The Cherokee Nation acquired 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. 28 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 DHS/Health Public Schools’ board of education and Superintendent Jeff Limore to acquire the site. The DHS/Health public school runs Greasy School but will cease operations at the end of the semester.

CN Language Department Executive Director Howard Padon said the opening of a second immersion school is 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.”

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

“That whole region is all Cherokee speakers. There’s no 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

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 - Cherokee and other tribal citizens “disenrolled” 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, “Honors the treaty” and other chants 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 Osage and portions of Tulsa, both of which support McGirt’s demise. “Tulsa and Owasso have proven to be an opposition to tribal interests. Cherokee Nation is ready to move forward together. The question is how Tulsa and Osawatomie.”

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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. 26 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 amicus’ filings.

“Governor Stitt could have spent the months since the McGirt decision working with tribes and local partners to keep Oklahoma’s sites,” 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, he said.

The governor’s attack on tribal sovereignty is inexcusable 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 to reverse last year’s McGirt v. Oklahoma decision.

Hoskin discusses taxes, budget in OK Policy Institute panel

By D. Sean Rowley
Senior Writer

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 and public services too much, and this has created real harms to the health, safety and prosperity of all Oklahomans.”

The report claims that Oklahoma does not collect enough revenue to support property in the state, and characterizes the tax and public 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; Emanuella Morris, co-author of the report and OK Policy analyst of economics and tax policy; and Realtor Leslie Osborn, state labor commissioner; Paul Shinn, OK Policy’s senior analyst for tax and budget; and Tres Savage, editor of for Oklahoma’s “flawed arguments and inaccuracies” in its filings.

“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’ve on your own.”

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

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