



Cherokee One Feather website



# CYNDI LAMBERT

## BIRDTOWN

### TRIBAL COUNCIL



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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of  
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24-30  
2023

# Leading into the future

## Girty selected as new Cherokee Central Schools Superintendent

By **SCOTT MCKIE B.P.**  
One Feather Asst. Editor

**C**HEROKEE, N.C. – Consuela ‘Consie’ Girty, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), has been selected to serve as the new superintendent of Cherokee Central Schools – a post she will assume on June 1.

“My first reaction was just excited to have the opportunity and honor,” she said. “I told the Board that if you had asked me 10 years ago if this was my plan - no, it

wasn’t. But, the past five years as a director I’ve learned so much in that role and with the administrative team. Being in school at the same time, it kind of went hand-in-hand so that knowledge was carrying over. That was nice.”

Girty, a CCS employee since 2003, has been the Hope Center director for the past five years. “I feel like we have so many talented students in our school system. Just being able to recognize that and use those talents, whatever they may be - some of it is athletic, some is artistic, some is academic - we have such a realm. And, just being able to see the whole student in each environment is huge for me. And, being able to provide an equitable shot at learning for all of our students no matter what field they come in on, that’s the biggest thing for me, so that all of our students are engaged in learning and



Consuela ‘Consie’ Girty, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), shown outside the Hope Center at Cherokee Central Schools on the morning of Friday, May 19, has been selected to serve as the new superintendent of Cherokee Central Schools – a post she will assume on June 1. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

see **SUPERINTENDENT** next page

# Cyndi Lambert

## Birdtown Tribal Council



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**P.O. Box 501, Cherokee, N.C., 28719**  
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The Editorial Board of the Cherokee One Feather consists of: Robert Jumper, chairperson; Dawn Arneach, vice chairperson; Scott M. Brings Plenty; Jonah Lossiah; Sally Davis; Chris Siewers; and Breanna Lucas.

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 The Cherokee One Feather is available as a forum for opinion or comment concerning issues of interest to the community and readership. Letters, including any submitted photos, should be exclusive to and will become the property of the One Feather. Letters must be signed and include contact information (name, address, email, or phone number). Letters should not exceed 250 words and may be rejected if those exceed the word limit. Submissions of more than 250 words may be considered for commentaries at the discretion of the Editor. The name and township of the writer will be printed. Letters must conform to the ethics policy of the Cherokee One Feather and the paper reserves the right to refuse publication of any material. The Editorial Board is the final arbiter on all decisions involving content. The deadline for all submissions is Friday at 12 p.m.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by the editor and commentators are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Cherokee one Feather and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

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*Cherokee's award-winning newspaper since 1965.*  
**Winner of 13 NCPA awards in 2021 including**  
**2nd Place - Community Coverage**

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**SUPERINTENDENT:** Girty selected to lead CCS, *from front page*

all of our students are using their maximum potential is the big thing.”

Girty said she’s looking forward to continuing the work she’s been doing for the past two decades. “I’ve been working with the admin team for about five years now and we are on the right track. We are doing things and implementing things on a regular basis that I was able to even see, like I said, while I was in my school link at Western talking with other potential administrators and other people in fields all around the area that we were ahead of the game. We are actually moving in great strides towards those things. So, just maintaining that, keeping that consistency, and continuing that drive toward what we’re working for. We’ve got a lot of things going into place now.”

“We are doing the right thing, and I think we need to continue on the right track.”

Girty feels being a member of the EBCI helps her make connections to the students and families of CCS. “Native Americans as a whole are underrepresented in the education field, everywhere. We’re underrepresented here

too, even in our own district. Sometimes that’s hard because you cannot make that connection with our community. Our community is very guarded, especially when it comes to education, from things from the past and things of that nature. So, you have to connect with families and students before you can make a difference in their lives. So, to me, that’s the big piece of it is being able to make an impact because that family trusts me. Building that trust as being an EBCI community member is huge.”

And, the community support is al-

ready being felt. “The amount of support I’ve received in the last two days, through messages and texts and things, is humbling. I think that’s the biggest piece of it, that I am from this community and I am an enrolled member. I believe in all children.”

“I really, whole-heartedly believe in our EBCI children, and I think that’s the trust that I can gain with the community.”

Jennifer Thompson, CCS Board of Education chair, said in a statement, “On behalf of Cherokee Central School Board, we are excited to have Consie Girty, a community member who has dedicated her career to serving the Cherokee community, and especially Cherokee students, as our new superintendent. We are excited to embark on this new journey with her as she strives to take Cherokee Central Schools to the next level.”

Information from CCS states, “Ms. Girty completed her undergraduate

degree at N.C. State University (NCSU) and earned her Birth-Kinderergarten licensure from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW). She completed her master’s degree in comprehensive education/birth-kinder-

garten through Western Carolina University (WCU). Most recently, she has attained a post-master’s certificate in public school leadership from WCU. Ms. Girty plans to continue her education in June 2024 as she begins working on her doctorate in educational leadership at Western Carolina University.”

Dr. Michael Murray retired as CCS superintendent at the end of 2022. Dr. Beverly Payne has served as interim superintendent since that time period, and she will resume her regular duties as assistant superintendent on June 1.

**“I really, whole-heartedly believe in our EBCI children...”**

*- Consie Girty,  
new CCS superintendent*



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**4:45-5:00**

**p.m.**

**Prayer Run/Ride  
arrival**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Presentations &  
Guest  
Recognition**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner**

**Entertainment:**

Featuring a  
stickball  
demonstration  
by the Kolanvyi  
Ananetsovsgi,  
Matt Tooni, and  
Tsalagi  
Dininogisgi

*Don't forget your  
sunscreen,  
additional seating,  
and personal shade  
for the stickball  
demonstration.*



# ANNUAL KITUWAH CELEBRATION

**Friday, June 9th**

**Join us as we celebrate the  
return of the Mother Town!**

For up-to-date event details, please  
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Kituwah Preservation & Education  
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Cherokee Indians**



**Kituwah Preservation & Education Program**



**SOLD OUT**

Annual Cherokee Indian Hospital  
Foundation Gala Presents A

# STAR

*Filled Summer Night*  
✦ July 15 2023 ✦

*Black-Tie Event*

✦ Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Resort ✦  
The Cherokee Convention Center Ballroom  
Registration & pre-function  
activities begins at 5:30 p.m.

✦ Featuring Special Guest ✦  
Best Selling Author  
Dr. Stephen Trzeciak  
Chief of Medicine at Cooper University Healthcare

*Photo Booth / Dinner / Cash Bar*

✦ Silent Auction ✦  
featuring premium items

✦ Artist's Market ✦  
hosted by Authentically Cherokee

✦ Wine Pull ✦  
featuring local wineries

✦ Live Music ✦  
from Crocodile Smile



**Ariyonna  
Hill-Maney**  
Valedictorian



**Alexis  
Smith**  
Salutatorian



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Class of 2023**

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## **Workplace Development and Apprenticeships**

Empowering the membership and supporting the workforce is essential to the growth and success of any tribe. As a candidate for Principal Chief, I believe that promoting workforce development and apprenticeships should be a top priority. Through a series of initiatives, we can ensure that every tribal member has access to the training and opportunities they need to succeed.

To achieve this goal, I propose several initiatives. First, we need to relax the requirements for vocational positions, and by doing this, we can provide more tribal members with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience.

We need to create a vocational pipeline by enhancing the capabilities and resources of our local school systems. This will ensure that every tribal member has access to the training they need to succeed. Additionally, we can align multiple career days for students as well as internships within the tribe to promote work opportunities with a focus on work ethic and commitment.

Furthermore, we can expand our facilities management, housing, water and sewer, and tribal construction departments to train tribal members in key areas such as carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, electric, concrete, flooring, roofing. This could include a certificate program that could be used in the tribal HR process. Apprenticeships will play a crucial role in this effort.

We can also promote entrepreneurship through training and guidance, and establish an advocate process through higher education programming to align college graduates with work opportunities within the tribe, tribal entities, and 3rd party vendors. We can also establish an RFP response criteria for 3rd party vendors to respond to EBCI about their plan to work with TERO vendors and individual tribal members with work opportunities.

Finally, we need to evaluate minimum standards for entry-level positions to focus on training, expand the Mother Town Program work slots, and enhance the connection with the jail, Konawotihi, and Analenisgi services. By providing opportunities for all tribal members to be productive and support their families, we can empower our membership and support our workforce.

**As Principal Chief, I am committed to making workforce development and apprenticeships a priority. I humbly ask for your vote on June 1st.**

Paid Political Ad



# Candidate Issue Responses

The Cherokee One Feather invited all candidates in the 2023 EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) Election to weigh in on various topics. Each candidate was given a 250-word limit per topic. Below are the responses we received by our deadline. Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot per the EBCI Board of Elections.

## Principal Chief candidates

### Economic Development

#### Michell Hicks

The Cherokee community places a high priority on economic development and should foster an environment that supports entrepreneurship and growth. We have identified key initiatives that drive economic development in our community. We will strive to create an environment that is conducive to entrepreneurship. This includes streamlining the leasing process, providing access to resources and training, and creating an ecosystem that encourages innovation and risk-taking. We recognize that Cherokee has a lot to offer beyond gaming, and we are committed to showcasing the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of our community. To do this, we will implement a robust marketing and special events strategy that drives non-gaming visitation. We are committed to ensuring that local business owners have a voice in economic development decision-making. We believe that the best way to support local businesses is to listen to their needs and perspectives and ensure that they have a seat at the table. We will conduct a review of tribal code to ensure business-friendly ordinances are sponsored and passed. We believe that regulations and policies can have a major impact on business success, and we want to make sure that our codes reflect the needs and priorities of our community. We will seek partnerships that support the goal of driving non-gaming visitation to Cherokee. We believe that outside capital can be a powerful force for economic development, and we want to create incentives to encourage investment in our community. These initiatives represent a comprehensive strategy for economic development in Cherokee.

#### Gene Crowe Jr.

No response received

#### Robert Saunooke

Our local economy has not kept up with the surrounding communities and relies almost exclusively on the Casino while ignoring what was once a booming tourist town. No chief since Joyce Dugan has brought or created any new economic development or opportunities to the boundary. Instead we have invested elsewhere providing jobs, investment dollars and economic growth in surrounding states while we ignore what once made Cherokee the most visited town in the South. We need to change our way of thinking. Inviting name-brand businesses, taking advantage of tax incentives and grants, partnering with Tribal members for start up business, and investing in Cherokee is long overdue. Since 1997 the Tribe has received almost \$8 Billion in revenue from the Casino. Where did all that funding go? Clearly not in developing our local entertainment and economy. Over the past 35 years I have helped other Tribes improve their local economy through strategic partnerships, investment of Non-Tribal dollars, and capitalizing on the unique aspects of the Tribal community. We were once the most visited place in the south and we can be again but we must invest in Cherokee. We must first look to ourselves, our town, or community and our people and invest and believe in them before using precious resources elsewhere.

#### Richard G. Sneed

My administration implemented a strategic diversification plan, protecting our assets while growing services well into the future. Economic Development is multifaceted and starts with each household. Therefore, we increased the minimum wage for EBCI employees to \$15/hr and will continue to provide career paths and wages that foster a robust workforce. We brought forth legislation that has exempted our citizens from taxes through GenWell and are currently working to extend State Income Tax exemptions to all EBCI citizens across North

Carolina, keeping EBCI dollars at home.

By prioritizing economic diversification, we expanded the Tribe's reach into the commercial gaming marketplace and included a mobile and I-gaming strategy and gaming technology investment fund. We created the Sovereign Wealth Fund to give the EBCI the flexibility to make private equity investments and have realized a 20% return on investment. We also developed a non-gaming revenue diversifier that focuses on real estate, hospitality and entertainment, and federal government contracting and acquired approval for the manufacturing of medicinal cannabis sales. Finally, our economy is not fully reliant on gaming revenue.

Amidst all of this, we still adopted the most conservative budget in a decade without cutting services. When necessary, we called for, and will continue to call for, more and checks and balances on spending.

My administration will provide necessary infrastructure, technology, education, and training that supports business development growth and increases capacity of a workforce-ready population. In short, we will build a healthy economy by building a healthy community.

#### Lori Taylor

Economic Development is the creation of wealth from which the community benefits are actual realized. I feel the over-all development of the Qualla Boundary needs another set of eyes for this generation. We had career politicians for decades that we in trusted the career politicians to develop and maintain our tribe. I feel that 20 years of the same old eyes had their chance at whatever goal that was intended. It is time we adapt and change because of the time and have new ideas that fit this era. Jobs and employees are crucial to the development of our area. If we stay in the same way of thinking we become stagnate and moral decreases which makes employees unhappy and not want to stay here. I feel like with the new



technology we can and should be competing in the digital world. More businesses and more employees learning and competing. We must put resources into current businesses while development new ones. This will in turn bring more taxes to the area. We need to re-evaluate the current jobs within the tribe and assess multiple people doing the same job within a program. And create what is needed. Considering we are broken into individual communities we need to look at each and how do we develop each community from the far end of Big Cove all the way to Cherokee County. Bring each community its own economic development which helps each individual community.

### **Gary Ledford**

It absolutely amazes me...and angers me...that billions of dollars have passed through the past administrations...AND LOOK AT OUR TOWN!!! It is an absolute ghost town. Shops closing, crumbling roads, poor infrastructure...you deserve so much more. And that, my friends, is where I come in. As your Chief, we will take a new direction...one where the people come first, and they have a voice in where and how their money is spent. I have heard you loud and clear, and this is my vow to you..I will NEVER engage in a capital project until I have taken it to EVERY township and gained your approval. Your money will not be spent in ridiculous ventures in other states...or even COUNTRIES. Instead...we will develop a strong strategic growth plan for our home, grow our town so that families have entertainment and something...anything...to do, we will upgrade and diversify our existing attractions to entice new visitors, and we will create exciting and engaging entry-level jobs so that our young people can get on the path of fiscal and community responsibility. We'll get back in the game at the national and regional levels, and we'll not only compete...we'll win. It is beyond time that Cherokee came first.

### **Role of Business Committee**

#### **Michell Hicks**

The Business Committee plays a vital role in promoting economic growth and development within the community. To achieve this, the committee focuses on the following key

areas: A critical piece is working along side the Executive, Tribal Council, Cherokee communities and the business community to develop future strategies for Cherokee. This process will achieve this by providing education and training thru a workforce program, prioritizing the needs of the community, financial support, and mentorship opportunities for entrepreneurs. By doing so, they encourage innovation and creativity, which are vital for the growth of the business community. The committee ensures that all leases and purchases reflect fair rates and legal protection for both the lessor and lessee. This not only provides a fair and transparent business environment but also helps build trust between the businesses and Tribal leadership. The committee ensures that business services reflect the needs of business operators. This involves providing access to the latest technologies, resources, and support services, such as marketing, financial planning, and legal advice. Finally, the committee supports robust Marketing and Special Events Strategies to drive nongaming visitation. This helps promote the area's unique culture and attract visitors to the region, which in turn boosts the local economy. The Business Committee's role in promoting economic growth and development in the community. By creating an environment conducive to entrepreneurship, ensuring fair and transparent business practices, providing access to business services, and supporting marketing and special events, the committee helps build a strong and vibrant business community.

#### **Gene Crowe Jr.**

No response received

#### **Robert Saunooke**

There was a time in our history that the business committee served the purpose of protecting and assisting Tribal members in the negotiation and leasing of their lands. Lack of attorneys and funding to help our members required governmental oversight. That time has changed and federal law has provided a way for Tribes to create their own leasing, sale, and land transfer process through the Hearth Act which would permit individual members to enter into agreements independent of elected officials involvement. The Business Commit-

tee should not be involved in the independent negotiation process of leasing and sale of lands belonging to Tribal members. Historically this process has failed and members of the method for review and valuing leases was not properly handled. Permitting members to determine for themselves the lease or sale of their lands is at the heart of Tribal self-determination. Governmental involvement in this process is an unnecessary hold over from the paternalism of the federal government over our own independence. I would suggest approval of a Hearth Act ordinance and relegate the Business Committee solely to the approval of leases for Tribally owned property and businesses and approval of Deeds of Trust for which the Tribe has involvement. We are perfectly capable of handling our own affairs.

### **Richard G. Sneed**

The EBCI Business Committee is composed of the Principal Chief, Vice Chief, and four Tribal Council representatives. Per Tribal law it is charged with approving EBCI government contracts valued at \$50,000 and over, leases that are negotiated on the Qualla Boundary, land use permits, and mortgages. The role of Business Committee is established in the Cherokee Code with defined guidelines, but with discretion when it comes to commercial leases for land and/or buildings owned by the EBCI tribal government.

When considering if a community is business-friendly, you often consider tax incentives, stability in government, and an ease in navigating the permitting and building processes. The EBCI must maintain a Business Committee that operates not only to benefit tribal citizens that are interested in starting or building their business but must balance that with the long-term business needs of the EBCI. Many businesses operated on the Qualla Boundary are owned by non-tribal citizens. These business owners lease the land and/or buildings from tribal citizens. We must maintain policies and procedures that ensure these business owners continue to invest in the Qualla Boundary. I have personally worked to prioritize actions and policies that promote the stability of the EBCI business community.

The role of Business Committee should never be politicized.



## Lori Taylor

The ultimate role of the Business Committee is to vet business opportunities and make sure that possible ventures are acceptable and worthy of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians investing monies and man power. Business Committee can discuss all aspects before hitting the floor for a vote. And be able and have knowledge of possible venture so they can relay to the people and other cohorts. We should not be bringing ventures into council-on-council day and expecting it to passed on the floor and nobody know what we are voting on and the monies involved. Every voting representative should be up to par and have all the information to make a sound decision. No more good old boy favoritism being played with tribal dollars. A set of policy and procedures to maintain consistency and fairness. I also feel in this process politics should be as unbiased as they possibly can. And voting members should recuse themselves if a family member or an associated friend brings forth something. If it is a good investment or idea the remaining members should be able to make a sound decision that would be fair and consistent. Policy and Procedure written and not waived. Lastly, to insure that all businesses are treated fairly and equal. No more just you not them mentality. Insure that all regulations, procedures are followed. Asses any sanctions once developed no matter who or what it is. If criminal activity is involved this committee should be investigated and held accountable.

## Gary Ledford

Without reading their mission statement, reviewing their past accomplishments, examining their strategic plan, or observing their day-to-day operations, I can't tell you specifically what they do or what their role in government is. I would hope that, as their name implies, they are engaged heavily in all aspects of business, here on the Boundary...vision, oversight, regulation, and perhaps even recruitment. If elected to office, I would immediately engage with them, determine their role in government, and together accomplish a plan of attack to start growing our town.

## Appearance of Qualla Boundary

### Michell Hicks

The aesthetic of Cherokee is a critical matter that holds significant importance for the EBCI members. Our campaign is focused on crucial efforts that will enhance the community's appearance and promote our cultural heritage. One of our top priorities is expanding the Cultural Corridor to incorporate the old elementary site. This Corridor is an invaluable asset for our community and must continue to thrive. We understand the significance of art and culture in shaping our identity, and we aim to provide platforms for artists to showcase their work and interact with the community. We are dedicated to supporting mixed-use developments that offer commercial and residential spaces to EBCI members, recognizing the importance of a dynamic community that supports successful commerce and affordable housing. We aim to ensure that Tribal Code aligns with the community's needs and values and is maintained by landowners, as it is a vital tool in ensuring a safe, healthy, and thriving community. Improving our community's walkability by designing pedestrianfriendly traffic is another area of focus. Walkable communities are safer, healthier, and more active, and we are committed to creating a community that caters to pedestrians' needs. These initiatives form a comprehensive approach to enhancing the appearance of Qualla Boundary and promoting EBCI culture. By working together, we can create a community that is safe, healthy, and vibrant, reflecting our tribe's values and priorities.

### Gene Crowe Jr.

No response received

### Robert Saunooke

At the heart of Indian Country is our relationship to our land and our community. Unfortunately, when we drive around our boundary today, we often see burned out buildings, junked and abandoned cars, tenement housing and a less than welcoming environment. Our Casino and economic desires are tied to our land and the ability to create an atmosphere that invites business, tourists and others here. Recently the Tribe decided to invest \$75

Million to create and improve business development in Sevierville, TN. While that might be great for Sevierville it did nothing to improve our lands. That same money could have been spent on our infrastructure, roads, and upgrading our streetlights and walking paths. Providing funds for local businesses as part of an overall unified development plan would help bring new businesses and tourists to Cherokee. Years ago people came to Cherokee to experience the unique aspects of our boundary. Chairlifts, unique stores, food vendors, horse trails and amusement parks welcomed the world to our home. Again, investing in what our boundary has to offer the world will create jobs, invite visitors and increase our Tribal levy. We were once the destination of the South and we can be again but we need to remember what makes Cherokee great and invest in our lands and our people.

### Richard G. Sneed

For decades, our community has expressed concerns regarding the aesthetics of the Qualla Boundary—especially Downtown Cherokee. Currently, we have several initiatives underway to provide a comprehensive vision. The Fairgrounds remodel will include open spaces, 24/7 access, no fencing, state-of-art facilities for vendors, exhibits, and stage productions, while incorporating aspects of Cherokee culture.

The EBCI has also invested in the Downtown horseshoe area by renovating buildings owned by the tribe, installing a pedestrian bridge, and maintaining the fountain features. Future plans include renovations to the fountains and water features, mural projects, and public art installations to draw visitors for the benefit of business owners. We also have planned for more extensive bike and walking paths to ease congestion and enhance visitor experience.

Furthermore, the EBCI is building our event calendar to include more art and craft markets, food truck events, and musical acts in the downtown area. We must focus not only on drawing tourists but also develop a comprehensive plan to encourage our tribal citizens to spend more money in our town to increase tribal levy, promote locally-owned businesses, and keep the dollars that are generated here in



this community rather than going out into the region.

### **Lori Taylor**

Over the years shops have come and gone. And steadily the tourists disappear. Once a booming town and now almost looking like a ghost town. Current business struggling to make it with the shortage of tourists and their monies. As I stated before we must evolve with the different types of tourists or customer. What people were interested in twenty years ago are not interested in the same old thing now. Example, we all wanted Converse/Chucks and thought we was the coolest in them. But now we want the new Labron's or Kyries. Totally, different brands and type of shoe but could be used to do the same thing. Yes, there has been revitalization to certain areas of our tribe but it was that enough? We must find our niche and make it more interesting than surrounding tourist areas. And even more now due to other competing casinos. We have a name brand casino but our business are hurting cause the casino markets for its self and not outside it borders. We have to make the tourist know we are more than a casino and one grocery store with 20 craft shops with the exact same thing in anyone of them. Whether, its rebuilding, fixing the holes in the pavement or adding a extra coat of paint it must be done. Having a more welcoming and friendly environment that people will pass on to their families for many years to come.

### **Gary Ledford**

To this day, at 60 years of age...I still find myself in absolute awe of the blessings that The Father has bestowed upon us. We're mere minutes from one of the most amazing wonders of the modern world...the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The beautiful Oconaluftee runs through our home, reminding us constantly, that cleansing medicine is just a few steps away. I don't know...maybe, it's me...but I tend to see past what others might see. Do we have some problems? Well, of course we do...but, it's nothing we can't fix with an administration that cares about the preservation of that beauty I spoke of. As Principal Chief, we will examine the need for an Environmental Protection Unit...an entity that identifies our

environmental issues, develops strong courses of action, and engages those problems with great urgency. Now...if we're talking strictly about lack of businesses, things to do for our people, unfinished projects, etc...as I've said before, we will re-focus...put Cherokee and its people first... and we'll get to work and accomplish these things.

### **Role of Cherokee language**

#### **Michell Hicks**

As a community, we must recognize and value the importance of language preservation. That is why we are proposing to enhance by creating a Language and Preservation Division that will be led by Cherokee speakers. Our goal is to ensure that the Cherokee language is preserved for future generations. To achieve this, we will emphasize audio preservation, which has proven to be an effective method of maintaining language heritage. We want to ensure that our audio preservation techniques are up-to-date, efficient, and accessible to all members of the community. We believe that fair pay for our speakers is essential. They are the key to our language preservation efforts, and we must compensate them accordingly. This will not only ensure their financial stability but also show them that we value and respect their contributions. To promote our language and preservation programs, we will establish community events that involve and engage the community. These events will showcase the importance of language preservation, provide opportunities for members to learn and practice the Cherokee language, and create a sense of community around our shared language heritage. In conclusion, the establishment of a Language and Preservation Division led by Cherokee speakers will ensure that our language is preserved for generations to come. We must prioritize the value of our heritage and make a concerted effort to promote it within our community. By working together, we can ensure that our language and culture remain an integral part of who we are as Cherokee people.

#### **Gene Crowe Jr.**

No response received

### **Robert Saunooke**

Preservation of our culture and promoting its growth and protection is a priority for healing our community. Many of the issues we are facing are directly related to our failure to live and practice our culture. Remembering our matriarchal foundation means we do not abuse our woman and children. Understanding our language helps us recall our relationship with one another. Preserving our language keeps us connected not only to our past but assures us that we will continue to exist in our future. I have proposed a larger museum or cultural center where the employees include our language speakers and crafts people. Those who are willing would be full time employees whose job would be to practice their craft, speak our language, and teach others to do the same. We would build from what is already present in the Kituwah Academy and Adult language speakers programs and provide a place for children and adults to go and learn how to speak as well as create the unique basketry, pottery, beadwork, dress and shirt making and wood carving that has been historically Cherokee. Alcoholism, drug use, and other problems cannot exist within a Tribe that truly practices and lives its culture. Returning to the priority of who we were before we were forced to be Non-Indian should be one of our primary focuses.

### **Richard G. Sneed**

The perpetuation of the Cherokee language is not a topic we should discuss separately from other initiatives. For our language to persist, it must be embedded in every aspect of our daily lives. Under my administration, we have established full-time adult language learner positions both in Cherokee and in Snowbird, developed employee language classes, made language learning books available to every interested tribal citizen, and began construction on a new Cherokee Language Speakers' Bureau, but these acts alone will not secure our language's future.

My administration has focused on generating opportunities for individuals to learn, with the next steps being to support more classes in the communities. Furthermore, we have plans to increase the number of language positions. These positions are currently being considered by the Human Resources Division and will give

our adult language learners an opportunity to give back to the EBCI and further proliferate the use of the language. We have seen great success with the adult language learner programs and look forward to expanding the size and scope of those programs as we learn best practices and improve our outcomes.

Not only do we need to increase the number of language learners in our community, but we must focus on archiving the existing first language learners. We need to preserve their stories, histories, jokes, songs, and cadence of speech to benefit future generations. We have an existing language archival program and are actively researching how to build upon that program to preserve these precious stories.

### **Lori Taylor**

The role of our language is what makes us different than other people on this planet. It makes us Cherokee. Our first spoken words. It is a criteria for federal recognition for the United States government. As blood lines get diluted and blood quantum diminishes, we are forced to figure who we are and fight for who we are and was. Our language is crucial to us as Cherokee People. Our first language our first words to communicate with one another. To be able label everything such as our foods, natural resources, our ceremonies and medicine. And most important to name our people from birth. To know the clans and systematic component of that. Our syllabary made of characters only our people could decipher. Our language shows us a past that was highly intelligent humans. And proof that we were not the merciless savages or unintelligent creatures that we have been mislabeled throughout history. Our language is power and our children and their children should forever know. We as adults must learn so that we can be the teachers as our ancestors were. We must lead the way. Our future depends on it! We leave this one thing to our grandbabies and their grandbabies. Our story was never to become so colonized that we forget who we are and where we come from. Our stories depend on our tribe and its people to come together and fight for what is ours.

### **Gary Ledford**

It goes without saying, that the value of our

language is immeasurable. It is absolutely vital that it be preserved for all time. If I am ever fortunate enough to stand as your Chief, I will take all steps necessary to see that happen. I want you to understand something though, and I want you to think about this...this is not just a “Hey, Chief...what are you going to do about this?” issue. This is a Cherokee Tribal issue...and, it involves input and action from us all. KEEP IN MIND...day-to-day business is conducted...in English. Business in Washington, Raleigh, the doctor’s office, the supermarket is conducted...in English. So...short of mandating that all business on the Boundary be conducted in the Cherokee language, our options are limited. Here’s a thought...in the military, we have foreign language translators who specialize in Chinese, German, Farsi, etc. They aren’t ordered to learn these languages...they learn them because they are given additional pay to maintain their proficiency. In this day and age of staggering inflation and skyrocketing prices, money is an incredibly strong motivator. As Principal Chief, would I work with Council to find funding to invest in our people and our language? You better believe it.

### **Development of Cultural Tourism**

#### **Michell Hicks**

We are committed to the development of cultural tourism in Cherokee. Cultural tourism is an essential component of economic development, and it has the potential to benefit our entire community. The key initiatives that we believe will help drive visitation to Cherokee and promote our unique cultural heritage are: We must support a Marketing and Special Events strategy that targets the leisure traveler. The leisure traveler is an important demographic for cultural tourism, as they are looking for an in-depth cultural experience and are willing to pay for it. By targeting this demographic with a comprehensive marketing and special events strategy, we can create new opportunities for cultural tourism in Cherokee. We will explore opportunities to upgrade existing cultural attractions and promote new cultural attractions. Our cultural heritage is one of our community’s greatest assets, and we want to ensure that it is preserved and celebrated for generations to come. By investing

in new and upgraded cultural attractions, we can create new opportunities for visitors to connect with our community. We will partner with Kituwah, LLC to ensure a comprehensive strategy for driving visitation to Cherokee. We will partner with local business owners to educate them on current leisure and recreational traveler trends, and offer incentives to re-brand or re-tool existing businesses to fit those trends. Together, these initiatives represent a comprehensive strategy for the development of cultural tourism. By working together, we can create a community that preserves our cultural heritage, while promoting economic opportunity for all.

### **Gene Crowe Jr.**

No response received

### **Robert Saunooke**

Improving and updating the Drama and Indian Village is only one of the ways to increase participation and the financial viability of culturally related tourism activities. Upgrading the facilities, whether at its current location or elsewhere, would be a keystone to an overall plan to promote who we are to the world and invite the world to come visit, experience and learn here. We are surrounded by some of the best natural resources in the southern U.S. Utilizing our surroundings through horse trails, educational tours that highlight our history and people, hiking trails and eco-tourism would capitalize on what is present here and no place else. I propose building a permanent pow wow cultural center where we could hold larger Native events inviting Tribes from all over the country to come and share in our culture along with theirs. Tribal markets similar to what is present in Santa Fe or Albuquerque to allow our members to promote and market their crafts. Expanding the Kananaski Fashion show and the Tribe investing in strategic partnerships with our artists to help get them placed in larger markets. Continuing to promote and expand the Native American Film Festival as a larger event and venue. Cultural Tourism is tied to investing in our local economy and preserving our culture. We continue to be Stronger Together.

### **Richard G. Sneed**

The development of Cultural Tourism must



stretch beyond our long-standing institutions. While cultural tourism undoubtedly includes supporting the renewal of partner cornerstones such as the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Qualla Arts and Crafts, and Cherokee Historical Association properties, it also means that Cherokee language and environmental stewardship, which are essential to our Cherokee core values, should be integrated in our strategy. Cultural Tourism cannot function contrary to Community Development. Projects such as Fire Mountain expansions not only entice ecotourism clientele to the Boundary, but also provide free entertainment and healthy options for our own citizens. We are now considering our outdoor initiatives as cultural partners. We also shouldn't "sell" our culture. However, we can share it with our neighbors and amongst ourselves by caring for our natural resources and supporting our traditional and contemporary Cherokee artisans.

### **Lori Taylor**

As a kid and remembering going on class field trips to the discovery centers in Charlotte, N.C. or Atlanta, Ga. I can remember how interesting and cool those types of places were. I would love to see a discovery center geared towards us. We could implement other tribes or host other tribes. While fostering new relationships with surrounding tribes. Tourist only know what they have read in books and that does not tell our story correctly. What they know is colonized stories in which that sparks their interests. Telling a legend or story can be entertaining but due to the digital and technology we could bring those things to life. I'd also like to see our peoples art in a actually art show. A gallery of our people's art from past to present. A place for our youth to exhibit their art and be able to present who they are and their work. If we can rename a mountain there are endless possibilities for the future. Develop a place to host the arts, music, traditions, and history. We must re-value and adapt to the changing times. We can't stay stuck in the past but we must be careful and mindful in our actions to grow.

### **Gary Ledford**

I've done a tremendous amount of research

on the priorities of people when they go on vacation. At the top of EVERY list that I've examined...is relaxing. Plain and simple...just relaxing. Following that, we have...hiking, fishing, swimming, engaging in new adventures, and....shopping. It is ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE that we IMMEDIATELY start playing to our strengths. Once...and, I want you younger people reading this to pay close attention...ONCE Cherokee, North Carolina was PACKED WITH PEOPLE from around the world looking to camp, fish, hike, swim, and yep...just relax. They were Eco-tourists looking to get away from everything, and our home was number one on their list. They learned about our history and our culture because they were here among us...and we took the time to teach them. And yes, they spent money...lots of money. But, for some reason that defies logic or explanation...we turned our back on them. We became casino-centric and we lost total sight of the fact that we could do both...host the gambling crowd in our beautiful casino and create an environment where we, once again, would be THE destination for Eco-tourists. My administration would fully realize the value of maximizing our appearance and brand...strengthening our position among vacationers...and returning us to a "Must See" location.

### **Why do you feel you are the best choice for Principal Chief?**

#### **Michell Hicks**

No response received

#### **Gene Crowe Jr.**

No response received

#### **Robert Saunooke**

For the past 35 years I have been working throughout Indian country helping Tribes invest in themselves, protect their people, and grow their economy. Over 30 Tribes have sought me out and put their faith in me to help their members. Over 3000 members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians have asked me to represent them and protect their interests. When problems arise and there is no one else that can help, I am often the person that is asked to step in and defend Tribal members' rights, enforce laws, and protect their interests.

They put their trust and faith in me and I am hoping that you will too. I have spent my entire professional life working for and on behalf of Tribes and their members. In that process I have built relationships in business and finance and connections that few others have as well as participated in some of the most profitable economic opportunities to ever occur in Indian country. We cannot address the issues facing us today by making the same decisions and hoping that something will change. We must change our leadership. We must have accountability. We must protect who we are. We were once much better. We are Stronger Together and can be again. I humbly ask for your support and vote.

### **Richard G. Sneed**

Since I entered office, my team and I have taken a principled approach to leadership. We have done so knowing that this work is for the Principal People Ani-Yu-Wi-ya—the citizens who comprise a strong, innovative, and proud nation. It is only through principled actions that we see collective progress and only in collective progress that we remain the Principal People our ancestors expect us to be.

Principled leadership is values-driven decision making. It is proactive, not reactive. It results in progress and stability. Our focus has been on and will continue to be on economic prosperity for all citizens, valuing a holistic sense of wellbeing and quality of life for our community, and developing in a responsible, sustainable manner that protects our environment and our cultural values. While my leadership alone cannot secure this success, the cohesive team we have built together most certainly does.

We have prospered, often while others struggled, because we took a proactive approach and built a structure that utilizes the talents and skills of our employees, side-by-side with the complex needs of our citizens. By continuing to support our team of experts and see through the plans that promise to yield growth and harmony for our community, I hope to fully serve out my dedication to the Cherokee people in a more complete and indelible manner. It is my hope that I have your support to be Re-Elected Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

## Lori Taylor

I meet all the criteria set forth by our Governing Document and Cherokee Tribal Code. I am a single mother raising three enrolled members of tribe while surviving in the haves and have nots. I have lived her all my life. I have 3 children Tyler, Whitney, and Madison. I obtained my bachelor's degree from Western Carolina and hold an associate degree from Southwestern Community College. I worked for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for 19.6 years and 20 years for Harrah's Cherokee Casino and hotel. I am just like you. A full-blooded Cherokee Indian trying to effect a change for my people to be treated fair and consistent. I have 46 years' experience living on the boundary and experiencing your frustrations with our government and the lack of leadership. I am not a politician! I am enrolled member taking the steps to make a better and brighter future. I have listened to your issues and concerns and would like the opportunity to help levitate these issues and concerns. So that we can be who we always were and that's Cherokee. It is essential in this time of unknown that we vote change. Its past time that our younger generation has the opportunities help move this tribe forward. We will be living up to the expectation when we told them to go to school and bring back what you learn. We have an opportunity to create, change and break free of and old way that is not working!

## Gary Ledford

No response received

## Vice Chief candidates

### Economic Development

#### Alan B. Ensley

We need to refocus our economic development to our trust lands, here on the Qualla Boundary and in Snowbird and Cherokee County. We have invested off-boundary to diversify our revenue streams, in anticipation of competition in the market to our tribal casinos, but it is time to focus on our tribal lands now. Our communities have been very vocal in wanting the Tribe to develop businesses our local people can use and enjoy. In addition, we need

to encourage both tribal members, and outside business owners, to develop businesses as well as make it easier for outside business owners to locate to Cherokee, thereby bringing in outside capital into our local economy.

We can offer business incentives to both and build a strong economy that serves the community and the visitors.

We can offer more courses to our tribal members who want to start a business and we can conduct the market research to advise folks which types of businesses will most likely succeed.

We can work with our current economic development entity, Kituwah, LLC to focus on our trust lands and ensure we are driving visitation from our property at exit 407 in TN.

#### Teresa McCoy

We live in an area ripe for economic development. Our environment, natural beauty, and opportunity for diversification have been our greatest assets. We have always been a manufacturing community and we can be that again. Going out of state away from our community, placing our Tribe in financial turmoil. Up until this crazy spending spree, we had the capital to provide fresh new ideas. I support the completion of the Ceremonial Grounds, a new Bingo Hall, Qualla LLC, and any economic development that can put our members to work at home. Here. I propose we clean up our own house and put our downtown area back on the map, develop a natural Sanctuary for bears, get the current bears out of those pits, and remove the stigma that we stand for animal cruelty. Grant writing can produce funding for us to assist the business folks with repairs and cleanup money, we clean the downtown area, and most importantly we get our own members who craft from home a place to sell. We have the talent, just not government support. We should already have been the Santa Fe mecca of the South! Our artists can help us all. We should look to manufacturing and increase marketing to put us on the diversification map, people to work, incomes increase, and Cherokee will thrive again. Let's reinvent a Business Peoples Committee to meet with me monthly to begin the process to grow together. The Vice Chief's should be a working office.

### Role of Business Committee

#### Alan B. Ensley

Business Committee was originally established to help members of the tribe to lease their land to businesses. It has now grown from individual landholders to overseeing contracts over \$50,000, to approve leasehold mortgages, and to approve loans to contract businesses.

I have always been in favor of televising business committees when it comes to contracts. Any contract under \$50,000 does not come through business committee, as they are only required to be signed by the Chief. I believe that it is important for our tribal members to know where our tribal dollars are spent.

It is important to have the enrolled members best interest at heart, whether it being an entrepreneur or leasing their property.

#### Teresa McCoy

Cherokee code section 117-33 (a, b, and c) establish the Business Committee. The role of the Committee is to handle leases for the tribe. This Code needs to be rewritten as soon as possible to the favoritism and politics we hear about. It should not be used to help certain individuals get deals the rest of the membership should have had an opportunity on. When any available travel property comes open for a small business or project all members of the tribe should have notification and a fair and equal shot at submitting a proposal for the property. Fair and equitable leases across the board should be enforced, and a Tribal Tax Office should be developed. Collecting accurate levy owed would boost our accounts. This important code and the policies/guidelines need to be updated. It has not been updated since 10/13/2014. Again, poor leadership. The Business Committee must stay alert and on top of Business activity on the Boundary. Time to reactivate the local Business community's input and quarterly meetings with business folks. It is time to remove all favoritism and impeach those who deny enrolled members equal opportunities. Accountability is paramount. Communication is a necessity. I was asked to sit in for the Chairman, I did, and what I saw was nowhere near what it used to be. I am disturbed by the political promises I witnessed. Demand accountability. Again gaming dollars dropping.



Per cap too. Elect accountable people.

## Appearance of Qualla Boundary

### Alan B. Ensley

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. We need to ensure our tribal lands are protected and kept clean and inviting for our people and our visitors. We need to continue to sponsor community beautification projects, provide landscaping and gardening products and enforce the laws currently in code to address damaged or burned-out buildings. We want our people to take pride in our town and we can lead that effort by providing them with what they need to keep their places neat and orderly.

### Teresa McCoy

I love our Boundary. It is my safe place. My pride, my home. But to be honest, it has become worn dirty, and trashy in many places, and we need to do better. The quality of our drinking and recreational waters has become seriously dangerous in some areas, and our clean-up and sanitation programs need manpower and equipment ASAP. I will seek the manpower needed to accomplish this, working with the Chief's office. We have homes needing clean-up assistance, roadsides are trashy, tree removal and river banks needing cleanup and cutting. This is fixable. I would lobby for a Grant Writing Department with no less than 15 members seeking any and every grant available. I would assign no less than five of them to seek and secure Natural Resources Enhancement Grants and pay roadside cleanup crews really well to keep us beautiful, and safe. First impressions are real. DC is pouring money into grants for energy, and repairing our country. Roads and environmental projects. What are we waiting for? Leadership perhaps? I have good plans! Let's build an animal sanctuary and teach the relationship between our people and wildlife. Let's teach why the importance of our culture demands that we protect life, all life, importantly, ours. We have the vistas, the clean air, and small streams with clean running water. Time for us to clean it up and show the world we are Cherokee, we love our home, we respect our home, and are willing to protect our home.

## Role of Cherokee language

### Alan B. Ensley

I have always supported our speakers and every effort to revitalize our language. We need to ensure we are adequately funding our programs and our speakers that support and teach the language. We need to incorporate more of the language in our daily operations at the Tribe. Answering the phones in Cherokee and adding both the syllabary and phonetics to all office building signs, etc. Only by using the language everyday will we all be better speakers. I support having signs and kiosks throughout town to educate ourselves and our visitors as well. Our language makes us who we are and as tribal leaders we need to make every effort to provide all resources necessary to preserve our language.

### Teresa McCoy

Cherokee people have one of the earliest, indigenous American Indian functional spoken, and written languages in the United States. Today we are one of the few tribes to have this status. That is phenomenal. It is one of the criteria for Federal Recognition. We are connected to it, and we have taken massive strides to continue and protect it. Council has stepped up and provided resources to continue the teaching of Cherokee members interested in helping all of us to learn it. Our speakers are eager to teach, and continually consult the two other Cherokee tribes to learn and teach even more. To a Cherokee, the sound of the language brings an instant connection to our history and to our personal well-being. We know immediately that we are still connected, still alive and Cherokee. To hear our children speak and sing brings joy, and to watch the speakers step up to teach is miraculous. Let's focus on preservation. I mean preservation. Record, video, and house these projects in our future archives to let our youth in the future hear and learn it too. We must start this yesterday! We are faced with the extinction of our language, and many traditions. We MUST retain them so our future can experience the safety of tribal life. Language, culture, tradition, history, land and blood, and family is who we are. To lose any of these would impact us forever. The role of our

language is the connecting fabric of our tribe.

## Development of Cultural Tourism

### Alan B. Ensley

I think we should expand the cultural corridor and include the old elementary site. We can build mixed use space that will allow our people to have businesses on the first level and provide housing on the upper levels. The EBCI needs to make sure we're providing up-to-date market research to our business owners and potential business owners that emphasizes cultural tourism. The people that want a cultural tourism experience aren't interested in our gaming operation and we need to utilize our economic development LLC, Kituwah, LLC to bring some of those amenities to our cultural tourism efforts. We also need to ensure all our development at the exit 407 property in TN are partnering with our cultural attractions and driving visitation to Cherokee.

### Teresa McCoy

We are sitting on a gold mine for Cultural Tourism. Local tourism should be the forefront of business opportunities here at home. We have members with brilliant ideas who just need the support to accomplish them. We must complete the Cultural District, the Ceremonial Grounds, the Archives, the parking decks, the revitalization of Saunooke's Village and the Downtown area. Let's partner with the Smoky Mountain Railway and stop the train in Mother town for Historical education. A small Indian Village perhaps, like the current one, or develop a "low impact" one like the one at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center. Mother town is a place for healing. Significant History. Imagine walking for miles along the rivers, with historical signs, medicine, and our ability to preserve the beauty. Placing modern signage, clean resting areas, Elk platforms with parking, more fishing tournaments, and an Animal sanctuary for jobs, to teach and protect wildlife. Lift the stigma of Bears in Pits off our Cherokee backs. We could partner with government agencies to expand business opportunities in each community! I have so many plans. I have so many plans to expand this, clean up our town! I want to put pride of our people front and center! So many ideas and not enough space to cover

them! I want to hear what everyone thinks too. I get excited for us to blossom and grow that levy! We can!

**Why do you feel you are the best choice for Vice Chief?**

**Alan B. Ensley**  
No response received

**Teresa McCoy**  
Can we continue financially, and sustain our way of life anymore? The short answer is no. We must tighten up spending, especially in Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia. I will support improving our lives. HERE. We must build our families, Communities, Health Care, Housing, Infrastructure, HERE. We have to focus on our traditions, remove politics, and increase our tax base. We must focus on the housing situation and seek “AFFORDABLE” housing and purchase the land to do it. Stop homelessness. Time to seek food sovereignty, stop hunger. Seek open dialogue with Federal and State Officials and we must be heard. Travel Business Diversification leans to gaming. We should look to other Tribal businesses to provide jobs and revenue, HERE. I have several plans and I will lobby for them. And yes, social services, Family Services and drug and alcohol assistance needs must work for our families. Our children must be raised HERE. Politics should never have a negative impact on families. I work period I read. I write, and I care. Elected or not we each have a responsibility to our children for generations in the future. We must rise up again. With working leaders you get positive results. Or, we can have four more years of increased debt, no emergency housing, healthcare issues, joblessness for our graduates, and deterioration of our culture and environment. I will produce the positive change needed to push us forward. Starting with repairing our school for our children’s safety. Sgi.

**Big Cove Tribal Council candidates**

**Economic Development**

**Carla Pheasant Neadeau**  
No response received

**Richard French**  
No response received

**Perry Shell**  
No response received

**Venita Wolfe**  
Economic development is a very important topic for our community. There are three major segments of our local economy. The gaming and tourism industries, the non-gaming businesses and enterprises, and the tribal governmental operations. As the gaming infrastructure has grown, the non-gaming tourism offerings has not grown as quickly. For economic development to continue, we need to provide good quality of life including things to do within our communities. I would like to revisit the 2018 comprehensive economic develop strategy report to further discuss opportunities that will promote economic growth for our Cherokee communities.

**Role of Business Committee**

**Carla Pheasant Neadeau**  
No response received

**Richard French**  
No response received

**Perry Shell**  
No response received

**Venita Wolfe**  
The role of the business committee is to establish and safeguard the rights, powers, and privileges of the Cherokee people by improving the economic status and promote the overall health of the tribe. I would like to attend and play an active role within the business committee meetings; the discussions and decisions affect every enrolled member.

**Appearance of Qualla Boundary**

**Carla Pheasant Neadeau**  
No response received

**Richard French**  
No response received

**Perry Shell**  
No response received

**Venita Wolfe**  
The Appearance of Qualla Boundary will require every single community member to be held accountable and take an active role in improving our environment. The Qualla Boundary is beautiful and full of natural resources. Our rivers and mountains deserve to be clean and cared for. There are many buildings that have gone into disarray; attention needs to be given to beautify our surroundings. I would like to further research how this can be done. I’m sure this has been discussed, I would like to be a part of this discussion and move forward with action to improve the appearance of our community.

**Role of Cherokee language**

**Carla Pheasant Neadeau**  
No response received

**Richard French**  
No response received

**Perry Shell**  
No response received

**Venita Wolfe**  
The Role of Cherokee Language is very important to me. I’ve struggled with learning the language; I’ve had various instructors with various teaching methods. I’ve spoken with language and culture keepers and understand the urgent need to share the language and keep the language alive. Revitalizing the Cherokee language is a responsibility that cannot be placed upon a few, we need to keep our language, culture, and traditions alive. Working together to address this concern is a priority.

**Development of Cultural Tourism**

**Carla Pheasant Neadeau**  
No response received

**Richard French**  
No response received

**Perry Shell**



No response received

### **Venita Wolfe**

The Development of Cultural Tourism ties into economic development. Exploring the opportunities to further cultural education to visitors to Cherokee and to our native families who may not be familiar with Cherokee culture and traditions. The Cultural District has the potential to be expanded upon. Engaging our community artists, members, and local businesses would be the steppingstone needed to begin the cultural revolution that could be our niche in the Smokies.

### **Why do you feel you are the best choice for Big Cove Tribal Council representative?**

### **Carla Pheasant Neadeau**

No response received

### **Richard French**

No response received

### **Perry Shell**

No response received

### **Venita Wolfe**

Siyo Big Cove and Tow String residents. My name is Venita K. Wolfe, I would like to serve as our tribal council representative. I will be the voice for our communities; promoting community needs and development. As a freshman councilperson, I am excited to learn the complex tribal government structure and participate in the process to improve the lives of every enrolled member.

Since moving back home in 2018, I've taken active roles in the Big Cove community as secretary of Big Cove community club (2011-present) and secretary of Community Club Council (2012). I've worked for the tribe as a health educator with Public Health and Human Services and a training development specialist with tribal human resources. I'm a 2023 Remember the Removal rider focusing on the training involved in the journey to Oklahoma.

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a Master of Science degree in Health Education from the University of New Mexico. I recently completed my

Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma. I value education coupled with kindness, compassion, consideration, empathy, and understanding.

There are many areas of interest that may be discussed. There has been five topics of community concern we have been asked to discuss. I look forward to meeting, speaking, and listening to community members. Please feel free to contact me at 828-554-1199 or email: [venitawolfe@gmail.com](mailto:venitawolfe@gmail.com).

## **Birdtown Tribal Council candidates**

### **Economic Development**

#### **Cyndi Lambert**

No response received

#### **Albert Rose**

No response received

#### **Joi Owle**

No response received

#### **Boyd Owle**

No response received

#### **Jim Owle**

No response received

### **Role of Business Committee**

#### **Cyndi Lambert**

No response received

#### **Albert Rose**

No response received

#### **Joi Owle**

No response received

#### **Boyd Owle**

No response received

#### **Jim Owle**

No response received

### **Appearance of Qualla Boundary**

#### **Cyndi Lambert**

No response received

### **Albert Rose**

No response received

### **Joi Owle**

No response received

### **Boyd Owle**

No response received

### **Jim Owle**

No response received

### **Role of Cherokee language**

#### **Cyndi Lambert**

No response received

#### **Albert Rose**

No response received

#### **Joi Owle**

No response received

#### **Boyd Owle**

No response received

#### **Jim Owle**

No response received

### **Development of Cultural Tourism**

#### **Cyndi Lambert**

No response received

#### **Albert Rose**

No response received

#### **Joi Owle**

No response received

#### **Boyd Owle**

No response received

#### **Jim Owle**

No response received

### **Why do you feel you are the best choice for Birdtown Tribal Council representative?**

#### **Cyndi Lambert**

No response received

**Albert Rose**  
No response received

**Joi Owle**  
No response received

**Boyd Owle**  
No response received

**Jim Owle**  
No response received

**Cherokee Co./Snowbird Tribal Council candidates**

**Economic Development**

**Janell Rattler**  
No response received

**Adam Wachacha**  
No response received

**Bucky Brown**  
No response received

**Role of Business Committee**

**Janell Rattler**  
No response received

**Adam Wachacha**  
No response received

**Bucky Brown**  
No response received

**Appearance of Qualla Boundary**

**Janell Rattler**  
No response received

**Adam Wachacha**  
No response received

**Bucky Brown**  
No response received

**Role of Cherokee language**

**Janell Rattler**

No response received

**Adam Wachacha**  
No response received

**Bucky Brown**  
No response received

**Development of Cultural Tourism**

**Janell Rattler**  
No response received

**Adam Wachacha**  
No response received

**Bucky Brown**  
No response received

**Why do you feel you are the best choice for Cherokee County - Snowbird Tribal Council representative?**

**Janell Rattler**  
No response received

**Adam Wachacha**  
No response received

**Bucky Brown**  
No response received

**Painttown Tribal Council candidates**

**Economic Development**

**Sean “Michael” Stamper**  
The subject of Economic Development has been at the forefront of many conversations in the community since the casino began making huge disbursements to our tribe. The Tribe has grown and invested in higher education for our youth. This has allowed for our community to become more aware of opportunities that are available for our people. It’s important that everyone understands that Economic Development stretches beyond “how much is my Percap/Genwell” distribution. Economic Development is what the quality of life looks like for our community. Economic Development requires socio-economic changes with political

changes, cultural (mindset) changes, and infrastructure changes. I believe we are progressing with Economic Development. I know it is easy to be upset at the lack of new buildings in our town and not seeing our “bang for our buck” when it comes to investments in outside entities, but we fail to realize that we are moving towards having internet access in homes across the boundary. We all want a facelift for downtown, but the current water line replacement shows that we are not structurally prepared for a facelift at this moment. New buildings and more amenities require better infrastructure that would allow for the facelift to be sustainable. I.e., bathrooms, parking, traffic patterns that include foot traffic. We have the resources to take the next step for Economic Development but it requires a prioritized plan of action that works with current landowners and future business owners.

**Andre Brown**  
Our tribe’s economic development efforts have often been managed with a lack of respect needed to ensure sustainability, positive and timely returns, as well as impact beneficial to the tribe’s economy and financial well-being, including that of individual members. Blind entrance into contractual agreements is a fine line the EBCI has continuously walked along throughout recent history. Such actions can be costly in short-term and long-term periods, leaving the tribe, as a whole, to suffer at the hands of the few chosen to represent them.  
With the resources available, the EBCI should always be prepared to examine, dispute, and resolve any issues that may put our tribe in any sort of contractual disadvantage or financial hardship. By having lawyers, analytics teams, entrepreneurs, and temporary venture partners present during our business dealings, the EBCI will be able to recognize and avoid disadvantageous strategies that would otherwise be binding and that may require obligatory and detrimental action on our behalf.  
Well-informed decision making is a goal our tribe should adhere to indefinitely, regardless of whom may be leading or representing us. On that same note, full-transparency amongst the people should be common practice as well. While the people have final say in who represents them, beyond this they are typ-



ically left largely in the dark until matters have been settled. Putting power back in the hands of the people would subsequently aid in ensuring the tribe, in its entirety, is comfortable with the agreements we enter into.

### **Dike Sneed**

No response received

### **Jeff Thompson**

In my 44 years of life, I have witnessed growth like I would have never believed within the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. With all the progress this Tribe has seen, it seems that too often we put the cart in front of the horse. That being said, my first thought of economic development would be to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). It is available to view at [ebci.com](http://ebci.com) and was last updated for 2018-2022. I have made attempts to the Planning Board for information on an updated strategy, and as of this writing have not received a call back. There were twenty-five vital projects listed, eleven of those being priority projects. I would also like to know how many projects are on the shelf that were not listed or were added and that were not updated to the list. It confuses me to read the list as they are weighted in determination of consistency, community impact, readiness to proceed, and management capacity but were also voted on by the CEDS committee for priority. Cultural District Master Plan scored number three on the list of Vital Projects but voted in at number nine on Priority Projects. All of these projects were voted on and passed by Council, and most remain on the shelf. It is my opinion that we get projects off the shelf before we continue to add more. Either by completing these projects or rescinding them.

### **Richard Delano Huskey**

The Division of Commerce plays a crucial role in the economic development of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The division aims to create and attract businesses to the Qualla Boundary to promote job growth, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic development. They offer various services, such as business planning, marketing, and financing, to help enrolled members and entrepreneurs establish and grow their businesses. The Division

of Commerce also manages the Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds and promotes cultural tourism by organizing events and festivals, which bring revenue to the tribe and its businesses. As a member of the Tribal Council, I would work closely with the Division of Commerce to support their efforts in fostering economic growth and sustainability on the Qualla Boundary. I would also advocate for more resources to be allocated to their programs to ensure the continued success of enrolled members and local businesses.

### **Carolyn West**

My vision for the tribe's economic development is to support Qualla Enterprise, LLC and their business endeavors involving the medical cannabis market here on the EBCI. Qualla Enterprise, LLC acknowledges the Cherokee Core Values of maintaining a strong connection with the land and honoring our past. Since time immemorial, the Cherokee people used medicine from the earth. The medical marijuana code and policy bring a long-standing tradition into the modern world. Further, this Tribally owned LLC will provide revenue back to the Tribe once fully operational. Additionally, I would like to see an entrepreneurship program for individuals who do not want to pursue the traditional collegiate route after high school. The entrepreneurship program will assist the individual with completing a business plan to helping the individual establish their business as a corporation, LLC, etc.

### **Role of Business Committee**

#### **Sean "Michael" Stamper**

I have been on the outside of Business Committee like almost everyone else. I have wrote, submitted, and represented contracts to Business Committee from my former job with Public Health and Human Services for monies that are necessary for many programs to give resources to our community that we have come to expect every day. With that said, I believe the role of Business Committee is vital to the success of our community. However I believe the success of Business Committee is dependent on the people who hold those seats. Presenting clear information is key in making the decision as to whether a contract is ap-

proved. A change in process is necessary for all members to be able to make the best decision possible. As it stands now, contracts are presented at Business Committee to members that have little to no knowledge of the vendor, bid process, selection process, scope of work, liability of the vendor and liability of the tribe. While all of this information will be in the packet, the contract is presented in a rushed manner that does not give each member the necessary time to review the information to make the best possible decision for the Tribe. It's important that committee members have the time to review all of this necessary information before making a decision that can have an impact for the whole Tribe. Allowing committee members to view the documentation a week in advance would aid in this shortfall.

### **Andre Brown**

The tribe's business committee's role lays primarily with business regulation on tribal land, with the tribe having the sovereign authority to do so. In our tribal code of ordinances, one may find "Chapter 106 – Business Regulation, Article III. – Cherokee Arts and Crafts Act" that states the following: "Sec. 106-62. - Prohibition of misrepresentation of Cherokee goods.

It is unlawful to offer, display for sale, or sell any good in a manner that falsely suggests it is Cherokee produced, a Cherokee product, or the product of a particular enrolled member, the Tribe, or a Tribal arts and crafts organization."

Subsequently, "Sec. 106-63. - Prohibition of misrepresentation of Native goods" states the same, with an emphasis on Native goods, members of any federally recognized Indian tribe, or Native arts and crafts organizations. Each of these sections are a result of Ordinance No. 658, signed as of 10/02/2019. However, a visit to downtown Cherokee will show that there has been a lack of enforcement in this matter that directly impacts the integrity of our tribe, tribal craftsmen, and our tribe's local economic stability. The entities providing and profiting from these products are blatantly violating this ordinance with their failure to comply. Which begs the question of, "Where is the enforcement?", and is exemplary of the business committee's failure to regulate com-

merce on tribal land. While in agreeance with the business committee's role, enforcement in all matters is necessary. Negligence of any role, by any tribal entity, is worrisome. Especially in terms of business.

### **Dike Sneed**

No response received

### **Jeff Thompson**

The role of the Business Committee is not hard to describe in their role or structure. According to Cherokee Code, Sec. 117-33, the Committee is composed of the Principal Chief, Vice Chief, Tribal Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, and four additional members of Council. The committee approves sales of Tribal land between Tribal members and the committee negotiates and executes leases or permits for Tribal lands. The committee also approves property rental leases to nonmembers. Before approval of this lease the applicant must have a good credit reference, be of good character, and be able to operate the business on a financial basis. This is all that this part of the code states for the Business Committee, but the committee also approves or denies contracts over \$50,000. Overall, I feel that the role of the Business Committee is a good thing. However, there needs to be better guidelines as to how they decide to approve. In stating this I mean they should not base their decision on personal feelings or just because someone else did not get it. For example, I have taken contracts to the committee, and had one member vote against approval because their constituent did not get approved by a different Program. Granted, I had nothing to do with their constituent being denied, so I could not answer for that. Had the whole committee chosen to vote for the same reason, then services would have been disrupted in one Program due to decisions made by another Program.

### **Richard Delano Huskey**

The Business Committee is an essential branch of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' Tribal Council, responsible for regulating and overseeing businesses operating within the Qualla Boundary. The committee enforces laws and regulations related to business operations, licensing, and taxation. They also provide

resources and support to enrolled members who are starting or growing their businesses, such as business planning, counseling, and financing. As a member of the Tribal Council, I would work collaboratively with the Business Committee to ensure that our enrolled members have access to the resources and support they need to succeed in their entrepreneurial pursuits. I would also advocate for policies and initiatives that promote job growth, economic development, and sustainability within our local business community.

### **Carolyn West**

The EBCI established the Business Committee in 1931 as a court of equity to settle all disputes arising among Tribal members over boundary lines, to approve all sales of improvements among Tribal members, or other changes affecting ownership or occupancy of any lands owned by the Tribe. Currently, the Business Committee approves all sales of improvements between Tribal members along with land transfers, approves leasehold estate mortgages by nonmembers, negotiates and executes all leases or permits on behalf of the Tribe to name a few. C.C. 117-33. Further, the Business Committee approves all executive branch contracts over \$50,000. C.C. 117-19. Currently, there are eight Business Committee members: Chief, Vice-Chief, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and four other Tribal Council members from each remaining community. C.C. 117-33(c).

### **Appearance of Qualla Boundary**

#### **Sean "Michael" Stamper**

I share the same popular opinion that the appearance of the Qualla Boundary can and should be improved. I also share the same frustration that we have not done a facelift on old or dilapidated buildings that are well past their lifetime. However, I now have a different perspective on the situation. Downtown Cherokee has a multitude of landowners and lessee's that see your comments and hear your frustrations about their buildings. The Tribe has purchased land for large amounts in the past and this has set an irrational precedent. This has become the norm and the expectation. For reference, recently a ¼ of an acre became available in the

downtown area and the asking price was 3.5 million. The structure is as you'd expect. The business is closed, old, and in need of great repair. So the cost to give a makeover on this ¼ acre piece would extend well beyond 3.5 million. To add to the conversation, old and dilapidated buildings are likely in need of abatement. Average costs of abatement are around 18,000 depending on the air quality of the building. Could the Tribe enact eminent domain and take back the land from all of these landowners and leave them with nothing? Technically Yes. But how would you feel if that was your land, building, and lease? Not only would that be the wrong way to treat those who've invested in our community, but it would scare off future businesses from investing in Cherokee.

### **Andre Brown**

The Qualla Boundary's appearance has been in question for many years, while tribal budget allocation is aimed toward casino renovations and additions, investments or expenditures with long-term returns, and off-reservation ventures. With our reservation being the focal point of our tribe's livelihood, attraction, and historical significance, budget allocation should be focused primarily on the reservation. Many of our main attractions, such as downtown Cherokee's business district, are in need of facelifts throughout their entirety, while mere sections are being favored.

Our tribe has embraced being a tourist town for decades and will continue doing so for the foreseeable future as tourism-supporting development efforts continue. Ignoring the unsightliness found throughout the reservation will only lead to less tourism in the long-run. Tourism competitors, such as Asheville, are able to maintain their city's appearance based on historical significance, structural integrity, and occasional maintenance when needed. Cherokee, seemingly, doesn't share the same abilities or values, leaving many areas untouched far beyond their ruination. Simply looking around the reservation portrays this narrative. If we wish to maximize tourism and its accompanying generated revenue, we must alter the Qualla Boundary's appearance.

"Eventually" is a term commonly used when this topic is in interest. However, action is needed now. While not an overnight pro-



cess, these appearance issues could be resolved within a matter of only a couple years. This process would have the potential to provide a return, via increased tourism, much quicker than many recent investments or expenditures the tribe has taken part in.

### **Dike Sneed**

No response received

### **Jeff Thompson**

The next topic to discuss is the appearance of the Qualla Boundary. Seems like everyone I talk to agrees that downtown Cherokee needs a facelift. I also must agree. But I tend to think about the entire boundary in general. Sec. 47B-4 of the Cherokee Code states, “Any Tribal member who abandons such assigned lands and fails to utilize it during a period of 5 years shall forfeit all right, title, and interest to said lands which shall revert to the Tribe.” This statement seems vague as to what utilization means but, if one were to ride down from Wolftown to Birdtown they would see buildings that once were businesses that have been abandoned. Personally, I do not think that the land itself should be seized. I do feel that these structures should be removed. Members of my community have told me the reason as to why these buildings stay is because the owners were offered a sum for them only to be told that the sum was too high. So, these buildings are still here as a tactic for negotiation. I feel that the middle ground could be met with tact and understanding between the Tribe and owners of these buildings. If we are not willing to listen with open minds, then nothing can be accomplished.

### **Richard Delano Huskey**

The appearance of the Qualla Boundary is a vital aspect of our community, as it represents our culture and identity to visitors and enrolled members alike. As a member of the Tribal Council, I would prioritize initiatives that improve the overall appearance and aesthetic of our community. This includes advocating for responsible development that aligns with our cultural values and traditions, as well as enforcing regulations related to property maintenance, signage, and littering. I would also work with community members and stakeholders

to identify areas for improvement and create actionable plans to enhance our community’s appearance.

### **Carolyn West**

My vision for appearance of Qualla Boundary, is to have more enrolled members as public safety employees: police, fire, EMS, etc. While I don’t have the exact numbers of enrolled verses non-enrolled working in these positions, there are several non-enrolled individuals in these positions that I see out in the community. I would like to see a program started in middle school and high school which would lead students toward a path to public safety. Having public safety employees who de-escalate violent conflicts, build relationships, provide mentorship, and promote community safety through nonviolent means is needed on the Qualla Boundary.

### **Role of Cherokee language**

#### **Sean “Michael” Stamper**

The role of Cherokee language is vital to our identity as Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. I praise the efforts that have been implemented thus far. I also do not fault those efforts that have not yielded the desired results thus far. While these programs have shown a promising start in language preservation, we must do more. I do not believe that there is one “right way” to save and preserve the language and that is why I believe the more ideas the better. We cannot dismiss any new or innovative ideas that would aid in our battle to preserve our culture just because they are not our personal ideas. Uplift and encourage everyone that wants to learn and support new and innovative ideas that can get us to our end goal of adding names to the fluent speaker lists. Our culture was systematically targeted, and our language was brought to the brink of extinction because of it. It will take our whole Tribe, working together, to save our language.

#### **Andre Brown**

The role of Cherokee language has, and will continue to, increase in importance for generations to come. While our language has previously experienced a decline and dormancy, we are now seeing an active incline where

opportunity will flourish. Not only will it allow all Cherokee members to preserve our history, culture, and traditions, but now we have the ability to create educational and career paths that will provide support to our tribe’s cultural, economic, and societal advancements.

Such advancements will include:

1. Progressed education programs beyond the current ability of the New Kituwah Academy and partnered colleges.
2. Increased cultural tourism as we have more speakers and ability to put our culture on display.
3. As well as, in the future, a new way of living and thinking that is closer to how our ancestor’s way of life once was, while also being full of new-age opportunities based on the same ideology.

Nurturing our language and harnessing the opportunities it presents is a process we, as a tribe, must embrace and prioritize to better prepare the next generation(s) to exceed our current and future efforts holistically. Only in this manner, will we see the aforementioned flourishing amongst our culture, economy, and society. While councilmen can help make huge impacts, true impact will require the tribe, as a whole, uniting to create a better future for our language. Councilmen must first realize and advocate for such change, while subsequently helping progress our language efforts beyond their current state.

### **Dike Sneed**

No response received

### **Jeff Thompson**

The role of the Cherokee language is a vital role to us. Our language is our identity. If we were to lose our language, we lose our identity as a people. With less than two hundred fluent speakers left, it is imperative to save the Cherokee language at any cost. Our language should not be used as a commodity for gain. Language is a lineal right of our people. Our teachers of the language are a resource that we should honor. They are not as simple as a Google search for phrases. The language is too complex and precious to be abused as such. I am very grateful that our Tribe has initiated plans to recover, revive, and try to save our language. These include Kituwah school, the

full-time adult language learner Program, and the beginning stages of the Cherokee Language Speakers Bureau. I feel that more is to come and if elected, I promise to vote for any legislation that increases the odds for our Cherokee language to remain Cherokee and never be lost.

### **Richard Delano Huskey**

The Cherokee language is an integral part of our culture and heritage, and its preservation and promotion are essential to the continuity of our traditions. As a member of the Tribal Council, I would prioritize initiatives that promote the Cherokee language and increase its usage within our community. This includes supporting language immersion programs, language classes for enrolled members of all ages, and the creation of more Cherokee language resources such as signage, publications, and digital media. I would also work to ensure that the Cherokee language is included in all aspects of tribal governance and decision-making processes.

### **Carolyn West**

Since time immemorial, the Cherokee people spoke our language. The language is the heart of who we are as Cherokee people.

### **Development of Cultural Tourism**

#### **Sean “Michael” Stamper**

Cultural Tourism is an exciting development that hits home with many because the local attractions that many of us grew up on, are still around. When I think of Cultural Tourism I immediately think of Unto These Hills and the Cherokee Museum. Our annual Fall festival has always been a huge draw that allows our community to come together and allow tourists to experience our local food traditions. This is an effort that needs to be included with the direction of how the town is expected to look from the feedback of the community. The sustainability of Cultural Tourism will go hand and hand with the continued efforts to give Cherokee a new and updated look. These topics cannot be separate and must be included in the same conversation so that there is continuity amongst our attractions. Our culture should be incorporated in our Tourism strategic planning but also protected. This is also a topic where

there are no wrong answers. The more ideas, the better.

#### **Andre Brown**

Cultural tourism is one of the tribe’s greatest assets used in generating numbers, both in monetary and touristic manners. Top travel websites, Cherokee’s chamber of commerce, and our visitor’s information website all have one thing in common; Their “things to do” lists all have either site-seeing or cultural attractions listed at the top, while our casino and other attractions rest lower on the list(s). As the casino generates large amounts of revenue, the beautiful land we inhabit and our cultural attractions are what is bringing the vast majority of tourists into our town. In the past, we have recognized this call to action and offered several options for tourists to partake in during their visit. However, we have since been less persistent to progress, complacent with the few attractions we have, and blind to many of the issues they raise.

Now, and as previously mentioned, there is opportunity to be harnessed not only in generating tourism, but also in providing future generations with the ability to use our language to their advantage, put our culture on display, and prosper in a new way of living and thinking. Culturally appropriated “street chiefs”, knock-off craft stores, and unreasonably stereotypically-named businesses are simply underwhelming as a Native American and a local to the area. The call to action here is to simply progress; as a tribe, as a top tourist destination, and as a society living in an age of progressiveness.

#### **Dike Sneed**

No response received

#### **Jeff Thompson**

Development of Cultural Tourism is a topic that I feel has been a part of Cherokee as long as I can remember. Although, I do not feel it would be development more than it would be a revitalization. I would have to refer back to the subject of economic development. As stated in the CEDS, the Cultural District Master Plan would provide a huge impact to the Cultural Tourism Revitalization. It is my opinion, that we need to sink more money into things for

Cherokee instead of outside the boundary. On the other hand, I do think investment is a great thing but if we were to invest 100 million into Cherokee with a return rate of 7.5% Tribal Levy, then we invest in us. Before the casino, our biggest cash flow was tourism. How did we get tourists to come to Cherokee? They wanted to witness our culture and our crafts. Cultural tourism is something we should have never lost sight of and is the thing we need back in Cherokee as a secondary source of income for our Tribe.

### **Richard Delano Huskey**

Cultural tourism is an important aspect of economic development on the Qualla Boundary, as it provides opportunities for visitors to learn about and engage with our culture and heritage. As a member of the Tribal Council, I would prioritize initiatives that promote and expand cultural tourism in our community. This includes supporting and expanding existing cultural events and festivals, creating new cultural attractions and experiences, and promoting our cultural heritage through digital media and other channels. I would also advocate for policies and initiatives that ensure that cultural tourism is sustainable and respectful of our traditions and values.

### **Carolyn West**

As Cherokee our history is engaging and tells our story; this is a way to attract visitors. We tell the story of the Trail of Tears; we need to tell about all eras of Federal Indian policy and how it affect us.

### **Why do you feel you are the best choice for Painttown Council representative?**

#### **Sean “Michael” Stamper**

I believe I am the best choice for Painttown Council because I am motivated to do the job every day. I have been doing the job since January 3rd 2023 and see the amount of work it demands. This job is not a typical “9-5” job that has a strict set of expectations. There is no job description. There are no minimum qualifications. If an individual chose to, they could show up and do the bare minimum every day. I hold the position of “Council Member” in very high regard and with a great deal of respect.



I also value and appreciate every community member in Painttown. We as Council Members have a great deal of responsibility for the fiscal well-being of the tribal citizens. Since occupying my position, I have become more aware of the financial state of the Tribe and the consequences of raising your hand for new opportunities. I look forward to the opportunity to set the budget for the tribe, as I have only had the task of balancing said budget thus far. Enforcing the mindset of fiscal responsibility in the council chambers is necessary for the success of every enrolled member. I will continue to bring a new standard of work ethic that will not rely on other committees or outside subject matter experts. I will continue to conduct my own research on every matter so that I can justify why I vote, every vote.

#### **Andre Brown**

No response received

#### **Dike Sneed**

No response received

#### **Jeff Thompson**

Si Yo. My name is Jeff Thompson, and I am a candidate for Tribal Council Representative from the Painttown community. I am thankful for the opportunity for a chance to represent my community and my Tribe. I want to say thank you again for this opportunity. I am proud to be Cherokee and I am proud to be from ANiWoDiHi. If elected, I will work hard for all of Cherokee. I want fiscal responsibility and do not except status quo as how Council should be. All I ask is for your vote so I can prove to you I mean what I say. Give Me A Chance To Work. Sgi.

#### **Richard Delano Huskey**

I believe I would be the best choice for council because I have a deep understanding of our community, having been a lifelong member of Painttown. My experience working for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in various capacities, including at Harrah's, CIHA, and EBCI, has given me valuable insight into the inner workings of our tribal government and the challenges we face.

Additionally, my education and experience in IT and cybersecurity provide a unique

perspective on how we can use technology to enhance our community and protect our sensitive information. I am committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in all tribal affairs, including the management of our finances and investments.

My platform is focused on improving the quality of life for all members of our community, including addressing the pressing issues of housing and land purchasing, battling inflation costs, and promoting economic development through the Division of Commerce. I am also committed to preserving our culture and language, as well as bringing new businesses and activities to the reservation that don't revolve solely around the casino.

In short, I am a dedicated and experienced leader who is passionate about serving our community and ensuring that our future is bright and prosperous. I believe that with my knowledge, skills, and commitment to our people, I am the best choice for council and will work tirelessly to make a positive impact for our community.

#### **Carolyn West**

Siyogigada Kelani Wudaligv dogwadoa.

Hello my name is Carolyn West. I am running for Painttown Tribal Council. I am an attorney who practices Federal Indian law and criminal defense. My educational journey began when I received my A.A. (Paralegal Technology) in 1997 from Southwestern Community College. I received my B.S. (Criminal Justice) in 2003 and my M.P.A. (Public Affairs) in 2005 from Western Carolina University. I also received my J.D. and an Indian law certificate in 2010 from the University of New Mexico. I am licensed in two states and with two tribal nations. I worked as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Legislative Counsel (2016-2022) and as the Navajo Nation Legislative Counsel (2014-2016). During both employments, I drafted resolutions and ordinances to amendments the respective Tribal Code or policy changes. I presented legal arguments by drafting legal pleadings and legal memoranda. Essential in both positions was to know their respective Tribal Code and case law. Both opportunities allowed me to experience firsthand what being a Tribal Council Representative entails. First, I learned that being a Tribal

Council Representative is serving the people through legislative acts that are in the best interest of the Tribe. Second, I learned community and community representation is at the core of representing one's community as a Tribal Council representative. Finally, I learned that there is a learning curve to being a Tribal Council representative; one that coupled with my education and experience may not be that steep of a learning curve for me.

### **Wolftown/Big Y Tribal Council candidates**

#### **Economic Development**

##### **Bo Crowe**

No response received

##### **Andrew Oocumma**

To begin to address local economic development, you will need to assess your local resources. There is a need to evaluate your land base or existing infrastructure, qualified workforce, accommodations and most importantly a market to pull folks from. I have heard from several people from Big Y and Wolftown the want and need for options to have a nice meal with their families or other options for quick grab and go meals. There is a great opportunity for us to take advantage of our natural resources, the ability to transform what attracts folks to our rivers and mountains and harness it to turn that into profit for the tribe. We have the Oconaluftee River that we see people in all through out the summer and during the other seasons lining the banks fishing. There are the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that borders Cherokee and the Blue Ridge Parkway that empties out into our Boundary. The people that love these natural resources should want to bed down here in Cherokee, we have the opportunity to take our history of capturing these folks and making them want to stay for a while. This leads to our ability to staff with a capable workforce those attractions that we may build. I would like to continue to work with our commerce department to work towards improving our accommodations for guests, they need to be affordable for our market, clean, safe, and also welcoming.

**Qiana Powell**

Economic developments the Tribe can work toward implementing which would provide jobs and grow our economy would be paid parking for visitors to the island, it is always packed and would be a good way to bring revenue into the tribe. Another initiative that would bring revenue into the Tribe would be a farmers market ran by our Agricultural Department, the Tribe currently has land in Wolfstown Community that could be used for the Agriculture Department to go to grow crops and could do the farmers market on site there as well. Economic development is one thing we as a Tribe need to be working on. This could be an additional revenue sources for the tribe outside of casino.

**Chelsea Taylor**

There's a need for a master plan that addresses a balance for all of our housing needs. Available and affordable housing is a huge factor in the success of economic development. Workforce housing is a key topic when it comes to planning for a new development in the areas of staffing. There are 100s of jobs opened currently amongst all of our Tribal Divisions, Entities, and Local Businesses. When it comes to finding people to employ it's difficult when the need for a place to live is far out numbered than what our Housing Division currently offers. There's data to show how many jobs are open, and what's available for housing, but we need to utilize it. We must plan ahead for economic development projects to have successful recruiting and retention of staff.

**Mike Parker**

No response received

**Peanut Crowe**

In my view, we have not even begun to scratch the surface of developing our community. We see property being bought and developed in surrounding towns and states while our downtown and communities look the same. Economic development is a long-term process that should be securing our well-being, quality of life, and finances through specific goals and objectives. One of my priorities if elected will be to draft and submit legislation

aimed at bringing family-friendly attractions to Cherokee for our people to enjoy. Some of those include: larger festivals with headline entertainment, street fairs, community pool, Tribal gas station, Tribal grocery store, a water park and affordable housing. All of these things will not only begin the process of building a stronger economy, but it will also improve our people's quality of life and well-being. The time to invest in our own people and communities is now.

**Role of Business Committee**

**Bo Crowe**

No response received

**Andrew Oocumma**

I am not currently on Business Committee but have sat on every committee meeting to be aware and learn. As with everything, there is room for process improvement. The primary suggestion that I would have is to make sure that complete information is given to committee members well ahead of time with a period of no less than 30 days to read and vet with other council members and subject matter experts before it comes to the floor for a vote. I would also like to see all those involved in the chambers to be available for questions or comments as some of the issues are dire and may have some time urgency constraints.

**Qiana Powell**

The role of Business Committee should already be established by policy and procedure. I would like to see more business available outside of the casino especially restaurants because currently there are only a few places to eat but most have limited hours and/or days of operation.

**Chelsea Taylor**

During my Council term in 2019-2021 I observed that there was a need of capacity building amongst most Business Committee members. From having worked in Tribal Leadership roles and as the Budget Analyst for the EBCI Division of Treasury, I held an immense amount of knowledge as a council member that others didn't have. The role of the Business Committee needs to include comprehensive

utilization of the Tribe's Fiscal Management Policy, Tribal Code (laws) for investment account usage, Capital Improvement Project award processes, streamline the land purchase process, keep other council members informed of Business Committee actions, and be respectful to presenters at the podium.

**Mike Parker**

No response received

**Peanut Crowe**

The role of the business committee should be to begin the process of our government making a transaction along with hearing various issues that businesses here on the boundary may have. If we had clear rules and procedures, we could save a lot of time during regularly scheduled council meeting. Any large purchase must go through business committee and then make its way through Tribal Council. I do not agree with last-minute resolutions being heard and passed if they are spending millions of dollars. All large investments or expenditures should go through business committee so that our council members can get the word out to their community clubs and people of any upcoming large expenditures.

**Appearance of Qualla Boundary**

**Bo Crowe**

No response received

**Andrew Oocumma**

There is a need to address the appearance of the Boundary, we are in a beautiful part of the world, people travel thousands of miles to visit our area. As previously mentioned, there is an opportunity for us as a tribe to make our boundary feel safe and welcoming for our guests. Growing up, the streets and roads leading to town were full. I remember the days when cars were backed up to Happy Holiday Campground trying to get to our downtown area, this was years before Harrah's Cherokee came to town. For those of us that remember, you had beautiful hotels/motels lining the roads with no vacancy blazing in neon, there were campgrounds turning away campers because they were at capacity, everyone's home leading into town were kept immaculate

because of the thousands of eyes that were going to drive past their home. There may be a sense of complacency that has come over us or a feeling of they are going to come and stay anyway to visit our casino, well, we need to have them stay with us regardless of the casino. I have been working to get the right pieces into place to introduce a zoning board or some sort of business-driven professional group that drives the pride we need to re-beautify our business district. Like all of us, when we visit a new place, we decide to stay based on: Do I like what I see? Do I feel Safe? And Do I feel welcomed?

### **Qiana Powell**

The downtown area needs to be revitalized as well as the areas on the main roads coming into Cherokee. I'm sure there is grant funding available for revitalizing our downtown area. As far as the areas coming into Cherokee those are individual homes and yards and an ordinance/resolution could be put in to have people maintain their yards and/or put-up fences.

### **Chelsea Taylor**

I submitted a resolution for zoning laws to be established in the Business District of the Qualla Boundary during my term on council. The purpose was to apply laws for the upkeep of commercialized grounds, facades, retail space, and restaurant space. I plan to introduce new laws in the imminent domain section of our Cherokee Code. The new laws would advocate for the demolishment of old run-down buildings and houses. To enhance the appearance and ownership of the Qualla Boundary. I will legislate for more indoor and outdoor programs for our youth such as: clubs of interests, youth forums, creative competitions, mentorships, playgrounds, skateparks, bike pump tracks, mental health awareness, trainings, and inclusion awareness.

### **Mike Parker**

No response received

### **Peanut Crowe**

The outward appearance of our downtown area has remained mostly unchanged for the better part of my life. The Tribe has invested a little bit by the bridge and it looks great, but

we need to do better. Again, we have invested hundreds of millions of dollars on projects and investments in surrounding towns and states while neglecting our own town. If elected, I will submit legislation to invest in our town and its outward appearance.

### **Role of Cherokee language**

#### **Bo Crowe**

No response received

#### **Andrew Oocumma**

There are several things I have found important all across Indian Country as I met with leaders regarding tribal sovereignty and tribal identity is the foundation of Language. So much so that there have been leaders state that if the language dies, so does the tribe. Our language is needed to practice medicine, sing our traditional songs, communicate with one another, and don't forget, the Cherokee language is the reason the United States of America, which we were not even a member of at the time, won World War I. It is a priority of mine to continue to support in any way I can to perpetuate the teaching of Cherokee Language.

#### **Qiana Powell**

Our language is very important to me, I attend classes when they are offered, and I do not have prior engagements with my schoolwork or my daughter's sports. I try to learn as much as I can. I am very grateful for the speakers who hold classes to teach the community. I know language is important to maintain our federal recognition and that's why I do my part by trying to learn and use what I know.

#### **Chelsea Taylor**

We need Unification and Retention Plan for stakeholders of our Cherokee Language, Traditions, and Culture. In any society the language of the people is what has carried them through generations. The language is powerful in its own right, and we need to treat it as a living language. From birth to adulthood, we need to support all ventures to keep the language alive. Those who are gifted with the ability to speak the Cherokee Language as a fluent or secondary language learner are who we should strive to be like and encourage one another to do so.

### **Mike Parker**

No response received

### **Peanut Crowe**

Our language is in a dire situation but I believe we can collectively turn it around. I applaud the Kituwah Academy, Cherokee Central Schools, and various other Tribal Programs for their efforts in preserving our language. I am also very proud to say that my daughter is a teacher at the Academy and shares her knowledge of the language with my two grandkids and family. I am also proud of my kids for attempting to enroll their children in the Academy this coming Fall. While campaigning in the community, I have made a conscious effort to reach out to as many fluent speakers as I can to get their input on the best way moving forward. If I am elected to serve as a council member, I will support any and all language efforts our fluent speakers and the listed organizations submit to us for approval. I will also continue building a language coalition so that all parties are represented and come to a consensus on how we can better improve our language preservation efforts.

### **Development of Cultural Tourism**

#### **Bo Crowe**

No response received

#### **Andrew Oocumma**

This is also at the heart of our identity and is a reason our tribe was able to sustain before Harrah's Cherokee Casino came to town. I was employed through my youth because of cultural tourism, be nice to the out-of-town folks so they will stay longer and spend their money. It also grew the local economy, we all remember "The Cherokees" the largest group of Native craftsmen in the world. Tourists bought that stuff because of who we are. We have the opportunity to fashion Cherokee as a leader because of our rich history now more than we did in the past without those gimmicks. We have community members in our cultural district that are near experts in our authentic selves to educate tourists in the Oconaluftee Indian Village, perform in Unto These Hills and educate within the Museum of The Cherokee



Indians. Our culture and unique history set us apart from our neighbors in Bryson City, Sylva and Waynesville, I will explore ways to bring those tourists to Cherokee by working with our commerce department so we can create generational tourism through our culture back to Cherokee.

**Qiana Powell**

Currently we have the village, museum, and Unto These Hills, and the legends told at the fire promoting cultural tourism, I think there is always growth for any business and if any is needed, I am sure there is funding open to those programs as well.

**Chelsea Taylor**

When I worked for the Cherokee Historical Association, we would accommodate groups if they made a special request for a tour. I'm all for establishing tours of permissible sacred places while hearing legends and history of our tribe. I am also in support of murals being done by our artists to showcase their skills, but to also give life to the Qualla Boundary. We need to develop cultural public relations to entice tourists to stop before they enter the parkway.

**Mike Parker**

No response received

**Peanut Crowe**

The Cherokee Historical Association does a great job with what they have. The museum, drama, and village are must see attractions when anyone visits Cherokee. I am proud of their work in opening a downtown store and managing the Fire Mountain Trails as well. I think we should fully fund all of our cultural tourist attractions and build on their successes together. I would love to see our drama become a larger production and dinner show like we see across the mountain and bring in more professional exhibitions and competitions to Fire Mountain Trail. The folks involved in these programs have laid a great foundation and framework that we can definitely build on.

**Why do you feel you are the best choice for Wofltown/Big Y Council representative?**

**Bo Crowe**

No response received

**Andrew Oocumma**

No response received

**Qiana Powell**

No response received

**Chelsea Taylor**

As a mother of four beautiful children, I feel blessed to have their support to run for an elected seat. Two of my children have mentioned getting into elected positions in the future. I want to continue setting the stage for new generation leadership and to be a great example of a legislator. Since my term ended in October 2021 have gained so much awareness of how trauma impacts our people. I currently work at the Cherokee Indian Hospital as the Analenisgi Behavioral Health Data Analyst which has broadened my knowledge of community needs. I received my BA in Business Management from Lenoir-Rhyne College. Served on the Cherokee Central School Board from 2013-2017 as the Wofltown Rep. and served on Tribal Council from 2019-2021 as one of the Wofltown/Big Y Reps. I will also bring to the council a combined 20 years of experience in leadership, finance, accounting, data analysis, legislation, and community engagement through coaching our youth. I would love to have your support in the upcoming Primary Election as candidate #4! Please reach out to me for any questions or concerns at 828-507-7848.

**Mike Parker**

No response received

**Peanut Crowe**

First off, thank you to Robert and the One Feather team for the article and platform to inform the public on our positions on various issues. I am running for a multitude of reasons that include: Investing in our community, preserving our culture and language, and being a voice of the people. I support economic diversi-

ty as long as our communities are the priority. I will continue collaborating with fluent speakers, New KituwahAcademy, tribal programs, and Cherokee Central Schools on the best way of proceeding as it relates to language preservation. I will always advocate for responsible tribal spending and more transparency of tribal government actions. I will always answer to my people and represent their will if elected.

I humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming June 1st Primary Election!

**Yellowhill Tribal Council candidates**

**Economic Development**

**T.W. Saunooke**

No response received

**David Wolfe**

We have talked about economic diversification for two decades with the idea that we cannot depend solely on gaming. I have supported economic development projects that make sound financial sense and so far, those projects have given EBCI better than expected results. We must be strategic with our investments and willing to put in the work to understand what projects will mean for our tribe and our communities. We can't and shouldn't vote for everything that comes across our desk because it sounds nice, or someone paints a rosy picture. We must look at the facts-what will it cost, what is the return, how does the investment benefit the tribe, what opportunities will it create, and how soon does it start paying a dividend. I have shown through my voting record that I support economic development that makes good sense and that pays the Tribe a return. For Example, I supported the tribes' efforts in commercial gaming which returned 13 percent in its first year and I supported the Cherokee Sovereign Wealth Fund which has returned 19 percent since inception.

**Stephanie Saunooke French**

No response received

**Tom Wahneta**

No response received

**Ernest Tiger**

Recently we have had several business established with the effort to build additional revenue for the Tribe. Unfortunately for most, there was very little information shared with Tribal Members regarding these investments. This neglect has left many tribal members concerned about how their money is being spent and where. When information was shared with the public, this concern was only fueled by the announcement that hundreds of millions in tribal dollars had been spent and several of these investments dollars would not go back to the tribe but stay in those outside entities pockets. I feel that these concerns could be addressed by firstly notifying the public on how their money is to be spent and where. This effort could met through approval of the Tribal Constitution being proposed, where decision makers including Tribal Council would be held accountable on spending of tribal dollars and notifying the public on these random investments.

## Role of Business Committee

**T.W. Saunooke**  
No response received

**David Wolfe**  
Business Committee is an important check and balance in our system of government being composed of both the Legislative and Executive Branch. The committee is intended to ensure that we are good stewards of the tribal resources by approving contracts, business licensing matters, and land matters. We have an opportunity to improve the functions of business committee by adopting processes and standard operating procedures, so our members and businesses aren't waiting on the business committee to meet and act. Too many times the business committee becomes a pinch point for tribal or local business, and we need to use our resources to make this committee function better for our community.

**Stephanie Saunooke French**  
No response received

**Tom Wahnetah**  
No response received

**Ernest Tiger**  
I personally have had only limited interaction with this Committee in the past. Based on my experience, I would like to see these "Closed Door" sessions be televised the same as Tribal Council and have an officer from the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics also attend these meeting to ensure inclusiveness during each meeting.

## Appearance of Qualla Boundary

**T.W. Saunooke**  
No response received

**David Wolfe**  
No response received

**Stephanie Saunooke French**  
No response received

**Tom Wahnetah**  
No response received

**Ernest Tiger**  
I think it goes without saying that there is a collective opinion from locals that the shops in Downtown Cherokee are way overdo for renovation. Several factors have led to the continued decline of these buildings including-No Code Enforcement to keep buildings up to date, less customer traffic, lack of tribal funding, and parking. As we have seen lately in tribal politics, there is has been little urgency demonstrated by our leaders to make improvements to downtown. I believe that consideration for investments should start on the Boundary first, well before considering off Boundary Business Developments. To meet improvements demands for the Boundary, the following initiatives would need to be accomplished to reach this goal including-Meeting with Tribal Communities to develop a Master "Beautification" Plan, Implementation of Inclusive Building Code Enforcement, and Tribal Funding Commitment. Through these initiatives a clear picture of what the communities are wanting to see could be identified, projected budget for cost could be allocated, and inclusive for future code enforcement could be met for all.

Role of Cherokee language

T.W. Saunooke  
No response received

**David Wolfe**  
No response received

**Stephanie Saunooke French**  
No response received

**Tom Wahnetah**  
No response received

**Ernest Tiger**  
Cherokee Language is at the Center of our core values and priorities as a Tribe moving forward. We need to continue to promote learning to honor our Ancestors, Elders, and those who speak Cherokee Language as their first language. With that being said, there has been great efforts made into expanding programs, creating technologies in effort to educating Tribal Members on their language. I would like to see the continued support in greater funding to our schools, Youth Language Programs, Teachers, additional media technologies and expanded incentivized learning programs created in efforts to preserve our Tribal Language for the future.

## Development of Cultural Tourism

**T.W. Saunooke**  
No response received

**David Wolfe**  
Our cultural attractions need the support of the tribe and community to evolve. These attractions belong to the community and are an important source of learning. The Museum, for example is actively changing its model to be as much community focused as it is tourist focus. It is a business and must function like one, but it also a valuable community asset and should be used by our people as much or more than it is used by tourists. We have a great story to tell, but we need to tell our story in a way that it is protected and respected. We have the opportunity to improve our cultural attractions themselves building a solid plan on how to accomplish this.

**Stephanie Saunooke French**



No response received

**Tom Wahnetah**

No response received

**Ernest Tiger**

This topic coincides with Economic Development and Appearance of the Qualla Boundary, where all must be considered in the planning process to maximizing customer traffic. As you may know, an initiative has already been underway to improve the Fair Grounds. I would like to continue this effort by looking at other Culture relative buildings for further revitalization. Buildings that I would like to see

expanded include the Museum of the Cherokee Indians, Mountainside Theatre/Outdoor Drama, and the Qualla Arts and Crafts facility. In addition, new construction projects that would compliment this effort would include the establishment of an Aquarium Educational Learning Center that would feature Native Aquatic/Amphibian Specimens, Botany, and a Interactive Butterfly Exhibit.

**Why do you feel you are the best choice for Yellowhill Council representative?**

**T.W. Saunooke**

No response received

**David Wolfe**

No response received

**Stephanie Saunooke French**

No response received

**Tom Wahnetah**

No response received

**Ernest Tiger**

No response received

# The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Presents The

## WNC Fly Fishing Trail

### Weekly Fishing Report

May 22-28, 2023

WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
<b>Tuckaseigee River</b>	Delayed Harvest is OPEN with stockings May 1 & May 3	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Brown Trout.	Squirmy Wormy, Coffey Girdle Bug, Frenchie, Yellow Stimulator, Yellow Sallie, Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail, Prince Nymph
<b>Chattooga &amp; Whitewater Rivers</b>	See posted signs	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout	Yellow Stimulator, Quill Gordons, Blue winged Olive, Elk Hare Caddis, Lite Cahill, Yallar Hammer
<b>Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River &amp; Small Streams</b>	See posted signs	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout	BWO, Hendricksons, Dark Stone, Girdle Bugs, Frenchie, Hares Ear Soft Hackle, March Brown Soft Hackle, Elk Hare Caddis, Lite Cahill, Yallar Hammer

COURTESY OF EDDIE HUDON/BLUE CHIP FLY FISHING

### BEST FISHING TIMES BASED ON THE LUNAR CYCLE

**MONDAY, MAY 22**

GOOD  
2:44 AM-4:44 AM  
3:11 PM-5:11 PM

**TUESDAY, MAY 23**

AVERAGE  
3:38 AM-5:38 AM  
4:04 PM-6:04 PM

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**

AVERAGE+  
4:29 AM-6:29 AM  
4:53 PM-6:53 PM

**THURSDAY, MAY 25**

AVERAGE  
5:17 AM-7:17 AM  
5:40 PM-7:40 PM

**FRIDAY, MAY 26**

AVERAGE  
6:03 AM-8:03 AM  
6:25 PM-8:25 PM

**SATURDAY, MAY 27**

AVERAGE+  
6:46 AM-8:46 AM  
7:07 PM-9:07 PM

**SUNDAY, MAY 28**

AVERAGE  
7:27 AM-9:27 AM  
7:47 PM-9:47 PM

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## CIPD Arrest Report for May 8-14, 2023

*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.*

Farmer, Joe – age 42  
Arrested: May 9  
Released: May 9  
Charges: Temporary Hold

Ledford Jr., Allen Theodore – age 31  
Arrested: May 9  
Released: May 11  
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Resisting Public Officer

Trantham, Christopher Shane – age 46  
Arrested: May 9  
Released: May 9  
Charges: Tampering with Witnesses

Walkingstick, Michael Wayne – age 40  
Arrested: May 9  
Released: May 11  
Charges: Failure to Appear on

### Misdemeanor

Maney, Siceria Marquita – age 34  
Arrested: May 10  
Released: May 11  
Charges: Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance, Simple Possession Schedule IV Controlled Substance, Resisting Public Officer

Davis, Loretta Ann – age 52  
Arrested: May 11  
Released: May 11  
Charges: Larceny

Rienzo, Anthony John – age 29  
Arrested: May 11  
Released: May 11  
Charges: Intoxicated and Disruptive

Teesateskie, Beth Garcia – age 41  
Arrested: May 11  
Released: Not released as of report date (May 15)  
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance, Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Wolfe, Tara Lynn – age 26  
Arrested: May 11  
Released: Not released as of report date (May 15)  
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance; Providing or Possessing Contraband; Drug Paraphernalia; Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a

### Controlled Substance

Bird, Eddie – age 33  
Arrested: May 12  
Released: Not released as of report date (May 15)  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Carruthers, Sharik Lamar – age 32  
Arrested: May 12  
Released: May 13  
Charges: Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Crowe, Hildegard Louise – age 37  
Arrested: May 12  
Released: Not released as of report date (May 15)  
Charges: Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance, Possession Drug Paraphernalia, Trafficking in Methamphetamine, Providing or Possessing Contraband

Woodruff, Ethan Collin – age 30  
Arrested: May 12  
Released: May 12  
Charges: Temporary Hold for Jackson Co.

Blanton, Shannon DeWayne – age 41  
Arrested: May 13  
Released: Not released as of report date (May 15)  
Charges: Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public; Child Abuse in the Second Degree; Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline,

### Neglect, or Abuse of Minors

Ensley Jr., Paul – age 59  
Arrested: May 13  
Released: May 13  
Charges: Criminal Mischief to Property, Larceny

Jordan, Shaunika Ann – age 45  
Arrested: May 13  
Released: May 14  
Charges: Resisting Public Officer

Lane, Jacqueline Evonne – age 51  
Arrested: May 13  
Released: Not released as of report date (May 15)  
Charges: Probation Violation

Lillard, Tunighia – age 18  
Arrested: May 13  
Released: May 13  
Charges: Providing Alcoholic Beverages to, Possession of, Consumption or Alcoholic Beverages by Persons Under 21-years-old

Davis-Martinez, Carrie Marie – age 41  
Arrested: May 14  
Released: May 14  
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Rhinehart, Daniel Joseph – age 59  
Arrested: May 14  
Released: May 14  
Charges: Driving While Impaired

**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**



## SOCCER

# Lady Braves make history with first playoff win

By **TARAN SWIMMER**  
Cherokee Central Schools

MINT HILL, N.C. – The Cherokee High School (CHS) women’s varsity soccer team (seeded #25) traveled to Queen’s Grant (seeded #8) for the first round of the NCHSAA 1A State Playoffs on Monday, May 15 and came away with an historic victory.

The Lady Braves played from behind as Queen’s Grant scored first in the second half of regulation time. Shelby Solis, Lady Braves junior forward, would find her way past the defense to shoot a goal in the bottom right corner of the box with around 10 mins remaining.

Regulation time would end with the score tied at 1-1. In the first overtime, Lady Braves senior Jaylynne Esquivel would get a free kick at the top of the box. Esquivel would find the bottom right pocket to make it 2-1, Cherokee.

Second overtime ended with Queen’s Grant managing to get past Cherokee’s Junior Goalkeeper, Loshi Ward. The OT ended with the game in another tie at 2-2. Both teams went into Golden Goal 5-minute halves, which is the first to score wins. The time ended with the game still at a tie.

A penalty kick shootout followed and both teams battled it out, going as far as the seventh shooter. Solis would be the first to score for the Lady Braves, followed by Lilah Reynolds (senior), and Esquivel. Three of the Lady Braves shooters missed the goal by inches as it went over the top of the goal or hit the crossbar.

Ward was the wall for the Lady Braves as she saved three shots on goal to bring the team to the final game-winning kick. Lily Ramos, Lady Braves sophomore, showed great composure as she placed her shot perfectly into the bottom left corner of the goal.

The game ended with a penalty kick shootout score of 6-5, Cherokee.

The Lady Braves rushed the field, and the fans who traveled over three hours cheered as

the girls made history as the first soccer team from CHS to win a playoff game.

## TRACK &amp; FIELD

## Swimmer wins 800M state championship as SMC athletes rack up titles

### One Feather Staff Report

GREENSBORO, N.C. – Dvdaya Swimmer, a freshman member of the Cherokee High School (CHS) track and field team, won the women’s 800M (2:19.71) at the NCHSAA (North Carolina High School Athletic Association) 1A State Championship held at the N.C. A&T Irwin Belk Track in Greensboro, N.C. on Friday, May 19. She also took second place in the women’s 1600M with a time of 5:09.12.

Cherokee’s Jaylan McCoy-Bark, a senior who has committed to run at Haskell Indian Nations University, took second place in the men’s 1600M with a time of 2:01.66.

The Swain Co. Lady Maroon Devils won their third consecutive state team title, and the Swain Co. Maroon Devils took runner-up on the men’s side. Both of Cherokee’s teams placed seventh in the team event. In all, there were 44 men’s teams and 43 women’s teams.

The following results, per nc.milesplit, shows the Smoky Mountain Conference athletes who placed in the top four, plus all CHS finishers, at Friday’s meet:

### Men’s Events

#### 800M Run

3 – Connor Brown, Swain Co., 2:00.78

4 – Jaylan McCoy-Bark, Cherokee, 2:01.66

#### 1600M Run

2 – Jaylan McCoy-Bark, Cherokee, 4:29.62

3 – Connor Brown, Swain Co., 4:31.09

#### 3200M Run

3 – O’Malley Salinas, Andrews, 9:58.89

6 – Tyce Hogner, Cherokee, 10:17.63

#### 110M Hurdles

1 – Brock Adams, Robbinsville, 15.11

3 – Austin Jenkins, Swain Co., 15.23

#### 300M Hurdles

1 – Brock Adams, Robbinsville, 40.50

#### 4x800M Relay

1 – Swain Co., 8:17.69 (Abhi Patel, Connor Lambert, Conner Brown, Kane Jones)

4 – Cherokee, 8:26.26 (Jaylan Bark, Anthony Lossiah, Oz Swayney, Aizen Bell)

#### Pole Vault

1 – Matthew Gray, Swain Co., 16-06

#### Discus Throw

2 – Nse Uffort, Swain Co., 165-07

5 – Kensen Davis, Cherokee, 139-06

7 – Luke Smith, Cherokee, 135-11

#### Shot Put

4 – Kensen Davis, Cherokee, 50-00.25

### Women’s Events

#### 200M Dash

5 – Letsi Burgos, Cherokee, 26.72

#### 800M Run

1 – Dvdaya Swimmer, Cherokee, 2:18.71

2 – Arizona Blankenship, Swain Co., 2:22.27

3 – Annie Lewis, Swain Co., 2:22.81

#### 1600M Run

1 – Arizona Blankenship, Swain Co., 5:01.10

2 – Dvdaya Swimmer, Cherokee, 5:09.12

4 – Annie Lewis, Swain Co., 5:25.16

#### 3200M Run

1 – Arizona Blankenship, Swain Co., 10:56.58

4 – Annie Lewis, Swain Co., 11:52.24

#### 4x800M Relay

1 – Swain Co., 9:45.27 (Annie Lewis, Gracie Monteith, Amaya Hicks, Arizona Blankenship)

#### High Jump

1 – Zoie Shuler, Robbinsville, 5-04

2 – Gracie Sutton, Swain Co., 5-04

#### Long Jump

1 – Zoie Shuler, Robbinsville, 17-04

#### Triple Jump

1 – Zoie Shuler, Robbinsville, 37-02.25

3 – Ella Matheson, Hayesville, 32-10.50

#### Pole Vault

1 – Amelia Rogers, Swain Co., 11-00.25

3 – Hannah Wingate, Swain Co., 9-00

4 – Alden Thomas, Swain Co., 9-00

#### Discus Throw

3 – Alexis Smith, Cherokee, 104-04

4 – Lily Trout, Hayesville, 102-00

#### Shot Put

4 – Faith Woodard, Swain Co., 34-09.75





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# Social time

Held in conjunction with the NASA/NAYO volleyball tournaments, a night of social dances for members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Seneca Nation of New York was held at the Peaches Squirrell Sports & Recreation Complex on the evening of Thursday, May 18.

Photos by Scott McKie B.P./One Feather









## NCTOTA to mark Cherokee town of Sand Town site

The North Carolina Trail of Tears Association (NCTOTA) and St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin have partnered to mark the site of the post-Removal Cherokee town of Sand Town – located at 542 St. Johns Church Road in Franklin, N.C. A sign dedication is planned for Saturday, June 3, at 2 p.m. at the church. On April 6, 2022, several NCTOTA board members met with St. John's Reverend Carl Southerland and Vestry Senior Warden Marcia McGarity to discuss the sign and its placement near the graves of Sand Town's Cherokee headman Jim Woodpecker and his wife Sally. This dedication is the first post-Removal town site to be recognized and marked in western North Carolina.

Speakers at the dedication will

include Dr. Brett Riggs, Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University; Jack Baker, president of the National Trail of Tears Association; and Will Chavez, Remember the Removal (RTR) Legacy Rider and Cherokee Phoenix assistant editor. Baker and Chavez will accompany the 2023 RTR bike riders from the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Every year, the RTR program chooses bicycle riders through a vigorous application and training process to make the 950-mile ride from New Echota, Ga., at the last capital of Old Cherokee Nation, to Tahlequah, Okla., over a two-week period to honor their ancestors.

The forced Removal began in the summer of 1838 when federal troops gathered Cherokees from the region to be centralized for mass removal

to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). The government's removal policy affected 3,000 Cherokees from North Carolina. The US government had built forts and roads to accommodate the forced exodus of Cherokees. Troops funneled all North Carolina Cherokees through Fort Butler in present-day Murphy, N.C.. From there, the Cherokees walked the Unicoi Turnpike through the gap to Fort Armistead at Tellico Plains, Tenn. They journeyed next to Fort Cass, the site of the Cherokee Indian Agency (present-day Charleston, Tenn.) to await their time to leave for the west. Having to travel by water due to a severe drought, the Cherokees encamped there until the fall. They then walked the entire way on what became known as the Trail of Tears, as many died in the sickly camps awaiting removal and along the way during one of the harshest of winters on record. The North Carolina Cherokees arrived in Indian Territory the

spring of 1839.

There were some Cherokee families, however, that evaded the troops, hiding in the mountains or escaping to return to North Carolina. A few even walked back from the west. Of course, their homesteads were no longer theirs, the state having sold the land. These Cherokees, from many different towns, found themselves homeless refugees. Throughout western North Carolina, several white friends offered land where the Cherokees could reestablish themselves. William Siler allowed Woodpecker and other Cherokees to build Sand Town on Muskrat Branch. Others would settle on properties held by William H. Thomas and John Welch. The NCTOTA next plans to mark the Welch Farm and Snowbird post-Removal Cherokee communities in Cherokee and Graham counties, respectively.

- N.C. Trail of Tears Association  
release



## WE WANT YOUR ABANDONED AND DILAPIDATED HOUSES

The Cherokee Indians Housing Division is interested in purchasing your abandoned/dilapidated houses. As part of our mission to assist families with affordable housing, renovating these homes will provide enrolled members with numerous housing opportunities, while at the same time, beautifying the local surroundings.

For more information, contact Jonathan Rattler at 828-359-6357 or email [jonaratt@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:jonaratt@ebci-nsn.gov).



## Attention EBCI Artists/Craftspeople

The One Feather is developing a list of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians artists and craftspeople to help get your name out there for potential buyers. If you would like to be included, please send your name, contact information (phone, email, etc.), and what mediums you are selling to: Scott at [scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov) or message us on our Facebook page.







### JV Braves show appreciation to American Legion

Chase Sneed, Cherokee JV Braves head football coach, presented two footballs signed by the 2022 team to the Steve Youngdeer American Post 143 and the Ladies Auxiliary Unit 143 on the morning of Thursday, May 18. Sneed thanked them for their support noting, "They fed us all season. We didn't have to worry about anything. They cooked all of our meals, and we greatly appreciate that." Shown, left to right, back row – Pat Kalonaheskie, Unit 143 member; Sneed; Tierney Bradley, intern with Unit 143; front row – Beth Grant, Unit 143 member and a JV Braves football mom; Sharon French, Unit 143 member; Patsy Ledford, Unit 143 president; and Carol Long, Unit 143 vice president. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



### Accepting Applications

Garden Place Lane in the Big Cove Community will begin taking applications Monday, May 22, 2023 until Tuesday, May 30, 2023. First round of applications will be for EBCI enrolled members only. Then it will open to non-enrolled if not leased up. Suitable for a single person, couple, single person with 1-2 children, or couple with 1-2 children. Very small living space.

- 630 Square Foot
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#### Contact:

**Sheila Brown**

Housing Services Manager

828-359-6328

sheibrow@ebci-nsn.gov

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### FENTANYL POISONING AWARENESS & PREVENTION

**SUNDAY**  
**28**  
**May, 2023**  
**11 AM - 4 PM**

The Blue Plaid Society is coming to Cherokee to provide fentanyl awareness, education, and prevention. Free Narcan and Blue Plaid SWAG will be provided while supplies last. Meet Melinda Gudmundsson, Blue Plaid's Social Media Director and angel daughter to the fentanyl poisoning epidemic. Awareness is key! You Matter!

**FREE Narcan**  
**Free Drug Education**  
**FREE SWAG**  
**Fundraiser T-Shirts \$15**

**Location:**  
**Wolfetown Gym**  
BIA Hwy 422 Cherokee, NC 28719



# Museum of the Cherokee Indian to present Indigenous Writers' Workshop Series

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The Museum of the Cherokee Indian (MCI) has announced the Confluence: An Indigenous Writers' Workshop, an opportunity offered to citizens of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians throughout 2023. Created in partnership with Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), author of the award-winning novel *Even As We Breathe* and MCI board member, the series of workshops offers Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) citizens access to high-quality writing instruction from the world's top Indigenous writers at no cost.

The series, made possible through the generous support of North Carolina Arts Council and Fire Mountain Trails, will host four visiting writers with expertise in four different genres. Following three days of close instruction, creative exercises, and group discussion, the visiting writers will provide an evening public reading for the greater community to enjoy. Workshops are open to high school students and adults, recognizing that younger generations need to see role models in their own community in order to extend the continuum.

Clapsaddle—whose 2020 debut novel became the first and only novel to-date published by an enrolled citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians—is passionate about bringing more opportunities for writers to the Qualla Boundary. “For a tribe that has had a written

language since it was formally adopted in 1825, this dearth of publications is startling,” the author says. “Having lived here my whole life, I am well aware that the talent pool of EBCI writers is deep. The Qualla Boundary can often feel isolated. Many of our citizens do not see a path toward pursuing writing, regardless of whether or not they are interested in publishing. Workshop opportunities are typically over an hour's drive away and often cost-prohibitive. I strongly believe that the best way I can express my gratitude for being able to professionally pursue my love of writing is to help provide some of the same writing enrichment opportunities I have been given to this community which has given me so much support.”

Just as the Qualla Boundary's mountain streams meet and strengthen, Saunooke and Museum staff hope that the workshops will be a confluence of ideas and inspiration for all writers involved. The first workshop in the series, held May 26-28 and led by Kelli Jo Ford (Cherokee Nation), focuses on the craft of literary fiction. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the Paris Review's Plimpton Prize, the Katherine Bakeless Nason Award at Bread Loaf, a National Artist Fellowship by the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation, and a Dobie Paisano Fellowship, Ford's fiction has appeared in the Paris Review, Virginia Quarterly Review, Missouri Review, and the anthology *Forty Stories: New Writing from Harper Perennial*, among other places.

From June 16-18, Andrea L. Rogers (Cherokee Nation) will help writers find their voice in the genre of fiction. A PhD student at the University of Arkansas, her book *Mary and the Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Removal Survival Story* was named a Best Book of 2020 by both NPR and American Indians in Children's Literature.

Over July 14-16, writers will focus on poet-

ry under the guidance of Mary Leana Christensen (EBCI). A PhD candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi, Christensen is Managing Editor of *The Swamp* literary magazine. Her work can be found in *Cream City Review*, the *Laurel Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, and the *Gettysburg Review*, among others. She was named a 2022 Indigenous Nations Poets fellow for the inaugural In-Na-Po retreat and was selected as a returning fellow for 2023.

November 17-19's workshop in journalism marks a return to MCI for Rebecca Nagle (Cherokee Nation). The award-winning journalist—who presented her lecture “We Are Still Here: Fighting Indigenous Erasure in the Media” at MCI for Western Carolina University's 2022 James A. Cooper Memorial Lecture in Cherokee Studies—is also the writer and host of the podcast *This Land*. Her writing on Native representation, federal Indian law, and tribal sovereignty has been featured in the *Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian*, *USA Today*, *Indian Country Today*, and more. Rebecca Nagle is the recipient of the American Mosaic Journalism Prize, Women's Media Center's Exceptional Journalism Award, a Peabody Nominee, and numerous awards from the Native American Journalist Association.

Clapsaddle hopes that EBCI writers will leave these workshops inspired and better equipped to pursue their own creative writing, whether it be for personal growth or to seek publication opportunities. “This series aims to be a reminder to our community that indigenous literature is rich, abundant, and deserves the attention of a world stage,” she says.

To learn more about programming and community learning initiatives at MCI, please visit [mci.org/learn/programming](https://mci.org/learn/programming).

- Museum of the Cherokee Indian release

DhGwY 604A&  
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### Cherokee Central Schools CTE and Andy Shaw Ford form partnership

Cherokee Central Schools and Andy Shaw Ford met recently to formalize a unique and tremendous partnership. Shown, left to right, are Greg Jamison, Andy Shaw Ford sales representative; Dr. Heath Robertson, Cherokee Central Schools CTE director; and Erica Bullock, Andy Shaw Ford general manager.

Students taking Automotive Service classes at Cherokee High School can participate in a summer internship at Andy Shaw Ford. Students go through the hiring process (application and paperwork) and are then considered Andy Shaw Ford employees. Students will have the opportunity to learn any and all facets of the business. Through this partnership, students will also get the opportunity to learn from Ford technicians and mechanics, especially the new EV (Electric Vehicle) technology that is currently evolving. Through the cooperation of both Cherokee Central Schools, Andy Shaw Ford, and some CTE-based federal grants, Cherokee Central Schools CTE department was able to purchase a F-150 Lightning, which students will get to learn to service, courtesy of Andy Shaw Ford.

Dr. Robertson noted, "This is truly an incredible opportunity for both Cherokee Central Schools, Andy Shaw Ford, and the students that are currently, and will be, taking Automotive Service courses at Cherokee High School." (Photo courtesy of Cherokee Central Schools)




## Live Oak Society

In 1934, Dr. Edwin Lewis Stephens, president of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, founded the Live Oak Society, a registry of live oak trees. According to bylaws, the only *human* member permitted in the Society is the honorary Chairman, who registers and records live oak members. To become registered, the live oak must have a girth (trunk circumference) of 8 feet or greater.


- Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.lgcfinc.org/live-oak-society](http://www.lgcfinc.org/live-oak-society)

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Supported by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (Funded by SAMHSA grant #441970002) (Funded by SAMHSA grant #1117800120007)



# BOOK SIGNING EVENT

**Saturday June 10  
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Signing her Smoky Mtn  
title set in Cherokee

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At the Friends of the Marianna Black Library Bookstore  
32 Everett Street, Bryson City, NC 28713

## OBITUARIES ᏊᏏᏏᏏ

### Vera Lynn "Sam" Rickman

Vera Lynn "Sam" Rickman, age 68, passed away on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at Cherokee Indian Hospital.

She is survived by her sons, Patrick Rickman and John Rickman; brother, William Davis; and sister, Jackie Davis. Vera is preceded in death by her father, Jack C. Davis; mother, Roxie Rattler Davis; son, Ronson Rickman; brothers, Hoppi Davis, Glenn "Dude" Davis, Carl "Joe" Davis, Pete Davis; and sister, Betty "Mit" Davis.

A visitation for family and friends was held on Wednesday, May 17 in the chapel of Long House Funeral Home.

Long House Funeral Home assisted the family with final arrangements.

### Mary Alice Bradley

Mary Alice Bradley, 67, of Cherokee passed away Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

She was the daughter of the late James and Harriett Sutton Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her daughters, Tina Curry and Trina Johnson; brothers, Marvin Johnson and Irvin Hall; sister, Lilly Ramsey; and many other family members.

Mary is survived by her husband of 31 years, McKinley Bradley; children, Elizabeth Murphy, Amanda Bradley, Joseph Murphy, James Murphy all of Cherokee; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; brothers, JB Johnson and Gary Johnson and wife Ann both of Marion; and sisters, Janice Procter and husband Charles, Edith Smith and husband Jerry both of Marion, and Betty June Ball of Bryson City.

No services are planned at this time.



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EBCI-related links**

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

**GWY ᏆᏚᏍᏔᏚ ᏆᏚᏍᏔᏚ**  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI





#### Cherokee students create star-filled canvases

Cherokee Central Schools students in grades 6 through 12th painted individual canvases to be given to guests of the 12th Annual Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation Gala scheduled for July 15. Each personalized canvas is star-inspired in honor of the Gala's 2023 theme, "A Star-Filled Summer Night." The annual Foundation Gala raises money to support employees and programs of the Cherokee Indian Hospital System as well as serves to elevate the culture and heritage of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians to community partners.

Members of the Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation Board Vice-Chair Maggie Jackson and Yona Wade, Secretary of Education for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians met with middle school art teacher Megan Barnes and several student artists on Friday, May 19 to receive the artwork.

Shown, left to right, back row - Trenton Queen (11); Auron Taylor (8); Yona Wade, CIHA Foundation Board member and EBCI Secretary of Education; Megan Barnes, Cherokee Central Schools Art Teacher; Maggie Jackson, CIHA Foundation vice-chair; Teela Ross (8); Autumn Greene (12); front row - Kendra Arch (10), Luke Stamper (8) Kaniah Wolfe (10) Aaliyah Reed (10), Kyleigh Sherman (11), and Jaylynn Brady (11).

(Photo courtesy of Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation)

**The Cherokee One Feather office  
will be closed Friday, May 26  
and Monday, May 29 in observance  
of the Memorial Day Holiday.  
All submissions for the  
May 31 paper are due  
Thursday, May 25 by noon.**

# Leo J. Phillips Attorney at Law

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## CHEROKEE GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Reward offered in Cherokee elk-poaching case

The EBCI Natural Resources Department is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and filing of charges against the person, or persons, responsible for shooting an elk calf on the Qualla Boundary. On the morning of Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022, EBCI Natural Resources Enforcement staff responded to a citizen report of an elk calf at Tsali Manor (55 Echota Church Rd.) that had been shot with an arrow. If anyone has information about the case, please contact EBCI Dispatch (828) 497-4131. Caller information will remain anonymous.

- EBCI Natural Resources Dept.

### 12th Annual Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation Gala set for July

The 12th Annual Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation Gala, which will be held on Saturday, July 15 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, promises to be "A Star-Filled Summer Night," to celebrate healthcare and community in a festive atmosphere under the stars.

"We are honored to have a special guest at this year's Gala, Dr. Stephen Trzeciak, best-selling author and chief of medicine at Cooper University Health Care," said Brittney Lofthouse, development director for the Foundation. "Dr. Trzeciak will share highlights from his research into the impact of compassion in healthcare. Dr. Trzeciak's scientific program has been supported by research grants

from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and he has served as Principal Investigator. He is also the co-author of two books, 'Compassionomics: The Revolutionary Scientific Evidence that Caring Makes a Difference' and 'Wonder Drug: 7 Scientifically Proven Ways That Serving Others Is the Best Medicine for Yourself.'"

In addition to Dr. Trzeciak, the Gala's program will also serve as at time to celebrate local healthcare "stars" including the Hospital's employee of the year and the second annual Lula Owl Gloyne Person of Excellence Award recipient. There are several exciting changes and additions to this year's Gala, including a local spin to the wine pull. This year, the Hospital Foundation is proud to showcase the best that the region has to offer in terms of wine, and believe that

Gala guests will appreciate the opportunity to have a chance to win some of the finest wines available from locally owned and operated wineries.

Another highlight of the evening is the silent auction and raffle, which has been revamped to include premium items such as lower-level tickets for the 2023 Georgia vs Tennessee football game, behind the scenes animal encounters at the Knoxville Zoo, and jewelry from Kendra Scott, just to name a few. The Foundation has been working tirelessly to source unique and exciting items to generate a great deal of interest and raise funds for the Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation.

In partnership with Authentically Cherokee, the Foundation is looking forward to the addition of the Artisans Market at this year's



Gala, which will showcase the work of local Native American artists. This addition to the Gala is an opportunity to support the arts in our community while enjoying the beauty and talent of local artists.

As always, the evening will feature a delicious dinner, networking, and dancing, with music from the Asheville-based band, Crocodile Smile. This year's entertainment specialized in mixing styles and eras of music to play a little bit of everything from old school throw-backs, Motown, rock, to today's country and pop hits.

If you would like to reserve a table (10 seats) or purchase individual tickets, you can do so by emailing Cherokee Indian Hospital Development Director Brittney Lofthouse at [CIHAFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:CIHAFoundation@gmail.com).

- Cherokee Indian Hospital

#### Foundation release

#### One Feather policy change

Effective June 1, 2023, the Cherokee One Feather will only sell the bottom banner strip on the front page for advertising purposes. The Cherokee One Feather Editorial Board approved this new policy on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 so that the top strip of the front page will be reserved for public service announcements and content teasers.

#### THANK YOU LETTERS

##### Thank you

On behalf of the family of Darlene Shook Crisp, we would like to say thank you to everyone that came out for her benefit at Deep Creek Baptist Church. We cannot thank all of you enough for your time and help with medical

expenses. The outpouring of kindness and love shown was overwhelming.

Thank you from the bottom  
of our hearts,

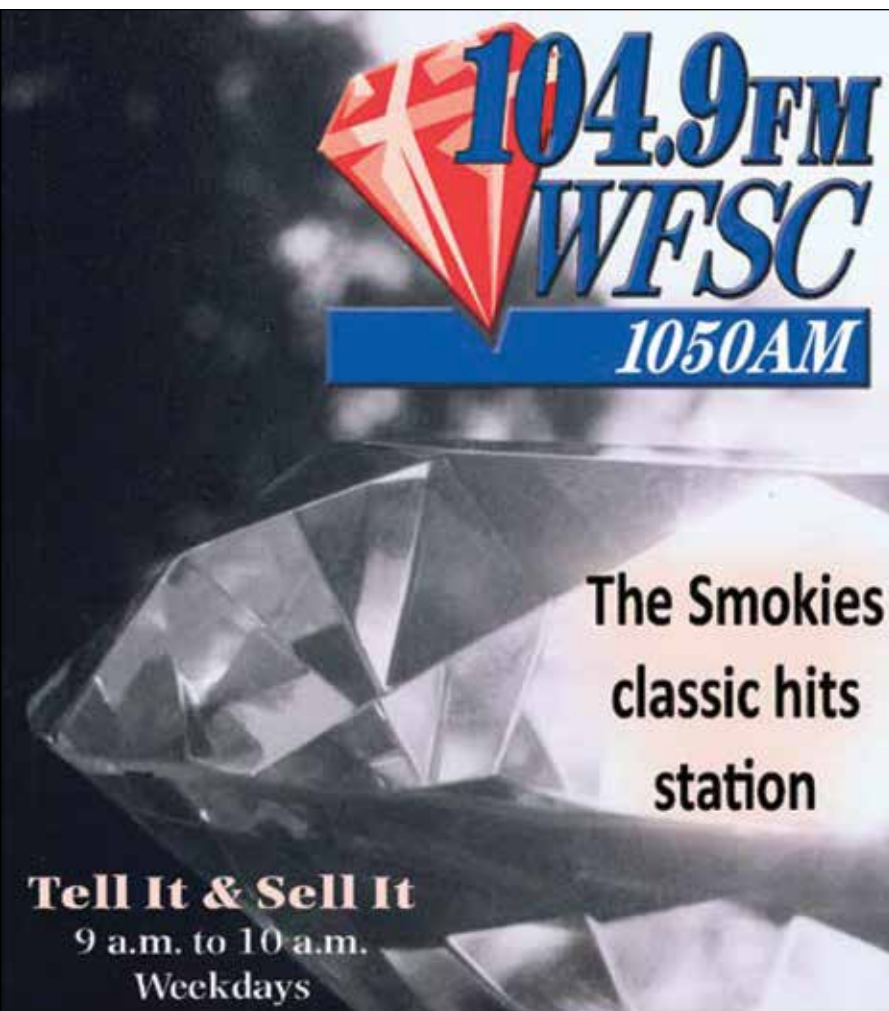
**The family of  
Darlene Shook Crisp**

##### Thank you from the family of Gavin Groenewald

The family of Gavin Groenewald would like to say thank you to for all the prayers through this difficult time. A huge thank you to the following for everything done:

Tribal Construction, Crisp Funeral Home, Yellow Hill Church, Vice Chief B Ensley and Libby, All the singers, all that brought food, monetary donations, all that said a prayer or just had a kind word and all that sent flowers. Aunt Ruby, Kim and George, Tammy, Kayla and a special thank you to Brother Joe Wolfe. Continue to keep our family in your prayers, May God bless all of you.

**Mom Leona Groenewald and  
Mamaw Loucille Winchester**



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COMMENTARY

# Give the Ceremonial Grounds back to the community

By ROBERT JUMPER  
One Feather Editor

First, keep in mind that this is an opinion piece. Everyone has an opinion. You, and the government, may have a different opinion from my own and that is great. I am a big advocate for all of us as a community sharing our opinions on these things that affect our life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Please feel free anytime to submit your thoughts on community concerns to us and we will add your voice to

the discussion.

After all, “they” did say that they wanted community input.

There has been quite a bit of back-and-forth regarding the Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds or Ceremonial Grounds. What you call it depends on how old you are, or whether you are trying to cater to that age group who remember the old days when events were more of a communal nature. From youngsters to elders to political candidates, people have attempted to explain what it was and what they want. The One Feather has polled you. The government has told you. The next-door neighbor has chatted you up about it. The Fairgrounds has been a topic of discussion in planning meetings, town hall meetings, and Tribal Council meetings.

There is one thing for certain about the Fairgrounds at this moment. It is a great place for Canadian geese to rest and an excellent place to grow grass. And while the demolition of the buildings on the property was needed, it is beginning to look like it was very premature.

When the Cherokee Indian Fair was canceled due to the failure and hazard of the amphitheater, the Cherokee Indian Fair Committee, along with the public via the One Feather, was told by the leadership that the potential downtime from scrapping the old and ribbon-cutting the new which was estimated to be a couple of years was later extended to an estimated three years. More recent estimates have put the completion time at more like five years. Five years because a plan was not solidified and approved by the government before the demolition took place. Oh, there was a plan, but one that had not been blessed by the community and certainly not by the Tribal Council.

So, all we have now in that space is a good stand of grass - knee-high grass.

The types of events held on the Ceremonial Grounds were varied and split between community/family and commercial tourism events. Some overlapped their audience, like the Cherokee Rod Runs, which were sponsored and hosted by the local car club but drew both local and outside enthusiasts. Most of the events on the grounds were not profitable and minimally profitable in terms of direct dollars generated by booth fees and ticket prices. But many of those commercial or tourism events’ profit/loss estimates were never calculated properly because they routinely failed to factor in the value of a tourist other than paying a ticket price. When

a tourist hits our Boundary, especially one from out of state, it is rare indeed for them to just come here for a ticketed event and then leave. They typically need a place to sleep, to eat, and to shop, to fish to visit nature, to...well, you get the picture.

I wanted to share the most recent available intelligence on the “value” of a tourist who visits western North Carolina, but either the expertise doesn’t exist or is on vacation at the moment, so I did the next best thing. I queried a travel blogger who has done the math.

Her expert opinion is that, on average, the vacation traveler spends about \$350 per day plus transportation costs. “This is based on spending \$200-\$250 a night on your accommodations and \$75 a day on meals. For meals, I’m estimating \$15 for breakfast, \$25 for lunch, \$30 for dinner, plus \$5 for a snack.”-StuffedSuitcase.com. This amount doesn’t include those must-have souvenirs that could easily add \$15-plus a day to the mix.

So, even for an event like the Talking Trees Children’s Trout Derby, which, on a slow day could bring 1,500 kids to the Oconaluftee Island Park (and to the Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds for the registration day festivities), you could be looking at an estimated economic impact of a half-million dollars (assuming each child represented a family of four (the participant, mom, dad, grandparents, or other siblings). All theoretical of course, because no study of that depth has been performed on Cherokee events to my knowledge. The Derby is not a direct revenue generator because participants get to fish for free and dollars are spent for gifts and prizes for the young ones. But a negative cash flow event, it is not.



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All you must do is look at hotel and restaurant parking lots to see where the income is coming into our economy.

For both the Fairgrounds and those events that used the Fairgrounds as their venue, you also must look at the promotional value of the property and events.

Another issue that has nagged the property and events thereon is our total confusion as a Tribe on what we want out of the grounds. You will hear the government talk about the grounds in terms of dollar generation. In fact, at a recent Planning Board session, concepts for the reinstallation of the Fairgrounds were discussed and their discussion kept coming back to profitability. If they are going to continue to talk about the Ceremonial Grounds as commercial space and requiring a monetary

“return on investment”, then the government should turn the project over to the Kituwah, LLC and let them create a profitable model. Several times over the last couple of decades, those of us who managed the grounds and events told our government that the size of the Fairgrounds was becoming an issue because the events we would create were outgrowing the space. The existing footprint of the Fairgrounds is simply not big enough for most of the opportunities. Think back to the days when Laverne Brown presented motorcycle rallies. The event and the town would bust at the seams in need of additional space.

From the community, the outcry is a little different - those who have used and have been accustomed to the Ceremonial Grounds, where their annual “Cherokee Indi-

an Fair” or “Fall Festival” was held. And there were many other times of community gatherings that used the grounds as their home. Strawberry and Blueberry Festivals, indigenous dance, birthdays, Miss Cherokee Pageants, Week of the Young Child, Cherokee Day of Carving, Housing and Health Fairs, etc. None of the aforementioned activities were necessarily high-ticket profit-makers, but their value to the community was priceless. How do you estimate the value of our Tribal elders sitting down to meals and bingo in that old exhibit hall? What price tag do you place on the cotton-candy-smear face of a Cherokee child as he or she weaves through, at lightning speeds, the crowds at the Fair? All those things happened in a place where now, we watch the grass grow.

So, my opinion is that we give the Ceremonial Grounds back to the community. Where the amphitheater once stood, design seating and stage to what existed there before the demolition. Add an enclosure that would protect the stage and seating from the elements. Construct dressing rooms for the performers in the enclosed stage area. Where the concession building stood, replace it with a storage building to house all the equipment and supplies necessary for events on the property. Reconstruct and modernize the Exhibit Hall in a position like its old footprint. Create a food booth/food truck area with utility connections for that purpose. Strategically position restroom facilities at each end of the grounds. And rebuild ticket booths-smaller ones but at each entrance. And build in an ability to handle livestock, so that the community might benefit from having and attending shows and sales, like back in the day.

And while proposed open-air concepts look pretty on paper, fair-ground venues without some types of secure fencing are not practical. My example is the Maggie Valley Fairgrounds, which pretty much has an event going every weekend of the season every year (booked third-party events that do not cost the town a cent and generate tax dollars on top of rental fees). It would be impossible for them to book events from third-party promoters and producers without fencing to contain their event and control the gate for ticketing purposes. It is great to allow as much flat open space for event placement on the grounds, but security will be a big factor in selling the grounds in those times when the community doesn't need it.

Over the years, many of our people have had heart and soul poured into that piece of property. In my relatively short time working for the Tribe, one of my first assignments was working at the Cherokee Indian Fair. In those days, it was nothing to put in 16-hour days making sure that all the work necessary to make the Fair successful happened.

One community member commented during the recent Town Hall meeting, “I wish some of our old people would speak. They are hurting. This is where they gathered. This is our gathering place.” Again, just my opinion, but I think we need to fast-track the development and implementation of a construction plan for our Ceremonial Grounds and our government needs to come to terms as to what the community wants it to be, and the community's answer may not be “we want it to generate dollars”. Because soon, we won't be able to see the fairgrounds for the grass.



COMMENTARY

# Speak out against stigma

By **CHELSEA J. TAYLOR**  
Wolftown Community

Have you ever wondered why a reluctance to seek help or treatment exists? Could it be that due to a lack of understanding by family, friends, co-workers, or community members? Reference sources from the Mayo Clinic site that mental illness can be caused by genetics,

physical environment, and social environment. This leads me to express that at any point of time in your life your reactions, comments, or ability to empathize with people you encounter could be negatively life changing.

I will be the first to admit that I haven't always lived up to the advice my granny has taught me, but now more than ever I see what she meant by her teachings. She encouraged me to treat people like they were angels in disguise from the book of Hebrews chapter 13 verse 2 "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."

People may or may not be aware of what

they inherited through genetics, the reason why they function in physical environments, or how different social environments impact them. Regardless, we as a community need to understand that our reactions, comments, or lack of empathy for someone's daily walk of life could be the reason why they never reach out for help or treatment.

If this hits home to you, then please join me in speaking out against stigmas on mental health services, recovery services, intellectual disabilities services, crisis response services, and many more. Community Connection, Awareness, Support, and Compassion are words that come to mind.



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**Thank you,  
 Regina Ledford Rosario**




### Accepting Applications

Lambert Wilson Way will begin taking applications Monday, May 15, 2023 until Tuesday, May 23, 2023. First round of applications will be for EBCI enrolled members only. Then it will open to non-enrolled if not leased up.

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**Half Page:** 4.67" x 10.6" or 9.5" x 5.25"  
 \$100/week

**Quarter Page:** 4.67" x 5.25"  
 \$50/week

**1/8 Page:** 2.25" x 5.25" or 4.67" x 2.5"  
 \$25/week

The minimum charge for a display ad is \$25.

#### Online Ads at theonefeather.com

**Banner Ad:** 970 x 150 pixels - \$50/week

#### Facebook Posts

Facebook ads are \$100 per placement - maximum of one post per day.

#### Print Line Ads

Classifieds involving items under \$25,000 are FREE.



Listings over that amount are \$10 per column inch.

All other line ads (employments, legal notices, bids, etc.) will be billed at \$10 per column inch.

#### Inserts

\$100/week and customer must provide the printed inserts.

Call Dawn at (828) 359-6489 or email: dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov for ad questions.

### Accepting Applications

Lambert Wilson Way will begin taking applications Monday, May 15, 2023 until Tuesday, May 23, 2023. First round of applications will be for EBCI enrolled members only. Then it will open to non-enrolled if not leased up.

- 3-bedroom, one level – 8 Units
- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Responsible for utilities and Renter's Insurance
- Price \$1,000.00/month

**Residential Homes**  
 Lambert Wilson Way  
 Whittier, NC. 28789

**Contact:**  
**Sheila Brown**  
 Housing Services Manager  
 Application link will be emailed for completion

828-359-6328  
 sheibrow@ebci-nsn.gov

# Resurrection Day 2023

**By TIMOTHY L. MELTON, PASTOR**

(Transcribed by Myra D. Colgate)

Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness Church

Continuation...

Read Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-20; John 20:12, 18-23

God is Real. God is Powerful. God can make things happen. The tomb is empty, and the stone is still rolled away. As the women had gathered at the tomb, they had found this to be the Truth, but the Apostles had even said to them, "Their words were as 'idle tales to them because they didn't believe their words.'"

What a sad commentary on that morning, the very ones God had chosen, even though they had walked with Him and talked with Him, those who had seen all the miracles, still could not believe it when they heard that He was alive. The women knew it was true that the tomb was empty. Whether one believes it or not... They found out that even though they didn't believe it, they found it was still True. True, even though they didn't know what made the difference. It was still the Truth. They knew it was real.

Whether one believes it or not, He's still alive and well. Whether one believes it or not, He's still alive and well. Whether one knows it or not, He's still on the Throne, He's still working in one's life. He's still a Healer if one is sick, He's still a Deliverer if one is bound. He's still the God of all Creation, even if one's world is falling apart, whether one does believe or if doesn't believe, He's still God.

Now I know that this is the church group, and one might say, Pastor Tim, I'd never say that the Bible was 'idle tales. I'd never disbelieve what the Word of God says, but how many times has all hell broke loose in one's life, and one has fallen on their face and begun to cry instead of lifting up one's hands and has begun to praise Him? Do we understand what the problem is?

So, suddenly, we look at somebody else's life and rejoice about what God has done in their life and cry about what's going on in our own. We feel like the sepulcher today is full of the failures of our own lives and situations.

We wonder who is going to roll away the stone. Who is going to tell us about this thing's for real, that this thing's Powerful?

I got that call this week about a person being set free and delivered and that they've begun doing the impossible. I said to him, "You realize what you've gotten a hold of is real and it's Powerful?" I don't understand why everyone in Cherokee is not in a church somewhere this morning because God is real, the Word is real. He can make things happen that no one else can. That's why I hear this repeatedly when somebody comes in and gives their heart to Jesus and they begin to believe the Word of God, "Why didn't I do this sooner?" "Why didn't I grab hold of this sooner than I did?"

I'll tell you why. A person just wasn't convinced. There's still an empty tomb and no one is in there. The stone has been rolled away.

What He's said is true! Something else happened that day. Something else began to stir because there was a man there by the name of Peter, and that was when the ladies began to say, 'Here's what we saw, and here's what the angels reminded us of.' Right down the road

a piece, there's a mighty moving in the Spirit Realm taking place.

The Bible said in verse. 12. "Peter arose." He couldn't take anymore, and he ran down to the sepulcher to see what was going on. And the Bible said, "He stooped down and beheld the linen clothes laying by themselves and he departed wondering if that which he saw had really come to pass?"

Peter had been hiding in a house. No doubt, he was afraid that they'd come after him next. He was concerned that he had 'put all of his eggs in one basket', and that now the basket had fallen to the ground. He was there trying to figure it out. 'What are my next steps and what do I do now? How do I handle a situation that is so broken?'

Peter seems to have explained this, in that, he had spent the last three and a half years telling people that this was the Messiah and now He's dead, and having walked beside Him and testified of Him and now it seems to be all over. I'm hiding because I'm afraid of the people. I'm hiding because I'm trying to save face.'

To be continued...



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

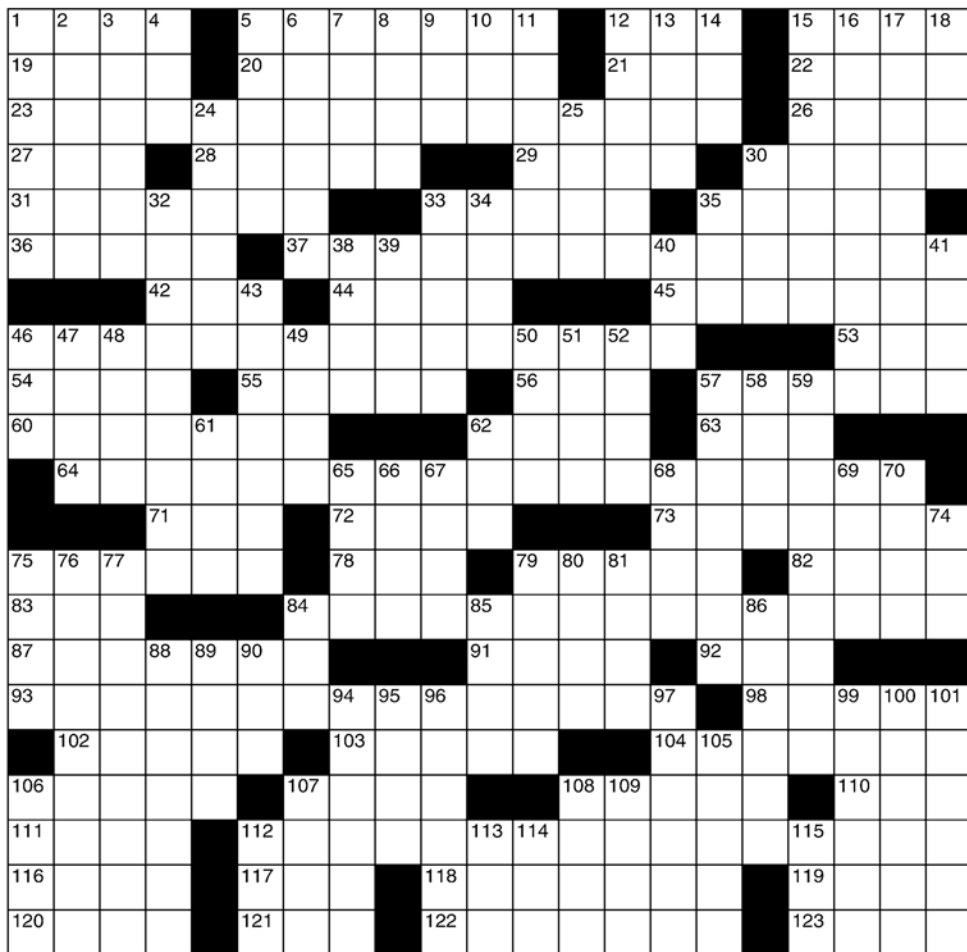
*The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. 2 CHRONICLES 36: 15,16*



Etching by Kathe Kollwitz (1910)



- ACROSS**
- 1 Jacob bought his birthright  
5 City in Pennsylvania  
12 Hooting avian  
15 Factory type  
19 Pibb — (soda brand)  
20 Kenya's capital  
21 Foot digit  
22 Vicinity  
23 U.S. president ordering steeds to turn right?  
26 Have a strong desire  
27 Ending for cyan-  
28 Turns sharply  
29 Winter footwear item  
30 Styx and The Stones  
31 More suspicious  
33 Inclined positions  
35 "Da Ali G Show" star — Baron Cohen  
36 Taken in food  
37 Women's suffragist keeping an apiary?  
42 I, to Freud  
44 Speak wildly  
45 "Absolutely not!"
- 46 "Dallas" actress fancying blue birds?  
53 Lumber tool  
54 Underworld  
55 Disprove  
56 Otherwise called, in brief  
57 Some city planners  
60 Big, ornate cupboard  
62 Send off  
63 Historic time  
64 Tuskegee University founder steeping beverages?  
71 Kitten's call  
72 Gal pal, in Paris  
73 Receptacle in a kitchen sink  
75 Trees with very light wood  
78 Performed  
79 Car parker  
82 Road runner  
83 Fruit drink  
84 "Hidden Figures" actress growing podded vegetables?  
87 Placed in a carafe
- 91 "Point taken"  
92 — Lanka  
93 Sci-fi writer going on cruises?  
98 Split-off religions  
102 New Hampshire  
103 Quiet spells  
104 Govt. aid for a start-up  
106 Ballet dancer's rail  
107 Lamarr of old films  
108 Coup — (overthrow)  
110 Rosemary player Farrow  
111 "SOS" quartet  
112 "Gone With the Wind" producer piling up debt?  
116 Hog's food  
117 "Is" pluralized  
118 One ousted  
119 Have a strong desire  
120 Voluptuous  
121 Have a strong desire  
122 Deep bows of respect  
123 They precede omegas
- DOWN**
- 1 Many an alimony recipient  
2 Sports domes  
3 Haul in  
4 Old Egypt-Syr. alliance  
5 Year, in Paris  
6 Pilsners, e.g.  
7 Arena section  
8 Mined metals  
9 "Ni-i-ice!"  
10 Spurs' gp.  
11 Website for finding homestays  
12 Lazy or useless  
13 Refuses to  
14 Table support  
15 Old Testament prophet  
16 Steam locomotive, in old lingo  
17 Listen supportively  
18 Dawdles  
24 Show clearly  
25 Heap affection (on)  
30 Swung sticks  
32 Generational treasures  
33 "— talk?" (Joan Rivers catchphrase)  
34 Prefix with discrimination  
35 — -cone  
38 Europe-Asia border river  
39 "Don't — didn't warn you!"  
40 Runner or writer Packer  
41 Conifers with red arils  
43 Israelites  
46 Old TV's "— Na Na"  
47 Basil or sage  
48 Sailor's saint  
49 Razz  
50 Tibetan monk  
51 Pair for the slopes  
52 Sacred vow  
57 Summits  
58 Assns.  
59 Novelist Hawthorne  
61 Big furniture retailer  
62 She baas  
65 "And there you have it!"  
66 Muslim ruler  
67 Verdi opera  
68 It's a thought  
69 Musical work  
70 Post-WWII alliance  
74 Prefix with discrimination  
75 "Ali — and the Forty Thieves"  
76 Cutely nerdy, in slang  
77 Format for presenting films in video form  
79 Stamps on passports  
80 Copycat  
81 Onion relative  
84 NFL goals  
85 Jack's hill-climbing partner  
86 Counterfeit  
88 Remedial regimen  
89 Debussy's "Clair de —"  
90 Before, to Browning  
94 High dice roll  
95 Quattro  
96 Astronomer Tombaugh and aviator Cessna  
97 Value highly  
99 Funnies  
100 Meditative Chinese martial art  
101 Some reptiles  
105 Cubes of hay  
106 Perch's kin  
107 Rabbit's kin  
108 Ten: Prefix  
109 This, in Spain  
112 24-hour span  
113 Lab eggs  
114 Actor Wheaton  
115 Short snooze



See answers on page 46

# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

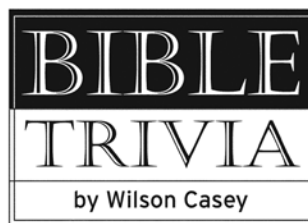
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8					7	6		
	1		4	3				8
		9		1			2	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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1. Is the book of Lamentations (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In 1 Timothy 5:23, what did Paul suggest to Timothy for his frequent ailments? *Water, Wine, Bread, Honey*
3. From Genesis 41:41-42, which Hebrew became prime minister of Egypt? *David, Joseph, Nehemiah, Joel*
4. Where did Jesus spend his youth as found in Luke 4:16? *Smyrna, Tarsus, Antioch, Nazareth*
5. Who was stoned to death in the valley of Achor? *Abinoam, Achan, Ahilud, Abitub*
6. Jesus and who else walked on water? *Thomas, Andrew, Peter, James*

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).

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1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the high school in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"?
2. MOVIES: Who voiced the character Woody in "Toy Story"?
3. LITERATURE: Who are the tragic lovers in the novel "Wuthering Heights"?
4. AD SLOGANS: Which product invites consumers to "taste the rainbow"?
5. FOOD & DRINK: Which root vegetable is known as Japanese horseradish?
6. ANATOMY: What substance gives skin its color?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Great Pyramids of Giza located?
8. HISTORY: Who was the first female prime minister of Great Britain?
9. SCIENCE: What is the hollow, woody tissue that carries water and nutrients from a plant's roots to the entire plant?
10. U.S. STATES: Which is the only state that doesn't have a mandatory seat belt law for adults?

EVENTS

BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

**Benefit Dinner for Ezekiel Littlejohn.** May 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Building. \$10 dinners with fried chicken, fried potatoes, cabbage, fatback, bean bread or lye dumpling, drink/water. Proceeds will go towards Ezekiel’s medical and travel expenses. Info: Moose and Spirit (828) 736-9626

**Turkey Shoot.** May 27 at 3 p.m. at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in the Big Cove Community. 20 rounds at \$3/round, two rounds at \$5/round. All proceeds will assist Katherine Armachain and Carys Holiday with travel expenses.

**Turkey Shoot.** June 3 at 3 p.m. at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in the Big Cove Community. Fundraiser for Kolanvyi Indian Ball travel expenses. Good food, good fun, great prizes, great benefit.

EBCI COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Virtual Forager Fridays with the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.** View via the Museum of the Cherokee Indian’s YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@cherokeemuseum>) Branch Lettuce. May 26 at 5 p.m. – YouTube premeire. The final Forager Friday of the season calls for branch lettuce—sometimes called “wild lettuce”— a versatile late spring green.

**Christian Veterinary Mission Animal Clinics.** Services and fees include: dog neuter \$30, cat neuter \$20, spay for both cat and dog \$50, vaccines \$10/per animal (will also have Parvo vaccine available). All monies raised from the clinics is given to the church hosting the event. The funds raised in Cherokee

will be given to Grace Community Church of Cherokee who, in turn, will donate half of the proceeds to Sacred Roots Farm, a ministry for human trafficking victims. - Cherokee Clinic. June 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center. This is for residents of the Qualla Boundary. Info: Tammy Jackson 788-0878 or Scott Hill 508-7836

**Cherokee High School Commencement Events.** - CHS Senior Parade. May 24 at 4 p.m. - Baccalaureate. May 24 at 6 p.m. (following parade) in the Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center - Graduation. May 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Ray Kinsland Stadium at CHS.

**NAIWA Strawberry Festival.** May 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center. Featuring strawberry pancakes and strawberry shortcake. Contests and activities for children and adults. Vendor space is available for \$10/table. To reserve tables or for more information, call Lucille Wolfe 736-5285 or email to [carmaleta@msn.com](mailto:carmaleta@msn.com)

**37th Annual Fading Voices.** May 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Little Snowbird Church playground, Snowbird Community, Robbinsville, N.C. Mound Ceremony at 11 a.m. Demonstrations: beadwork, pottery, quilting, wood carving, storytelling, and much more. Info: 735-4959, 582-7369, or 479-1201

**Annual Kituwah Celebration.** June 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Kituwah Mound. Celebrating the return of the Mother Town.

**Flag Retirement Ceremony.** June 14 at 5 p.m. at the Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post

143 headquarters at 1526 Acquoni Road in Cherokee, N.C. If you have a flag that has become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled and would like it to be properly retired, bring it to the Post from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Info: Gregory Hunt (828) 342-2024 or [n8tvwarrior@outlook.com](mailto:n8tvwarrior@outlook.com)

**NAIWA Blueberry Festival.** July 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center. Featuring blueberry pancakes. Vendor space is available for \$10/table. To reserve tables or for more information, call Lucille Wolfe 736-5285 or email to [carmaleta@msn.com](mailto:carmaleta@msn.com)

HEALTH & SPORTS EVENTS

**Snowbird Health Fair.** May 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jacob Cornsilk Complex at 60 Snowbird School Road in Robbinsville, N.C.

Meet with EBCI Community Health staff. Lots of vendors will be present. Info: (828) 346-6958

**Makennah Craft Wrestling Camp, Champions Training Champions.** June 10-11 at The Barn at 20 Ensley Road in Bryson City, N.C. Info: Coach DeHart (937) 418-4964

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.*

**For the People Pow Wow.** May 27-28 at Jefferson City Jaycee Fair-

Puzzle Answers

Super Crossword


Answers

E	S	A	U		A	L	T	O	O	N	A		O	W	L		M	I	L	L				
X	T	R	A		N	A	I	R	O	B	I		T	O	E		A	R	E	A				
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A	R	M	O	I	R	E				E	M	I	T		E	R	A							
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						M	E	W		A	M	I	E			D	I	S	H	P	A	N		
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B	A	R	R	E		H	E	D	Y			D	E	T	A	T		M	I	A				
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S	L	O	P			A	R	E		E	V	I	C	T	E	E		A	C	H	E			
S	E	X	Y			Y	E	N			S	A	L	A	A	M	S		P	S	I	S		

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	9	7	1	8	5	2	6	3
2	5	3	7	6	9	1	8	4
6	8	1	2	4	3	7	9	5
3	4	8	9	7	6	5	1	2
1	6	5	8	2	4	3	7	9
9	7	2	3	5	1	8	4	6
8	2	4	5	9	7	6	3	1
7	1	6	4	3	2	9	5	8
5	3	9	6	1	8	4	2	7


**BIBLE TRIVIA**  
 by Wilson Casey

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Wine, 3) Joseph, 4) Nazareth, 5) Achan, 6) Peter (Matthew 14:29)


**Trivia test**  
 by Fifi Rodriguez

Answers

- 1. Sunnydale High.
- 2. Tom Hanks.
- 3. Heathcliff and Catherine.
- 4. Skittles.
- 5. Wasabi.
- 6. Melanin.
- 7. Egypt.
- 8. Margaret Thatcher.
- 9. Xylem.
- 10. New Hampshire.



grounds in Jefferson City, Mo. MC: Ed Smith. Host Drum: Big Soldier Creek. Info: Greg Olson (573) 814-9135, ftppowwow@gmail.com

**Shining Mountains Pow Wow.** May 27-28 at Aspen High School in Aspen, Colo. MC: Steve LaPointe. Host Northern Drum: Iron Boy. Host Southern Drum: Omaha Singing Eagle. Info: Deanne Vitrac-Kessler dvitrackessler@gmail.com

**Skykomish Valley Indian 19th Annual Traditional Pow Wow.** May 27 at Monroe High School Commons in Monroe, Wash. MC: Randy Vendiola. Info: Mars Miller (425) 359-8935, millerm@monroe.wednet.edu

**Alabama-Coushatta 53rd Annual Pow Wow.** June 2-3 at the Alabama-Coushatta Veteran's Pa-

vilion in Livingston, Texas. Emcees: Rob Daugherty and Bryan Williams. Host Northern Drum: Young Spirit. Host Southern Drum: Blazing Bear. Info: Davie Johnson (936) 563-1100, superdj\_126@yahoo.com

**Moving Forward Together Pow Wow.** June 2-3 at the Rafter 3C Arena at the Churchill County Fairgrounds in Fallon, Nev. MC: Tyson Shay. Host Drum: Bear Springs. Info: Kadie Zeller at fallonpowwow@gmail.com

**Redbird's 21st Children of Many Colors Intertribal Pow Wow.** June 2-4 at the Oxnard College Gymnasium Field in Oxnard, Calif. Info: Corina Roberts (626) 644-7558, redbirds\_vision@hotmail.com

See **EVENTS** next page



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Problems begin to affect relationships, both personal and professional. Act now to shore up those weak foundations before it all comes crashing down around you.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Take a break from all that hard work you've been doing. There's nothing like some well-earned fun and games to charge up those Bovine batteries and send you back fully energized and ready to go.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Deception can sometimes affect perception. You should take a longer, deeper look at what you're being offered. Things might not be quite what you first thought they were.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A friend's loyalty suddenly comes into question. But, before you rush to judgment, listen to what they have to say. This could be an important learning lesson for you.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The time has come for you to set things right. Your courage will help you meet the difficult challenge ahead. Others will be inspired by your actions and rally to support you.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A stubborn insistence that your way is the only way to solve problems could make things worse than they are. Open your mind to suggestions from others.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A close associate reveals a secret that could affect an upcoming decision. Rely on your natural instinct to weigh everything carefully, to help you get through this dilemma.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Congratulations! Your decision to take action and deal with a long-simmering situation in the workplace begins to pay off. In addition, a family member has some good news.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You still need to persuade your partner that you're sincere in wanting to save this relationship. Remember: Performance speaks louder than promises.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A disappointment in the workplace can be a blessing in disguise. Take another look at your goals and see if this is the path you really want to follow.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Avoid winding up in the middle of an unpleasant family situation by reassuring your cantankerous kinfolk that you love them all — but that you won't take sides.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A successful workplace move begins to pay off with offers of new opportunities, but some might come with strings attached. Check them all carefully before deciding.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You love to entertain. You appreciate fine food and elegant surroundings. You're happiest when you make other people feel good about themselves.

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## Should I Withhold Water From My Puppy to Aid Housetraining?

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I purchased a puppy who is 2 months old from a breeder in another state. I'm having trouble housetraining her. She drinks water all day, but she can't hold her pee and ends up wetting on the floor. I work from home, but I can't catch her and correct her. Instead, I think I should just take the water bowl away for most of the day. Will that work? — Frustrated in Tallahassee

**DEAR FRUSTRATED:** Do not take away the water bowl. Pets should always have access to water, regardless of their housetraining status.

Puppies have really tiny bladders and cannot hold their water for very long. So they pee much more frequently than you realize. But they shouldn't have to suffer and be thirsty just because their accidents are inconvenient for you.

This link has detailed information and advice on managing puppy housetraining issues: [iaabcjournal.org/housetraining-hang-ups/](http://iaabcjournal.org/housetraining-hang-ups/), including when to contact a veterinarian.

One great piece of advice here is to create a puppy playpen and line it with pee pads, as well as water-resistant chew toys. As your puppy grows and gets better at holding their bladder and understands your commands better, gradually take away pads until there is just one "target" in the pen.

Above all, be patient with your new puppy. She is starting out in a whole new world, in a tiny body that is constantly changing and growing. Set a routine with frequent outdoor potty breaks in the same spot. Reward her when she pees outside. She will get this — eventually!

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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# VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

## Proposed 2024 VA Budget not Good for Veterans

While the proposed 2024 Department of Veterans Affairs budget increase of 5% sounds good, it's actually the lowest hike they've seen in nearly 10 years. The president claims that there is a "sacred obligation" to support veterans and that \$325 billion will do just that.

As always, the devil is in the details, and that budget would cut into critical VA programs to the tune of 22%.

Per a VA.gov news release, those cuts would mean:

- 30 million fewer healthcare outpatient visits for everything from mental health services to cancer screenings and treatments to wellness care.

- 81,000 jobs would vanish across the health care system at the VA.

- 50,000 housing vouchers would be eliminated.

- 6,000 jobs would be eliminated among those who handle the disability claims backlogs, which would cause delays in getting benefits for education, insurance, pensions and more. The net result would be 134,000 additional backlogged claims. This comes at the same time the VA is supposed to be increasing hiring because of the extra work due to the PACT Act, which offers help and benefits to those veterans who were exposed to toxins.

- 500 cemetery worker jobs would be lost, meaning the five new cemeteries would be delayed and maintenance at current cemeteries would suffer.

- Impaired abilities to expand telehealth care, with limited medical equipment for the veterans to use at home. The information and technology area, for example, would be short \$345 million for the network.

- \$565 million less for construction to fix or build VA hospitals and clinics.

If you read about the budget in various places, all the glowing language might make it look as though so many millions are being provided to help veterans ... but keep a calculator handy and do the math. Consider your own financial position and think of what a 22% shortfall would do. There would be cutbacks, doing without, unmet needs, etc.

To read more about the damage the budget would do, check out [www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5874](http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5874).

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**EVENTS:** From page 47

**Taylorville Black Horse Pow Wow.** June 2-4 at the Taylorville Lake Marina in Taylorville, Ill. Info: Fred DuBay (217) 823-6878, blackhorse@ctitech.com

**Veterans Pow Wow and Festival.** June 2-4 at the Fort Hunter Fire Dept. in Fort Hunter, New York. Info: Bob Ross (607) 776-6776, metisnaandca@gmail.com

**23rd Annual Rogue Valley Veterans Pow Wow.** June 3-4 at the Valley of the Rogue State Park in Gold Hill, Ore. MC: Bob Tom. Honor Drum: Screaming Eagle. Info: Nick Hall (541) 659-0309

**Chilocco Alumni Pow Wow.** June 3 at the First Council Casino & Hotel Event Center in Newkirk,

Okla. MC: Oliver Littlecook. Info: Oliver Littlecook (580) 485-8438

**Intermountain Championships Pow Wow.** June 3-4 at the River's Edge Campground in Heber City, Utah. MC: Bart Powaukee. Host Drum: Blackstone. Info: Jacob Crane at culturalfireevents@gmail.com

**WESTERN N.C. & BEYOND EVENTS Native Market.** Third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 46 Aston Street in Asheville, N.C. To be a vendor, visit [www.indigenouswallsprojects.com](http://www.indigenouswallsprojects.com) and fill out the application.

**Cherokee High School and Teacher exhibit.** May 3-29 at the Haywood County Arts Council 86 N Mail St, Waynesville, N.C. This specially curated exhibit, curated by Lori Reed, features work of

Cherokee High School students and their teachers in celebration of the unveiling of the Cherokee-inspired and -designed mural on the HCAC's building back wall facing Wall Street. Info: [www.haywoodartscouncil.org](http://www.haywoodartscouncil.org), (828) 452-0593

**Bilingual Storytime at the Library.** May 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Jackson County Public Library in Sylva, N.C. Bilingual Storytime includes stories, songs, rhymes, and more in both English and Spanish. Info: Jackson County Public Library 586-2016.

**Creating Community Workshop: Rock Painting.** May 27 at 10 a.m. at the Jackson County Public Library in Sylva, N.C. Participants will join artist Amy Stevens to create a hand-painted rock. This class is for people 16-years and older. Info: 586-2016 or email [JCPL-Adults@fontanalib.org](mailto:JCPL-Adults@fontanalib.org)

**Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society meeting.** June 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Drive in Bryson City, N.C. Jim Casada and Tipper Pressley will be presenting "Celebrating Southern Appalachian Food". Conversation and refreshments will follow this presentation which is free and open to the public.

**Tennessee Statehood Day Celebration.** June 4 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, Tenn. The blacksmith shop will be open with demonstrations going on throughout the day. Demonstrations of the 1833 Otis Tufts Acorn Gap Printing Press, and learn about Cherokees in the Civil War. Free admission day. Info: (423) 884-6246

**5th Annual Blue Ridge Heritage Weekend at the Shelton House.** June 16-17 at the Shelton House in Waynesville, N.C. This event is open to the public with artists, food vendors, and Appalachian music on the front porch of the 1875 home. The event is free, but donations are welcome and go to the preservation of this historic site. Info: [info@sheltonhouse.org](mailto:info@sheltonhouse.org)

**Styrofoam Recycling Event.** June 25 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Mark Watson Park in Sylva, N.C. Bring all of your clean Styrofoam to be condensed then taken to another facility for repurposing. Info: Curt Collins (828) 476-0334 or email [thewheemarket@gmail.com](mailto:thewheemarket@gmail.com)

**Murphy Art Center events.** Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/OurMurphyArtCenter/events>

#### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Alcoholics Anonymous meets** every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Analenisgi. Info: [www.AAwnc80.com](http://www.AAwnc80.com)

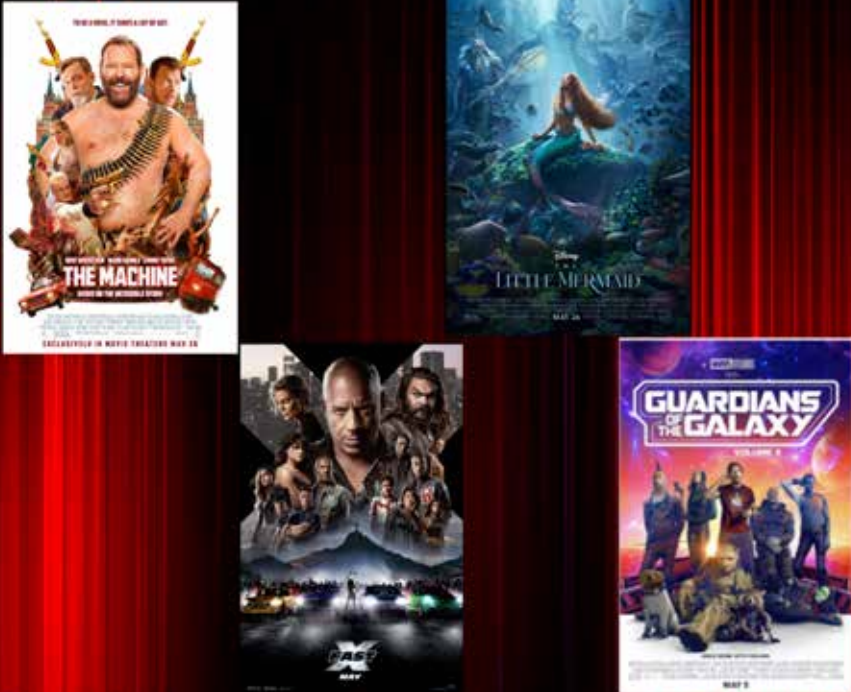
**Cherokee Cancer Support Group** meets the first Thursday of each month at Betty's Place at 40 Goose Creek Road in the Birdtown Community. A potluck is held at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting is open to all. Betty's Place is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They provide counseling and support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

**MARA (Medication-Assisted Recovery Anonymous)** meets Thursdays at 5 p.m. in the Rivercane Room at Analenisgi. Info: Analenisgi (828) 497-9163 or visit: <https://cherokeehospital.org/locations/analenisgi>

91 Sequoyah Trail  
828-497-7384  
[CherokeeCinemas.com](http://CherokeeCinemas.com)

**CHEROKEE CINEMAS** & MORE

**Showing Thursday- Sunday**



**For tickets visit Fandango.com**



# MISSING PERSON

**Darian Nevayaktewa**

Male

Height: 5' 11"      Weight: 175 lbs

Hair: Black    Eyes : Brown

American Indian or Alaska Native-Hopi

Date of last contact: June 20, 2008

Location: Village of Kykotsmovi, AZ

Circumstances of Disappearance: Darian Nevayaktewa went missing on June 20, 2008 and was last seen in the village of Kykotsmovi on the Hopi Indian Reservation. Physical features: Tattoo on right upper arm of "Lil G".

If you have seen , contact Kenderick Powell, BIA OJS Missing and Murdered Unit. Tip lines: text BIAMMU and your tip to 847411; call in your tip to 1-833-560-2065; and email OJS\_MMU@bia.gov.

Source: BIA.gov



Graphic By  
GWY 𐏆V° 𐏆YLC  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

# Wilson Family



## Chiropractic

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## Gentle, Thorough Chiropractic Care for Patients of All Ages

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### Conditions We Treat:

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[www.wilsonfamilychiropractic.net](http://www.wilsonfamilychiropractic.net)

73 West Main Street, Sylva NC 28779

## Sunrise Community for Recovery & Wellness



# Siquo Danyhna



The Siquo Danvha “They are living again” re-entry team is made up of certified peer support specialists that have lived experience with substance use and/or mental health challenges and works collaboratively with the Eastern Band Cherokee Indians (Tribe). The team provides supportive services to individuals returning to the community from incarceration and/or involved in the EBCI court system.

Our peer supports work with these individuals by supporting their sustained recovery and health needs through provision of system navigation, engagement support, as well as providing social determinants of health resources.

**Call to speak to a  
Peer Support Specialist**



**Male staff: 828-507-0541**

**Female staff: 828-506-6330**

*We are Certified Peer Support Specialists with lived experience managing and overcoming substance use and mental health challenges and justice system involvement.*

[www.sunriseinasheville.org](http://www.sunriseinasheville.org)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Estate Sale of Suzanne Hornbuckle

Friday thru Monday May 26th-29th 11:00am - 8:00pm. 151 Magnolia Lane, Look for sign between Fairfield and Days Inn. **5/24**

### Research Study

We invite you to participate in a research study about services for victims of crime and co-victims of homicide in NC. Go to: <https://bit.ly/crimestudy> Or contact us: [crimestudy@unc.edu](mailto:crimestudy@unc.edu) (919) 525-1148. **5/31**

**LOST gold mens ring** with Diamond center, in the Cherokee area, around April 30 and May 1; visited Qualla Co-op, the Museum, Medicine man crafts, Talking Leaves,

Native Brews and the Park visitor center. Was in attendance for the Late Carol Welch funeral. Stayed at the Econolodge. Ring has sentimental value. If found please call Dwight Price at 803-960-3966 **5/24**

**Looking for a place to rent**, pet friendly, small house with a small pasture for older horse. Please call Debbie Stone 352-208-1057. **5/31**

**Available to haul small loads of gravel, dirt, etc.** Gravel road maintenance including grading, culverts, ditches, and burying pipe or wire. Track hoe and tractor for dirt work and bush hogging. Free quotes 788-4799. **6/28**

**For Sale: 1996 Regal Double wide Manufactured Home.** 24

by 48 feet. Very clean, new laminate flooring, no leaks. Must be moved!!! 992 Goose Creek. Open house Sat. May 27 10-1. Text 828 734 1464. **5/31**

## EMPLOYMENT

### Kituwah Services, LLC has the following job(s) available:

Telecommunications Specialist  
Anyone interested should pick up an application and position description at the KG3 office building between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or email Maggie Toineeta at [maggie.toineeta@kituwahkg3.com](mailto:maggie.toineeta@kituwahkg3.com) This position will close to applications on May 31, 2023. Indian preference does apply, and a current job application must be submitted. Resumes will be accepted in conjunc-

tion of all applications. **6/7**

## LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. EST 23-022  
**In the Matter of the Estate of David Welch**

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  
Jamie Welch



## 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](mailto:angieh@mandaraspa.com) or 497-8550.



## Tribal Employment Rights Office

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

**Now Available - TERO's Job Listing**



The Tribal Employment Rights Office ("TERO") is pleased to provide a monthly job listing for the Cherokee area. Please visit the TERO Office or TERO's website at [ebci-tero.com](http://ebci-tero.com) to receive the job list for February 2023. Our office is located at 756 Acquoni Rd in Cherokee, NC.

---

### TERO Job Bank


If you are seeking employment and you are:

- An enrolled member of the EBCI
- Spouse, parent, or child of an EBCI enrolled member
- An enrolled member of another federally recognized tribe
- Spouse of an enrolled member of another federally recognized tribe

You are eligible to enroll in TERO's Job Bank for job referrals. Please contact Hillary Norville or Douglas McCoy at the email or telephone numbers below.

**Hillary Norville -TERO Job Bank Coordinator**  
828.359.6422  
[hillnory@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:hillnory@ebci-nsn.gov)

**Douglas McCoy -TERO Job Bank Coordinator**  
828.359.6478  
[douasmcco@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:douasmcco@ebci-nsn.gov)





PO Box 140  
Cherokee, NC 28719  
5/24

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. EST 23-041

**In the Matter of the Estate of  
Phillip Owle, JR**

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

Frances Lucille Librado  
PO Box 1464  
Cherokee, NC 28719  
5/24

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. EST 23-048

**In the Matter of the Estate of  
William Dwight Beck**

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

Teresa L. Williamson  
775 Sam Dills Road  
Whittier, NC 28789  
6/7

**In the General Court of  
Justice in Macon County,  
District Court Division:  
File Number 22 JT 61**

In the matter of Keel, a minor child for Termination of Parental Rights  
Petitioners: Bernardo Hernandez-Ramirez and Kristie Hernandez-Ramirez

Respondents: Amanda Santiago and Aaron Keel  
Petitioners' attorney: Shira Hedgepeth, PO Box 514, Cullowhee, NC 28723, Phone 828-585-5044

Respondents are required to make defense to such pleading within 40 days after a date stated in the notice. If the Respondent fail to do so the Respondents will apply to the court for the relief sought. 5/31

**RFPs, BIDs, etc.**

**REQUEST FOR  
QUALIFICATIONS**

**Landscaping and Grounds  
Maintenance for Building  
Rental Program**

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) invites companies with experience in landscaping and grounds maintenance to submit qualifications for completing landscape design, implementation and management for commercial properties managed by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, North Carolina.

The complete scope of work to be provided by the firm to be hired as contractor is part of a complete RFQ document which may be obtained by contacting Albert Cruz, Commercial Building Specialist, at the EBCI Commerce Office, at 828-359-6706.acruz@ebci-nsn.gov.

Completed proposals are due in the offices of the EBCI Enterprise Development Office by the close of

business on Friday, June 2, 2023. They should be sent to Albert Cruz, Commercial Building Specialist – Commerce Office, 810 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC 28719, or via emailacruz@ebci-nsn.gov. Proposals must be submitted as required in the proposal package. First preference will be given to qualified TERO contractors. 5/24

**EASTERN BAND OF  
CHEROKEE INDIANS  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE**

Assignment of a Name for a New Road

NOTICE is hereby given that the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Emergency Management Office at its 9-1-1 Committee meeting held on May 9, 2023 resolved pursuant to EBCI Code of Ordinances Chapter 136A ARTICLE II – UNIFORM

**EdNC**

EducationNC is a nonprofit newsroom that tells the stories of our students, our state, and our future.

We have a survey focusing on the needs of your Western NC students. This survey is intended for parents and caregivers and will inform our work.

Place your phone over the QR code or go to this website:  
[https://bit.ly/wnc\\_survey](https://bit.ly/wnc_survey)



**Please Help**



PLEASE HELP MY FUR BABY MAKE IT BACK TO HER FAMILY IN CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA. She was taken from Finger Lake across from Almond boat dock in Bryson City, North Carolina / Fontana Lake on 5/13/2023 between 5:30-6:00pm. The only information we have is the people was driving a silver/grey Jeep with Ohio tag. If you have any information or have my fur baby, Please call 828.788.1019. Her family misses her terribly.

**Oconaluftee Indian Village  
is now accepting applications for its  
mentoring program**



The OIV Mentoring Program is open to Cherokee youth ages 14 to 17. Each mentee will have a paid position and will work between 20 to 40 per week. Mentees will learn traditional crafts and help perpetuate Cherokee Culture. Pick up applications at the OIV or CHA main office, due back by May 26th.

STREET ADDRESS AND ROAD NAMING SYSTEM (Ord. No. 332-A, 10-26-1998) that a certain new road in the Birdtown Community be assigned the street name as detailed below:

• The existing shared driveway providing access to 46, 48 and 50 Upper Old Number 4 Housing Street shall be assigned the name Bill Smith Drive along with its eventual continuation.

Inquiries or appeals to this action can be made to the Emergency Management Office located at 282 Seven Clans Lane, Cherokee,

NC 28719 during normal business hours. **5/31**

### Request for Proposals

The Cherokee Court is now taking resumes for a part-time Magistrate. This position will substitute for the full-time magistrates at the Cherokee Court while the magistrate is on leave status. Familiarity with the Cherokee community and with a court system (state, federal, or tribal) is preferred. Ability to work with the public and handle conflicts is required. Following training, this position will have full

authority to make all magistrate related decisions, including issuing warrants and subpoenas, and other duties as assigned by the Chief Justice. Education and experience: Requires any combination of at least four (4) years practical work experience or education in a legal or law enforcement related field. Position will require both in-office and on-call performance of duties.

Interested individuals should submit the following:

- Name and Contact Information
- Relevant Work Experience
- Copies of Certificates

Proposals may be submitted at any time, but those received on or before June 9, 2023, will receive priority over later submissions. Please email, mail or fax to: Amber Shuler, Court Administrator ambershul@ebci-nsn.gov PO Box 1629 Cherokee, NC 28719 (828)359-0012 (fax) This is a solicitation of proposals and not an offer to contract. The Cherokee Tribal Court reserves the right to decline any proposals received. **6/7**



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**2021 CHRYSLER PACIFICA  
TOURING L VAN**

**\$29,854**



Stock #  
4179

Priced below KBB Fair Purchase Price! Odometer is 1607 miles below market average! 6L V6 24V VVT FWD 9-Speed 948TE Automatic

**2020 FORD FUSION TITANIUM**

**\$25,890**



Stock #  
4181

Recent Arrival! 6-Speed Automatic, AWD, Equipment Group 250A, Leather seat upholstery, Navigation system with voice activation, Remote Engine Start -Keyfob and Smart Device

### HOTTEST PRICES

**2020 FORD F-150 XLT**

**\$46,850**



Stock # 4192

Recent Arrival! Odometer is 4131 miles below market average! 4WD, XLT Power Equipment Group, Navigation System, Heated Front Seats, XLT Special Edition Package, XLT Sport Appearance Package

**2020 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM**

**\$31,899**



Stock # 4198

Odometer is 3412 miles below market average! AWD, Black Roof-Rack Side Rails, Class II Trailer Tow Package, Head-Up Display, Panoramic Vista Roof, Titanium Premium Package 2.0, Wheels: 19" Machined-Face Aluminum, Wireless Charging Pad

(828)586-0900



1231 E Main St, Sylva,  
NC 28779



**KITUWAH  
PROJECTS LLC**

Kituwah Projects, LLC (pronounced gi-du-wa) is a for-profit organization established by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians is advertising an RFQ for the execution of the property improvement plan for the Clarion Pointe in Cherokee, NC. All interested firms can get a copy of the RFQ by contacting:

Chris Greene

President of Kituwah Projects

Kituwah Projects, LLC

P.O. Box 366

37 Tsalagi Rd

Cherokee, NC 28719

Phone: (828) 736-0214

E-mail: [chris.greene@kituwahllc.com](mailto:chris.greene@kituwahllc.com)

Important dates:

05/19/2023	Issue RFQ
06/07/2023	Proposal Submission Deadline (11:00 AM Eastern Time)
06/12/2023	Interviews
06/13/2023	Notice of Selection





## 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.

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.

**Administration** - Payroll Officer

**Bus Department** - (5) PT Bus Drivers

**Cherokee Children's Home** - Social Worker and Multiple FT Resident Counselors and Multiple PT Resident Counselors

**Agelink Child Development** - (3) Group leaders - School Age teachers, (2) Teacher Assistant

**Snowbird Child Development** - (2) Teachers, (1) Floater

**Construction & Facilities** - Skilled carpenter/ mason, and experienced sheet rock finisher

Cherokee Boys Club

P.O. Box 507, Cherokee, NC. 28719 828-497-9101



On the Job Training (OJT) Summer Program with the Cherokee Boys Club. The OJT Program will begin on June 12th and end on July 28th this year.

**IT** - 1 position

**AGELINK** - 3 positions

**ADMIN** - 1 position

**SHOP** -

2 Shop

1 Bodyshop

1 Bio-Fuel

Applications can be picked up from the CBC Front Desk, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cherokee Boys Club

P.O. Box 507, Cherokee, NC. 28719 828-497-9101



## Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

Apply online at  
<https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or  
 visit: [www.ces-ne.org](http://www.ces-ne.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

**Cherokee Language Teacher Assistant**

**Elementary Teacher**

**6-8 Middle School Science Teacher**

**6-8 Life Skills Special Education Teacher**

**6-8 Special Education Pathseekers Alternative Teacher**

**6-8 Special Education Teacher**

**9-12 Math Teacher**

**9-12 Science Teacher**

**9-12 Lifeskills Teacher**



**Cherokee Cinemas & More**  
has the following  
**Job Opportunities**

**Floor staff - \$10.00 hr - Part Time**  
**Cleaning Staff - \$12.00 hr - Full Time**

Job Description and Applications can be picked up at the offices of the Kituwah, LLC,  
 37 Tsalagi Road,  
 Old Chestnut Tree Motel,  
 if you have any questions,  
 please call Kristin Smith at 828-477-4553.

**Open until filled**





## CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

### FINANCE:

Patient Access Specialist Emergency Hire - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Patient Access Specialist - Part Time Intermittent - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Finance / HR Administrative Assistant - \$19.66 - \$22.25  
Payroll Officer - \$24.55 - \$27.99

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Master Level Therapist – Adult & Child - \$58,332 - \$72,915 - \*\$5,000 Hiring Bonus  
Targeted Case Manager – Family Safety - \$44,107 - \$55,134  
Integrated Classroom Skill Builder - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Residential Technician – Kanvwotiyi - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Residential Technician – Men's Home - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor - Kanvwotiyi - \$44,107 - \$55,134  
Inpatient Technician – Analenisgi Inpatient - \$17.12 - \$19.26

### OPERATIONS

PGY2 Pharmacy Resident - \$102,023 - \$127,528  
Dentist – Pediatrics - \$131,405 - \$164,256  
Dental Assistant II - \$18.32 - \$20.67  
Dental Hygienist - \$67,082 - \$83,852  
Emergency Hire – Physical Therapist II - \$77,144 - \$96,430  
Eye Clinic Assistant - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Physical Therapy/Wound Care Case Manager – \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Ultrasound Technologist - \$26.52 - \$30.31  
Physical Therapist II – Wound Care \$77,144 – \$96,430

### MEDICAL

Clinical Dietitian - \$50,723 - \$63,404  
Physician – Primary Care \$157,686 - \$197,108  
Hospitalist - Inpatient – Full Time & Part Time - \$157,686 - \$197,108

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant –  
Primary Care - \$91,254 - \$114,067

### NURSING

Certified Medical Assistant – Immediate Care Center - \$21.13 - \$23.98  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker - \$58,332 - \$72,915  
Manager of Professional Nursing Development - \$77,144 - \$96,430  
Massage Therapist - \$50,723 - \$63,404  
RN Supervisor – Satellite Clinics \$36.56 - \$42.11  
Registered Nurse – Emergency Room \$33.68 - \$38.72 - \*\$5,000 Hiring Bonus  
Registered Nurse - Inpatient - \$31.06 - \$35.64 - \*\$5,000 Hiring Bonus (Night shift)  
Registered Nurse – Immediate Care Center \$31.06 - \$35.64 - \*\$5,000 Hiring Bonus  
Telemetry Nursing Assistant - Part Time Intermittent – Inpatient - \$19.66 - \$22.25  
Nursing/Medical Administrative Assistant - \$19.66 - \$22.25

### TSALI CARE CENTER

Certified Nursing Assistant - \$17.12 - \$19.26 - \*\$3,000 Hiring Bonus  
CNA/PCA – Part Time Regular - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
CNA/PCA - \$17.12 - \$19.26 - \*\$3,000 Hiring Bonus  
Certified Medication Aide - \$17.12 - \$19.26  
Registered Nurse (Nightshift) - \$31.06 - \$35.64 - \*\$5,000 Hiring Bonus  
Registered Nurse - \$31.06 - \$35.64 - \*\$5,000 Hiring Bonus  
Housekeeper - \$15.00 - \$16.77  
Tribal Option  
Tribal Option Business Analyst - \$67,082 - \$83,852  
Tribal Option Administrative Assistant - \$19.66 - \$22.25

### Engineering

EVS Technician - \$15.00 - \$16.77

**To apply, visit [careers.cherokeehospital.org](https://careers.cherokeehospital.org)**

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





## Kituwah, LLC has the following Jobs available

**Housekeeper** – Ela Campground – Responsible for cleaning cabins up to standard within a timely manner, ensuring the campground and common areas are clean and attractive and light groundskeeping. You must be well-organized, have a keen eye for detail, good physical stamina and be able to complete tasks with little to no supervision.  
**Open Till Filled**

**Store/Reservation Clerk** – Ela Campground Responsible for providing courteous and helpful customer service, stocking store, maintaining cleanliness of store. Help guests to reserve & register for their camping experience both in person and via the telephone. Responsible for providing courteous and helpful customer service, stocking, maintaining cleanliness of store and stockroom. **Open Till Filled**

Anyone interested should pick up an application and position description at the Kituwah, LLC Office (Old Chestnut Tree Inn) between the hours of 9:00am - 4:00pm Monday -Thursday or email Kristin Smith @ [kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com](mailto:kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com)

These positions are open until filled, Indian preference does apply, and a current job application must be submitted. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of application.



## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians HUMAN RESOURCES

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

All applications and job descriptions are available at  
[www.ebci.com/jobs](http://www.ebci.com/jobs)

### Closing Sunday, May 28, 2023

1. Administrative Assistant – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L8 \$15.90 - \$19.88 per hour)
2. Wood Cutter – Family Support Services – Public Health and Human Services (L6 \$15.30 - \$19.13 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Youth Development Professional – Cherokee Youth Center – Education (L6 \$15.30 - \$19.13 per hour)
4. Family Support Coordinator – Snowbird/Cherokee County Family Support – Snowbird/Cherokee County Services (L8 \$15.90 - \$19.88 per hour)
5. Job Bank Coordinator – TERO (L12 \$20.89 - \$26.11 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. Probation Officer (Multiple) – Cherokee Indian Police Department (Corrections) – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$39,806 - \$49,758) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
4. Community Response Officer – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L12 \$20.89 - \$26.11 per hour)
5. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Public Safety (L8 \$30,357 - \$37,946) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION (L11 \$19.13 - \$23.92 per hour)
6. PT Paramedic (Multiple) – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L11 \$19.13 - \$23.92 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
7. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – Public Health and Human Services (L9 \$16.21 - \$20.26 per hour)
8. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Head Start – Public Health and Human Services (L10 \$17.58 - \$21.98 per hour)
9. Real Estate Associate Attorney – Realty Services – Office of the Attorney General (L15 \$72,342 - \$90,428)
10. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$25.17 - \$31.46 per hour)
11. Legal Services Attorney – Legal Assistance Office – Office of the Attorney General (L16 \$64,389 - \$85,852)
12. Financial Analyst (Multiple) – Budget and Finance – Treasury (L15 \$57,982 - \$72,478)
13. WWT Operator – Waste Water Treatment Plant – Operations (L10 \$17.58 - \$21.98 per hour)
14. Certified Biological Waste Water Treatment Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L11 \$19.13 - \$23.92 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
15. Supervisor – Biological/Waste Water Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L14 \$25.17 - \$31.46 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
16. Telecommunicator – Public Safety Communications – Operations (L12 \$20.89 - \$26.11 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
17. Family Safety Grants Coordinator – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L12 \$20.89 - \$26.11 per hour)
18. Certified Nursing Assistant – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L9 \$16.21 - \$20.26 per hour)
19. Manager – Project Management – Operations (L17 \$72,342 - \$90,428)
20. Legislative Legal Counsel – Tribal Council – Legislative Branch (L19 \$97,792 - \$130,389)
21. Driver (Multiple) – Transit – Operations (L8 \$15.90 - \$19.88 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
22. Training Coordinator – Tribal Employment Rights Office (L9 \$16.21 - \$20.26 per hour)

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