

New Cherokee language efforts aimed for all generations



By Principal Chief
Chuck Hoskin Jr.

The Cherokee language is the heart of who we are as a people. It carries our history, our way of life, and the values that connect us across generations. When we speak our language, we honor our ancestors and ensure that future generations can know themselves as Cherokee.

This shared mission was at the center of our recent Sev-

enth Annual First-Language Speakers Gathering in Tahlequah. This celebration, which began in 2019, has become a beloved tradition, a moment to honor our fluent speakers, celebrate our teachers and learners, and renew our commitment to the Cherokee language.

Guided by the Durbin Feeling Language Preservation Act, we have made the largest language investment in Cherokee history: over \$68 million since 2019. This year alone, our language budget totals nearly \$25 million, ensuring the next generation of Cherokee speakers grow up surrounded by ample opportunity to learn.

This investment is visible across our 7,000-square-mile reservation. The Durbin Feeling Language Center in Tahlequah is the heart of our revitalization efforts. Next door, our Speaker Village provides housing for

first-language elders, with a \$12 million expansion underway and a second village planned for Adair County. In Tahlequah, a \$30 million Immersion Middle School is under construction, bridging the gap between early education and higher learning. We’ve also expanded our Immersion School to Greasy, established a Master/Apprentice program in Kenwood, and launched an infant immersion program, so that our youngest citizens can speak their first words in Cherokee.

Our commitment extends to our first-language speaking elders. Through our Speaker Services Program, we’ve invested more than \$39 million to help fluent speakers live with dignity and comfort. We are expanding programming with a new home health initiative called the Peer Recovery Program, which will hire caregivers who speak Cherokee to provide health care support directly in elders’ homes who are in need. We are dedicating an additional \$2.3 million annually through the Public Health

and Wellness Fund Act to develop these efforts, as well the continued support of Little Cherokee Seeds, a partner program operated locally by the American Indian Resource Center.

Innovation is another pillar of our mission. Two new Cherokee language apps are helping citizens everywhere learn the language. One is based on the New Testament and the other app features the Cherokee Dictionary created by the late linguistic pioneer Durbin Feeling. Our language is also being amplified through film and television, with major productions like “How to Train Your Dragon” and Amazon’s “The Rings of Power” now available to stream completely in Cherokee.

Deputy Secretary of State Canaan Duncan, himself a proficient second-language learner who studied our Cherokee language at the university level and heard the language being spoken by his first-language fluent-speaking kin growing up, is leading an effort near and dear to

all of our hearts. Next year Deputy Secretary Duncan and a team in our language department will release a hard bound and digital edition of our Cherokee Nation Constitution in English and Cherokee.

Inside our tribal government, a new Human Resources policy rewards employees who pursue Cherokee language proficiency with bonuses and pay raises. This policy ensures that our language is valued in the workplace, not just in classrooms.

Even our newest Cherokee Nation food truck supports language preservation. It serves more than meals;

it creates opportunities for workforce training and conversational learning. Each stop becomes a mini classroom, where citizens and employees can practice speaking Cherokee in daily life.

Six years ago, at our inaugural Cherokee speakers gathering, I feared our language was endangered. Today, I know it is on a visible path to revitalization. Through Gadugi, our cherished traditional Cherokee value of working together, we are building a future where the Cherokee language is strong. Every word we speak, every student we teach, and every elder we honor moves us forward.

You’re the missing piece to help change a child’s story

Childhood should be a care-free and happy experience. However, children who have been removed from their home by the court because of abuse and neglect and living in foster care, it is a time

of uncertainty. Not knowing or having any control over what the future might hold for them.

That is where CASA of Northeast Oklahoma and their volunteers come in. They make sure children who have experienced abuse and neglect have a qualified, compassionate adult providing them with a voice to fight for and protect their right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

What do CASA volunteers look like? They are ordinary citizens, at least 21 years old, who care about children and agree to volunteer their time to be trained, background checked, sworn in by a judge and supervised by CASA staff to speak up in court for the best interest of abused and neglected children.

“With the current number of foster children needing a CASA volunteer, CASA of Northeast Oklahoma is asking for people to volunteer to help make a child’s life better,” said Lana Kite, Recruiting & Training Coordinator, CASA of Northeast Oklahoma.

If someone has ever thought about becoming a CASA volunteer, this is the perfect time. The next training class is scheduled to begin in November in Claremore.

The training classes will be held on November 12th, 19th and December 3rd and 10th in the CASA of Northeast Oklahoma office, 1222 N. Florence Ave., Suite A in Claremore.

Choose today to get involved and make a difference! You will not regret helping change a child’s life for the better. Go online at www.casaneok.org or call 918-923-7276 to fill out an application or for more information. If not you – who? If not now – when?

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Legal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in the Lake Leader on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY OF
COLLINSVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION, TULSA COUNTY, OK

Notice is hereby given that the agenda item listed below will be reviewed and considered for approval by the Planning Commission, in the City Hall Commission Chambers, 106 N. 12th St., Collinsville, OK 74021 at 5:30 PM on the 20th day of November 2025. If approved by the Planning Commission, the agenda item below will also be reviewed and considered by the City Commission, in the City Hall Commission Chambers, 106 N. 12th St., Collinsville, OK 74021 at 5:30 PM on the 1st day of December 2025.

Rezoning Application [REZ-25-0003]. The property owner, Green Country Land Company LLC, is requesting a review to rezone their property from AG (Agriculture District) to CG (Commercial General District). The subject property is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of E 136th St N and HWY 169 and is further identified as follows: Parcel #: 92433-24-33-18010

Legal Description:
Subdivision: UNPLATTED (92433) Legal: BEG 275E NWC W/2 NE NW TH E51.83 S100 E222.85 S121.26 SE144.89 CRV LF 154.07 TO PT ON EL W/2 NE NW S822.05 TO PT ON SL W/2 NE NW W79 NW1355.09 POB SEC 33 22 14 5.572ACS Section: 33 Township: 22 Range: 14

All persons interested in this matter are hereby notified to be present at the above-mentioned time and place or submit any comments in writing to the Development Services at 118 N. 11th Street, Suite D, or to the City Planner, Julie Baniqued, at Julieb@CityofCollisville.com in order to provide comments regarding this request.

Subject Site

SW Corner of E 136th St N and HWY 169

Rezoning Application: REZ-25-0003

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Published in the Lake Leader on Thursday, October 30, 2025.
Legal Notice
The Board of Education of Collinsville Public School District hereby provides legal notice that the school board election filing period for candidates will open on Monday, December 1, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2025.
Board Member Positions on Ballot:
The voters shall elect a board member for board position No. 1, which has a 5-year term of office.
The voters shall elect a board member for board position No. 5, an unexpired term with 4 years remaining.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Published in the Oologah Lake Leader on Thursday, October 30, and November 6, 2025.
IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR ROGERS COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA
In the Matter of the Estate of JENNIFER DAWN PAULEY, Deceased.
Case No. PB-2025-156

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of Jennifer Dawn Pauley, Deceased:
All creditors having claims against Jennifer Dawn Pauley, Deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to Jordan Razo, Personal Representative, at the law office of Forrest B. Hess of Hess Law Firm, 11960 E. 86th Street

North, Owasso, OK 74055, on or before the following presentment date: January 12, 2026 or the same will be forever barred.
DATED this 27th day of October 2025.
/s/ Forrest B. Hess
Forrest B. Hess, OBA #18394
Hess Law Firm PLLC
11960 E. 86th Street North
Owasso, OK 74055
918-376-6511
Attorney for the Personal Representative

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Re: Commercial SWD Acquisition Opportunity
David Payne was recently appointed receiver over three (3) SWD's, one located in McClain County and two in Blaine County. The Receiver has court authority to sell all three properties as a group or individually.
As an example, our McClain County property, the Dibble SWD generates between 7,000 and 11,000 BBL of daily injection volumes with both contracted pipe volume and hauled volumes.
Should your firm or a firm that assists in moving your production water have an interest in this opportunity, please respond and we can execute an NDA and grant access to our virtual data room.
Please Contact PAUL SNISKY
Practice Development Director
Office (405) 272-0511 • Mobile (503) 753-6854
for more information.

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Rezoning Application [REZ-25-0001]. The property owner, Vetco Inc., is requesting a review to rezone their property from AG (Agriculture District) to CG (Commercial General District). The subject property is located at 13420 E 146th St N and is further identified as follows:
Parcel #: 92428-24-28-56355
Legal Description: Subdivision: UNPLATTED (92428) Legal: PRT NE NW BEG SWC LT 21 VACATED GARDEN PLACE TH N566.38 NELY ON CRV RT39.63 S194.65 SELY ON CRV LF37.30 W88.15 POB SEC 28 22 14 .659AC
Section: 28 Township: 22 Range: 14
All persons interested in this matter are hereby notified to be present at the above-mentioned time and place or submit any comments in writing to the Development Services at 118 N. 11th Street, Suite D, or to the City Planner, Julie Baniqued, at JulieB@CityofCollisville.com in order to provide comments regarding this request.



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Rezoning Application [REZ-25-0002]. The property owner, Collinsville Church of the Nazarene, is requesting a review to rezone their property from RS-3 (Residential Single-Family High Density District) and RM-2 (Residential Multi-Family Medium Density District) to CBD (Central Business District). The subject property is the entire block of W Oak St between N 11th St and N 12th St, and is further identified as follows:
Parcel #s:
1. 59825-24-20-02500
2. 59825-24-20-02490
3. 59825-24-20-02480
4. 59825-24-20-02470
5. 59825-24-20-02460
Legal Description:
Subdivision: COLLINSVILLE-ORIGINAL TOWN (59825) Section: 20 Township: 22 Range: 14
A. Legal:
B. Parcel 1: LT 4 BLK 37
C. Parcel 2: W/2 LT 3 BLK 37
D. Parcel 3: E/2 LT 3 BLK 37
E. Parcel 4: LT 2 BLK 37
F. Parcel 5: LT 1 BLK 37
G. All persons interested in this matter are hereby notified to be present at the above-mentioned time and place or submit any comments in writing to the Development Services at 118 N. 11th Street, Suite D, or to the City Planner, Julie Baniqued, at JulieB@CityofCollisville.com in order to provide comments regarding this request.

