

## Soper student honored by Oklahoma Heritage Association

OKLAHOMA CITY – Tanja Messer, a sophomore at Soper High School, was among 20 students from Oklahoma who were honored Wednesday by the Oklahoma Heritage Association.

Messer received first place in the southeast zone for her poster/essay on Toby Keith in the OHA's Heritage Week poster and essay competitions.

The Association has hosted the Heritage Week competition for the past 32 years to encourage fourth through 12th graders throughout the state to embrace and honor their heritage. Fourth through sixth graders competed in the poster competition, seventh through ninth graders in the essay competition and 10th through 12th graders poster/essay competition. All of the entries had to depict an Oklahoman and his or her impact on the state.

"Oklahoma's history is full of diverse individuals, rich in the five characteristics presented in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum – perseverance, pioneer

spirit, optimism, generosity and individualism," said Shannon Nance, president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. "Through this competition and our Museum, students have the opportunity to identify with someone who has made a meaningful impact on our state and then look forward to making their own

mark on our history."

Students selected subjects ranging from Wilcy Post and Patti Page to Tom Stafford and Maria Tallchief. Many students used the opportunity to explore the lives and accomplishments of lesser-known Oklahomans, finding new heroes along the way.

Nance, Louise Painter, 32-year Oklahoma Heritage Week committee chair, and Mike Binck, Travis Edlund and Kris Nicek, representing Heritage Week sponsor IBC Bank, presented the awards to the students at the Association's home, the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

For more information about the Oklahoma Heritage Association, the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum or the 2010 Oklahoma Heritage Week competition, please call 405.235.4458, toll free 888.501.2059, or visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com)



Contributed Photo

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### Fort Towson Students of the Month for November

Mrs. Browning, Pre-K	Landon Lowrance
Mrs. Kinslow, Kindergarten	Jayson Thomas
Mrs. Stuart, Kindergarten	Nathan Cole
Ms. Story, First Grade	Alyssa Cole
Ms. Samaha, First Grade	Tuff Rentz
Mrs. Young, Second Grade	Sydnee Browning
Ms. Rentz, Second Grade	Joseph Kemp
Mrs. Winship, Third Grade	Ryan Makerney
Ms. Trapp, Third Grade	Kolton McDonald
Mrs. Romel, Fourth Grade	Leah Mayfield



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