Cherokee TEACHER
After 12 years in retirement, Jim Dreadfulwater is teaching Cherokee at Cave Springs Public Schools. PEOPLES, 10

Cherokee Phoenix

Tribe unite for global language movement

Cherokee Nation hosts the kickoff event for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages initiative.

By Chad Hunter

TAHLEQUAH – Tribal representatives from across the globe gathered on the Cherokee Nation reservation in early January to launch the United Nations’ International Decade of Indigenous Languages endeavor.

The three-day event, hosted by the CN, featured “Indigenous languages were not from around the world but in person and virtually for discussions about effective language initiatives. CN Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. welcomed attendees inside the Chota Center on Jan. 5 at the event.

“Our language is our identity as Native peoples and our identity is everything,” he said. “Language is what makes us unique. It’s the chain that links us to our past, and it’s what binds us together today.”

Scholars estimate that upon European contact there were 100 Indigenous languages spoken on what would become the United States, but now only 115 remain. Without immediate measures, it’s estimated that another 79 languages could disappear in the next two decades.

“It’s really quite interesting to hear everybody’s story, where they are with their language and what is it they’re doing,” said Joe Hyten, the CN’s special envoy for international affairs and language preservation. “It seems like now, we’ve gotten away from just talking about our corporate world – how we are doing in our cultures. Now we’re going, wait a minute, God gave us this culture, God gave us our language. We have a responsibility to make sure that our children and grandchildren have that.”

By Chad Hunter

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. right, visits with Cherokee Nation EMS Director Jimmy Summerall about a pro- posed investment of more than $54 million that would support the tribe’s EMS department with a new facility and a new ambulance fleet.

The proposal also calls for emergency assistance to help stabilize ambulance service in Adair County, where an existing partnership with a physicians’ organization and a clinic in Adair County.

A proposal to help stabilize ambulance service in Adair County, where an existing partnership with a physicians’ organization and a clinic in Adair County.

Cherokee Nation EMS facilities and fleet of ambulances on Jan. 6.

Funds would also help stabilize Adair County EMS service, assess most pressing EMS needs across the tribe’s reservation.

By BYSTAFF REPORTS

Tahlequah — Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Department Chief Bryan Warner are proposing more than $54 million in funds to support the Cherokee Nation’s Emergency Medical Services. לעבודה עם זה היא אחת המтки האישיות שלנו:" One of the things we’re doing is making sure our public and begin the process of getting the students inside our newspaper." "The Cherokee Phoenix was created to ensure that students have access to our youth and the future of the tribe.

The Cherokee Nation Education Services executive director and superintendent, who’s been in the role since 2020, took over as acting chief of staff on Nov. 1 at the request of Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. Bunch, 44, of Adair County, replaced Todd Edds, who departed for an opportunity in the private sector. Bunch was officially named the permanent chief of staff on Jan. 6.

He’s done, I think, an extraordinary job in the short time that he’s been in the role," Hoskin said. "I’ve enjoyed working with Corey during times that I think are extraordinary in terms of the global pandemic that we continue to have. We have a very good man in the position of chief of staff who’s been looking at that issue every day.”

The chief of staff job, Bunch said, includes “a very, very wide range of responsibilities and duties,” one of

Cherokee Phoenix hosting third annual Student Art Contest

By BYSTAFF REPORTS

Tahlequah – The Cherokee Phoenix is hosting its third-annual student art contest for students in grades first through eighth to draw and submit their interpretations of the newspaper’s famed logo.

The grand prize winner will be announced after May 31.

Corey Bunch, as the acting Cherokee Nation chief of staff, takes part in an executive-order signing event Dec. 20, 2021, near the Tribal Complex.

For information or to download an entry waiver, visit www.cherokeephoenix.org. See ARTS, 3.

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