10K VACCINATIONS

Residents move into HACN efficiency homes

Construction and the opening of the Hubert homes were delayed by bad weather and the pandemic.

BY D. SEAN ROWLEY
Senior Reporter

HULBERT – Despite delays from weather and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation has opened its complex of eight efficiency homes for elders in Hubert.

The homes are among a number that have been opened by the HACN recently, including complexes in Tahlequah and Sallisaw. New housing is also planned near Hulbert homes were delayed by bad weather.

“There currently is a need for housing, and there is always going to be a need for housing,” said Jerri Killiar, HACN interim executive director. “We like small, one- or two-bedroom units, especially for elders. We are looking at where we can do more of those. We believe these units will be beneficial highly concentrated in areas.”

Among Hubert’s first residents is Elois Jones, 67, who said she lived in apartments since her divorce more than 40 years ago. She lives with her blind named Cherokee Phoenix hails 193rd year

The tribe’s independent newspaper marks its 193rd anniversary on Feb. 21.

BY WILL CHAVEZ
Assistant Editor

TAHELKEHNAI – After Sequoyah invented the Cherokee syllabary in the early 1800s, his written language was used primarily for Christian instruction, but tribal leaders saw the syllabary could also be used to inform Cherokee people via a newspaper.

“To obtain a correct and complete knowledge of these people, there must exist a vehicle of Indian intelligence, altogether different from those which have heretofore been employed,” Elia Boudinot, the Cherokee Phoenix’s first editor, said.

The 20-year-old planned to print the news and other matters important to Cherokee people in columns of Cherokee and English. A 30-foot by 20-foot news office was established in the new Cherokee capital at New Echota, Georgia.

A 1,000-pound printing press and its accompanying equipment arrived at New Echota on Feb. 1, 1838, after a 200-mile wagon trip from Augusta, Georgia, over mountainous trails’ paths. It would be used to print the weekly newspaper and other tribal publications.

“Speaking to the National Council on Oct. 13, 1837, Principal Chief John Ross asserted, ‘the public press deserves the patronage of the people and should be cherished as an important vehicle in the diffusion of general information and...in asserting and supporting our political rights.’

During the first three weeks in Feb- ruary 1838, the Cherokee Phoenix worked diligently to master the intricacies of their new machine and hand setting copy for the inaugural edition that was printed on Feb. 21.

Rev. Samuel Worcester, a Cul- vinist missionary who lived among the Cherokee and played a role in founding the newspaper and obtaining the printing press, even proselytized for the publication of information on various subjects: laws and documents of the CN, accounts of manners and

SEL PERSONAL

Iron Gates steps through her living area inside one of the efficiency homes recently opened in Hubert to residents by the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation.

PHOTOS BY D. SEAN ROWLEY/CHEROKEE PHOENIX

TRIBE RELEASES ITS CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND SPENDING

The Cherokee Nation launched the largest emergency food distribution program in the tribe’s history as part of its Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Nearly 60% of the tribe’s allotted vaccines have been provided to first-language Cherokee speakers, Cherokee Nation Treasurers and elders.

The Cherokee Nation received nearly $411 million in CARES Act funding, which has been spent via its Response, Recover and Rebuild spending plan.

“We went where the needs were and the needs were all over, and different for different communities,” Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said. “There was an ongoing need for PPE manufacturing, so we are having Cherokee medical crews from the Cherokee Nation. Other facilities will be used for food security efforts. As we continue the largest emergency food distribution program

38 DECLARE FOR 9 COUNCIL SEATS

The Cherokee Nation’s At-Large seat attracts eight candidates.

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