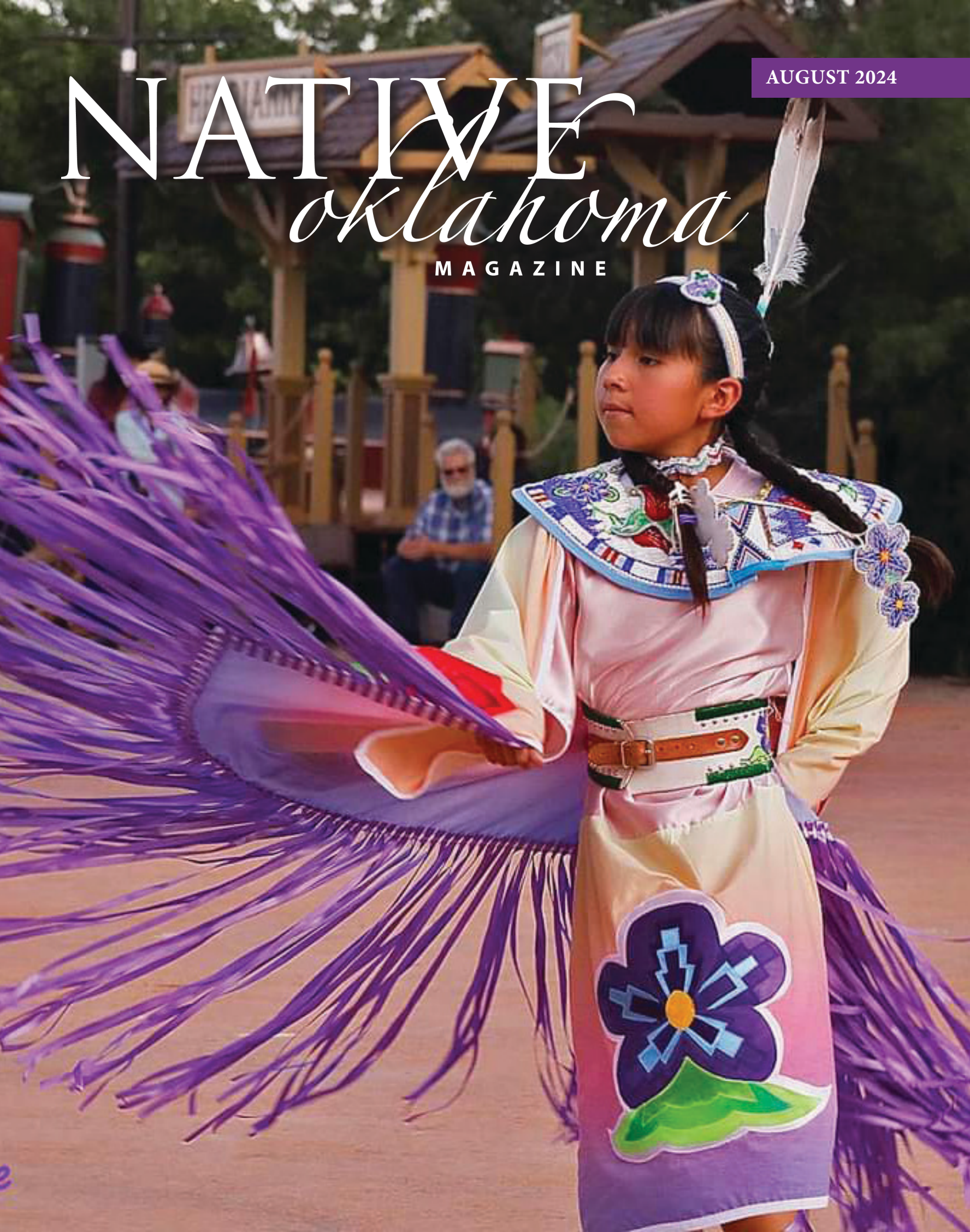


AUGUST 2024

# NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE





## MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

# HAF PROGRAM



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The HAF Program is providing funding assistance for the following homeowner expenses:

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- \* **Property Taxes**
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- \* An enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- \* Financial hardship due to a reduction in income or material increase in living expenses associated with the Corona Virus Pan demic that has created or increased a risk of mortgage delinquency of 30 days or more, mortgage default, foreclosure, loss of utilities or home energy services, or displacement of a homeowner; and
- \* Household income is below 100 percent of the area median or household income between 101 percent to 150 percent of the area median income as defined by HUD in accordance with U.S.C. 1437 a(b)(2) for purposes of the HAF; MCN, in its sole decision, can adjust the order in which applicants are served to ensure that not less than 60% of the funding made available is used from homeowners having incomes equal to or less than 100% of the area median income or equal to or less than 100% of the median income for the United States, whichever is greater.
- \* Dwelling must be homeowner's primary place of residency.

- \* Eligible mortgages must be secured by an instrument of government or government sponsored entity or finance by a non-profit, bank, credit union or mortgage company that adheres to the widely accepted mortgage lending and mortgage servicing practices monitored by the Consumer Federal Protection Bureau. Seller financed transactions, rent-to-own transactions, and family-financed transactions are excluded.
- \* The homeowner must be ready, willing, and able to meet all obligations of participating in the program.
- \* Any applicant who is receiving or has already received other federal assistance may receive HAF program assistance so long as they are not duplicating or overlapping the same expenses.

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# CREDITS

# NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

**NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | AUGUST 2024**

P.O. Box 1151 | Jenks, OK 74037 | 918.409.7252 | adam@nativeoklahoma.us

**PUBLISHER:** Adam Proctor, Cherokee/Shawnee/Creek

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Fus Yvhikv, Ryann Gordon, Brittany Harlow, Georgia Matlick

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**NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE** is a monthly publication provides content from the Native community. For more information, to sell on our shop or to advertise, please call Adam Proctor at 918-409-7252 or email adam@nativeoklahoma.us

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## NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

**ADAM PROCTOR**

Founder | Editor-In-Chief

adam@nativeoklahoma.us

918.409.7252

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Lightninghorse Photography

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**28 | Young Entrepreneur Creates Indigenous Candle Company**

23 year old Kiyah Cisco has merged her love of candle-making with her passion for sharing Native American culture by creating the Indigenous Candle Company.

# Fancy Dance wows critics and audiences alike

When I read the overview for the movie “Fancy Dance” I was expecting a heartwarming story of an Aunt’s love for her niece. Since I’m a child-free Aunt who is wild about my niece and nephew, I knew it would hit close to home. What I ended up getting was more than I could have imagined.

Hot on the heels of her TV directorial debut with *Reservation Dogs*, Erica Tremblay has delivered a beautiful but gut-wrenching look into the gritty underbelly of Oklahoma’s Reservation life and the continuous efforts to bring awareness to MMIWG. Premiering at last year’s Sundance Film Festival, “Fancy Dance” tells the story of Jax (flawlessly portrayed by Lily Gladstone) trying to keep custody of her niece Roki (Isabel Delroy-Olson) after her sister’s disappearance. Unfortunately Jax’s criminal past comes back to haunt her when Roki is taken by Child Protective Services and placed with her white grandparents who are not prepared to raise a Native grandchild.

Keeping a promise to take her niece to an upcoming Pow Wow, Jax kidnaps Roki and the pair embark on a journey filled with many powerful moments. (There were several gasps from the audience during these scenes.) As Jax reverts back to her old ways to keep the duo on the road, she never stops searching for her sister and demanding answers from the very law enforcement agencies that are trying to find Roki. With another trip to prison looming over Jax, and the realization that her sister isn’t coming back this time, she all but gives up after the two spend several intense minutes trying to escape through a corn field. Assuming Roki has been picked up by the cops after

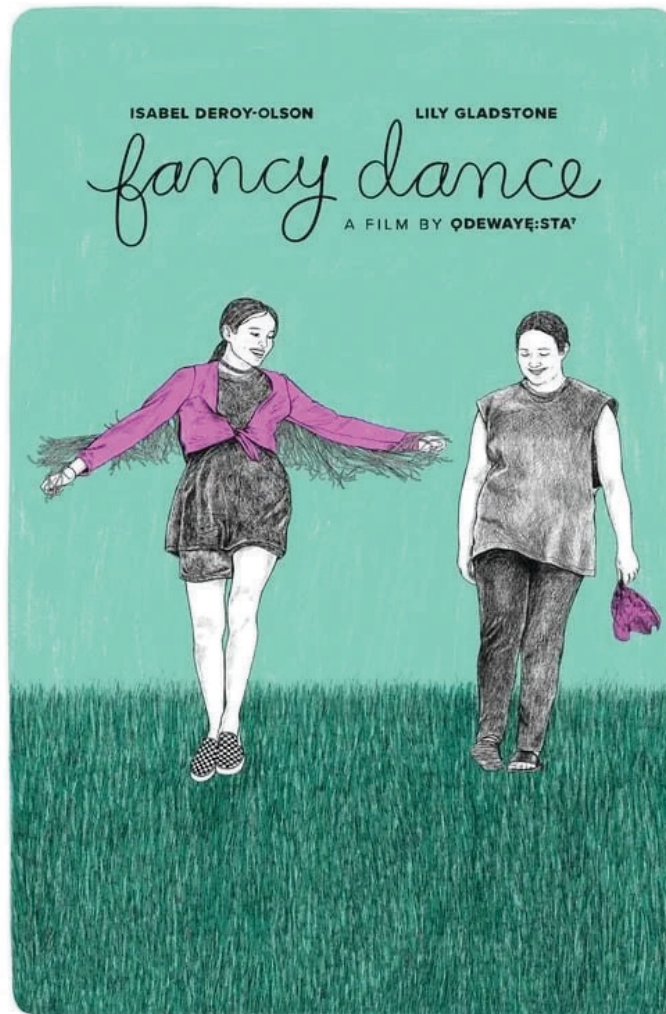
losing her in the corn maze, Jax finally answers her father’s phone call only to discover that they have found her sister’s body (played by my friend Hauli Sioux Gray) and Roki is now actually missing.

Knowing exactly where to find Roki, Jax makes her way to the Powwow, which was beautifully filmed on the grounds of First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. The final moments of this film pack a powerful punch as

Jax and Roki reunite to dance together in honor of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, something that Roki and her mother always did. Switching gears to slow-motion, the last seconds of “Fancy Dance” see the two dancing in unison as the cops recognize the duo and start to close in...and the screen fades to black to the sound of war cries and drums. Left with chills and a wad in the pit of my stomach, this film is pure perfection from start to finish. Erica Tremblay is NOT messing around and is here to stay and play with the big boys of film and television!

“Fancy Dance” was accepted into the 2021 Sundance and Screenwriter’s Labs. In 2021, Erica was awarded the Walter Bernstein Screenwriting Fellowship, the Maja Kristin Directing Fellowship, the SFFILM Rainin Grant, and the Lynn Shelton of a Certain Age Grant. Since then, “Fancy

Dance” has scooped up almost every Film Festival award there is. Lily even used her IndieWire Awards acceptance speech for “Killers Of The Flower Moon” to talk about this film being the highlight of her career. It finally got a theatrical release in June. “Fancy Dance” has maintained a top spot for consecutive weeks on Apple TV+ streaming service.



# NATIVE

*oklahoma*

MAGAZINE



## 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.





# Summer Food Benefit Program Saved By Oklahoma Tribes

Nothing says “pro-life” like denying food benefits to children. Earlier this year Governor Stitt rejected millions in federal funding for students to eat lunch over the summer who might otherwise go hungry. Hunger Free Oklahoma reports that at least one in five children are food insecure in our state, and yet Stitt insisted that no one will go hungry because of his decision. In an interview about it, Stitt told reporters that between SNAP benefits and food banks, he’s satisfied with his decision.

The USDA estimates that 403,000 Oklahoma children would be eligible for food assistance through the Summer EBT Program (roughly the entire population of Tulsa). Let that number sink in. In a perfect world, no one would go hungry and everyone would have enough food for their family. Oklahoma is far from perfect. In fact, our state ranked 50th in education in 2023. That means the worst! After coming in at 40th for child well-being in 2022, we dipped to 46th last year. Oklahoma also clocked in at 43rd in family and community standings. As Stitt decided Oklahoma

would not be participating in the federal program that would provide food assistance to low-income children, three of our largest Native American tribes said they would administer the program, with several other tribes following suit.

The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, Osage, and Seminole Nations offered the program to all eligible Native AND Non-Native children on their reservations. According to the USDA, Oklahoma is the only state to have tribal nations participating that will help families cover food costs when school is out of session over the summer. The tribes our governor is always picking fights with are stepping up to feed Oklahoma children! In 2022, Oklahoma had a poverty rate of 15.7% compared to the national poverty rate of 11%. (These numbers didn’t change last year.) We are currently the 8th highest in the country and consistently ranked in the top poorest states. Now is not the time to be refusing money to help feed our children. Poverty is a complicated issue, but nourishing a child shouldn’t be.



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# 2024 Annual Tribal Festival Guide

This is the official listing of pow-wows and Tribal festivals for 2024. Starting in May from Copan Pow-wow to Lawton for the Comanche Fair at the end of September.

The Pandemic is, hopefully, officially over with. Lots happen since everyone has had to distance themselves from each other. Always take time to love the ones that have gone on, natural or otherwise, and to remember keep these traditions and customs that's been handed to us to carry on.

For this year. Lots of dances! Lots of Tribal Festivals! Lots of food! So mark your calendars and make your plans to travel around Oklahoma and see some of the finest dancers in this state! You're going to get a glimpse of contest pow-wows to annual dances not seen anywhere else in the country. You will get to see and hear from some thirty different tribes and the annual festivals they put on since before statehood right here in this issue.



Keep this issue with you for the course of the season and make sure you make it to every event this year!

## AUGUST

### Oklahoma Indian Nations

#### Powwow

**Aug. 2nd- 4th, 2024**

*At the Concho Powwow Grounds in Concho, Okla.*

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

### 47th Annual Wichita Tribal Dance

**August 16th - 18th, 2024**

*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 30th - September 1st, 2024**

*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](http://www.choctawnation.com) for more information on this event.

## 61st Annual Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration

**August 30th - September 1st, 2024**

*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](mailto:kalisha.oto@gmail.com)



## Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Labor Day Powwow

**August 30th - September 2nd, 2024**

*At the Colony Powwow Grounds in Colony, Okla.*

Vendors Welcomed

For more information call 580-574-0165, 580-791-0351 or 580-445-0932

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](http://www.c-a-tribes.org)



## 34th Annual Wyandotte Pow Wow

**September 13th -15th, 2024**

*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



## 31st Annual Comanche Nation Fair Powwow

**September 27th - 29th, 2024**

*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

*Continued on next page*

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](http://www.comanchenationfair.com)



## 27th Annual Standing Bear Powwow

September 27th -28th , 2024

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](mailto:tl@standingbearpark.com)



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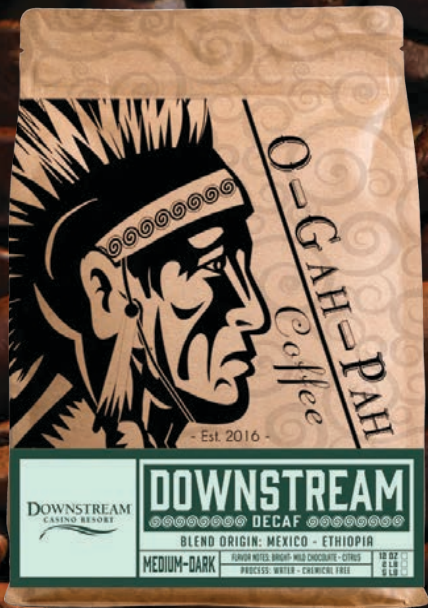
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Oklahoma City, OK, 73116


# 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.





# Labor Day Weekend Brings Annual Celebrations To Oklahoma's Tribal Nations

**T**he Cherokee Nation will celebrate its 72nd Cherokee National Holiday over Labor Day weekend in Talequah, the capital of Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee National Holiday commemorates the signing of the Cherokee Nation Constitution in 1839, which re-established the tribe's government in Indian Territory after forced removal from the Cherokees' original homelands in the Southeast. Typically hosting over 100,000 people, attendees can enjoy many festivities including an inter-tribal powwow, parade, and other longtime cultural favorites.

The Choctaw people have gathered on the Choctaw Nation capitol grounds for many years during the Labor Day weekend to celebrate family and honor Choctaw traditions. As in previous Labor Days, the weekend schedule is packed full of events to accommodate those who enjoy sporting events, gourd dancing, princess pageants, and fellowship. The weekend's festivities will also include musical entertainment by Joey Green, Rhett Atkins, and Casting Crowns.

The 61st Annual Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration will be held at Adawe Park in Miami over Labor Day weekend. This 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 its traditions of offering participants ample opportunities to relax, dance and have fun.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Labor Day Powwow will convene at Colony Powwow Grounds in Colony, OK. The Cheyenne Arapaho Labor Day Celebration Powwow, was first held in 1942. Arts and crafts, food booths, musical entertainment, and dancing will be offered throughout the event. Attendees will enjoy several contests over the weekend including Women's Cloth, Man Band Singing, and Jingle dress competitions.

We hope you have a safe, happy, and healthy Labor Day weekend celebrating with your loved ones.



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# Satan KOs Jesus at Bible Thump I



**SOUR SOFKEE  
#55**

Written By: *Fus Yvhikv*



## ***Satanic Bible Required in OK Classrooms***

One must be ever mindful of the old adage, “*Be Careful What You Ask For.*” Oklahoma politicians and political leaders should be forced to post this aphorism on their office walls. Especially Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Schools and White Wing KKKonservative Ayatollah, Ryan “Crying” Walters. Ayatollah Walters’ attempt to marry church and state ended in an ugly divorce.

Ayatollah Walters unknowingly invited a public version of a WWF Smackdown when he issued a fatwa (decree) that the bible must be taught in all classrooms in Oklahoma public schools.

This led to a kerfuffle over which bible was to be used to thump the heads of Oklahoma’s atheist children. Religious leaders of all stripes immediately began vociferous campaigns to have their version of the bible selected as Oklahoma’s official state Holy Book. The state hasn’t seen such contentious bickering since the days leading up to Prohibition.

The Protestants were fractured over their seemingly innumerable versions of the bible. Proponents of these bible versions were locked in a *mano a mano* death grip to be anointed as Oklahoma’s official sacred text.



But it wasn't just the Protestants who were agitating to become the de facto state religion of Oklahoma. Catholics were adamantly lobbying the state legislators to select the Catholic Bible. It was rumored the Pope offered indulgences to the OK legislators in return for the consecration of the Catholic Bible. Given the infinite sins of the Oklahoma legislature, the Pope was at risk of depleting his inventory of indulgences

But then a menagerie of other faiths suddenly came sweeping down the Oklahoma plains with tornado-like fury. Advocates for Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism, Confucianism, and Confusionism were proselytizing for their Good Book to be selected.

How to resolve this self-made dilemma? It was Fixico who came up with a creative and entertaining solution. The idea came to him as he was watching Power Slap 8.

Power Slap is a competition where two contestants stand in front of each other an arm's length apart. One person winds up and delivers a powerful open-hand slap to the face of the other. The person receiving the slap may not flinch, raise their shoulder, or tuck their chin. Usually, the bouts end in a knockout. If each competitor is still standing after three slaps, a judge decides the winner.

*Why not stage a Bible Thump competition based on the Power Slap model? Fixico thought. Instead of an open palm, competitors representing their faith would use their holy book to thump their opponent into submission. Thus, the idea of a Bible Thump Tournament was born. Eight contestants representing different faiths will compete with two survivors meeting in the final match.*

Oklahoma adopted Fixico's idea of Bible Thump I and it went viral overnight. Hundreds of thousands of people were demanding tickets to the event. ESPN capitalized on the frenzy by obtaining the TV rights. The 18,000-seat BOK Center in Tulsa was selected as the event venue.

Bible Thump I was produced by the World Wrestling Federation. The event was an amalgamation of a circus and a carnival with appendages of a tent revival. Indeed, outside around the BOK Center, there were street preachers of every faith and denomination loudly exhorting people to repent and turn their lives over to Jesus, Allah, Buddha, Gaia, or Jim Jones, whose adherents offered free Kool-Aid. There were no takers.

Predictably, the ubiquitous Libtards were protesting the event. They carried placards that read, Separation

*Continued on next page*



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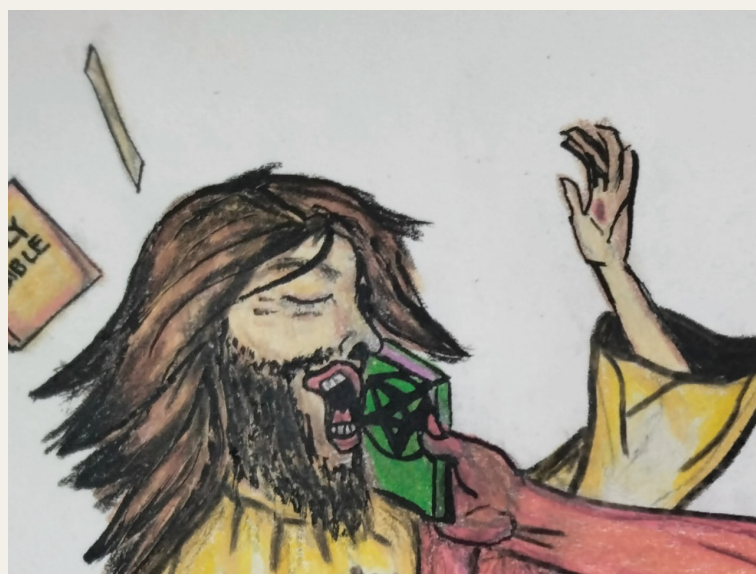
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of Church and State. Right Wing Evangelical attendees cursed and spat at the Libtards. “Go home you woke atheists,” they shouted.

Inside the arena, the atmosphere resembles a WWF Smackdown. The capacity crowd is boisterous and the blaring hip-hop music along with the rotating searchlights further whetted the crowd’s blood lust.

The eight gladiators, er, competitors, entered the arena to the theme from the movie Rocky, I’m Going Fly Now. They were garbed in typical flamboyant WWF attire.

Leading the procession was a Dalai Lama lookalike albeit much younger and muscular. He more closely resembles Liberace. His blond hair is perfectly coifed in a pompadour. He wears a fine, bejeweled red silk robe and six courtiers solemnly carry his fifteen-foot train behind him.



Walking in front of him, a liveried footman rolls out a red carpet while another sprays perfume into the air. The Dalai Lama struts in with his chin held high. He makes a perfunctory gesture with his left hand that could be mistaken for a wave. Bringing up the rear of the ostentatious retinue an aide holds up high the Pali Canon, the Buddhist holy book. Liberace, uh, the Dalai Lama, is met with a chorus of boos, and his parade is pelted with peanuts.

Jesus, Satan, Mohammad, Gaia, The Pope, a Shinto Priest, and David Koresh follow the Dalai Lama into the arena. There they find Fixico, the MC, at the center of the boxing ring.

“LET’S GET READY TO RUMBLEEEEEEEEE!!!!” Fixico screams as six half-naked ring girls parade around the

ring. Then the bible-thumping begins. Jesus knocks out Gaia with one slap. Satan defeats Koresh in Round 2 and promptly sets him on fire to the cheers of the crowd. The Pope pounds the Dalai Lama with the Catholic bible while Mohammad terrorizes the Shinto Priest with the Quran.

In the semifinals, it is Jesus v. Mohammad and Satan v. The Pope. Jesus wins the coin toss and elects to slap first. As Mohammad stands defenseless, he seeks to distract Jesus by tempting him with lust of the flesh.

“Yo Jesus. I know one of the ring girls. She’s yours for the asking,” Mohammad says.

“You mean that girl over there?” Jesus asks as he points with his lips.

As Mohammad turns to his left Jesus wallops him with the King James Bible. Like the Wicked Witch of the West, Mohammad disappears in a cloud of smoke. The crowd gives Jesus a standing ovation. Before the second semifinal, the Pope abdicates his throne, and Satan advances to face Jesus in the final match.

After the first two rounds of bible thumping both Jesus and Satan are still standing, but barely. Their faces are puffy and swollen. Satan’s left eye is bruised and bloated shut. One horn is turned backward. Jesus’ halo is as dim as Ryan Walters’ IQ. Both messiahs are unsteady on their feet, doddering from side to side.

In a Rocky-like fashion, Satan summons a reservoir of strength to whack Jesus with the Quran. Jesus hits the canvas with a sickening fleshy thud and lies motionless. Jesus is down for the count and there is no resurrection. The ref declares Satan the winner of Bible Thump I and now the Satanic Bible must be taught in Oklahoma schools.

That realization hits the conservative Christian audience with the force of an Okie tornado. The fans sit in a disbelieving and shocked silence. Crying Walters fearfully imagines his head on a pike. Whistling softly, he slowly shuffles towards the nearest exit, his head down.

“Hang Mike Pence!” a voice angrily shouts.

“You mean Crying Walters,” another person yells. “Look! There he goes. Get him!”

His plans for a marriage of church and state having backfired, Crying Walters quickly exits the arena. The Christian conservatives file out of the BOK Center and join the Libtards in shouting, “Separation of Church and State!”

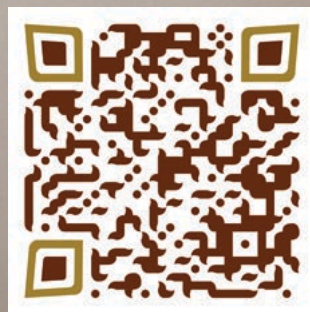


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Restrooms | 6595, Showers

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1.800.760.6700, cherokee.golf@cnet.com,  
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## **CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE**

700 E. Ballentine Road, Tahlequah,  
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# FCA 4LIFE PROFILE: JOSIE POLLET



**FELLOWSHIP OF  
CHRISTIAN  
ATHLETES**

**NAME:** Josie Pollet

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Kansas High School

**COLLEGE:** Eastern Oklahoma State College

**SPORTS COACHED:** Softball, basketball, and track

**COLLEGE ATTENDING:** Eastern Oklahoma State College

**HOMETOWN:** KANSAS, OK

# Q AND A

## WITH JOSIE POLLET

**Favorite Bible Verse:** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.” —Proverbs 3:5-6

**Tribal Affiliation:** Cherokee

**Nickname:** Jo or Jos

**Nickname:** Jo or Jos

**Favorite food:** Steak and potatoes

**Favorite Walk-Up Song:** Free bird by Lynyrd Skynyrd

**Favorite Player:** Sis Bates

**Favorite Part of Being Leader On a Team:** Getting to share my experiences with the younger kids and show them how to keep their heads up through the hard times.

**Who Do You Look Up To:** I look up to my sister because she never let anyone crush her dreams and goals. She always worked hard in school and is now doing what she loves.

**Plans After Graduation:** After I graduate college I would like to start a career as a physical therapist and hopefully open up my own practice someday.

**What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Athlete/Coach:** My favorite part of being a Christian athlete is that people get to see God’s work through me on and off of the field.

**Who was my favorite Senior or Junior High Coach:** My favorite high school coach was Austin Graham. He always knew what I had to offer and pushed me to always do my best.

**Favorite part of FCA:** My favorite part of FCA was going to our 5th quarters after football games. We would always eat, have a word, and spend time together playing games.

### What is an annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes ministry theme?

An annual ministry theme helps us meet coaches and athletes where they are throughout the calendar year. We want to encourage them with God’s truth, provide opportunities for them to get connected to the ministry of FCA and help them go deeper in their faith while aligning with ministry at large around the world.

## Why 24/7?

As a coach or athlete, it can feel as if the demands never stop. The training, practicing, planning and strategizing keep you hustling and operating at a pace that is difficult to thrive in. Although these things, in the right measure, are necessary to compete at a high level, the pace is not always sustainable.

We're taking coaches and athletes on a journey from being overwhelmed by the pressures of a 24/7 grind to overflowing in the hope and joy of Jesus Christ 24/7.

*“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” —Romans 15:13*

John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Cherokee, Adair and Delaware Counties and is supported financially by faith partners. If you are interested in more information on FCA or being a faith partner go to this link [www.my.fca.org/johnmorris](http://www.my.fca.org/johnmorris). John can be contacted through email: [johnmorris@fca.org](mailto:johnmorris@fca.org) or by cell number (785-760-1627).



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# Benjamin Harjo, Jr.'s legacy lives on at his alma mater

**B**enjamin Harjo, Jr.'s exhibit "From Here To There" is currently on display at the OSU Museum of Art through September 7th, 2024 in Stillwater. His show features 86 original works spanning the entirety of his career. A closing reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, September 6th.

As one of our nation's prominent Native American artists, Benjamin Harjo (1943 - 2023) never lost sight of his Oklahoma roots, staying based in Oklahoma City throughout his prolific career. Among his many national accolades and accomplishments, Harjo received the 2002 OSU Distinguished Alumni Award, was named the Red Earth Festival Honored One in 2003, was recognized by the OU Health Center Foundation as an Oklahoma Living Treasure, and was inducted into the OSU Alumni Hall Of Fame in 2012.

Harjo and his wife Barbara served on the Art Advisory Council that established the OSU Museum of Art. Inspired by his heritage, Harjo helped redefine Native art by forging his own path. His colorful geometric shapes and pen and ink styles are highly recognizable throughout the world and galleries across the nation. Harjo's collections can be seen at First Americans Museum (OKC), Red Earth

Art Center and Gilcrease Museum (Tulsa), Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Sante Fe, and the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian.

A friend and mentor to many, with his genuine smile and signature beret, Benjamin Harjo, Jr.'s life and legacy will continue to inspire artists and our Native community for years to come.





# 5 RISKS, 5 WAYS

## tribal gaming operations can ward off cyberthreats

*By Paul Tucker, Chief Information Security Officer & Damian Libutti, Native American Services manager BOK Financial*

**T**ribal gaming operations aren't immune from the cybersecurity issues that plague businesses globally as cybercriminals evolve and get more sophisticated in their attacks. In fact, the 2023 attacks on premier Las Vegas casinos put a spotlight on the vulnerability of casinos to the potential for severe financial losses, business disruption, and damage to reputation.

Tribal gaming companies represent a unique challenge. Tribal businesses and organizations have evolved from small, single sight casinos to include sprawling resorts, franchised locations and multipart entities. This ever evolving, sprawling landscape can present an IT challenge.

Casinos are significant users of IoT (internet of things) technology, often surpassing many other industries in their adoption. However, these devices frequently lack the rigorous scrutiny applied to other technological systems. This has led to unique security breaches, such as an incident where a fish tank in the lobby was exploited to infiltrate the casino's network.

The impact of a cyberattack should be a top concern for all businesses, as the consequences can be severe and multifaceted. From financial losses to reputational harm, understanding these potential impacts is essential for effective risk management.

## 5 ways cyberattack could damage your business

When it comes to business and cybercrime, it's not a matter of if you'll be the victim of a cyberattack but when. The impact of a cyberattack should be a top concern for your business, which could result in:

1. Intellectual property theft: patents, proprietary software and trade secrets could be revealed to competitors.
2. Operational disruption: the cost of time, money and productivity to recover from a cyberattack.
3. Financial losses: cost of data recovery and legal action.
4. Reputation damage: losing customer trust that you'll protect their data.
5. Regulatory compliance: depending on your industry, you may be subject to data protection regulations and severe penalties for breaches.

To safeguard against these risks, a proactive approach is necessary. Implementing robust cybersecurity measures can significantly prevent attacks and minimize damage if one were to occur.

## 5 ways to protect your business

1. Risk assessment- These help you identify potential threats, vulnerabilities, and impacts that such risks can have on your business.
2. Security controls- Implement appropriate technical, administrative, and physical controls to protect against those threats. Examples- firewalls and encryptions
3. Employee training- develop an ongoing program to educate your employees about ongoing threats and safe practices as they often serve as the first and second line of defense.
4. Incident response plan- Establish a clear procedure for detecting, responding, and recovering from a cyber incident to minimize damage and downtime.
5. Cyber resiliency- Establish your organization's capacity to anticipate, to withstand, to recover, and to adapt to cyber threats while minimizing operational impact.

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# Young Entrepreneur Creates Indigenous Candle Company

23 year old Kiyah Cisco has merged her love of candle-making with her passion for sharing Native American culture by creating the Indigenous Candle Company. Candle-making was once just a hobby for Cisco until she realized it could be her way to make an impact. She created her company in 2021 and has been growing it ever since.

As a member of the Peoria Tribe, Cisco grew up immersed in Native culture, frequently attending Powwows and Stomp dances. Her involvement with Native festivities inspired her to share her knowledge with others.

“It was inspiring to see all my aunts in their regalia and see them be a part of the culture; it made me want to grow up and be a part of the culture as well,” says Cisco.

Cisco felt that creating the Indigenous Candle Company would be her way to stay tied to her Native heritage as an adult. She hopes this inspires others the way that she was inspired as a young girl. The Indigenous Candle Company offers soy blend candles, with each scent inspired by traditional Native aromas like sage and fry bread.

While starting her business brought her immense joy, she also faced some hardships.

“My biggest struggle recently has been educating consumers about my products,” says Cisco.

To solve this, Cisco plans to include an informational card with each candle, with an explanation of the Native significance each ingredient holds. Cisco is hoping to attract customers who appreciate cultural heritage and unique, handcrafted items.

“Indigenous Candle Co. is for everyone, both Native and non-Native people who have an

interest in Native American history and artisan,” says Cisco.

Despite facing hardships, Cisco has received support from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. She hopes her candles provide a greater appreciation for Native culture.

“Just because someone isn’t Native doesn’t mean they can’t support Native brands. Their support means more than they realize,” says Cisco.

Cisco’s candles are currently being sold in small businesses around Oklahoma such as Downstream Casino Gift Shop, High Winds Casino Gift Shop, Otter Cove Gift Shop, Modoc Market at the Stables Casino, Miami Nation Gift Shop, Peoria Tribe Gift Shop, South West Trading Company, Native Co. Gallery, Buffalo Run Casino Gift Shop, and Seneca Cayuga Gift Shop.

“This business has taught me that I am braver than I ever thought,” says Cisco.

At a point in Cisco’s journey when she felt like giving up, she realized that the only thing holding her back was the fear of failing. After setting up a booth in public for the very first time, she was overwhelmed with the love and support that she received from people who were interested in her products.

“I’m so thankful I didn’t give up because this event gave me the confidence boost I needed and taught me that the only thing holding me back was myself,” says Cisco.

Cisco hopes to use this gained confidence to grow her company moving forward. She has big plans for the future and hopes to share Native American history with as many people as possible.



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FOR 1 YEAR  
INCLUDES:**

UP TO 5 MEMBERS

2 FREE CONCERT TICKETS  
PER MONTH

MONTHLY BUFFALO RUN  
CASINO FREE PLAY

ADVANCE TEE TIMES

1 FREE NIGHT HOTEL  
STAY PER MONTH

UNLIMITED GOLF CARTS  
& RANGE BALLS

20% OFF APPAREL  
AT PRO SHOP

**BUFFALO RUN** | CASINO & RESORT

**MIAMI, OK | EXIT 313**

# OKLAHOMA TRIBAL DIRECTORY

**ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE**  
2025 South Gordon Cooper  
Shawnee, OK, 74801 | 405.275.4030

**ALABAMA-QUASSARTE**  
Tribal Town, 101 E. Broadway  
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

**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  
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

**THLOPTHLOCCO 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



# WHERE'S YOUR CHAPTER?



LEARN MORE: [AICCOK.ORG/MEMBERSHIPS](https://aiccok.org/memberships)  
[AICCOK.ORG](https://aiccok.org) | [CHAMBER@AICCOK.ORG](mailto:chamber@aiccok.org)

**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.