Connerville, Okla. – Governor Bill Anoatubby was joined by many Connerville-area Chickasaw elders, as well as tribal officials, to dedicate the new Chickasaw Nation Connerville Senior Center.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was April 30.

The new 6,000 square-foot senior center, at 6654 U.S. Highway 377 N in Connerville, is open to Chickasaw and other Native American elders who live in the area. The facility will also serve as a community center.

“We place a very high priority on serving Chickasaw seniors,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “Our seniors are trailblazers and we appreciate them. We are always looking for ways to improve the quality of their lives. This new facility helps us achieve that mission.”

The new building was customized specifically for the area’s seniors. Elders provided input on amenities they wanted in the facility, including a

Are you registered to vote in upcoming tribal elections?

Registering to vote in Chickasaw elections is an easy process. You can register online, send an email, send a letter or call the tribal election office.

To qualify for Chickasaw voter registration, applicants must have an official Chickasaw Nation citizenship card and be age 18 or older. Once a registered voter, tribal election ballots are mailed to voters during election periods.

The process is easy! Voters simply receive the ballot in the mail, mark it, sign it and send it back in the envelope provided and no postage is necessary.

The last day to register to vote in this year’s tribal elections is July 10.

Voting is a way to honor our Chickasaw ancestors and take pride in the historic perseverance of the Chickasaw Nation.

Cultural Center named ‘Outstanding Attraction’

OKLAHOMA CITY - The Chickasaw Cultural Center recently received a RedBud Award as “Outstanding New Attraction” in Oklahoma. The honor was announced by the Oklahoma State Department of Tourism and the Oklahoma Travel Industry May 8 during the annual RedBud Award ceremonies at the Oklahoma History Center.

Sponsored by the Oklahoma State Department of Tourism and the Oklahoma Travel Industry
Native Explorers at Chickasaw Ranch for study

DAVIS, Okla. - Waking at 6 a.m. for an hour long-road trip is not something most students would willingly do on a Saturday morning. But Native Explorers are up and ready to go for their third quarterly meeting.

A total of 32 Chickasaw students, ages six through 18, from the Ada and Ardmore areas, traveled to Chickasaw Farms and Chickasaw Ranch to learn about Earth and natural sciences.

At the day-long camp, students used science to explore the natural world. The day began at Chickasaw Farms, located in Davis where students learned the importance of plants and their role in the world.

Tammy Woods, Chickasaw Nation greenhouse manager, led students on a tour of the heavy equipment, sod fields and greenhouses on the farms. Students got their hands dirty as they took clippings from live plants to grow new ones.

On location to mentor students was botanist Patty Smith, associate professor of biology at Tulsa Community College.

“In my field of conservation biology, we know past Native Americans were excellent stewards of native landscapes and had a good understanding of preserving these landscapes for future generations,” Ms. Smith said.

When activities at this location were finished, the group continued to the Chickasaw Ranch where they participated in a wilderness survival class, archery lessons and fished in one of the many ponds located on the property.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation’s Native Explorer program, visit www.nativeexplorers.org or contact Lisa Daniels at (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Native Explorers program offers experiences in Earth science; open to Indian students ages six to 18

Education has always been important to the Chickasaw people. From their early days in Indian Territory, the Chickasaw Nation has a tradition of excellent schools and curriculum.

The Chickasaw Nation’s Science, Technology and Math Academy has experienced tremendous success. For the past five years, numerous academy students have gone on to further their educations in college engineering and aeronautics courses.

From this success sprang the idea for a new tribal program that would focus on the natural sciences and medical field. The Chickasaw Nation’s Native Explorers program will recruit, train and educate Indian students in the Earth, natural and biomedical sciences. The tribe has partnered with the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History and USDA Forest Service to develop meaningful curriculum that will inspire students.

“Nationally, less than one-quarter of one percent of Native Americans pursues a degree in the science, technology, engineering or mathematics,” Dr. Kent Smith of the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences said. “I believe using hands-on activities that weave culture with science is an effective method of learning for youth of any ethnicity and increases their interest in both culture and the natural world.”

Open to Native American students ages six to 18, Native Explorers are instructed by professional mentors. Explorers is modeled after the tribe’s successful Robotics and LEGO programs.

Native Explorers meet quarterly throughout the year. Chickasaw students participate in hands-on activities that create excitement. Traditional classrooms and books are traded for museums and outdoor lectures.

The Native Explorers program continues into a student’s college years. College-aged Indian students are invited to participate in a camp where college hours may be earned. These camps demonstrate how different fields of sciences interact with one another.

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