

# Chieftain News

## 2017-2018



### History On Veterans Day By Morgan Fryrear

Veterans are a good topic to talk about. Veterans are bigger and more important than you think. What do veterans mean to you? What do you think about them? At West Cottonwood School we had a celebration for our veterans. The school all stood outside and clapped for the veterans to say thank you. There were balloons all the way down the ramp. We all went in the gym and sat down. After that all students who brought a veteran got to have lunch with them and enjoy the day.

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938

unlike Memorial Day.

5.2 million veterans served in peacetime. There are 2 million women veterans. In the 323.1 million total U.S. population, 1% of women and 12% of men are veterans. There are 16.1 million living U.S. veterans that were in World War I. There were 16 million in World War II. In hurricane Katrina 70,000 troops helped. Some of the major U.S. wars are: the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, Mexican-American War, the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian War, Afghanistan War, Iraq War, and in the 1800s the Barbary War. Some Civil War veterans are Andrew Johnson, James A-Garfield Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B Hayes, Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison William, and Mc. Kinley. There were 97 members of congress, 81 members of the house of representatives, and there were 219 astronauts that were all in a war.

All in all, veterans are very important. They're hiding behind their clothes not showing that they fought for us even for our freedom. Veterans are important and people don't always think about what they have done for all of us.





The West Cottonwood Cheer Team  
By Candice Clarno

The coaches of the West Cottonwood cheer team are Coach Meagan and Coach Julie. There are 26 girls on the team. The uniform is green, white, and black, the school colors. The first competition is on January 21st, after the Kings game. On January 13th the cheerleaders will be cheering at their first game, which is a Kings

game. They also will be performing at the December student of the month assembly and will be in a performance on the 20th.

The cheer team practices at West Cottonwood Junior High in the fitness room for 2 hours twice a week every Tuesday and Thursday.

Many people believe that cheer is a sport, but no. On July 21, 2010 cheerleading was scientifically proven to not be a sport, but why? The reasons for this are varied. A sport can be defined as an activity that engages in competition and follows rules accordingly. Cheerleading is not commonly considered a sport because of the inability to compete against an opponent. It is an activity solely dedicated to entertain and motivate the crowd during sports events. Competitive cheerleading is not an official sport.

## Feeling Feline

By Aidan Gumm

The cat population is almost worldwide and appeared almost 60 million years ago. Cats are found in all terrestrial habitats except for treeless tundra and polar ice regions. Cats were believed to have been domesticated in Egypt and their pelts were considered a symbol of status and power. Cats are also cute adorable household pets that love to play.

Cats are very skilled in climbing and swimming. They also have an acute sense of smell, hearing, taste, and sight. Cats are mostly nocturnal because their eyes are designed for low and high levels of light.





## Top Four Fastest NFL Players

By Kessler Ayres

Tyreek Hill is the fastest NFL player right as we speak. Hill was possibly going to be undrafted during the 2016 NFL draft, mainly due to his domestic violence arrest. Although he was not invited to the NFL combine, Hill was able to show his abilities at West Alabama's Pro Day. Scouts were mainly impressed with his speed and he received much for his workout. Regardless of his workout, many teams had completely removed Hill from their draft boards, but his head coach from West Alabama claimed that at least 20 teams were still interested in him. Hill is

5'10, 184 pounds, and he was born March 1st, 1994.

Marquise Goodwin is an American football wide receiver and kick returner for the San Francisco 49ers of the National Football League (NFL) and a former Olympic who competed in the long jump in track and field. He was drafted by the Buffalo, Bills in the third round of the 2013 draft. He played college at Texas. In track and field, his specialty is the long jump, an event in which he won two national college championships. He is a very good receiver.

J.J. Nelson was born April 24, 1992 and is an American NFL football wide receiver for the Arizona Cardinals. He played college for the University of Alabama at Birmingham and was drafted in the fifth round of the 2015 draft by the Cardinals. At the 2015 NFL Scouting Combine, Nelson had the fastest 40-yard dash with a time of 4.28 seconds which was .04 seconds shy of the Combine record of 4.24 seconds held then by Chris Johnston. JJ Nelson is a very good receiver and had over 200 yards in just one game.

Desean Jackson has been selected to the pro bowl three times and was the first player selected to the Pro Bowl at two different positions in the same year when he was named to the 2010 Pro Bowl as a wide receiver and return specialist. Desean is a very amazing football player. There was ten seconds left in the game to go in the super bowl and they punted it to him and he took it all the way for a touchdown. On April 26, 2008, Jackson was drafted in the second round of the 2008 NFL draft by the Philadelphia Eagles. He was the seventh wide receiver taken, this was the first time no wide receivers were drafted in the first round. On July 20, he agreed to terms on a four-year contract with the team.

## BEST Quarterback?

By Fisher King

The first candidate for best quarterback candidate is Carson Wentz. The 24-year-old stands at 6'5" and weighs 237 pounds and his 40-yard dash is 4.77 seconds. Carson has 33 touchdowns, seven interceptions, and 3,269 yards this season, but unfortunately he was recently injured. Carson attended North Dakota State University

Russell Wilson is the second candidate. He is 29 years old, five foot eleven inches tall. He comes from Cincinnati Ohio, born November 29, 1988. Russell went to the University of Wisconsin Madison. His 40-yard dash time is 4.55 seconds and is nearly a full second faster than Tom Brady. His wife is Ciara Wilson they were married in 2016, two years ago.

My third and final candidate Dak Prescott, the second year player is doing amazing. He is 24 years old, born July 29, 1993. Dak is six feet two inches tall, he is 229 pounds. Dak's real name is Rayne Dakota Prescott, but he prefers to go by Dak. He attended Mississippi State University. Dak's 40-yard dash time is 5.38 seconds, nearly a full second slower than Russell Wilson.



## *Four Sites That Are Spooky Scary*

By David Silva and Aidan Gumm

4...The Hanford Site, in Washington, was a major part of the US atomic bomb project, manufacturing plutonium for the first nuclear bomb and “Fat Man,” used at Nagasaki. As the Cold War waged on, it ramped up production, supplying plutonium for most of America’s 60,000 nuclear weapons. Although decommissioned, it still holds two thirds of the volume of the country’s high-level radioactive waste — about 53

million gallons of liquid waste, 25 million cubic feet of solid waste and 200 square miles of contaminated groundwater underneath the area, making it the most contaminated site in the US. “The environmental devastation of this area makes it clear that the threat of radioactivity is not simply something that will arrive in a missile attack, but could be lurking in the heart of your own country.”

3... Mayak plutonium plant.....The industrial complex of Mayak, in Russia’s north-east, has had a nuclear plant for decades, and in 1957 was the site of one of the world’s worst nuclear accidents. Up to 100 tons of radioactive waste were released by an explosion, contaminating a massive area. The explosion was kept under wraps until the 1980s. Starting in the 1950s, waste from the plant was dumped in the surrounding area and into Lake Karachay. This has led to contamination of the water supply that thousands rely on daily. Experts believe that Karachay may be the most radioactive place in the world, and over 400,000 people have been exposed to radiation from the plant as a result of the various serious incidents that have occurred — including fires and deadly dust storms. The natural beauty of Lake Karachay belies its deadly pollutants, with the radiation levels where radioactive waste flows into its waters enough to give a man a fatal dose within an hour.

2... Chernobyl Russia had one of the worst nuclear accidents in the world. In 1986 it released 5% of the radiation in the atmosphere. The incident caused 23 immediate deaths and many more in the next few weeks. 237 workers were given radiation sickness and there were children with deformities later. The Chernobyl accident was the result of flawed reactor design

1...Fukushima Japan... The 2011 earthquake and tsunami was a tragedy that destroyed homes and lives, but the effects of the Fukushima nuclear power plant may be the most long-lasting danger. The worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl, the incident caused meltdown of three of the six reactors, leaking radiation into the surrounding area and the sea. Radiative material has been detected as far as 200 miles from the plant. As the incident and its ramifications are still unfolding, the true scale of the environmental impact is still unknown.

# New Years

By. Jose Reyes

New Years is the time at which a new calendar year begins and the calendar year's count increases by one. Many people celebrate the event in some manner. The first day of January is often marked as a national day. During the middle ages in western Europe, while the Julian calendar was still in use, authorities moved New year's day variously depending upon locale to one of several other days.

Beginning in 1852, the adoptions of the Gregorian calendar and changes to the old style and new style dates meant the various local dates for New Year's Day changed to using one fixed date, January first.

As the clock goes down to midnight, a crowd gathers, waiting for the glittering ball to begin New Years. But this isn't New York it's Hong Kong, where a ball drop has also become a tradition. Around the world locals celebrate with fireworks, street parties, and dancing. Still, each place has its own culture setting. After the 2017 New Years, there's a lot of stress to have a good time on New Year's Eve. New York City's biggest celebrations is in Times Square. NYC is a classic place to be for New Years.



# Airsoft

By Kessler Ayres

Airsoft is a competitive team sport in which participants eliminate opponents by shooting each other with plastic bullets shot with replica weapons called Airsoft guns. Airsoft is way different compared to paintball, which is a recreational shooting sport similar in concept but with some key differences.

There are a few types of ways people play airsoft. Milsim is just like army, you dress in all camo. Speed soft is where you dress in lightweight clothes and a mask called a dye mask and you use a very fast shooting gun.

Many makers of airsoft suggest treating an airsoft gun like a real gun at all times. This will help with safety issues resulting in a bad situation for an unknowing target or an airsoft gun being mistaken for a real gun. Airsoft was originally made from Japan in the early 1970s. The name "Soft-Air" referred to the green gas used as a fake gun. Airsoft was originally designed for target shooting. The bullets could also hit humans without injury and so became popular for casual war-games. In California, a common limit for close quarters combat is about 400 feet per second. Airsoft is legal in most parts of the world.

There is also a type of airsoft gun that is powered by a single (HPA) high-pressure air tank and a battery pack to power the internal FCU "Fire Control Unit" computer board. These guns are often known for their high and adjustable ROF rate of fire and durability. These HPA replicas are most often referred to as "PolarStars," although this refers to a popular brand of HPA engines and accessories. Polarstars are the best high airsoft guns. The downside of polarstars is that they are very expensive, they are around \$500 to \$800.

**Action! West Cottonwood's Drama  
Presents: Too Wrapped Up for Christmas**

By Candice Clarno and Morgan Fryrear

What is this play called?

The play is called "Too Wrapped Up for Christmas."

Who chose this play and Why?

Mrs. Ashley chose this play because it's Christmas.

Who is directing this play?

Mrs. Ashley is directing this play.

Who created this play and when was this play created?

Dave Brandell created this play in 1999.

When are the performances?

December 17 is the date for the performances.

Where is the play located?

The play is in the West Cottonwood gym.

How long is the play?

The play is 30 minutes long.

How many characters are in the play?

28 and more characters are in this play.

How long did it take to prepare for this play?

It took 2 months to prepare for this play.

How many performances are there?

There are three performances of this play.

How long did it take you to memorize your lines?

It took 1 month to memorize my lines.

Why do you want to be in drama?

I wanted to be in drama because it's fun and I enjoy acting?

What is the best part about being in drama?

The best part about being in drama is performing.

**Ankles Fight Back**

By Brayden Bishop

Odell Beckham Jr. and Gordon Hayward both break their left ankle. Both run into career ending injuries. Star players take huge losses.

Odell Beckham Jr. is a wide receiver for the New York Giants. He broke his ankle when he was going up for a pass. This injury will take him out for the rest of the year.

Gordon Hayward is a player for the Celtics. He is a small forward and he broke his ankle while going up for an alley-oop at the beginning of a game. This injury will end his season but he said he will come back stronger next year.

While both of these injuries could be career ending injuries, both of these players love the game so much that they plan to come back strong next season.



### **Interview With Mr. Geren**

**By Clayde Vazquez and Kyla Thatilath**

Q: What is your favorite fundraiser we have done?

A: The father daughter dance.

Q: What makes your job interesting to you?

A : He never knows what's going to happen.

Q: What college did you go to?

A: Simpson in Redding, California.

Q: What are your goals as a superintendent?

A: To provide the students with the best education.

Q: How would you describe your personality?

A: Fun, loving, and even tempered.

Q: How do you encourage your students?

A: Trying to tell them they can achieve whatever they want, as long as they work hard.

Q: What led you to choose a career as a superintendent?

A: He likes kids and wants to help the school district.

Q: Who was favorite teacher and why?

A: Mr. Mitrovich, because he was interesting, nice, and he made you feel good about yourself.



### **Interview With Mrs. Hill**

**By Clayde Vazquez and Kyla Thatilath**

Q: What made you want to be the vice principal?

A: She has been teaching for 15 years and she could help the school.

Q: What was your dream job when you were younger?

A: Working and helping people in third world countries.

Q: What sport team do you support?

A: San Francisco Giants.

Q: How would you describe yourself?

A: Hard working individual who is dedicated to making a difference in the world.

Q: What was your favorite grade when you were younger?

A: High school was her favorite grade when she was younger.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher and why?

A: Mrs. Mcquire because she exposed them to thinking about others in different ways.

Q: What advice would you give to a new teacher on his/her first year?

A: Look at each child in different ways in their levels.

## School Library

By: Bryce G. and Aiden M.

### Interview with Mrs. Swetland:

What made you want to be a librarian?

She loves kids, books, reading, teaching, and learning.

If you could choose any job what would it be?

Librarian

What was your first job?

Cashier

What do you do on your free time?

Read, fish, and spend time with family, friends, and garden.

What is your favorite book? Why?

Because of Winn-Dixie because it stirs so many emotions and hope.

How many years have you been a librarian?

23 years

### Recommended Books

#### **Top 10 books**

Frostborn: by Lou Ander

Frostborn has an equal amount of action and calmness.

The Lightning Thief: by Rick Riordan

This book will catch you like a fish. First you listen to your friends recommending it then cannot stop reading and cannot stop until the book is finished.

Seven Wonders: by Peter Lerangis

Seven Wonders is a lot like Percy Jackson but it definitely has a lot more action.

Magnus Chase: by Rick Riordan

Magnus Chase's theme is a Norse mythological world but there is still an even amount of romance.

The Kane Chronicles: by Rick Riordan

The Kane Chronicles is a diverse book with many tasks for the main characters Carter Kane and Sadie Kane.

## INTERESTING FACTS!!

The Asian Elephant

Kyla Thatilath

In this article I will tell you some things about the Asian Elephant. The first thing about them is their diet. Secondly, I will be talking about their breeds. Finally, I will be talking about their tusks. Now, by the end of this article you will know some facts about the Asian elephant.

First I'm going to talk about their diets. The grownup adults can eat up to about 300 pounds in a day! Also, the Asian elephant eats some foods like, grass, roots, bark, and fruit. Next, these elephants don't sleep that much because they like to find food to survive. As you can see their diet is very interesting.

Next, I'm going to talk about their breed. First, female adults stay with their young, while the male adults roam on their own. You have to have commitment to have a baby elephant. Elephants have pregnancy for about 22 months which is longer than others.

Last but not least is their valuable tusks. These strong tusks are used for a lot of things like fighting, digging, and to strip a piece of bark from a tree. Their tusk is made out of ivory which is very valuable. Since their tusks are so valuable, people like to kill these elephants and take their tusks.

Now sadly this is the end of this article. I loved learning about this fascinating animal. Their diets were super healthy. Also their breeds were crazy and interesting. Lastly, their tusks are very valuable and this part was a sad fact about them. Now you know some facts about the Asian elephant.

### **Bama Gets The Win**

By Brayden Bishop

College football team Alabama Crimson wins the championship game against Georgia. After a long fought season, they pull it off. What a great comeback.

After Georgia strikes first and second it looked like it was over, Georgia got comfortable and started to slow down, then, it was halftime. As soon as Alabama came out they scored. But Georgia fired back with another score. This continued until it was tied 20-20, over time.

The rules of overtime are simple: the winner of the coin flip gets to decide if they want to get the ball first or play defense. Georgia won the toss and decided to have the ball first. Georgia drove down the field and kicked a field goal. Then it was Alabama's turn to be on offense. Alabama puts in their true freshman.

Third down, Tua Tagovailoa, the true freshman, drops back, finds receiver #6 wide open then he lets it fly with a 41-yard touchdown to end it 26-23 final.

## The Amazing Place Called Mexico

By Angel Garcia

There is an amazing place called Mexico. It is a country between the U.S. and Central America that's known for its Pacific and Gulf of Mexico beaches and its diverse landscape of mountains, deserts and jungles which are scattered throughout the country, as are Spanish colonial era towns. Mexico is a land of extremes, with high mountains and deep canyons in the center of the country, sweeping deserts in the north, and dense rain forests in the south and east. Mountains cover much of Mexico. Between the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range in the east and the Sierra Madre Occidental in the west lie small mountain ranges on the Central Plateau. These regions are rich with valuable metals like silver and copper. It's a very beautiful place to visit.

There is an ancient culture within Mexico that has amazing buildings that can still be seen today. There is a celebration that is common in Mexico it's called The Day of the Dead. It is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican ancestry living in other places, especially the United States.

Like all places there is good and bad. On September 19, 2017 there was an earthquake in Mexico. It was a very sad moment for kids because there were kids trapped in their schools and they could not get out. The earthquake was a 7.1 and with strong shaking for about 20 seconds. Its epicenter was about 55 km (34 mi) south of the city of Puebla.

Even with terrible occurrences like earthquakes, Mexico is an amazing place to live. There is 127.5 million people living there. It's sad for kids because some kids have to work instead of going to school. They have to help their parents work in the farm or sell stuff. If you have a chance to help the kids there or donate to kids that would be great so that all the kids can go to school and live a happy life.



## INJURED

By Fisher King

Carson Palmer, the starting quarterback for the Arizona Cardinals, is out with an arm injury. The 37-year-old broke his left arm while playing the Los Angeles Rams. He is expected to be out for about 8 weeks. Carson Palmer has nine touchdown passes, seven interceptions, and 1,978 passing yards this year. Odell Beckham Jr. broke his ankle when he jumped up to catch a pass from Eli Manning. He landed in a very awkward position and was carted off the field. This year Odell Beckham Jr. has 25 receptions and 302 yards. Odell is a 25-year-old out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He only stands at 5'11".

Julian Edelman is out with an ACL tear in his right knee. Julian Edelman is a star wide receiver for the New England Patriots and stands at just 5'10". The little man plays like a beast. Julian Edelman has a 4.52 second 40-yard dash.

Kam Chancellor is expected to miss the 2017 season because of a neck injury. Kam Chancellor's 40-yard dash was 4.69 seconds. He went to Virginia Tech. He is 29 and was born on April 3, 1988. He was born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia. Kam attended Matthew Fontaine Maury High School.



## Is Alienware the Best Gaming Computer?

By Aiden McBroom

The Alienware computer is the best gaming computer in America! It has the best graphics in America right now. But sadly it cost over \$1298! It also has 1Tb of space. This computer will give you the best gaming experience that you can get.

This computer comes virtual reality ready. It is a 17-inch gaming laptop. It is a beautiful computer with many different colors to choose from to change the look of the computer. It has a light up keyboard with an alien theme. You can even change the colors of the keyboard.

The Alienware computer weighs 9.6 pounds. The computer is surrounded in ports so there's enough room for expansion. The Alienware computer is basically a gaming command center. This computer last over eight hours and thirty-two minutes. This computer will last a very long time and will give you satisfaction for years upon years.

The Alienware computer has a few downsides. The first downside is that its vents can get to a massive one hundred twenty-four degrees Fahrenheit! In only fifteen minutes the touchpad can get to eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit. The webcam is way too dark and doesn't get features very well. The colors are not as bright or accurate as its competitors. The computer has many downsides and many upsides.

The altogether performance of this computer is great. You can have forty tabs open on google with two twitch streams on high quality and it won't lag. The computer is ideal for gaming. It does very good when gaming and can do well in other cases even though there are downsides. The Alienware computer can even run on high settings for long periods without lagging.

This computer is the best in America. It may have a few downsides but it has many good things to make up for it. I can assure anyone who might be weary. It can help you with many things such as, school work and never raging again because of computer lag in the middle of a game. This gaming computer has many five stars online and has been tested many times. Although it has a few kinks it is the best gaming computer.



## **Mythical Creature Hunter**

By Nathan Burgess

### **Mythical Creature #1: The Werewolf**

A werewolf, or occasionally lycanthrope, is a mythological or folkloric human with the ability to shapeshift into a werewolf, either purposely or after being placed under a curse which mostly happens when getting bitten or scratched by a werewolf. They were first mentioned around 60 A.D. They are based on the grey wolf. They also have different abilities such as: superhuman speed, superhuman agility, superhuman senses, superhuman endurance, superhuman strength, wall crawling, night vision, healing factor, shapeshifting, and immortality. Werewolves may just be fantasy but if they were real this creature's weakness is silver like a silver bullet or a silver knife. There are different types of werewolves, you can tell by their fur and eyes.

### **Mythical Creature #2: The Dragon**

A dragon is a legendary creature that is typically scaled or fire-spewing and with serpentine. Dragons have reptilian or avian traits that are in the myths of many cultures around the world. Dragons can live from 200 - 2400 years. Some actually say dragons are real. If that is true, then you should know their weaknesses. For some logical reason, ice and another mythical creature called fairies are their weakness. It can breathe fire and ice, yet ice still is its weakness. There are different types of dragons. You can tell by their scales and the environment they are in what type they are. Dragon's wings are stronger than steel but are scared of bombs.