

Chief's Address To The Nation

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beginning in July 2008 and have since been replaced with new language that affects border store sales. Sales at tribal border stores have declined 82 percent from 2008 through 2010, records show. Border tribal stores sell cigarettes with 6-cent or 25-cent tax stamps to allow them to compete with neighboring states with lower tobacco taxes.

Ross said Arkansas recently raised its tobacco taxes higher than Oklahoma's, thereby negating the border rate permitted for some stores in Oklahoma.

Non-border tribal stores sell cigarettes bearing either a 52-cent or 86-cent stamp. Nontribal retailers or tribal retailers without a compact must sell cigarettes bearing a \$1.03 stamp.

A spokesman for QuikTrip doubted that non-tribal stores controlled more than two-thirds of the cigarette sales in northeast Oklahoma.

"It's certainly not reflected in QuikTrip sales," company spokesman Mike Thornbrugh said, conceding any shift in market share was due to the 6-cent tax stamp no longer "being abused."

One Muskogee Creek Nation smoke shop owner complained that his business is hurt because the tribe lacks a compact with the state.

The Creek Nation is one of the few tribes that doesn't have a tobacco compact with the state of Oklahoma.

The result is Creek Nation smoke shops are required to sell cigarettes bearing the \$1.03 tax stamp. The only exception is for members of the Creek Nation who can purchase cigarettes with a so-called black

stamp that isn't taxed by the state.

"All we're doing is giving the illusion that we are a smoke shop," said the tribal tobacco store owner, who asked not to be identified out of concern he might lose his license for speaking publicly on the issue. Creek Nation officials did not respond to a request for comment.

A spokesman for Gov. Mary Fallin acknowledged that talks are under way with the Creek Nation regarding a tobacco compact.

"The governor's office and the Creek Nation continue productive negotiations on a new tobacco tax compact," the spokesman said. "The governor's office is willing to work with other tribal governments that wish to negotiate tobacco tax compacts."

Tribal tobacco retailers

Tribes remit a payment to the state of Oklahoma in-lieu of paying an excise tax on tobacco products. The so-called payment-in-lieu-of-tax rate paid per pack of cigarettes is dictated by the provisions in each tribe's compact and can include discounts for retailers located near border states, where taxes may be lower.

Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission

Tribe # Cigarettes	Payment-in-lieu-of-tax rate per 20-pack of Cigarettes
Cherokee 371.8 million	Cigarette sales, top 5 tribes, 2011
Creek 268.7 million	Tribe # Cigarettes
Choctaw 252.4 million	Cherokee 371.8 million
Chickasaw 209 million	Creek 268.7 million
Comanche 145 million	Choctaw 252.4 million
	Chickasaw 209 million
	Comanche 145 million



Photo left to right: Lisa Yellowfish (Iowa Treasurer), Edith Bell, Dexter Bell, Tod Robertson (NAFDPIR 1st Vice President), Kandace Bell, Sam Spang (SFN-FDPIR Director), Larry Foley (SFN-FDPIR Program Support Specialist), Harley Coleman (Aviary Education), not pictured Victor Roubidoux (Aviary Manager).

Certificates of Appreciation Awarded at NAFDPIR Conference

A presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation was made to Edith Bell, Dexter Bell, and Kandace Bell for their support and workshop presentations during the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations 25th Annual Training Conference. The certificate was presented by Tod Robertson, 1st Vice-President of the national organization that represents 272 areas of operation in 24 states.

Participating in the awards from the Southwest Region were R. Sam Spang, Director of the Sac & Fox Nation Food Distribution Program (FDPIR) and Larry Foley, Program Support Specialist. The Sac & Fox program serves the Iowa Tribe by providing regular service at the Iowa White Cloud Building located at the Bah-Kho-Je Pow Wow Grounds. The grounds are located in the tribal complex area 4 miles south of Perkins, Oklahoma. Sac & Fox currently serves approximately 1,500 total participants a month within a 5 tribe FDPIR service area that includes the historical jurisdictions of the Iowa, Kickapoo, Citizen Band Potawatomi, and Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Sac & Fox Food Distribution Program has been serving the Iowa Tribal Community for over 20 years.

During the Health Fair of the conference, the group provided activity sessions that promoted the Whitehouse's initiative of "Let's Move in Indian Country". Each activity involved general mobility exercises in the form of team building competition and individual performances. A Hula Hoop contest, golf putting contest, When Pigs Fly, Dicey Situation, Defying Gravity, Get to the Point, Castle Ball, and parachutes were some of the activities. Due to the success of the presentation, it has been requested by both NAFDPIR and U.S.D.A. to include the workshops at the next annual conference. Since all three are Physical Education and Health educators, the organization had confidence in their ability to make the event a success for the 250 attendees from across the nation.

Since both Edith and Kandace are members of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Eagle Aviary was selected as the best location for the presentation of the plaques. With the tribe's nationally known efforts to increase cultural awareness while rehabilitating the eagles, it was felt that this setting would facilitate NAFDIR's efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and diet, while bringing additional awareness of the tribe's Grey Snow Eagle House.

DVD Taping

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The CCA also offers other DVD series to students explaining the Constitution, Congress, the U.S. court system, the Executive Branch, and a global comparison on health matters. The website also features access particularly designed for students.

Parties interested in obtaining any of the series can contact the Committee for Citizen Awareness, 1100 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037-1501 or email cca@citizenawareness.org. The phone number is (202) 393-8553. Kimberley Fraser is the Executive Director.

Cigarette sales, top 5 tribes, 2011

Tribe	# Cigarettes
Cherokee	371.8 million
Creek	268.7 million
Choctaw	252.4 million
Chickasaw	209 million
Comanche	145 million

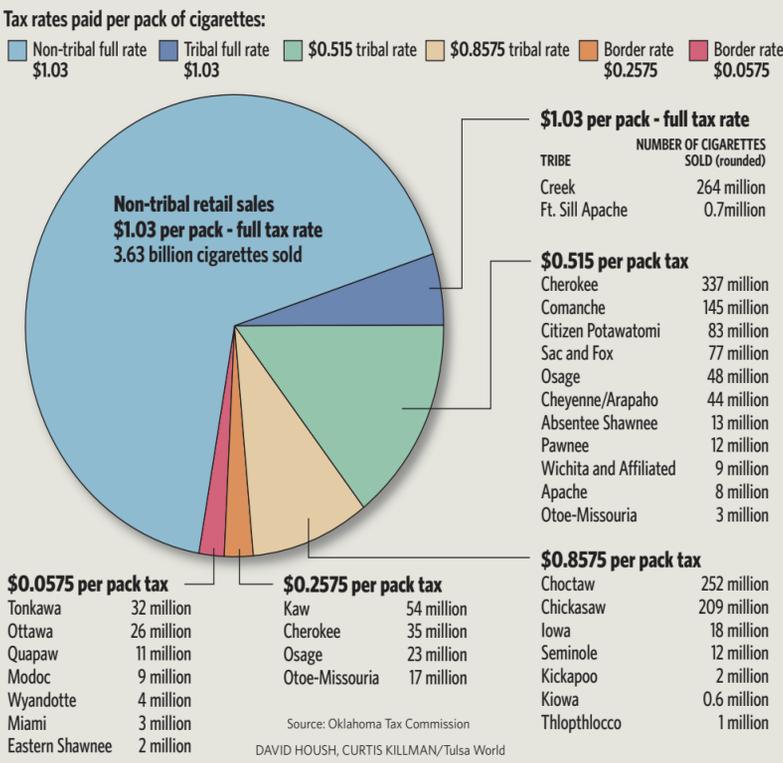
Source: Oklahoma Tax Commission

tulsaworld.com



See a map depicting the locations of tribal smokeshops in Oklahoma
tulsaworld.com/tribaltobacco

Oklahoma cigarette sales in 2011, by non-tribal and tribal tax rates



SAC AND FOX TAX COMMISSION REVENUE July 2012

Tobacco Tax	\$ 33,632.40
Wholesale Tobacco Tax	\$ 51,547.40
Motor Vehicle	\$ 3,564.75
Sales Tax	\$13,047.34
Treasury	\$165.00
Oil & Gas	\$ 945.81
Gaming	\$ 129,193.44
TOTAL	\$ 232,096.14



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National News

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

Larry EchoHawk has finished his tenure as former Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs and returned to Utah; Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Donald Laverdure has been serving in this position after EchoHawk left and is still in this position at the end of August. The nomination of Kevin Washburn to fill this position within the Department of Interior has been made and awaiting confirmation from Congress, so I am sharing some brief information about Washburn from the White House.

From the White House Press Release: Kevin K. Washburn is Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, a position he has held since June 2009. Prior to that, he served as the Rosenstiel Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law from 2008 to 2009 and as an As-

sociate Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota Law School from 2002 to 2008. From 2007 to 2008, Mr. Washburn was the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School. Previously, he served as General Counsel for the National Indian Gaming Commission from 2000 to 2002, and as an Assistant United States Attorney in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 1997 to 2000. Mr. Washburn was a trial attorney in the Indian Resources Section of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Washburn is a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. He earned a B.A. from the University of Oklahoma and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Principal Chief and once again am asking for your prayers to God for guidance as I lead our Nation forward. Thank you.

Sincerely, George Thurman, Chief