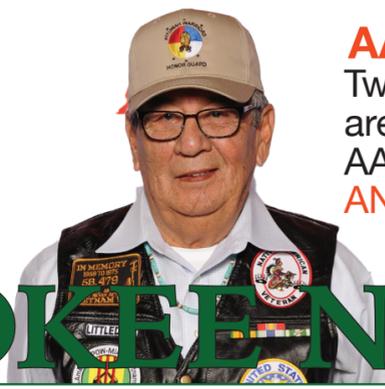


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AARP HONORS
Two UKB members are honored by AARP Oklahoma.
ANI GIDUWAGI, 7

GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

YSG GWY AOP Official News Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma January 2023

Gaming case against UKB nixed

A federal judge dismisses a compact lawsuit against the United Keetoowah Band.

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. – It was in August 2020 when two Oklahoma tribes filed a federal lawsuit against them over the legality of gaming compacts they signed with the governor. Recently, a U.S. district judge dismissed this lawsuit filed against the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians and the Kialegee Tribal Town.

U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Kelly granted the motions for dismissal of the suit filed by Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation, the Chickasaw Nation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The lawsuit was over the Class III gaming compacts signed with Gov. Kevin Stitt.

According to Cherokee Phoenix, the Cherokee Nation Office of the Attorney General has announced no plans to appeal the decision.

UKB Attorney General Klint Cowan commented, “The Cherokee Nation and other plaintiff tribes clearly lacked standing to bring this case against UKB. We have been pointing that out since the case was filed. We are pleased that the judge has agreed with us and dismissed

SEE CASE, PAGE 2



Shown is the former UKB Casino, which once stood by the Tahlequah Walmart. ARCHIVE



Office of Child Care administrators, United Keetoowah Band administration officials and district representatives, along with MASKA representatives, break ground on the UKB's new Early Childhood Development Center on Nov. 28 in Stilwell. PHOTOS BY LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

A new United Keetoowah Band Child Care Center in Stilwell is expected to be completed by the end of summer.

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

STILWELL – On Nov. 28, the Office of Child Care administrators, UKB tribal administration and district representatives, along with MASKA representatives, came together in celebration of a groundbreaking ceremony for the new child care center in Stilwell.

Currently, UKB Office of Child Care has one center in Tahlequah at the UKB Complex, the Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center. The Henry Lee, which was established in June 2006, brings in children from 6 weeks to 4 years of age. It is a mission-minded center providing quality, worry-free, educational child care for community children.

After one consultation with local, tribal and federal partners, it was decided that a new child care center would be beneficial for families in the Stilwell area.

Christie Kirk, director of UKB Child Care Programs, announced that the UKB Office of Child Care would break ground on its new child care facility in Stilwell. The groundbreaking ceremony was held at the

previous UKB Stilwell sub-office at 83531 S. 4700 Road

UKB tribal administration and employees joined in the ceremony to celebrate.

“It was a historical day for us,” Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche said. “It’s a much-needed service in the Stilwell area. We’ve been looking to expand for a while, Christie and the Army Corps of Engineers have a great partnership.”

When Frankie Still, Flint District representative, came on Council, he said it was one of his plans to bring in a child care center for the area. The whole process of building one in Stilwell took about two years, said Wacoche.

Construction of the new child care facility is targeted for completion at the end of summer 2023. The facility will be approximately 7,500 square feet, with four classrooms, a resource room, office spaces with a conference/training room and a modern kitchen. The intent of the UKB Office of Child Care is to construct a facility that will serve 58 children and their families at maximum capacity.

UKB names Holland its U.S. House delegate

Tribal member Victoria “Tori” Holland strives to represent the Cherokee people as the congressional delegate.

BY STAFF REPORTS

TAHLEQUAH – It’s been 237 years since the Treaty of Hopewell was signed by the Cherokee people with the United States government promising the Cherokee a delegate seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The position guaranteed in that treaty, and reaffirmed in the 1835 Treaty of Hopewell, grants the historic Cherokee Nation a non-voting delegate seat. As a successor-in-interest to both treaties, the United Keetoowah Band has put forward an accomplished tribal lawyer and UKB member, Victoria “Tori” Holland.

Born and raised in Tahlequah, Holland grew up in the heart of the Oklahoma Cherokee Reservation. While attending Northeastern State University she began working for the UKB. It was there she discovered her passion for helping tribes. After graduating with her bachelor’s degree, she began working for the UKB full time in various departments.

While employed with the UKB, the UKB was fighting to maintain a significant revenue source – its casino – which was entwined in a legal dispute. This legal battle is what inspired Holland to go to law school so she could help not only her tribe, but other tribes similarly situated. She graduated from the University College of Law with her juris doctorate and certifications in Native



Victoria “Tori” Holland

SEE DELEGATE, PAGE 2

UKB Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale deemed successful

A raffle raises funds for the tribe’s Tradition Keepers group.

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Marketing Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – The UKB Museum Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale featuring the Tradition Keepers drew a steady stream of more than 100 visitors during the day with peak times being between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 10. Tradition Keepers participating in the sale were Marcella Foreman, Tanisa Foreman, Joan Foreman, Matt Girty, Carrie Grayson, Charlotte Wolfe and Sharon Benoit. Other tribal artisans also had booths at the sale.

Art sold varied from smaller items such as jewelry and coasters, Christmas decorations, baskets, flutes, canes, aprons, moccasins, beadwork, head bands and earrings. Also sold were ribbon shirts and skirts, and stone sculptures.

The smell of cinnamon and pumpkin bread filled the air and guests enjoyed complimentary refreshments, which also included hand-painted Christmas cookies, apple cider and coffee. Children in attendance also got to make a Christmas ornament, refrigerator magnet or pinch pot.

“We appreciate the support of our tribal members,

employees and people in the community,” said Museum Assistant Director Barbara Girty Foster. “We also appreciate Lou Kelly and Lakes Country Radio, who did a live remote today. We had numerous people come in and say they heard it on the radio.”

The Tradition Keepers donated 21 items that they gave away in raffle drawings at the end of the day. You did not have to be present to win. Tickets were \$1 each. Lucky winners walked away with items valued between \$20 and \$200. Items were given away separately, and winners were contacted that evening.

Museum Director Ernestine Berry said she was pleased with the sale and happy that all exhibitors sold merchandise. “It was good first attempt. We will be looking forward to the second annual UKB Museum Christmas Arts & Crafts sale next year. However, we still have many beautiful hand-crafted items for sale in our gift shop and we are constantly adding new merchandise.”

The UKB John Hair Cultural Center and Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding Keetoowah art and artisans, call 918-871-2866.



UKB Tradition Keepers Marcella and Joan Foreman sell their beadwork, baskets and moccasins during the UKB Museum Christmas Arts and Crafts Sale. COURTESY



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Caleb Grimm-Smith
918-791-8107



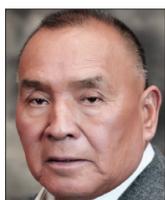
Flint Dist.
Frankie Still
918-507-1822



Goingsnake Dist.
Willie Christie
918-822-3803



Illinois Dist.
Peggy Girty
918-457-7067



Saline Dist.
Charles Smoke
918-457-7071



Sequoyah Dist.
Junior Catron
918-315-0970



Tahlequah Dist.
Alvin Hicks
918-931-1462

Hoping for progress with feds in 2023

Gi du wa, go wh la, Keetoowah Paper, Happy New Year everyone. I hope your Christmas and New Year was filled with activities and good visits with family and friends.

It was a grand year in 2022 as Assistant Secretary of Interior Bryan Newland visited the United Keetoowah Band's grounds early in the year. We look forward to working with the folks from the Interior in remedying our lack of education and other self-governance funds. The initial meeting led to other important meetings, including our search for additional funding for our Lighthorse operations, courts and public safety. Expansions in all areas had to happen due to the scope of the McGirt ruling. The McGirt decision is important to the UKB as it rules that no tribal reservation was diminished, as Congress can create reservations and only Congress the remove reservations. The McGirt decision along with the 76-acre social program parcel being placed in trust adds key elements in our application for the 2.63-acre gaming parcel. We are working on placing other land parcels in trust as well.

Our 2.63-acre casino parcel land in trust was rescinded and we have since reapplied. In doing so, the solicitor general of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is reviewing our position. We are successors-in-interest to the historic Cherokee Nation. We forwarded historical



Chief's Corner

JOE BUNCH
Principal Chief
jbunch@ukb-nsn.gov

information of the Keetoowahs on Nov. 11 and are waiting on the outcome. This process is in addition to former BIA Assistant Secretary Larry Echo Hawk citing the UKB as a successor-in-interest of the historical Cherokee Nation. The former assistant secretary, a few days after issuing his opinion and after fierce pleading/lobbying, rescinded his successor-in-interest's determination. We pray for the opinion to be in UKB favor.

We also welcomed the secretary of Indian Health Service, Rosland Tso, to the UKB Grounds for a meeting on Dec. 21. Our meeting focused on our need for our own Indian health center and providers. We have heard numerous times that our tribal members were turned down at the local IHS-funded hospital and clinics. In the past, we had the regional director on our grounds, but not the national director. During our recent Tri-Council meeting, the UKB supported and sponsored her nomination as IHS secretary.

Our trip to Washington, D.C., was

to introduce our House Representative Delegate Torrie Holland, attorney for the UKB administration, UKB prosecutor, former Miss Keetoowah, tribal member and prosecutor for other tribes in Oklahoma. The House of Representatives delegate seat stems from 1785, 1835 and 1866 treaties that allow Cherokees to have a non-voting seat in the House of Representatives. We believe this was meant for all federally recognized Cherokee tribes since we were together during the writing of treaties. We also believe Congress should do this right by either placing the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the UKB delegate in the House of representatives or place no delegate at all. The historic Cherokee Nation ceased to exist after the last Dawes enrollee walked on. The successor-in-interest are the three federally recognized Cherokee tribes. Together they make up the historical Cherokee Nation. We each have separate and distinct cultures and histories. One tribe does not speak for the other tribes.

We have a lot to be thankful for. We have a lot going on. We look forward in visiting in the new year about our progress. If you have any questions, please contact your tribal representative or call any of the officers. Wa do and God bless the United Keetoowah Band in the new year.

DELEGATE: The UKB wants equal treatment.

FROM PAGE 1

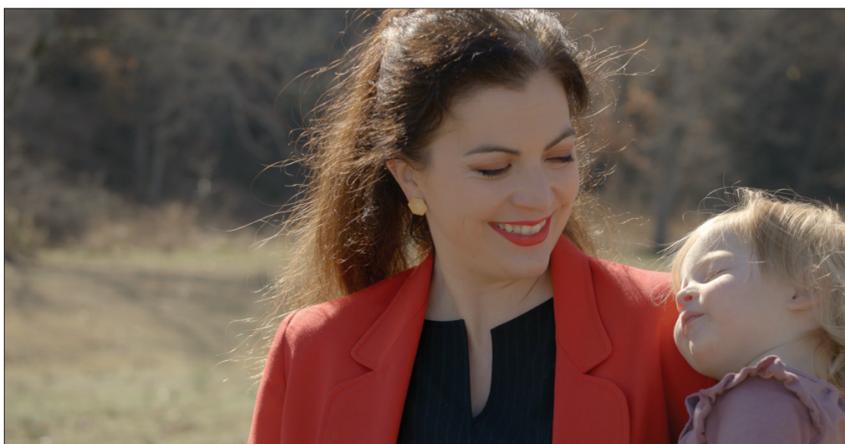
American law and peacemaking.

Upon graduation and passing the bar exam, she began working at Devol and Associates. In her time with the firm, she has worked on all things tribal. Through the firm, Holland has served as a deputy attorney general for several tribes in Oklahoma, regularly reviews gaming contracts, gaming regulations, drafts tribal codes, represents tribes in contract negotiations and provides as general counsel. Holland understands the needs of the UKB, and she understands the wide variety and nuance that are the tribes within the borders of the United States.

Since the UKB's appointment of Holland several years ago, the tribe has been advocating to the House of Representatives to seat her. But not without facing a challenging road. The UKB has proposed a delegate to Congress, so has the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma – both with equal claim to a delegate seat.

All three present-day tribes of the Cherokee people share the same treaty and have equal right to a Congressional delegate. The UKB is asking Congress to respect the original treaty from 1785 and treat all three tribes of the Cherokee people the same, as siblings.

The tribe advocates that if Congress seats the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's proposed delegate, it must also seat the UKB's proposed delegate. If it doesn't



United Keetoowah Band tribal member and nominated U.S. House delegate Victoria "Tori" Holland has always put others before herself. COURTESY

seat the UKB's delegate, it shouldn't seat anyone.

"The UKB is a successor-in-interest to all the Cherokee tribes, just like the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the Eastern Band of Cherokee," said Holland, who the UKB has named as its Congressional delegate. "Therefore, any treaty promise made to the Cherokee people should be given equally to all Cherokee tribes. Therefore, if Congress seats one delegate, it should seat all Cherokee delegates."

This many years later, it's time for Congress to finally keep its promise, to the whole Cherokee people, made more than

200 years ago, tribal officials said. They added that the tribe asks Congress to do it the right way, to do it fairly, by seating the whole of the Cherokee's delegates, or not to seat anyone.

Officials said there is interest on Capitol Hill to advance the debate, and the tribe is engaged on several levels to ensure that members of Congress in Washington, D.C., hear the voice of the UKB people. Officials added that they want Congress to understand that if the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's proposed delegate is seated, so must Holland be seated. It's time for Congress to keep its promise, they said.

CASE: Four tribes have no standing to challenge.

FROM PAGE 1

the UKB from the case."

Kelly ruled four Oklahoma tribes, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Kialegee Tribal Town, Comanche Nation and Oteo-Missouria Nations that filed the lawsuit had no standing to challenge gaming compacts approved between the tribes and Stitt.

On another note, the plaintiff tribes claimed those compacts were illegal

and they did not follow the Oklahoma compacting legal process. In two separate rulings the Oklahoma Supreme Court backed those claims.

However, the U.S. Department of Interior approved the compacts through "inaction," a provision that permits gaming deals to take effect without the secretary of Interior taking any action on the issue for 45 days and publication in the Federal Register. Under the gaming compacts new aspects permitted sports

betting for the Comanche and Oteo-Missouria tribes.

In the ruling, Kelly said the four tribes did not have standing to challenge the compacts involving the UKB and Kialegee because they do not operate casinos.

"I'm glad that the UKB has been dismissed from this suit," UKB Attorney General Victoria Proctor added. "We will continue to explore gaming activities and other economic development opportunities for the tribe."

THE UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND'S OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
JAN. 2 FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY &
JAN. 16 FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

Giduwa Cherokee News
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CHRISTMAS PARADING AROUND TOWNS



Echota Behavioral Health participated in the Tahlequah Christmas Parade. PHOTOS BY LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



UKB Chief Joe Bunch, right, and Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche, second from right, appear in a UKB float in the Tahlequah Christmas Parade.



UKB Cooweescoowee District Rep. Cliff Wofford and Miss Keetoowah attend the Tulsa Christmas Parade. This was the first time the UKB was represented in the parade.



UKB Tribal Lighthorse was able to send one of its officers to the Tulsa Christmas Parade to help represent the tribe.

To feed or not to feed birds in cold weather

Providing food in feeders helps keep birds' caloric-intake high, supporting them during bouts of brutally cold weather.

NEWSUSA – It's an age-old question – to feed or not to feed birds in fall and winter. Some people believe that feeding wild birds can cause more harm than good, like preventing timely migrations, or causing birds to depend on feeders rather than foraging food. The truth is these are myths and feeding birds is beneficial to their well-being. Birds migrate regardless of seed in feeders. It's estimated that wild birds only get 25% of food from feeders, the rest is naturally sourced, so full feeders don't keep birds from migrating. Instead, several triggers urge birds to migrate such as changes in nesting locations as trees lose leaves, less natural foods, insect decline, winds, temperature drop and day length. As days grow shorter, many birds get internally restless and head south, taking advantage of plentiful natural foods, and stocked feeders to fuel their flight.

During cold weather, resident birds that don't migrate need extra calories to stay warm as they burn energy keeping body temperatures up when temperatures drop. As natural resources decline, resident birds expend much energy searching for food. Providing supplemental food at feeders helps keep birds' caloric-intake high, supporting them during bouts of brutally cold weather.

In wintry weather, birds can use up to 75% of their fat stores per night. Studies show birds with regular access to feeders are healthier, have better feather growth, disease resistance and more successful reproduction. The right bird feed and feeders attract a variety of resident and migrating birds to backyards.

Birding expert, Elaine Cole, owner of Cole's Wild Bird Products Co., offers timely advice on continuing to feed birds throughout cold weather and keeping birds safe and healthy.

"Not all bird feed is created equal. Cole's takes exceptional care to select only the top 1 to 2% of the highest-quality seeds birds like, with no filler seed ever used. Our 'Harvest Fresh Lock' packaging protects



Birds migrate regardless of seed in feeders. It's estimated that wild birds only get 25% of food from feeders. NEWSUSA

nutritional content and doesn't allow seed to spoil or dry out like other bird feed. No dangerous pesticides, chemicals or mineral oils are ever used, keeping seed safe and as close to natural as possible," Cole said. "For cold weather, I suggest black oil sunflower, white proso millet, cracked corn, niger seed, raw peanuts and suet cakes or kibbles to ensure the nutritional benefits of feeders. Offering top-quality feed means less waste and an increase in birds at feeders."

"Providing a variety of feed and feeder types increases the diversity of avian visitors," she added. "A tube feeder is a 'must-have,' these all-purpose feeders keep seed dry and accommodate a wide variety of birds feeding from multiple ports. Specialty wire-tube feeders,

"For cold weather, I suggest black oil sunflower, white proso millet, cracked corn, niger seed, raw peanuts and suet cakes or kibbles to ensure the nutritional benefits of feeders."

Elaine Cole, owner of Cole's Wild Bird Products

designed for birds that cling, can easily dispense tiny, oil-rich niger seeds, protein-packed dried mealworms and other specialty feed."

For an easy-to-use, one-size-fits-most feeder, select a bowl style with a protective dome that can be raised and lowered to thwart large birds and squirrels while protecting seed from inclement weather. Easy to hang and fill, bowl feeders accommodate any seed, nuts, suet and even chopped fruit.

Invest in larger feeders which hold more seed such as the Tubezilla," Cole said.

"Frigid weather makes energy conservation critical. Birds can't afford to waste time waiting for food if feeders are empty. Large capacity feeders decrease the frequency of empty feeders, while increasing the number of bird visits. And they'll save you some frigid trips outside to refill feeders," she said.

More tips include:

- It's essential to clean any residue before adding fresh seed. Because some feeders can be difficult to scrub, this step is too often ignored.
- It's difficult to find essential, unfrozen water in winter. The fix? A birdbath with an electric heater that's continuously full and clean.
- Allow leaves to remain under trees and shrubbery which attract birds with shelter, insects and fallen seeds.
- Protect birds from cats or hawks by hanging feeders in sheltered spots.
- Providing shelter is as simple as stacking branches and brush. Also, instead of dragging Christmas trees to the curb, put them in a corner of the backyard for protection from wind and predators.

To learn more, visit <https://coleswildbird.com>.

OBITUARIES

Sally Mae Budder

Sally Mae Budder, 72, of Salina, passed from this life on Thursday, December 1, 2022, in Tahlequah. She was born on November 15, 1950, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to John and Lucy (O'Field) Budder. She took any opportunity she could to play cornhole and dominoes. She enjoyed watching tv, especially when it came to her soaps and Wheel of Fortune. She

was well known for always making everyone feel wanted and welcome. More than anything, she loved her family and anytime she could cook for them to have them together and watching her grandkids' ballgames. She leaves behind many wonderful memories for all to cherish and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services for Sally were held on December 8, 2022, at Euwasha

Baptist Church with Reverend Richard Budder officiating. Burial will follow at the Euwasha Cemetery with Josh Stopp, Isaiah Cochran, Kris Wolfe, Derrick Budder, Malachi Stopp, and John Matlock serving as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers will be Lakota Cochran, Deuce Panther, Xavier Nofire, and Nevin Nofire. A visitation was held December 7, 2022, in the Shipman's Funeral Home Chapel. Arrangements



were under the direction of Shipman's Funeral & Cremation Service of Pryor. She is survived by her daughter, Jacqueline Nofire of Salina; son, Daniel Nofire and wife Alice of Kenwood; brother, Richard Budder and wife Sharon of Kenwood; sisters, Patsy Beaver of Locust Grove, Betty Panther of Kenwood, and Lillie Staller of Kenwood; 7 grandchildren; and 7 great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Lucy Budder; husband, Jackson Nofire; brother, Johnnie Lee Budder; and sister, Virginia Budder.

Wesley Thomas Bunch

Wesley Thomas Bunch was born on March 31, 1972 to Thompson and Judy Bunch in Greenfield, Indiana. He departed this life on November 19, 2022 surrounded by those who loved him most at the age of 50 years, 7 months, and 19 days. Wesley loved life and lived it to the fullest. He had a huge heart and would help anyone in need. He loved



spending time with his friends and family. He was always laughing, smiling, and joking with everyone. He loved to play pranks on people. After getting his GED, Wesley attended the Bill Willis Skill center in Tahlequah where he learned to operate heavy equipment.

He spent many years as a semi-truck driver, wood splitter, and welder. In his down time he enjoyed grilling, fishing, hunting, making wood crafts, going to the casino, and riding horses. Wesley was an amazing son, brother, father, and poppy. Wesley was preceded in death by his father Thompson Bunch of Stilwell, Oklahoma, paternal grandparents Thomas and Betsy Bunch of Stilwell, OK, maternal grandparents Ray and Eulah Wright of

Greenfield, Indiana. Those left to cherish Wesley's memory are his mother, Judy Bunch, his 2 children, Kasey Maxwell and husband Josh, Colton Bunch, two sisters, Teresa Bunch, Betsy Rumler and husband Kevin, girlfriend Leisa Blossom, two nephews Paul Rumler and wife Taylor, Clayton Rumler, two grandchildren Carleigh and Carter Maxwell. He is also leaving behind many other relatives and friends.

Virginia Carnell

Virginia Carnell, the daughter of Richard and Aline (Steen) Snell, was born June 11, 1934, in Butler, Oklahoma, and she departed this life on November 22, 2022, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas at the age of 88 years. Virginia graduated from Chilocco Indian School in 1952 and married the love of her life, Kenneth Carnell, on November 11, 1955.

Together they raised their family on a farm in Rocky Comfort, Missouri before moving to Grove, Oklahoma in 1973. Virginia was a proud Cherokee artist who spent much of her time making Cherokee baskets and silversmithing. She enjoyed playing bingo, going to stomp dances, and traveling. She was a great cook and was known for her chicken and dumplings. Above all, she loved spending time with her family. Virginia touched many lives over the

years and will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Kenneth Carnell, her daughter Jeannie Dingle and her brothers Tom Snell and Ronnie Bushyhead. She is survived by a loving family which includes her children Greg



Carnell and wife Tammy of Oaks, Ricky Carnell of Oaks and Jamie Gilman and husband Ronnie of Leach; her siblings Jerry Drake and wife Carol of Grove, Betty Gray and husband Lee of Jay, Carolyn Osment and late husband Jeff of Jay, Steve Snell of Butler and Sherman Snell and wife Nancy of Grove; 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Several nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive her.

Timothy Fountain

Timothy "Bub" Fountain, started his journey in life on January 24th, 1987 in Tahlequah, OK. He was the son of Timothy "Tim" Wayne and Dianna Kay (Brown) Fountain. Bub was a graduate of Tahlequah High School and continued his education at Northeastern State University. At a very young age, Bub developed a passion for football and played up through high school. His family was always his biggest fans and loved watching their #62 play. Bub was very passionate in many aspects of his life. The past eleven years, Bub worked as a distribution associate for Cherokee Nation and made great friendships along the way. When he wasn't working, he was



often found playing Pokemon with his buddies, listening to an array of music, or spending time with his dogs. A hidden passion that he developed recently was cooking and bringing enough for lunch for his Dad on Monday mornings. Bub owned every album of Garth Brooks and absolutely loved Elvis. He always looked forward to football season so he could cheer on his favorite teams, the Raiders and OU! Above careers, games, and sports teams, the thing he cherished most of all was his family. To him, it was about living a simple life and focusing on what made him

happy while bringing joy to others along the way. Bub was the best big brother to Brandon and Daviante. He liked to pick and joke around, but wanted the best for them and was always there when they needed him. He was a Christian by faith and member of the Keys Church of God. His love for Jesus was evident through the way he loved others. On November 21st, 2022, he would close his eyes on this earth, to open them in the presence of his Savior. Bub passed from this life at the age of 35 years, 9 months and 28 days. Those who have passed before are his maternal grandparents, Dick and Dorsie Brown, and paternal grandparents, Clell Fountain and Sarah Adair. His memory lives on through his parents, Tim and Dianna Fountain,

and brother Daviante of the home. Brother Brandon Conrad and wife Bradie of Tahlequah, OK. Those also left to remember him are his nephews and niece, Kazden Conrad and Cade Conrad, as well as, Khalil Parsons, many family, friends and his fur babies, Izzy, Fenway and Melo. Funeral services for Bub were November 29th at Reed-Culver Chapel with Pastor Aaron Phillips officiating. He was laid to rest at Tahlequah City Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers for Bub include Brandon Conrad, Charley Lamons, John Lamons, Mitch Sellers, Willie Fritts, Kajaun Marshal, Kyle Lucas and Kajaun Marshall. Honorary pallbearers are Daviante Keys, Jerry Lenard, Leon Wright, Greg Wood, Cooter Brown, Johnny Brown and Dusty Rhodes

Gregory Allen Holcomb

On Thursday, November 10th, 2022, Gregory "Dusty" Allen Holcomb, loving husband and father of two daughters, passed away at the age of 68. Greg was born on October 13th, 1954 in Tulsa, OK to Calvin Holcomb and Gee-ga-lee-lee 'Chick' O'Field Detlefsen. On June 15th, 1985 he married Marilyn Allen and together they raised two daughters, Casey and Nicole. Greg was an avid sports fan. He grew up playing backyard football with his siblings and cousins after Thanksgiving dinner and he played for his Grove High School Ridgerunners. He also loved coaching both soccer and softball. He loved coaching

softball to his girls and was a longtime coach of the Oklahoma Firebirds with his daughter, Casey. Greg would catch every Grove Ridgerunner football game that he could and listened to any that he couldn't. He was also a long time Sooner fan and bled crimson and cream in the good times and the bad. Greg loved listening to the oldies. The Eagles, Chicago, Boston, Bad Company, and ELO were some of his favorites. He taught his daughters to love the oldies from the very beginning. He also loved to pop quiz his girls on the band name and year of his songs on the radio. Greg was what one would call a prankster. He loved to drive with his brother, Robbie, and slam on the brakes when Robbie had a drink in

his hand to make it spill all over him. Then make Robbie clean up his car. He also taught his daughters to sneak into the bathroom when Marilyn was showering and pour an ice cold glass of water on his poor unsuspecting wife. He also loved to go outside to make his feet as cold as possible and hop under the covers with Marilyn and put his feet on her when she was all warm in bed. Greg said that he felt blessed because he had a great wife, that his daughters were happy and that they found love, and he found out that he was going to be a grandpa.



Greg always said his biggest regret in life was selling his 1955 Chevy. Greg was preceded in death by his father, Calvin Holcomb, his mother, Gee-ga-lee-lee 'Chick' O'Field Defletsen, and his sister, Kelly Quinton Barnes. Greg is survived by his wife, Marilyn Holcomb and his daughters, Casey McIntosh and her wife, Lace McIntosh, and Nicole Nwosu and her husband, Anayo Nwosu, and his unborn grandson, Sage. He was also survived by his siblings, Floyd 'Rusty' Holcomb, Beth Phillips, Robbie Quinton, Jamey Husong, and Quannah Quinton, and nieces, nephews, cousins, and so many other friends and family. Services were at Nichols-Stephens Funeral Home on November 16th.

LUNCH MENU

The United Keetoowah Band's Title VI Lunch Menu for December 2022 in the Jim Proctor Community Center at 18419 W. Keetoowah Circle in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. For information, call 918-871-2800.

Jan. 2 UKB Tribal Offices Closed New Year's Holiday	Jan. 3 Vegetable Soup Ham/Cheese Sandwich Crackers Fruit Cup	Jan. 4 Baked Chicken Rice Pilaf Broccoli Cuts Hot Roll, Fruit Cup	Jan. 5 BBQ Pork on Bun Potato Salad 3 Bean Salad Fruit Cup	Jan. 6 Biscuits & Gravy Scrambled Eggs Bacon/Sausage Hashbrowns, Fruit Cup	Jan. 9 Goulash Italian Green Beans Garlic Toast Fruit Cup
Jan. 10 Soft Hamburger Tacos Refried Beans Spanish Rice Fruit Cup	Jan. 11 Roast Beef w/Gravy Potato & Baby Carrots Salad, Bread Fruit Cup	Jan. 12 Brown Beans Fried Potatoes Spinach Cornbread, Fruit Cup	Jan. 13 Chicken Wings Macaroni Salad Broccoli/Cauliflower Fruit Dessert	Jan. 16 UKB Tribal Offices Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Jan. 17 Bologna Sandwich Potato Salad Baked Beans Fruit Cup
Jan. 18 Homemade Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Cuts Bread, Fruit Cup	Jan. 19 Chicken & Dumplings Green Beans Carrots, Roll Fruit Cup	Jan. 20 Chili w/Fixings Hominy Crackers Fruit Salad	Jan. 23 Chicken Strips Steak Fries Pork & Beans Hot Roll, Fruit Cup	Jan. 24 Stuff Peppers Rice Pilaf Tomato Zucchini Roll, Fruit Cup	Jan. 25 Lasagna Italian Green Beans Salad, Garlic Roll Fruit Cup
Jan. 26 Hamburger w/Fixings French Fries Cake Ice Cream	Jan. 27 Kitchen Closed Cleaning Day	Jan. 30 Veggie-Hamburger Stew Hominy Cornbread Fruit Cup	Jan. 31 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Green Beans Garlic Toast Fruit Cup		

We have moved to a temporary building while our dining room is repaired. Park in the drive-thru so meals can be brought to you. Protect yourself by wearing a mask, staying 6 feet away from others, washing your hands and staying home if feeling sick. Meal service is from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Meals are free to Keetoowahs 55 and older, as well as their spouses. Members of other tribes and their spouses must show their CDIB cards and contribute to the cost of a meal. Guest meals are \$5, while meals for children 0-17 are \$3.



UKB Tribal Enrollment | 18300 W. Keetoowah Circle Tahlequah, OK 74464 | Monday-Friday | 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit ukb-nsn.gov/membership for Enrollment documents and a FAQ section about UKB membership. Find forms for Membership Applications, CDIB Instructions, Update Your Information and UKB Relinquishment.

For additional questions or if you are a member who has lost your enrollment card, call the UKB Enrollment Office Registrar Amanda Stopp at 918-871-2797.

Campaign combats underage drinking

Underage drinking levels are at historic lows, and one way to continue this is to prevent teens' access to alcohol.

NEWSUSA – Underage drinking levels are at historic lows, and one way to continue this trend is to prevent teens' access to alcohol. The We Don't Serve Teens campaign, developed in 2006, is a community-level collaboration of alcohol suppliers, retailers and distributors working with parents and prevention groups to curb underage drinking.

Participating groups and organizations are voicing their commitment to the campaign and its message that debuts a refreshed look and feel that is digitally modern, culturally inclusive and demographically diverse.

The We Don't Serve Teens campaign takes a united stance throughout communities nationwide: "Don't serve alcohol to teens. It's unsafe. It's illegal. It's irresponsible." Partners are encouraged to post messages against underage drinking in stores and restaurants, engage with the campaign online, hear messages on the radio and even include information on food and beverage delivery receipts. The materials will also serve as a reminder for families to have conversations at home about expectations, values and practice saying NO to underage drinking.



The We Don't Serve Teens campaign, first developed in 2006, is a community-level collaboration of alcohol suppliers, retailers and distributors working with parents and prevention groups to curb underage drinking. NEWSUSA

"Underage drinking has declined dramatically but remains a safety issue for teens that is often overlooked, disregarded, or takes a backseat to more pressing

concerns," said Chris Swonger, president and CEO of Distilled Spirits Council of the United States and Responsibility.org. "The We Don't Serve Teens campaign brings a critical mass of public and private entities together to spotlight underage drinking prevention. We have made a lot of progress over the years and fewer teens are drinking alcohol. By working together, we hope to make even more progress on this important issue."

In 1991, 80% of American teens had consumed alcohol at least once in their lifetime, but today, more than three out of five teens (64%) have never consumed alcohol. Although this trend is positive, challenges to ending underage drinking remain.

The availability of alcohol to those under the legal drinking age remains high with eight out of 10 high-school seniors reporting that it is easy for them to access alcohol.

"No retailer wants to sell alcohol to someone who is underage," said John Bodnovich, executive director of American Beverage Licensees. "Retailers are on the front lines in communities across the country – we are proud to once again lead the effort to prevent underage drinking. We look forward to working with community partners as well as industry partners to keep alcohol out of teens' hands and stop underage drinking. Responsibility starts with us."

Visit WeDontServeTeens.org for information or to participate in the campaign.

10 health resolutions doctors encourage

Want to get started today? Here are the 10 resolutions the AMA recommends top your list.

STATEPOINT – The New Year represents a fresh start and is the perfect time to invest in your health. However, you may be unsure what resolutions will have the biggest impact. Doctors say that the easy, tangible actions you take are some of the most important.

"Many people kick off the start of each new year with big-picture health resolutions," Jack Resneck Jr., American Medical Association president, said. "The good news is that small, positive health choices made right now can have long-lasting effects."

Want to get started today? Here are the 10 resolutions the AMA recommends top your list this year:

1. Exercise is essential for physical and mental health, so get moving. A good rule of thumb is at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.

2. Vaccination is the best protection against serious illnesses. To protect yourself and your family, get up to date on your vaccines, including the annual flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Your doctor can let you know if you're due for a COVID booster. If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including getvaccineanswers.org.

3. Get screened. Estimates based on statistical models show that since April 2020, millions of screenings for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer diagnoses may have been missed due to pandemic-related care disruptions. Check in with your physician. If you're due for preventive care, tests or screenings, make an appointment. These measures are designed to keep you healthy and help your doctor spot certain conditions before they become more serious.

4. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, can increase your risk of heart attack or stroke, and it

affects millions of Americans. Visit ManageYourBP.org to understand what your blood pressure numbers mean and what you can do to get your blood pressure under control.

5. One in 3 American adults has prediabetes, a condition that can lead to type 2 diabetes if left unmanaged. However, there are steps you can take that can help delay or even prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. Learn your risk by taking a simple two-minute self-screening test at DoIHavePrediabetes.org. This resource also features helpful lifestyle tips that can help you reverse prediabetes.

6. Whenever possible, drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages and replace processed foods – especially those with added sodium and sugar – with nutritious, whole foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, herbs and spices.

7. If consuming alcohol, drink only in moderation. The U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans defines that as up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men.

8. Speak with your doctor or health care professional about quitting tobacco and nicotine use. Declare your home and car smokefree to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

9. Follow your doctor's instructions when taking prescription drugs – especially opioids. Always store and dispose of these medications safely to prevent misuse. Whenever prescribed

"Many people kick off the start of each new year with big-picture health resolutions. The good news is that small, positive health choices made right now can have long-lasting effects."

Jack Resneck Jr., American Medical Association president



The New Year represents a fresh start and is the perfect time to invest in your health. STATEPOINT MEDIA

antibiotics, take them exactly as directed. Not taking the full course can lead to antibiotic resistance, a serious public health problem, and will not make you

feel better if you have a virus, such as a cold or flu.

10. Invest in your mental health by managing stress, getting sufficient sleep, exercising and seeking help from a mental health professional when you need it.

If you don't have health insurance, the AMA encourages you to sign up for coverage at healthcare.gov, which has affordable options. The enrollment deadline for 2023 coverage is Jan. 15. Find health resources at ama-assn.org. For a healthy 2023 and beyond, invest in your wellness with these resolutions.



WOOD RECYCLING PROGRAM



The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians' Wood Recycling Program offers a FREE and safe alternative for the removal of downed timber on your property. Tribal membership is NOT required. The timber will be ricked and donated as firewood for UKB elders and tribal members unable to harvest their own firewood for the winter season.

The Wood Recycling Program will under certain circumstances cut intrusive or unwanted trees down, but a special assessment and waiver will be required. For information or if interested in donating/need timber removed, contact the Office of Environmental Services.

918-871-2825 or 918-871-2800 • oes@ukb-nsn.gov • www.ukb-nsn.gov



Students take advantage of the computer lab access. COURTESY PHOTOS



Students who utilize the TRIO program goes to Dallas Zoo.

TRIO works to aid low-income pupils

BY LANI HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – A United Keetoowah Band member Lena Deere, continues to oversee the Northeastern State University TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) by helping first generational low-income students with their education.

“In 1998, I was looking for an internship and heard about TRIO SSS and was hired on as the secretary,” Deere said. “It started out as a four-year cycle grant and I came on near the end, when Connie Wright who started TRIO at NSU rewrote the grant and it was approved I was hired on full-time beginning as the secretary. I’ve been with SSS since 1999.”

Throughout the years, she had worked her way up after graduating in 2008 with her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from NSU where she was promoted to coordinator of SSS. She then went on to get her master’s degree in Education from the University of Arkansas when Wright had retired and named her director in 2014. Deere had been the first in her family to graduate high school and receive two degrees in



Lena Deere

higher education. “It’s been satisfying, I don’t really see it as a job because I enjoy talking to the students as much as I can,” Deere said.

Within the program, Deere works alongside student coordinator Jade Hansen.

“When she came on, I knew she had some TRIO experience, so I was really excited that she knows the ins and outs of this program,” Deere said.

TRIO SSS has been serving 175 NSU students since 1993, and they are only on the Tahlequah campus. Deere said they mainly focus on freshman and sophomore students helping them with workshops, course selections, exposure to cultural events and anything that will keep them involved in school.

NSU TRIO currently has four program serving their students including SSS, Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound and Educational Opportunity Centers.

The purpose of SSS is designed to increase the academic performance, retention and graduation rates

of the 175 underrepresented students attending NSU. They also provide a support system for students who are low-income, first-generation and/or have a disability empowering them to surpass their academic goals.

SSS provides services such as networking, financial literacy, computer lab access, tutoring, academic coaching, Peer mentoring program, assistance in filing FAFSA, information regarding scholarships and assistance in applying for graduate school.

For TRIO SSS eligibility criteria the student must be U.S. citizen and enrolled at NSU-Tahlequah. The student must meet at least one or more qualifications such as first-generation, meet specific U.S. Department of Education income guidelines, have a documented disability and be registered with the ADA office and demonstrate academic need.

“I understand what many of our students go through when they go to college,” Deere said. “They must figure things out on their own, especially as first-generation students. The SSS staff is dedicated to helping students be successful in obtaining their bachelor’s degree at NSU.”

For information about TRIO SSS call, 918-444-3035.

Lighthouse adds reserve officer

Those who become reserves agree to serve the people of the tribe without pay.

BY LANI HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – The United Keetoowah Band Tribal Lighthouse received grant funding through the U.S. Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation utilizing it to bring in some extra set of hands out in the field.

According to UKB Tribal Lighthouse Director Charlie Dreadfulwater, the term “Keetoowah Lighthouse Reserve” is found in the Tribal Police Code under Support Division. Those who become reserves agree to serve the people of the tribe without pay. They also show good moral character in order to provide additional security forces in time of need.

“As we’re growing it’s always nice to have the extra sets of hands to help,” he said. “With the Corporate Board doing a lot more events, the Echota RV Park having music events these are where we could use the Reserves since they are volunteering their time.”

Because Dreadfulwater is the director of Lighthouse it is stated in the Tribal Police Code, that he will be in overall command of the Keetoowah Lighthouse Reserve and could call on any of them to be on active duty at any time for additional security forces. He oversees rotating active duty calls on them so that duties are distributed between the units evenly.

It is stated that any of the reserves, who has current firearms qualification and successfully passed the Basic Police Training course are allowed police arrest

powers when on active duty. Dreadfulwater said some of the people may not have that power.

To qualify as a member of the Keetoowah Lighthouse reserve, a person must be at least 21 years of age, in good physical and mental condition, an enrolled member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma or some relation to a member, good moral character and never convicted of a felony or crime.

A background check must be approved by the Lighthouse director and they must be able to complete CLEET or any basic reserve police academy.

After taking the oath of office, each member of the Keetoowah Lighthouse Reserve may be issued a commission card containing the individuals photograph, name, rank, badge number, a statement of authorization to carry firearms, signatures of the Lighthouse director and the commander, a nameplate and may be issued a uniform.

Each year it is required by the Lighthouse director for members of the Reserve to attend police training. It is the main commission for the reserve officer to continue showing good behavior, as they are representing Keetoowah Tribal Lighthouse.

Currently there are two members of the Keetoowah Lighthouse Reserve and Dreadfulwater plans on growing the division. Cooweescoowee District Rep. Clifford Wofford and Cody Standiford. UKB Attorney General Victoria Holland nominated Wofford to serve as the first reserve officer.

“It’s exciting we are building up our Lighthouse Department and Council member Wofford had met the requirements, and was appointed as the first Keetoowah Lighthouse Reserve,” Holland said.

For more information, call 918-207-9955.

“As long as they pass the background tests, but they have limited power as a police officer.”
Lighthouse Director Charlie Dreadfulwater

Seniors saving nearly \$2K with Medicare Advantage plans

NEWSUSA – Medicare’s open enrollment period ended on Dec. 7, and an estimated 31.8 million seniors and Americans with disabilities were expected to choose a Medicare Advantage plan for health coverage in the coming year, according to federal government data.

What is Medicare Advantage? For Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, it is a coverage option within the Medicare program in which plans are offered by Medicare-approved private companies in partnership with the federal government.

Beneficiaries who choose a Medicare Advantage Plan still have Medicare, but their care is covered by their health plan of choice rather than by traditional Fee-for-Service Medicare.

Since 2006, the number of seniors picking Medicare Advantage has more than doubled and today 48% of Medicare beneficiaries choose a Medicare Advantage plan – a percentage that is expected to continue growing. A big reason may be the substantial cost savings Medicare Advantage beneficiaries enjoy.

Medicare Advantage premiums continue to fall, and average premiums for 2023 are down nearly 8% from 2022. Research finds that seniors who choose Medicare Advantage save nearly \$2,000 on average per year compared to traditional Medicare.

Beyond Medicare Advantage’s ability to save seniors money, nearly every Medicare Advantage plan covers extra “supplemental” benefits not included in traditional Medicare such as dental and vision care, in-home health and wellness services, nutrition and meal delivery services and other valuable resources.

Notably, polling finds that Medicare Advantage beneficiaries have a 94% satisfaction rate with their plans, while 95% report that they are satisfied with their provider network.



UKB HOUSING DEPARTMENT Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF Program)



The United Keetoowah Band Housing Department is providing funding assistance for the following delinquent homeowner expenses:

- Mortgage Assistance
- Property Taxes
- Homeowner Insurance
- Homeowner Utility Expenses (Must have checked with Human Services Program for LIHEAP availability first.)

The Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program was developed by the Department of the Treasury to assist homeowners who are experiencing financial hardships associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic after January 21, 2020.

For questions, please call Housing at 918-871-2773



AARP OK Native American Elder Honoree Norman "Hominy" Littledave, second from right, stands with supporters after being honored in November in Oklahoma City. COURTESY

AARP OK honors 2 UKB members

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY – The 14th annual AARP Oklahoma Native American Elder Honors event recognized 40 Native American elders from Oklahoma tribal nations including two UKB members Norman "Hominy" Littledave and Frankie Still.

According to the AARP website, this ceremony is to recognize Native American elders who have positively impacted their respective communities, families, tribal nations and nation. This honor celebrates a lifetime of service by distinguished Native American elders who exhibit a love of family, dedication to culture and respect for all people.

Honorees for this event are nominated by someone who sees the impact they have on their community.

"I didn't know you had to be nominated," Littledave said. "What surprised me is that Becky Dreadfulwater is the one who nominated me. It wasn't about a month later, I got a call from AARP and they said I have been nominated and one of the honorees."

Each recipient had to present a short bio for the program. For his it states that Littledave is full-blooded and a fluent Cherokee speaker. After graduating from Salina High School, Commander (Cmdr.) Littledave proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and fought in the Vietnam War. It also states he enjoys working closely with elders and veterans and has served as commander for the United Keetoowah Band honor guard for the past 12 years.

Littledave is also an active member of the 29 Eleven Assemblies of God Church in Tahlequah.

"I told Becky I just wanted to thank her for nominating me," Littledave said.

Still, the other UKB honoree is the UKB's Flint District tribal representative. According to his



Frankie Still

AARP bio, Still is a hands-on representative who strives to help his constituents. It also states he is a staunch advocate for UKB tribal members and the many services provided by the tribe.

It also states that Still is active in environmental and historical preservation, supporting tribal efforts to preserve its history, culture and environment.

culture and environment.

The bio also states his service to tribal members assists them in reaching personal goals, as well as providing necessities such as wood donated through the Historic Preservation and Environmental department's conservation agency partnerships.

It also states that Still's support helps elders and those in need to maintain comfortable living spaces. "His work with these programs not only provides resources to tribal members, but also assists in preserving and protecting natural resources the tribe holds sacred," the bio states.

It added that Still is always available to help and works tirelessly to support others, sometimes paying for bills and food out of his own pocket. It also states he serves as a district court advocate for families.

The AARP event has recognized more than 593 elders from all of Oklahoma's 39 tribes since 2009. Among those UKB has had 17 past recipients, including the two who were recently chosen.

The AARP in November held its ceremony in The Hall of The People, a floor-to-ceiling windows area which overlooked the First Americans Museum Mound. The mound pays tribute to the Oklahoma tribes that descended from Moundbuilder cultures.

Congratulations to both on being recognized at the AARP OK Native American Elder Honors ceremony.

Jones crowned Bell Princess for 2022-23

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – The word "proud" might be an understatement for United Keetoowah Band member Reba Vann, as two of her granddaughters brought home crowns in the past year.

Angel Jones, a sophomore at Sequoyah High School and one of Vann's granddaughters, has never competed in any type of royalty competition until this past year. But in August she was crowned the Bell Powwow Princess 2022-23. She competed against four other teenage girls for the title, as they were required to raise funds for the Bell Powwow.



Angel Jones

"Before announcing the winner at the powwow, they told me I had broken a record of fundraising," Jones said when learning about winning the title. "I was proud of myself."

As the Bell Powwow Princess, Jones has been attending powwows, parades and even visiting schools. Currently, she is learning to dance cloth so she can represent more at powwows.

Aside from her title, she is involved in the SHS Honoring Our People's Existence Club and basketball team.

As for her grandmother, Vann said she's proud of Jones.

"I'm so proud of her. She never did anything like this before, and so it surprised me when she wanted to run for Bell Powwow Princess. We worked hard doing sales and raising money," Vann said.

With Jones representing as the Bell Powwow Princess, another one of Vann's granddaughters was recently named the SHS Homecoming Basketball Sweetheart.

Julisa Silva, a SHS senior, plays guard for the Lady Indians. Silva said she hopes the team makes it to Class 3A state playoffs this year since she will be graduating in May.

"I was very excited to get this year's Basketball Sweetheart in homecoming," Silva said.

When she isn't playing basketball, Silva maintains activity in the HOPE Club, Fellowship Christian Athletes/Fellowship Christian Students and Youth Group. After high school, she said she plans on going to college but is yet undecided where to attend.

As their grandmother, Vann said she is proud of both girls in their achievements.



Julisa Silva



United Keetoowah Band employees Alaina Belmonte and Brenda Gonzales make cornhusk dolls during the tribe's December Lunch and Learn. MARILYN CRAIG/JOHN HAIR CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM

UKB workers make cornhusk dolls at Lunch and Learn

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Public Relations
Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – Eleven employees registered for the December Lunch and Learn, a program presented by the UKB John Hair Cultural Center and Museum for employees. The craft they learned was how to make cornhusk dolls.

Not only has this practice of making dolls out of cornhusks been a part of Keetoowah and Cherokee culture for many centuries, but it has also been practiced by many Indigenous peoples and was something the European culture started making after contact. Doing a search online gave scores of tutorials on how to make the dolls.

Cornhusk dolls do not have faces, and there are several traditional explanations for this. One legend is that the Spirit of Corn, one of the Three Sisters, made a doll out of her husks to entertain children. The doll had a beautiful face and began to spend less time with children and more time contemplating her own loveliness. As a result of her vanity, the doll's face was taken away.

Making the dolls is a generational activity in some Keetoowah families. "My granny made corn husk dolls when I was growing up. Doing these

traditional crafts is who we are. It is what we do. I love to do these cultural crafts. It keeps me in touch with my roots," said Brenda Gonzales.

Elaina Belmonte said that she had liked arts and crafts in school, but she wanted to learn more about traditional Keetoowah crafts. "I wanted to go back and learn about our traditional culture. It was my first time making a corn husk doll and I liked it. We enrolled in every class because we want to learn about all these crafts," she said. E

The Lunch and Learn program was developed and presented by UKB Assistant Museum Director Barbara Girty Foster.

"I want more of our employees to be involved in what we do in the museum. Everyone is busy in their own jobs, and they don't know what we do here. These classes give them the opportunity to learn more about the culture of the people they serve in their own departments. I want them to tell their families, friends and community members about our programs and our museum. Cultural preservation is something we can all participate in."

The next employee Lunch and Learn is set for Jan. 18 and the class will be making clay pinch pots. For more information, call Barbara Girty Foster at 918-871-2794.

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