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NOVEMBER 2024



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NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | NOVEMBER 2024

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



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Small Business Saturday is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities.



This is the season of gratitude and giving! Giving Tuesday is a global movement created in 2012 as a day to give back and “do good”. Fresh off the corporate overspending of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday is a simple idea of inspiring people to donate time, money, or resources to people or non-profits in your community, and has become the single largest day of donations during the year. Many major businesses and companies will even match donations, so inquire with your employer about how to get involved.

Giving Tuesday is always the Tuesday following Cyber Monday. This year it's December 3rd. We have several non-profit organizations across Indian Country that consistently need financial support or volunteers. You don't have to just donate money to a cause, you can offer to rake your neighbor's leaves, hold the door open for everyone behind you, or deliver a meal. Every act of kindness and generosity counts, and everyone has something to give! Need some ideas on how to get started? We've got you covered! You can talk with friends and family to decide on a non-profit that aligns with your values. Small community-led organizations need support too, so keeping it in Oklahoma is a way to give back and actually watch your good deeds flourish.

Have your kids or business office pick out an organization that resonates with them. Pay it forward (think groceries and gas, not fancy coffees) for someone in line behind

you. You can even send a thank-you note to someone who you appreciate or a person who has helped you in the past. No deed is too small, and Giving Tuesday seems like the perfect day to start! Giving to local Oklahoma animal shelters and rescue organizations ensure the money and donated items go directly to them instead of CEOs, lobbyists, and high-paid spokespeople.

Celebrate Giving Tuesday this year and we promise it'll make your heart happy. If you're looking for Oklahoma non-profits to donate to, here's a list of our favorites:

*Rez Dogs Resources (www.rezdogresources.com) is a fund and animal welfare advocacy collective created on the set of the TV series “Reservation Dogs”.

*NOISE (Northeastern Oklahoma Indigenous Safety & Education) is a victim advocacy and outreach group.

*Humane Society of Stillwater (www.hspets.org)

*Tulsa Day Center (www.tulsadaycenter.org) provides a full range of services for overcoming homelessness.

*City Care Night Shelter (www.citycareokc.org) combats social injustice and extreme poverty in our state.

*Lasagna Love (www.lasagnalove.org) spreading kindness by providing food for overwhelmed families in need of a home cooked meal.

**For more information on Giving
Tuesday visit**

www.givingtuesday.org

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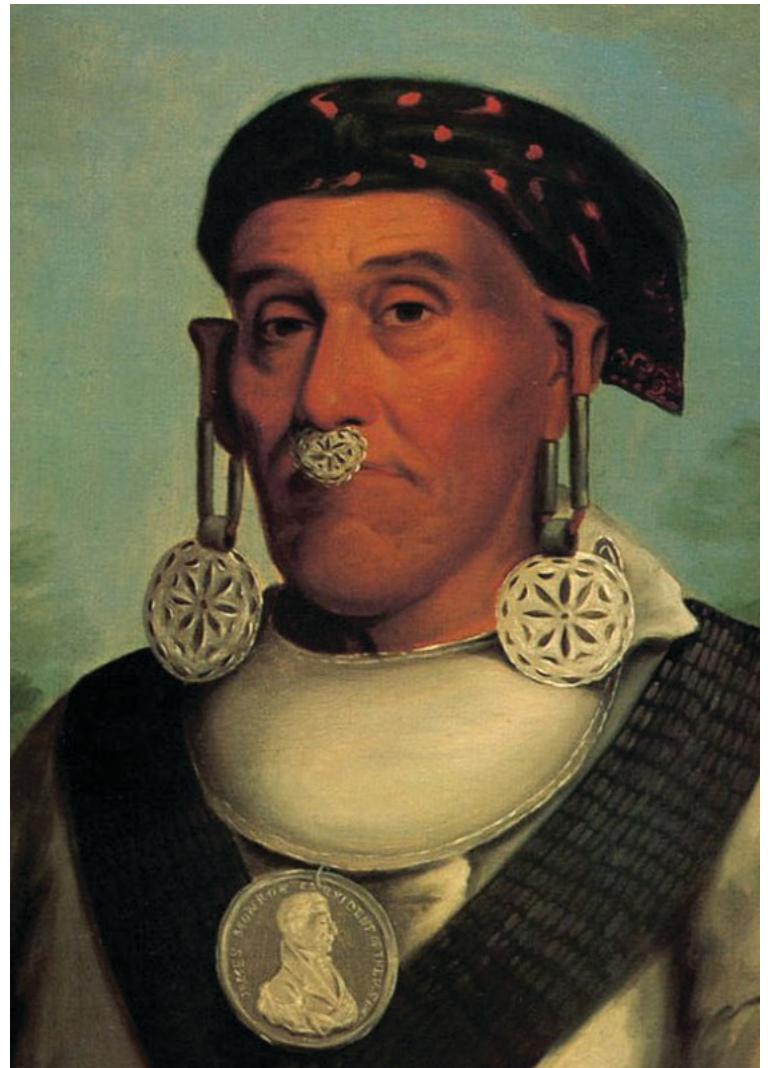
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NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH:

TRIBUTE TO CHEROKEE CHIEF GEORGE LOWRY

Native Cherokee Chief George Lowery (born Agin'-agi'li and known as Rising Fawn), his mother was the daughter and granddaughter of Echota Cherokee chiefs. He was respected in the tribe as a courier, banker, soldier, translator, law enforcement officer, planter, and political leader. Lowery was the Second Chief (Assistant Chief) of the Eastern Cherokee, and a cousin of Sequoyah. He served as Assistant Chief under Principal Chief John Ross from 1843 until 1851.

In 1792, he met with President George Washington as the delegate for the Cherokee Nation to form protections for the Cherokee Territory from settler over population. His efforts resulted in the Treaty of 1819, and he received a medal from President Washington. In 1828, he was elected Assistant Principal Chief and was Principal Chief



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and President for the Council of the Eastern Cherokees at the Washington meeting in 1839, to fuse the Eastern and Western divisions into the present Cherokee Nation.

He is buried in Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation. Lowery is credited with many accomplishments in his life including fighting in the War of 1812 and as a member of two Cherokee Constitution Conventions (1827 and again in 1839). He spent the majority of his life diligently advocating for fair treatment of the Cherokee Nation by the United States government and during the historical "Trail of Tears" removal.

I'm proud to be an enrolled tribal member of the Cherokee Nation, and Chief George Lowery is my ancestor. When my great-grandmother married, she took the name of her husband, Ray Rhodes. My grandfather was her only son, so she named him Lowery to keep the family name alive. He went on to become a Sergeant Major in the Army, serving in WWII and retiring with more than 20 years of service. When my grandfather passed away last year (at 95), I had my Cherokee sister Nathalie Standingcloud give me a Rising Fawn tattoo in honor of my grandfather and George Lowery's legacy. - Jennifer Wheeler Jalbert



The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) is a national nonprofit offering technical assistance to Native producers free of charge. IAC's Technical Assistance Network serves Tribes and Tribal producers by providing direct on-the-ground assistance with USDA program access and supplemental resource identification.



MEET YOUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) SPECIALIST

Jeff Caskey, *Eastern Oklahoma TA Specialist*

Jeff Caskey is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and has lived the majority of his life within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. Jeff grew up working on ranches and dairies while showing livestock in 4H and FFA and now runs a small cow/calf operation near Tishomingo, OK, with his family. Being a Native producer, he has years of experience working with USDA and NRCS programs and opportunities.

Contact him at **(580) 371-7869** or jeff@indianag.org.



www.indianag.org



Sky-Eagle Collection



The Sky-Eagle Collection is more than just a fashion brand. It is a celebration of Native American culture and a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. The brand was founded with Yanti, his wife, muse, premier of the Fashion House, and they named the brand after their daughter. Together, they are building a legacy that honors their heritage and inspires others to follow their dreams.

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NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



Aconav

CULTURALLY FUELED FASHION FROM ACOMA POTTERY ART

The Pueblo of Acoma is home to designer Loren Aragon. It is one of 19 thriving Pueblo communities, located in New Mexico, and is considered to be one of the oldest continually inhabited civilizations in North America. The deep rooted history and rich cultural heritage of the Acoma people is the fueling factor for Aragon and has become the foundation for ACONAV designs.





Harvey Pratt, Oklahoma's leading forensic artist

Harvey Pratt is a Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal member and is recognized as an accomplished Native American artist. His artistic talent has earned him numerous awards for his ability to express stories of life, art and religion of the Native American people in a variety of medias. Pratt has been recognized by the Cheyenne people as Outstanding Southern Cheyenne and was inducted into the Southern Cheyenne Chiefs Lodge as one of the traditional Cheyenne Chiefs.

Pratt was born in El Reno, Oklahoma in 1941, and joined the Midwest City Police Department in 1965. As a Midwest City Officer, he did his first witness description drawing of a homicide suspect resulting in an arrest and conviction. Pratt joined the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) in 1972 as a narcotics officer and retired in 1992 as Director of the Information Services Division. Pratt is also known for having designed the OSBI seal, badge and flag.

Having spent over 43 years in law enforcement, Pratt has completed thousands of witness description drawings and hundreds of soft tissue reconstructions. His police forensic

art work has aided thousands of criminal investigations and led to arrests and identification of unidentified bodies. Harvey Pratt is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in forensic art. His skills involved him in many high profile murder cases such as "The Green River Killer", Ted Bundy, and Henry Lucas. Pratt is currently a police forensic artist for OSBI and the only full-time police forensic artist in Oklahoma.

Considered a leading expert, Pratt has pioneered interview techniques used in law enforcement agencies across the United States. Pratt's witness memory enhancement interview technique aids not only in the drawing of facial features, but extracts additional suspect information that has proven to expedite investigations and aid in narrowing the suspect list. Pratt has used innovative techniques to create soft tissue reconstruction of unidentified bodies to create facial images of the victim in order for the public to view and identify the bodies. Pratt has developed and enhanced skull reconstruction, skull tracing, age progression, photo alteration and restoration and enhancement techniques for photos.

A Night at the Rez Bar



SOUR SOFKEE #55

Written By: Fus Yvhikv

Flat screen TVs have yet to find their way into the Rez Bar. Instead, patrons are tortured with 1980s rear projection 50" TVs. The Rez Bar boasts four of them albeit only two still work. If by working, you mean a picture with acute cataracts. The TVs were originally encased in faux walnut but now they are covered in battleship gray duct tape. On the plus side, they match well with the threadbare shag carpet of the Rez Bar.

Harjo, the burly proprietor of the bar, emerges through the swinging double doors of the kitchen. As usual he is wearing a bartender's apron. It is liberally stained with ketchup, mustard, Blue Curacao, mint, and cigar ash. Harjo's apron resembles a bad Jackson Pollock painting. He approaches our table.

"Bwwob Bwwobbubwub," Harjo says.

Me, Tarpalechee, Yahola, and Fixico all exchange quizzical glances.

"What'd he say?" Tarpalechee asks.

"I have no idea," Yahola replies.

"Bwwob Bwwobbubwub!" Harjo repeats with an angry frown.

"Haco! Take that cigar out of your mouth. We can't understand a word you are saying. Wikvs!"

Harjo removes a fat stub of a cigar hanging out the side of his mouth. He wipes his sweaty bald head with a bar towel. He then sticks his big chiefy nose into the damp towel and let's fly with a huge sneeze. It causes the cheap, dingy light fixture above to rattle.

"I said!" Harjo yells, "You bums want another round?"

"Do we want another round of this warmed-over rot gut? Sure! Who could resist?" Yahola answers.

"Yahola, I oughta throw your cvpo out!" Harjo says.



"But then you'd have to rely on this standing room only crowd to pay your bills," Yahola replies sarcastically as he scans the nearly empty bar.

Harjo stalks off.

"And I'll take a wagyu steak. Medium! It'll pair well with this rot gut," Yahola yells after Harjo.

Us Frybread Boys hoot, holler, and cackle.

"Goot Won!" Fixico says to Yahola.

Suddenly one of the old TVs that had been given up for dead springs to life. Even through its cloudy haze we can make out the Olympic competition. It is the pole vault event. I walk over and pound the top of the TV with my fist. A clear picture emerges.

A French pole vaulter is about to take his final attempt at clearing twenty feet. If he makes it, he will win the gold medal. As he dashes down the runway, we all lean forward and cheer him on.

He plants the pole and his legs and the bottom half of his body folds over the bar. It appears he has made it. But on his way down, the unusually large bulge of his crotch knocks the bar off. The competitor falls onto the mat and lays motionless. He then raises both hands to the heavens.

We sit in stunned silence. Yahola is the first to speak.

“Did you see that? Did what just happened?”

A replay clearly shows the vaulter would have cleared the bar were it not for the offending bulge.

“Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!” we all chortle in unison.
“Unbelievable!”

“The bad news is he just lost the gold medal. The good news is that the ladies will be blowing up his phone,” Yahola jokes.

“Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!” we all again chortle in unison.

Yahola, a Native rapper says, “Hey guys! Guys! I’ve got a limerick for you. Listen up!”

“This is going to be good,” I say. “Ok, Yahola, lay it on us.”

Yahola stands for effect. “Ok, here it is,” he says.

“There once was a vaulter named Cory;

Who dreamt of Olympic glory;

When his legs cleared the bar;

That gold was not far;

Then his huge pole became the story.”

“Heyluh! That is funny, Yahola! That is fantastic!” I say as the Frybread Boys laugh and feverishly clap our hands in appreciation. Yahola grins widely, his pearly whites shining brightly.

“Hey boys! Check this out,” Fixico suddenly yells.

Fixico stands holding Harjo’s expensive McDermott pool cue.

“I’m going to pole vault over that pool table,” Fixico says.

“You’re all hodged up, Fixico,” I say. “Don’t do it!”

“Do it!” Tarpalechee and Yahola yell.

“Not with my McDermott! Nooooo!” Harjo cries.

Fixico runs towards a pool table. He plants the thick bottom of the cue on the floor and his body ascends into

the air. In mid-jump there is a loud crack as the pool cue breaks. Fixico lands awkwardly on the far side of the table. He falls off the pool table, badly twisting his ankle, stumbles forward and crashes into the 50” big screen TV. There is a loud explosion and a huge puff of smoke.

The Frybread Boys stand in stunned and shocked silence. Harjo is still covering his eyes. After a tense moment, the smoke clears and we see Fixico’s neon yellow Crocs sticking out where the picture tube used to be.

Amidst the debris, Fixico struggles to his knees. He pokes his head out of the picture frame. It’s the first time he has ever been on TV.

“Here’s Johnny!” Fixico says with a toothy grin.

“Heyluh!” Harjo exclaims. “You owe me for that McDermott!”

“You mean this secondhand cue? I’ll give you ten bucks for its salvage value,” Fixico responds.

The Frybread Boys once again gather ‘round hoisting the rot gut beer. Fixico, uncharacteristically quiet, sits holding his frosty beer mug against his swollen ankle. Just another night at the Rez Bar.

An anti-smoking advertisement with a blue background. It features several cigarettes and a glucose meter. The text reads: "IF YOU SMOKE, YOU'RE UP TO 40% MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP TYPE 2 DIABETES THAN NONSMOKERS." Below this, it asks "THINKING ABOUT QUITTING TOBACCO?" and provides contact information: "Call 1-800-QUIT NOW", "Text READY to 34191", and "Visit OKhelpline.com". At the bottom, there are logos for the "Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline" (with "1 800 QUIT NOW" and "1-800-784-8868" and "OKhelpline.com") and "TSET TOBACCO SETTLEMENT ENDOWMENT TRUST".

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Sergeant William D. Lowe, United States Marine Corps

Sergeant William D. Lowe, a native of Eufaula, OK, and a proud Muscogee (Creek) Nation Boarding School alumnus, embarked on his military journey after graduating from Eufaula High School in 1992. His nine-year tenure in the United States Marine Corps, from 1993 to 2002, was not just a period of service but a testament to exceptional proficiency and leadership. His dedication to the core values of the Marine Corps-Honor, Courage, and Commitment, is a source of inspiration for all.

Sgt. Lowe attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA. His journey continued at the School of Infantry (SOI), where he earned his designation as a Rifleman (0311) and was assigned to an infantry battalion. Here, he played a vital role in combat operations during deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, a testament to the intensity and significance of his service.

His selection as a skilled marksman to become a Marine Corps Primary Marksmanship Coach and later as a Designated Marksman Instructor training Marines in precision shooting and advanced marksmanship techniques, is a testament to the depth of his dedication and the impact it had on his peers.

Not just a marksmanship expert, Sgt. Lowe was also a crucial member of his unit's Close Quarters Battle (CQB) Team. This specialized role demanded intense training in tactical entry, room clearing, and close-range engagements. Sgt. Lowe's quick decision-making and tactical expertise were instrumental in the success of numerous high-risk missions, showcasing his ability to excel in diverse and challenging situations.

Sgt. Lowe's leadership was recognized and celebrated. His attendance at the Sergeants Course in Quantico, VA, where he graduated as the Honor Graduate, was a testament to his dedication to professional military education and his



drive to excel academically and practically. His leadership qualities and ability to inspire his peers set him apart throughout his career, serving as a beacon of inspiration for all who served alongside him.

During his service, Sgt. Lowe earned multiple awards, including (2) Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, (3) Good Conduct Service Medals, and an Armed Forces Service Medal for his exemplary service and commitment to the Marine Corps mission. His blend of tactical expertise, leadership ability, and unwavering dedication made him a respected and trusted leader among his peers.

He continues to apply the leadership and skills he honed in the Marine Corps to his post-military career in Tribal Government. William served as the Muscogee (Creek) National Council Speaker, a mentor, and a leader in his community. His academic achievements, including a Bachelor's degree from Bacone College and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Grand Canyon University, stand as a living testament to the enduring impact of his military service and his continued dedication.



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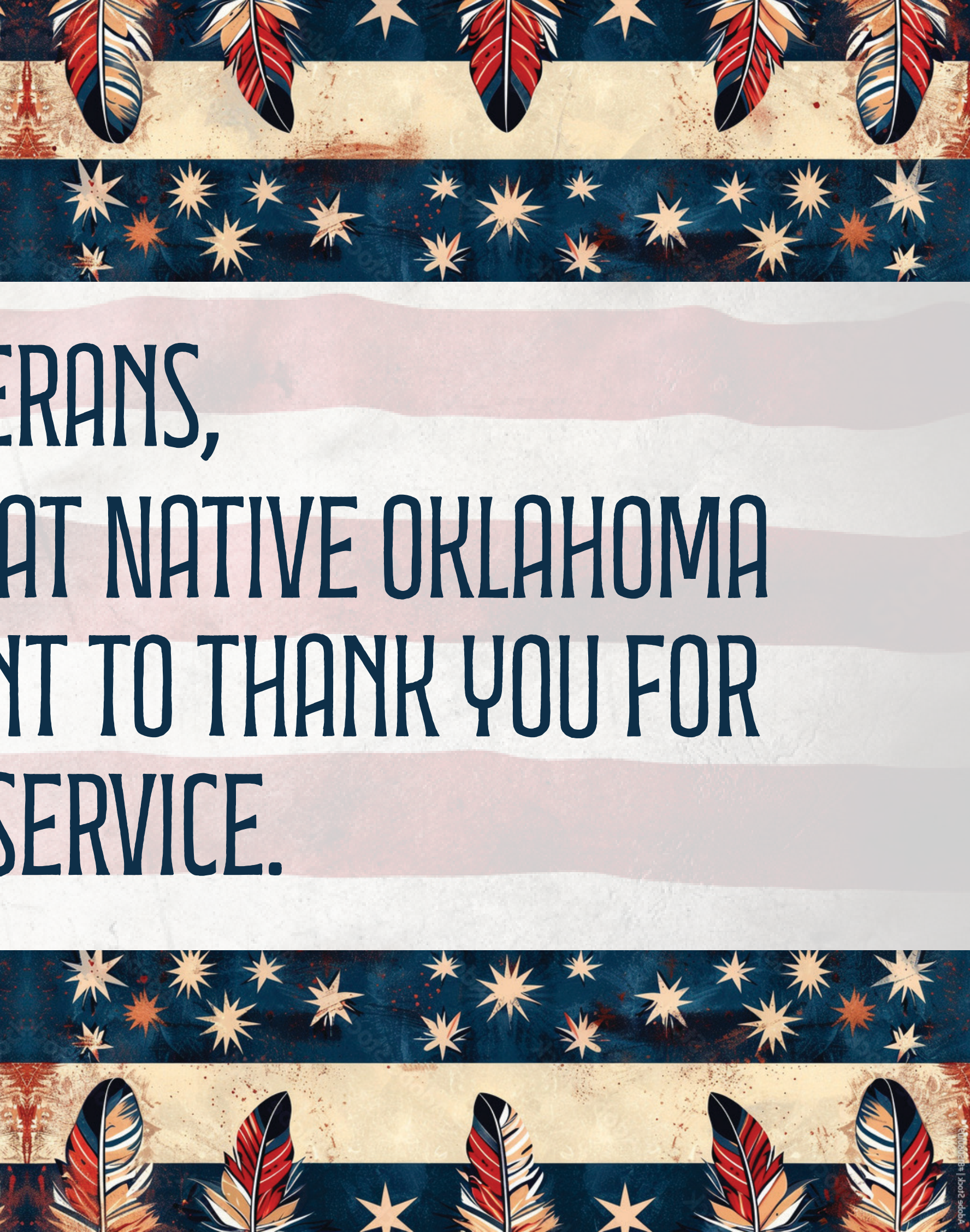
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ERANS,
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JOSEPH OKLAHOMBI, ORIGINAL CODE TALKER

A World War I hero, Joseph Oklahombi was born May 1, 1895, in the Kiamichi Mountains of McCurtain County, Oklahoma. A full-blood Choctaw from Bismark (present Wright City), Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, he served in the Thirty-sixth Infantry Division's Company D, First Battalion, 141st Regiment, Seventy-first Brigade during World War I.

During the October 1918 Meuse-Argonne campaign German intelligence successfully intercepted Allied military correspondence. To combat the problem the 141st, 142d, and 143d Infantry Regiments utilized Choctaw soldiers, including Oklahombi, to translate messages in their native tongue. At headquarters they "decoded" Choctaw into English and communicated messages to those in the field. These Choctaw were the original "Code Talkers."

At St. Etienne, France, on October 8, 1918, Oklahombi assisted his unit as other than a translator. He and twenty-three fellow soldiers attacked an enemy position and captured 171 prisoners. They seized the artillery at the site and reportedly killed seventy-nine German soldiers, tended the wounded in "No Man's Land," and held their position for four days while under merciless attack.



He was identified as "Oklahoma's Greatest Hero." For his bravery he was awarded the Silver Star with the Victory Ribbon from the United States, and from Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain he received the Croix de Guerre, one of France's highest honors for gallantry. Despite the heroism of Oklahombi and his regimental mates, Congress did not issue them the Medal of Honor for their valor.

After the war Oklahombi returned to Wright City to be reunited with his wife and son. Despite being offered a Hollywood role in a war movie, he refused to leave Oklahoma. Oklahombi passed away in 1960 and was buried with military honors in the Yashau Cemetery northwest of Broken Bow.



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Oklahoma artist recreates military beadwork and war blankets for KOTFM



Artist and scholar Molly Murphy Adams recently lent her expertise in art, history and research to the set of Martin Scorsese's 2023 film "Killers of the Flower Moon." Adams had previously made several beaded medallions for the television series "Reservation Dogs" and her beadwork is featured in galleries across the nation.

Julie O'Keefe, an Osage cultural ambassador, worked on set to provide guidance for how Osage women would wear

clothing, how the dress should appear, and how certain events like funerals should be set up. Another aspect of her job was advising on clothing and accessories while working to connect artists with the costume department to make or fabricate those pieces.

Adams worked on two groups of pieces: men's vests and War Mother's Blankets. The War Mother's Blankets were a nuanced negotiation between community members, the Osage Nation Museum, and the film's costume



department. The film was willing to invest in accurate reproductions, no cut corners. O'Keefe worked with community members to gauge what level of accuracy was desired, and at what point the accuracy became a problem.

War Mother Blankets are typically only brought out and worn for actual ceremonies, never for duplication. The community did want this part of Osage culture represented well. The compromise was that Adams would make these blankets but omit any information that would normally point to an individual's identity.

No branch of service emblems, no names. She used only the generic motifs, eagles, American flags. The Osage Museum was generous and set up a visit where Adams could inspect several blankets in their collection. The costume department provided her with the right kind of wool-based cloth, and she used a mix of antique and modern beads to render the flag motifs on the front and back.

In the final cut of the movie only the front of the blankets is visible, so the majority of the beadwork on the back of the blanket isn't shown (hopefully in the director's cut!) Adams completed two men's vests for production, each based on historic photos of individuals.

She had to work with the costume department to find a balance of colors that would be historically accurate but also would work well with the kind of filters and lighting used. Some bead colors just blaze so bright under production lights, it can be a color balance problem.

These were a more straightforward project, but again relied on Adams' knowledge of historic pieces, how they were designed and constructed. Beading directly on wool requires a bit more finesse than beading with a filled in background. You have to be much more conscious of the matrix material and how the garment will fit.

"The tone of the beadwork for KOTFM was respectful, and a complete 180 from Rez Dogs, which was whimsical and humorous. It's truly exciting to see such a massive production acknowledge our beadwork history as worth representing accurately. Most movies with historic Indigenous people have done an embarrassing job of depicting Indigenous fashion and aesthetic. It is refreshing to see the very complicated and visual world made real on screen." -MMA

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FCA 4LIFE PROFILE: NAKAYLA GANN



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**

NAME: NAKAYLA GANN

HIGH SCHOOL: TAHLEQUAH SEQUOYAH HS

SPORTS PLAYED: VOLLEYBALL

HOMETOWN: TAHLEQUAH, OK

TRIBAL AFFILIATION: UNITED KEETOWAH BAND

Favorite Walk-Up Song: “Baby” by Justin Bieber, because I loved the song!

Favorite Player: Asjia O’Neal, because I like the way she plays on the court. Last year the Texas volleyball team won the championship and she was an outside hitter.

Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team and why?: I’m slowly stepping out of my comfort zones, that includes helping others while being a leader for the Sequoyah volleyball team.

Who Do You Look Up To: My little sister Jacey because she always yells and pushes me to do better and very encouraging.

Plans After Graduation: To go to college and go to medical school

What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Athlete: Having the ability to play the sport I love, and I know God is watching over me and others and guides me through every step!

Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach: Coach Zac Brisco, he has taught me a lot from when I first start playing volleyball. I’m really glad he was our coach or me and my team!

Favorite part Sequoyah HS FCA: I know I can worship him before and after volleyball games and during class.

Q AND A WITH NAKAYLA GANN

Favorite Bible Verse: “As for you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands the intention of every thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.” —1 Chronicles 28:9

Nickname: Kayla

Favorite food: street tacos

Fellowship of Christian Athletes E3 TRAINING: Are You Ready to Make Disciples?

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– 1 Thessalonians 2:8

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– Ephesians 4:12

We Equip others to grow in Christ through God's Word, prayer, meditating on His Word, loving all and sharing Jesus story.

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EMPOWER

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also ." – 2 Timothy 2:2

We Empower others to Engage, Equip, and Empower others to know and grow in Christ.

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

NEW HIGHLIGHTS TO THE LIMITED EDITION SERIES



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

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



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

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

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

Visit [ACONAV.com](https://www.aconav.com) to shop the collection.

U.S. Department of Energy Announces the Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Activities in Support of Commercial HALEU Production

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the potential impacts of the Department's Proposed Action to acquire, through procurement from commercial sources, high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) and to facilitate the establishment of commercial HALEU fuel production.

HALEU is a crucial material required by most U.S. advanced reactors to achieve smaller designs, longer operating cycles, and increased efficiencies over current nuclear energy technologies. HALEU is not currently available in sufficient amounts from domestic suppliers. The lack of an adequate domestic, commercial fuel supply could impede both reactor demonstrations and the development of future advanced reactor technologies.

The final EIS follows the Notice of Availability of the Draft HALEU EIS on March 8, 2024. DOE formally accepted comments on the draft through April 22, 2024, but accepted comments received beyond that date to the extent practicable. During the review and comment period, DOE held two virtual Tribal listening sessions, one in-person Tribal listening session, and three virtual public hearings. DOE received a total of 223 comment submissions on the draft EIS. Thirty-six of those comment submissions came from Tribes or Tribal members and the rest came from Federal and state agencies, industry, nonprofit organizations, and the public. In preparing the final HALEU EIS, DOE considered and responded to all comments. The responses can be found in Volume 3 of the final HALEU EIS.

The Final EIS is available on the project website at <https://www.energy.gov/ne/haleu-environmental-impact-statement>.

Requests for physical copies of the final HALEU EIS can be made through email to HALEU-EIS@nuclear.energy.gov or U.S. mail to, Mr. James Lovejoy, DOE EIS Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 1955 Fremont Avenue, MS 1235, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415.

DOE will issue a Record of Decision for the final HALEU EIS no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the Notice of Availability of the final HALEU EIS by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Record of Decision will be available in the Federal Register and on the project website.



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ROSS Grant Resident Opportunity Self- Sufficiency



How does the ROSS Grant work?

Participants in a NAHASDA Program at Creek Nation seeking financial training and support can meet individually with a Service Coordinator to assess their family's economic needs. An initial plan will be created based on their specific situation. If additional needs arise outside the ROSS Grant's scope, referrals to other departments can be made. The coordinator will periodically check in to evaluate progress and offer ongoing assistance. Additionally, quarterly financial education workshops will be scheduled for the citizens of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

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New “Native Tulsa” initiative aims to raise awareness and promote inclusivity

Written By: Rachael Schuit

Native Commerce News is sponsored by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO), dedicated to expanding Indian Country commerce across the globe.

(TULSA, Okla.) A new initiative to raise awareness about Native American contributions and history in and around Tulsa has entered the early stages of development thanks to collaboration between three community organizations.

Tulsa Regional Tourism, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO), and Native-owned Verified News Network (VNN) have teamed up to create

a “Native Tulsa” tourism guide following conversations between Amy Blackwell, National Sales Manager for the Tulsa Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Brittany Harlow, VNN Director.

“It just seemed like a very natural next step in growing Native-owned business awareness and Native tourism here in the Tulsa area,” Harlow said. “This is Native land. It’s



past time to honor and appreciate that in a mainstream societal way.”

VNN also manages AICCO multimedia and events through its marketing department VNN Media Services.

“We’re grateful for this next step in partnership between our organizations,” said AICCO State President Bailey Walker. “Our chamber is always looking for new and innovative ways to expand our impact across Indian Country. I encourage all of our AICCO members to provide their feedback on what should be included in this Native-focused guide.”

The boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN), Cherokee Nation, and Osage Nation meet in downtown Tulsa. As the largest U.S. city to sit on tribal reservation land, Tulsa is also home to 30,000 Native Americans.

Earlier this year, MCN Secretary Zechariah Harjo told

American City and County their nation has boosted the Tulsa economy by \$500 million thus far.

Tulsa Regional Tourism also released new numbers last month highlighting a strong tourism economy, including a \$327.9 million economic impact in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

“Our hope is that when people visit the Tulsa region, they’re able to enjoy all of the Native businesses and attractions Indian Country has to offer,” Bailey said. “You can’t visit Tulsa without feeling and seeing the impact Native Americans have on the region. Anything that brings more attention to that is a benefit to our Native community and to Tulsa as a whole.”

Those wanting to weigh in on the Native Tulsa tourism guide can do so by taking the survey online or emailing chamber@aiccok.org

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WES STUDI, THE MILITARY VETERAN



Wes was born in 1947 in Nofire Hollow, in Northeastern Oklahoma. He spoke his native Cherokee until he was 5, when he was enrolled in the Murrell Home to attend public school. He later attended the Chilocco Indian Boarding School in Northern Oklahoma, where he remained through high school graduation. Yet, unlike many fellow Native American students, he never forgot his language.

Wes joined the U.S. Army and while stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, stories from returning Vietnam War veterans set his blood on fire. With only 12 months of his six-year service left, Wes volunteered to go to Vietnam. He served one tour in South Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta, living his own future war stories. At one point his company was pinned down in the Mekong Delta – and nearly killed – by friendly fire.

After an honorable military discharge, Wes returned home with a fire in the belly and became seriously involved with Native American politics. He joined the American Indian Movement (AIM) and participated in the Trail of

Broken Treaties protest march in 1972, where hundreds of Native American activists marched on Washington. He was one of the protesters who briefly occupied the Bureau of Indian Affairs Building there. In 1973, Wes participated in the occupation at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, for which he was arrested.

Wes now sees his political activism as a form of post-Vietnam catharsis. “I began to purge the bad feelings within myself,” he says, adding that he joined the resisters because “I wanted to make myself a viable part of the machinery that affected my people.”

Recognizing his current path could lead to self-destruction, Wes changed course and channeled his feelings toward positive change. Shortly after Wounded Knee, Wes moved to Tahlequah where he worked for the Cherokee Nation, and helped start the Cherokee Phoenix, a bilingual newspaper still in publication today. During that time Wes put his linguistic skills to work and began teaching the Cherokee language in the community. Later attending Northeastern University in Tahlequah, he made further attempts at positive influence in his work with his people.

And the rest is history!

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY



Small Business Saturday is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. We know that small businesses need our support now more than ever as they navigate, strategize, and pivot from the long-lasting effects of the

pandemic and economic setbacks. Since 2020, many small businesses have had to scale back, relocate, or even close. Large corporations and franchises don't need small town support, but your friends and neighbors do.

Founded by American Express in 2010 and officially cosponsored by SBA (Small Business Administration) since 2011, Small Business Saturday has become an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season. Reported projected spending among U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday reached an estimated \$17.9 billion according to 2022 Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey, commissioned by American Express.

Small local businesses are the heart of our communities. They donate to school fundraisers, partner with non-profit organizations, and sponsor events. Small Business Saturday is Nov 30th this year. The day was created to kick-off the holiday shopping season by celebrating and spending at your favorite local boutiques and eateries. There are so many Native creatives across Indian Country to support! For more information, ideas on ways to advertise your business, and get downloads/printable swag, visit www.sba.gov or americanexpress.com



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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.