

MAY 2025

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



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NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



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NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | MAY 2025

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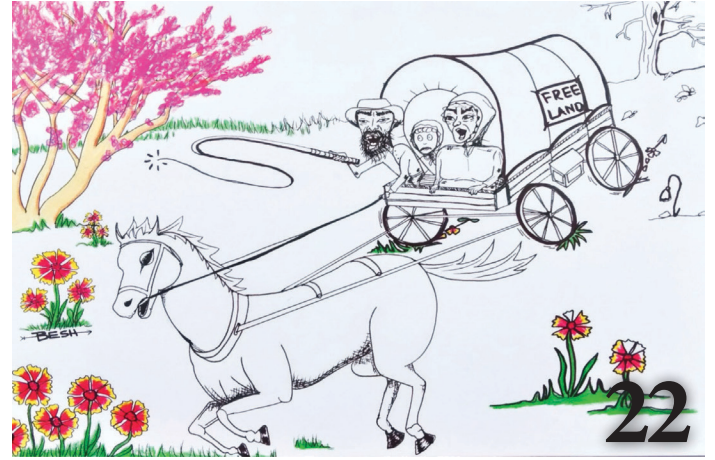
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NATIVE CULTURE, TOP NEWS,
ART, EVENTS & MORE!



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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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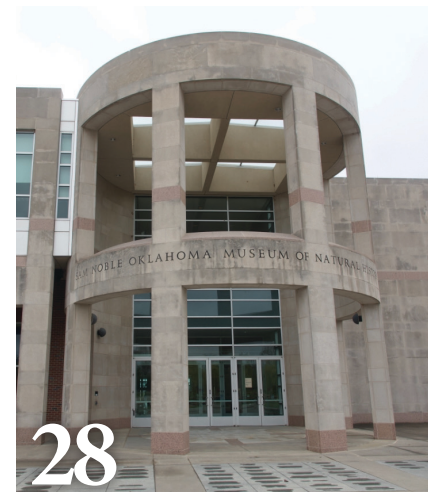
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Oklahoma's largest museum of natural history is also one of the largest holders of the remains of Native American and funerary objects in the country.



2025 Annual Tribal Festival Guide

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Tribal Festival, a celebration of culture, community, and heritage, packed with exciting events for all ages. Whether you're here to enjoy traditional festivities or spend quality time with family and friends, there's something for everyone.

Festival Highlights

Rodeo

Experience the thrill of the rodeo, showcasing incredible talent, bravery, and skill. From bull riding to barrel racing, this event celebrates the strong spirit and traditions of our community. Cheer on the riders and feel the excitement as the action unfolds.

Carnivals

Step into a world of fun and adventure at the festival carnival! Featuring games, thrilling rides, and delicious food stands, the carnival is perfect for families looking to spend a memorable day together. Don't miss out on the chance to win prizes while enjoying the vibrant atmosphere.

Concerts

Feel the rhythm and dance the night away at our live concerts. With performances by amazing Native artists and diverse musical acts, these shows are sure to highlight the rich musical heritage of our community. Bring your friends and join us under the stars for an evening full of great vibes and incredible talent.

Ball Games

Celebrate the joy of sportsmanship with our community ball games! From fast-paced basketball matches to exciting softball games, these events bring people together to share in fun, family-friendly competition. Whether you're playing or cheering from the sidelines, you won't want to miss the energy of these games.

Parades

The parades are a true spectacle of culture, pride, and tradition. With beautifully decorated floats, traditional



regalia, and dynamic performances, the parades are a highlight of the festival. Bring your loved ones, line the streets, and soak in the vibrant colors and sounds of this unforgettable celebration.

Who Should Attend?

The 2025 Annual Tribal Festival is for everyone! Whether you're a community leader eager to reconnect, a family looking for a weekend of fun, or a Native individual coming to celebrate your rich heritage, the festival welcomes you with open arms.

This is an opportunity to strengthen bonds, create lasting memories, and immerse yourself in the vibrant traditions that unite us.

Plan Your Visit

Stay tuned for detailed schedules, ticket information, and event locations. Follow us on social media for updates and sneak peeks leading up to the festival.

Join us at the 2025 Annual Tribal Festival to honor our heritage, celebrate our future, and enjoy the best of what brings our community together. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stay connected. Stay tribal.

Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable experience!

MAY

60th Annual Delaware Pow Wow

May 23rd-25th, 2025

The 60th Delaware Pow Wow will be held Memorial Day weekend. Free Parking and Free Admission. Make sure you get there right before supper break each day to visit and make new friends. Gourd dance Friday 6 pm to 8 pm, Saturday & Sunday 3 pm to 5 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm.

Free Parking and Free Admission

The following schedule of events are subject to change:

Schedule of events: Each night the Grand Entry starts at 8 pm and will include Invocation, Flag Song, Memorial Song, Victory Song-Retire Colors, Round Dance, Introduction of Head Staff and Intertribal Dancing.

Friday Gourd Dance at 6 pm, Grand Entry at 8 pm. The evening will include Crowning of the Princess Allie Rodriguez-White Turkey, Tiny Tots and Juniors contest, Indian Two Step, and more. Stomp Dance following the Pow Wow.

Saturday BET Football Game (Men vs Women) at 11 am, Gourd Dance and Specials start at 3 pm, 5 pm Supper Break, Gourd Dance at 6 pm, Grand Entry at 8 pm. The evening will include Special Honor Song for Veterans, Senior Womens Contest, Snake and Buffalo Dance, Troy Little Ax Mens Traditional contest, Indian Two Step, and more. Stomp Dance following Pow Wow.

Sunday Church Service at 10 am, Turtle Races at 2pm Turtle Races, Gourd Dance and Specials at 3 pm, Supper Break at 5 pm, Gourd Dance at 6 pm, Grand Entry at 8 pm. The evening includes Mens Contest, Special Song Honoring Recent Graduates, Intertribal Dancing, Indian Two Step, and Pow Wow Committee Song-Veteran's Song.

Vendors and Food (Concession stand) will be available (no food vendors allowed), anyone selling meat pies or other food items will be asked to leave.

The event will be held near Copan Oklahoma on road 600 at the Fred Fall -Leaf Memorial

Campgrounds. (3 miles East of Highway 75 on Road 600) near Copan, OK
Not responsible for accidents or theft.

53rd annual Redmoon Memorial Day Powwow

May 24-26, 2025 Hammon, Okla.

One Mile North & Two Miles East of Junction Hwy. 33 & 34 in Hammon, Okla.

Gourd Dance Daily 3-5 pm

Flags: Up at 9 am / Down at 6:30 pm Daily
Grand Entries Nightly 7:30 p.m. (Must make all 3 for contests)

Vendors: Food \$100/weekend or \$40/per day
Crafts \$75/weekend or \$35/per day

For more information call 580-339-1946,
580-309-0042, 580-799-4566 or 405-637-6036

JUNE

55th Annual Alabama-Coushatta Pow-wow

June 6th - June 7th, 2025

Alabama-Coushatta Veteran's Pavillion
301 Daycare Road, Livingston, TX


Drum contest - Southern & Northern
(Separate Categories)

For more info: 936-252-1784

email: ac.powwow@gmail.com

Continued on next page

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA POWWOW




JUNE 20-22, 2025

Perkins, Oklahoma

GRAND ENTRY | 7PM NIGHTLY

MOURNERS MEAL - JUNE 18 AT 6:30PM, CHENA BUILDING
SUPPER to be served on **Saturday**
(All adult contestants must make 2 grand entries)


EMCEE Marshal Williamson & Marty Thurman HEAD SINGER Miwese HEAD MAN Tristan "Skush" McClellan HEAD LADY Crystal Lightfoot HEAD GOURD Kelly Switch HOST COLOR GUARD Grey Snow Warriors & Blackfeet Warrior Society	OUTGOING PRINCESS Madison Switch-Fixico INCOMING PRINCESS Alexia Adame HONORED ELDERS Jack Charles Rowe Teresa Louise Jamison-Harmor ARENA DIRECTORS Ryland Moore and Ralston Moore COOK Kelene Deer
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



DRUM CONTEST
 3 PLACES
 SATURDAY

NIGHTLY CONTESTS AND SPECIALS


FRIDAY NIGHT Induction Specials Grand Entry Princess Crowning Honored Elder Presentation Jr and Teens Contest Jr/Teen Payout	SATURDAY NIGHT Grand Entry Golden Age Womens Contest Womens Contest Newly added Women's Scrub Womens Payout	SUNDAY NIGHT Grand Entry Golden Age Men's Contest Men's Contest Newly added Men's Chicken Contest Payout
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IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
 335588 EAST 750 ROAD
 PERKINS, OK 74059
 405-547-2402
 IOWANATION.ORG

POWWOW COMMITTEE
 LESLIE TANYAN (405-245-9953)
 KENT TEHAUNO (405-788-9990)
 ALEXIS EDWARDS (405-640-8883)
 GREG "HOAGIE" MILLER (918-873-7058)
 ROMULUS PEWEWARDY

VENDOR CONTACT
 LESLIE TANYAN,
 PLEASE TEXT DURING 8AM-5PM
 AND CALL/TEXT AFTER 5PM
 (USE QR CODE TO ACCESS
 VENDOR APPLICATION)



Iowa Tribal Pow-wow

June 20th -22nd, 2025

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Pow-wow Grounds
Perkins, OK
Vendors contact: Kent Tehauno
405-788-9990

Peoria Powwow

June 20th- 22nd, 2025

Buffalo Run Casino Showplace (indoor & air-conditioned!)

Registration opens Friday 6:00PM & Saturday 12:30PM.

Gourd dance sessions Saturday afternoon and before Grand Entries.

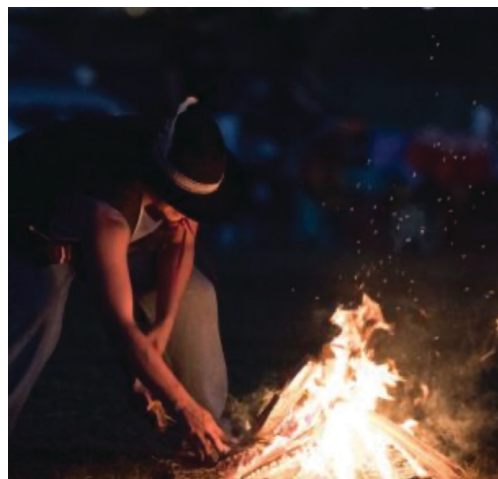
Woodland Specials Saturday Night.

Grand Entry Schedule:
Friday 8:00pm
Saturday 2:00pm & 8:00pm
Sunday 2:00pm

Contestants must make at least 2 grand entries.

Youth Contests: Tiny Tots, Boys, Girls, Junior Boys, Junior Girls

Adult Contests: Adult Men, Adult Women, Golden Age Men (separate categories), Golden Age Women (separate categories)



47th Annual Muscogee Nation Festival

June 26th-29th, 2025

Okmulgee, OK

This one has it all! Starting off with Stomp dances on Thursday night. Each year, thousands gather at the Claude Cox Omniplex right here in Okmulgee for a weekend filled with activities celebrating the

Festival MUSCOGEE
MUSCOGEE NATION FESTIVAL

FREE FAMILY FUN
JUNE 26th-29th, 2025
Claude Cox Omniplex | Okmulgee, OK

MuscogeeNationFestival.com

THE MUSCOGEE NATION

Contact 918.732.7992 or tourism@muscogeenation.com for more information.

Scan the QR for the Muscogee Nation Festival website.

All events occur at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex unless otherwise noted. All Festival visitors agree that entry into any of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival events constitutes consent for the MCN Marketing & Tourism Department to use any film, photographs, video or reproduction of image and/or voice bearer for any purpose whatsoever without any payment to the visitor.

Muscogee people. This annual celebration includes cultural exhibitions, sports tournaments, concerts featuring local and national acts, arts and crafts, great food, carnival rides, a parade, and many more festivities for the entire family to enjoy. All activities are free and open to the public. For more information go to www.muscogeenationfestival.com

50th Annual Tonkawa Tribal Pow-wow

June 26th-29th, 2025

Fort Oakland Community, Tonkawa, OK
This may be the 50th Annual Tribal pow-wow but it is originally the 140th Anniversary of



Photo of Tonkawa Tribal Scalp Dance Society

the arrival of the Tonkawa to Ft. Oakland, OK. Come out and experience the Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, an annual tribal celebration featuring Native American dancing, princess crowing, contests, crafts, artwork and food. This year marks the 50th annual event!

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

24th Annual Miami Nation Pow Wow 2025

June 27-28, 2025

Miami Nation Arena

2319 Newman Road, Miami, OK, 74354

Prizes All Adult Categories: 1st Place \$700; 2nd \$500; 3rd \$300

Contestants Must Make One Grand Entry

Contest Schedule Will Be Posted at

Registration Table

CONTACT INFO:

Contests – George Alexander 580-401-1481

Vendors – Tera Hatley 918-919-1444

Camping – Donya Williams 918-541-7274

General Info – Julie Olds 918-541-3131

Miami Tribe HQ: 918-541-1300



JULY

80th Annual Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming Pow-wow

July 3rd - July 4th, 2025

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

153rd Annual Quapaw

Pow-wow

July 3rd - 6th 2025

Beaver Springs Park, Quapaw, OK

This is one of the oldest dances in the state!

Lots of history around this festival. The t

Continued on next page

28th Annual Peoria Powwow

JUNE 20 - 22, 2025

BUFFALO RUN CASINO & RESORT

PEORIA SHOWPLACE - 1000 BUFFALO RUN BLVD MIAMI, OK

\$75,000 PRIZE MONEY

FEATURING
HOST DRUM: *Smokeytown*

HEAD STAFF

MC: JUAQUIN HAMILTON-YOUNGBIRD	HEAD LADY: SANDY HARRIS
HEAD SINGER: ARLEN GOODFOX	HEAD GOURD DANCER: JR LONELODGE
HEAD MAN: TEGO WARRINGTON	HEAD JUDGE: TONI TSATOKE MULE
	ARENA DIRECTOR: CHUCK BREAD

SATURDAY SPECIALS (18+ Only)

Men's Woodland • Women's Woodland

REGISTRATION OPENS FRIDAY 6:00 PM & SATURDAY 12:30 PM
GOURD DANCE SESSIONS EVERY DAY BEFORE GRAND ENTRIES

GRAND ENTRY SCHEDULE	YOUTH CONTESTS	ADULT CONTESTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday 8:00PM Saturday 2:00PM Saturday 8:00PM Sunday 2:00PM <p>Contestants must make at least 2 grand entries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiny Tots Boys Girls Junior Boys Junior Girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Men Adult Women Golden Age Men *separate categories Golden Age Women *separate categories

ACCOMMODATIONS

Buffalo Run Casino & Resort Hotel (918) 542-7140 1000 Buffalo Run Blvd Miami, OK 74354 Block Name: Peoria Powwow	Hampton Inn (918) 541-1500 115 Deacon Turner Rd Miami, OK 74354 Block Name: Peoria Powwow
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (918) 540-2535 EXT. 9228

Admission is free. Invited drums only. No food vendors. Please no wagons, strollers or playpens in Peoria Showplace. The Peoria Powwow is family friendly. No drugs, alcohol or firearms allowed in the Showplace at any time during the event. The Peoria Tribe is not responsible for lost or stolen items and/or accidents.



ribe 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 Tony Shawnee at (918) 978-9075

Thunderbird Casino Anniversary Celebration

July 5th-6th, 2025

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: 405-360-9270



Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration

July 2nd- 4th, 2025

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.

60th Annual Sac and Fox Nation Pow Wow

July 10th-16th, 2025

Jim Thorpe Memorial Park in Stroud, Oklahoma.

June 27 & 28, 2025
Miami Nation Arena
54505 East 65 Road, Miami, OK

Contest Info:
George Alexander - 580-401-1481

Vendor Info:
Tera Hatley - 918-919-1444
Tonya Blackfox - 918-533-4886

Miami Tribe Contact:
Julie Olds - 918-541-3131
HQ - 918-541-1300

HEAD STAFF

Master of Ceremonies: Marty Thurman - Shawnee, OK
Head Singer: Rylon George Brady - Pawnee, OK
Head Man Dancer: A.J. LeadingFox - Wyandotte, OK
Head Lady Dancer: Tara Renee Goodfox - Shawnee, OK
Head Gourd Dancer: Cap Ulrey - Quapaw, OK
Arena Directors: JR Lonelodge - El Reno, OK
Gavin Alexander, Ponca City, OK
Host Northern Drum: Young Buffalo Horse - Stillwater, OK
Incoming 2025 Pow Wow Princess: TBA
Outgoing 2024 Pow Wow Princess: Miley Attocknie, Quapaw, OK

PRIZES ALL ADULT CATEGORIES:
1st Place \$700 2nd \$500 3rd \$300

CONTESTANTS MUST MAKE ONE GRAND ENTRY
CONTEST SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED AT REGISTRATION TABLE

FRIDAY - JUNE 27TH

- Gourd Dancing 6 - 8 p.m.
- Contest Registrations
- Grand Entry 8:30 p.m.
- Steve Lankford Memorial Tiny Tot Exhibition
- Men's Straight Dance
- Women's Golden Age Cloth/Buckskin 50+
- Men's Golden Age Fancy Dance/Grass 50+
- Women's Cloth
- Men's Traditional
- Women's Buckskin
- Exhibition Dances

Saturday - June 28th

- Gourd Dancing 4 - 6 p.m.
- Contest Registrations
- Grand Entry 7 p.m.
- Men's Fancy Dance
- Steve Lankford Memorial Tiny Tot Fancy Dance Competition for 10 yrs and under - \$250 Winner-Take-All and two \$50 consolations
- Women's Golden Age Fancy Shawl/Jingle 50+
- Men's Golden Age Straight/Traditional 50+
- Women's Fancy Shawl
- Women's Jingle
- Men's Grass

CONTEST SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED. SECURITY ON SITE.
MIAMI TRIBE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS,
THEFT OR INJURY.



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!



143rd Annual Otoe-Missouria Encampment

July 17th- 20th, 2025

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. Log on to www.omtribe.org



72nd Annual Comanche Homecoming Celebration

July 18th- 20th, 2025

Sultan Park in Walters, Okla.



74th Annual Indian Hills Pow Wow

July 23rd - 27th, 2025

Indian Hills Pow Wow Grounds, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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

72ND ANNUAL COMANCHE HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

COMANCHE HOMECOMING PRINCESS: JASMINE POEMOCEAH





SPECIAL INVITATION TO COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS: BLUE SKY TOSEE
SPECIAL INVITATION TO COMANCHE NATION JR. PRINCESS: ARLENE SCHONCHIN

HEAD EMCEES:
MARTIN FLORES & LOUIE POHAWPATCHOKO
HEAD SINGER (AFTERNOON SESSION):
KEVIN "BUBBA" SOVO
HEAD GOURD DANCER:
KILEY CODYNAH
HEAD LADY (AFTERNOON SESSION):
MCKENZIE SOVO
CO-HOST:
WALTERS SERVICE CLUB & CIVA
COLOR GUARD:
KCA VETERANS ASSOCIATION
HONORED VETERANS:
FRIDAY - PAUL TATE JR.
SATURDAY - FRANKIE PATTERSON
SUNDAY - CLIFFORD OTOTIVO JR.

HEAD SINGER (EVENING SESSION):
RONALD MONOESSY JR.
HEAD MAN WAR DANCER:
FRANK SWIFT
HEAD LADY (EVENING SESSION):
VICKI SANDERS
ARENA DIRECTORS:
LARNEY SILVERHORN, TRAVIS CODYNAH & CHARLES TAHAH

RAISING & LOWERING OF FLAGS:
COMANCHE INDIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION
VETERAN FLAGS TO BE FLOWN:
COMANCHE CODE TALKERS
HONORED ELDERS:
FRIDAY - THERESA LOPEZ
SATURDAY - SUSAN PARKER
SUNDAY - MARGIE OBERLY

JULY 18TH, 19TH, & 20TH, 2025
LIVE FROM SULTAN PARK, WALTERS, OKLAHOMA
HONORING THE COMANCHE CODE TALKERS OF WW1 & WW2

Continued on next page

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

AUGUST

Oklahoma Indian Nations

Powwow

Aug. 1st- 3rd, 2025 at the Concho Powwow Grounds in Concho, Okla.

Vendors welcomed / Grand Entry Night 7 p.m.
For more information call 405-361-8945

73rd Annual Tulsa Pow-wow

August 16th - 17th, 2025

Arvest Convention Center, Tulsa, OK

For more information. Contact David Bible at 918-724-0762

49th Annual Wichita Tribal Dance

August 15th- 17th, 2025

Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko, Oklahoma. Organized as the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, the center of activity is at Anadarko, Oklahoma, where the Wichita Tribal Park and office buildings are located. The culture, history and ancestors of the Kitikiti'sh--the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes--can be traced back to the Central and Southern Plains since prehistoric times. Archaeologists believe that the heritage of the Wichita may be traced back at least 800 years to the Washita River culture of central and western Oklahoma.

Like many other tribes. Their annual events started out as summer encampments with their families and other tribes that have created a common relationship. Now Tribal dances have been held each year to continue that tradition.

The Wichita Tribal Dance is a free event and is open to the public. Dance competitions

are open to Wichita Tribal members and their descendants. Gourd dancers, war dancers and a color guard will all be on-hand to participate in this year's Wichita Tribal Dance. Free meals will be available on designated nights of the event. Food and vendor booths will also be on-site. The Wichita Tribal Dance Grounds are located at Wichita Tribal Park 1-1/4 miles north of Anadarko on Highway 281.



SEPTEMBER

Annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival

August 29th- 31st, 2025

Tvshka Homma, capital of the Choctaw Nation.

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

Log on to www.choctawnation.com for more information on this event.

61st Annual Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration

August 29th- 31st, 2025

Adawe Park in Miami, Oklahoma.

This Labor Day weekend powwow includes a variety of activities such as gourd dancing, war dancing, stomp dancing and other social dances.

The Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration, hosted by the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma

is a family-friendly event. The celebration continues the tradition of holding no-contest dancing and offers participants ample opportunities to relax, dance and have fun. The Ottawa Tribal Powwow includes a variety of activities including gourd dancing, war dancing, stomp dancing and other social dances. This event charges no admission and is open to the public. Adawe Indian Park also offers plenty of camping space and RV electrical hook-ups.

For More Information: 918-540-1536 Contact Kalisha Dixon @ kalisha.oto@gmail.com



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Labor Day Powwow

August 29th- 31st, 2025 at the Colony Powwow Grounds in Colony, Okla.

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

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

Cherokee National Holiday

August 29th- 30th, 2025

Cherokee Nation Cultural Grounds
Tahlequah, OK 74464

The Cherokee National Holiday commemorates the signing of the 1839 Cherokee Nation Constitution. It is an annual



Head Staff

Head Singer - Joel Motah
 Head Man - Kyle Sine
 Head Lady - Maliah Silverhorn
 Head Boy - Rozen Moore
 Head Girl - Braylyn Blevins
 Arena Director - Justin Barrett
 Head Judge - Murray Rhoades
 Master of Ceremonies - Wade Blevins
 Gourd Clan - Comanche Little Ponies
 Color Guard - TBA
 2025 Senior Princess - Kathleen Blanchard
 2025 Tribal Princess - Wakinian James
 2025 Pow Wow Princess - Mia Forbis

Important Announcements

There will be a Saturday afternoon and evening dance session this year.
 A more detailed flyer and schedule will be available later.

Host Hotel: Indigo Sky Casino

Booking Code: POWWOW5

Discounted room rates are for deluxe rooms only. Standard rates apply for su

Pow Wow Committee Contacts:

Chairperson Kelley King | 918-961-7004

Secretary Justin Barrett | 918-533-6299

(Advertisements, Pow Wow Book, and Sponsors)

Committee Member Josh Daugherty | 918-418-8474

celebration of our shared history and heritage that draws tens of thousands of visitors each year over Labor Day weekend. It reaffirms that the Cherokee Nation is a sovereign nation and honors the goodwill, camaraderie and positivity that Cherokees share with one another. Welcome to our homecoming. For more information go to: Cherokee National Holiday



35th Annual Wyandotte Pow Wow

September 12th -14th, 2025

Wyandotte Nation Pow Wow Grounds,
 Wyandotte, Oklahoma

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

Annual Eastern Shawnee Pow-wow

September 19th - 21st, 2025

ESTOO Powwow Grounds

12615 S. 705 Rd., Wyandotte, OK 74370

For more information: (918) 238-5151

32nd Annual Comanche Nation Fair Powwow

Sept. 26th- 28th, 2025

Comanche Nation Complex, Lawton,
 Oklahoma



Comanche Nation Fair is the largest event of the Comanche Nation. This celebration features an array of events and activities that include: a powwow, parade, free concert, games and an art show. Other activities include basketball and softball tournaments, a horseshoe tournament, quilt show, teen dance, fun run and spirit walk. Arts and craft vendors from around the country will be present, as well as a variety of food vendors. A children's carnival featuring free rides will also be on-site. While the Comanche Nation Fair lasts all week; the Comanche Fair Powwow is the last three days of the fair on Friday - Sunday.

This annual fall event, Comanche Nation Fair Powwow, brings together tribes from all across the nation. The much-anticipated powwow part of the Fair will feature traditional forms of dance such as gourd dancing, as well as intertribal dancing for all. Photography is allowed during the dance competition, so don't forget your camera. Take in the vivid colors of dancers decked out in elaborate beadwork and their finest regalia as they compete in categories from Tiny Tots to Golden Age.

Attend this three-day event and immerse yourself in the historic traditions of the Comanche tribe. Activities including horse racing, hand games and storytelling will all be represented. Visitors to this year's Comanche Nation Fair will also enjoy bull riding and a car show.

Celebrate Comanche culture at the largest American Indian gathering in southwest Oklahoma. Free camping near the powwow grounds will also be available.

For information visit
www.comanchenationfair.com

Continued on next page

28th Annual Standing Bear Powwow

September 26th -27th, 2025

Standing Bear Park, Ponca City, OK

The powwow is hosted by the six north-central tribes of Oklahoma the last Friday and Saturday of September each year. Standing Bear Powwow features inter-tribal dancing, exhibition dancing, contest dancing, tiny tot contests and the crowning of the Standing Bear Princess. Visitors will also find a variety of arts and craft vendors, along with a wide variety of food vendors.

This free event in Ponca City is open to the public and often considered one of the most significant American Indian events in the US. Experience the Standing Bear Powwow and witness as the Kaw, Osage, Otoe-Missouria, Pawnee, Ponca and Tonkawa tribes gather to celebrate their tribal heritage with contest dancing, singing, drumming and more.

For More Information: Standing Bear Park:

Call 580-762-1514; Email

tl@standingbearpark.com



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- “It’s about creating a sustainable ecosystem. When we combine technical training with educational pathways and wrap-around support services, we’re not just filling jobs—we’re building careers, strengthening families, and empowering nations. This holistic approach ensures that the benefits of telecommunications development stay within the tribal communities, creating lasting economic and social impact.”

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‘Black Wolf’s Legacy’ opens spring exhibitions

**By Mary Leaver, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Public
Information Department**

An exhibition by a Citizen Potawatomi Nation artist that examined the forced removal of the Potawatomi people was the first exhibition in the University of Oklahoma’s Lightwell Gallery for spring 2025.

Nicole Emmons, a filmmaker and mixed media artist based in Oklahoma City presented “Black Wolf’s Legacy” on Jan. 23, 2025. The exhibit combined history and contemporary art to educate patrons about cultural identity and survival.

During her artist talk, Emmons said she intended “Black Wolf’s Legacy” to be an immersive experience that combined animation, projection and mixed media to tell the story of the 1838 Trail of Death, in which the Potawatomi were forcibly removed from Indiana to Kansas.

“On Sept. 4, 1838, (the Army) rounded up the four main chiefs by gunpoint and put them in a jail wagon. Then they rounded up the rest of the people, with about 100 soldiers to marshal everyone together, and started the long march. It was about 660 miles, and it was a two-month march,” Emmons said. “It was very, very dry and there was very little water. There was typhoid going

around at the time. Nearly every day somebody died.”

Emmons said that Black Wolf’s story stood out to her because of his resistance.

“People like Black Wolf escaped and went to Michigan. He escaped once and went to Nottawaseppi, which is the Huron Band of the Potawatomi. Then he was captured and brought back to Kansas. Later in 1840, he got away again. But he was captured once again and brought to Kansas.

“What does he represent? He represents the idea of going against societal pressure. All these forces are coming together to tear this community apart and to tear this Nation apart. But Black Wolf saw through that and said, ‘No, I’m not going to stand for this. I’m going to fight and I’m going to go back and I’m going to keep our culture,’” she said.

Black Wolf’s fierce resolve inspired Emmons.

“What he represents is that spark of knowing who you are and standing for who you are. The legacy is about practicing your culture and how that can actually be in rebellion to what was meant for us as far as colonialization,” she said. “The forced



removal is an aspect of colonization that they used to break us down and break us apart. And it was ultimately unsuccessful because we are still here and we’re thriving.”

Elements reflect culture

“Black Wolf’s Legacy” took patrons on a journey from the Great Lakes to forced removal to embracing culture in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s adopted home of Oklahoma.

“(Portions) represent the Great Lakes. It’s representing nostalgia, things that we’ll probably never get back, the purity of that time before colonization. But you can still have relationships with our family of animals and fauna and flora. There are still ways when you practice culture, you’re able to get in touch with that,” she said.

Visitors were encouraged to walk through several long curtains of fringe, representing a journey.

"I tried and tested a bunch of different materials and of different thicknesses. It's the idea of going from one place to the next. I can never reproduce the Trail of Death or what people went through, but you can have moments where you can sit and take time and think about what that might have been like," Emmons said. "On the opposite end, the images are other methods of colonialization."

The animation also reflected Indigenous elements.

"Everything is based on the number four. Four is a sacred number, such as the four directions, but it's also the different medicines. I did my drawings in cycles of four, so there's 40 individual drawings, and then there's four drawings of each of each image," she said.

The wigwam structure represented reflection, a place where Potawatomi ancestors would have thought about all that had happened to them.

"During the day when you're marching, people are dying and (you're forced to keep) going and going. At night you have time to rest and process what happened during the day and all the people that we lost. And think about 'What options do we have?' 'What other things can we do?'"

"Night is a time filled with possibility. That was the time when Black Wolf most likely made his escape as well as all the other people that escaped. When you listen to that audio soundtrack in the enclosure, it is a story. You're listening to the fire, you're listening to sounds of the encampment, you're listening to morning sounds, people crying, people singing," Emmons said.

A map of North America showed where the Potawatomi lived in the Great Lakes and their 660-mile journey to Kansas, then eventually to Oklahoma. A document was next to the map.

"That document is the muster roll of the Potawatomi. Black Wolf is actually listed on that document. I thought that would be interesting because you can see the actual names. These are real people. There's hundreds and hundreds of people that were forcibly removed.

"And that's just one story. On that muster roll, there's only 400 names. Obviously, the Trail of Tears encompasses 100,000 people that were removed. So, we're just one story of all those stories," she said.

Collaboration

Emmons said her grandfather was a prominent and early influence in her life.

"He was a historian, a superintendent of schools in Tecumseh, and he was a great researcher of Potawatomi culture and history. He really instilled that in me as well," she said.

Emmons worked for a year on "Black Wolf's Legacy," while she

simultaneously worked on other projects. She was grateful for the support from the gallery.

"Everyone at the school has been totally amazing and supportive. I came for several testing sessions, and they let me come up as many times as I wanted to work. It's just been really a great experience working here. It's beautiful," she said.

"I was really excited when she got all of her work up. It's been an awesome process to see this all come together. I'm happy that Nicole is providing us with this great exhibition and installation for our students and bringing in art and technology," said Amber Duboise-Shepherd (Diné/Prairie Band Potawatomi/Sac & Fox), assistant to the director, OU School of Visual Arts.

Emmons collaborated with Choctaw composer J. Cruise Berry to create the score for "Black Wolf's Legacy." The project was supported by the First People's Fund and the Andy Warhol Foundation, in partnership with the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition.

To learn more about Emmons, visit nicoleemmons.com.





Butcher House Meats has been open since 2021. The meat processing facility and retail counter is open to the public and located across from the Hominy Osage Casino at 115 Eagle Ave. *CHELSEA T. HICKS/ Osage News*

Butcher House boosts Osage beef, bison supply

By Chelsea Hicks, Osage News

Butcher House Meats is sourcing more beef from Osage Nation cattle, signaling a move away from sourcing beef through Val's, a Tulsa-based distributor. Since 2021, when Butcher House Meats opened in response to food insecurity exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Osage seller has exclusively sourced their own sovereign bison.

"We have been sustaining BHM with bison from the Bison Preserve since BHM opened," said Dr. Jann Hayman, ON Secretary of Natural Resources. "We only sell Osage Nation bison through the facility."

Four years later, their beef sourcing is catching up.

The Hominy-based processing and retail facility is still "paying for itself," according to Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear.

There is still room for financial growth, both in terms of a growing walk-in customer base, as well as initiatives to sell meat to local restaurants.

Before Butcher House Meats was able to provide the cattle for their own beef, they were still sourcing local, said Chelsea Hendricks, who is BHM's program/quality control assistant. "That's the only place we really order from," Hendricks said of Val's. "Because everything is pretty local. We like to try and keep it close to home."



Pretty local was not local enough for some restaurants, such as the Dirty Laundry Saloon in Pawhuska, which opted not to sell Butcher House Meats because "the meat is from Tulsa," said Erik Albarran Wick, one of the restaurant's co-owners.

While the Dirty Laundry Saloon does serve Osage Nation produce via Harvest Land, they opted for the Drummond Ranch over Butcher House Meats. Bison, said Wick, is "too expensive" to make sense for the restaurant.

As of this spring, the situation is changing as the only BHM meat coming from Tulsa is chicken and pork. According to Hayman, that will not be a temporary scenario, either.

"We ... have dates through the fall to process additional cattle from the feedlot," said Hayman, who credits collaboration with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe in developing processes for cattle feedlots as one point of growth for BHM's sovereign hyper-local beef sourcing.

These changes at BHM are fairly new, evidencing growth over the last few years. As of August 2024, Butcher House Meats was still relying on Val's for regular beef orders. While there was some hamburger and "nicer cuts of

beef” sourcing directly from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as well as “roasts and a limited quantity of steaks,” said Hayman, they were “still learning.”

After starting with \$8 million in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act in 2021, the four-year-long growth period at the 19,000-square-foot meat processing facility represents significant learning. The facility was designed and approved for cattle, bison, hogs and seasonal deer and they have processed all of these animals, Hayman said.

Cole McKinney, BHM plant manager, joined the processor in 2023 following work with Tyson Foods and holds a master’s degree in meat science from Oklahoma State University. By February 2024, McKinney was regularly hearing from customers that Butcher House Meats just sold “better meat.”

The primary obstacle they were facing at the time is that “the public still doesn’t realize that ... we’re open to the public,” said Jill Hough, BHM’s retail coordinator.

As they have grown their cattle herd, the customer base has not reflected that growth, according to Hendricks. She both assists McKinney and performs quality control checks for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensing and inspections. “It’s out of sight, out of mind,” she said of the relatively infrequent customers shopping at BHM. Some residents of Hominy do not even realize the building is there.

With the influx of cattle and bison processing days coming, “a sign might help, maybe a billboard,” said Hendricks.



They are preparing to sell a great deal of sovereign-sourced bison and beef at their spring Memorial Day sale and the employees are excited and hoping for customers.

“We’ve been getting quite a bit of our own beef. We just recently got a bunch of them in and we’re supposed to be getting more,” said Hendricks, who referenced a calendar of dates with an influx of processing to begin on March 25 and continuing at high volumes through May.

The bison on the other hand, are wild animals and cannot be processed with the same ease. “The bison did not come in ... because they were behaving stubbornly,” Hendricks said. “They’re pretty stubborn,” she said. Rescheduling bison processing is normal because of fire, weather and temperament, said Hayman. “Bison are wild animals and do not behave like cattle, so there are times where the bison movement prohibits gathering,” she said. “We simply coordinate with BHM and schedule a new date.”

The bison served at the March 30 Grayhorse Bison Feast was provided by the Osage Nation Bison Preserve, a conservation herd overseen by the Department of Natural Resources.

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SOUR SOFKEE #63

Written By: *Fus Yvhikv*

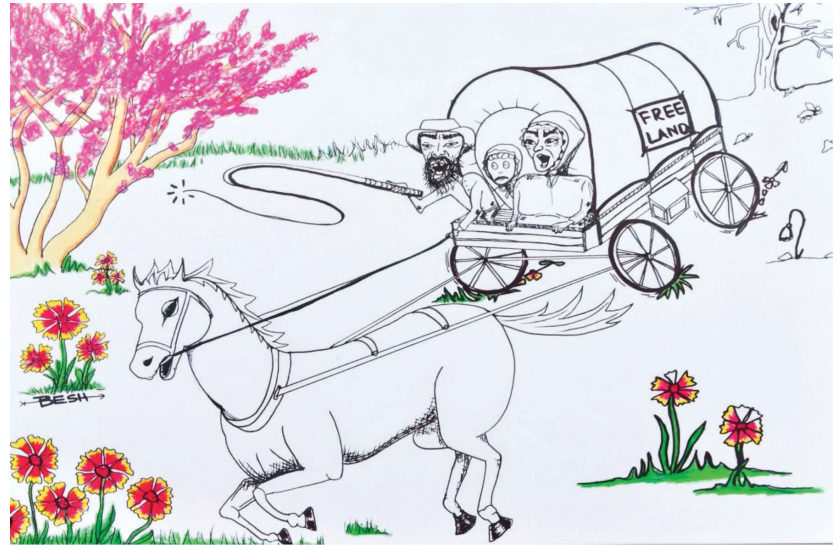
“My Creek brothers and sisters, I come to you today on a mission from God,” bellows U.S. Senator Henry L. Dawes (R-MA). “I come to you at the behest of your Great White Father. Your father knows what is best for you, his children, and he earnestly desires that you give up the chase and put the plow to the land. Your Great White Father desires that you accept the fruits of civilization that will be bestowed upon you by private ownership of the land. Father knows best.”

It is 1894 and Sen. Dawes is addressing a gathering of Creek citizens in Okmulgee, Indian Territory. He is standing on the second-floor balcony of the Creek Nation Council House. Below him, a legion of Creeks are arrayed shoulder-to-shoulder on the great lawn. Sitting next to Sen. Dawes is Legus Perryman, Principal Chief of the Creek Nation. An interpreter conveys the remarks of Sen. Dawes to the crowd of Creeks.

Dawes is the chairman of the eponymous Dawes Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes. The commission was created under an act of Congress in 1893. Its purpose is to convince the tribes to cede tribal title to Indian lands and accept the foreign concept of private ownership of land. Individual Indian land allotment is a key component of the federal policy of forced assimilation of Indians into the broader fabric of America. Indeed, President Teddy Roosevelt described compulsory land allotment as “the mighty pulverizing engine to break up the tribal [land] mass.”

“My children,” Dawes continues. “Tribal communal ownership of the land is an impediment to your progress, and it stifles industry. God himself has commanded that man have dominion over the earth. I implore you to join the community of your white brethren by agreeing to fractionate your lands. Under communal ownership your valuable lands will continue to lie fallow. You must monetize the land.

“Vast tracts of timber eagerly await the axe. Bountiful seams of coal beg for the shovel. Rich deposits of oil



invites the drill bit. The land desires to be transformed into beautiful cotton and corn fields. Expansive herds of cows will graze placidly upon the land and will cheerfully march to the abattoir.

“To reap these benevolent blessings of civilization, you must become an individual and not a member of a tribe. The Indian should be treated as an individual, like the white man. The tribal system is detrimental to the Indian. It promotes beggary, perpetuates pauperism, and stifles commerce. Your warriors must give up the chase and become farmers. Your women must attend to domestic chores. I therefore implore you to accept this agreement, embrace private ownership of land, and thereby receive the gifts of civilization that your Great White Father so earnestly desires for you.”

Senator Dawes sits nodding in a confident manner. Sotto voce murmuring in the Creek language emanates from the crowd of Creeks. Many shake their heads while shrugging their shoulders. Principal Chief Perryman confers with Sen. Dawes. He then steps forward to address the Creeks. The Creeks cease talking among themselves and give their respectful attention to the chief.

“My brothers and sisters,” Chief Perryman begins. “You have heard the words of the esteemed Chairman of the

Dawes Commission. You have heard his message about why we should accept this agreement and the private ownership of the land. The chairman has requested that we now take a vote. We will vote in our traditional manner. Those of you in favor of the agreement, please stand to my right. Those of you who are against treating with the Dawes Commission, please move to my left."

Immediately and en masse the great crowd of Creeks move amoeba-like to the Chief's left. Not a single citizen stands to the right. Senator Dawes stands with his jaws dropped. He gazes at the unified collective of Creeks to his left and the empty lawn to his right. He slowly rubs a stub of whiskers on his chin with the palm of his hand.

"How can this be?" he meekly asks Chief Perryman. "I don't understand."

"They don't either," the chief replies.

"Huh?"

"They don't understand either."

"How can they reject the fruits of civilization? Of being masters of their own destiny?"

"Because they don't understand the concept of owning the earth."

Senator Dawes again rubs his chin whiskers.

"What's so hard to understand?"

"I am afraid it is you, the Great White Father and all that he represents, who do not understand. My people cannot relate to the idea of owning the earth. If anything, the earth owns us. You must understand that you are asking my people to violate a foundational principle of our way of life. That is our communal society. We live as one."

"Yeah, that was patently obvious today," Dawes laments.

"Look, Senator, I know you have the best intentions for my people. As Chief, I realize we Creeks stand on the precipice of cataclysmic change. We are being vastly outnumbered in our own lands. Do you know that in the 1890 census they counted 50,000 whites living on the Chickasaw reservation? Do you know how many Chickasaws they counted? Only 5,000. I agree that change is inevitable, and resistance is futile. But you must give us time. Time to adjust."

"That is impossible, Chief. President Cleveland and the U.S. Congress demand assimilation and allotment. Thousands of land hungry whites are ready to gorge

themselves on the feast that is the pristine Indian land mass. Now. If the Creeks do not accept assimilation and allotment, the U.S. Congress will be forced to act unilaterally."

Chief Perryman slams his hand down hard on the balcony railing.

"Your people need to understand we aren't ready!"

Dawes leans away from the chief, his eyes wide. Chief Perryman clasps his hand around the senator's hands. Perryman's face is only inches away from Dawes.

"If this thing is to move forward, my people need time to understand the white man's idea of owning the earth. My people need to be educated about land deeds, mortgages, leases, and that sort of thing. We do not want to repeat the mistakes of the past. Of what happened to us in our homelands of Georgia. And of what will happen to us here in Indian Territory. Our lands will be stolen, and we will become vagabonds on the lands that were promised to us for as long as the waters run and the grass grows," the chief pleads.

Dawes looks away. He removes his hands from Perryman's grip. He stands and moves to the balcony railing and lights a cigar. He gazes at a now empty lawn below him. Dawes blows a series of smoke rings. He taps the ash off the end of his cigar and turns to face the chief.

"Chief, you were right about the Chickasaws being outnumbered ten to one by the whites. So too are the Creeks and the other tribes."

"Illegal immigration," the chief replies. "You feds failed in your duty to keep the whites out of Indian Territory. Arkansas hillbillies have overrun us. All looking for free land."

"Your people have been outnumbered, Chief. And it is only going to get worse. They may be hillbillies, but they are U.S. citizens. Your people are not. Who do you think the congress and the president are going to listen to?"

"That sounds like a thinly veiled threat, senator."

Dawes takes a deep breath. He again rubs his chin whiskers with the palm of his hand.

"I don't mean to couch what I have to say as a threat but rather as an inevitability."

"Please continue, senator."

Continued on next page

"You know that the Dawes Commission is on a diplomatic mission to convince the Creeks to voluntarily agree to private ownership of land and to assimilate into the larger fabric of America. We are extending the olive branch."

"And if we refuse?"

Dawes reaches into the inside pocket of his overcoat. He produces a document and shows it to Perryman.

"Then the congress is prepared to act. This is a draft of legislation called The Curtis Act. It provides for forced allotment and the abolishment of the Creek Nation government. Admittedly its terms are harsh. It is designed to pave the way for Oklahoma statehood."

"Just Oklahoma Territory?"

"No, Indian Territory too."

It is Chief Perryman's turn to break away from the conversation. He too lights a cigar and takes a long draw. He emits a huge cloud of smoke as he stares far into the distance.

"It is clear that we Creeks don't have a choice. The whites are going to get what they want one way or the other."

Owning the earth is a foreign concept to my people. They will be the victims of wholesale plunder, pillage, and theft by those who arrogantly think they can own the earth."

"I'm afraid you are right, Chief. But the Boomers, the U.S. Congress, and your Great White Father want to open the land to more productive uses. If you sign the agreement with my Commission, you'll get slightly less onerous terms than under the Curtis Act."

"You've seen what my people think of your agreement. I cannot and will not betray my people. I cannot be party to driving the nail in the coffin of the culture of my people, of the foolishness of owning the earth, nor being a conductor of your mighty engine that seeks to pulverize my people."

"So be it, Chief. Godspeed," Dawes says as he stubs out his cigar, dons his hat, and shakes Perryman's hand as he departs.

Resigned to the fate of his Creek people, the wizened old chief sits and sings a traditional Creek hymn.

"Eknv heraten, eknv heraten ("This good land"), O' momis komet, awacken ("Oh, patiently endure, come"), Cesvs likan vpeyakvres ("We will go to where Jesus lives")..."



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More than 300 Mvskoke killed in steamboat wreck honored in Louisiana

Collaborator: Brittany Harlow, VNN



(PORT ALLEN, La.) An annual lecture series in Louisiana is shining light on a little-known tragedy that claimed the lives of hundreds of Mvskoke people during the forced removal.

The Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series is held annually in memory of the founder of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association and West Baton Rouge Museum. This year's event centered on the dedication of a historical marker honoring the 311 lives lost in the tragic wreck of the steamboat Monmouth, which happened on the Mississippi River near Profit Island on October 31, 1837.

Researchers say the Monmouth, headed upriver, was forcibly transporting 693 Mvskoke people to Oklahoma on what is now known as the Road of Misery when it collided with a steamer.

Saturday's dedication programming included two speakers, Native author and historian J.D. Colbert (Muscogee Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Citizen Potawatomi) and award-winning Baton Rouge researcher Yvonne Lewis Day.

"This historical marker that commemorates that tragic event in Mvskoke history is a major step forward in honoring and remembering those lost," Colbert said. "We Mvskokes would say Pum

Vcule Vrakkuecety, To Honor Our Ancestors. We will not forget."

Day spent two decades studying the Monmouth tragedy. Her research found the Monmouth was over capacity when it collided with another ship during poor weather conditions, and the crew may have also been drunk.

Those lost are still buried in mass graves nearby.

"We can't sing your names individually," Day said during the dedication. "But in my heart I sing for them all, as a memory."

Day's research is supported by second-hand accounts recorded in the Indian Pioneer Papers, digitized by the University of Oklahoma Western History Collection.

"The officers in charge of the ship became intoxicated and even induced some of the Indians to drink," Thomas Barnett relayed from David Barnett a hundred years later. "This created an uproar and turmoil."

"We saw a night ship coming down the stream. We could distinguish these ships as they had lights. Many of those on board our ship tried to tell the officers to give the command to stay to one side so that the night ship could pass on by. It was then that it seemed that the ship was just turned loose because it was taking a zig-zag

course in the water until it rammed right into the center of the night boat."

"Then there was the screaming of the children, men, women, mothers and fathers when the ship began to sink."

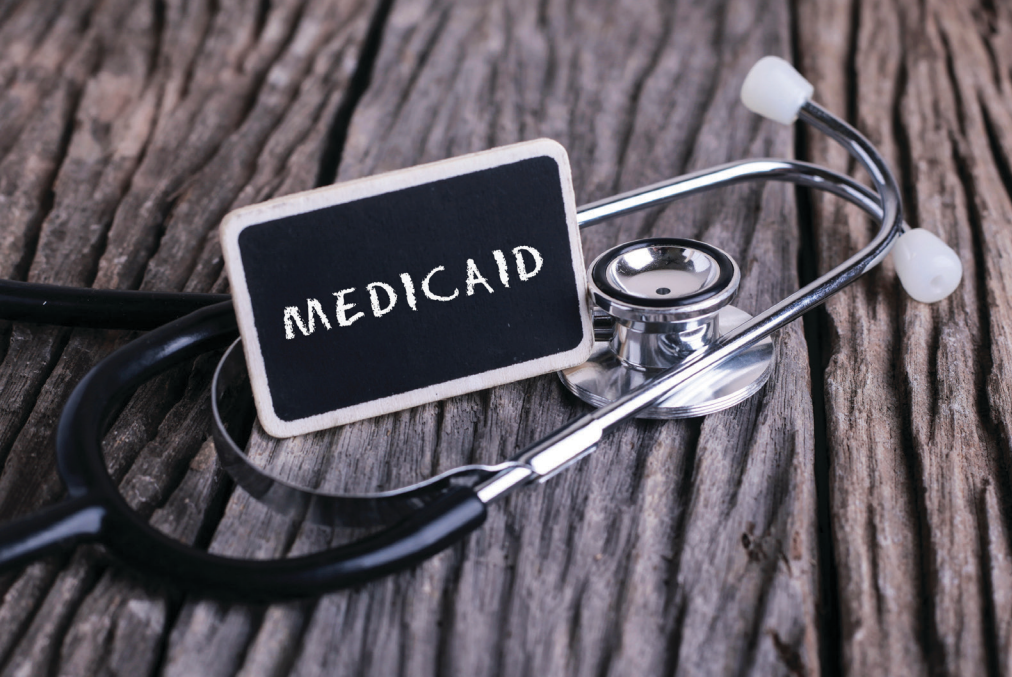
The new Monmouth Marker stands 10 miles from the museum, at the intersection of North River Road and Section Road.

Brian Falcon is the chair of the Historic Preservation Committee for the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, which sponsored the marker.

He said its presence finally sets a physical point where a visitor can place him or herself relative to the disaster and reflect on those events.

"As you well know, the Monmouth passengers were being dishonorably and forcefully relocated," Falcon said. "To add further injury, they were needlessly endangered resulting in many of their deaths in a place far from their homeland. Even though they weren't from West Baton Rouge, their dying on our soil made them part of our people. We honor them as part of our historic family as they deserve to be."

Falcon said he hopes the marker will serve as a stopping point for members of the Muscogee Nation journeying to connect to and from their ancestral homelands.



SoonerSelect: Oklahoma's New Medicaid Approach Aims to Boost Health—and Access

By Troy Littledeer

OKLAHOMA CITY — A year into its implementation, SoonerSelect is reshaping Medicaid delivery in Oklahoma through a managed care system that prioritizes prevention, cultural relevance, and community well-being. With over 612,000 members enrolled and growing, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is touting early successes—from improved care coordination to new benefits that reflect the real-life needs of vulnerable families.

“We launched SoonerSelect to shift the system from one that rewards volume to one that rewards value,” said Emily Long, OHCA communications manager. “We’re already seeing more preventive services, less duplication, and stronger connections between providers.”

Why SoonerSelect? A Health-First Approach

The traditional SoonerCare system reimbursed doctors per visit or service, a model critics say encouraged quantity over quality. SoonerSelect changes that by paying providers based on outcomes—like whether patients manage chronic conditions or complete routine checkups.

This value-based care model, Long explained, aims to reduce emergency room visits, improve continuity between specialists and primary care doctors, and ultimately produce healthier outcomes statewide.

“For example, rather than billing for every test, providers are rewarded when their patients maintain controlled

blood pressure or ensure children get well-child visits,” Long said.

Who's Enrolled—and Why It Matters

SoonerSelect covers children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and justice-involved youth. Groups such as dual Medicare-Medicaid enrollees and residents of long-term care facilities are excluded under the legislation and remain on traditional SoonerCare.

For American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) members, enrollment is voluntary, unless they're part of an excluded group. Those who opt in gain access to extra benefits not typically available under SoonerCare, such as support for traditional healing ceremonies, post-hospital meal delivery, pest control for asthma triggers, or financial help with youth activities and baby supplies.

“AI/AN members get the flexibility to maintain cultural care through Indian Health Care Providers, even if those providers aren't in-network,” Long said. “They can also opt out of SoonerSelect anytime.”

New Benefits that Meet Real Needs

SoonerSelect's three program types—Health, Dental, and the Children's Specialty Program (CSP)—are tailored for whole-person care. Each plan offers core SoonerCare coverage, plus value-added perks like:

- Meal delivery after hospitalization
- \$30 monthly diaper allowances
- YMCA memberships and tutoring for at-risk youth
- Vision services from dental plans like LIBERTY

“This is about better health for Oklahomans,” said Emily Long, OHCA communications manager. “It shifts the focus to outcomes, ensuring providers are incentivized to deliver high-quality care—not just more services.”

- \$50 diabetes screening incentives
- \$250–\$400 traditional healing grants for AI/AN members

These benefits not only improve access but also address root causes of poor health like food insecurity, stress, and environmental risks.

Helping Members Make Smart Choices

Open enrollment for SoonerSelect runs May 1 through June 13, 2025. Members must choose one health plan and one dental plan through MySoonerCare.org or by calling 800-987-7767 (option 5).

If a member's preferred provider isn't in-network, they may still receive care if:

- There's no in-network provider offering that service, or
- The health plan authorizes out-of-network treatment

"The key is communication," Long emphasized. "Members should contact their plan early, especially if they have provider preferences."

OHCA has also invested in choice counselors trained to guide members through their options. Counselors are available by phone and in person, while educational materials—such as plan comparison charts and how-to videos—are updated regularly online.

Bridging the Gap for Rural and Underserved Populations

To ensure no county is left behind, OHCA relies on:

- Text, email, and social media reminders
- Local community partners and tribal liaisons
- Provider collaboration to talk directly with patients
- A focus on equitable access across all 77 counties

Long acknowledged the biggest hurdle so far has been helping members understand how SoonerSelect differs from SoonerCare—and what they stand to gain.

"Our message is: Don't miss out on the benefits available to you and your family," she said.

Data-Backed Results and Looking Ahead

SoonerSelect's first year brought measurable outcomes:

- \$2.1 million in rewards earned by 151,000+ members
- 20,000 YMCA visits promoting active lifestyles
- 8,000+ tutoring hours for academically at-risk students
- \$259,000 in food vouchers to fight food insecurity
- \$1.2 billion in supplemental hospital payments
- \$81 million in provider incentives

For vulnerable groups, particularly children in the Children's Specialty Program, tailored services continue to make a difference. CSP supports foster children, adoption assistance recipients, and those in juvenile justice, with specialized care coordination and strong outcome tracking.

Looking forward, OHCA plans to ensure 11% of all SoonerSelect medical spending goes toward primary care within four years—ensuring deeper investment in community health and sustainability.

What Members Should Do Now

With open enrollment around the corner, Long encourages all members to:

- Review the value-added benefit charts
- Update their contact information at MySoonerCare.org
- Call a choice counselor if they need help comparing plans

And for those feeling overwhelmed, "Use the tools available to you," Long said. "We've built this program to work for you—and we want to help you make the best choice."

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OU history museum is one of largest holders of Native American remains

By Kylie Caldwell, Gaylord News



The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Oklahoma's largest museum of natural history is also one of the largest holders of the remains of Native American and funerary objects in the country.

Now, 25 years after passage of law requiring remains be returned to families, the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on the University of Oklahoma campus is hiring a coordinator to oversee repatriation efforts of Native American remains it holds under the Native Graves and Repatriation Act.

The museum's holdings represent the 18th largest collection of unrepatriated remains in the nation with over 3,800 Native American remains and more than 115,500 associated funerary objects, according to ProPublica.



The McCasland Foundation Hall of the People of Oklahoma exhibit on March 28.

Since 1990, there have been federal protections in place for Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect."

Visitors to the Sam Noble museum will find only a fraction of its Native American collection in the McCasland Foundation Hall of the People of Oklahoma, according to according to Marc Levine, associate curator of Archaeology at Sam Noble and associate professor in the OU Department of Anthropology, who said the exhibit was built with support from the tribes.

"The idea of an antagonist or competitive relationship between the museum and the tribes does not exist," Levine said, "It is more so collaborative."

Since the inception of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the museum has repatriated artifacts to Caddo Nation, Osage Nation, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and

continues to work closely with the state's tribes.

Between 2011 and 2024, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma conducted four repatriations from the museum. These included more than two dozen ancestors and more than 200 associated funerary objects.

"The Sam Noble staff have been great to work with, always willing to answer questions promptly and efficiently. They've been very respectful and professional when ancestors are physically returned to Choctaw Nation, and that is very much appreciated," said Ian Thompson, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

While the museum works to take inventory and repatriate the cultural items and ancestors in its collection dates back several decades, the museum's staff began to emphasize the importance of NAGPRA compliance in the mid-2010's.

"Those efforts, which included building important relationships with National Park Service staff, applying for NAGPRA-compliance grants, requesting expert consultants, and raising NAGPRA awareness on campus, laid the foundation for

the University's maturing NAGPRA compliance program," said Tana Fitzpatrick, OU's associate vice president for tribal relations.

While the museum works to take inventory, consult, complete inventory and repatriate the cultural items and ancestors in its collection dates back several decades, the museum's staff began to emphasize the importance of the Repatriation act's compliance, both in letter and in spirit, in the mid-2010's.

"NAGPRA compliance and respecting tribal relationships is a priority for the University," she added.

Stowed away and hidden from the public, the fifth floor of Sam Noble carries the dimly lit shelves that hold all the related artifacts and remains accumulated over years of research. Some items sit neatly preserved, awaiting study or display, while others remain miscategorized, collecting dust in archival boxes. In these silent corridors, history lingers.

The inventory in these archival collections can sometimes still be found in its original brown paper sack, dating all the way back to the 1930s. This is a testament to Works Progress Administration America, where some of the public works efforts completed during this time included mitigating archaeology, excavating burials and granting museum possession of these goods but not for the purpose of exhibition.

Just like any attitude or policy is subject to change, Levine opens up the question, "Is the consent that was (provided) in the '90s for perpetuity? Is it forever, or is it something that needs to be updated?" Currently, he ensures there is regular contact with tribal representatives and an open line of contact.

The museum has the largest archaeological collection in the state of Oklahoma that includes millions of artifacts and is actively engaged in repatriation work.

"In 2024 alone, we prepared a total of 751 sets of ancestral remains and 1,588 funerary objects for repatriation. By this measure, we are probably among the most active NAGPRA programs in the country," Levine said. "There is still a great deal of work to do, but we are on the right track," he added.

In 2023, the OU Provost appointed an independent NAGPRA Oversight Committee, representing scholars in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, art history and Indigenous law, to provide advice and recommendations to the University, including the museum, on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act related matters. This decision was made in conjunction with a \$16,765 grant in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support repatriation work at the museum.

"Currently, the Oversight Committee is: 1) developing a central NAGPRA communication line, 2) instituting a survey to inventory the University's collections, and 3) dedicating hours of study to ensure it can serve as a resource to the University in implementing the new NAGPRA regulations, among other priorities," said Fitzpatrick.

"The museum's standard of care for ancestral remains and establishing tribal relationships has been, and continues to be, a matter of priority," she added.

Because OU has historically made



Some artifacts in the The McCasland Foundation Hall of the People of Oklahoma exhibit have been removed due to Native American Graves and Repatriation Act as of Feb. 24.



necessary efforts to comply with NAGPRA, the slight reorganization of this program will not look much different from the outside- it is a constant and ongoing process. With a delegated coordinator, the project and management administration will be expedited and given necessary attention.

"When family members laid their loved ones to rest, they intended for them to stay at rest forever, not get dug up and accessioned into a collection," said Thompson.

Kylie Caldwell is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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

To learn more about the First Oklahomans, read *Exiled*, an OU Project.

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