

# MIDPOINT

News, Views, & Comments From Oklahoma's Largest Industrial Park

Two-year process yields 14 new signs.

## New park signs give 'signature' image to park entrances and industries.

In what consumed over two years of planning, MidAmerica now boasts a new set of contemporary signs at all major entrances.

"Back in 2006, our board of trustees issued a directive for us to look into a new sign package to replace the outdated and weathered signs that we installed in the early 1990's," said Larry Williams, MidAmerica General Manager. "The board also wanted something that more appropriately fit our image as one of the nation's premier industrial parks."

"The final objective was to help direct traffic to park industries. Over the years, we have seen a big increase in the number of calls to our office switchboard for directions to firms we have here at the park," Williams said.

To get the project up to speed, a complete survey was done of all major entrances and streets. The survey was critical to making decisions about where the new signs would be placed. The park's aerial map helped to pinpoint potential sign locations that would be used as a focal document in the bidding process.

"We opted to make this a design / build project that would allow bidders to use their creative abilities in a comprehensive package," Williams said.

In May of last year, a pre-bid conference attracted four qualified companies. The workscope was reviewed and many questions were asked. Four weeks later, sealed bids were presented to the park. In the fall, staff recommendations were presented to the



**Hard to miss. Major entrance signs tower at 40-foot tall with 25-foot wide faces.**

park's board for review and approval.

The winning bidder was Tulsa-based Claude Neon Federal (CNF), the largest sign company in northeast Oklahoma. Established in 1926, the company has 50 employees that work from a multiple-building complex near downtown Tulsa.

"We did the original signs for the park in the previous decade – that gave us a bit of a head start on the process," said Gary Larsen, a CNF Account Executive. "This time we had the opportunity to re-assess the needs of the park and put their new signs on a much grander scale."

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Opening doors to manufacturing careers.

## OSU Institute of Technology hosts area educators.

This summer nearly one hundred K-12 educators from Northeast Oklahoma attended a two-day program at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology-MidAmerica.



**Nearly 100 teachers from school districts around the region were invited to participate in the program.**

The "All About Manufacturing" program, made possible by a grant from Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Project Moves, focused on changing the public perception of manufacturing providing the teachers with information regarding manufacturing as a career choice. Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology Director, Economic and Workforce Development, Scott Fry said, "By educating teachers about manufacturing as a career choice, we are providing information and knowledge they can pass on to the students and their parents. We are working hard to develop an educated workforce for the park's industries, both for now and for the future," Fry continued. "Part of that equation is to change the traditional image of manufacturing as a dark, dirty, dangerous, low paying, dead-end job. That simply is not the case!"

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MidAmerica signs continued from front page

According to Larsen, the first finding was that the park had no “official” entrance. “That’s something that’s pretty important to have – a point that says ‘you’ve arrived,’” Larsen said.



Each sign has a “beacon” at the top with a unique and simple “way-finding” address in big, easy to read type.

The first task for CNF was to design an integrated sign plan that would reinforce the image or brand of the park. The second task was to assist visitors and truckers alike to get to their destinations anywhere in the park with confidence. To accomplish this goal, a ‘way-finding’ system was employed to make it easier to travel through the park to reach a specific park company.

“The real benefit of a way-finding system is that it works 24 hours a day to reassure trucking firms that they can get to

where they are headed in the park without any difficulty,” said Joe Kesterson, Senior Designer for CNF.

The way-finding system for MidAmerica’s signs uses unique numbered “beacons” or boxes on the top of each sign. The boxes act as short, easy-to-remember addresses for visitors to reference on their way to any location within the park.

Kesterson’s first impression of MidAmerica was lasting. “I was overwhelmed by the sheer size of the property and the number of industries that they have. The basic question was how could signs be used to cohesively tie together all 9,000 acres that define MidAmerica? The small signs that were installed years ago just didn’t catch the eye. That’s a key reference point for us to make our versions big enough to attract attention to feed traffic anyplace in the park. That’s also the basic philosophy behind the creation of a ‘way-finding’ system,” Kesterson said.

“The first finding was that the park had no “official” entrance. “That’s something that’s pretty important to have – a point that says ‘you’ve arrived,’” Larsen said.

According to Williams, the way-finding system was a significant factor in selecting CNF for the job. “Here at MidAmerica, we never take the night off. Many of our industries operate on a 24-7-365 basis. Day or night, we needed some help in getting traffic to their ultimate destination without



A crew from Claude Neon Federal uses a crane during the installation of one of the primary entrance signs.

our personal assistance,” he said.

The approved plan had 14 signs: two primary signs at the major entryways at the intersections of Highway 69 / 69A and Highway 412 / 412B; three secondary signs to delineate access to Expo Center, Gatorade, and the intersection of Highway 412B / 69A; and nine directional signs that list park industries to be found on specific streets.

The signs are fabricated with steel frames and aluminum powder coated skins. The primary and secondary signs are internally illuminated and have beacons at the top that flash to draw attention to the way-finding system. The faces for all the signs are curved – a high-tech continuity ‘signature’ for the project.

“The total package has a feel to it that enhances our brand and solves a lot a traffic issues that we have been coping with for years,” said MidAmerica Administrator Sanders Mitchell. “Since we had the new signs installed we have received a lot of very positive comments about their style and impact on the street. And, calls from first-time visitors asking for directions have fallen to almost none.”

## Berry Plastics first Bonus Day.

**B**erry Plastics Pryor plant recently celebrated its first Bonus Day with an old-fashioned company cookout. Plant Manager Rod Merrill explained the logic of Berry’s Bonus Plan Philosophy by saying, “Berry promotes a work culture of employee understanding and empowerment. We know that our work is worthwhile and we work together to achieve our commitments and exceed our customers’ expectations. We value each employee as

an individual and we believe that each employee is in control of their work. Every employee makes a valuable contribution toward achieving our shared goals.”

“These bonuses are based on the plant operating income, employee seniority, hours worked, wages earned and participation on teams,” continued Merrill. “By being a team player, reducing scrap and downtime, working safely and ensuring that quality product is sent to our customers, we can

all ensure that the next bonus due to be paid in December is even larger.”

Merrill distributed the bonus checks and company shirts to the employees. Merrill concluded by saying, “At Berry, we recognize great performance and we celebrate our success. By cheering each other on, we bring an enthusiasm to our work that is contagious and fun!”

[www.berryplastics.com](http://www.berryplastics.com)

*Manufacturing Camp continued from front page*

“Over the years, the manufacturing industry has gone from needing people with strong backs, to needing people with strong minds,” Fry said. “Today a career in manufacturing is high tech, automated and professional. It is important that we become proactive in promoting this new image of manufacturing to the children and youth. Changing teachers’ perception is the first step toward changing students’ perception.” Fry’s assumption was affirmed by the



**An assembly line was created for an assembly line project.**

teachers’ responses to the program. “The workshop has been an eye opening experience for me and has completely changed how I view manufacturing,” said Pryor High School math teacher Meleaila McClure.

Terry Newton of Chouteau-Mazie Schools added, “I was very surprised at the career choices available, but mostly the salaries which can be had in manufacturing jobs.”

The first day of the “All About



**Teamwork makes it happen – in the classroom as well as the shop floor.**

Manufacturing” program included one-on-one discussions with industry leaders. The educators also toured MidAmerica Industrial Park, American Castings and Labinal. They learned about educational opportunities available at both OSU Institute of Technology and Northeast Technology Center, which also has educational facilities at MidAmerica, with its primary campus located in Mayes County, just west of Pryor.

The beginning of the second day the educators were involved in a LEGO robotics exercise. The exercise provided a hands-on experience, which replicates industrial processes. Fry also gave each teacher a voucher to bring their entire class to one of the LEGO programs OSU Institute of Technology schedules regularly.

The program concluded when industry, business and community leaders, elected officials and state agencies such as Workforce Oklahoma met with the teachers

and discussed how the community can work as a team to provide a quality workforce for the industries at MidAmerica.

Debbie Evans, English teacher in Chouteau-Maize HS is now working with fellow teachers to follow up on the program. “We absolutely loved it. We’ve had some meetings since we returned and are planning field trips to MidAmerica. We’re also going to be scheduling some guest speakers from the industries to come into the school.”



**After the LEGOS machines are assembled, programming began.**

Schools represented included Pryor Public Schools, Chouteau-Mazie, Osage Elementary (Pryor), Keys Elementary, Commerce Elementary (Commerce), Jay Public Schools, Locust Grove Schools, Mason Public Schools, Porter Consolidated Schools, Welch Public Schools, Justice-Tiawah, Western Heights, ROCMND (at-risk services for youth), Hilldale Schools, Ft. Gibson, Thunderbird Youth Academy and Oklahoma Workforce.

[www.osu-okmulgee.edu/maip/](http://www.osu-okmulgee.edu/maip/)

## MidAmerica sponsors another successful Job Fair.

**A**s a sign of how well MidAmerica industries are doing, the 2008 MidAmerica Job Fair hosted participating employers posting more than 500 jobs.



**MidAmerica Marketing Director Don Berger chats with Beth Osborne, Susan Wagoner and Kari Mace-Russell at the RAE Corp. exhibit.**

Human Resources professionals represented employers, which included American Castings, Berry Plastics,

Cherokee Nation, Digi Surveillance Systems, Express Employment Professionals, Express Metal Fabricators, Georgia Pacific Gypsum, Gatorade, Google, HEMSaw, Interplastic, Kelly Services, Labinal, Mid-South Maintenance, Orchids Paper Products, Power Soak, RAE Corp., and SYGMA.

During the first hour more than 330 job seekers entered MidAmerica Expo Center.

In addition to offering potential jobs, area educational centers – OSU Institute for Technology, Rogers State University, and Northeast Technology Centers – manned booths that offered counseling and presented programs and educational opportunities for the applicants.

Workforce Oklahoma counselors were available to assist with copies and computers were available if job seekers needed help



**Attendees complete resumes prior to meeting with company representatives about potential job options.**

creating a resume.

“The fact is that we have quite a few companies that are growing and have an immediate need for additional employees,” said Don Berger, MidAmerica Marketing Director. “These are good paying jobs with competitive benefits at great companies that are prospering in today’s global economy.”

# Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce & Tourism addresses Pryor Area Chamber.

Secretary of Commerce and Tourism Director Natalie Shirley was the featured speaker at a recent forum luncheon sponsored by Pryor Area Chamber of Commerce. Shirley was introduced by Sanders Mitchell, Administrator of MidAmerica Industrial Park. Mitchell acknowledged that he and Secretary Shirley work closely on numerous projects since she is also a member of the MidAmerica Industrial Park Board of Trustees. Secretary Shirley, who is a native of Oklahoma, is also a graduate of Oklahoma State University and The University of Oklahoma School of Law. She was President and CEO of ICI Mutual Insurance Group in Washington, D.C., for 15 years prior to returning to Oklahoma.



Natalie Shirley addresses members of the Pryor Area Chamber.

"Pryor has set itself apart from the rest of the state, with the creative spirit of the community toward economic development," Shirley began.

"We all know that Oklahomans are hard workers recognized nationally for their ability to get the job done. Yet, as valuable as this strong, unyielding work ethic is, it will not be enough to carry us successfully into our next 100 years," continued Shirley. "To ensure that Oklahoma offers industry and business the innovative talent needed to compete in a knowledge-based economy, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Governor's Council for Workforce & Economic Development launched the Oklahoma Certified Workforce Ready Communities (CWRC) program, which expands the state's skills assessment and certification effort currently offered to employees, job seekers, and employers through the Career Readiness Certificate program. Pryor and Mayes County signed on immediately as one of our first pilot communities."

An additional commitment to workforce readiness, initiated by Oklahoma's Department of Commerce Project Boomerang, is crafted to attract highly skilled workers and bring expatriate talent back home.

"As the lead economic development agency in Oklahoma, the Department of Commerce continually works to find ways to retain and attract a highly-skilled workforce," said Shirley. "We initiated Project Boomerang as a way to capitalize on our greatest asset: our Oklahoma native talent."

Project Boomerang seeks two distinct audiences. The first audience includes 25-45

year-old knowledge workers to fill high-wage jobs. Target professions include engineers, nurses and various healthcare professionals, aviation mechanics, technology workers, and others deemed essential to helping advance the economy.

The second audience includes 45-65 year-old executives with management experience. Their skills can be used to help upstart companies get on track. While at the same time those executives will enjoy a more relaxed pace that is offered by living in Oklahoma.

A variety of media such as direct-mail pieces, websites, and social networking are being utilized to reach those dubbed "Elsewhere Oklahomans" and remind them what the state offers.

"Having a skilled, available workforce is one of the biggest challenges facing businesses across the nation," Shirley said. "Through efforts such as Certified Workforce Ready Communities and Project Boomerang, we believe we can pull Oklahoma from that mix and provide workers ready to help companies here grow and prosper."

"In speaking with Sanders and his team at MidAmerica Industrial Park, as well as industry leaders, we are aware that a strong and educated workforce is at the forefront of everyone's wish list for Oklahoma, concluded Shirley. "We, at the state level, intend to use all efforts necessary for Oklahoma not only to compete, but to lead and to keep our economy moving forward."

[www.okcommerce.gov](http://www.okcommerce.gov)

## Plant expansion at Performance Pipe increases capacity.

In late July, a 16,000 square-foot expansion of the Performance Pipe plant at MidAmerica was finished to increase manufacturing capability at the facility.

"We continue to invest in our plants to provide the country with the newest products," said Dave Morgan, President of Performance Pipe, a division of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company. "Our plant in Pryor is located in the middle of the nation where many significant projects are being undertaken to revitalize the infrastructure and supply of natural gas."

According to Plant Manager Shawn

Spears, the plant is OSHA VPP STAR certified and has not had a recordable injury in over three years.

"We are also ISO 9001: 2000 certified to assure our customers are getting the top quality products they've come to expect from us for the past 40 years. This includes meeting the specifications for natural gas lines, municipal water distribution and geothermal systems which are increasingly popular as a way to reduce electricity usage," Spears said.

According to Spears, future expansion plans include increasing the size of the storage yard to double the plant's storage capacity.

## On-site flu shots: Schedule now for fall.

Locust Grove Family Physicians and the Community Physicians Group have agreed to provide on-site flu shots for employees of MidAmerica industries. Nurses will come to each participating business, at times arranged with plant management, to administer the flu shots which cost \$20 each.

The optimal time for receiving flu shots is usually considered to be during October and November. Call Donna Reese at 479-524-3141 for more information.

# Pryor Creek's cost of living lowest in US.

The city of Pryor Creek has taken the No. 1 position in the nation for affordability according to a national survey released by ACCRA.

Pryor Creek typically has the lowest composite cost of living index among eleven Oklahoma cities that participate in the quarterly review. The table below shows the index for five of the eleven Oklahoma cities along with others from around the nation.

At the other end of the cost spectrum, the Manhattan district of New York City earned the No. 1

America's Least Expensive Urban Areas	
Urban Areas	COL Index
Pryor Creek OK	82.4
Ardmore OK	87.2
Oklahoma City OK	89.0
Stillwater OK	88.5
Tulsa OK	86.5
Chicago IL	110.5
Cleveland OH	95.7
Little Rock AR	95.8
Minneapolis MN	110.6
Riverside CA	127.6
Philadelphia PA	123.5

ranking as the most expensive place to live with a score of 220.3.

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index measures differences between areas in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 60 items for which are collected quarterly by organizations in each participating areas. MidAmerica collects the statistics on quarterly basis.

## Dedicating the Centennial Clock.

On a recent warm afternoon Mayes County community leaders and elected officials gathered on the west side of the Mayes County Courthouse to dedicate the Centennial Clock.



The components for the clock arrived safely on a flatbed truck.

County Treasurer Martha Carman began the ceremony by saying, "This gracious gift, this Centennial Clock, is a gift from the MidAmerica Industrial Park's Administration and Board of Trustees to the citizens of Mayes County."

"Last year County Assessor Sam White and I began investigating possible projects Mayes County could do to acknowledge Oklahoma's 100-Year Anniversary," Carman said. "The Centennial Commission had designed a clock which was available to communities throughout the state. We believed

that would be the best possible project. It would be very visible in front of our new Mayes County Court House."

"We scheduled an appointment with Sanders Mitchell, just hoping he could give us some ideas of where we might go for possible funds," Carmen continued. "While we were talking to him, he committed to take the entire project to the MidAmerica Industrial Park Board of Trustees for funding. We were just in awe. We went in to ask for his advice, but we ended with the entire project funded. We cannot thank the Board of Trustees enough for donating the money to purchase the lasting and beautiful memory of our State's Centennial for the people of Mayes County."



Standing tall and proud: a timeless reminder of the Centennial. Images: Hunter Dillard

## Airport Road gets extreme makeover.



A crew from Horizon Construction of Owasso applies asphalt to the new Airport Road at MidAmerica. The now completed project replaced a curved road to the MidAmerica Airport with a new 32-foot wide straight version that created a new intersection with Webb Street. Other components of the project include shoulder widening, the creation of a new drainage system and raising the grade to each side of the GRDA rail spur.

# POINT OF VIEW: A COMMENTARY FROM MEREDITH FRAILEY

## The Best of Both Worlds.

Cherokee people live in two worlds: the white man's world and the Indian's world. It is important as an Indian tribe seeking self-determination and self-reliance to master the best of both worlds. Between people of good will such as those in MidAmerica and the Cherokee Nation, such goals can be accomplished through sound partnerships. Together, we can advance the quality of business governance, cultivate companies and cultures of which we can be proud and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

But first, I'd like to back up and set some context for this article. I want to talk about sovereignty, Cherokee credo of maintaining cultural integrity, and the Cherokee perspective on business. Sometimes, these critical elements are ignored.

When Europe began to colonize America, they immediately encountered the people already living here – the Indians. By the 1600s, British colonists began negotiating treaties with Indian nations, recognizing their sovereign status. By the time of the American Revolution, the practice of negotiating with tribes as sovereigns through treaties was well established.

In recognition of tribal sovereign status, the new U. S. Constitution reserved the power to regulate commerce with Indian tribes to the Congress. Early court cases solidified this relationship and clarified enduring legal principles and inherent tribal rights: (1) Tribes are sovereign nations, and state laws do not apply to them, (2) self-governance and (3) self-determination.

In the early 1800s in eastern United States, tribes were being removed from their homeland. Most people are familiar with the infamous Trail of Tears. Further, the Dawes Act of 1887 broke up tribal land base. Under the Curtis Act of 1898, Cherokee courts and governmental systems were abolished by the federal government. These and other acts were designed to end tribal sovereignty to pave the way for Oklahoma statehood in 1907. The federal government appointed chiefs to the Cherokee Nation, often just long enough to sign a treaty. The Cherokee Nation



recognized it needed leadership and a general convention was convened in 1938 to elect a Chief. J. B. Milam was chosen and as a goodwill gesture, Franklin D. Roosevelt confirmed the election in 1941.

“Today, we are experiencing great growth and generating nationwide publicity along with many Indian tribes.”

W. W. Keeler was appointed chief in 1949 by President Truman. As the federal government adopted the self-determination policy, the Cherokee Nation was able to rebuild its government and W. W. Keeler was subsequently elected by the Cherokee people, via a Congressional Act signed by President Nixon. Thereafter, Cherokee citizens have been electing their leaders every four years.

The Cherokee people are a resourceful, organized and adaptive people. The federal government drove them from their homeland in Georgia. They survived the Trail of Tears, organized their government in Oklahoma only to have it dissolved by statehood. Tribal leaders re-organized again. Today, we are experiencing great growth and generating nationwide publicity along with many Indian tribes. Tribal gaming is expanding rapidly as Cherokee Nation Enterprises develops

hotels, golf courses and other amenities that complement the gaming experience.

There is a segment of tribal economy, however, that does not involve gaming and that is an area of focus by Cherokee leaders. A long term goal is development of resources and businesses that lead to a higher standard of living, increased cultural vitality and greater freedom to make choices concerning the Cherokee people's future. We are anxious to create a sustainable, diversified economy and ensure a future flow of revenue for government services and diversification. One strategy to accomplish these goals is welcoming partnerships with Indian and non-Indian businesses. Businesses who move into the tribal economy find they are dealing with proud and culturally rich people who are living and operating under a very unique and complicated legal status, particularly relating to taxation, land/trust, sovereign immunity and dispute resolution.

In many tribal governments, non-Indian businesses must recognize they are doing business with a government, not a corporation. However, to insulate Cherokee business enterprises from governmental politics, the Tribal Council approved jobs growth legislation. A major focus of the legislation is not only to create jobs but to develop business structures that meet the demands and needs of the future.

Our business enterprises each have a board of directors of very astute business men and women who make business decisions without interference from government officials. A major challenge of the directors is to cultivate companies and corporate structures of which the Cherokee people can be very proud.

Since the Tribal Council provides financial oversight of Cherokee people's money, the business enterprises are required to provide a monthly update on their progress to the Tribal Council. Their report helps the Council stay alert and know where the companies are going because we believe in the principle that feedback and adaptation will drive the success of our companies. After all, the success of the capitalist system is based on its capacity to harness marketplace feedback-and-adaptation.



**A new Wolf Creek Bridge was reconstructed as a result of the partnership between the Cherokee Nation and Mayes County Commissioner Alva Martin. The project is another example of how the Nation invests in sustainable community development such as better roads and bridges.**

Cherokee leaders believe creating strong, healthy, clean and safe communities is crucial. A strategy of our business enterprises takes into account the needs of the tribal community. Sometimes, this means looking beyond the bottom line and immediate financial returns. Today, when the economy is changing in fundamental ways, when it impacts not just one culture but a global community of cultures, the single minded focus only on the bottom line can bring disastrous consequences. Consequently, Cherokee leaders are not focused on next quarter but on the next generations.



**Employees at the Cherokee Nation Industries' Stilwell facility prepare wiring harnesses for a Sikorsky helicopter. The Stilwell plant has over 360 employees.**

Cherokee leaders are not interested necessarily in enterprises that fill the pockets of corporate shareholders. We believe enterprises should provide for the long term social and economic health and welfare of tribal citizens. Everybody is so accustomed to the traditional business matrix with a major focus on return on investment. However, there are social returns – diversifying beyond gaming, providing jobs and benefits, child daycare, culturally appropriate work – these are areas that don't have a place on the balance sheet. A particular enterprise may not be a revenue generator, but a jobs program and an agent for the betterment of humanity.

Everything we do will echo through time. It is vital to formulate all development plans with consideration toward how they impact the overall society and future generations. The potential exists for economic development to strengthen and further the Cherokee culture.

Thus, economic development is the engine for overall social development and a higher standard of living for Cherokee people and non-Cherokee people.

**“Economic development is the engine for overall social development and a higher standard of living for Cherokee people and non-Cherokee people.”**

A partnership with outside governments and businesses is a viable vision since most economic projects benefit all people living within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Cherokee Nation, both Cherokee people and non-Indian people. It's a proven fact that when the Cherokee Nation initiates sustainable development, related goals are accomplished such as maintaining better roads, contributing to schools, decreasing the burdens associated with poverty, employing Cherokees and non-Cherokees, contributing to greater state income tax withholdings.

Terrorism is a threat to society. We should not rely on government to protect us. For instance, the MidAmerica and Cherokee partnership can position themselves to undermine the causes of terrorism - not directly, by military means, but indirectly, through sustainable economic development that binds Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation together in the bonds of mutual self-interest and respect. Together we can create a new Mantra: maximize stakeholder return. Create value for every person we touch, particularly the poor: the stakeholders through whom the greatest mutual benefit can be delivered.



**Another CNI technician marks battery cable wire for tactical quiet generator (TGQ) program.**

From the Cherokee perspective, the relationship with MidAmerica reflects and embodies the theme of mutual respect and cooperation that is the basis for a successful relationship between the Cherokee Nation and local business. It is remarkable how

MidAmerica has helped sort out the present relationship of an Indian tribe and the local community. We appreciate that companies located in MidAmerica provide value for the poor. They have provided countless jobs and benefits for the Cherokees of Mayes County.



**The Cherokee Nation is a strong supporter of MidAmerica's economic development and job creation efforts. The Nation has exhibited at both of the park's Job Fairs and will participate in several upcoming off-site recruiting events.**

Doing business and helping attract business into the jurisdictional boundaries of the Cherokee Nation in Northeastern Oklahoma is a major objective of the partnership between the CN and MidAmerica Industrial Park.



**A CNI technician directs metal braid onto wire bundles for the CALCM (Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missile) Project.**

It creates an extended network of professionals who respect Cherokee sovereignty. MidAmerica has become invested in the continued viability of our tribal government. They are allies, especially when Indian gaming is under attack politically. Together, the Cherokee Nation and MidAmerica are writing the modern history of business relationships and creating the best of both worlds for both entities.

*Meredith Frailley is currently serving her second term on the Council of the Cherokee Nation for District 6 – Mayes (Mayes County). She was elected to the Council of the Cherokee Nation in 2003, and in addition to serving as the Speaker of the Council, she also serves as the Rules Committee Chair. As Speaker, she is third in line of succession to head the Cherokee Nation government.*

*A life-long resident of Locust Grove and graduate of Northeastern State University, she attended the University of Tulsa Law School, graduating with a Juris Doctorate degree.*

*Frailley's business experience spans manufacturing, energy, banking, business services, education and non-profit industries. She has held positions as a marketing director, small business entrepreneur, and has served on local, state and federal boards and task forces.*

# Meet the MidAmerica Bears.

**M**idAmerica was the proud sponsor of the Bears, a Coach-Pitch Baseball Team (8 and under) this summer. After league play in the Pryor Youth

Baseball Organization, the Bears were ranked third in their eight team division at the end of the season. Way to go!



**First Row (left to right):** Tyler Sisson, Wyatt Graves, Brandon Cole, Peyton Garrison & Zane Turley. **Second Row (left to right):** Trent Harrison, Cason Burns, Kobe Robinson, Parker Sloan, Caleb Perry & Caleb Hobbs. **Coaches:** Chris Harrison, Greg Robinson & Mark Sloan.

# Sign of the times.



Holiday Inn Express broke ground at MidAmerica for a new hotel in early July.

## MidAmerica INDUSTRIAL PARK

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MidPoint is a publication of MidAmerica Industrial Park, a 9,000-acre manufacturing, processing, and distribution center located in Pryor Creek, Oklahoma. Founded in 1960, the park has a 365-acre airport with a 5,000-foot runway, and its own water and wastewater treatment plants. The nation's largest rural industrial park, MidAmerica is owned and operated by a self-sustaining public trust established to enhance economic development efforts in Northeast Oklahoma. Also regarded as the largest industrial park in Oklahoma, MidAmerica does not rely upon the support of state or federal tax monies. Over 70 firms are located within the park including several Global and Fortune 500 companies.

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