

# NATIVE

*oklahoma*

MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2023

Designs

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# NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

## NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | JANUARY 2023

P.O. Box 1151 | Jenks, OK 74037 | 918.409.7252 | [adam@nativeoklahoma.us](mailto:adam@nativeoklahoma.us)

**PUBLISHER:** Adam Proctor, Cherokee/Shawnee/Creek

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Fus Yvhikv, John Morris, Rosemary Stephens, J.K. Henderson, Latoya Lonelodge, Chrisanna Elser

**MAGAZINE DESIGN:** Red Sky Total Solutions | Sr. Designer, Heather McCoy | Creative Director, Kevin McMillan

**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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## NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

### ADAM PROCTOR

Founder | Editor-In-Chief

[adam@nativeoklahoma.us](mailto:adam@nativeoklahoma.us)

918.409.7252

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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.





## STORYTELLING IN FILM

By: J.K. Henderson

Mark Williams is a name you might know if you travel in certain circles. If his name or his work in film is not familiar to you, you should get to know him.

Mark Williams was born in northeastern Oklahoma in Claremore, and his family lived in several places in the state before Bennington in southeastern Oklahoma's Choctaw Nation became home. Bennington is a small community outside Durant, the capital of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. His mother, Bernice, is "Oklahoma Choctaw" he said, and is retired from Choctaw Nation as a healthcare worker. His father, Olin Williams, is "Mississippi Choctaw" Mark said, and his father is also now retired from Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Historical Preservation Office, but those jobs only begin a list of several jobs Mr. and Mrs. Williams have performed over their years, Mr. Williams serving as a pastor, for one.

"My father was always tellin' stories," Mark said over the phone, a certain ornery grin heard stretching across his lips. That seems to be the way Storytellers become: They listen to the voices of their ancestors. It should come as little surprise, then, that Mark Williams is a Storyteller.

Mark has just about taken the world's film festival circuit by storm. One of his latest films, "The Journey of Tiak Hikiya Ohoyo" was,

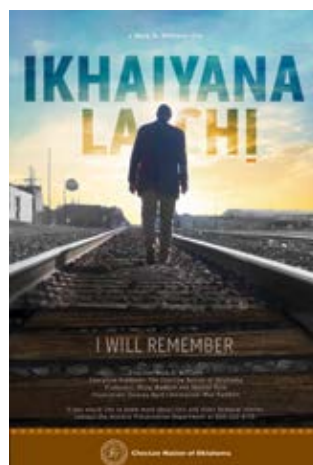
on December 19th, 2022, nominated for consideration in the best documentary feature category in the Women's Causes organization's Festival of Films for the 2022 award season. It would take an encyclopedic textbook to fully understand Tiak Hikiya Ohoyo, an all-women stickball team from Standing Pine Reservation in the

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and its bearing on cultural significance upon Choctaw culture. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians are two separate sovereign tribal nations that, in their least, share a common culture that is 20,000 years old or more, and one that was almost lost in the last 500 years since European contact. That is a story for another talking leaf.

On November 16, "The Journey of Tiak Hikiya Ohoyo" was named an official selection for the San Pedro International Film Festival for 2023 after claiming a winner award at the IndieFEST Film Awards in the Native American/Aboriginal Peoples category. The IndieFEST Film Awards organization is based in La Jolla, California, but the awards honor worldwide filmmakers, from industry veterans to newcomers.

Mark's awards have been coming since "about 2012," he says. He made his first short film in 2006. Since that time, he has developed Digital Feather Media and Nativeboy Productions, his film production companies.

"That first film was kinda silly," Mark laughs when he talks about gathering his family and friends in 2006 to make it. Yet, his waters





run deeper the further along the path he has walked. His two most recent films are signature additions to his filmography. Along with "The Journey of Tiak Hikiya Ohoyo," Mark's 2021 film "Ikhaiyana Lo Chi" is a distinctive intention of cinematography. Both films are respectively available to view on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/74VTG3NZBIM> and <https://youtu.be/EzgTTJKN2mk>.

Most everything, tho, about Mark is distinctive. His most recent distinction: Induction into the North American Indigenous Athletes Hall of Fame in their Media category, with Mark being only the second person in that hall of fame's history to be inducted under that category — not too shabby for a self-taught filmmaker.

"If I'd gone to film school I think I'd have got burned out," he said. "Natives are natural storytellers anyway and we use storytelling to teach lessons." As long as mark continues to tell the stories he has been telling now for close to 20 years, then the cultural tradition of Native Storytellers has survived assimilation and with the same trait of resiliency borne by his ancestors before him. Mark Williams' legacy for his People is certain to keep that past, present, and future culture very much alive.







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## **GROWING SUCCESS**

### **- THE AMERICAN INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

There is one thing for certain in today's economic environment. That is, Change.

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO), is determined that, if economic change comes its way, this collective group of Native-owned and non-Native businesses will turn it into a positive. That seems to be the case. The world's pandemic of the last few years has done much to throw obstacles in AICCO's (and everyone else's), path to growth. Yet, the organization's membership continues to increase.

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce, established in 1993, is a unique collective of Native American business professionals, tribal nation connections, Native-centric organizations, entrepreneurs, companies, and corporations. Its primary goal is to enhance business growth and opportunity for American-Indian and tribal-owned businesses in Oklahoma (though its membership is also open to non-Native businesses). Its motto is "Educate. Empower. Engage."

The motto stands strong in 2023. The organization sees the new year as a perfect platform to become a major force of change for the betterment of Indian Country business.

"Our commitment to bringing new businesses, established businesses, and supporting programs by corporations and Tribal Nations to the same table fosters a forward propulsion, a churning drive we think is unique to Native-owned businesses in Oklahoma.", says Bailey Walker, AICCO State Board President, "It provides a common link between members. We become an AICCO community dedicated to a common



cause—Indian Country success.”

The non-profit features a state board which governs overall operations and policies, with the collective represented throughout the state. AICCO individual chapters are located in large metro areas like Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and chapters can be found in rural areas of Oklahoma as well.

Chapters meet once a month in a luncheon format to listen to various guest speakers. Topics most often include items regarding Indian Country business and culture. This monthly gathering of local and regional business owners also provides a chance to connect with neighboring AICCO members and Native-focused businesses, organizations, and Tribal interests. It’s not uncommon for shared interests to be discovered, or business deals and projects to emerge from a simple introduction at these luncheons.

Separate networking mixers are held during the year...a time to catch up with one another, to get to know and learn more about fellow members which strengthens the sense of AICCO as a community.

“The success of the organization”, Walker notes, “belongs to a long list of contributors: the state board, chapter officers, sponsors, Oklahoma sovereign nations, and, of course, each and every AICCO native and non-native business chapter member.”

AICCO’s website ([aicco.org](http://aicco.org)), features a Member Directory, listing members and their companies with descriptions and contact info, open to all AICCO members and the general public. Walker says, “We invite everyone to visit our AICCO Member Online Directory at [aicco.org](http://aicco.org). You may be surprised at the vast array of goods and services offered there. It’s pretty amazing.”

AICCO’s largest event of the year, is called “The Gathering”, a business networking conference and trade show featuring Indian Country speakers and a focus on vendor exhibitors from within the ranks of AICCO and beyond. AICCO members meet and explore ways to work with other members, learn about companies who are displaying their wares and services, engage in making new customers, and form business alliances.

The Gathering has been called the “Melting Pot of Indian Country Business” and is steeped with success potential on many layers. It is scheduled for July 23rd through July 25th, 2023 at the River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tribal representatives, Members, and non-members are encouraged to attend. More general info about The Gathering can be found at the website: [aicco.org](http://aicco.org) under the Events tab/The Gathering.

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce’s future looks bright as the organization grows and increases its business-to-business networking across the state. External opportunities loom as well. Canadian and

Australian business organizations are now reciprocally connected to AICCO which can mean international business deals between AICCO members in Oklahoma with businesses in other countries are possible. There’s nothing standing in the way of members becoming involved in Oklahoma’s already-bustling import/export business.

“Recognizing change is simple,” Russel Tucker, AICCO State Board Treasurer, quips, “Keeping up with it is the hard part. But AICCO networking can help members through a changing business climate to ultimate Indian Country success.”







# COMING HOME

**“Cheyenne people and Arapaho people always find their way home, either in life or in death ... they always come home.”**

By Rosemary Stephens

On Dec. 20, 2022 the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes held a burial remembrance ceremony to lay to rest the remains of two young females and one male repatriated under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) from the University of Denver located in Colorado.

“We are here today to memorialize these ladies. We don’t know if they tragically lost their lives or died from a disease, but the important thing is they are back, they are back with us. I see more than just remains, these were living, walking, talking people at one time living constructive lives,” Reggie Wassana, Governor of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes said.

Between the 1920s and 1950s, human remains of the two female individuals were recovered from Mitchell, Texas. The remains were deposited with the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology.

Beginning in late summer 2022, the Cheyenne NAGPRA representative, Chester Whiteman, the Arapaho NAGPRA representative, Fred Mosqueda, and Cheyenne Chief Gordon Yellowman began consultations with the University of Denver to have the remains repatriated back to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

“They might have been murdered, victims, or died of unnatural causes. Regardless of how they died we are here today to show our respect and

to give them a remembrance and a burial ceremony they were never given. In keeping with our traditions, we always do the best we can to put our people away respectfully, with dignity in sorrow. That’s why we are here today,” Yellowman said as he looked upon the wooden boxes placed in front of the podium, each carefully wrapped in a blanket.

It was determined one of the females was in her late teens, with the other female in her early 20s and the male somewhere in his mid-30s ... approximately 35 years old.

“They were fairly young people, and nobody knows the circumstances surrounding the deaths of our ancestors here, our relatives but we do know the Creator welcomed them in their time of death, and I believe their spirits have been with the Creator since that time. This event is a finalization of their journey. I believe these two young ladies and young man had a great homecoming with our ancestors on the other side. Since we don’t know who these people are, they may be any one of our ancestors, one of our distant relations and be a part of our family,” LaRenda Morgan, president of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Cheyenne and Arapaho Chapter said as the invited guest speaker.

Yellowman extended the tribes’ gratitude to several individuals who were instrumental in bringing home these three ancestors.

“I want to thank Fred (Mosqueda) and Chester (Whiteman) for the consultation, as well as Anne (Amati) whose here with us from the University of Denver as a partner. It was a successful consultation and we finally got them here to be buried in our tribal cemetery.

I want to thank the Burial Program for donating the blankets, the Mennonites for constructing the boxes, the University of Denver for



their strong partnership and consultation, and thank you to Huber Benson Funeral Home for donating the use of the hearse for the proper escort to the tribal cemetery, and for our singers here," Yellowman said.

Elder Victor Orange opened the ceremony with prayer and traditional burial songs were sung at the closing of the ceremony.

Each of the boxes containing the remains of the three individuals were gently picked up and carefully placed in the back of Huber Benson's hearse to be transported to the Concho Indian Cemetery to be laid to rest in their final resting place.

"It is up to us to honor them and to memorialize them because they were left somewhere. We don't know, maybe there were taken and whoever took them left them there doing dishonorable things and taking their lives. Whatever it was that happened in those years I'm glad they are here and they are back with us so we can give them a proper burial and they will be at home again on the lands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people," Gov. Wassana said.







# ESPORTS POPULARITY GROWS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Latoya Lonelodge

With the ever-growing trend of technology used in today's society, the topic of video gaming while at school was never brought up for discussion ... until just recently.

Growing in popularity across the world, esports is providing opportunities for students to get involved at a scholarly level opposed to traditional sports in schools.

According to the National Education Association website at [nea.org](http://nea.org), the explosive growth of esports was driven by student interest as 90 percent of teens play video games and is matched by growth in esports scholarships and careers.

In 2018, the National Federation of State High School Associations first recognized esports as an official sport. Since then, thousands of high schools have started implementing video-gaming teams.

Giving rise to its growing popularity in and around Cheyenne and Arapaho communities, many public schools are in their beginning stages of creating video-gaming teams of their own.

Dillon Young, esports coach and IT director at Calumet Public Schools said the school has been taking it slow the last two or three years with adding equipment and seeing how much they could get involved.

In their official second year of competing and have practices, Young said the esports team consists of 12 students who regularly compete at the school.

"We got a lot more that would it's such a small school there's a lot of conflicts with sports and stuff. I still push for sports over esports, that's kind of my philosophy, but at the same time it's been great for our non-athletes and the kids who really haven't had a place in something that they're good at," Young said.

At Calumet Public Schools, their league consists of ninth through 12th graders in high school. For the fall semester of esports, students are participating in games such as Madden, Rocket League, Super Smash brothers, Fortnite, Halo and even WWE.

"It was just kind of undeniable, like the growth of esports and how big it was getting and just how many kids we have that go home and play video games and have an interest in streaming and playing competitively, so it just seems like that's where things are going so we needed to get in on it when it started," Young said.

Young said in his first year at Calumet he saw a positive change with students who were struggling to stay engaged academically. With esports, students now have a reason to keep their grades above a level to be able to participate instead of sitting on the ineligible list for weeks at a time.

"We had kids that wanted to be able to play and we saw grades go up and one thing that I've personally seen is just being able to teach a new group about competitiveness and commitment to a team," Young said.

Young said it's the teamwork, commitment and discipline that not every child who hasn't participated in sports, has the opportunity to experience.

"Esports has brought those characteristics





and traits to kids who aren't normally getting it," Young said.

While esports continues to grow in popularity within the schools, Young said there's often some misconception about esports.

"Every now and then you hear people that think it's a waste of time and I get it, it sounds like you're just playing video games in school, but honestly it's somebody who has spent most of his life in athletics and somebody who wanted to be a football or basketball coach growing up," Young said.

Young said he's seen a lot of surprising positives that are coming from esports.

"It's been a really great way to connect with students and keep them engaged," Young said.

Lincoln Spurlin, esports coach and assistant band director at Watonga Public Schools said when he applied for the job as assistant band director, esports wasn't a thing there.

"I kind of brought it up in the interview. We talked about it a little bit and then about half way through the semester last year Mr. Hilterbran said he wanted to get the ball rolling on it so we made a list of stuff we wanted to get and he bought us the most expensive version of pretty much all the equipment we wanted," Spurlin said.

The semester had begun with tryouts for esports, with there being a middle school team that consists of sixth through eighth graders and a high school team that is ninth through 12th grades on the roster, totaling approximately 20 high school students and 25 middle school students. From there, the esports team has played one tournament a month for Xbox games, which are virtual and have played in-person Super Smash Brothers qualifiers once a month.

"We just got some jerseys, the school bought the high school a set of standing esports jerseys to use and the middle school had jerseys donated, like custom jerseys for all the kids were donated by one of the parents," Spurlin said.

Being a gamer himself all his life, Spurlin said he saw a need to implement esports at Watonga Public Schools.

"I've been a gamer my whole life and esports has kind of become more popular now days and people stream and watch people play, it's a lot more popular and possible than it was when I was growing up. I just always thought it was cool, I would've loved the chance to compete in video games because that's something I love to do," Spurlin said.

Spurlin said when students go home they don't usually work on math or practice band instruments.

"They want to play video games, so giving them the opportunity to put all that time to use and use the skills that they're developing and actually apply them and use them to

compete, I think is really helpful in an academic setting and giving them a chance to test them against other schools," Spurlin said.

With some students, Spurlin said the school is trying to reach the demographic of students that may be struggling with grades or that aren't involved with anything else to give them something to strive for.

"Give them a reason to keep their grades up and stay eligible because the big difference between esports and traditional

sports is if our students are ineligible they can't even come to practice, so if they're ineligible they can't do anything so it gives them a real reason to keep their grades up," Spurlin said.

Patrick King, El Reno High School esports coach and science teacher said the El Reno esports team started a little late for the online tournaments for Madden, WWE, MultiVersus and Rocket League, however its something they are looking forward to participating in the spring.

"Our school board and superintendent principals all got together and decided that here at El Reno, we weren't going to play in any shooting games and most of the kids have kind of bought into that and the reasoning behind that was because of all the recent school shootings and things like that and we don't want to encourage any of that kind of activity," King said.

King said this is the first year for El Reno to participate in esports, with the team consisting of high school students only.

"We've had a lot of kids for several years that have just enjoyed playing video games," King said.

It wasn't until the previous school year that administrators decided there was a grant available for esports competition and they decided to jump on board and bring the grant to the school.

"It's actually been pretty good, we've had a good response, we've got over 20 students participating so far, so the response has been really great," King said.

King said the significance in implementing esports at El Reno ties back to their mission states of ensuring every student's achievement and to inspire excellence.

"We have several students that aren't athletes, they aren't really great at athletics, they're not really great with the academics and so this is a way to get them to achieve and show their excellence in another way, esports has a way to provide scholarships to college, so if we can have another avenue for kids to go to college and excel in something that they love and enjoy doing then we need to be able to provide that," King said.

Students at El Reno High School also shared their input in being a part of the esports team for the first time ever.

Jayden Grauberge, 16, whose been gaming all his life said he's just glad to be doing something in his life.

"I feel like most of the time I just like to spend my free time doing stuff that's not very productive and I guess this is a good way to turn my unproductive hobby into something kind of productive, so that's pretty good," Grauberge said.

Grauberge said the opportunities that esports can provide include granting him access to college scholarships.

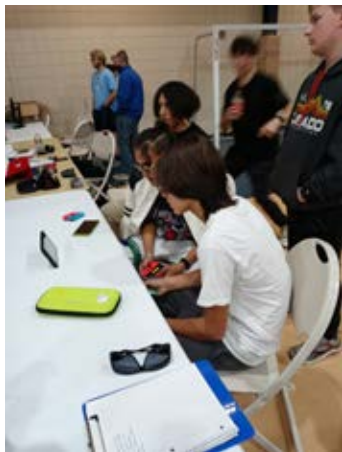
"I'm hoping to make it big is what I'm hoping for, in the hopes of gaining free college," Grauberge said.

Devin Levi, 18 said he chose to join esports because he likes to branch out into other things gaming wise.

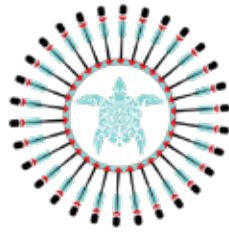
"I see it as a good way of getting into college," Levi said.

Levi said esports has taught him how to be more focused on the game and to use teamwork the best he can.

"I'm looking forward to getting better at games I'm usually not good at and as a way to get into college with what I love doing," Levi said.







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## WORK-LIFE BALANCE

### Work-Life Balance for Entrepreneurs & Time Management Tips

As entrepreneurs of growing businesses, it's hard to step away from work, shutting off electronic devices and simply relax. What is truly work-life balance? It means pausing your work responsibilities and focusing on your personal needs, which is crucial to yourself and your business. Studies show that 1 in 4 people experience high levels of conflict between work and family. Out of all the factors that influence this conflict, over half say the amount of time spent at work is the most consistent reason.

Do you ever find yourself caught up in not shutting your brain off even though you're not at work or not being fully present around your loved ones? There is an increasing number of people in this situation in our post-Covid world. Between an increasing demand in availability and extensive use of communication, technology blurs the boundaries between work and home. Long work hours and highly stressful roles hinder one's ability to harmonize work and family or social life, which are directly associated with health risks, lack of self-care, substance abuse, depression and anxiety. Work-life conflicts are directly related to several physical and mental health implications. There is an increasing number of entrepreneurs who report high levels of role overload and strain. Studies state that work responsibilities often interfere with their ability to fulfill their responsibilities at home.

Proper work-life balance can help you avoid burnout while increasing productivity and your motivation. There are a wide variety of practices currently implemented by entrepreneurs to help them achieve work-life balance and help manage stress to shift focus on rebalancing work and life. So how do you find work-life balance with all the demands of your business?

Here's how it's done:

1) Time blocking. Review your calendar (by month or week) and block out times during the day to manage your workload i.e., team meeting 9am – 10am on Fridays and marketing project 1pm – 3pm on Mondays. You're able to complete tasks and feel accomplished when projects are scheduled. Block times to check your mail at the beginning and end of your day. Make to-do lists for the upcoming week. Delegate tasks and utilize your team's gifts and talents. Are you a morning person? Then schedule your toughest tasks then. Do you need a break mid-day? Schedule quiet time during your 15-minute break or lunch. Get outside, if possible and connect with nature. Quiet time or breaks help reset your mind and prevent information overload.

2) Business Planning. Successful businesses are organized businesses. Set aside time, utilizing the time blocking method, for planning on a weekly basis. For example, Monday-Wednesday are often the most heavily-scheduled days for entrepreneurs. Thursday is typically

utilized for meetings, travel, etc. Fridays are a good day to intentionally block out a few hours to focus on planning, following up on tasks set at the beginning of the week, goal setting for the next week, and overall planning out your next few weeks so your tasks and actions are aligned properly with your goals. Not only does this allow you to accomplish to-do lists and conquer goals, but it also removes potential anxiety and stress caused from a hectic work week.

3) Self-care days. Scheduling mental health days are vital in this fast-paced world. We are flooded with too much information and not enough outlets to recharge ourselves and reframe our mindsets. Take a day or half day to rest (meditation, daily affirmations, massages, hiking, taking up new hobbies, napping, yoga, or days off to de-stress). Don't forget to add it to your calendar.

4) Establish healthy boundaries. An effective way to first establish boundaries is to say no. Not everyone needs you immediately. Set a goal monthly, quarterly, or annually to only volunteer at certain organizations you're passionate about or connected with, attend conferences, events, etc. You cannot cater to everyone. Set your office hours and stick to it. With easy access to our emails, social media, etc., we feel the need to instantly reply, and people become accustomed to your immediate response. You won't damage relationships if you are upfront with boundaries in the beginning.

5) Take charge of your health. Diet and exercise are crucial to our survival as humans. Without these proper things, we become depleted rather quickly, which affects our work and our family or social lives. Our bodies need to release toxins and the necessary chemicals to stimulate healthy responses for better physical and mental health. Listen to your mind and body and take time for yourself. There's nothing selfish about taking care of you. You can't pour from an empty cup.

*If you need help developing a time management strategy or need mindset coaching, let's have a conversation!  
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**THE WHITE  
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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.





## GAINING GROUND - FARM BILL

New "Gaining Ground" report identifies Native American goals for 2023 Farm Bill

Tribal parity, food security and rural infrastructure development are among 150+ measures sought by Tribal Nations, Native producers and nutrition leaders

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. – The Native Farm Bill Coalition has released Gaining Ground: A Report on the 2018 Farm Bill Successes for Indian Country and Opportunities for 2023 to set the stage for Native American advocacy on the 2023 Farm Bill. The report argues for significant progress to be made in strengthening tribal sovereignty, food security and rural infrastructure.

Indian Country is a leading force in American agriculture, with more than 80,000 individual Native producers contributing \$3.5 billion to the U.S. economy. Additionally, many Native communities are partially reliant on the feeding programs that make up almost 80% of Farm Bill funding. Yet, the unique needs of Tribal Nations and

Native producers have been historically overlooked. In the 2018 Farm Bill, Indian Country achieved many breakthrough policy goals, with a historical, unprecedented 63 separate Native-related provisions. These provisions range from strengthening Tribal self-governance and the management of nutrition programs to investing in economic development opportunities. Gaining Ground identifies potential opportunities to build on the progress made in 2018 to ensure Indian Country's unique needs are met in each of the Farm Bill's titles.

"This new report reinforces that Indian Country's relationship with the Farm Bill has always been complex," said Erin Parker, report co-author and executive director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative. "As we saw in the 2018 Farm Bill, this significant legislation has numerous opportunities for Indian Country agriculture, including a strong acknowledgment of Tribal sovereignty and the power of Tribal governments to express that sovereignty in the space of

food and agriculture for the benefit of their citizens, producers and communities."

Gaining Ground identifies more than 150 policy changes to be pursued by Indian Country in the 2023 Farm Bill, including:

- Food security: Broadening "638" self-determination and self-governance nutrition opportunities within the Farm Bill would allow Tribes to tailor programs to best meet their local needs. The Farm Bill could also increase Tribal food security by extending Tribal eligibility to administer SNAP and receive SNAP-Ed funding, as well as allowing Tribal citizens to use both SNAP and FDPIR.

- Tribal sovereignty: Expanding localized control and implementation of USDA programs by extending "638" self-determination and self-governance opportunities throughout all USDA programs would ensure Tribal Nations across the country are able to provide local, tailored services to their people.



- Economic development: Making Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans more accessible to Tribal producers by removing burdensome program requirements and improving technical assistance and outreach for Tribal producers would greatly improve economic development in Indian Country.

- Natural resource stewardship: The Farm Bill could provide greater support for Tribes and Tribal producers to utilize Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to build sustainable food systems for generations to come.

- Rural infrastructure development: Just like states and local governments, Tribes manage key infrastructure, such as water systems, electric and other utilities. The Farm Bill could add “Tribes” and “Tribal producers” alongside “states” or “local governments” to ensure Tribes have access to the same benefits of better housing, utilities, broadband access and other vital infrastructure.

“The Farm Bill provides resources and programs that strategically improve the health and well-being of economies and communities at a time when people are seeking healthy food that matters,” said Kari Jo Lawrence, executive director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council and co-chair of the Native Farm Bill Coalition. “As the first farmers, ranchers and stewards of this land, Native producers must have a voice at the table and have their needs considered in the upcoming Farm Bill.”

“Tribes are not truly sovereign unless we are also food sovereign,” said Vice-Chairman Cole Miller of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and co-chair of the Native Farm Bill Coalition. “With the leadership of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, Indian Country’s voice in the Farm Bill debate is the strongest it has ever been. It is crucial that we continue to build on this partnership and showcase the positive impact that federal policy can have on Indian Country agriculture when policy is crafted with the voices of our tribes and communities.”

Gaining Ground was authored by Erin Parker and Carly Hotvedt of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative and funded by the Native American Agriculture Fund, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux

Community and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Download the full report.

Media briefing: Reporters are invited to attend a virtual media briefing on the report on September 14 at 1 p.m. CDT. Registration is required.

###

*The Native Farm Bill Coalition*

*The Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) brings together Tribes, intertribal organizations, other Native organizations and non-Native allies around the country to advocate with a strong, unified voice to advance investments in Native agricultural production, ranching, nutrition programs, rural infrastructure, economic development, conservation, and forestry. The NFBC is the largest-ever coordinated effort in Indian Country around federal food, agriculture and nutrition policy.*

*The NFBC was co-founded in 2017 by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and the National Congress of American Indians, with the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative serving as the Coalition’s official research partner. Since the NFBC’s creation, it has grown to include more than 270 member-tribes and other organizations.*



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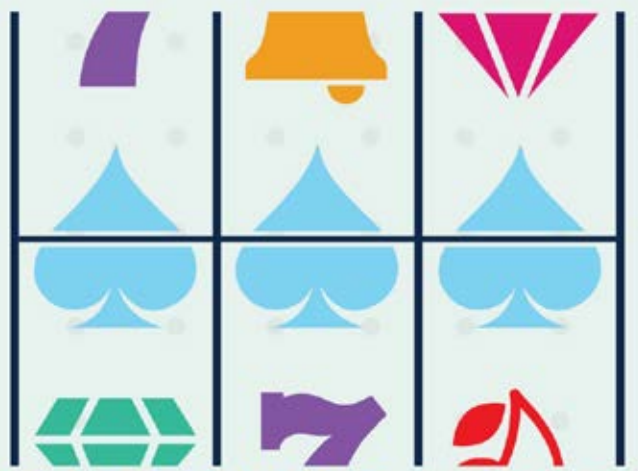
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# RUN THOSE NUMBERS AGAIN

**Large 2023 hike in Social Security benefits plus revised Medicare premiums prompt recalculations**

By Chrisanna Elser

Financial Planning quality assurance specialist with BOK Financial

While many working toward retirement dream of a post-work life filled with travel, time with family and carefree living, the reality for most retirees involves carefully balancing between fixed incomes and rising costs.

As a result, the 70 million Americans who receive Social Security benefits tend to stick to a pragmatic playbook.

So, when the news popped that Social Security benefits will get a cost of living boost of 8.7% in 2023, many breathed a sigh of relief.

After all, when prices on gas, groceries, rent and heat have jumped more than 8% this year, the extra \$140 in benefits per month on average will certainly make a difference for those who rely on the program to cover essentials.

Yet, following the brief respite, many turned back to their household cash flow calculations, assessed how things might look in the New Year and reassumed a wary mindset.

Whenever there's a raise, retirees are happy, but they also know that the cost of living is aggressively eating it away. Retirees have a much different mindset because they're using their savings to fill the gap between their desired spending and their Social Security check.

Most of the time the annual raise is already spent because

they're playing catch up where inflation has left its mark.

Benefits a moving target

In 1975, the Social Security Administration started giving retirees an annual cost of living increase based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, known as CPI-W. After lingering for years at relatively modest levels, the benefit increased 5.9% in 2021 and spiked this year to a level not seen since the early 1980s.

As many as 15% of older Americans rely on Social Security payments to cover more than 90% of their regular monthly expenses. The rest manage a matrix of retirement plan distributions, income from investments and the occasional pension plan benefits. Early retirees who continue to work can also earn up to \$21,240 in 2023 without cutting into their Social Security benefits.

Those benefits may be initiated at any point between age 62 and 70. For those born in 1960 and later, however, monthly benefits at 62 are 30% lower than what would be paid out at 67, which is full retirement age, according to the Social Security Administration. And holding off until age 70 boosts the monthly deposit by 24%.

Despite the considerable difference in monthly income, 48% of non-retired individuals in a recent survey said they planned to start collecting benefits between 62 and 65, while 11% said they expected to wait until 70.

To figure out what's best, we really do want to see a full financial plan because there are so many variables such as your life expectancy, your health and your other assets. If you're married, the difference in your ages or incomes can also be a factor. It may make sense to start taking benefits on one spouse earlier and put off the other until 70.

Plus, with the stock market down and a job market that's looking good, maybe it behooves you to remain in the



workforce and wait for the market to recover.

#### Medicare part of the equation

Another factor in the equation: Medicare, the government-run health insurance program for Americans 65 and older.

For 2023, the standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B, which covers many common healthcare costs, will decline \$5.20 from this year. The annual deductible will also drop \$7 per beneficiary, while the annual deductible for Medicare Part A, which covers many hospital expenses, will increase \$44.

The dip in Plan B costs has minimal out-of-pocket impact when retirees factor in all of their healthcare expenses.

Retirees are still taking the costs full bore on hearing, dental and vision care—which are not covered by Medicare—and that’s where inflation is really hitting them. Plus, because Medicare was extremely stressed during COVID and remains challenged, many are nervous that there will be a huge increase, maybe next year or the year after.

#### A political minefield

Social Security is a “third-rail program” that can inflict sustained political pain upon any elected official who tinkers with the mechanics. Still, some suggestions for easing the burden appear to be gaining traction.

Healthcare cost dynamics have prompted some legislators to propose that Social Security’s annual cost of living adjustment be based on the CPI-Elderly, which they contend better reflects a retiree’s costs than the CPI-W. The CPI-Elderly emphasizes health care and other expenses over entertainment, housing and transportation costs.

It’s the same base numbers as in the CPI-W, but

the categories are weighted differently to better reflect the areas more impacted by inflation.

After this year’s increase was announced, questions arose around the Social Security Administration Trustees’ June report that estimated the program’s reserves will last until 2034.

Specifically, eliminating the age 62 option and extending full retirement age to 70 for today’s younger workers appears potentially politically feasible. So does a higher maximum wage limit for Social Security taxes, which is set at \$160,200 of income in 2023.

Increasing the earned income tax rate collected for Social Security and Medicare, which has been stuck at 7.65% for both the employee and employer since 1990, could help to build up the reserves. Specifically, this year’s Trustees report said an additional 3.41% from the employee and employer would offset the current deficit.

Source for graph:

Source: Social Security Administration

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf>



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## DASHING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS: TRIBALLY OWNED BUSINESS STILL GROWING

By Latoya Lonelodge

Encouraged by friends, family and running a sports team, Blue Raven Designs, found themselves starting a business in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic back in October 2021.

Being in business for over a year, the small Native owned business is in its busiest year yet with continuous orders ranging in personalized orders to custom orders.

Owned by Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens Whitley Powell and her father Glenn Starr, Blue Raven Designs specializes in various types of custom items that include clothing apparel, coffee mugs, tumblers, sippy cups, door mats, mouse pads, coasters, Christmas stockings, blankets and home décor.

"It was founded with the goal of serving customers who want a personalized experience and know they will receive the very best products or services," Powell said.

The idea for starting their own business came to mind when Powell and Starr were involved with running multiple sports teams and being unable to find an affordable option for parents and families for custom team gear.

"Many local businesses who create shirts limit customers from purchasing less than 100 or so shirts, bigger companies also require a longer turnaround time to complete orders, our turnaround time for any of our products have remained at a week or less," Powell said.

The name Blue Raven has spiritual significance and is derived from ravens, symbolizing intelligence, partnerships, rebirth and adaptability.

"The color blue also represents meanings of intuition, imagination and inspiration. The two words also represent places that we both consider home," Starr said.

As business has increased throughout the past year, Blue Raven Designs has become popular with their most sold items being t-shirt designs. Recently, their biggest order was placed

by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' executive office.

"We were able to create a custom design to capture the importance of our tribal members getting registered to vote, in total 800 voter registration shirts were taken to the Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow and the Labor Day Powwow. We are grateful for Governor Wassana and his executive office for supporting Native owned and local businesses," Starr said.

And despite starting a business in the middle of the pandemic in 2021, Blue Raven Designs has managed to stay busy consistently.

"Business is going great, most of our business has come from local people and this includes people we know, our friends, family and their friends and family," Powell said.

Powell said the goals of their business is to stay competitive and keep growing.

"We intend to produce unique design work, maintain a quick turnaround time and impress our customers," Powell said.

With other competitive stores offering custom services, Blue Raven Designs have a few reasons that make them stand apart from other businesses. Because they are a small team, they are able to work directly with clientele to give them the best experience possible.

"Our goal is to create long lasting relationships with our most loyal customers, building the feeling of connectedness with our customers also derives from our uniqueness and individuality we put into every design we create. Lastly, we strive to keep our prices more affordable than similar businesses," Powell said.

Powell said they understand the hardships that families go through and they try to cut costs anywhere they can to accommodate customers.

"In our first year of business, we have been able to maintain these affordable prices and still produce high quality items," Starr said.

By running a business and facing challenges of their own, Powell said it takes a lot of responsibility and time to run a family-owned business. They have had to learn how to create a work-life balance that is functional for them. "Before starting this I was a stay at home mom to my sons Cole and Sammy Powell, Glenn also works full time and helps coach Sammy's football team. We work hard every day to keep our lives and business organized and our families have been an amazing support system during all the phases of our business," Powell said.

With high hopes to keep their business running in the future, Powell said the business will continue to advertise their work on social media platforms such as Facebook and TikTok.

"I love my business because it was inspired by family, it is a perfect result of my creativity and hard work, these are two good qualities that I learned from both of my parents and to be able to run a business alongside my father is something I take pride in," Powell said.

Powell said the overall experience was more than they could ever imagine. "One year ago this started out as just a hobby, something we could do in our free time. Recently we created some shirts for a few mothers with their son's football picture, team name and number, watching these moms fall in love with a memento they can keep until their child grows up is why we do this. We want to continue to create products that our customers fall in love with," Powell said. To place a custom order or for more information visit Blue Raven Designs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/blueravendesigns](https://www.facebook.com/groups/blueravendesigns).







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

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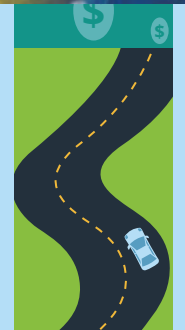
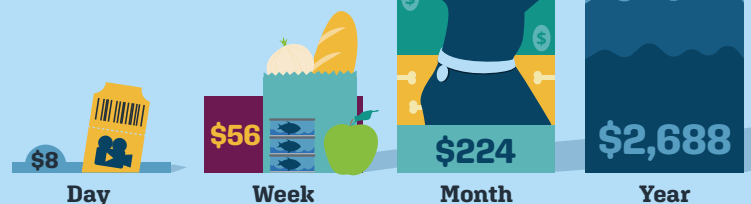
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# “NATIVES ARE TRIBAL CITIZENS, NOT ENROLLED MEMBERS”

By Fus YvhiKV

“Natives are Tribal Citizens, Not Enrolled Members”

Fixico’s short visit to my house was now entering its 2nd week. He was chomping on a frozen waffle which was in acute need of more microwaving. Fixico was working on his fourth cup of coffee. I ambled over to the Keurig eager for my first cup of morning joe only to discover Fixico had used the last coffee pod.

The TV was tuned to a local news channel. A weatherman was issuing a dire warning of exceptionally cold weather. He was predicting a cold front to move into the Tulsa area later in the day. I sensed an opportunity.

“Look at that, Fixico,” I said as I bit into a muffin. “Temps are going to drop to near zero later today.”

“Nah! These weathermen are always predicting doom and gloom,” Fixico replied. “It probably won’t get below forty.”

I decided to drop a stronger hint.

“Well, just the same, don’t you think it’d be wise to go check on your house? You’ll want to make sure the outdoor faucets are covered so your pipes don’t burst.”

“That old rez house,” Fixico said. “The faucets stopped working months ago.”

“What happened?”

“I didn’t pay my water bill,” Fixico said gleefully.

I could only shake my head. I decided on a more direct approach.

“It’s been a whole week since you were home. You should get your cvpo down to Okmulgee to check on your place.”

My admonition sailed over Fixico’s head. His eyes were fixated on the news anchor who was reporting on a story about an enrolled Cherokee being appointed to the U.S. Congress. He jumped up and shook his fist at the tube.

“What the hell is that! What the hell is that!”

Fixico shouted at the news anchor.

“What’s the matter, Fixico?” I asked.

Fixico scooped up my muffin and drew his arm back as he aimed at the TV. I grabbed his arm and ripped my muffin from his fist.

“Heyluh! You aren’t going to toss my muffin at the TV. Besides, after SEVEN days, it’s the last one in the kitchen.”

“I’m just so tired of this,” Fixico lamented as he stared at the TV.

“Me too,” I said as I stared at the empty food pantry.

“Why is it that we Natives are always called enrolled members rather than tribal citizens?”

Fixico’s question stopped me in my tracks. I forgot that every once in awhile Fixico will make a thoughtful and insightful comment.

“You make a great point, Fixico.”

“Let me ask you something. Are we enrolled

members of the state of Oklahoma?”

“I’ve never heard of that.”

“Are we enrolled members of the United States?”

“No, we are citizens of the U.S.”

“Exackery!”

“I’ve never thought about everybody referring to us as enrolled members of a tribe, Fixico.”

“That’s what I’m talking about. We are enrolled in school. We are enrolled in college. We are enrolled members of the Jaycees or Elks clubs. Some of us are even enrolled members of Costco.”

“You have a Costco membership, Fixico?” I asked as visions of huge grocery discounts danced in my head.

“Not anymore. The ex-wife got it in the divorce.”

Fixico yet again evades paying-it-forward.

“The newspapers, the TV stations, publications of all types, indeed the entire sphere of the media, always refer to us as enrolled members of a tribe. That must stop! We are citizens of a sovereign entity.”

“Exackery,” I replied.

“Even some of the Native media uses the term, enrolled member.”

“You’re right! I’ve seen that!”

“It’s crazy. And it’s got to change. We need to always be referred to as tribal citizens, not enrolled members.”

“I totally agree, Fixico. But what can we do about it?”

“I’m not sure just yet. I need to think of a plan. Going to take some time to think it through. I do my best thinking at the kitchen table. Bring me another waffle and another cup of coffee, willya?”



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# ALIGNMENT WITH GOD

John Morris

"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

For several years, I worked as a football, basketball and golf coach...During all of our seasons, one thing was always the same, "Alignment is the key. If everyone is aligned right, you have an opportunity to be successful." That comment sticks with me as a multi-sport coach and as a person in life.

Success in accomplishing God's purpose is directly tied to how well our life is aligned with God and His plan.

When our thoughts are aligned with God,

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways." This is the Lord's declaration." —Isaiah 55:8

"And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." —Philippians 4:7

When our actions are aligned with God,

"Little children, we must not love with word or speech, but with truth and action."

—1 John 3:18

"Your every action must be done with love." —1 Corinthians 16:14

When our language are aligned with God,

"No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear." —Ephesians 4:29

"Coarse and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks." —Ephesians 5:4

When our efforts are aligned with God,

"Brothers, do not grow weary in doing good." —2 Thessalonians 3:13

"So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up." —Galatians 6:9

When we follow God's purpose for our life, we can be a powerful, positive witness to others.

As ministry, we see a wide range of spiritually developed peers and teammates. During this social climate, we see that some are very close to God, while some are weak and struggle with faith during these uncertain times. It's important that we look to God and realign our lives with Him.

We have a great opportunity to get to know Him fully as a Redeemer, Healer and our Savior. When we know Him fully, we are empowered to spread that knowledge to others, but it all starts with our alignment with Him first.

Additional alignment scripture:

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit — the Father will send Him in My name — will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you." —John 14:26

"Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things, for by doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers." —1 Timothy 4:16

"This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." —Joshua 1:8-9

*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



## EAGLE CREEK GOLF CLUB

2742 Ben Pell Dr • Joplin, MO  
64804 | 417-623-5050  
www.downstream.com/  
Golf\_eaglecreek  
18 holes | Par 71 | 6,785 yards |  
Dress code | Bar/lounge

## FIRELAKE GOLF COURSE

1901 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405-275-4471  
www.firelakegolf.com  
18 holes | Par 72 | 6,595 yards

## WILL ROGERS DOWNS

20900 South 4200 Rd.  
Claremore, OK 74019  
918-283-8800  
400 RV pads | 50/30 amp | Full hook-  
ups | Restrooms | Laundry | Shower  
facilities | 4-hr security | Over 40,000  
sq ft of versatile meeting space |  
Wi-Fi | Dog park | Horseshoe pit |  
Playground | Tent sites | Barbecue grills  
& picnic tables | Club House | Chapel

## CHEROKEE HILLS GOLF COURSE

770 West Cherokee Street  
Catoosa, OK 74015  
1-800-760-6700  
cherokee.golf@cnet.com  
18 Holes | Par 70 | 6635 Yards  
| Dress code | Bar/Grill | Pro-  
shop | Banquet room

## WINSTAR GOLF COURSE

Casino Ave., Thackerville, OK 73459  
1-800-622-6317 777  
27 Holes | 7,200 yards | Par 72 |  
Dress code | Bar/Grill | Pro-shop

## WINSTAR GOLF ACADEMY

Fountainhead Creek Golf Course  
HC 60-1350, Checotah, OK 74426  
918-689-3209 | 18 Holes | Par 72 |  
Dress code | Bar/Grill | Pro-shop

## CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

700 E. Ballentine Rd, Tahlequah,  
OK 74464 | 918-456-5100  
18 Holes | Par 70 | Dress  
code | Bar/Grill | Pro-shop

# RV LISTINGS

## WILL ROGERS DOWNS

918.283.8800, 20900 South 4200 Rd.  
Claremore, OK 74019, RV PADS | 400,  
AMPS | 50/30, Accommodations:  
Restrooms, Laundry, Showers, Wi-Fi,  
Picnic Area, Club House, Meeting Room

## PEORIA RIDGE GOLF

(918) 542-7676, www.peoriaridge.com  
10301 South 600 Road • Miami, OK  
74354, RV PADS | 18, AMPS | 72  
Accommodations: Restrooms | 6960, Showers,  
Wi-Fi, Picnic Area, Club House, Meeting Room

## FIRELAKE GOLF COURSE

(405) 275-4471, www.firelakegolf.com  
1901 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801, RV PADS | 18,  
AMPS | 72, Accommodations:  
Restrooms | 6595, Showers

## CHEROKEE HILLS GOLF COURSE

1.800.760.6700, cherokee.golf@cnet.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

## WINSTAR GOLF COURSE

1-800-622-6317, 777 Casino Ave. Thackerville,  
OK 73459, RV PADS | 27, AMPS | 72,  
Accommodations: Restrooms | 7200, Showers,  
Wi-Fi, Picnic Area, Club House, Meeting Room

## FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF COURSE

(918) 689-3209, HC 60-1350 Checotah,  
OK 74426, RV PADS | 18, AMPS |  
72, Accommodations: Showers,  
Wi-Fi, Picnic Area, Club House

## CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

700 E. Ballentine Road, Tahlequah,  
OK, RV PADS | 18, AMPS | 70  
Accommodations: Showers, Wi-Fi, Picnic Area







# RESORT LISTING

## **DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT**

69300 East Nee Road, Quapaw,  
OK 74363 | 1-888-DWNSTRM (396-7876)  
918-919-6000  
E: info@downstreamcasino.com  
www.downstream.com

## **BUFFALO RUN CASINO RESORT**

1366 N. Highway 69A, Miami, OK 74354  
Phone: 918-542-2900 | Fax: 918-542-2908  
GPS Address: 8414 S 580 Rd  
www.buffalorunhotel.com

## **INDIGO SKY CASINO**

70220 East HWY 60, Wyandotte,  
OK 74370  
1.888.992.SKY1 | www.indigoskycasino.com

## **GRAND LAKE CASINO & LODGE**

24701 S 655 Rd., Grove, OK, 74344  
Phone: 918.786.8528 | RSVP: 918.786.4406  
| Event Center: 918.786.1974  
www.grandlakecasino.com

## **CHEROKEE CASINO WEST SILOAM SPRINGS**

1.800.754.4111 2416 Highway,  
412 West Siloam Springs, OK 74338  
1.800.754.4111 (press 1, then 1) to RSVP  
www.cherokeecasino.com

## **CHEROKEE INN**

Cherokee Boulevard, Roland, OK  
74954 800.256.2338 | EXT: 205

## **HARD ROCK CASINO HOTEL RESORT**

777 West Cherokee Street, Catoosa,  
OK 74015 | 1.800.760.6700  
www.hardrockcasinotulsa.com

## **OSAGE CASINO HOTELS**

1.877.246.8777  
www.osagecasinos.com/hotels  
Skiatook & Ponca City  
First Council Casino Hotel 12875  
North Highway 77, Newkirk, OK 74647  
(877) 7-CLANS-0 or (877) 725-2670  
www.firstcouncilcasinohotel.com

## **GRAND CASINO HOTEL RESORT**

777 Grand Casino Boulevard  
Shawnee, OK 74804  
Casino: (405) 964-7263  
Hotel: (405) 964-7777  
www.grandresortok.com

## **ARTESIAN HOTEL**

1001 W. 1st Street, Sulphur, OK 73086  
1.855.455.5255 | www.artesianhotel.com

## **RIVERWIND CASINO HOTEL**

1544 State Highway 9, Norman, OK 73072  
1-405-322-6000 | www.riverwind.com

## **CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT - DURANT**

4216 S. Hwy 69/75, Durant, OK 74701  
Tel: 1-580-920-0160 | Toll Free: 1-888-  
652-4628 | Fax: 1-580-931-2725  
E: hotel.shift@choctawcasinos.com

## **CHOCTAW CASINO HOTEL - POCOLA**

3400 Choctaw Road, Pocola, OK 74902  
Tel: 918-436-7761  
Toll Free: 1.800.590.5825  
Fax: 918.436.7723  
E: pocola.hotelmanagers@choctawcasinos.com

## **CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT - GRANT**

US Hwy 271, Grant, OK 74738 USA  
Tel: 580-317-8500 | Fax: 580-326-5171  
E: nancy.hedrick@choctawcasinos.com

## **WINSTAR WORLD CASINO & RESORT**

777 Casino Ave, Thackerville, OK 73459  
1-800-622-6317  
www.winstarworldcasino.com

## **WINSTAR WORLD CASINO HOTEL**

1-866-946-7787

## **THE INN AT WINSTAR**

21943 Anoatubby Way, Thackerville,  
OK 73459  
1-866-946-7787

## **APACHE CASINO HOTEL**

2315 East Gore Blvd., Lawton,  
OK 73501 580.248.5905  
www.apachecasinohotel.com

## **COMANCHE RED RIVER CASINO**

Oklahoma 36 Devol, OK  
1-877-369-8351  
www.comanchenationcasinos.com

## **RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT**

8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, OK 74137  
918-299-8518 | www.riverspirittulsa.com



# OKLAHOMA TRIBAL DIRECTORY

## **ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE**

2025 South Gordon Cooper  
Shawnee, OK, 74801 | 405.275.4030

## **ALABAMA-QUASSARTE**

Tribal Town, 101 E. Broadway  
Wetumka, OK, 74883  
405 452-3987

## **APACHE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

511 East Colorado Drive  
Anadarko, OK | 405-247-9493

## **CADDO NATION OF OKLAHOMA**

Hwys. 281 & 152 Intersection  
Binger, OK | 405-656-2344

## **CHEROKEE NATION**

South of Tahlequah, Hwy. 62  
Tahlequah, OK | 918-453-5000

## **CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO TRIBES**

100 Red Moon Circle, Concho,  
OK 405-262-0345

## **CHICKASAW NATION**

124 East 14th Street, Ada, OK  
(580) 436-2603

## **CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA**

529 N. 16th St., Durant, OK  
800-522-6170

## **CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION**

1601 Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK | 40A5-275-3121

## **COMANCHE NATION**

584 NW Bingo Rd., Lawton,  
OK 877-492-4988

## **DELAWARE (LENAPE) TRIBE OF INDIANS**

5100 East Tuxedo Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK  
918- 337-6550

## **DELAWARE NATION**

31064 State Highway 281  
Anadarko, OK | 405-247-2448

## **EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

127 Oneida St., Seneca, MO  
918-666-2435

## **FORT SILL APACHE TRIBE**

Route 2, Box 12, Apache, OK  
580-588-2298

## **IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

RR 1, Box 72, Perkins, OK  
405-547-2402

## **KAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA**

698 Grandview Drive, Kaw City, OK  
580-269-2552

## **KIALEGEE TRIBAL TOWN**

623 East Hwy. 9, Wetumka, OK  
405-452-3262

## **KICKAPOO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

P.O. Box 70, McCloud, OK  
405-964-7053

## **KIOWA INDIAN TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

Hwy. 9, West of Carnegie,  
Carnegie, OK  
580-654-2300

## **MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

202 S. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, OK  
918-542-1445

## **MODOC TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

418 G Street, Miami, OK  
918-542-1190

## **MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION**

Hwy. 75 and Loop 56,  
Okmulgee, OK  
800-482-1979

## **OSAGE NATION**

813 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK  
918-287-5555

## **OTTAWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

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

## **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

## **WYANDOTTE NATION**

64700 E. Highway 60,  
Wyandotte, OK  
918-678-2297





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