



JULY 2024

NATIVE  
*oklahoma*

MAGAZINE

*Mary Blume*



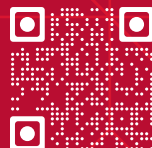


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## NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

### NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | JULY 2024

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## NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

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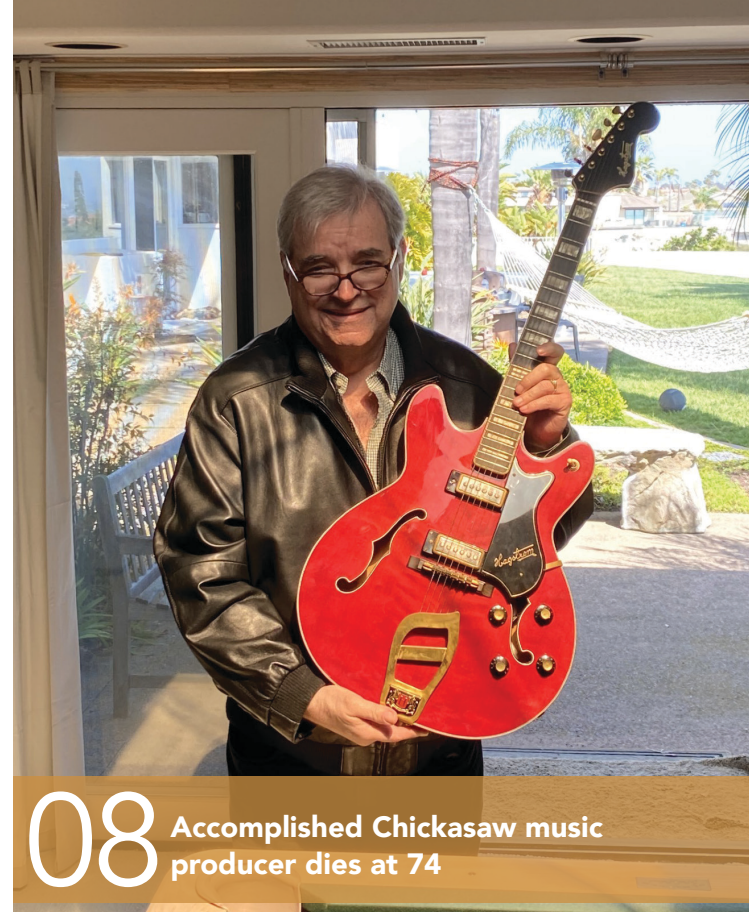
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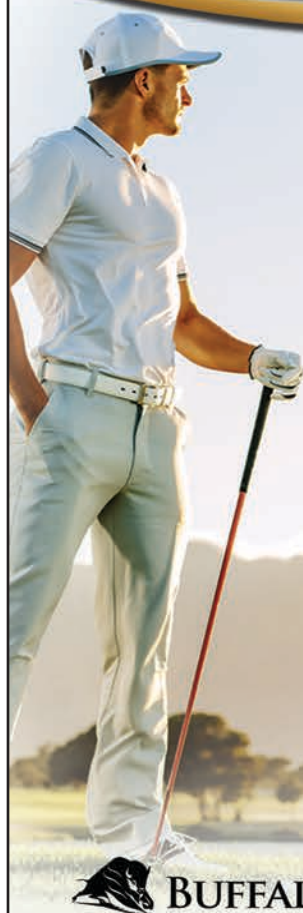




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# A DOORWAY TO A CAREER

How an Osage Casinos Construction Project Served as a Catalyst for a Career

“ONE DECADE AGO, THEY TOOK A CHANCE ON ME. IF THEY HADN'T, I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY.”  
Matt Littleton

Matt Littleton and Kimberly Pearson, CEO of Osage Casinos



**M**att Littleton kicked off his career in construction during a period of Osage Casinos expansion. As construction was set to begin on the Osage Casinos Skiatook and Ponca City locations, Kimberly Pearson, then Executive Director and now CEO of Osage Casinos, was looking to take an extra step to support the Osage People and involve the Nation in every step of the development. This desire took the shape of a new regulation specifically focused on employing tribal citizens in the construction phase of new casinos. Littleton was among the first Osage citizens to receive this opportunity through an internship program with the construction partner.

Osage Casinos contacted Littleton shortly after he graduated college with an internship offer with the construction team at the Skiatook location. At the time, Littleton, his wife and newborn son lived in Kansas City but knew it was an opportunity he could not pass up.

Littleton entered the position without much of a background in construction, only having worked on a house framing crew. “One decade ago, they took a chance on me,” said Littleton. “If they hadn’t, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Littleton’s internship position lasted for the entirety of the Skiatook location’s construction, which took approximately 16 months. As a project engineer, he held multiple responsibilities, including processing submittals, managing meetings, updating drawings and more. He was one of the first and last team members on site.

## He credits his internship as the catalyst for his career.

Once his internship position ended, Littleton continued working in the construction industry for tribes across Oklahoma. In 2020, Littleton and his wife, Mindy, founded their own construction company, Cardinal Building Solutions. Within the first week, he received a call from a local tribe requesting the company as a consultant.

“It felt like doors just opened for us,” recalled Littleton. “There have been lots of blessings since. I’ve worked with multiple tribes in our state and seen where they need an advocate throughout the construction process. It’s the heart behind what we do.”



Matt and his wife, Mindy Littleton

Littleton’s story with Osage Casinos did not end with Skiatook. A decade later, he was contacted to work on the construction of the new Pawhuska and Bartlesville locations. Familiar faces from his internship at the Skiatook location joined him, including his former mentor.

“It was a full circle moment, walking onto the project knowing it’s where I started,” stated Littleton. “There’s a lot of pride that comes from working on an Osage Casinos project.”

**Osage Casinos' dedication to the prosperity of the Nation is reflected in the stories of citizens like Littleton. These career opportunities give citizens the chance to develop professionally while investing in the Nation's economic success. As Littleton stated, “Who better to look out for the Osage Nation than the people from it?”**

**Those interested in a career at Osage Casinos are encouraged to visit the careers page on their website.**



[osagecasino.com](https://osagecasino.com)



# Accomplished Chickasaw music producer dies at 74

*Greg McDonald poses with one of Elvis Presley's guitars.*

Unless you worked in the music and entertainment industry in the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, you are not likely to be familiar with the name Greg McDonald.

That said, you are very likely to be familiar with the names of two of his closest legendary associates, Elvis Presley and Colonel Tom Parker.

McDonald, a Chickasaw citizen, died in February at the age of 74, having lived a life he could never have imagined upon his chance meeting with Elvis, the reigning “King of Rock n’ Roll.”

Greg’s son, Tom McDonald, says as a young boy his father traveled with his preacher father under the same revival tents as Oklahoma-based traveling evangelist Oral Roberts. One of the lad’s jobs was helping set up 10,000 folding chairs on which the faithful would sit.

Greg McDonald’s father eventually started an air conditioning company that flourished in the searing heat of southern California summers. Greg’s responsibility was to change filters for the company’s established clientele.

“Jack Warner, of Warner Brothers, had an estate in Palm Springs, and Elvis was staying there at the time,” Tom McDonald said. “My dad was changing air filters under an air conditioner in a closet, and this little dog was barking, jumping up and down on him, jumping into his toolbox.

“He was cussing like crazy when he noticed a shadowy figure laughing at him who said, ‘What are you doing in there boy?’ It turned out to be Elvis.”

The connection the two shared was immediate and, as it turned out, permanent.

“My dad was a really smart guy, and Elvis took an immediate liking to him,” Tom McDonald said. “They both had a lot in common due to the fact Elvis loved Oral Roberts and gospel music, and they had a similar upbringing in the Assembly of God Church.”



Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis’s longtime manager, lived down the street and also needed air conditioning filters changed. Elvis called Colonel Parker and told him, “You’ve got to meet this boy!”

As Parker and the preteen McDonald talked, they too discovered a connection. Parker also had a history of putting up carnival tents in his youthful career.

“He really took a liking to my dad to the point Colonel Parker took my dad under his wing. Marie, Colonel Parker’s wife at the time, really loved my dad too, and he became like their adopted son.”

Soon, he would also become Colonel Parker’s protégé, learning the business inside and out from the master promoter and teacher.

During his time with Colonel Parker, Greg McDonald managed artists and became a concert promoter for the Eagles, Jackson Browne and Linda Ronstadt. He also managed Rick Nelson for 18 years until the singer died in a plane crash New Year’s Eve in 1985.

“A few years after Rick Nelson died, we built a music recording studio and television sound stage, and became more involved with television and film projects,” Tom McDonald said.

“We moved to Orlando, Florida, in the 90s where he was president of Trans Continental Records, which was the company behind the ‘Backstreet Boys,’ ‘NSYNC’ and ‘Lyte Funkie Ones,’ best known as ‘LFO – OTOWN,’ and the hit TV reality series ‘Making the Band’ on ABC/MTV.”



In the early 1980s, Greg McDonald was also responsible for creating the music division at Time Inc.'s "Time Life Music" in which he produced direct response commercials and infomercials marketing legendary music artists' records and TV shows. The model for selling records, VHS tapes and, later, DVDs, heavily relied on television marketing in that era.

He also created something of a rebirth for musical acts whose original record contracts had expired. McDonald partnered with various artists to re-record their original hit songs for use in licensing to film and television.

"When my dad was managing Ricky Nelson, there was an opportunity to license one of Rick's hit songs, 'Garden Party,' for use in a feature film. The former record company Ricky had a deal with that owned the master recording would not license it to the film producers.

"My dad saw an opportunity to re-record all of Ricky's catalog of hit songs as his previous record deal had reached the end of its term. My dad also gathered a lot of his music artist friends – the 'Four Tops,' 'The Temptations,' Eric Burdon, Fats Domino – a lot of different artists whose agreement terms had ended from their original record deals. He was a pioneer of that model."

Tom McDonald says he has a very different view of Colonel Parker than those who view him from afar.

"Colonel Parker was kind of a grandfather to me. In fact, my father actually named me Thomas Andrew after the Colonel. He could have managed a hundred artists, including the Beatles, but chose to partner exclusively with Elvis Presley. He protected Elvis in a lot of ways that people really don't know. Other artists of that time were being taken advantage of, and a lot of other companies would most likely have done the same to Elvis without Colonel's guidance and experience.

"Colonel Parker never defended his public persona. He had taken a lot of criticism over the years yet always protected Elvis' image, often at his own expense. His philosophy was always, and he said it commonly to my dad, 'The artist always wears the white hat. If someone has to play the villain, I'll accept that role.'"

Greg McDonald (with Marshall Terrill) wrote "Elvis and the Colonel," a book portraying Colonel Parker's lesser-known side.

"My dad never had anything but really great things to say about his experiences and time with Elvis and Colonel Parker," Tom McDonald said.



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# 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!

## JULY



### 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**

### 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.



## 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 Missouri 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](http://www.omtribe.org)**

## 70th Annual Comanche Homecoming Celebration

**July 19th -21st, 2024**

*Sultan Park in Walters, OK*

## 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**



## 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**





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# Retirement planning at any age

## Steps to be prepared from your 20s to your 60s

By Jessica Jones, Written  
BOK Financial Advisors



**T**he ability to retire doesn't happen overnight. It takes time and effort to make sure you're ready for life after your nine to five.

More than half (56%) of Americans report feeling behind on their retirement savings, according to a 2023 Bankrate poll. How much to save has a lot to do with when you plan to leave the workforce and the type of lifestyle you want to have.

There are some general guidelines you can follow at every age to help you be ready for retirement.

### **In your 20s: Don't wait—start now!**

Time is on your side during your 20s. Consider this: Every dollar invested at 20 years old has the potential to become \$88 by the time you're 65, but that drops to \$23 by age 30 (assuming a rate of return of 10% for a 20-year-old, decreasing 0.1% each year). Thanks to compound interest, which is interest earned on interest, it's beneficial, dare we even say a necessity, to start saving early—even if it's just a small amount each month.

First, get yourself in the right mindset. Educate yourself on how money works, and learn to set a budget and stick to

it. Being disciplined with your money will set you up for success.

When you get your first full-time job, sit down with a financial advisor and build a financial plan to personalize your short, mid, and long-term goals. A financial plan acts as a road map for your money.

At this age, consider investing in simple index funds with low expense ratios or annual management fees.

You will never find someone who says 'I wish I didn't start investing at 20 years old.' Don't wait! Aim for \$100-150 per month, but any small amount is better than nothing, and over time, that small amount can turn into a lot.

### **In your 30s: Find balance**

In your 30s, your obligations to work and family likely start to increase. It's also when some people lose track of their financial goals and fall prey to unnecessary lifestyle creep. I suggest being conscientious about credit card debt and carefully considering big purchases.

*Continued on next page*



Time is starting to catch up with you, so save, save, save! By your 30s, you should have some type of retirement account open, either through your employer or independently, and be diligently investing every month. Many ask, 'Should I pay off debt or invest that money?'

Your goal in this time period is building retirement savings. Investments are the priority in your 30s, and debt payoff, especially low-interest debt like a mortgage, may be secondary because you can never make up the lost investment time.

If you weren't able to save in your 20s and you're just starting out, aim to save at least \$350-\$500 monthly to catch up. A good rule of thumb is to have saved 1.5 to 2.5 times your salary by the end of your thirties.

Don't leave money on the table. Take full advantage of any employer matches to your 401k. If you don't, it's like walking away from free money.

At this stage in the game, do you have people who rely on you, like a spouse or children? If so, you need to have adequate life insurance. Work with a financial advisor to review policy options, which may include a term life insurance policy that lasts until you're 55 and can replace

five times your income. Set a goal to build an emergency fund with three to six months of expenses.

### **In your 40s: Stick with the plan**

By now, you should be well on your way with retirement savings. If not, make this a financial priority ASAP.

Think about what you are saving for and how you envision spending your time in retirement. After all, that's the reason you're saving in the first place. Do you want to live quietly in your current home? Move to the beach? Travel? These factors will determine when you can retire and how much money you will need.

In your 40s, your investment risk exposure is typically still moderate to high so you may consider a mix with something like 80% of your investments be in equities like stocks and 20% be in cash or low-risk investments. By 49, you should have 3.5-6 times your salary saved to be on track.

Review and update your financial plan annually. Take time to address your tax strategy and review the different types of pre- and post-tax accounts. For example, if you anticipate being in a higher tax bracket at retirement, you may want to invest more in a Roth IRA, which you can pull from tax-free later in life.

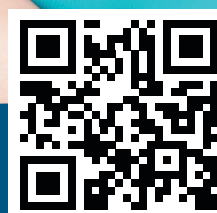


# ACE YOUR KIDS' BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

**Start planning  
now to get ready  
for the school year!**

- ① Birth Certificates
- ② Shot Records
- ③ Immunizations
- ④ Well-Child Exams

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### In your 50s: Dial down the risk

You can see the light at the end of the tunnel, so it's time to dial down the risk.

Your risk strategy should be moderate to moderate plus at this point. You won't have time to recover from another stock market crash, so you need to allocate your funds accordingly.

By now you should have 6-11 times your salary saved in your retirement accounts. Individuals 50 and over can make annual catch-up contributions up to \$6,500 to their retirement accounts. Note: this amount changes periodically, so be sure to pay attention to the annual limit. It's important to work toward being debt-free in your 50s, including your mortgage. See if you can trim expenses, like any unneeded life insurance policies or monthly expenses you no longer need.

Start exploring Social Security options like spousal benefits and if you want to defer drawing from Social Security or not.

Healthcare can be one of the most significant expenses a person faces in retirement. Be familiar with your company's health insurance policy and if you will need to purchase health insurance out-of-pocket.

### In your 60s: Be tax savvy

Work with your financial advisor to develop an income and tax strategy to ensure your investment accounts are set up correctly to pay you forever.

The last thing you want is to unnecessarily lose large chunks of savings to taxes. I suggest thinking about a mixed tax strategy where some of your money comes from pre-tax accounts like a 401(k) or an IRA and some from after-tax accounts like a Roth 401(k) or Roth IRA.

Withdrawing from various accounts means your tax burden will be lower, for longer," she said.

Unless you plan to spend it all, review your will, powers of attorney, and beneficiary designations to make sure your wishes are correctly recorded so your family, favorite charity, or whoever you select, will benefit from your generosity.

It's never too late or too early to start planning for the future. Working with a financial advisor who can guide you through each phase of retirement planning is a perfect way to get on the right track for a stress-free retirement.

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# “I Know My Rights!”



## SOUR SOFKEE #55

*Written By: Fus Yvhikv*

“I know my rights!” John O’Conner, a rich oilman thunders.

“Order in the court!” Judge Gubser shouts as he furiously pounds his gavel. “Or I’ll hold you in contempt.”

O’Conner’s attorney forcefully pushes him into his chair. O’Conner reluctantly sits, his nostrils flaring, chest heaving, and his steely, narrow eyed gaze targeting the judge.

“Your honor, I hereby apologize for my client’s outburst,” the attorney says.

“And I hereby admonish counsel to keep your client under control,” the judge says.

The verbal fireworks occur in the legal proceedings in the case of the Muscogee Creek Nation v. the Gladys Belle Oil Company. The Creek Nation has sued Gladys Belle over what it avers as violations of its oil and gas drilling agreement. O’Conner is the firebrand owner of the oil company.

At issue is the sudden series of earthquakes that have shook the Drumright, OK area since Gladys Belle began drilling.

Local residents, primarily Creek Indians, maintain that the earthquakes began at the time the drilling commenced. The oil company is employing an innovative drilling technique called hydraulic fracking. This is the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean boreholes to force open fissures and extract oil and gas.

Company profits have soared since the Gladys Belle began using the hydraulic fracking technique. However, there has been extensive collateral damage. The earthquakes have destabilized the foundations of residences, commercial buildings, and other structures in and around the drilling sites. Insurance companies have denied loss claims citing the “acts of God” provisions of the policies.

Homeowners filed petitions with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the entity charged with regulating oil and gas activities. The Commission summarily dismissed these actions. As a last resort, residents appealed to the Muscogee Creek Nation to take action as the oil wells are located on the tribal reservation. Subsequently, the Muscogee Creek Nation filed a lawsuit against the Gladys Belle Oil Company and its owner, John O’Conner.



Gladys Belle's defense is arguing they have a good and valid oil and gas lease that empowers the company to drill. They aver their drilling activities did not cause earthquakes and that even if their drilling did cause the earthquakes, the company is not in violation of their lease. A still smoldering O'Conner addresses the bench.

"Your honor, I know my rights. They are clearly laid out in this lease agreement," O'Conner says as he waves the document at the judge. "The Creek Nation has no standing to bring this lawsuit as they are not a stipulated party to the agreement. As you can see, my lease is with the Department of the Interior, not Creek Nation. I have a right to drill. Therefore, I move the court to immediately dismiss this case."

Judge Gubser addresses legal counsel for the Muscogee Creek Nation. His name is Fus Yvhikv. Yvhikv has long hair with twin braids falling to his waist. His tall, slender frame is adorned in a dark blue, three-piece suit. Bright yellow Hoka running shoes completes his attire.

"Counselor?"

"May it please the court," Yvhikv responds. "The Muscogee Creek Nation is a party-in-interest to this issue before the court. The drilling activity is located on the Muscogee reservation. In addition, at Paragraph 32 of the lease, the Muscogee Creek Nation codified laws are incorporated by reference. Therefore, the laws of the Muscogee Nation are an integral part of the lease."

"This is ridiculous," O'Conner shouts as he pounds the table with his fist. "I know my rights. I have the right to drill!"

The judge again admonishes O'Conner for his outburst.

"Counselor, Yvhikv. What part of the Muscogee Nation Code do you allege prohibits the defendant from drilling?"

"I know my rights," O'Conner whispers to this attorney.

O'Conner's attorney looks at his client and makes a slashing motion across his throat. O'Conner rolls his eyes, and he slowly shakes his head.

"Specifically, your honor," Yvhikv replies. "Section 84 of the Code. In summary, this section says that dispute resolution procedures shall always give greatest weight to the overall good of the community. This is in keeping with tribal tradition going back to time immemorial."

"The good of the community!" O'Conner shrieks. "I've never heard of anything so inane! What about my rights? I know my rights!"

The frustrated judge pounds his gavel again.

"Mr. O'Conner. This is your last warning. One more outburst like that and I'll have the bailiff confine you to the cooler. Now sit down and shut up!"

O'Conner slumps into his chair. He loosens his tie, turns to his attorney and mouths, "My rights."

The attorney ignores him.

"Please continue counselor Yvhikv," the judge says as he shoots a steely eyed glare at O'Conner.

"Your honor, prior to the start of this litigation, the Muscogee Creek Nation held an administrative hearing in an attempt to resolve this issue. Mr. O'Conner and the Gladys Belle Oil Company were given proper and due notice of the hearing and a request for company representatives to attend. The company officially responded by telling Muscogee Creek Nation to go to hell."

"Is this true?" an astonished judge asks O'Conner's attorney.

"Your honor," the attorney responds. "I did not represent the Gladys Belle Oil Company in that administrative hearing. Therefore, I can neither confirm nor deny."

"I have the letter here," Yvhikv says as he waves the document at the judge. "May it please the court, I hereby move to admit this letter into evidence."

"Sustained," the judge responds. "What was the final outcome of the administrative hearing, Mr. Yvhikv?"

"Your honor, the Administrative Hearing Board of the Muscogee Creek Nation found that 1,255 structures have suffered moderate to severe damage since the drilling began. Uninsured repair costs are estimated at \$35 million. In addition, reports from licensed and certified hydrologists document widespread water pollution in the drilling area. Local residents are having to purchase bottled water."

"Yes counselor," the judge says. "The parties have already stipulated to the veracity of these reports as evidence. I am interested in the findings of the Administrative Board."

"Certainly, your honor. My apologies for the digression. The board determined that the hydraulic fracking technique utilized by Gladys Belle is the cause of the unprecedented outbreak of earthquakes which, in turn, has resulted in severe property damage and environmental

*Continued on next page*



pollution. Considering these facts, the Board determined that the overall good of the community outweighs Mr. O'Conner's right to drill."

"Jesus!" O'Conner shouts.

"That's it, Mr. O'Conner! You were duly warned by this court to restrain yourself. I hereby declare you to be in contempt of court. Bailiff, please confine Mr. O'Conner to the cooler."

Two burly sheriff's deputies escort O'Conner to a soundproof enclosure that resembles a telephone booth. O'Conner sits grimacing and snarling at the court. One of the deputies pulls a curtain and O'Conner disappears from view.

"Please continue counselor Yvhikv."

"Thank you, your honor," Yvhikv continues. "The Administrative Board therefore issued it's ruling ordering the Gladys Belle to immediately cease and desist from all drilling activity for the overall good of the community."

"I know my rights," a muffled voice can be heard emanating from the cooler.

The judge grins and chuckles break out across the courtroom.

"Thank you, counselor," the judge says. "Please be seated. This court is ready to render a decision. This court hereby accepts the final report of the Muscogee Creek Nation Administrative Hearings Board. This court respects the Board's prudence in balancing the rights of the individual with the overall good of the community. Further, this court hereby adopts the ruling of the Board and hereby orders a permanent injunction prohibiting the Gladys Belle Oil Company from any further drilling activity. This order is effective immediately. This court is dismissed."

"All rise!" the bailiff barks.

As the judge departs the attentive audience is treated to the spectacle of the sheriff deputies carrying O'Conner out of the courtroom on their shoulders. The sight resembles a victorious football team parading goalposts.

As they exit the courtroom, O'Conner once again protests, "I know my rights!"

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## COACH PROFILE: *LADNEY KEENER*



**FELLOWSHIP OF  
CHRISTIAN  
ATHLETES**

**NAME:** Ladney Keener

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Locust Grove High School

**SPORTS COACHED:** Archery, Cross-Country  
Track, Softball and Wrestling

**HOMETOWN:** Locust Grove, Oklahoma

Q AND A

WITH LADNEY KEENER

**Tribal Affiliation:** Cherokee

**Favorite Bible Verse:** “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” — John 3:16 This sums up God’s grace in one short verse.

**Nickname:** Coach Keen

**Favorite food:** Steak! Great food for me, love the taste, always loved since a little boy!

**Favorite Walk-Up Song:** Depends on the sport, if it’s Cross-country it would be “Running Home” by Cohen and Company, if it’s Archery, the song “Arrow”

**Favorite Player:** Several favorite, but one that stands out is Willie McGee St.Louis Cardinals-watching him play the outfield, glided across the field, steal bases and everything looked so easy! Love his interviews, a guy that you wanted to meet!



**Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team:** Favorite part of being a leader is watching an individual or team develop to a confident competitor.

**Who Do You Look Up To in Life:** Lots of people that I look up to, but number one would be my Dad, John Keener. A strong Christian man with plenty of common sense. Elder in the Cherokee Nation, was looked up by everyone!

**What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Coach:** Develop kids character is more important than the game!

**Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach/Teacher:** Coach Hale-Wrestling, Coach Friday-Wrestling, and Mr. Coleman-Band Teacher. They expected you to do your best.

**Favorite part of Coaching at Locust Grove:** The students, the staff, and great support from the administration.



Everyone is community here in Locust Grove. Everyone here in our community supports our programs, like archery is a huge sport for us!

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A Donor-Make a lasting impact on coaches and athletes through a financial gift to FCA. You can securely support the ministry through one-time gifts, monthly gifts, stocks and more.

If you are interested in becoming part of the team, please let me know how I can get you involved with FCA Ministry!

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](http://www.my.fca.org/johnmorris). John can be contacted through email: [johnmorris@fca.org](mailto:johnmorris@fca.org) or by cell number (785-760-1627).

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# Whitney Anderson named 2024 Dynamic Woman of the Year

**W**hitney Anderson was named 2024 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year during the annual Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference conducted May 30-31 at WinStar Resort and Convention Center.

“As a historically matrilineal tribe, Chickasaw women have had important roles throughout our history, and we have long valued their strength, wisdom, leadership and skill sets,” said Chickasaw Nation Lt. Governor Chris Anoatubby. “This esteemed award pays tribute annually to a Chickasaw woman who has inspired, given hope or opened new possibilities or opportunities for others through her example.”

Anderson, a Chickasaw citizen from Oklahoma City, has dedicated her life and career to victim advocacy and support.

“As a leader in her field, Whitney’s work helps to establish the support needed for victim recovery and a better future for Oklahoma,” Lt. Governor Anoatubby said.

For more than a decade, Anderson has been at the forefront of pioneering human trafficking victim services in Oklahoma. In this trailblazing role, she led the establishment of crucial services that were previously nonexistent in Oklahoma, ensuring that survivors of human trafficking have access to lifesaving and life-changing resources.

Co-founder and executive director of the Dragonfly Home and founder of Sisters Rising Consulting, Anderson proudly embraces her Chickasaw heritage, deriving strength and inspiration from her ancestral roots. She



**Chickasaw Nation Lt. Governor Chris Anoatubby presents Whitney Anderson the 2024 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year Award during the Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference conducted May 30-31 at WinStar Resort and Convention Center.**

takes pride in upholding the legacy passed down by her ancestors.

## **An emotional Anderson humbly accepted the award.**

“This award signifies that the work I’ve done in the field of anti-human trafficking is seen and valued, and it matters, but it’s more than that,” Anderson said, adding she has had the tremendous privilege of receiving various awards and recognition in the past, but receiving the Dynamic Woman of the Year Award is a pinnacle achievement.

“This award resonates on a much deeper level. It means that my community is proud, my people are proud, my ancestors, my tribe. This is an answered prayer – a deep soul longing fulfilled. It is medicine to me.”



Anderson said accepting the award while surrounded by relatives, sisters and a room filled with dynamic women was gratifying.

“I’m thankful to be Chickasaw, to have roots grounded in this beautiful culture and community, to have leaders who are invested in empowering women, and I am grateful to be surrounded by such passionate citizens and passionate women,” she said.

Anderson reflected on her human trafficking advocacy journey and her reason for working in the field.

“Traffickers exploit people in vulnerable situations, preying on those in poverty, experiencing food insecurity, homelessness and often unaddressed childhood and other trauma for their financial gain,” she said.

Many human trafficking survivors share eerily similar stories. They come from families with extensive generational trauma and suffered sexual, physical or emotional abuse, and became victims of sexual and domestic violence before being trafficked, she said.

“I realized that much of their stories mirrored my own. Like many of you, I am a survivor of generational trauma and its effects. And it finally dawned on me that I was passionate about this issue because these survivors’ experiences deeply resonated with my own. I was drawn and called to human trafficking work and had a profound drive to meet people where they were with compassion, without shame or without judgment.”

Part of Anderson’s passion stems from her need for these things in her personal journey, she said.

“I’ve experienced and carried the weight of the devastating effects of colonization, trauma, abuse and violence. But I also carry the resilience of my ancestors. Stubborn tenacity, a nurturing spirit, a deep resolve and great courage. This is what blood memory is,” Anderson said.

“My heart for justice isn’t just my own. It is that of my ancestors. I am literally wired to be a survivor and a warrior. In my work, we bear witness to great suffering, but we also have the honor of witnessing miracles of healing, freedom and redemption, and I am profoundly grateful for that. I am grateful to the creator who planted this calling in my soul, who has loved me, guided me, healed me extravagantly and provided for me abundantly.”

Anderson thanked her husband and daughter, all the women who mentored and encouraged her, as well as her team.

In 2016, Anderson played a pivotal role in establishing Oklahoma’s first human trafficking crisis center, the Dragonfly Home. The nonprofit has since opened its doors as Oklahoma’s first ever transition house aiding trafficking victims.

Through her work with the Dragonfly Home and Sisters Rising Consulting, Anderson strives to address the specific challenges First American women face, weaving her cultural identity into the fabric of her advocacy.

As a subject matter expert and trainer, Anderson has been instrumental in educating professionals across a spectrum of fields. Her training initiatives extend to a diverse array of professions, including law enforcement, health care, social service and more. Through these programs, she has empowered thousands with the knowledge and skills to recognize and address human trafficking within their respective professions. During the past decade, Anderson has showcased her expertise by presenting on the subject at national, state and tribal conferences.

Her impactful efforts were also acknowledged in 2019 when she was honored among The Journal Record’s 50 Making a Difference and the Oklahoma Gazette’s Forty Under 40.

Recently, Anderson was appointed to the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advisory Board, where she assists in shaping systemic change.

As a leader in her field, Anderson’s work helps to establish the support needed for victim recovery and a better future for Oklahoma.

“We appreciate her dedication and service, and we honor Whitney Anderson as the 2024 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year,” Lt. Governor Anoatubby said.

### **Dynamic Woman of the Year Award**

The Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year Award honors Chickasaw women who have made significant contributions to the tribe, serve as role models to other Chickasaw women and have made a difference in the lives of Chickasaws and other citizens, enriching their communities and society at large.

The Dynamic Woman of the Year Award was established in 2006. Anderson is the 19th Chickasaw woman to be honored with this special designation.



# NAVIGATING THE PATH TO LOCAL ADVOCACY:

## Tips for Supporting Causes You Believe In



**G**etting involved in local causes can significantly impact your community and the issues you care about. However, many people are unsure where to start or how to make a meaningful contribution. This guide is designed to help you navigate the process of joining local movements and initiatives. By understanding the steps you can take and how to connect with like-minded individuals, you can turn your passion into action. Whether you're new to activism or looking to deepen your involvement, this article provides practical advice to get you started.

### **Connect with Like-minded Organizations**

Finding an organization that resonates with your values is the cornerstone of community involvement. It's about aligning your energy with a group that not only shares your vision but is also committed to making tangible changes. This alignment empowers you to contribute effectively, ensuring that your efforts are amplified through collective action. The camaraderie found in these groups provides both support and motivation, fostering an environment where everyone's contribution is valued and impactful.

### **Empower Yourself Through Knowledge**

Diving deep into the topics that resonate with your values is essential for making a meaningful impact. By grasping the intricate details and varying perspectives of these issues, you position yourself to champion impactful changes and partake in meaningful conversations. Empowering yourself with this knowledge not only fuels your passion but also enables you to motivate and enlighten others. This approach ensures your advocacy is grounded in insight and poised to inspire real progress.

### **Influence Through Education**

Choosing a career in education offers a profound opportunity to contribute positively to your community over the long term. The flexibility of online learning means you can advance your educational goals at a pace that suits your life and work commitments. Pursuing an online EdD, for example, positions you at the forefront of educational innovation, empowering you to shape curriculum design and policies. This level of qualification also equips you to assess and enhance teaching strategies and learning outcomes, ensuring a lasting impact on future generations.

### **Fundraisers and Community Events**

Participating in fundraisers and community events is a vibrant way to support your cause. These gatherings are not only about raising funds but also about building a sense of community, awareness, and collective enthusiasm for the cause. They offer invaluable opportunities to network, share ideas, and celebrate the progress made. Your presence and participation send a strong message of solidarity and commitment to the cause, encouraging others to join in and contribute.

### **Build Dialogue with Friends and Family**

Conversations with friends and family can significantly amplify the impact of your cause. Sharing your experiences, the knowledge you've gained, and why you're passionate about your cause can inspire them to take action as well. It's about creating a ripple effect of awareness and involvement, starting with your immediate circles. These discussions can lead to a broader community engagement, as every conversation has the potential to spark interest, concern, and even action.



## Volunteering and Donations

Dedicating your time and resources is a testament to your commitment to the cause. Volunteering allows you to connect with the community on a personal level, offering your skills and time where they are most needed. Donations, no matter the size, contribute to the sustainability of the organizations and initiatives you support. This dual approach of giving both time and financial support ensures that your involvement has a direct and meaningful impact on the cause.

Working to make a difference in your community begins with a single step — a decision to act. By engaging with organizations, educating yourself and others, stepping into influential roles, participating in community events, sparking conversations, and offering your resources, you create a cascade of positive change. Your actions, big or small, contribute to a collective effort that shapes a better world, starting with your local community.

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# New offerings promise elevated experience at this year's "The Gathering"

**Written By: Rachael Schuit**

(DURANT, Okla.) The Gathering Business Summit is the American Indian Chamber of Oklahoma's (AICCO) largest event of the year, and organizers say this year's event is bigger and better than ever before thanks to innovative thought leaders and input from the community.

"We are excited to bring you three days of dynamic sessions, robust networking, and the chance to connect with both old friends and new," AICCO State President Bailey Walker said. "After last year's summit, we took our member feedback seriously. Our community said they wanted more public access to the trade show and fresh, inspiring programming. We are delivering on both counts."

The summit is slated for July 10 through 12 at Choctaw Casino and Resort Durant. Opportunities for AICCO member and non-member business professionals to learn from each other will include expert panels and business-to-business matchmaking.

New this year - a free trade show day on July 10, providing public access to dozens of Tribal, Native-owned, and Native ally businesses.

July 11 is the summit's main programming day, featuring speakers like Steven Hollabaugh, CEO and President of Native Strategies, LLC, and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.



"I'm honored and excited to be speaking on Empowering Tribal Nations through Engineering Solutions for Infrastructure and Economic Development at the Gathering Business Summit," Hollabaugh said. "In April 2020, I recognized a critical need for engineering and design professionals completing and delivering services in tribal communities. Assisting Tribes in the expansion of their infrastructures and in the improvement and renewal of their communities is at the core of our firms' values, purpose, and on-going mission."

Hollabaugh's company is also currently constructing Native Spaces, a Native-owned co-working and event space in Broken Arrow.

J.T. Petherick, Associate Vice President of Government Relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma, is



another community leader bringing his wisdom and expertise to The Gathering.

Petherick says he looks forward to speaking about the ways legislation and business intersect during his discussion “The Voice of the business community matters at The Capitol”.

“We all know that Indian Country’s voice is strong,” Petherick said. “As the cost of doing business continues to rise, the Gathering Business Summit is the perfect forum to discuss how legislation impacts the business environment and how attendees can be engaged. AICCO has always been a strong advocate and we look forward to strategizing on how we can all move forward together.”

Panels scheduled for this year’s breakout sessions include “Leading through Change with Emotional Intelligence”, “Financing and Lending for Indian Country,” Public Resources for your Business”, “Tribal Broadband 101”, and a “Preferred Vendors” panel with Q&A.

And there’s plenty of fun to be had as well, starting with a Decadence Luau for attendees staying at the hotel. Sponsored by Choctaw Conference Center, this pre-Gathering event is taking place at the Aqua Cabanas the evening of July 9. Tickets can be purchased here.

The award-winning Blazing Bear Drum Group is one of the summit’s cultural performances, scheduled during the annual AICCO awards on July 11.

And an Attendee Appreciation breakfast will be held on the morning of July 12 before the summit adjourns, providing the opportunity for those in attendance to win vendor-provided prizes.

The full agenda for the 2024 Gathering Business Summit can be found online.

Registration for The Gathering Business Summit is open until June 26 through Eventbrite, consisting of full conference registration, one day passes, and add-ons.

Vendor and artisan booths are also still available for purchase online.

“Come out and see for yourself what makes AICCO and our Indian Country businesses so spectacular,” Walker said. “We’re more than a network; we’re a family. Growing together, getting better together. And we want you a part of it.”

**For more information, visit  
[aiccok.org/events/business-summit](http://aiccok.org/events/business-summit).**

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# Study finds climate change intensifies hazard risk for Oklahoma's Native Americans

**Written By: Kayden Anderson, Gaylord News**



**From left, Siyu Zhu, Codie Horse-Topetchy, Sebastian C. Ferraro and Haifan Xiao accept first- place honors at the University of Oklahoma's Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Research and Activity Day on March 1 for their poster over the study. (Photo courtesy of Siyu Zhu)**

**N**ORMAN, Okla. - A recent study by University of Oklahoma researchers concludes that climate change is likely to intensify hazard risk and social injustice for Native Americans, who make up the most vulnerable community in Oklahoma based on socioeconomic status, household composition, disability, minority status and language, housing and transportation.

Theresa Tsoodle of Anadarko, an OU research associate and traditional knowledge keeper for Indigenous scientists, said it is hard to withstand extreme rainfall events if the land's surface area has been so altered from mining or drained for farming that the soil is poor.

Research scientists found that Native Americans fear construction of a cobalt/nickel refinery by Bartlesville-based startup Westwin Elements Inc. will lead to just that. Development of the pilot plant began last August in an

industrial park on Lawton's west side despite opposition from the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache tribes.

Tsoodle said while the Native people have said they do not want this mining on their ancestral land, the response of Lawton civic leaders has been to call any opposition selfish.

"If your community is damaged, and then it has to sustain the effects of climate change as well, we're in for it," Tsoodle said.

The researchers' work began when Tsoodle approached Yang Hong, a professor at OU's School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science, about using modeling and remote sensing in Native communities to see the connection to Indigenous science, or the application of Indigenous wisdom to today's scientific issues, and its transformation when the communities were relocated to Oklahoma.

The researchers hosted meetings to learn oral histories and Indigenous traditional knowledge of lands and flooding. The study examined heavy rainfall, two-year floods and flash floods and the risk they pose to Native communities compared to the general population.

They worked particularly with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe in Red Rock where they connected with James LeClair, emergency management safety coordinator for the tribe, who looked into mitigating flooding and possible funding and found that more research needed to be done.





The researchers and LeClair's partnership has become more than academic research.

"I was really pleased with the partnership," Hong said. "It's beyond research partners; it's more like friends and families."

According to the study, heavy rainfall is projected to increase by 81.4% in Oklahoma by the end of this century.

It also concludes for Native communities, the median increases in heavy rainfall risks (501.1%), which researchers formulated as a product of hazards, exposures and vulnerabilities, are 68.0% higher than the general Oklahoma population (298.2%).

"When we get a high storm here anymore, the flooding is extreme; it's not like it used to be where rain would fall for three or four days lightly, and the ground would be able to soak it up; now, it's heavy, fast and furious," LeClair said.

Building something to redirect the streams is not plausible for Native peoples.

"That's not an option for the Indigenous communities because the area is sacred," OU research scientist Mengye Chen said. "They want to protect it instead of change it."

Although the researchers hope to conduct a future study for further solutions, the study states they do not yet propose such solutions as each tribal nation is distinct.

As for additional social injustice issues Indigenous communities face, Tsoodle said terrible things happened to Native communities when black gold was discovered. Abandoned oil wells were left behind, along with land that was raided for natural resources.

"They just pack up and go, the people that do this, the industrialists, the corporations," Tsoodle said. "Then we're (Native communities) left with the debris and what's left behind, the damaged goods, and no help trying to restore that or the quality of our water that will be permanently affected."

The study also states that when comparing climate and demographic changes, population growth leads to greater climate hazard risks than does climate change. Citizens of emerging tribal nations will face great exposure to climate extremes along with population growth, according to the study.

Assistant Environmental Director for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Micah Isaacs' department is generally funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The department performs water quality assessments and analyses.

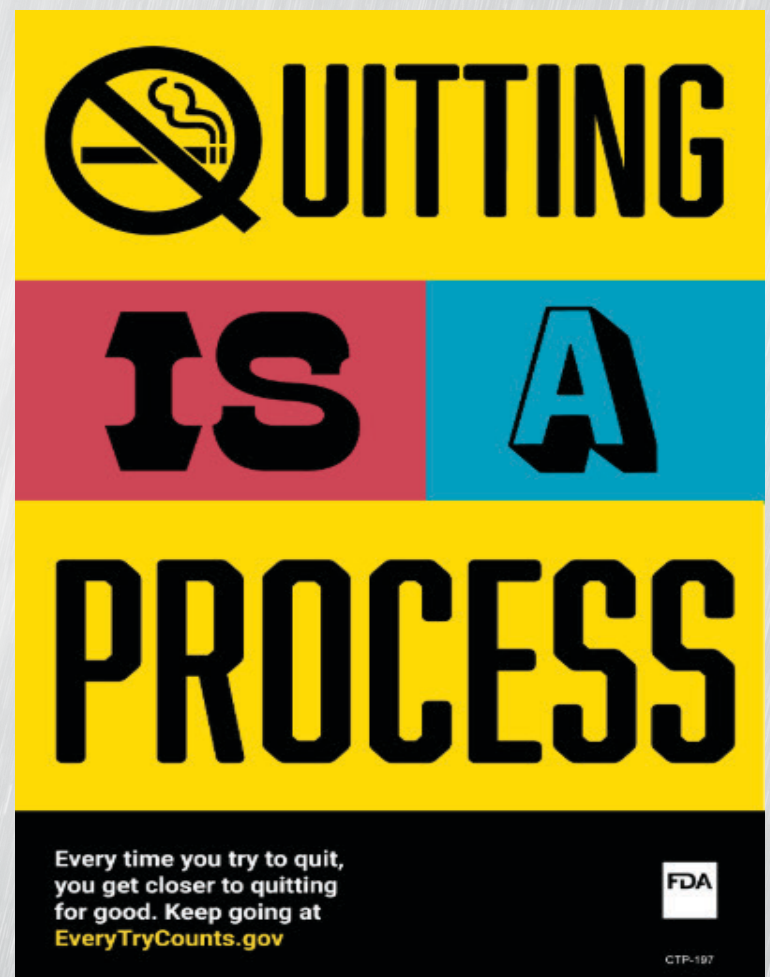
"As climate change increases and the exaggerations get more polarized, it seems that there's more need for a monitoring and assessment and mitigation than there ever has been, and with that, doesn't come extra funding for that," Isaacs said of his water quality work.

Although the EPA has money available for tribal environmental programs, Isaacs said, tribes do not have the infrastructure to take on these funds, which is a social injustice in itself.

Tsoodle's goal is to make it natural, accepted and understood that scientific research studies include Indigenous science because it is part of a living system.

"We are not static," Tsoodle said. "We are not historical figures; we are living, breathing humanity."

*Gaylord News is a reporting project of the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. For more information go to [GaylordNews.net](http://GaylordNews.net)*





# NATIVE ARTISANS

## TRADE POST/GIFT SHOP LISTING

### **SUPERNAW'S OKLAHOMA INDIAN SUPPLY**

213 E W.C. Rogers Blvd | Skiatook, OK 74070  
918-396-1713 | [www.supernaws.com](http://www.supernaws.com)

### **SOUTHWEST TRADING COMPANY**

1306 E 11th St | Tulsa, OK 74120  
918-760-3237 | Facebook: @SouthwestNativeGoods

### **OKLAHOMA NATIVE ART & JEWELRY**

2204 Exchange Ave | Oklahoma City, OK 73108  
405-604-9800 | [www.oknativeart.com](http://www.oknativeart.com)

### **THE ART MARKET**

5014 S. Sheridan Rd | Tulsa, OK 74145  
918-664-0626 | [www.indianarttulsa.com](http://www.indianarttulsa.com)

### **TRIBES 131**

131 24th Ave NW | Norman, OK 73069  
405-329-4442 | [www.tribes131.com](http://www.tribes131.com)

### **CHA TULLIS GALLERY**

108 W. Main St. | Hominy, OK 74035  
918.885.4717 | [www.chatullis.com](http://www.chatullis.com)

### **NATIVE AMERICAN ART**

317 S. Main St. | Tulsa, OK 74103  
918-584-5792

### **SOUTHERN PLAINS INDIAN ART**

2720 Ave J | Lawton, OK 73505  
580-699-2983 | [www.mitchelllearlboyiddleok.com](http://www.mitchelllearlboyiddleok.com)

### **OKLAHOMA INDIAN ARTS & CRAFTS**

214 NW 2nd St. | Anadarko, OK 73005  
405-247-3486 | Facebook: Oklahoma Indian Arts & Crafts Co-Operative

### **AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM**

900 N Broadway Ave | Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
405-239-5500 | [www.famok.org](http://www.famok.org)

### **S & L GALLERY**

511 W. Main St. | Henryetta, OK 74437  
918-652-5387 | Facebook: @SAndLGallery

### **JACOBSON HOUSE**

609 Chautauqua Ave | Norman, OK 73069  
405-366-1667 | [www.jacobsonhouse.org](http://www.jacobsonhouse.org)

### **RED EARTH**

100 N Broadway Ave | Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
405-427-5228 | [www.redearth.org](http://www.redearth.org)

### **CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER**

1899 Gordon Cooper Drive | Shawnee, OK 74801  
405-878-5830 | [www.potawatomiheritage.com](http://www.potawatomiheritage.com)

### **SEMINOLE NATION MUSEUM**

524 S. Wewoka Ave | Wewoka, OK 74884  
405-257-5580 | [www.seminolenationmuseum.org](http://www.seminolenationmuseum.org)

### **FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES MUSEUM**

1101 Honor Heights Dr. | Muskogee, OK 74401  
918-683-1701 | [www.fivetribes.org](http://www.fivetribes.org)

### **GILCREASE MUSEUM**

1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd | Tulsa, OK 74127





# GOLF CLUBS

## EAGLE CREEK GOLF CLUB

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

## FIRELAKE GOLF COURSE

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

## WILL ROGERS DOWNS

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

## CHEROKEE HILLS GOLF COURSE

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

## WINSTAR GOLF COURSE

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

## WINSTAR GOLF ACADEMY

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

## CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

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

# RV LISTINGS

## WILL ROGERS DOWNS

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

## PEORIA RIDGE GOLF

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

## FIRELAKE GOLF COURSE

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

## CHEROKEE HILLS GOLF COURSE

1.800.760.6700, cherokee.golf@cnet.com,  
770 West Cherokee Street Catoosa, OK 74015,  
RV PADS | 18, AMPS | 72, Accommodations:  
Restrooms | 6635, Showers, Wi-Fi, Picnic  
Area, Club House, Meeting Room

## WINSTAR GOLF COURSE

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

## FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF COURSE

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

## CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

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







# WHERE'S YOUR CHAPTER?



LEARN MORE: [AICCOK.ORG/MEMBERSHIPS](https://aiccok.org/memberships)  
[AICCOK.ORG](https://aiccok.org) | [CHAMBER@AICCOK.ORG](mailto:chamber@aiccok.org)

**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.