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Museum: Choctaw easement holds 'liabilities'

By James Scogin

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Georgetown Scott County Museum has responded to questions about its potential to leave a preservation easement with Choctaw Academy by Dec. 31. In a statement provided by the museum, the organization believes "holding that easement carries continuing responsibilities, financial considerations and potential liabilities for

the museum."

On Aug. 31, 2018, Georgetown Scott County Museum signed a preservation easement with William "Chip" Richardson and Candace Richardson who own property on Stamping Ground Road where a Choctaw Academy dormitory sits. Since buying the property in 2012, Chip has sought to preserve the dormitory.

According to the easement, the dormitory has fallen into disrepair and

work is needed to stabilize the exterior. The easement also states "the parties recognize the architectural, cultural, and historic significance of the Dormitory (the "Preservation Values") and have the common purpose of preserving the Dormitory ... for the benefit of the public."

As the museum operates



Richardson

"largely with public funding" and the Richardsons own Choctaw Academy land, the museum believes use of public funds associated with private property does not show "responsible stewardship," the September 2026 statement reads.

"The Georgetown Scott County Museum does not own the Choctaw Academy or the land on which it sits," reads the statement. "As stewards of a charitable organization, the Board must consider

whether the Museum has the capacity to fulfill its commitments over time, including the financial resources, staffing, expertise, insurance obligations, and institutional support those commitments require.

"That responsibility is particularly important because the Museum operates largely with public funding. When reviewing the Museum's insurance obligations, the Board had to ask a reasonable ques-

tion: should the Museum continue using its limited resources, the majority of which come from public funds, to pay insurance costs associated with privately owned property?"

In an Aug. 20 letter to Chip from Michael Hockensmith of The Hockensmith Agency, Hockensmith found that the Choctaw Academy dormitory "would not enhance the value of (the

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Fall festivities at Buffalo Daze

STAMPING GROUND—Dozens turned out Saturday, Oct. 3, to kick off the fall season at Buffalo Daze, a community festival hosted by the Stamping Ground Community In Action group. Festivalgoers were treated to a petting zoo, inflatables, games, and a slew of food and craft vendors. Organizers say the festival, hosted outside Stamping Ground Elementary, is intended to provide free activities for local children as summer comes to a close.

NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTOS BY JACK THOMAS



Burn restrictions in place for fire hazard season

By Jack Thomas

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Seasonal burn restrictions are in place through Dec. 15 as officials seek to protect forests and personal property during Kentucky Forest Fire Hazard Season, according to Scott County Fire Department (SCFD) Fire Marshal Josh Cromer.

Unlike a burn ban, the restrictions, adminis-

tered by the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF), only apply under specific conditions, Cromer said.

"Regular controlled burns are still allowed," he said. "The only difference during Forest Fire Season in Kentucky is Oct. 1 through Dec. 15, burning during the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.—just during the daytime hours—you cannot be within 150 feet of a woodland. That is

really the only caveat to fire season: keeping your controlled burns away from wooded areas."

Burn restrictions do not apply outside the provided hours, or when "the ground is covered in snow," according to the notice administered by KDF.

Twice a year, KDF implements restrictions to address "extremely dry" climate conditions and increased ground

matter, like fallen leaves, Cromer said. The current fall season and a spring season, running Feb. 15 through April 30, see the same rules enforced on burn restrictions.

"At the end of the day, it's pretty much during the daytime hours, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., when you've got your low humidity, a lot of people are burning more often, that

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WEDCO DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

September food scores: 13 test or retest perfect

By Jack Thomas

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Thirteen food service establishments in Scott County received perfect

scores during standard or follow-up inspections out of 29 facilities inspected during September, according to data from WEDCO District Health Department's Food Program.

Inspections are conducted at each applicable facility every six months, with additional inspections following complaints or violations and scores that warrant follow-up inspections, WEDCO Public Health Director Rachel Winkle said. Violations are determined using state and federal regulations and standards for "food handling, sanita-

tion, employee practices, and overall facility conditions."

"Our Environmental Health team takes every inspection and complaint seriously," Winkle said.

'Our Environmental Health team takes every inspection and complaint seriously. Our goal is to apply food safety requirements consistently and ensure establishments are operating in a manner that protects the health and safety of the public.'

Rachel Winkle
WEDCO Public Health Director

"Our goal is to apply food safety requirements consistently and ensure establishments are operating in a manner that protects the health and safety of the public."

In September, four establishments received perfect scores during standard inspections: **Clark's Pump and Shop (Marathon)** at 2001 Paris Pike, Georgetown; **Kingdom Enterprises** at 1002 S. Broadway, Georgetown; **Toyota Power Train Cafeteria** at 1001 Cherry Blossom Way, Georgetown;

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