

JUNE 2021

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

IT'S POWWOW SEASON!

CREDITS

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | JUNE 2021

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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 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, cooks, foods, culture, and crafts, 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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The poster for the 149th Annual Quapaw Pow Wow features a vibrant, colorful design with a background of Native American figures and patterns. The text is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters. The event details are listed on the right side of the poster.

**149TH ANNUAL
QUAPAW
POW WOW**

JULY 1ST - 4TH
QUAPAW TRIBAL GROUNDS
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CO-ARENA DIRECTOR - TONY SHAWNEE
HOST NORTHERN DRUM - LITTLE SOLDIER



DARRYL TONEMAH



Darryl Tonemah no longer lives in Oklahoma, but it's one of the places he calls home.

"I'm still an Oklahoma boy," he said. "I miss it. I come to OU games several times a year."

Tonemah, 54, attended elementary school in Lawton while his father was working for Indian Health Service as a hospital administrator. Later he returned to earn a master's degree in community counseling from the University of Oklahoma. Ten years ago, his home in Norman was destroyed by a tornado with the family inside.

"Our family was shellshocked by it," he said. "We drove around the country helping each other recover."

They were staying in Omaha when they realized it was time to settle down again. That decision took them to the Tuscarora Reservation in New York, where his mother had grown up and his parents have now retired. The Tuscarora people are one of the six nations of the Iroquois.

"We wanted our children to know about that side of the family," said Tonemah, who is an actor, a musician and a wellness consultant. "I wanted to bless them with the same kind of diversity I was raised with."

Tonemah is enrolled Kiowa and is also Comanche on his father's side. He loves the Oklahoma trees, the rolling hills, the buffalo and the burgers from Meers, where his father grew up.

"Oklahoma is a state of mind, a way of being. When I come to Oklahoma, I for sure want to go to Bedlam Bar-B-Q. The Northeast does not make very good sweet tea. And I go to a bookstore and load up on OU clothes."

When Tonemah's father was working in Standing Rock, N.D., "I had friends who would come to school with bruises on their faces, or would smell like alcohol."

He asked his father what he could do to help.

"We talked about psychology, which was another planet for me. I was a chubby sixth-grade kid."

But as he grew older, Tonemah said, a college education "became more accessible and more do-able. I attribute that to my parents, and their support."

By then his father had transferred to South Dakota, so Tonemah started out at Northern State University in Aberdeen.

"I got three bachelor's degrees because I didn't want to get a job," he said with a laugh.

He broke into acting as a college student.

"I was in the student union, and someone asked me if I had ever

been in a movie. They said they had a part for me."

The movie set was a seven-hour drive away, and he was expected at 4 a.m. the next day. The pay was \$75.

"I had to play a Polish soldier. My big scene came up and the director yelled at the casting director," because Tonemah didn't exactly look the part.

He went on to appear in "DMZ," "The Last of the Mohicans" and "The Cherokee Word for Water," in which he portrayed former Cherokee Principal Chief Ross Swimmer.

He also launched his singer-songwriter career while in college, playing for "anybody who would listen."

He has released 10 CDs, and is currently working on a project to record one song a month over the coming year. He has performed at the 2002 Winter Olympics, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Smithsonian Institute's Museum of the American Indian and the New Orleans Jazz Festival.

He likes trying new things.

"If it's a healthy risk and it won't embarrass me or my wife and kids, my 'yes' is on the table," he said.

"Purpose-wise, my assignment here on earth, I'm really committed to psychology and working in our Native communities addressing trauma and healing."

The Tonemah Consulting Group does trauma work and training in schools and clinics. He and his wife, Carminda, who is Navajo, also own First Nations Telehealth Solutions, which provides wellness services to remote communities via telemedicine. She is president and he is vice president of the nonprofit Native Legacy Foundation, which also has a wellness mission with a focus on youth suicide prevention.

The couple has three children, and Carminda Tonemah is also a children's yoga instructor.

He might get his sense of adventure from his mother, whom he described as a "maverick" for her generation.

In the 1950s, he said, his mother left the reservation and traveled to Buffalo, N.Y., for nursing school. She and a friend later made a trip to Tuba City, Ariz. On her way back to New York, she needed work, so she stopped at the Lawton Indian Hospital, where his father was working.

"And that's how they met," he said.



“IOWA NATION MEMBER EXPANDS HIS SKYDANCE BREWING COMPANY”



By Jazz M. Wolf | Gaylord News



Oklahoma's first Native American-owned brewing company, inspired by the recipes of the owner's father, will open an independent location this summer.

SkyDance Brewing Co., owned and operated by Jacob Keyes, opened in 2018 when Keyes, a member of the Iowa Nation, started the business in honor of his father. The company has been operating out of a co-op — a single location where multi-

ple brewing companies use the same equipment — in Oklahoma City, but will move to an independent location.

Keyes and his father had always wanted to open their own brewery. One day, Keyes found a beer recipe of his dad's and made it. His friends insisted he enter it into a competition, which he won. The evening Keyes won the competition, his brother called him to say their father had died.

"I felt like it was a sign I had to start the brewery," Keyes said.

Keyes is from Purcell and has been involved with the Iowa Nation since he was young. Before starting the brewery, he worked in the casino industry.

"If it wasn't for the work I did in the gaming industry, I would not have seen all these Native Americans owning and operating their own businesses. It really helped encourage me to do the same."

Keyes said he had some mental hurdles to jump over before he could fully commit to opening his own business.

"We're told that... Native Americans aren't meant to participate in the business world. We need to overcome that mindset. I had to."

Throughout the pandemic, SkyDance Brewing Co. has experienced challenges, Keyes said. First, it became an issue of no

longer being able to interact with customers directly.

"We have to sell all our beer through a bunch of middle-men, now," Keyes said. "We've taken a direct hit to our profits." Next, building the independent location in Oklahoma City became even more difficult. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce offered some loans and grants to small businesses facing challenges during the pandemic.

"Minority businesses were some of the ones hit the hardest when the pandemic began," said Eric Long, research economist of the Chamber of Commerce. "Small businesses were hit especially hard."

SkyDance Brewing Co. currently offers five beer flavors, along with a few select "seasonal" beers such as "Sovereign Nation," inspired by the process of the United States recognizing tribes as sovereign nations. The beer is distributed to gas stations and small bars in the Oklahoma City area.

"Small business is really frail," said Jeff Seymour, executive vice president of the Chamber of Commerce. "We need to help small businesses be more flexible, nimble, and reactive in times like this."

Assistance was provided by the Chamber of Commerce to businesses with 25 or fewer employees, with a majority of owners being racial minorities.

"Moving the city forward through small businesses is what we want to do here," said Harve Allen, public relations manager of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. "It's the key to success."

Native American-owned businesses and tribes have provided a significant amount of economic product in Oklahoma in the past several years, according to an Oklahoma City University study. In 2018, tribes provided \$12.9 billion dollars in goods and services to Oklahoma.

Native American-owned businesses provide 96,177 jobs in Oklahoma, according to the National Congress of American Indians.

Keyes said most of his support comes from Native American-based resources.

"I got a loan from the Bureau of Indian Affairs long before I

could get a federal or state loan. All the other loans I applied for were put on holds, but this one came quickly and helped the most."

Despite the challenges faced over the past year by all businesses, Keyes is excited for the future.

"When we open this new location, we'll have a showroom for Native American art. A lot of our beers will be named after (Native American) dances, too. This is our chance to teach people about our culture."

Gaylord News is a reporting project of the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication.



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JUNE 25 - 27, 2021





“NATIONAL MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S AWARENESS DAY”

By Rosemary Stephens

Shining a spotlight on the missing and murdered Indigenous women epidemic doesn't stop with one day. It is a light continually being shone throughout the U.S., in every state, to uncover the dark secrets of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, men and boys.

In Oklahoma City, people gathered to march to the rally point on the south side of the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City. The rally began in the traditional way with a prayer being offered by Gloria Factor Lowe, followed by a flute performance by DJ Battiest. Master of Ceremony Shelby Ross opened the rally with a welcome as she began to introduce a long line of special guest speakers who included Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Gov. Reggie Wassana, Andrea Longorta, MMIW Indian Capital, Carmen Harvie, president of MMIP Central Chapter, Olivia Gray, president of N.O.I.S.E., Vivian Mesteth, president of MMIP Northeast Indian Territory, Gen Hadley, president of MMIW-OK-Southwest Chapter, Fawn Tsatoke, president of Kiowa MMIP, Mariah Greenwood Adair, president MMIW-OK-Southeast Chapter, Darcie Parton, owner of Darcie Parton Scoon Investigations, Sarah Adams Cornell, matriarch, OU Teaching on MMIW, Halana Jay, president of MMIP Apache Chapter and Shay Hernandez, president of Cameron University Native American Student Association “2 Spirits.”

“Unified we are all powerful. We are united as one, equal as one. We are not going anywhere,” Andrea Longorta, Caddo, said. When Carmen Harvie took to the podium, she paused for a moment overcome with emotion as she shared the many visits she has had over the years with families of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls.

“I’ve spoken with a lot of families, I have searched for a lot of people and I have cried a lot, and I’ve learned to pray more,” Harvie, Choctaw/Hualapai, said.

Harvie said she went to search for a young girl one day who had gone missing and when she walked into their home where the mom is crying, the kids are crying, the brothers are crying, the grandmas are crying.

“When we walk up into that we have to be strong, we have to be resilient for the family and let them know we are here to help and support them and to find their loved one,” Harvie said.

According to a U.S. Dept. of Justice report, Indigenous women and girls are murdered 10 times higher than all other ethnicities and the murder rate of Indigenous women and girls is three times higher than Anglo-American women. And according to the Centers for Disease Control, murder is the third leading cause of death for Indigenous women and girls in the U.S.

The push for action to solve the thousands of unsolved cases of missing and/or murdered Indigenous women and girls and

address the ongoing epidemic of missing Indigenous women has reached all the way to top levels of federal and state governments.

In Oklahoma, after two years of advocating for legislation to address missing and/or murdered Indigenous women, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed Senate Bill 172 into law, named Ida’s Law. Ida’s Law is named after 29-year-old Ida Joann Beard, a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, who went missing from El Reno, Okla. in 2015. She has never been found. Her case, like so many others, became known as a “cold case” in law enforcement, with little to no movement towards solving the mystery surrounding her disappearance.

“This legislation, called Ida’s Law, has been pushed and was introduced last year when the pandemic started, and it died. Whenever we felt this bill was in jeopardy I would get a call from LaRenda Morgan saying, ‘Reggie you need to get up here (at the state Capitol),’ Gov. Wassana said.

He pointed Morgan out as one of the main figures who have pushed for Ida’s Law to be signed into law from the very beginning. Morgan is Ida Beard’s cousin, and she is the governmental affairs officer for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

“LaRenda has spent everyday here at the capitol advocating, talking and fighting for this to happen. We want to thank Mickey Dollens, who first carried the bill last year, and we want to thank Sen. Rosino and Rep. Walke for carrying the bill this year,” Gov. Wassana said.

Rep. Mickey Dollens first submitted Ida’s Law in December 2019 for the 2020 Legislative session. The bill passed the Judiciary Committee and House of Representatives, but due to COVID-19 shutdowns the bill never made it out of the Senate.

Sen. Rosino and Rep. Walke picked up the bill in this year’s 2021 legislative session, where it received overwhelming support all the way up to Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, who signed Ida’s Law on April 20. Ida’s Law will create an Office of Tribal Liaison within the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations (OSBI) to address not only cold cases of missing and murdered Indigenous persons, but to assist families with immediate action when an Indigenous person goes missing. The Office of Tribal Liaison will also direct the OSBI to coordinate with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the U.S. Dept. of Justice to obtain federal funding to gather much needed data to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous persons. The rally featured a Red Dress Exhibition, open mic for those who wanted to share their own personal stories, and the family of Ida Beard, along with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes furnished a boxed lunch.

The rally closed as it opened, in a circle of prayer.

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By Kimberly Burk

MISS USA & MISS TEEN USA | RIVERSPIRIT, TULSA

The beautiful setting and stellar reputation of Tulsa's River Spirit Casino Resort helped it land the 2021 Miss Teen USA and Miss USA pageants, said Pat Crofts, CEO of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos.

"This is going to bring a lot of people to Tulsa and a lot of notoriety," Crofts said. "We are getting kudos from all over. It's definitely a great event for the Muscogee Nation."

The pageants are set for Nov. 22-29, with Miss USA to be televised internationally on Nov. 29.

Crofts said the Paradise Cove Theater, which is part of the resort complex, has hosted Miss Oklahoma in the past as well as the Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation pageant. The resort was approached by the pageant producers about being a contender, he said.

"We were competing against cities like Nashville and Las Vegas and Reno," Crofts said.

"We have a very large stage, and a nearly 3,000-seat venue with great acoustics and light and sound. We built a runway for the Miss Oklahoma pageant. We had a very nice venue that was outfitted to host a competition like that."

The resort's location in the center of the United States was also a point in its favor. River Spirit, which is the largest of the tribe's casinos, is located along the banks of the Arkansas River, about three miles from Interstate 44.

The performing arts center has a concrete roof, "so if we get an Oklahoma hailstorm, nobody can hear it," Crofts said with a laugh.

More than 100 contestants and about 3,000 visitors are expected in Tulsa for the pageants.

"We have people on staff who can do this," Crofts said. "We do multiple concerts every month. We will have some outside help, but we do events all the time."



“THE CHEROKEE NATIONAL HOLIDAY”

By Kimberly Burk

The Cherokee National Holiday returns this year as a hybrid celebration featuring both virtual and smaller-scale live events.

“Although many residents have now received the COVID-19 vaccination, cases continued to be confirmed in Oklahoma and the virus remains a threat,” Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a news release.

The 69th annual event happens on Labor Day weekend, and this year will mark the 200th anniversary of Sequoyah’s invention of the Cherokee syllabary. In-person activities will include the Tahlequah art market, drive-in movie nights, gospel singing, a fiddlers contest, car and quilt shows and a firework show. All will be held in safe settings with limited audiences.

The chief’s state of the nation address and the ambassador competitions will also be held in person. Livestreamed events will include the stickball exhibition, tour of the heirloom garden and tours of historic Cherokee sites. The Cherokee Nation is also working on plans for an outdoor intertribal powwow with limited audience, but which will be livestreamed to the world.

Larger events such as the parade, fishing derby, softball tournament and vendor markets will return to normal in 2022, according to the news release.

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 original homelands in the Southeast.

Chief Hoskin said Sequoyah’s 1821 Cherokee syllabary is used on a daily basis by the tribe’s Cherokee Immersion School, language translation department and master apprentice students “so that our language is perpetuated and thriving.”

The theme of this year’s national holiday is “Cultivating our Culture: Language. Literacy. Lifeways.”





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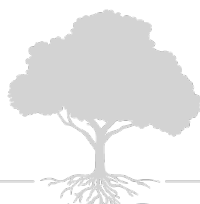
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FCA SUMMER CAMP TIME

"Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness." —1 Timothy 6:11

If you are wondering about what to do this summer, think about attending (volunteer) or sending someone (junior high-high school age) to a FCA summer camp.

Since 1954, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has challenged athletes and coaches to impact the world for Jesus Christ. FCA is cultivating Christian principles in local communities nationwide by encouraging, equipping and empowering others to serve as examples and to make a difference. Reaching over two million people annually on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels, FCA has grown into the largest interdenominational sports ministry in the world. Through this shared passion for athletics and faith, lives are changed for current and future generations.

FCA has grown to more than 1400 staff around the world. Our message is gaining momentum as more and more dedicated supporters and volunteers share their time, talents, and beliefs to those longing to be bolstered in faith.

Camps are a time of "inspiration and perspiration" for athletes and coaches who want to reach their potential through comprehensive athletic, spiritual and leadership training. The six types of camps are Sports Camp, Leadership Camp, Coaches Camp, Power/Youth Sports Camp, Team Camp and Partnership Camp.

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This year the camp theme is "Purse" and here are the points of emphasis:

PURSUE TRUTH

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." —Hebrews 4:12

Rather than pursuing material things that won't last, it's important to pursue the ultimate truth that can only be found in the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. We can be in pursuit of that truth by reading Scripture, praying and desiring accountability with other believers.

PURSUE LIFE

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life." —Psalm 139:23-24

It's important to not be consumed with unhealthy motivations that drive you into meaningless pursuits. If we open our heart to God and allow Him to examine it, we will find ourselves in a position of surrender that will help us pursue the rich and satisfying life that can be found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

PURSUE TEAM

"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble." —Proverb 13:20

Part of taking the next step in your faith journey is to realize that we can't go it alone. We need a righteous and encouraging team to do life with! Answering the question of "who" we have in our lives is essential to move forward in pursuit of a growing faith life.

PURSUE MISSION

"May He equip you with all you need for doing his will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen." —Hebrews 13:21

God has a specific calling on each of our lives. It's important to begin to pursue our mission and start walking in the fullness of what God has laid out for us to do. When we see a much bigger picture of what's in store for us, everything changes when we finally understand that our mission is ultimately tied to a relationship with Christ. Please let your junior high and or high schooler join in on the fun this summer! Go to fcacamps.org and find a sports camp.

I am in charge of 3 golf camps this summer in Claremore, June 7-9, the Panhandle, June 28-30 and Tahlequah, July 5-7! Hope to see you at camp! If you need more information, please do not hesitate to call or text me at the number below!

John Morris

John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes 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 <https://my.fca.org/johnmorris>. John can be contacted through email: johnmorris@fca.org or by cell number (785-760-1627).



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SOUR SOFKEE:

"GOV. STITT TO TRIBES: MY WAY OR NO HIGHWAY"

Fus Yvhi kv

It was a hot, humid day. Typical Oklahoman June. Me, Yahola, Tarpalechee, and Fixico were sweating our cvpos off as we labored under the hot sun. Perhaps "labored" isn't the correct term since our work was directing traffic through a construction zone. Fixico had the perfect physique for the job as he is tall, skinny and long armed. However, being Native, he would only point with his lips. That led to several near-miss car wrecks and a number of female drivers air kissing him.

Tarpalechee was a bad fit as he is short, fat and has tiny T-Rex arms. Were it not for his stove-pipe hat, he likely would have gotten run over. Yahola was in charge of a temporary, make shift traffic signal. However, he spent most of his time texting his girlfriend. Distracted, he once kept all lights red for 10 minutes. Traffic backed up for miles.

Still construction progressed at a brisk pace. We were improving the intersection of Highway 9 and Interstate 35 just south of Norman, OK adjacent to the Riverwind Casino. A ribbon cutting was planned for the next week. The project stood as a prime example of a tribe and Oklahoma working together for the greater good. Indeed, the tribe had contributed well over 70% of the project cost. Suddenly a motorcade of black limousines rolled up. A phalanx of men dressed in dark suits and ties were belched out of the cars. A speaker's podium was quickly set up as members of the media swarmed about. Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt strode to the podium.

All construction work ceased as we exchanged quizzical looks. "Good morning," intoned the Governor. It was 4pm. "Today I am announcing an immediate halt of this here highway project." Audible gasps resounded across the crowd. If Yahola had been wearing his necklace, he would have clutched his pearls.

"Many will foolishly allege that this action is another example of me being anti-Indian. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am a proud Cherokee. Indeed, my grandmother was a Cherokee princess." Me and the Creek boys emitted porcine snorts of derisive laughter. "In fact, the recent McKurt decision—" An officious aide immediately rushed to the governor and whispered in his ear. Stitt paused and loudly cleared his throat. The sound resembled a cat coughing up a giant hairball.

"In fact," the governor bellowed, "The recent MCGIRT decision is to blame. It has forced us to re-evaluate existing and future tribal-state highway projects. Naturally, our primary concern is the safety and well-being of all Oklahomans. Therefore, it is imperative that we immediately halt this project. I'll take questions now."

"Your actions don't make any sense," a reporter shouted. "Especially since you are supposed to be here next week for the ribbon cutting ceremony to open this much improved highway interchange." Stitt turned towards his lackey assistant. He was caught on a hot mike saying, "What? A photo op next week? We can't cancel that!" Suddenly Yahola was interrogating Stitt. He had wedged his way to the front of the press corps.

"Yo Guv!" Yahola shouted. "Dude, this project benefits all Oklahomans and everybody who drives 'this here' road. And it is much safer now. You can't shut it down."

Yahola had mockingly emphasized the words, "this here."

Stitt stood in a state of paralyzed silence, at a loss for words. Rare for any politician. In this battle of wits, the governor was clearly an unarmed man. "The prepared remarks," the aide condescendingly advised Stitt. "Stick to the written remarks!"

The governor fumbled with his script. He spoke haltingly.

"Well...uh...uh...benefit all Oklahomans...uh, McKurt decision... yeah, re-evaluate...uh, uh...top 10 state." The governor again cleared his throat as the hapless aide rolled his eyes.

Yahola moved in for the kill. "Whatsamatter Guv? Cat got your

tongue? Looks like you could use a shot of that \$2 million dollar hydroxychloroquine."

Peels of laughter rolled across the crowd.

"If you can find it, that is," Yahola continued. "Maybe it's in a warehouse with all that PPE you purchased from that fly-by-night company."

At that moment a line of cars began snaking between the governor and the crowd. Drivers were angrily honking their horns. A car with darkly tinted windows stopped in front of the governor. A voice screamed, "Get this damn road open Meathead!"

The governor surveyed the situation. His calculating political instincts kicked in. "I'm pleased to announce that I will be here next week to open this important roadway," Stitt announced. He then disappeared faster than the Wicked Witch of the West.

The driver rolled down the darkly tinted window. It was Fixico. He was grinning like it was commodity distribution day. It was a good day to be Native.



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