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Fiddle dance demonstration set for American Indian Festival of Words

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Posted: Saturday, March 7, 2015 12:00 am

By RITA SHERROW World Scene Writer | 0 comments

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The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives is hosting a fiddle dance demonstration Saturday.

The demonstration and the festival, which are free and open to the public, will be held at 12:45 p.m. at the American Indian Festival of Words at Tulsa's Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

The fiddle dance began in the MCN homelands of the southeastern U.S., according to press information. The Muscogee (Creek) people were influenced by Irish and Scottish culture and adopted some of their cultural practices.

The dances, social gatherings held mainly during the winter months for the Muscogee (Creek) people, were widely attended from the 1800s up to the 1970s.

The tradition, which has become dormant over the past 30 years, is being revived by the MCN Cultural Center and Archives and community leaders.

"It is important to embrace every aspect of our Muscogee (Creek) culture from our ceremonial and church activities to our timeless social gatherings such as the fiddle dance," said CCA Interim Director Justin Giles. "The fiddle dance highlights a social gathering from our grandparents' past."

A fiddler and a percussionist or stick player provide musical accompaniment for the dancers.

"The practice is similar to a square dance or a hoedown done in the Mvskoke way," Giles said in a press statement.

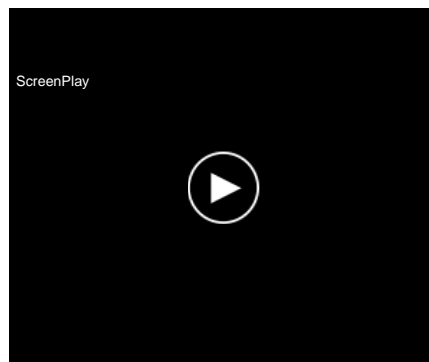
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