

THE SEARCH IS ON

The "Searching for Sequoyah" documentary airs on PBS in November.

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Greasy School to be 2nd immersion site

The Cherokee Nation acquires the Adair County school to open its second Cherokee language immersion campus due to it being a language "hot spot."

BY LINDSEY BARK
Reporter

BUNCH – The Cherokee Nation on Oct. 29 finalized the acquisition of Greasy School in Adair County to repurpose it into the tribe's second Cherokee language immersion school starting with the 2022-23 school year.

Plans to open a second immersion school were announced during the State of the Nation address in September during the Cherokee National Holiday by Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

CN officials worked with Dahlenegah Public Schools' board of education and Superintendent Jeff Limore to acquire the site. The Dahlenegah system runs Greasy School but will cease operations at the end of the semester.

CN Language Department Executive Director Howard

Paden said the opening of a second immersion school is going to be a "game changer."

"I think that it is going to increase the amount of speakers that we have in years to come," he said. "We're losing speakers at an alarming rate and we're not replacing them fast enough. So strategically we've been planning to expand immersion schools to the communities, especially the high density population of Cherokee speakers, what we've been calling Cherokee speaking hot spots."

Paden said there are hundreds of Cherokee speakers in the area, surrounded by traditional communities such as Bell, Cherry Tree, Dahlenegah, Rock Fence and Candy Mink Springs.

"That whole region is all Cherokee speakers. There's

SEE SCHOOL, 2



COURTESY

Cherokee Nation Language Department Executive Director Howard Paden, fourth from right, stands with CN officials and representatives on Oct. 29 during the acquisition of Greasy School in Adair County. Greasy is the future site of a second Cherokee language immersion school.



CHAD HUNTER/CHEROKEE PHOENIX

Cherokee Nation citizen Joe Price carries a tribal flag Oct. 27 during a march to City Hall in downtown Tulsa. Members of at least a dozen tribes took part in the rally to protest Tulsa's support of overturning the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark McGirt decision.

The city of Tulsa joins the state and others in opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court's McGirt v. Oklahoma decision so Natives respond.

BY CHAD HUNTER
Reporter

TULSA – Cherokees and other tribal citizens "blindsided" by the Tulsa mayor's support for overturning the U.S. Supreme Court's historic McGirt v. Oklahoma decision descended on City Hall in protest Oct. 27.

The crowd first met at a downtown hotel, then marched several blocks to City Hall shouting, "Honor the treaty" and other calls to arms while holding signs that reflected the group's ire.

"I'm here to say that standing against us will not be fruitful at all," said Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilor Joe Deere who represents Owasso and portions of Tulsa, both of which support McGirt's demise. "Tulsa and Owasso have proven to be an opponent of tribal sovereignty. Cherokee Nation is ready to move forward together. The question is

are Tulsa and Owasso."

At City Hall, the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission met for an emergency meeting during which it voted to urge Tulsa to withdraw its amicus brief opposing McGirt. The rally's organizer, CN citizen Sarah Gray, of Tulsa, said the march symbolized "a sign of support and respect to let the commissioners, who are our people, know that we have their backs."

"We know they are in a tough situation," Gray said. "They've enjoyed a nice relationship with the mayor's office for so long. They were blindsided. The chiefs were blindsided. But this issue is just too important. It's not going to go away. Folks like me and many other tribal leaders and activists are going to make damn sure that it doesn't go away."

The rally, sponsored by the North Tulsa

SEE RALLY, 2

CN files SCOTUS amicus brief in McGirt situation

It outlines why the court should deny Oklahoma's "flawed arguments and inaccuracies" in its filings.

BY STAFF REPORTS

TAHLEQUAH – The Cherokee Nation on Oct. 29 filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on the state of Oklahoma's efforts to reverse last year's McGirt v. Oklahoma decision.

According to a CN press release, the tribe's brief outlines why the court should deny Oklahoma's petition, its "flawed arguments and inaccuracies" in its amici's filings.

"Governor Stitt could have spent the months since the McGirt decision working with tribes and local partners to keep Oklahomans safe," said Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. "Instead, he has not only refused to accept the Supreme Court's ruling but has prioritized overturning the decision over solutions that would actually protect public safety. Our brief today demonstrates that the governor's attacks on tribal sovereignty are inconsistent with the law and factually baseless. We hope the court will see through this blatantly political effort, reject the state's petition, and put an end to the dangerous uncertainty and instability created by the state's refusal

SEE BRIEF, 3



COURTESY

The Cherokee Nation on Oct. 29 filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on the state of Oklahoma's efforts to reverse last year's McGirt v. Oklahoma decision.

Hoskin discusses taxes, budget in OK Policy Institute panel

BY D. SEAN ROWLEY
Senior Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY – In conjunction with the release of its report on Oklahoma's budget and tax systems, the Oklahoma Policy Institute hosted a forum on Oct. 27 to discuss state fiscal policy, with Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. among the panelists.

In its executive summary of the report, "A Better Path Forward," OK Policy states "Oklahoma has cut its taxes and public services too much, and this has created real harms to the health, safety and prosperity of all Oklahomans."

The report claimed that Oklahoma does not collect enough revenue to support prosperity in the state, and characterized current tax policy as "regressive and unfair."

Also on the panel were State Sen. John Michael Montgomery, R-Lawton; Dr. Cynthia Rogers, professor of economics at the University of Oklahoma; Emma Morris, co-author of the report and OK Policy analyst of health care and revenue; Leslie Osborn, state labor commissioner; Paul Shinn, OK Policy's senior analysts for tax and budget; and Tres Savage, editor in chief for



OKLAHOMA POLICY INSTITUTE

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. participates in an Oct. 27 discussion hosted by the Oklahoma Policy Institute with the release of its "A Better Path Forward" report.

NonDoc, served as moderator.

Asked about his biggest concerns with the state budget, Hoskin agreed with other panelists that it is "broken."

"I think we have, perhaps unanimity up here on that,"

Hoskin said. "The flaws in it have been mentioned, basing so much of the revenues on the price of oil and the absurd notion that you can cut taxes with a simple majority but you can't fix those mistakes (with a simple majority)."

Hoskin said the state's budget represents the state's current values.

"The Oklahoma budget is structured as an every-man-for-himself budget," he said. "Good luck, if you have yours then you have it, and if you don't then you're on your own."

Hoskin contrasted the \$167 million in revenue supplied to the state by tribal gaming to the tax cuts implemented during the 2021 legislative session – noting the cuts were twice the size.

On the subject of finding other revenue sources, Hoskin said tax incentives might attract a few businesses or film productions, but he worried that other factors might scare away further opportunities.

"We ought to be concerned about the industries that completely pass us over because they look at us as a state that is a bottom 10 state in public education," he,

SEE POLICY, 3