Council votes to expand hearing aid program for at-large citizens

All Cherokee Nation citizens, no matter where they reside, will be eligible for two hearing aids when using CN health facilities under the change to the tribe’s hearing aid program.

BY CHAD HUNTER

TAHELQWAHR – The Tribal Council in March approved legislation proposed by Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Deputy Chief Bryan Warner to provide $120 million in funding to expand affordable housing options and offer low-income home repairs for Cherokee citizens with disabilities.

Speaker Mike Shambaugh said, “But for me it’s not hard to support this because, you know, most of our money comes directly from grants, and we really don’t want to do anything to hinder our ability to get money which can directly and indirectly go to our people or our programs.”

The proposal reauthorizes the Hoskin-Warner administration’s landmark Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act of 2013, which this year will complete repairs and replacements of nearly 200 homes for Cherokee citizens across the reservation.

The proposal received millions of dollars in grant funding every year, “This isn’t the first time we’ve had to do things like this, and I’m sure it won’t be the last. "Tribal Council Speaker Mike Shambaugh said. “But for me it’s not hard to support this because, you know, most of our money comes directly from grants, and we really don’t want to do anything to hinder our ability to get money which can directly and indirectly go to our people or our programs.”

The resolution, which states the tribe “applies for and receives millions of dollars in grant funding every year,” was passed by the Tribal Council.

Historic $120M housing initiative proposed

Tribal leaders propose using $120 million in funding to expand affordable housing options and fund other housing needs.

BY STAFF REPORTS

TAHELQWAHR – Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Deputy Chief Bryan Warner are proposing $120 million in funding to expand affordable housing options and offer low-income home repairs for Cherokee citizens with disabilities.

The proposal reauthorizes the Hoskin-Warner administration’s landmark Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act of 2013, which this year will complete repairs and replacements of nearly 200 homes for Cherokee citizens across the reservation.

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The resolution, which states the tribe “applies for and receives millions of dollars in grant funding every year,” was passed by the Tribal Council.

Student achieves goal of teaching Cherokee language

Sedi Eastwood is working hard to teach Cherokee to students in Kansas and Jay schools in Delaware County.

BY WILL CHAVEZ

KANSAS, Okla. – Sedi Eastwood’s goal of becoming a teacher of the Cherokee language has been achieved as she teaches the language to students in Kansas and Jay schools in Delaware County.

She graduated from Northeastern State University in 2019 with a Cherokee education degree and learned how to teach the language. Before she graduated NSU and before she was accepted to attend a tribe’s Master Apprentice Language Program, she heard about a program for a teacher who would divide her time between the schools to teach Cherokee.

Six months before she graduated from the CLAMP program in February 2021, she was approached by CLAMP staff about teaching Cherokee to students in Kansas and Jay.

“Shuri, I want to learn Cherokee, but I didn’t feel like that was the most effective way to learn. We did our best, but I think we would have benefited more being there in person,” she said.

She said leadership at the two schools and within the CLAMP program decided together to plan and find funding to make the language classes happen. Eastwood is in CLAMP graduates who are teaching the language in schools or churches.

Last September, she accepted the position to teach Cherokee via Zoom to Kansas and Jay students. She said, “it felt like a full-circle moment” because she had heard about teaching at the school when she joined CLAMP and saw she was invited to teach.

Starting last October, she would leave her CLAMP and Cherokee language teacher Sedi Eastwood goes over words on posters she created for her classroom in Kansas, Oklahoma. Below: Cherokee language teacher Sedi Eastwood visits with a student after her class in Kansas, Oklahoma.

Year-old court case was milestone for reservation

Landmark court rulings led to Cherokee Nation gaining jurisdiction over criminal cases involving Indians within its boundaries.

BY CHAD HUNTER

TAHELQWAHR – For the tribe’s top legal authority, it’s been “the quickest year of my life” since a singular court case last October opened the Cherokee Nation official record of more than 300 years to jurisdiction over crimes only in “As a result of these rulings, the Cherokee Nation and federal government is now able to address crimes only in the Cherokee Nation District Court.”

The resolution, which states the tribe “applies for and receives millions of dollars in grant funding every year,” was passed by the Tribal Council.

Cherokee Nation District Court Judge Amy Page presides over her courtroom in Tahlequah.

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