



## **Artwork by Native American artists now on display throughout Oklahoma**

*Paintings and quilt work will be on display at the Visitor Center in Sulphur and Welcome Center in Davis from March through June*

**OKLAHOMA CITY – (March 1, 2017)** Two Native American artists, Rhiana Deck and Peggy Immohotichey will have their life-long inspired art featured at two separate locations in south-central Oklahoma.

From March 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 Rhiana Deck's paintings will be showcased at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma and Peggy Immohotichey's quilts and needle work will be on display at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma. Deck and Immohotichey use inspiration from events throughout their lifetimes to craft visually inspiring creations.

### **Rhiana Deck, Chickasaw Visitor Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma**

Deck is a Choctaw native and visual artist who has been drawing and painting for more than 25 years. She creates art to portray a feeling in the viewer. Painting has always been therapeutic to Deck, giving her a way to express and learn throughout life.

"Each piece is personal, some are light, some are heavy, but all are an expression of an emotion," Deck said. "I make sense of things through drawing and painting. I appreciate simplicity and do my best to keep concepts simple, even though life and its emotions can be complicated. I prefer my work to speak for itself."

An artist reception will be held for Deck at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur on Saturday, March 18 from 1-4 p.m. This reception is a collaboration with an "Art Walk" that will include artists featured at the ARTesian Gallery next door to the visitor center.

### **Peggy Immohotichey, Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center, Davis, Oklahoma**

While growing up, Immohotichey began quilting as a necessity for her and her family of ten to keep warm. This eventually developed into a life-long passion for Immohotichey whose award winning quilts have been sold in more than 10 states and in parts of Canada.

"Growing up quilts were a part of our home life," Immohotichey said. "Our home always had a quilt in a frame that was suspended from the ceiling. When it was time to work on the quilt, the frame would be lowered in order for my mom and my five sisters to work on it. Quilts were how we bonded as a family."

Immohotichey is an enrolled Chickasaw citizen and creates a variety of quilts, including Lone Star quilt patterns. Lone Star patterns are eight pointed stars made of hundreds of diamond-shaped pieces, that is most associated with the Plains Indians. She is a traditionalist, and works to ensure the tradition of quilting continues with her family by teaching her daughter and granddaughter how to design and sew their own quilts.

An artist reception will be held for Immohotichey at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis on Saturday, March 11 from 1-3 p.m. and will include refreshments.

For more information on the artist receptions visit: [www.chickasawcountry.com](http://www.chickasawcountry.com)

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#### **Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma**

Located adjacent to Bedré Fine Chocolate, the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center is located at the southwest corner of exit 55 on Interstate 35. Opened in November 2012, the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center has several amenities including a lounge area, vending machines, an outdoor children's playground and a dog park. Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the center call (580) 369-4222 or visit Chickasaw Country's website at [ChickasawCountry.com](http://ChickasawCountry.com).

#### **Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma**

Located across the street from the Artesian Hotel, the Chickasaw Visitor Center is located at the northeast corner of Broadway and State Highway 7 in Sulphur. Opened in November 2013, the Chickasaw Visitor Center includes a lounge area, a gift shop and multi-media video room. Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the center, call (580) 622-8050 or visit Chickasaw Country's website at [ChickasawCountry.com](http://ChickasawCountry.com).

#### **About Chickasaw Country**

Nestled in south-central Oklahoma, Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. As the official destination tourism organization, Chickasaw Country includes 7,648 square miles, 11 percent of Oklahoma's total 68,597 square miles. Chickasaw Country, a division of the Chickasaw Nation, is a tourism source for visitors and communities within the region and promotes destinations, attractions and festivals. Chickasaw Country is a diverse and culturally-vested destination, with new adventures and experiences around every corner.

#### **About the Chickasaw Nation**

With more than 60,000 citizens, the Chickasaw Nation is the 12th largest federally-recognized Indian tribe in the United States. The Chickasaw Nation has an annual economic impact of more than \$2.4 billion in Oklahoma. The tribe has more than 14,000 employees. A democratic republic with executive, legislative and judicial departments, the tribe's jurisdictional territory includes all or part of 13 counties in south-central Oklahoma.

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