



JUNE 2024

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



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NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | JUNE 2024

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NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

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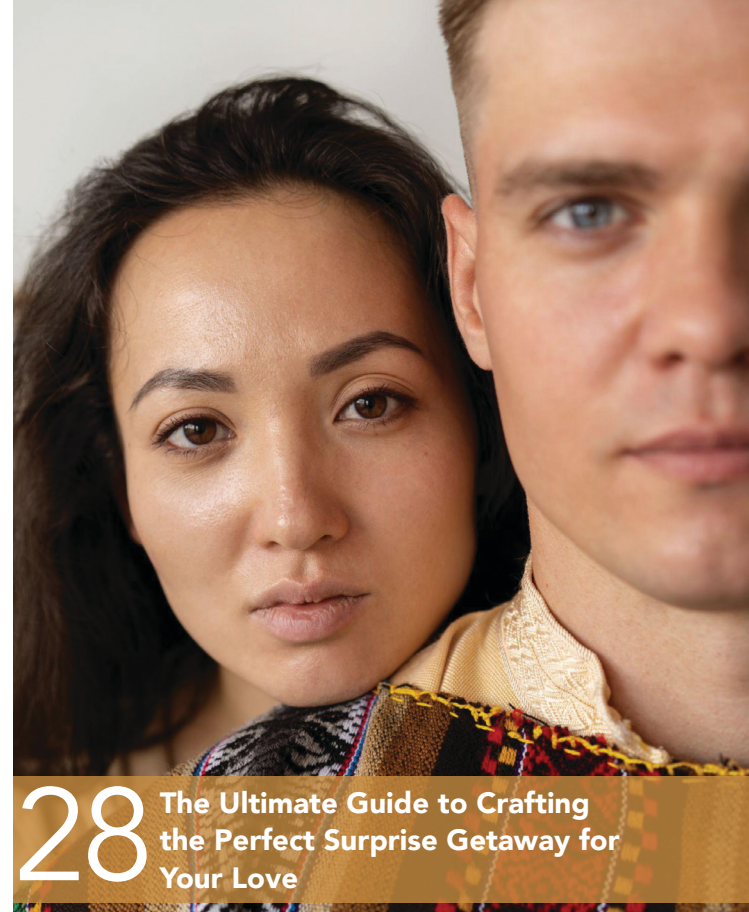
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Artist shares Chickasaw art, culture at New York event

NEW YORK - Courtney Parchcorn-John was among an elite group of First American artists recently selected to share the art and culture of beadwork during the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) NY Women's History Month: "Beauty of Beadwork" exhibition.

Parchcorn-John, Chickasaw; along with Tessa Robledo, Comanche/Kiowa; Katrina Mitten, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; and Julie Ayers, Tlingit and Nisga'a, were invited by the Smithsonian Institution to share their unique techniques and explain the variety of beads and materials used to create beautiful accessories and decor.

The event was conducted at the NMAI's New York location, in the historic Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House at 1 Bowling Green in lower Manhattan, March 16-17.

Parchcorn-John's work highlights her love of her tribal culture. At a young age, her father taught her the ancient art of beadwork with a goal of teaching his daughter patience and mental discipline.

Among her artwork displayed at the New York event, Parchcorn-John included "For All The Grandfathers," a beaded cane she created at the age of 17. It earned "Best of Show" in the Youth Arts Competition at Red Earth Festival, Oklahoma City. The cane was intended to be given to her maternal grandfather, Franklin D. "R. L." Allen, a full-blood Chickasaw.

Unfortunately, Allen died May 19, 2007, just as Parchcorn-John was working on the eagle section of the cane. The three eagles pay homage to her grandfather, a Korean War veteran.

Parchcorn-John also displayed a pair of hand-beaded turquoise boots created for Chickasaw Triana Browne for the Miss America "Show Us Your Shoes Parade" September 2016. Featuring both the Great Seal of the Chickasaw Nation and the Oklahoma State Seal, the art was created by Parchcorn-John and her father, Buddy. To complete this project, the duo worked for three weeks, utilizing a total of 40,666 glass beads.

Throughout the decades, Parchcorn-John has regarded beadwork as an ancient art with an "ancient respect" of her ancestors – a tie that will never be broken.

In recent years, she had paused her artwork projects and the invitation to the NMAI event was a surprise and surreal.



Artist Courtney Parchcorn-John demonstrates beading to patrons during the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) NY Women's History Month: "Beauty of Beadwork" exhibition, recently.

“Cady Gierke from NMAI saw the videos of my beadwork on Chickasaw.tv,” Parchcorn-John said. “It still surprised me that she (invited) me. I just feel like I’ve been out of the art world for a while to even have been thought about after all these years.”

“Beauty of Beadwork” offered Parchcorn-John a new perspective about her beadwork and reinvigorated her to resume her art.

“The scene and meeting all the people and other women who bead definitely made me feel blessed to be there. It was a breath of fresh air I needed to pull me back into my beadwork. Being there was a whole different scene than being at home. I don’t think I’ve ever been around so many people in my life,” she said.

Parchcorn-John, who serves as a public school programs specialist for the Chickasaw Nation, said the event reminded her of her former position, a cultural demonstrator at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma.

“The event itself was like being back at the cultural center; interacting with everyone talking about beadwork, the



techniques I use, as well as talking about Chickasaw people and where we came from,” she said.

Representing the Chickasaw people in the Big Apple was an honor, Parchcorn-John said.

“I’m always thankful for the support the Chickasaw Nation gives me, so I always do my best to represent and let people know who we are, and we are still here as a people.”

The event was conducted in conjunction with Women’s History Month.



YOU ARE A WINNER IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!



COMANCHE NATION ENTERTAINMENT





Experts share tips for ATM fraud prevention, safety

By Ryan Hatch, Fraud Risk Manager
TransFund

This time of year folks are on the go hitting up concerts, festivals and outdoor events. That means they're more likely to be stopping by ATMs for last minute cash. When doing so, it's important to keep a few safety tips in mind.

Experts say when it comes to ATM fraud prevention and safety it's important to check yourself, check the machine, and check your account.

There are three main categories to keep in mind regarding ATM safety—You, the machine and your account.

When it comes to the machine, remember to stay S.A.F.E.:

- **Select** ATM's in well-lit high traffic areas and stay clear of machines with graffiti, dirt and grime. Seek out ATMs which your Bank or Credit union issuer provides surcharge free.
- **Always** shield your PIN while entering and inspect ATM for loose parts near card reader or skimmers. Alert store security or personnel if you see something suspicious.
- **Focus** on your surroundings and avoid accepting assistance from strangers. Fraudsters use this as an opportunity to distract you.
- **Enable** transaction alerts so you are notified of all transactions made on your card and Ensure your card is always in your possession.

Consumers also need to remember that their Visa and Mastercard debit cards are provided with zero liability

against fraud, so always contact your bank or credit union issuer if you suspect or discover fraudulent transactions.

There are often bad actors attempting to perpetuate scams on ATMs and many of these can be avoided by following the S.A.F.E. guidelines above. If the scammer is attempting to use a skimmer device, it could be difficult to insert and remove your card. If your card is met with resistance, avoid using that ATM. There may or may not visible signs that something is amiss.

When it comes to yourself, he reminds ATM users to be situationally aware. Often, we see people go into autopilot. They're going through the routine motions and not really paying attention to their surroundings.

Cardholders should ensure no one can see their PIN as it's entered, and that people avoid counting their cash at the ATM.

Try to be as prepared as possible. Put your phone away and have your card out, ready to go when you approach the ATM so you spend as little time at the ATM as possible.

Lastly, cardholders will want to regularly keep an eye on your account activity, so you're aware of any unusual activity and can contact your bank immediately. If you think you might have been scammed, don't hesitate to call your bank or credit union. And if you witness something suspicious with an ATM, don't try to fix it yourself. Notify the store owner if it's in a retail location, and contact the number posted on the machine so we can remedy the situation.

27TH ANNUAL PEORIA POWOW

JUNE 21-23, 2024

HEAD STAFF

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

Gourd Dance 6:00-7:30pm
Grand Entry 8:00pm
Tiny Tots (6 and under)
Boys (7-12)
Junior Girls (13-17)
Exhibition Dances

Saturday Afternoon

Gourd Dance 12:30-1:30pm
Grand Entry 2:00pm
Girls (7-12)
Exhibition Dances
Junior Boys (13-17)
Golden Age Women (55+)
*Separate Categories

Saturday Evening

Gourd Dance 6:00-7:30pm
Grand Entry 8:00pm
Adult Women/Cloth &
Buckskin (18-54)
Adult Men/Fancy &
Traditional (18-54)
Golden Age Men (55+)
*Separate Categories

Sunday Afternoon

Gourd Dance 12:30-1:30pm
Grand Entry 2:00pm
Adult Women/Fancy &
Jingle (18-54)
Adult Men/Straight & Grass
(18-54)
Winners Announced/
Victory Song

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!

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.

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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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, 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

Continued on next page

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. 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

Continued on next page

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.**

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Wyandotte, OK*

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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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HEAD STAFF

MC: Juaquin Hamilton-Youngbird

AD: Mason & Marshall Williamson

HS: Silas Satepauhoodle

HM: Pete Moore Jr.

HL: Taylor McClellan

Host Gourd: Comanche Little Ponies

Color Guard: Seminole Nation Honor Guard

Host Northern Drums: Redland Singers

Honored Veteran: Ira Kauley

Honored Elder: Donna Jean Tsatoke-Moppope

2024-2025 Tulsa Powwow Princess: Madeline Gray-Goodfox

Arts & Crafts Vendors:

Sammy Haynes - 918.704.2200

tpwvendorinfo@gmail.com

Powwow Info:

David Bible- 918.724.0762

Host Hotel:

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham-Tulsa Downtown/Route 66

707 S. Houston Tulsa, OK 74127

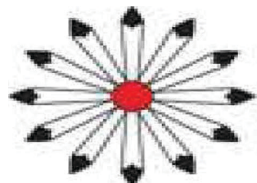
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72nd ANNUAL

TULSA POWWOW

July 27-28, 2024

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Indoor-Air conditioned Venue



CONTESTS

Golden Age 60+ will have separate categories

Golden Age Women-- Cloth/Buckskin/Jingle/Fancy

Golden Age Men-- Traditional/Straight/Grass/Fancy

Women's-- Cloth/Buckskin/Jingle/Fancy

Men's-- Traditional/Straight/Grass/Fancy

Jr. Girl's-- Cloth/Buckskin/Jingle/Fancy

Jr. Boy's-- Traditional/Straight/Grass/Fancy

Tiny Tots

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Youth Team Dance (16 and under)

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Women: Jingle /Fancy Shawl

Sponsored by Jim Whiteshirt & Family

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Gourd Dance Start 12 Noon

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Fixico Rides Golf Cart to Victory in 5k



SOUR SOFKEE #53

By: *Fus Yvhikv*

Anticipation was in the air as hundreds of runners were converging for the start of the 2024 Day Ohn Day 5k race at Mohawk Park in Tulsa. The runners were adorned in a kaleidoscope of vivid and vibrant running gear. All colors of the rainbow were represented in their singlets, shorts, and expensive racing shoes.

Fixico emerges from his rez car wearing a short sleeve cowboy shirt, baggy cargo shorts, and neon yellow Crocs.

“Hesci, cepan,” Fixico greets us as he stubs out his cigar. “You boys ready to run?”

Tarpalechee and Yahola have also entered the race. Like Fixico, their training regimen consisted of dashing to the fridge to fetch another brewski.

Their running attire was straight out of the 1970s. They were wearing bun hugger green shorts and tube socks that nearly reached their knees. Completing their retro attire was their headbands and 1970s Adidas shoes with three green stripes. The shoes appear brand new.

“Now let’s go over the plan,” Fixico orders.

“Ya Volt,” Yahola responds as he stands with a Nazi salute.

“Heyluh!” Fixico says. “We don’t have time for this funny business. The gun is about to go off. Now listen up. First place wins \$500. I’m going to get that money.”

“You mean we, don’t you?” Yahola asks.

“Wikvs!” Fixico shouts. “Now, Tarpalechee and Yahola are going to be my blockers. Just clear a path for me and I’ll burst out into the lead. That’s where Fus comes in.”

Tarpalechee and Yahola frown and exchange glances as Fixico winks at me. “What could go wrong?” I think.

“Runners to your marks,” an announcer intones.

“Stodis,” Fixico says.

The gaggle of runners resemble an enormous ameba as they merge behind the start line. Fixico, Tarpalechee, and Yahola forcefully elbow their way into the second row of the tightly packed mass of humanity. The loud crack of the starter’s pistol causes the ameba to rapidly surge forward. Only 200 yards into the race and Tarpalechee is already panting heavily. His pace begins to slow.

“Don’t fail me, Tarp!” Fixico shouts.

“Can’t breathe,” Tarpalechee wheezes.

“Catch up with that guy to the right and then block him,” Fixico says. “I’ll pass through and take the lead.”

With his last reserve of energy Tarpalechee manages to pull even with the lead runner. His short stubby legs and tiny alligator arms are pumping furiously. A sudden leg cramp causes him to fall sideways into the path of the lead runner. The runner trips over Tarpalechee, flies high into the air and lands on the pavement with a fleshy thud.

Tarpalechee’s body continues to roll toward the curb. The entire pack of front runners trip over him and fall to the ground in a tangled mass of arms and legs. Fixico and Yahola, running side by side, find themselves in the lead.

"I'm going to win that \$500!" Yahola shouts.

"No you're not. It's mine," Fixico says.

Yahola attempts to speed away from Fixico, but he grabs the back of Yahola's shirt.

"Let go!" Yahola says as he throws an elbow at Fixico.

Fixico retaliates with a punch upside Yahola's head. The two men proceed to exchange punches as they lead the race. They resemble Roller Derby contestants minus the helmets and elbow pads. Spectators watch in stunned disbelief.

Fatigued, bloodied, and thirsty, they stop at a water station. Yahola is bent over, his hands on his knees, and breathing rapidly. Fixico rips off Yahola's runner's bib and dashes into nearby bushes. I'm there waiting in Fixico's rez car.

"Skoden!" Fixico says between heavy panting. "Let me off about one-quarter of a mile from the finish line. That \$500 is mine!"

"Will do," I say as I turn the key. The engine begins cranking. Its cranking gets less energetic with each revolution. Then there is complete silence. Fixico slams his fist on the dashboard and screams "Nooooooooo!"

A golf cart rolls up next to us. Four golfers get out and walk over to the water station. Fixico stares at the golf cart then turns toward me with a conspiratorial smile. I look at the cart, then at Fixico.

"No way," I say.

"Stoodis."

We dash to the cart and take off across the golf course. As we cross the fairways a hailstorm of golf balls rains down on the cart.

"FORE!" Fixico screams as we speed across a putting green and nearly run over a quartet of golfers. In our wake we leave the golfers splayed out on the well-manicured green. Angry golfers shout and curse at us as we zoom down the fairways.

"Weeechaaa!" Fixico yells. "We made it!"

Just then we run over a bag of golf clubs and the cart careens into a pond. We swim to shore and discover we are only 300 yards from the finish line.

With his bright neon yellow Crocs bobbing in the water, Fixico takes off running. Dripping wet, his back covered in moss, Fixico crosses the finish line in first place. Race

officials hand him a trophy and they pose for photographs. Fixico grins ear to ear.

"Where's my \$500?" Fixico asks a race official.

"The prize money is only for the pros. You're an amateur."

"Heyluh!" Fixico responds. "My Crocs!"

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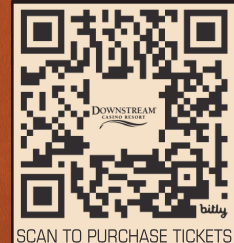
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918-560-6198.

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580-628-2561

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918-431-1818

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Hwy. 281, Anadarko, OK
405-247-2425

WYANDOTTE NATION

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

PROFILE: DREW BEARD



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

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



Tribal Affiliation: Choctaw

Favorite Bible Verse: “A thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy, but I have come to give you life and give it more abundantly.” —John 10:10

Nickname: Druster, DB

Favorite food: Mac N Cheese, Cheese Dip, Grilled Cheese

Favorite Walk-Up Song: Walk Out Song (Wedding)
Jeremy Camp, I will walk by faith.

Favorite Player: Michael Jordan, Troy Aikman

Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team: The challenge of rising to the occasion.

Who Do You Look Up To: Any man or women who walks away from a lucrative career to pursue a calling from God on their life.

What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Athlete:
Growing in every area of my life because that’s the way the Lord designed us. Most athletes only grow physically, but we also can grow mentally and spiritually. It’s the only way we can truly give 100%.

Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach:
Mike Fitts, Mike Stewart, David Mckay, Joe Tunnell, Barry Foster.

These men were examples of professionalism as Coaches and teachers. They were striving to master their craft. Most of them lived faithfully to the Lord and one for sure still has not found a relationship with Christ, but anytime you see someone striving in their profession, it’s hard not to pay attention.

Favorite part FCA Huddle: When athletes and coaches worship, it’s unhinged

Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian 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!

We Have Been Called To Make Disciples

As followers of Jesus, we have been called to be disciples who make disciples: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:19a).

As we follow Him, becoming more like Him every day, we also lead others towards Him. "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). But how do we start this discipleship journey? Simple, we need a great game plan.

For over 65 years, FCA has been engaging coaches and athletes with the Gospel through sport, then equipping them to go out and make disciples of those they influence. It's right there in our Vision statement; "To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes." We have a game plan for coaches and athletes who want to start making disciples. It's called E3.

If you have questions about E3, please contact John Morris....information is below:

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 my.fca.org/johnmorris. John can be contacted through email: johnmorris@fca.org or by cell number 785-760-1627.



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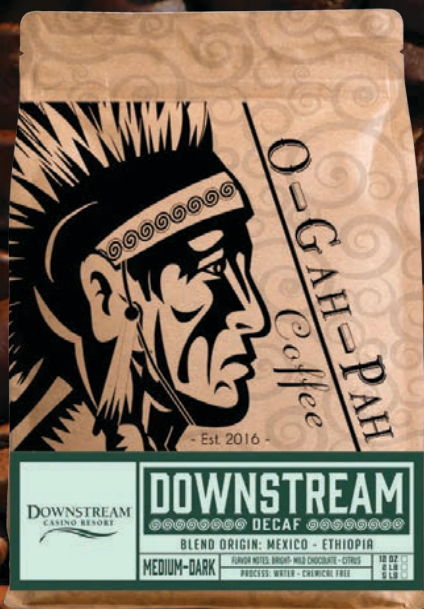


O-GAH-PAH

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.





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cherokee.golf@cnet.com
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1-800-622-6317 777
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Dress code | Bar/Grill | Pro-shop

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918-689-3209 | 18 Holes | Par 72 |
Dress code | Bar/Grill | Pro-shop

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OK 74464 | 918-456-5100
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74354, RV PADS | 18, AMPS | 72
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Shawnee, OK 74801, RV PADS | 18,
AMPS | 72, Accommodations:
Restrooms | 6595, Showers

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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





NIBSDA

National Indian Boarding School
Digital Archive

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Launches Historic Initiative: The National Indian Boarding School Digital Archive

Minneapolis, MN — The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is proud to announce the launch of the National Indian Boarding School Digital Archive (NIBSDA), the first-ever digital archives database on Indian Boarding Schools. NIBSDA is a groundbreaking project aimed at preserving and bringing to light the history of the U.S. Indian Boarding School era. Over the last four years, NABS has been dedicated to compiling and digitizing records from Indian boarding schools.

Indian Boarding Schools hold a complex and often painful legacy in American history. For generations, Native American children were forcibly removed from their families and communities and sent to these schools, where they were subjected to cultural assimilation and abuse. The repercussions of this traumatic chapter continue to reverberate through Native communities to this day.

Through NIBSDA, survivors, families, researchers, educators, tribal leaders, and the general public will have the ability to access information that allows them to gain a better understanding of what happened at Indian boarding schools. This digital repository will include documents, photographs, and oral histories, offering invaluable insights into the experiences of those who attended these institutions and the impact they had and continue to have on Native communities.

“This initiative marks a significant milestone in NABS commitment to truth, healing, and justice,” said NABS CEO Deborah Parker (Tulalip Tribes). “The majority

of all Indian boarding school records are currently not available to the public, by making these records accessible, we are taking a big step towards honoring the history and strength of Native peoples and building a more just and equitable future.”

In August, NABS released our latest research, identifying 523 Indian boarding schools across the U.S. This is the largest list ever compiled, and we know it is going to take years and the support from all of Indian Country to collect records for all of these institutions.

We invite the public to explore this resource and join us in our efforts to acknowledge the past and create a brighter future for generations to come.

For more information and access to the Native Indian Boarding School Digital Archives, please visit boardingschoolhealing.org/nibsd.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition is available for interviews and further inquiries. Contact Joannie Suina, Director of Communications at jsuina@nabshc.org to schedule.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is dedicated to advocating for Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding schools. NABS seeks truth through education and research, justice through activism and policy advocacy, and healing through programs and traditional gatherings, www.boardingschoolhealing.org.

NATIVE ARTISANS

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Prioritizing Mental Health for Better Indian Country Business

Written By: VNN Oklahoma Journalist Rachael Schuit



(TULSA, Okla.) May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and one place where mental health needs the most attention is, of course, at work.

Burnout, defined as a state of emotional, mental and physical exhaustion brought on by prolonged or repeated stress, is one of the most common challenges people face in the workplace. A recent Deloitte survey found that 77% of people have reported experiencing burnout at work.

American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO) Native Business members Amy Turner and Candice Craig are licensed counselors in Tulsa who say addressing challenges like burnout and advocating for better mental health (for both business leaders and employees) in Indian Country has far-reaching impacts.

Craig owns The Joy Therapist and says she is passionate about helping Indigenous people heal from trauma, and that doing so can have a positive impact on other areas of their lives—including work.

“In one way or another, most of my life has been an entrepreneurial journey to harness the Indigenous wisdom of the human body’s ability to heal itself and make that

healing widely accessible in partnership with scientifically-based wellness practices,” Craig said.

Turner, owner of Mindset Behavioral Health, views prioritizing mental health as a way to help people achieve their full potential in the workplace.

“Improving mental health in businesses can help address systemic challenges such as intergenerational trauma, historical oppression, and socioeconomic disparities that impact Native American populations,” she said. “By implementing culturally relevant and trauma-informed approaches to mental health care, businesses can support healing, resilience, and empowerment among employees.”

Improved mental health can also lead to greater company loyalty, Craig added.

A focus on mental health “fosters a supportive work environment where employees feel valued and understood, leading to higher productivity and employee retention,” Craig said. “Addressing mental health issues reduces absenteeism and presenteeism—ultimately benefiting the economic stability of the community.”

Craig said one of the first steps to combating employee burnout begins with being realistic about how much time there is to complete a task at hand. She explained that this requires having boundaries in place, as well as knowing when to say 'no.'

"Even if you can do the job, that doesn't mean you need to if you already feel stretched thin," Craig noted. "Don't get caught up in the frailty of performance-based self-esteem. You are intrinsically valuable and worthy of protecting your peace."

According to Turner, it's up to business leaders to ensure that they are fostering an environment conducive to strong mental health for all employees.

"I advocate for promoting mental health awareness, offering employee assistance programs (EAPs), providing stress reduction programs, encouraging work-life balance, addressing workplace culture, training managers and leaders, and implementing employee wellness programs," Turner said. "By implementing these strategies, workplaces can foster supportive environments that prioritize employee wellbeing, reduce stigma surrounding mental health, and ultimately enhance productivity and job satisfaction."

Another way to boost mental health in the workplace is to ensure employees aren't afraid to step away from work and enjoy vacation time, Craig added.

"Evidence of a good leader is someone who can step away from their business and know it will still be operational when they return," said Craig. "It's important that they value life outside of work, and this mentality is conveyed throughout an organization."

Other tools like meditation, task delegation, and boundaries around answering work calls and emails outside of work are helpful, but Turner noted that prioritizing mental health and reducing burnout is a continuous process.

"Seeking support from trusted individuals, developing coping strategies, practicing mindfulness, and taking regular breaks are essential for managing stress and preventing burnout," she explained. "Additionally, reflecting on values and goals, maintaining social connections, and seeking professional help when needed contribute to overall wellbeing and resilience in the face of workplace challenges."



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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO CRAFTING THE PERFECT SURPRISE GETAWAY FOR YOUR LOVE

Planning a surprise trip for your partner is an incredibly romantic gesture. It shows thoughtfulness and a deep understanding of their likes and dislikes. This guide from Native Oklahoma will walk you through each step to ensure your surprise not only delights but also deeply touches your partner's heart.

Deciphering Your Partner's Dream Destinations

Firstly, get to know your partner's travel desires inside and out. Are they adventure-seekers or beach loungers? Do they prefer bustling cities or tranquil nature retreats? Understanding these preferences is crucial in selecting a destination that aligns with their dream vacation. Remember, this trip is for them, so their happiness is your guiding star.

Unveiling the Ideal Spot: A Dreamy Escape

Choosing the right spot for a vacation getaway is crucial to ensuring an unforgettable experience. It involves considering personal interests, such as relaxation on a serene beach, adventurous hiking in the mountains, or exploring historical cities, to cater to everyone's preferences.

Budget also plays a significant role, as it determines the destination's accessibility and the type of accommodations and activities available. Lastly, the timing of the vacation can affect the overall experience, with factors like weather conditions and tourist seasons influencing the decision-making process.



Find Walkable Accommodations

When looking for accommodations that support a healthy lifestyle, consider choosing a hotel or vacation home situated in an area with a high Walk Score of 70 or above. This metric ensures that many destinations, such as parks, restaurants, and shops, are within walking distance, promoting physical activity throughout your trip.

By prioritizing locations that facilitate walking, you not only contribute to your physical well-being but also have the opportunity to explore the area more intimately. Such accommodations are ideal for travelers who wish to maintain a fitness routine while experiencing the local culture firsthand.

Weaving the Perfect Itinerary

Planning an itinerary is like composing a symphony; it needs rhythm and balance. Mix in activities that your partner adores with opportunities for spontaneous

adventures. Whether it's a scheduled spa day or an impromptu beach picnic, the key is to keep it flexible. This approach allows room for those unforgettable moments that happen unplanned.

Proper Packing

If you're keeping the destination a secret until the last moment, you'll need to pack for them. Consider the climate, planned activities, and any special events you might attend. This task requires attention to detail — from their favorite swimsuit to that evening attire for a surprise dinner under the stars.

You could even surprise them with new luggage. If you're planning a trip featuring hiking or camping, a travel backpack could be a great idea. Be sure to consult reviews online before making your purchase.

Building Excitement

Before the big reveal, begin crafting a sense of mystery and excitement. Consider dropping subtle hints that pique their curiosity or plan a mini scavenger hunt around your home with clues hinting at the destination. This buildup of anticipation transforms the journey into an adventure even before it begins, adding an extra layer of fun and intrigue to the entire experience.

Timing is Everything

Choosing the right dates is critical for the success of your surprise trip. Ensure your partner is free from work or other commitments by discreetly checking their schedule or coordinating with their colleagues or friends if necessary. The goal is to create a window of time where they can fully immerse themselves in the experience, free from the distractions of daily life, ensuring a truly memorable and stress-free getaway.

In planning this surprise getaway, you're not just creating a trip; you're crafting an unforgettable experience that speaks volumes about your love and dedication. Follow these steps, and you're sure to plan a journey that will be remembered and cherished for years to come. Remember, it's not just about the destination, but the love and thought you put into every detail of this surprise.

Native Oklahoma is a publication not only for the visitor to Oklahoma, it is 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. Visit our website to learn more!

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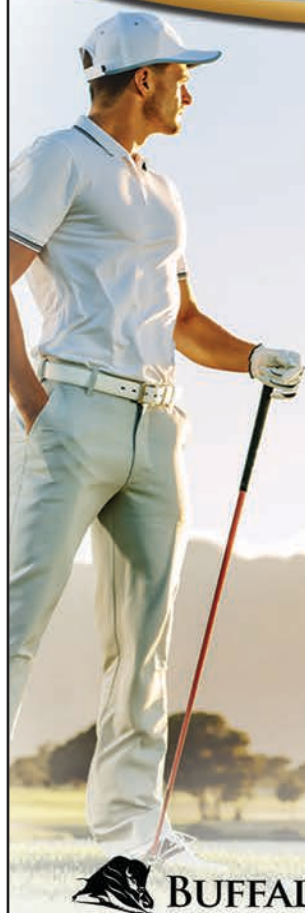
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ALL NATIONS. ONE MISSION.

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