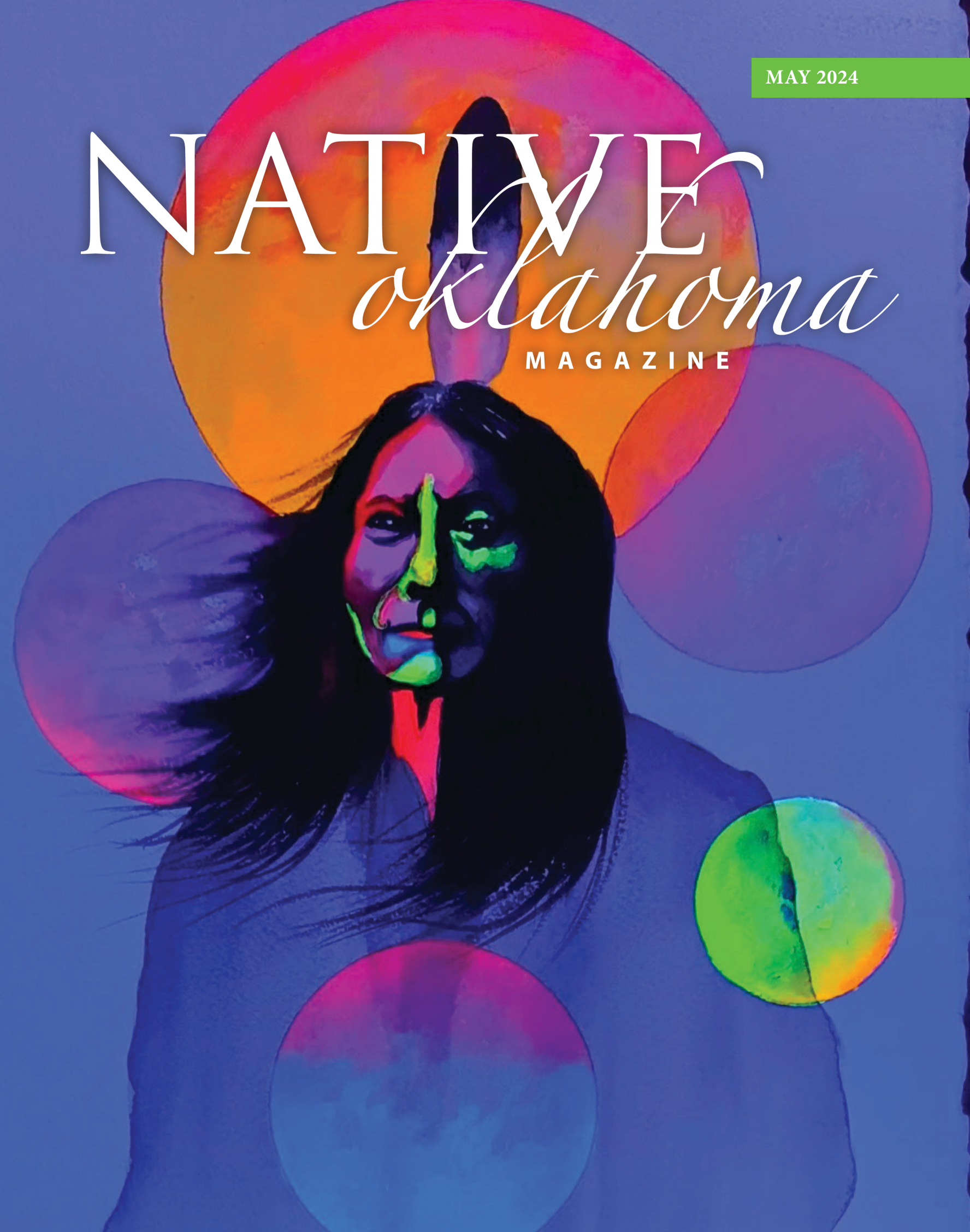


MAY 2024

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE





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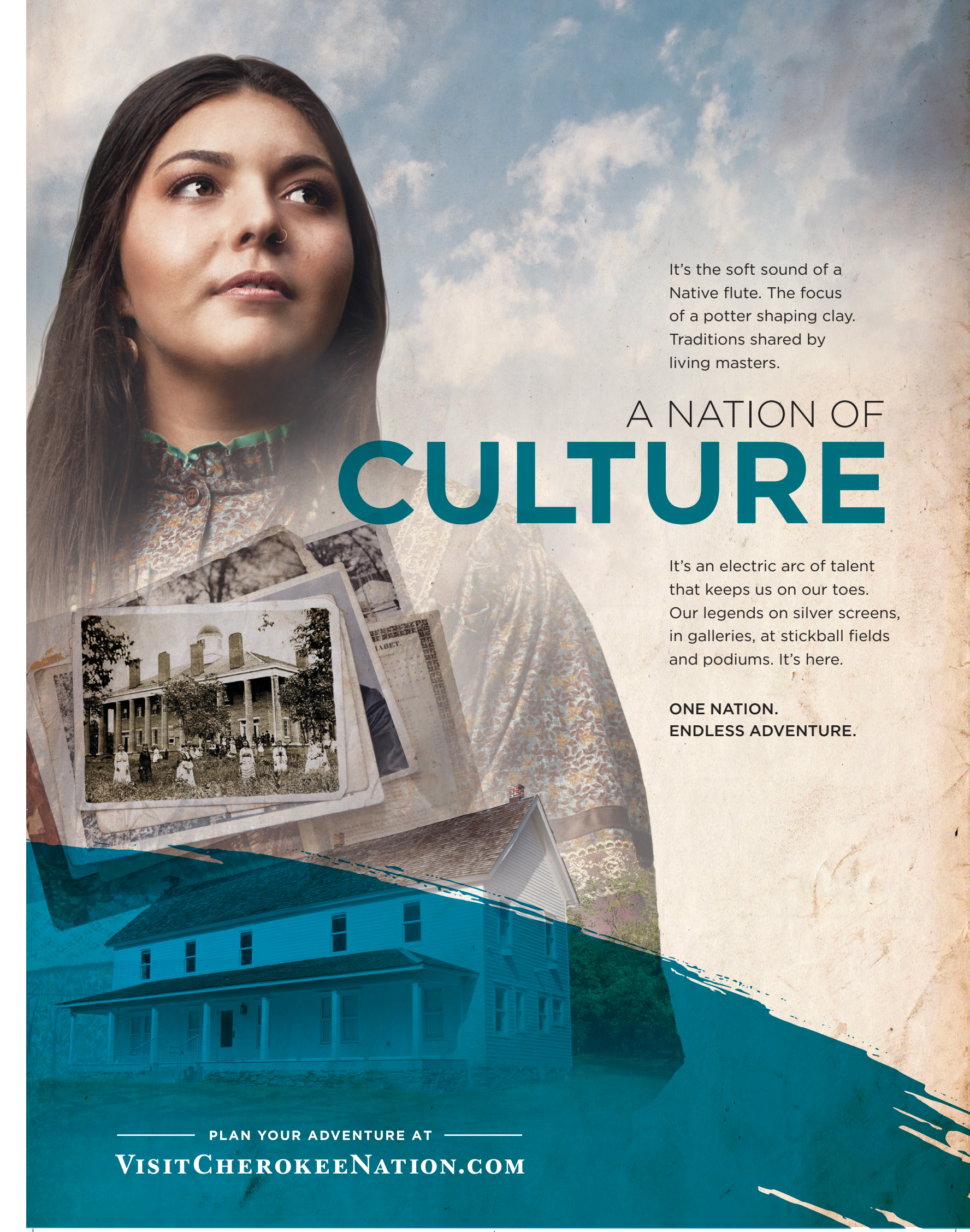


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CREDITS

NATIVE oklahoma MAGAZINE

NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | MAY 2024

P.O. Box 1151 | Jenks, OK 74037 | 918.409.7252 | adam@nativeoklahoma.us

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MAGAZINE DESIGN: Red Sky Total Solutions | Sr. Designer, Heather McCoy |

Creative Director, Kevin McMillan | Designer, Avery Underwood

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

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NATIVE oklahoma MAGAZINE

ADAM PROCTOR

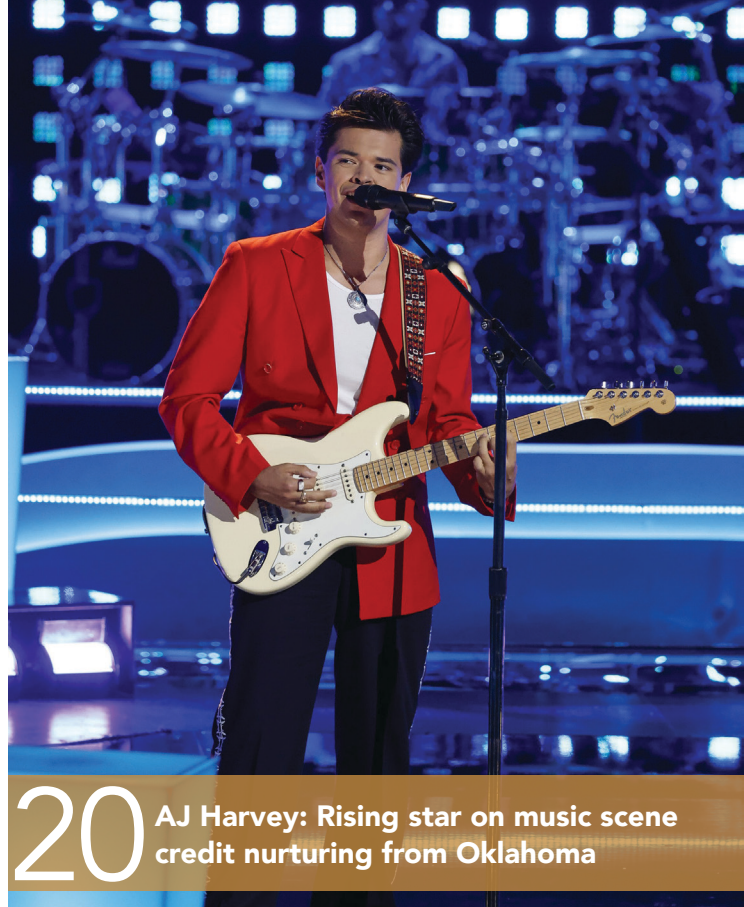
Founder | Editor-In-Chief

adam@nativeoklahoma.us

918.409.7252

WWW.NATIVEOKLAHOMA.US

The poster features a stylized illustration of a person in traditional regalia, including a feathered headdress, holding a large, fringed fan. The word "Wacipi" is written in large, white, stylized letters across the center. Below it, the text "Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community" is written in a smaller font. To the right, the dates "August 16-18" are prominently displayed in large, bold letters, followed by "Dance in Our Southern Categories!". At the bottom right, the address "3212 Dakota Parkway, Shakopee, MN 55379" and the website "smcwacipi.org" are listed. Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are also present. A small circular logo with the text "MDEWAKANTON" is located near the bottom center.



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



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THE CHICKASAW
CHILDREN'S
VILLAGE IN
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OKLAHOMA,
RECENTLY
CELEBRATED
ITS 20TH
ANNIVERSARY.



Chickasaw Children's Village celebrates 20 years of nurturing First American students

The Chickasaw Children's Village in Kingston, Oklahoma, recently celebrated 20 years of providing a safe and nurturing home-like environment for First American youth.

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby said the institution's success has resulted from a concentrated effort to focus on what is important, the young people

and meeting their emotional, spiritual, social and physical needs.

"We have determined all these years to do our best to get it right," Governor Anoatubby said at a reception commemorating the 20 year anniversary of the children's village. "When it comes to the children's village, I really do believe we got it right."

This is what better feels like.

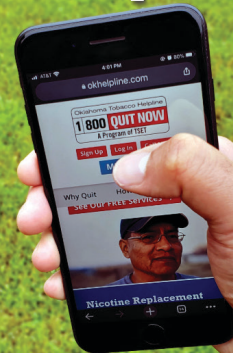
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“All this time, there has been a focus on what’s important. While we’re commemorating this moment in time, let’s also reflect on these two decades of profound and transformative impact this program has had, and the facility has had, on the lives of hundreds of youth.”

Governor Anoatubby said the overriding goal is the same as when the Chickasaw Nation first invested in the future of Chickasaw and other First American children.

“The inception of the children’s village was born out of a desire to provide a nurturing environment for our young people – a place where the challenges of the present are met with the enduring strength and wisdom of our Chickasaw history, courage and heritage.

“We’re just as committed today and remain committed to fostering resilience, personal growth, the cultural identity of all of our students. The success stories that emanate from this village demonstrate the profound impact this place has had on lives,” he said.

Governor Anoatubby expressed appreciation to Chickasaw Children’s Village’s employees and supporters.

“I am grateful for these 20 years, grateful for the dedicated employees, for the generous supporters we’ve had in this vibrant community in which we live and the Kingston school system. We have relied upon you, and you’ve come through for us and for our students. We appreciate all of you and all the community that surrounds the children’s village.

“Your contributions are the foundation upon which this institution stands, enabling us to lift our children toward a brighter future – and to the program management team, whose visionary leadership has guided the children’s village from its inception to the thriving community it is today. Your strategic oversight and passionate commitment have been pivotal to this program’s success,” he said.

Governor Anoatubby said students’ parents and their families play a vital role in ensuring positive outcomes.

“To the parents and families of those who have lived here, thank you. Your trust and openness have been crucial to the children’s village’s mission. Your collaboration in this journey has enabled us to create a supportive and effective environment for growth and for learning.”

Governor Anoatubby said First American children who reside at the Chickasaw Children’s Village are the centerpiece of its enduring success story.

“And to our children, really the heart of the Chickasaw Children’s Village, your perseverance, courage, and growth – you’re an inspiration to all of us. You embody the future we strive to build, and your success is our shared joy and our ultimate goal.

“In this endeavor, we want to draw upon our shared history, a history full of examples of perseverance, of unity and of an unwavering, conquering warrior’s spirit.

“As we look forward to the future, let us carry the spirit of gratitude and collaboration that has brought us to this point. The path ahead is bright with promise, and together we will continue to nurture a community of hope, safety and personal development for generations to come.”

Sallie Wallace has served as the Chickasaw Children’s Village director since the facility opened on its 160-acre grounds along Lake Texoma. Wallace said she and her staff have assisted numerous tribes from Texas, Arkansas, Kansas and Washington state.

“For a number of years our students have maintained an overall GPA (grade-point average) of 3.0 and above,” Wallace said.

“With respect, honesty and integrity, passion, sympathy, empathy, love and devotion to the children’s village, we are 20 years strong. We are so proud to be a part of this great Chickasaw Nation,” she said.

Chickasaw Children’s Village applicants must be First American students in grades 1-12 and eligible for enrollment in Kingston Public Schools.

Designed as an alternative to the dormitory approach to housing students, each cottage accommodates approximately eight students and two house-parents who offer support, direction and guidance. In addition, students have access to a library, computer lab, mental wellness resources, an agriculture education facility and recreation areas.

Students at the village attend the Kingston school system, where they are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. Tutoring services and flexible academic curriculum are designed to meet the needs of every student, including courses for college-bound, vocational, remedial, special education and at-risk students.

For more information, visit Chickasaw.net or call 580-564-3060.

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Introducing the Manta Series crossbody and beauty bag. Two styles with a unique highlight representing the cultural attire of the Acoma Pueblo.

"The manta is a traditionally worn garment by the women of the Acoma Pueblo during cultural celebrations. A woven sash, is placed around the waist as an added highlight to the overall traditional look. These bags are an homage to the matriarchal beliefs of the Acoma Pueblo and a representation of the continued strength and endurance of our people." - L. Aragon

Manta Resilience Crossbody: Cotton twill & canvas shell with black on gray Acoma Pottery print representing signature pottery patterns by designer Loren Aragon. Bag measures 8" X 8" X 2.5", with gunmetal hardware, dual internal pockets, quick access back-side pocket, water repellant black nylon lining, and adjustable/detachable, 55" strap.

Manta Beauty Bag: Constructed with a cotton twill shell featuring a signature design black on gray Acoma pottery print. Bags measure 8" X 9" X 2", with zipper closure, water repellant nylon lining, and 6" wrist strap.

A limited edition set of 20 bags in each style. Each numbered as they are sold. Released in batches of 10. First batch release: 4/15/2024

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JUNE 21-23, 2024

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MC:
**Juaquin
Hamilton-Youngbird**

Head Man:
Pat Moore

Head Lady:
Toni Tsatoke

Head Gourd Dancer:
Kevin Rivera

Head Singer:
Arlen Goodfox

Head Judge:
Tonya Moore

Arena Director:
Chuck Bread

Host Northern Drum:
Young Buffalo Horse

Adult Categories:
1st place: \$1,000 ♦ 2nd place: \$750 ♦ 3rd place: \$500

SCHEDULE

*Registration opens Friday evening and Saturday afternoon during Gourd Dances.
Contestants must make at least 2 Grand Entries.*

| Friday Evening | Saturday Afternoon | Saturday Evening | Sunday Afternoon |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gourd Dance 6:00-7:30pm | Gourd Dance 12:30-1:30pm | Gourd Dance 6:00-7:30pm | Gourd Dance 12:30-1:30pm |
| Grand Entry 8:00pm | Grand Entry 2:00pm | Grand Entry 8:00pm | Grand Entry 2:00pm |
| Tiny Tots (6 and under) | Girls (7-12) | Adult Women/Cloth & Buckskin (18-54) | Adult Women/Fancy & Jingle (18-54) |
| Boys (7-12) | Exhibition Dances | Adult Men/Fancy & Traditional (18-54) | Adult Men/Straight & Grass (18-54) |
| Junior Girls (13-17) | Junior Boys (13-17) | Golden Age Men (55+) | Winners Announced/ Victory Song |
| Exhibition Dances | Golden Age Women (55+) *Separate Categories | *Separate Categories | |

Powwow Inside Peoria Showplace: 1000 Buffalo Run Blvd, Miami, OK 74354

Host Hotel: Buffalo Run Casino & Resort Hotel | 918-542-7140

Vendor/Powwow Info: Charla EchoHawk (918) 540-2535
Invited drums only. No food vendors. No wagons, strollers, or playpens.

No alcohol, drugs or firearms in the Showplace at any time during the event.
The Peoria Tribe is not responsible for lost or stolen items and/or accidents.



2024 Annual Tribal Festival Guide



This is the official listing of pow-wows and Tribal festivals for 2024. Starting in May from Copan Pow-wow to Lawton for the Comanche Fair at the end of September.

The Pandemic is, hopefully, officially over with. Lots happen since everyone has had to distance themselves from each other. Always take time to love the ones that have gone on, natural or otherwise, and to remember keep these traditions and customs that's been handed to us to carry on.

For this year. Lots of dances! Lots of Tribal Festivals! Lots of food! So mark your calendars and make your plans to travel around Oklahoma and see some of the finest dancers in this state! You're going to get a glimpse of contest pow-wows to annual dances not seen anywhere else in the country. You will get to see and hear from some thirty different tribes and the annual festivals they put on since before statehood right here in this issue.

Keep this issue with you for the course of the season and make sure you make it to every event this year!

MAY

Comanche Little Ponies 54th Annual Celebration 2024

May 10th-11th, 2024

*Comanche County Fairgrounds, Expo Center
920 S. Sheridan Rd., Lawton, OK*

Event is free and open to the public. Gourd dancing begins at 5:00 pm on Friday. Gourd Dancing & Scalp dancing all evening on Friday. Gourd Dancing at 12:00 pm on Saturday. Supper Break at 5:00 pm. Grand Entry at 6:00 pm on Saturday. Contests in all divisions. Special Men's Straight Dance Contest 55 yrs. +. Women's applique contest (all ages contest). Entire event Live Streamed on Lone Tipi Productions. All singers, dancers, clubs & organizations are cordially invited

The 59th Delaware Pow Wow will be held Memorial Day weekend. Free Parking and Free Admission. Make sure you get there right before supper break each day to visit and make new friends. Gourd dance Friday 6 pm to 8 pm, Saturday & Sunday 3 pm to 5 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm. Dance contests are every night starting at 8 pm til close. Followed by Stomp Dance Friday & Saturday nights. All specials on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 pm to 3 pm. Bet Football Game-Men against Women - Saturday at 11 am. Sunday Morning Church Service 10 am at the arena. Winners announced and prize money paid out at the end of the Pow-wow on Sunday night (Winners must be present and in dance clothes to receive prize payout). **For more info contact Jennifer Dick 918-323-2581, or jenhen28@gmail.com**

am / Down at 6:30 pm Daily. Grand Entries Nightly 7:30 p.m. (Must make all 3 for contests). Vendors: Food \$100/weekend or \$40/per day. Crafts \$75/weekend or \$35/per day. **For more information call 580-339-1946, 580-309-0042, 580-799-4566 or 405-637-6036**

JUNE

54th Annual Alabama-Coushatta Pow-wow

May 31st - June 1st, 2024

*Alabama-Coushatta Veteran's Pavillion
301 Daycare Road, Livingston, TX*
Drum contest - Southern & Northern (Separate Categories)

For more information call 936-252-1784 or email: ac.powwow@gmail.com.

59th Annual Delaware Pow Wow

May 24th-26th, 2024

The event will be held near Copan Oklahoma on road 600 at the Falleaf Campgrounds. (3 miles East of Highway 75 on Road 600).

52nd annual Redmoon Memorial Day Powwow

May 24-26, 2024

One Mile North & Two Miles East of Junction Hwy. 33 & 34 in Hammon, OK
Gourd Dance Daily 3-5 pm. Flags: Up at 9

Iowa Tribal Pow-wow

June 14th-16th, 2024

*Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Pow-wow Grounds
Perkins, OK*

**Vendors contact: Kent Tehauno
405-788-9990**

Peoria Powwow

June 21st - 23rd, 2024

Buffalo Run Casino Showplace (indoor & air-conditioned!)
1000 Buffalo Run Blvd., Miami, OK

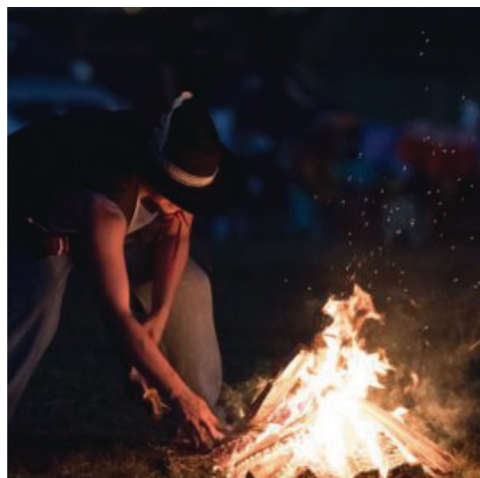
47th Annual Muscogee Nation Festival

June 20th-23rd, 2024

Okmulgee, OK

This one has it all! Starting off with Stomp dances on Thursday night. Each year, thousands gather at the Claude Cox Omniplex right here in Okmulgee for a weekend filled with activities celebrating the Muscogee people. This annual celebration includes cultural exhibitions, sports tournaments, concerts featuring local and national acts, arts and crafts, great food, carnival rides, a parade, and many more festivities for the entire family to enjoy. All activities are free and open to the public.

For more information go to
www.muscogeenationfestival.com



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www.muscogeenationfestival.com



Photo of Tonkawa Tribal Scalp Dance Society

49th Annual Tonkawa Tribal Pow-wow

June 28-30th, 2024

Fort Oakland Community, Tonkawa, OK

This may be the 49th Annual Tribal pow-wow but it is originally the 139th Anniversary of the arrival of the Tonkawa to Ft. Oakland, OK. Come out and experience the Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, an annual tribal celebration featuring Native American dancing, princess crowing, contests, crafts, artwork and food. This year marks the 48th annual event and will celebrate the "Year of the Woman." Dance styles will include

straight, war, gourd, fancy, traditional, cloth and buckskin categories. Stick around for a Traditional Tonkawa Scalp dance during the Saturday night program and a Nez Perce memorial contest Sunday evening. This year's event will also include a horseshoe tournament, fireworks, veteran's supper for encampment, disc golf tournament and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Free camping, along with electric and water hookups, will be available.

23rd Annual Miami Nation Pow Wow

June 28th -29th , 2024

Miami Nation Arena

2319 Newman Road, Miami, OK, 74354

Contests – George Alexander 580-401-

1481. Vendors – Tera Hatley 918-919-1444.

Camping – Donya Williams 918-541-7274.

General Info – Julie Olds 918-541-3131. Miami

Tribe HQ: 918-541-1300

JULY



Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration

July 2nd - 4th, 2024

Carnegie City Park, Carnegie, OK

Witness this traditional ceremony by the Kiowa Gourd Clan at the annual Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration. You will see some 200 -plus gourd dancers celebrate the Kiowa heritage. A Kiowa story recounts the tale of a young man who had been separated from the rest of the tribe. Hungry and dehydrated after many days of travel, the young man approached a hill and heard an unusual kind of singing coming from the other side. There he saw a red wolf singing and dancing on its hind legs. The man listened to the songs all afternoon and through the night and when morning came,

Continued on next page

the wolf spoke to him and told him to take the dance and songs back to the Kiowa people. The "howl" at the end of each gourd dance song is a tribute to the red wolf. The Kiowa Gourd Dance was once part of the Kiowa Sun Dance ceremony. This dance was once banned by the US government but was brought back in the 1950's to continue the Kiowa cultural ceremonies.



79th Annual Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming

Pow-wow

July 4th – July 7th, 2024

Memorial Stadium, Pawnee, OK

The annual Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming Powwow is a community event that has honored veterans since 1946, and celebrating American Indian culture. Enjoy powwow activities Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and free overnight primitive camping on-site. This family event features Indian dance contests, heritage programs and more. Free rations will be given out to campers Saturday morning. Dance contests will be held each night, with the Princess contest being held on Friday. Other popular annual events include the Saturday Veteran's Parade in Downtown Pawnee, and the Hawk Chief 5K Run. Battle of the Bands Handgame. Everyone is invited to take part in all these fun activities. Between activities, be sure to visit the native arts and crafts and food vendors. **For more information. Contact: 918-762-3621.**

152nd Annual Quapaw

Pow-wow

July 4th-7th, 2024

Beaver Springs Park, Quapaw, OK

This is one of the oldest dances in the state!



Lots of history around this festival. The tribe holds its annual Quapaw Powwow celebration over the 4th of July weekend each year, that includes singing, dancing, contests, vendors and plenty of family fun. Come celebrate the culture and history of the Quapaw Tribe.

For more information: Contact Melany Shawnee at 918-724-6404.

Thunderbird Casino Anniversary Celebration

July 5th-6th, 2024

Little Axe, OK

Thunderbird Casino

Live Music x 2 nights (artist announcement coming), watermelon feeds, free inflatables, stomp dance, pow-wow, fireworks! Fireworks! Fireworks! **More information, contact: Lisa Frazier 405-360-9270**



59th Annual Sac and Fox Nation Pow Wow

July 11th -14th , 2024

Jim Thorpe Memorial Park in Stroud, OK Come and experience this annual American Indian event featuring native dancing, singing, dance competitions, arts and crafts, a rodeo, food vendors, outdoor camping and much more. Enjoy the Sac & Fox Nation Celebration Open Rodeo at this annual Sac and Fox Nation Pow Wow and witness traditional rodeo events such as bull riding, bareback riding, saddle bronc

riding, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling and more. Located 5.5 Miles south of Stroud. Don't miss this event! For More Information. **Contact Mason Williamson 918-306-2101.**



142nd Annual Otoe-Missouria Encampment

July 18th - 21st, 2024

Red Rock, OK

A tradition that has been kept by the Otoe and Missouria since their removal from their ancestral homelands. The encampment is a time to allow family members from all over the country to come home and celebrate their culture and heritage as one family. Even despite their historic removals and travels from Missouri and Iowa. Their history still carries on. Come and visit this event and enjoy in the fellowship and dancing in their Tribal traditions! Tribal members usually camp at their inherited family campsites. All campsites on the inner circle are already assigned. Any new campsites will be located on the North or South ends of the Encampment Grounds. ALL new campsites must be approved by the Encampment Chairman before moving onto the site. Any conflicts regarding campsite assignments, locations or dimensions will be addressed by the Encampment Committee on a case-by-case basis. **For more information. Contact 405-258-8342 or log on to www.omtribe.org**

70th Annual Comanche Homecoming Celebration

July 19th -21st, 2024

Sultan Park in Walters, OK



74th Annual Indian Hills Pow-Wow

July 26th - 28th, 2024

Indian Hills Pow Wow Grounds, Oklahoma City, OK

The Indian Hills Pow Wow in Oklahoma City is an exciting Native American gathering that is open and free to the public. Held in east Oklahoma City, The Indian Hills Pow Wow is one of the biggest Pow Wows in the Oklahoma City Metro and features hundreds of traditional Native American dancers from throughout the state and nation. This event features traditional dancing and competitions for all age groups. Visitors can purchase authentic American Indian arts and crafts and cheer on competitors in the horseshoe tournament. Indian tacos and other traditional foods will be available, as well as plenty of activities for children. The official opening will be at 6:00 p.m. Thursday as Gourd Dancing begins, followed by the Grand Entry Thursday's celebration of dance contests. Be sure to attend this event. **For more information and location: Indian Hills Pow Wow Grounds 9300 N Sooner Rd Oklahoma City, OK 73101 Phone: 405-328-0743**



72nd Annual Tulsa Pow-wow

July 27th - 28th, 2024

Cox Business Center, Tulsa, OK

This signature event of the Tulsa Indian Club has been around since 1952, began as

a small, backyard gathering and grew into a nationally known Native American summer celebration. With over 60 years of history celebrating hundreds of years of tradition, the Tulsa Powwow attracts thousands of competitors and cultural enthusiasts to the Cox Business Center every July. **For more information. Contact David Bible at 918-724-0762**

AUGUST Oklahoma Indian Nations

Pow-wow

Aug. 2nd- 4th, 2024

Concho Powwow Grounds in Concho, OK
Vendors welcomed / Grand Entry Night 7 p.m. **For more information call 405-361-8945**

47th Annual Wichita Tribal Dance

August 16th - 18th, 2024

Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko, OK
Organized as the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, the center of activity is at Anadarko, Oklahoma, where the Wichita Tribal Park and office buildings are located. The culture, history and ancestors of the Kitikiti'sh--the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes--can be traced back to the Central and Southern Plains since prehistoric times. Archaeologists believe that the heritage of the Wichita may be traced back at least 800 years to the Washita River culture of central and western Oklahoma. Like many other tribes. Their annual events started out as summer encampments with their families and other tribes that have created a common relationship. Now Tribal dances have been held each year to continue that tradition. The Wichita Tribal Dance is a free event and is open to the public. Dance competitions are open to Wichita Tribal members and their descendants. Gourd dancers, war dancers and a color guard will all be on-hand to participate in this year's Wichita Tribal Dance. Free meals will be available on designated nights of the event. Food and vendor booths will also be

on-site. The Wichita Tribal Dance Grounds are located at Wichita Tribal Park 1-1/4 miles north of Anadarko on Highway 281.

61st Annual Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration

August 30th - September 1st, 2024

Adawe Park in Miami, OK

This Labor Day weekend powwow includes a variety of activities such as gourd dancing, war dancing, stomp dancing and other social dances. The Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration, hosted by the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma is a family-friendly event. The celebration continues the tradition of holding no-contest dancing and offers participants ample opportunities to relax, dance and have fun. The Ottawa Tribal Powwow includes a variety of activities including gourd dancing, war dancing, stomp dancing and other social dances. This event charges no admission and is open to the public. Adawe Indian Park also offers plenty of camping space and RV electrical hook-ups. **For More Information: 918-540-1536 Contact Kalisha Dixon at kalisha.oto@gmail.com**



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Labor Day Powwow

August 30th - September 2nd, 2024

Colony Powwow Grounds in Colony, OK

The Cheyenne Arapaho Labor Day Celebration Powwow, first held in 1942, will be at Colony, about 15 miles south of Weatherford. Arts and crafts, food booths and musical and dancing entertainment will be offered throughout the event.

Continued on next page

Admission is free. Campsites also will be available. Join others from across the nation who are drawn to the annual Cheyenne Arapaho Labor Day Powwow. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are eager to share the wealth and origin of their culture with you. Point System in place for all Grand Entries; 2 Grand Entries required. Dances start at 8pm each evening. Vendors Welcomed. **For more information call 580-574-0165, 580-791-0351 or 580-445-0932. For more information, go to www.c-a-tribes.org.**

Annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival

August 30th - September 1st, 2024

Tvshka Homma, capital of the Choctaw Nation.

The Choctaw Nation invites all visitors to enjoy tribal heritage activities, Choctaw cultural exhibitions, stickball games, arts and crafts, free concerts and carnival rides. A great way to begin any day of the festival is by visiting the Choctaw Nation Museum. The museum holds many historical artifacts and information about the Choctaw culture and past, including actual objects that were carried across the Trail of Tears and interactive exhibits. **Log on to www.choctawnation.com for more information on this event.**

SEPTEMBER



34th Annual Wyandotte Pow-Wow

September 13th -15th, 2024

Wyandotte Nation Pow Wow Grounds, Wyandotte, OK

Witness traditions come to life at the Wyandotte Powwow, a tribal celebration

featuring a variety of dance contests. Watch as all ages, dressed in traditional regalia, compete for cash prizes in categories including women's buckskin, cloth, fancy shawl and jingle dress, as well as men's grass dance, traditional, straight and fancy dance. The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow will also feature Grandparent's Day events and activities for the entire family. Must be registered and participate in two Grand Entries and two Exhibitions to qualify for contests. Must be registered in only one category. Must be in Full Dress to receive contest monies. All decisions by Committee are final. **For more information contact Sherri Clemons at 918-678-2297.**

34th Annual Wyandotte Pow-Wow

September 13th -15th, 2024

Wyandotte Nation Pow Wow Grounds, Wyandotte, OK

Witness traditions come to life at the Wyandotte Powwow, a tribal celebration featuring a variety of dance contests. Watch as all ages, dressed in traditional regalia, compete for cash prizes in categories including women's buckskin, cloth, fancy shawl and jingle dress, as well as men's grass dance, traditional, straight and fancy dance. The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow will also feature Grandparent's Day events and activities for the entire family. Must be registered and participate in two Grand Entries and two Exhibitions to qualify for contests. Must be registered in only one category. Must be in Full Dress to receive contest monies. All decisions by Committee are final. **For more information contact Sherri Clemons at 918-678-2297.**

31st Annual Comanche Nation Fair Pow-wow

September 27th - 29th, 2024

Comanche Nation Complex, Lawton, OK

Comanche Nation Fair is the largest event of the Comanche Nation. This celebration features an array of events and activities that include: a powwow, parade, free concert, games and an art show. Other

activities include basketball and softball tournaments, a horseshoe tournament, quilt show, teen dance, fun run and spirit walk. Arts and craft vendors from around the country will be present, as well as a variety of food vendors. A children's carnival featuring free rides will also be on-site. While the Comanche Nation Fair lasts all week; the Comanche Fair Powwow is the last three days of the fair on Friday – Sunday. Celebrate Comanche culture at the largest American Indian gathering in southwest Oklahoma. Free camping near the powwow grounds will also be available. **For information visit www.comanchenationfair.com**



27th Annual Standing Bear Pow-wow

September 27th -28th , 2024

Standing Bear Park, Ponca City, OK

The powwow is hosted by the six north-central tribes of Oklahoma the last Friday and Saturday of September each year. Standing Bear Powwow features inter-tribal dancing, exhibition dancing, contest dancing, tiny tot contests and the crowning of the Standing Bear Princess. Visitors will also find a variety of arts and craft vendors, along with a wide variety of food vendors. This free event in Ponca City is open to the public and often considered one of the most significant American Indian events in the US. Experience the Standing Bear Powwow and witness as the Kaw, Osage, Otoe-Missouria, Pawnee, Ponca and Tonkawa tribes gather to celebrate their tribal heritage with contest dancing, singing, drumming and more. For More Information: Standing Bear Park: Call 580-762-1514; Email tl@standingbearpark.com

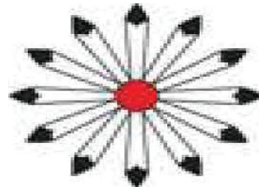


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Stitt v. Stitt:

Gov. Stitt Sues Himself!



SOUR SOFKEE #53

By: Fus Yvhikv

“All rise!” the beefy court bailiff bellows.

Me, Fixico, Tarpalechee, and Yahola obediently stand as Tulsa County Court Judge Henry Gubser solemnly enters the courtroom and deposits himself into his chair. He sits on the bench high above us lowly masses. Adorned in his black judicial robe, his silver hair swept straight back, and with his rimless eyeglass, the judge presents a regal, if intimidating, appearance.

“This court, with the honorable Judge Gubser presiding, is now in session. Please be seated and come to order,” the burly bailiff barks. Despite the use of the word “please” the bailiff’s tone conveys more of a command than a request.

As commanded, uh, requested, we and the entire courtroom attendees take our seats. It was standing room only in the court saturated by media presence. I was there to cover the proceedings for Native Oklahoma Magazine.

In the lengthy annals of the bizarre, if dystopian, Oklahoma political theater, this case was perhaps the all-time cause celebre. Kevin Stitt was suing himself! In his official capacity as the Oklahoma governor, Stitt had sued himself in his capacity as a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. It was a Stitt show.

At issue was Cherokee Stitt driving his personal car, affixed with a Cherokee tag, on Oklahoma toll roads. Gov. Stitt alleges that Cherokee Stitt, wasn’t paying the required fees to travel on the toll roads and that he was thus in violation of Oklahoma law.

In his lawsuit against himself, Stitt was seeking a court order preventing himself from driving on Oklahoma toll roads. He was also requesting money damages from himself in the form of unpaid tolls, penalties, interest, and a sixty-day jail sentence at Shawshank.

The media and political pundits nationwide were having a field day with this Kafkaesque situation. It was a Frankensteinian amalgamation of Oklahoma okie and Arkansas hillbilly with appendages of Dumb and Dumber.

The lawsuit was equal parts Airplane and Naked Gun. Not even Mel Brooks could conjure up a scene that was more comedic. It was made for TV only in Oklahoma reality show. The tabloids had dubbed it, Keeping Up With The Stitts.

The trial begins with Stitt delivering the opening remarks both for the prosecution and the defense. Gov. Stitt then calls his first witness.

"I call to the stand Cherokee Stitt," Stitt announces.

An aide drags a mannequin to the witness box. It is an exact replica of Stitt albeit Cherokee Stitt is adorned with war paint, a full headdress, and enough fake turquoise jewelry to stock a roadside tourist attraction.

"Bailiff," Stitt says, "Would you please swear in dummy Stitt?"

Judge Gubser furiously pounds his gavel.

"Order in the court," the judge commands. "Gov. Stitt, the court hereby admonishes you to cease using such racist and inflammatory language!"

"But Stitt is a dummy!" Stitt declares. "Look at him."

"The court and most of Oklahoma agrees. Nevertheless, the court advises you to choose your words carefully."

"Yes, your honor."

"Just how do you plan on questioning the witness?"

"That's easy, your honor. I'll just read his answers from this here deposition."

"Proceed," the judge responds as he rolls his eyes.

Stitt approaches the witness stand.

"Now Cherokee Stitt, isn't it true you are an enrolled member of the Cherokee tribe?"

"No, I am a CITIZEN of Cherokee Nation. There is no such thing as an ENROLLED MEMBER of a tribal nation. Are we enrolled members of the United States? No, we are citizens of the U.S." Stitt admonishes himself as he reads the deposition.

The audience laughs gleefully. In this battle of wits, the dummy clearly has the upper hand. Stitt's face turns beet red.

"Uh, Top Ten state," Stitt murmurs. "Moving right along, as a CITIZEN of the Cherokee Nation, is your car registered with the tribe?"

"Yes, my Cherokee Nation tag is proudly displayed on my car."

"Aha!" Stitt exclaims. "So you admit to driving on Oklahoma roads with a Cherokee Nation license plate!"

"Yes, and I've driven in all 49 states too. Without incident."

Continued on next page

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Stitt looks down at the floor as his shoulders drop. He slowly scratches the side of his head. He resembles a confused Gomer Pyle.

“Any day now,” the judge declares. “Let’s get a move on.”

“Are you talking to me or the dummy?” Stitt asks.

“Is there a difference?”

Derisive laughter and snickers fill the courtroom.

“So, Cherokee Stitt, you admit to also driving on Oklahoma’s toll roads?”

“Yes, all the time. I drive the Cherokee Turnpike, the Creek Turnpike, and the Indian Nations turnpike, among others.”

“And how, exactly did you pay the toll for driving on these Oklahoma roads?”

“You mean the roads located on tribal reservations?”

More derisive laughter.

“Uh, yeah, that too,” Stitt meekly responds. “But, uh, how did you pay?”

“With my Pike pass.”

“Aha! Our Oklahoma Pike pass can’t bill you because you have a Cherokee tag,” Stitt accuses.

“And that is your fault. You have refused to renew the compact with the Cherokee Nation. All you have to do is renew the agreement and you’ll get your money.”

Gov. Stitt stands mute. He stares off into the distance. The judge intervenes.

“What? Is that true? You have refused to sign the compact with Cherokee Nation?”

“Uh, uh, ahem...How about that Top Ten state?” Stitt stutters.

The judge pounds his gavel.

“I hereby dismiss this nuisance lawsuit. Moreover, I further hold Gov. Stitt in contempt of court and sentence you to sixty days of detention at Shawshank. Bailiff, handcuff the governor and transport him to jail. This court is dismissed!”

A wide grin appears on Cherokee Stitt’s face. A grin shared by all of Indian Country.



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Courtesy of U.S. Drug Administration

Stop accidental exposures

Keep nicotine-loaded vapes away from your kids

By NativeWellness.Life staff

If you vape and have small children, beware—one contact could hurt or kill a child.

That tidbit is not meant to scare you. It's a fact.

It doesn't matter if children drink it, put it in their mouth, swallow it, chew it, crawl on it, spill it on themselves, smoke it or endure second-hand vapor, nicotine is a powerful poison for kids.

A few drops can cause them—especially infants and toddlers—severe injuries or death, Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention experts say. The nicotine-poisoning effect on kids is terrible: dizziness, nausea, vomiting, seizures, coma, respiratory arrest or death. If a child swallows some of the

vape juice, they can go into seizures in 20-30 minutes.

But more cases of kids being exposed to nicotine are reported each day at poison centers nationwide, according to Poison Help. The online site represents the nation's 55 poison centers. It partners with the CDC, U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

In fact, the number of such cases "hit an all-time high in 2022," Poison Help reported. One reason for the hike is the law—Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act—that requires child-resistant packaging on vaping liquid products doesn't apply to vaping devices.

Accidental exposure can lead to family heartbreak. Sadly, it's part of the collateral damage of the

vape age. A new way to get the old nicotine fix and get hooked.

Big Tobacco counts on that. So, it loads "smoke juice, e-juice or vape juice" with nicotine. It comes in pods, cartridges, or bottles. The FDA says one pod or cartridge of the liquid can have the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

The only thing is, no matter how they package it, babies and toddlers are getting hurt. Just an accidental brush with all that nicotine could be tragic.

If you must vape, here are some ways to keep your children safer, poison control experts say.

Don't vape. Yes, that's hard to do, but your children will be much safer and you will be healthier.

Keep kids away from vapes. That goes for anything with nicotine. Specifically, the liquid juice that has so much more nicotine.

Don't switch containers. Keep your vape juice in the packaging it came in. That keeps children from mistaking it for something to drink.

Lock them up. Store your vaping paraphernalia out of sight and out of reach of your kids.

Better yet. Consider not having vaping stuff in your home. Keep it in the shed out back or any other place your babies can't get to it.

One more thing. Spent vapes still have nicotine. So, don't just toss them in the trash where a child can find it. Wrap them up and hide them, so your kids can't find them.

Rising stars on music scene credit nurturing from Oklahoma

By Shelby Emery
Gaylord News



AJ Harvey and Anya True from Team Dan + Shay rehearse "Half of My Heart" by John Mayer in preparation for the battle round. Photo provided.

Two Oklahoma artists appeared on this season of NBC's "The Voice," showcasing the talent they've built upon while living in the Sooner State.

The Oklahoma City-based trio OK3 secured a four-chair turn, which is when judges select an artist to join their teams, after performing "Made You Look" by Meghan Trainor during the season premiere on Feb. 26. They joined Grammy-winning R&B artist John Legend's team.

Singer-songwriter AJ Harvey of Norman made his debut on March 11, landing a two-chair turn from Chance the Rapper and duo Dan + Shay with a performance of Bob Dylan's "Girl From the North Country." Harvey moved on as part of Dan + Shay's team.

OK3 began when Sierra Sikes, 24, Courtney Hooker, 26, and Kenna Fields, 22, met through their vocal coach. At the time, Fields was 12, Sikes was 14 and Hooker was 16. They attended nearby schools in the Oklahoma City area, allowing them to foster a friendship that would continue into their careers.

"We were together all the time," said Hooker. "Probably six days a week, whether or not it would be us actually practicing or rehearsing for something, or if it was just us having sleepovers or hanging out."

In 2017, the members of OK3 went their separate ways. Hooker said they always aspired to come together again in adulthood.

"We came back together because of this opportunity," Hooker said. "It was so quick, and it just felt right."

Hooker graduated in 2020 from the Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma with degrees in vocal performance and commercial music. Sikes also attended UCO, graduating with a degree in musical theater in 2021. Fields is a senior at the university studying contemporary music.

Harvey, 25, grew up in Wichita, Kansas, and moved to Norman in 2020. A member of the Ponca Tribe and Pawnee Nation, he attended powwows as a child and developed an interest in traditional ceremonial music.

Harvey said he keeps the contemporary music he performs and the powwow songs he grew up around separate, but draws connections between his own chords and the emotion found in traditional Native tunes.

"You might hear a song that makes you choke up," Harvey said. "We always were told that that's a good thing, that maybe the spirit of that song and hearing that drum (is) medicine for us."

Harvey said having a Native background and relatives in central Oklahoma gave him an opportunity to move to Norman and become involved in its local music scene.

"A goal of my moving here was to make a name for myself, in whatever way that was," Harvey said.

Harvey has a residency at The Deli. He takes the stage every Thursday night with the band Biscuits and Groovy and has performed at venues around Norman and Oklahoma City such as Beer City Music Hall and Ponyboy.

While living in Wichita, Harvey performed in local businesses such as coffee shops and bookstores. Norman has provided him with an array of venues as well as connections with artists in the local music scenes.

“After I moved here, I really wanted to develop songwriting that I thought was me,” Harvey said. “I’ve gotten to see other aspects of people (in Norman) who really take to that craft.”

Scott Booker, manager of the Grammy-winning band The Flaming Lips and founder of UCO’s Academy of Contemporary Music, said the opening of venues in central Oklahoma has played a key role in its flourishing music scene.

“One of the things we didn’t have when ACM first started was what I like to call a venue ladder,” Booker said. “We had very small venues and we had bigger venues, but we didn’t have very many in between.”

Another factor lending support to musicians in central Oklahoma is its abundance of universities with music programs. Among them are UCO, Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma. UCO is Oklahoma’s only university with a contemporary music program.

“If you look at before ACM and then now, you’ll notice that there’s so many more venues,” Booker said. “There’s all these venues that have opened up, and I think it’s a direct relation to more people focused on music.”

ACM provides opportunities for students to work with local and touring professionals. Faculty members have worked with Grammy-winning artists such as Miley Cyrus, Elton John and Reba.

“All of the professors there are in their own projects,” Hooker said. “Now that I’m out of college, and I’ve grown and been in the industry for a bit, I’ve played gigs, like with my old professors, which is so cool.”

Because Fields is a student at ACM, she said, having professors in the music industry was helpful as she balanced academics while competing on “The Voice.”

“At the school, all the professors understand, you know, they’ve been in the industry, they’ve done this,” Fields said. “They offer any help and advice, and I can use the facilities when I need. So that’s really nice, because I



AJ Harvey singing “Half of My Heart” by John Mayer.
Photo provided.

feel like a lot of other majors wouldn’t necessarily be as understanding.”

Harvey said when he received an Instagram message for casting in December 2022, he thought it was a scam. Once the new year rolled around, he responded, beginning the audition process that led to his nationwide emergence.

“This was a whole other ballgame for me,” Harvey said. “You’re out there in front of these excellent musicians and performers, and you get to see what they think of you. Overall, it was an incredible experience.”

During his blind audition, Harvey said he was trying to keep himself centered.

“All I kept saying to myself was ‘this is just another show at The Deli,’” Harvey said. “I look up and see Chance the Rapper and Dan + Shay looking at me and I was like ‘alright, we’re good.’”

Continued on next page

Fields said OK3 spoke with other contestants on the show about Oklahoma's reputation for country music.

"I think what we wanted to show is that there's a lot of versatility in the Oklahoma music scene that people aren't aware of," Fields said.

OK3 and Harvey were eliminated from "The Voice" in their respective battle rounds, which are when two artists on the same team perform one song together, with their coach deciding who will move on to the next round. Harvey was defeated by 17-year-old Anya True in a performance of John Mayer's "Half of My Heart."

Legend chose 20-year-old Zoe Levert after her battle with OK3, describing her as the "underdog" against the trio.

Having gained exposure from "The Voice," Sikes said, OK3 wants to continue to build their platforms locally and nationally. Hooker said OK3 is hoping to release original music, and released her own original song "Then I Met You," on March 21.

"We're really trying to build off of the momentum from the show," Sikes said. "Now it's not just Oklahoma people

that know us, (but) we're getting people from the north and west, and all that, that are telling us that they're rooting for us."

Harvey said his goal as a musician is to establish an audience for himself, and his experience on "The Voice" gave him a chance to hone in on this aspiration.

"I hope to have a following of people that like what I do and like what I have to say, musically," Harvey said. "At the end of the day, that's the most important thing, and to make the music that's most me as much as I can be."

Harvey released his original song "If You Wanted To You Would" on April 5, and will headline Norman Music Festival on April 27.

OK3's and Harvey's performances can be viewed on NBC's "The Voice" YouTube channel. "The Voice" airs every Monday and Tuesday at 7 pm.

Gaylord News is a reporting project of the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. For more stories by Gaylord News, go to GaylordNews.net



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OK, RV PADS | 18, AMPS | 70
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The Gathering returning to Choctaw Nation in 2024



(DURANT, Okla.) The Gathering Business Summit is an annual conference that brings Native businesses, Tribal businesses and allied businesses together with the goal of advancing Indian Country commerce.

Held by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO), the Gathering is set to return to Choctaw Nation this July 10-12. The return south to the Choctaw Reservation is five years in the making, as the annual business summit was held there in 2018 and 2019.

“It is the best attended Native business conference in the state, emphasizing the positive impact we have on the community,” AICCO State President Bailey Walker said. “This collaboration with the Choctaw Nation and Durant on our crown jewel is a massive opportunity for networking, cultural exchange, business growth, and community involvement, reflecting a dedication to diversity and inclusive business practices.”

Billy Hamilton, Director of the Choctaw Small Business Development program, said their program is one of many looking forward to its return.

“This brings a lot of opportunities for our local Chahtapreneurs to network their businesses and to make connections with other Native businesses throughout the state,” Hamilton said.

The Choctaw Nation currently has 1,735 Choctaw tribal member-owned businesses, referred to as ‘Chahtapreneurs,’ within reservation boundaries. Hamilton said these businesses have created nearly 5,000 jobs for the community.

While a goal of the conference is to provide space for attendees to network and gain industry insight, this year will also be an opportunity for AICCO to boost its bond with the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce, a relationship that has existed for many years.

Janet Reed, Executive Director for the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce, said she has been involved with that relationship since the beginning.

“My experience was very exciting as I always see the development of an organization that will help our city as a very positive move in any community,” Reed said. “Collaborating with AICCO for an event like The Gathering presents exciting opportunities for networking, cultural exchange, business development, and community engagement, all while demonstrating a commitment to diversity and inclusion in business practices.”

Reed said events like The Gathering in Durant offers the opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce to further elevate Native Businesses.

“The Durant Chamber of Commerce serves as a bridge between Native businesses and the broader business community, fostering collaboration, advocacy, and economic empowerment,” Reed said. “By actively supporting and promoting Native entrepreneurship, the Chamber contributes to a more inclusive and prosperous business environment for all.”

Reed said she hopes conference-goers will also visit the city’s downtown area and consider opportunities to collaborate in Durant during the conference.

“Experiencing what Durant and its surrounding area have to offer provides businesses with a broader perspective, new opportunities for growth and collaboration, and a deeper appreciation for the local community and culture,” said Reed. “This can ultimately contribute to strategic decision-making and long-term business success.”

“It is nice to have conferences like the Gathering to be held locally as it provides easier access to attend the event without having to travel multiple days,” Hamilton said. “This is a barrier to some of our local businesses, so it is great when they are hosted close to home.”

“We are thankful for yet another opportunity to highlight our Native business community with what is promising to be our largest summit yet this July,” Walker said.

Those interested in registering for the conference or becoming a sponsor, can do so at www.aiccok.org/events/business-summit



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4LIFE (former FCA Huddle member at Haskell University) Profile



Name: Sandra Bernice Gover
High School: Winslow High School
College: Haskell Indian Nations University
Sports Played: Softball
Hometown: Winslow, AZ
Haskell FCA Alumni: 2014-2015
Haskell FCA Job: Snack Coordinator



Favorite Bible Verse: “All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord evaluates the mo-tives.”
—Proverbs 21:2

Nickname: Bernie

Favorite food: Prime rib

Favorite Walk-Up Song: I Ain’t Done - Andy Mineo
(did not have one in college)

Favorite Player: Crystl Bustos, Olympian Softball Player, 2006

Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team: Watching my teammates find success on and off the field.

Who Do You Look Up To: My siblings Owen, Charles, and Gypsi Gover

Grown Up Job: Indian Education Coordinator for the Holbrook, Arizona school district.

What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Athlete/Coach: Peace in knowing that my eter-nity does not rest on my mistakes on the field.

Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach:
The late, but not forgotten, Becky Barris She was a great coach. In fact, one time the house behind ours caught on fire on a really windy day. She saw it, ran into our house, threw some of our stuff outside, and yelled at the firemen to work faster

Favorite part of FCA: I enjoyed the camaraderie and the bonds that were formed. Our FCA huddle was a family. This family made every aspect of FCA enjoyable. There is nothing better than praising God with your closest friends! (Even when everyone’s competitive nature came out when we played games).

Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes:

"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

If you are interested in becoming part of Oklahoma FCA, please let me know! I would love for you to join our ministry team!

FCA Areas of Opportunity

Character Coaches: Serve on a specific sports team or teams. You will serve the coaching staff and the players as their character coach, coming alongside them to learn values and character.

Coaches Huddle Group Leaders: Lead a small group of coaches and recruit, train and disciple other coaches to do the same. Work directly with the Area Rep or Area Director.

Athlete Huddle Club Leader: Works with the athlete Huddle Club leaders, discipling, training, and teaching them spiritual leadership, small group leadership, personal leadership and how to build relationships with others.

Board Members: Strong and proven leaders to take leadership roles in the following areas - Staff Team, Ministry Team, Camp & Events Team, Fundraising Team, Leadership Development Team

Camp & Event Team: Help on a camp or event team - there are many tasks that need to be completed, such as food coordinator, set-up & tear down crews clean, water crews, and much more.

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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