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2022**

Off to the races

EBCI launches horse racing partnership in Kentucky

By JONAH LOSSIAH

One Feather Reporter

ASHLAND, Ky. – In October, representatives from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) made their way to eastern Kentucky for the groundbreaking of a new horse racing facility.

This project is being led by EBCI Holdings and is a joint venture with Revolutionary Racing, LLC, a company that specializes in horse racing facilities. The total investment for this project is \$55 million, with \$25 million of that

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In October, representatives from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians made their way to eastern Kentucky for the groundbreaking of a new horse racing facility. Shown, left to right, are Adele Madden, EBCI Holdings chief financial officer; T.W. Saunooke, Yellowhill Tribal Council Rep.; Boyd Owle, Birdtown Tribal Council Rep.; Ray Rose, EBCI Holdings Board Member; Connor Lucas, RRYK; Cory Blankenship, EBCI Holdings Board Member; Larry Lucas, RRYK; Prentice Salter, RRYK; Scott Barber, EBCI Holdings chief executive officer; John Marshall, RRYK; and David Rittvo, EBCI Holdings Consultant. (Photo contributed)



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A layout of the upcoming property as provided by EBCI Holdings, LLC

HORSES: EBCI Holdings enters horse racing partnership in Kentucky, *from front page*

coming from the EBCI. The funding for this project was approved in April of this year when Tribal Council approved Res. No. 245. That investment translates to a 48 percent equity stake in the entire business.

Cory Blankenship, secretary of EBCI Treasury and EBCI Holdings board member, said that they hope to have the first aspect of the project online by the third quarter of 2023.

"In Kentucky there were nine race track licenses. You have to be a licensed operator through the Kentucky Racing Commission in order to own and operate a race track in Kentucky. Only eight of the licensees were active. So, this group went to the state of Kentucky and the Kentucky Racing Gaming Commission and said that we would like to be rewarded that ninth and final license for a racing facility," said Secretary Blankenship.

The reason for the joint venture is a matter of expertise. The EBCI wanted a company that has experience for horse racing management and operation. Revolutionary Racing wanted a partner that had experience with gaming, and that's because of a law that allows gaming similar to Class II.

"The interesting thing about operating in the state of Kentucky is that if you own and operate a track, you are also allowed to operate units that are called HHR, historical horse racing units. The technology has evolved in these units that they look and feel just like a slot machine. They look and feel just like a Class II slot machine and have a lot of the same names as Class II slot machines. They're manufactured by the same company."

Secretary Blankenship said that understanding the system can be complicated, but the function of the machines is relatively simple. He walked through how they operate and why they're legal.

"The nuance of an HHR machine is that when you sit down at one of these machines and place a bet, you're actually betting on a series of randomly selected horse races in the background. The machine looks to a database of thousands of historical horse races, picks three horses at random, and the outcome of those races, which are run in the background of the machine with every pull and push, the outcome dictates where the reels stop. So, when you put your money in and you place a bet, you're betting on a horse race. That's how they're legal in the state of Kentucky to operate these machines."

In this joint venture, equity is split from the entire operation. However, EBCI Holdings will be responsible for managing the HHR facility, and Revolutionary Racing will be responsible for the horse track. The full stake breakdown shows that Revolutionary Racing holds 51 percent of the venture, EBCI Holdings has 48 percent, and Keeneland Association Inc. holds the final 1 percent. Keeneland, based in Lexington, Ky, is an equine business that owns a race course, racing facility, and operates in horse sales and auctions. Larry Lucas, chairman of Revolutionary Gaming, said that he is very excited to get this partnership underway.

“We’ve done other joint ventures and we’re very excited about this one. The expertise that we have in the racing industry and the expertise that [EBCI] has in the gaming side. They have one of the most successful casinos in the United States. So, we want to build off both of our strengths,” said Lucas.

A key piece of the project is that both parties wanted to establish a unique experience in the Kentucky horse racing game. The original code name for the venture was ‘Project Thoroughbred’, since they knew it would involve horse racing in Kentucky. However, they realized that thoroughbred racing seemed saturated in the commonwealth. The eight other racetracks are all dedicated to thoroughbred racing. That is why they have decided to feature quarter horse racing.

“Right now, there’s over 30,000 quarter horses in the commonwealth of Kentucky. There’s a circuit of racing from Indiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, that migrates out here in the spring. We plan on capturing that. It’s an underserved mar-

ket. Because we will be the only dedicated quarter horse track in the commonwealth. It’s kind of a niche that nobody’s focused on,” said Lucas.

Lucas said that his business has put an impetus on learning about the local community and hopes to help reestablish Ashland and Boyd County.

“Don’t be the guys from out of town that know everything. That’s really important to us. We’ve spent a lot more time listening than talking. Nobody likes the fancy guys coming in from out of town and telling them what to do.”

He continued by saying that local leaders and the trade unions have been very supportive of the effort. Lucas said that this connection to the community was a major key in partnering with EBCI Holdings as well.

“The professionalism, in this case, is greater than any other commercial entity. But I think there’s a greater sensitivity to making sure that the employees are treated correctly and that there is a greater sense of community than a big corporation. That really sits very well with me because I feel very strongly that you’ve got to be part of the community. I could repeat it a thousand times, but that’s really important to me.”

Secretary Blankenship said that part of upholding that promise from their side is ensuring a top-tier operation and facility. “We’ve committed to a first-class gaming facility. I think that’s where EBCI Holdings wants to operate. For Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, if we’re making that kind of investment, we want it to be first-class. That’s how we’re known in the industry and that’s where we want the project to eventually land. That’s what we made in the commitment to Boyd

County. That you’re going to have a top-rate facility.”

Both Lucas and Secretary Blankenship pointed to the importance of the HHR facilities in this project. Lucas said that since implementing this type of gaming, purses for horse racing in Kentucky have doubled.

When it comes to profit, Secretary Blankenship said that EBCI Holding is projecting an 8-16 percent annual return on equity once all aspects of the project are online. He said that they’re hoping for \$2.5 million in year one, and upwards of \$4 million to \$5 million in returns following that.

This is strictly the EBCI’s profit from the venture. Of which, 50 percent will go directly to the Tribe and 50 percent will be held by EBCI Holdings, which is completely owned by the EBCI.

The tax structure for Kentucky is much different for this operation that it is for any other commercial gaming piece the Tribe is involved in.

“Kentucky’s current tax on HHR slot machines is 1.5 percent of the handle, which refers to the amount that is bet on these machines. That translates into approximately only 18 percent of the gross commission, which refers to the industry’s income after paying out winnings to bettors, and is the common way that states characterize their taxes on this form of gambling. That 18 percent is then split into two streams: about 10 percent goes back to the industry to support purses, breeding and equine-related programs, and only about 8 percent to Kentucky’s General Fund,” said Secretary Blankenship.

For those interested in the specific data provided by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, they offer monthly reports at

<https://khrc.ky.gov/>.

Secretary Blankenship said that the numbers are not as grand as those that will come from the casino operations that EBCI Holdings is becoming involved with, but that it is a great opportunity for the Tribe to grow and diversify. “Due to the limitation in the state of only offering HHR units, the revenue generating capacity is less than other commercial gaming markets, though still profitable. The revenue generating capacity may be less but so is the cost of entry and the equity contribution for the EBCI.”

Secretary Blankenship said that they are trying to look at this opportunity from all angles. That being the case, there are plans for yet another piece of business with this project.

“Once your primary site is open, your license gives you access to a secondary site. It can be within 60 miles of your original license site. So, we’ll actually be able to open a second location,” said Secretary Blankenship.

Both partners said that they are interested in this second location, but details have not yet been confirmed. Secretary Blankenship hinted that they could consider another partnership or even an acquisition with one of the other eight ventures in Kentucky. Regardless of how a deal gets done, a second HHR facility is expected. The first HHR facility plans to open in the second half of next year. Blankenship said that they are planning on the third quarter of 2023 and no later than the final quarter. The first races on the track are expected to take place in 2024. There are no timelines for a potential second HHR facility at this time.

Museum of the Cherokee Indian wins top SOAR Award

By **SCOTT MCKIE B.P.**

One Feather Asst. Editor

The Museum of the Cherokee Indian won the top award as the 2021-22 SOAR (Success in Operations, Accountability, and Reporting) Awards were presented during a Reports to Tribal Council session on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 16. The Museum won the prestigious Chief Noah Powell Fiscal Excellence Award trophy.

The awards, presented by the EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) Office of Internal Audit and Ethics, are by nomination with a total of nine programs of the EBCI being nominated for this time period.

Sharon Blankenship, EBCI chief audit and ethics executive, said at the beginning of Wednesday's awards ceremony, "We appreciate all tribal programs that are dedicated to serving our people. Recognizing success across the Tribe is important to help create an organizational culture that promotes responsibility, transparency, and accountability."

Of the top award, she noted, "The highest honor is named for Chief Noah Powell, the 21st Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Chief Powell, remembered for his honesty, integrity, and kindness, believed in his people and what they could accomplish."

Shana Bushyhead Condill, Museum of the Cherokee Indian executive director, said upon the



The Museum of the Cherokee Indian (MCI) received the Chief Noah Powell Fiscal Excellence Award during a ceremony held during the Reports to Council session on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 16. Staff members are shown, left to right, on the porch of the Tribal Council House, including – Evan Mathis, MCI director of collections and exhibitions; Alex Lane, MCI visitor services manager; Michael Slee, MCI director of operations; Anna Chandler, MCI manager of external affairs and communications; Anita Lossiah, MCI Board of Directors; Lily Wright, MCI bookkeeper; Tyra Maney, MCI graphic designer; Shana Bushyhead Condill, MCI executive director; and Dakota Brown, MCI director of education. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

organization receiving the award, "It's an honor to be recognized for the work we are doing and the work we are striving to do at the Museum. I also want to recognize the folks on the ground actually doing the work. Michael Slee's team in operations has the unenviable task of finding all of the holes in all of our processes and correcting them. Lily Wright, our bookkeeper, has had a trial by fire.

She's arrived to us in the middle of an overhaul of all of our policies and processes. She has been patient, dedicated, and willing to learn at each turn."

She added, "I'm also grateful for our Board who has never shied away from a challenge. It was their recommendation that allowed the Museum to participate in this audit outside of our normal annual audit. Their leadership,

always with the goal of building up our internal skills and knowledge, has allowed us to grow. There's always more to know and opportunity to be better than we were yesterday."

Information from EBCI Office of Internal Audit & Ethics states, "Within the past year, the Museum has redirected their strategy putting community at the forefront, telling the story of the Cherokee

people through a community perspective. With this new strategy, a new mission statement was developed along with policies and procedures, an employee handbook, and an overall workforce culture.”

In addition to the Chief Noah Powell trophy, three programs received the Fiscal Commitment Award trophy including: EBCI Supplemental Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Tribal Foods Distribution, and EBCI Solid Waste Management. Five programs were honored with a Fiscal Recognition Award certificate including: Snowbird/Cherokee County Family Support, Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority Pharmacy, Tribal Law Enforcement Division, EBCI Public Health and Human Services Regulatory & Compliance, and the Cherokee Boys Club Electric School Bus Initiative.

The EBCI Office of Internal Audit & Ethics provided the following statements regarding the reason each program was honored:

- **Tribal Foods Distribution:** In 2020, the program applied for and was awarded grant funding over \$5 million to renovate and expand its facilities to better meet the needs of the community. This funding will allow the program to grow, expand its service offerings, and

increase the number of participants while keeping employees and participants comfortable and safe. The new facility will also house the Tribal Cannery.

- **EBCI Supplemental Health Insurance Program (SHIP):** Over the past year, Supplemental Health Insurance Program has continued to provide an essential service to the elders and disabled members across the Boundary. During COVID and the shutdown, the program worked with the social security office and hearing aid offices to continue to provide services and reimbursement checks to their participants.

- **EBCI Solid Waste Management:** Solid waste management has put forth multiple efforts to create a better and more efficient waste reduction plan. The program received a grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and partnered with the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute for more educational promotion on recycling. They also restarted their effort to create a new method of waste composting.

- **Snowbird/Cherokee County Family Support:** The past two fiscal years, the program issued over 700 cards to assist community members. Within the past year, the Snowbird/Cherokee Co. Family Support Services program

has established and implemented a new database to track program participants to better budget and provide services to the communities.

- **Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority Pharmacy:** The CIHA Pharmacy completed a project of an all-inclusive billing strategy for Medicare Part D recipients to provide more services that are not available through a retail pharmacy. As a result of this work, they have doubled their net patient services revenue. This increased revenue has allowed for expansion of the pharmacy formulary and increased the offering of behavioral health services. The Pharmacy also services EMS, Cherokee Schools, Cherokee Indian Police Department, and vaccination clinics with necessary medications.

- **EBCI Public Health and Human Services Regulatory & Compliance:** With a staff of eight people, this program is responsible for compliance reports and investigations, privacy and security monitoring, training, policy writing and more. This past year, the program was tasked with several initiatives due to COVID such as administering the Vax for Cash drawing and assisting with the vaccination clinics.

- **Tribal Law Enforcement Division:** Within the past year, the division has actively worked towards

changing the culture within the department, setting a new mission and expectation across the force. Several new measures have been put in place including updated policies and procedures; tribal in-service training to educate officers on tribal operations, and the Crowe initiative to focus on the mental health of officers.

- **Cherokee Boys Club Electric Bus Initiative:** The EBCI Air Quality Program partnered with the Cherokee Boys Club and received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and Duke Energy for the purchase of the first electric school bus in North Carolina. The purchase was phase 1 of an overall three phase plan to replace the entire fleet of diesel school buses with a total of 13 electric school buses.

Past winners of the Chief Noah Powell trophy include: EBCI Financial Accountability Team (2012-13), Tribal Construction Inventory Program (2013-14), Cherokee Home Health (2014-15), Cherokee Indian Hospital IPD Team (2015-16), Cherokee Family Safety (2016-17), Cherokee Water & Sewer Program (2017-18), EBCI Office of Budget & Finance Accounting Dept. (2018-19), and the EBCI Joint Information Center (2020-21).



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Police Commission meets with Public Safety team

By **JONAH LOSSIAH**
One Feather Reporter

The Cherokee Police Commission held its November meeting in the conference room of the BIA offices on Thursday, Nov. 10. The majority of the open session saw the Commission host a conversation with Mollie Grant, EBCI Public Safety director, and Chavela Bailey, EBCI Public Safety Communications Center program manager. In particular, Grant and Bailey wanted to address a communications issue that was originally brought to the Commission by Chairperson Tunney Crowe. Chairperson Crowe was not in attendance for this meeting.

“We have been reviewing the

One Feather articles and noticed that there were several comments about the radio communications and at the casino and I guess in some areas on the reservation. We had an incident happen up there a couple weeks, a hazardous material incident. The fire department came back and told us that they could not communicate on the sixth floor. That they had to use their telephones to call down to other responding officers,” said Grant.

“I’ll preface this with I’ve been in the position for just over a year now. But when I came in, one of the topics that needed attention was communications at the casino,” said Bailey. “We established a casino operations channel as an

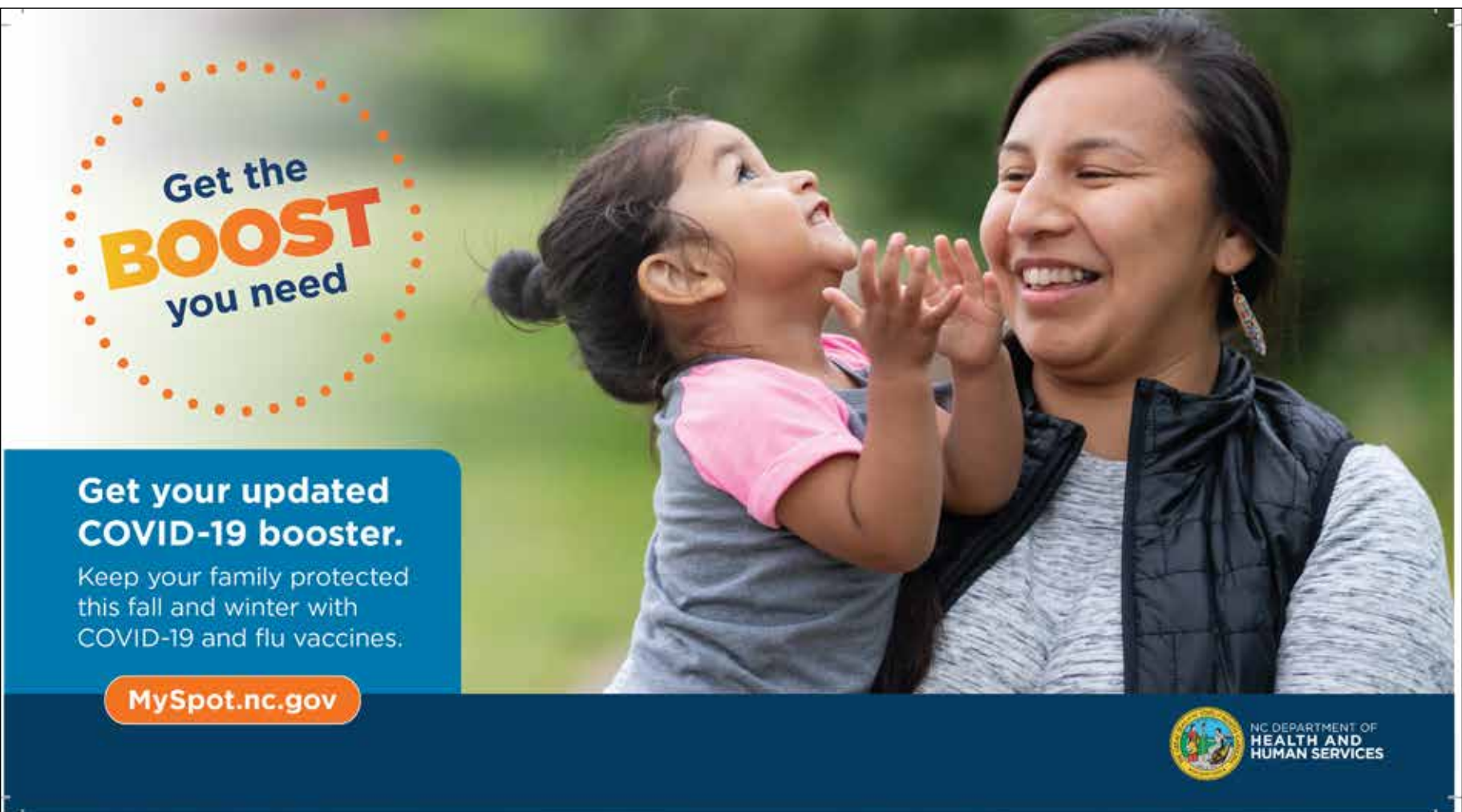
interoperability channel with the casino staff. We had to put some equipment and infrastructure up on Cow Mountain. For those of you that aren’t familiar with it, it’s up on the hill behind the police department. We were able to fix the issues that were existing with the casino as it stood at that time. Since then, the completion of the convention center and the new tower has been finished, we’ve got bodies working in there. I don’t know what the discussions were when construction was ongoing.”

Bailey explained that the situation has to do with how and where the building was constructed.

“Since completion we’ve learned that comms inside of the hotel tower are pretty much

nonexistent. I don’t know how familiar everyone is with the North Carolina building codes, but new code was established in January of 2022 that anything above 7,500 feet had to have the proper technology built into the structure. Again, this is all post me coming in to the position that I learned about these issues. I don’t know what has been built into the tower and the convention center. I’ve reached out to some of the folks at the casino and I’ve been pointed to a couple of different people. As soon as I get an answer then I’ll begin to partnership with them on how to continue to mitigate those issues.”

Bailey said that she is hoping to communicate and problem-solve with Harrah’s Cherokee,



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but she is already working on contingencies.

"For now, what I've done is I've ordered - there's different types of antennas. What I've ordered is a directional antenna that will kind of boost the signal over to the tower as it stands now. That's the least expensive way for us to correct any of those communication shortfalls. Those are on order."

Grant also reported in the meeting that there have been considerable struggles with the newer mobile data information systems (MDIS) for emergency services.

"Office of Information Technology has informed me that the majority of those issues have been fixed. However, I'm not confident that there won't be future problems just because of the way the install happened. At this point, I

would've hoped that we were fully functional with MDIS and the mobile CADs, but that's just not the case. What we have decided collectively as a team with OIT, Fire, EMS, and Police is that if these issues continue to be a problem then we're going to have to search for a new vendor. Because we cannot waste money on buying this equipment and this software and it burns it out immediately."

Before finishing with the Public Safety staff, Commissioner Kym Parker wanted some clarification on the Police Commission's radio access. She was requesting that commissioners regain access to EMT and Fire Department calls in conjunction with their access to the Police Department radio frequencies.

"No, you cannot get the Fire and EMS. That's because of the

HIPAA violation. Because we encrypted them so that the EMS and Fire can give more information out. Like a patient's name, patient's address, and more of what they're having to deal with," responded Bailey.

Parker thought that was the point of the additional training that the commissioners had undergone.

"We've all been through HIPAA training. We all have our certificates and all that good stuff. I'm not really going to make a good argument here but sometimes our police officers have to constantly work with EMS and Fire Department. Just like you need to know what's going on in your job, we need to know what's going on too," said Parker.

Mollie would not grant this access to the commissioners, citing the need for further qualifications.

"[Emergency service staff] are nationally certified in Fire, Police, and Medical. Those certifications dictate how we can operate because we are a 9-1-1 center. Only medical personnel or people who provide first aid services are privy to that information. Because of that, we should be able to share information over this disclosed network, but we can't because we know that people that are not providing those services have access to the information. One of my items for action was to get a rein on who has access to our radios," said Grant.

"Obviously, I'm not the person who makes the call when it comes to you having access to the police department's information ... but for Fire and EMS, I can't justify that. You guys don't provide medical services. Unless you're an insurance carrier or healthcare provider."

Earlier in the meeting, the

Commission welcomed from Cherokee Central Schools Dr. Beverley Payne, assistant superintendent, and Brett Robertson, security network administrator. Payne and Robertson were excited to report that they had been meeting with leaders from the Cherokee Indian Police Department to discuss updating safety protocols at the school. They invited the Police Commission to begin attending their quarterly safety meetings at the school and to be more involved in developments at CCS. Payne and Robertson said that they are looking to take some steps in shooting protocol and ensuring the updated policies for the school's student resource officers (SROs).

Once finished with the CCS representatives, the Police Commission moved into a closed session with Principal Chief Richard G. Sneed, who was only in attendance for this closed session. The session was to address an unspecified personnel issue.

The Thursday, Nov. 10 meeting of the EBCI Police Commission was called to order just after 12 p.m. with Vice Chairperson Buddy Johnson; Secretary Anita Lossiah; Commissioners Lisa Taylor, Kym Parker, Solomon Saunooke, Frank Dunn, and Hillary Norville; and Office of the Attorney General representative Chris Siewers present. Chairperson Tunney Crowe was absent for the meeting. Robert Jumper and Rob Saunooke were guests at the meeting.

The next meeting of the Police Commission is set for Thursday, Dec. 14 at noon. The Commission gathers monthly and has typically been meeting in the large conference room at the Ginger Lynn Welch Complex. These sessions are open to tribal members until the Commission moves into an executive session.



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The advertisement features a collage of movie posters including 'The Finocchio', 'Menu', 'Evolution', 'Strange World', and 'The Last of Us'. The background is a warm, golden-yellow with a subtle geometric pattern.

FAQs of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians GenWell Program

Submitted by the EBCI Office of the Attorney General

The EBCI plans to start a program that will help EBCI members save money. The savings will come from a change in Tribal law that will allow certain payments by the Tribe to its members to be exempt from federal income tax. The program is called the EBCI GenWell Program. It is an alternative to per capita distributions. This document answers some frequently asked questions about the Program.

1. What is the EBCI GenWell Program?

The EBCI GenWell Program is being created in Tribal law, and in guidelines to be written after the law is passed, to enable EBCI members to take advantage of the tax benefits offered by the IRS in the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014.

2. What is the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act?

The Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act is a federal law that became effective in 2014. The law added language to the Internal Revenue Code to provide that an individual's taxable income does not include the value of any "Indian general welfare benefit" paid by a tribe to the individual. An Indian general welfare benefit generally is defined as a payment made from a tribe to a tribal member for the promotion of general welfare if certain requirements are met.

3. What will the GenWell Program do?

The GenWell Program will allow the EBCI to make benefit payments to Tribal members for certain purposes that will qualify the payments for exclusion from the member's

gross income, and therefore the member won't have to pay federal income tax on the payments.

4. What are some of the requirements for the payments?

Some of the requirements are that the payments cannot be compensation for services and they cannot be "lavish or extravagant".

5. Who will be able to use the Program?

Eligible enrolled members of the EBCI who are 18 years-of-age or older will be able to use the Program.

6. Will I be able to get GenWell Program payments and per capita payments at the same time?

No. The GenWell Program is an alternative to per capita payments. Enrolling in the GenWell Program will constitute a voluntary waiver of participation in per capita distributions.

7. Why would I want to give up per capita payments for GenWell Program payments?

GenWell Program payments will likely put more money in your pocket because you won't have to pay federal income taxes on them. The IRS and the courts have said that GenWell Program payments and per capita payments can come from the same source - casino gaming revenues - but per capita payments are taxable while general welfare program payments are not.

8. Will distributions under the GenWell Program be less than per capita distributions?

The Tribe anticipates that the amount of the GenWell Program distributions will be the same as what Tribal members previously received as per capita distributions. Although the amount of the benefit is likely to be the same, the after-tax amount of the GenWell Program distribution is greater than the per

capita distribution. This means more money for you. This is because per capita payments are fully taxable while GenWell Program payments will be non-taxable.

9. Aren't GenWell payments just per capita payments under a different name?

No, GenWell payments are not just per capita payments under a different name. Per capita payments are a product of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 ("IGRA"). That law says that a tribe may use its net gaming revenues from IGRA-regulated casinos for a handful of public purposes, including to provide for the "general welfare of the tribe and its members". Tribes provide for the general welfare of their members in a variety of ways, including by distributing a portion of net gaming revenues to all Tribal members on a "per capita" basis, without established programs and guidelines in place. The tax laws say that these per capita payments are taxable.

In 2014, Congress passed the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. This law added language to the Internal Revenue Code to clarify that if a tribe makes qualified payments to its members, the payments will be excluded from the member's income and will be non-taxable. Additionally, the law clarified that the money a tribe uses to make these payments can come from any source, including net gaming revenues. To take advantage of this law, however, the tribe has to have its own appropriate law and guidelines in place. The EBCI is doing this through the GenWell Program.

10. What kinds of payments will qualify for exclusion from federal income taxes under the GenWell Program?

Benefit payments made for the following purposes will qualify for the exclusion: housing, education,

elder assistance, disability assistance, cultural and religious purposes, health, transportation, utility costs, personal care, and childcare.

11. When will the GenWell Program start?

The Tribal ordinance that opens the door for the EBCI GenWell Program is currently before Tribal Council and could be voted on at any time. However, a lot of work has to be done after the ordinance is passed. The Tribe anticipates that the GenWell Program will be rolled out in the spring of 2023.

12. How can I participate in the GenWell Program?

Tribal members who want to participate will be asked to enroll in the Program. Enrollment will not be automatic. At the appropriate time after the Tribal law is passed, the Tribe will notify Tribal members of the opportunity to enroll. Because this is a new Program, the Tribe expects that not everybody will be comfortable with it from the outset. Anybody who is not comfortable with it will not have to participate.

13. If I choose to participate in the GenWell Program, will I still receive a 1099 from the Tribe?

No. Unlike per capita distributions, GenWell Program distributions are non-taxable and will not be included on your 1099.

14. How did the Tribe determine that the anticipated distributions through the GenWell Program are not "lavish or extravagant"?

Based on cost-of-living surveys and other reasonable means, the Tribe has determined that, on average, the cost of the general welfare-related expenses of our members exceeds the amount of the GenWell Program distributions. Because the actual need exceeds the amount of the benefit, the Tribe de-

terminated that the General Welfare Exclusion benefit won't be "lavish or extravagant."

15. Do I need to show that I have an "individualized need" to qualify?

No. When passing the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion, its supporters in the U.S. Congress explicitly stated that individualized determinations of need are not required. In addition, prior to the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion, the IRS issued various safe harbors for tribal general welfare programs. If the requirements of a safe harbor are met, the IRS will presume that there is a "need" for the program regardless of individual circumstances. The IRS safe harbors include programs for housing, education, health care, utilities, and other expenses covered by the Program.

16. What if I need proof of income for a housing loan or other purpose?

The GenWell Program distributions are not income for federal tax purposes and, as noted in FAQ #13, will not be included on the 1099 you receive from the Tribe. However, upon request, the Tribe will issue you a different statement that includes the GenWell Program benefits. This statement can be used for loans and other purposes for which a verification is needed.

17. If the Tribe is replacing per capita distributions with General Welfare Exclusion benefits, why do the Tribe's revenue allocation laws still include references to per capita distributions?

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act still requires the Tribe to have its own revenue allocation laws that comply with the IGRA. It is important to keep the Tribe's revenue allocation laws as flexible as possible, so the Tribe can respond to changes in the law and the economy

in a timely and effective way. The Tribe has determined that the general welfare needs of its members exceed the amount of the current distribution and therefore can be distributed as General Welfare Exclusion benefits. It is possible, however, that at some time in the future the amount available for distribution to members will exceed their needs. At that point, a portion of the distribution would be made as taxable per capita payments. It is also possible that changes in federal law will require changes to the GenWell Program. Rather than amending the Tribe's revenue allocation laws again (which is a slow process that requires approval of the federal government), the Tribe is building flexibility into the documents so it is prepared for whatever the future brings.

18. Do I need to submit receipts to the Tribe for my general welfare expenses or retain receipts for audit purposes?

The GenWell Program does not require receipts at this time. The Tribe also believes that it would be reasonable for members not to retain receipts for audit purposes because the general welfare needs of the members exceeds the amount of the General Welfare Exclusion benefits received by the members. However, it is possible that the Internal Revenue Service will issue guidance in the future requiring receipts to be kept or members to otherwise substantiate their general welfare expenses. The Tribe will modify the Program as necessary to respond to future IRS guidance.

19. Are the GenWell Program distributions exempt from state income taxes?

Generally, yes. State income tax law almost always follows federal income tax law. Because the GenWell Program distributions are exempt from federal income tax, in

most cases they will be exempt from state income tax as well. Like most other states, North Carolina follows federal tax law. Consequently, the GenWell Program distributions should not be subject to North Carolina state income taxes regardless of whether the member receiving the benefits lives on or off EBCI trust land.

20. Will the Program impact my Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") or other federal and state benefits I receive?

The General Welfare Exclusion Act is a federal income tax law. It does not necessarily change how "income" is defined for non-tax purposes, such as SSI. Consequently, it is possible that GenWell Program distributions could impact someone's participation in benefit programs like SSI. However, the treatment GenWell Program distributions received under these federal and state programs will be the same or better than how those programs treat per capita distributions. Also, the Tribe is working to ensure that the GenWell Program distributions are not treated as income for purposes of SSI and other similar benefits.

21. Are other tribes making distributions under the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act?

Yes. Although the specifics of the programs differ from tribe to tribe, approximately 14 other federally-recognized tribes have developed their own programs for making general welfare distributions to their members on a tax-free basis.

22. How does this impact minors and the minor's trust?

Currently, all assets in the minor's trust are tax-deferred, not tax-exempt. The Tribe is working to modify the minor's trust so that a portion of the distributions from the

trust can be treated as tax-exempt under the General Welfare Exclusion Act.

23. If I participate in the GenWell Program, will I be audited by the IRS or be required to pay taxes or penalties?

No. The IRS is temporarily prohibited from auditing general welfare programs. This prohibition will be in place until the IRS releases guidance on the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion, which is not likely to happen until after 2022. The Tribe will work to ensure that the GenWell Program complies with any new IRS guidance.

When audits resume, the Tribe anticipates that the IRS will only audit years occurring after the new guidance comes out. Based on statements made by senior IRS officials, the Tribe also expects that the IRS will not conduct audits of general welfare programs and distributions that are made before the guidance is issued.

Finally, IRS audits of tribal benefits are almost always resolved between tribal governments and the IRS, not between tribal members and the IRS. So, even if the IRS questioned the GenWell Program benefits, that would most likely be in an audit of the Tribe itself, not individual members.

24. What if I have other questions?

If you have more questions, please send them by email to: GenWell@ebci-nsn.gov .

25. What if I want to do my own research?

If you want to dig deeper into this on your own, we recommend reading the guidance published by the IRS on its website (www.irs.gov). Here is the full link: <https://www.irs.gov/government-entities/indian-tribal-governments/tribal-general-welfare-guidance>.

The following people were arrested by the Cherokee Indian Police Department and booked into the Anthony Edward Lossiah Justice Center. It should be noted that the following defendants have only been charged with the crimes listed and should be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Mugshots can be viewed online at theonefeather.com.

Steed, Jay Lee – age 57
Arrested: Nov. 6
Released: Nov. 6
Charges: Impaired Driving

Littlejohn, Jasmine Michelle – age 31
Arrested: Nov. 7
Released: Nov. 8
Charges: Child Abuse in the Second Degree; Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors

Smith, Gilbert Wesley – age 67
Arrested: Nov. 7
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 14)
Charges: Communicating Threats, Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public, Assault Emergency Personnel,

Balderas, Edna Maria – age 23
Arrested: Nov. 8
Released: Nov. 8
Charges: Probation Violation

Conseen, Venyall Lashaun – age 42
Arrested: Nov. 8
Released: Nov. 10
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Lossiah, Channing Victor – age 35
Arrested: Nov. 8
Released: Nov. 11
Charges: Domestic Violence and
Dating Violence, Probation Viola-
tion

Lossie, Dayini Heaven – age 24
 Arrested: Nov. 8
 Released: Nov. 15
 Charges: Contributing to the De-
 linquency, Undiscipline, Neglect,
 or Abuse of Minors

Rogers, Brittney Lashay – age 36
Arrested: Nov. 8
Released: Nov. 10
Charges: Larceny; Receiving or Possessing Stolen Property; False Pretenses; Exploitation of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Criminal Code

Wahnetah, Dylan Keith – age 36
Arrested: Nov. 8
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 14)
Charges: Aggravated Reckless
Endangerment; Possession with
Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or
Deliver Schedule I Controlled
Substance

Lee, Evannia Ulexis – age 42
Arrested: Nov. 9
Released: Nov. 9
Charges: Second Degree Trespass

Lequire, Charles Dewight – age 48
Arrested: Nov. 9
Released: Nov. 12
Charges: Domestic Violence and
Dating Violence

Jones, Latasha Brooke – age 41
Arrested: Nov. 10
Released: Nov. 10
Charges: Resist, Delay, Obstruct;
Domestic Violence

Osborne, Charles Richard – age 40
Arrested: Nov. 10
Released: Nov. 10

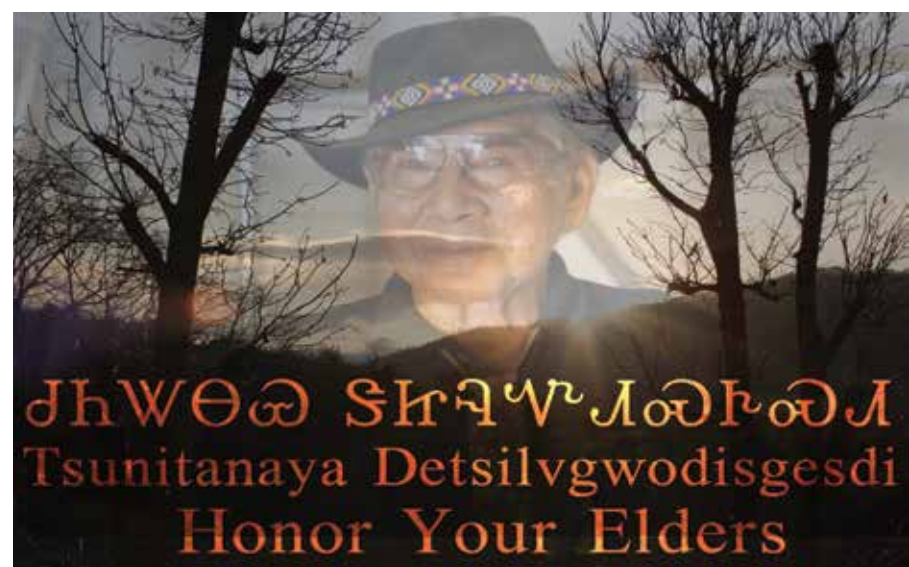
Bran, Ancea Yessenia – age 29
Arrested: Nov. 11
Released: Nov. 12
Charges: Resisting Public Officer

Buchanan, Brandon Tyler – age 25
Arrested: Nov. 11
Released: Not released as of report
date (Nov. 14)
Charges: Homicide in the First
Degree

Armachain, Donna Lynn – age 34
 Arrested: Nov. 12
 Released: Nov. 12
 Charges: Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public, First Degree Trespass

Arneach, Cheyenne Robin – age
30
Arrested: Nov. 12
Released: Not released as of report
date (Nov. 14)
Charges: Possession Schedule II
Controlled Substance

Queen, Ruby Marie – age 28
Arrested: Nov. 12
Released: Nov. 12
Charges: Contributing to the De-
linquency, Undiscipline, Neglect,
or Abuse of Minors





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COLD CASE



**The body of
 Marie Walkingstick
 Pheasant was found
 in a burned vehicle
 on Old Rock Crusher
 Rd., in the
 Big Cove Community,
 on Dec. 29, 2013.**

The Cherokee Indian Police Dept. reported at the time that "foul play" was suspected. No arrests have been made in this case. A **\$20,000** reward is offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible.

GWY Ƨ-V° O'YLC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLE

CIPD (828) 359-6600

FRANK DUNN FOR WOLFTOWN/BIG Y TRIBAL COUNCIL

Frank Dunn is a candidate for the Wolftown/Big Y tribal council election that will be held on December 15, 2022. Frank Dunn a Wolftown resident wants to work with and vote together with the current council Bo Crowe and make the Wolftown/Big Y community strong as one. Frank will do this by drawing on his education of a Master's in Business Administration, wide range of experience in successful business ventures, supporting the arts, culture, Cherokee language revitalization, and implementing change for all of our people.

You may know Frank Dunn already through serving as a board of directors for the Manna Food Bank, who serves 16 counties in Western North Carolina and was a key player in bringing the food to Cherokee. Frank serves on the police commission for the Wolftown/Big Y Community. Frank has served our entire tribe through working jobs in Project Management and Tribal Food Distribution Program. More recently you may have seen a new building being built across from the Bingo Hall. Frank was instrumental in securing over 5 million dollars in grants for the construction of our new tribal foods building. Frank Dunn listened to our people and their needs while working for tribal foods and then when the Covid pandemic happened, he took it as an opportunity to find a way to better serve everyone in our communities.

Frank is proud and thanks the community for entrusting him to serve our communities thus far in the capacity of helping in the construction of buildings, getting more food on the tables for our families, and partnering to make our communities a safer place to live and raise our children for the next 7 generations. "I have seen changes and great things being done, but this is not enough. With passion and a servant's heart, he states that "our ancestors sacrificed a lot for me and our people, in return I have a desire to serve and pay it forward for all our people.

Frank recently heard from an elder that we as a tribe are like a person in a desert who is being sold a glass of water, when there is a waterfall directly behind us. It is time to draw on all of our gifts and talents and Frank believes that his education, experience, and leadership can be paramount in leveraging our assets so we are harvesting the benefits daily "Let's make the waterfall a reality and hang up on the salesman selling us a cup of water. It is time to draw from the everlasting well of water and celebrate our people strengths of what has made Cherokee strong historically and into the future." A Vote for Frank Dunn is a vote for change, because your vote matters and yes Frank will "Git-r-Dunn."

Learn more at: **Git-r-Dunn.com**

Political Ad paid by the Candidate

FRANK DUNN

"Git-r-Dunn"

VOTE

WOLFTOWN-BIG Y

Git-r-Dunn.com



FOOTBALL: Pee Wee Braves recognized

The Cherokee Pee Wee Braves football team was recognized during the Reports to Tribal Council session on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 16. The team defeated the Smoky Mtn. Mustangs 36-14 to win the Cracker Bowl on Saturday, Oct. 29 and finished the season a perfect 9-0. They are shown, left to right, front row - Alfred Brady, Isaiah Toineeta, Jamison Lambert, Waylon Arneach, Jesse Toineeta, Daxton Littlejohn, Augustus Shuler; back row - Daylen Rodriguez, Keedan Lossie, Kyler Huskey, Herbert Johnson, Zaiden Armachain, and Aaron Beach. Not pictured – Campbell Stamper, John Hornbuckle, Cree Williams, Jayven Crowe, Kam Saunooke, Augustus Shuler, Jerron Johnson, Carleetoe Maye, Keedan Lossie, Eldon Crowe; coaches Cowboy Brady, Elrod Toineeta, David Taylor, and Travis Lossie.
(SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

**Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post 143
is seeking contact information for
active EBCI service men/women to
provide aid and support.**

**Info: Warren Dupree 508-2657
David McQueen 736-9572**





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VOLLEYBALL: CMS Lady Braves recognized

The Cherokee Middle School Lady Braves volleyball team was recognized during the Reports to Tribal Council session on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 16. The team went undefeated (16-0), a first in school history, and won the Smoky Mountain Conference title. They are shown, left to right, outside of the Tribal Council House, back row – Daisee Fourkiller-Raby, Madison Rogers, Joselyn Stamper, Arden Palmer, Cambry Stamper, Deanna Long, Livia Crowe; front row – Nyra Reed, Jamee McMillan, Lilly Lossiah, Emilee Bready, Jeanger Layno, Kayla Guillen, Kennedy Moore, Lolo Hogner, and Blaze Crowe. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



CROSS COUNTRY: Braves, Lady Braves teams recognized

The Cherokee High School cross country teams were recognized during the Reports to Tribal Council session on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 16. The Braves won the Smoky Mountain Conference and 1A West Regional titles and took second place at the NCHSAA State meet this season. Dvdaya Swimmer, second from right front row, won the Smoky Mountain Conference, 1A West Regional, and the 1A women's title – the first cross country state title in school history. The teams are shown, left to right, outside the Tribal Council House, back row – Asst. Coach Jim Oocumma, Gideon Freeman, Aydan Thompson, Anthony Lossiah, Tanin Esquivel, Oztin Swayney, Eli Bird, Tanis Esquivel, Coach Ahli-sha Stephens; front row - Asst. Coach Ty Andrews, Letsi Burgos, Jaylan Bark, Aizen Bell, Matix Stamper, Tyce Hogner, Dvdaya Swimmer, and Ogana Swimmer. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



**Voter
registration
books close
on Friday,
Dec. 9 at
4:30 p.m.**

**Special
Election
will be
Thursday,
Dec. 15 from
6 a.m.
to 6 p.m.**

EBCI Special Election Certified Candidates

Painttown Tribal Council

Sean “Michael” Stamper
Jeff Thompson
Stephanie Maney
Bentley Tahquette
Andre’ Brown
Lisa Taylor
Marie Junaluska
Lou Jackson

Wolftown/Big Y Tribal Council

Jess Sneed
Amy Sequoyah Anders
Andrew W. Oocumma
Frank Dunn
Susan Coleen Toineeta (Susan Toineeta)
Chelsea Taylor
Theodore Michael Bird “Teddy”
Sam “Frell” Reed
Mike Parker

Graphic By

GWY ʒV ʘYLC

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

GWY ᏫᏊᏍᏔᏅ ᏌᏍᏏᏉᏍᏔᏅ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

ATTENTION WOLFTOWN AND PAINTTOWN CERTIFIED CANDIDATES

The One Feather is offering candidates who have been certified by the Election Board a 1/4 page print advertisement to be run prior to the special election scheduled for December 2022. The space is 4.67 x 5.25 inches and may contain any information about the candidate, including their reason for running and qualifications. The ad must comply with the One Feather's ethical policies, which will be provided upon request. This offer is only open to certified candidates for the December special election in Wolftown and Painttown. To submit an ad or get further information, contact Dawn Arneach, 828-359-6489 or dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Community Foundation awards grant to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Community Foundation (EBCCF) has awarded a grant of \$2,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina for Central Cherokee Schools high school “Bigs” program.

The program allows eligible high school students ages 16 and over to enroll as “Bigs” in the Big Brothers Big Sisters after-school program.

Funds for the grant came from EBCCF’s community grantmaking fund.

“This organization makes a positive difference in the lives of our young people,” said Savannah Ferguson, advisory board president of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Community Foundation. “We’re happy to support its efforts.”

EBCCF is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation and is led by a local volunteer advisory board. Each year, EBCCF uses dollars from its endowment fund to make grants to local nonprofit organizations.

Learn more about EBCCF and its work in the community or make a tax-deductible donation at nccommunityfoundation.org/EBCCF. For more information about EBCCF, contact Colby Martin at cmartin@nccommunityfoundation.org.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Community Foundation Advisory Board Members Advisory board members live and work locally, positioning them to strategically leverage resources, meet local needs and access opportunities. In addition to Savannah Fergu-

son, (president), board members include Lisa Wiggins (secretary/treasurer), Jodie Owle Cook, Michael Cooper, Myra Cloer, Sarah Davis, Samantha Ferguson, Carla Jamison, Carmen Nations and Lambert Wilson.

- Eastern Band of Cherokee Community Foundation release

Regional Honors given to EBCI Communities

ASHEVILLE, N.C. - The WNC Honors Awards, a program of WNC Communities, is built on a 73-year tradition of recognizing rural community development clubs for their innovative ideas and grassroots solutions. These centers and clubs are the backbone of community cohesion running through our beloved mountains. The culmination of this year’s WNC Honors Program occurred on Saturday, Nov. 12 with nearly 200 community leaders and volunteers from 15 western North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Seven EBCI communities were honored with cash awards and recognition.

All participating communities received \$600 to support their efforts. Additionally, communities were assessed across six different competencies and awarded a designation of Trillium, Mountain Laurel, Redbud, or White Oak level according to their demonstrated capacity to lead and serve. These competencies include Good Governance, Leadership Excellence, Financial Stewardship, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, Community Programs and Civic Engagement, and Collaboration.

Cherokee Indian Community Club and Snowbird were celebrated for achieving the Trillium level. Communities at this level

have a solid board of directors, are providing helpful programs to their residents, and are collaborating with at least three community partners.

Big Y, Big Cove, Towstring, and Yellowhill were recognized for advancing to the Mountain Laurel level. Communities at this level have their 501(c)3 status or a fiduciary sponsor, offer several impactful programs to assist their communities, seek training for their board, and are actively collaborating with at least five community partners.

Wolftown advanced to the Redbud level. Communities achieving this level have well developed bylaws, a board-approved strategic plan, active committees running many programs, 50 or more volunteers, and collaborate with at least ten community partners.

WNC Communities also gives out Best in Class Awards to the stand-out communities at each level and features 10 communities in a Best Practice Gallery. Cherokee Indian Community Club and Snowbird were awarded Trillium Best in Class Awards and took home an additional \$250 each, while Big Y and Yellowhill were awarded Mountain Laurel Best in Class and received an additional \$500. Wolftown was a Featured Community in the event’s Best Practices Gallery for their outstanding art show.

Despite COVID shutting down many of the communities’ usual activities, the 64 communities participating in this year’s program made an incredible \$4.7 million investment of time, talent, money and effort in western North Carolina communities. A total of more than 7,100 volunteers invested an impressive 96,158 hours of

their time in outreach programs dedicated to feeding people during COVID, recovering from Tropical Storm Fred, and other benevolence projects, education, beautification, health, wellness, and economic development.

Sponsorships from Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort, Harrah’s Valley River Casino & Hotel, Duke Energy, Biltmore Farms, Inc, First Citizens Bank, The McClure Foundation, Wells Fargo, Buncombe County Farm Bureau, New Belgium Brewing, Carolina Farm Credit, and Haywood Regional Medical Center brought in \$50,000 to award to the 64 community centers and clubs participating in the 2022 WNC Honors Awards.

- WNC Communities release

EBCI Community-based Constitution

Governance by the People,
for the People!

SEE IT.
READ IT.
PROPOSE CHANGES TO IT.
DRAFT IT.
MAKE IT YOUR OWN.

WWW.SGADUGI.ORG

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A TRIBAL CONSTITUTION
AND PARTICIPATE IN ITS CREATION! VISIT
WWW.SGADUGI.ORG OR SIGN UP TO JOIN
WEEKLY MEETINGS-CONTACT
LLOYD ARNEACH AT
lloyd.arneach@7clantech.com



EBCI Royalty introductions at Council

The royalty of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians introduced themselves during the Reports to Tribal Council session on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 16. They are shown, left to right, on the porch of the Tribal Council House, including - Miss Cherokee 2022-23 Raylen Bark, Teen Miss Cherokee 2022-23 Alitama Perkins, Junior Miss Cherokee 2022-23 Ava Walkingstick, and Little Miss Cherokee 2022-23 Zarah Dawkins. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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Celebrating “Long Man”: Eastern Band Cherokees work together to care for rivers

By **GREGORY D. SMITHER**

Special to the One Feather

On a crisp autumn morning, the Yellow Hill Community Center in western North Carolina buzzed with excitement as more than 120 Cherokees and their allies shared conversations, laughter, and a hearty breakfast. They had descended upon the center in the Qualla Boundary on Oct. 19 to mark the second annual Honor Long Man Day in the homelands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).

Part river clean-up, and part celebration, the day was an occasion to take climate action and reflect on the ongoing importance of rivers in Cherokee life.

After morning prayers and a few words of gratitude were offered by Principal Chief Richard Sneed, the purpose of the gathering was articulated by Juanita Wilson, an EBCI member and the driving force behind Honor Long Man Day: The participants were present to take care of “Ganvhidv Asgaya (Long Man), the river, with his head in the mountain and feet in the sea.”

Micah Swimmer, another EBCI member and driving force behind Honor Long Man Day seconded Wilson’s message. In coming together to “clean up our rivers,” observed Swimmer, “it is also important, as Cherokee people, to remember the respect we have for the water. That is our medicine. Nothing survives without water.”

Living Riparian History

For centuries, Cherokees have shared reverential stories about



Students look for aquatic life during the recent Honor Long Man Day river clean-up day. (Photos courtesy of Juanita Wilson)

rivers and riparian landscapes. The branches and streams that flow into rivers all display unique personalities. These waterways team with life during the day and sleep at night. The Eastern Band’s ancestors followed these rivers, building impressive earthen mounds and establishing villages along fertile riverbanks.

But Cherokee ancestors didn’t simply live “in” the mountains of Southern Appalachia; they lived “with” them and became part of the riparian world of Southern Appalachia.

When Europeans began invading the Cherokees’ mountain homelands in the sixteenth century, local knowledge keepers continued to follow well-established practices of going to water to cleanse bodies and souls. Medicine

people turned to nearby streams to heal the sick, and Cherokee horticulturalist carried baskets of water to irrigate crops. Most importantly, rivers were, and are, storytellers, sharing knowledge about the health of riparian ecosystems to those willing to listen.

Exploring Big Cove

This history was at the forefront of my mind on October 19 as clean-up crews broke up to receive last minute instructions and head off to the different communities on the Qualla Boundary. I joined a crew headed for the Big Cove—a small, relatively isolated community, located in the northeast corner of the Qualla Boundary.

It takes about 20 minutes to drive from downtown Cherokee to Big Cove. When we arrived at our rendezvous point, I was reminded

of the beauty of this part of the Boundary, and also why Cherokees fought so hard to resist removal and remain rooted to this place in the early nineteenth century. Soaring mountains reach toward the sky here, while streams and branches trickle and flow through the hollers before discharging into the Oconaluftee River downstream.

With fall leaves crunching under our feet, I comment on the low water levels. “It feels like Hurricane Ian has sucked all the moisture out of this place,” one crew member responded. A quick glance at the USGS National Water Dashboard confirmed what we could see: river discharge was well below average. The low water levels revealed a riverbank in which sediment had started to conceal

empty beer cans, discarded silverware snagged between rocks, and the scourge of our time – plastics – which has seemingly taken up residence under virtually every tree and fern.

This stream at Big Cove also draws our attention to this waterway’s resilience. Despite pockets of trash, the ecosystem still looked healthy. Yet this narrow branch tells us something essential about our own role in preserving it. Over lunch, an elder reminded me that we “two-legged creatures” need to act with greater “care and responsibility for our water.”

Identity and Interconnectedness

Richard Sneed, the Principal Chief of the EBCI, shared a similar message with me earlier that morning. “Days like this create opportunities when we work together,” Sneed explained. “It brings us back to center, to that interconnectedness as tribal people.” Sneed evoked two principles that are fundamental to Cherokee identity: gadugi, the concept of working cooperatively together, and tohi, or health and balance. Honor Long Man Day showcased gadugi, revealing how twenty-first century Cherokees are leading a coalition of Native and non-Native people to duyuk’dv’I, “the correct way” or “right path,” by caring for local waterways.

Walking on the right path is not done alone; it involves a whole of community effort. This ethos buttresses all elements of Honor Long Man Day. “Water is



Students and program leaders are shown cleaning up the river.

life,” Micah Swimmer reminded me, “that’s true. That’s what we believe. All tribes believe that.” In the Cherokee language, D̄-Eh̄l̄ (ama gvnida), “water is life,” remains a fundamental tenet of Cherokee thinking.

The Next Generation

Both Wilson and Swimmer understand this. And it is why they are passionate about sharing this message with Cherokee children. At Oconaluftee Island Park, located in downtown Cherokee, a group of 43 students, teachers, and parents from the nearby New Kituwah Academy listened to lessons about riparian ecosystems and got their hands dirty planting nine trees—a combination of white oak and hickory. These students embodied

duyuk’dv’I, speaking to each other in Cherokee and working together to care for a popular picnic spot. Watching the students from New Kituwah plant those trees, I couldn’t help but feel that they were exemplars of ᏍᏏᏉᏗ ᏍᏏᏉᏗ ᏍᏏᏉᏗ (ulisgedi detsa-dayelvsesdi), which calls upon us to “treat each other’s existence as being sacred or important.” They treated each other, those young trees, and the waters of the Oconaluftee with immense care.

As the day’s activities came to a close, Juanita Wilson referred to those who participated as “just a small community group” coming together to care for Cherokee rivers. Yet this “small community” is powerful. With Cherokee leader-

ship, they are showing that movements often begin from a small group of dedicated volunteers who care for the land and water and are willing to work together. In being part of Honor Long Man Day, I observed that something special seems to be happening in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Gregory D. Smithers is professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University and a British Academy Global Professor based at the University of Hull, England. He is currently writing a book about water in Cherokee history and culture.



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Kobe Gavin Toineeta

Kobe Gavin Toineeta, 25, of the Birdtown Community, entered his eternal home on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022. Kobe was a 2015 graduate of Swain County High School and will forever be remembered as an old soul who never met a stranger.

From a young age, Kobe was a well-rounded athlete and excelled in all sports. He loved baseball, golf, and was an outstanding basketball player receiving the MVP award for the Maroon Devils JV basketball team. He excelled in football and that's where his heart was. He was one of the most aggressive players on the field. Kobe received MVP on the Cherokee Braves JV football team and All Conference his junior year on the Swain Maroon Devils football team.

Kobe had a deep passion for his Plott hounds and bear hunting. He loved his community and gave back by giving elders fish and bear meat, making sure no one went hungry. He was a member of The Regulators Hunting Club. Kobe was hired on by Scott Welch at the young age of 19; and quickly became skilled in the drywall industry, becoming a partner with Scott.

Kobe is survived by his parents, Amanda and David Smoker, Dion Toineeta; grandparents, Denise and Poncho Ballard, Lane and Bessie Smoker, Boyd and Cathie Owle, Berdie Toineeta and Mose Ortega; brother, Kaleb Smoker (Taryn); sisters, Keelie Smoker (Creighton), Samantha Lunsford (Matt), Deante, Danasia, and Dai'Myah Toineeta; nephews, Barrett, Mason and Ezra; niece, Ella; uncles, Neil Owle (Frances), Christian Owle, Brett Owle (Ashley), and Josh Taylor; aunt, Bonnie Locust; and favorite cousin, Jessica Lambert. He is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, fellow hunters, and friends, including special friends, Scott Welch and Robin Lambert.

Kobe is preceded in death by his great grandparents, JD and Mary Lambert, Bob and Helen Owle, and Joshua and Frances Toineeta; and uncles, Will and Rick Lambert.

Services were held Friday, Nov. 18 at Bethabara Baptist Church where he remained until the hour of service on Saturday, Nov. 19. Mr. Foreman Bradley and Mr. James "Bear" Lambert officiated.

Pallbearers/Honorary Pallbearers: Kaleb Smoker, Neil Owle, Kennan Panther, Tso Smith, Michael Lambert, Christian Owle, Brett Owle, Jesse Toineeta, CJ Junaluska, George Swayney, Steve Swayney, Buster Swayney, Max Saunooke, Logan Teesateskie, Chris Murphy, Roy Bradley, Sean Webb, Taylor Oros, Nathan Sellers, Caleb Rowland, Draven Calhoun, Drevan McCoy, Trevan Smith, Trace Lambert, Jeremy Wolfe, Blake Wright, Bobby Orr, Scott Welch, Jack Jack Teesateskie, Dwayne Wiggins, Justin Earls, Shepherd Martin, Spencer McCoy, Michael Lopez, Robert Maney,

Don Fuller, Daniel Fuller and the Regulators.

Max Wayland Monteith Jr.

Max Wayland Monteith Jr., 63 of Dunedin, Fla. and Cherokee, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022 at his home in Dunedin, following a four-year battle with cancer with his loved ones by his side. He was a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian and was buried at his family's cemetery.

He was born in Atlanta, Ga. on Oct. 28, 1959 as the son of Max Wayland Monteith Sr. and Carmaleta Littlejohn Monteith. He attended The Lovett School, Huntington College, and University of Georgia.

He was preceded in death by Max Wayland Monteith Sr. and survived by his mother, brother, and two nephews. Wayland was married and divorced twice and continued to stay connected with his stepdaughter until the day he died.

Wayland was a natural caregiver and defined by his relationship with his family, friends, and loved ones. Over two decades he drove between Florida and North Carolina monthly to support his parents, work on the family home, hunt and fish with cousins in the mountains of North Carolina. When our father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, his trips became more frequent as he was a caregiver for both mother and father.

Since Wayland was a boy, he loved boats. When there wasn't a boat, he would make one with anything that floated and scrap lumber or sticks. Those formative years of fishing on the lake with his father and cousins stoked his passion into a life-long career. He was a 'fix anything' mechanic that began when he got his first car as a

teenager.

With an analytical approach, he began a career as a pressman where his understanding of precision mechanical systems was honed over a decade. He rose to the level of a master pressman and as a commercial pressman he received recognition and accolades from the Printing Industries of Florida.

His move to Florida and experience with mechanical systems allowed him to start a marine business in the Clearwater/Dunedin Florida area. He became a boat captain which enabled him to travel through-out the Florida gulf and keys, the East Coast, Panama and countless lakes and rivers in the United States. He also was a volunteer in the Dunedin Coast-guard Auxiliary as well as Habitat for Humanity.

Max Wayland Monteith Jr. was a son, brother, and father-figure who carved out his place in every community that he touched. He was loved dearly and will be missed by all that knew him well.

In lieu of flowers, please support either: Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation - Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation Cherokee Cancer Support Group – Betty's Place - Cherokee Cancer Support Group-Betty's Place

James Bates

James Bates, age 77, of Tuckasegee, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Dorothy Bates and the son of the late Lester and Flonnie Bates.

He was a long-time member of Charley's Creek Baptist Church. He was self-employed as a Christmas tree farmer and horticultur-

ist. James dearly loved his family and was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He loved reading, growing his garden, listening to music, and collecting artifacts.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by one son, Julian Bates; one grandson, Christopher Bates; five brothers, Willard Bates, Rev. John Bates, Larry Bates, Lester Bates Jr., and Dickie Roberts; and three sisters, Jamaye Bates, Juanita Hoxit, and Imojean Owen.

James is survived by his wife of 58 years, Dorothy Gibson Bates; seven children, Teresa (Ray) Newman of Franklin, Conrad Bates of Tuckasegee, Martha (Keith) Lang of Vale, NC, JoAnn (Michael) Brown of Tuckasegee, Margie (Frank) Dunn of Cherokee, Debbie (Randy) Bates of Tuckasegee, and April (Michael) Bates of Cullowhee. He is also survived by one sister, Martha "Annie" Goins; 17 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, Nov. 20 at Appalachian Funeral Services in Sylva, N.C. with Rev. Jeff Powell and Rev. Marcus Owens officiating. Burial followed in the Bates Cemetery in Tuckasegee.

Serving as pall bearers were Conrad Bates, Ryan Brown, Jacob Porter, Frankie Dunn, Clinton Porter, Aaron Dunn, Austin Rice, and Phillip Golden Jr.

An online registry is available at: www.appalachianfuneralservices.com.

Appalachian Funeral Services of Sylva served the family.

Kevin M. Bruneel

Kevin M. Bruneel, 62, of Cherokee, N.C., went home to be with our Lord on Wednesday, Nov. 16,

2022, at Swain Community Hospital in Bryson City.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Myra (My) Rogers-Bruneel of Plantation, Fla. He is also survived by his only son, Matthew Bruneel; four daughters, Tiffanie Bruneel, Jessica Schmidt (Tyler), Rachel Bruneel, and Sarah Bruneel. He has seven grandchildren: Austin, Sam, Maddie, Henry, Charlie, Raeleigh, and a granddaughter on the way. He has five living siblings, Sandi Bruneel Johnson (Tom), John Bruneel, Diann Rozek, Ray Bruneel (Cathy), and Larry Klajda. He has many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Kevin is preceded in death by his parents, Loretta and Oscar Bruneel; and siblings, Roy Bruneel and Kimberly Bruneel.

Kevin was born March 14, 1960, in Pontiac, Mich. He was the youngest of eight children of Loretta and Oscar Bruneel. Kevin graduated from Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in 1978 at the top of his class. After Kevin graduated high school, he joined the Air Force, where he proudly served our country for eight years. In 2017, he retired as a safety inspector for Luu Marine in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Kevin was the President of the HOA for his neighborhood in Parkland, Fla. for 12 years. He then moved to Cherokee, N.C. with his family.

Kevin was a highly intelligent, caring, loving, hard-working man. He was a great coach, and a fighter. He fought 22 long months of Glioblastoma Brain Cancer. He was the go-to man if you had any issues and always provided a solution. If you knew Kevin, you knew he was a loving person and always put others first. He did everything for his family, friends, and anyone that was in need; he would give you the shirt off his back.

Kevin loved his southern rock music and concerts. He enjoyed going on cruises throughout the years, meeting various bands and creating lifelong friendships with said bands. Kevin also loved watching basketball, football, "M.A.S.H.", "Two and a Half Men", "Walker Texas Ranger", and "In the Heat of the Night". He loved playing darts, corn hole, and much more.

Kevin was truly loved by everyone he crossed paths with and will forever be missed.

A Celebration of life for Kevin will be Sunday Dec. 4 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center 1416 Acquoni Rd. Cherokee, NC 28719.

Sammy W. Owle

Sammy W. Owle, 75, of Cherokee, went home to be with the Lord Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. A native of Cherokee, he was the

son of the late Clifton and Pauline Lambert Owle and husband of the late Alice Owle.

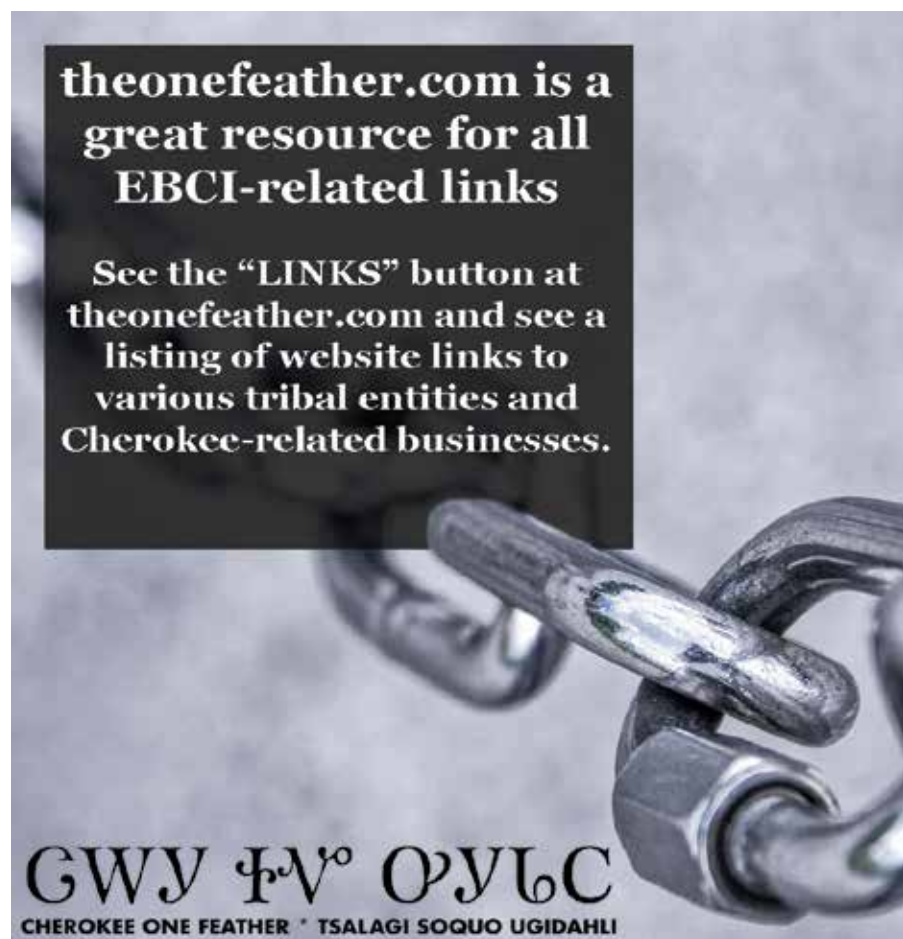
He was of the Baptist Faith.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Joey Owle; and his granddaughter, Eirka Nicole.

Sammy is survived by his children, Randal Wayne Owle, Tonya Mitchell and husband John, Angie Swayney; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; sisters, Joyce Blankenship, Peggy DeHart, Linda Baxley, Tina Owle; brothers, McKinnley and Richard Owle; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 21 in the chapel of Crisp Funeral Home. Rev. John Mitchell and Pastor David Burch officiated with burial in the Birdtown Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Doug Swayney, Gregory Hicks, Felicia Owle, Christina Owle, Killian Ruth, and Coot George.



theonefeather.com is a great resource for all EBCI-related links

See the "LINKS" button at theonefeather.com and see a listing of website links to various tribal entities and Cherokee-related businesses.

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Constitution vs. Charter: Article XI

Know the difference!

Don't we already have these rights?

These "rights" are not necessarily protected by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, according to the U.S. Supreme Court "tribal internal affairs concerning tribal members' individual rights were not covered by the Fifth Amendment." "Indian tribes were exempt from many of the constitutional protections governing the actions of state and federal governments." So, in 1968 the U.S. passed the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 which limited what tribal governments in exercising their right to self-government could do. Most of the ICRA makes many of the same protections as the Bill of Rights but it was felt that it should be described in our own document as to what protections from the tribal government are applicable for its citizens. If our Constitution does not contradict what is found in ICRA, we can establish our own protections.

What does it mean, "establishes any religion or prefers one over any other"?

The tribe will not create any law that picks one religion over any other or sets a religion as a standard above any other or the separation of church and state. When the government sanctions a particular religion because 'this is what or how people should be worshipping', that makes a state religion. If the people in power start using their power and authority to make everyone else follow a belief system, that goes completely against the idea of freedom of religion. Religion is a personal choice and should be based on each person's belief system.

History is full of well-meaning people trying to convert or save people one way or another. But when it becomes ok by the government to force their religion on people who do not have the same beliefs it does not go well for the potential convert. Remember, this is how boarding schools were allowed to operate.

What is a bill of attainder?

This is a law created to single out a person or a specific group of people for punishment without due process. For example, the tribe might create a law that names a family, Shmitzel, of being a detriment to the welfare of the tribe and immediately removed from Tribal lands. This is an example of a bill of attainder, since anyone with that name is guilty and removed without due process or a court hearing.

What does ex post facto mean?

Literally, it means "from a thing done afterward". In other words, laws cannot be created to punish people after an offense has been committed. As an example, the tribe could pass a law that makes it illegal to own a blowgun. This would mean everyone who had legally bought or made their blowguns are now committing a crime, even though the law was not in effect when they purchased it.

Proposed Constitution

Article XI – Civil Rights

The citizens of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in exercising the powers of self-government shall be protected as follows:

- 1. Basic Freedoms.** The Tribe shall not make or enforce any law which infringes upon religious beliefs or prohibits the free exercise thereof, nor any law which establishes any religion or prefers one over any other, make or enforce any law prohibiting the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition for redress of grievances;
- 2. Firearms.** The Tribe shall not pass any law infringing upon the right of the people to own and use firearms inconsistent with the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution;
- 3. Personal Protection.** The Tribe shall not pass any laws targeting a specific person or group of people to bypass due process, bill of attainder; or pass any laws to be applied after the fact, ex post facto.



The Charter has no language providing basic civil rights for its citizens other than the right to vote.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRIBAL CONSTITUTION AND PARTICIPATE IN ITS CREATION! VISIT WWW.SGADUGI.ORG OR SIGN UP FOR ACCESS TO WEEKLY MEETINGS-CONTACT LLOYD ARNEACH AT lloyd.arneach@7clantech.com

Constitution vs. Charter: Article XI (continued)

Know the difference!

Why do we need search and seizure protection?

Among the most basic human rights is that of privacy. What I do, as long as it is lawful, it is my own business. It is my right to share or not. It is not the right of the state or government to inspect my private affairs or property without my permission if they have no legitimate cause, spelled out in our governing law, to inspect me or my property.

The fourth right includes a list of what is protected from unreasonable searches and seizures. We have included media which can include thumb drives, papers, computers or anything else that can convey information. We've also included vehicles protected by this right.

The fourth right includes having these rights explained to the person being served.

This does not prevent law enforcement from making a search or seizure without a prior approved warrant, signed by a judge. There are exceptions allowed to this right where the situation made the unwarranted actions imperative, again there has to be a probable cause prior to the action taken that can be reported back to the court as to why the exception to the fourth civil right was needed.

What does it mean to be put "twice in jeopardy"?

This protection keeps people from being prosecuted repeatedly for the same crime if the person has been acquitted of a specific crime. This is only applicable to crimes where the tribe is the prosecuting party. What this means, if the government takes someone to court for a crime, they need to be sure to get it right the first time, because if the defendant is found innocent of the charges, the government cannot come back later with more evidence to try the person again.

Why might a jury trial be preferred over a trial by judge?

A trial by judge is usually faster since a judge is familiar with the processes and procedures that can take place during a trial. A judge trial is usually decided based on facts and laws, but it comes down to convincing one person whose job has them being a part of many trials.

A jury trial usually involves people who are not in a courtroom on a professional basis. The objective of a jury trial is to convince a group of people who are not familiar with laws and procedures how you are not guilty of a crime.

Proposed Constitution

Article XI-Civil Rights

4. Search & Seizure. The Tribe shall not violate the right of the people to be secure in the privacy of their persons, houses, media, vehicles, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, nor issue warrants but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, signed by a Judge, and particularly describing the place, person, house, media, vehicle, or effects to be searched, the object and scope of such search, and the person or thing to be seized, and to have these rights explained at the time of service;

5. Criminal Trials. The Tribe shall not compel any person in any criminal case to be a witness against him or herself, nor subject any person for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy, nor deny to any such person the right to a speedy and public trial, and due process of law. The Tribe shall ensure that any person accused of an offense be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, be confronted with the witnesses against him or her, have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his or her favor, and have the assistance of counsel for his or her defense, whose fees may be reimbursed by the defendant as provided by law if convicted, and to have these rights explained at the time of arrest or accusation;

6. Jury Trial. The Tribe shall not deny to any person accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment the right, upon request, to a trial by jury of not less than six persons, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.



The Charter has no language providing basic civil rights for its citizens other than the right to vote.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRIBAL CONSTITUTION AND PARTICIPATE IN ITS CREATION! VISIT WWW.SGADUGI.ORG OR SIGN UP FOR ACCESS TO WEEKLY MEETINGS-CONTACT LLOYD ARNEACH AT lloyd.arneach@7clantech.com

COMMUNITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yellowhill Community Club seeking input on events

• Are you interested in learning how to make vests or ribbon skirts? Yellowhill Community Club will be sponsoring this sewing event in the near future, but they need input and interest level to continue in planning. Call Stephanie 735-9001 or Virginia 788-8659 for details.

• A guided-tour of historical spots of the Qualla Boundary is being planned for November. To complete planning, Yellowhill Community Club needs your interest. On the guided-tour, there are seats available, and they are planning on the first 11 to call. Call Virginia 788-8659 if interested

Senior Citizens Heating

Assistance program

Applications for the 2023 heating season are now available at Tsali Manor. Applications will be available Monday through Friday after 1 p.m. each day, and they can be returned Monday through Friday after 1 p.m. each day.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2023.

If you are or will be 59 ½ by March 31, 2023, you are eligible for services upon turning 59 ½. If you are applying for Electric Heating Assistance, please attach a current billing statement. If you do not use the contract companies, it is your and your company's responsibility to get your delivery invoices to the Assistance program as soon as possible. This year's heating season will end on April 30, 2023.

Info: 359-6860

- Tsali Manor

EBCI Heating Assistance Program (low income and disabled persons) for 2022-23 season

Applications for the 2023 heating season for low income and disabled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) are now being taken at Tsali Manor. Priority application period entire month of October for households with children under the age of 6, disabled, elderly, working class and/or those with high energy burdens. All others apply Nov. 1. Restricted to residents within the PHHS Service Area. Heating Season ends March 31, 2023.

You may apply in person at the office of EBCI Family Support Services located in the Beloved Women and Children's Building at 73 Kaiser Wilnoty Rd. in Cherokee.

Applicants do not need to make appointments. Applicants of Cherokee and Graham counties must apply at Snowbird Office for Family Services.


Low Income Applications must be submitted along with income verification, copy of electric bill, deliverable fuel bill (where applicable) and enrollment cards for all EBCI members of the home. Additional documentation may be required. You must resubmit any past documentation.

Disabled Applications must be submitted along with current award letter and heating bill.

- EBCI Family Support Services
release


NATIONAL PARK NEWS

Repair work begins on bridges across Great Smoky



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Mountains National Park

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials have announced that the Federal Highway Administration awarded a construction contract to conduct routine bridge repairs at 19 locations across the park through August 2023. Crews will implement single-lane closures in most locations to safely accomplish work, however, full road closures will be necessary at a few, select sites.

“Work activity is likely to inconvenience motorists on busy days, however, closures are expected to be in place for less than a week at each of the 19 bridge locations,” said Facility Management Division Chief Barbara Hatcher. “We remind motorists to slow down when traveling through work sites to protect workers.”

The routine improvements

include bridge joint repairs, stone masonry repair, railing replacement, and deck replacement. Single-lane closures will occur along the following roadways, near select bridges, through August 2023: the Spur, Gatlinburg Bypass, Little River Road, Tremont, Laurel Creek Road, Newfound Gap Road, Smokemont, and Deep Creek. Short-duration, full-road closures will occur in the following areas: Greenbrier (Ramsey Prong Road), Tremont (gravel road section), Big Creek, and Cataloochee. The park will announce specific dates for the temporary, full road closures when work schedules are finalized. Most of the planned repair work requires minimal equipment and is anticipated to be accomplished within a week at each location.

The Federal Highway administration awarded the \$1.3 million

contract to Bryant's Land and Development Industries, Inc. of Burnsville, N.C. to repair the bridges. For more information about road closures, please visit the park's Current Road, Facility, Trail and Backcountry Updates webpage.

- National Park Service release

Single-lane closures planned on the Spur for tree removal

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials announced that Richmond Tree Experts will implement temporary, single-lane road closures along the Spur for tree removal Monday, Nov. 28 through Thursday, Dec. 1. The Spur, between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, will remain open, but motorists should expect delays.

The single-lane closures will only be in effect during working hours, from approximately 7:30

a.m. to 5 p.m. Crews will start with the northbound section and then move to the southbound section.

For more information about temporary road closures, please visit the park's Current Road, Facility, Trail & Backcountry Updates webpage.

- National Park Service release

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December Birthdays

12/1 - Tso Smith
12/3 - Angela Hernandez
12/5 - Rick and Kim Lossie, 13th anniv
12/6 - Jachai Arch
12/6 - Edgarita Ensley
12/10 - Izzy Taylor
12/14 - Mika Johnson
12/17 - Josh Crowe
12/19 - Boie Crowe
12/20 - Lucas Wildcat
12/28 - Jamison Lambert

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256-737-5055

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CHEROKEE TRIBAL FOODS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM



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Updated Guidelines for Eligibility 10/1/22 thru 9/30/23

Income Deductions:

- 20% (.20 x gross income)
- Utility (\$400)
- Medical (Costs >\$35)
- Paid Child Support
- Dependent Care Expenses
- Home Care Meal-Related Deduction (\$281)

Gross Income (20% Deduction)

- Paid Weekly - Gross amount of check x 4.3 = Gross monthly income before 20% deduction
- Paid Bi-Weekly - Gross amount of check x 2.15 = gross monthly income before 20% deduction

Certification Periods

- Zero Income (little chance of change) - every 3 to 6 months
- Zero Income (frequent changes in income) - every 1 to 2 months
- Stable (non-changing income) - 12 months
- Elderly/Disabled (fixed income) - up to 24 months
- Self-employed - recertification should fall when they receive the majority of their income

Household Size

(Net Monthly Income Standards)

1 - \$1326

2 - \$1719

3 - \$2113

4 - \$2506

5 - \$2931

6 - \$3358

7 - \$3751

8 - \$4144

Each additional member +394

EBCI Per Capita and Per Capita Loans are not considered as income at this time. Please contact us for any questions and detailed eligibility information. Sgi!

Our Mission: Providing nutritious food, resources, support, and guidance to eliminate hunger for eligible participants in a caring and culturally supportive environment.

COMMENTARY

Our community... and the world...is watching

By **ROBERT JUMPER**

One Feather Editor

Recent events bring up a truth that bears constant remembrance and reminder. It was beat into my head during my education in business and marketing and has been borne out for decades in my career; "Perception is reality". It matters very little what the facts are if the story presented points away from or ignores the facts. It doesn't take much to make the good look bad and the bad look good.

Because of our fast-paced

world and lives, our attention span is hyper-limited. We are creatures of the moment. Absorbing all we can hold in a few minutes or seconds and then we are on to the next item of the day. We have borne this out multiple times with headlines to stories that contradict the content. Time after time, we find commentary on the story based on, not what the story told, but what the headline implied. Holding many people's focuses for more than a paragraph or two is challenging for writers today.


And we are hooked on the sensational. Our eyes and ears perk up when controversial or inflammatory words or scenes are within our perception. And unfortunately, it is those we remember instead of the content of the intended conversation. For

example, the important business of legislating in Tribal Council sessions is routinely about matters that impact the entire community. Details of how our laws will govern us are discussed and even debated. For a citizen, it is important that the microphones be in good working order, that they be turned on by those speaking, and that our legislators speak clearly, specifically, and with emotional neutrality so that the message is understood instead of the emotion. It is a leadership characteristic. Emotional appeals have their place and certainly have relevance in that they express passion and possibly commitment, but they also are tools of electioneering and politics. And when you combine that with a limited attention span, governance gets lost, and emotions prevail.

We are a community that has world appeal. People from all ethnicities are interested in us. Like it or not, we are influencers and leaders in the world. We are a tribe of opportunity. We are a tribe of prosperity. We are a tribe of celebrity. Companies line up to be partners with us on projects. Entities line up to partner with us for causes. The potential for our community is unlimited. The downside is, along with the community, all these potential opportunity partners, our watching us too. And when I say "us", I mean those who represent us on the world stage... our legislators and executives.

The Internet has opened the tribe to locations far from the Qualla Boundary. Tribal members who could only get the gossip about what happened in a Tribal

Indigenous Minute



Autumn Harvest Feast

What really happened at the first Thanksgiving in 1621? The Pilgrims did not introduce the concept of thanksgiving; the New England tribes already had autumn harvest feasts of thanksgiving. To the original people of this continent, each day is a day of thanksgiving to the Creator. In the fall of 1621, William Bradford, the governor of the Plymouth Colony, decided to have a Plymouth harvest feast of thanksgiving and invited Massasoit, the Grand Sachem of the Wampanoag Federation, to join the Pilgrims. Massasoit came with approximately 90 warriors and brought food to add to the feast, including venison, lobster, fish, wild fowl, clams, oysters, eel, corn, squash, and maple syrup. Massasoit and the ninety warriors stayed in Plymouth for three days. These original Thanksgiving foods are far different from the meals prepared in modern Thanksgiving celebrations.

Source: Smithsonian Magazine
Photo: Indian Country Today

Graphic By
GWY ƒV° OYLC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLE

MISSING PERSON

Deidre Ryan Begay

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'2" Weight 130 lbs
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown
Current age: 32 Female

Date of last contact: August 25, 2022

Last Known Location: Salt Lake City, Utah

Circumstances of Disappearance:
Deidre was last seen on August 25th, 2022. She is unsheltered and known to stay in a park in the Rose Park area of Salt Lake. She wears glasses. Tattoos: two stars on each foot; a cross on the left hand. Last seen with a tan backpack, wearing black shirt, black pants with black and gray shoes.

If you have seen Deidre Begay, contact Salt Lake City Police Department (801) 799-3454.

Source: www.namus.gov

Graphic By
GWY ƒV° OYLC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLE



Council session are now able to, from anywhere they might be in the world, see every moment of the proceedings, live as it is happening, and over and over in replay from the archives. And because of the nature of the Internet, anyone who has a computer, tablet, or smartphone with connectivity, anyone, could be watching what we are doing in Cherokee. And when I say “we”, I mean those who represent us and routinely are in front of the cameras at the Council House.

And the behavior that is exhibited in front of those cameras are being judged by all who see it. Tribal elders sitting at Tsali Care are watching. The young people who are at home in the floor with their hot dogs and chips. The tribal members in Tennessee, California, Georgia, or other states are watching. Potential businesses and entrepreneurs who are scouting for good, professional, intelligent partners are viewing our Council sessions to get an idea of how we

conduct ourselves, and whether we fit that criterion. Our current business partners are checking in to see if they are with the right partner in their relationship with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

I don’t have access to the analytics of the livestream from ebc.com or the Communications Facebook page, so I can’t tell you about direct viewing of the Tribal Council sessions, but I can provide you with a general idea of how many people might be watching. In the past 28 days, the Cherokee One Feather Facebook page “reach” which is the number of our posts that was available for view on the newsfeeds of Facebook users was 687,810 (that is as of November 17, 2022). Post engagement (where Facebook users saw One Feather posts and either commented or left an emoji) for the same period was 1,029,661. That means an average of 25 people every minute of the past 28 days were viewing and commenting in

some fashion on the One Feather page. They were watching. Us. One Feather is just one of the Internet “places” where the world may view the livestream of Tribal Council sessions. And let’s add to the list of those multiple local, regional, national, and international media outlets who keep track of our tribe. They, too, are watching.

My point is that it matters how our leaders, who appear on the world stage of the Internet, and who represent all members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, conduct themselves and the business of the government. It is imperative that we put our best foot forward, that we think before we speak, that we appear good, professional, and intelligent. We must look like a functioning organization with governmental leaders who are working together for the common good of our community. Our community looks to our leadership to be examples of the Cherokee Core Values, so that they and their children have hope.

Our business partners look to our leaders to show them professionalism to assure economic prosperity. Governments that coexist with us look at our leaders for signs of strength to emulate and weakness to exploit.

We never look weaker as a tribe than when we are at odds with each other. Heated exchanges on camera translate into distrust and disgust in our community. It is never seen as funny or clever by those who are being judged, the community, based on that behavior. We must be wise enough to disagree without being disagreeable. We count on our government leaders to be the example, to be the role models. They have a right to expect professionalism from each other. As a constituency, we must demand professionalism from our leaders. From Big Cove to Yellowhill to Cherokee County/Snowbird to Painttown to Birdtown to Wolftown, the world is watching.



SPEAKING OF FAITH

Every decision has consequences

By **REV. TIMOTHY L. MELTON**

(Transcribed by Myra D. Colgate)
Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness Church

Read 1 Kings 18:15-46

When King Ahab saw the Prophet Elijah for the first time after the drought in Israel had already plagued the area for three years, he accused the Prophet of being the one who was troubling all of Israel. Elijah was also the one who had just raised a child from the dead and had helped widows and others in the land during that time of famine, Elijah boldly answered him, "You are the one bringing trouble to this land."

Elijah told him that it was because of his allowing the wickedness in him and in his family

to also create his own system of government that had caused this. He reminded him he had not championed the Lord, God of Israel. In fact, he told him, "You have cast the Lord out of the high places, torn down His altars, and had ripped up the places where the people could hear the Word of the Living God."

The amazing part of this was that King Ahab obeyed what Elijah had said for him to do and called forth the people of Israel and his wife Jezebel's 400 priests of Asherah, and the 450 priests of Baal to meet with Elijah in front of all of Israel for a meeting at Mount Carmel. This was after Elijah had told him, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have. I have come to declare the Word of the Living God." He

had told the people that Elijah had called forth everyone to meet them there at Mount Carmel.

"Father, I pray, open up our eyes and our ears to hear the glorious Word that you have for us today. Glory to the God of Heaven Who is willing and able today. I pray that Your Words would sink deeply into the hearts of men and women. I pray, Father, that You would just shake the Church. I pray that You would open the doors for the Church, the ones that cannot be shut. I pray, Father, that You would cause the wickedness that we see not only in this country, but all over the world to come to nothing as Your Church rises up to take its' rightful place, O God."

"Lord, we thank You. We thank You, Lord, that all false accusations and lies about the Church are about to fall. We thank

You, Lord, that Your Fire is about to fall. And we Glorify You in the Name of Jesus, we pray, Amen."

I have come today to be a thorn in the flesh of the wicked and the evil. There are still more wicked things coming. We should be telling them what Jesus is doing in working and opening doors that nobody else can open, that He's moving in little Cherokee to open those doors. Father, open up our ears to hear. Glory to the God of Heaven who is able and willing. Amen.

Elijah comes to the prophets that have gathered at Mt. Carmel. He addresses them and the people of Israel. He told them, "You know the Law, but you follow the prevailing winds that blow culturally. God's Word is relevant. How long will you halt between two opinions? The two opinions have

Elect Mike Parker Wolftown/Big Y Tribal Council



Experience - Stability

Wolftown/Big Y deserves leadership with experience and a proven track record of service. I have served for 10 years on Tribal Council, including serving as Chair and Vice-Chair. Communication and accessibility are highly valued in my approach to leadership. In the coming months, I plan to listen to your needs and concerns and create strong understanding of how our tribe can work more effectively for you. I will ensure that our Wolftown/Big Y votes count and align on behalf of our community.

For the last five years I have been working for the EBCI as the Director of Marketing, and five years prior to that as a senior member of management team at Harrah's Valley River Casino Hotel. I have a Bachelor of Science in Economics and understand the financial position of the EBCI as well as the opportunities and challenges we face as a community and tribe.

**On December 15th, vote for experience and stability,
Vote for Mike Parker.**

Political Ad



GWY ᏊᏃᏍ ᏊᏃᏍᏍᏍ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

**Covering the Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians since 1966**

You can find the One Feather at these fine area establishments:

Cherokee

Jenkins Grocery
Cherokee Indian Hospital
Museum of the Cherokee Indian
Hungry Bear Exxon
Food Lion Cherokee
Harrah's Cherokee Casino lobby
Ric's Smokeshop 1
Grand Hotel
Qualla Java Coffeeshop
Cherokee Welcome Center
Big Cove Grocery
River Valley Store - Big Cove
Luftee Restaurant

Bryson City

IGA Supermarket
Cooper's Creek General Store

Sylva

White Moon Coffeeshop
City Lights Bookstore
Jackson County Public Library
Jackson County Visitors Center and Chamber of
Commerce

Harold's Supermarket

Snowbird Community

Jacob Cornsilk Complex

Great Smoky Mtns. National Park

Oconaluftee Visitor Center
Sugarlands Visitor Center

formed a disconnection. Elijah proposed a contest. Let's see what happens. "I'll call upon my God." "You may go first and call upon yours." We'll see which one will ignite the Fire that falls on the House of God.

The priests cried out to their gods and cut themselves all morning and nothing happened. They had no power to truly satisfy anyone's soul.

God is still saying, "Come near to Me."

Elijah, first of all, repaired the altar of God. For many generations there had always been a place with the twelve stones of Jacob, of Israel for an altar.

Then Elijah put the wood in order and dug a trench for the water around it. He cut the bullock in pieces. And then he filled four barrels with water and proceeded to douse everything with water, re-filling the barrels three times until

the trench overflowed with water. It should only have smoked as it had been so drenched.

We also should know that as our tears flow at the altar, the water should overflow.

God obligates Himself—with a new wine skin, it must be filled with new wine! Praise Him and get in the middle of it. God is obligated all of a sudden to send the Fire! Fire when it falls, makes the wrong things right, as it changes everything.

"Lord, hear me, that they may know You always hear us when we pray. Cherokee needs the Church to be built up. Let them know that Thou hast consumed the stones of the altar, the dust and licked up all the water off of the altar there, and even the sacrifice, a living sacrifice which is a reasonable sacrifice.

We tend to want to get off the altar, but the Fire comes and burns it off of us. To have what

God wants to do, we must have Him burn off our rough edges. Time is running out. Come ever so quickly, Lord Jesus. If I have to be watching, God change our lives! The rain is going to come.

Abba says there's a rain coming with the Hand of God that Elijah's servant saw, "I'm turning all of this around." Elijah even outran Ahab's chariot as they raced down to Jezreel before the rain was to come.

Chapter 19:2 tells us that Jezebel was slain, and all her priests were wiped out in a single day. The enemy knows his day is over. The Church is about to rise again! The poor leadership is the fault of the Church, even to the selling of souls for money.

Build a kneeling bench, an altar, at home, so the Fire can fall there. We can still close the doors. We still know weeds are an herb. So Christian people are not

hurting. Our DNA needs Jesus. He's non-habit-forming. He has dominion over the Earth. Oprah is wrong, Church, there are not many ways to God. If we seek Him we shall find Him. Ask and receive.

Serving the devil is to ask for a life messed up, full of misery, and is nonsense, for a life is ruined, tortured, by voices that won't ever be quiet. Some people won't leave their homes, as there are too many lines to cross.

Jesus dispatched all devils even Legion when He was challenged. He makes all the difference. Praise the Lord!

He wants to pour out His Fire! He will pour out His Fire and reign on the Earth! What a real Move of God! See what you can receive. Seek Him, Find Him! Align right with Him! Be a part of what God's getting ready to do. Let Him have it. Get rid of some stuff or at least set things in order.



Subscribe to the One Feather today.
Call (828) 359-6262 to pay with a card.

Return this coupon with check or money order to:

Cherokee One Feather
P.O. Box 501, Cherokee, NC 28719

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One Year - \$26



Six Months - \$13



HAPPENINGS

Event listings are free of charge. Send your event name, date and time, location, and contact info to scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov.

EVENTS

BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

Turkey Shoots at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in the Big Cove Community.

- Nov. 26 at 3 p.m., Gail Panther
Good food, good fun, great prizes, great benefits!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NAIWA Christmas Sale. Dec. 2-3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Yellowhill Activity Center. Native American crafts. Friday – Indian Dinners at 11 a.m. Tables available for \$20/day or \$30/both days. Info: Lucille Wolfe 736-5285 or email Carmaleta Monteith at Carmaleta@msn.com

All I Want for Christmas

Bazaar. Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to

4 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center. Shopping, food, fun, lunch by Melishia. Info: Denise Walkingstick 508-2211

Cherokee Central Schools Indian Market. Dec. 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cherokee Elementary gym. Chili and fry bread will be for sale. This is the CCS Cultural Dept. fundraiser for their scholarship program. Info or to reserve a table: Laura or Melissa at 554-5004

Food Truck Rodeo. Dec. 10 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Oconaluftee Island Park Open Air Market. Choose from four food trucks. Info: Mariah at mmahan@ebci-nsn.gov

HEALTH & SPORTS EVENTS

Blood Drives. Nov. 23 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center. Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Cherokee Indian Hospital Welch Top Conference Room. Visit www.Red-CrossBlood.org and enter: CherokeeIndianHospital to schedule an appointment. Info: 1-800-RED-CROSS

UPCOMING POW WOWS

Note: This list of pow wows was compiled by One Feather staff. The One Feather does not endorse any of these dances. It is simply a listing of ones occurring throughout the continent. Please call before traveling.

50th Annual Poarch Creek Thanksgiving Pow Wow.

Nov. 24-25 in Atmore, Ala. MC: Juakin Hamilton. Info: www.poarchcreekindians.org

17th Annual Cedar Band of Paiutes Thanksgiving Pow Wow.

Nov. 25-26 at Gold County Fairgrounds in Auburn, Calif. MC: David Brown Eagle. Host Drum: Indian Hill. Info: Robert Pete Sr. at Robertpete58@yahoo.com

Montana Native American

Center Pow Wow. Nov. 26-27 at Billings Metra Park Expo Center in Billings, Mont. Info: (406) 259-0138, mt.nativeamericancenter1@gmail.com

Los Angeles Pow Wow.

Dec. 3 at Grand Park in Los Angeles, Calif. MC: Glen Begay. Host Northern Drum: Indian Hill. Host Southern Drum: Hale & Co. Info: Pat Lopez at p505pada@aol.com

All Nations Southwest Intertribal Pow Wow. Dec. 14-18 at

Chase Field Ball Park in Phoenix, Ariz. Info: Rebecca Herrick at rk.knoheart@gmail.com

20th Annual New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow. Dec. 31 at Muskogee Civic Center in Muskogee, Okla. MC: Mark Wilson. Head Southern Singer: Hyde Top-pah. Info: Lorraine Bosin (918) 684-6363, choctaw1865@yahoo.com

WESTERN N.C. & BEYOND EVENTS

Annual Hard Candy Christmas.

Nov. 25-26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at Western Carolina University Ramsey Center in Cullowhee, N.C. Arts and crafts. This year's featured artist is Ginger Rutland, famous for her fine needlework in original quilts, home accessories, and ornaments. Live music from Ronnie Evans. Admission is \$5 for adults; children under 12 are admitted free. There is free, convenient parking and concessions. Info: www.mountainartisans.net or Doris Hunter 524-3405 or djhunter155@gmail.com

Indivisible Swain County

meeting. Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Agenda items include evaluation of School Board candidates information meeting, this year's events, and setting priorities for 2023. All are welcome to join and share your concerns and ideas. If you are interested in attending, email maryherr2017@gmail.com or call 497-9498


Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society Holiday Party. Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Drive

Tsalagi

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

MINUTE




Bread Town

For centuries, perhaps millennia, Cherokee towns and people flourished along the Little Tennessee River and its tributaries here where fertile bottomlands spread out into the valleys more spacious than anywhere else in the mountains this side of the Blue Ridge. Even today, Cherokee people call Franklin gadu:niha, "Where they have the soil for growing things," or literally translated, "Bread Town."

Mountains reaching more than 5,000 feet encircle this fertile valley like the petals of a blue granite rose: the Nantahalas to the west, the Cowee mountains to the north, and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east.

Source: Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook



in Bryson City. Curtis Blanton, author of "Tales from the Porch" and "Fireside Tales", will tell stories and lead holiday carols. The evening will begin with a potluck meal. Everyone is asked to bring your favorite traditional holiday food to share.

Art Walk. Dec. 2 from 5 p.m.

to 8 p.m. in downtown Murphy, N.C. Promoted by the Murphy Art Center. Art, music, shopping, and fun. There will be artists on the sidewalks all over town and a special Kid's Project table in front of the Murphy Art Center. Info: Valley River Arts Guild 360-3038,

see **HAPPENINGS** next page

BAXLEY'S

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Monday - Saturday



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PUBLIC NOTICE AND TESTIMONY

*Confirmation Hearing for Cherokee Indian Hospital Governing Board
pursuant to Cherokee Code Chapter 117 Article III-A*

Cannabis Control Board confirmation hearing for Brooke Coggins

Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.
Tribal Council Chambers; Cherokee, N.C.



This hearing is to the public, and Tribal Council invites public testimony only in accordance with Cherokee Code Chapter 117, Article III-A.
Anonymous comments will not be accepted.

Members of the general public who wish to participate in the hearing shall submit written testimony to the Tribal Council Chairman in care of the Tribal Operations Program: Attn: Kelly Sampson, P.O. Box 455, Cherokee, NC 28719. Written testimony shall be submitted to the Tribal Operations Program not less than five working days from the hearing date. Testimony shall not include personal matters pending in litigation.

The final date for public comment will be
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022



*The Cherokee One Feather is
co-sponsoring a Christmas Fundraiser
with all proceeds going to the
Madison Hornbuckle Foundation.*

*For \$5, you can purchase a Christmas
message that will be printed in the
Wednesday, Dec. 14 issue.
You can purchase anytime prior to
Friday, Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m.*

Business Sponsors:



**SEQUOYAH
BIRTHPLACE
MUSEUM**
VONORE, TENNESSEE



Nikwasi Initiative

Bearmeat's
Indian Den
Cherokee, N.C.



**MUSEUM OF THE
CHEROKEE
INDIAN**

Info:
Dawn
Arneach
359-6489
daenarne@
ebci-nsn.gov

tsalagi soquo ugidahli, week of nvdadegwa 23-29, 2022

33

HAPPENINGS: Event listings, from page 33

vragicn@gmail.com

Murphy Mountain Christmas Festival.

Dec. 3 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Murphy Art Center in Murphy, N.C. Ages 6-17 and students will make a tile snowman. Info: Nancy Orndorff (772) 299-8845, orndorffnancyl@gmail.com

Let's Decorate a Tree event.

Dec. 3 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30

p.m. at the Murphy Art Center in downtown Murphy, N.C. Decorations and stand are provided. Info: Barbara McMillan 557-5881 or bmcmillan0927@gmail.com

Preschool Art Exploration.

Dec. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Murphy Art Center in Murphy, N.C. Activities include: tissue paper wreath, painted Christmas tree, jingle bell painting, and a handprint ornament. A parent or guardian must stay for the class. Info: Carolyn Garri-

son (813) 466-4014, cgarrison5@verizon.net

The Nutcracker performanc-

es. Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at the Bardo Arts Center at 199 Centennial Drive in Cullowhee, N.C. The Ballet Conservatory of Asheville will again visit the campus of Western Carolina University to perform two ticketed performances of the holiday favorite ballet, The Nutcracker. Info: www.arts.wcu.edu/nutcracker-22

SUPPORT GROUPS

Cherokee Cancer Support Group

meets the first Thursday of each month at Betty's Place at 40 Goose Creek Road in the Birdtown Community. A potluck is held at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting is open to all. Betty's Place is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They provide counseling and support services to cancer patients that may include supplies, travel, and meals. Info: 497-0788



Christmas Doin's in the Western-most

CHEROKEE CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 10 6:00 PM

CHEROKEE NAIWA CHRISTMAS SALE

YELLOWHILL COM BLDG DECEMBER 2-3 9AM-5PM

CHEROKEE FOOD TRUCK RODEO

DECEMBER 10 4-8 PM

CHEROKEE CENTRAL SCHOOLS INDIAN MARKET

DECEMBER 9 8AM-3PM

CHEROKEE ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

DECEMBER 8 11AM-4PM

MURPHY NC CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 3 6-8 PM

ANDREWS NC SMALL TOWN, BRIGHT LIGHTS

CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 10 5:30 PM-9 PM

ROBBINSVILLE NC CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 10 1-2 PM

BRYSON CITY NC CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 3 2-3 PM

FRANKLIN NC CHRISTMAS PARADE NOVEMBER 27 3 PM

HIGHLANDS NC OLDE MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 3 10:30 AM

SYLVA NC CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 4 3-5 PM

SYLVA NC HOLIDAY FIREWORKS DECEMBER 16 6:30-7:45 PM

SYLVA NC TREE LIGHTING DECEMBER 2 3-7 PM

WAYNESVILLE NC CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 5 6 PM

HAZELWOOD NC CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 4 3 PM

CANTON NC KRIS KRINGLE HOLIDAY MARKET DECEMBER 2-3

CANTON CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 1 6 PM

CASHIERS NC SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION

FESTIVAL OF TREES NOVEMBER 25-26 10-5 PM

CULLOWHEE NC MOUNTAIN ARTISANS

HARD CANDY CHRISTMAS NOVEMBER 25-26 10-5 PM

CULLOWHEE NC THE NUTCRACKER BALLET PERFORMANCE

DECEMBER 9 7:30 PM DECEMBER 10 3 PM

Turkey Day is this week what better way to show up to your family gathering than in a brand NEW Vehicle??!! Drive into the holidays in style with a New vehicle you can be thankful for!



2017 RAM 1500 Big Horn



\$29,899 4WD 101,548 Miles STOCK #4117A

FEATURES: Media Hub (USB, MP3), Class IV Receiver Hitch, Integrated Voice, ParkView Rear Back-Up Camera

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2012 TOYOTA FJ Cruiser



\$27,988 4WD 158,509 miles STOCK #P4133

FEATURES: Off Road Package, TSD Package, Active Traction Control, Multi-Information Display

Contact Seller 828-339-1228 1231 E Main St, Sylva, NC

2018 TOYOTA CAMRY SE



\$23,676 FWD 88,933 miles STOCK #4123

FEATURES: Remote Keyless Entry, Bluetooth Wireless, Backup Camera, Lane Departure Alert with steering assist

Contact Seller 828-339-1228 1231 E Main St, Sylva, NC

2017 FORD F-250 Lariat



\$53,708 4WD 38,215 miles STOCK #P4130

FEATURES: FX4 Off Road Package, Heated/Cooled Seats, Leather Upholstery, Voice Activated Navigation

Contact Seller 828-339-1228 1231 E Main St, Sylva, NC

(828)586-0900 1231 E Main St, Sylva, NC 28779

VOTE
Lisa Taylor
on December 15
for
Painttown Council

I support our Cherokee Language, a Referendum for the Constitution, and the safety and security of our schools and communities.

Political Ad



EMPLOYMENT

Job Announcement

EBCI Cannabis Control Board has the following job available Senior Office Administrator

The main responsibility of the Senior Office Administrator is daily management of the CCB office. A copy of the job description may be obtained by emailing nwdenman@ebci-ccb.org. Anyone interested should email a resume and cover letter to the EBCI CCB at info@ebci-ccb.org. This position is open until filled. Indian preference does apply. **11/30**

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. EST 22-113
In The Matter of the Estate of
Virginia Lee "Tommye"

Bradley Saunooke

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fiduciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery.

Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fiduciary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION
Gerena Parker
P.O. Box 910
Dillsboro, NC. 28725
11/23

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. EST 22-119
**In the Matter of the Estate of
ISAAC CLIMBINGBEAR, SR**
All persons, firms and corpo-

rations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fiduciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery.

Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fiduciary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION
Tohisgi Climbingbear
PO Box 966
Cherokee, NC 28719
12/14

BIDs, RFPs, etc.

Bids are being accepted for 2023 pageant crowns

2023 Miss Cherokee Crown

- 9" high, EBCI seal in center (seal must have all wording)
- Use any colors/design for personal touch

• Must present design and type of beads that will be used on the crown to the Board. Bid will not be accepted without presentation of design.

2023 Teen Miss Cherokee Crown

- 7" high, EBCI seal in center (seal must have all wording)
- Use any colors/design for personal touch

• Must present design and type of beads that will be used on the crown to the Board. Bid will not be accepted without presentation of design.

2023 Junior Miss Cherokee Crown

- 6" high, EBCI seal in center (seal must have all wording)
- Use any colors/design for personal touch

• Must present design and type of beads that will be used on the crown to the Board. Bid will not be accepted without presentation of design.

2023 Little Miss Cherokee Crown

- 5" high, EBCI seal in center (seal must have all wording)
- Use any colors/design for personal touch

- Must present design and type of beads that will be used on the crown to the Board. Bid will not be accepted without presentation of design.

Bidders must be prepared to present designs to the Board on Monday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. at the Shawn Blanton Emergency Operations Center. Info: Mollie Grant 359-6430 and Jais Crusenberry 736-7348 or email cherokeepageantboard@gmail.com. **12/7**

Request for Qualifications

Landscape Architect Firm

The EBCI is looking for a firm to provide high quality, innovative landscape design services for the Cultural District in Cherokee, NC. The selected qualified firm will collaborate with the EBCI Department of Commerce staff and Cultural District partners (which include the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee Historical Association, and Qualla Arts and Crafts) to produce culturally appropriate landscape designs for designated sites within the Cultural District.

Submit one (1) individually sealed copy of the proposal and related materials and an electronic reproducible version to chrismccoy@ebci-nsn.gov. Completed proposals are due in the offices of the EBCI Commerce by the close of business on Friday, January 6, 2023. No fax copies, or copies delivered to any other offices of the EBCI will be accepted.

For the full detail of this request and or for any additional information about this Request for Proposals, please contact: Christopher McCoy Commerce Division Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians P.O. Box 460 810 Acquoni Road, Rm 132 Cherokee, NC 28719 Phone (828) 359-7018 E-mail: chrismccoy@ebci-nsn.gov

12/14

CHS Senior Fundraiser 2022

It's Orange Season. It's that time again for you to get your holiday fruit and help Cherokee High School's Class of 2023.

This year we will be doing things a little differently. You can purchase oranges one of two ways:

1. We will have various size boxes of oranges and other fruit available for pick up on a first come, first serve basis at Cherokee High School. No ordering is necessary, and there will be NO holds.
Sale dates are:
****Wednesday, Nov 30** **Thursday, Dec 1** **Friday, Dec 2****
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. each day
2. You can order & pay online and have it shipped directly to your house.
<https://shop.floridaindianrivergroves.com/ecommerce/1019224>
The link will be open starting November 16 and will close on December 11.

Please Note: NO STUDENTS FROM CHS WILL BE COMING TO YOUR HOUSE TO COLLECT MONEY.

11/30

Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

Apply online at <https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or visit: www.ccs-nc.org for more information.

Cherokee Central School is currently taking applications for employment for the following job opportunities, all jobs are **Open Until Filled** unless otherwise indicated :

1. 6 Hour Food Service Worker (FT w/ Benefits)
2. Part Time Food Service
3. Elementary Teacher (Multiple)
4. Elementary School Counselor
5. Middle School Special Education Pathseekers Teacher
6. Math Teacher (High School)
7. Behavior Modification Teacher Assistant (Middle School)
8. Math Teacher (Middle School)

11/30

Cherokee Boys Club Job Announcements



OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Application and job description can be picked up from the receptionist at the Boys Club information window between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (828) 497-9101. The selected applicant must submit to a pre-employment drug screen and local, state, and federal civil and criminal background and sexual offender screens. Payroll direct deposit is mandatory. Indian preference does apply in the filling of this position. If claiming Indian preference, applicant must submit the appropriate certificate.

The Cherokee Boys Club reserves the right to extend position closing dates or re-advertise positions without notice.

Cherokee Boys Club
P.O. Box 507
Cherokee, NC 28719

Cherokee Childrens Home:

(1) FT Resident Counselor; (4) PT Resident Counselors – 2nd and 3rd shifts

Agelink: Agelink, Cherokee, NC: Multiple Teachers - \$14-\$16/HR Starting Pay
Snowbird Childcare, Robbinsville, NC: Multiple Teachers - \$14-\$16/HR Starting Pay.

- Credentialing Education Expenses Provided
- Pay Adjustments Upon Successful Completion of, and Obtaining
- Credentialing Certifications Training Education Expenses Provided
- Quarterly Bonuses

• Competitive Fringe Benefits: Annual/Sick Leave Pay, Holiday Pay, Insurance, 401K opportunity and Retirement/Pension opportunity.

Bus: Multiple PT school bus drivers; Multiple FT truck drivers

Construction/facilities: (2) skilled carpenters/mason; (2) carpenter/mason helpers

ALL POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED



Employment Opportunities

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee is seeking applicants for the following positions:

***** Signing Bonus up to \$2,500 *****

- **Senior Concierge for Front Desk and operations support** – hospitality experience preferred
 - **Concierge for Front Desk** – hospitality experience preferred
 - **Male Spa Host and Female Spa Host** – no experience required
- Competitive compensation and benefits packages available. EEOC

***** contingent on FT/PT and availability status**

Apply in person or contact Angie Hill at angieh@mandaraspa.com or 497-8550.



Looking for a Job!

**Check out TERO's list of
employment opportunities!**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:45am-4:30pm

The TERO Office is pleased to provide the following jobs listing for the Cherokee area. We ask that when applying for any of these jobs, to please reach out to us to enroll in our Job Bank. Our office is located at 756 Acquoni Rd, Cherokee, NC. If you have any questions or need more information about a specific opening, please contact Hillary Norville or Douglas McCoy at the email or telephone numbers below.

If you need a Job Bank Application, please email Hillary or Doug, or you may download the form from our website at this link: [WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - EBCI TERO \(ebci-tero.com\)](http://WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - EBCI TERO (ebci-tero.com)).

Hillary Norville – TERO Job Bank Coordinator 828.359.6422 hillnorr@ebci-nsn.gov

Douglas McCoy – TERO Job Bank Coordinator 828.359.6478 dougmc@ebci-nsn.gov

**The TERO Job List may
be found at www.ebci-tero.com/Jobs**

**Or by using this QR Code
(use your smartphone's
camera app)**





CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCE:

Patient Access Specialist - Part Time Intermittent \$17.12 - \$19.26

Billing Analyst II \$19.66 - \$22.25

Accountant III \$52,339 - \$65,424

ENGINEERING:

Dietary Manager \$52,339 - \$65,424

EVS Supervisor \$21.13 - \$23.98

EVS Technician \$15.00 - \$16.77

EXECUTIVE

Credentialing Clerk - \$19.66 - \$22.25

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Master Level Therapist - Adult & Child positions available - \$56,891 - \$68,269 ****\$3,000 Hiring Bonus**

Targeted Case Manager - Family Safety \$39,576 - \$49,470

Targeted Case Manager - Women's Home \$39,576 - \$49,470

Residential Technician (Female) - Kanvwotiyi \$17.12 - \$19.26 (PM/Weekend differential pay) ****\$3,000 Hiring Bonus**

Beauty for Ashes Cultural Advisor \$39,576 - \$49,470

Beauty for Ashes Program Manager \$52,339 - \$65,424

HUMAN RESOURCES

Training and Development Specialist \$45,512 - \$56,891

OPERATIONS

Clinical Pharmacist - Part Time Intermittent - \$91,542 - \$114,427

Clinical Pharmacist - \$91,542 - \$114,427

Pharmacy Technician I - \$17.12 - \$19.26

Outpatient Pharmacy Supervisor - \$105,273 - \$131,591

Dental Assistant II \$18.32 - \$20.67

Pedodontist \$157,686 - \$236,529

Optician \$22.76 - \$25.89

Optometrist - \$109,504 - \$136,880

DME Specialist - \$18.32 - \$20.67

MEDICAL

Clinical Dietitian - \$45,512 - \$56,891

FNP/PA - ICC \$80,863 - \$101,079

MAT Clinic - PA/FNP \$80,863 - \$101,079

Physician - Primary Care \$139,732 - \$174,665

Physician/Hospitalist - Inpatient - Full Time / Part Time Regular - \$139,732 - \$174,665

NURSING

Acupuncturist - \$60,190 - \$75,238

Analenisgi Inpatient Technician - Part Time Intermittent \$17.12 - \$19.26 (PM/Weekend differential pay)

Care Manager (IDD/TBI) - Primary Care \$31.06 - \$35.64

Chiropractor \$69,219 - \$86,523

Licensed Practical Nurse - Immediate Care Center - \$22.76 - \$25.89

Massage Therapist \$45,512 - \$56,891

Registered Nurse - Inpatient - \$31.06 - \$35.64 ****\$3,000 Hiring Bonus** (Night shift)

Registered Nurse - Inpatient - Part Time Intermittent \$31.06 - \$35.64

Medical Social Worker - Inpatient - \$39,576 - \$49,470

TSALI CARE CENTER

Certified Nursing Assistant \$17.12 - \$19.26 ****\$2,000 Hiring Bonus****

Certified Nursing Assistant - Part Time Intermittent \$17.12 - \$19.26

Certified Medication Aide - \$17.12 - \$19.26

Registered Nurse - \$31.06 - \$35.64 ****\$3,000 Hiring Bonus****

RN Supervisor (weekends) - \$36.56 - \$42.11

Cook \$16.01 - \$17.95

Housekeeper - \$15.00 - \$16.77

Fiscal Coordinator - \$45,512 - \$56,891

Tribal Options

Tribal Option Business Analyst - \$60,190 - \$75,238

To apply, visit careers.cherokeehospital.org

If you have questions, contact the Cherokee Indian Hospital HR Dept. at (828) 497-9163 ext. 6343.

07 DEC

2nd Annual Mountain Community Career and Resource Expo

Wednesday, December 7th 2022

Located in Harrah's Cherokee Casino Event Center
9am - 3pm

Join us for this career opportunity presented by the
NC Department of Commerce NC Works Career Centers of
Haywood, Jackson, and Swain Counties and proudly
Sponsored by Harrah's Cherokee Resort.

Tourism, technology, health care, military, manufacturing,
professional services, and other employers will be there hiring on site.
Military service will be given preference.



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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Effective **January 1, 2022**, The Cherokee One
Feather subscription rate will change. The new
rate will be **\$40 per year** (50 issues). The change
is necessary to help offset increases in
production and shipping costs.

You may subscribe or renew your subscription
for an additional year at the current rate until
December 31, 2022.



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
HUMAN RESOURCES

PO Box 553
Cherokee, NC 28719
828-359-6388

Closing Sunday, November 27, 2022

1. Financial Analyst (Multiple) – Budget and Finance – Treasury (L15 \$57,982 - \$72,478)
2. Head Cook – Snowbird Senior Citizens – Snowbird and Cherokee County (L7 \$15.60 - \$19.50 per hour)
3. WWT Operator – Waste Water Treatment Plant – Operations (L10 \$17.58 - \$21.98 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
4. Certified Biological Waste Water Treatment Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L11 \$19.13 - \$23.92 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
5. Supervisor – Biological/Waste Water Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L14 \$25.17 - \$31.46 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
6. Carpenter Assistant – Facility Management – Operations (L8 \$15.90 - \$19.88 per hour)
7. Legal Services Attorney – Legal Assistance Office – Office of the Attorney General (L16 \$64,389 - \$85,852)
8. Public Health Disease Intervention Specialist – Tsalagi Public Health – Public Health and Human Services (L12 \$20.89 - \$26.11 per hour)
9. Registered Nurse – Tsalagi Public Health – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$27.87 - \$34.84 per hour)
10. Council Assistant – Tribal Operations – Legislative Branch (L8 \$15.90 - \$19.88 per hour)

Open Until Filled

1. Detention Officer (Multiple) – Detention Services – Public Safety (L7 \$33,250 - \$41,574) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
2. Patrol Officer (Multiple) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L12 \$20.89 - \$26.11 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Evidence Technician – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L9 \$16.21 - \$20.26 per hour)
4. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Public Safety (L8 \$30,357 - \$37,946) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION (L11 \$19.13 - \$23.92 per hour)
5. PT Paramedic (Multiple) – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L11 \$19.13 - \$23.92 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
6. Youth Development Professional – Cherokee Youth Center – Education (L6 \$15.30 - \$19.13 per hour)
7. Driver (Multiple) – Transit – Operations (L8 \$15.90 - \$19.88 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
8. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – Public Health and Human Services (L9 \$16.21 - \$20.26 per hour)
9. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Head Start – Public Health and Human Services (L10 \$17.58 - \$21.98 per hour)
10. Real Estate Associate Attorney – Realty Services – Office of the Attorney General (L15 \$72,342 - \$90,428)
11. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$25.17 - \$31.46 per hour)
12. Legislative Executive Financial Director – Tribal Council (L9 \$97,792 - \$130,389)
13. Tribal Prosecutor II – Criminal Law – Office of the Attorney General (L17 \$72,127 - \$96,169)
14. Electrician Helper – Qualla Housing Services – Housing (L4 \$25,261 - \$31,581)
15. Carpenter (Multiple) – Qualla Housing Services – Housing (L7 \$33,250 - \$41,574)
16. Carpenter Helper (Multiple) – Qualla Housing Services – Housing (L4 \$25,261 - \$31,581)
17. Maintenance Utility (Multiple) – Qualla Housing Services – Housing (L4 \$25,261 - \$31,581)
18. Utility Worker/Operator Assistant – Qualla Housing Services – Housing (L6 \$30,357 - \$37,946) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
19. Education Specialist – Higher Education – Education (L10 \$17.58 - \$21.98 per hour)
20. Economic Analyst – Destination Marketing – Commerce (L16 \$64,581 - \$80,727)
21. Law Clerk – Tribal Court – Judicial Branch (L13 \$47,552 - \$59,440)

**All applications and job descriptions are available at
www.ebci.com/jobs**

Please attach any licenses, certificates, diplomas, resumes, etc. with application. If you are unable to attach the documents, you may drop them off at our offices located at 806 Acquoni Rd. Suite 100 or email them to the Employment Specialists listed on our website. Indian Preference does apply.
NOTICE: Due to the Tribal State of Emergency, we will only advertise positions that are classified as Essential or Critical to Tribal Operations. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

BLACK FRIDAY ONLY DEALS

FURNITURE OVERSTOCK SELL OFF

8AM - 11AM -- 40% OFF STOREWIDE*

11AM - 3PM -- 30% OFF STOREWIDE*

3PM - 7PM -- 20% OFF STOREWIDE*

RECLINERS \$199

SOFAS \$299

TWIN MATTRESS \$99

ALL ITEMS IN STORE DRASTICALLY REDUCED!

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**100 Airport Road
Arden, NC. 28704
828-681-5011**

WAYNESVILLE

**121 Egles Nest Road
Waynesville, NC. 28786
828-454-9293**

Mon - Sat 10am - 7pm, Sun Noon - 6pm

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Previous Sales Excluded. Limited quantities. First come, first served. Images for illustration purposes only. Excludes mattresses.

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