

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION ENJOYED
BY ALL IN ATTENDANCE!



Sallisaw Chamber of
Commerce

Judy Martens, Exec. V. P.

AUGUST 2007 ISSUE

Inside this Issue

- 1** 4TH of July
Celebration a hit!
- 2** Local Legislators
Inform Crowd
- 2** 3rd Annual Bassanza
Planned
- 3** CASC President to
Address Members
- 4** Upcoming Events

SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

August Character Trait:

Security – Structuring my life
around that which cannot be
destroyed or taken away.

Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce
301 E. Cherokee
PO Box 251
Sallisaw, OK 74955
1-918-775-2558

SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.

New Location Proves Enhancement

The decision by the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sallisaw to move the Annual Fourth of July Celebration was met with excitement by almost everyone. Many of the local churches were very enthusiastic about joining in and doing their part to make the celebration the best ever. The new location, Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs, provided almost twice the space needed for setting off the fireworks and acres of room for inflatable games, entertainment stage and booths for all participants. Our sincere thanks goes to the **Choctaw Nation** and the staff of **Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs** for not only hosting the event but donating \$5,000 into the fireworks fund. Because of the generosity again from you, the Chamber members and the **City of Sallisaw**, we were able to produce a \$15,000 show this year. Our thanks goes to: **ABC Cleaners, Armstrong Bank, Arvest Bank, Aroma's Coffee Shop, Agent Funeral Home, BHC Insurance, Blue Ribbon Auto Group, Basin Oil & Transport, Century 21 Properties Realty, Charlie's Chicken, Cherokee Casino-Sallisaw, Clif's Pharmacy, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Ellis Auto Sales, Immanuel Baptist Church, 1st Christian Church, 1st National Bank, The Flower Cottage, S. Dan George, Attorney, Gilbert Green Co., GRDA, Greenleaf Properties, Bob Hammons, CPA, Harden and Assoc., Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Henshaw, Johnson Law Office, Mallory-Martin Funeral**

Home, Mr. Jiff, National Bank of Sallisaw, William Orendorff, People, Inc., Journey Church, 1st United Methodist Church, 1st Presbyterian Church, Peters Agency Care Mgmt., Sallisaw Ford, Sallisaw True Value Hardware, Sallisaw Library, Sallisaw Lumber, Sequoyah County Times, Sequoyah Manor, Shelter Insurance, Sonic Drive-In, State Farm Ins., Valley Land & Title, Wal-Mart, Western Sizzlin, Elim Full Gospel and 1st Assembly of God Church. Our sincere thanks always goes out to the wonderful firefighters of the Sallisaw Fire Department; for without them, there would be no fireworks display on the 4th. Please take a minute of your time and thank them for everything they do for our great community. By all indications, plans are already being made by the churches named above to participate again next year even perhaps on a larger scale. We are extremely blessed to have their support in many of our Chamber functions. By the number of cars that were parked, which topped 900, we estimate a crowd of at least 2500 people. This far exceeds the crowd we've had at the football field stadium in recent years. Again, the Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone who participated in the Annual Fourth of July Celebration.

Join us on August 22nd for our membership meeting. The new president of Carl Albert State College, Dr. Brandon Webb will address the crowd. We will meet at the CASC multi-purpose room, 12:00 noon.

Local Legislators Inform Crowd

At the June Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting a large crowd was on hand to hear the results of the latest Oklahoma Legislative Session. State Senators Kenneth Corn and Jim Wilson and State Representative Glen "Bud" Smithson were on hand to give their report and answer any questions from the crowd. All three expressed their frustrations with not being able to accomplish many things that were deemed necessary because of the equal division of Democrats and Republicans.

According to Senator Corn, "it took double work" to accomplish anything. "It was a good thing to adjourn and come home" he added. Apparently, money was not allocated for roads and bridges. In fact that budget was cut somewhat. "That issue will be addressed in the next session" according to Corn. There was \$2 million of the \$15 million set aside for Centennial Projects that was earmarked for maintaining the state's historical sites for future generations. Other

than that, "I can't say we did much of anything" Corn added. Senator Wilson told the Chamber members that "Government is supposed to help business". Oklahoma has one of the lowest tax bases in the nation and still some legislators are pushing for tax cuts. "We've got a big hole coming up next year that we'll never be able to make-up" in regard to funding projects vs cutting taxes. Representative Smithson also expressed his disappointment with the session. Democrats being "the minority has changed things in Oklahoma" he said. "They (Republicans) forced us to pass bad bills that we didn't want to, but we had to" he said about the compromises that had been made. Smithson took an opportunity to thank the Chamber of Commerce for supporting The Greatest Generation project, which helped World War II veterans visit the memorial in Washington, D.C. In other business, President Matt Caldwell thanked all Chamber members who contributed in any way to the recent Diamond Daze Centennial Festival which was a huge success for not only the

Chamber, but the entire community of Sallisaw. He also announced the change in location for the upcoming Fourth of July Celebration from the football field to Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs and thanked in advance those Chamber members who contribute to this event.



Chamber Plans Annual Bassnanza

The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Board of Director's decided in their July meeting to once again host the Bassnanza Fishing Tournament which will be held on September 22nd on Kerr Lake. The Friday night mandatory meeting and Saturday's weigh-in will be held at Applegate Cove Marina. The Chamber is proud to announce and sincerely thank our top sponsors: **1st place, \$5,000- People, Inc., 2nd place, \$2,500- GRDA and 3rd place, \$2,000- Sequoyah Enterprises, Inc.**

Because of their generosity Bassnanza will continue! Please be watching your mail for further sponsorship offers. This event is a great way to bring people to our local motels and restaurants on the week-end of Sept. 21st and 22nd.

Coburn Plans Visit to Sallisaw

Please mark your calendar for Friday, August 17th as Senator Tom Coburn will be at Western Sizzlin' at 6:00 p.m. for a town hall type meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend and ask questions of the Senator. Let's give him a warm Sallisaw welcome and have a great crowd on hand.

Executive Board – 2007

President – Matt Caldwell, NBS
President Elect – Debbie Edgmon, BorgWarner Morse TEC
Treasurer – Terry Nation, Armstrong Bank
Past President – Cheryl Mills, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative

Board Members – 2007

Gary Schaefer – BHC Insurance
Larry Randolph – Charlie's Chicken
Buddy Spencer – President, SIC-Blue Ribbon Auto
Ronda Vinson – ARVEST Bank
Dwight Spencer – Blue Ribbon Auto Group
Terry Nation – Armstrong Bank
Darlene Pearson – First National Bank
Buddy Holt – Red Bird Smith Health Services
Bill Baker – City Manager, City of Sallisaw
Shannon Vann – Mayor, State Farm Insurance
Ron Wyrick – Superintendent, Sallisaw Public Schools
Jayne Hadley – McDonald's **Holly Martens** – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital
Dr. Bob Wells, DDS – Family Dentistry
Judy Martens – Executive Vice-President
Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce

Community News



Chamber Members Aid in Back to School Giveaway

Several Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce members have helped insure that all children in Sequoyah County will start school with the needed supplies. In the past, the Sallisaw Pastor's Fellowship and Catholic Charities have funded this great project. For the last three years, the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce and its members have joined forces with these other organizations to ease their burden and allow more funds to be used for other purposes. Our sincere thanks to all businesses who contributed and to Martha Billings and Mary Lynn Lufkin for coordinating and distributing the supplies.

Character Council Initiates Community Projects

The members of the Sallisaw Character First! Council met on Thursday, July 26th to discuss the need to do some type of community project to educate the public about the Council. It was decided to hand out cold water labeled with "Sallisaw-A City of Character" to the rodeo parade participants. This will also be done for the Sallisaw Homecoming Parade in the fall. It was also discussed that more information about good character needs to reach the children of elementary school age. Efforts are being made at this time to

coordinate that project with Cathy Wood, the Department of Human Services School Social Worker. All attendee's agreed that good character traits must be instilled at an early age. The Council will resume meeting in the fall to continue their efforts within the community of Sallisaw.



Chamber Proudly Participates in Grand Opening

On Wednesday, July 25th along with many dignitaries and Cherokee Nation Tribal leaders, the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce was proud to help sponsor the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the new Redbird Smith Health Center Expansion. This new expansion will allow the Center to see more patients and extend the services to their current patient load. Currently, the Center sees over 5,500 patients each month. The new expansion is an 11,000 sq. ft. facility that will house the Center's administration, behavioral health, community health, transportation and optometry department. "Healthcare is a great priority for the Cherokee Nation and our administration" Principal Chief Chad Smith stated. Again, the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce was proud to be a part of this great event that will aid us in our mission to create a better quality of life for all our citizens.

*Security offers peace in the midst of hardship. Build your life on values that circumstances cannot wash away.
Do not worry about other people's concerns.*

**HERE WE GROW AGAIN!
NEW MEMBERS FOR:
June & July
MOTEL 6**

**LAW OFFICE OF FOURTH
SCOUFOS, P.L.L.C.
IT PARTNERGROUP, L.L.C.**

Thank you for joining the Chamber. Your commitment to making Sallisaw a better place is appreciated.

RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

**REDBIRD SMITH HEALTH CENTER
CRS MOBILE
TOTAL EYE CARE
SENATOR KENNETH CORN
COX' CORNER STORES
OLE' SOUTH RESTAURANT
SALLISAW FORD
SEQUOYAH COUNTY SHERIFF
SEQUOYAH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
STATE FARM INSURANCE
SIMPLE SIMON'S PIZZA
DOWNEY PUBLISHING
SALLISAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TULCO OILS, INC.
HARDEE'S
A.T.&T YELLOW PAGES
BRUSHY LAKE STATE PARK**

Thank you for renewing your membership with the Chamber. With your continued support, we can work together in the growth and development of our great community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce is to enhance the economic vitality of the Sallisaw area while striving to create the best quality of life possible for our citizens.

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 2007

- August 8 Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
12:00 noon – Chamber Building
- August 15 SIC Monthly Board Meeting – Chamber
Conference Room 12:00 noon
- August 17 U.S. Senator Tom Coburn to meet community
at Western Sizzlin’ 6:00 p.m.
- August 22 Chamber Membership Meeting – CASC
Multi-Purpose Room, 12:00 noon – New
CASC President, to address crowd

COMING IN SEPTEMBER – BASSNANZA!

Chamber Champs!

The Chamber would like to recognize Peters Agency Care Mgmt. and First Christian Church for sponsoring our Character banners for the months of July and August. Thank you for your generosity and desire to see Sallisaw encourage good character.

The Chamber would once again like to thank the following churches for making the 4th of July great!

- The Journey Church*
- Immanuel Baptist*
- 1st Christian Church*
- 1st Presbyterian*
- Elim Full Gospel*
- 1st Assembly of God*
- 1st United Methodist Church*



Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 251
301 E. Cherokee
Sallisaw, OK 74955
USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED