

LITTLE DIXIE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

May/June 2007

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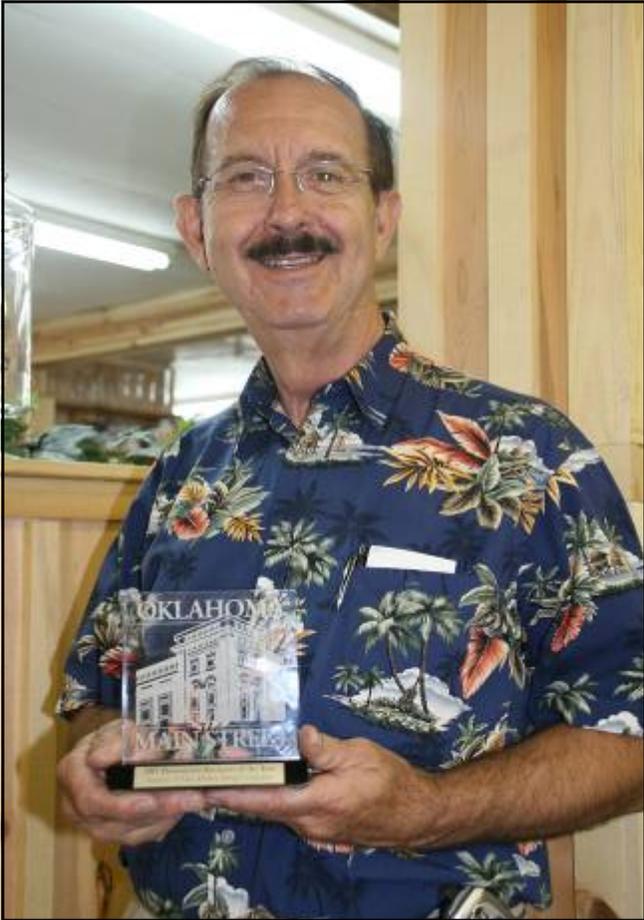


Little Dixie Digest

In Memory Of

Charles Uhles

July 8, 1941 - June 2, 2007



Remembering Charles Uhles 1941-2007

A legacy of community service...

The photo of Charles Uhles on the cover of this month's Little Dixie Digest was taken on April 30, 2007 – scarcely a month before Mr. Uhles passed away. He is shown in the newly remodeled Uhles-Halley Drug Company pharmacy with an award presented to himself and wife Jeanette by Oklahoma Main Street. That group named the pharmacy their 2007 Business of the Year for the couple's efforts to beautify and enhance downtown Antlers.

The picture captures the essence of Charles's personality: A man driven to give, and always looking toward a brighter future. His was a lifetime spent in service to his community and his city, with unwavering dedication to his employees and family.

On that final day of April, Charles was found as always filling prescriptions and answering customer questions at the pharmacy. Somehow, he found a little time to speak to Little Dixie's Public Relations department, which was seeking the first of 27 interviews to profile members of the agency's board of directors in the company newsletter.

Little did we know that the interview



Charles Uhles could always be found in his "element" at the Uhles-Halley Pharmacy in Antlers.

would provide a final chance for Mr. Uhles to tell – in his own words – why he spent so much time in service to others. In most eulogies, we hear from survivors who knew the departed soul. In this case, we will hear from the man himself about a legacy of service that will stand out as an example for generations to come.

Charles Uhles passed away on Saturday, June 2, 2007, at age 65. He and wife Jeanette spent 35 of those years in Antlers. Charles always found himself on a board or council, and as a willing and very capable public servant, he usually wound up leading whatever group he simply had hoped to help in some small way. He has been mayor of Antlers. At one point or another, he served as president of the local Jaycees, Kiwanis and Lions clubs. At the time of his passing, he was chairman of the Board of Directors for Little Dixie Community Action Agency and president of the Antlers Chamber of Commerce. His death leaves a great void of leadership in southeast Oklahoma, but his example will inspire future leaders to fill his shoes.

Originally from Altus in southwest Oklahoma, the Uhles family relocated to Antlers when Charles was hired to manage Dixie Discount Pharmacy. The adjacent Halley Store, which opened in 1913, became the Uhles-Halley Drug Company when Charles and Jeanette had an opportunity to buy the business. They kept the name "in keeping with the history of the local area," Charles said. The business now includes the Fudge Station, one of Antlers' most delectable destinations. A soda fountain which the Uhles' opened 13 years ago includes a booth from the original storefront.



Our late board chairman, Charles Uhles, shown in May presenting a five-year service award to Jay Weatherford (left) with Executive Director Randall Erwin (right).

As a business owner in downtown Antlers, Charles and Jeanette maintained an active role in civic activities. Mr. Uhles was an avid supporter of Scouting, serving on the Boy Scout and Girl Scout councils in Paris and as a Scout master and Explorer Advisor. In addition to the aforementioned mayoral post and presidency of three civic clubs, Uhles was on the Pushmataha County Hospital Board and was currently director of pharmacy services at Pushmataha County Hospital.

He was appointed by the Antlers city government as their representative on the Little Dixie Board of Directors five years ago. In March, he was elected president of the board for a second year in annual officer elections.

Charles was very active in improving the image of Southeast Oklahoma and promoting Pushmataha County as a tourist destination. He served on the District 19 Tourism and Economic Development Authority, which holds most of its meetings at the new Wildlife Heritage Center in Antlers. This facility, where his memorial was held on June 6, was a great source of pride for Uhles.

Story continued on next page



A tribute to our Chairman of the Board 'Helping People, Changing Lives. That means a lot to me.'

Continued from Page 2

He could be found there every morning, feeding the deer which have become the symbol of this self-proclaimed "Deer Capital of the World."

If he could change one thing, Uhles said it would be to "get people in the rest of the state to find out what we are really like." He was very proud of hosting a crew from Discover Oklahoma, who came down to film the area's tourist potential. It was the efforts of people like Charles who made such an impression on the film crew. They were taken aback not only by the scenic beauty of the region, but also the friendliness of the people.

As a Little Dixie board member, Uhles took the agency mission statement of "Helping People – Changing Lives" as words to live by.

"We see so many results from what we're doing. (The motto) means a lot to me," he said. "We're trying to help people that are willing to put in some sweat equity and help themselves. Without that, you'd just be tossing a handout."

Uhles encouraged continuing education and activism for Little Dixie board members, and was especially proud of the efforts of Little Dixie Home Health and the new employee wellness program. "Word of mouth is one of the best things we can do. I talk to people a lot about

Little Dixie and what we do.

"My vision is to continue with programs we've initiated and expand programs to increase the economic base of the area," he said.

Mr. Uhles summed up his life of activism as an inspiration for others to stand up and do their part.

"Antlers has been real good to me and this is my way of paying back. That is what we need, more involvement from people."



Mr. Uhles took time to read to children at the Antlers Head Start and Early Head Start.

Erwin: Uhles was 'true public servant'

Little Dixie Executive Randall Erwin said Charles Uhles was a "true public servant" who was devoted to improving Southeastern Oklahoma.

"He was continually trying to help Antlers and devoted his time to making the communities in southeast Oklahoma better," Erwin said. "Charles was truly a public servant, not just for Little Dixie but in everything he did."

Choctaw County Sheriff Lewis Collins, who replaces Uhles as Little Dixie's Board Chairman until August elections, said he would miss working with Uhles.

"It's a great loss to the agency," Collins said. "He was an excellent chairman. His heart was in helping people, and it made him a great asset to us."

Uhles board seat will remain vacant until the City of Antlers makes a nomination.



Mr. Uhles with Barbara Moffitt and her son Stephen at the Community Action Celebration in Antlers.

Uhles: An ambassador for Antlers

Two Little Dixie events in May gave Charles Uhles a chance to show off his town's newest tourist destination, the Wildlife Heritage Center.

For the first time in many years, a Little Dixie board meeting was held outside of Hugo. On May 15, the board met at the Wildlife Heritage Center, and lunch was catered from a well-renowned barbecue outpost in Snow. Looking back, there could not have been a better scenario for the final meeting chaired by Mr. Uhles.

Many who attended the meeting will remember the fudge samples from the Fudge Station, part of the Uhles family storefront in downtown Antlers. It was special touches like this that made Charles the perfect ambassador for Antlers.

The first of three Community Action Month picnics also was held at the Wildlife Heritage Center on May 11, and Uhles was ever present here as well. He delivered a speech and welcomed Mayor Brent Franks, who signed a proclamation that day.

Employee of the Month



Ron Reese is shown above receiving Employee of the Month honors for April from Little Dixie Board Chairman Charles Uhles and Executive Director Randall Erwin. Reese, who works at Hugo Lake Marina, received a T-shirt and gift certificate to Good Times and Fish Tales Restaurant.

Area celebrations mark Community Action Month



Irene Roberts and Doris Long (Passport to the Future) pose for a photo at the Wildlife Heritage Center in Antlers. Mrs. Roberts was honored by Little Dixie for her volunteer efforts.



Little Dixie Head Start and Early Head Start staff pose with new play-time equipment.

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Antlers hosts first of three celebrations

In recognition of National Community Action Month, Little Dixie held community celebrations in Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties in May.

Irene Roberts was given an award from Little Dixie Community Action Agency for her volunteer efforts during the May 11 National Community Action Month celebration in Antlers. Subsequent celebrations were held in Idabel and Hugo.

For more Community Action Month celebration photos, see Page 5.



Antlers Mayor Brent Franks, right, reads a Community Action Month proclamation with Charles Uhles and Randall Erwin.

A special note...

This edition of the Digest was ready for publication on the day before our board chairman, Charles Uhles, passed away. Many of the events from April and May show Mr. Uhles, and we have chosen to honor him and his family by leaving those images in this edition.



Shown above is the CASA information booth at the Antlers celebration.



Little Dixie Transit driver Laura Dickson demonstrates safety belt use.



Clients share success stories for Community Action celebrations

From a successful Head Start student to new homeowners, Little Dixie's clientele are full of success stories. That is what we are all about.

To celebrate these successes, many people were invited to tell their stories at our Community Action Month celebrations in Hugo, Idabel and Antlers. Here is a sampling of those stories:

Bruce Voirin lost his home and livelihood to the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina. He had relatives in Broken Bow, and came up here to escape the storm. He was living in a 12-foot by 12-foot shack after the hurricane, until Little Dixie Self-Help Housing offered to

help him build a new home. He now lives in the new Self-Help home in the Beavers Bend area.

Juanita Pollard is a volunteer with Court Appointed Special Advocates. She spoke in Idabel about the Little Dixie CASA program, and the ever-present need for more volunteers.

Emilia Lopez is a very high-achieving student at Hugo High School. She credits Little Dixie Head Start for putting her on the road to success early in life. Emilia has received the highest award in the Future Farmers Association — the State FFA Degree.



SHARE Director Joan Edge puts her radio face on for Will Payne of K95.5 at the Hugo celebration.



Patrons enjoy the hot dog lunch in Idabel, thanks to worthy cooks Butch Needham and Frankie Hinton.



The Little Dixie Chicks Linda Byrd, Monica Cannon and Kathy James sing one for "Earl."



Board member Pat Baggs came to Hugo's Community Action Month celebration.

Hugo City Manager David Rawls reads a Community Action Month proclamation.



Planning Director Pam Covington presents the grand door prize (a night at Raymond Gary Lake cabins) to London Dollar of Idabel.



Little Dixie board members Kenneth Hamilton and Herb Matlock (pictured with his wife) attended the Idabel event.

Golf tournament links sport and service

The team of Josh Raper, Charlie Jones, Ron Walker and Donnie Armor scored 10 under par to take first place at the annual Little Dixie Mixed 18 Hole Golf Scramble on Friday, April 13 at Hugo Golf Club.

Finishing in a tie for second place were two teams: Don Short, Buddy Wall, Charlie Mitchell and L.C. Stout, and Randy Crist, Danny Dillishaw and Greg Hammock. The teams elected not to finish a nine-hole playoff due to wet and windy weather on the course. The teams split their winnings.

The scramble is an annual fundraiser conducted by Little Dixie with the help of numerous local sponsors. Money raised through the event is put into an emergency fund to help southeast Oklahoma families in crisis situations. Past recipients have included victims of weather disasters and families who have lost homes to wildfires and accidents.

Golfers had a shot to win a car from Tri-County Autoplex if they hit a hole in one at Hole 4, but nobody drove the car home on Friday. Charlie Mitchell took home a Taylormade driver and Buddy Wall earned a Ping putter for being closest to the pin.



Randall Erwin, executive director of Little Dixie CAA, presents a donation to Raymond Jones, whose family lost all their possessions in a house fire. Proceeds from an annual golf scramble are used to help families in the area in emergency situations.



Josh Raper, Charlie Jones, Ron Walker and Donnie Armor took first place honors at the Little Dixie Mixed 18 Hole Golf Scramble held at Hugo Golf Club.



Buddy Wall won a gift basket, presented by Ron Walker, at the Little Dixie Golf Scramble.

Employee of the Month Guidelines

The Employee of the Month Committee has printed up new nomination forms in hopes of encouraging more nominees for the monthly award to outstanding Little Dixie family members.

The new form is more of a checklist and takes some of the writing pressure off the person nominating an employee. If you do not have forms in your office, call Zach Maxwell or Pam Covington at (580) 326-3351 and they will fax one to you.

Employees of the Month receive a T-shirt, gift certificate to local restaurant and are honored at the board meeting. They also will be eligible for Employee of the Year.

Submit nominations by the 15th of the month in order to be judged during that month. Submit nominations to Planning Director Pam Covington by mail (209 N. 4th St., Hugo, OK 74743), email (pcovington@littledixie.org) or fax (580-326-2305). Nominations are judged by the five-member committee. If the person you nominate is not selected, it is okay to nominate that person again the following month.

Agency fields three Relay for Life teams

Little Dixie friends and family fielded three teams at the 2007 Relay for Life at Gene Nesbit Stadium in Hugo. Self-Help Housing, Little Dixie Home Health and Little Dixie Transit all had teams in the event.

Together, the teams helped raise thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society.



Dennis Trantham (in cowboy hat), husband of Little Dixie accountant Ellen Trantham, was among survivors opening the Relay for Life.



At left, Shanette Bailey and Jeannie Dugat show their Relay for Life spirit.



Home Health's Lynda Fuller and Pat Johnson walk a lap at the Relay for Life.



Lt. Governor's Annual Turkey Hunt

Economic Development Services helps host event at Hugo Lake



Lt. Gov. Jari Askins and Phil Scoggin of Oklahoma Southeast show a centennial quilt.

The Hospitality House at Hugo Lake State Park was the site of the Lt. Governor's Annual Turkey Hunt in April. Site selectors from Boeing, Cushman Wakefield and several other industries gathered in Hugo to kick off the event.

Stacie Pace, Director of Economic Development Services for Little Dixie, assisted in hosting the event, which was attended by Lt. Gov. Jari Askins. Hugo Lake State Park and Marina staff also were instrumental in putting together logistics to make the guests feel welcome.



Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, center, is shown with the 2007 Turkey Hunt guests at the Hugo Lake Hospitality House.



Stacie Pace, right, adds her vocal skills to the pickings of a pair of entertainers at the Lt. Governor's Turkey Hunt.

Economic Development Services Director Stacie Pace wishes to recognize and thank all those who helped make the Early Bird Bluegrass Festival a success. Special thanks to the Little Dixie staff, Chamber of Commerce volunteers for their help in the kitchen, Kiamichi Opportunities for clean-up assistance, and especially Bill and Barbara Grant for everything they do to keep Bluegrass alive in Hugo.

Hugo gets to know Home Health at festive picnic



Randall Erwin, left, pictured with Board Member Mark McIntosh and KDC Director Charles Cayton at the open house picnic hosted by Little Dixie Home Health.



Frankie Hinton, Human Resources Assistant for Little Dixie, is shown with Choctaw County Coalition Co-Chair Martha Bloodworth and her better half, Hugo School Board President Mike Bloodworth.



Little Dixie Home Health staff are shown outside of their offices during the open house and picnic, held in April in Hugo.

LDCAA Self-Help Assistance, Resources & Education (SHARE) Region 2 Technical and Management Assistance Contractor

New Mutual and Self-Help Housing regulations reviewed

The long-anticipated new regulations for the Section 523 Mutual and Self-Help Housing program were published recently. They represent a major shift in the way the program operates. **There is only a 60 day comment period, so written or e-mail comments must be received on or before July 17.**

Here is a quick look at the significant changes.

Grantee Eligibility:

1. Organizations that have been suspended, debarred, or excluded from participation in Federal are not eligible for this program.
2. State Directors will no longer be able to approve exceptions to the requirement that grantees applying for refunding must have received or will receive at least an acceptable rating on their current grant. Exception can only be approved by the Administrator.
3. The proposed rule adds 501(c)(4) organizations as eligible grantees.
4. At least one-third of the board of directors must be very low or low income residents, their elected representatives, or residents of a low income community; and no more than one third of the members can they are from the public sector
5. Applicants must have experienced staff on board prior to grant approval or provide documentation that a paid or volunteer consultant is secured with similar experience to assist and train key staff members. Under the current regulation, applicants can provide a staffing *plan* that reflects they have qualified people to carry out the program

Grant Application Process:

1. Establishes a competitive funding process. The Agency will publish a NOFA in the Federal Register that lists the amount of grant funds available, sets deadlines, and lists scoring criteria. The NOFA will also contain any special criteria designated by the Administrator.
2. Eliminates the preapplication stage, requires more documentation for the eligibility/approval determination, and reduces the documents required for grant approval/closing
3. Simplifies the process for existing grantees who are not high risk and who have received at least a satisfactory rating on their most recent final grantee evaluation
4. Removes the requirement to submit Form RD 1940-20, "Request for Environmental Information." However,

the Agency will continue to complete the Form RD 1940-22, "Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions" with each application. If necessary, the applicant will be required to obtain or assist the Agency in acquiring additional information needed like wetland areas or archeological surveys

5. Applicants will need to pay a credit report fee to the Agency to obtain a commercial credit report on their behalf.

Program Requirements:

1. Participant groups must include at least five homes that will be built simultaneously,
2. At least 40 percent of the participating families must be very low income and all of the participating families must be either low or very low income,
3. Participating family members must contribute at least 50 percent of the labor required on their home.
4. Applicants will have to document that upon completion of each participating family's home, they will have at least 10 percent equity, based on the appraised market value at completion.

Production Line Models and Grant-based Models

1. Establishes the flexibility to allow grantees that operate on an ongoing, "production line" basis (rather than "grant-based"), to close out grants with incomplete units and continue to operate without major lapses between funding cycles. To qualify, grantees must: 1) Have the demonstrated capacity to close out the grant with incomplete homes and continue to meet all program requirements; 2) Have successfully closed out at least two technical assistance grants with the Agency; 3) Have received at least a satisfactory rating on their most recent final grantee evaluation and not currently designated "High Risk" or operating under a workout agreement; 4) Be a multi-funded applicant with funding from a resource other than the Agency; and 5) Propose that no more than 10 percent of the proposed homes to be constructed will be incomplete at grant close out and that all incomplete homes will be completed during the new grant cycle.

TA cost limits

1. Limits the technical assistance cost to no more than 15 percent of the equivalent value of a comparable modest home in the subject area for each home that is to be constructed. This TA amount, when added to the self-help cost of construction (see below), can't exceed the equivalent value of a comparable modest home in the area. State Directors may approve up to 20 percent of the equivalent value if special conditions exist. The Administrator can further limit TA amounts with a no

(Continued on Page 5)



Mutual and Self-Help Housing Regulations published

Continued from Page 4

tice in the Federal Register. “The Agency specifically asks for comments on this issue.”

2. “Self-Help Construction Cost”:
Self-help construction cost is calculated as the total debt to the participating family, subtracting land costs, closing costs and impact fees, and adding any additional financing such as grants which reduces the total debt to the participating family. The agency hopes this will enable meaningful comparisons of construction costs among grantees and to determine the amount of technical assistance requested per unit is realistic and reasonable.

Family Labor Contribution:

1. Lowers the family labor contribution from 65% to a minimum of at least 50 percent of the total 100 percent labor required. The required 100 percent labor task list will be provided in the regulation handbook (not written yet). This task list will be more detailed and each individual task will be assigned a percentage and will identify the labor that can be completed by the family under that task in order to receive that percentage of work completed. The agency believes the current method of measurement is open to a wide variety of interpretation by grantees, meaning that the amount of labor actually contributed by participating families may vary greatly from grantee to grantee.

Grantee Performance.

1. Grantees will be required to provide family members with counseling throughout the project. Counseling required includes direct or indirect homeownership education in accordance with 7 CFR 3550.11(c) and 3550.53(i), including selection of suitable and modest housing designs and assistance in determining contracting and material cost estimates.
2. Grant agreement amendments will be permitted only to modify the grant amount or grant period, as appropriate. The Agency will no longer approve grant agreement amendments to lower the number of homes to be completed.
3. “High Risk” status At any time it appears the grantee is not meeting performance goals or is not complying with program requirements,

counseling must be initiated by Rural Development or their representative. This counseling must advise the grantee of problems or concerns noted and provide the grantee with a reasonable time to return to a satisfactory rating. A “High Risk” designation cannot be made until this process has taken place and only if the grantee did not address the issue satisfactorily.

4. The proposed rule establishes a step by step procedure intended to reduce flexibility in determining “High Risk” status
5. Performance goals –Grantees must perform based upon the application and grant agreement. Commitment include - the number of homes to be complete or incomplete at the end of the grant cycle, the average per unit cost of technical assistance, and the completion date of the project. Grantees who receive an unsatisfactory rating on their performance evaluation are ineligible for subsequent grants

Pre-development Grants:

Increases the pre-development grant limit from \$10,000 to \$15,000

Rehabilitation Projects:

Eliminates rehabilitation as an eligible activity. Existing rehabilitation grantees will continue to honor their existing grant agreements.

Site Option Loans:

Eliminates site option loans.

Service recipients for Little Dixie SHARE

Refunded Self-Help Housing Grantees

- South Arkansas Community Development, Arkadelphia, AR
- Northwest Regional Housing Authority, Harrison, AR
- Inter-Lakes Community Action Program, Brookings, SD
- North East Community Action Corporation, Bowling Green, MO
- Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation, Anthony, NM

Additional Funding for Grantee

- City of Liberal, Liberal KS

Pre-Development Self-Help Grants Awarded

- Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West, Covington, LA
- Red River Regional Council, Grafton, ND

Week of the Young Child

June Birthdays

- 3-Robbie Hill
- 4-Clinda Watson
- 5-Marcia Taylor
- 7-Pamela Waugh
- 10-Sharon Holland
Justin Reeves
- 13-Karen Earnest
- 16-Rita Calvin
- 17-Chrystal Morris
- 19-Bertha Pearl
- 20-Kimberlee Weatherford
- 23-Jennifer Williston
- 24-Jimmie Vandiver
- 26-Terry Meek
Kevin Dean
- 27-Wanda Brisbois
Terri Fowler
- 28-Natha Sullivan
Beulah Blair
- 29-Diane Hill
Tracy Jackson
- 30-Herman Thomas, Sr.
Judy Crumley



Bee McSwain takes care of an Early Head Start youngster during Week of the Young Child events at Idabel EHS.



Antlers I and II Head Start visited Antlers Public Library to receive their blue library book bags as part of the Raising A Reader literacy program.



Hugo Mayor Layton Cox signs his first proclamation for Week of the Young Child, with Head Start Specialists Pat Ray, Pam Waugh and Family Advocates Donna Trapp and Shannon Ward.



Presley Byington poses with an Idabel Head Start after his performance of Choctaw and Plains Indian dances during Week of the Young Child events.



An Idabel Head Start student dances to Plains Indian rhythms during a performance by Presley Byington.



Antlers Head Start class members pose with their new library book bags from the Raising A Reader program.



At left, "Miss Patti" Lehman, director of Antlers Public Library, presents Raising a Reader bags to Antlers Head Start students.

At right, Smokey the Bear visited Idabel Early Head Start as part of the Week of the Young Child.





Dogwood Days a great chance to highlight programs

McCurain County Little Dixie Community Action Agency recently participated in the Dogwood Days Festival, which was a success. We received many inquiries on our different programs.

We presented literature on the following programs: Self-Help Housing, Housing, Weatherization, 504 Repairs, RX Prescription Assistance, Food Stamp Assistance, Tax Return Assistance, RSVP, CASA, Head Start and Home Health. All programs represented received potential clients.

The following people took time out of their

schedule to represent our booth.

- * Beverley Cathey – Self-Help Housing
- * Sammie Coffman – Self-Help Housing
- * Virginia Gilley – RSVP
- * Jerri Mitchell – CASA
- * Marta Osterdock - contributed literature for the Head Start Department.
- * Pat Johnson – Home Health
- * Sherry Holeman - Housing Outreach

CASA and Home Health contributed door

prizes. Casa’s representative, Jerri Mitchell presented a gift basket to door prize winner, Tammy Snook from Broken Bow. Pat Johnson with the Home Health dept. donated a thermometer to door prize winner, Pat De-Foor from Idabel. Virginia Sanders with RSVP presented the thermometer for the Home Health Dept.

We look forward to our next event in reaching out to the public to let them know we are here to meet their needs whenever possible.

Little Dixie represented in Southeast Leadership



Southeast Leadership Class VI graduate Jay Weatherford receives his certificate and State Capitol class photo from Tawni Walden, Southeast Leadership coordinator.



Southeast Leadership Class VI graduate Dennis Willeford receives his certificate from Tawni Walden, Southeast Leadership coordinator.



Two of the six Class VI graduates in the Southeast Leadership Program are Little Dixie employees. Pictured above at the April graduation banquet (held at Cabana Café in Broken Bow) are graduates Shannon Pruett, David Bachman, Bhavisha Patel, Dennis Willeford (LDCAA Smart Start Tri-County Coordinator) and Jay Weatherford (LDCAA Associate Director). Little Dixie is a sponsor of this local branch of the Leadership Oklahoma program, and the graduates named Dawn McDaniel, Head Start Director, and Zach Maxwell, Public Relations Specialist, as their 2007-08 Class VII candidates. (Not pictured: Graduate Brock Whittington.)

Mills joins accounting staff

Cindy Mills is Little Dixie’s newest accountant, joining the agency on March 16. Mills, who works out of Little Dixie Administrative Offices at 209 N. 4th St. in Hugo, fills the vacancy created when Linda Byrd moved into the director’s chair of the Communities Empowering Youth program.



Cindy Mills

Mills was most recently employed at First United Bank. Her children are David, 12, and Ashley, 6.

LITTLE DIXIE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Helping People. Changing Lives.

RANDALL ERWIN
Executive Director

CHARLES UHLES
Chairman of Board of Directors

LEWIS COLLINS
Acting Board Chairman

Board Members: Choctaw County
Leeoma Caldwell, Lewis Collins, Kevin
Cory, Tracy Gilbert, Jo Miller, Ray Noble,
Albert Routon, William Smith, Osker Ward.

Board Members: McCurtain County
Pat Baggs, Carolyn Baker, Kenneth
Hamilton, Betty Jacobs, Keith Lowe, Herb
Matlock, Jerry Shinn, Sherri Smith, Arthur
Stewart, Jane Wooten.

Board Members: Pushmataha County
Brent Franks, Bruce Hammons, Joe Hill,
Mark McIntosh, Bridget Paxton, Andrea
Perkins, Charles Uhles, Tony Winters.

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DATEBOOK...

Upcoming holidays for Little Dixie employees:

Wednesday, July 4 — Independence Day.

Calendar of Events

June 7 — 10 a.m. — Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition meeting — First Christian Church, Antlers.

June 12 — 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. — Choctaw County Commissioner election.

June 12 — 10:30 a.m. — Little Dixie Board

From the Desk of Randall Erwin...

The Board of Directors of Little Dixie Community Action Agency recently held its first meeting outside of Hugo in many years. The May board meeting was held at the Wildlife Heritage Center in Antlers, a beautiful new building which hosts several meetings and events.

The Wildlife Heritage Center, on US 271 South, highlights Pushmataha County's distinction as "Deer Capital of the World." It features displays about our hunting heritage and the wildlife of the area, and is open for visitors daily.

So, why did we go to Antlers to hold a board meeting? As you know, Little Dixie primarily serves people in three counties — Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha. The 27-member board consists of a nearly equal number of members from each county. Our late chairman, Charles Uhles, was from Antlers; Vice-Chairman Lewis Collins is sheriff in Choctaw County; and Secretary Herb Matlock is from Garvin. Despite this cross section of representation from the "Tri-



County area," our meetings have traditionally been held in Hugo, where the agency maintains its headquarters.

It simply came time to break from tradition. Bringing the meetings directly to Pushmataha and McCurtain counties gives better access to the people we serve in those areas, and encourages board participation and public interest. In Antlers, we had 19 of 27 board members attend,

which is more than we've had at a meeting in quite awhile.

In June, the meeting comes back to the Homeownership Center in Hugo, but plans are being made to hold the July or August board meeting in McCurtain County. Our diligent staff makes sure the meetings, which are open to the public, are posted properly both locally, at the state level, and online in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

We invite all Little Dixie staff and partners to attend these meetings, which may come to a town near you soon.



To: Little Dixie Community Action Agency

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone at the Little Dixie Agency for their thoughtfulness during the loss of my mother. The calls, cards and flowers are very much appreciated.

Thank you,

Randall Pruitt

Meeting — Homeownership Center, 500 E. Rosewood (Hugo).

June 13-14 — Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies summer conference — Cherokee Resort, Catoosa.

June 13-16 — 35th annual Kiamichi Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest — Beavers Bend Resort Park, Broken Bow.

June 19 — 11 a.m. — McCurtain County Coalition meeting — MCIC Building, Idabel.

June 19 — 2 p.m. — Choctaw County Coalition meeting — Kiamichi Technology Cen-

ter, Hugo.

June 20 — 10 a.m. — District 19 Tourism Authority meeting — Wildlife Heritage Center, Antlers.

Submit calendar items to:

zmaxwell@littledixie.org

Deadline for submissions to June Little Dixie Digest:

Friday, June 15