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A CAREER THAT **GIVES BACK TO THE NATION** THAT GAVE HIM EVERYTHING

Born and raised in Hominy, Oklahoma, and a proud member of the Osage Nation, Mark Davis grew up with a deep appreciation for his community and a strong desire to give back. Today, as the General Manager of Osage Casino & Hotel in Skiatook, that desire has become his daily motivation.

After earning his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from OSU-Tulsa, he started his career in the healthcare field—working his way from a tech role into clinic management. But in 2014, his path brought him back to the Nation in a meaningful way when he joined Osage Casinos as a Marketing Analyst.

"I always knew I wanted to give back to the Nation that gave me so much," Mark said, noting how Osage Nation financial aid helped him through college. "My end goal was always to go back to the Nation, purposefully contribute, and be part of something bigger."

After seven years in marketing, Mark was offered the role of General Manager at the Hominy casino—a job he applied for and didn't anticipate getting. "I threw my name in and thought I bombed the interview. But getting that call... it was an incredible feeling," said Mark.

“IT'S A FANTASTIC PLACE TO WORK. THE LEADERSHIP IS STRONG, AND THEIR VISION IS SOLID. I'VE GROWN SO MUCH HERE—NOT JUST PROFESSIONALLY, BUT PERSONALLY.

Mark Davis, General Manager in Skiatook

Now at the Skiatook property, Mark's day begins with reviewing reports and touching base with shift managers before heading out to walk the floor, connecting with team members, greeting guests, and stepping in wherever he's needed. Over time, working alongside his team has introduced him to countless new people and taught him how to lift others up when they're having a tough day. He admits that those lessons didn't come on his own—he's leaned on many people to learn them—but that support has helped him build stronger, more meaningful relationships in return.

Osage Casinos CEO Kimberly Pearson shared, "Mark's leadership is rooted in his care for his community and the Osage Nation. We're fortunate to have someone with his dedication and passion for our mission guiding our Skiatook casino."



Mark Davis and Kimberly Pearson, CEO of Osage Casinos

He values knowing that his work directly contributes to the well-being of the Osage Nation and its people. Revenue generated through the casinos supports vital programs across the Nation, from scholarships and financial assistance to elder housing and supporting those in need.

"I've been on the receiving end of those services," Mark says. "Now I'm in a position to help make sure they continue for others in our community."

For those considering a career with Osage Casinos, Mark doesn't hesitate: "It's a fantastic place to work. The leadership is strong, and their vision is solid. I've grown so much here—not just professionally, but personally. If you're looking for a place where you can make a difference, this is it."

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



osagecasino.com

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NATIVE oklahoma

AUGUST 2025



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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!

SEPTEMBER

Annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival

August 29th- 31st, 2025

Tvshka Homma, capital of the Choctaw Nation.



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

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

61st Annual Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration

August 29th- 31st, 2025

Adawe Park in Miami, Oklahoma.

This Labor Day weekend powwow includes

a variety of activities such as gourd dancing, war dancing, stomp dancing and other social dances.

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

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



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Labor Day Powwow

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

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

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

each evening. For more information, go to www.c-a-tribes.org

Cherokee National Holiday

August 29th- 30th, 2025

Cherokee Nation Cultural Grounds
Tahlequah, OK 74464

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

Continued on next page

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

EST00 Powwow Grounds

12615 S. 705 Rd., Wyandotte, OK 74370

For more information: (918) 238-5151

32nd Annual Comanche Nation Fair Powwow

Sept. 26th- 28th, 2025

Comanche Nation Complex, Lawton, Oklahoma



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

This annual fall event, Comanche Nation Fair Powwow, brings together tribes from

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

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

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

For information visit www.comanchenationfair.com

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



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)

34TH ANNUAL WYANDOTTE NATION POW WOW

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2025 | 69701 E HWY 60,
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HEAD STAFF

HEAD SINGER: **JADE ROUBEDEAUX**
HOST NORTHERN DRUM: **YOUNG BUFFALO HORSE**
HEAD MAN: **AJ LEADINGFOX**
HEAD LADY: **SOPHIA THURMAN**
HEAD GOURD: **JASON DOLLARHIDE**
HONOR GUARD: **WYANDOTTE COLOR GUARD**
MC: **WADE BLEVINS**
ARENA DIRECTOR: **DUDE BLALOCK**
HEAD JUDGE: **JAY BLALOCK**
OUTGOING PRINCESS: **CHLOE FRIEND**
SENIOR PRINCESS: **VEYDA MARLOW**
JUNIOR PRINCESS: **NEVAEH COOPER**

UPDATE

CATEGORIES

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FANCY SHAWL, JINGLE

AGE DIVISIONS

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SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

6:30 PM GOURD
8 PM GRAND ENTRY
49 CONTEST



SATURDAY

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1:30 PM GRAND ENTRY
6 PM GOURD
7 PM GRAND ENTRY
SOCIAL/STOMP



SUNDAY

12 PM GOURD
1:30 PM GRAND ENTRY



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Tarp Sings In THE RAIN



WRITTEN BY: FUS YVHIKV, SOUR SOFKEE #68

At the corner of the bustling intersection of 71st Street and Memorial Drive, standing out like a flamingo at a goth party, is a short, rotund man with the unmistakable build of someone more familiar with snacks than squats. His T-Rex arms, comically short, flap uselessly at his sides, unable to reach even halfway down his beer belly.

He's clad in nothing but a fluorescent pink tutu that strains to hug his waist. Cars honk as their occupants point and loudly guffaw. His expression is a mix of humiliation, resignation, and regret for making that bet.

Me, Yahola, Fixico, and Hokte Emarthla stand nearby. We are hooping, hollering, and laughing derisively. A gentle rain begins to fall. Tarpalechee opens an umbrella.

"Ok, Tarp," Fixico says. "It's Singing in the Rain time. You've gotta do the Gene Kelly dance too! Come on now! You lost the bet. Start singing and dancing in the rain!"

How did Tarpalechee wind up in this embarrassing situation? What bet did he lose? To answer those questions we need to go back eight hours earlier.

It's late morning at the Rez Bar & Grill. The Frybread Boys are gathered around a table playing poker. The boys throw down their bets as Fixico shuffles the cards. Fixico counts Tarpalechee's money.



"Heyluh! You don't trust me?" Tarp asks.

"I trust you like I trust a politician," Fixico replies. "Ever since you tried to sneak those Mexican pesos by me."

"Those were rare and historic pesos," Tarp protests.

"Yeah, right. The pesos said United Mexican States, not Mexico," Fixico says. "Clearly fakes."

"Heres'ci, vnnessvlke!" says Hokte Emarthla as she energetically enters the Rez Bar. Hokte is attired in Lululemon black yoga pants and matching spaghetti strap cami. Bright yellow Hoka running shoes complete her workout attire.

"Hey Hokte, 'stonko?" Yahola says. "Good to see you. Come join us."

"Sorry boys, can't stay. Gotta get to my Pilates class."

Me, Yahola, and Fixico exchange questioning glances. Yahola scratches his head.

"Heyluh! You boys don't know Pilates?" Hokte asks.

"Pilates?" Fixico says. "Isn't he the ancient Roman philosopher?"

"That's Socrates, Chief Moron," I say as Yahola, and Hokte yuk it up.

"Actually, it's exercise. It's done on what's called a Reformer," Tarpalechee says. "It's supposed to increase core strength, flexibility, and balance. Strictly for girls though."

Hokte takes offense.

"No it's not!" she says. "NFL and NBA teams use it for training. It's a very rigorous workout."

"Bullstitt!" Tarp replies. "It's so easy I could do it in my sleep."

"Wanna bet?"

"Yeah, I'll betcha!"

"Don't do it, Tarp," I say.

"I'll bet you a basket of frybread you can't complete a workout."

"Oooh! Hokte's frybread is the best," Fixico says.

"What should I make him bet, boys?" Hokte asks.

"I know!" Yahola says. "Make him stand on a busy street corner wearing only a pink tutu!"

"Yeah! And he has to croon the Singing in the Rain song," I say.

"While doing the famous Gene Kelly dance with an umbrella," Fixico says.

"What about it, Tarp?" Hokte asks.

"Don't do it, Tarp!" I say but it is too late as Hokte and Tarpalechee shake hands.

The Pilates studio is nice and dimly lit with soft neon blue lighting. There are twelve Pilates reformers with six on each side of the room and an aisle running down the middle. The Reformers are sleek, bed-like apparatus with a carriage that slides up and down the frame. Two handles are attached to cables that are wired around pulleys and then attach underneath the carriage. When the handles are pulled it causes the carriage to slide back and forth. Tarp and Hokte sit on adjoining Reformers.

"Ok, class. We are going to start with arm work today. Lie down, put your feet parallel on the foot bar, and grab your straps," the instructor says.

Tarp rolls over on his back, but his momentum causes him to fall off on the other side of the Reformer. Hokte guffaws. He tries again and slowly eases onto his back.

"First time?" the instructor asks.

"It is," Hokte replies. "He thinks Pilates is just for girls."

The female instructor gives Tarp a narrow-eyed stare.

"I feel that look," Tarp whispers.

"Grab your straps, sir," the instructor says.

Tarp reaches back and above his head trying to find the hand straps. However, his T-Rex are too short. Exhaling loudly, the instructor takes the straps off of a wooden dowel and places them in Tarp's hands.

"Ok, class. Let's start with your hands up in the air above your shoulders. Keeping your arms straight, you're going to move your hands downward to your hips then return to the starting position. We'll do fifteen of these. Let's go!"

Tarp tries to move his hands to his hips but neither the cables nor the carriage moves. The women attendees are effortlessly moving their arms up and down as their carriages smoothly glide back and forth. His is the only carriage not moving. Tarp's cheeks turn a bright red as he lies with his hands in the air.

"Oh, I'm so sorry, sir," the instructor says. "Your Reformer is set on the green spring. That has the most resistance. Let me change it to the easier blue spring."

"She did that on purpose," Tarp says to Hokte. "I'm going to show her how a warrior manhandles this machine."

"Don't," Hokte says.

Tarp raises his hands high in the air. With all of his might he quickly thrusts his hands downward to his waist. The carriage leaps into action. It slides quickly toward the back of the Reformer then snaps back towards the front. The carriage collides violently into a stop bar and the momentum catapults Tarp off the Reformer and high into the air. His body flies high and he somersaults as his T-Rex arms helplessly claw at the air. He crash lands across the room and lies motionless, slumped against the wall. Pilates has just fried the Frybread Boy.

Clad in his pink Tutu and holding an umbrella, Tarp dances and sings, "I'm singing in the rain, just singing in the rain..." A police cruiser crawls by, the officers staring intently at Tarp. Tarp grins sheepishly, cocks his head, shrugs his shoulders, and turns his palms upwards as he slowly shuffles away.



CNHSA AWARDEES AND LEADERSHIP GATHER FOR A GROUP PHOTO AFTER THE IHS CEREMONY

Indian Health Services Awards Choctaw Nation Associates for **Outstanding** Work

DURANT, Okla. – Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA) associates were among several awardees at the Annual Oklahoma City Area Director's Indian Health Systems' Awards in Oklahoma City, Okla, July 17, 2025.

Service awards were given to those who have served Native Americans for 30 years or more. Choctaw Nation associates recognized, included:

- 50 Years: Linda Wilcox
- 40 Years: Larry Baxter, Teresa Eagle Road, Brenda Harris, Lynnidean King, Madonna Reed, Linda Watson
- 35 Years: Nova Branscum, Sandra Frazier, Jennifer Hampton, Kelly Mings, Manzel Payne
- 30 Years: Billy Eagle Road Valerie Rasha

The Oklahoma City Area Director's IHS/ Tribal/Urban Awards Committee took

submissions from all the tribes, recognized those who stood out among their peers. CNHSA associates who received awards:

- Alisa Langford, Jessica Antimo, Lela Findley, Wa-tta James, Shauna Donison, Brandy Dominguez, Jennifer Billings, Angela Proe, and Kristyn Singleterry: Peer Recognition Tribal Award for outstanding work in their respective fields.
- Heather Johnson: Merit Tribal Award.
- Choctaw Nation Behavioral Health Adult Re-entry Program: Exceptional Group Performance, Non-Clinical Award.
- Choctaw Nation Connecting Kids to Coverage: Area Director's Group Area Impact Award.
- Brock Collins: Area Director's Individual Patient Safety Award.

Information is available on each awardee upon request.



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Governor Anoatubby Leads Groundbreaking For *Transitional Housing Community*



A RENDERING OF THE CHICKASAW NATION CHUKA LOKOLI TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITY TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ADA, OKLAHOMA. THE PROJECT INCLUDES 24 SINGLE-STORY TINY HOMES, A COMMUNITY BUILDING, 10 SUITES FOR SHORT-TERM STAYS, AS WELL AS SEVERAL OUTDOOR AMENITIES.

ADA, Okla. — Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby led groundbreaking ceremonies for the Chickasaw Nation Chuka Lokoli Transitional Housing Community Aug. 13.

Located in a gated community west of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, the planned neighborhood will assist those in need of housing, thus helping to fulfill the Chickasaw Nation's mission "to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people," Governor Anoatubby said.

"This is a very important addition that will strengthen the Chickasaws and help them with their needs. It will build on the tribe's already long history of community, of assisting those facing homelessness and housing insecurity," he said.

Throughout history, the Chickasaw Nation has created communities that care for its people. In the 1960s, housing services were among the earliest services offered by the Chickasaw Nation and continues to remain a significant area of focus.

"Because we understand that it is of profound importance to have a secure place to call home, even if it is only for a short stay," Governor Anoatubby said.

The planned community is a mix of residential and commercial structures and offers housing to those impacted by severe weather or at risk of housing insecurity.

The program and the facilities that go along with it will continue to build on a foundation of service and care to provide short-to-long-term housing for citizens and employees of the Chickasaw Nation facing housing insecurity and homelessness.

The residential construction will consist of 24 single-story tiny homes, with 12 one-bedroom homes and 12 two-bedroom homes. A community building featuring a teaching kitchen, a large community room, a laundry room, guest resource room and 10 suites for short-term stays, as well as staff office space, is also planned.

Outdoor amenities such as a pavilion, playgrounds, storm shelters, dog park, community garden and open lawn space are included in the planned neighborhood. A guard station will also be constructed at the entry gate.

Services that will focus on empowering individuals through respect and empathy, including preemployment and life skills training, therapy and transportation, will be available and provide a social network that promotes

“

This is a very important addition that will strengthen the Chickasaws and help them with their needs. It will build on the tribe's already long history of community, of assisting those facing homelessness and housing insecurity.

”

healing and self-sustainability. Housing and services will be offered as long as needed, provided guests are progressing toward set goals.

“I truly believe once it's constructed and in operation, this program will have a tremendous impact in the lives of those who stay here as well as the community from which they come, particularly right here in Ada and throughout the Chickasaw Nation. We believe it will provide the security, the support and hope needed to empower the individuals and families who spend time here.

“We look forward to extending the benefits and comforts of our Chickasaw community to each person and family that we serve,” Governor Anoatubby said.

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Anjelica Lindsey

Presents

OKLAHOMA WOMAN QUARTET in Final Performance of 2025 Season as Public Fellow for the Oklahoma Center for the Humanities

Tulsa, OK – On October 1, 2025, composer Anjelica Lindsey will present the final performance of her 2025 season with the world premiere of Oklahoma Woman Quartet, performed by the University of Tulsa's Hurricane Quartet.

Oklahoma Woman Quartet is the artistic title for Lindsey's cycle of works for string quartet and voice. For this performance, she unveils all new orchestrations of her compositions, highlighting not only her vision as a composer but also her craft as an arranger. The work deepens her reputation for blending Cherokee identity, personal history, and contemporary classical expression into a distinctive voice.

OCT. 1

OKLAHOMA WOMAN QUARTET

A LIVE CONCERT AND CONVERSATION WITH
COMPOSER ANJELICA LINDSEY

101 E. Archer St. | 6 p.m. | FREE*
*Registration required



*Presented by the Oklahoma Center for
the Humanities and the University of
Tulsa's Hurricane Quartet at 101 Archer*

Featuring
UTulsa's
Hurricane
Quartet!



This concert also marks a continuing historic milestone: Lindsey is the first Cherokee woman to premiere an original work for string quartet and voice, affirming her place as a groundbreaking figure in American composition.

Presented with support from the Oklahoma Center for the Humanities Fellowship at the University of Tulsa, the performance continues Lindsey's exploration of myth, memory, and women's voices in Oklahoma's cultural landscape.

"Oklahoma Woman Quartet is about how stories live in us," says Lindsey. "As a Cherokee woman, I compose from that perspective, and with each performance, I break through the mythology of the Oklahoma experience."

The program is part of Lindsey's larger body of work, which includes the landmark REQUIEM which is the first requiem ever written in the Cherokee language, and OKLAHOMA WOMAN QUARTET, the studio album.

The October 1 performance is made possible through the generous support of the Oklahoma Center for the Humanities at the University of Tulsa, which currently hosts Lindsey as a Public Fellow.

Exhibit Details

What: Oklahoma Woman Quartet – Final 2025 Performance

WHEN:

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

WHERE:

101 Archer, 101 East Archer, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103

TICKETS:

Only 150 available. Tickets are FREE; Registration required at this link.

For press inquiries, interviews, or further information, please contact:

Anjelica Lindsey via this email or Dr. Nicole Bauer, Associate Director of Oklahoma Center for the Humanities, at nib1212@utulsa.edu

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The Federal government says goodbye to paper checks

WHAT THE NEW POLICY MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

BY CHRIS ZIEBER, BOK FINANCIAL



Paper checks are going the way of fax machines, typewriters and landlines.

A new executive order signed in March called "Modernizing Payments to and From America's Bank Account requires all federal agencies to stop sending and receiving paper checks and switch to electronic payments by Sept. 30, 2025. "Paper-based payments, such as checks and money orders, impose unnecessary costs and delays, plus risks of fraud, lost payments, theft and inefficiencies," a statement from the White House explained the decision.

Under the order, all government departments and agencies will have to issue and accept disbursements via electronic transfer methods, like direct deposit, debit or credit card payments, virtual cards, digital wallets and real-time payments.

Whether you're a contractor, vendor or even just paying a fee to a federal agency, you'll need to move away from checks and make sure your business can handle digital transactions.

The move to electronic transactions is a global trend. The U.S. has just been slower to adopt it. There are several countries like Sweden, Norway and South Korea that almost exclusively use electronic forms of payment.

Overall, this is a positive move.

Why the government is ditching paper checks

And it's not just national governments that have been switching to electronic payments; consumers and businesses have been on that trend for a while.

A 2024 survey found that 46% of Americans did not write a check in 2023, and just 15% of Americans wrote a few checks a month. Instead, they're opting for electronic payments. Meanwhile, business-to-business paper check payments have dropped 9% in North America since 2019.

There are several benefits of electronic payments for both businesses and individuals:

- **Faster payments.** In the case of instant payments, such as FedNow or Real-Time Payments (RTP), funds settle within seconds once the originating bank releases the payment. No more waiting days or weeks for checks to arrive in the mail.
- **Lower costs.** Printing, mailing and processing checks cost money in the form of extra supplies, labor, and time. In 2024, digitizing paper-based payment records cost the government (and thus taxpayers) \$657 million. Electronic payments are cheaper for everyone involved.

- **Better tracking.** Digital payments are easier to manage and reconcile in your accounting system, giving business (and federal agencies) a more accurate picture of their finances. It's easier to follow the money and prevent mistakes when everything is done digitally.

Fighting fraud

The executive order also takes aim at reducing fraud, citing that Department of Treasury checks are 16 times more likely to be reported lost or stolen, returned undeliverable or altered than an electronic funds transfer.

According to Zieber, check fraud has skyrocketed since 2020 with 63% of payment industry fraud related to stolen or fraudulent checks.

Going digital means tighter security for both businesses and the federal government.

What kinds of payments are affected?

The new rules cover all payments to and from the federal government—with very few exceptions including:

- Payments from the government to businesses (like contracts, grants, refunds or reimbursements).
- Payments to the government (like taxes, loan payments, fines or licensing fees).

Basically, if you've ever received or sent a check that involved a federal agency, expect that process to go fully digital.

Federal agencies will now send and receive money using:

- Direct deposit
- Debit and credit cards
- Digital wallets (Apple Pay, Google Pay, etc.)
- Virtual cards (like a one-time use credit card number for specific purchases)
- Instant Payments such as Real-Time Payments or FedNow, which operates 24/7/365

How can businesses prepare?

If your business only takes checks, it's time to add a few new tools to your payment toolbox. Zieber recommends the following steps to prepare your business processes for the transition:

1. **Review your accounts payable and accounts receivable processes.** Determine if you have customers still mailing checks or vendors that aren't offering digital payment options.

2. **Review the services offered by your bank.** Make sure your bank account can accept electronic payments like ACH, wire or instant payments. Consult with your bank on the best options for your business.
3. **Determine what your accounting software can accept and reconcile.** You may need software updates to handle new types of payment data.
4. **Encourage vendors and partners to go digital.** If you work with subcontractors or suppliers who still prefer checks, encourage them to make the switch. Emphasize the security and efficiency gains they'll see. Make sure to provide detailed instructions on your preferred digital payment method.
5. **Train your team.** Everyone in your finance or operations department needs to know how to process electronic payments and understand the new procedures. Set up clear policies for how and when to use different payment methods (ACH vs. virtual cards, etc.). Also, have processes in place to verify the vendor's account information is correct and confirm these details directly with your vendor.

Like it or not, paper checks are going extinct. This isn't just a compliance or fraud prevention issue. It's also an opportunity to save time, cut costs and get paid faster.

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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



THIS MONTH FROM *Native ChocTalk*

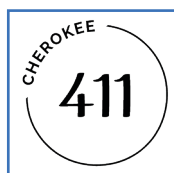
In a three-part series: From opening her own law firm in Durant to protecting Native art and culture, attorney Chloe Moyer joins Native ChocTalk to unpack:

- Federal Indian law & tribal sovereignty
- Protecting public arts & the Indian Arts and Crafts Act
- The balance of communal vs. individual ownership
- NAGPRA, NHPA, & protecting what's been taken
- Tips for Native artists selling online (contracts, trademarks, copyrights)

PLUS:

- Tribal IDs and membership rules
- Adoption possibilities for Choctaw families
- *McGirt v. Oklahoma* & *Castro-Huerta*
- Starting your own Native-owned business

THIS MONTH FROM *Cherokee 411*



In this emotional and revealing interview, Cara Cowan Watts sits down with David Comingdeer for an exclusive conversation about one of the most consequential whistleblower cases in Cherokee Nation history.

What you'll hear:

- The real story behind the dismissal of 40 Cherokee firefighters — and how it all unfolded
- Why David chose to speak up, despite personal risk
- How former Chief Chad Smith and Michael Moore fought for justice as his attorneys
- The shocking truth: David won the case — but the Nation still hasn't paid





Mahota

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Originally painted on deerskin, The Chickasaw Map of 1723 is an important visual of Chickasaw history as it illustrates how the world was viewed by our ancestors. The map outlines in an artistic way, waterways, trade routes, and the relationships with other tribes at that time. Experiences and memory were depended on by the Chickasaw people who knew what lay beyond the southeast region, which was coveted by colonists who needed maps. The Chickasaw Map is credited to Fani' Minko' (Squirrel Leader or Squirrel King), a Chickasaw warrior and leader.

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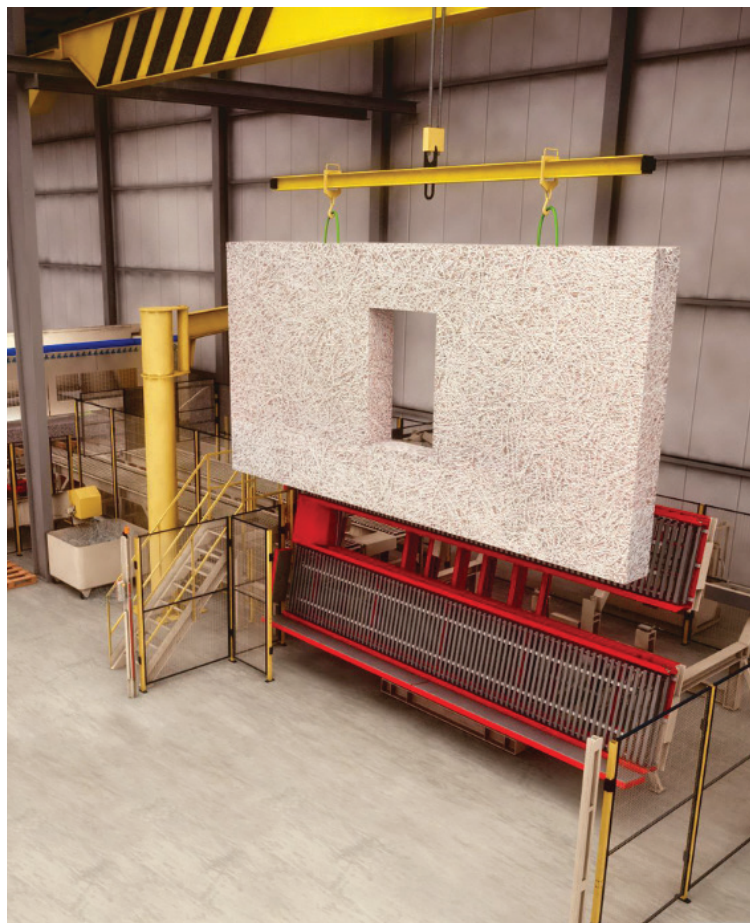
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The Walls of Troy, Inc.

31525 Sidney Lanier Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

Contact: Bill Bergiadis, CEO
818.376.8491

Press Contact: Brooks Roscoe
310.227.5112

info@thewallsoftroy.com





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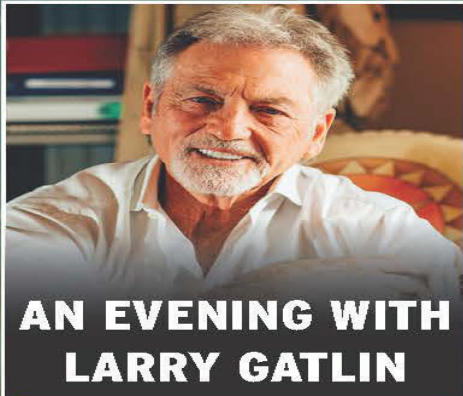
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ALL NATIONS. ONE MISSION.

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.

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www.riverwind.com

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nancy.hedrick@choctawcasinos.com

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Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

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South of Tahlequah, Hwy. 62, Tahlequah, OK
918.453.5000

Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes

100 Red Moon Circle, Concho, OK
405.262.0345

Chickasaw Nation

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580.436.2603

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405.547.2402

Kaw Nation of Oklahoma

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Kialegee Tribal Town

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405.452.3262

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

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Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma

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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
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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

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

Pawnee, OK
918.762.3621

Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

118 S. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, OK
918.540.2535

Ponca Tribe

20 White Eagle Drive, Ponca City, OK
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Quapaw Tribe of Indians

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Sac and Fox Nation

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23701 S 655 Road, Grove, OK
918.542.6609

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29 S. Hwy. 69A, Miami, OK
918.542.2441

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

09095 Okemah Street, Okemah, OK
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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

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1.800.622.6317
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

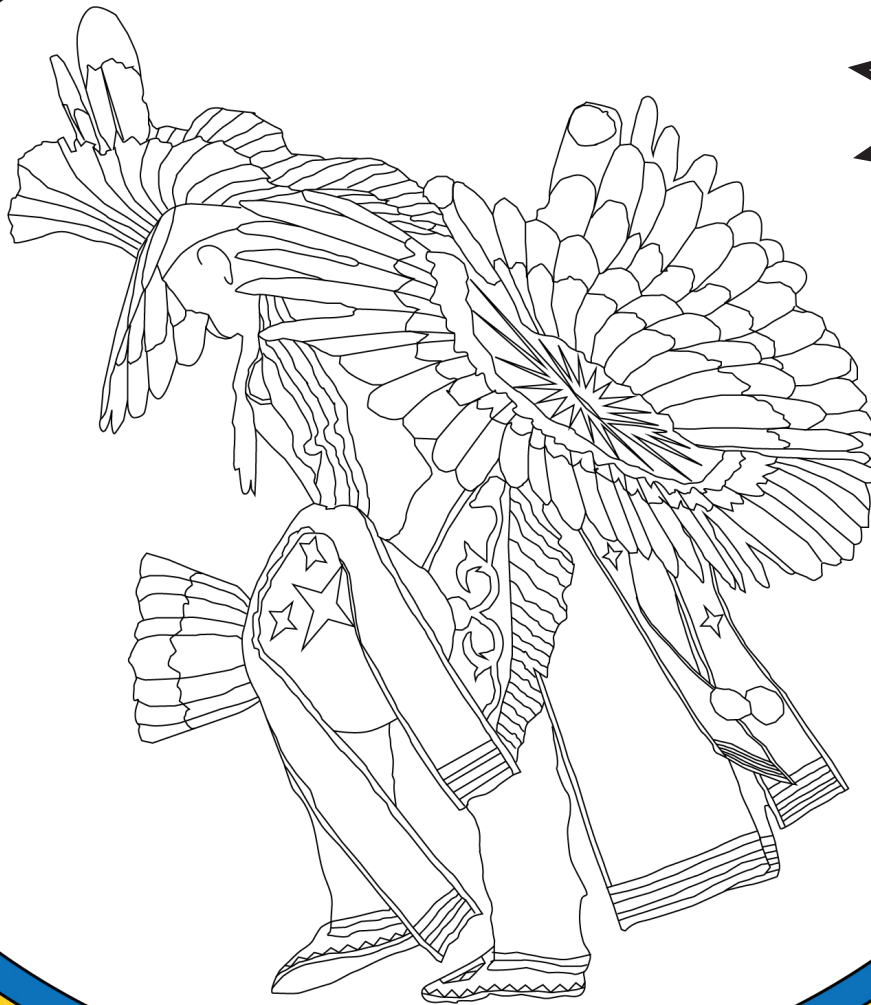
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