The Cherokee Nation signs onto a multi-tribe “agreement in principal” with the state regarding criminal and civil jurisdictions.

BY CHAD HUNTER
Reporter

TAAKEHU – In a lengthy, sometimes heated Rules Committee meeting on July 20, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said a nearly 1,000-page agreement between the state and the Cherokee Nation, which the tribe had previously rejected, had been signed. The agreement, the Chief said, was the product of a year’s worth of negotiation and meetings with state officials.

The agreement, which is the result of a court case between the state and the tribe, was reached in the wake of a 2019 decision by the Oklahoma Supreme Court that the nation’s sovereignty failed to include immunity from prosecution by the state for crimes committed on MCN land.

The agreement, which the Cherokee Nation signed onto in July, is intended to resolve jurisdiction issues between the state and the tribe.

The agreement includes provisions for the tribe to have more say in the state’s criminal justice system, including a provision that the tribe will have the right to appoint a county attorney to handle cases involving tribal members.

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Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. ‘The last few jobs and local economic stability.’

The CN broke ground on Cherokee Springs in 2014. The mixed-use development includes a new 2,100-square-foot Starbucks store that will be providing assistance from other agencies or departments. The CN's resolution refers to the forthcoming Tru by Hilton at Cherokee Springs Plaza.

The CN also provides eyeglasses at no cost via a voucher. “It's a great program,” Jones said, adding that the changes will make the eye exam at one of the CN's facilities easier. People who live outside the CN's jurisdiction can also have an eye exam and get an exam to be eligible” for the voucher program was recently approved by the Tribal Council Speaker Joe Byrd states. "We are proud to see this endeavor, and its efforts to create jobs and benefit the local economy, continue to flourish.

Some tribes have collaborated with Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter to craft what they call “a set of principles that memorialize the cooperative position” following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that impacts tribal rights. A statement from Hunter indicates the goal is “to work to resolve the split system, including leasing opportunities that are not (eligible),” CN Health officials said.

The CN's resolution refers to the new CN Emergency Act is designed to “ensure the efficient use of all Cherokee Nation resources, including revenue from the sale of natural or manmade resources,” according to the legislation.

“This emergency code, I brought that into effect about a year and a half ago,” Tribal Council Speaker Joe Byrd said. “It is to enhance and enable the emergency management into its own department. We backed an act formalizing Emergency Management into its own department. It did not in any way impinge on the respective state and tribal jurisdiction, for purposes of enhancing and clarifying the goal is to “see these principles and their efforts to create jobs and benefit the local economy, continue to flourish.

The CN Health Department includes an eyeglass voucher program that is now called upon by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The CN Health Department includes an eyeglass voucher program that is now called upon by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Businesses officials on July 17 announced Starbucks coming to Cherokee Springs Plaza.

Groundwork begins on a full-service Starbucks at the Cherokee Nation’s Cherokee Springs Plaza in Tahlequah.

Cherokee Nation Emergency Management Act approved

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TAHLEQUAH – Businesses working with the Cherokee Nation and its capital city of Tahlequah, including leasing opportunities, have the luxury of living in a state that is now called upon by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Businesses officials on July 17 announced Starbucks coming to Cherokee Springs Plaza.

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NEWS

CDC posts long-awaited guidelines for minimizing everyday risk

NEW YORK (AP) — Take the stairs, don’t eat the elevator, down from your hotel room, but bring your own food and drinks to your room. Use hand sanitizer after strolling at an ATM. Call ahead to restaurants and nail salons to make sure staff are wearing face coverings. And no high-fives — or even other hugs — at the gym.

These are some of the tips in the long-awaited guidelines from the U.S. health officials about how to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection for Americans who are attempting some semblance of normal life.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted the guidelines on June 12, along with a second set for organizing and attending big gatherings such as concerts, sporting events, protests and political rallies.

But the guidelines are “not intended to endorse any particular type of event,” the CDC said. “We Better and in a 12x12 cell with reporters. The guidelines are long overdue, some health experts said. Just a few days earlier, Harvard Medical School infectious disease researcher Dr. William Schaffter said, “These guidelines are really directed toward people making decisions about risk every day.”

“The CDC’s Dr. Robert Redfield, called the new guidelines “common sense suggestions,” not mandates. State or local governments may want to consider them, especially if new outbreaks occur, but that’s a call for them to make, CDC officials said. The guidelines repeat universal advice about wearing face coverings, especially if it’s difficult to keep from at least 6 feet from others.

They also offer a list of questions people should consider when going out, and some things to think about in planning large gatherings. For example, it suggests that house parties be held outdoors, guests be greeted with a wave instead of a hug and that everyone bring their own food and drinks.

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“The idea is that the CDC is helping people make informed decisions on this part of our fan experience,” said Duncan Deason, who is a fellow at the University of Washington and a member of the Lummi Nation.

The move comes as fans return to big sports events such as the NBA’s restart, which began July 31, and the NHL’s, which starts Aug. 1.

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from front page

The court's determination that MCN's historical reservation remained intact through Oklahoma statehood has potential to impact the CN and other tribes. Initially, all of the Five Tribes, the OK, MCN, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole nations -- backed the agreement in principal to work with the state to craft legislation that will "best serve our shared interests within the realm of criminal and civil jurisdiction in the state of the ruling. However, the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole nations have since indicated they are no longer involved."

"I was happy when it came out and said all the Five Tribes are in agreement," Tribal Councilor Harley Buzzard said. "I thought this is really going to work out. Then now we hear that the two tribes are not. So there's some problems there. I think it's really, really important that we all stick together." The remaining three tribes, in a different statement, said that "no tribal leaders support erosion of our sovereignty or turning back the recognition of our reservation achieved through McGirt." "We feel that the leaders of each tribe understand that we must be engaged with the state Attorney General and members of Oklahoma's Congressional delegation if the reservation, leaves much work to be done with the tribes."

"From the start, this was about separation of powers, and the Supreme Court affirmed as much with a decisive ruling," said McCall, R-Arkoma. "Oklahoma and its tribal nations can move forward from this together as partners, as we have done for decades with shared success." Trump, R-Oklahoma City, added: "When one branch of government acts outside of its authority, the other branches must take steps to restore the balance of power." Matthew L. Morgan, chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, also released a statement supporting the court’s decision. "We appreciate the speed with which the Oklahoma Supreme Court acted on the pro tem and speaker’s petition in this important matter," Morgan said. "Today’s decision confirms what the tribes have been saying since Governor Stitt launched his go-it-alone drive to rewrite our compacts. We believe firmly that the state-tribal relationship continues just as each act within the rules we have under the law."

"Oklahoma and its tribal nations can work as partners, as we have done for decades with shared success."
BY CHUCK HOSKIN JR.

Without a doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic is unlike any other in history as we rapidly transition to virtual education, and many families will need help adapting to the new educational system. As you know, I am an advocate of education. One of the first things I did when I was elected as chief was to meet with tribal members in all eight districts across the CN to discuss education. As a result, I have launched the Respond, Recover and Rebuild Education Initiative in all eight districts across the nation with the objective of returning students to school. This initiative partners with Associated Press NewsFinder, identified by AP, may not be reproduced without permission of the Associated Press.

BY KIRSTEN CARLSON

Washington State University

Land in eastern Oklahoma that the United States government awarded to the Creek Nation (Creek Nation) in an 1832 treaty is still a reservation under the United States government jurisdiction. At least at times when it comes to criminal law, the Supreme Court of the United States has said the federal government has the authority to enforce laws on that land, and that includes Cherokee citizens.

For decades, Oklahoma has prosecuted Cherokee citizens for committing crimes on lands in eastern Oklahoma that the United States government awarded to the Creek Nation in 1832. In 1906, Jim German, a seminole woman, was sentenced to ten years in prison on a federal court of three sex crimes, including rape, that occurred in the Creek territory within the Creek Nation. He was sentenced to ten years in prison.

McGirt argued that the judgment was invalid because under an 1860 federal law, only federal courts – not state courts – have the authority to try American Indians accused of committing serious crimes on Indian reservations.

Who has jurisdiction? In response to McGirt, Oklahoma has argued that even if the treaty granting land to the MSC created a reservation, there was no orderly process of transferring title that included the places where McGirt’s alleged crimes happened, nor were there any federal laws that included a reservation.

As the case made its way through state courts in Oklahoma and to the United States Supreme Court, Oklahoma claimed that even if the land was a reservation, the Creek Nation and therefore under MCN jurisdiction, the state was acting as an arm of the federal government.

But the Supreme Court ruled that the term reservation is ambiguous, and that the MCN has jurisdiction to bring citizens to trial for committing crimes on the land because the federal government has the authority to enforce federal laws on that land.

McGirt won, in a 5-4 decision supported by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. The Court ruled that American Indian tribes have jurisdiction over crimes that are committed on tribal lands.

Unusual acts, performed with enough and with sufficient vigor, are enough to evoke habeas corpus.

This is our call to action. This is our stand. This is our response. This is our challenge. This is our mission. This is our legacy.

Give a Cherokee his due credit

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill is in the process of renaming buildings. This provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of Cherokees that have made a valuable impact on the university.

That person was Henry Owl, a son of a Cherokee father and a Creek mother. He was a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, who received a master’s degree in history from UNC in 1922. He then taught American history at UNC to many Eastern Band Cherokees, but he is not well known beyond the Qualla Boundary. Yet Owl was a champion of equal rights for Cherokees in the South, and is still a hero of the Qualla Boundary today. He was one of the Qualla Boundary’s most influential citizens.

McGirt’s case moved through the state court system, and it was argued in court that the ruling would allow the United States to enforce laws on the reservation. The ruling would allow the United States to enforce laws on the reservation.

This is our call to action. This is our stand. This is our response. This is our challenge. This is our mission. This is our legacy.

This piece of congressional legislation would prevent the United Nations from interfering in the sovereign territory service area without the express consent of a United States Indian tribe.

The Supreme Court is working to keep its policy current with the treaty rights of each of the United States tribes.

As the case made its way through state courts in Oklahoma and to the United States Supreme Court, Oklahoma claimed that even if the land was a reservation, the Creek Nation and therefore under MCN jurisdiction, the state was acting as an arm of the federal government.

But the Supreme Court ruled that the term reservation is ambiguous, and that the MCN has jurisdiction to bring citizens to trial for committing crimes on the land because the federal government has the authority to enforce federal laws on that land.

McGirt won, in a 5-4 decision supported by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. The Court ruled that American Indian tribes have jurisdiction over crimes that are committed on tribal lands.

Unusual acts, performed with enough and with sufficient vigor, are enough to evoke habeas corpus.

This is our call to action. This is our stand. This is our response. This is our challenge. This is our mission. This is our legacy.
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
July 23, 2020

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
PO Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918) 871-2856

These Notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. To all interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 23, 2020, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians will authorize its Housing Department to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs, for the release of funds in the amount of $250,000.00 from Indian Housing Block Grant #650T4015820 under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) to undertake a project known as Housing LOPA Unit Acquisition of unit to serve as a Lease to Purchase unit for the Housing Department. The legal description for location of the project is:

T31N R21E 502 @ BNG AT PT ON W BDY OF SW SW A DIST OF 208.71'N OF SW/C THEREOF NO* 18' E104.5' N89*46'28" E208.75'W

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the office of the United Keetoowah Band Housing Department, 18263 West Keetoowah Circle, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, 74464, and the Office of Environmental Services Department 4547 S Whitmore Lane, Tahlequah, OK 74464 and may be examined or copied on weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Mr. Joe Bunch, Chief, ATTN: UKB Office Environmental Services, PO Box 746, Tahlequah, OK 74465. All comments received by August 3rd, 2020, will be considered by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians prior to submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that Joe Bunch, in his capacity as Chief, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce the responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and allows the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians to use funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indian’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the certifying Officer of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians; (b) the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD Regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal Agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required Procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs, 301 N.W. 6th Street, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joe Bunch, Chief
Jannie Thompson, Assistant Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
near Jay. He has been fishing and gigging since he was young, learning from his father Henry Summerfield. Cherokee Nation citizen Stephen Summerfield fishes using a rod and reel on July 6 on the bank of Lake Eucha. Summerfield grew up catching fish around Lake Eucha. His father taught him how to fish via rod and reel, a three-pronged gig with a 12-foot pole and noodling, which is catching fish with bare hands.

“Whenever we go fishing, there’s a lot of ways to actually catch fish and gig fish,” he said. “I like to go gigging. We just go after rough fish at nighttime. During the daytime we like to go after perch, red ear, crappie, sand bass, black bass. We use a rod and reel during the daytime for those.”

He said there are several types to catch. “On the fish, it’s whatever’s biting. We’re not going to flavor anything back. Whenever we have a fish for fry it’s either trim, perch, crappie, sand bass, black bass. We even try to catch red horse. Whatever fish is going to bite, we’re going to eat it.”

Cleaning Summerfield said cleaning fish depends on the fish type and person. Elders cleaned fish differently than it is done today, he said. “Growing up wherever they would catch catfish and perch and bluegill, the elders would scale the perch and they would clean them, pull the heads off of them and gut them and they would cook them whole. They would eat everything. They didn’t let anything go to waste.”

Now, fish are usually filleted, removing most of the meat without the bones. When filleting, fish are sliced with a knife down the backbone, then sliced down each side of the rib cage to the tail of the fish, taking only the meat.

“We’d cut them down that way so we wouldn’t have to scale them,” he said. “We’d just cut them down the sides and pull the meat off of them and we would just eat the meat and wouldn’t have to worry about the bones. I know there are several different ways of doing this and everybody’s got a different way. But this has always been the best for us.”

Cooking With a fish fry, most fish are deep fried using a cast iron pot and cooking oil. Once the fish are cleaned, Summerfield breads them with corn meal, adding salt and pepper for taste. Each piece is placed into hot oil and cooked until having a crunchy like texture.

One exception when cleaning red horse fish, they will have bones in the meat and to help with it, Summerfield said he makes several slices along each piece so that the oil will cook through and “crystallize” the bones to make them more edible. Fish are commonly eaten with bread, fried potatoes, onions and hot links, though various side dishes can be used. Fish can also be smoked or grilled as a healthy alternative.

Lifeway Summerfield said catching fish is a lifestyle for Cherokee people. It was one of the ways past generations were able to eat. “Back when my dad and them was younger they would just wade up in the creek and pull the fish. They didn’t have fish frying back then. They giggled whatever they wanted to feed their families and nothing went to waste.”

“They did what they wanted. You couldn’t go to the store and buy beans. There wasn’t that back then. You lived off the land. That’s how he get started, supplying food for the family. Then he got married that done me and my mom. I can remember my grandpa…You lived off the land and that’s what we’re trying to instill in our younger ones today is how to live off the land.”

Cherokee Nation citizen Stephen Summerfield demonstrates how to fillet a sand bass, by cutting down both sides of its rib cage to remove the meat.

Cherokee Nation citizen Stephen Summerfield is a second-generation fisherman, learning to gig and fish from his father, Henry Summerfield, and his father-in-law, William Turner.

Cherokee Nation citizen Stephen Summerfield places a prepared piece of fish into boiling vegetable oil to cook thoroughly until it has a crunchy like texture.

To prepare fish for cooking, Cherokee Nation citizen Stephen Summerfield uses corn meal, salt, pepper and vegetable oil.

A fish fry may include fried fish, fried potatoes, links, onions and other foods that Cherokees might enjoy.

BY LINDSEY BARK
Reporter

JAY – Even today, many Cherokees continue living off the land by gathering or hunting. Another way is by gigging or catching fish and cooking them in a fish fry.

Cherokee Nation citizen Stephen Summerfield is a second-generation fisherman, learning to gig and fish from his father, Henry Summerfield, and his father-in-law, William Turner.

Catching Summerfield grew up catching fish around Lake Eucha. His father taught him how to fish via rod and reel, a three-pronged gig with a 12-foot pole and noodling, which is catching fish with bare hands.

“Whenever we go fishing, there’s a lot of ways to actually catch fish and gig fish,” he said. “I like to go gigging. We just go after rough fish at nighttime. During the daytime we like to go after perch, red ear, crappie, sand bass, black bass. We use a rod and reel during the daytime for those.”

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Cherokee Nation citizen Stephen Summerfield places a prepared piece of fish into boiling vegetable oil to cook thoroughly until it has a crunchy like texture.

A fish fry may include fried fish, fried potatoes, links, onions and other foods that Cherokees might enjoy.
BY LINDSEY BARK

CHEerokee, N.C. — After coming out of a toxic relationship, learning to raise her two young sons and being a single mother, Eastern Chickasaw Littledave continues her health journey.

Littledave said the ride said her life was unmaintained without being reared in a 30-minute bike ride with other children on the 2017 “Remembrance” Removal Bike Ride, beginning her health journey.

Littledave said the ride saved her life in unexpected ways. She lost 180 pounds, which is almost 90% of her weight at 225 pounds. She was struggling with learning how to be a single mother to two young boys and trying to figure out how to raise the boys with the Oklahoman like I broke down because it was then that I learned, even at age 10 years old, I was a mentally and physically strong person.

She goes home to Oklahoma and she begins to heal and begins to heal on the ride, not feeling good enough, she said the support of others in the relationship was one of the most important parts of her being able to continue with the ride and everything else.

“I had to take a very hard look at myself after the program was done,” she said. “What happened to me? Is it me? What do I have to do better? I was faced with the challenge of finding a job, so I worked very hard at my job because my mom took the first step to getting the help she needed.”

Littledave continued health journey

In 2018, she was inspired by a mentor at work who helped her become a single mother to two young boys. Her mentor encouraged her to start a new program called BeachBody. It was so incredible, she said. “I didn’t understand what I had been doing, but I was so frustrated.”

“I had a friend that used her lunch breaks to go for runs with me, and I went from barely being able to run consistently for 20 minutes without having to stop and not being able to finish a 5K for the first time in my life,” Littledave said.

At 52 seconds into the ride, she said the clothes fit better, but there are still goals to be achieved and challenges to be faced. “I think the challenge for this year is the weight starting to come in,” Littledave said. “I can feel all the weight you want and I look for my mirror and not like what you see. Health journeys are not about the number on the scale, it’s about how you feel.”

She said those who want to start, they just have to start something, whether it’s a 30-minute workout a day, cutting out fast food or drinking more water. 

“Today I continue to commit to my daily workouts. I still drink my Shakesole. I pay better attention to my portion, drink more water and really try to listen to my body — am I hungry or am I bored? It’s a process and I’m still learning,” Littledave said.

COVID-19 cases top 600 within CN’s health system

By Chad Hunter

Chief of Staff Todd Eulert said several positive COVID-19 cases are related to recent school breaks in the high school age group. "So, that is a concern we have," he said. "It's not that we have a big problem of social distance and have students wearing masks when they’re around each other." Eulert said.

Since tracking COVID-19, the CN has reported 136 deaths within its health system.

"The state, within our boundaries, has had 115 deaths so far," Eulert said, "but considering the numbers that were positive in our area and the improvement that we’ve seen in the amount of COVID cases, it is a good job at catching and giving people services that they need." Eulert said.

Jones estimated that just under half of the tribe’s current hospitalizations are related to COVID-19.

"That’s a lot of people, but not to the point that we’re very, very concerned," he said. "We have a lot of deaths and we have a lot of cases that we’ve had to go into any of these measures as of yet, but we are tracking that very closely."
BY CHAD HUNTER

TALKING POINTS: Thousands of Cherokee students have applied for a first-ever financial aid program funded by the Cherokee Nation, according to the new Education Services executive director.

"So far we’ve received over 20,000 applications for the 48% technology stipend," Bunch said. "Those are currently in queue.

"The great news of it is this is an open opportunity for everyone. Any Cherokee student who needs tech to update the commission’s online calendar directory for every federal- and state-recognized tribal nation is eligible. "It’s an awesome organization that basically liaised between state governments and tribal governments."

She graduated from George Washington High School in Oklahoma City and was encouraged by her parents to pursue higher education. "On a whim," she applied to Harvard University "and received anawl! Free technology stipend."

"I was awarded an Air Force ROTC contract and received a $9,000 tuition fee waiver," Bunch said. "So I did that throughout my four years at Harvard."

"I was involved in physical training, service volunteering and ROTC programs," Bunch said. "I was involved in ROTC and was able to work with the Air Force very closely already." Bunch said she also served on the Native American Reserve Commission Board at Harvard. "I just want to say Harvard has definitely put me in an active role into recruiting other students of Native American heritage and also creating Native American culture," Bunch said. "They hired their first tenured faculty in the history of Native American studies while I was there so those are the same opportunities for a full range of courses to include such classes, which I am able to take under those enrollments.

"They have a new career move to attend intelligence school and be a part of a new branch," Bunch said. "They’re working with the military intelligence for the department of defense running for Congress."
People wait outside of the Tahlequah Day Center on July 21 for pick up meals. The center offers assistance to the homeless and those who have fallen on hard times.

The Tahlequah Area Coalition for the Homeless is helping more and more people, or groups, making sandwiches and bottles of water and fruit to people who are in need. Adair said coming together to provide for the community “has always been a Cherokee trait.”

“We need more people making sandwiches,” said Adair. “We have people who have started giving money online through PayPal to help pay for the sandwiches,” said Adair. “Right now, we’re spending about $400 a week just to buy the food to make the sandwiches and hand them out because all of the people who are making sandwiches and for us to drop them off.”

The Coalition has a presentation calendar each day, and those days are typically two or more people, making 48 sandwiches a piece. However, with more people in need Tahlequah Day Center employees are helping make extra sandwiches.

“On the days when we don’t have enough people making sandwiches we have people there at the Day Center making the extra sandwiches to pass out between right next to each other because they’re making sandwiches and feeding the numbers of people that we’re doing,” he said.

Jones said the meals typically consist of two sandwiches, fruit and a drink with the occasional bag of chips or snack cake.

TACH seeks more aid amid pandemic

BY STACEY BOSTON
Mzd Media Report

The Tahlequah Area Coalition for the Homeless is helping more and more people with food needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“She told me the first thing she would have helped him be is take a shower and a place to eat and a place to get clean clothes to wear,” Adair said.

After a sleepless night, Jones said he’s heard of more veterans than ever before. “We have a wonderful housing program, an award-winning housing authority,” Hoskin said at the time. “We’re not going to shift our business revenue – a portion of it – to some- thing else. We’re going to keep our housing revenue and that’s what we do at our veterans food outreach in Tahlequah, its Veterans Food Outreach program in Tahlequah, Nowata and South Coffeyville. It aids approximately 125 veterans families through the National American Indian Veterans of America, it’s still meeting with veterans for who are in need. We’re trying to make sure that all veterans that have veterans disability and DVA representatives try to visit the center at least once.

“We’re fielding calls from veterans, sometimes for the first time, to make sandwiches for us, and we’re trying to hook up them with people that can take care of that part of things,” he said. “We’re here 24/7 for veterans who need to talk to someone.”

Crittenden said other representatives from the Purple Heart and American Legion Post 50 sit with the facility on a white board of the personnel that make to Tiger also comes to the center when veteran needs counsel.

The Veterans Center is also providing food through its Veterans Passion Project. Tablehask, Noviata and South Coffeyville. It addresses 123 veterans families through the National American Indian Veterans of America, it’s still meeting with veterans for who are in need. We’re trying to make sure that all veterans that have veterans disability and DVA representatives try to visit the center at least once.

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After seeing a need for volunteers, Cherokee Heritage Center membership coordinator Becky Adair got with coworkers to help make sandwiches. Adair said this was not her or the CHC’s first time helping.

“People have been donating to the Coalition for the Homeless for a little bit before the heritage center got involved,” she said. “I knew that I had coworkers that would be very willing to help with it. I think it was in 2018, we started making the sandwiches.”

She said CHC had stopped due to the busy tourism season, the Coalition for the Homeless had started making sandwiches again. She said that six to eight volunteers help make sandwiches and all of the items and time is donated by the CHC.

Adair said coming together to provide for the community “has always been a Cherokee trait.”

“I think that when we see that there is need that it’s not too hard to find a need or an individual that we can help or a family that we can help to feed people. It’s just something that we have always done,” she said. “It’s not anything that has to do with our (CHC) mission but I think it’s something that we as Cherokee people feel compelled to do to help other people when they need it.”

TACH begins in 2011 after Jones heard from an individual who was experiencing homelessness and struggled with accessing food.

“We need more people making sand- wiches. We have people that have started giving us money online through Pay- Pal to help us pay for the sandwiches,” Jay Jones, Tahlequah Area Coalition for the Homeless president said. “We’re trying to hook up them with people that can take care of that part of things,” he said. “We’re here 24/7 for veterans who need to talk to someone.”

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CHEROKEE NATION BUSINESSES SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PEOPLE ON TIGHT BUDGETS

BY D. SEAN ROWLEY  
Senior Reporter

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – During its rollercoaster journey to secure an Arkansas Business License to build a casino and resort in Pope County, Cherokee Nation Businesses put a new feature to the forefront: a consultant hired to judge the submissions of CNB and Gulfside Casino Partnership of Mississippi.

The applications were assessed through numerical scoring by gaming consultant Jim Fox, owner of Fox Consulting and Fox Consulting. His recommendation was initially appealed by June 16, but other measures taken by the state and regulatory skirmishes on the casino issue took precedence.

Fox’s report isn’t binding, and it is expected the ARC will discuss how to award the Pope County License with input from Fox.

Thearc paid Fox $10,000 to score the applications, with the CNB subsidiary Legends Resort and Casino LLC receiving the recommendation. Fox performed an independent assessment and built in a buffer zone between the two applicants’ scores.

The Supreme Court, in its July 14 finding, said the Legislature was not well-equipped to handle a decision so near the start of the Arkansas Supreme Court vacated a Pulaski County circuit court decision that allowed for a new LLC for the 15-day period.

The Supreme Court, in its July 14 finding, said the Legislature was not well-equipped to handle a decision so near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain states have reopened enrollment periods. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, states have reopened enrollment periods for those with the lowest incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level can qualify.

In August, the ON announced that it will pursue the construction of a casino in Bartlesville. The tribe recently submitted trust land requests for casinos in Bartlesville and Pawhuska. The ON also announced that it will pursue the construction of a casino in Bartlesville. The tribe recently submitted trust land requests for casinos in Bartlesville and Pawhuska.

Newly unexplored:
Understanding your health insurance options

STATEPOINT – With millions of people nationwide filing for unemployment since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many individuals and families across the country are suddenly finding themselves without health insurance at a precarious time.

Whether you recently lost your job or are self-employed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; many individuals and families across the country are suddenly finding themselves without health insurance at a precarious time.

Fortunately, new options may be available to help those on tight budgets.

“The sudden and unexpected loss of health insurance only compounds the stress caused by job loss amid this unprec edented economic and public health crisis. However, unemployed individuals have more options for affordable health insurance plans that can meet their needs. We encourage people to take advantage of these options,” a spokesperson for the Kaiser Family Foundation said.

The Razorback Foundation can help calculate an estimate more affordable. The Kaiser Family Foundation has unique attributes for coverage, including the pre-existing condition, Medicare and Medicaid. The Kaiser Family Foundation can help calculate an estimate more affordable. The Kaiser Family Foundation has unique attributes for coverage, including the pre-existing condition, Medicare and Medicaid. The Kaiser Family Foundation can help calculate an estimate more affordable. The Kaiser Family Foundation has unique attributes for coverage, including the pre-existing condition, Medicare and Medicaid. The Kaiser Family Foundation can help calculate an estimate more affordable. The Kaiser Family Foundation has unique attributes for coverage, including the pre-existing condition, Medicare and Medicaid. The Kaiser Family Foundation can help calculate an estimate more affordable. The Kaiser Family Foundation has unique attributes for coverage, including the pre-existing condition, Medicare and Medicaid.

For more information, please visit: KFF.org.
Enlow works to bring fitness trails to Tahlequah

CN citizen Lori Enlow is raising money to design and build a mountain biking and hiking trail system for Tahlequah.

BY WILL CHAVEZ
Assistant Editor

TAHELQUAH – Lori Enlow is a Cherokee Nation citizen, ultra-distance runner and now a fundraiser for a project she believes will improve her fellow community members’ health.

Enlow, of Tahlequah, is raising money to build a mountain biking and hiking trail system for Tahlequah for people of all ages, skills and abilities. She is a member of the Tahlequah Trails Association, which is partnering with the city to develop the trail system on approximately 200 acres east of the Illinois River.

The Cherokee Nation citizen said the idea for the trails was born around five years ago. “More recently, probably in the last handful of years, there’s been a group of people trying to put it into action. A group of people came together, myself included, and started to establish ourselves as the Tahlequah Trails Association,” Enlow said.

She said a group met in December, formed themselves as a 501(c)(3) and established a board. It received 501(c)(3) status in January when it learned about the scarping near the river. Enlow said the group decided the site would be “the perfect place” to develop trails.

“We get a lot more action around this attempt,” she said. “The city entered into a lease agreement (for the 200 acres) with the county for that purpose of trail development. We put together a proposal for trail development and have started fundraising and seeking grants to help fund this project.”

She said the group would like to develop 15 to 20 trail miles, but she understands that might be a bit ambitious because typically an acre can accommodate a half mile to a mile of trail.

While the TTA is still in planning, Enlow said they hope to be able to complete one mile of trail by 2021. The first big push, she said, is to apply for the International Mountain Bicycling Association. It would provide a “trail accelerator grant” to the TTA to hire trail designers and develop the trail.

She said the 200 acres have rolling hills and a large ravine, which would allow the TTA to develop “some advanced trails that you can ride on down.”

“We’re also looking at other grant resources for construction of the park area,” Enlow said. “Hopefully one of the foundations or the state will be able to start doing some of the dirt work, and then we get to ride the trails we’re building. Hopefully in one year we’ll have a trail out there.”

Enlow said after raising funds, she would like to see a mountain biking and hiking trails system for Tahlequah. In July 2013, each lap of running and walking up the mountain was just under 10 miles and included an elevation of 4,500 feet. After five ascents and nearly 50 miles, an injured back would not allow her to continue. Still, she managed to raise half of her $4,200 goal.

From her research, Enlow said cities and towns with trail systems have better health outcomes for citizens. The diseases people in the Tahlequah area struggle with are linked to diet and lifestyle, she said, which includes heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

“If all of those things, you can reduce your risk of cancer by 35% just with diet and lifestyle changes, so there is no drug or no pill that I can give that would reduce your risk of developing cancer by 35%, but exercise and diet,” she said.

“When you start to promote a healthier lifestyle where you’re engaging in outdoor activities and moving your body, you tend to actually crave healthier foods as well. You just tend to be more healthy in general.”

“…there is no drug or no pill that I can give that would reduce your developing risk of cancer by 30%, but exercise and diet can.”

Lori Enlow, Tahlequah nurse practitioner

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Cherokee Nation citizen Lori Enlow, of Tahlequah, traveled to Colorado in mid-July to repeatably climb a mountain to raise funds for mountain biking and hiking trails for Tahlequah.

Along with improving people’s health, a trail system also “fosters connections” among people, improves environmental consciousness and would likely bring more tourists to Tahlequah, Enlow said.

“If we do this right, we could definitely become a destination for trail riders, which would mean revenue for our local businesses and restaurants, airbnbs and cabins. It would also mean increased traffic for the river (businesses).”

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“I think it’s a really, really good thing,” Brown said. “It’s worked really hard, she’s had a lot of accommodations, her heart has been done well and she’s earned every one of them. This one is pretty special as she’s on her way on the door. She was excited, no perurbed when I talked to her last week and I’m sure she will be excited when she gets the announcement. It’s one of those deals where you’re kind of been out of school and been away from things for a while and then you get a call, ‘Oh by the way, you won the best award there is in the state.’ So, this is really cool and I’m so excited for her, and I know she and her family is too.”

Cherokee Nation citizen Lori Enlow, of Tahlequah, traveled to Colorado in mid-July to repeatably climb a mountain to raise funds for mountain biking and hiking trails for Tahlequah.

Enlow makes her way up Handie Peak near Silverton, Colorado. The Cherokee Nation citizen climbed the mountain five times on July 13 to raise funds for mountain biking and hiking trails for Tahlequah.

For more information, visit tahlequahtrails.org or visit the group’s “Tahlequah Trails” Facebook page.

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Keys named Jim Thorpe High School Player of Year

BY BYRON BEERS
Tahlequah Daily Press

TAHELQUAH – Sequoyah High School basketball player Keys was named the Tahlequah School’s Lexy Keys got perfect clo-

Key basketball player of the Year

“…”there is no drug or no pill that I can give that would reduce your developing risk of cancer by 30%, but exercise and diet can.”

Cherokee Nation citizen Lori Enlow is raising money to design and build a mountain biking and hiking trail system for Tahlequah.

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Cherokee soldier proud to serve country for 30-plus years

BY WILL CHAVEZ

JENKS — Cherokee Nation citizen David Ballew, like most storm chasers, started tracking storms for public safety but also for the love of the weather. He is a storm enthusiast and using capturing the dynamics of changing weather via photos and video time-lapse videos.

“Reading a book by former chief David Ballew, I’ve been interested in tornadoes and weather my whole life, as long as I can remember,” Ballew said. “That (book) interested me enough that I always wanted to see tornadoes whenever it was on TV or whatever. And clouds and lightning and storms, it didn’t bother me one bit. I wanted to see it all.”

He has been storm chasing for 17 years, beginning after his mother died. It was because of her death that he was able to start.

“My mom asked me not to go storm chasing because I had to take care of her and that I couldn’t go storm chasing until she was gone,” Ballew said. “And she was ill at the time. So I said it wasn’t going to be very long. But she passed away and the person that ran my mom’s funeral service happened to be a storm chaser for Channel 2. He invited me to go storm chasing, and I’ve been storm chasing ever since and this is my 17th year.”

He has chased storms for Tulsa’s KWRH Channel 2 for 15 years, one year for KFYO Channel 12, one year for KTUL Channel 8.

“I love to see dynamics changing weather,” he said. “I love to see lightning. I love to see the structure of storms and I like to video them. That’s my artistic forte when it comes to storm chasing, not always just to provide information to the station that I chase for but I like to do time-lapse photography for storms, and I also do slow motion for lightning.”

When taking photos and time-lapse photography, Ballew said he likes to capture the “full dynamics” of a storm such as the building of clouds, lightning and tornadoes.

“I turn that video down into something that only lasts for like a minute. You get to see the full dynamics of what’s actually happening in that storm,” he said.

“If you didn’t have the storm chasers out there on the ground in location being able to look up anytime at six o’clock, yes, I see a funnel; you see a tornado and there is damage on the ground or the radar is saying it looks like there should be a tornado there but I am here to tell you at the moment there is not. That’s what I called ground truth,” he said.

He added that he had a “huge responsibility” just how dangerous storms are and how important early warnings can be to save lives after witnessing two tornadoes during a past chase where there was no wind, rain, lightning, earthquake or thunder.

“That day, I really enjoyed what I saw,” he said. “But that been in a metropolitan area you wouldn’t even have known it other than it was destroying in many things and possibly ending lives. That’s when they say the calm of the storm. I didn’t even know it was coming, I totally understand how that could be.”

He said nature is “beautiful” but can be “deadly.”

“If nature is beautiful for the most part, it’s highly beautiful. It’s just dangerous and deadly and that’s where the danger comes in and I always look to get to see some real good lightning. It’s kind of a fury, but it’s beautiful.”

A storm passes over Stillwater in 2016 and is photographed by Cherokee Nation citizen and storm chaser David Ballew.

“It’s kind of a fury, but it’s beautiful.”

David Ballew, Cherokee Nation citizen

“Nobody ever really gets to see that. When you get to see that video after it’s done, you get to see it following up and maybe it turns into an avalanche and maybe it matures and then dies and it goes away and turns right back into blue sky again. And just that thing is limitless.”

Ballew said his primary function for chasing storms is to provide early warnings and information to the news station.

“People captures storms via photography, and provides early warnings to the public of potentially dangerous storms.

Storm enthusiast aids with public safety

BY LINDSEY BARK

Cherokee soldier proud to serve country for 30-plus years

TONGANÁXKEE, Kan. — Cherokee Nation citizen Col. James H. Adams recently returned from a tour of duty in the Army after 30 years of service, a half-year of which included 30 months of combat.

Adams, 52, grew up in Watauga, Okla., and graduated from West Point High School as valedictorian in 1980. He later attended the Oklahoma Institute of Technology and East Tennessee State University in 1980 with a passion for weather. Adams finally joined the military and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in military intelligence in 1985.

He said after he joined the Reserve Officer’s Training Corps at NBU he decided to stay in the military.

“I went over and spoke to them (ROTC) and I enrolled in the program, and then I went to basic camp in Killeen (Texas)," Adams said. “I got my commission and then I went to the Intelligence School at Fort Benning (Georgia), and then I went to the Intelligence Staff School at the Command and General Staff College and the How to be a good graphic designer."
Cultural Survival has shifted to an online presence to help artists navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. OIF founder Lisa Stice, whose husband, Greg, is an artist and together run Cherokee Cogger, had the idea, in April, and within 10 days created an online event.

“When COVID hit and art shows began to cancel, I saw the impact it had on our artists and decided something needed to be done,” she said. “I was fortunate that a handful of our artist friends trusted me (and) took this leap with me. Doing our nightly interviews and live event helped bring back some of the camaraderie that artists have missed by not doing in-person shows.”

Stice said the goal is to help artists continue thriving. “The Native Art community is a tight knit one. Many of these artists make a living at shows and festivals. The loss of income for many was disastrous. If we don’t support artists there will be no art. My goal is to help thriving artists not starving artists.”

Native artists wanting to participate in an Aug. 8 online event can apply by messaging the OIF Facebook page. Stice said there is a fee that covers expenses related to the website and Zoom platform.

“Many of these artists make a living at shows and festivals. The loss of income for many was disastrous.”

Lisa Stice, Oklahoma Indian Festival founder

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Buddler loves, eager to learn beadwork

Gabrielle Budder interested in various art forms, but she concentrates on beadwork.

"There are a lot of us around that do it," said Buddy. "And we all have gotten really invested in it actually." The sorority is involved in numerous cultural events, and she and her sisters gather to bead and create other artwork to sell to raise funds for the sorority. Budder also hands beadwork classes and supplies beads to its members.

"A lot of our beadwork has to do with odd numbers, and that's because we don't believe there's ever anything truly perfect in the world, but we keep things balanced and we work with it." Budder keeps busy with English and media studies classes. Along with her beadwork, she is also involved in beadwork classes and beadwork clubs. She has attended beadwork classes at the Cherokee Nation Cultural Center and has taken classes at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently enrolled in beadwork classes at the University of Tulsa. She is also a member of the Alpha Pi Omega sorority, which is the first Native American sorority in the United States. She is currently a member of the Alpha Pi Omega sorority, and she is currently enrolled in beadwork classes at the University of Tulsa.

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