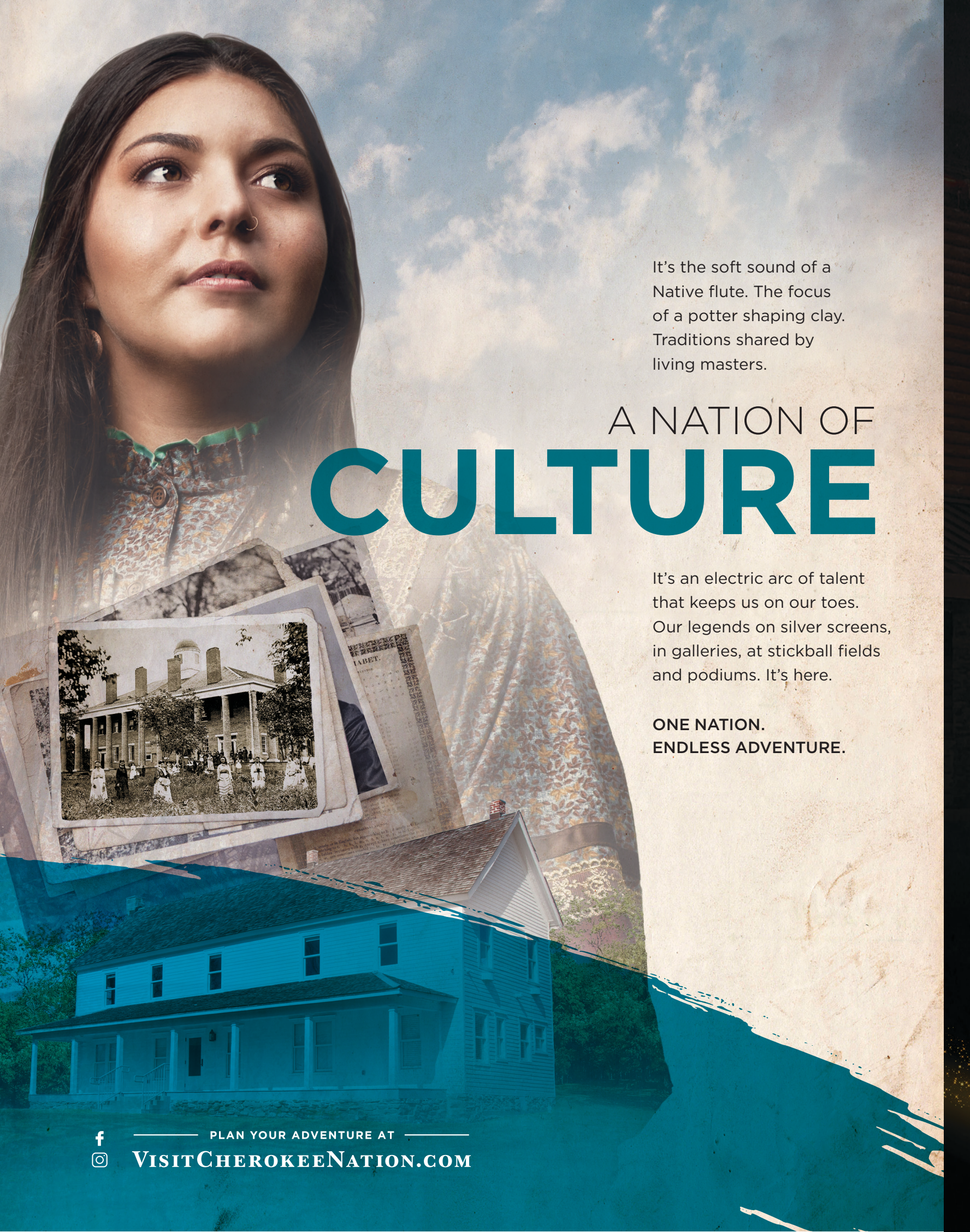


JULY 2025

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



‘RIDING INTO THE UNKNOWN’



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Traditions shared by
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Leading The Way

For Kassie Rogers, leadership isn't just a title—it's a commitment to community, culture, and growth.

As Director of Casino Operations at Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, Kassie leads with purpose and pride, guided by her Quapaw heritage.

"Being a Native leader in a Native industry means I see the real impact of our work—it supports our people and strengthens our future." Her journey into leadership began with curiosity. "I didn't set out to lead—it happened naturally. I wanted to understand how things worked, and once I did, I wanted to make them better."

Kassie's leadership style is rooted in clear communication and team empowerment. "I break down complex processes so everyone feels confident and supported. That's how strong teams are built."

She takes the most pride in seeing her team grow—whether they continue on at Buffalo Run or take their skills elsewhere. "It's an honor to be part of their journey."

Her advice to future Native leaders?

"Never forget where you come from—your culture, your community, your roots. And never stop asking questions. That's how real change begins."



Kassie Rogers

Director of Casino Operations

Buffalo Run Casino & Resort

Citizen of the Quapaw Nation



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NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



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NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | JULY 2025

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

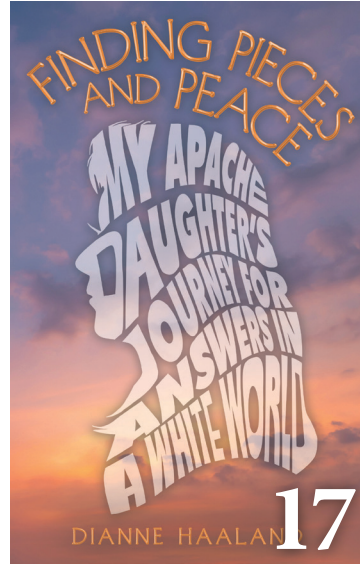


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2025 Annual Tribal Festival Guide

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!



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 tribe holds its annual Quapaw Powwow celebration over the 4th of July weekend each year, that includes singing, dancing, contests, vendors and plenty of family fun. Come celebrate the culture and history of the Quapaw Tribe.

For more information: Contact 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

Continued on next page

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

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



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.

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 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.

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

Continued on next page

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 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



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
Honored Elders - Daniel Conrad and Lola Purvis

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 suites.

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
(Vendors and Pow Wow Grounds)

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

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

Aconav



CULTURALLY FUELED FASHION FROM ACOMA POTTERY ART

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



Ada High School coach named Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations

Ada High School's varsity tennis coach Terry Swopes capped off the 2023-2024 tennis season by being named National Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). During the season, Swopes led the Ada High School Cougar tennis program in capturing both Division 4A State Boys and Girls Tennis Championship titles.

"Tennis has given me everything in my life," Swopes said. "It is how I met my wife. It has given me a great family. It's all come from tennis. I don't think there is another community that supports their tennis program like Ada, making tennis a great experience."

The process of receiving the National Coach of the Year award from NFHS is arduous. More than 5,000 applicants are reviewed annually. Trainers selected for the award are the elite high school coaches.

Being named NFHS Coach of the Year begins at the state level. Coaches are presented with the Coach of the Year by local organizations, who then refer them for NFHS regional review. Regional victors continue to NFHS



Pictured from left: Coach Terry Swopes, Jerzie O'Neal, Sadie Epps, Jessi Bolin, Zoey Brown, Kylee Witt, Lilly Cadenhead and assistant coach Noah Watkins.

nationals. The NFHS Coach of the Year is selected from the final pool of candidates.

"It feels amazing anytime you can say national in front of an award," Swopes said. "I am blessed to have players that work so hard. This award is a testament to their amazing season."

The NFHS is recognized as the leader in high school extracurricular athletics and arts programs. Within 51-member state associations, including Washington, D.C., the NFHS represents nearly 20,000 high schools with a student body numbering more than 12 million young people.

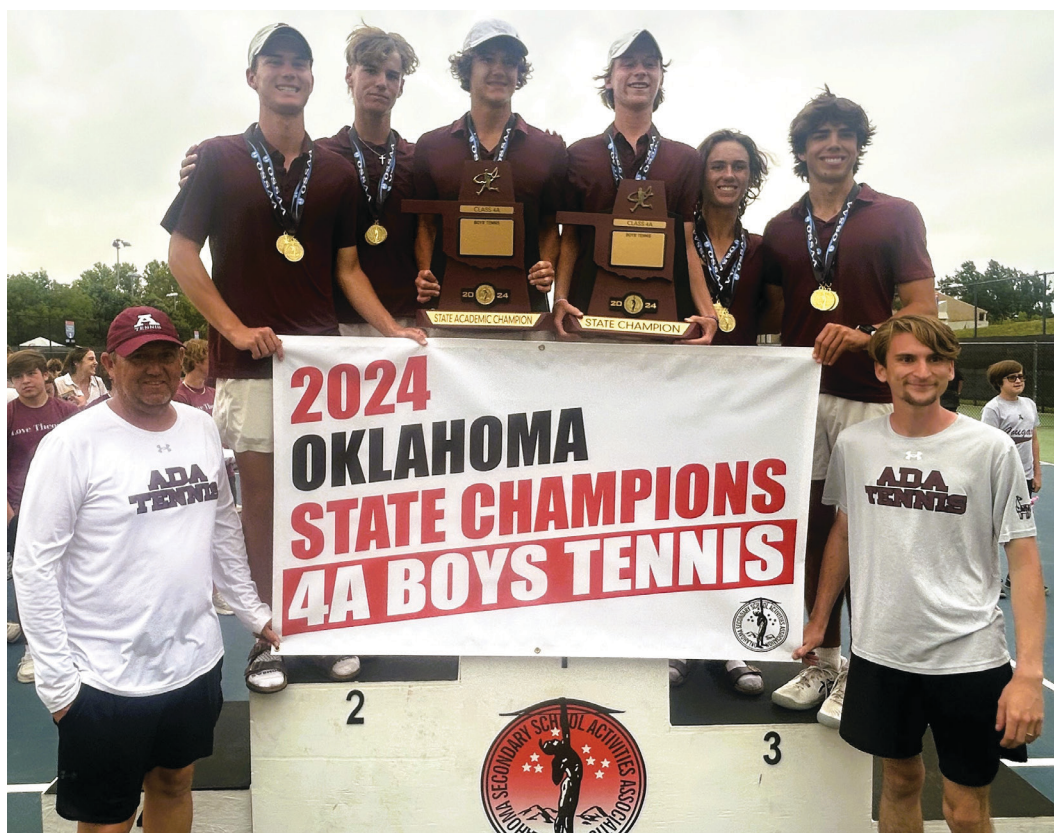
According to NFHS, “Recipients of the Coach of the Year awards must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character. They must be endorsed by their respective state high school associations. Recipients are selected by the NFHS Coaches Association Awards Committee and approved by the NFHS board of directors.”

With 141 state championships, Ada High School has one of the most respected sports programs in Oklahoma. According to Swopes, he is the latest of a long line of winning tennis coaches produced by the school. Between the boys and girls teams, the Cougar tennis program has brought a total of 26 championship titles to Ada.

“Ada is known in the state for tennis,” Swopes said. “We have an incredible tennis community. Parents, former players and previous coaches continue to be part of the program.”

Swopes has amassed many regional and state championships for the Cougar tennis program. These include 12 state championships, winning three as head coach and nine as assistant. By winning both the boys and girls regionals this year, his record includes seven of these titles as head coach.

“While both teams won their (championship) titles last year, I don’t think I could have written a better script for the boys team,” Swopes said. “They were all seniors. They have been playing together since they were little. This was the first time in Ada history the boys swept every division, including the academic state championship.”



Pictured from left: Coach Terry Swopes, Tate Danielson, Anthony Towers, Drew Lillard, Halston Redwine, Jackson Swopes, Brady Bacon and assistant coach Noah Watkins.

As academic state champions, the boys team had the highest grade-point average of the competing teams.

“We are blessed. Our kids work hard on and off the court. We have won academic state championships many times in the last seven or eight years,” Swopes said.

While the 2023-2024 NFHS Head Coach of the Year award may be Swopes’ most prestigious recognition, it is far from his first. Swopes has been presented with nearly 20 other awards. Swopes has been acknowledged for his coaching skills by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Oklahoma Tennis Coach Association and the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association.

“If I had to choose my absolute favorite coaching accolade, I would have to say coaching my sons has been the best experience. It didn’t hurt that their teams won state championships,” Swopes said.

Cougar tennis is a family affair. Swopes’ father-in-law, Bill Nelson, is a former Cougar tennis head coach. Coaching at Ada High School has not only given Swopes the opportunity to coach his sons, but a niece as well.

Continued on next page

"I happened to marry into a tennis family," Swopes said. "My family has somehow been involved in winning 20 of the 26 of the school's state championships in tennis."

Today, three family members are playing at the collegiate level.

"My son, Jackson Swopes, is playing at Earlham College. My niece, Gracie Epps, is playing at Oklahoma State University, and another niece, Zoie Epps, is playing at Louisiana Tech University."

In addition to the hard work from the athletes and school administration, Swopes said he believes the Ada tennis program's reputation stems from the collaboration between the city of Ada, individual community members and the Chickasaw Nation. Each contributes in their own way to the school's sports program.

Swopes, a Chickasaw citizen, spends time each summer teaching Chickasaw youth the ins and outs of tennis during the Chickasaw Nation's annual tennis clinic. Swopes has been involved with the tennis clinic for more than 20 years. For the last seven years, Swopes has been the primary organizer of the tennis clinic.

The clinic allows Swopes the ability to meet Chickasaw players ages 8 to 18 from around the country. Swopes enjoys teaching the next generation of Chickasaws the game, giving them a solid foundation to build upon.

"The majority of those who participate in the clinic are new to tennis," Swopes said. "It's a great introduction for those who may not have seen the game played before. We had a girl introduced to tennis through the clinic at a young age. She fell in love with the game. She stayed with it and went on to win state for us a few years ago."

Swopes said he enjoys the group's varied skill levels. Those new to the game learn basic skills such as the ready position, basic racket grips, the four basic tennis strokes, how to hit volleys and how to serve. More advanced players are placed within their own group

and learn advanced footwork, point strategy and how to play the more complicated game of doubles tennis.



Back row, from left: Terry, Landon, Jackson and Sunny Swopes. Front row, from left: Mason and Gabe Swopes.

In the past, Swopes has built tennis teams exclusively from Chickasaw players. Swopes has taken these teams to play at special First American tennis competitions, such as the North American Indian Tennis Association Tournament.

"You need to have at least six players to form a team. We have taken Chickasaw teams as far away as St. Louis to play," Swopes said. "Our latest team had four players from Ada, a couple from Byng and a few from Seminole. They played in an Oklahoma tournament."

Swopes said he receives his Chickasaw heritage from his father's side of the family. His family traces their lineage to Lazarus Adkins, an original Dawes enrollee.

"Being Chickasaw gives me a sense of pride," Swopes said. "It gives me a sense of resiliency. I love being Chickasaw, and I love living in Ada near (the Chickasaw Nation) headquarters. Thinking about my heritage pushes me to do things the right way. Every day, me and my family represent our Chickasaw heritage as best as we can."

In the Cougar clan

Swopes became involved with tennis at an early age. He learned the game by watching and playing with his father, Donald. His mother is Karen. Swopes played for his hometown's high school tennis team in Moore, Oklahoma. He continued to play at the collegiate level while attending the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO).

"Tennis has always been part of my life," Swopes said. "Some of my fondest memories are growing up learning to play tennis from my dad and the time spent with him on the court, and the time spent with my mom on long car rides driving me all over the state to play tennis tournaments."

Swopes transferred to East Central University from UCO to be closer to his future wife, Sunny. He quickly realized Ada was home.

In addition to coaching tennis, Swopes is the Ada High School senior counselor. He said he enjoys counseling almost as much as coaching.

OKLAHOMA TRIBAL DIRECTORY

ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE

2025 South Gordon Cooper
Shawnee, OK, 74801 | 405.275.4030

ALABAMA-QUASSARTE

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Wetumka, OK, 74883
405 452-3987

APACHE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

511 East Colorado Drive
Anadarko, OK | 405-247-9493

CADDO NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Hwys. 281 & 152 Intersection
Binger, OK | 405-656-2344

CHEROKEE NATION

South of Tahlequah, Hwy. 62
Tahlequah, OK | 918-453-5000

CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO TRIBES

100 Red Moon Circle, Concho,
OK 405-262-0345

CHICKASAW NATION

124 East 14th Street, Ada, OK
(580) 436-2603

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

529 N. 16th St., Durant, OK
800-522-6170

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

1601 Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK | 405-275-3121

COMANCHE NATION

584 NW Bingo Rd., Lawton,
OK 877-492-4988

DELAWARE (LENAPE) TRIBE OF INDIANS

5100 East Tuxedo Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK
918- 337-6550

DELAWARE NATION

31064 State Highway 281
Anadarko, OK | 405-247-2448

EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

127 Oneida St., Seneca, MO
918-666-2435

FORT SILL APACHE TRIBE

Route 2, Box 12, Apache, OK
580-588-2298

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

RR 1, Box 72, Perkins, OK
405-547-2402

KAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

698 Grandview Drive, Kaw City, OK
580-269-2552

KIALEGEE TRIBAL TOWN

623 East Hwy. 9, Wetumka, OK
405-452-3262

KICKAPOO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. Box 70, McCloud, OK
405-964-7053

KIOWA INDIAN TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Hwy. 9, West of Carnegie,
Carnegie, OK
580-654-2300

MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

202 S. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, OK
918-542-1445

MODOC TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

418 G Street, Miami, OK
918-542-1190

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Hwy. 75 and Loop 56,
Okmulgee, OK
800-482-1979

OSAGE NATION

813 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK
918-287-5555

OTTAWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

13 S. 69 A, Miami, OK
918-540-1536

OTOE-MISSOURIA TRIBE

8151 Hwy 177, Red Rock, OK
877-692-6863

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Pawnee, OK
918-762-3621

PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

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918-540-2535

PONCA TRIBE

20 White Eagle Drive,
Ponca City, OK
580-762-8104

QUAPAW TRIBE OF INDIANS

5681 S. 630 Rd., Quapaw, OK
918-542-1853

SAC AND FOX NATION

920883 S. Hwy 99, Stroud, OK
918-968-3526

SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Junction Hwys. 270 and 56
P. O. Box 1498, Wewoka, OK
405-257-7200

SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

23701 S 655 Road, Grove, OK
918-542-6609

SHAWNEE TRIBE

29 S. Hwy. 69A, Miami, OK
918-542-2441

THLOPHTLOCCO TRIBAL TOWN

09095 Okemah Street, Okemah, OK
918-560-6198.

TONKAWA TRIBE OF INDIANS

1 Rush Buffalo Road, Tonkawa, OK
580-628-2561

UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

PO Box 746, Tahlequah, OK
918-431-1818

WICHITA AND AFFILIATED TRIBES

(Wichita, Keechi, Waco, Tawakonie)
Hwy. 281, Anadarko, OK
405-247-2425

WYANDOTTE NATION

64700 E. Highway 60,
Wyandotte, OK
918-678-2297



GOLF CLUBS

EAGLE CREEK GOLF CLUB

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

FIRELAKE GOLF COURSE

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

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20900 South 4200 Rd.
Claremore, OK 74019
918-283-8800
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770 West Cherokee Street
Catoosa, OK 74015
1-800-760-6700
cherokee.golf@cnent.com
18 Holes | Par 70 | 6635 Yards
| Dress code | Bar/Grill | Pro-
shop | Banquet room

WINSTAR GOLF COURSE

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

WINSTAR GOLF ACADEMY

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

CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

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

RV LISTINGS

WILL ROGERS DOWNS

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

PEORIA RIDGE GOLF

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

FIRELAKE GOLF COURSE

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

CHEROKEE HILLS GOLF COURSE

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

WINSTAR GOLF COURSE

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

FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF COURSE

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

CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

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



Author Provides an Intimate Look at the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Adoption of her Native American daughter

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – In 1970, Colorado Child Welfare labeled author Dianne Haaland's future daughter as "unadoptable" because she was a minority. At the time, few people knew about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders or the Indian Child Welfare Act. At their first meeting, Haaland and her husband were mesmerized by a beautiful, beguiling baby girl and wanted to bring her home immediately. The final adoption occurred six months later.

In "Finding Pieces and Peace," Haaland shares the challenges she and her daughter, Tanya, faced, including lies and misleading statements from officials, suicide attempts and drug abuse. They chose to share their stories to help others, including some alternative pathways that they tried and often failed at.

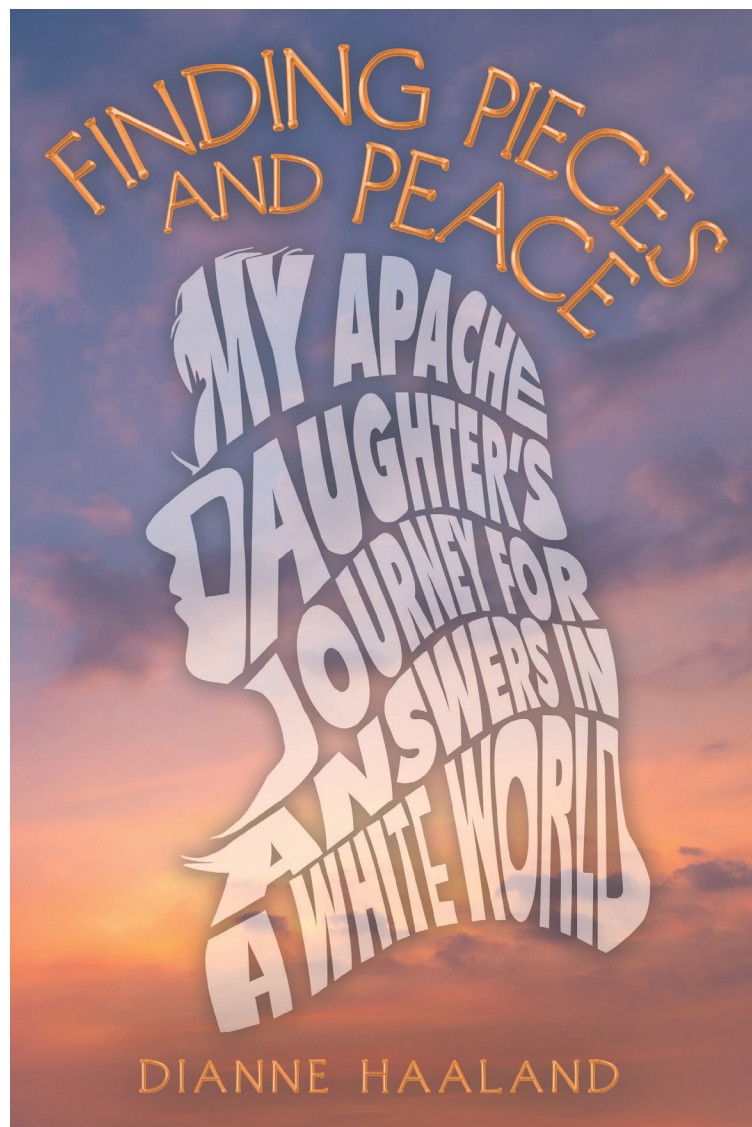
"Many times, people don't take the time to learn about the past and have no base or starting point to do something better," said Haaland. "We can't offer advice for your situation, as no two conditions are the same. But we can offer ideas to give you a multitude of choices to evaluate and choose for your situation."

Haaland and her ex-husband had one child and were a foster home to thirty-three, mostly Native American, children over three years. Besides her own story, she also includes information about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, the Indian Child Welfare Act, court appointed special advocates and the American Indian Movement, as many are not familiar with these topics, and they play largely into her story.

"I hope our book gives a voice to foster children, adoptees, and relinquishing mothers who wanted to share their stories," said Haaland.

"Finding Pieces and Peace: My Apache Daughter's Journey for Answers in a White World" —By Dianne Haaland

Available at Archway Publishing, Amazon and Barnes & Noble



Book covers the difficulties that arose from adopting a Native American child and managing the unknown health history, disabling physical conditions, and the reconciliation of all participants

About the author

Dianne Haaland is a lifelong learner who earned a bachelors degree at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D. and an MBA from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. This is her second memoir. Haaland and her ex-husband have one daughter and were a foster home. To learn more, please visit www.archwaypublishing.com/en/bookstore/bookdetails/856053-finding-pieces-and-peace

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SKYDANCE BREWING CO., OKLAHOMA'S NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFT BREWERY, TO BUILD SECOND LOCATION IN MIDWEST CITY, OK

Oklahoma City, OK: June 27th, 2025. Skydance Brewing Co. today announced plans to build a second taproom/restaurant location at 231 W. MacArthur Midwest City Ok 73130.

The new location will include a bar with 12 tap handles, packaged beer to go, a kitchen & dining area and a large outdoor patio space. This will be the first full dining experience provided by Skydance Brewing Co. The menu will focus on burgers and appetizers, but other items will be available, including Native American staples, such as Indian Tacos, Meat Pies, Soup & Fry Bread.

“With the changing landscape in the craft beer industry we’re working to double down on what we’re best at, which is customer service and the taproom experience,” says Jake

Keyes, Founder & CEO at Skydance Brewing Co. “Rather than investing in the infrastructure to grow distribution, we want to invest in direct to customer (taproom) sales.”

“We recognize that food is going to be a big part of what a great taproom experience looks like for customers in our industry moving forward,” says Keyes. “Just offering great local craft beer is no longer enough. Customers want the full experience, which includes food service that is seamless for the customer instead of the traditional food truck or outside food business model.”

“We’re excited to bring what we do best, an exceptional taproom experience, to Midwest City with a delicious food menu to complement our beer,” said Skydance Director of Operations, Bobbi Gabler. “Beyond great beer and food,



we'll continue to focus on outstanding customer service and memorable experiences. We're thrilled to expand our business into Midwest City and can't wait to meet, serve, and build lasting relationships with the local community."

Details include:

- Taproom and restaurant
- Lunch and Dinner service
- Full lineup of Skydance Beers, plus some MWC only beers
- Small brewing system for MWC only beers
- Large outdoor patio space with some covered seating and a stage for music
- Plan to open in late fall or early winter of 2025

About Skydance Brewing Co.: Skydance Brewing Co. is Oklahoma's Native American craft brewery. Founded in 2018, Skydance began brewing beer in a co-op brewery, The Brewers Union, before opening a location of their own in Automobile Alley at 1 NE 7th St. in Oklahoma

City, OK. Skydance has a 2,000 sq ft taproom with a large patio at its current location. With a 15 bbl brewhouse and packaging line, Skydance produces beer that is distributed to retail locations all over Oklahoma and parts of Kansas. Since opening, Skydance has garnered recognition from multiple publications, including being named as one of the 12 Best New Breweries of 2021 by Hop Culture Magazine and its founder, Jake Keyes, was named to 405 Business Magazines list of the Metro's Most Influential, Native Business Magazine's Top 50 Native Entrepreneurs, and The Journal Records Power List of Tribal Leaders. Skydance is particularly known for brewing great IPA's and lagers. Founder, Jake Keyes, serving his first term as Chairman of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. Keyes and his fiancé, Skydance Director of Operations, Bobbi Gabler, both have several years of experience in the tribal casino industry and carry that hospitality experience to the craft beer industry.



“It’s All Creek to Me”



SOUR SOFKEE #63

Written By: Fus Yvhikv

“Thluh, thluh, thluh,” Tarpalechee stammers.

“Duh, duh, duh,” I say mockingly.

The Frybread Boys crack up laughing.

“Spit it out, Tarp,” Yahola says. “You can do it!”

“No he can’t,” Fixico says. “Look at that contorted face!”

Tarpalechee’s face is indeed severely contorted. He has the pained expression of a man who just ate two Burrito Supremes at Taco Bell and now has acute gas and bloating. His strained face is made more comical due to his lips forming an “O” while flicking his tongue as he tries to correctly pronounce the Creek R sound.

“I think he needs to head to the cuku. Stat!” Fixico says as he tosses a roll of toilet paper at Tarpalechee.

Tarpalechee’s face returns to its normal hang dog expression.

“Shhh! You boys go away,” Tarp commands. “Can’t you see I’m in my Creek language class? I’m trying to pronounce the R sound in our language.”

Tarpalechee points to his Dell laptop which is covered in duct tape. The image of the Creek language instructor is grainy and cloudy, but the audio is surprisingly good for a 15-year-old laptop. Tarpalechee closes the laptop and pounds it with his fist. When he reopens it, the picture is clear as White Lightning.

“You’re taking a Creek language class?” Yahola asks.

“Why would he do that. He still hasn’t mastered basic English,” I say.

“Aaaaaaay,” Yahola and Fixico respond.

There is no R sound in the Creek language as in English,” the Creek teacher says. “In the Creek language the R has a sound like ‘thlee’ as in ath-THLEE-t. Mr. Tarpalechee,



would you care to try the pronunciation?”

“How can she see me?” Tarp asks.

“Tawvte! Even that old computer has a camera,” Yahola replies.

“Mr. Tarpalechee?”

“Yes, yes, Mvhayv. I’ll be happy to give it a try.”

Tarp clears his throat as he stretches his tiny T-rex arms over his head. He clears his throat again and then is silent.

“While we’re still young,” I say.

“Thluh...thluh...thluh,” Tarpalechee stammers.

"You have to put the tip of your tongue against the back of your upper teeth. Then aspirate out the sides of your tongue," the Mahaya says.

"What does aspirate mean?" Tarp asks.

"Heyluh!" Fixico says as he hits his forehead with the palm of his hand.

Tarpalechee attempts to put the tip of his tongue against his upper teeth, but he only manages to flick his tongue. With his puffy chipmunk cheeks, he resembles a rat snake.

"Injun' speaks with forked tongue," Fixico jokes.

"Mvts ci! Goot Won," I say between peals of laughter.

"Thluh, thluh, thluh," Tarpalechee continues to babble.

His attempts to aspirate drizzles us in a fog of spittle. Me, Yahola, and Fixico step back away from Tarp's mist cloud. Fixico shakes his head and lights a cigar. He tilts his face towards the ceiling and blows a large smoke ring. Suddenly, Fixico moves next to Tarpalechee. His face is so close to Tarp's that Fixico's cigar could burn Tarp's cheek.

"Now, repeat after me," Fixico orders. "Thlee. Thlee. Thlee. Try it."

"Thluh. Thluh. Thluh."

"Thlee!"

"Thluh."

Fixico's brow furrows and his jaw tightly clenches as he gives Tarp a Clint Eastwood narrow-eyed stare. Fixico abruptly grasps Tarp's mouth and jaw in his large hand.

"Now say it with me. Thlee!" Fixico says as he maneuvers Tarp's lips.

"Glabba...f-frooni." Tarp babbles.

Fixico tightens his vise-like grip on Tarp's mouth which causes his lips to protrude. He now looks like Catfish Tarp.

"Heyluh! Again! Thlee!"

"Glabba...f-frooni."

Fixico's face turns a beet red. He stands with his hands clenched in a fist so tight that his knuckles are white. Tarp eyeballs Fixico warily.

"Hey boys," I say to Fixico and Yahola. "I've got an idea. Desperate times call for desperate measures."

I walk over to Tarpalechee and without warning, bop Tarp on the head with the bottom of my fist.

"Thlee!" Tarpalechee immediately blurts out.

"Naget! He said it!" Yahola excitedly says. "Hvtvm, makaks ci!"

"Thlee, thlee, thlee," Tarp says gleefully!

"I think he's got it," I observe. "Say some Creek words."

"Rakko. Rehute. Rvfo. Rvro. Rvro Pvnkv," Tarp says with a wide grin. "It's all Creek to me!"

The Frybread Boys joyously high five Tarp and congratulate him on mastering the R sound. Fixico is giving Tarp a bear hug when we hear the sharp voice of the Creek Mvhayv.

"Mr. Tarpalechee!" the Mvhayv sternly says. "Please read and pronounce this word: ohhonvyvhanetskekot'os."

"I'm not going to read that," Tarpalechee says as he slams his computer shut.

-Hoccit'os Eyasket, Fus.

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Exploring Tribal Leadership in Oklahoma

Leadership within tribal political structures is complex and multifaceted, particularly in organizations such as other Tribal political organizations.

Tribal leaders not only serve as stewards of their communities but also operate within intricate political, social, and economic contexts. Below, we take a closer look at the main dynamics of tribal leadership and the challenges these leaders face.

Understanding Tribal Leadership

The inter-tribal organizations represents a network of tribes working together to preserve their cultures, advocate for their communities, and pursue collective opportunities. The UINO is made up of 39 federally recognized tribes and tribal communities, each with its own unique history, traditions, and leadership structures.

Traditional Leadership Structures

Tribal communities in Oklahoma have a long history of traditional leadership structures that are deeply rooted in their cultural values and beliefs. These structures vary among different tribes but generally follow a similar pattern.

- **Chief:** The chief is usually the highest-ranking leader who has ultimate authority over the tribe's affairs. They are responsible for making critical decisions related to governance, diplomacy, and economic development.
- **Council:** The council consists of leaders from different families or clans within the tribe. They provide advice to the chief and help in decision-making processes

Key Challenges Facing Tribal Leadership in Oklahoma

Despite the richness of tribal culture and the potential for inter-tribal collaboration, Tribal leadership faces a variety of challenges, including:

1. Navigating Government Relations

Tribal leaders must operate within a unique framework of relationships involving federal, state, and city governments. These relationships are marked by varying degrees of legal complexity, historical tension, and ongoing

negotiations over sovereignty, land rights, and resource management.

- **Federal Government:** Tribes depend on federal recognition for sovereignty and financial support. However, bureaucratic red tape and shifting priorities often slow progress. Leadership must work to develop partnerships while defending the rights of their communities.
- **State and City Governments:** State and municipal authorities sometimes encroach on tribal sovereignty, resulting in jurisdictional disputes. Collaborative but assertive engagement is critical to resolving these issues.

2. Strengthening Tribal Cooperation

While organizations aims to unify tribes, achieving meaningful collaboration can sometimes be challenging. Variances in goals, priorities, and traditional practices among member tribes can result in conflicting interests. Effective communication and leadership are needed to foster mutual trust and align efforts.

3. Driving Economic Development

Economic development is essential for securing the long-term stability of tribal nations. Leaders are tasked with identifying opportunities for growth, such as:


- Expanding tribal enterprises (casinos, tourism, agriculture).
- Encouraging entrepreneurship within tribal communities.
- Building infrastructure that fosters sustainable development.

However, financing these initiatives often requires navigating federal grants, private investments, or inter-tribal funds, which can create additional hurdles.

4. Securing Grant Funding

Grant funding forms a significant part of tribal budgets but requires significant effort to access. Leaders must

Continued on next page



ensure grant applications are competitive while effectively allocating funds to address housing, education, healthcare, and cultural preservation needs.

5. Balancing Social Services

Social services, such as healthcare, education, and housing assistance, remain a critical area of focus for tribal leadership. Leaders must balance immediate needs with long-term strategies to enhance the quality of life for their members. Accessing resources and ensuring equitable distribution across communities present an ongoing challenge.

6. Managing Inter-Tribal Politics

Inter-tribal politics can complicate leadership dynamics within the UINO. While collaboration is fundamental, differences in governance styles, historical disputes, and competing priorities require skilled diplomacy to mediate and unite tribes under shared objectives.

Moving Forward with Leadership Excellence

Addressing these challenges requires strong, visionary leadership equipped to adapt to an evolving environment. Key approaches that could bolster leadership effectiveness within Tribes include:

- **Building Strategic Alliances:** Strengthening relationships with federal, state, and local governments through negotiation and advocacy is essential for advancing tribal sovereignty and securing resources.
- **Enhancing Inter-Tribal Communication:** Open dialogue between tribes, rooted in mutual respect, can foster shared decision-making and collective growth.
- **Strengthening Cultural Foundations:** Grounding decisions in traditional values helps maintain cultural continuity while addressing modern challenges.
- **Investing in Leadership Development:** Providing training and mentoring opportunities for emerging tribal leaders can ensure a resilient pipeline of future leadership.
- **Focusing on Data-Driven Decisions:** Leveraging metrics and data to guide initiatives in areas like economic development and grant management can lead to measurable, impactful outcomes.

Leadership within Oklahoma stands at the intersection of tradition and progress. By addressing these challenges with

strategic foresight and a commitment to unity, Tribes can continue to strengthen their communities while preserving the values that define them.

Leadership Dynamics in Oklahoma

Tribal leadership within Oklahoma is rooted in a rich cultural heritage yet faces a unique combination of challenges in today's complex social, political, and economic landscape. Effective leadership plays a pivotal role in navigating these dynamics to preserve tribal sovereignty, promote economic development, and enhance the well-being of tribal members.

Here, we examine the key challenges facing tribal leadership in this region and how these issues influence leadership dynamics.

Challenges Facing Leadership

1. Interactions with the Federal Government

Tribal relations with the federal government remain a complex issue. Though tribal governments are recognized as sovereign entities, they frequently face obstacles in navigating overlapping jurisdictions, obtaining sufficient funding, and securing respect for their autonomy. Leadership must remain vigilant and proactive in advocating for the rights and privileges of their people while negotiating federal policies and treaties.

2. State and City Government Relations

State and municipal governments also present challenges for tribal leaders. Conflicts over jurisdiction, land use, and taxation are common, with state or city authorities often misunderstanding the unique legal status of tribal nations. Leaders must balance fostering partnerships with these governments while resolutely safeguarding tribal sovereignty.

3. Tribal Cooperation and Inter-Tribal Politics

With multiple tribes represented under multiple organizations, inter-tribal cooperation can sometimes be complicated by political differences. Diverging priorities between tribes can hinder the formation of unified strategies, whether for economic development or lobbying efforts. Strong, diplomatic leadership is required to encourage collaboration across tribal lines for the greater good.

4. Economic Development

Advancing the economic interests of their tribes is a constant challenge for leaders. From managing tribal

businesses and casinos to securing sustainable livelihoods for their members, leadership in this area demands both visionary planning and practical execution. Leaders must diversify tribal economies while preserving cultural values and land.

5. Grant Funding and Social Services

Tribal governments often rely on external grant funding to support infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other key social services. However, competition for funding at the state and federal levels is fierce. Tribal leaders must design compelling proposals, ensure compliance with grant regulations, and secure sustainable funding sources to support their communities.

6. Inter-Tribal Politics

Internal politics within tribes, such as disagreements over governance style or resource allocation, also pose challenges. Leadership must mediate conflicts, maintain respect for traditional practices, and promote transparency and accountability to sustain trust among their members.

Potential Pathways Forward

While the challenges are significant, the opportunities

for impactful leadership are equally immense. Several strategies can help tribal leaders thrive in their roles and address contemporary obstacles effectively:

- **Building Strategic Partnerships:** Strengthening relationships with external governments and organizations can help secure resources and advance tribal interests.
- **Enhancing Inter-Tribal Coordination:** Encouraging regular dialogue between tribal leaders and aligning priorities across tribes can foster unity and amplify their collective impact.
- **Advocating for Sovereignty:** Persistent advocacy at both the federal and state levels is crucial to protect tribal autonomy and rights. A united, organized approach can greatly enhance the effectiveness of these efforts.
- **Focused Economic Diversification:** Exploring industries like renewable energy, tech, or agriculture can reduce dependency on limited sources of income, such as casinos, while creating new opportunities for members.

Continued on next page



- **Leadership Development Programs:** Investing in the next generation of tribal leaders ensures that the skills, knowledge, and cultural heritage necessary for effective leadership are passed down.

The Responsibility to Lead

Tribal leadership within Oklahoma carries immense responsibilities but also offers opportunities to drive lasting change. By skillfully navigating the pressures of government relations, economic development, and inter-tribal collaboration, leaders can continue to represent the interests of their people while paving the way for a thriving and resilient future.

Ultimately, these leaders are not just guiding their tribes today but shaping the legacy of these communities for generations to come.

Tribes Economic Impact

This past month, a report shows the direct impact Tribes had made this previous year, as a whole.

Tribes have accounted for Direct Employment and Wages for Oklahomans, where Oklahoma tribes employed 55,659

Oklahoma workers in 2023. Paying out wages and benefits totaling \$3.3 billion to Oklahomans.

Direct Oklahoma production when combining business revenues, government expenditures, and capital expenditures, Oklahoma tribes accounted for \$12.7 billion in direct Oklahoma production.

Education, Health Care, and Tribal Gaming

Tribal Gaming and related businesses generated \$7.4 billion in revenues. These revenues were used to provide programs and services for tribal citizens and non-citizens, and to promote the long-run sustainability of the tribes.

Tribes invested \$351 million for education and human capital development in the state and spent \$582 million providing health care services for over 3.5 million patient visits in the state.

Total Economic Impact when analyzed in the context of the Oklahoma economy and accounting for spillover (multiplier) impacts, the report estimates that tribal activities supported 139,860 jobs in the state with \$7.8 billion in wages and benefits to Oklahoma workers and \$23.4 billion in state production of goods and services

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

skyeaglecollection.com



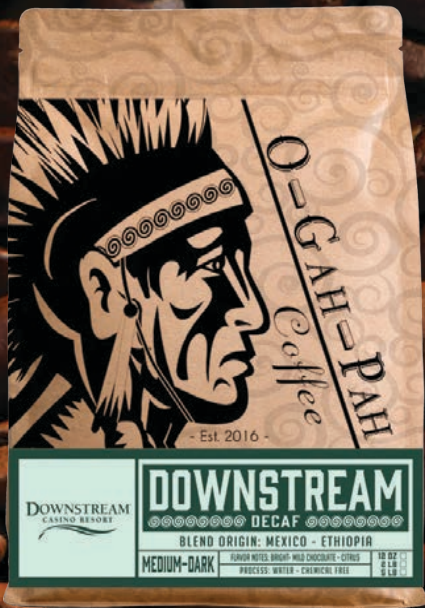
Sky-Eagle Collection

O-GAH-PAH

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

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

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



NATIVE ARTISANS

TRADE POST/GIFT SHOP LISTING

SUPERNAW'S OKLAHOMA INDIAN SUPPLY

213 E W.C. Rogers Blvd | Skiatook, OK 74070
918-396-1713 | www.supernaws.com

SOUTHWEST TRADING COMPANY

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

OKLAHOMA NATIVE ART & JEWELRY

2204 Exchange Ave | Oklahoma
City, OK 73108
405-604-9800 | www.oknativeart.com

THE ART MARKET

5014 S. Sheridan Rd | Tulsa, OK 74145
918-664-0626 | www.indianarttulsa.com

TRIBES 131

131 24th Ave NW | Norman, OK 73069
405-329-4442 | www.tribes131.com

CHA TULLIS GALLERY

108 W. Main St. | Hominy, OK 74035
918.885.4717 | www.chatullis.com

NATIVE AMERICAN ART

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

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580-699-2983 | www.mitchelllearlboyiddleok.com

OKLAHOMA INDIAN ARTS & CRAFTS

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

AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

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Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-239-5500 | www.famok.org

S & L GALLERY

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

JACOBSON HOUSE

609 Chautauqua Ave | Norman, OK 73069
405-366-1667 | www.jacobsonhouse.org

RED EARTH

100 N Broadway Ave |
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-427-5228 | www.redearth.org

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

1899 Gordon Cooper Drive
| Shawnee, OK 74801
405-878-5830 | www.potawatomiheritage.com

SEMINOLE NATION MUSEUM

524 S. Wewoka Ave | Wewoka, OK 74884
405-257-5580 | www.seminolenationmuseum.org

FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES MUSEUM

1101 Honor Heights Dr. |
Muskogee, OK 74401
918-683-1701 | www.fivetribes.org

GILCREASE MUSEUM

1400 N. Gilcrease Museum
Rd | Tulsa, OK 74127



RESORT LISTING

DOWNSTREAM CASINO RESORT

69300 East Nee Road, Quapaw,
OK 74363 | 1-888-DWNSTRM (396-7876)
918-919-6000
E: info@downstreamcasino.com
www.downstream.com

BUFFALO RUN CASINO RESORT

1366 N. Highway 69A, Miami, OK 74354
Phone: 918-542-2900 | Fax: 918-542-2908
GPS Address: 8414 S 580 Rd
www.buffalorunhotel.com

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OK 74370
1.888.992.SKY1 | www.indigoskycasino.com

GRAND LAKE CASINO & LODGE

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Phone: 918.786.8528 | RSVP: 918.786.4406
| Event Center: 918.786.1974
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CHEROKEE CASINO WEST SILOAM SPRINGS

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1.800.754.4111 (press 1, then 1) to RSVP
www.cherokeecasino.com

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www.hardrockcasinotulsa.com

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First Council Casino Hotel 12875
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(877) 7-CLANS-0 or (877) 725-2670
www.firstcouncilcasinohotel.com

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Shawnee, OK 74804
Casino: (405) 964-7263
Hotel: (405) 964-7777
www.grandresortok.com

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1.855.455.5255 | www.artesianhotel.com

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1-405-322-6000 | www.riverwind.com

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652-4628 | Fax: 1-580-931-2725
E: hotel.shift@choctawcasinos.com

CHOCTAW CASINO HOTEL - POCOLA

3400 Choctaw Road, Pocola, OK 74902
Tel: 918-436-7761
Toll Free: 1.800.590.5825
Fax: 918.436.7723
E: pocola.hotelmanagers@choctawcasinos.com

CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT - GRANT

US Hwy 271, Grant, OK 74738 USA
Tel: 580-317-8500 | Fax: 580-326-5171
E: nancy.hedrick@choctawcasinos.com

WINSTAR WORLD CASINO & RESORT

777 Casino Ave, Thackerville, OK 73459
1-800-622-6317
www.winstarworldcasino.com

WINSTAR WORLD CASINO HOTEL

1-866-946-7787

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OK 73459
1-866-946-7787

APACHE CASINO HOTEL

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OK 73501 580.248.5905
www.apachecasinohotel.com

COMANCHE RED RIVER CASINO

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1-877-849-3992
www.comanchenationcasinos.com

RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT

8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, OK 74137
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LEARN MORE: [AICCOK.ORG/MEMBERSHIPS](https://aiccok.org/memberships)
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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.