

CHEROKEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

by the Cherokee Nation Businesses organization for a master-apprentice language program to create a pipeline of fluent Cherokee speakers out of today's middle and high schoolers. The program is designed to promote continued Cherokee language fluency in Cherokee Nation immersion school graduates.

In a January opinion piece, Mark Dreadfulwater, *Phoenix* multi-

media editor, wrote that his New Year's resolution to relearn the language he first heard from his paternal grandmother.

"I wrote in my editorial that our language embodies our identity and soul of our tradition, history and the Cherokee way of life," Dreadfulwater said. "I truly believe that."

Dreadfulwater said in the 1980s and early 1990s there was not much of a push to learn the language.

"I have learned more about my culture and heritage in the 12 years I have been with *The Cherokee Phoenix*, than I did in the 18 plus years I lived at home," Dreadfulwater said. "As I am older and know more, I realize and regret not learning the language so I can pass it on to future generations."

The Cherokee language in its written form is only 200 years old. The Cherokee Syllabary, created

by Sequoyah, was adopted by the Cherokee Nation in 1825. Instead of individual letters, sounds are represented by syllables. Dreadfulwater said he regrets not paying enough attention to the language as a child but maintains that it is never too late to learn Cherokee.

With the newfound preservation of the language, exhibits such as those in Ramsey keep the language alive.

SOCCER MOMMY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

I've been choking on your leash," makes all the difference. Here is a young woman who has been stuck in a less-than fulfilling — perhaps verging on abusive — relationship and Allison needs to get out, even if it means murdering someone in a music video.

Another stand out song from the upcoming album is "Blossom (Wasting All My Time)." The mid-point of *Clean*, the song is stylistically and lyrically simple, but contains a powerful story of a once heartbroken singer finding new love. The first half states, "Wasting

all my time wondering if you really loved me," while she closes with the line, "I found someone who has time to show me they really love me." In a world and album of heartbreak, "Blossom" offers a nice juxtaposition and message that the darkness will not last forever.

When writing, Allison said she takes inspiration from moments that feel important and dramatic to her.

"Little moments that are kind of like snapshots of a story almost," Allison said. "I try to piece those together and make something that I imagine would sound like a soundtrack to that kind of moment

for myself. It just kind of comes out of life and experience."

Though she draws her lyrics from her own life, Allison said her stylistic inspirations come from her favorite artists both now and growing up. She points to artists such as Avril Lavigne, Taylor Swift, Mitski and Joni Mitchell as being her biggest inspirations. These influences can be heard clearly throughout *Clean*, though Allison combines them to make her own self-described pop rock.

Soccer Mommy is currently touring alongside Phoebe Bridgers, coming to The Mothlight on Feb. 16. Allison describes her live shows

as a bit fuller than her recordings and said her shows are a fun pop rock experience.

Allison may only be 20 years old, but her Soccer Mommy project is paving the way for a new generation of young female musicians. Not only is Allison inherently cool, selling her albums in a variety of forms — including cassette tapes — she is also talented enough to hold her own in a harsh industry. She even encourages other people to do the same.

"If you wanna make music, just do it," Allison said. "It doesn't matter if other people don't like it. Just do it for yourself."

PHOTOGRAPHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

gardens.

Ayres said she heard about Harward's request for models through both Instagram and her roommate Leah Griffin, who had worked with the photographer before.

"I want all women to be fucking confident. For someone like me who is really insecure, doing this is a really big thing and I think more women should do stuff like this because it makes them feel really beautiful," Ayres said.

Ayres felt nothing but excitement and power when looking at the photos once they were done.

"They're so beautiful. I think to myself, 'She did that, I did that, we did that!' and it's just amazing," Ayres said.

Griffin, a literature student, said the shoot was empowering for her and was another step in her journey of self love.

"I'm in the process of unlearning shame around my body. It's a long process and I constantly have to work to remind myself of the value of this body that I get to inhabit," Griffin said. "I felt like this shoot would help me grow to be more comfortable in my own skin and it did."

Starting in middle school, Griffin said she constantly felt the need to cover her skin up and hated the thought of showing any at all. She said the fear always lingered and this shoot was important for her because it allowed her to fight back fear of exposure.

Griffin said she believes many images of women which portray them showing skin of any kind are often taken by men and presented for male consumption.

"This shoot was nothing like that, it was taken by a woman for women, with nothing in mind except to make us feel powerful and beauti-

ful," Griffin said. "I think that's really special. It definitely made me feel empowered and proud."

Harward said she tries to not degrade anyone or oversexualize her friends. She wanted to show her friends how awesome and beautiful they truly are and she said she encourages more women to do boudoir photography so that they can feel the way they deserve to feel — empowered.

"People can say what they want to say. But I do really feel like it's a true feminist form of art, just embracing you and your sister's beauty," Harward said.