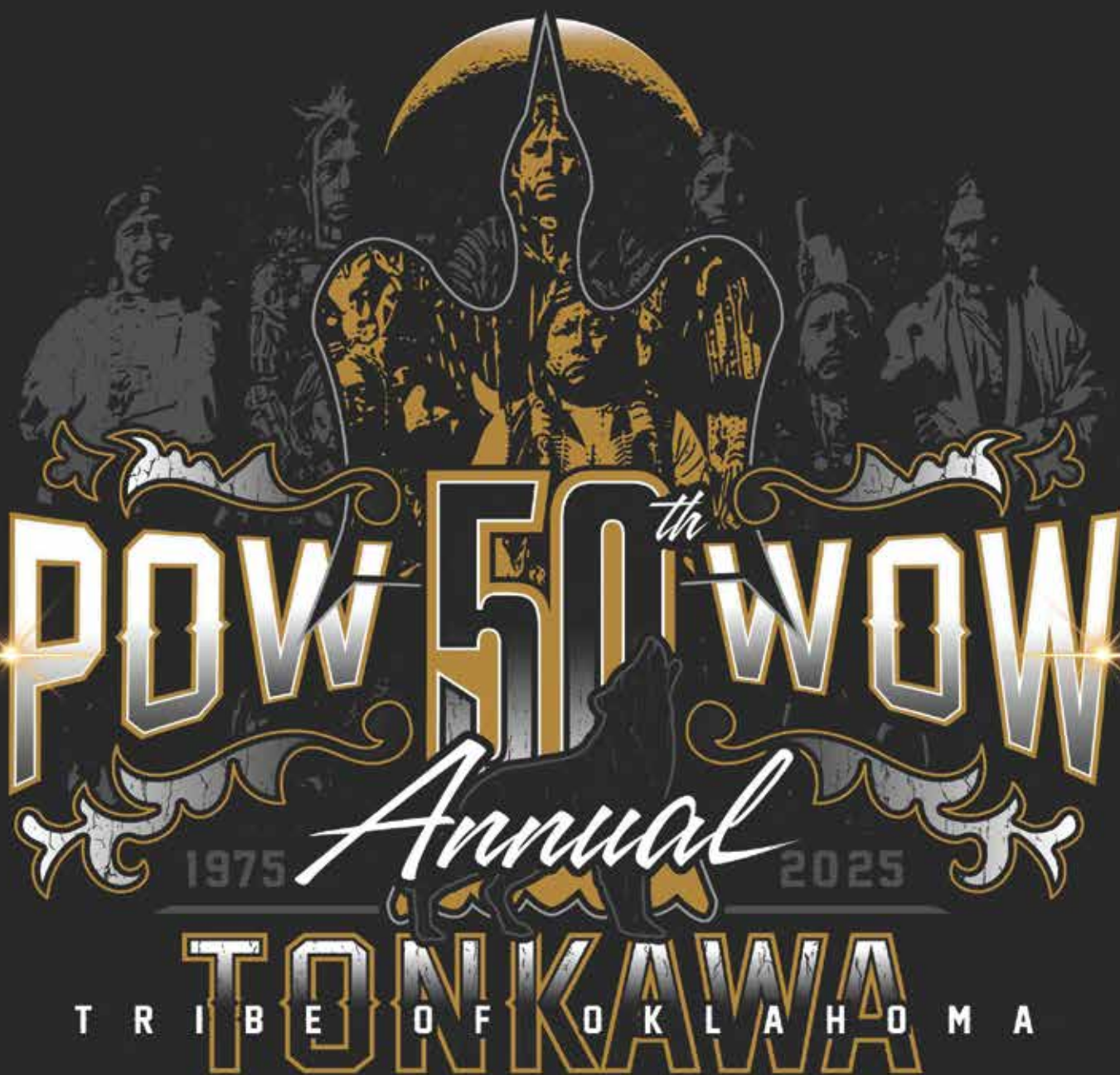


JUNE 2025

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



WWW.NATIVEOKLAHOMA.US

Celebrating Our Community!



FRIDAY, JULY 4 2025 | 6PM

Independence Day Celebration!

Buffalo Run Casino & Resort is proud to partner with the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and the City of Miami for our annual 4th of July Celebration. Each year, we come together to create a vibrant community event filled with live music, family-friendly activities, and festive fun for all ages. It's our way of celebrating Independence Day while giving back to the community we're honored to be a part of.



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CREDITS

NATIVE oklahoma MAGAZINE



ADAM PROCTOR
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918.409.7252

NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | JUNE 2025

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ART, EVENTS & MORE!



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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!

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

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 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



Continued on next page

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA POWWOW

JUNE 20-22, 2025

Perkins, Oklahoma

GRAND ENTRY | 7PM NIGHTLY

MOURNERS MEAL - JUNE 20 AT 6:30PM, CHENA BUILDING

SUPPER to be served on Saturday

(All adult contestants must make 2 grand entries)

DRUM CONTEST

3 PLACES

SATURDAY

EMCEE..... Marshal Williamson &
Marty Thurman
HEAD SINGER..... Miwese
HEAD MAN..... Tristan "Skush" McClellan
HEAD LADY..... Crystal Lightfoot
HEAD GOUD..... Kelly Switch
HOST COLOR GUARD..... Grey Snow Warriors &
Blackfeet Warrior Society

OUTGOING PRINCESS..... Madison Switch-Finco
INCOMING PRINCESS..... Alexis Adame
HONORED ELDERS..... Jack Charles Rowe
Teresa Louise Jamison-Hornor
ARENA DIRECTORS..... Ryland Moore and
Ralston Moore
COOK..... Kelenie Deer

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

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
335588 EAST 750 ROAD
PERKINS, OK 74059
405-547-2402
IOWANATION.ORG

POWWOW COMMITTEE

LESLIE TANYAN (405-215-9910)
KENT TEHAUNG (405-708-9900)
ALEXIS EDWARDS (405-640-8883)
GREG "WAGIE" MILLER (918-873-7058)
ROMULUS PEKEWARDY

VENDOR CONTACT

LESLIE TANYAN
PLEASE TEXT DURING 9AM-5PM
AND CALL/TEXT AFTER 5PM
(USE QR CODE TO ACCESS
VENDOR APPLICATION)



Photo of Tonkawa Tribal Scalp Dance Society

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 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



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.



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 8:00PMSaturday 2:00PMSaturday 8:00PMSunday 2:00PM Contestants must make at least 2 grand entries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tiny TotsBoysGirlsJunior BoysJunior Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adult MenAdult WomenGolden Age Men*separate categoriesGolden 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
--	---

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.

Continued on next page

60th Annual Sac and Fox Nation Pow Wow

July 10th-16th, 2025

Jim Thorpe Memorial Park in Stroud, Oklahoma.



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 Missouria since their removal from their ancestral homelands. The encampment is a time to allow family members from all over the country to come home and celebrate their culture and heritage as one family. Even despite their historic removals and travels from Missouri and Iowa. Their history still carries on.

Come and visit this event and enjoy in the fellowship and dancing in their Tribal traditions!

Tribal members usually camp at their

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

MIAMI NATION
24th
ANNUAL
POW WOW

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	Saturday - June 28th
-Gourd Dancing 6 - 8 p.m.	-Gourd Dancing 4 - 6 p.m.
-Contest Registrations	-Contest Registrations
-Grand Entry 8:30 p.m.	-Grand Entry 7 p.m.
-Steve Lankford Memorial Tiny Tot Exhibition	-Men's Fancy Dance
-Men's Straight Dance	-Steve Lankford Memorial Tiny Tot Fancy Dance Competition for 10 yrs and under -
-Women's Golden Age Cloth/Buckskin 50+	-\$250 Winner-Take-All and two \$50 consolations
-Men's Golden Age Fancy Dance/Grass 50+	-Women's Golden Age Fancy Shawl/Jingle 50+
-Women's Cloth	-Men's Golden Age Straight/Traditional 50+
-Men's Traditional	-Women's Fancy Shawl
-Women's Buckskin	-Women's Jingle
-Exhibition Dances	-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.



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 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.

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 TAHAAH
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**



“HONORING OUR PAST - CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE.”

This year, the Tonkawa Tribe will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. In their words, is brief depiction This theme captures the essence of celebrating past milestones while looking ahead with purpose and ambition. It reflects a blend of pride in accomplishments and excitement about the opportunities that lie ahead, uniting attendees in both reflection and forward-thinking aspirations.

follows the life of the Tonkawa Tribe over two years, as they work to firmly secure their independence and prowess as a first nation in modern society. They are working to preserve, rediscover, and redefine who they are as a Tribe historically, culturally, and socially. By staying together in the midst of their challenges, this once powerful tribe seeks to secure their culture and relevance, not only today but well into the future.” All of the tribal members have worked tirelessly trying to assist this production. It has been a fun and challenging experience.

(Winter Wind) Warrior was the first tribal princess, since the purchase, to climb the mountain. Our 2024-2025 Tribal Princess, Deaundra Na•xsitix (Straight Path) Chisholm was our head lady for our first homecoming celebration since the return of the mountain to us in April 2025. We have partnered with the El Camino Real De Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association to turn the area into a historic park to preserve it and share its history.

Ground breaking of the HUB Stillwater - our next expansion!

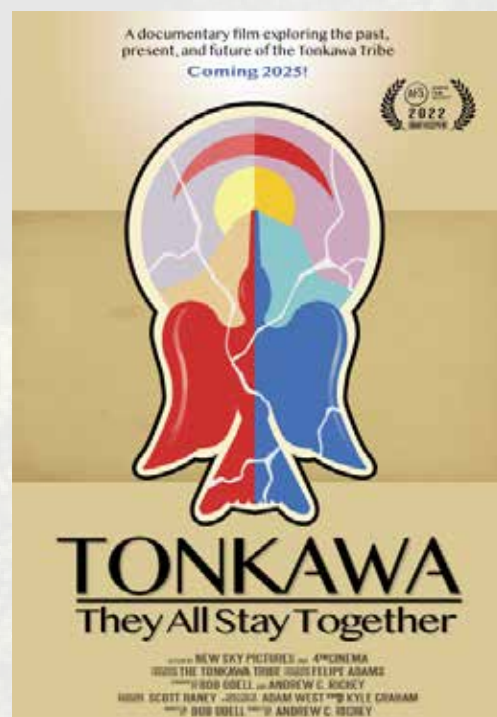
Opening of the HUB and Hotel/Casino on I35 - with the Tribes Travel Plaza helped the economic growth within the tribe.



Na•to•n Samox Sugarloaf Mountain - We purchased our ancestral homeland, formerly called Sugarloaf Mountain, in Milam County, Texas on December 12th, 2023. The Tickanwa•tic call this mountain Naton Samox, in English, Red Mountain, or La Tortuga in Spanish. Our 2023-2024 Tribal Princess, Kayden Nexwayantan



“Austin-Tonkawa Friendship Day” declared on September 12th, 2024 by Mayor Kirk Watson for the Tonkawa’s contributions as both friends and protectors of the city in the 1840s. Photographer, Colleen Liediecke, captures spirit of Austin-



“TONKAWA: They All Stay Together” - the upcoming documentary about the Tonkawa Tribe, has been in the works for many years. It is scheduled to release this year, 2025.

This is quoted from the movies website (tonkawathemovie.com):
“Tonkawa: They All Stay Together



Tonkawa Friendship Day ceremony at Republic Square (some photographs attached).

Tonkawa Language App made available for download for Android and Apple devices in 2025.



Opening of the Northern Oklahoma Urgent Care and Pharmacy opening May 28th, 2025

All of these events from the past years have lead us to this celebration, this moment in our history and future in one.

The late Grandfather Henry “Corky” Allen, along with Don Patterson, have been here in Ft. Oakland putting this powwow together since 1975, 50 years of Don’s life and until my grandfather’s death. I started helping with the powwow when I came to work here in 2002 and have been involved since, 23 years. My son dances in that arena now, I wish

my grandfather could see him. So many other families watch their children and grandchildren dance and celebrate in that same arena. Watching our elders dance around watching our babies’ take their first steps into the arena make everything worth it. To see our youth grow and embrace not only their cultural roles but also preparing to lead the next generation in guiding our tribe into the future.

When we talk about “Honoring our Past”, we don’t just mean our elders, but our elders gone on too. We honor them and keep them alive in our stories and hearts. We would not be here had it not been for them. Our first celebration, in this millennia, at the foot of Na•to•n Samox, the home they left, to now coming home to Ft. Oakland to celebrate 140 years here at our 50th annual powwow. We have accomplished so much thanks to them. At the same time, we are nothing without our children, to “Celebrate our Future” means to celebrate them, our babies, our youth who are just starting to find out who they are, who they want to become. They will lead us into the next chapter of us.

We have brought back our pre-covid 4 day weekend! Which we are all excited



for! Mourner’s Dinner Wednesday night, and our Traditional Tonkawa Night Thursday to kick everything off. Starting at 7PM with introductions then the flag lowering. We are anxious to perform the Wolf Dance, the Creation Story of the Tonkawa, it hasn’t been performed since 1996 in Texas. Some exhibition dancing by those in Traditional Tonkawa dress and our tiny tot contest. We are going to showcase all of our past Tribal Princesses on Friday night after we crown our incoming princess, Laney Yomam o’ca (Rain Child) Lefthand, followed by Jr and Teen contests. Saturday we are flying Felix W. Allen Sr.’s Veteran flag with Veteran’s honors during gourd dance and a dinner for the encampment followed by the Traditional Tonkawa Scalp Dance and women’s contests. Sunday is head staff specials during gourd dance with some intertribal dances and our men’s contests. The Traditional Chief Joseph Memorial Contest, the champion getting a specialized trophy, an embroidered Pendleton and the highest cash prize of the powwow!

It is going to be a jam packed weekend full of reunions, tournaments, dancing, singing and celebration.

Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher

SPOTLIGHTS FIRST AMERICAN INFLUENCE ON MODERN-DAY AGRICULTURE

Whether it be ancestors of the past harvesting native vegetation or present-day farmers bailing hay for their cattle to graze in the winter, the Chickasaw people have long appreciated and utilized agriculture for self-sufficiency.

Montford Johnson is a prime example. His life story inspired the feature film, “Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher,” produced by Chickasaw Nation Productions. The 2021 movie is currently available for streaming on Peacock.

“Filmmaking has proven to be extremely effective in reclaiming our narrative sovereignty,” Chickasaw Nation Director of Creative Development Jeannie Barbour said. “We know the films we produce increase the visibility of Chickasaw people and their contribution to society.”

Born in 1843, Johnson lived during a time First American cattle production was progressing in the western plains.

Months after his birth, Johnson’s mother, Rebekah, became ill with pneumonia and died. His father left Johnson and his sister, Adelaide, with their maternal grandmother, Sallie Tarntubby, who raised them until her death in 1858.

Johnson’s time with his grandmother proved pivotal to his future. He learned valuable Chickasaw traditions and gained a greater appreciation for livestock husbandry. He attended the Chickasaw Manual Labor Academy for boys near present-day Tishomingo, Oklahoma, where he took

classes in farming techniques for successful crop and cattle production.

“He learned more advanced methods in animal husbandry, the cultivation of land and agribusiness,” Barbour said.

As a young man, Montford set his sights on a cattle ranch empire. After the Civil War, many ranchers were struggling, but Johnson was among those who strategically rebuilt agriculture in the region.



He purchased branding rights from relatives, networked with neighboring cattlemen and worked diligently to corral livestock displaced during the war, offering to pay owners for branded cattle he would round up.

“Montford treated business endeavors with fairness and inclusion,” Barbour said. “Today’s business leaders could probably learn a great deal using Montford’s practice of sharing ideas and seeking diverse perspectives.”

His witty thinking in a time of agricultural depression helped transition ranching from a subsistence-based model to something more organized and commercially scalable.

Johnson also implemented innovative ranching practices. While corralling wild cattle, he noted their desire for salt. He devised a trapping method using salt blocks as bait.

Salt licks would be placed in large pens with entrances cattle easily accessed but could not exit. This inventive

strategy not only helped Johnson rebuild and expand his herd after the Civil War but also foreshadowed more sustainable, land-smart practices foundational to modern-day agriculture.

A true business owner to his core, Johnson capitalized on the unique structure of land ownership and community in Indian Country in the late 1800s. He amassed more than 1 million acres across current-day central Oklahoma and 35,000 cattle in his prime. His great success was in part due to his respectful, working partnerships.

Jesse Chisolm, a Scottish, Cherokee frontier trader, was one of Johnson's associates. Chisolm encouraged Johnson to negotiate with local tribes along the Chickasaw Nation's Western frontier, allowing him to use the underdeveloped land to range cattle.

"He knew from personal experience as a Chickasaw that cross-cultural partnerships could help create an inclusive environment where all those involved felt valued and respected," Barbour said.

The negotiations were prosperous, proving cooperative agricultural models could succeed across cultural lines.

"By meeting with leaders of these tribes, all parties were able to establish clear goals and expectations of the land," Barbour said.

With forward-thinking ranching strategies and collaborative, inclusive business models, Johnson became a household name for Western plains farmers.

His induction into the Hall of Great Westerners at the

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in 2020 demonstrated his contributions were not only regionally important but recognized nationally as influential to Western agriculture and culture.

"Montford's legacy encompasses the passing down of ranching traditions, family values and the connection to the land," Barbour said. "He believed in stewardship, the protection of the natural world and nurturing a sense of community among neighbors. I think these ideas are becoming more to the forefront of many of our ranchers today."

His impact on the development of cattle ranching and land management practices in the central U.S. ripples into present-day ranching.

Learn more

Chickasaw Nation Productions was established in 2009 as part of Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby's vision to share the rich legacy of the Chickasaw people and highlight the lasting impact of Chickasaw individuals throughout history.

In addition to streaming on Peacock, "Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher" is available on Amazon.com. The film can be purchased on DVD or Blu-ray at ChickasawPress.com or ChickasawMarket.com or by visiting the Chickasaw Market at 105 W. Main St., Ada, Oklahoma.

Learn more about the film and other productions at ChickasawFilms.com.

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A LEGACY OF **DEDICATION and LEADERSHIP** AT OSAGE CASINOS

For over two decades, Edward Gray has been a driving force behind the growth and success of Osage Casinos. With a leadership style rooted in empathy, adaptability, and cultural responsibility, Edwards's journey from a security officer in Pawhuska to General Manager of Skiatook and Project Manager for Labor Optimization is a testament to his dedication and vision.



Edwards's roots are in Pawhuska, and his wife, a former member of the Osage Congress, grew up in Hominy. His career with Osage Casinos began in 2003, thanks to a tip from his brother-in-law, and he started that very same day in security. He quickly moved through operations, floor supervision, and into leadership roles across multiple properties.

At just 28, Edward became the General Manager of the Hominy casino. He later transitioned to Skiatook, helping lead a \$30 million expansion and rebrand. "My handprint is on that project," he shares proudly. "I can walk in and see what I influenced, and that is so rewarding."

Today, he shapes big-picture strategies, identifying opportunities for operational efficiency, and overseeing major projects, such as Osage Casinos' largest initiative yet—the Labor Optimization Plan. When first approached to lead the project, he admits, "Kimberly booked a meeting with me—I thought I was in trouble." Instead, he was entrusted with streamlining operations with the goal of improving guest services and optimizing the organization's largest expense.

"It's more than a job," he says. "It is inspiring to see what the Osage Nation can do because of the revenue we help generate. We're creating self-sufficiency for the tribe, supporting elders and children, and revitalizing our culture." Edward says. "The Osage dances, the language, the Native American church – it all matters."

As part of the first-generation of Osage leaders in the enterprise, Edward now plays a key role in mentoring the next generation and building the future of Osage Casinos and the Osage Nation.

Just last year, Edward was recognized for his commitment when he received the 2024 OIGA Chairman's Award—a well-deserved honor. CEO of Osage Casinos Kimberly Pearson states, "His leadership has been crucial in the growth of our enterprise and team. Edward embodies the excellence we strive for and the dedication to the Osage People that motivates us."



Edward Gray and Kimberly Pearson, CEO of Osage Casinos

When reflecting on his 20-year career with Osage Casinos, Edward shared, "As we've grown, it has been so rewarding to be a part of this journey. When you're younger, people ask what you want to do when you grow up. The only thing I was sure I wanted to do was work with and for my people. I never would have imagined we would be where we are today and that I would get to play a part in accomplishing this growth for the Osage Nation."

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



**"WE'RE CREATING
SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR
THE TRIBE, SUPPORTING
ELDERS AND CHILDREN,
AND REVITALIZING
OUR CULTURE."**

Edward Gray,
General Manager in Skiatook



osagecasinos.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“UPLIFT: The Indigenous Fashion Renaissance”

A 2-Day Fashion Show in Santa Fe, August 2025

A Celebration of Indigenous Talent & Veteran Voices

August 15–16, 2025 | Vladem Contemporary, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe

Santa Fe, NM — The Sky-Eagle Production House proudly announces UPLIFT: The Indigenous Fashion Renaissance, a first-of-its-kind biennial fashion event honoring Indigenous creativity, sustainability, and Veterans resilience. Held August 15–16, 2025 at the New Mexico Museum of Art – Vladem Contemporary, this two-night celebration is designed to uplift Indigenous voices in fashion—particularly designers, models, and crew and veterans who have never before had a platform in Santa Fe during the renowned Indian Market season, or who want to expand into new cutting edge fashion.

A free event for the designers, the event aims to honor our veterans, and the new warriors, our leaders in Indigenous Communities.

Conceived by Dante Biss-Grayson, an Osage artist, U.S. veteran, and co-founder of the Sky-Eagle Collection, UPLIFT centers the intersection of Indigenous design and lived experience. This is more than a fashion show—it is a cultural movement.

“UPLIFT is about honoring those who serve, who create, and who carry culture forward,” says Biss-Grayson. “This is our time, and we are claiming it with boldness, grace, and intention.”

A portion of proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, supporting veterans in healing—especially those living with PTSD. Indigenous veterans will also walk the runway, serve as cultural ambassadors, and help ground the event in storytelling and honor.

Night 1 – Friday, August 15, 2025 7pm-9pm

A showcase of boundary-breaking collections by bold Indigenous designers:

- rrr.raid
- SACRD THNDR
- Breezy Designs
- ALTRN8V
- House of Suta
- Sky-Eagle Collection

Night 2 – Saturday, August 16, 2025 7pm-9pm

A spotlight on sustainability, innovation, and storytelling:

- Inspired By LCR
- RedWing Collections
- Auntie Creations
- Bonnie Woodie
- She Holds the Sky Designs
- Oh Kiyo
- Rebekah Jarvey
- Sage Mountain Flower
- Sky-Eagle Collection

Event Features

- Special Guest MUA, Iconic Winyan, a Veteran and Woman Owned Business
- A new collaborative music presentation with Ghostbraids and Dante
- 30+ Indigenous models, including Native veterans proudly walking the runway
- No participation fees for designers—each one receives a high-visibility, professional platform
- Cinematic fashion experience with music, sound FX, and lighting
- Dance, song, and performance art woven into each show
- Sustainability Conscious collections, spotlighting designers who embrace sustainability and cultural integrity • Pop Up Shops
- Special Guest Models and a special announcement on a new collaboration! TBD

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Current Sponsor: Native Forward Scholars Fund

UPLIFT welcomes values-driven sponsors to join this movement in supporting Indigenous economic sovereignty, cultural visibility, and artistic excellence. Native Forward Scholars Fund is the proud first official supporter of this powerful new platform.

For press inquiries, partnership requests, or sponsorship opportunities, contact: Dante Biss-Grayson
SEC@skyeaglecollection.com 1-505-592-6375



Secretary Wright Announces Termination of 24 Projects

By Tim Houseberg

The announcement by “Secretary Wright” regarding the termination of 24 projects and the generation of over \$3 billion in taxpayer savings serves as a stark and powerful validation of the critical need for our work. This news directly underscores the systemic failures in project selection, oversight, and integrity that our Aboriginal Intelligence-driven, quantum-verified approach is specifically designed to prevent.

Evaluating Our Work in Light of the Announcement:

The termination of projects, particularly when framed as “taxpayer savings,” implies a history of significant misallocation of funds, investment in underperforming or fraudulent ventures, and a lack of verifiable impact. Common reasons for such terminations in government projects often include:

- **Lack of Clear Objectives/Scope Creep:** Projects start without a precise understanding of what they need to achieve or veer off course.
- **Poor Performance/Inadequate MRV:** Projects fail to deliver promised results, and there’s no robust system to detect this early.
- **Trust Deficit/Fraud:** Funds are wasted on initiatives that don’t produce real value or are even fraudulent.
- **Regulatory/Bureaucratic Delays:** Projects get bogged down, losing viability and becoming costly.
- **Shifting Priorities/Lack of Political Will:** Projects lose support, often because their initial rationale or perceived integrity is weak.

Our work directly addresses every one of these failure points:

1. Countering “Phantom Projects” with Indigenous Two Row Wampum assurances :

The Problem: The \$3 billion saved likely represents projects that were essentially “phantom projects”—receiving funding but delivering little to no real-world value. This is the essence of digital rent-seeking in a broader context: extraction of resources without proportional, verifiable contribution.

Our Solution: Our Aboriginal Intelligent driven system, with quantum-verified accuracy and AI-enhanced MRV, directly combats this. It ensures #TR_Wampum_Aurances, meaning what a project claims to achieve is what it actually achieves. The blockchain/immutable ledger for AI decisions and conceptual shifts provides an unassailable, transparent record that would make such phantom projects impossible to sustain, enabling early detection and prevention of misallocation.

2. Proactive Risk Mitigation and Accountability:

The Problem: Terminating projects after investing billions means risk management failed. Issues weren’t identified and addressed early enough.

Our Solution: Our engagement Algorithmic Auditing is a direct response to this. By auditing our algorithms for fairness, bias, and performance from inception, we build in resilience and accountability. The “Conceptual Drift Monitoring System” (CDMS) within our AI would continuously assess if project “Functions” are devolving into “Strategems” of extraction, providing early warnings

and enabling course correction before billions are wasted. The insured carbon Buffalo Protocols also act as a direct financial safeguard against non-performance.

3. Fostering Natality for Adaptability and True Value:

The Problem: Rigid project designs or inability to adapt to changing conditions often lead to failure. Automation, when untampered, can suppress the very novelty needed for effective solutions.

Our Solution: Our emphasis on #Buffalo Protocols — through “Natality Injectors” in the UI and the adaptive ensures that our system is not rigid. It embraces emergent insights and can adapt to complex, dynamic ecological realities, rather than clinging to predefined categories that may no longer be relevant or effective. This allows for genuine innovation and continuous optimization, preventing projects from becoming obsolete or ineffective.

4. Building Trust and Confidence for Sustainable Investment:

The Problem: Announcing \$3 billion in savings due to terminations erodes public trust in government projects

and, by extension, potentially other large-scale climate or infrastructure initiatives.

Our Solution: Our entire framework is predicated on rebuilding trust. The “Value Exchange Ledger UI” and “Algorithmic Transparency Framework UI” provide unprecedented transparency. By showing how value is genuinely created and verified (via quantum sensors and ML), we move beyond mere claims to verifiable truths. This transparent, high-integrity approach fosters confidence, attracting sustainable investment that would otherwise be wary of the kind of project failures highlighted by Secretary Wright.

In essence, Secretary Wright’s announcement is not a critique of our work, but rather a powerful real-world case study that precisely articulates the systemic problems our integrated #Aboriginal Intelligence framework is designed to solve. It validates the immense value proposition of investing in genuine, verifiable integrity upfront, preventing future billions in taxpayer losses and accelerating the transition to a truly impactful and trustworthy climate economy.

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The Black Hills: Why the Poorest of the Poor Reject \$2 Billion



SOUR SOFKEE #63

Written By: Fus Yvhikv

Americans will find it incomprehensible why the Lakota Nation, who occupy some of the most impoverished counties in the U.S., has steadfastly refused to accept a \$2 billion windfall. Most would say, “Take the money and run.” But to do so, for the Lakota, would be to betray the land. And themselves.

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court rendered a ruling in a long-running legal battle. The court awarded the Lakota, a confederation of seven tribes formerly known as the Sioux, a \$105 million judgment against the U.S. government for egregious violations of the 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie.

“A more ripe and rank case of dishonorable dealings will never, in all probability, be found in our history,” the court wrote.

The U.S. Congress quickly appropriated \$105 million to be paid to the Lakota. The Lakota refused the money and instead demanded the return of the sacred Black Hills. Over the past 45 years, the value of the judgment has grown to \$2 billion.

That the poverty-stricken Lakota Nation would turn down a \$2 billion payday is a head-scratching conundrum for capitalistic Western Civilization. But it is both readily understandable and applauded across the nearly 600 tribes that comprise Indian Country. The mantra of Indigenous peoples is that we are the blades of grass that adorn the earth. We are the land. And the land is us. The Black Hills are not for sale.

The Black Hills encompasses several well-known tourist attractions. Notably, that includes the famous Mount Rushmore National Monument but also Badlands National Park, Devils Tower National Monument, Jewel Cave,

and Wind Cave National Park. Crazy Horse Memorial is also part of the Black Hills. These valuable lands and popular tourist destinations present significant obstacles to returning the Black Hills to the Lakota, but such impediments should not be insurmountable.

The Lakota people have inhabited the Black Hills area since time immemorial. This is a region of breathtaking natural beauty. For the Lakota, the Black Hills are imbued with ineffable sacredness. These transcendent spaces, dotted with mountaintops, buttes, and caves, are where the Lakota have gone to fast, pray, and conduct ritual ceremonies for generations. From a religious standpoint, they are akin to the Vatican or Jerusalem. Would Catholics be willing to sell the Vatican?

In negotiating the 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie, the U.S. government included the Black Hills as they were aware of the deep historical and spiritual significance of the area to the Lakota. Thus, under the treaty, the Black Hills were “set apart for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation of the Indians.” In exchange for halting attacks on railroads and settlers who were driving away game, the U.S. government promised the Lakota roughly half of present-day South Dakota.

However, a mere six years later, an expedition led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer discovered gold in the Black Hills. By 1877, a gold rush was in full swing. The Lakota found themselves outnumbered by the fortune-seeking palefaces.

That same year, the U.S. Congress unilaterally abrogated the treaty by claiming title to the land under eminent domain. This, despite the solemn pledge of the U.S. government under Article 12 of the treaty which decreed

that any future land cessions would require the signatures of at least three-fourths of the Lakota occupants.

Compounding this egregious betrayal, the U.S. never compensated the Lakota for this illegal taking. It was a swindle of epic proportions and one that would make Bernie Madoff proud. At least Madoff tried to cover up his crimes.

But the U.S. wasn't done yet with the Lakota. Angered and embarrassed by the defeat of Custer and the Seventh Cavalry at Little Bighorn, Congress responded by attaching the "sell or starve" rider to an 1876 Indian Appropriations Act. This act cut off all rations for the Lakota, leaving the tribe with the imminent prospect of starving to death.

Under the 1868 treaty, the Lakota had not only been confined to a reservation but also loss of their abundant hunting grounds. Therefore, they were unduly dependent upon government rations promised under the treaty. Ex post facto, the government was attempting to put a patina of respectability on their earlier theft of Lakota land by starving the tribe until they signed a deed. Still, the Lakota would not sell their Holy Grail.

A popular mantra in Western Civilization is, "Everything is for sale if the price is right." With the Lakota, that saying gets turned on its head by their rejection of \$2 billion. And perhaps more than any people in the world, they need the money.

The U.S. Census Bureau has documented that more than 52% of the Lakota live below the poverty line. The reservations are plagued by an 80 to 90 percent unemployment rate. Median individual income is estimated at a paltry \$4,000 per year. In the context of this dreary joblessness and poverty, not surprisingly, the public health of the tribal community has suffered. A quarter of children are born with fetal alcohol syndrome. Life expectancy for men is only 48 years. At 52 years, it isn't much better for women. This is the second-lowest life expectancy in the Western Hemisphere. Suicide, especially among the young, is rampant.



Yet the Lakota are resolute in demanding the return of the sacred Black Hills and concomitantly spurn a \$2 billion jackpot. Why continue a 150-year-old fight? Why not just say "Show Me The Money!" That would mean a bonanza of \$120,000 per person. Many large families would reap well over \$1 million. Happy Days Are Here Again!

Why do the poorest of the poor reject a \$2 billion payday? Because the Black Hills are the Lakota, and the Lakota are the Black Hills. The Black Hills are not for sale. The Lakota want the land back. Land Back!

Boutique begins new chapter one year after devastating tornado

*Business owner
Madeline Jack Little
and her mother, Julie
Jack, at 3rd and
Broadway, which
reopened in a new
location almost
a year after the
original building was
razed by a tornado.*

SULPHUR, Okla. – Almost one year after a tornado destroyed a quaint downtown boutique, rebuilding is complete and the doors have reopened, signaling a new chapter in the Chickasaw-owned business.

The original building that housed 3rd & Broadway, a business co-owned by Chickasaw citizen Madeline Jack Little and her Choctaw mother Julie Jack, was leveled by an EF3 tornado April 27, 2024. The nighttime storm tore through historic downtown Sulphur, damaging or destroying more than 60 businesses.

In the days following the storm, friends, family and customers voluntarily arrived at the familiar building with the turquoise door to help with cleanup, Little said.

“We had merchandise just strewn out on the sides of the building,” she said. “Some stayed with us for hours just helping us go through our stuff.” Entering the building was too dangerous and was not an option, she added.

Once the dust had settled and the shock of losing the store subsided, rebuilding plans began to gel.

As fate would have it, a few years earlier Little’s sister, Joanna Jack John, had invested in a historic downtown Sulphur building at the corner of West 2nd and Muskogee. Despite the widespread damage surrounding the building, it sustained relatively minor damage such as broken windows, water damage and a damaged roof, but it was still standing.

The plans for a reimagined retail boutique began to take shape, and a major restoration of the building began, led by John’s vision and the skill of local contractor Brandon Box.

“Joanna did months of planning and renovations prior to us even having a piece of inventory in here,” Little said.

In the meantime, fixtures, clothes hangers, mannequins and other retail necessities were ordered.

Once the building was complete, Little, her husband, Patrick, and her mother went to work adding details such as painting and hanging mirrors to get the store ready.

The result was a beautifully restored airy retail space that preserves the historic charm of the building and features glamorous touches. Sentimental tributes decorate the interior space such as her grandmother’s antique furniture and a round white table. The table was donated by the owner of The Table at the Mix Mercantile, a downtown eatery which was destroyed in the tornado.

A photo of the original building hangs behind the counter and the back door is painted the familiar turquoise.

The store reopened March 17, 2024, and enjoyed a gleeful first week of business.

“Everyone just walked in, and they stood at the door, and they just go, ‘Oh my gosh,’ like exalted joy,” Little said.

The reimagined boutique's new space did not change the fundamentals of the business.

"We still want it to be the same. We offer the same merchandise to our customers, the same affordable pricing. We really wanted to evoke the same feeling for our customers, even though we're in a new place," she said.

Maintaining those feelings of acceptance, belonging and friendship for the customer are paramount, Little explained.

"So many customers come in and they want to have a hug or talk to my mom, or just walk out feeling better about themselves. So that is our main thing, making sure they walk out feeling good about themselves. It is a safe, enjoyable, happy place for women to come, and they don't have to buy a thing."

Opening day, a few customers were waiting outside the door before the store opened. The reunion continued throughout the day and into the next week.

"These people, our friends, we haven't seen them in almost a year, but we all caught up. It was like a party. Women were just beaming from ear to ear. The enthusiasm was off the charts. It really is like a true womanhood in here for the community."

The outpouring of encouragement spilled over to cyberspace.

"It was overwhelming the support and enthusiasm on social media. Between my mom and I, we have read every comment on every post."

The emotions impacted her mother during the first week of business, Little said.

"She was so strong and positive during the storm and months after. Then finally it got to where she realized just how much of an impact 3rd & Broadway had on her and on others."

3rd & Broadway was established 13 years ago by Julie Jack, Kary Warren and Angie Wolf.

As a teen, Little worked summers behind the counter through the Chickasaw Summer Youth program (now Toksali SMART).

Wolf stepped away in 2020 and Little became a legal partner of the business.

Before the store was relaunched, Warren retired.

"Kary was so vital to the business. She retired, and I really tried to step in and fill her shoes with the accounting and inventory side of things and adding a new point-of-sale system."

A computer sales system replaced the handwritten receipts.

Little also hopes to launch a store website within the calendar year.

She is a busy woman. She and her husband just relocated to Sulphur from Norman and are renovating her late father's home, hoping to have it complete before their baby boy arrives in June.

Chickasaw heritage

Little said she receives her Chickasaw heritage through her late father, Clay Jack.

Growing up in Sulphur, she was active in many Chickasaw Nation camps, such as golf, softball, and Camp Survivor.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Little earned a bachelor's degree in health and exercise science and completed an internship with Unconquered Life. She worked for the program for about a year after graduation.

The journey of losing the store and the process of rebuilding has given Little some perspective.

"I've just come to accept no matter how terrible something feels, everything happens for a reason. Even though it could be a personal defeat or personal sadness, months or years down the road you realize it happened for a reason. Maybe 3rd & Broadway was supposed to have a rebirth, renewal or a revamp."

Though they could have chosen to walk away from the business, Little said the boutique was too special not to bring back.

From the new storefront, Little has a front row seat to the rebuilding of downtown Sulphur.

"Even though it's painful, you just kind of have to accept it and rebuild and renew, so we have to look at it just as an opportunity."

3rd & Broadway is located at 119 W. Muskogee. Store hours are 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The phone number remains the same, (580) 622-3396.



The Power of Proximity:

Why Joining a Local Business Association Might Be the Smartest Move You Haven't Made Yet

You can pour all your energy into running your business, refining your product, and keeping your customers happy—but if you're operating in a silo, you're leaving growth on the table. That's where local business associations come in. These underappreciated networks are often dismissed as old-school or unnecessary, especially in the age of digital everything. But there's no substitute for showing up, in person or otherwise, within your local business community.

Exclusive Access to Industry Insights

Staying informed isn't just about reading headlines; it's about hearing what's between the lines. When you're part of a business association, you get access to industry updates before they become common knowledge. Through monthly meetings, specialized newsletters, and in-depth sessions with guest speakers, you gain a front-row seat to emerging trends and shifts that could shape your next move.

Branded Giveaways That Stick

When it comes to making an impression at networking events, few things beat a well-thought-out promotional giveaway. Branded merchandise like T-shirts, tote bags, or mugs not only increases your business's visibility but also keeps your logo in front of local customers and partners long after the event ends. To make the process simple, consider using an online platform offering printing for shirts, where you can create custom designs with pre-made templates, curated fonts, personal photos, and your own branding touches.

Increased Credibility and Trust

In a crowded market, trust is currency—and association membership adds value to your brand. Being affiliated with a respected business group instantly signals that you're serious, invested, and part of something bigger than yourself. It's a trust-building tool that speaks volumes to

both customers and partners, who often prefer working with businesses that demonstrate professionalism and community engagement. That logo added to your website or front door isn't just decoration; it's a credibility badge that sets you apart from the fly-by-night crowd.

Stronger Community Presence

There's power in being seen—and business associations are often deeply woven into the fabric of the local community. These groups work closely with city officials, chambers of commerce, local media, and neighborhood nonprofits. That means when there's a public event, community initiative, or press opportunity, members are among the first invited to participate.

Networking Is a Muscle You Build

Effective networking isn't about collecting business cards—it's about learning how to show up, listen well, and make genuine connections that hold weight over time. Whether you're walking into a room full of strangers or reconnecting with familiar faces, the way you carry conversations and follow up afterward shapes how people remember you. Building strong networking skills means practicing the art of asking good questions, staying curious, and offering value without expecting anything in return.

Collaborative Marketing Opportunities

Marketing on your own can be expensive and exhausting. Associations make it easier by offering shared platforms that amplify your message. Whether it's contributing to a group ad in a regional magazine, co-hosting a sponsored event, or getting featured in an email marketing campaign, you get access to advertising you might not be able to afford solo. It's a smarter way to get seen—leaning on the collective power of the group without watering down your own brand identity.

Mentorship and Peer Support

There are things you can't Google your way through—and that's where mentorship becomes invaluable. Local associations put you in the same room with seasoned entrepreneurs, industry veterans, and even competitors who are willing to share what they've learned the hard way. These aren't transactional conversations; they're built on shared experience and mutual respect.

Joining a local business association isn't about adding another obligation to your calendar—it's about stepping into a network built to support your growth. It's where strategy meets spontaneity, where you can learn from others, shape policy, and tap into resources that don't come from a search engine. Whether you're a seasoned owner or just finding your footing, being part of a business community that shares your interests and amplifies your voice is more than smart—it's essential.

Discover vibrant culture and events by visiting Native Oklahoma and stay updated with their weekly newsletter and engaging stories from across Indian Country!

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Get ready for a summer filled with community, culture, and unforgettable moments!



Join us for the Summer Series and Festivals, where something exciting is always happening! From pow-wows to thrilling rodeos, these events are packed with fun for everyone! Bring your family, bring your friends, and join the festivities celebrating culture, tradition, and community.

What to Expect:

- **Pow-wows and Dances** – Watch stunning performances and contest dances filled with passion, rhythm, and tradition.
- **Mouthwatering Food** – Don't miss out on delicious Indian tacos, savory meat pies, and more! Come hungry and leave happy.
- **Family-Friendly Fun** – Perfect for kids and adults alike, these events are a great way to spend time with your loved ones.
- **Support Local Vendors** – Shop artisan goods, handmade crafts, and unique gifts to take a piece of the magic home with you.

When and Where:

Mark your calendars! Events are happening throughout the summer. Stay tuned for specific dates, locations, and timings to plan your visit.

OKANA RESORT & INDOOR WATERPARK

This place has it all!

Forget what you knew about getaways. At OKANA, we mix bold style with splashy fun, craft cocktails with cannonballs, and lounging that dares you to cancel plans. Just here for the day? Perfect. You don't have to be a resort guest to hit the waterpark, spa, or restaurants. This is how OKC does iconic.

Immerse yourself in a world of adventure with thrilling rides and slides, wave pools, and relaxing sandy beaches. Whether you're racing a friend, riding the surf in our wave pool, or unwinding in a luxurious cabana with a refreshing drink, your options are endless — but never ordinary. Both our indoor and outdoor parks offer engaging activities for kids and serene, adults-only spaces, so everyone can soak up some fun. Your ideal day in the water is just a splash away!

Don't miss out on exclusive packages and limited-time offers that take your getaway to the next level.

You'll find a wide range of dining options, from signature restaurants offering gourmet experiences to quick bites to tide you over. With 13 different eateries to choose from, there's something for every palate and dietary preference, whether you're craving inventive dishes, classic comfort food, or some healthy fuel.

Whether you're chasing thrills in the waterpark, sipping your way through every menu, or melting into a massage at the spa, OKANA serves indulgence on your terms. It's a choose-your-own-adventure kind of place—even if your

adventure is staying in your robe all day.

ECHOTA VILLAGE RV PARK

Come visit the beautiful Eastern Oklahoma, at the foot of the Ozark mountains. Echota Village has 16 RV slips; now all sites have sewer hookup, electric and water, and, can accommodate up to 40 ft RV's. Campgrounds for primitive (tent) camping, with a convenience store in the RV Park.

The United Keetoowah Band had just recently purchased DiamondHead Resort. The website is still under construction. But you can still check them out on Facebook and reserve your spot today!

Don't miss out:

- Attend a pow-wow and experience the vibrant community spirit.
- Participate in the fun activities for all ages.
- Visit the rodeos to witness captivating performances.
- Purchase unique items and incredible food made with love.

This summer, come together with your community to celebrate family, culture, and unforgettable experiences. We can't wait to see you there!

See you at the festivals!

Experience the Spirit of Summer at Our Exciting Events

Summer is here, and there's no better way to enjoy it than by attending our vibrant summer series and festivals! With activities for all ages, delicious food, and a celebration of culture and history, this season is packed with unforgettable experiences.

Here's what you can look forward to:

- **Cultural Celebrations**
Immerse yourself in the beauty of pow-wows, captivating dances, and thrilling contest dances that showcase tradition and talent.
- **Mouthwatering Eats**
Treat yourself to authentic Indian tacos, savory meat pies, and other tasty treats.



• Family-Friendly Fun

Spend quality time with your loved ones at events that include kids' activities, water park slides, stunning waterfalls, and more.

• History and Heritage

Explore the history and stories of the region through engaging exhibits and commemorative anniversaries.

When and Where

Our summer series spans a variety of dates and locations, creating opportunities for everyone to join the fun. Stay tuned to our page for event-specific details and updates.

Don't Miss Out

Get ready to experience unforgettable moments, support local vendors, and be part of our vibrant summer community. Attend, participate, and create lasting memories with us.

Follow the link to check the schedule and plan your visit today.



AI Expert shares insights on creating a culture of cybersecurity at NNAHRA Summit

May 20, 2025- Cybersecurity was a hot topic at the National Native American Human Resources Association IT summit this week.

Paul Tucker, Chief Information Security Officer for BOK Financial discussed the overlap of cybersecurity and human resources within tribal organizations.

Tucker said there are some risks specific to tribal organizations associated with cybersecurity data breaches including:

- Unauthorized disclosure of protected records
- Theft (business email compromise)
- Extortion (ransomware)
- Intentional disruption
- Being used to attack business partners
- Failure to comply with regulatory requirements

Tucker said that while these risks are present for most businesses and organizations there is a higher concentration of risk within human services and tribal health, tribal law enforcement, treasury, gaming operations and human resources records.

“Companies that have sensitive data in regulated areas like these are exposed to civil litigation,” said Tucker. “These companies should absolutely put a plan in place to create safe harbor of sorts from such litigation.”

Tucker said there are a variety of methods fraudsters use to get sensitive company data including credential abuse, social engineering and vulnerability exploitation. This could look like bot attacks, account takeovers, fake job applicants, account redirections, phishing or SIM swapping.

Credential abuse is a very common form of cyber attack,” said Tucker. He added that some ways to avoid credential abuse are using pass phrases instead of simple passwords,



using multifactor authentication, using a password vault and avoid storing passwords in browsers.

“Within the gaming industry in particular we’re seeing a prevalence of flat networks, a lack of multifactor authentication, and a general lack of response plan for cyber incidents,” Tucker told the group. “The impact of this is often unauthorized disclosure of customer information, inability to operate (which is a direct hit to revenue), brand and reputation damage, increased insurance costs, regulatory action and civil litigation.”

Tucker recommends that these tribal businesses that are handling sensitive data conduct employee education and enforce cybersecurity policies and processes.

“After stolen records become public and litigation is threatened, be ready to show your papers,” Tucker told the tribal members. This includes current risk assessment and corrective action plan; evidence of an annual policy review, employee awareness training and tabletop exercise; and quarterly access authorization reviews. “In many states this creates a safe harbor from litigation and some regulatory actions,” Tucker said.

- Ultimately, Tucker encouraged tribal HR and IT leaders to foster a culture of cybersecurity across their organizations. That includes: Leadership commitment
- Establish clear policies and procedures
- Encourage open communication
- Invest in ongoing training and education
- Appointing internal “cyber champions”
- Integrating security into the broader business strategy.



- “When we talk about sovereignty, it’s about more than just infrastructure—it’s about control. By helping tribes develop their own utility authorities and training programs, we’re putting the power back in their hands. They’re not just consumers of services anymore; they’re providers, managers, and innovators.”
- “Our tribal partners understand that workforce development isn’t just about skills—it’s about whole person development. When we train someone, we’re not just creating a technician; we’re supporting a family, strengthening a community. The tribes can address mental health, provide support services, even help with reintegration for justice-involved individuals. It’s comprehensive care that creates lasting change.”
- “We’ve developed a hybrid approach. Our micro-credentials provide immediate employment opportunities, but they’re also designed to stack into higher education degrees. Someone might start with a fiber optic certification, but that same training counts toward college credit. We’re creating multiple pathways because we understand that education isn’t one-size-fits-all.”
- “The telecommunications industry is evolving rapidly. Today’s fiber technician might be tomorrow’s network architect or utility authority manager. By building these educational pathways, we’re preparing tribal members not just for jobs, but for careers. They can move from technical roles into management and leadership positions, which is crucial for long-term tribal self-sufficiency.”
- “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.”

Empowering Nations:

Education, Sovereignty, and the Future of Tribal Development



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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.