MYAAMIA PUBLICATIONS | NOOŠONKE SIIPIONKI MYAAMIONKI

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MIAMI NATION NEWS

AATOTANKIKI MYAAMIAKI



aatotankiki myaamiaki

MIAMI NATION NEWS is published by the Federally recognized Sovereign Miami Tribe of Oklahoma for our enrolled citizens. This edition of Aatotankiki is available for download from the Miami Nation's website. Publication design and layout is done in-house by the Miami Nation Cultural Resources Office staff. Requests for special articles or publication of community information, including births, deaths, marriages, family news, anniversaries, etc., are welcomed and encouraged.

MYAAMIA PUBLICATIONS

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Obituaries, Birth Announcements and other time sensitive submissions will be amended to show past tense text unless the family submitting the information expressly requests the text remain unaltered.

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Second Chief: Dustin Olds
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1st Councilperson: Tera Hatley
2nd Councilperson: Nate Poyfair

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Miami Nation Website:
www.miamination.com

Facebook:
"MYAAMIAKI Miami Tribe of Oklahoma"

Public Page, listed as "Miami Nation News & Events"

MHMA Page, Listed as "Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive"

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OFFICIAL NOTICE:

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma will host their Annual Meeting on Saturday June 26th, 2027.

aacimwita akima
'The Chief's Report'

Akima Eecipoonkwia
Chief Douglas Lankford



Aya ceeki eeweemakiki - Greetings to all my Myaamia relatives from myaamionki noošonke siipionki!

We are currently in ayaapeensa kiilhswa 'Young Buck Moon', and the triple-digit summer heat in Oklahoma has finally broken, giving way to the cooler temperatures of fall. I am happy to report that we had a wonderful turnout for this year's Fall Gathering in Fort Wayne. The annual meeting recap was filled with good conversations, delicious food, fun activities, and a dance to close out the evening. It was wonderful to see everyone who was able to attend. Many took the opportunity to fish, camp, and spend time visiting with one another. I always enjoy my trips to Peehkahkionki; it truly is a beautiful place.

Archery season is in full swing, and so far, the Intertribal Wildlife Compacts have been successful. We look forward to continuing to exercise our sovereignty and strengthen our intertribal partnerships. As we look ahead, our attention now turns to the Winter Gathering, scheduled for January 29–30, 2027, in Miami, Oklahoma. We look forward to gathering once again with our relatives and continuing these important traditions.

January 2027 will mark our 30th Winter Gathering, celebrating three decades of cultural revitalization since these efforts began in 1997. Over the years, this dance has grown tremendously and become a cherished community tradition, bringing Myaamia citizens home from across the country to reconnect with our culture and one another. It fills my heart to see all the smiling faces during our social dances. I strongly encourage all Myaamia citizens to come out and attend Winter Gathering whenever travel allows. Bring your little ones to listen to our winter stories, participate in cultural education programs, and experience the joy of dancing together. These shared moments create priceless memories and pass along knowledge that can be carried home and shared with future generations.

Please be sure to follow our community Facebook page, "MYAAMIAKI Miami Tribe of Oklahoma," for community-specific event updates, and our public-facing Miami Nation News & Events page for news and information about Gathering activities that are open to the public. If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for our new text alert system to receive timely updates about events, notifications, and program reminders.

Illinois Land Claim Legislation

I will begin this section of my legal report with the announcement I have waited eleven long years to make. The Illinois Land Claim legislation was a success!

On September 14, 2026, the House of Representatives passed the Tribe's Illinois land claim legislation, and it went to the White House for President Trump's signature. On Friday, September 25, 2026, President Trump signed the historic legislation into law. After eleven long years of planning, lobbying, giving testimony before subcommittees, and dozens of legal reports filed in both the House and the Senate, our long-awaited result is here!

The legislative effort began in the fall of 2015 when the Tribe determined to pursue Congressional legislation granting the United States Court of Federal Claims jurisdiction to hear, consider, and determine the Tribe's claim for compensation for the taking of roughly 2.6 million acres of land reserved to it under the 1805 Treaty of Grouseland.

In 2017, then-Congressman Markwayne Mullin intro-

duced HR 183 (Mullin - OK), entitled "A bill to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes." Congressman Mullin (R-OK) (Cherokee), an incredible champion of the Tribe, was joined on the bill by Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN), a senior member of the House Indian Country Caucus, and Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) (Chickasaw), the senior Native American member of Congress. All three members of Congress have been longtime advocates for tribes and Indian Country, and bringing them together on this bill showed the legislation was a bipartisan effort and demonstrated to Congress and the country how members of different parties can work together productively.

The Tribe reintroduced the bill in 2019 as HR 396 (Mullin - OK), again by Congressman Mullin, and it received a hearing in the House Indigenous Peoples Sub-Committee. Further progress that year was stymied by the global pandemic. Undeterred, the bill was introduced in 2021 as H.R. 6063 (McCollum), this time by Congresswoman McCollum and cosponsored by Congressman Mullin, as control of Congress had changed. In 2023, Congressman Mullin was elected to the Senate and introduced S. 2796 (Mullin OK), with Senator Dick Durbin as lead co-author; Congressman Cole took lead authorship of H.R. 5831 (Cole OK), joined again by Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

Senator Mullin, joined again by Senator Durbin, introduced S 550 in 2025, and the bill was passed in December 2025 in the Senate "hotline," which is used for uncontroversial bills. In the House, HR 2827, authored by Congressman Cole, was voted to the floor by the Committee by unanimous consent and was passed on September 2026 by the full House by unanimous consent.

The Tribe is incredibly grateful to Congressman Tom Cole, the lead author of the House bill, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum, the lead co-author and previous author. And to now Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin, who took on this effort for the Tribe nearly 11 years ago as a new House member. Congressman Mullin then tirelessly fought for the bill in the House and later secured passage in the Senate with his Senate colleague and lead co-author, Senator Dick Durbin.

This historic legislation extinguished the Tribe's claim to land in southeast Illinois, remedying mistakes the federal government made nearly two centuries ago. The Tribe has one year from the date President Trump signed the bill to bring its claim before the Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC.

Without our Congressional warriors, this legislation would not have happened. Without them, this would have gone down as just another unspeakable injustice in the history of Indian affairs. But they insisted on seeing this made right. This is truly historical legislation.

Miami Tribe District and Appellate Courts Courtroom Remodel

Another great announcement! The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's $1.2 million District and Appellate Court remodel project is complete. The newly renovated space is both functional and beautiful with a classic look like courtrooms of the past.

As you may recall, the Tribe received a Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) grant through the U.S. Department of Justice to remodel existing space into a new, state-of-the-art courtroom for the Tribe's District and Appellate Courts.

We are incredibly proud of this beautiful renovation and grateful to everyone who contributed to bringing this important and much-needed project to completion.

AEP Transmission Line

The Miami Tribe has been deeply concerned about the Northeast Oklahoma Transmission Enhancement Project (NEOTEP) proposed by American Electric Power (AEP). NEOTEP would be a 100-mile, high-voltage transmission line that uses lands in Oklahoma to connect the electrical grid between Kansas and Missouri. A transmission line of this scale can have serious effects on property rights, the environment, and utility rates.

The initial maps of NEOTEP showed potential routes crossing the Miami Reservation. The Tribe submitted a notice of its opposition in March, ensuring AEP is aware of the Tribe's sovereign authority and the federal requirements that apply on Tribal lands. The Miami Tribe also expressed support of other northeastern Oklahoma tribes that were expressing opposition.

After the AEP received the Tribe's letter opposing the project, AEP requested a meeting with the Business Committee. AEP initially asked me to sign a non-disclosure agreement. Still,

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I was firm that the Miami Tribe was committed to open and transparent communication with its members and neighboring tribes. At the meeting with AEP, I again reiterated the Miami Nation's firm opposition to the transmission line crossing our lands.

AEP ultimately chose a route that does not cross the Miami Reservation. However, the route will cross the Wyandotte Reservation and others. The Miami Tribe is working closely with Wyandotte and other tribes to support their opposition to NEOTEP in any way that will be helpful. This will include submitting a comment to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Tribal members can also participate individually in the NEOTEP proceeding at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Anyone who owns land crossed by the proposed transmission line should have received notice from AEP with information about how to participate. Additionally, anyone can submit a comment by filling out a public comment form or sending a letter to the address below:

Oklahoma Corporation Commission
ATTN: Public Utility Division
Public Comments
PO BOX 171
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-9918

Pensacola Project Relicensing

For the past several years, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") has been considering whether to grant a new license for the Pensacola Project, the hydroelectric project dam that created the Grand Lake reservoir. The Project's operations have increasingly raised the height of the reservoir and contributed to flooding on the Miami Reservation.

Meanwhile, contaminated sediment from the Tar Creek Superfund Site continues to wash downstream. When our waterways overflow, that contaminated sediment is pushed out into the floodplains. Studies have shown that this affects the plants, fish, and animals that tribal members may harvest in contaminated areas.

The Miami Tribe has worked in partnership with other northeastern Oklahoma tribes and the City of Miami to demand that the FERC study how flooding from the Pensacola Project affects tribal members by exposing them to contaminated sediment. After years of advocacy, that study is underway.

Unfortunately, the study has not included adequate consultation with the Miami Tribe. The consultants conducting the study only set up a thirty-minute interview with the Tribe, which is nowhere near enough time to talk about all the ways that tribal members may be exposed to contaminated sediment. The Miami Tribe has already submitted extensive comments to FERC demanding further consultation.

The Miami Tribe and its partners are also working with scientific experts to comment on the literature review for the study.

Once FERC decides the study is complete, the next steps in the licensing process will begin. That will include proposals for conditions that FERC should include in the license. The Miami Tribe is working with experts and attorneys to develop proposed conditions for the license.

Intertribal Wildlife Website

In August, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma joined seven other Tribal Nations in northeast Oklahoma in signing the new Intertribal Wildlife Management and Reciprocity Compact. This historic agreement establishes a unified framework for wildlife conservation while preserving each Tribe's sovereign authority over its own hunting and fishing regulations.

The Intertribal Wildlife Consortium E-Check System is now live at www.itwc.net. All eligible hunters and anglers are strongly encouraged to register and report their harvests through the system. Harvest reporting is essential to effective wildlife management, helping Tribal Nations establish seasons and bag limits, monitor wildlife health and population trends, measure hunting and fishing pressure, and it assists with funding and policy decisions.

Eligible Myaamia citizens may hunt and fish at no cost by carrying a valid Tribal identification card. However, registration with the Intertribal Wildlife Consortium E-Check System is required before hunting or fishing to establish eligibility. Hunters and anglers must also report their harvests through the system.

Additional information is available on the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's tribal website under Services. Your participation helps support responsible wildlife management, conservation, and the continued stewardship of our natural resources.

Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki 'Chief Richardville House'

On October 23, we commemo-

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rated the 200th anniversary of the 1826 Treaty of Mississinewas by adding the Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki 'Chief Richardville House' to the Tribe's National Register of Historic Places and contributed financially, along with the Myaamia Heritage Foundation, to its continued preservation.

This designation honored the home's enduring cultural and historical significance to the Miami Tribe and our commitment to preserving the Tribe's history for future generations. We are very thankful to the History Center, who has taken care of this important piece of Miami history since 1991.

Rokita Meeting

While we were on our way to Fort Wayne, Indiana for the commemoration, we stopped by and met with Indiana's Attorney General, Todd Rokita. Initial discussions were held regarding several key issues, including the stages of addressing emergency services for the Fort Wayne property's, potential tribal vehicle license plate tags for Myaamia citizens, and we gave an update on the land claim. The discussion also included the possibility of introducing legislation addressing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as it relates to the State of Indiana. It was a very productive conversation, and we look forward to working with his office to advance these priorities and address the issues we would like to see resolved.

Miami Tribe Lands

A goal of the Miami Tribe has long been to restore as much of its original reservation to ownership by the Tribe. To date, the Tribe owns 2,607.7 acres of land within its Miami/Peoria Reservation. Most of this land is held in fee simple, which is property ownership giving the owner full rights to use, sell, lease, and pass the property to heirs indefinitely, subject only to laws, zoning, taxes, and any recorded encumbrances.

The Tribe has worked with its legal team to transfer sections of fee simple land into Trust status, where the U.S. federal government holds the land in trust for the benefit of the Tribe. Holding land in Trust removes the land from state jurisdiction and taxation and protects and promotes tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Since 2017, the Tribe has successfully moved 15 parcels of land into Trust status. Currently, the Tribe holds 819.07 acres in Trust status, with a new fee-to-trust application in Indiana pending for an additional 22.02 acres. The Tribe will continue its important objective of restoring land within our reservation to Tribe ownership.

In closing, remember, aalhsoohkiihsoolo 'you don't tell a winter story' until the killing frost or you will have to deal with the big frogs. With all that said, I look forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Gathering. Wishing everyone safe travels and a wonderful holiday season. It is truly an exciting time to be a Myaamia. I look forward to all that lies ahead! Neeyolaani kati 'I will see you later'.

Nipwaahkaako 'wishing you all well,' Akima Eecipoonkwia Chief Douglas Lankford

Miami Tribe District and Appellate Courts Courtroom Remodel

Staff Article

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's $1.2 million District and Appellate Court remodel project is complete. The Tribe received a Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)

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Judicial and Tribal seals. Photo by Callie Bowden, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

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Grant through the Department of Justice to remodel existing space into a new, state-of-the-art courtroom for the Tribe's District and Appellate Courts.

In early 2023, the Tribe contracted with Green Light Native, an Indian-owned architect firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and began work on designs to reconfigure a large storage area at the back of its headquarters building into a new, state-of-the-art court space. Construction began in spring of 2023 with a new concrete parking pad constructed in the gravel parking lot to provide clean, level parking locations for court attendees, with handicap parking spaces closest to the entry door. Other outside improvements include constructing a drain to resolve standing water issues in that area, construction of an attractive canopy with stonework columns to provide protection from inclement weather for those entering the court. An attractive fence was installed to shield HVAC equipment from view, with stonework on the outside wall of the building as well. Attractive stone planters with accent lighting were constructed in front of the building next to the entryway. Heavy-duty metal benches and all-weather planters are aesthetically placed in the area as well.

On the inside of the building, the remodeled court space was designed with the following objectives: create a professional court environment with native flare design elements, light earth tones to create a peaceful and positive environment, attractive court furnishings and lighting effects from faux windows, and state-of-the-art audio/video recording systems and security/surveillance systems. The court footprint includes two waiting rooms, restrooms, a main courtroom, jury deliberation room, Judges' chambers, copy room, and file room.

The Tribe is pleased with the work of the prime contractor MacCo Builders of Joplin, Missouri, who assigned MacCo employee, Parker Grant, an enrolled Miami Tribe member, to serve as the Project Manager. We can't say enough about the work of all our contractors, which include Green Light Native Architects, Neece Construction and Concrete, Williams Native Construction, and Scott Construction. Local businesses Allen Sign Studio, Kasjaka Heat & Cooling, H&K Electric, and Jack Dalrymple with Miami Engineer Services, LLC.

Internally, several employees collaborated to bring a state-of-the-art courtroom to Tribal Headquarters. Their



Tribal courtroom exterior hallway. Photo by Callie Bowden, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

contributions were necessary in turning this project's vision into reality.

Julie Olds, Cultural Resource Officer, provided invaluable artistic guidance throughout the courtroom renovation; she helped coordinate wood stain and furniture finishes, selected complementary ceiling paint, determined decorative inlay locations, and designed the hallway feature wall. Building on her previous work designing the court logo and the District and Appellate Court signage, she also selected and ordered the courtroom artwork and contributed significantly to the project's overall design and aesthetic.

Security was also a high priority, and Warren Garabrandt, Network Administrator, ordered and installed the inside and outside security cameras. Abel Stose, Chief of Police, provided input on courtroom security by reviewing the selected X-ray and walk-through screening equipment, choosing handheld wands for secondary screening, and helping finalize the design and wording of the security signage. He also identified appropriate bailiff uniforms that clearly distinguish security personnel and enhance court security and public recognition.

Michelle Lankford, Court Clerk, provided valuable assistance by coordinating the shipment and receipt of samples, facilitating the approval process, and helping order essential equipment for the new space. Mike Brown, Emergency Management, identified and implemented emer-

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gency equipment that should be on hand, such as an AED Defibrillator and emergency first aid kits.

The Business Committee was actively engaged throughout the entire design and construction process, providing leadership, direction, and approval on all major decisions. Donya Williams, Secretary-Treasurer; Jerrod Chester, CFO; and Tamra Bro, Sr. Accountant, did a fantastic job overseeing the financial reporting for the grant.

Last, but certainly not least, Robin Lash, Court Director and General Counsel, is the Project Director for the CTAS Grant. Robin's work began with the initial design of the court space, and she managed and contributed to every aspect of the project, including drafting requests for proposals for contractors, drafting contracts, meeting with the funding agency for reporting approvals, and working daily with on-site Project Manager Jack Dalrympel to discuss construction progress or issues. Robin researched and made major purchases of security and audio-visual equipment, purchased court furnishings, and was responsible for all expenditures on the project. Her leadership, vision, oversight, and unwavering dedication were necessary to making this project a reality. Without her commitment and direction, this much-needed courtroom renovation would not have come to fruition.

Mihši neewe to everyone involved, and to those we may have missed. Your work has resulted in a modern, functional, and welcoming courtroom that will serve the Tribe for years to come.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma District & Appellate Courts have served the Tribe and its members since 2006. The Tribe's District Court holds dockets twice a month on Thursdays and other hearings and trial dockets as needed. The space will be utilized by the Tribe's Appellate Court as needed as well. This is a beautiful court space, and tribal members and visitors are encouraged to request a tour of the court when visiting the headquarters building.



Tribal courtroom interior. Photo by Callie Bowden, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

PRAIRIE SKY MARKET
Come visit the Miami Tribe's one-of-a-kind market, beautifully designed where local history meets our rich cultural heritage! We'd love to have you visit, drop a pin on our visitor map, and say "Aya" — hello in our native language!
HISTORIC MIAMI NATION U.S. 66 ROUTE
MARKET & DELI
GROCERIES · FRESH SANDWICHES
SWEET TREATS
FUDGE · CANDY · CRAFT SODAS
LOCAL & FRESH
QUALITY MEATS · FRESH PRODUCE
UNIQUE GIFTS
NATIVE VENDORS · SEASONAL GIFTS
MON - SAT 6AM - 7PM | CLOSED SUN
309 N. MAIN ST., NORTH MIAMI, OK 74358

INTERTRIBAL WILDLIFE CONSORTIUM
Intertribal Wildlife Management and Reciprocity Compact Information and Regulations is available at itwc.net
Wildlife Harvest check-in and registration is available at echeck.itwc.net

MIAMI NATION NEWS
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MyaamiaPublications–Vol.20,No.2,Fall2026–SectionB–History&Culture–NoošonkeSiipionkiMyaamionki

Inaugural Myaamia Cultural Fest in downtown Kiihkayonki *'Fort Wayne, Indiana.'*

Morgan Lippert
CREO Staff

On August 29, the Myaamia Heritage Foundation and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Cultural Resources Office held the inaugural Myaamia Cultural Fest in downtown Kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, Indiana.' Free and open to the public, the Fest brought Myaamia culture, history, language, foodways, and art into the heart of the city, creating a space for Myaamiaki 'Myaamia people' and the wider community to learn, connect, and celebrate. Held alongside the annual Taste of the Arts Festival, the Myaamia Cultural Fest welcomed visitors throughout the day with Myaamia artists, cultural demonstrations, hands-on activities, food, and opportunities to learn more about Myaamia history and the cultural revitalization work the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is doing today.



Guests making a ribbonwork inspired bookmark. Photo by Logan Pierson, Good Morning Indian Country.



Logan York presenting to festival attendees. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

A day of celebration and community

More than a dozen Myaamia artists and cultural practitioners participated in the Fest, offering demonstrations, hands-on activities, and opportunities for visitors to engage with Myaamia culture. Throughout the day, visitors played traditional Myaamia games like mahkisina meehkintiinki 'moccasin game' and seenseewinki 'bowl game,' learned about Myaamia foodways and history, created ribbonwork-inspired crafts and fingerwoven keychains, and tried their hand at playing with traditional lacrosse sticks. Visitors also shopped directly from Myaamia artists and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's gift shop.

"It was a good event to expose the greater Fort Wayne community to the language and culture of their oldest neighbors, the Miami people," says Aacimwa Nate Poyfair, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Assistant Cultural Resources Officer and Second Councilperson. "I hope we can learn

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more from each other in the coming months and years and continue to grow as friends and neighbors."

Reflections

Looking back on the inaugural Myaamia Cultural Fest, one of the things that stands out most is the sense of connection it created. For a community dispersed across the country, creating spaces for Myaamia people to gather, share knowledge, and build community is especially meaningful. More than 100 Myaamia community members attended the Fest, traveling from the local Fort Wayne area, neighboring states, and as far away as California to be part of the celebration. At the same time, the Cultural Fest provided an opportunity to introduce the broader public to the Myaamia people and to share the story of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's continued presence in Indiana.

"It was heartwarming to see the people of Fort Wayne come out and support us by asking genuine questions and showing interest in our art forms," said Mia Hankenson, a Myaamia artist. "The day was filled with smiles and knowledge, and the excitement I have for the future is hard to put into words."



Girl playing moccasin game Photo by, Logan Pierson, Good Morning Indian Country.

The event location had a really important connection to a Myaamia sense of place. The festival was held less than a mile from the historic Myaamia village located in what is now Fort Wayne's Lakeside and Spy Run neighborhoods. Bringing Myaamia culture into a public space so close to this historic place offered a meaningful reminder that Myaamia people and culture are not simply part of Fort Wayne's past. Myaamia people are part of this community today, and Myaamia culture is a living culture that continues to grow, be practiced, and contribute to the community.

"It was so meaningful to be able to share my work with my community and on our homelands," said Anna Collins, a Myaamia beadwork artist. "I loved being able to show our presence in Fort Wayne and answer questions about my work."

Most of all, the festival showed what can happen when people come together around a shared vision. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a success, from our artists, staff, volunteers, and partners to the more than 2,000 visitors who stopped by to learn, create, shop, play games, and celebrate Myaamia culture with us.

Mihši neewe 'Thank you so much' to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Cultural Resources Office and our partners at Arts United for helping make this day possible. We are incredibly grateful for everyone who helped bring this vision to life, and we look forward to continuing to bring people together to learn and celebrate Myaamia culture!

Continued on pg 3B >>

Explore online at
aacimotaatiiyankwi.com

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Background

The Myaamia Cultural Fest came to fruition after the Myaamia Heritage Foundation sponsored three Myaamia artists to participate in the 2025 Taste of the Arts, an annual festival in Fort Wayne organized by Arts United, a private nonprofit organization that serves northeast Indiana through arts advocacy, fundraising, and grantmaking. This provided an opportunity to bring Myaamia artists and culture into a large public arts event in Fort Wayne while also building relationships with Arts United and the broader arts community.

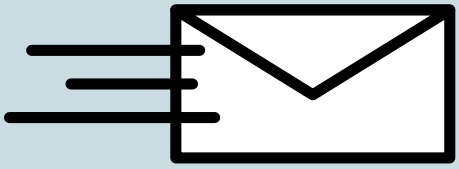
Conversations began in February 2026 about returning to the festival to expand the Foundation's presence and support more Myaamia artists. During an initial conversation with Arts United, they shared that one of the parking lots typically used for the Taste of the Arts Festival would no longer be needed and asked whether the Foundation would be interested in using the space.

This opportunity shifted the conversation from being a participant in an existing event to considering what it might look like to host a Myaamia-centered event of our own. While the Miami Tribe Cultural Resources Office has operated an extension office in Kiihkayonki for over a decade, the Tribe's events and public programming in the area were either private and just for the Myaamia community, or were individual employees attending conferences, giving presentations, and participating in larger-scale events alongside other partners.

While these activities provided important ways to share Myaamia culture and build relationships within the community, the Tribe had yet to host its own large-scale event specifically designed to be open to the general public. The space offered by Arts United created an opportunity to change that. What began as a chance to participate in an existing community event grew into the development of the inaugural Myaamia Cultural Fest.

Bringing the Myaamia Cultural Fest to life took months of planning, collaboration, and community support. The Myaamia Heritage Foundation held biweekly planning meetings with Miami Tribe Cultural Resources Office staff and met regularly with Arts United to coordinate the festival and its logistics. Funding from Indiana Humanities and the Indiana Arts Commission helped make the festival possible, while collaboration with Myaamia artists and Fort Wayne-based video company Oak & Story helped promote the event on social media, highlighting the artists and their work to the wider community.

"The turnout was amazing, especially seeing the growth from last year," said Megan Sekulich, a Myaamia artist. "I had a steady stream of people at my table browsing, buying art, learning, and chatting the entire festival."



SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Any tribal member or their family member can now send articles with detailed text and a photo to:
mtonewspaper@miamination.com

We welcome personal stories and have sections in the paper dedicated to obituaries, birth or marriage announcements, and other honors.

Photo resolution: 300 dpi
Minimum size: 3" x 3"
Formats: tif, jpg, pdf, psd

180 Years Later: Continuing to Understand Myaamia Forced Removal

Staff Article

The autumn of 1846 saw one of the most monumental events in the history of the Miami people: the forced removal of over 300 Myaamiaki ‘Myaamia people’ to a new reservation in present-day Kansas. This event marked a significant physical separation of Miami people. It affected, and continues to influence, all Myaamia families. In 2021, then Miami Tribe of Oklahoma THPO Diane Hunter wrote a series of historically grounded posts, Meehkweelintamankwi Aanchsahaaciki ‘Remembering Our Forced Removal.’ Diane’s research led to annotations to the still-vital removal booklet, myaamiaki aancihsaaciki: A Cultural Exploration of the Myaamia Removal Route. Each of these readings is an important source of information and perspective on this critical topic.

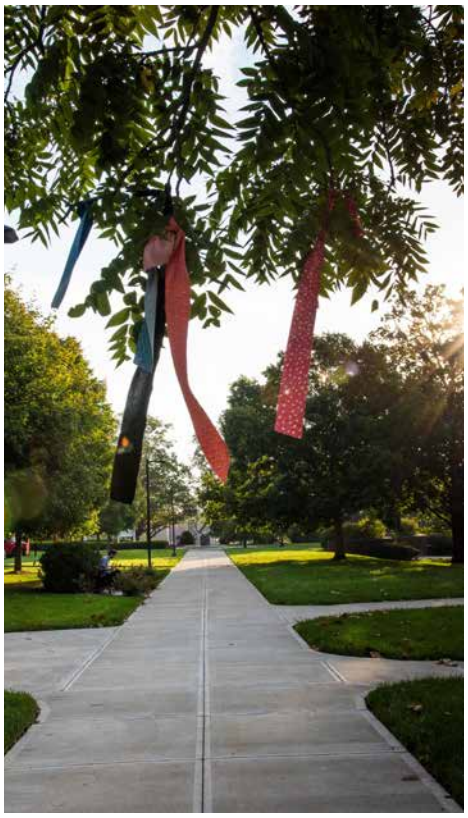
2026 marks 180 years since the first Myaamia removal.

One of the research issues that has drawn our attention recently is the financial realities of Indian removal. It is true that Native American land was a primary motivator for the United States to dispossess, and eventually deport, Native nations. The Miami removal sheds some light on a shadowy world of contractors. The deportation of people out of the United States is done by firms who are paid by the U.S. government to physically move people. That was true in 1846, and is true today. For Native American removals, the federal government sometimes used the process of sealed bidding, while in the Miami case, the War Department awarded a no-bid removal contract to a Whig Party ally and newspaper editor from Terre Haute named Thomas Dowling.



Removal commemoration event at Miami University in October 2021. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

While October 6 marks the date that Myaamiaki boarded canal boats in Peru, Indiana, the process of relinquishing territory; negotiating the right to remain for some; traveling to Kansas; and recovering and returning was a drawn-out process. Earlier iterations of this struggle have recently been described, for example, in Rebecca Nagle’s podcast, *First America*, episode four of which features Myaamia scholarship. Meehkweelintamankwi Aanchsahaaciki ‘Remembering Our Forced Removal’ has details on the myriad aspects of the Miami Removal.



Commemorative ribbons. Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Traditional Arts Indiana Makes Outstanding Contributions

Dani Tippmann

This year, Indiana University Bloomington combined the Traditional Arts Indiana (TAI) Heritage Fellowship Awards and the Traditional Arts Indiana Apprenticeship acknowledgements with the Lotus Festival in a weekend event. TAI is a statewide folk arts program, a partnership between Indiana University and the Indiana Arts Commission, recognized by the state of Indiana as the official statewide service organization for Indiana's folk and traditional arts.

One portion of the event was a "Fireside Chat with Dani Tippmann". Dani is a Miami Tribe of Oklahoma (MTO) citizen. The Fireside Chat was a conversation between Jon Kay, the Director of TAI and Dani Tippmann. Their conversation covered the TAI Indiana Heritage Fellowship award and TAI apprenticeships as well as some traditional and contemporary Myaamia foods and some of Dani's personal genealogy and history.

Traditional Arts Indiana (TAI) honored traditional artists who made outstanding contributions to their artistic traditions by awarding the Indiana Heritage Fellowship. Both Katrina Mitten (2018 Heritage Fellowship awardee) and Dani Tippmann (2023 Heritage Fellowship awardee) have received this award. TAI also acknowledged pairs of artists who worked together as master and apprentice to continue their traditional Indiana art. Miami Tribe of Oklahoma citizens who served as apprentices included Ingrid Nicholson, Frank Nicholson, Lucy Nicholson, and Cecilia Nicholson. Dani Tippmann, also a Miami Tribe of Oklahoma citizen, was their teacher in traditional elm bark basket making. The training took place over about a year and included securing and harvesting elm bark from a living tree, then learning to cut the shapes and work with the bark to make several kinds of baskets.

Ingrid Nicholson said, "The baskets are a way to bring our culture forward and to help the next generation pass it into the future." Her children, the other apprentices, agree that they are better prepared to pass this "living history" to their future progeny after studying with their grandmother how to make baskets.

"Seeing the basket process from tree to finished product really helped me to understand and respect our people a little more.", said Cecilia Nicholson.

Dani, Lucy and Frank agreed that working together on the baskets was fun and they will remember it for years to come. They do plan to make baskets together as soon as the trees are ready to harvest.



Myaamia women at the WEWIN conference in Tulsa, OK

Staff Article

This year's Women Empowering Women of Indian Nations conference was held in Tulsa, Okla., after 10 years of traveling across the country. Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Secretary-Treasurer Donya Williams serves on the conference board and has had the privilege of attending in previous years. However, this year was particularly empowering, as five Myaamia women attended: Claudia Hedeedn, Dani Tippmann, Kristina Fox, Donya Williams, and Ingrid Nicholson.

Kristina Fox, of the Myaamia Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and Dani Tippmann, of the Cultural Resources Extension Office in Fort Wayne, Ind., also served as guest presenters.

During the opening reception, Fox facilitated a coloring and collaborative art activity to encourage the women to get to know one another and relax. One participant began a drawing and then passed it to the next person.

"I had a lot of fun walking around, talking to people, and hearing about them and what they were working on. One group of women signed their work and gave it to me!" Fox said.

Tippmann presented on how wild rice has made a comeback in Indiana and its impact on the environment, food systems, and elm bark baskets. She detailed the series of events that led to the reestablishment of wild rice and explained how the Myaamia People worked with the state of Indiana to support its health in the environment.

"Wild rice, or naloomina [in myaamiaataweenki], is interesting because of its use as a food and because it is a cornerstone plant species. It supports pollinators, caterpillars, and flies, while also providing food for ducks, herons, and people," Tippmann said.

"Wild rice has a special role to play in our environment, and it is making a comeback in Indiana."

This workshop demonstrated how plants and people can work together to help the environment heal and thrive through a cultural approach.

The women also shared how welcoming the conference is each year.

"Everyone is quick to offer a compliment or a smile. It's easy to ask a stranger to sit with you and start a conversation," Fox explained.

"The sessions are interactive, so I get to hear about others' experiences, both in their communities and while working in Indian Country."

According to Fox, the five Myaamia women found the conference encouraging and fun.

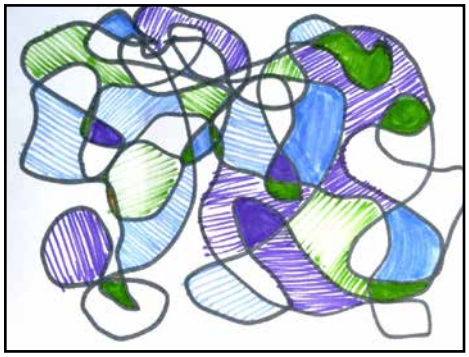
"...It's extra fun to spend more time with other myaamiihkwiaki, 'Myaamia women.'"



L to R: Claudia Hedeen, Kristina Fox, Donya Williams, Dani Tippmann, and Ingrid Nicholson. Photo courtesy of Donya Williams, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.



Collaborative art created by Carina Johnson, Ellen Zacharias, Mariena Bullock, and Emily Reed. Photo courtesy of Kristina Fox, Myaamia Center.



Collaborative art created by Dani Tippmann and Claudia Hedeen. Photo courtesy of Kristina Fox, Myaamia Center.

MIAMI NATION NEWS
meenapiyankwi

Myaamia Publications – Vol. 20, No. 2, Fall 2026 – Section C – Community – Noošonke Siipionki Myaamionki

Local hunters' education training course conducted by tribal law enforcement

Michael Mullin III
Liuetenenant Miami Nation Police Department

On Saturday, October 3, 2026, Quapaw Marshals Fish and Wildlife Division and Miami Nation Police Department (MNPD) conducted a Hunters' Education course open to the public. The course was posted on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's website and was hosted at the Quapaw Nation Ki-Ho-Ta Multi-purpose room, 58150 E 66 Road, Miami Oklahoma.

The course was instructed by the lead instructor, Investigator Mike Mullin, Lieutenant Michael Mullin III, Quapaw Marshals Fish and Wildlife Agents Marshal David Dean, and Jason Arnold. The class involved Hunter Responsibility, Wildlife Conservation and Management, Firearms, Safety, Wildlife Identification, Game Care, Archery, Hunting with Muzzleloaders, Trapping, and Survival.

Nineteen students attended the course. The course lasted eight hours and finished with a final exam at the end of the day. Students participated during the course demonstrating safe firearm handling, fence crossing, and wildlife identification. All students received a prize at the end. The prizes were decided by drawing and included two ladder stands, a set of turkey decoys, one archery target (donated by Investigator Mike Mullin and Marshal David Dean), as well as hunter orange hats and beanies. There were other small items given out to students who interacted or answered questions asked during the training.



Local hunter safety education training course. Photo courtesy of Michael Mullin III, MNPD.



Law enforcement providing instruction on hunter safety. Photo courtesy of Michael Mullin III, MNPD.

All students passed the final exam and left the course with a good knowledge base that they will hopefully pass on to future generations.

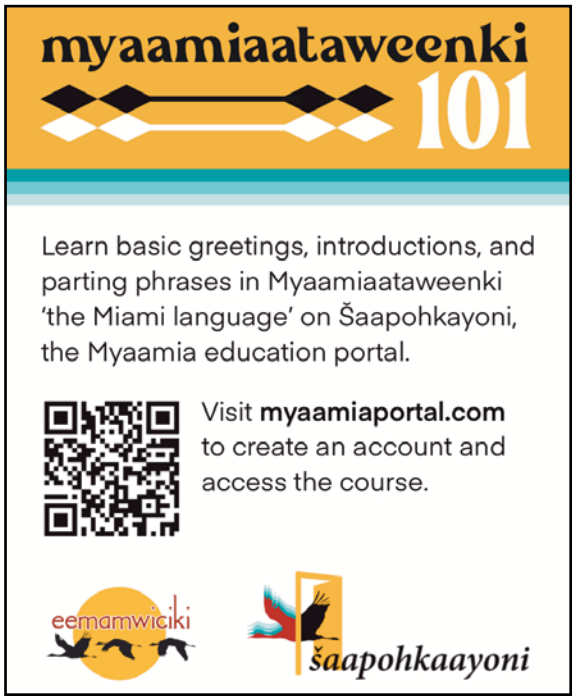
In conclusion, the Miami and Quapaw Nation worked together to educate the community in Wildlife Conservation, Safety, and responsible hunting practices. The students attending the course ranged from about ten years old to adults looking to experience the outdoors. The Miami Nation Police Department and Quapaw Marshals Office look forward to more opportunities to interact with our great community and will continue to work together in building good community relations.

TRIBAL CITIZEN IDENTIFICATION & ENROLLMENT CARDS

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Tribal Citizen/Member Identification and Enrollment Card card allows for the inclusion of a photograph of the Enrolled Citizen/Member and also allows the inclusion of a Myaamia name. Tribal citizens who wish to obtain the new card should contact Tera Hatley, Member Services Manager, at thatley@miamination.com or by phone at 918-541-1300.

New Eclipse Club Members
RECEIVE UP TO
$250 ECLIPSE CASH!
202 S Eight Tribe Trail, Miami, OK | PrairieMoonCasino.com
"Know your limit, play within it!" The Oklahoma Problem Gambling Helpline 1.800.522.4700 or 1.800.GAMBLER
PRAIRIE MOON CASINO
Come howl with us!







30th Annual Myaamia Winter Gathering

Jan. 28-30, 2027

This year's events will begin Thursday evening and run through Saturday evening. *Event times and locations may be subject to change. Please check miamination.com or the Miami Nation News & Events Facebook page for updates.*

Thursday evening: Opening reception at MHMA

Friday morning:
- Guest reception at 9 a.m. at Prairie Sun Event Center (PSEC)
- Mahkisina Meehkiintinki Challenge at PSEC

Friday Noon: Lunch at PSEC

Friday afternoon: Presentations
- Meghan Dorey on New MHMA Exhibit
- Steve Warren New Book Announcement
- George Ironstrack on Stomp/Social Dance Etiquette

Friday evening:
- Special presentation for Tribal Citizens and families - Myaamia Storytelling
- Dinner at Council House
- Storytelling

Saturday: Lunch at PSEC

Saturday evening:
- Gourd Dancing begins at 3
- Dinner break at 5:30
- Stomp and socials from 7pm on

LODGING INFORMATION

BUFFALO RUN HOTEL
8414 S. 580 Road, Miami, OK
918-542-2900

If you chose to book a room at Buffalo Run for Friday January 29th through Sunday the 31st, the Miami Nation Winter Gathering (Self-Pay) block booking id # is 771. Each guest will call in, and reservations will need to be made at that time. Any rooms still in this block a week before the event will be released.

DAYS INN
2120 East Steve Owens Blvd., Miami, OK
888-942-6215

COMFORT INN
509 Henley St, Miami, OK
918-542-7424

HAMPTON INN
115 S. Deacon Turner Road, Miami, OK
918-541-1500

MICRO-TEL
2015 E. Steve Owens Blvd., Miami, OK
918-540-3333



mahkisina meehkintiinki exhibition match

Join us at the Prairie Sun Event Center for an exciting mahkisina meehkintiinki 'moccasin game' exhibition match brought to you by the Cultural Resources Office on Friday, January 29th at 10:30 am.

Through a best of three competition, we will highlight how the game is played, how songs are used to bring excitement, and to distract the other team, and how gambling was and continues to be a part of our Myaamia culture.

Spectators will be able to take part by picking a team to cheer for and "placing bets" by purchasing team-specific raffle tickets. There will be big prizes for the winning team and their fans and smaller prizes for their competitors.

Come cheer us on and maybe win a prize!







waanantakhšinka *'Lying quietly'*



Josheph "Joe" Leonard
Feb. 17, 1948 – Sep. 19, 2026

Joseph "Joe" Wesley Leonard passed away on September 19, 2026, at the age of 78.

Born on February 17, 1948, in Webb City, Missouri, Joe was the son of Patricia Leonard and Floyd Leonard, former Chief of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. While serving in the United States Navy and stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, Joe met his wife, Etsuko. They married on June 1, 1976.

After earning a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas, Joe moved his family to Oxford, Ohio, in 1983, joining the faculty of Miami University's Department of Management. Oxford became Joe and Etsuko's permanent home.

As an enrolled citizen of the federally recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Joe remained deeply connected to his heritage. During his career, he introduced many students to the history, culture, community, and businesses of the Miami Tribe. Following his retirement from Miami University, he remained very active with the Tribe, serving on the Board of Directors of Miami Nation Enterprises and participating in community events.

Outside of his career, Joe was a musician at heart who loved listening to music, especially jazz, and playing the bass. He and Etsuko also shared a passion for staying active and were familiar faces at the local Rec Center.

Above all, Joe will be remembered for his profound kindness.

He is survived by his wife, Etsuko; his son, Wesley, of Riverside, California; and his daughter, Mika (Ryan), and granddaughter, Olive, of Denver, Colorado. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In keeping with Joe's wishes, there will be no funeral service.

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Woodland Country Manor for the exceptionally kind and considerate care they provided over the last two years of Joe's life.

MYAAMIA EDUCATION OFFICE
BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUND & SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Back-to-School Funds

New information coming soon!

You can now submit your application online using the new education portal! myaamiaportal.com

Scholarships

The Miami Nation is committed to supporting the education of Myaamia people of all ages through the funding of scholarships and continuing education programs.

The Myaamia Scholarship Selection Committee is made up of three Tribal members appointed by the Business Committee and given the responsibility of awarding the following scholarships on behalf of the General Council. Scholarships are awarded by the Committee through a blind application process.

All scholarship applications must be fully completed upon submission, or the application will not be considered.

Note: All scholarships offered by The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma are for enrolled members/citizens of the tribe only. Scholarships are available only for Spring and Fall semesters.

Scholarship Applications

Submit Fall Scholarship Application
Deadline October 1st.
Submit Spring Scholarship Application
Deadline April 1st.

PLEASE NOTE THAT LATE, INCOMPLETE OR UNSIGNED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. THE Myaamia EDUCATION OFFICE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURNING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS TO BE SIGNED OR COMPLETED.

Fall Scholarship Application:

VOCATIONAL OR TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP - DUE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility: Must be enrolled full time in a state-accredited vocational or trade school. Must have 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Award: $2000 per academic year (Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester, or if amount should be split between Fall or Spring.) Renewable annually with Fall Scholarship Application

Renewal Requirements: Maintain full-time status. Maintain 2.0 cumulative GPA. Submit Fall Scholarship Application each year, due October 1.

**All awards are subject to change per the Business Committee. If you have any questions please contact the Myaamia Education Office. Donya Williams: dwilliams@miamination.com, 918-541-2176*

Spring Scholarship Application:

***CASINO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AWARD - DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.**

Application Eligibility: Full-time, undergraduate status (enrolled in 12 credit hours) Must have 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Award: $2000 per academic year. Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester, or if amount should be split between Fall or Spring. Pays up to eight consecutive Fall/Spring semesters (4 years). Renewable annually. Must submit Spring Application, due April 1.

Renewal Requirements: Maintain full-time status (complete minimum 12 credit hours each semester). Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA. Submit Spring Application by April 1 of each year.

JOSEPHINE GOODBOO WATSON MEMORIAL BOOK SCHOLARSHIP - DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

(Established by the surviving descendants of tribal member Josephine Goodboo Watson).

Application Eligibility: Full-time graduate or undergraduate status. Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA. Submit Spring Application

Award: $500 per academic year. Renewable annually with Spring Application.

Renewal Requirements: Maintain full-time status (12 hrs/undergraduate; 6 hours/graduate). Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA. - Submit Spring Application each year.

TAX COMMISSION CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP - DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility: Full-time (enrolled in at least 12 hours) or part-time (enrolled in at least 6 hours) undergraduate status. Must have 2.5 GPA.

Award: Award amount changes; awarded each academic year. Awarded per academic year. Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester, or if amount should be split between Fall or Spring. Renewable annually.

Renewal Requirements: Maintain full-time (12 hours) or part-time status (at least six hours). Maintain 2.5 cumulative GPA. Submit Spring Application each year.

CRANE AWARD - DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility: Graduate or post-graduate student

Award: $2000 per academic year (Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester, or if amount should be split between Fall or Spring.)

Renewal Requirements: Renewable annually with Spring Scholarship Application.

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP - DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility: Full-time undergraduate status, 2.5 cumulative GPA (high school or college, whichever is most recent). Must be 5 years since completion of last semester of high school or college.

Award: $2000 per academic year (Student must advise school if full amount should be applied to Fall semester, or if amount should be split between Fall or Spring.)

Renewal Requirements: Non-renewable.

FRESH START SCHOLARSHIP - DUE APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.

Application Eligibility: Freshman (apply senior year of high school) This scholarship is for a student that does not carry a 2.5 GPA which is a requirement for all other Miami Tribe of Oklahoma scholarships on the Spring application. Must have 2.0-2.4 cumulative GPA.

Award: $400, one-time award, Fall semester

Renewal Requirements: Non-renewable

NOTICE! ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED AND IN OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE!



The MHMA is pleased to announce that the 2027 Eugene Brown Memorial Art Show will be held June 21-August 27, 2027!

The theme this year will be ašiihkiwi neehi kiišikwi, earth and sky.

Though entries aren't required to be tied to the annual theme, we are encouraging all artists to explore their relationship to the earth and sky around them and represent that through art!

Applications will be opened in February and are due May 17. Applications are open to any tribal citizen or direct family member at least 7 years old. Watch the MHMA facebook page and the tribal website for more information, or email Meghan Dorey at mdorey@miamination.com.

Entries are accepted in eight categories:

- Drawing, painting, and print-making
- Photography and digital graphics
- Mixed media and diversified arts
- Textiles, regalia and clothing
- Jewelry and accessories
- Customary cultural items
- Sculpture
- Performance and creative writing

New exhibit to open at Myaamia Heritage Museum & Archive

As part of the events of Winter Gathering 2027, MHMA will unveil a new exhibit: 'Tipeelintiyankwi: we govern ourselves.'

Throughout history, Myaamia leaders have strengthened the community by embodying shared community values, ensuring the survival and continuity of the Myaamia people across generations. This exhibit examines the values of Myaamia leadership and how these values lead to strong governance.

MHMA Information: miamination.com/mhma

Featured items included in the exhibit are a peace medal affiliated with Akima Mihšihkinaahkwa (Chief Little Turtle) and the Treaty of Greenville (1795), a feather headdress previously owned by Chief Harley Palmer, and a silver cup owned by Akima Pinšiwa (Chief Jean B. Richardville).

The exhibit will open with a reception on January 28, 2027 and remain open through the year. We look forward to seeing you at Winter Gathering!

Museum Address: 28 N Main St, Miami, OK 74354

MIAMI NATION NEWS
myaamia nipwaayonikaani

Myaamia Publications–Vol. 20, No. 2, Fall 2026–Section D–Myaamia Center–Noošonke Siipionki Myaamionki

The Myaamia Heritage Program at Miami University

Myaami Center & Miami University
Originally published at: miamioh.edu/miami-tribe-relations/myaamia-students/myaamia-heritage-award-program.html



Myaamia students from Miami University, Fall 2026. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

The Myaamia Heritage Award Program is designed to be a full (four-year) undergraduate college experience for enrolled citizens of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma who meet all entrance requirements for admission to Miami University and enroll as Oxford campus students.

The Myaamia Heritage Award Program includes the Heritage Award (a waiver of instructional fees available for up to eight semesters) and educational support from the Heritage Program Coordinator and Myaamia Center staff.

Students in the Myaamia Heritage Award Program are required to maintain the following:

- Enrollment in at least 12 credit hours
- A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 after the end of the freshman year
- A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 at the end of every other year
- Meet with the Myaamia Heritage Program Coordinator at least once per semester
- Complete the Myaamia Heritage Course each semester

Potential Myaamia applicants must apply to the University in the same manner as any other prospective Miami University student, including meeting the standard admission requirements. Contact the Director of Miami Tribe Relations, Kara Strass, to learn more about this award program.

Please note: Course fees are not covered by the Heritage Award Program.

Heritage Classes

Students in the Myaamia Heritage Award Program are required to participate in and successfully complete eight semesters of one-credit courses, called Heritage classes.

These classes focus on themes about the Miami Tribe:

- Ecological perspectives and history
- Language and culture
- Contemporary tribal issues
- The senior year is a two-semester senior project

These classes assure that the Myaamia students who attend Miami University have an opportunity to expand their knowledge of tribal history, language, and culture. The goal is for the Heritage classes to spark a deep interest and investment in the Miami Tribe that results in the student's commitment to remain a lifelong, active participant of the Tribal community.

The Heritage class meets weekly, providing an oppor-

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tunity for Myaamia students to maintain their connection with one another. Although the total membership of the Miami Tribe community is small (around 6,000 people) and dispersed throughout the United States, Heritage classes allow Myaamia students to learn about the ways in which they are related to each other and develop a small Tribal community on campus.

Origins of the Program

Fundraising efforts for a scholarship for Myaamia students began early in the relationship between the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma (MTO) and Miami University. Initially called the American Heritage Scholarship during the 1973-74 academic year, the local Church Women United helped fund this scholarship. By February 1974 a full description of the American Heritage Scholarship existed, seeking to recruit Native American students and, if possible, award the scholarship to a Miami Indian.

Despite the existence of this scholarship, the University struggled at first to recruit Myaamia students. In the mid-1970s, the University sent announcements about scholarship possibilities to the MTO community and Chief Leonard shared the information with other local Oklahoma tribes. None of these efforts produced Native applicants. In 1978-79, a Wampanoag Tribe member from Massachusetts enrolled at Miami and became the first recipient of the American Heritage Scholarship. By the late 1980s, additional eligible students were receiving $1,000 awards, but no record is available of exactly who those students were or what, if any, tribal affiliation they had.

Eventually, Dr. Myrtis Powell (Miami University Vice President for Student Affairs, 1989-2002) helped establish the first parameters for the financial assistance available to eligible Miami Tribe members. In a letter to Chief Floyd Leonard in September 1990, Dr. Powell promised to "provide tuition waiver for any member of the Miami Tribe who meets program requirements and is accepted for admission to the University." This tuition waiver was eventually renamed and included in the Myaamia Heritage Award Program. The first Myaamia students enrolled for the 1991-92 academic year.

Myaamia Holiday Menu

Haley Shea

With the launch of the nahi miiciona, nahi weehsininki 'Proper Foods, Proper Diet' recipe collection on Šaapohkaayoni, we wanted to share our recommendations for a full Myaamia dinner menu for the holidays. The goal of this holiday menu is to illustrate the versatility of the collection, as it can be used to put together a full multi-course meal or simply to pick and choose single recipes that fit your goals for a given meal.

One of the lasting impacts of the intergenerational trauma faced by our community is a disconnection from our food systems and the ability to grow, cultivate, and prepare foods as a community. While we are still working toward being able to do that, one way we can affirm and express our identity is through eating foods that are identifiably Myaamia. This nahi miiciona, nahi weehsininki recipe collection is intended to do just that. We all have to eat every single day, and mealtimes can become yet another way Myaamia knowledge can find its way into our daily lives.



Acorn squash with maple glaze. Photo by Karen Baldwim, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

In particular, when we gather for holidays, it is often done in a relational manner. We come together to each bring a different dish or maybe even cook together as a larger extended family network. This notion of providing food for the whole family or community is a way that we are able to live through our values and

Continued on pg 3D >>



Community garden at Peehkahkionki, the Miami Tribe's trust land in Indiana. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.



Persimmons are a fruit indigenous to Myaamionki 'the Myaamia homelands.' Photo by Karen Baldwim, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

<< Continued from pg 2D

care for one another. We can add another layer by incorporating Myaamia ingredients into that process, and have both nutritious and delicious foods that help us to connect over our Myaamia identity. Even if you're not gathering with other Myaamiaki 'Myaamia people', you can share this piece of your identity with others during the holiday season!

Below is the curated menu using recipes from our collection that would be great to include on your family's table. If you do end up using some (or all!) of the menu, we'd love to see how they turned out! Please take a few photos and tag @Eemamwiciki on Facebook and Instagram to share your meals with the community.

Myaamia Holiday Menu Appetizers: - Caramelized Onion & White Bean Dip - Hominy Hummus Main Dishes: - Hominy Soup - Sassafras Brined Pork Loin Salad: -Roasted Squash Salad -Hominy Salad Sides: - Maple Roasted Sweet Potatoes - Maple Glazed Acorn Squash Breads: - Cornbread - Pumpkin Biscuits Desserts: - Sweet Potato Spoon Bread with Caramel Pecan Topping - Persimmon Pudding

If you're interested in preparing Myaamia foods, consult the holiday menu and use Šaapohkaayoni to access the recipes themselves. To access the recipe collection, create an account on Šaapohkaayoni, the Myaamia education portal, and add the collection titled "nahi miiciona nahi weehsininki: Proper Foods, Proper Diet." You can then search for the desired recipes that you want to include in your family's holiday menu!



Graphic by Megan Sekulich, Myaamia Center

Myaamia Center Donation to Cultural Resources Extension Office

Staff Article

The Office of Assessment and Evaluation (OAE) at the Myaamia Center has been working on a project called nahi miiciona, nahi weehsininki 'Proper Foods, Proper Diet' aimed at connecting tribal citizens with recipes using traditional myaamia foods. The project is an extension of a larger Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant that enabled the OAE to develop a model of wellbeing.

These recipes can be found as a collection within šaapohkaayoni, the community education portal, and shares photos, step-by-step directions, language, cultural and nutritional information about all of the recipes included in the collection. It is organized both by recipe type (entree, breads, salads, etc.) and by nutritional categories (low carbohydrate, high fiber, etc.) in order to serve community nutrition needs.



Several women gather in the kitchen at the CREO. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

The process of creating a collection of this nature, including fully produced photographs of each dish requires a significant amount of cooking, which has been done entirely by Haley Shea and Gretchen Spenn with support and photography by Karen Baldwin. Some of the funds from the grant were devoted to purchasing equipment necessary for this production process.



Kitchen appliances donated to the kitchen at the CREO for the nahi miiciona, nahi weehsininki project. Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center.

Examples of the types of things purchased for this project included props to stage the food photographs (cutting boards, napkins, flatware), cooking equipment to prepare foods (bakeware, pans, and knives), and some practical equipment to make large scale food preparation easier (carts and warming mats). All of this equipment was donated to the CREO in Fort Wayne, Indiana as a means of facilitating ongoing production of this project. We thank the Tribe and the CREO staff for allowing us to use their space for this project.

MIAMI NATION NEWS
eemamwiciki

Myaamia Publications – Vol. 20, No. 2, Fall 2026 – Section E – Eemamwiciki – Noošonke Siipionki Myaamionki

taaniši weenswiyani? Learning to Introduce Yourself in Myaamiataaweenki

Kristina Fox & Hunter Lockwood
Myaamia Center Staff

As you might have seen from posts in previous years, or as you may know from your own experience as a student here, new students go through a pre-semester orientation program which includes a short lesson that teaches students how to introduce themselves and say where they're from in Myaamiaataweenki 'the Miami language'.



Myaamia community member teaches Myaamiaataweenki.
Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Language Learning

Here's a sneak preview of that language lesson, which includes a few crucial words that you can use whether you're getting ready to come to campus for the first time, or if you just want to learn more Myaamiaataweenki!

Introduction Script

Here are the key words and phrases you will use in this lesson:

aya 'Hello! Hi!'
weenswiaani 'I am named...'
tipeewe neeyolaani 'It is good to see you'
eeminootiaani 'I am from the town of...'
niila myaamia 'I am a Myaamia person'
niila myaamiihkwia 'I am a Myaamia woman'
teepahki 'It is enough, sufficient, good'

This mini-lesson requires two participants. We'll use Adeline and William as example names and Oxford and Fort Wayne as example places in the script below. When you give it a try, make sure you replace the bold pieces of information to fit you and your partner! We encourage everyone to use both your Myaamia name (if you have one) and your English name in this exercise.

Person 1: aya, Adeline weenswiaani
Person 2: aya Adeline tipeewe neeyolaani. William weenswiaani
Person 1: tipeewe neeyolaani William. eeminootiaani Fort Wayne. niila myaamiihkwia
Person 2: teepahki. eeminootiaani Oxford. niila myaamia
Person 1: teepahki

And that's it! Now you know how to introduce yourself in the Myaamia language.

Continued on pg 2E >>

<< Continued from pg 1E

More Resources

We hope to hear you using these words whenever you need to introduce yourself to another Myaamia person on OR off-campus!

If you want to know more about what each word means and how to pronounce it, make sure to check out the dictionary on the web, or install it as an app on your phone or mobile device! And if you want even more ways to greet your friends and introduce yourself, check out the Myaamiaataweenki 101 collection on šaapohkaayoni!



nahineeko *'You sing!'*

You can find sing-along videos by scanning the QR code or visiting *aacimotaatiiyankwi.org/education/education-resources/*

Numbers Song

Sang to the tune of "This Old Man"

nkoti	one
niišwi	two
nihswi	three
niiwi	four
yaalanwi	five
kaakaathswi	six
swaahteethswi	seven
palaani	eight
nkotimeneehki	nine
mataathswi	ten

aya aya Song

Sang to the tune of "Are You Sleeping? (Brother John)"

aya aya!
tipeewe neeyolaani
peehki-kiišihkahki
teepahki
wiicinaakiitaawi!

Hello!
It's good to see you
It's a good day
It is good
Let's sing together!

myaamia kiilhswaakani *'myaamia lunar calendar'*



ayaapeensa kiilhswa – November 11th - December 11th, 2026

This month is named for the moohswa 'White-Tailed Deer'.

The younger males often lose their antlers during this month.

The breeding cycle for moohswa starts at this time.



ayaapia kiilhswa – December 12th, 2026 - January 9th, 2027

This month is named for the moohswa 'White-Tailed Deer'.

The older males often lose their antlers during this month.

The breeding cycle for moohsooki continues and comes to a close during this month.



mahkwa kiilhswa – January 10th - Februaury 8th, 2027

This is a month named for mahkwa 'American black bear.'

Mature females give birth during this month.

Mahkwa is an important character in Myaamia aalhsoohkaana 'winter stories.'

weehki-kihkatwe *'new year'*



maahkoonsa kiilhswa – February 9th - March 9th, 2027

This month is also named after the American black bear.

Mahkoonsaki 'young black bears' leave the den during this month.

Myaamia weehki-kihkatwe 'Myaamia new year' is always the first day of this month.

MYAAMIA COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Myaamia citizens and families have many language and cultural education resources available online.

The following sites regularly post videos, photos, and current news bites from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the Myaamia Center at Miami University.

Miami Nation Website	*www.miamination.com*
Miami Nation Gift Shop	*myaamiagifts.square.site*
MYAAMIAKI Private Facebook Group	
Miami Nation News & Events Facebook Page	*facebook.com/myaamiaki*
Eemamwiciki Facebook & Instagram	*facebook.com/Eemamwiciki*
Myaamia Center	*miamioh.edu/centers-institutes/myaamia-center* Facebook & Instagram
AATOTANTAAWI "Let's Talk About It" Private Facebook Group	
AACIMOTAATIIYANKWI Myaamia Community Blog	*aacimotaatiiyankwi.org*
KAAKISITOONKIA MHMA Online Archive	*kaakisitoonkia.org*
ILDA Myaamia Online Dictionary	*mc.miamioh.edu/ilda-myaamia/dictionary*
ŠAAPOHKAAYONI Myaamia Education Portal	*mc.miamioh.edu/eduportal*



Upcoming Myaamia Events

Take a look at next year's coming events!

Event dates and locations may be subject to change. Please check miamination.com or the Miami Nation News & Events Facebook page for updates.



MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

2027 EVENTS

IN NOOŠONKE SIIPIONKI 'MIAMI, OK' & KIIHKAYONKI 'FORT WAYNE, IN'

THE MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
3410 P St. NW, MIAMI, OK 74354
(918) 325-1500 | MIAMINATION.COM

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO TRIBAL MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES.

Please keep for easy reference!
Events are subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date information please visit miamination.com/events or call (918) 541-1300.

You can also subscribe to text reminders for our events by texting "JOIN" to (918) 843-3857 or by scanning the QR code.

Myaamia Winter Gathering
January 29-30, 2027 noošonke siipionki 'Miami, OK'
Join us for the 29th year of celebrating our culture with dance, presentations, and winter storytelling.

WIIYAAKITEEHEELO WEEHKI-KIHKATWE HAPPY MYAAMIA NEW YEAR
February 20 11am kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
February 27 5pm noošonke siipionki 'Miami, OK'
This event celebrates the myaamia lunar new year! Learn, play, and win prizes!

SPROUT ABOUT
April 3 11am kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
Come see what Sprouts About the CREO property and share your own seeds!

pakitahantaawi neehi wiihsinitaawi! 'Let's play lacrosse & eat!'
April 10 11am noošonke siipionki 'Miami, OK'
Spring has sprung and that means lacrosse season has begun!

LaCrosse into Spring
May 22 11am kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
We cross into spring at the CREO, with a community lacrosse game!

A week of eemamwiciki SUMMER PROGRAMS OKLA.
June 14-18 noošonke siipionki 'Miami, OK'
We have something for all ages 6-102! Please join us for a week of immersive cultural education and fun in our camp-style summer programs in Oklahoma.

paaphsaahka niipinwiki Mid-Summer Moon Dinner
June 18 5pm noošonke siipionki 'Miami, OK'
Join us for this mid-summer celebration with a community meal!

National Gathering Week & ANNUAL MEETING
June 23-26 noošonke siipionki 'Miami, OK'
This is our largest tribal event each year carrying cultural and political significance, with workshops, games, presentations, the Annual Meeting with Tribal leadership, community meals, and dances.

A week of eemamwiciki SUMMER PROGRAMS IND.
July 12-16 kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
Please join us in Indiana, for another week of immersive cultural education!

kiišiinkwia kiilhswa Green Corn Moon Dinner
July 16 5pm kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
Join us during this mid-summer celebration and enjoying the CREO property!

SummerFest
August 7 11am noošonke siipionki 'Miami, OK'
Celebrate the end of summer at this carnival-style event! Ride rides, play myaamia games, and get a backpack of school supplies! ***Registration required***.

Fall GATHERING
September 11 11am kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
September 18 11am myaamionki waapankiaakamionki 'Homelands, KS'
Hear Tribal Leadership update the community in an informative, fun-filled day!

Harvest Bloom
October 9 11am kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
Join us in our harvest, swapping seeds, and grilling out over the fire!

SASQUASH SEED SWAP & CHILI COOKOFF
October 16 11am kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
Join us in painting pumpkins, swapping seeds, and cooking chili for the cook-off!

BeaverDayz
November 13 11am kiihkayonki 'Fort Wayne, IN'
Join us in a cultural expereince and culinary delicacy at our annual beaver roast!

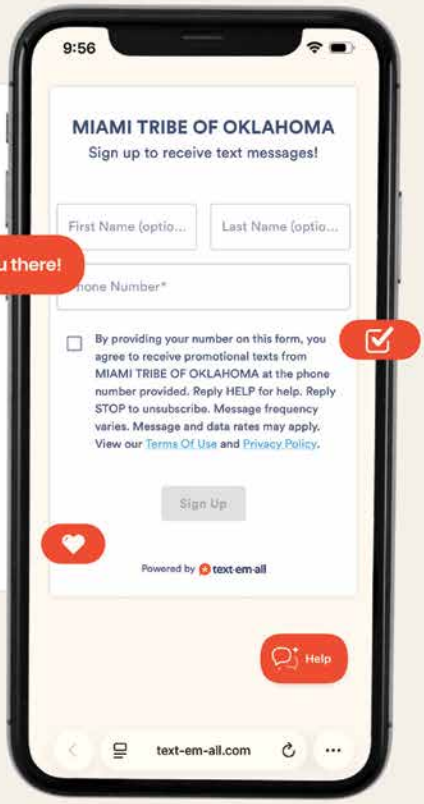
text-em-all | CULTURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

never miss an event

NOW SENDING TEXT REMINDERS

Have MTO cultural event reminders sent straight to your phone!

Be the first to know by signing up for our event invites, news, and updates.*



Enter your name and phone number into our **sign up form** by scanning the QR Code or by texting "**JOIN**" to (918) 843-3857.

**Events are subject to change without notice.*

MIAMI NATION NEWS