

Do you know this lady? Find out why her picture's in the paper, inside today's issue of your McAlester News-Capital! Page 5A



Got a stack of cash? Our expert has the top tips for how to keep that cash and put it to its best possible use!

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McAlester News-Capital

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS | FRIDAY JULY 16, 2010

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Ex-MEDS seeks new face

By JAMES BEATY
SENIOR EDITOR

Going high tech? The group formerly known as the McAlester Economic Development Service heard a presentation on Thursday about the possibility of contracting for a high-tech interactive presentation spotlighting sites around the city of McAlester.

Board members from MPower Economic Development Corp., formerly known as MEDS, listened at John Abbate, president of the Jackson, Miss.-based Marketing Alliance Co., conducted an audio-visual presentation of

what his company has done for other communities.

"We're a marketing firm that specializes in marketing economic development," Abbate told those present, who not only included the MEDS board members but a number of members of the community.

If those promoting economic development go out and do the same thing they've done for the past 25 or 30 years, they'll get the same results, Abbate said.

"Now, over 98 percent of business location sites are

John Abbate, standing at right, of the Marketing Alliance, addresses members of the community during a meeting of the MPower Economic Development Corporation at Eastern Oklahoma State Colleges McAlester Campus on Thursday.



Staff photo by KEVIN HARVISON

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PITTSBURG COUNTY

Blinds for courthouse cost \$31,000

By JOHN YATES
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Pittsburg County commissioners approved payment this week for blinds for the Pittsburg County Courthouse.

Payment, in the form of a requisition certificate, was approved to McAlester's Interior Resources for just over \$31,000.

Commissioners approved the payment, along with a number of others, in their role as trustees of the Pittsburg County Economic Development Authority.

Commissioners also approved payment of more than \$180,000 for a portable filing system for the Pittsburg County clerk's

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TONIGHT'S FORECAST

Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 70s. Light winds. Heat index readings 100 to 105 in the evening.

More weather — Page 2A.

FROM THE BIBLE

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

Colossians 2:9-10

ALMANAC

Today's Lake Eufaula level:

588.14'

Sunrise Saturday: 6:26 a.m.

Sunset Saturday: 8:36 p.m.

OKLAHOMA LOTTERY

7/15/10
PICK 3 3-6-8

7/14/10
POWERBALL 20-21-23-38-42-6

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VOL. 114, NO. 283



City dedicates new firehouse, complex

By JOHN YATES
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Partnership was a major theme at Thursday afternoon's dedication of the city of McAlester's newest fire station, as city and tribal officials were joined by firefighters and citizens for speeches and a ribbon-cutting.

Also at yesterday's ceremony for the McAlester Fire Emergency Response Complex, a senior fallen firefighter was honored, with his daughter being one of the speakers.

An invitation luncheon held in the vehicle bay area of the new fire station took place before the ribbon cutting at the facility, located near both housing in the Kinkead Hills area and extensive business properties along George Nigh Expressway.

"It takes a lot of part-

ners," to build such a project as the fire station, McAlester Mayor Kevin Priddle told those assembled in the sapping summer heat of a July afternoon. "It's amazing what you can do together."

The facility, which combines a modern fire station's facilities with the administrative offices for the fire department, comes with a price tag of nearly \$2 million, and would not have been possible without the Choctaw Nation's contributions.

Pairing an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant the Choctaw Nation obtained for the purpose with more than \$1 million in tribal funds derived from their businesses, the Durant-based tribe provided the crucial funding for the project.

Jim and Terry Miller, whose family donated the

land for the project, were present Thursday and recognized for their contribution to the fire station coming about.

While plans for what has become the reality of the fire station have been in the works for several years, the need for a new fire station in the southeast part of the city was recognized long before that.

In his comments, Priddle referred to a letter from 25 years ago pointing to the need for another fire station, and recommending it be located in the southeast part of the city.

A special senior McAlester firefighter and tragic event of more than 25 years ago was also remembered Thursday, as attendees memorialized the death in the line of

SEE FIREHOUSE | PAGE 3A



Staff photo by KEVIN HARVISON

Choctaw Chief Gregory Pyle, left, stands nearby as Charlotte Evans speaks during the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony held at the city's new McAlester Fire Emergency Response Complex on Thursday.

Newspaper earns national accolades

From Staff Reports

The McAlester News-Capital has been honored with six awards by the National Newspaper Association.

Staffers with the News-Capital won four first place national awards, along with second and third place honors in the NNA's 2010 Better Newspaper Contest.

First place award winners were Senior Editor James Beaty, Staff Writer Mandy Carter and Sports Editor Jayson Knight, while Beaty also won a second place award and News-Capital photojournalist Kevin Harvison received third place honors.

Winners are to be recognized at the NNA's 2010 Annual Convention and trade show held during the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 3, in Omaha, Neb.

NNA Contest Chair Jeff Farren, who is publisher of the Kendall County Record in Yorkville, Ill., congratulated the News-Capital in an award notification e-mail.

"The McAlester News-

Capital has been judged by its peers among other entrants and selected to join the roll of this year's award-winning newspapers in these national contests," Farren said.

"Winners reflect the high quality of publications represented by the association," he said.

"Forgive my lack of humility, but the News-Capital editorial team has been recognized consistently over the years for its fair and balanced news coverage," said News-Capital Publisher Amy Johns.

"We are committed to shining the light in this community and keeping our readers informed."

News-Capital winners are:

- Carter won first place honors for Best Humorous Column in the Daily Division, with circulation's up to 16,000. Carter won for "Life in the Slow Lane," her weekly newspaper column for the News-Capital.

Carter won praise from judges for being "Very funny, but also very famil-



Staff photo by KANDRA WELLS

From left, national award-winning journalists Jayson Knight, sports writer, Kevin Harvison, photographer; James Beaty, senior editor, and Mandy Carter, staff writer, are pictured this morning outside the McAlester News-Capital. The crew was notified Thursday of honors from the National Newspaper Association.

iar and pretty topical too." • Beaty won first place awards for Best Performing Arts Story and for Best

Review, in the open Daily Division.

Beaty won the Best Performing Arts Story first

place award for his article "Astral Weeks: In the

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