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NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

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CONTENTS:

Native
Oklahoma
MAGAZINE

06 Stillwater musician Wyatt Flores

08 Yonder Chocolate Company

10 Three Sisters Soup

11 FCA Q & A with Elaine Berryhill

14 Tips for building generational wealth

16 Mocktail recipes for Valentine's Day

18 Sour Sofkee

22 Trichology Salon

23 February markets

24 Circle Cinema presents Seeds

25 TransFund 50th anniversary



06



08



22



25

Native Oklahoma magazine is a monthly subscription publication providing creative content within our Native communities. Each month our award-winning writers and photographers showcase Native artists, culture, fashion, and traditional foods. Every issue also includes Tribal directories and event calendars.

ON THE COVER:

Yonder Chocolate Company
photo by Jennifer Jalbert



WYATT FLORES, RED DIRT'S NEWEST SON



Stillwater musician Wyatt Flores closed out 2024 and kicked off 2025 with back-to-back sold out shows at Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa. Cain's is a historic venue that played a prominent role in the development of Western Swing in Oklahoma during the '30s and '40s and is referred to as the "Home of Bob Wills".

The Cain's Ballroom stage has hosted an array of musical talent over the years from the Sex Pistols and Leon Russell to Snoop Dogg and Smashing Pumpkins. At 16 years old, Flores attended his first concert at the iconic venue when he had a front row seat to Turnpike Troubadours in 2017. Headlining his own show at Cain's has been a full-circle moment for Flores, who counts Turnpike as one of his main musical influences.

From an early age, Flores immersed himself into his music and his love of the Red Dirt genre. Spending time with members of another Stillwater favorite, The Great Divide, and building a relationship with Rolling Stone writer and author (and Oklahoma native) Josh Crutchmer, helped Wyatt hone his craft. Flores even appears in Crutchmer's latest book "Red Dirt Unplugged".

In just under two years Wyatt Flores went from writing songs on his family's ranch outside of Stillwater to appearing on the Billboard charts on December 2nd, 2023, with "Please Don't Go" debuting at number 43 on the Hot Country Songs chart. On December 27th, 2023, he released a cover of "How to Save a Life" by The Fray. It looked like Flores was well on his way to taking the music world by storm.

In February 2024, Flores took a brief hiatus from performing and cancelled several of his upcoming tour dates, citing struggles with his mental health and impostor syndrome. Flores, with the help of his "unofficial manager" and confidant Josh Crutchmer, has been vocal about the pressures and demands of being thrust into the spotlight so quickly. After some much-needed time off and reflection, Flores' tour picked back up in April 2024.

Flores released his second EP, *Half Life*, on April 19th, 2024. The project features songs dissecting his relationship with fame, mental health, religion, and romantic relationships. After spending months on the road and a sabbatical in Nashville, he decided that home is where he's most comfortable being himself, writing songs, and jamming with his band.

On August 30th, 2024, Flores announced that his debut studio album, *Welcome to the Plains*, would be released on October 18th via Island Records, who he had recently signed with. It was preceded by the release of the lead single "Don't Wanna Say Goodnight". On October 18th, 2024, Flores performed "Oh Susannah" on *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert.

At the young age of 24, Wyatt Flores still has his whole life ahead of him and so many more experiences to have. It'll be exciting to see where this small-town kid goes from here! - Jennifer Jalbert

6 February 2025 | Native Oklahoma



Wyatt Flores' debut album
"Welcome to the Plains".

Wyatt Flores performs at Cain's
Ballroom in January.



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



For the love of chocolate

The season of love is upon us. Over the next several days we will be bombarded with jewelry commercials and targeted ads trying to guilt us into spending ridiculous amounts of money to prove our love to our significant other. I believe we should treat the ones we love with kindness every single day. I also think that sometimes a small gesture makes a bigger statement. Don't succumb to the pressure of lavish gift-giving this Valentine's Day. Instead, give the people in your life what they really want.....
.CHOCOLATE!

Everyone loves chocolate, right!? And if they don't, you do not need them in your life.

It wasn't until the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s that chocolate became available to the public. Advances and updates in machinery allowed for large quantities to be processed into cocoa powder, which could then be mixed with different ingredients to create all the delicious sweets we've come to know and love today. From believing chocolate acts as a healing agent (I totally support this theory) to an aphrodisiac (also in support of this!), it has been transformed and beloved by people worldwide. No one is more experienced in the process of creating fine chocolate than the Native American cultures who first discovered and developed its delicate recipe.

Yonder Chocolate Company founder and owner Ronnie Watchorn has made it his mission to create flavors that tell a beautiful story woven from reservations, main streets, and inner-city farmers markets from across the state, bringing them all together in his hometown of Broken Arrow. His unique flavor pairings like tobacco and sweet cream and prickly pear and hibiscus are sure to impress every palate. He even makes his own dandelion syrup to infuse into dark chocolate truffles.

After suffering an unimaginable personal loss, Ronnie immersed himself in the art of chocolate. He began his journey training in Belgian teachings. Time-honored traditions and techniques are what make Belgian chocolate so refined and elegant. His attention to detail and handcrafted confections set his gourmet offerings high above the rest. Prepare your taste buds for an elevated chocolate experience.

Ready for a fresh start, Ronnie opened American Inheritance Confectionery and was excited to introduce his chocolates to the world, until someone hijacked his business website, stealing his name and domain. No stranger to starting over, he did just that and Yonder Chocolate Company was born. Housed within Rivendell Books and Baubles at 2034 W. Houston in Broken Arrow, his business and his mindset are both thriving! Chocolate gave Ronnie the foundation to rebuild his life from the ground up. His goal from the very beginning was to share the healing power of chocolate with anyone and everyone by telling stories through chocolate experiences to give light to others.

Ronnie has expanded his chocolate business by creating monthly subscription boxes that highlight Native Oklahoma icons through specialty ingredients and themes set to each individual. With notable names like Will Rogers, Maria Tallchief, and Jim Thorpe in the lineup, these boxes inspire conversations with each bite. You can sign up for subscriptions on his website at oneweirdrabbit.com. You can also peruse the full menu of truffles, bonbons, and chocolate bars. While you're there, sign up for the newsletter and be the first to know about new items and events.

Always wanting to provide a high-end experience, Ronnie has created a chocolate and whiskey pairing that he plans to incorporate into date night events and classes. And why stop with chocolate? Yonder is also your go-to for coffee as well! I highly recommend the cold brew and a Bailey's truffle. As I'm writing this, Ronnie is solidifying new coffee concepts and overhauling his entire menu. Once you meet him and experience the stories behind the flavors and hand-selected ingredients, you will understand the labor of love this journey has been and know that this is a true testament to his resilience.

Forget about any other chocolate you've had before because once you go Yonder, there's nothing left to ponder!! – Jennifer Jalbert



Three Sisters Soup, also known as Three Sisters Stew, is a traditional Native American recipe that combines three ingredients: corn, beans, and squash. These three crops were believed to work together in harmony in our cultural farming system, which was known as the Three Sisters Garden.

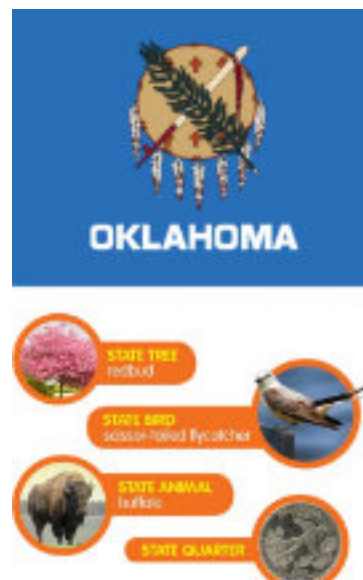
The Three Sisters Garden was a method of intercropping, in which several crops are grown together in the same plot of land. The method is based on the belief that each of the three crops provides something that the others need to thrive. Corn provides a structure for the beans to grow on, squash captures the sun's heat and keeps the soil moist, and beans add nitrogen back into the soil, benefiting all three crops. Together, the three crops create a self-sustaining ecosystem, providing a rich yield even in difficult environments.

In the Three Sisters Soup, the corn adds a sweetness that balances the earthiness of the squash, while the beans provide a hearty crunch. Together, the three ingredients create a flavorful and nutritious dish. The soup is a staple of our cuisine, and it is enjoyed today as a reminder of the importance of working together to create something greater than ourselves. This soup is perfect for a cozy night in.

- 2 cup black beans
- 2 cup squash (butternut if in season)
- 2 cup corn
- 2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion (I prefer yellow)
- 3 clove Garlic
- 2 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 cup chicken broth



Recipe Instructions: If using canned beans, drain and rinse them. If using dry beans, soak them overnight and cook according to package instructions. In a large pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Add cumin, paprika, and chili pepper and cook for 1 minute. Add beans, squash, corn, and chicken or vegetable broth to the pot. Bring the soup to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer for 20-30 minutes, or until the veggies are tender. Enjoy!



Fellowship of Christian Athletes Player Spotlight

Name: Elaine Berryhill

High School: Okemah High School

College: Undecided

Sports Played: softball, basketball, and track.

Hometown: Okemah Oklahoma

Accomplishments: 1000 Career Point Scorer,
2 Time All-Conference



Q and A with Elaine:

Tribal Affiliation: Muscogee Creek

Favorite Bible Verse: Colossians 3:23, “**Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for me.**” This verse helps me remember that whatever I do in life to do it for the Lord and not for me. God is the one who gives me meaning. He has given me my abilities, as well as many friendships I would not have had without Him.

Nickname and why?: My nickname is Tootsie. My grandma gave me this name because she said I had beautiful skin.

Favorite food and why?: My favorite food are my Grandma’s meat pies. Her meat pies are different than other meat pies. I’m not sure what she does, but they are the best!

Favorite Walk-Up Song: My favorite song is “Reckless Love’ by Cory Asbury. This song was playing when I got saved. The words really touched my heart and it will be my favorite song forever!

Favorite Player: Stailee Heard is my favorite player, she plays basketball at Oklahoma State. I look up to her because she takes pride in who she is by wearing her traditional wear. She’s confident and not afraid to show others who she is. Stailee is a great role model and helps me grow in my self confidence.

Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team: My favorite part about being a leader on a team is gaining the respect of my teammates. Being kind and holding myself accountable are important to me. It helps our team have self-control and confidence.



Who Do You Look Up To: I look up to my older siblings, Charley and Jenna. They have been through so much. Charley and Jenna continue to shine and face the challenges life brings. Their example has given me the courage to continue to face whatever battles comes my way. I'm proud to say, I have the strongest and most loving siblings.

I also look up to my grandparents. I wouldn't be where I am today without them. They are my light and joy. My grandparents never gave up when facing struggles and kept it together because of us. We may not have had much, but they gave me everything I needed. They took me in, when no else would.

Plans After Graduation: My plans are to go to college and continue my basketball career. My dream is to be a physical therapist.

What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Athlete: As a Christian athlete, prayer time before games and growing relationships with people is my favorite part. Just being able to give my praise to God for giving me the strength and ability to do the things I do.

Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach and why?: Coach Kennemar, Coach of the Okemah Girls Basketball team is my favorite coach. Coach Kennemar started FCA at my school and really pushed me closer to God. He was there when I got saved. Coach even cried and hugged me. He has had the most impact on my life now and for years to come.

Favorite part FCA Huddle: Devotional time is my favorite. I like hearing the different speakers. I love hearing other people share their testimony. My FCA huddle has helped me grow in my faith and gave me the opportunity to share my testimony for the first time with FCA fields of Faith at OBU.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes 2024-25 theme:

From my glory to HIS GLORY!

You don't have to shy away from glory; you just need to reorient Who gets it.

- CHASING GLORY
- REVEALED GLORY
- REFLECTING GLORY
- LASTING GLORY

Join us as we dive into these four key concepts throughout the year to understand how you can go from chasing glory for self to living satisfied with giving God glory in all you do.

KEY VERSE
"Everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory.
I have formed them; indeed, I have made them.
—Isaiah 43:7

12 February 2025 I Native Oklahoma

SAVE THE DATE!

March 1, 2025

Reception: 6:30 pm |

Event: 7:00 pm

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*A Night
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Dance of the Two Moons supports Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa's services that benefit thousands of Tulsa Area American Indians, in all stages of life. To sponsor or purchase tickets visit ihcrc2moons.org.

7 tips: Tribes look to new approaches for building generational wealth



By Sarah Alexander

Relationship Manager for Native American Financial Services at BOK Financial

On any wealth-building journey, the first step is often the hardest—especially when you’re looking to care for an entire community, not just for today but for the generations to come.

And that’s exactly the large order on many Native American tribal leaders’ plates.

It can be overwhelming when you talk about trying to establish enough wealth for generations. However, it doesn’t have to be everything all at once. It’s never going to be the perfect time; we suggest getting something started and then growing from there.

Moreover, as daunting as the journey can seem, it’s an essential one for current and future generations alike.

As tribes work to build infrastructure and cash-generating businesses, current generations benefit from the ability to fund capital projects, provide healthcare and educational services, enable tribal members to remain in the community, and support minors and elders.

Later, as a tribe’s wealth grows, its investment earnings may be sufficient to fund capital projects without reducing principal or relying on debt. The tribe may potentially be able to create a minors’ trust to support youth in their transition to adulthood, establish an education endowment to fund college and post-secondary education, and establish a trust to deliver social support services for the elders—all provided by the tribe.

But all that doesn’t happen overnight. Here are some tips for getting started.

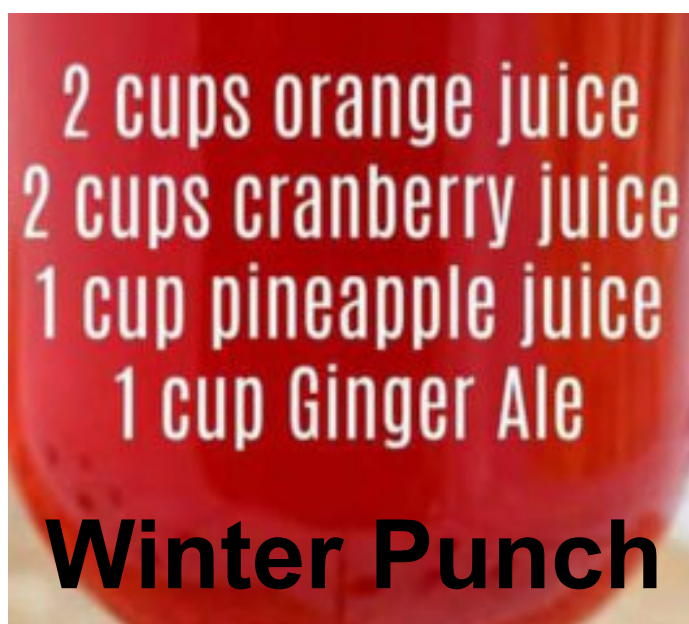
How tribes can build generational wealth

- Create ways to generate cash flow: For a tribe to move away from being primarily reliant on federal funds, it must find alternative ways to generate revenue, such as through a gaming enterprise or other hospitality businesses, or by the extraction of natural resources from their land. That's the first piece: you have to have an enterprise through which you can accumulate cash and cash flow over time.
- Identify any views or mindsets that may have to change: Sometimes a financial turning point has less to do with simple dollars and cents and more to do with changing tribal leaders' views about money management.
- Establish the right goals, structure and processes: Right from the beginning, a tribe may want to consider setting goals and implementing an oversight process, with an oversight structure. The oversight structure may include roles such as a chief financial officer (CFO), a treasurer, and/or a chief investment officer. These roles strive to operate seamlessly and function as a "single source of truth" to consolidate revenue sources, accounting and investment functions.
- Authorize policies from the get-go: It's also important to document all your tribe's processes around finances and investments early on. If policies and procedures are established upfront with authorization and approval from the tribal council, then it's typically easier to make progress on an ongoing basis, as opposed to constantly having to get approvals at each step in the journey.
- Designate multiple "buckets" for money, including a "rainy-day" fund: As your tribe's enterprises grow, you might have multiple accounts designated for accumulated cash. In addition to operational accounts, a tribal enterprise could maintain separate accounts with excess liquid balances as a rainy-day fund. Later, as liquidity accumulates, a portion of tribal distributions could be earmarked for creating a permanent or sovereign fund that grows over time which can help establish generational wealth.
- Use debt strategically: There may be times throughout a tribe's financial progression that the strategic use of debt can help retain and grow wealth while expanding the revenue base. Ultimately, the goal for many tribes is to be debt-free, but that doesn't mean you have to be debt-free forever. At times, it makes economic sense to utilize debt for an expansion or acquisition rather than foregoing investment earnings by dipping into liquidity reserves.
- Choose a financial services provider that's familiar with Native American tribal governments and operations: Financial firms with this experience will understand that a tribe is a sovereign nation and that it needs to be treated that way. Tribes also need a firm that's willing to provide ongoing consultation on financial matters without having an agenda. Through all this, it's important to keep in mind that it's often a non-linear path for many tribes.

"We're always in it for the long haul. We are always looking out to future generations."



Mocktails we love:



Whether you're entertaining friends, having a date night, or hosting a dinner party, these non-alcoholic recipes are always a hit! (If you like it spiked, we highly recommend Tito's Handmade Vodka).



Spicy Margarita:

- *juice of 1 lime
- *2 ounces hot honey
- *2 ounces orange juice
- *4 ounces lime sparkling water
- *lime wedges and/or jalapeno slices for garnish

Mix all ingredients in a shaker or glass. Pour over ice and enjoy!

Moscow Mule (without the Moscow):

- *1 cup Ginger Beer
- *juice of 2 limes
- *1/3 cup sparkling water or club soda
- *lime wedges or mint leaves for garnish

Mix ingredients, pour over ice, and enjoy!



Sweet Sunrise:

- *4 ounces orange pineapple juice
- *1 ounce cranberry juice
- *splash of orange bitters
- *orange slice or pineapple ring for garnish

Mix all ingredients in a shaker or glass. Pour over ice and enjoy!

If consuming alcohol, please drink responsibly

“The Native Calendar”

Sour Sofkee #62

By

Fus Yvhikv



“Welcome to the first day of the new year,” Yahola says to a stunned class of students at Tulsa University. Yahola is a guest lecturer for the Native American studies class.

“Do you mean today is the first day of the new year, Mr. Yahola?” a student meekly asks.

“Yes.”

“But it is July 12th.”

“We Mvskokes, or Creeks if you prefer, would say today is Hiy’uce Palen-Hokklohkakken,” Yahola replies as he surveys the classroom and holds the rapt attention of the students. “July 12th. But since today coincides with the Green Corn Ceremony at my ceremonial dance ground, it is also New Year’s Day.”

The students lean back in their chairs and exchange quizzical looks. Many sit with nervous smiles. Yahola builds the tension by ignoring the class while unhurriedly shuffling a sheaf of papers. Students begin to slightly fidget. Yahola turns his focus upon the students and slowly gazes from one side of the room to the other. His smile releases the students from the captivity of their anxiety, and they relax their posture.

“Who would like for me to explain?”

“Me!” the undergraduates eagerly respond in unison.

“I realize there is a lot to unpack in my rather cryptic introduction this morning,” Yahola says. “So let us start with today’s date. You know the month as July. For the Mvskoke-Creek people, however, it is called Hiy’uce which translates as little harvest time. It is in reference to the ripening of the first

“You mean like okra, Mr. Yahola? I love me some fried okra,” a student says as the class erupts into gleeful laughter.

“Yes, and lettuce, watermelons, squash, and green beans. These are among the first of the summer crops to be harvested. Thus, Hiy’uce, or Little Harvest Month.”

“So what is August called, Mr. Yahola?”

“Hiyo-rakko, or Big Harvest Month,” Yahola says. “Those of you who have helped your parents or grandparents tend to a vegetable garden know that August, or Hiyo-rakko, is the time of the big harvest.”

One of the students, Mark Nuttle, raises his hand. Yahola acknowledges him.

“Mr. Yahola, I am sensing a pattern to the Mvskoke calendar. It appears to me that the Mvskoke calendar manifests an intimate relationship with nature and phenomena that occurs during the same period annually.”

“That is true, Mark.”

“So instead of Little Harvest Month, and Big Harvest Month, we have July and August.”

“And do you know where those names come from, Mark?”

Mark scratches his head and shrugs his shoulders. Another student comes to his rescue.

“July is named for Julius Caesar and August for Augustus Caesar. I guess it takes establishing the Roman Empire to get a month named after you.”

“Or be a Caesar who gets assassinated,” another

"Or be a Caesar who gets assassinated," another student jokes.

"So the Western calendar is entirely alienated from natural occurrences. I mean we have the likes of September, October, November, and December. These monthly names are based upon Roman numerals. They are entirely devoid of meaning and any connection to nature."

"Yes, and they are entirely out of order," Yahola says. "December, from the Roman decem, or tenth, isn't the tenth month but the twelfth!"

"No wonder I've been celebrating Christmas in October," another student jokes. "But wait, since October is derived from the Latin *Octo*, meaning eight, shouldn't October be the 8th month, not the 10th? This is so confusing! I vote that we adopt the Mvskoke-Creek calendar. It makes way more sense. What are the names of the other months of the Mvskoke calendar and what do they mean?"

"Well since you just mentioned December, let's start there," Yahola replies. "December is Rvfo-rakko, or Big Winter; January is Rvfo-cuse, or Winter's Younger Brother; February is Hotvle-hvse, or Wind Month; March is Tashacuce, or Little Spring Month; April is Tashace-rakko, or Big Spring Month; May is Kvvhvse, or mulberry month; June is Kvco-hvse or blackberry month; September is Otowoskuce or Little Chesnut month, October is Otowoskv-rakko, or big chestnut month, and November is Ehole or frost month."

"I love how the Mvskoke calendar has months named for naturally recurring events throughout the year. It is pleasingly cyclical or circular. It makes me feel more connected to the earth and nature. So different from the antiseptic Western calendar," Mark says.

All the students nod in agreement. One student in the back of the room stands and raises his hand. He is tall and slender, brown skinned with long straight black hair that falls to mid chest. With his rimless eyeglasses he manifests a studious look. By his look, and his surname, Yahola recognizes him as Mvskoke-Creek.

"Yes, Mr. Tarpalechee," Yahola says. "Do you wish to comment?"

"I do, Mvhayv ('teacher')," Tarpalechee replies. "I have an observation to share."

"Mecares ('do it')," Yahola says.

"Well, like you, I am Mvskoke. I am very familiar with the Mvskoke calendar. My grandparents taught me. But in my University studies I have learned quite a bit about the Western calendar."

"Heremahe ('very good')," Yahola says. "This sounds interesting. Please continue."

"Well, I think this discussion invites an examination of the origin of the word calendar."

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"Well, I think this discussion invites an examination of the origin of the word calendar."

"Again, please continue," Yahola says with a knowing smile.

"The word 'calendar' derives from the Latin word *calendarium* meaning 'interest register' or 'account book'," Tarpalechee says.

"Interest register," Mark says. "Sounds like something you'd get in the mail from a credit card company."

"Close. It could be said that the western calendar was created so that lenders could compute interest payments," Tarpalechee says.

An audible gasp rolls across the classroom. The students sit in disbelief. Mark is the first to break the silence.

"So the calendar, arguably the foundation of western society, was created so lenders could compute interest?"

"Well," Yahola responds, "The term *calendar* is derived from the word *calends*, the word for the first day of the month in the Roman calendar. Calends, in turn, is related to the verb *calare* meaning 'to call out.' This refers to the announcement of the arrival of the new moon. The arrival of the new moon, the first day of the month, was when lenders collected their debts. Having a calendar was necessary for lenders to be able to compute interest due."

"It is still so hard to believe," Mark says, "That the calendar, one of the pillars of western society, was created so that lenders could calculate interest and establish due dates for loan payments. Where did we go wrong?"

Another student chimes in.

"I don't know about you all but I'm adopting the Creek calendar. That way the bank won't be able to bill me for my student loans!"

The classroom erupts in riotous laughter as the students nod their heads in agreement.

"I like your plan," Yahola says. "But you'll probably have to be a citizen of the Creek Nation for your scheme to have a chance at success."

"Ah, man!" the disappointed student says.

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“Ah, man!” the disappointed student says.

“To be fair there is a vestige or remnant of the concept of circular time that somehow survives in the western calendar. That is the month of May. So named in honor of the Greek goddess Maia, the guardian of nature and growing plants. Have any of you heard of this Greek goddess?” Yahola asks.

“It’s all Creek to me,” Tarpalechee jokes. The students chortle at his pun.

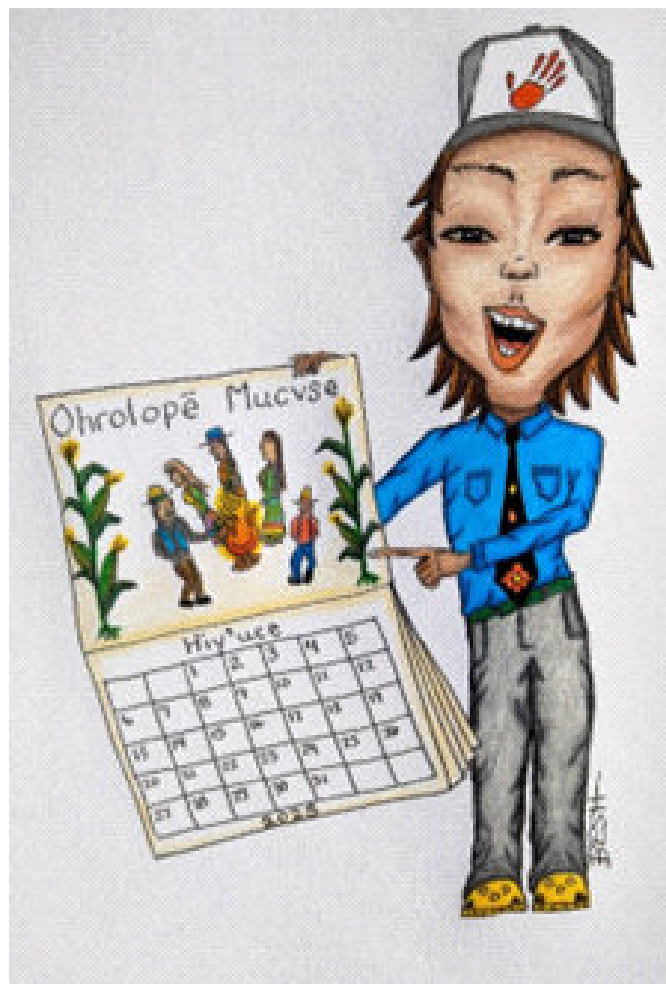
“The Mvskoke Creek and the Indigenous approach to systems of time keeping and organizing days are very much Earth centered. These Indigenous calendars are constructed upon a framework of the concept of time being circular. This approach is in stark contrast to Western culture which is organized upon the notion that time is linear. This concept is deeply embedded into western religions.

“God’s creation of the world marks the beginning of time. There is a prophetic end time. I would argue that these radically contrasting orientations to time greatly informs how various societies live upon, and relate to, one another and Mother Earth. I would challenge each of you students to give deep thought to how these contrasting orientations manifest themselves in contemporary America. Please be prepared to share your thoughts at class next week.”

of time. There is a prophetic end time. I would argue that these radically contrasting orientations to time greatly informs how various societies live upon, and relate to, one another and Mother Earth. I would challenge each of you students to give deep thought to how these contrasting orientations manifest themselves in contemporary America. Please be prepared to share your thoughts at class next week.”

“I look forward to it,” the debt-ridden students says. “And I hope to bring my Mvskoke citizenship card.”

“Class dismissed,” Yahola says with a grin.



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Love is in the (h)air...

Trichology: The cosmetic study of hair, the science of its structure and function.

In Native American culture, hair is considered sacred and holds deep significance, representing a physical extension of one's spirit, identity, and connection to their ancestors. Long hair often signifies strength, wisdom, and cultural pride, and specific hairstyles carry important meanings depending on the tribe and life events. Cutting our hair is oftentimes symbolic as an offering, a major life change, or the release of grief.

Travis Briggs is a hairstylist and barber at Trichology Salon in Oklahoma City. Having surrounded himself with friends in the beauty industry early on, he decided to begin his own journey with hair in 2006. After studying at the esteemed Sassoon Academy, Travis received his license and has now been a successful hairdresser for 18 years!

Travis started working at Trichology Salon with his now-wife Tammy. Not only are they life partners, but they are business partners as well. After years of working side-by-side through a series of unexpected events and opportunities, this beautifully coiffed duo bought Trichology Salon and made it their own. Striving for an environment of inclusion and collaboration, they have reworked the salon's core values and culture to create an inviting atmosphere of love and acceptance.

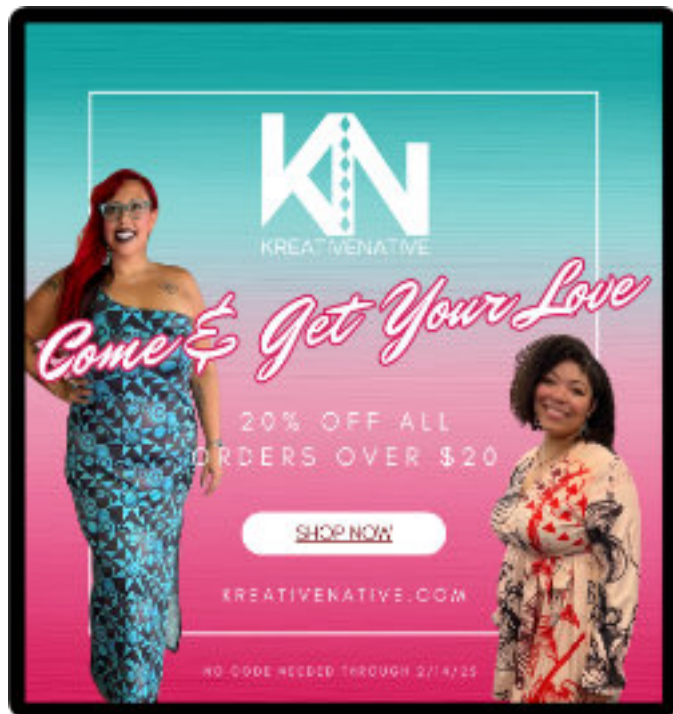
A lot of industries are still feeling the sting of a post-pandemic world, and the beauty industry is no different. In 2022 Travis and Tammy overhauled their business and their mindset. Their new mission was one of supporting new stylists and committing to continuing education in their salon, including monthly Trichology Family Trainings. The Briggs have developed many community partnerships and regularly host fun interactive events at Trichology. Check out their Galentine's Day event on Tuesday, February 11th !

The Trichology team has a combined 250 years of hair cutting and hair design experience! Each member offers customized services from colors and haircuts to hair extensions and event styling. www.trichology.net

- Jennifer Jalbert



February Art Markets: Grab your gal pals or significant other and shop til you drop!



"If You Forgot Again" Valentine's Weekend Art Show

Tulsa Art Market

2648 E. 11th St
(Route 66)

Sunday February 16th

5 - 8pm





The 2025 Indian Territory Film Festival is excited to offer a special screening of the film, "Seeds", featuring writer, director, and star, Kaniehtiio Horn. The film also stars Graham Greene and Dallas Goldtooth. It is for mature audiences.

"Seeds" tells the story of Ziggy, a Mohawk woman, who gets hired as an influencer for Nature's Oath company. Her cousin calls her back to their reservation, embroiling her in a fight to preserve their people's heritage amid corporate interests.

A reception will kick off the festivities at 5:00 pm, followed by the film screening at 7:00pm.

Special thanks to our sponsors: NYU Scorsese Department of Cinema Studies, Choctaw Nation, Cherokee Film, Tulsa Film Collective, Nevaquayah Fine Arts and Entertainment, and OSU Tulsa Center for Poets and Writers.



Circle Cinema has their own Walk of Fame that includes several of our favorites!



24 February 2025 I Native Oklahoma

TransFund celebrates 50 years

TULSA, OK- For TransFund, 2025 is a year of celebration. The company, known locally for their ATM

network, is celebrating 50 years since the first free standing ATM was installed in Oklahoma, as well as the company's 50-year anniversary.

“TransFund was founded in 1975, which is also the year Bank of Oklahoma installed the first off premises ATM in the State of Oklahoma,” said Michael Kelly, executive director of TransFund, adding

that the location of the state's first free-standing ATM was 6700 South Yale (currently the Resource Science Center). “It was a totally new concept and a very different experience than it is today.”

In the past 50 years, TransFund has seen plenty of innovation:

- 1975 Bank of Oklahoma/TransFund opens first free-standing ATM in Oklahoma
- 1981 TransFund signs its first participating financial institution.
- 1992 TransFund offers Merchant Services, allowing businesses to accept all card payments
- 1993 TransFund issues its first debit card
- 1996 TransFund creates one of the first surcharge-free ATM networks
- 2006 TransFund pioneers the school debit card, now serving over 500 schools nationwide
- 2013 TransFund launches first charitable debit card (Over \$1 Million raised)
- 2019 TransFund deploys new debit, credit, and merchant processing technology platforms
- 2023 TransFund launches Defender premium fraud tools featuring AI technology



“TransFund has evolved and grown dramatically in the past 50 years, as we now process over one billion debit and credit transactions per year as a bank and credit union issuer processor and merchant services provider. ATMs and payments have changed so significantly, which makes this industry extremely dynamic and exciting,” said Kelly. “For example, your ability to conduct contactless transactions, use QR codes, pay bills and even speak with a live teller through an ATM is functionality that didn’t exist just a few years ago.”

He said the TransFund team anticipates the next 50 years will be full of even more innovation. “We expect ATMs will continue to transform to better serve the consumer, strengthen security and improve the financial lives of the consumer and businesses they serve. We will interface with the ATM biometrically, manage crypto, receive loans and AI tailored financial recommendations and offers, as well as make various types of currency deposits all at the same ATM.”

TransFund’s anniversary celebration throughout 2025 will include cardholder giveaways—from gift cards to a new car—multiple employee and client appreciation events and more.

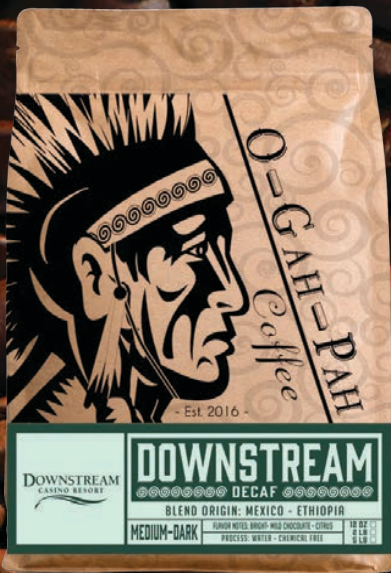


O-GAH-PAH

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

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

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





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OKLAHOMA WOMAN QUARTET

AN ANJELICA LINDSEY
ENSEMBLE PREMIERING
MARCH 1, 2025



OKLAHOMA WOMAN QUARTET

Experience the historic premiere of
Oklahoma Woman Quartet, a
groundbreaking chamber work by
Cherokee-American composer
Anjelica Lindsey, featuring string
quartet and vocals. Join us for this
powerful celebration of indigenous
culture and contemporary classical
music.

Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025

Venue: All Souls Unitarian Church,
2952 S Peoria Ave, Tulsa, OK 74114

Time: Doors open 6:00 PM with
complimentary coffee, tea and
water available as well as a
mingling reception after the show.
Performance at 7:00 PM in main
Sanctuary.

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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.