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COMMUNITY / Friday, May 9, 2014

Skiatook Journal

## **Cherokee Nation and CNB partner** with Oklahoma Blood Institute to save more than 5,000 lives

From Staff Reports news@skiatookiournal.com

- Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation Businesses employees potentially saved the lives of more than 5,000 people throughout the state last year by donating more than 1,800 pints of blood. The tribe's partnership with Oklahoma Blood Institute has potentially saved more than 18,000 lives since 2010.

"Our staffs at Cherokee Nation and CNB stepped up and made a commitment to Oklahoma families by donating blood," said Cherokee Principal Chief Bill John Baker. "Weather emergencies in Oklahoma routinely put additional pressure on our state's reserve blood supply, while the need for blood remains constant. I am proud our employees have accepted the challenge to give and volunteer at the highest levels in Oklahoma. That sense of priority and community ensures we all remain a little safer.'

OBI is the sole provider of blood to 140 medical facilities in Oklahoma, including Cherokee Nation's W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah.

"Our employees are avid supporters of our community and those in

need," said Shawn Slaton, chief executive officer of Cherokee Nation Businesses. "We are very proud of them and all their volunteer en-deavors across the Cherokee Nation.

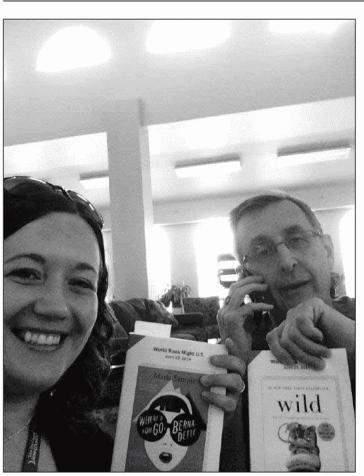
OBI has recognized Cherokee Nation and CNB's efforts with multiple awards, including the Donor Appreciation Award for the largest participation and collections among all OBI blood drives.

"I've seen many of my own family members benefit from the generosity of strangers who gave blood," said Steve Martindale, Cherokee Nation Entertainment employee and longtime OBI donor. "I enjoy giving back to the community, so I give blood as often as possible to help fulfill the ongoing need."

OBI says the need for blood donations is constant. In fact, Oklahoma Blood Institute requires more than 600 units per day just to meet patient demand for the hospitals they serve.

Cherokee Nation and its businesses regularly hold blood drives throughout the year, and they encourage anyone who is able to donate and help save even more lives this year.

For more information on Oklahoma Blood Institute, visit http:// obi.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michelle Beckes, left, and David Malcom, right, recently participated in World Book Night, which is one of the many activities your local library offers you a chance to enjoy. What is World Book Night? World Book Night is an annual celebration dedicated to spreading the love of reading, person-to-person. Each

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Children's Library Associate

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use our meeting room for your non-profit group.

If the Broken Arrow Library has the book you need, we'll go get it for you. When you are finished with it, you can drop it by any TCCL site for check-in.

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Skiatook Journal - Skiatook,

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Phone number: (918) 396-1616

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