CONSTRUCTION DONE

The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation, seen under construction on Oct. 14, is now open, according to CN health leaders.

BY CHAD HUNTER
Reporter

TAHELQUAH - Under construction since 2018, the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tahlequah is now finished, according to tribal health leaders.

The 73,000-square-foot building, located on the W.W. Hastings Outpatient Health Center campus, is a joint project of the Cherokee Nation and Oklahoma State University Center for Health and Sciences.

“They’ve got[sic] occupancy, and OSU has moved their students out of our outpatient facility into the build- ing,” Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said.

Dr. Dennis Sixkiller, a fluent Cherokee speaker and Cherokee National Treasure, was among the first students out of our outpatient facility into the build- ing on Jan. 11. “I think today might have been the first day of classes starting in that building. We’re glad to see that completed.”

As work on the medical school was nearing an end, Dennis Sixkiller, a fluent Cherokee speaker and Cherokee National Treasure, was among the first students out of our outpatient facility into the building on Jan. 11. “I think today might have been the first day of classes starting in that building. We’re glad to see that completed.”

The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tahlequah is the first tribally affiliated medical school in the nation - in association with the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa.

The building features laboratories, lecture halls, classrooms, faculty offices, study areas and even a gym.

As work on the medical school was nearing an end, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said: “It was going to change health care for our people and help the whole region.”

“The most exciting, progressive and important things happening in health care in Indian Country anywhere is happening on this campus, and that’s something that’s been years in the making,” he said.

Dr. William Pettit, said its purpose was “to train pri- mary care physicians.”

“We really focus on training our physicians to work in the area of primary care and to serve rural, underserved and rural tribal health care initiatives,” he said. “The big goal is to provide healthcare throughout the district of the Cherokee Nation, as well as the state of Oklahoma.”

“The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation - the first tribally affiliated medi- cal school in the nation - in association with the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa,”

Although the COVID-19 outbreak delayed its finish, the college’s first 34 students were welcomed in sum- mer 2020, training for the most part remotely and also on the CN outpatient clinic, OSU leaders said. During a full tour of the building, the school’s dean, JOSH FOURKILLER

The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation, seen under construction on Oct. 14, is now open, according to CN health leaders.

BY CHAD HUNTER
Reporter

TAHELQUAH - During the new year’s first Tribal Council meeting, Cherokee Nation leaders unanimously passed the CHS Health Insurance Act, which could provide up to $10,000 in special benefits for fami- lies of CN employees who have died from COVID-19.

“I appreciate my partner there, (Tribal Councilor) Jenni Dixon, for coming up with this,” Tribal Councilor Shawn Laster said, “and I appreciate every- one here for passing this.”

Under the act passed Jan. 11, families of CN employees who have died from COVID-19 will be offered up to $1,000 in burial assistance, a $1,000 educa- tion scholarship or a $4,000 donation to a nonprofit organization of the family’s choosing. Scholarship will be available to CN citizens through the Cherokee Nation Foundation. Families who opt for dona- tions may choose nonprofit or govern- mental medical research organizations. Payments for burial assistance will be made directly to the funeral service pro- vider, the act states.

According to the CN, the employee’s death must have resulted from COVID-19 and “shall be verified through medical records supplied by the family.” The legislation is named in honor of Karen Ketcher and Faye Domino, the first two CN employees who died from COVID-19 in 2020. Ketcher, 69, of Stilwell, was director of Self-Governance. Ketcher dedicated her life to working in and for Indian Country for over 20 years. His most influential positions included regional director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Oklahoma Region, and the executive director of Self Governance for Cherokee Nation. Ketcher’s passing was re- spected by all who knew her both profes- sionally and personally.”

Domino, 65, also from Stilwell, was a

CHEROKEE PHOENIX

JANUARY 19, 2021
152 YEARS OF JOURNALISM

CN passes act to aid COVID victims’ families

Families of the Cherokee Nation employees will be offered burial assistance, scholarships or donations to nonprofit organizations.

BY CHAD HUNTER
Reporter

CRAFTY MOM

Ann Hooper, who makes custom shirts and decals, is our latest quarterly artist. CULTURE, 1

COURTESY

JOSH FOURKILLER/CHEROKEE PHOENIX

Cherokee Nation citizen Ryley Hummingbird after she received 383 votes of the total 1,037 cast online.

Cherokee Phoenix hosting children’s art contest

The grand prize winner will get a $100 gift card and his or her design on a youth T-shirt available for purchase at the 2021 Cherokee National Holiday.

BY STAFF REPORTS

TAHELQUAH - The Cherokee Phoenix is hosting another art contest for students in grades first through eighth to draw and submit their interpretations of the Cherokee Phoenix logo.

“The Cherokee Phoenix Art Contest was created as a way to not only rally students in first through eighth grade on-opportunity to express their artistic ability, but also show three years of our publications and begin the process of getting the students interested in newspaper and graphic design careers,” the act states. “We want to keep it simple and have the students use their creativity to redesign our iconic Cherokee Phoenix logo that is seen on such items as our newspapers.”

The grand prize winner, selected by public voting from May 17-28, will receive a $100 gift card and his or her design on a youth T-shirt that will be available for purchase at the 2021 Cherokee National Holiday. The design will become the Cherokee Phoenix logo that will be distributed throughout the Cherokee National Holiday.

All entries must be original works of art that includes name, grade and school as well as a description or explanation of the artwork. Descriptions do not count towards the total number of entries.

To enter the contest, a participant must sign a waiver that includes name, grade and school as well as a parent’s or guardian’s signature.

Entries must be submitted to the Cherokee Phoenix office, via ANY means possible, between April 30 and June 1, 2021. Entries can be mailed to Cherokee Phoenix, P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465. Scanned or photos of completed drawings or hand-drawn entries can be emailed to terris-howard@cherokee.org.

The grand prize winner will be announced by May 28.

For information or to download an entry waiver, visit the Cherokee Phoenix’s Facebook page.

The 2020 contest winner was Cherokee Nation citizen Ryley Hummingbird after she received 383 votes of the total 1,037 cast online.

“My design won the Cherokee Phoenix Art Contest during the 2020 holiday,” Hummingbird said. “I was so excited to get this news because this was my first time entering this kind of contest. I’m really looking forward to participating in the contest this year as well.”

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It claims making tribal employees quit their jobs before filing for publicly-elected offices within the Cherokee Nation is unconstitutional.

By D. SEAN ROWLEY
Senior Reporter

TALKEetag - There is not yet a hearing date set for an Oklahoma lawsuit that has been filed in the Cherokee Nation's District Court challenging the ban against tribal employees from running for offices not assigned to them.

The filing by Hammons, Hamby and Price PLLC on behalf of plaintiff Rebekah Scott, claims the prohibition violates the CN Constitution.

In a release, the firm states the prohibition against CN employees running for offices not assigned to them stands for non-tribal offices such as the Cherokee Nation "Employment Relations Act of 1969" and the Tribal Constitution. It also states the law is "in order to maintain a separation of powers between the Cherokee Nation's government and the employees which it employs."

The release further states that Scott would run for office but for the prohibition.

The lawsuit "Rebekah Scott v. Cherokee Nation Election Commission" asks that an order be declared providing that an employee of the CN and an employee therein be permitted to ask questions as a CN attorney general and the CN Election Commission.

"I've spent most of my adult career as an employee of the Cherokee Nation," said Jeremy K. Hamby, who was a CN attorney general, in the release.

"I previously held a position within CN, so I understand the frustration many CN employees feel when they can't vote or run for office for fear of losing their job."

The lawsuit seeks a declaration that the relevant provisions of the Act are unconstitutional. It also seeks a declaration that the relevant provisions of the Act are unconstitutional. It also seeks a declaration that the relevant provisions of the Act are unconstitutional.

"I know firsthand the frustration many CN employees feel when they can't vote or run for office for fear of losing their job."

"I previously held a position within CN, so I understand the frustration many CN employees feel when they can't vote or run for office for fear of losing their job."
TULSA - During its Jan. 11 meeting, the Tribal Council confirmed two new District Court judges, replacing two outgoing justices.

Named to the Supreme Court was Rex Earl Starr, who replaces Earl Starr, who replaces Jim Wilcoxen. Named to the District Court was Amy Page, who replaces Crystal Jackson.

“I want to thank all of the Cherokee people for their service to our people and our Nation,” Page said. “I am always ready and willing to assist. They are true heroes in my opinion. I would like to provide the necessary care. If I ever needed anything, they were always there for me and I never hesitated to ask. They made the job much more enjoyable and I look forward to working with the tribal court.”

Jackson will continue her private law practice in Tahlequah.

“Some of the highlights are the privilege to serve as a District Court judge,” Buhl said. “One of those was in the past four years, the financial and legal crises. I have gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professionalism and legal acumen that most attorneys, which I gained a valuable appreciation for the professiona...
BY CHUCK HOEKEN JR
Chief Principal

Two hundred years ago, the brilliant statesman Sequoyah presented the Cherokee syllabary to the world. He was honored the bicentennial of Sequoyah’s historic achievement that brought widespread literacy to our tribe.

We remember him through the gift of our language, but few specifics are known about Sequoyah’s life. History tells us that he first began working on his syllabary writing system in 1807. At times his work was misunderstood as witchcraft. Even his family was said to be loath to have her respond back in kind. He is a gift to us.

In 1821, he presented his invention to the Cherokee Nation in a single document. He wrote the syllabary, and having her respond back in kind. He is a gift to us.

The Cherokee system was so easy for Cherokee speakers to learn that the CN soon achieved one of the highest literacy rates in the world. The National Council press printed a book and commissioned a set of Cherokee type, paving the way for publishing the Cherokee’s first bilingual newspaper. The Phoenix was published for Cherokee hospitality and also widely read across the neighboring U.S. and in Europe. Religious pamphlets, educational materials and legal documents, including those in English, were now being printed in Cherokee syllabary.

Since that time, the syllabary has continued to advance with technology. From a handwritten system, it has evolved in the digital era to inhabit computer, smart phones and social media platforms.

We trust that Sequoyah would be very pleased to see the Cherokee system in such widespread use. It is still in everyday use. Today, we are expanding the creative presence and expand our language. We recently transformed the Sequoyah Language Authority, a $1 million investment that qua-

Show you care. Get the COVID-19 vaccine

BY DR. CALIN KIRK
Staff Reporter

Caring for others takes many forms. In 2020, doctors and nurses found themselves on the front lines, facilitating final goodbyes via iPad. The pandemic was a global effort, but getting vaccinated against COVID-19 does not need to be painful. It is a simple, necessary step to get back to normal.

Not getting it was never a possibility to me. Being a breastfeeding mother of an infant. The only side effect I experienced was a sore arm, but within 24 hours I felt fine. As I grappled for the opportunity to have received the vaccine so I can be here for my patients and my family. When the vaccine is approved for children, I will be one of the first to put it to the test, but also their caregivers outside our facility who may be at higher risk of this disease.

It is important to understand that while the vast majority of those infected with COVID-19 recover, a significant number of people will suffer from post infection complications. This population is more susceptible to re-infection and can spread the virus to others. Re-infections and re-vaccinations are common. Even with a recent history of COVID-19 disease, it is not uncommon for the virus to remain in the respiratory system, even if not detectable. There is currently no available vaccine that can prevent infection and complications. There is also a risk of severe illness from the virus in patients who are over 65 years old, or who have underlying health conditions. Even months after infection, some people continue to experience symptoms or lingering lung and heart disease, at times requiring organ transplant. We don’t want anyone to get even sicker.

Receiving immunity from the vaccine is safer than immunity from actual COVID-19 infection. There is no risk of severe complications. While immunity from the vaccine will not be 100%, even months after infection, some people continue to experience symptoms or lingering lung and heart disease, at times requiring organ transplant. We don’t want anyone to get even sicker.

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The "Clesta Martin Manley: The Art of Memory" exhibit runs until Feb. 27 at the renovated district courthouse. By Staff Reports ROSE — Cherokee Nation citizen Clesta Martin Manley has explored many painting techniques, media and subjects during her career and has found a way to connect her passion for art and her Cherokee heritage.

Many of her pieces feature the Saline Courthouse, which are presented alongside other original prints and prints in the "Clesta Martin Manley: The Art of Memory" exhibit, which runs until Feb. 27.

"Clesta has a beautiful history with the Saline Courthouse that includes her family hosting large gatherings there for many years," said Krystal Mosely, CN official manager of cultural collections and exhibits. "We’re pleased to be able to present an exhibit that looks forward to celebrating the significance of this iconic place to Clesta and the community."

The Saline Courthouse, which opened in 1876, earned the Cherokee National Treasure distinction in 2009 due to its historical passion and commitment to art.

"Clesta has a beautiful history with the Saline Courthouse Museum in Rose. After years of work to research and modernize it, the CN ensured the site is accessible to the public. It is a visit CHS. S 400 R Main in Rose. CN museums offer free entry and are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For information, call 477-759-0772 or visit VisitCherokeeNation.com.

"Clesta has a beautiful history with the Saline Courthouse that includes her family hosting large gatherings there for many years," Krystal Mosely, cultural collections and exhibits manager.
CHN COVID-19 cases break 10K as 2020 ends

BY CHAD HUNTER
Reporter

TAHLEQUAH - The number of COVID-19 cases within the Cherokee Nation doubled in December, pushing the total to more than 10,000 in 2021. It was the biggest number of new cases within its health system's operations in 2020 and the 10th month in a row to hit more than 10,000.

"COVID-19 is surging in our Cherokee communities," a news release stated. "And it is up on top of us to do our part to protect each other. We can do this by being vigilant, wearing a mask, washing our hands often and practicing social distancing. Our actions affect everyone, including our community's health systems.

The CN attributes more than 106 deaths to COVID-19. Jan. 9, the CN's total number of COVID-19 cases has risen to 12,960, an estimated 2,880 of which were deemed active.

"Under great stress and uncertainty, the Cherokee Nation and Cherokee National Resources employees work together as one to combat COVID-19 with all the resources and services operating for our citizens and towns, a 1,284 business - so vital to our ability to serve the Cherokee people," said the release. "This fight the the with health and safety of our citizens, friends, neighbors and supply of the importance.

The release noted the estimated 2,880 active cases. The release noted: "There are 4099. Elders should note that the vaccines provided direct help to more than 200,000 Cherokees worldwide," he said, "after being in 2021.

"Cherokees around the world are facing the greatest public health crisis in generations," he said. "We are looking for an agency that provides the leadership and the science that we need to find balance. One that can guide the client to a place of health.

"Understanding Cherokee history and culture means that we both recognize the power of the language and the fact that we shared the land with the ancestors of these people," he said. "We must continue to meet the challenges that face our people. We must continue to seize these opportunities. We must look out for one another.

"In the face of the greatest public health crisis in generations, we have been led by our best leaders and the wisdom of our elders. We must continue this work. We must continue to meet the challenges that face our to COVID-19. By Jan. 9, the CN's total number of COVID-19 cases has risen to 12,960, an estimated 2,880 of which were deemed active.

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"Our appointments are limited by supply and that's just going to be a core tenant moving forward." - Keith Reed, health department director.

COVID-19 vaccine registration open through Okla. agency

Those registered will be notified by email when an appointment is available for them.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Registration began Jan. 6 in Oklahoma for residents to be notified when they are eligible for a coronavirus vaccine injection. The Oklahoma State Department of Health, which later reported a one-day increase of 4,720 infections on the COVID-19 pandemic, Tulsa-based Therapies expanded health business

BY MARK DREADWATER
Digital Media Coordinator

TULSA - Despite many small businesses shuttered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tulsa-based Therapies expanded health business now shares a space with the language. "Cherokees have made of language and the fact that we shared the land with the ancestors of these people," he said. "We must continue to meet the challenges that face our people. We must continue to seize these opportunities. We must look out for one another.

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Pandemic prompts enrollment decline for Okla. public schools

According to the Oct. 1 student count, enrollment was down 5,317 students, or 1.36%, to 694,113 students total.

BY ANDREA EGER

TULSA – Oklahoma’s public school enrollment has begun to fall in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the biggest hits have been to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

According to the annual Oct. 1 student count, over-all enrollment was down 1.36%, from 699,413 to 694,113 students total.

Just a year earlier, the state’s student count of 701,658 was noted by officials at the Oklahoma State Department of Education for being the first-ever instance of public school enrollment exceeding 700,000.

Early childhood enrollment declines account for three-fourths of the overall enrollment downturn in public school students, with 4,734 fewer kindergarteners and 3,310 fewer kindergartners than in the 2019-20 academic year.

Early childhood programs had been on the rise every year since 2002. Oklahoma had seen the greatest one-year spike. A little over a year ago, Pre-k enrollment at those schools was up 214%, from 623 to 1,596, and kindergarten enrollment was up 373%, from 3,716 to 7,568.

Drastic shifts of students have also been recorded across the public school system, as a significant number of parents looked to forgo any in-school instruction for their children in 2020-21 thanks to the pandemic.

That trend sent student enrollment in Oklahoma’s online public schools soaring. Across all six public schools sponsored by the Oklahoma Statewide Virtual Charter School Board, there were 24,300 Virtual Charter School students, which offer more instruction to children at home.

The district said students were up 214%, from 623 to 1,596, and kindergarten enrollment was up 61%, from 1,781 to 2,905.

Co-founder Phil Nichols said student enrollment was down around 800 to 900 by early November and it has dwindled more since then.

“People are going back to brick and mortar (schools),” he said. “Primarily what we are seeing is people who have been nontraditional learners, they’ve become more comfortable with what’s going on with COVID, and I think it opens up a lot more avenues than people thought it would be.”

To promote self-determination in tribally driven economic development, it is critical to have a full spectrum of finance and accounting professionals,” Albert added. “Through the Investing in Native CPAs CPAs for American Indian and Alaska Native students and increasing Native certified public accountants, or CPAs, will be key to retaining Native students.”

The initiative is funded with a $1 million grant from Englewood Cliffs, the center for Native scholarships, a $2 million scholarship the Johnson Scholarship Foundation and a $1 million match from the AIGC.

The Longfellow S-14 had 40; students, but as of Oct. 1, it had 39. Co-founder Philip Nichols said student enrollment was down around 800 to 900 by early November and it has dwindled more since then.

“People are going back to brick and mortar (schools),” he said. “Primarily what we are seeing is people who have been nontraditional learners, they’ve become more comfortable with what’s going on with COVID, and I think it opens up a lot more avenues than people thought it would be.”

The center for Native scholarships, a national organization focused on increasing diversity in the accounting profession, aims to produce more Native CPAs.

“The Investing in Native CPAs initiative addresses an opportunity gap in the accounting and finance fields,” AICPA Executive Director Robert A. Ard said. “Data from the Association of Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA) and the American Indian Graduate Center indicates Native professionals represent only 0.3% of individuals holding both a bachelor and master’s degree in accounting — the population most likely to attain a CPA.”

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The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program helped more than 2,000 Cherokee Nation clients in 2020.

The program is funded by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and administered by the CN Family Assistance Program. It helped 2,308 participants. Assistance is provided to eligible households for their primary source of heating, including wood, wood pellets, natural gas, propane, electric (total electric homes), kerosene and coal. According to the CN, benefits are calculated based on the amount of income, energy source and family size. to "assure the highest level of payment." The benefit payment goes directly to the utility company or supplier.

"This program does have income and jurisdictional guidelines," Ward said. "LIHEAP can help only participants with staying warm during the winter and help with their heating or cooling during a crisis. If someone needs to apply for LIHEAP, they can go to the nearest office and make an application. If they are unable to come to the office, an application can be taken over the phone.

For information, call 918-435-6522 or visit the Human Services page on the CN website, cherokee.org. Applications are reviewed on a daily basis and payments for the elderly and disabled are made starting the end of January," Ward said. "All other LIHEAP payments are processed in February." "This is a one-time assistance payment, and we don’t include this in our monthly web page stats," Ward said. "This program usually starts in January, and it is in part due to the engines of February. The payment standard is based on an annual income of $5,000.

"This includes those who have not received the licenses yet who may wonder if they have active licenses. Everyone who falls in the 16-to-63 age category based on the licenses we issued last year," Harsha said. "If you received a license last year you should have an active license issued by the state even if you have not received the paper copy from us. You can always check that you are in or out of our wildlife group association here and we will correct that if we receive any information.

He said individuals can download the “OK My Outdoors” app on their smartphones and check their license status.

Councilman Keith Austin asked if other tribes with hunting and fishing permits can use this license in their territories.

"There are only two tribes that have the hunting and fishing permit that I am aware of and that would be the Cherokee Nation and the Navajo Nation," Harsha said. "This is based on a funding limitation that the federal government has that once $2 is paid for a license then it triggers conservation dollars that come into the state. That number is set by the original compact, by which we negotiated, and that same number is used by the Choctaw Nation when issuing their licenses."

Barbara also addressed an overgrowth of pine trees in Delaware County, stating his office is negotiating with the Bureau of Land Management.

"The issue with the pines is that the system (BLM) has in place is not cutting that much of it, it’s not quite operational that fits our particular needs," he said. "The reason being is that there’s no discussion, there’s no conversations and analysis piece. This is not a national forest, this is a county that we employ the normal timber cut-and-sell process. So that’s where that system is. We would like to re-examine the issue and provide access to our citizens' Cherokee Nation-owned property as a reserve and in part to increase access to culture, hunting and fishing, and providing opportunities, and providing opportunities to improve citizens’ wellbeing, including access to an area for our citizens to use our citizens’ is a win, and I’m glad to see a win for our citizens."

"Providing more access to food sources, preserving our resources is extremely important," Smith said. "Long ago, anytime we can adapt land use for our tribe and provide more opportunities for our citizens is a win, and I’m glad to see a win for our citizens."

"The CN will use the Sequoyah County hunting and fishing licenses to mitigate COVID-19 by decreasing food insecurity through hunting and gathering opportunities, and providing opportunities to improve citizens’ wellbeing, including access to an area for our citizens to use our citizens’ is a win, and I’m glad to see a win for our citizens."

"The CN already owned the Craig and Adair County acreage. This legislation establishes policy for the CN to acquire and manage lands for the benefit of CN citizens, conservation of natural resources and preservation of Cherokee culture."

Under the act, the tribe has allotted more than 4,000 acres of woodland in Sequoyah County as the first hunting and fishing preserves. In Adair County, space is also dedicated for cultural use.

"Providing the Cherokee people with hunting and fishing preserves another way we can practice tradition as good stewards of our land by creating suitable, dedicated space for hunting food sources and preserving the bountiful stock of fish in our waters and providing more cultural use for our people," Hinson said.

Natural Resources will oversee the reserve areas. Future parcels of trust property are also being considered for use by our citizens regularly ask where they can go to hunt and fish, and now these reserves will fill that void and put to use our citizens’ Cherokee Nation-owned hunting and fishing licenses."

Deputy Chief Bryan Warner
The Cherokee Nation is in its 11th year helping people prepare tax returns for free.

CN offers free tax prep services

BY LINDSEY BARK

The Cherokee Nation is in its 11th year helping people prepare tax returns for free.

This year's appointments will be different because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain protocols are in place to protect preparers and individuals.

“This year all tax preparations will be by appointment only,” Knight said. “Masks must be worn at all times, and clients will be asked to check in when they arrive and to wait in their vehicles until they are contracted to come into the office. Paperless files will be used for all appointments and appropriate cleaning protocol will take place between appointments. All necessary precautions will be in place to keep our employees and clients safe.”

For information, call 918-451-5538.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites & Appointment Times

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Over time we have slowly bought properties around hard work that goes into preparing for deer season. Ford said.

"I believe my specific love for the outdoors stems from the fact that I was born and raised in Greasy, Oklahoma. I’ve just always enjoyed being outdoors," he said. "I just spent four days sitting in a deer stand in Nebraska, where the temperature was down to 40s (degrees) with even lower wind chill," he said with a chuckle.

"The two-time former Conference USA offensive player Fine still wants a shot at the National Football League team while working for Tyson Foods in the off-season and started his football career in 2019. As a junior in 2014, he set state single-season passing records for yards (5,006) and TDs (71) while leading the Pawhuska program.

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Crafter uses pandemic hiatus to start business

BY CHAD HUNTER  Reporter

Ann Hooper, who makes custom shirts and decals, is the latest Cherokee Phoenix quarterly artist.

Hooper is a 31-year-old Cherokee Nation citizen from Tahlequah who started her own business in 2020. She makes custom shirts and decals for her customers through her Facebook page and via email. She uses a specialized cutting machine she purchased during tax season to make her designs.

Hooper has two children, ages 2 and 12, who help inspire her creative side. "I mostly do T-shirts and vinyl decals," she said. "I haven't really advertised a lot, but people just message me asking if I can create something I see. I was doing the medicine room signs has also been one of my big things. Photography was another one that I really wanted to get into. It's just finding the right time to invest in it and learning the products and techniques."

Hooper attended Sequoyah High School through her junior year, completed her education at Talking Leaves Job Corps and then took classes at Connors State College. She has two sisters and three brothers.

"There was a lot of us growing up," she said. "I really always wanted to learn about the business. Making shirts and designs has also been one of my big things. Photography was another one that I really wanted to get into. It's just finding the right time to invest in it and learning the products and techniques.

In addition to shirts and decals, Hooper makes designs for water bottles and pouches. "The water bottles were pretty popular over the summer," she said. "It was like a face mask bottle and it had the times on it to have that much water drunk by that time."

Hooper is the latest Cherokee Phoenix quarterly giveaway artist. "I thought that was really cool because I decided to just do this on the side at my house and it's something small," she said.

For information, email annabellemasershoes@gmail.com or call 918-506-9016.

For the Cherokee Phoenix’s first quarterly giveaway, Hooper has donated three white zipper bags with Native and Cherokee designs.

Entry for the giveaway can be submitted by donating to the Cherokee Phoenix’s Elder Veterans Fund or by donating a Cherokee Phoenix subscription or merchandise. One entry is given for every $10 spent or donation. The drawing for them is set for April 1.

For more information regarding the giveaway, call Terris Howard at 918-453-3743 or Samantha Cochran at 918-397-3825 or by emailing terris-howard@cherokee.org or samantha-cochran@cherokee.org.

For the Cherokee Phoenix’s test quarterly giveaway, Ann Hooper has donated three white zipper bags with Native and Cherokee designs.

COURTESY PHOTOS

For the Cherokee Phoenix Logo Contest.

Entry Rules:

Submissions must reflect the student’s interpretation of the Cherokee Phoenix logo.

- Student must be in first through eighth grade. One winner will be selected from each grade by the Cherokee Phoenix staff.

- Must be hand-done. No tracing, photography or computer-generated artwork.

- Entries may be submitted on paper, cardstock, poster board, etc.

- Entries must be submitted by April 30, 2021, at our office via in person, mail or email at terris-howard@cherokee.org.

- One entry per student.

- Each grade winner will receive a T-shirt and their design on display for public vote.

Grand prize winner, voted by the public, will receive a $100 gift card and their design on the 2021 holiday fan and a special-edition T-shirt available for purchase at the 2021 Cherokee Phoenix Holiday.

Artwork should be submitted to the Cherokee Nation’s future art studio at 407 S. Cherokee Ave., Tahlequah. Artwork may be submitted by mail to PO Box 538, Tahlequah, OK 74464.
Our quarterly guides are a great way to advertise!

Topics for our 2021 quarterly guides:

Women’s History Month - March 2  
(Deadline is February 16)

Services Guide - June 1  
(Deadline is May 18)

Holiday Guide - August 16  
(Deadline is August 3)

Seven Feathers Awards Gala - December 1  
(Deadline is November 22)

Samantha Cochran  
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Terris Howard  
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