subscribers by drafting customized messages and sending out emails at the right times for your audience i.e., drip campaigns. There are great platforms that track data to help with engagement, such as Constant Contact.
- 5. Sales Funnels.** Funnels are the new go-to for landing pages and the ultimate tool for lead generation. Sales funnels are designed to act as a mini-website to not only connect with your target audience and generate leads, but to also authentically own your content and drive your customers back to your website, as your URL is directly connected to your funnel. Once you begin building up your client list, it's time to nurture your customer base through email marketing campaigns (mentioned above). Building sales funnels aren't the easiest task. I recommend hiring a professional to correctly design and build results-driven copy that effectively connects you to your ideal customers.

*If you need help developing a business strategy or need a professional to build your sales funnel so you can quickly scale your business, let's have a conversation! Visit us at: <https://www.luksiconsulting.com>*





Mahota

**THE WHITE  
DOG'S PATH**

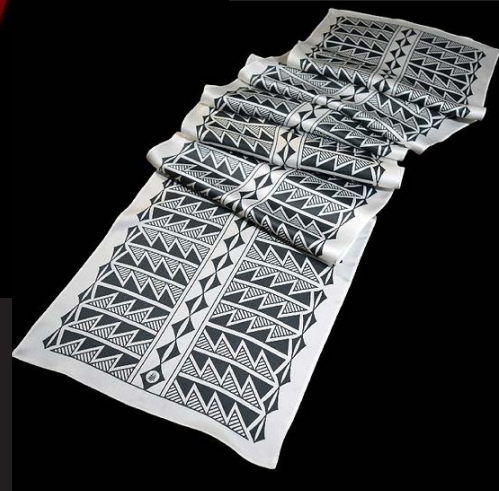
**\$350**

The Milky Way was known as Ofi' Tohbi' Ihina' (the White Dog's road), and is believed to be the path that deceased Chickasaw tribal members use to travel to the other side. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chickasaw Nation suffered the loss of significant tribal elders who were artists, culture bearers, storytellers, language speakers, and song leaders. Through mourning the loss of loved ones, comfort is found, knowing that Ofi' Tohbi' Ishto' was waiting to lead them on into the next world, and reunite them with loved ones that have passed on. The stars honor those that have passed on and visualize their journey as Ofi' Tohbi' Ishto' awaits to accompany our Chickasaw people once again.





ACONAV REVOLVE Silk  
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Ponte Roma Knit Dress | \$550



CONAV RTW 2002 Parrot  
Print Summer Dress | \$275



ACONAV RTW 2000 Floral  
Print Summer Dress | \$275



Parrot Pottery Shoulder Bag | \$125  
\*Other shoulder bag designs available



Tularosa Bucket Bag | \$200  
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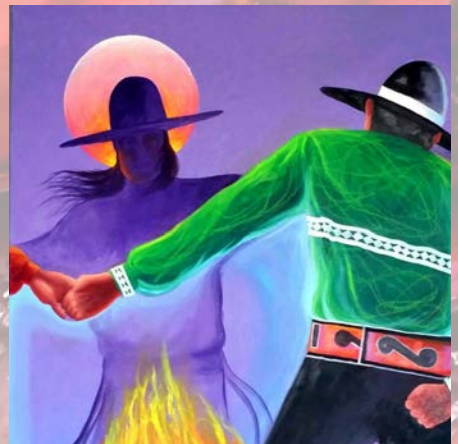
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# HOW TRIBAL GAMING CAN PREPARE FOR CONTINUING ECONOMIC SHIFTS

By Jarrod Compton, SVP of Native American Financial Services for BOK Financial



The economy seems to be in a constant state of flux and there's no shortage of uncertainty.

Native American casinos are not immune to inflation, supply chain and the staffing issues that are plaguing businesses in nearly every industry. Experts are currently debating whether or not we are in a recession. It's important to note that there is no such thing as a recession-proof industry but there are steps you can take to prepare for uncertainty.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ECONOMY?

As we rapidly approach the end of the year, the U.S. economy looks very different than it did at the start of 2022. At the time, the Federal funds rate, which influences the interest rates consumers and businesses pay on debt, was near zero, fueling a booming housing market. Consumer spending on goods was still high, while restaurants and the travel industry looked forward to more consumer spending on services once pandemic restrictions lifted further.

Then things took a turn.

Since then, inflation has soared to a four-decade high and remains mostly persistent, causing the Federal Reserve to raise the Federal funds rate five times from March through September, with two more rate hikes anticipated before the end of the year.

As a result of the upheaval, businesses may be hesitant to make any expansions because of the higher cost of borrowing money and uncertainty about where the economy is heading. Companies' profit margins will also be under pressure because they will no longer be able to pass on higher costs to consumers without reducing demand. We're going to see leaner earnings from businesses in nearly every industry.

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR TRIBAL GAMING

Fiscal stimulus earlier in the pandemic had a notable effect on gaming—but that's mostly a thing of the past. As discretionary income changes, it's reasonable to believe gaming will be impacted as well.

In prior recessions the gaming industry has not been immune to the impacts, but we have yet to see any signs that there will be a deep or prolonged recession, and in prior recessions the gaming industry has been most impacted during periods of high unemployment, which does not appear to be a concern at this point.

The extraordinary results seen during 2021 were largely driven by higher spend per visit, not necessarily more customers. This could be attributed to the significant influx of liquidity in the economy or higher wages, which may not be sustainable long-term.

Activity has already come down from the extraordinary levels seen during 2021, but most gaming businesses continue to see results tracking ahead of pre-pandemic levels as there is still a lot of pent up demand for travel and entertainment.

Like most industries, gaming has been impacted by labor shortages. More recently, the labor market seems to be improving and should continue to move in that direction if unemployment increases, which could help gaming business fill much needed positions. At some point this could also ease wage pressures.

In the months ahead borrowing costs will continue to increase in the near term, but conversely there will be opportunities for higher returns on deposits for those with healthy balance sheets, and declining construction costs could help ease costs of expansions and capital expenditures.

The industry has attracted a new demographic of gamers which could continue to drive visitation and revenue. In short, there are changes around every corner but with strategic planning, tribal gaming operators are poised to stay ahead of any downturns.







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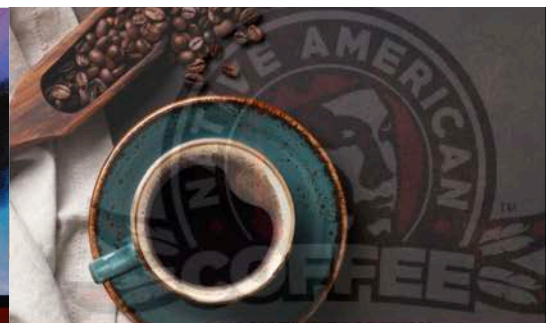
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**honest  
conversation**

The rate of drug overdose deaths among American Indians is higher than the national average.<sup>1</sup>

75 percent of opioid misuse starts with people using medication that wasn't prescribed for them – usually taken from a friend or family member.<sup>2</sup>

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A Program of TSET

<sup>1</sup>Source: Center for Disease Control  
<sup>2</sup>Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration





# Mahota

## **MAHLI BLANKET**

**\$320**

Sweeping across the center of the blanket is Wind, Mahli, bringing both the fluid curvatures of change and the sharp edges of the unexpected, an integral revival of ancient motifs of Chickasaw mound builders. Wind represents our life's journey; bringing the many changes we go through from the time of birth to the afterlife. It was said in the Chickasaw story of Wind, Aba' Binni'li' knew that eventually, young children would grow up, and the wind would bring this change to them. Mahli blows across the blanket to remind us that change will come, and resilience will always be the way of the Chickasaw people.



# WHY ARE PIONEER DRESSES CONSIDERED TRADITIONAL?

**W**hy do women of the Big 5 tribes wear pioneer dresses? Why not wear deerskin or at least faux deerskin dresses so as to truly represent traditional dresses? How and why did pioneer dresses, with the huge apron, become the be-all and end-all of women's "traditional" dress between and among the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole?

Over the years, I have given this matter a great deal of thought. What I have deduced is when we adopt pioneer dresses as being "traditional" we are effectively embracing colonization. The pioneer women's dresses were adopted during a period of forced assimilation. This was a time when white society forced extreme changes in the gender roles among the tribespeople.

Prior to this white hegemony, the major role of the men was to hunt game while the women were expert farmers. In order to reduce the size of the tribal geographic boundaries, and to steal the land, it was necessary to force the tribes to cease hunting. This required a major change in the tribal gender roles. Roles that had been in place since time immemorial.

During the late 1700s, the U.S. government appointed various Indian agents to the Big 5 tribes (formerly the Five Civilized Tribes). These agents were responsible for enforcing the U.S. government's policy of assimilation which was concomitant to the unstated goal of stealing Native lands.

At the core of the federal policy of assimilation was changing the gender roles of the tribespeople to comport with such gender roles of the dominant society. That meant Native men had to "give up the chase" and become farmers. The women were then removed from the land and forced into homemaker duties.

This disruption in traditional gender roles engendered changes in Native attire. Since time immemorial the tribes of the southeast U.S. had made extensive use of deerskin for their clothing. The Indian agents used a variety of mechanisms to force the tribespeople to dress more like the dominant society. This included a purposeful decimating of the deer population throughout the southeast U.S. With the once plentiful deer gone, the tribespeople had to adopt the manner of dress of the whites.

As part and parcel of the assimilation effort, the Indian agents ensured plentiful supplies of textile clothing. Making clothing from textiles was far easier and faster than tanning hides. The expansion of textile clothing also had the desired effect of promoting cotton and the establishment of large plantations. Today, the textile clothing with the large apron a/k/a pioneer dresses dominate the "traditional" attire of the Big 5 tribes. But this "tradition" such as it is, has only been "tradition" for roughly the past 200 years. What about our traditions that go back to time immemorial? Doesn't that mean something? Shouldn't the deerskin, or even faux deerskin,

be the real traditional representation of our style of dress?

Fus YvhiKV would call upon the women of the Big 5 to reject the inherent colonization of the pioneer women's dresses and to embrace our real tradition; deerskin clothing. It only takes one to engender change. Let's embrace our real tradition of clothing and attire!



Photography by Linda Fast



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# GPS

John Morris

***"Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." —1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***

Pull out your cell phone and put in a destination in..... what does your GPS do to get you where you are going?

At times, however, the GPS does not receive a clear satellite signal due to

interference, low power or obstacles that may be in the way. Sometimes on very cloudy days or when near tall buildings or mountains the signal is broken or interrupted.

If a clear signal is not achieved, the GPS cannot do what it is designed to do and can prevent the us from reaching our destination. A clear satellite connection is needed to get the information required in order to be successful.

This principle also applies to our spiritual life. To succeed as a Christ follower, we need to hear clearly from God through His Word. Interference in the form of other priorities, lack of energy, distractions or obstacles can get in the way of us hearing His voice and doing His will.

In John chapter 15:1-8, Jesus uses the word remain six times to describe how we are to stay connected to Him.

***"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. If anyone***

***does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples." —John 15:1-8***

Staying connected to God with a "clear signal" determines our spiritual pace, heart rate, time, elevation and distance. To be useful to God, to bear fruit that lasts, we must stay connected to Him. To realize our spiritual goals, our God-given purpose and design, we must constantly seek Him.

Here are my go to verses that help me with getting my GPS recalculated....

***Proverbs 3:5-7 (Trust in the Lord), 2 Corinthians 5:7 (Walk by faith), Matthew 6:33 (Seek God first), Romans 8:28 (Work for the good of God), Jeremiah 29:11 (God knows the plan), Deuteronomy 31:6 (God will never leave you)***

Every day, we need to be still and eliminate all distractions and interferences in order to clearly hear His voice. We stay connected to God by spending time with Him in His Word and in prayer. Consider God's Word as your "GPS," God's Positioning System. It will provide the feedback you need to keep you on track spiritually.

As Christians, our spiritual health is the most important health dimension in our life. All other health attributes hinge on our spiritual health and staying connected to God. So don't go somewhere without getting the coordinates or start your day without pulling out your fully powered GPS!

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](mailto:johnmorris@fca.org) or by cell number (785-760-1627).





# GOLF CLUBS

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E: hotel.shift@choctawcasinos.com

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# ALL NATIONS. ONE MISSION.

We invite you to come grow with us this year as we continue to expand our programs, re-invigorate our local chapters, and provide more benefits to our members. Our goal is to Educate, Empower and Engage the Native American business community. We look forward to having you join us as we make a difference in Indian Country! We are dedicated to working with all members of the community to advance the educational and economic opportunities for Native Americans throughout Oklahoma.

**LEARN MORE AT [AICCOK.ORG](http://AICCOK.ORG)**