

SEPTEMBER 2024



# NATIVE

*oklahoma*

MAGAZINE



**MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION**

# HAF PROGRAM



**THE MUSCOGEE NATION**  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
PO Box 297 | Okmulgee, OK 74447



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

- \* **Mortgage Assistance (Must be delinquent)**
- \* **Homeowner Utility Assistance (Internet not included)**
- \* **Homeowner Fees (Homeowner Association, Cooperative Maintenance)**
- \* **Property Taxes**
- \* **Homeowner Insurance**
- \* **Flood Insurance**

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

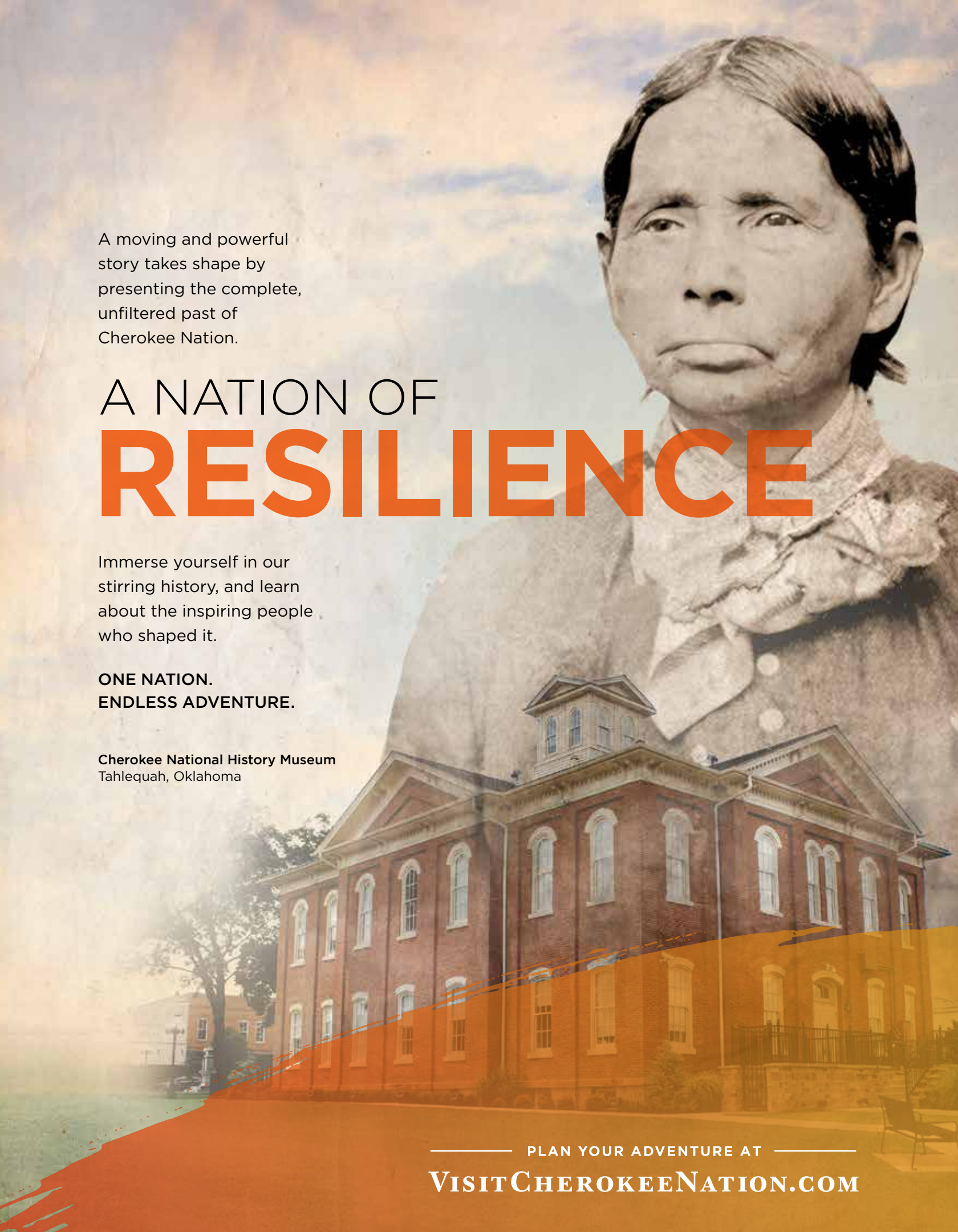
An “eligible household” is defined as a HAF household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- \* 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 Pandemic 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.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS**  
Call the HAF call center 918.549.2890  
Fax documents to 918.304.3256

**APPLY ONLINE ON THE CAMPHOUSE PORTAL**  
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## NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



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### **NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | SEPTEMBER 2024**

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**N**ative Oklahoma Magazine is a publication not only for the visitor to Oklahoma, but also a resource for our Native community and neighbors. Every month, Native Oklahoma’s award-winning writers showcase Native artists, chefs, traditional foods, culture, and fashion, as well as current events and powwows. Our issues include event calendars and lists of Native American attractions across Oklahoma. Native Oklahoma also includes a list of gaming venues, places to stay, and the location of tribal headquarters.



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@inchipakwetrust

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# Freeztastic candy will be your new addiction

Freeze dried candy started appearing on the county fair circuit last year. You can now find it in stores like 5 Below and Big Lots. Most of those candy bags are mass produced and look like they contain clumps of chalk. The clear bags are coated in a powdered substance that makes it unappealing to most consumers. I've never been interested in trying it until now...



Owners, Frankie & R.T. Shotton

Meet Frankie and R.T. Shotton, owners of Freeztastic Freeze Dried Candy. Based in Red Rock, OK, making freeze dried candy has become Frankie's passion. It all

started last December when she saw some for sale at a boutique and was intrigued. After tasting it and asking many questions, Frankie decided it was something she wanted to try. From December 2023 - February 2024 research and development were underway. Working as a Compliance Inspector, Frankie has all of the knowledge to operate under the Oklahoma Cottage Bakery laws which allow for home based baked goods to be sold to the public.

Experimenting with different candy and adjusting to their textures took some time to get just right, but she now has a full range of freeze-dried candies that are sure to please every palate. From chocolate bars like Twix to Jolly Ranchers and Laffy Taffy, these crunchy confections are sure to be crowd pleasers! They've even created their own candy fusion combinations by wrapping Jolly Ranchers in



Fruit Roll-ups. The possibilities are endless, and they even offer sugar-free options. Their packaging is eye-catching and clean!

Although the married duo co-own this fun candy company, It's Frankie who runs the show. (R.T. is the eye candy, just don't ask for a sample!) Frankie is on a mission to sweeten the lives of Native girls by empowering them to work alongside her at events and run the booth on their own when she's away. Gabby BigSoldier has been Frankie's assistant and right-hand woman from the beginning!

Make sure to follow Freeztastic Freeze Dried Candy on Facebook for location updates and behind-the-scenes content. You can find them set up at Pow Wows and Fancy Dances throughout Oklahoma and the National Indian Taco Championship in Pawhuska on Saturday October 5th.



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TAKES  
PRACTICE**





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# TWISTERS BLOWS INTO TOWN

**T**wisters blew into theaters last month, demolishing its competition opening weekend! When I first heard about this movie, I didn't quite know what to expect. Was it a sequel, a reboot, or a standalone film? I remember being appalled that the original movie, *Twister*, was mostly made using CGI instead of actual footage. CGI was pretty new in the 90's and being filmed in Oklahoma you'd think they would have incorporated lots of real tornadoes. Don't worry, there are plenty of heart pounding moments in *Twisters* caused by actual storms.

*Twisters* was great! I thoroughly enjoyed it more than I was anticipating. Director Lee Isaac Chung has previously won multiple awards and accolades for his movie *Minari*. Although it's based in Arkansas, *Minari* was primarily shot around Tulsa and Mayes County, so it was exciting that he wanted *Twisters* filmed almost entirely in Indian Country as well. I read an interview with Chung that said he wanted the "true storm season experience" so most of the filming took place in the Spring of 2023. It's no surprise that they continually had to halt production to take cover due to all of the heavy storms that came through last year!

Several Oklahoma towns are featured, including my hometown of Stillwater. Unfortunately, it was a fake Stillwater and the rodeo wasn't filmed there. However, the motel (Shawnee) was real and was already set for demolition, so Chung got permission to destroy it for the movie. It's always fun to see landmarks and people you know when movies are filmed here. Ken Pomeroy is a local musician whose songs have been featured on *Reservation Dogs*. She's one of the motel musicians featured in *Twisters*. My friend Jennifer Rader plays a police officer helping with tornado clean up and doing the voice-over storm alerts. Jennifer has appeared in *Killers of The Flower Moon* and *Reservation Dogs*.



You can definitely watch *Twisters* without having seen *Twister*, but you'd miss out on all of the great nods to the original film. Along with storm-busting Dorothy, they expand on the Wizard of Oz theme with nicknames Lion, Scarecrow, and Tin Man. Then there's the sunflower field, the movie theater sequence, and the iconic "I'm not back!". I keep hearing that a flying cow even made an appearance, but I'll need to watch it again to make sure. I think my favorite easter egg moment is the late Bill Paxton's son James making a cameo as a motel guest disgruntled by the storm sirens. Overall, *Twisters* is a solid follow up to the original and was a perfect summer flick.



# RILEY GREEN

# OCT 11

# THE OUTDOOR VENUE



## DOWNSTREAM

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19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

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10 AM - 5 PM



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Manta Resilience Crossbody: Cotton twill & canvas shell with black on gray Acoma Pottery print representing signature pottery patterns by designer Loren Aragon. Bag measures 8" X 8" X 2.5", with gunmetal hardware, dual internal pockets, quick access back-side pocket, water repellant black nylon lining, and adjustable/detachable, 55" strap.

Manta Beauty Bag: Constructed with a cotton twill shell featuring a signature design black on gray Acoma pottery print. Bags measure 8" X 9" X 2", with zipper closure, water repellant nylon lining, and 6" wrist strap.

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## **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

## **WILL ROGERS DOWNS**

20900 South 4200 Rd.  
Claremore, OK 74019  
918-283-8800  
400 RV pads | 50/30 amp | Full hook-  
ups | Restrooms | Laundry | Shower  
facilities | 4-hr security | Over 40,000  
sq ft of versatile meeting space |  
Wi-Fi | Dog park | Horseshoe pit |  
Playground | Tent sites | Barbecue grills  
& picnic tables | Club House | Chapel

## **CHEROKEE HILLS GOLF COURSE**

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



# “Fixico Creates Havoc at Tulsa Powwow”



## SOUR SOFKEE #55

Written By: *Fus Yvhikv*

**M**e, Tarpalechee, Yahola, and Fixico volunteer at the Tulsa Powwow. Yahola said we had a duty to give back. Me and Tarpalechee however suspect Yahola intends to snag.

We arrive at the Convention Center in Yahola’s 1964 Plymouth rez car. Yahola parks in a handicapped spot.

“Heyluh! Are you parking here?” I ask Yahola.

“My car’s handicapped,” Yahola says.

The engine is still knocking, coughing, and wheezing five minutes after Yahola turned off the ignition. I couldn’t argue Yahola’s point.

We arrive at the volunteer table. The alluring scent of fresh frybread wafts through the air. Tarpalechee requests kitchen detail. I shoot him the evil eye.

“What Fus? We’re gonna get free frybread and sweet tea,” Tarpalechee pleads.

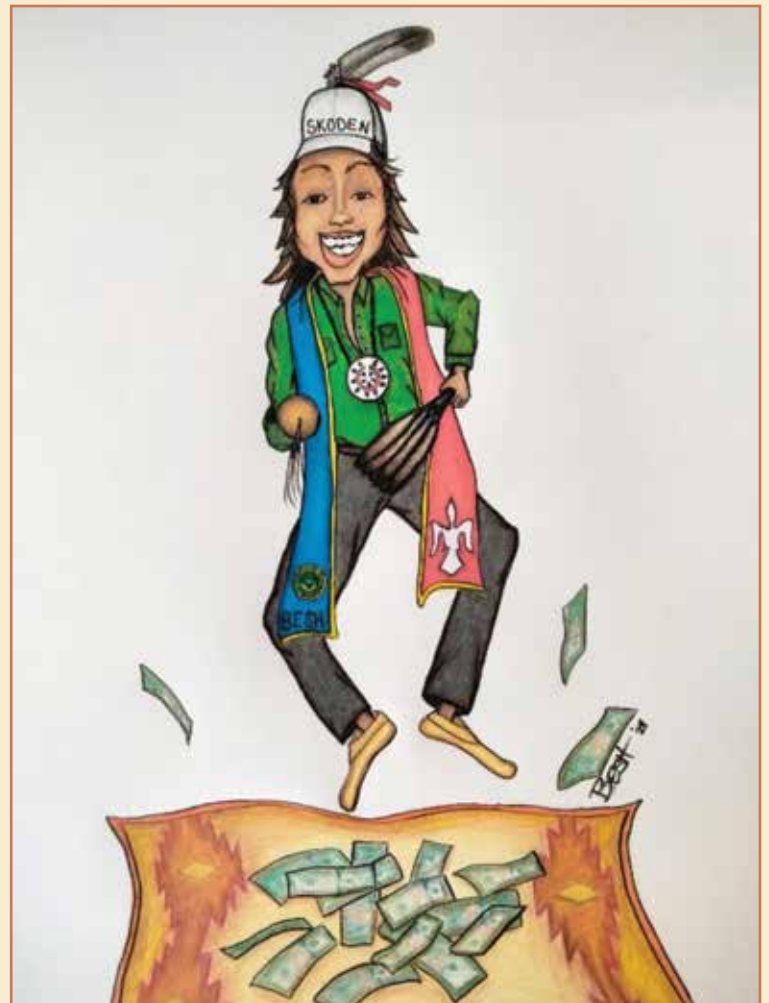
Somebody shoves mop buckets at us.

“Go mop the kitchen floor,” We are told.

“Free frybread my cvpo,” I mutter.

Fixico and Yahola are assigned the registration desk. Yahola is very attentive towards the Native ladies. His overtures are rejected as the Native ladies roll their eyes and shake their heads. Then a white woman asks for directions to the food trucks and Yahola points with his lips. The woman blows him an air kiss in return. A huge grin spreads across Yahola’s face.

“How about I personally escort you?” Yahola asks.



“Oh, I’d love that,” the woman responds with a flirtatious smile. “My name is Juliet.”

“Call me Romeo,” Fixico replies.

Romeo and Juliet stroll off arm in arm.

One couple complains to Fixico about having to pay \$5 to attend the powwow.

“The committee must rent this fine facility and provide our attendees with air-conditioned comfort,” Fixico says. “Would you rather be at Mohawk Park in this heat?”

“No.”

“That’ll be \$20!”

“\$20! The sign says \$5.”

“There’s a \$10 surcharge for complaining. Will that be cash, check, Bitcoin, or Wampum?”

“Give him \$20,” the woman says to her boyfriend. “Before I womp him!”

The couple stalks off. Then a young lady in full regalia and her entourage pass by.

“Whoa!” Fixico yells. “You ladies need to pay the \$20 group fee.”

“What? I’m Head Lady Dancer!”

“Great. You get a \$10 discount.”

“You’re really going to charge me?”

“Everybody pays, Ma’am.”

“Mvtawvte! I’m complaining to the committee!”

“Fine. Here’s our complaint form. Fill it out in triplicate, have it signed by two witnesses, and properly notarized. We’ll get back to you in about a year.”

The Native ladies menacingly approach Fixico.

“Or you all could just mosey on in,” Fixico says with a nervous smile. “We’ll keep this on the QT. How’s that sound?”

As the Native ladies leave in a huff a member of the committee arrives.

“We’ve gotten some complaints. Why don’t you go out back and help with the food trucks?”

“Good idea. I could use a bite,” Fixico replies.

Fixico walks to the outdoor back area. He is put to work handing out Indian tacos to the waiting and hungry customers.

“No. 6! No. 6!” Fixico yells.

Everybody checks their receipts, but no one approaches Fixico.

“No. 6?” Fixico asks again.

Nobody responds. Famished, Fixico takes a huge bite of the taco. The cook takes the order receipt from Fixico and examines it.

“This is order number 9 you doofus! You were holding it upside down!”

Embarrassed, Fixico slowly rubs his chin. He turns his back to the crowd and rewraps the taco in its tin foil.

“No. 9! No 9!” Fixico announces as he holds the half-eaten taco up high. “Who ordered the one-half degree Indian taco?”

“You are wanted at the MC’s stand. Now go!” the cook orders.

Fixico arrives at the MC’s stand. He is asked to sell 50/50 raffle tickets. Fixico grabs a roll of tickets, a money bucket, and walks into the crowd. People eagerly snap up the tickets and soon Fixico’s bucket is full of cash. Given the brisk sales, Fixico gets an idea.

“80/20 tickets!” Fixico screams. “Get’em while they’re hot!”

“80/20? Don’t you mean 50/50?” a man angrily asks.

“Are you talking to me? Are you talking to me?” Fixico replies parroting the famous line from the movie *Taxi Driver*.

Fixico and the man get into a fight. Fixico swings the money bucket at the man’s head. He misses and the bucket flies through the air tumbling end over end. The cash floats through the air like confetti and drifts into the dance arena.

There is a gold rush to collect the free cash. Pandemonium breaks out. The attendees, the dancers, the drummers, and even the MC make a mad dash for the cash. People are on their knees scooping up the money. Others slug each other as they fight for the cash.

Mercifully, security restores order. The battered crowd is relieved of their ill-gotten gain. A huge pile of cash sits in the middle of the arena.

Fixico gets another idea, a better idea. He grabs a handful of the cash and places it on the drum. The drummers nod in appreciation of the gift. Fixico walks next to the pile of cash and begins shaking a gourd. The drummers fire up a song. The boom of the drum reverberates throughout the large room. Gourd dancers enter the arena and form a large circle.

Fixico points his gourd at David Bible, the chair of the powwow committee. That is his cue to dance next to Fixico. He is positioned with the pile of cash immediately in front of him. The Native ladies form an outer circle around the men, the fringes of their shawls swaying to the rhythmic beat of the drum.

The gourd dance song ends. A large Pendleton blanket is spread on the floor next to the cash and the money is raked onto it. David places the large bundle on the table of the powwow committee. The windfall makes the powwow a financial success and ensures its continuation for next year.

“Heyluh! Another fine mess you made,” I say to Fixico. “But yet again things come up smelling like roses.”

Fixico beams with pride.

# National Indian Taco Championship returns to Pawhuska



**G**et your taste buds and bellies ready! It's time for the National Indian Taco Championship competition. This year marks the 20th anniversary for the annual contest, held in Pawhuska on Saturday, October 5th.

Arrive hungry and prepare yourselves to taste the best traditional Indian Tacos and fry bread from around the state! Aside from the competition, guests can walk off those calories while browsing vendor booths, enjoying live music, and exploring the local shops. This is a family-friendly event so there will be several things for the kiddos to enjoy as well.

A big thank you to the Osage Nation Foundation for sponsoring this year's event. This non-profit organization is committed to enhancing the welfare of the Osage people through cultural, educational, health, and community programs. The Osage Nation Foundation's continued development of the Osage Nation Reservation and supporting its local communities is truly inspiring.

# NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE



## Aconav

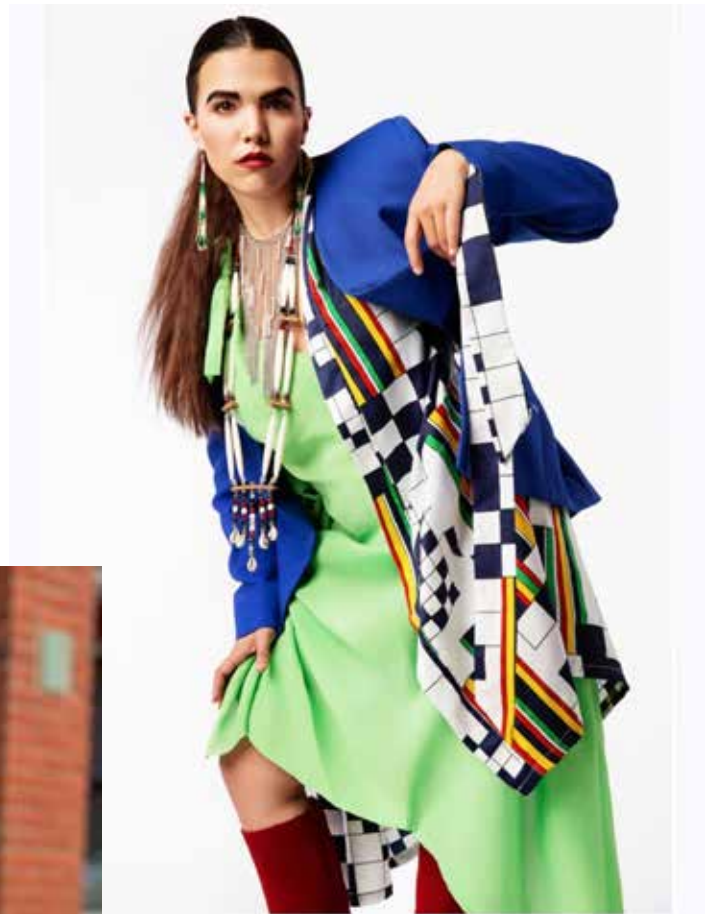


### ***CULTURALLY FUELED FASHION FROM ACOMA POTTERY ART***

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.



# Get to know Jennifer Rader



**I**f you're not familiar with Oklahoma Native Jennifer Rader, she's definitely one to watch! She's a trained professional dancer, specializing in modern dance, ballet, and tap. She has performed across the nation and internationally. A fierce dedication to training led Jennifer to work as a body double and stunt woman, even choreographing her own stunts. Standing barely over five feet tall, she packs a powerful punch in that tiny package!

Jennifer started acting in 2018 and she hasn't looked back! Starring in the Indigenous mockumentary "The Diary of Mistress Red" (written and directed by Oklahoma's own Peshawn Bread) jump-started her foray into short films. She just wrapped the filming of one where she plays the younger version of another Oklahoma treasure, Casey Camp-Horinek. Joking that she's become the "short film queen" and is "great at dying", Jennifer is no stranger to the big screen as well. She appeared in the Oscar-nominated *Killers of the Flower Moon*, this summer's blockbuster *Twisters*, and in the upcoming Reagan biopic.





Jennifer was also featured in Oklahoma's beloved series Reservation Dogs.

With her striking bone structure, it only makes sense that Jennifer would venture into modeling. Quickly becoming a muse of Peshawn Bread (did I mention Peshawn is also a fashion designer?), she walked in the very first Native American Fashion Week, modeling for Peshawn's brand House of Sutai. Jennifer most recently became the face of Oklahoma City's Marlo Haus beauty campaign, and the stunning looks do NOT disappoint!

As if all of the above wasn't enough, Jennifer rescues and rehabilitates cats and kittens in her spare time! What more could you want than an animal loving model and actress that could kick your butt and then fake her own death!?



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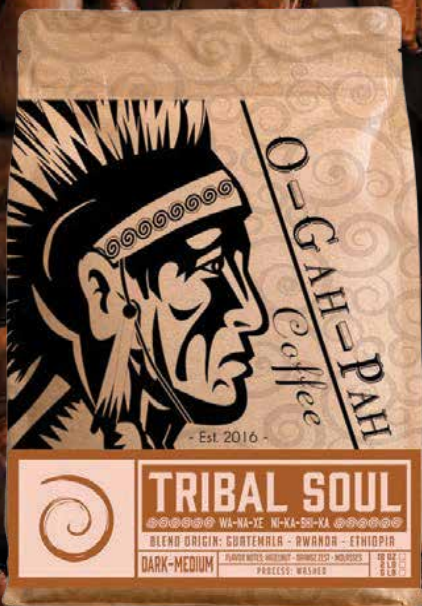
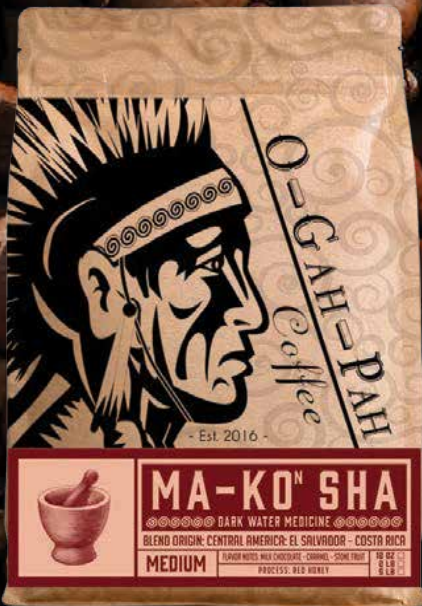
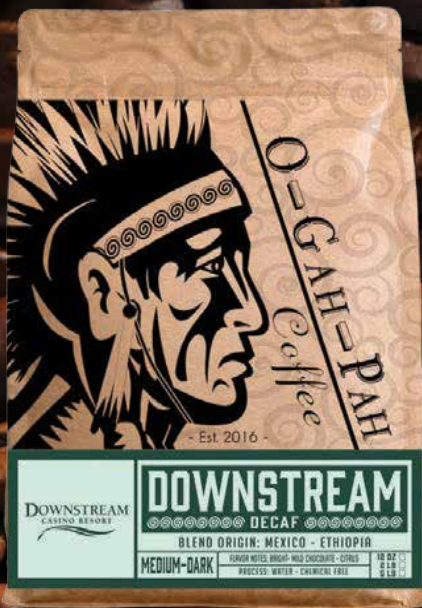
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# O-GAH-PAH

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.





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E: pocola.hotelmanagers@choctawcasinos.com

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# FCA 4LIFE PROFILE: *KYLE BERRYHILL*



**FELLOWSHIP OF  
CHRISTIAN  
ATHLETES**

**NAME:** Kyle Berryhill

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Moss High School

**COLLEGE:** Haskell Indian Nations University  
East Central University (Grad School)

**SPORTS COACHED:** Basketball / Baseball

**HOMETOWN:** Lawrence, KS

**HASKELL FCA ALUMNI:** Graduated 2017

**HASKELL FCA JOB:** Utility Student - Served  
However I was Needed!

## Q AND A

### WITH KYLE BERRYHILL

**Tribe affiliation:** Muscogee Nation

**Favorite verse:** Romans 1:16 - I am NOT ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

**Nickname:** Berryhill

**Favorite food:** Pasta

**Walk-up song:** Turn My Swag On - Soulja Boy

**Favorite Player:** Michael Jordan (GOAT)

**Favorite part of being a leader on a team :** My favorite part was and is as a coach being able to work with and teach my team how to move efficiently while playing. Getting our movement down during play. Getting in the correct position to get a rebound or to field a ball. Working together so we are all on the same page.

**Who do you look up to?** The person I looked up to the most was my Grandpa Robert Berryhill. He was a preacher who loved the Lord! He was a faithful servant who loved to dedicate his time to helping his church and people everywhere. He taught me to always trust in the Lord and to be ready to serve whoever I am.

**Grown up job:** Teacher and Coach at Sasakwa Public Schools!

**What Is Your Favorite Part of Being a Christian Athlete/ Coach:**

My favorite part of being a Christian Coach is that I have the opportunity to teach and show my students how we can go out and compete biblically!

**My favorite high school coach:**

My favorite high school coach was my basketball coach from my Junior and Senior year. Coach Chris Jones! He was the first Native coach that I had in sports. The most interesting thing that stuck out to me about Coach Jones happened the summer before he began coaching me at Moss High School. He gave a devotion one night in my cabin at Indian Falls Creek. Because he was invited to lead our devotional that night, I was able to see that I had a Christian coach who was also native like me who was ready to go out and share the Gospel!

### **Favorite part about FCA as a student:**

My favorite part as a student came from Haskell! Being around other native athletes who would come together and worship Jesus was awesome! Our FCA group was really close. We went to church together on campus and we were always together through the week hanging out and serving alongside each other.

### **Favorite part of running a FCA as a high school huddle leader :**

My favorite part of leading FCA at Sasakwa is that I get to share the Jesus every Friday with my students! We are able to go through devotions and look at the Bible through the aspect of being an athlete. I love being able to share with them what I've learned as an athlete through FCA! As a coach, I have the opportunity to teach my players how to not only compete, but to compete biblically! Competing in ways that demonstrate our commitment to Jesus Christ, His Word, integrity, and teamwork!

## **FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES-VOLUNTEER**

### **Serve To Make An Impact**

If you have a passion to help lead coaches and athletes as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and His church, FCA wants to help you do that. Let's team up to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ.

The volunteer is the most significant part of the FCA ministry. As a local, grass-roots movement, FCA depends on volunteers to be involved in every aspect of ministry. When volunteers are mobilized, they are connected and trained by local staff to make an impact in their community.

There are many additional ways people get involved with FCA. One specific way is to become an Event Volunteer by serving at Camp, Fields of Faith, Banquet, Golf Outing or Retreat. FCA wants to join you on your journey to invest your gifts and talents into the lives of other

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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# Expanded Participation Criteria Enables More American Indian students to be served in Oklahoma

The educational systems created by the United States of America were initially intended to serve European Immigrants. The objective was to educate and indoctrinate students with a specific ideology of the American dream, anchored by Manifest Destiny doctrine.

The ideology of the American dream was an understood path of success created and adopted by European Immigrant descendants. In short, The American dream is the series of accomplishments, such as graduation, marriage, career, etc. The education system was never designed to include the Host Nation, the American Indian. In light of this reality, coupled with the fact that the American Indian had their vision of success stripped away by assimilation education strategies, left an opportunity for the United States of America to improve this egregious deficit.

This egregious deficit is demonstrated in the operation of off-reservation 1800s boarding schools. Employing this type of educational institute the federal government

failed to honor their American Indian treaties' provision of educational support and services. The American Indian and Federal Government treaties were created due to the American Indian Tribes' ceding land to ensure provision of health, education and welfare for the American Indian peoples for generations to come.

Indian Education programs are not "free stuff" but a transactional legal agreement between tribal chiefs and the American Government for the land.

In 1934, Senators W.Hiram Johnson and Thomas P. O'Malley addressed the United States' opportunity to correct our Government's egregious deficit sponsored and had their bill pass in the House and Senate .

Their work became the Johnson O'Malley program (Johnson O'Malley Act 25 CFR 273.112)

Because of these United States legislation leaders, we now have JOM (Johnson O'Malley) programs which offers a range of services, including culture, language, academics

and dropout prevention. This program is a space of belonging for our American Indian students who not only identify but are indeed descendants of American Indian Tribes, whose educational path is protected and secured by Treaty Rights.

Today, with so many of our students desperately seeking a place to belong and an understanding of their identity, our local school districts' Indian Education programs can provide GRIT (Gained Real Identity Truth) for American Indian descendants with regard to culture and ways of being.

Jackie White, M Ed., Program Director of American Indian Education Teaching and Learning  
Jackie.White@ sde.ok.gov , released updated criteria for the state of Oklahoma provided by the Bureau of Indian Education for participation, which will provide more opportunity to include more students this school year. Because the American Indian student exists in dual contexts, the traditional tribal community and the non-American Indian world. Indian Education (JOM) provides supportive educational space to enable our students to thrive academically.

The clarified parameters for American Indian and Alaskan students to participate in this program.

[www.bie.edu/landing-page/johnson-omalley](http://www.bie.edu/landing-page/johnson-omalley)

This expanded definition of American Indian descendants provides for the grandchildren of enrolled federal tribal members/tribal nation citizens to participate in JOM Indian Education programs.

Because of the leadership of Superintendent Walters, with his recent Reorganization of the State Department of Education, Oklahoma now has a fully staffed Department of Indian Education which provides support for every district in our state. If you want to sign up for the SDE Indian Education newsletter and roundtable

[oaie@officemgmtentserv.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:oaie@officemgmtentserv.onmicrosoft.com)

If your student is a descendant of an enrolled member or citizen of a federally recognized Tribe and wishes to learn about their culture, please reach out to the State Department of Education for any questions you may have.



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# AICCO provides first look at Economic Impact Survey results

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*Native Commerce News is sponsored by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO), dedicated to expanding Indian Country commerce across the globe.*

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**Written By: Rachael Schuit**



(OKLAHOMA) Founded in Tulsa in 1991, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO) provides opportunities and resources to help Native, tribal, and associate business members prosper and succeed.

This year, AICCO launched an initiative to learn more about the impacts its Native businesses are having in their communities and statewide, focusing on 2023 data.

Respondents of the ongoing chamber-wide survey include several different business types, including chiropractic, travel, commercial construction, land and mineral services, architecture, and hospitality.

The majority of the businesses that have responded to the survey thus far reported they employed 10 or fewer people. The company with the most employees reported 28.

Business age ranged from one year to 65 years, and business revenue ranged from \$140,000 to \$7.5 million.

AICCO State President Bailey Walker said the numbers are a true testament to the variety of Native businesses that comprise 55 percent of AICCO's 200+ active membership.

"The Economic Impact Survey provides invaluable insights into the contributions our Native businesses are making, not just in economic terms but in social and community development also," Walker said. "It's a powerful reminder of the diversity and impact of our members across Oklahoma."

In regard to qualitative data, Native business members were asked about their collaborations with other businesses and organizations in their communities.

Almost 64 percent of respondents reported collaborating with six or more businesses or organizations in 2023. Nearly 37 percent of respondents reported collaborating with one to five businesses or organizations.

When asked the ways in which their business supported community development or social well-being, responses included raising property values in their area, creating new

spaces for people to enjoy, and building housing for boys who have aged out of the foster care system.

"We empower adults to be entrepreneurs and enjoy seeing single parents be able to provide better for their children as a result," another Native business responded.

Four of the businesses said they have influenced the local supply chain in their community.

Looking ahead, 90 percent of the businesses surveyed stated they would like to see their business expand this year.

Roughly 10 percent of AICCO's Native Business members have responded to the Economic Impact survey.

"The early results of the survey underscore the resilience and adaptability of our Native business community," Walker said. "Despite obstacles and challenges, our members are finding innovative ways to collaborate and drive positive change in their communities. This is just the beginning of understanding the full scope of their impact."

Native Business members looking to take part in the ongoing survey should email [chamber@aiccok.org](mailto:chamber@aiccok.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Living Heritage: Empowerment & Healing Through Native Fashion

**A Three-Day Fashion Residency Celebrating Native Fashion  
and Veterans' Healing Through Design**

Indianapolis, IN – July 24, 2024 – The Eiteljorg Museum, in collaboration with the Sky-Eagle Collection, Purdue University, and the Indian War Memorial, proudly presents “Living Heritage,” a transformative three-day Fashion residency led by renowned Osage fashion designer Dante Biss-Grayson of the Sky-Eagle Collection. This event celebrates the empowerment of Native communities, the healing power of art and design, and the ongoing contributions of Native fashion to the broader cultural landscape. The residency particularly focuses on veterans, highlighting the therapeutic potential of creativity in addressing PTSD.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Native Forward Scholars Fund and more to be announced.

## **Day 1: Purdue University Presentation and Mini Fashion Show**

**LOCATION:** Purdue University, Native American

Educational and Cultural Center, FOWLER Hall

**DATE:** Thursday, November 7th, 2024, time TBD

The event continues at Purdue University with a presentation showcasing the latest innovations in Native fashion. Dante Biss-Grayson will discuss the importance of Native representation in the fashion industry, underscoring the ongoing presence and excellence of Native designers. The session includes personal insights from Dante’s journey as a Native fashion designer and his experience with PTSD. The presentation will be followed by a mini fashion show and a small reception.

## **Day 2: Veterans' Healing Presentation**

**LOCATION:** Indiana War Memorial- 55 E Michigan St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

**DATE:** Friday, November 8th, 2024, time TBD

The residency begins with a dedicated session on veterans’ healing through art and design. Dante Biss-Grayson

will deliver a powerful presentation on the role of arts in healing, emphasizing fashion design as a medium for veterans to express their stories and explore their artistic talents.

**Day 3: Eiteljorg Museum Mini Runway Show- A ticketed event**

**LOCATION:** Eiteljorg Museum- 500 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

**DATE:** Saturday, November 9th, 2024, time TBD

The residency concludes with a spectacular mini runway show at the esteemed Eiteljorg Museum. This event will feature a stunning new collection from the Sky-Eagle Collection, along with select pieces from the archives. The

runway show will showcase the beauty and diversity of Native fashion, celebrating the resilience and creativity of Native communities. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Dante Biss-Grayson, explore a mini pop-up shop featuring runway and new collection items, and witness the talents of local models, makeup artists, and hairstylists. An up-and-coming designer may also open the show. This is a ticketed event.

“Living Heritage,” hosted and sponsored by the Eiteljorg Museum, aims to inspire, empower, and uplift both Native and veteran communities, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of their rich heritage and creative contributions to the world of fashion.

**Contact Information for interviews, press passes, or more information:**

**Eiteljorg Museum**

Elizabeth Bostelman  
Public Programs Manager, Eiteljorg Museum  
Phone: 1-317-275-1348  
Email: ebostelman@eiteljorg.com

**Dante Biss-Grayson**

Founder, Sky-Eagle Collection  
Phone: 1-505-592-6375  
Email: SEC@skyeaglecollection.com

**Felica Ahasteen-Bryant**

Director, Native American Educational and Cultural Center  
Purdue University  
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405-427-5228 | [www.redearth.org](http://www.redearth.org)

### **CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER**

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| Shawnee, OK 74801  
405-878-5830 | [www.potawatomiheritage.com](http://www.potawatomiheritage.com)

### **SEMINOLE NATION MUSEUM**

524 S. Wewoka Ave | Wewoka, OK 74884  
405-257-5580 | [www.seminolenationmuseum.org](http://www.seminolenationmuseum.org)

### **FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES MUSEUM**

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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.