

"EAT YOUR HEART OUT"



Typical conversation between Spotted Pony and Running Bear:

Running Bear: "Osiyo Spotted Pony! How is the weather up in the Wolverine state where you live?"

Spotted Pony: "Oh, It has been cold and windy! I went fishing on the lake yesterday. All I had to do was stand on the shore line and hold a bucket and the cold wind just blew the fish up out of the water and into my bucket!"

Running Bear: "Wow! That IS cold! Well, my friend, eat your heart out, 'cuz where I live in the hill country of east Tennessee we have been having mild sunny spring weather and I have been wearing shorts, tank tops, and sandals!"

Spotted Pony: "Yeah, well, rumpledeesnort #%*#!!"

Later, in a quiet location, Spotted Pony sat under a tree thinking to himself:

"Hmm, Running Bear told me to 'eat my heart out'. Now how would one say that in the Cherokee language?"

Let's see: "eat your heart out", JIGI?A - he eats (a single solid food) "?" indicates a glottal stop. Okay Spotted Pony, so what's a glottal stop? It is a stopping of breath! We use them all the time, like when we say "We eat turkey". Now, why did that not sound like "Weeturkey"? Its because one puts glottal stops in between the words "We", "eat", and "turkey".

Now I can go with the imperative form of JIGI?A which would be "HIGA", sort of a command: : "Eat!"

HIDANVHDO = "your heart". That "H" in there helps with the pronunciation. Not "Nuh do" but "nv hdo", kind of sneeze when you say the "do".

The Cherokee language allows for a detached body part, so if your heart is no longer attached to the rest of you, you may want to add "AGWAJELI". But I don't think I will do that this time. It does not really add to the meaning.

DOYADLITLV = "out, or outside". That "tlv" syllable indicates movement or action, which is what I think we mean here. Literally this would mean something like "that thing moved outdoors", a verb. Cherokees don't use nouns much. In fact, hardly at all.

So, "HIGA HIDANVHDO DOYADITLV" comes to mean "eat your heart out" Spotted Pony, because Running Bear says the weather in Tennessee is much more comfortable than up here in the frozen Michigan northland!

Spotted Pony continued to think, then he stood up suddenly and said "I think I will go fishing at the lake! Where's my bucket??"



#

FLOOD WATERS RAVAGE COVERED BRIDGE

The covered bridge on the National Grounds of SeCCI was damaged by flood waters during the early part of July resulting in an erosion of one bank and the collapsing of one end of the bridge. James BlackWolf Barfield put

out the call for helpers to come on the weekend of July 17 to attempt to repair the bridge and also work on the roof of the drum arbor which has been in a state of partial collapse for some moons now.

Three men showed up and along with help from some who live on the grounds, a substantial effort was made to raise the bridge using heavy duty jacks. However, they were unsuccessful due to the unstable and soft state of the bank, and it was soon determined that some heavier equipment needed to be brought in to lift the bridge using hydraulics.

Black Wolf and Running Bear then turned their attention to repairing the damaged roof of the drum arbor which is located adjacent to the council house. The daughters of Black Wolf assisted Running Bear dismantle the damaged roof and Black Wolf went into town to acquire the lumber and other building materials necessary to construct a new roof.

Rainy weather impeded the work weekend, but at least a good beginning was made. It is hoped to have both the covered bridge and drum arbor in good repaired condition by the time of our Fall gathering in October.

It has been a bad year for the National Grounds due to a cold winter resulting in frozen and broken water pipes, along with the breakdown of equipment used on the Grounds to keep the grass well groomed. We believe, however, that overcoming such challenges makes us stronger and builds character!

