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**NEWS** / Wednesday, November 6, 2013

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## Collins is new Skiatook fire chief

By Robert Smith  
 Skiatook Journal  
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Chad Collins, 34, is the new chief of the Skiatook Fire Department.

Nov. 1 was his first day on the job.

Collins was previously deputy chief of the Oklahoma Military Department fire unit providing service to the airbase and airport in Tulsa, in addition to mutual aid duties to the surrounding area. He has been with that fire unit for the past 7 years.

Collins also has done contract firefighting, to include a year spent in

Baghdad, Iraq, in the Green Zone, from December 2004 to December 2005. Firefighting in that setting frequently involved working while under fire from rocket launchers and mortars, he recalled.

"They would launch rockets and mortars and try to start a fire, and then aim toward the smoke while we were in the middle of our mission," he said.

Collins has been in the Air National Guard since 1999, and has risen to the rank of master sergeant. He currently lives in Bartlesville, but is making plans to move to Skiatook. He

has a wife and three daughters.

"We're going to be using every square foot in this room," Collins said last Friday morning, as he and Skiatook EMS supervisor Bryn Burgess labored to make space for all of their activities in a crowded command center at the Skiatook F.D.

With the addition of Collins, the fire department now has 18 paid and 10 volunteer staff members.

"A bold push toward maintaining National Fire Protection Association standards is what we're going to try to do," Collins said. He

and Burgess, who has served as interim fire chief, have been having extensive conversations about the department's needs, Collins said.

Skiatook city government Nov. 29 approved up to \$45,000 of expense to make pump repairs to Fire Engine No. 2.

City Manager Dan Yancey said the truck was fine, but the pump needed repair.

Collins said he intends to insure the fire department engages in community outreach.

"I'm a big believer in building community. That's something I would like to push," he said.



ROBERT SMITH/SKIATOOK JOURNAL

Chad Collins began his duties as Skiatook Fire Chief Friday, Nov. 1.

## Council votes in favor of demolishing property

By Anita Reding  
 News Editor  
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Skiatook City Councilors have approved the abatement of the property at 411 1/2 E. Third

sion of the Skiatook City Council.

The owner of the property told councilors she was attempting to repair the property and requested additional time. She also

the property probably could not be repaired to meet city ordinances, she was given 60 days to decide on a plan of action.

During the Oct. 29 public hearing, coun-

the area.

Councilor Joyce Jech told the homeowner repairing the property would "take an immense amount of money that you don't have," and encouraged

ing codes were met.

According to City Manager Dan Yancey, the homeowner has been given 60 days to demolish the property. If homeowner does not demolish the prop-

councilors in recent months.

One property has been demolished by the city and the owners have been billed for the expense. Other homeowners are work-

city at 411 1/2 E. Third and encouraged the homeowner to search for alternative housing.

That decision was reached by a unanimous vote Oct. 29, following a public hearing regarding the property which was conducted during the regular ses-

sional time. She also told councilors she has lived there a long time and doesn't want to leave her home.

On Aug. 13, a public hearing regarding the condition of the property was conducted. Although the owner was told by the city

public hearing, councilors expressed concern for the safety of the homeowner, who was told the city's staff believe the property is beyond repair. Councilors also expressed concern for the safety of emergency crews or others who may be in

have, and encouraged her and her family to visit other housing options in the city.

The owner was told once the property is demolished, she would still own the land and could build a new structure there, as long as the city's build-

not demolish the property in that amount of time, the city will be responsible for the demolition project, he added.

The condition of the property at 411 1/2 E. Third is one of several that have been addressed by city

homeowners are working to clean up their properties and have provided city councilors with status reports.

All other properties that have been addressed by city councilors recently are not occupied.

## Skiatook, Sperry libraries present Osage Nation classes

**Special to the Journal**  
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All ages are invited to learn Osage language basics during "Osage Language Class," at two Tulsa City-County Library locations in November.

All library programs are free and open to the public.

- Skiatook Library, 316 E. Rogers — 6-7 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 18, 25.

- Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St. — 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 13, 20.

TCCL's American Indian Resource Center is

sponsoring the classes in conjunction with the Osage Nation Language Department. Students will learn greetings, common phrases and basic vocabulary, and sentence structure. The sounds of Osage will be introduced with the Osage Orthography.

"Like most Native languages, the Osage language is disappearing," said Janis Carpenter, Osage Nation Language Department principal teacher. "We encourage everyone with an interest to attend a class to help us preserve and revitalize our lan-

guage for the future. Language is an important part of our culture and we certainly want to see it embraced by new generations."

The American Indian Resource Center, located at the Zarrow Regional Library, provides cultural, educational and informational resources, activities and services honoring American Indian heritage. The center provides access to more than 5,000 books, periodicals and media for adults and children by and about American Indians, including historical and rare materials,

new releases, language resources, videos and music CDs.

"The concept of the American Indian Resource Center's various language classes is to create an interest in Native languages," said Teresa Runnels, American Indian Resource Center coordinator. "The hope is that people will seek further learning through individual tribes or colleges and universities."

For more information on the "Osage Language Class," call Runnels, (918) 549-7472, or visit the library webpage, www.tulsalibrary.org.

## Turkey Trot for Tots set for Nov. 16

**From Staff Reports**  
news@skiatookjournal.com

The fourth annual Turkey Trot for Tots, sponsored by Lakeside Chiropractic and Rehab, will be held Saturday, Nov. 16.

The 5K fun walk/run will begin at the Osage Prairie Trail parking lot on Rogers Boulevard at 9 a.m.

Registration fee is

\$15 and a registration fee can be downloaded from SkiatookChiroDoc.com.

Lakeside will provide T-shirts and breakfast for the participants and there will be prizes for the winners of the event.

All donations and fees from the event will benefit local underprivileged children with toys for Christmas.

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