



NATIVE
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NATIVE GIFT GUIDE - PAGE 14

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CREDITS

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Native 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 award-winning 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.

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NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL RECEIVES LONG AWAITED DEDICATION

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes honor Veterans at Reception

By Rosemary Stephens

The numbers speak for themselves.

Specifically, 42,000 Native Americans, one in eight, served in Vietnam, the highest per capita rate of any ethnic group in the United States. In turn, Native Americans suffered the highest per capita rate of wounded and killed. Many of them volunteered, to boot.

But in Washington, D.C., the city of monuments and memorials, nowhere was there anything commemorating the service and sacrifice of the country's original peoples. Until now.

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Native American Veterans Memorial (NNAVM) receives its dedication in grand fashion, with hundreds of Native American Veterans in attendance.

The NNAVM was completed and officially opened in 2019, with a formal dedication planned for Veteran's Day 2020. Those plans quickly changed with the spread of COVID-19 throughout the country and little did anyone know the delay would last over two years.

But that's the past ... looking to today ... many Veterans

would say the "wait was worthwhile," after visiting and experiencing the memorial for the first time, thanks to the generosity of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes gifted over 70 Veterans, along with family members and guests, an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to attend the Native American Veterans Memorial dedication and participate in a Veteran's procession.

The NNAVM's designer/creator, Harvey Pratt, is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, as well as a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Cheyenne Peace Chief, husband.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana said the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have long been supporters of Pratt and building of the National Native American Veterans Memorial, and it was their way of honoring not only Harvey Pratt, but the tribal Veterans as well.

"I'm glad to see everyone here, and it's the first time I've gotten to address this many tribal members in D.C.," Gov. Wassana said as he addressed Veterans and guest at the Veterans' reception held Nov. 9 at the National Museum of the American Indian.

In his opening remarks Gov. Wassana acknowledged the importance of the month of November being Native American Heritage month and especially the significance of November for the Cheyenne

and Arapaho Tribes touching on the Sand Creek Massacre and the Washita Battle. "And that all led to the Little Big Horn and when I go to other tribes and they say stuff like the Cheyenne eating dogs, stuff like that, I always say, 'yeah but we killed Custer and saved you guys,'" Gov. Wassana said sparking laughter from the audience.



A portion of the reception was also dedicated to honoring Harvey Pratt. As part of Gov. Wassana's introduction he said Harvey has done a lot of things for the tribes and possesses so much knowledge about the tribes' history that many can gain insight from listening to him.

"That memorial sitting out here is a beautiful piece of artwork and a great inspiration by Harvey, and I thought it was a really great thing to do for the tribes to step up, with some of the other tribes who stepped up to finance it. For one of our own to get selected to do something like this up here in Washington, that was a great honor," Gov. Wassana said.

As Pratt took the stage to applause he said he was so honored to be present with all the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

"I think our history is so important to all of us. When this thing came about I had no idea I would even make a contribution to it because I figured they had already chosen somebody," Pratt said.

He reflected on the beginning of this journey that would change his and his wife, Gina's life for the past three to four years.

"Russell Willey asked me to submit a design, he asked me several times to come and submit a design. I finally said

let me dream about this, we are a world of dreamers, let me dream about this to see if I can get an idea of what I need to do," Pratt said.

He shared he went home and he dreamed about it, he thought about it, and it (idea) came to him all at once, like people were putting were putting it in his head.

"I want people to be healed when they come here, I want them to feel good and be proud of their veterans. That was our dream and we are actually seeing that happening. It's going to be a healing place," Pratt said.

As he closed with a story, he received a standing ovation before sitting down.

"I am really thankful for my Cheyenne and Arapaho people, because that's where the inspiration came from, from my Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

Following dinner Veterans were called up one by one to receive a commemorative book and a medallion, specially designed by Pratt.

Gordon Yellowman offered up the opening prayer for the reception. The Buddy Bond Color Guard presented the colors while the drum group sang an Honor Song and Flag Son, Memo Valenzuela-Lira played a rendition of Taps.

Executive Director of the National Museum of the American Indian, Cynthia Chavez Lamar, provided the official welcoming to the event and Darren Brown, Cheyenne and Arapaho Productions served as the Master of Ceremonies.

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.

honest conversation

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LOVE CAME DOWN

John Morris

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough — because there was no room for them at the lodging place." —Luke 2:1-7

In sports and life, we use the word love a lot. We say we love sports, show love through getting so involved with our activities. We show love to our friends and co-workers by building close relationships with them. Outside of activities, we love our families and friends.

But there is a love that is greater than all of these combined. That love is summed up in one verse of Scripture, one of the most well-known verses of Scripture: "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16

Think about that kind of love. Love cast out fear, love offers us an opportunity to be called God's children. This kind of love offers us mercy and gives us grace, and also allow us to be forgiven of our sins, as John 3:16 says, this kind of love offers us eternal life!

"THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; INSTEAD,

PERFECT LOVE DRIVES OUT FEAR, BECAUSE FEAR INVOLVES PUNISHMENT. SO THE ONE WHO FEARS HAS NOT REACHED PERFECTION IN LOVE." —1 JOHN 4:18

Our Savior Jesus, whose birth we celebrate every Christmas time, became a human to show us this kind of love, and to make it available to us all. It's a free gift to you and me! All it takes to open that gift is your wholehearted belief and repentance of our sins! That is it!

So as we come to this advent season, gather with your family, eat lots of food, give and receive presents, but make it a point to remember the greatest Present ever sent—a relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, ask yourself if you have received that present. He came here to give it to you. THAT is something worth celebrating.

"WE HAVE REDEMPTION IN HIM THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR TRESPASSES, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE" —EPHESIANS 1:7

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).



FRAUDSTERS FREQUENTLY PREY ON GENEROSITY PROACTIVE MEASURES KEY TO AVOIDING ANOTHER RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR FRAUD



*By Sarah Alexander
SVP of Native American
Financial Services
for BOK Financial*

With the upcoming holidays, generosity is top of mind. With so much digital gifting and giving this time of year, it's important to take precautions to help safeguard personal data. Fortunately, even as fraudster tactics are ever-changing, the best ways to avoid them remain fairly consistent.

Think of passwords as your front door. Many digital relationships have a username—usually an email address—and password combination. Remember when a password was something you whispered to a friend on a playground? Ironically, it was likely more secure than now.

Passwords have proliferated in the digital age, with studies showing an average user to have 100 or more, up from 70 as recently as 2019. Many are still common and insecure, like 123456 or a birthdate, that can be easily discovered.

I recommend these tips for stronger password security:

- Avoid creating passwords using your personal information (names, dates, etc.) that can be found online.
- Use unique, strong passwords or passphrases (16 or more characters if possible) that you can easily remember but are hard for systems to crack.
- Create a unique password for each account and avoid repeats or similar patterns that can be easily detected by computer algorithms.
- Set up security questions with answers that cannot be found online or easily guessed.
- Avoid saving passwords or login credentials to your browser.
- When using a public or shared computer, or public Wi-Fi, avoid entering your passwords and always use a personal hotspot or a virtual private network (VPN) before accessing any sensitive data or accounts.
- Use multi-factor authentication, whenever possible, which requires two or more authentication methods to confirm your identity.

Password managers are your online safe-deposit box

Available by subscription and usually with a free trial period, online password managers act like a “digital vault,” securely creating, encrypting and storing unique, complex passwords for every account.

Many proven products are on the market today. Users considering a purchase should consult trusted sources for options and seek a service with many strong reviews.

Here's what I recommend:

- Creating a very strong master password that you can easily remember.

- Taking heed if and when your password manager alerts that your chosen master password is weak, re-used or has been involved in a breach.
- Only using an official, trusted password manager with the latest available security options that works with all your devices.
- Using multi-factor authentication to protect your password manager.

Protect your data further through scam avoidance

Although protecting your passwords is a key component of protecting yourself from scams, it's not the only step you must take. We're all getting approached by devious emails, phone calls, text messages or fake websites. It's crucial to be diligent in checking for validity before responding to any unexpected request.

To protect yourself, here are a few other tips:

- Do not click on unknown links or attachments and never enter your login information into unknown or unexpected prompts.
- Do not reply to suspicious emails or text messages; hang up on suspicious callers.
- Use your phone app or go directly to the official website to verify any account in question; do not trust links or directives from suspicious sources.
- Be wary of unusual requests for cash, money transfers, prepaid credit cards, gift card purchases or even cryptocurrency.

'Tis the season

Cybercriminals keep their scams up to date with the latest influencers. And scammers thrive on timeliness and emotion to catch people off guard. Be aware of what may be coming around the corner.

For instance, in an election year, be aware of scams that include voting or voter registration using fake political websites, text or phone methods. Instead, only vote or register at an official location.

And when considering disaster recovery donations, verify the remit-to organization and resist giving to fringe-sounding entities that promote ancillary services offering temporary housing or employment.

Holiday season scams involving gift card purchases, donations, package delivery, gift exchanges or short-term jobs are designed to exploit targets' inattention or good nature. Before acting or buying, contact the Better Business Bureau or Federal Trade Commission to verify or report any suspicions.

Through proactive planning and vigilance, consumers can protect their identities and assets, and deliver on their intended generosity.

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CELEBRATING THE DC NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL

Celebrating the National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

By Rosemary Stephens

As far as the eyes could see, thousands of tribal citizens representing Tribal Nations from all across the U.S., lined up on the National Mall. From regal Chief's headdresses to brightly colored regalia, ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts, they lined up for two purposes. To honor their beloved Veterans, and to celebrate the first National Native American Veterans Memorial ever to be erected on the National Mall, signaling a long overdue tribute to the thousands of Native Americans who have served, and currently serve in the United States Armed Services.

Not even the misting rain could dampen the high spirits of everyone gathered on the National Mall to officially dedicate and celebrate the National Native American Veterans Memorial (NNAVM), a ceremony lasting well over three hours.

Lined up, tribal citizens from across the country began their procession down the National Mall on Veteran's Day to a stage area at the steps of the U.S. Capitol building. Lulus could be heard throughout the day as they marched rallying their support during the ceremony.

The celebration featured numerous prominent Tribal Nation

leaders and Native Americans including actor Wes Studi, retired Sergeant of the U.S. Army and John Herrington, retired Captain of the U.S. Navy and the first Native American astronaut to go into space, as well as House Representative Sharice Davis, Republican Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska and Cynthis Chavez Lama, National Museum of the American Indian director.

"Native Americans on any battlefield is a formidable force to be reckoned with," Studi said.

The memorial was designed by Cheyenne tribal citizen, well known artist, Harvey Pratt, originally from El Reno, Okla. Pratt is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran having served in the Vietnam War in the Marine Third Reconnaissance Battalion. One of 42,000 Native Americans who served in the Vietnam War.

"I want to look at the heavens today, the Creator gave us a nice gentle rant, to water Mother Earth, and for us to start a new day. This memorial came about in a dream, as I gather all of my life experiences as a Southern Cheyenne Peace Chief," Pratt told the audience during the dedication ceremony.

Pratt said every aspect of the design of the memorial was intentional, making sure each aspect represented something of importance to all Tribal Nations, not just one specific tribe. The path of life leading up to



the center has the five military seals, the round centerpiece represents harmony with water, fire, the Earth and the air, and the four lances rise above the memorial intentionally placed along the four cardinal directions, with the railing causing a ripple effect to emulate the vibrations of a drum.

Each guest speaker highlighted the courageous response of Native Americans to serve their country, a country that has taken so much from them for generations. It was duly noted Native Americans serve in the military in numbers far higher than their proportion of the U.S. population – five times the national average. They’ve served with distinction in every major conflict for over 200 years.

“It would have been normal, even rational, that when called upon to serve in the military and fight and die for America, the reaction of Native Americans over the decades might have

been no thanks, but that wasn’t the reaction. To the contrary, it was the complete opposite,” Senator Sullivan said as the crowd cheered and the lullus rang out.

Of the thousands attending, over 200 in the procession were citizens of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. The Buddy Bond Color Guard led the group of 200 tribal citizens along the National Mall, and as people walked by some had tears streaming down their face as the full impact of this historic celebration truly meant ... recognition to the thousands of Native American Veterans who served, are currently serving and those who gave their lives for their country. A country whose land they have lived upon from time immemorial.



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A Program of TSET



THE ENGLISH

By Sandra Hale Schulman |

Western series 'The English' thrills with Pawnee authenticity
IllumiNative's Crystal Echo Hawk helped guide show along the way

A stunning new Western series, "The English," is elevated with authentic Pawnee culture and history.

The six-part series, produced by the BBC and Amazon Prime, is set in the 1890s American West, not long after the removal of the Pawnee from Nebraska.

The story's writer and director, Hugo Blick, is not Native, so he sought out IllumiNative's president and chief executive Crystal Echo Hawk, who is Pawnee, to ensure historical accuracy.

Echo Hawk was involved with production from the initial script readings, and Pawnee historian and museum curator Matt Reed advised on props, costumes and tribal history.

"This was such a special project because I am Pawnee," Echo Hawk told ICT from New York City on

Nov. 11, the day the series premiered in the U.S. on Amazon Prime. "I think the last time we had representation was in 'Dances with Wolves.' We've been partners with Amazon now for three years. They approached us in early fall of 2019 about this project."

The series features Emily Blunt as Cornelia Locke, an Englishwoman

seeking revenge, who meets Eli Whipp, an ex-cavalry scout of the Pawnee Nation played by Chaske Spencer, Fort Peck Tribes.

IllumiNative president and chief executive Crystal Echo Hawk, Pawnee, was brought in to help ensure authenticity of a new Western miniseries, "The English," which premiered Nov. 11, 2022, on Amazon Prime.



"You could knock me over with a feather when I heard that there was not only a significant Pawnee storyline, but that Emily Blunt's lover/co-star was going to be a Pawnee and a scout," Echo Hawk said.

"My great-great-grandfather, from where our name Hawk came from, was a Pawnee scout," she said. "On so many levels, it was deeply personal. It just was very emotional

to help ensure that this story was told in a really authentic way."

Echo Hawk says that bringing in Pawnee people to ensure authenticity is also "about how we're building power as Native peoples in ensuring that we have a place

throughout every aspect of that storytelling process.”

The series features exquisite cinematography shot in Spain, which gives it a more exotic Western locale.

Veteran Native actor Gary Farmer, Cayuga, has a pivotal role as an Indigenous man who employs Spencer’s character to crush buffalo bones to make china plates. He and his wife, played by Kimberly Guerrero, Colville, may or may not have honorable intentions.

There is a secret driving force in the storyline that is not revealed until the last episode, one that has never been featured so dramatically in a Western. (And sorry, we’re not revealing it here.)

“The tide is shifting and there can no longer be stories about us without us,” Echo Hawk said. “When we got the call and first met Hugo, the writer-director, and his entire team, they were just so lovely and warm and welcoming. Our team did the initial reviews of all the scripts and were able to really talk to them about what we thought about storyline characters, where we thought there were potentially some issues or some things that might not be accurate.”

Actress Emily Blunt plays Cornelia Locke, an Englishwoman seeking revenge, who meets Eli Whipp, an ex-cavalry scout of the Pawnee Nation played by Chaske Spencer, Fort Peck Tribes. The Western miniseries premiered Nov. 11, 2022, on Amazon Prime.

Echo Hawk said the team was open to IllumiNative’s notes on the detail and the authenticity to ensure that everything that made it into the film was something that the tribe was going to feel comfortable about.

“We’ve oftentimes dealt with production companies and writers or directors who just don’t want script notes. They want you just to come in and rubber stamp the production,” she said.

“I think it’s changing times,” she continued. “That was so important, that through IllumiNative’s advocacy, research, the work we’ve done in the industry, that we were able to create space within this production to have our Pawnee people have agency and partnership with the writer-director and the production team and Amazon.”

While Echo Hawk didn’t spend any time on set, she was comfortable that the consultants she set them up with would do the job.

“Once we knew that we got the Pawnee and Cheyenne consultants set up with the production company, IllumiNative just stepped aside because that’s where the real frontline work happens,” she said.

“It’s been so wonderful to hear back from Hugo and everyone at Amazon how pleased they are. That’s so much what of IllumiNative’s work is about, just creating space, clearing space for Native creatives, for our tribal people, and those cultural experts to come in and work in partnership with production.”

Blick said in a statement that he put a lot of research into the scripts before handing them over to Echo Hawk.

“She then introduced me to representatives of the Pawnee and Cheyenne Nations, each of whom are specialists in the cultural and military history of their respective nations,” he said. “The journey taken with IllumiNative and the Pawnee and Cheyenne advisors, has been long, detailed and hugely rewarding.”

He said Westerns tell a different kind of story.

“At its best, the Western allows us to escape the reality of who we are and how we live today,” he said in the statement.

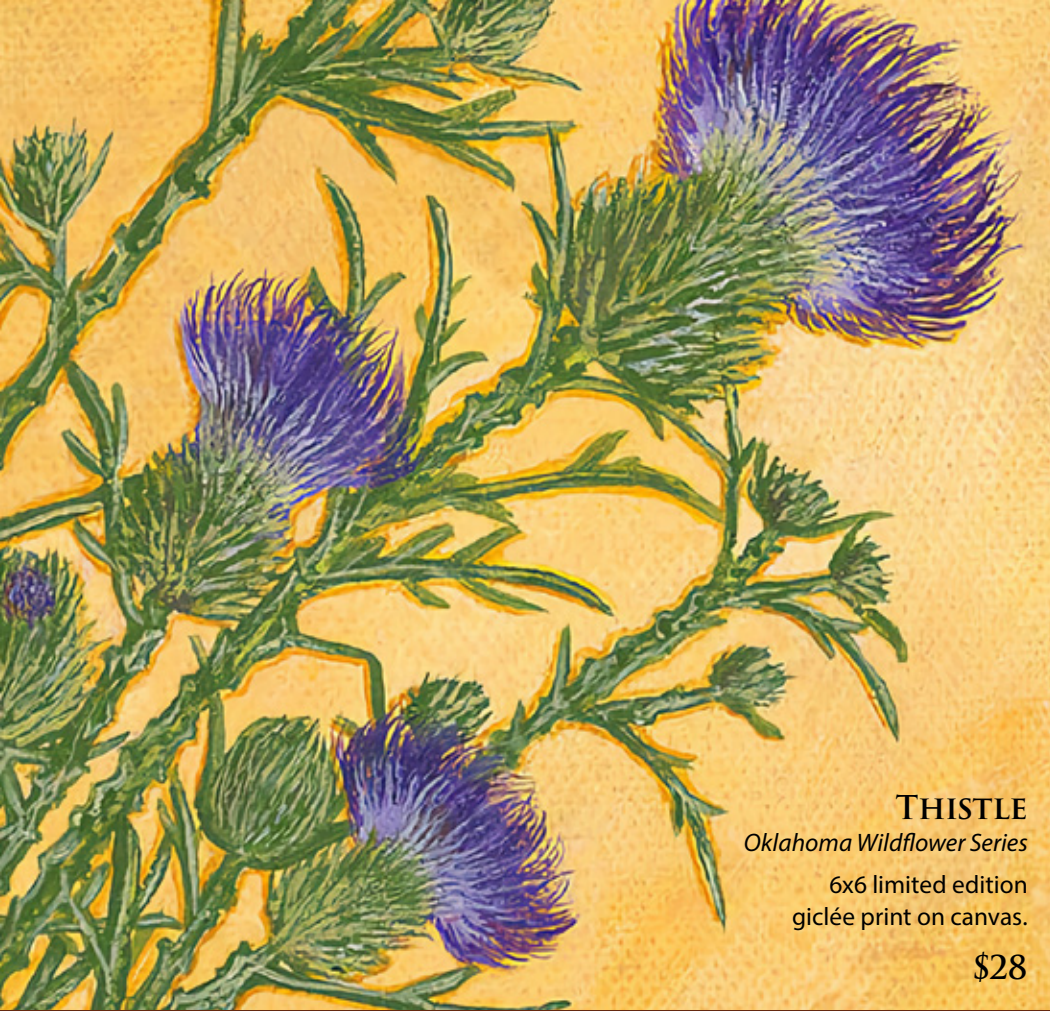
“Something about its huge landscapes, mythic heroes and villains, the epic violence and love they pursue, can speak directly to our souls ... Perhaps what’s unusual about ‘The English’ is who it chooses for its heroes, a Native American man and an Englishwoman, and the precise kind of justice they’re both looking to restore.”



The series has

drawn rave reviews, and the premiere event in New York City drew a number of Pawnee representatives.

“A number of the Pawnee folks are here,” Echo Hawk said. “I know our tribe has been really promoting it on social media and I think they’ll be organizing a local screening in Oklahoma.”



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The Circle of Life

Circles represent life, light, growth, and eternity in Chickasaw culture. We use the theme of circles to show the generations that went into creating this brand. From in-house designing, sustainable materials to artisans we partner with, we continue to grow our circle and expand the legacy of Mahota.



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**CHICKASAW MAP
II BLANKET**

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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.



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.



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.

GREAT SPIRIT

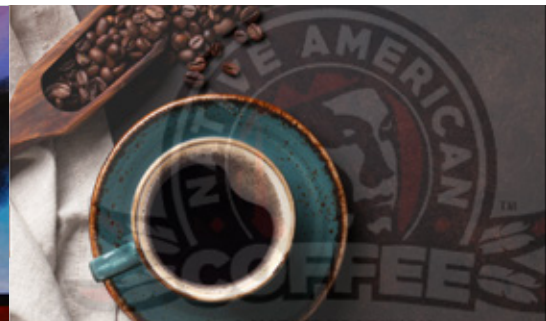
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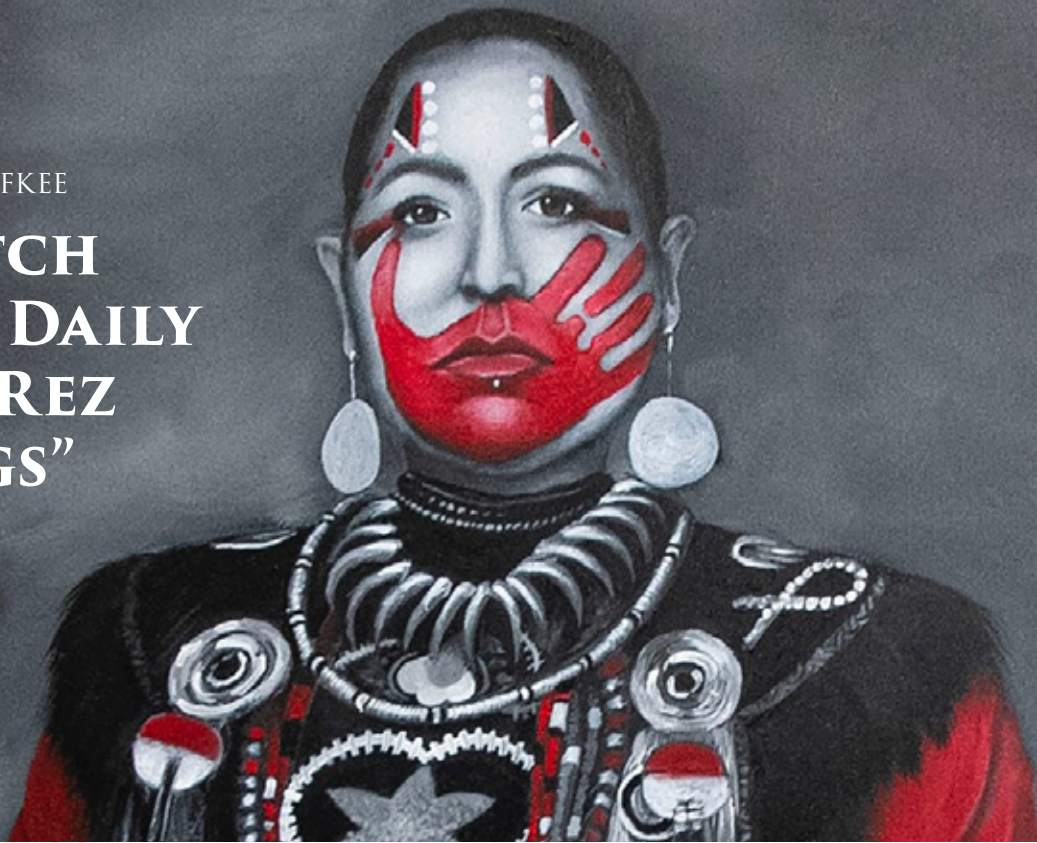
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SOUR SOFKEE

“WATCH ALASKA DAILY NOT REZ DOGS”



Alaska Daily is a far better series than Rez Dogs! I strongly urge you to watch it. Alaska Daily is an ambitious TV series in that it addresses the serious and pressing issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples. That is the central theme of the show.

As such, it stands as a testament to the years of hard work and activism of the Native community in achieving broader awareness of this critical issue. I am gratified that a national broadcasting network (ABC) would accept and promote a TV series predicated upon MMIP. It is unfortunate that Alaska Daily has not received the recognition and acclaim heaped upon the far less accomplished Reservation Dogs.

The plot of Alaska Daily is well defined. It centers on Eileen Fitzgerald (played by Hillary Swank), a disgraced New York City investigative journalist who moves to Alaska seeking a fresh start and an opportunity to rebuild her career. She desires redemption both personally and professionally by joining the staff at Alaska Daily, a fictional newspaper in Anchorage.

There Eileen meets Roz Friendly, a Native fellow reporter. The Roz character is played by Grace Dove who in real life is Secwepemc from the Canim Lake Indian Band in the Cariboo region of British Columbia. It is through Roz that Eileen learns of the MMIP. Roz has a personal connection to MMIP in that her sister has gone missing and is presumed dead. Eileen and Roz team up to investigate a cold case of an Indigenous woman who has gone missing.

During their investigation, they discover many other cold cases of missing Indigenous women. Eileen is outraged by this while Roz, playing an Alaska Native, has a “see I told you so” attitude. Further compounding Eileen’s anger is the indifference of the justice system. Roz observes, “No one’s going to do anything about it – not the cops, not the courts.” Eileen replies, “Then we will.”

The pilot episode of Alaska Daily premiered on October 6th. There have been five other episodes that air Thursday nights at 9pm central time. You can also catch the series on Hulu. The fall finale of Alaska Daily was shown on November 17th. It will resume on Feb. 23, 2023.

Not only does Alaska Daily have a compelling and important premise

in addressing the MMIP issue, but the series has well defined and interesting cast of central characters. The script writing is tight and crisp with well-articulated plot points. The series maintains good forward momentum on its essential plot while also exploring related themes and story ideas. Overall, it is well done and executed.

Rez Dogs on the other hand is very one-dimensional. It seems preoccupied with manifesting Native and Creek culture and ways. To be sure, that is admirable given the historic scarce presentation of Native culture in television and film, etc. Count me in on that.

Nevertheless this comes at a high expense in Rez Dogs. For one, the story line is perhaps the biggest victim. Four teenagers in Okmulgee, OK have a dream of escaping the dystopian town for the bright lights and promised land of California. This goal, however, is only periodically addressed in the series. Then the teenagers are suddenly plopped down in The Golden State only to discover all that glitters isn’t gold. And thus the watered-down premise is prematurely complete.

Moreover, I have a problem with the blatant plagiarism of the film Reservoir Dogs. From the name Reservation Dogs to the attire of the four teenagers in black suits, white shirts and black skinny ties, the series is intellectually lazy. There are endless ideas of motif, themes, costumes, and names for the series. Why resort to stealing from Reservoir Dogs?

The series also suffers from a large cast. We don’t know who is who. Nor are we given a reason to care about this cast of characters. A series, any series, is predicated upon the cast. The focus naturally should be upon a core cast. We need to get to know them, what makes them tick, what fears and aspirations do they possess. We need unique character traits and character development. With what amounts to cameo appearances by the core cast we hardly even know their names. Why should we care about them?

Reservation Dogs misses the mark on several key points. Alaska Daily on the other hand nails a very significant issue in Indian Country while also being engaging, compelling, and just a joy to watch. I urge you to tune in Thursday nights for this delightful series.

FIVE BENEFITS OF GOAL SETTING



As the current year comes to a close and you're hyper focused on the final quarter, it's also a great time to think about goals for the upcoming year. Goal setting allows you to intentionally focus your efforts to achieve a specific outcome. To-do lists are great; however, if those daily activities aren't tied to a specific goal, the outcome may not be what you desired.

Setting SMART goals give us a well-defined roadmap on the things we want to achieve in the near future. What are SMART goals? SMART goals are: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. SMART goals define the parameters around your desired outcome and help ensure that your objectives are attainable within a certain time frame.

This approach eliminates the guesswork of general outcomes, sets a clear timeline, and makes it easier to track progress. An example of a SMART goal is: Our goal is to <quantifiable objective> by xx <deadline>. XX <Key players or team> will accomplish this goal by xx <steps to achieve the goal>. Accomplishing this goal will xx <result or benefit>.

BELOW ARE FIVE BENEFITS TO SETTING SMART GOALS:

1) Provides Direction. Setting SMART goals helps create clear objectives. Defining specific goals set you up for success and provides the direction you need to accomplish what you set out to do. This type of goal setting technique pushes you in the right direction,

which increases your chances of achieving the desired outcome.

2) Evaluate Strengths and Opportunities. SMART goals help align you with your goal objectives and allow you to take a deep dive into your strengths and opportunities. By assessing your strengths and opportunities, it allows you to grow and moves you into the right position to receive the desired goals you want to achieve. By evaluating everything, SMART goals create a roadmap to aid you in meeting and succeeding those goals.

3) Challenges the Comfort Zone. Who doesn't love a good challenge? The great thing about setting SMART goals is it forces you out of your comfort zone and allows growth. Comfort zones feel good but nothing grows there. The main idea behind goal setting is to increase performance, skills, etc. greater than the last set of goals. SMART goals motivate you and force you to take action.

4) Saves time and Maintains Focus. SMART goals maximize time by assigning a task, a team, and a measurable result to each goal. Goal setting allows you to maintain a clear focus on the outcome and every action taken from beginning to end so the goals are achieved. These specific goals help you save time that could otherwise be wasted on activities that aren't goal-oriented or tied to an actual outcome.

5) Serves as a Performance Enhancer Tool. SMART goals serve as a performance enhancer tool because the goals identify the areas you and/or your team need to improve. It gives you a feeling of satisfaction as you continue to monitor progress, which is useful in achieving a goal.

If you need help developing a goal setting strategy to achieve your desired outcome, let's have a conversation! Visit us at: <https://www.luksiconsulting.com> Sign up for tips, industry trends & more!

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