

APRIL 2024

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



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NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | APRIL 2024

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Artesian Arts Festival set April 13



SULPHUR, Okla. – As the trees and daffodils begin to bloom along the downtown sidewalks, organizers are busy preparing for the 11th annual Artesian Arts Festival, a daylong celebration of First American art and culture, Saturday, April 13, at the Artesian Plaza.

More than 100 First American artists from across the United States are expected to participate, displaying a vast array of original, diverse art. Festivities run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation, the Artesian Arts Festival is a community effort, said Mark Milligan, Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities Executive Officer.

“The Chickasaw Nation works together with city leaders, emergency services, National Park Service staff and chamber of commerce representatives for many months to plan a safe, inclusive festival.”

The result is a family-friendly event that offers activities for all ages while highlighting First American art, artists, music, dance and cuisine.

“We are excited to welcome many esteemed First American artists to the Artesian Arts Festival, which provides artists a wonderful venue to showcase their work,” said Mr. Milligan. “We hope patrons experience a fun, impactful day immersed in First American art, dance and music.”

A juried art show and market, participation in the 2024 Artesian Arts Festival is open to all federally recognized First American artists.

Art patrons can expect a festival brimming with original First American art, including jewelry, sculpture, metalworking, beadwork, paintings, photography, textiles, basketry and pottery.

In addition, a talented line up of entertainment is scheduled, including headliner Choctaw singer/songwriter Samantha Crain, who will take the stage at 5 p.m.

Crain, of Norman, Oklahoma, is a three-time NAMMY (Native American Music Award) winner for her singer-songwriter, folk rock and indie style. She also won the

Indigenous Music Award for best rock album in 2019.

Other musical entertainment scheduled includes Bluez Boyz, Ihullo.Art, Issac McClung, RCB Band, Redman Blues Band, TJ Todd Band, Tone Gyah Dae and Travis Komahcheet.

First American dance demonstrations from the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe; Lighting Boy Foundation Champion Hoop Dancers Steve LaRance, Shandien “Sonwah” LaRance and Josiah Enriquez; Mitotiliztli Yaoyollohtli Aztec Dancers; Oklahoma Fancy Dancers; and Pueblo Enchantment Dancers are planned in two dance areas throughout the day.

Several food vendors will be available offering a wide array of delicacies.

Open to the public at no charge, the Artesian Arts Festival welcomed more than 10,600 art patrons to downtown Sulphur last year.

Partnering for Success

Sulphur Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Misty Treptow, a member of the Artesian Arts Festival planning committee, said the group is grateful to be involved in the coordination of the event.

“We are excited to have a Sulphur information booth setup again this year. Our board of directors love to volunteer for this event because it gives us the opportunity to promote Sulphur, our members, and to meet and interact with the community.”

Chamber members also take steps to prepare for the influx of visitors to Artesian Arts Festival.

“The downtown merchants plan for the extra foot traffic in their scheduling and advertise sales within their stores. Others also deliver extra print advertisements to us, knowing that it will be displayed at the chamber information booth. It is a way for them to be promoted to an audience that they may not normally reach.”

Treptow said the chamber’s partnership with the Chickasaw Nation is key to shining a positive light on the “City of Springs,” which is home to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

“Sulphur is a very unique town. Being a gateway community, having natural resources and being in Chickasaw Nation, we find it very important to work together as much as we can. Sulphur has been recognized in national publications, on several top 10 lists for different categories, and we know that is because of the partnerships that have been built,” she said.

The Artesian Arts Festival takes place at the Artesian Plaza, adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First St., Sulphur.

Shuttle service will be available from designated parking locations, including the Chickasaw Cultural Center, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and the Sulphur Football Field, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520, visit ArtesianArtsFestival.com or email ArtistInfo@Chickasaw.net.

Cutline: The 2024 Artesian Arts Festival will take place April 13 at the Artesian Plaza, adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First St., Sulphur.

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Chickasaw
COUNTRY

Native woman-owned and led contracting business defies odds with nationwide success

By Rachael Schuit



(MIDWEST CITY, Okla.) Construction. Across the country, it is a field dominated by male ownership and powered by a predominantly male workforce.

According to a recent report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women in construction make up just 1.25 percent of the total workforce, a mere 10.8 percent of all construction workers nationwide.

Native American construction workers make up a fraction of a percent.

Those numbers make MIA General Contracting, both Native woman-owned and Native-led, a rarity.

Heidi Hightower (Machis Creek), general manager of MIA General Contracting, has worked for the company since it was founded in 2014. The company, a Native Business member of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO), is owned by Choctaw citizen Brandy Callaway.

Hightower, a newly elected AICCO state board member, has worked in various construction departments such as accounts payable, estimating and project coordination since she was just fourteen years old.

“Both my mother and father worked for a general contractor who was actually my Godfather and so I grew up in a construction company,” Hightower said. “Two

weeks after my mom gave birth to me I was under her desk and she was rocking my carrier. As a little kid coming in after school I would help my mom by filing papers.”

In addition to serving as an OSHA and First AID CPR instructor, Hightower also took the contractor’s license exam in Louisiana, obtained her Highway, Streets, Bridges, Municipal Public Works License, and her Heavy, Civil Construction and General Building Construction Licenses.

MIA General Contracting got their start in Florida, and opened their Midwest City office in Oklahoma due to their contracts with the Department of Defense (DOD), specifically Air Force bases like Tinker.

Hightower said these contracts have been important wins, in addition to the evolution of government set-asides over the last couple of years, such as Indian Small Business Economic Enterprise (ISBEE).

“I think it’s important that Native businesses are around or even that we have set-asides from the federal government because of just the atrocities that have happened throughout the country’s development and the ways that Native Americans were treated,” Hightower said. “It’s very important for us to be able to establish our own ways of caring for ourselves.”

Hightower said the move to Oklahoma has allowed for MIA General Contracting to partner with more Native businesses and network with other Native individuals.

MIA General Contracting's CESO certification has also helped the company secure more projects with other Native-owned businesses.

"One of the projects that I have been involved in for the Native communities was the Indian Health Center and supplying HVAC units to their medical facilities," said Hightower. "I definitely think that that is something that's necessary and something that the government needs to really focus on is the quality of the facilities that they offer to Natives."

Hightower said she is looking forward to even more collaboration between MIA General Contracting and other Native businesses and communities as part of her new role in AICCO leadership.

"I see us working to grow both the chamber as well as MIA's margins," Hightower said.

For more information about MIA General Contracting, visit their website at www.mia-gc.com.



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Lily Gladstone Gets Her Oscar



SOUR SOFKEE

By: Fus Yvhikv

Fixico, Tarpalechee, Yahola, and I scored prime seats at the 2024 Oscar ceremonies. We were mistaken for the Osage singers and given first row seats. Who were we to tell the Academy of Motion Pictures that they couldn't tell one Indian from another?

Two days earlier, we decided to be part of the Oscar scene and hang around the Dolby Theater. With the Osage singers performing and Lily Gladstone favored to win an Oscar, we knew the place would be crawling with Natives.

We arrived at the venue an hour before the ceremony was to begin. We dressed in our finest rez attire, liberally adorned in beads and feathers. Fixico painted his face with dramatic white and black stripes and was wearing a paper mâché black crow as a hat. He resembles Johnny Depp as Tonto from the Lone Ranger movie.

Outside the theater was a crush of media and news cameras. Movie stars were arriving bumper to bumper in their fancy, stretch limousines as rotating spotlights lit up the nighttime sky. It was an exhilarating atmosphere. We were

star struck amongst the glitter. A man wearing a big smile and lanyard approaches.

"Greetings Osage Singers!" the man says.

Me, Yahola, Tarpalechee, and Fixico all look at one other quizzically.

"We aren't," Tarpalchee begins before Fixico interrupts.

"Wahzhazhe," Fixico shouts. "We are excited to be here."

"We are pleased to host you. Walk this way."

Fixico imitates his walk. The man opens a side door and ushers us into the cavernous Art Deco theater. Glamorous women in long black dresses and handsome men in tuxedos fill the seats. The man escorts us to the front row.

"Please be seated. A host will come and get you about 30 minutes before your performance. Meanwhile, enjoy the show."

As front row guests, we were entitled to free food and drink. We took gratuitous advantage of the freebies. Fixico was ordering two drinks at a time while the rest of us ordered

enough food to feed an entire tribe.

It was time for the big award, Lead Actress. Since Lily's nomination excitement had run rampant across Indian Country. We were at the threshold of the first ever Native winner of best actress in a major motion picture. All of Indian Country was swooning with visions of Lily holding the Oscar.

Fixico, with his faux crow hat, was so nervous he begins pacing near the stage steps. He is toking on a doobie. That's when it happened.

"Hey Johnny! Johnny Depp!"

Jimmy Kimmel, the host of the Oscars was suddenly standing next to Fixico.

"I need a favor Johnny," Jimmy says. "Will you present the Oscar for best actress? Our scheduled presenter is sick."

"Uh Johnny?" Fixico meekly replies.

Kimmel grabs Fixico by the arms and pulls him onstage.

"I'm not giving you a choice. Great idea to dress as Tonto. You look like a real Indian."

"I am a real Indian," Fixico protests.
"Ha! Me too," Kimmel replies. "My great-grandmother was a Cherokee princess."

"Jesus," Fixico whispers.

Kimmel stands at the podium and addresses the glittering audience.

"And now to present the Oscar for Best Actress, please welcome three-time nominee, Mr. Johnny Depp."

Fixico approaches the podium as the audience politely applauds. He clears his throat and glances about nervously.

"Uh, the nominees for this year's award are....uh...are...all actresses."

The crowd laughs.

"The, uh, nominees this year are Sandy Hollar, and uh, Imma Stoned,

plus we have Annette Beginning, and Abby Normal. And finally, Lily Gladstone. Yeah, Go Lily!"

Me, Tarpalechee, and Yahola hoot and holler.

Fixico fumbles with the envelope. He yanks on the back flap and tears the envelope in half. One piece drops to the floor. Fixico retrieves it and pieces the two halves together as the crowd laughs nervously.

"And the winner is," Fixico pauses for effect. "Imma Stoned!"

Emma Stone walks onstage as the crowd erupts in adoring applause. An aide hands her the golden statue. She proudly holds it high.

"Wait a minute!" Fixico shouts.

"There's been a mistake. I got the wrong envelope."

Fixico opens another envelope.

"The winner is Lily Gladstone!"

The theater goes silent. Fixico attempts to take the Oscar from Stone. She refuses to let go. Fixico and Stone wrestle for control of the trophy, both have a death grip on it. They fall and roll across the floor. Fixico rips the Oscar from Stone's bosom.

Security guards confront Fixico. He jumps off stage lands in front of us.

"Come on boys!" Fixico screams.

We dash down the aisle. As Fixico passes Lily he gives her the Oscar.

"You deserve this," he says.

We escape and Lily gets her well-deserved Oscar.

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Ryan Lee Blanchard

Last seen 02/19/2024 at Admiral Park near Admiral and Utica in Tulsa, OK. He is known to frequent the QuikTrip at 1022 S. Utica Ave.

Age: 41
Date of Birth: 06/24/1982
Hair Color: Black (usually worn in a crewcut)
Eye Color: Brown
Height: 6' 1" (right leg amputee in a wheelchair)
Weight: 220 lbs.
Tribe(s): Enrolled Absentee Shawnee, Sac and Fox descent
Scars: Right eye



CONTACT

Any information regarding the whereabouts of Ryan Blanchard please contact the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Lighthorse at (918) 732-7800 and refer to police report number 2403-244

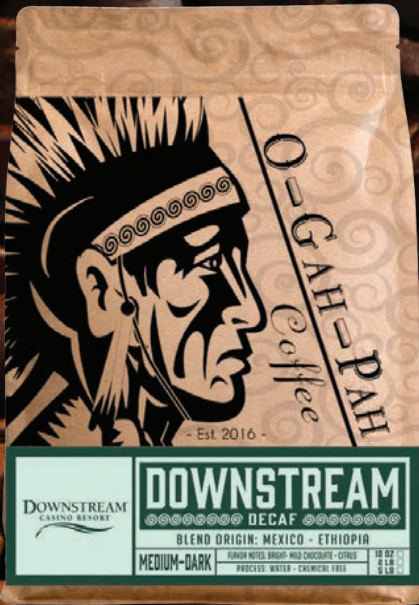
Medical Emergency

O-GAH-PAH

Many centuries ago the Quapaw Nation followed the Mississippi River into our traditional homeland in Arkansas. This is the Origin of the name "O-Gah-Pah" which can be translated as the "Downstream People".

For centuries the O-Gah-Pah (Quapaw) people lived in four large villages and many smaller communities along the Mississippi River and across modern-day Eastern Arkansas. The Quapaw people would annually plant and harvest crops and hunt buffalo according to the seasons. The Quapaw traded pottery, painted hides and other goods through an extensive trade route based along the rivers. The Quapaw people were particularly known for pottery, which was often painted; swirls being a distinctive pattern of the Quapaw people.

After removal, the Quapaw Nation came to reside in Northeastern Oklahoma, where we are still located today. The Quapaw Nation continues to take great care and pride in crafting everything we put our name on, including O-Gah-Pah Coffee.





COLLECTIVE WISDOM

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—CONTACT: BRENT GREENWOOD—

—405-706-1101—

Jacobson House Hosts “Collective Wisdom” Traveling Exhibit

NORMAN — Indigenous values of community and shared experience take center stage when the traveling art exhibition, “Collective Wisdom,” goes on display at the Jacobson House Native Art Center. The show opens at 6 p.m. Friday, April 5 at 609 Chautauqua in Norman.

The show features 31 artists, and each item in the exhibit is a collaboration. The collection includes both two- and three-dimensional art and incorporates figurative, abstract, and traditional Native styles.

The participants in the exhibit include many award-winning Native artists, who are predominantly from Tribal Nations in Oklahoma. These include Marcus Amerman, Choctaw; Marwin Begaye, Navajo; Roy Boney, Cherokee; Chance Brown, Chickasaw; Amber Dubois-Shepherd, Navajo/Prairie Band Potawatomi/Sac and

Fox; Tom Farris, Otoe-Missouria/Cherokee; Kristin Gentry, Choctaw; Brent Greenwood, Chickasaw/Ponca; Kennetha Greenwood, Otoe-Missouria; Billy Hensley, Chickasaw; Karma Henry, Paiute; Joshua D. Hinson

(Lokosh), Chickasaw; Tyson Hudson, Chickasaw; Brenda Kingery, Chickasaw; Dustin Mater, Chickasaw; Natalie Miller, Chickasaw; Cotie Poe-Underwood, Chickasaw; Stuart Sampson, Citizen Band Potawatomi; Candace Shanholtzer, Choctaw; Erin Shaw, Chickasaw/Choctaw; Hoka Skenandore, Oneida/Oglala Lakota/La Jolla Band of Luiseno/Chicano; Nathalie Standingcloud, Cherokee; Jerry Sutton, Cherokee; Kindra Swafford, Cherokee; Deana Ward, Choctaw; Bryan Waytula, Cherokee; Micah Wesley, Kiowa/Mvskoke; Margaret Wheeler, Chickasaw; Dean Wyatt, Cherokee; Summer Zah, Dine/Choctaw/Jicarilla Apache.

The opening will also honor the work and lifetime contributions of Caddo/Potawatomi artist Jeraldine “Jeri” RedCorn. Recognized both nationally and internationally for reviving Caddo Pottery, RedCorn was inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2021. President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama selected RedCorn’s art for display in the Oval Office, and the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City displays her art and honored her for the first Native Creative Artist Award. Her work is on permanent display at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Oklahoma Museum of History, Oklahoma State Supreme Court, Louisiana State Museum, Spiro Mounds and the Texas State Natural History Museum. With goals that focus on humanitarian and environmental issues, Redcorn commits to purposeful activism seeking tolerance, understanding, sharing and acceptance. Her Caddo name is Bah-ha Nutte — “River Woman,” and her Potawatomi name is Tsi-bi Qua — “Creek Woman.”

“I am proud to be honored as a Jacobson House founding member, saving this historic home from becoming a parking lot,” RedCorn said. “My husband Charles RedCorn and his brother, Jim RedCorn, met with Dr. Oscar Jacobson to discuss art when they attended OU. (Both Charles and Jim are deceased.) My passion is Caddo history, art, language, songs, dances of our people and continuing our ways.”

An invited guest of the “Collective Wisdom” reception who will honor RedCorn alongside the Jacobson House board members is Osage tribal member Scott George, whose song “Wahzhazhe (A Song for My People)” from the film *Killers of the Flower Moon* is a 2024 Oscar nominee for “Best Original Song.” RedCorn’s husband, the late Charles RedCorn, also wrote a novel based on

the Osage murders, *A Pipe for February*, and her son, Yancey RedCorn, is part of the *Killers of the Flower Moon* cast.

“We are excited to host this exhibition of some of our most prominent and emerging Oklahoma First American artists,” said Oscar Jacobson Foundation Chair Brent Greenwood. “Without the founding board members Jeri and the late Charles RedCorn, along with Carol and the late Dave Whitney, we would not have this historic house to host such an exhibition. With gratitude, none of this would have been possible without our Jacobson House supporters, volunteers, the Norman and University of Oklahoma community and the Board of Trustees’ service and leadership.”

The exhibition will show through Friday, August 2, and opening reception is free and open to the public. Art in the “Collective Wisdom” exhibition is also available for purchase. For more information, call the Jacobson House Native Art Center at 405-706-1101 or visit www.jacobsonhouse.art.

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FireLake Golf Course donates utility vehicle to Seminole State College

By: Tina Bridenstine, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Public Information Department



Pictured from left are SSC golfers Brett Griffith, Chase Conner, Ryan Carlisle, Paola Gutierrez, and Andrianna O'Daniel, SSC Golf Head Coach Ronnie Williamson, FireLake Golf Course Director Chris Chesser, Brice Wolf, Carson Newton and Alexander Landon.

A local college benefited recently from a FireLake Golf Course donation. The golf course donated a Kubota RV 900 utility vehicle to Seminole State College's golf program in Seminole, Oklahoma.

"It was 20 years old, so it was time for us to replace it," FireLake Golf Course Director Chris Chesser said.

SSC Coach Ronnie Williamson inquired about the vehicle, Chesser said, and after speaking to Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, the decision was made to donate the vehicle once it was replaced.

SSC plans to use the vehicle to pick up balls on the driving range for men's and women's golf teams.

"We want to thank FireLake Golf Director Chris Chesser for this generous donation. This vehicle will be a great asset to our teams," Williamson said.

FireLake Golf Course, one of Citizen Potawatomi Nation's enterprises, is located just outside of Shawnee, Oklahoma, near Tribal headquarters. The SSC golf team usually uses the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole, but Chesser said they sometimes play or practice at FireLake Golf Course instead.

"We are very appreciative of the support Seminole State College receives from Citizen Potawatomi Nation," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "This donation will help our golf program and the student athletes on our teams. We would like to thank Chairman Rocky Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps for their longtime friendship and continued support."

For more information about FireLake Golf Course, visit firelakegolf.com.

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FCA Coaches Profile

Q and A with Lyndsey Keener:

Favorite Bible Verse: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Nickname: Lynds



Name: Lyndsey Keener

High School: Locust Grove High School
Sports Coached: Softball, Track and Archery
Sports Played: Softball, track, and archery
Hometown: Locust Grove, Oklahoma

Favorite food: Chinese

Favorite Walk-Up Song: “No Longer Bound” Forrest Frank and Hulvey. The song starts with, “You came to set us free, i am no longer bound.”

Favorite Player: athlete? Jim Thorpe. Jim Thorpe is the best athlete in sports history. I will never change my mind on that one. He was good at every sport under the sun. a small town man from Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) won GOLD at the 1912 OLYM-PICS in Stockholm. And not just one gold medal, but TWO. Also, he placed lower in a couple other events but still won medals. The most famous picture of Jim Thorpe was taken the day he won big at the Olympics. In the picture, you’ll notice that he has two different shoes on. Someone stole his shoes the night before and Jim went searching through the trash and eventually found two shoes to compete in. If that’s not dedication and a perfect example of perseverance, I’m not sure what is.

Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team: I like being a leader because I do believe it is a gift that the Lord has given me. I know I am not the best at it at all times, but my goal is to always lead in a way that is glorifying to the Lord.

Who Do You Look Up To: I look up to my mother, Sarah Keener. My mom is the strong-est person that I know. My maternal grandparents were murdered on Christmas day of 2007. My mom and dad are the ones who found them. They shielded my siblings and I from seeing our grandparents like that by immediately pushing us out of the house as soon as they realized what had happened. My mother, having many reasons to “spiral”, never did. She always handled any law proceedings with such grace. Going through all the things that come after a tragedy like this, she still managed to be the best mom one could have. After 10 years and 3 months, charges were pressed on a man for the murder. During the press conference about the charges, they allowed my mom a moment to speak. She said, “I want to thank God. Who has worked through all of these people to bring this day to us. I pray for everyone involved in this case. And that He will receive glory through this tragic event.” I am just left in awe when I think about her words. She is such an incredible, strong, kind, and God fearing woman who I look up to so much.

What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian

Coach: I love getting to encourage athletes to be their best. Not just in their sport, but in all aspects of their life. My goal is to encourage athletes to use their talents,

their sports, to bring glory to God.

Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach:

Bob Baldridge. Coach Baldridge was the high school coach when I was in 5th and 6th grade I believe. So he technically was never my actual coach. My dad was the assistant high school coach with Coach Baldridge. So, I was always at practice with my dad, and my sister played. Well, Coach Balridge started making me go out there and practice with the high schoolers and told them to not take it easy on me, do everything like you normally do. He also did not take it easy on me. When hitting grounders, he hit that dang ball to me just as hard as he would to the high school girls. I am so thankful for that because it made me into the softball player that I was. Obviously, it benefitted my softball skills. But it also taught me to be tough, mentally and physically.

Favorite part of Locust Grove FCA: I graduated from Locust Grove in 2017. Now I am a teacher and coach. We did not have a structured FCA. I love that we are now working on building our FCA program. Athletes have such a huge impact on a school. It is my prayer that our Christian athletes have a place in school to grow and share their faith.

Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes:

WHAT'S YOUR 24/7?

As a coach or athlete, it can feel like the hustle and grind never stops. How you spend your "24/7" matters. Jesus is ready to give you the rest and rejuvenation that you need, you just have to slow down enough to receive it. - What's Your 24/7? Find out more at FCA.org!

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

—Romans 15:13

John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Cherokee, Adair and Delaware Counties 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 www.my.fca.org/johnmorris. John can be contacted through email: johnmorris@fca.org or by cell number (785-760-1627).

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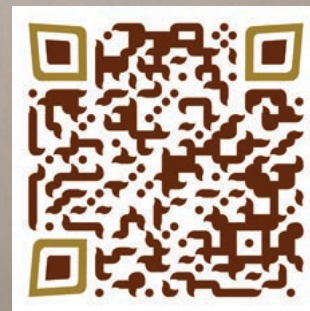
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The Oglala Sioux Tribe Passes a Resolution in Support of Palestinian People, Noting Mutual Support in the Past for Indigenous Struggles at Wounded Knee and Standing Rock



PINE RIDGE, SO. DAK. – On Wednesday, March 27, 2024, The Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) of the great Oceti Sakowin, passed a resolution --14 to 1 -- in support of the Palestinian People who are facing genocide in Gaza. The OST resolution comes just months after a similar resolution that Honor the Earth presented to the Oceti Sakowin Oyate Treaty Council, in December 2023, which passed unanimously.* Both resolutions call out the graphic parallels between the colonial experience at the hands of settler U.S. forces from the settlement era to the present day with that of the Israeli government engaging in genocide and ethnic cleansing in real time.

In addition to passing the resolution, the Tribal President was asked to advance similar resolutions to the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, the Coalition of Large Tribes, the National Congress of American Indians and the US Congress and House of Representatives.

"Just as Palestinians showed up for us at the UN, Wounded Knee and Standing Rock, they will show up for us again when we call on them. This is the essence of being a good relative in warrior society," noted Krystal Two Bulls, Oglala Lakota/Northern Cheyenne and Honor the Earth Executive Director. "This is why we as Oglala's must show up for them now!"

Oglala Lakota Youth Played Pivotal Role

Two Bulls praised the Oglala Lakota youth who for months prior to the vote raised awareness about the issue: "The OST decision comes after months of organizing by Oglala Lakota youth, representing the Oglala chapter of the International Indigenous Youth Council (IIYC). These youth hosted several Teach-Ins and created opportunities to educate not only their home communities, but throughout Indian Country by carrying banners into basketball tournaments, powwow's and other community events. Yesterday's decision is a reflection of their commitment to Indigenous sovereignty and humanity."

Several youth at yesterday's meeting passionately shared their own personal reasons for supporting the Palestinian Peoples. Those statements ran from drawing comparisons to the plight of the Palestinians today to the legal acts of past centuries to eradicate Native Peoples on Turtle Island, including efforts to wipe out their culture with boarding schools and other acts of ethnocide

"As youth of the Lakota people of the Oceti Sakowin we stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. We know too well the struggle for self-determination and the fight to retain land that has long been connected to our way of life, our language, ceremonies and the blood of our people," said Mato White

Plume. "We have known for too long the struggle for communities to maintain identity and connections to land that are forcibly taken.

He added, "You have grown your fruit on the lands and watered your olive trees for many generations. We see your continued fight for your ways of life, for your children, your future, your identity. And we send you encouragement to continue your ongoing fight for freedom. We will continue to divest, sanction and to educate those who are unaware. What we have been subjected to makes us recognize the following components of occupation and oppression. It is important to make these connections in the midst of colonization. Today we stand with you Palestine. Our action is our prayer."

For more information – or to interview spokespersons from the Oglala Lakota youth, and or Honor the Earth regarding these Palestinian Peoples support resolutions – please contact via phone, text or email Martin Keller, Media Savant Communications, 612-220-6515, mkeller@mediasavantcom.com, @medisavant





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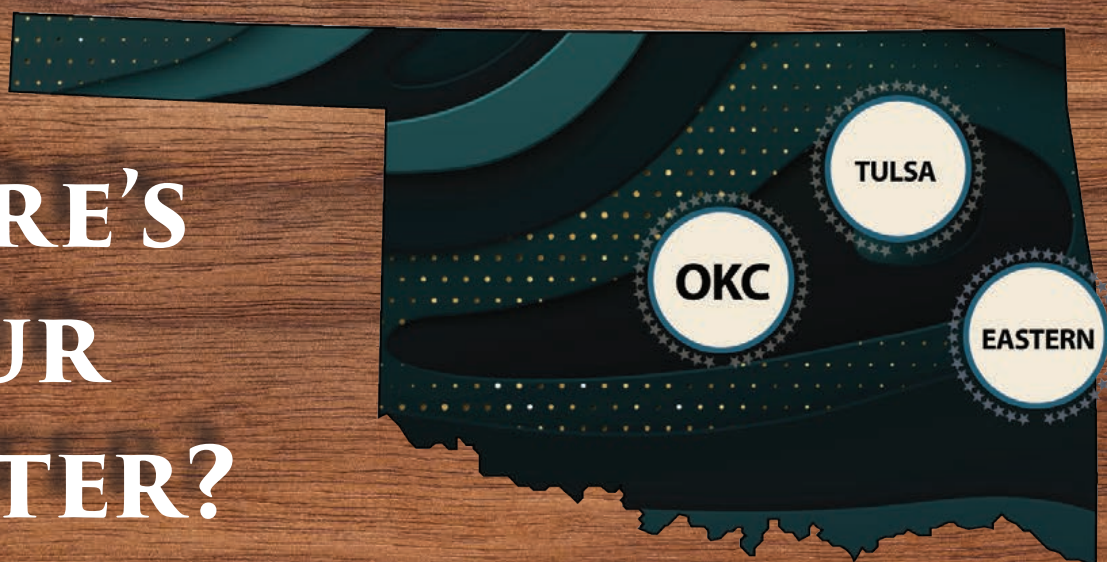
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