

FREE



Cherokee One Feather website



**Town
Hall
Meeting
held**
Pages 4-5



**Cherokee Water
announces
new distribution
deal**
Pages 6-7

GWY Ꮵᎃᎆ ᏌᎃᎆᏍᎩ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
guyegwoni (july)
2-8, 2025



**SPECIAL
Pow Wow
Section**
Pages 12-34

**Annual Eastern
Band Cherokee
Pow Wow**
July 4-6
old Cherokee H.S. site

**Stop by the One Feather
booth and also check out
our videos and photos on
Facebook and YouTube.**

GWY Ꮵᎃᎆ ᏌᎃᎆᏍᎩ
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2017 Jeep Compass Trailhawk

4x4, leather, panoramic sunroof, navigation, remote start with heated seats and steering wheel, off-road fun at an affordable price!



2019 Chevrolet Blazer

LT AWD Local, 1 owner, no accidents, trade in, V6 engine with keyless entry, will confirm a nice car for this price.



2024 Chevrolet 1500 RST

Crew Cab, 4x4, 6.2 LT engine, leather interior, power sunroof, google maps, bedliner, 1 owner and only 33,757 miles!



2019 Ford Ranger XLT Supercrew

4x4, leather interior, sport appearance package, F150 off-road, no accidents. Local trade-in. One part truck in town!



2015 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner

Crew Cab local trade with 57,000 original miles! Will not find a truck in better condition. This one won't last!



2019 Nissan Frontier Pro

4x4 Crew cab with 4.0 V6, 5 speed auto trans, power windows, locks, mirrors, 18 cruise, leather seats, Rockford sound system, close CarPlay and only 16,242 miles!



2022 Chevrolet 2500 Crew Cab

4x4 with 34,351 miles on this local 1 owner, no accidents, trade-in. Power windows, locks, mirrors, 18 cruise, bedliner and so much more! Give this one a call!



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2019 Kia Soul

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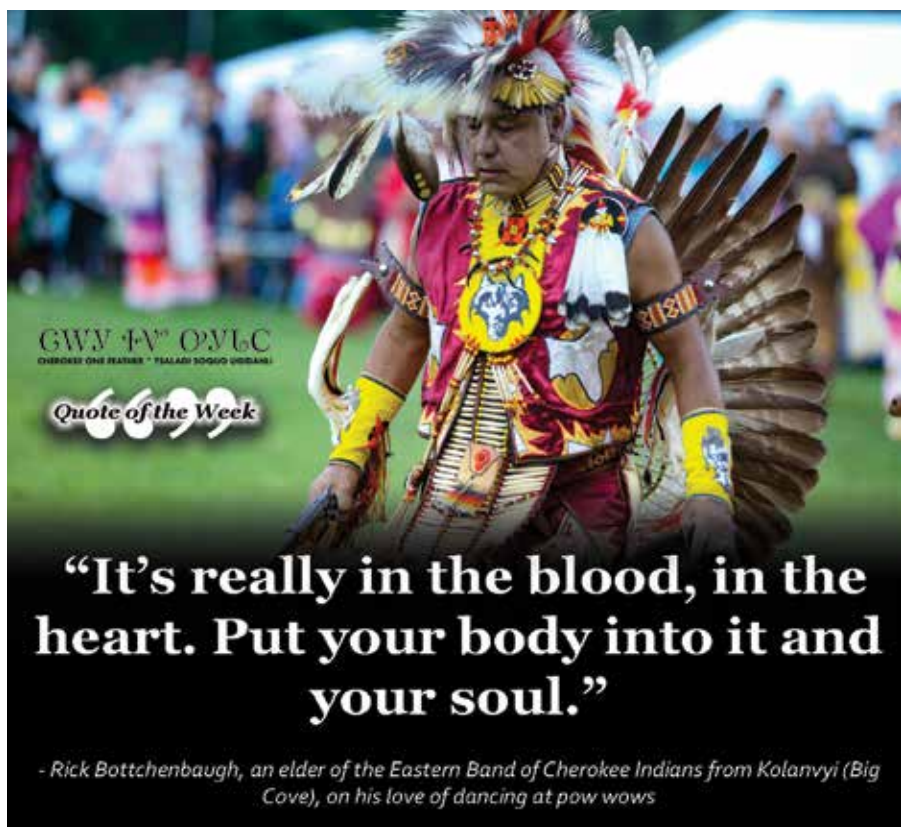


Winner of 10 North Carolina Press Assoc. awards in 2023-24 including: Community Coverage (third place)

Ask the GWY ᏥᏍᏔ ᏍᏓᏙᏗᏗ CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

If you have a question for a tribal program or entity of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, submit it to us and we will pose it to them and respond back. Please keep your questions program- or community-based – no personal questions.

Submit your question(s) to us at Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com.



Letters Policy

The Cherokee One Feather is available as a forum for opinions or points of view concerning issues of general interest. Letters should be typed and are preferred in digital form, exclusive to the One Feather. Letters must be authenticated and should include a name, address, email, and phone number. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Commentary submissions should not exceed 750 words. Letters and commentaries exceeding the word limit will be published at the discretion of the Editor or a majority of the sitting Editorial Board. Only the name and town/community will be printed. Letters critical of specifically named minor children will not be published.

Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication. The One Feather will not accept requests for pen pals or “Lonely Hearts”-type classified material.

Opinion material is subject to approval by the Editor who may deny publication without specified cause at their discretion. Submitters may appeal the Editor’s denial to the Editorial Board. A majority of the Editorial Board may overturn an Editor’s decision. The decision of the Editorial Board is final.

The Editorial Board of the Cherokee One Feather consists of: Brooklyn Brown, chairperson; Dawn Arneach, vice chairperson; Robert Jumper; Scott McKie Brings Plenty; Indica Climbingbear; and Angela Lewis (Office of the Attorney General appointment).

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Economic wellness discussed at the EBCI Town Hall Meeting

By **ROBERT JUMPER**
One Feather Editor

EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) Taline Ugviyu (Vice Chief) Alan B. Ensley presided over a town hall meeting at the Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center on the Cherokee Central Schools campus in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Tuesday, June 24. The meeting was moderated by Bunsey Crowe, an EBCI tribal member, who led the attendees in a communal prayer to begin the meeting.

Those on stage to represent tribal government included the Taline Ugviyu, Ugviyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Chairman Mike Parker [Wayohi (Wolf-town)], Wayohi Representative Bo Crowe, Aniwoihi (Painttown) Representative Michael Stamper, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Representative Perry Shell, Dinilawigi Vice Chairman David Wolfe [Elawodi (Yellowhill)], Tsisqwohi (Bird-town) Representative Boyd Owle, Elawodi Representative Tom Wahneta, Tsisqwohi Representative Jim Owle, Attorney General Michael McConnell, and Cody White from the Attorney General's Office. Also, there to address questions were EBCI Secretary of Commerce Sean Ross, Interim EBCI Secretary of the Treasury Brandi Claxton, EBCI Secretary of Housing Tiny Taylor, Carolyn West, Cruz Galaviz, and Jake Stephens from the Tribal Realty office.

Taline Ugviyu Ensley welcomed everyone and thanked the Community Club Council, community, and the Cherokee One Feather for submitting the questions to be discussed at the meeting.

Ugviyuhi Hicks then spoke concerning the purpose and vetting of the questions and the government's response. "I really appreciate the leadership of the Community Club Council, Bunsey and his leadership, making sure that the questions that are being brought forward (like those from) One Feather are questions that are relevant and it doesn't cause us to react, but helps us know as leadership what is on people's minds so that we can respond and make sure that we are adequate in the responses. It is important that we hear from the community."

Secretary Ross addressed the first question, which was "Why does our town continue to diminish while others surrounding us are thriving? Does the tribal levy hurt us more than it helps us regarding new businesses?"

He opened his remarks with reference to the Charles Dickens novel "A Tale of Two Cities", stating that part of the challenge is that many of the reasons that some areas of the business district and other areas look diminished is that the Tribe may not own those areas, but by individual tribal members and subleased by others. The Tribe doesn't maintain as much control over those independently owned businesses. Where the tribe does have the ability to improve, they are working to do so. Secretary Ross also talked about potential legislation to create a tourism development authority to help manage and assist in business growth and standards. He also talked about efforts to clean up and dress up public areas and implement a wayfinding signage program.

The One Feather asked, based on recent discussions in govern-

ment meetings, if the government now has an appetite for zoning. Zoning refers to the implementation of "local laws and regulations that govern how real property can and cannot be used in certain geographic areas. For example, zoning laws can limit commercial and industrial use of land to prevent oil manufacturing or other types of businesses from building in residential neighborhoods. (Investopedia)".

Ugviyuhi Hicks addressed the question, "There was conversation not just in the last Planning Board but in other meetings and I think we are leaning in that direction. It is just a matter of pride. Do you truly have pride in the town you live in? We want to represent. We want to put our best foot forward. I think it is time to get serious about that concept (zoning)."

Secretary Ross addressed the question, "Does tribal levy hurt us more than it helps us regarding new business?"

He stated that the levy percentage of purchases is currently lower than the sales tax of surrounding municipalities. He said that as long as the levy, which is essentially a sales tax, is at or below the percentage that our surrounding municipalities collect, it would not affect business growth on the Qualla Boundary. He noted that the public pays a tribal levy in place of a state tax on the Qualla Boundary.

Secretary Claxton provided insight into the questions "Why have the sales of alcohol not been added to our per capita distribution?" and "Do any of the LLCs contribute to per capita (including GenWell distributions)?"

She stated that some of the profit from alcohol is actually added to the per capita income. She shared that in fiscal year 2024, alcohol sales contributed over a million dollars to the per capita. Secretary Claxton also provided a sheet with detail from the EBCI Code of Ordinances (often referred to as the Cherokee Code) referencing Chapter 16C, 55B, and 55D in which adult gaming, Kituwah LLC, Qualla Enterprises LLC, "and any LLC formed in Chapter 55B, Sandy's Racing and Gaming, and Caesars Virginia Casino" are slated to contribute 50 percent of eligible revenue to the Per Capita/GenWell Fund based on guidelines established year-to-year by the Tribal Council (Entity Revenue Allocation Plans).

This led to the subsequent question, "Why has Qualla Enterprises not been required to contribute to per capita/GenWell distributions yet and/or when will they start?"

Attorney General McConnell answered that the entity is required to pay its bills prior to making a distribution. What bills are to be paid (what is necessary for sustainability) before a per-capita distribution occurs is determined by Dinilawigi.

Two questions, "How are we addressing the current housing shortage?" and "Why is Tribal Realty so far behind with surveying and land transfers?" were answered by Secretary Taylor, Cruz Galaviz, and Jake Stephens. Secretary Taylor provided statistics on land development for housing, needs analysis, and buildability of parcels, rental properties, and shared that seeking to reclaim abandoned houses or houses that

are not currently in use for renovation and reuse were some of the ways he and the Housing team are working to fulfill demand.

The Cherokee One Feather asked Secretary Taylor if he could share the status of tribal housing inventory versus the “waiting list”. He explained that Housing does not have a waiting list per se, except a list of applications and people who have applied, seeking housing, which he called a “rehab list” relating to low-income housing.

A tribal member in the audience asked about rumors that the Tribe is considering the creation of a “tribal bank”.

Dinilawigi Chairman Parker addressed the question, saying that Dinilawigi has been in discussion concerning the formation of a Tribal Band for approximately six months and would be sharing more as the discussion progresses. Cruz discussed the challenges of getting heirs for a parcel of property to agree on the distribution and use of the inherited property. He said the more heirs there were for a particular piece of land, the more challenging it became to get an agreement among the heirs. He stressed the importance for all tribal members to have a will detailing wishes concerning real property, especially tribal land (a service provided free to tribal members through EBCI Legal Aid).

A tribal member expressed concern that not enough staff were available to address tribal members’ needs regarding land processing (some transfers dating back to 2018) and asked if additional contracted staff could be hired as a solution. Cruz said that it is a budgetary issue that needs to be taken before Dinilawigi. Cruz also stated that land “transfers

are to be voided after one year. If I transfer land to you and you or I do not come to sign, we will void that transfer, and you must come back in to start the process over”. Stephens gave a report on outstanding survey requests and noted that not all survey requests are tied to land purchases. He said regarding any immediate need for surveying, that any North Carolina licensed surveyor could do surveys on the Qualla Boundary, and they would be valid. All that is needed is for the surveyor of the landowner’s choice to contact Stephens’ office so that the surveyor has the proper tribal information to do the survey to tribal standards.

A tribal member asked why the Tribe doesn’t have a public-facing, searchable information portal with real estate information like other municipalities provide. Attorney General McConnell responded that the current discussion and plans are to have a public access website portal available as the Tribal Geographic Information System (GIS) works on the digital mapping of tribal lands. Hel said that in all the meetings he attended on the issue, tribal officials expressed an interest in having this type of portal.

The next question considered was “Why is Qualla Enterprises and/or Great Smokies Cannabis Company not paying a lease on the building located at 91 Bingo Loop Road?” Carolyn West, with Qualla Enterprises/Great Smokies Cannabis Company, responded that currently, the entity was paying for repairs and upgrades to the building that would exceed any current lease payment.

Attorney General McConnell addressed the question, “A community member saw a flyer advertised by a side x side company using the marijuana company as ‘Come Get High in the Smokies’.

How is the Tribe going to handle outside businesses like this using our dispensary to offer tours on our back roads? How will the code be enforced?”

He said this came to Dinilawigi attention about a month ago. Cody White is preparing legislation for Dinilawigi consideration to address the issue and should have it ready to bring to leadership in the July session.

Attorney General McConnell was then asked, “The White Earth Band of Chippewa in Minnesota just recently passed legislation that allows them to sell cannabis off their reservation. Will we be able to follow suit?”

He responded that we could not do what the White Earth Band did because North Carolina doesn’t currently allow cannabis sales. The state law is different in Minnesota. He said we are hoping that NC law will change, and the tribe actively seeks to make that happen.

Taline Ugviyu Ensley took the last question, having to do with increasing participation in community meetings. He said that using the usual channels of community club notifications, announcements during Dinilawigi sessions, and community channels of communications would continue to be used.

Due to time constraints, a question regarding the status of three projects was not addressed. “What is the status of the Fairgrounds, Community Pool, and Bingo.

Secretary Ross responded to the questions concerning the Fairgrounds and Community Pool as follows:

Regarding the status of the Fairgrounds (old Cherokee High School site): “To be clear, the old high school site will be identified

as the ‘New Fairgrounds’. Currently, we are in the late stages of an analysis by a consultant. Within that analysis, we are looking to achieve a defining strategy of success for that site centered on vision, scope, operational model, and potential partners – awaiting a presentation next week. Some preliminary information on the project includes that it is scheduled to be an 80,000 square-foot multi-use complex that will accommodate basketball, volleyball, wrestling, pickleball, and conventions, having an 8-court configuration. It will have a 3,000-seat indoor concert venue. There will be space for retail and business, as well as a health and wellness center, sports rehab, and training. The complex will include an outdoor stage and event area, a multi-purpose sports field, permanent food stations, and an area for food truck hook-ups. The site includes a carnival park, a greenspace/splashpad area, walking paths, and a sound garden. The plan includes permanent restroom facilities. Phase 1 of this project is scheduled to begin in October 2025. Because several site preparation activities need to be done archaeological studies, utilities upgrades, etc., the tribe is looking at a true project start date in FY27.”

Regarding the Ceremonial Grounds: “We will be doing a community outreach exercise to possibly develop a new name (Gathering Place, etc.). We envision the Ceremonial Grounds as just that, a dedicated open-air greenway positioned for the varying community/cultural events. I want to impress upon our community that this space is first and foremost for our people.

“The re-imagining of this space

see **TOWN HALL** page 11

Cherokee Water GʷY Dʒ announces new distribution deal with no added cost

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Thanks to a new distribution deal, Cherokee Water GʷY Dʒ will be available to thousands more people in the region. The water, a product of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), will now be distributed by Pepsi Co. along with a new marketing strategy entitled “Yes Cherokee Can”.

“This is just an agreement that they are our exclusive distributor,” said Pamela Sneed, EBCI director of enterprise development. “There is no money involved except for what they pay for the water. We’re not paying them for anything.”

She added, “So now, Pepsi can put our water front and center. If you go into Food Lion, our cooler is right as you’re walking out the door so if you want some of our water you have to go back and get in line. And how many people do that? They don’t have cases for us. We just have a little cooler that we stock. But now, with Pepsi doing it, Pepsi will be able to sell those cases. Pepsi will make sure that our water is front and center. Our water will be in those coolers before you check out, not after you check out. It’s product placement. They can do this for us. Pepsi is going to go as far as Greensboro and some mom and pop shops down into South Carolina. That’s where they’re going to see our water.”

Sean Ross, EBCI Secretary of Commerce, commented, “With this Pepsi contract, it ties us into an agreement with the Harrah’s



Above is an advertisement coming out for Cherokee Water GʷY Dʒ cans as the company is starting a new distribution deal with Pepsi Co. (Image courtesy of EBCI Commerce)

Cherokee Center in Asheville, and this is going to be exclusive product at that venue for all of the concerts, all the events, all

the programs they have there... They wanted to partner with us and they believed in this canned product. It makes sense from a

branding perspective, being the Harrah’s Cherokee Center, having Cherokee canned water. But it was more than that. It was our commitment to a like-minded mindset of what we were trying to do with our goals...talking about how big it is to have a major venue within the region that is partnering with us and making our product exclusive.”

He said the exposure to new customers will be huge. “It starts at a 60-mile radius and it expands to, roughly, a 240-mile radius. So, that footprint gets significantly bigger. And, basically, the distribution and sales align with that... we know our reach will expand by that much. Our product will expand by that much. Just going into that relationship with the Harrah’s Cherokee Center puts us at 170,000 cans and that’s just a start.”

Sneed said, “Their reach is further than we can get at this point. We just don’t have the manpower like they do or have the connections like with the event center.”

She related that Pepsi has agreed to keep the prices the same, and Cherokee Water will not lose any employees. “Pepsi doesn’t do our 5-gallon jugs. They don’t want to do that, so we will still maintain that. We will keep all the tribal businesses and all the residential businesses and the hospitals that we do right now.”

Sneed said the contract with Pepsi will be year-to-year. “So, at the end of this time next year, if it doesn’t pan out for either one of us, then we’ll just walk away. But, they are ready to hit the ground

running. They have been talking to Walmart and Food Lion and Ingles and putting our water in these stores that we didn't have the opportunity before to put them in."

Branding is an important aspect to the product which currently features the Cherokee Long Man story on the can. Secretary Ross commented, "When you put this one against all these other waters, this one has a story to it. It has a concept and there truly is a brand within it. There's stories within it. There's something to tell other than just opening it up and taking a drink of it. There's an ability to connect to it, either for a cause or for a culture. And, I think we've done it in a tasteful way. Pam's been super strategic with that. We're not exploiting our culture in any way. The whole Long Man legend ties into the preservation

of our waters. We're trying to preserve our environment. So, we tastefully connect to the culture without exploiting it."

Cherokee Water recently featured the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) on a can after winning their second consecutive 1A State Basketball Championship. And, there are plans to do more themed can designs upcoming.


Sneed related that Tap Hopper, LLC in Greensboro, N.C. cans the water and noted that production will increase to meet the new expanded distribution. "Pepsi wants tractor trailers full of water on their docks. And we have talked with both of our distributors and they're fine with that. They understand what's coming because we've been in talks over a year. This has been a long process."

She said there are other advantages to using cans for the water. "Aluminum costs more...the cost is more than the plastic. But, the shelf life of a can is 30-50 years. A bottle of water is roughly a year before the microplastics break down...if you have people that want to store it in their emergency boxes, then a can is the way to go. This can has been a can four or five times already, and the integrity is still there. Aluminum you can recycle and recycle and recycle. And the Tribe does recycle aluminum."

The canned Cherokee Water was launched last summer and was first distributed to participants in the Remember the Removal Ride. The can itself describes the water as "Community sourced water. Reverse Osmosis and UV Filtered Water. Reminer-

alized for taste."

EBCI Division of Commerce officials noted at that time, "This exciting initiative underscores our commitment to environmental stewardship and highlights the significance of sustainable practices within our community. As proud stewards of the environment, the EBCI has long recognized the importance of protecting our natural resources. The eventual shift from plastic bottles to recyclable aluminum cans is a significant step in reducing our environmental footprint and promoting sustainability. Aluminum cans are not only more recyclable, but also reduce waste and energy consumption, aligning perfectly with our values of environmental preservation and respect for nature."



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Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

The One Feather will now provide weekly legislative updates on various pieces of federal legislation of interest to members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The bills are shown in the order in which they were introduced following the new bills for the week.

New this Week

(Note: Due it is containing parts that affect Indian Country, we include this bill starting this week.)

H.R. 1. One Big Beautiful Bill

Act. According to Congress.gov, “This bill reduces taxes, reduces or increases spending for various

federal programs, increases the statutory debt limit, and otherwise addresses agencies and programs throughout the federal government. It is known as a reconciliation bill and includes legislation submitted by 11 House committees pursuant to provisions in the FY2025 congressional budget resolution (H Con. Res. 14) that directed the committees to submit legislation to the House Budget Committee that will increase or decrease the deficit and increase the statutory debt limit by specified amounts. (Reconciliation bills are considered by Congress using expedited legislative procedures that prevent a filibuster and restrict amendments in the Senate.)”
Introduced: May 20, 2025 by Rep.

Jodey C. Arrington (R-Texas)
Action: It passed the House on May 22, 2025 by a vote of 215-214-1. It is awaiting Senate action.

Effects on Indian Country

The National Indian Health Board said in a statement following passage of the bill in the House, “It includes big changes that affect Indian Country. National Indian Health Board and our tribal partners worked hard to ensure key protections stayed in the bill, but there’s still more to do as it heads to the Senate.”

NIHB highlighted the following in an infographic entitled “What H.R. 1 means for Tribal Health”:

- “Work Requirement Exemption: American Indian/Alaska Native individuals remain exempt from Medicaid work requirements, protecting coverage and HIS resources.
- Cost-sharing Protections: IHS-eligible individuals keep their exemption from out-of-pocket costs, honoring trust and treaty obligations.
- Retroactive coverage Shortened: Medicaid and CHIP coverage would shrink from three months to one month before application, limiting access for those in need.
- Staffing Rule Moratorium: Stops harmful nurse staffing mandates in long-term care. Helps keep tribal facilities open and elders close to home.
- PBM Reform: Spread pricing banned in Medicaid, ensuring fair reimbursement for IHS and tribal pharmacies, and access to meds.”

There are other places in the bill relating to American Indian tribes. Sec. 42110 states, “This section rescinds funding to update the EPA’s Integrated Compliance

Information System and any associated systems, necessary information technology infrastructure, or public access software tools to ensure access to compliance data and related information. Further, it also rescinds funding for grants to states, Indian tribes, and air pollution control agencies to update their systems to ensure communication with EPA’s system. Finally, it rescinds funding to the EPA for updating inspection software or acquiring such software or devices on which to run the software.”

Sec. 42114 states, “This section repeals the EPA’s program that awards grants to states, air pollution control agencies, municipalities, and Indian tribes for developing and implementing plans to reduce greenhouse gas air pollution.”

Several other mentions of American Indians include:

- Sec. 110108: “Recognizing Indian tribal governments for purposes of determining whether a child has special needs for purposes of the adoption credit”
- Sec. 111108 (Modification to Low-Income Housing Credit)(c) “Temporary including of Indian areas and rural areas as difficult development areas for purposes of certain buildings” – “a building shall not be treated as located in such area unless such building is assisted or financed under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 or the project sponsor is an Indian tribe”

Bills we’re currently watching

H.R. 226 (Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act. This House

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bill would place 76 acres of land in eastern Tennessee into trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Included in that land are the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, the Chota Memorial, and the Tanasi Memorial sites.

Introduced: Jan. 7 by Rep. Charles J. “Chuck” Fleischmann (R-Tenn.)

Action: This bill was passed in the House by a voice vote on Feb. 4.

It was received in the Senate the next day and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S.107 (Lumbee Fairness Act).

This Senate bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, a state-recognized group.

Introduced: Jan. 16 by Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 474 (Lumbee Fairness Act).

This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, a state-recognized group. This bill is identical to S. 107.

Introduced: Jan. 16 by Rep. David Rouzer (R-N.C.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S.761 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act).

This Senate bill would establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. According to Con-

gress.gov, “Among other duties, the Commission must investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policies – federal policies under which American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in boarding schools.”

Introduced: Feb. 26 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. It was “ordered to be reported without amendment favorably” by the Committee on March 5. No further action has been taken on this bill.

H.R. 2412 (Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act).

This House bill would establish an Office for Indigenous Affairs and an Advisory Commission for Indigenous Peoples within the Department of State.

Introduced: March 27 by Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai‘i)

Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 2929. Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe recognition bill.

This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina, a state-recognized group. **Introduced:** April 17 by Rep. Donald G. Davis (D-N.C.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 3255. Grand River

Bands of Ottawa Indians

Restoration Act of 2025. This House bill will would grant federal acknowledgment to the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, a state-recognized group in Michigan.

Introduced: May 7 by Rep. Hillar J. Scholten (D-Mich.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 3444. Tribal Self-Determination and Co-Management in Forestry Act of 2025.

According to the bill text, this House bill is “To direct Federal land management agencies of the Department of the Interior to establish Tribal Co-Management Plans and to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for the performance of certain activities of the Forest Service, and for other purposes.”

Introduced: May 15 by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)

Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands on June 3, and a hearing was held in that subcommittee on June 10.

S.2022 (Tribal Tax and Investment Reform Act of 2025).

This Senate bill, according to the legislation, would “amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Indian Tribal governments in the same manner as state governments for certain federal tax purposes, and for other purposes”.

Introduced: June 11 by U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto

(D-Nev.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 3956 (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Act of 2025).

This bill would amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 “to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into self-determination contracts and self-governance agreements with Indian entities to administer the food distribution program on Indian reservations”.

Introduced: June 12, 2025 by Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Kan.) and Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Here is the contact information for your federal legislators:
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.): <https://www.tillis.senate.gov/email-me>
Sen. Tedd Budd (R-N.C.): [https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/11th District Congressional Rep. Chuck Edwards \(R-N.C.\): https://edwards.house.gov/contact](https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/11th-District-Congressional-Rep.-Chuck-Edwards-(R-N.C.):https://edwards.house.gov/contact)



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**CIPD Arrest Report for
June 16-22, 2025**

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.

Rattler, Rajun River – age 22
Arrested: June 16
Released: June 20
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Reed, Seth Payton – age 33
Arrested: June 16
Released: Not released as of report

date (June 23)
Charges: Simple Assault, Edler Abuse and Neglect

Watty, Kyle Quincy – age 28
Arrested: June 16
Released: Not released as of report date (June 23)
Charges: Assault Inflicting Serious Injury

Rattler, Jacob Hunter – age 33
Arrested: June 17
Released: Not released as of report date (June 23)
Charges: Failure to Comply with Pre-Trial Release

Laney, William Floyd – age 63
Arrested: June 18
Released: June 22
Charges: Possession of Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule II,

Drug Trafficking

Seay, Zachary Hayes – age 18
Arrested: June 18
Released: June 18
Charges: Public Intoxication

Thompson, Sarah Marie – age 36
Arrested: June 18
Released: Not released as of report date (June 23)
Charges: Drug Trafficking; Providing or Possessing Contraband; Reckless Endangerment; Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors; Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Wolfe, Roberta Irene – age 52
Arrested: June 18
Released: June 19
Charges: Temporary Hold

Lunsford, Cameron Deshane – age

35
Arrested: June 19
Released: June 22
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Myers, Mark Hamilton – age 34
Arrested: June 19
Released: June 22
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Probation Violation

Rattler, Cornelia Iona – age 27
Arrested: June 19
Released: Not released as of report date (June 23)
Charges: Possession Schedule I Controlled Substance

Rattler, George Alan – age 48
Arrested: June 19
Released: June 19
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Sequoyah, Danica J. – age 28
Arrested: June 19
Released: June 19
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Taylor, Leslie Lee – age 28
Arrested: June 19
Released: June 20
Charges: Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Watty, Brent Ledford – age 44
Arrested: June 19
Released: June 19
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Welch, Emerson Sequoyah – age 47
Arrested: June 19
Released: June 20
Charges: Grand Larceny, Obtain Property False Pretense

Caley Jr., William Grant – age 43
Arrested: June 20

Tsalagi MINUTE

The Trickster Turtle

A one time a box turtle and a deer challenged each other to a race to see which one would reach the seventh mountain first. The box turtle challenged to defeat the deer. However, before the race, the box turtle schemed for its victory. He decided to place one of its kind at strategic points on each of the seven mountains. He told them to holler (as a signal) before the deer reached the next mountain. As the race began, the deer quickly ran past the box turtle who slyly crawled into the leaves. In the meantime, the other box turtles were hollering to signal the deer's approach. Back at the starting point the challenger was still lying under the leaves, as the deer was defeated by the box turtle's cheating scheme.



Story by Mrs. Betty Lossiah

From: "Journal of Cherokee Studies", Vol. 1 No. 2, Fall 1976

Sponsored by the
Qualla Boundary
Historical Society



Released: June 22
Charges: Manufacture Schedule II
Controlled Substance, Transport-
ing Controlled Substance on EBCI
Territory

Crowe, Billy Jack – age 40
Arrested: June 20
Released: June 21
Charges: Public Intoxication

Littlejohn, Curtis Ray – age 56
Arrested: June 20
Released: June 21
Charges: Possession of a Con-
trolled Substance (two counts)

Martin, Kara Darlene – age 35
Arrested: June 21
Released: Not released as of report
date (June 23)
Charges: Domestic Violence and
Dating Violence

Jones, Jessica Irene – age 39
Arrested: June 22
Released: Not released as of report
date (June 23)
Charges: Violation of Exclusion
Resolutions and Orders

Morgan, Kyle Adam – age 38
Arrested: June 22
Released: Not released as of report
date (June 23)
Charges: Breaking and Entering,
Probation Violation

Sierra, Benjamin Isaac – age 28
Arrested: June 22
Released: Not released as of report
date (June 23)
Charges: Domestic Violence and
Dating Violence

Smith, James Cassidy – age 38
Arrested: June 22
Released: Not released as of report
date (June 23)
Charges: Violation of Exclusion
Resolutions and Orders

Walkingstick, James Richard –
age 45
Arrested: June 22
Released: Not released as of report
date (June 23)
Charges: Child Abuse in the Sec-
ond Degree

**Swain Co. Sheriff Cochran
arrested**

Submitted by Office of
District Attorney Ashley Hornsby
Welch

43rd Prosecutorial District
Agents with the State Bureau
of Investigation and police officers
with the Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians arrested Swain County
Sheriff Curtis Cochran, 72, on Fri-
day, June 27.

District Attorney Ashley
Hornsby Welch said that Cochran
has been charged with four state
crimes. These are: felonious re-
straint; assault on a female; sexual
battery; and solicitation to commit
prostitution.

These alleged acts, if proved,
constitute corruption while in
office in violation of N.C. Gener-
al Statute 128-6(3). In addition,
Cochran has been charged with
violations of the Cherokee Code;
specifically, two counts of oppres-
sion in office and one count of
abusive sexual contact.

In a petition filed Friday in
state Superior Court, District

Attorney Welch requested that a
Superior Court judge immediately
suspend Cochran from his position
as sheriff.

She also requested that the
judge order a hearing to both per-
manently remove Cochran as sher-
iff and to permanently disqualify
him from the office of Sheriff of
Swain County.

Senior Resident Superior
Court Judge Tessa Sellers sus-
pended Cochran and set a hearing
in Graham County for July 7 to re-
view the suspension. She set a final
determination in Swain County for
July 21 on the petition to remove
Cochran.



TOWN HALL: From page 5

allows the opportunity to celebrate
our people’s health and wellness,
with walking paths conducive to
low-impact exercise. We also have
a multitude of picnic areas, in both
open and covered spaces. Addi-
tionally, we created a generous
span of greenspace for our people
to casually congregate in the spirit
of activity, whether it be stickball,
archery, or cornhole.

“The staging area was designed
to allow the agility to accom-
modate smaller, more intimate
programming, or to pivot, to serve
larger, more expansive events and
gatherings.

“A vision comes to mind of a

place of honor that holds speaker
symposiums, tribal ceremonies, lo-
cal graduations, weddings, awards
events, family celebrations (birth-
day parties, etc.), and spring/sum-
mer/fall/winter “Socials”. Within
this space, we have created areas
dedicated to our local food truck
vendors, there are several small
pavilions which create spaces for
local craft artisans, and the ability
to serve a true open-air market.

“We have incorporated cultur-
al elements in the design of this
area, and the visuals are stunning
in the day and possibly more so at
night.

“Highlighted features include
an entry plaza, terraced lawn
amphitheater seating 500-600,

a stage that will be retractable, a
“Great Lawn” that could seat 2000
for larger events, eight picnic
pavilions, a picnic area, six to eight
food truck access with hook-ups,
and a Hall of Honor (Beloved
Members).

“The RFP to begin Construc-
tion on this site will go out late
July 2025, with completion target-
ed for Spring of 2026.”

Regarding the status of a com-
munity pool: “A community pool
is not on the current list of capital
projects due to several factors.
There was a major need for utility
upgrades on the Qualla Boundary
(ARPA funding was re-allocated
towards that), and specifically
along the Acquoni Rd.

“A deeper dive into the logis-
tics of that project is important,
understanding what constitutes
a realistic shelf-life of the final
product. Proper oversight is a big
factor, and appropriate budgetary
consideration for long-term staff-
ing, maintenance, and upkeep are
things that must be considered.”

According to the typed agen-
da, bingo was scheduled to be
addressed by Tommy Lambert,
Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise
(TCGE). Taline Ugwiyu Ens-
ley said that the answer to this
question would be provided and
published soon.



Rick Bottchenbaugh dances in the grand entry at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on July 2, 2021. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

Dancing into legacy

The Bottchenbaughs
have created a
generational legacy
of powwow dancers.

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Bernice and Rick Bottchenbaugh, elders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) from Kolanvyi (Big Cove) and champion traditional powwow dancers, have been dancing with their children since the early eighties. Now, those children, Richie, Frankie and Karina, have children and grandchildren who dance, too. The husband and wife pair have created a generational legacy of powwow dancers.

“We want to get [Karina’s] girls in there. She’s got two, and the younger one watches powwow videos and every now and then she’ll just cut up and start

dancing like she knows how to dance. I said, ‘Karina, we need to put her in an outfit and let her dance.’ So, hopefully we will by the Fourth,” said Bernice, who has a long list of head dancer honors and contest wins in her powwow history.

“I started dancing to be in there with them (her children and husband), and I really got into it. I really started loving it and felt really good about it,” she said.

Their daughter, Karina Crowe, won her first contest at 18 months old. The whole family has a slew of contest wins and honors, becoming renowned competition on the powwow trail.

When asked how they all got so good, Rick said it was about the passion they bring into the circle. “It’s really in the blood, in the heart. Put your body into it

see **LEGACY** page 14



Bernice and Rick Bottchenbaugh, elders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Kolanvyi (Big Cove), dance at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on July 6, 2024. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./ One Feather photo)

and your soul.”

Plus, ample competition and quality presentation. “There’s a lot of drums out there. You got to learn them. You got to get seen by the other dancers, how you do, how you perform, and you need to update your outfit. Beadwork counts. They look at your regalia, too,” he said.

Rick beaded an impressive regalia that includes a forward-facing wolf in the middle of his chest. “My father-in-law (the late Walker Calhoun) said, ‘How’d you get it to where it’s looking at me? I said, ‘I don’t know. It just worked out that way.’”

Bernice said her father was her biggest fan at the powwow. “My dad, he’s been gone 13 years, and he used to love to watch me. He would come to every place he could to watch me. He was always praising me and hoping for me, even if I didn’t win,” she said.

“We were taught when we started that you don’t dance for yourself. You dance for the people who can’t. So, when you put that in your heart also, then it gives you the extra umph when you need it. I dance for him.”

The Bottchenbaughs have also added to their family along the trail. “All of us traveling, we made a lot of friends. They got so close, we became family,” Bernice said.

When Rick had to undergo a quadruple bypass in 2022, their powwow family stepped up with donations, just as Bernice and Rick had shared their winnings to help other dancers throughout the years.

“It’s considered a ceremonial circle. You become family because of that. You’re there for each other, pray for each other, help each other out when needed,” she said.

“It’s an honor to be in that circle. I taught my kids to just say a prayer that you do the right thing when you step in.”

Rick and Bernice both took second place at the 45th Annual Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Powwow on July 2, 2021, in Men’s Golden Age Combined (55+) (Traditional-Straight) and Women’s Golden Age Combined (55+) (Traditional) respectively.

“At our age, I think I want to quit, but then we go out and we can still do it,” Bernice said.

Rick said the drums keep him coming back, “I love to hear good drums. When you got that good beat, you can’t help but get into it.”



Bernice Bottchenbaugh dances in the women’s traditional contest at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on July 2, 2021. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

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Johnny PostOak demonstrates grass dancing at the 2023 Indigenous People's Day celebration at Western Carolina University. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)



A father's footsteps and a mother's hands

The PostOaks enjoy
going to pow wows
as a family

By BROOKLYN BROWN
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Amy PostOak, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), and Johnny PostOak, Mvskoke, are the husband and wife who own and operate Three Sisters Design & Supply. They have three daughters, Kyndra, Rhianon, and Mia. Johnny, a grass dancer, has brought his daughters into the powwow circle, while Amy works behind the scenes to make sure the dancers compete with braided hair and quality regalia.

"I've been dancing since I was about 6. Well, at first, I was just drug to wherever. We used to go all over. I started as a fancy dancer, and when I was about 15, I switched to grass," Johnny said of his

powwow history.

"In '96, '97, we used to dance downtown. It was me and my brothers and sisters. We danced and did shows here and there...It's a good thing. It teaches the girls something to be proud of. [Powwow] started because that's how we preserved our cultures in dancing is through powwow, so we could share it and dance. It was the only dance at one time that we could do freely."

Kyndra also started dancing at 6, which prompted her father to start dancing again after quitting. "One time we went to a powwow, and she said, 'Dad, how come you don't dance?' And I don't know, I was just like, I need to dance. So, we were actually living in Tahlequah (Okla.) at the time, and we were getting ready for holidays, and I put an outfit together in a week. Everything from moccasins all the way to the ropes. We

did everything because I didn't have anything, and I've been dancing again ever since, over nine years now."

Kyndra said she chose jingle dancing because of the sound, but now she jokes that she can't walk anywhere without making a bunch of noise.

"I thought [powwow] looked nice, and it seemed fun. So, we got ready and started at the Fourth of July Powwow. It's been 10 years now or just about that. I've always danced jingle."

Amy said they make their regalia as a family. "We work together and make regalia probably all year long. [Kyndra] started helping with making all the regalia. The other two [Rhiannon and Mia] don't necessarily help yet. I think Rhiannon's interested, but she's only 9, so we'll see."

Kyndra reminisced on her first dresses, "My first dress was made by someone else, but I don't think I have that much of a connection to it as much as I do the next dress, which he [Johnny] made. It was a satin dress that took forever to sew," she said.

"That was when we first started making anything, and of course we start with a jingle dress," Amy joked.

"I mean it wasn't one of our best dresses... My mom kind of showed me how and she said, 'Okay, now you got it, there you go,'" Johnny said.

"I was really proud of that dress," Kyndra said. "That one and the one after it. The turquoise one. I love that dress."

Amy agreed, "Yeah, that's always been her favorite. We can never make another like it." "In making their regalia, we say a prayer with the jingles, think good thoughts as we're making the regalia, those kinds of things," Amy said.

Kyndra added, "As you're tying the knots to sew it onto the dress to where they connect, you think good thoughts. And usually, I'm the one cutting those."

The younger daughters might not help with their regalia yet, but they enjoy dancing. Rhiannon is a fancy dancer, and Mia does fancy and jingle. "We tried to start [Mia] traditional, but that just was not for her," Amy laughed. "I think she's more jingle just dancing wise,

see **FAMILY** page 14



Amy PostOak (middle) poses with her daughters, Kyndra (left) and Rhiannon (right). Amy held the title of 2003 Miss Cherokee. (A&M Photography)



2023-24 Little Miss Cherokee Rhiannon PostOak, second from left, and 2023-24 Teen Miss Cherokee Kyndra PostOak, right, dance in grand entry at the Annual Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Fourth of July Powwow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. They are shown with 2023-24 Junior Miss Cherokee Kennedy Moore, left, and 2023-24 Miss Cherokee Scarlett Guy, second from right. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



2023-24 Little Miss Cherokee Rhiannon PostOak fancy dances at the 2023 Cherokee Central Schools Powwow held Nov. 21 in the Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)



2023-24 Teen Miss Cherokee Kyndra PostOak dances jingle with her sister, Mia, at the 2023 Cherokee Central Schools Powwow held Nov. 21 in the Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

seeing her whenever she does fancy, she turns to jingle,” Kyndra said of her younger sister Mia who is five years old.

“I think she wants to fancy because Rhian-non fancies,” Amy said.

“I’ve always taught the girls that you dance because you want to. And there’s people there that used to dance and can’t anymore, so that’s who you’re dancing for. We don’t dance for the money. It’s good when you get money, but we dance because we love to.”

Johnny was the first person to teach the girls how to dance. “All my sisters had moved away, and Amy didn’t dance, so I mean, I had to show them how to dance. I had to dance

jingle,” he grinned.

“I had the heaviest feet for the longest time,” Kyndra laughed.

“Because the grass dancer kind of stomps, so she danced like him,” Amy added.

The PostOaks have enjoyed powwowing as a family. “With everything we do. We always go as a family. Everything we do, whether we’re in the woods digging ramps or we’re on a walk on a trail, or we have a garden and we are all out there working in it. And we’ve always tried to do everything as a family because that’s how I grew up. We did everything together. The work goes by faster and things get done, but also to just have that family time and to be

together, I feel like a lot of people don’t do that anymore,” Johnny said.

They have also extended their family along the way, stating that their connections on the powwow circuit are one of their favorite aspects of the dance.

Amy detailed an almost inexplicable feeling that comes along with being at the powwow. “Just that feeling, that feeling at grand entry. Everybody’s ready to dance, everybody’s happy and having a good time. And you’re surrounded by colors and sound and it’s just energy. It’s that energy. There’s nothing like it.”

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Anthony Lett, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, dances at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on June 30, 2018. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

Traveling traditionally

Anthony Lett enjoys dancing and traveling

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Anthony Lett, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has been in the pow wow dance arena for most of his life. “Like some of us, we are born into it. I, myself, was brought into the circle in 1974 as a fancy dancer. Currently, I dance men’s traditional. I sometimes dance chicken or straight in

specials.

I stopped dancing at a young age. As I got older, I started asking questions about family members and there being veterans. As I learned about northern traditional dance, I understood it could be a way to honor not only my family members but all veterans.”

He doesn’t have a favorite pow wow per se. “So many have changed locations. I can say that I do love attending Poarch Creek Pow Wow, where I have been going for a long time, and, of course, my hometown pow wow (Eastern Band Cherokee) here.”

That pow wow is special to Lett as he met his wife, Lisianna, at the Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow in Cherokee, N.C. on July 4, 2010. Friday of this year’s pow wow will be the 15th anniversary of their meeting.

“There are so many elements that bring me back year after year. One thing I really enjoy is a pow wow that has specials. I like dancers having the chance to dance in other categories

outside of their own.”

Hitting the road is a large part of being a pow wow dancer. “My favorite part of traveling is getting to see different states, cities, etc. It’s always fun to experience new food spots, too.”

Lett has several pow wows on his bucket list including: Four Bears Pow Wow in New Town, N.D.; Prairie Band Potawatomi Pow Wow in Mayetta, Kan.; Crow Fair in Crow Agency, Mont.; and the Muckleshoot Pow Wow in Bonney Lake, Wash.

He is thankful for those who have helped him over the years. “I would like to thank Ron and Judy Gibson. They took me in when I was coming back to pow wow. They both encouraged me and helped me have the understanding of a pow wow dancer and how to represent other tribes’ customs with my regalia. They made sure I had an understanding of why I was wearing and using certain elements on my regalia. I’d like to also thank, of course, my mom and dad.”



Lett dances at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on June 30, 2023. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)



Mother-daughter duo Ollie Taylor, left, and Hollie Stover, right, dance southern traditional at the Cherokee Central Schools Pow Wow in Charles George Memorial Arena Nov. 21, 2023. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

“A dream come true”

Hollie Stover dances for her daughter

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Hollie Stover, or Usdasdi, is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and the office administrator for New Kituwah Academy (NKA) in Cherokee, N.C. She is also a women’s southern traditional powwow dancer, and the mother of a 13-year-old daughter, Sandra Ollie Anne Taylor, or Quanunasdi, who just graduated sixth grade from NKA.

Quanunasdi also dances, beginning with fancy and recently switching to southern traditional. Usdasdi tried dancing as a child but came back to dancing in her late 20s. “When I was little, maybe about 5 or 6, my parents would go to powwows every now and then when we’d see Intertribals, and my older brother danced, and they danced when they were younger, and I was always enchanted by

it. I really wanted to do it so bad, and I grew up in Georgia, so I wasn’t around here, and I just really wanted to be a part of it. So, my mom made us some outfits, and we’d get out there in Intertribal, but I was really shy. I would just kind of walk around and not really be sure,” Usdasdi said.

“So as an adult, my brother [Anthony Lett] still powwowed and I would go with him to powwows and travel a little bit and I still really wanted to do it, but then I had bad social anxiety by the time I was like 27. Just kind of became a hermit for a little while before I lived up here. Then once I moved up here, I worked at the welcome center for a little while, and then I left there, and I was pregnant as soon as I left there, probably a month after that.”

Little did Usdasdi know, becoming a mother would be the blessing that brought her into the powwow circle. “I

see **HOLLIE** page 24



Hollie Stover dances southern traditional at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow on July 6, 2024. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



Hollie Stover, left, with her brother Anthony Lett, right, at the Stone Mountain Pow Wow in Georgia 13 years ago. Stover was three months pregnant with her daughter, winning her first powwow contest in women's southern traditional. (Photo contributed)

HOLLIE: From page 22

was supposed to have my ceremony later that year. My sister-in-law started dancing at the same time and I almost thought, 'Oh, this is too scary, I don't want to do it, It's too much for me.' And then I was like, 'I have to for her in my belly, I don't want her to know this part of me, how scared I am just to be out in the public and talking,'" she said.

"So, we worked hard to get my outfit together and I was three months pregnant when I went and danced with her in my belly, and I won. I won for the first time. I was like, 'Oh my God!' It was like a dream come true. It really brought me out of my shell."

After winning for the first time with Quanunasdi in her belly at the Stone Mountain

Pow Wow in Georgia, the pair hit the powwow trail running. "When she was born, we made her little outfits, and I would take her every year to tiny tots, and it opened up the door to travel a lot."

Usdasdi is also a talented artisan, setting up and selling at various markets, including the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow. "Two years ago, I was vending at the powwow, and I was like, 'I'm not going to dance this year. I'm just going to be selling,'" she said.

"I told my daughter, 'If you want to dance, that's going to be just on you.' She said she wanted to, and I was so proud of her. I tried not to cry, got her ready, and by that next morning I was like, 'I got to sign up, too,' and that was the first time I'd ever won here."

Even though it's nice to win, Usdasdi said



Ollie Taylor in her fancy shawl regalia at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow. (Photo contributed)

dancing is about more than that. "It's not about winning, it's about just the love of dancing and being there to meet people, see family that you don't get to see, and it just kind of really lifts your spirits. It's just one of those things, it's indescribable to hear your number being called."

Usdasdi and Quanunasdi will be dancing at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow coming up July 4, 5, and 6. "Putting on your regalia and stepping out there, it's like a moment of pride, and it gets me swelled up to see my daughter out there, too. I want to cry every time I see her wanting to dance," she said. "I'm proud of who I am and how far I've come. Powwow boosted my confidence and my outlook on life as far as raising my daughter. I want her to be comfortable doing these things, because I was always really scared to."



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Graceful beauty

Nakoa Chiltoskie
enjoys dancing and
the camaraderie of
pow wows

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Nakoa Chiltoskie, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, loves the graceful movements of dancing and the camaraderie that pow wows bring. She started dancing at age 7.

She commented, “I remember my grandpa had a pink picnic table in the front yard and I would get on top of it and pretend it was a stage and dance a basic step back and forth. My mom saw my interest and asked Keredithe Owens to teach me how to dance. I would go over to Annie



Nakoa Chiltoskie, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is shown dancing at the Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on July 1, 2022. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

and Guy’s (Owens) house a couple nights a week and we would practice in the driveway. She would dance and have me hop at the same time touching the bottom of her feet as she kicked and I kicked to help me learn to keep time. Those were the funnest

days.”

It went from there. “Once I was able to keep beat and knew a few moves, Tooter and Kema took me under their wing and

see **NAKOA** page 28



Chiltoskie dances at the Cherokee Central Schools Pow Wow in the Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. on Nov. 22, 2022. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

NAKOA: From page 26

began taking me to pow wow with them. My mom and dad were so supportive. My mom stayed up all night before the 4th of July Powwow making a red, black, and white fancy dance outfit for me. Beaver Grant also made me a blue sequin cape and leggings with fire color beadwork. I danced fancy until I was in my early 20's then I began to dance jingle. I switched to southern cloth a few years later. That is the category I currently dance in."

Southern Cloth is a style she really enjoys. "I am drawn to women's traditional because of the grace the women show when dancing. The way the fringe moves to the beat, but yet their bodies are held with strict posture. It is very beautiful to watch."

Her favorite pow wow is the Woodland Bowl in Keshena, Wisc. "I love watching all of the woodland dancers and the wild rice hot dishes are the best!"

Some of the dances on her bucket list are Morongo, Calif.; Muckleshoot Veterans Pow Wow in Auburn, Wash.; and the Ute Indian Tribe 4th of July Pow Wow in Fort Duchesne, Utah.

"Some of my favorite things about traveling to pow wows are the memories you make while traveling with your family and getting to see places you have never visited before. It's always good to see old friends and also make new ones. The food is always a bonus."

Chiltoskie is an experienced crafter and seamstress. "I love to sew. This is one of my favorite parts of making regalia. The feeling of pride that you get when you create something that is an expression of your inner creativity and see it come to life is amazing. It motivates you to continue to

create. It's all about taking a traditional concept and making it your own, developing your signature in the art world."

She has many memories going to pow wows over the years, but one sticks out. "One of my favorite pow wow moments was when my children were brought into the circle. I believe it is so important to teach your children about culture and have them actively participating. It keeps them grounded in life."

Chiltoskie plans to keep dancing for years to come. "What keeps me going to dances year after year is the family you make with others near and far. It's like a homecoming when you see them. Good feelings and great conversations. The songs sung just give you such a good feeling in your heart."

She is very thankful for all of the help and hospitality she's received at pow wows over the years. "There are many people who have helped along the way, but my mom did her best to always bead and sew for me even when she wasn't quite sure how to make it. My dad always made sure to drive us to pow wows, and even to Maryland. We looked forward every year to getting to see Sharron and Wilson Roberts. Tooter and Kema Owens always made sure to take me with them traveling. Kim Wildcatt would loan me a dress and even her beadwork at times. All of these people showed me so much love and I am grateful."

>>

Chiltoskie dances at the Cherokee Central Schools Pow Wow in the Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. on Nov. 21, 2017. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./ One Feather photo)





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Owens dances at the old Memorial Day Pow Wow in Cherokee, N.C. (Photo contributed)

An amazing journey

Keredith "Tooter" Owens has traveled the world dancing, sharing culture

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Sitting at a table in the Qualla Boundary Public Library, Keredith "Tooter" Owens looks over a pile of her photographs documenting her career as a fancy shawl dancer at pow wows. "The Lamanite Generation came here and

performed at 'Unto These Hills' and at the Ceremonial Grounds and I saw the fancy dancers. I was probably about 8 and I was like, 'oh my god, I want to do that'." Her late best friend, Becky Walker, asked her if she wanted to learn how to dance. It was a question that Owens would answer with a resounding "Yes!" and one that would take her around the globe.

She began traveling with Becky and her mother, Amy Walker, and General Grant doing shows as "The Junior Moonshadow Dancers".

"We would use the Yellowhill building, the small one, and we'd have practice. I got my outfit together...and it just took off from there. I loved it so much that I kept doing it and kept doing it."

The American Indian Dance Theatre was formed in the late 1980s and toured the world showcasing pow wow dance styles and other tribal dances. That concept appealed to Owens immensely.

"I was so enamored and I was like, 'I'm doing that'. So, at 17 I went to Reston, Va., where they were at, watched them do a show and I

got an audition...that fall, after I graduated, my actual first show was in Portland, Ore., and I had two days to learn the whole show. I was rehearsing constantly, and I did it because I had seen the show so much, I just picked it up. It just took off from there. My first show was sold out - 5,000 people."

In her seven years with the Dance Theatre, she performed all over the United States, Canada, Italy, and Australia.

During a trip to Australia, she and the other members learned dances from the Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre in Melbourne. "It was awesome. Going to Australia, it's like modern times. But when you get with these guys, it's like the Indigenous people in Australia were 150 years behind us as Native people, still fighting for their land, being disrespected. It was crazy...the aboriginal people were just like us. They'd come and find us, and they'd take us on picnics, bring us food, cook for us, dance for us, and share their music."

Owens would also be a part of a 1996 PBS

see **JOURNEY** page 32



Owens dances in the jingle dress category at the Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on June 29, 2018. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

JOURNEY: From page 30

Great Performances/Dance in America special featuring the American Indian Dance Theatre entitled “Dances for the Next Generations”.

Pow Wows have always been a form of expression for Owens. “Dancing and expressing your own unique style - I had my own unique style...I had spins like nobody else had. And I could say that those were mine that I made up...I would just get in this mode of not seeing anyone else around me. I knew they were there, but you just listen to the drum and it’s just you and that drum and your creativity.”

Her favorite pow wow is Thunderchild in Saskatchewan, Canada. “Their pow wows, back then, were out in a field and everybody camped. It was hot and we danced until like two or three o’clock in the morning and I’d never experienced that in my life...a lot of good dancers came. That one was just a really nice pow wow. It was just good feelings. It wasn’t big, fancy, like Gathering or Red Earth, but it was just a good feeling.”

Owens is an accomplished bead artist and seamstress having started learning at age 8. “My grandma Josie Swayney Saunooke always sat in front of her big window. She had her beads out and she’d make daisy chains. She’d make bracelets, or whatever. She’d be sitting there working on her loom, and I’d just be watching her. My great grandma on my dad’s side, I’d take my Barbies...and of course growing up in the Depression Era, she always had scraps of everything - paper, wrapping paper, everything. So she’d make me little patterns, and I’d cut them out and she taught me how to sew and make Barbie doll clothes. So, from there, it just took off. I was beading everything...but I was 8 and now I’m doing the (Kananegsi) fashion shows.”

When asked who she’d like to thank for helping her over the years, Owens commented, “My mom, for everything. My mom and my dad. My mom for always making my dresses and making sure that I looked good. They were my cheering section. And my sister - I couldn’t live without my sister. She would drive us there and we’d camp. Of course, we’d fight and argue, and I’d get her back when I braided her hair...and I can’t ever forget Becky (Walker) because she’s the one that just said, ‘Do you want to dance?’...my biggest fans were my mom and my dad, and my sister and Becky.”

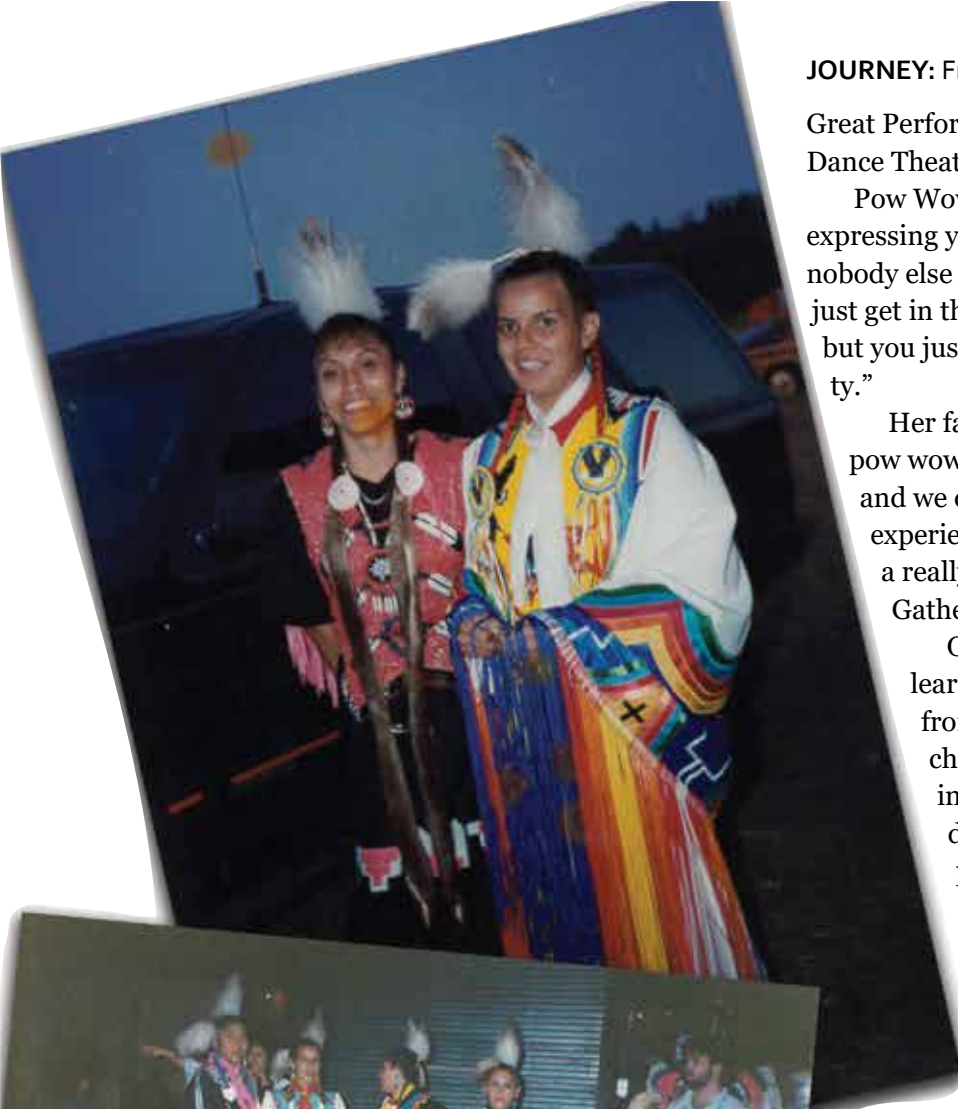
Owens summed up her pow wow time, “It’s been an amazing journey - getting to go all these places, learning songs, learning different cultures and ways.”

PHOTOS:

TOP: Owens is shown with friend, Laverna Thompson, at the Little Pine First Nation Pow Wow in Saskatchewan, Canada on July 31, 1991. (Photo contributed)

MIDDLE: Owens, second from left, is shown with fellow American Indian Dance Theatre members at a performance in Italy on March 22, 1992. Shown, left to right, are Bonnie Tomasah, Owens, Danelle Tailfeathers, and Cassie Soldierwolf. (Photo contributed)

BOTTOM: Owens, third from right, is shown with fellow American Indian Dance Theatre members learning the Buffalo Dance from the Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre in Melbourne, Australia. (Photo contributed)



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Random Pow Wow photos



Jex Panther, age 7, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, dances at the Spirit of the Nations Pow Wow in Dandridge, Tenn. on March 29, 2025. (Photo courtesy of family)



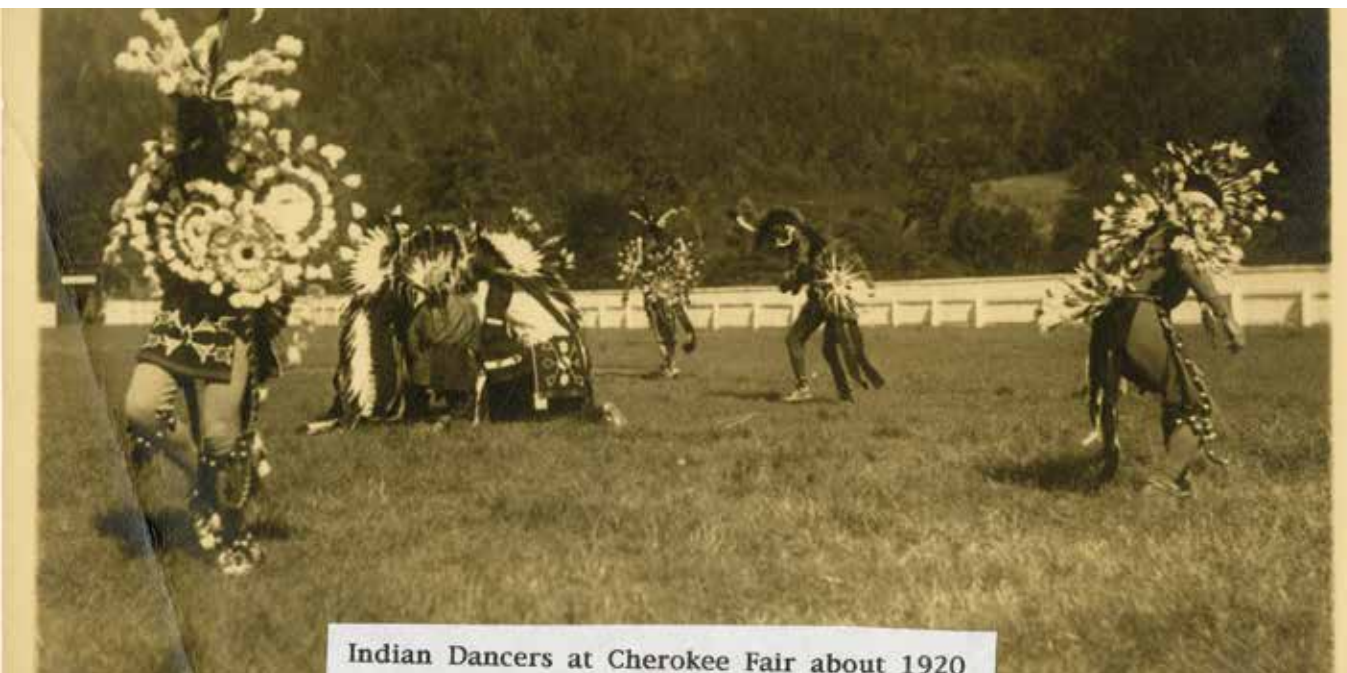
Zayden Barkley, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, dances at the Low Country Pow Wow in Hardeeville, S.C. (Photo courtesy of family)



Kerry Reed, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, dances at a past Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds in Cherokee, N.C. Date unknown. (DAWN ARNEACH/One Feather photo)



Will Tuskha, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, dances at a past Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds in Cherokee, N.C. Date unknown. (DAWN ARNEACH/One Feather photo)



Indian Dancers at Cherokee Fair about 1920

<<

The caption says it all – Indian Dancers at the Cherokee Fair 1920. While very different from today's version, these men are dressed in fancy feather outfits for that time period. (Photo courtesy of the Museum of the Cherokee People)



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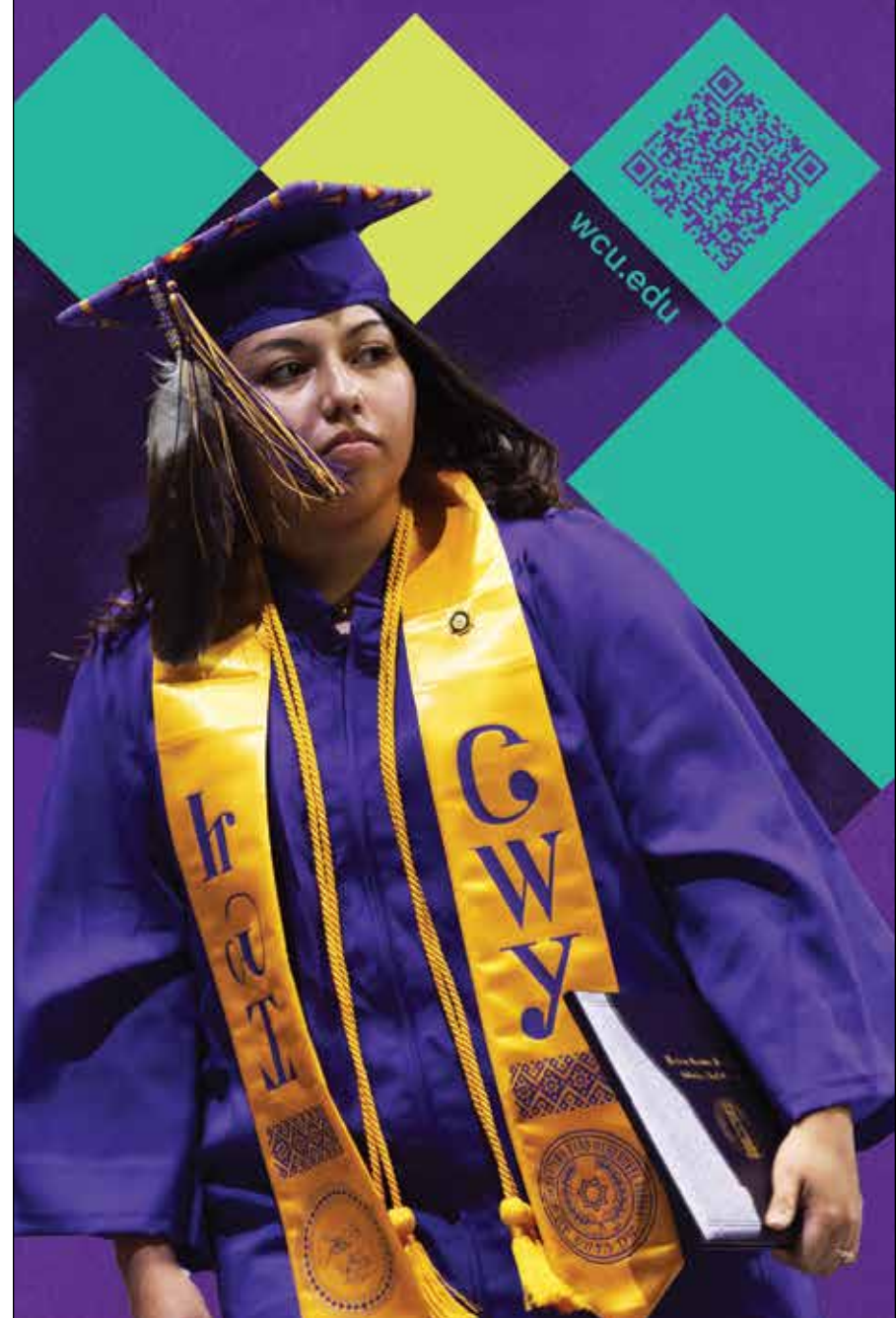
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CYC honors its heart and soul: Staff, Board, and Tribal Government

Submitted by
RENISSA MCLAUGHLIN
EBCI Director of Youth and Adult
Education

CHEROKEE, N.C. - In a recent heartfelt ceremony filled with gratitude and celebration, the Cherokee Youth Center honored its Board of Directors, dedicated staff, and the steadfast support of the Tribal government—three pillars that continue to uphold its mission of serving Cherokee youth.

The event, marked by moving reflections and warm camaraderie, served as a reminder of the profound impact a united community can have on its youngest members.

“This organization was built on the belief that every child deserves a safe space, a strong support system, and the opportunity to thrive,” said the Matt Hollifield, Cherokee Youth Center manager, addressing staff and their families. “Thanks to your unwavering commitment - your countless hours, tireless efforts, and passionate leadership—that belief is more than a mission statement. It’s a living reality.”

Special appreciation was given to the Tribal government for its continued investment in youth-focused programs. “Your wisdom in preparing for the future and prioritizing the wellbeing of our Native youth has been instrumental,” Hollifield said, adding a light-hearted nod to former Youth Center members Driver Blythe



Nellie Smith, who has worked as a youth development professional at the Cherokee Youth Center for 16 years, is shown with Stephanie French, CYC education supervisor who has been at the Center for 18 years, at a recent CYC event honoring staff. (Photo courtesy of Cherokee Youth Center)

and Dallas Bennett, who now work with the Tribe. “If you ever have questions about what we do here, ask them—they’re never at a loss for words.”

Board members were praised for their contributions and dedication to the organization. “You understand that we’re not just providing childcare - we’re nurturing young minds, developing

character, and building the next generation of caring, responsible, and resilient citizens,” Hollifield noted.

The staff, described as mentors and role models, received special recognition for their daily dedication. Their efforts have transformed the lives of children facing profound adversity, from those in foster care and group homes to

youth coping with trauma. “With time, consistency, love, and guidance, these same children found their voice, their strength, and a path,” he said. “They’ve gone on to become firefighters, teachers, police officers—even politicians. (We can’t win them all!)”

Quoting the timeless phrase, “To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world,” the evening closed with dinner.

“Tonight, we don’t just say thank you—we celebrate you,” Hollifield concluded. “Your service is not only appreciated; it is admired and deeply respected.”

Following the speech, awards were handed out to honor their service in the program - underscoring a night devoted to those who make a lasting difference in the lives of Cherokee youth.

Those honored included: Seth Ledford; Dorian Reed, 3 months; Beth McCoy, 8 months; Annie Sims-Bigmeat, 9 months; Tevy West, 10 months; Caressa Jackson, 1 year; Jae Lossiah, 1.5 years; Rebecca Corrona-Smith, 1 year and 2 months; Damon Ledford, 1 year and 7 months; Jenni Junaluska, 2 years and 1 month; Tiffany Cooper, 2 years and 3 months; Citrus Bigwitch, 2 years and 7 months; Luci Liri, 3 years; Sierra Davis, 3 years; Natasha Junaluska, 7 years; Remy Catt, 9 years and 10 months; Nellie Smith, 16 years; Stephanie French, 18 years; and Matt Hollifield, 17 years.



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MISSING

Jada Dial

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'4" or 5'5" Weight: 120 lbs

Female Age: 17

Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: May 4, 2025

Last Known Location: Falcon,
North Carolina

Circumstances of Disappearance:

On the night of May 4, 2025, a teenage girl vanished into the dark. Jada Dial, just 17, was last seen around 11:30 p.m. on North West Street in Falcon. Since that moment, there's been no trace of her. (nfound.org)

If you have seen or have information about Jada Dial contact the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office (910) 323-1500.

Source: Namus.gov/NFound



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EBCI COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherokee Preservation Foundation announces \$3.3 million in 2025 Spring Grants

Submitted by
Cherokee Preservation Foundation

The Cherokee Preservation Foundation awarded 12 grants to partners in western North Carolina, totaling more than \$3.3 million. The grants were awarded to projects advancing the Foundation's mission of improving the quality of life for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and neighboring communities.

The 2025 spring grants were awarded to the following organizations and programs:

- Watershed Association of the Tuckasegee River to provide

awareness of traditional Cherokee fishing practices among Cherokee youth - \$14,000

- Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc. to update and modernize the gallery space of Qualla Arts and Crafts to increase visitation - \$58,086

- Cherokee Boys Club to demonstrate innovative sustainable alternative energy technologies available for transportation and electricity that reduce carbon emissions - \$975,000

- The Sequoyah Fund to support small business development in the town of Cherokee via lending, grant writing support, and other programs - \$533,181

- Uwena to provide financial advice and planning for EBCI-members on the Qualla Boundary - \$30,000

- Ray Kinsland Leadership In-

stitute to produce selfless leaders with modern skills who are grounded with Cherokee core values - \$336,872

- Cherokee Historical Association to increase heritage-based tourism in the town of Cherokee through CHA's offerings - \$698,000

- EBCI Qualla Public Library to develop a strategic plan for modernizing the Qualla Boundary Public Library into a contemporary knowledge center and community hub - \$15,000

- Cherokee High School to preserve Cherokee art history, and art techniques through the sharing of knowledge on various Cherokee art forms - \$19,965

- Museum of the Cherokee People to support the Museum of the Cherokee People's efforts to revamp and update their offerings - \$500,000

- RiverLink, Inc. to encourage the practice of Cherokee traditional lifeways by expanding river cane availability in the region for Cherokee artisan use in arts and crafts - \$20,000

- Snowbird Cherokee Traditions to prevent the loss of the Cherokee language by supporting second language learning programming efforts - \$115,250

Applications being taken for "Unto These Hills" Educational Scholarship

Applications are now being taken for the "Unto These Hills" Educational Scholarship. The deadline is Aug. 1. Requirements: must be a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, GPA must be 2.0 or higher, and must be a 4-year undergraduate student taking at least 12 credit hours or a graduate students taking at least 6 credit hours.

Link to Apply: <https://forms.>

[gle/97Ub3voDS1jgVJgdA](https://forms.)

- "Unto These Hills" Educational
Scholarship

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WCU Mountain Heritage Awards now accepting nominations

CULLOWHEE, N.C. – Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Mountain Heritage Awards, honoring individuals and organizations whose work preserves, interprets, and celebrates the rich cultural traditions and history of Southern Appalachia.

Annually presented by the chancellor of Western Carolina University, recipients will be honored during the Mountain Heritage Days festival in a public ceremony which will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Western Carolina University's Bardo Arts Center. Award winners will receive an engraved commemorative plaque.

"Mountain Heritage Day started as the university's way to combat Appalachian stereotypes and celebrate regional craft," said Mountain Heritage Center director Amber C. Albert. "This will be the 49th year the festival has granted awards to individuals and groups who create exemplary mountain arts and prioritize cultural education."

The winner of the first Mountain Heritage Award was John Parris, Asheville Citizen-Times columnist and author, in 1976. Honorees are selected by a committee comprised of community and WCU representatives. The two award categories recognize an individual and an organization for distinguished service, accomplishments, influence or expertise in



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maintaining the cultural viability of the region.

Nominations must be emailed to mhd@wcu.edu with the subject line "Award Nomination" by Monday, July 7, at 5 p.m.

Nominations should be no more than five pages in length and must outline the nominee's accomplishments, highlighting their impact in areas such as traditional crafts, music, or social and environmental causes. Submissions should also describe the nominee's role as a teacher, advocate, leader, or preserver of mountain culture and heritage. A list of awards or other recognitions received by the nominee should be included, and links to online support materials may be provided as optional supplements.

Individual award winners for 2024 were Anna Fariello and,

posthumously, Crystal Cauley. The organizational award was given to Darnell Farms. Although last year's festival was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene, Chancellor Brown presented the awards at the Mountain Heritage Day 50th anniversary concert in March of this year.

The festival, now called Mountain Heritage Days, will span an entire week, Sept. 22-27 and will feature newly added programming such as evening faculty-led lectures with hands-on involvement, heritage demonstrators on the plaza, and a Friday night concert at Bridge Park in Sylva.

WCU will continue to offer an array of family-friendly activities, including cultural demonstrations, music, clogging, mule and tractor rides, traditional arts and crafts vendors, festival food, and much

more from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The shift to a week-long model provides additional opportunities for patrons to participate and enhances the visitor experience. The university remains committed to its mission of educating WCU faculty, staff, students and community members about these beloved traditions.

For more information about the history of the festival and the awards, visit mhd.wcu.edu

- Western Carolina University
release

THANK YOU LETTERS

Thank you Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship

Thank you to the Yogi Crowe Board Members for their continued support this summer semester 2025. I am in the Doctoral Program at the University of Tennessee and hope to finish this semester.

Research is vital to my writing requirements and travel to the facilities/sites is expensive.

I am grateful for the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship, this scholarship has provided me with much needed help during my academic career to earn my master's degree and has continued to help as I pursue my doctoral degree.

This scholarship is available to all Eastern Band of Cherokee Students who are pursuing a masters or doctoral program. I encourage you to apply: yogicrowescholarship.org

Signed,
Beau Carroll

Letter of Appreciation,

As another limb has fallen from our family tree, we want to thank God for the time he gave us with Rachel Morgan. She was a sister, a mother, a grandparent, an aunt, a cousin and a friend. Thank you to the Chief, Vice Chief and to everyone that sent a text, a message on Facebook, phone calls, home visits and for every prayer. Thanks to all of you that sent flowers and brought food. Thank you to Brother Greg Morgan for the blessed service. Thanks to Waterfalls Baptist Church and Brother Scotty, Rock Springs Baptist Church and Melvin and Zena Wolfe for the beautiful songs that was sung for Rachel while she was at Tsali Care and at the funeral home. Thank you to Longhouse Funeral Home for your assistance and to her family for the love and support.

Blessings to all,

The family of Rachel Morgan

MISSING

Tanya Marie Brayboy

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5' Weight: 185 lbs Female

Hair: Brown Eyes: Green Age: 42

Date of last contact: March 18, 2025

Last Known Location: Fayetteville, North Carolina

Circumstances of Disappearance: Tanya

Marie Brayboy was last seen at a facility

on 3/18/25. She left on foot. She has tattoos on her left calf (Winnie the Pooh), chest ("Tanya"), right arm (rose), and lower back. She was last seen wearing black sweatpants and a light colored top. She was also wearing size 6 to 6.5 flipflops.

If you have seen or have information about Tanya Brayboy, contact Detective Sasha Warren, Fayetteville Police Department (910) 433-1529.

Source: Namus.gov



GWY ᏥᏍᏏ ᏊᏍᏏᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Ask the One Feather: Finances for casino in Indiana

A reader asked: **Can you publish a profit/loss report on the tribally-owned Caesar's Southern Indian casino? How is the Tribe benefiting from this casino? If there are profits, how are they being used?**

The One Feather sent this question to Terri Henry, EBCI governmental affairs liaison; Paxton Myers, EBCI Chief of Staff; and Sheyahshe Little-dave, EBCI Office of the Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) public information officer, on Wednesday, April 16. On April 16, they responded, "We'll get a response to you as soon as we can." No additional response has been received.



Nancy Chiltoskie

Nancy Chiltoskie, youngest daughter of Watty and Ten-nie Chiltoskie, passed away on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Nancy grew up in the Big Y area before attending boarding schools in Georgia and Santa Fe,

N.M. She graduated from Haskell Indian Junior College. In 1993, she moved back to Cherokee. At Cherokee Central Schools, she worked in administration for 20 years. Nancy was grateful to spend time with friends and family. She loved traveling with friends and family as much as she could.

Her family takes comfort knowing she joins close friends Richard, Reuben, Jannie, Rosie and John. She leaves behind a daughter, a son, granddaughter, grandson, many beloved nieces and nephews, and two cherished cat companions.

Deep thanks to Jeremy Hyatt and his H.E.L.P. crew for their assistance over the past years.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Hoyt Lunsford

Hoyt Lunsford, age 89, of Marble, left behind his physical body on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

Hoyt was a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was a wordsmith, a musician, craftsman, educator and so much more. Throughout his life he encouraged and supported many students, musicians, teachers, and his family. He did those things quietly and without expectation of recognition. He was a leader in several local churches through the years; leading the choirs, playing the piano for many occasions, and teaching. He loved the people of Vengeance Creek, Andrews First, and Marble Springs Baptist Churches. He also was a leader in the Cherokee County Schools holding the positions of teacher, principal, and associate superintendent. He was a recognized elder

of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.

Family members who predeceased Hoyt are the mother of his children, Nina Brown Lunsford; his parents, Pearlie and Inez Rogers Lunsford; brother, Fred Lunsford and wife, Gladys; sisters, Furel Lunsford and Beatrice Rose and husband, Kendall; his grandson, Kenton Parker; and sister-in-law, Alta Rogers and husband, Glenn.

Those who are left behind to remember him with love and smiles are his wife, Margaret Cole Lunsford; and children, Andrea Vaught, Lana Parker and husband, John, Morgan Lunsford and wife, Angela. His grandchildren are Joshua Vaught and wife, Evelin, Jeremiah Vaught and wife, May-sa, James Vaught and wife, Keri, Joslyn Parker-Booth, and hus-

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band, Michael, Isaiah Lunsford, and Regan Lunsford. The great grandchildren, who will be guided by those who learned from him how to guide and love are Malachi, Isaac, Daniel, Kimber, Zander, Cooper, Titus, and Atarah. He also will be remembered by brother-in-law Roy Brown and wife, Ruby and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family thanks the caregivers of Hospice of North Carolina and EBCI Respite Care for providing care with kindness, patience, and understanding.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Sunday, June 29 at Marble Springs Baptist Church with the Reverend Jeremiah Vaught officiating. The eulogy was provided by his son, Morgan Lunsford.

Interment took place at Ven-

geance Creek Memorial Gardens at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that donations be made in memory of Hoyt Lunsford to Broyhill Children's Home at 111 Sneed Drive, Clyde, NC 28712 or Cherokee County Retired School Personnel c/o Katherine Dailey PO Box 882, Murphy, North Carolina. Please mark the donation for the scholarship fund.

Ivie Funeral Home, Murphy in charge of all arrangements. An online guest register is available at www.iviefuneralhome.com

James Edwards Mills

Fisherman, husband, son, father, grandfather, friend, U.S. Public Health Service Captain, and founder of "Raven Fork Rods" James Edwards Mills, 84, of Whit-tier, N.C., passed away peacefully

on Monday, June 16, 2025 after a brief and sharp bout with cancer.

Jim spent his days in constant motion - from his youth on an eastern North Carolina tobacco farm to his days in the Great Smoky Mountains, rising early with his beloved black lab by his side and working tirelessly into the evening. Work and service were his salve and brought meaning to his life.

Jim joined the U.S. Public Health Service Indian Health Service in 1964, serving Native American tribes nationwide - first as a pharmacist and then leading the building, design, and modernization of health clinics on reservations east of the Mississippi River. In the late sixties, while still working as a pharmacist, Jim was instrumental in securing grants to improve vaccination and sanitation infrastructure on the Qualla Boundary. This holistic approach to improving healthcare led to his critical work in helping establish the Cherokee Indian Hospital in 1980. In appreciation for all these efforts, Jim was named an honorary member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Grounded in his faith, Jim shared it in big ways and small. Prayers were ever on his lips and in his heart for those he encountered, often spontaneously joining friends and strangers in lifting requests heavenward. He was a faithful prayer partner to many close friends and family members. Jim also was a decades-long member of the Gideons, participated in the Walk to Emmaus, served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Bryson City First Baptist Church, and sung in church choirs throughout his life.

Nothing was more important to Jim than community. He loved people and built close relation-

ships with everyone - creating bonds of mutual respect and love through inquiry, listening, laughter, storytelling, empathy, caring, and generosity. Jim shared gifts of food, time, work, and instruction with many. You were blessed and loved when you received a fresh mess of fish, his famous fudge, pecan brittle, chicken and rice soup, or summer tomatoes. Always a special time was steaming fresh oysters with friends in Ronnie Henderson's garage.

His greatest joy and many of his deepest relationships revolved around fishing. Intimacy with nature was his prayer of gratitude. His passion was unraveling the ongoing puzzle of catching fish through experimentation and invention. At a young age, he fished, crabbed, and set nets in the creeks and rivers of Eastern North Carolina with his parents, later learning to fly fish the streams of the Smokies with his father-in-law, Med Messer, and his wife's uncle, Red Nolen. He built lifelong friendships camping and fishing the Appalachians with Kenny Blankenship, Eddie Almond, and the rest of the Bone Valley gang. A special joy was found in annual October fishing trips to Montana where he fished for the much sought-after Montana Derby with Tom Underwood and an extended circle of friends from Western North Carolina. Jim also adored fishing western waters with his son Chris. In recent years, Jim took up fishing nymphs in deeper water. Experimenting with new fly-tying materials and methods with local fishing buddies Jim Estes and Gene Sutton brought many hours of creativity and joy. Jim loved mornings spent with friends cooking freshly caught fish on the

see **OBITS** next page

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FIELD GAMES



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 **Raising Relatives**

OBITS: From page 41

creek bank.

Jim also ran his own fly rod building and repair business, “Raven Fork Rods,” where he made nearly 3,000 glass, bamboo, and fiberglass rods over the last 60 years.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, James Junior Mills and Vivian Edwards Mills of Greenville, N.C. He is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara of 64 years; children, Chris (Jennifer) and Marissa (Bronson); and grandchildren, Jordan (Cam) and Emery.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 13, at Bryson City First Baptist Church, 37 Church Avenue, Bryson City, N.C. Fishermen and women, please bring your fly rods to the ceremony. Visitation will be at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary, and service will begin at 2 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the following or to the charity of your choice.

- Caring Ministries, 820 W. Calle Sur, Tucson, AZ 85705. This is a community food bank in Arizona that Jim has supported since his time serving the Tohono O’odham Nation Reservation in the sixties.
- Gideons International Jackson County Camp, 526 West Main Street, Sylva, NC 28779.

Idalee Inez Huskey

Idalee Inez Huskey, a faithful servant of the Lord, cherished mother, grandmother, entrepreneur, and beloved pillar of the Cherokee, N.C. community, went home to be with the Lord on June 26, 2025. She was 88 years old.

Born (Feb. 20, 1937) and raised in the beautiful mountains of Cherokee, N.C., Idalee was a woman of unwavering faith, abun-

dant love, and a grateful heart. She lived a life full of purpose, always choosing joy and praising the Lord unceasingly. She was the proud and devoted mother of two children, Edward Huskey and Alita Huskey Cunningham, and the deeply adored grandmother of Shasta and her spouse, Chad Morris, and Brandi Cunningham and her spouse, Charlie Griner, Gavin, Cody, and Ian Huskey, and great grandchildren, Braxton and Brandon Morris, Finn Griner, each of whom she poured her love and wisdom into.

Throughout her life, Idalee was a natural builder of businesses, of traditions, of people, and of community connections. A true trailblazer and gifted entrepreneur, she started and operated several cornerstone establishments that helped shape Cherokee’s local landscape, including the Pow-wow Gift Shop, Wolfe Campground, Video Den, Country Breeze Cabins, and the Village Diner. Her entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and tireless work ethic helped lay the foundation for countless family memories while creating welcoming spaces for both locals and visitors alike.

But it was her day-to-day presence that truly made Idalee unforgettable. Her attitude was always one of gratitude, and she reminded those around her that joy was a choice made daily. To know Idalee was to feel that joy, she was the rock everyone turned to, the one who could lift spirits with just a smile, a joke, or her infectious laughter. Even in the hardest of times, she offered light, faith, humor, and steady love when others needed it most. Her strength was quiet but constant, and her faith in God never wavered.

Her home was a sanctuary filled with laughter, prayer, the

smell of her famous fudge, and the simple comfort of her perfectly made scrambled eggs. Her heart was even more open than her home—whether sharing a home-cooked meal, a warm story, or a prayer, Idalee made everyone feel like family. She was the heart of every holiday, especially Christmas, which she celebrated with unmatched warmth and magic, gathering family and friends under her roof to feel her love, her laughter, and her belief in the beauty of togetherness.

More than anything, Idalee was a beacon of encouragement who led by example, offering kindness, grace, and strength to all who knew her. Her absence will leave a deep void, but her presence will never be forgotten. Her legacy is one of deep love, unwavering faith in God, and an unshakeable commitment to her family and community.

A celebration of her life and faith was held at the Crisp Funeral Home on Monday, June 30.

Florence Addie Reed

Florence Addie Reed, also known as “Babe,” beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 25, 2025. Born on May 6, 1965, Babe lived a life filled with love, kindness, and pride in her Native American heritage.

She was preceded in death by her father, Wilson Hunter Reed, and her mother, Dell Reed. She was also preceded in death by her brothers, Charlie Reed, Tommy Reed, Mike Reed, Alan Reed, Freddy Reed; and her grandson, Gregory “Hunter” Maney.

Babe is survived by her sons, Gregory “Dale” Maney, Dennis Maney, Timothy “Tim” Maney; and her daughter, Tiffany Maney.

She also leaves behind 19 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter, Oaklyn; sisters-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held at the Reed family home on Monday, June 30. Babe remained in the home until the funeral service on Tuesday, July 1 with Ben Reed officiating. Burial followed at the Reed family Cemetery. Pallbearers were family and friends.

Long House Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



1. Ohio State Buckeyes running back and 1950 Heisman Trophy winner Vic Janowicz played two seasons with what Major League Baseball team before starting his NFL career in 1954?
2. What is the nickname of Youngstown State University’s athletic teams?
3. Following a 2009 loss to the Texas A&M Aggies, what Texas Tech Red Raiders head football coach told reporters that his players’ “fat little girlfriends” were making them lose focus?
4. Scott Turner, who played cornerback for three different NFL teams from 1995-2003, assumed what position in the Cabinet of the United States in January 2025?
5. In 2019, pop star, actor, TV personality and competitive swimmer Alex Fong raised \$1 million for charity by swimming 28 miles around what island?
6. In 1990, right-handed pitcher Dave Stieb recorded the first (and as of 2024, only) no-hitter in the history of what Major League Baseball franchise?
7. What sport, popular in Afghanistan and Central Asia, involves horse-mounted players trying to drag a goat carcass into a scoring area called a taqt?

Answers

1. The Pittsburgh Pirates.
2. The Penguins.
3. Mike Leach.
4. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
5. Hong Kong Island.
6. The Toronto Blue Jays.
7. Buzkashi.

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| SITE INSPECTION APPLICATION | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Inspection application process begins at Tribal Realty by the property owner. <input type="checkbox"/> The property will be inspected by five tribal departments and will be determined if site is buildable or not buildable. |
| PROPERTY SURVEY, TRANSFER & RIGHT OF WAYS | <input type="checkbox"/> Surveying requests for approved buildable sites will be done by the Tribal Surveying dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Property transfers will be done by the owner to the home buyer at Tribal Realty. <input type="checkbox"/> The home buyer must own the property for financing purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> All road and utility right of ways or utility easements must be in place before any site work begins. |
| PRE-APPROVAL PRE-QUALIFICATION | <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant will meet with Homebuyer Services Coordinator where they are required to have Site Inspection forms completed, unless applicant is wishing to purchase a home. <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will assist applicant with packaging loan applications to lender. <input type="checkbox"/> Lender will issue a prequalification letter indicating maximum loan amount. <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will send Infrastructure a copy of the prequalification letter |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> Once pre-approved/qualified, the infrastructure application must be completed. <input type="checkbox"/> Legal description proving ownership of the property must be included. <input type="checkbox"/> Must be an EBCI enrolled member constructing a permanent residence on trust lands to receive Infrastructure services. |
| HOME BUYING SEARCH & QUOTE | <input type="checkbox"/> Prequalified borrower will begin their house search, keeping in mind the size of the site that was approved. <input type="checkbox"/> Borrower will request a sales quote, floor plans and foundation plan for their home. <input type="checkbox"/> After receiving quote and house plans, Borrower will submit all documents and drawings to Homebuyer Services Coordinator. <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will submit estimate, plans and drawings to Infrastructure. <input type="checkbox"/> Simultaneously, HBS Coordinator will submit same plans to the lending institution, as well as financial documents to keep loan active. Financial documents are updated with lender every 30 days. |
| DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (DPA) & LOAN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will process documents to request Down Payment Assistance for 20% of sales contract amount, up to \$50,000.00, and will request \$5,000.00 in Rate Buy Down (RBD) gift funds simultaneously. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will submit to Loan Compliance Committee for review. Committee will review for completeness of application. <input type="checkbox"/> Completed applications are submitted to Secretary of Housing for approval and signature. <input type="checkbox"/> Approved applications are then submitted to the Principal Chief for approval and signature. <input type="checkbox"/> The approved and signed applications are returned to Homebuyer Services Coordinator. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will continue to send financial docs on a continual basis to lender until loan close is scheduled. |
| CIDH & REALTY – On Trust Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> After receiving signed loan approvals, the Homebuyer Services Coordinator will send DPA firm commitment to Tribal Realty to initiate Ownership Statement (OS), Lease and Assignment. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will also send a letter to lender to notify approval of DPA and RBD. <input type="checkbox"/> Once OS, lease and assignment are received, these documents will be forwarded to the lending institution. <input type="checkbox"/> Lending Institution will contact client to “lock in” their interest rate, taking into consideration the gift funds to purchase discount points. |
| DPA funds – Off Trust Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> After loan approvals are received, Coordinator will send letter notifying lender the borrower has been approved for DPA and RBD funds and request closing attorney information. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will complete the Promissory Note and Deed of Trust and to be signed at closing and recorded at Register of Deeds in the county of purchase. <input type="checkbox"/> Closing attorney will send copy of recorded documents back to Coordinator. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will submit recorded documents to Realty to be recorded for off-boundary loans. |
| LOAN CLOSE | <input type="checkbox"/> Prior to loan close, Coordinator will request AP checks for issuance of DPA and RBD to be disbursed to the lender at closing. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will notify Site Prep that loan has closed. <input type="checkbox"/> Home construction may start after loan close. <input type="checkbox"/> Client will begin working with Lender’s Construction Loan Specialist for completion of construction. |
| SITE PREP SCHEDULING | <input type="checkbox"/> Signed purchase agreement, house floor plans and firm commitment must on file with homebuyer services and Infrastructure. <input type="checkbox"/> If 1 acre or more will be disturbed during site prep construction, a SWPP (Storm Water Protection Plan) must be completed by our contractor before any work can begin. |
| SERVICES PROVIDED BY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NEW HOMES | <input type="checkbox"/> For qualified EBCI enrolled members residing on trust land, Infrastructure provides: <input type="checkbox"/> Site Prep, Footers, Block Foundation, Block Underpinning, Vinyl Underpinning, Gutter System and Final Grade to prevent erosion. |

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Tina Larch: (828) 359-6912

Timber Permits

Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913

COMMENTARY

Reservation Dogs (and Cats)

By **ROBERT JUMPER**

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

I routinely travel over Soco Mountain on my commute to and from work. It is a pretty drive during most times of the year, and it is a great time to reflect on and sometimes detoxify from what can be a frustrating, confusing, and thought-provoking workday. We all have those days from time to time where decisions and processes just don't make a lot of sense, and sometimes it is hard to find a

source to clarify policies, procedures, and actions.

Sometimes fear or anger closes portals to information that should be readily available. Sometimes lust for power keeps people from sharing what should belong to the community. As the old saying goes, knowledge is power, and no one likes to give up power. All this requires time for reflection and a long drive is typically good therapy.

The problem is that when knowledge is withheld, there is always a cost. Sometimes people don't trust. Sometimes we become apathetic. Sometimes we become enraged. And sometimes we make mistakes that have a painful cost. Not everyone, but a good part of the driving public, either becomes someone else or allows their true

nature to take over when they get behind the wheel. When you commute roughly 90 minutes a day, 5 days a week, for over 20 years, you get to see some pretty interesting driving habits. We find ever more creative ways to display ignorance and arrogance on the highway. I have watched as tourists and locals alike exhibit new ways to skirt death on what they must feel is a stretch of test track reserved for them alone. I have also discovered that they get very offended if anyone else is in their way on what they perceive to be "their" track. Poor manners, ethics, and judgment are more on display than any driving skill. And if you react in any way to their antics, you open yourself up to the possibility of a road rage incident. So, your choices become "kill or be killed" or

relegate yourself to being a door-mat for the nuts who live out their fantasy of becoming Mad Max and who unconsciously believe that they own the road, at least as far as the bottom of Soco Mountain. Bumper riding, the most common sport, when you don't know what may be coming around the next curve on a mountain, is stupid. Trust me, trying to physically push the car in front of you to go faster or move out of the way usually results in the persecuted slowing down, not speeding up. Soco Road is mostly a two-lane, with sheer rock face on one side and steep drop-off on the other side. Weaving into the oncoming lane in a blind curve on a road like that is, well, stupid. It is not something to be proud of. It is negligence that borders on criminal behavior. One

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Misty Millsaps - 828-359-6919; mistmill@ebci-nsn.gov

last rant about local drivers: The latest new vehicular dumb move is drivers nosing their car or truck (usually an SUV) out into a lane of traffic in hopes of causing the person with the right of way to stop and let them enter the roadway. This, along with all the speeding, cutting off, stopping in the middle of the road, and driving against traffic to get to a turn-off or off-ramp. It is amazing the discourteous behavior a person sees if they spend any time driving.

And, believe it or not, that is not the point of this commentary. But it is on the Soco Road that I see many of the stray and unattended dogs as I travel to and from the Boundary. By God's grace, I haven't seen many dead dogs on that road in recent years, even though I routinely see them individually or in a pack daily. I can only imagine that these "rez dogs" have learned to hug tightly to the sides of the roads to avoid the test track dummies that frequent Soco Road. Wild animals, opossums, raccoons, squirrels, snakes, and skunks have not been as blessed because it is common to see wild-life pancakes on the Soco Road. Even the occasional duck or turkey meets its maker on that stretch from time to time.

Seeing these dogs who have avoided carmageddon prompted

me to remind all of us that we need to take better care of our pets, and we need to be mindful of those animals without homes. Tribal statistics on dogs and other animals are hard to come by, so we will talk generally about the stray crisis that continues for dogs and other domestic animals. It is typical for tribal operations (not just ours, but all tribal nations) do not report, even in aggregate, into a regional or national database, so these numbers won't necessarily tell the story completely for native lands.

According to bestfriends.org, there may not be such a thing as a shelter that does not euthanize. Unfortunately, it isn't possible to take in all homeless animals (most shelters stay full, so there are few options available). Turning an animal away from a shelter will likely mean abandonment, releasing the animal to fend for itself. The term "no-kill" may be a little misleading because the designation applies even if up to 10 percent of their intake must be put down. So, it is unclear if there are any truly "no-kill" shelters operating in the U.S. "In 2021, 4.6 million cats and dogs entered animal shelters in the U.S. Of those, about 355,000 dogs and cats were killed just because they didn't have a safe place to call home. So why do people give up

pets to animal shelters? Most people surrender their companion animals to shelters for reasons other than a pet's behavior. In fact, three human-related reasons-housing (specifically moving), finances, and caregiver or family health/death-account for more than a third of animals entering shelters. Of the 355,000 animals euthanized, 32 percent, or 113,600, were dogs. Five states account for half of all the dogs and cats killed in shelters: Texas, California, North Carolina, Florida, and Alabama."

While adoption seems to be an answer to the problem, there is a more obvious one for those who are pet owners. It should be your practice as a responsible pet owner to get your pet spayed or neutered. Some communities have invested in what is called the trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) method of population control when it comes to cats. Enacting and enforcing laws that prohibit puppy mills also decrease the odds of dogs becoming strays.

Some organizations expend a significant amount of time, labor, and monetary resources to participate in adoption networks to promote the availability of dogs and cats for adoption nationwide. Locally, in neighboring municipalities, volunteers match homeless dogs and cats to willing fosters and

owners and help arrange travel to get the pet to its new, hopefully forever home. All of this increases the life expectancy and quality of life of stray and abandoned animals.

I hope we all stop for a moment and give thought to the plight of homeless animals. As I said before, I have been grateful not to see a dog collar and tags among a furry, mangled body on the highway recently, and I hope that we get to a point where I never have to see it again.

Remember, you are part of the solution when you spay and neuter your pets. You may even consider contributing to a shelter so that they may help families to get that work done before the pet is adopted at a shelter. Make sure your pets are up to date on all their shots and meds. Keep in mind during these hot summer months that paw pads are easily scorched on hot concrete or asphalt, and pets won't last long in a sealed-up car without air conditioning. Don't leave them alone in the heat. And with holidays approach where many enjoy fireworks, please remember that most dogs and many cats are terrified and traumatized by the sudden blast of most fireworks. Protect your pets like they are family. Even a rez dog needs a little tender loving kindness.

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

LETTER: Dr. Bunio encourages vaccinations

COMMENTARY: The U.S. government should

Amber Waves

ALL, RIGHT RUNT, I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR LIPPY ATTITUDE. TELL YA HOW IT'S GONNA BE.



YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME YOUR DESSERTS AND START DOING ALL MY HOMEWORK.



MARVIN, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEAT ME UP, BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...



UH, WHY AM I MEETING YOUR CLASSMATE'S DAD AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?



TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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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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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

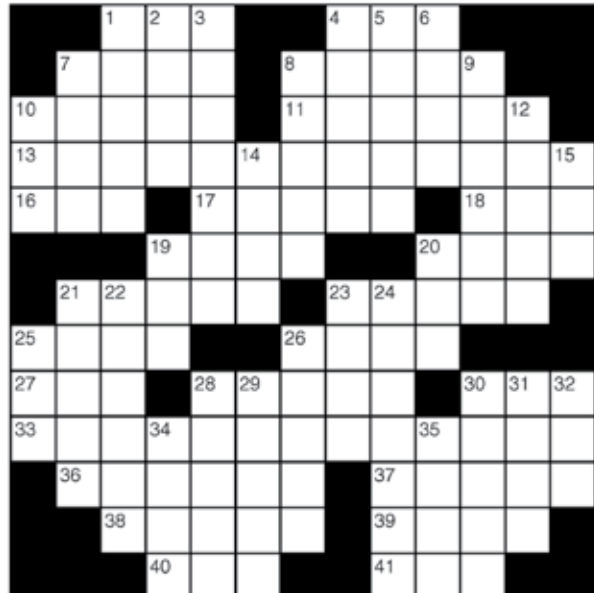


Differences: 1. Cap is larger. 2. Hair ribbon is moved. 3. Thumb is wider. 4. Mouth is open. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Tree trunk is moved. 7. Hair ribbon is moved. 8. Thumb is wider.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Condo coolers
- Mornings, briefly
- Malaria symptom
- Daub
- Florida city
- Research
- Nocturnal birds
- Actor Cariou
- English horn cousins
- Actor McShane
- Stumble
- Part of A.D.
- Exams for future attys.
- Years
- Deception
- Cousin's mom
- ray Disc
- Soaks up the sun
- Prefix with gram or center
- Ancient
- "Hard as nails," for one
- More bizarre
- Auto style
- Clarinet insert



- Ballot markings
- Corn serving

- Sailing vessel
- Judge's decision

- "Westworld" aier
- Wan

DOWN

- "Encore!"
- Robert of "I Spy"
- Stop on a cruise
- Love, to Luigi
- Cat calls?
- H.H. Munro's pen name
- Dull pain

- Hooting bird
- Blueprints
- Kimono ties
- cone
- Levy
- Busy insect
- Lounges
- Mecca residents
- Sci-fi's Skywalker
- By the beach

- Back of a 45 record
- Book of maps
- Church leader
- Begged
- Leb. neighbor
- Visa rival, briefly
- Inventor's inspiration

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 24 mins.

King Crossword

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What is the name of the bar where Homer Simpson hangs out?
- MUSIC: What are the first names of the Jackson 5?
- MOVIES: What prop is found in almost every scene in "The Fight Club"?
- ANATOMY: What does the term "hallux" refer to in human anatomy?
- GEOMETRY: What is the perimeter of a circle called?
- LITERATURE: What is Ron Weasley's patronus in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many tusks does a warthog have?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many states does the Pacific Crest Trail cross?
- SCIENCE: What is a common name for iron oxide?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in WWII?

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BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

Cornhole Tournament. July 5 at 10 a.m. at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in Kolanvyi (Big Cove). Cash prizes: \$300, \$200, \$100. Register at 9 a.m., bags fly at 10 a.m. This is a fundraiser for Golden Girls Totsie Welch and Cindee West to attend the Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa.

Turkey Shoot. July 12 at 5 p.m. at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in Kolanvyi (Big Cove). This is a fundraiser for Ava Walkingstick to attend NAYO. Good fun, great prizes, great benefit.

Cherokee Family Safety Program Ride. July 12 starting from 7923 Big Cove Rd. in Cherokee, N.C. Registration at 9 a.m., KSU at 12 p.m. \$25 per rider, \$30 with passenger. Proceeds will benefit the Cherokee Family Safety Program. Info: Thomas Wolfe (828) 269-8989

Cherokee Children's Home Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Aug. 14-15 at the Sequoyah National Golf Course in Cherokee, N.C. This is a fundraiser for the Cherokee Children's Home. \$350 per golfer includes cart and green fees. Two-person teams, lunch provided each day. Tee times will be scheduled for each team by the Clubhouse. Call the course in advance to request a specific tee time at (828) 497-3000. Info: (828) 359-5575, cchevents@cherokee-boysclub.com

EBCI COMMUNITY EVENTS

Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow. July 4-6 at the old Cherokee High School site off of Acquoni Rd. in Cherokee, N.C. MC: Rob Daugherty. Invited Northern Drums: Iron Swing, Medicine

Tail, Young Buffalo Horse, Rattlesnake Mountain. Invited Southern Drums: Wild Band of Comanches, Iron Bow, Cozad, Pawnee Yellow Horse. Info: Daniel Tramper at dtramper@gmail.com

Big Y Community Fourth of July Celebration. July 4 at 7 p.m. at the Big Y Gym at 2641 Wrights Creek Rd. in Cherokee, N.C. Food, s'mores, duck derby, and fireworks. Everyone is welcome. Bring your chairs. Fireworks start at dark.

In the Beginning Vacation Bible School. July 7-9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily at the Yellowhill Baptist Church at 297 Yellowhill Rd. in Cherokee, N.C. Info: Jeanne Littlejohn (828) 736-1730

Cherokee Family Safety's Family Field Day. July 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Unity Field in Cherokee, N.C. Slip N' Slides, Kona Ice, Relay Races, community resource information, and a hot dog lunch provided.

NAIWA Blueberry Festival. Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center. Featuring blueberry pancakes. Vendor space is available for \$10 per table. To reserve a table, call Lucille Wolfe (828) 736-5285

EBCI COMMUNITY REGULAR MEETINGS/EVENTS

Cherokee Storytellers meet the fourth Tuesday of every month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ray Kinsland Leadership building in Cherokee, N.C. All ages are welcome. The group shares stories and resources.

Cherokee storytelling and Cherokee history in the Snow-

bird Community Library at 60 Snowbird School Rd. in Robbinsville, N.C., every fourth Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. All ages are welcome.

NAIWA (North American Indian Women's Association, Inc.) Cherokee Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the West Senior Center in Cherokee, N.C. Eligibility for membership: any American Indian or Alaska Native or Canadian First Nations woman, 18 years of age or older, who is officially identified as a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe/Nation. The meetings contain information on purpose and further aims. All who meet the eligibility are invited to attend.

NAIA Daughters meetings.

Each meeting is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Qualla Java in Cherokee, N.C. Meetings are scheduled for April 16 and May 18.

Cherokee History & Stories.

January through June 2025 on the first Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. in the TJ Holland Education Room at the Museum of the Cherokee People in Cherokee, N.C. Museum of the Cherokee People welcomes storyteller and historian Kathi Littlejohn, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, for Cherokee History & Stories. This free educational series will explore culturally significant places, stories, and key figures in Cherokee history. All are welcome to listen and learn; no registration is required.

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK


Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

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Smoky,

a 4-year-old Mastiff, lives in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) with his human, Nikki Toineeta.



Sponsored by:

CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

828-497-3401
1100 US 441N, Whittier, NC 28789

Quallatown Makers will meet biweekly on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Museum of the Cherokee People Art Studio in Cherokee, N.C. Quallatown Makers is a free opportunity to gather as a group and be together while working on art. The goal of this group, organized and hosted by Museum of the Cherokee People, is to perpetuate Cherokee art and knowledge-sharing. Bring your own craft; all art forms are welcome. Coffee will be provided. Participants are welcome to bring their own snacks. This opportunity is open the Qualla

Boundary community.

HEALTH & SPORTS EVENTS

Summer Basketball Clinic.

June 2 through July 30 (Mondays and Wednesdays) at the Painttown Gym in Cherokee, N.C. Girls will be 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Boys will be 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ages 5-12. Info: Call or text (828) 736-5586

Blood Drive in honor of Bambi Armachain Sneed. July 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Painttown Gym and Community Center at 10 Old Gap Rd. in Cherokee.

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your persistence pays off as the information you demanded starts to come through. The pace is slow at first, but it begins to speed up as the week draws to a close.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An unwelcome bit of news jolts the Bovine who would prefer that things proceed smoothly. But at its most, it is a momentary setback. Meanwhile, a Leo brings more welcome tidings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to pay close attention to details before making a commitment. Don't accept anything that seems questionable unless you get an answer that can be backed up.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Congratulations on getting a project up and running! But as exciting as it is, don't let it carry you away. Make sure you set aside time to spend with family and friends.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be sure you're part of a discussion involving your suggestions. Your presence ensures that you can defend your work, if necessary. It also helps you gain your colleagues' support.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A misunderstanding needs to be dealt with, or it can grow and cause more problems later. Be the bigger person and take the first step to clear the air.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Set some strict guidelines for yourself so that your heavier-than-usual work schedule doesn't overwhelm the time you need to spend relaxing with loved ones.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel a little uncomfortable being among people you hardly know. But remember that today's strangers can become tomorrow's valuable contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Reward yourself for all that you've accomplished despite some annoying situations that got in your way. Enjoy a well-earned getaway with someone special!

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Realizing that someone else is taking credit for what you did is bound to get anyone's goat, but especially yours. Be patient. The truth soon comes out.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Forget about opposites attracting. What you need is to find someone who thinks like you and will support your ideas, even if others say they're too radical.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Workplace problems can affect your financial plans. Be prudent and avoid running up bills or making commitments until things begin to ease up in mid-July.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your intuition helps you communicate easily with people. You can understand their needs without having to say much.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Help for homeless veterans

Organizations across the country that help homeless veterans are set to share in grants that total \$42 million. Each grant, if approved, can be worth as much as \$500,000 and will fund them for two years, beginning in October.

The grants, through the VA's Legal Services for Veterans Grant Program, will help organizations that assist veterans with custody and child support problems, help veterans get their benefits, run interference with tenant-landlord issues and more. All of these services are for the purpose of helping homeless veterans or those who are in danger of becoming homeless.

Last year there were over 32,000 homeless veterans. Though that number is a bit smaller than the previous year, it's still too big. Once a veteran is homeless, because of substance abuse, mental health issues, eviction, job loss or any other reason, it's difficult to break the cycle without help.

If you're a homeless veteran or if you're in danger of becoming homeless, help is as near as your phone.

Call the VA medical center nearest you and ask for the homeless coordinator. To find the nearest VA facility to you, go to www.va.gov/directory.

Call the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans at 1-800-VET-HELP (838-4357). They can help with substance abuse and mental health counseling, job training and placement, health care and permanent housing.

You might qualify for a voucher through the VA Supportive Housing (VASH), where they pay part of your rent directly to the landlord. The goal of the program is to get veterans into permanent housing and hooked up with support services so the housing remains stable, all with the help of a case manager.

Call the homeless veteran hotline at 877-424-3838 to talk to a trained counselor. They're open 24/7, and the call is free and confidential.

If you need help now or will in the near future, don't wait until the last minute. Reach out as soon as you suspect you're going to be homeless.

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Why vaccinate your pet?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I don't see the point of vaccinating a pet, especially if they're kept inside for most of their lives. I've read that vaccines can cause more harm than good. It's not natural to vaccinate. A dog or cat's immune system should be able to handle most diseases. So why bother to vaccinate? — Natural Pet Parent

DEAR NATURAL: You couldn't be more wrong. A pet's immune system is not an invulnerable shield against all attacks; it's a constantly adapting system that has to "learn" what microbes and viruses are threats and which are not. Unfortunately, some diseases cause serious illness or death before a pet's immune system can respond to them.

Part of what vaccines do is help a pet's immune system learn about specific threats without causing harm to your pet. Vaccines contain a safe, weakened or killed version of a pathogen; when injected, the immune system produces antibodies to specifically attack that pathogen — and they remember that in the future.

A disease like rabies, which is always fatal, is best fought off by a vaccine, which helps your immune system mount a frontline defense if a pet is exposed to it. For example, if a vaccinated cat is attacked and bitten by a rabid fox or raccoon, a veterinarian will give the cat a booster shot and monitor the cat in quarantine for 30 to 60 days. An unvaccinated cat who is attacked by a rabid animal might be euthanized immediately, or quarantined for up to 4 months.

Because there is no such thing as 100% prevention from exposure to various diseases, even your indoor pets need to have their core vaccinations.

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

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EVENTS: from page 49

okee, N.C. To make an appointment or for more information, call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767 or visit <https://www.RedCrossBlood.org> and enter sponsor code "Painttown".

EBCI Midnight Rumble Classic Slow Pitch Softball Tournament Fundraiser. July 25-26 at the John Crowe Complex in Whittier, N.C. Game times will begin in the evening and go into the night. Prizes for first and second place team winners. Team entry fee is \$300. Participants must be 18+ by July 10. Co-ed teams must consist of 10-12 players and have at least three female players. Info: skysamp@ebci-nsn.gov

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

(All meetings are held in the Cherokee Tribal Council House in Cherokee, N.C. unless otherwise noted.)

None at this time.

POW WOW LISTINGS

158th Annual Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Wacipi. July 4-6 in Agency Village, S.D. Emcees: Tommy Christian and Harold Blacksmith. Host Drum: Black Stone. Info: Jody Owen (605) 265-3577 or Darwin James (605) 419-1944.

43rd Annual Baatweting Homecoming Pow Wow. July 4-6 at the Sault Tribe Pow Wow Grounds in Sault St. Marie, Mich. Emcees: Shannon Martin and Beedahsiga Elliot. Info: Becki Miller (906) 635-6510, rmiller@saulttribe.net

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Pow Wow. July 4-6 at the old Cherokee High School

site in Cherokee, N.C. MC: Rob Daugherty. Invited Northern Drums: Iron Swing, Medicine Tail, Young Buffalo Horse, Rattlesnake Mountain. Invited Southern Drums: Wild Band of Comanches, Iron Bow, Cozad, Pawnee Yellow Horse. Info: Daniel Tramper (828) 399-0835, dtramper@gmail.com

Northern Navajo 4th of July Gourd Dance and Pow Wow. July 4-5 at the Northern Navajo Pow Wow Grounds in Shiprock, N.M. Emcees: Erny Zah and Michael Lowe. Host Northern Drum: Iron Bear. Host Southern Drum: Towering Mountain. Info: Charlene Dearly (505) 368-5070, nnfpwc@yahoo.com

79th Annual Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming. July 3-6 at Moses Yellowhorse Memorial Field in Pawnee, Okla. Info: (918) 762-3621

104th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Pow Wow. July 4-6 at 483 Great Neck Rd. S. in Mashpee, Mass. MC: David Pocknett Jr. Host Drum: Wicozani. Info: mashpeewampanoagpow-wow@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Celebrate Recovery meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Baptist Church at 812 Tsalagi Road, in Cherokee, N.C. This is a Christ-centered recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, hang-ups, and habits of any kind. All are welcome. Info: Chris McMillan (828) 788-5410

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Analenisgi. Info: www.AAwnc80.com

Cherokee Cancer Support Group, potluck dinner with a speaker the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Betty's Place, 40 Goose Creek Rd, Cherokee, N.C. Anyone is welcome to attend the potluck. The group provides educational and emotional support to clients and families of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians members with cancer. The group can provide financial assistance for fuel, lodging, and transportation and also can assist with mastectomy items, nutritional supplements, wigs, and related products. The group can volunteer to take a client to their appointment if it is requested in a timely manner. Betty's Place is open Monday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: (828) 497-0788

Life@WesternCarolina. each Wednesday morning during the academic school year the Life@ group meets on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. For those over the age of 50 and looking for ways to engage with the community. To learn more or register visit life.wcu.edu or contact Western Carolina University Educational Outreach (828) 227-7397.

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>

Narcotics Anonymous meets on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Indian Hospital. Info: North Carolina NA Helpline (855) 227-6272, or www.NA.org

WNC and BEYOND EVENTS

George Masa photography exhibition. Now through Aug. 15 at Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center in Cullowhee, N.C. The exhibition is entitled "A Stranger No More: George Masa and His Art". The exhibition features a remarkable collection of George Masa's original photographs—some never before seen—drawn from the William A. Hart, Jr. and Alice Huff Hart Masa Collection housed in WCU's Hunter Library Special Collections. These images are displayed alongside Masa's recently acquired camera and tripod, now part of the Mountain Heritage Center's collection. Admission is free. The Mountain Heritage Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Info: (828) 227-7129 or <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/mountain-heritage-center/>

J.A.M. Live 4th of July Independence Day Concert. July 4 at 12 p.m. the Smoky Mountain Campground at 1840 W. Deep Creek Rd. in Bryson City, N.C. Info: <https://smokymtncampground.com>

Jackson County GOP Celebrate America cookout. July 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at East LaPorte Park at 6912 Highway 107 in Cullowhee, N.C. Free cookout, fellowship, and fun.

New Echota 'First Saturday Hike'. July 5 from 10am to 11:30 a.m. at the New Echota State Historic Site at 1211 GA225 in Calhoun, Ga. Visitors will join their ranger for the morning and explore the nature trails at New Echota-Cherokee Capital State Historic Site. Escape the summer heat and step into the past. New

Echota offers shaded trails, historic buildings, and fascinating tales to keep you cool and captivated. All ages are invited to join the ranger for this event. The hike will be easy to moderate in difficulty. Info: Interpretive Ranger Amanda McCollum – Williams (706) 624-1321

Angel Medical Center hosting Surgical Services Open House. July 11 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Angel Medical Center at 124 One Center Court in Franklin, N.C. See the hospital's newest robotic surgical technology, meet providers, and learn more about the variety of services offered. Light refreshments will be served.

New Echota-Cherokee Capitol Jr. Ranger Family Camp Day. July 12 at the New Echota State Historic Site at 1211 GA225 in Calhoun, Ga. This will be held at various locations on the site from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. Different activities will be led by Rangers, such as Cherokee weapons demo, nature hikes, and archaeology dig box. Plan a visit to New Echota-Cherokee Capital SHS for family-friendly activities, scenic views, and a walk-through time. This event is for the whole family to participate in. Families will spend the day learning about history and nature during some much-needed family time. Participants will have the chance to earn a Jr. Ranger badge with their families during a beautiful Saturday at New Echota historic site. This program is not considered a drop-off camp. Parents must remain and participate with their child. Info: Interpretive Ranger Amanda McCollum – Williams (706) 624-1321

Swain County Democrat-

ic Party monthly meeting. July 14 at 7 p.m. at the United Community Bank (Community Room, enter on back side of bank) at 145 Slope St. in Bryson City, N.C. There is also a Zoom option. Email swaincountydems@gmail.com to receive an agenda and Zoom link. All Democrat and unaffiliated voters are invited to attend.

New Echota-Cherokee Capital hosts Pollinators 101. July 19 at the New Echota State Historic Site at 1211 GA225 in Calhoun, Ga. The program will be held next to the picnic area by the pollinator boxes at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Visitors will learn about different pollinator species such as bees, wasps, and butterflies. The Rangers will give participants information about different plant species that allow pollinators to thrive. Participants will also learn how they can help save Georgia's pollinators. Info: Interpretive Ranger Amanda McCollum – Williams (706) 624-1321

Vann House Day. July 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chief Vann House Georgia State Historic Site at 82 Hwy 225N in Chatsworth, Ga. Demonstrations and activities like that of an 1800s farming family. Local craftspeople will demonstrate 19th century skills such as blacksmithing, quilting, weaving, blow guns, and more. The Vann Mansion, Cherokee Farmstead, Vann Kitchen, and Museum will be open for self-guided tours. Enjoy live fiddle music. Info: (706) 695-2598, vann_house_park@dnr.ga.gov

New Echota-Cherokee Capital celebrates World Ranger Day. July 31 at 10 a.m. at the New Echota State Historic Site at 1211

GA225 in Calhoun, Ga. It starts with a Ranger-guided tour starting at 10 a.m. Park officials note, "World Ranger Day is celebrated around the globe, and we would like to take this day to recognize all the work done by past, present, and future Rangers around the world that work to ensure the preservation of our nation's historic treasures and natural beauty. To truly explain the role of Park Rangers, first one must know the history of our parks and the road the first Rangers had to transverse to get to the role they hold today." Info: Interpretive Ranger Amanda McCollum – Williams (706) 624-1321

New Echota 'First Saturday Hike'. Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the New Echota State Historic Site at 1211 GA225 in Calhoun, Ga. Visitors will join their ranger for the morning and explore the nature trails at New Echota-Cherokee Capital State Historic Site. Escape the summer heat and step into the past. New Echota offers shaded trails, historic buildings, and fascinating tales to keep you cool and captivated. All ages are invited to join the ranger for this event. The hike will be easy to moderate in difficulty. Info: Interpretive Ranger Amanda McCollum – Williams (706) 624-1321

Sequoyah Remembrance Day. Aug. 3 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, Tenn. "This is a day to remember the man who gave the Cherokee people their own written language," said Charlie Rhodarmer, Museum manager/director. "In 5,000 years of human civilization, Sequoyah is the only person, not literate in any language, who created a written

language for his people." Free admission to the Museum. Info: Museum at (423) 884-6246

New Echota-Cherokee Capitol hosts "Come Fly with Me: birding hike!" Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. at the New Echota State Historic Site at 1211 GA225 in Calhoun, Ga. The Ranger guided hike will be traversing the nature trails to the beaver pond, the best birding spot on the entire site. The ranger will discuss the different species of birds that call New Echota home along with some species that have vanished from our local landscape. Rangers will also be discussing the relationship between birds and the Cherokee and their significance to their culture. Info: Interpretive Ranger Amanda McCollum – Williams (706) 624-1321

Cherokee Fall Festival. Sept. 6-7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, Tenn. Cherokee arts and crafts demonstrations, music, and dance; blacksmith demonstrations; special entertainment; and more. Tickets: Adults - \$10, Children 13-18 - \$5, Children 12 and under are free. Family rate is \$25 (two adults and two children 13-18). Info: Museum at (423) 884-6246

CHEROKEE COMMUNITY CLUBS
Big Cove Community meets the first Tuesday of each month at the new community building at 6 p.m. Chair Butch Hill (828) 506-8936. For building rental contact any of the Officers.

Big Y Community meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community gym at 6:30 p.m.

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: from page 51

Info: Chair Bunsey Crowe (828) 788-4879, bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com

Birdtown Community meets the second Monday of each month at the community building; potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. Info: Chair Joey Owle (828) 508-2869

Cherokee County Community meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community building; potluck at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Joe Palmer (828) 361-9219, joepalmer1013@yahoo.com

Painttown Community meets the last Monday of each month at the old community building across from the casino at 5:30 p.m. Info: Chair Shannon Swimmer (828) 736-3191, swimmer.shannon@gmail.com

Snowbird Community meets the first Tuesday of each month, or the Tuesday before Tribal Council, at the Jacob Cornsilk Complex, at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Roger Smoker (828) 479-8678 or

735-4959, rogersmoker@yahoo.com

Tow String Community meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community building at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Jacob Long (828) 736-9128, jacoblong19982@gmail.com

Wolftown Community meets the first Tuesday of each month at the community building; potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. Info: Chair Dwayne "Tuff" Jackson (828) 788-4088, dwayne4251@gmail.com

Yellowhill Community meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Yellowhill Activity Center at 6 p.m. Info: Chair Virginia Johnson (828) 788-8659, virginia.shell52@gmail.com

CHEROKEE HOUSES OF WORSHIP
Abundant Life Apostolic Church. 171 Johnson Br. Road, Bryson City. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship 7 p.m. Pastor Kevin Linkinhoker 488-8937

Acquoni Baptist Church. 722 Acquoni Road. 497-7106. Sunday

School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m., Sunday Choir Practice 5 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m. Pastor Merritt Youngdeer (828) 788-6614

Antioch Baptist Church. Coopers Creek Road. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Sunday Night Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 p.m. Pastor Tim Barker

Bethabara Baptist Church. 1088 Birdtown Road. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m and 7 p.m. Wednesday Service 7 p.m. Youth Meeting Wednesday 7 p.m. Pastor Max Cochran (828) 341-5801, Church number (828) 497-7770

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Cheirut (KJV) in the Old Testament, New Testament or neither?
2. In Galatians, "Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through _____ serve one another." *Friendship, Honesty, Love, Hope*
3. From 2 Corinthians, "Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is _____." *Hope, Freedom, Love, Liberty*
4. In John 8, "If the _____ therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." *Heart, Worship, Celebration, Son*
5. From what book's 6:7 does it say, "For he that is dead is freed from sin"? *Isaiah, Daniel, Mark, Romans*
6. How many times is the word "independence" mentioned in the Bible? *0, 2, 11, 17*

ANSWERS: (1) Neither, (2) Love, (3) Liberty, (4) Son, (5) Romans, (6) Zero

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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Moments in time

• On **July 14, 1953**, the George Washington Carver National Monument, founded by Franklin Delano Roosevelt and created by Audrey Corwin in 1952, was dedicated in Missouri. It was the first such site to honor a Black American as well as a non-president.

• On **July 15, 1997**, while on a killing spree, Andrew Cunanan murdered world-renowned Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace with two gunshots to the head on the steps outside Versace's Miami mansion before fleeing the scene. Eight days later, he was discovered dead by suicide on a houseboat 40 blocks from the designer's home.

• On **July 16, 1769**, Father Junipero Serra, a Spanish Franciscan missionary, founded the first Catholic mission in California in what is present-day San Diego. After blessing his new outpost in a high mass, the Royal Standard of Spain was unfurled over the mission, which Serra christened San Diego de Alcalá.

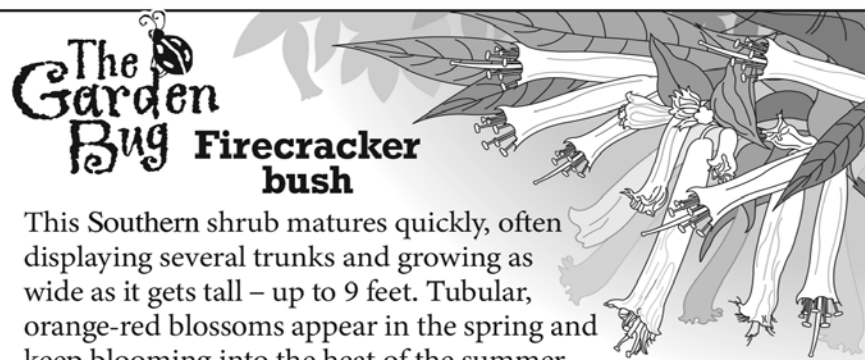
• On **July 17, 1945**, President Harry S. Truman recorded his initial impression of Joseph Stalin in his diary, describing their first meeting, a discussion of post-World War II policy in Europe, as "cordial" and closing the entry with the words, "I can deal with Stalin. He is honest, but smart as hell."

• On **July 18, 1986**, new close-up videotapes of the sunken ocean liner Titanic, taken from the first manned expedition to the wreck and showing one of the ship's grand staircases and a coral-covered chandelier, were released to the public.

• On **July 19, 1952**, air traffic controllers in Washington, D.C., detected UFOs over the White House and U.S. Capitol building. More appeared a week later, but the government dismissed the sightings as just a harmless weather phenomenon.

• On **July 20, 1923**, Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa died in a storm of 40 bullets while driving through Parral, Mexico. He was buried the next day, but three years later the grave was dug up and his skull was stolen. Officially, the identity of the robber remains a mystery, as does that of the person who ordered the assassination.

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The Garden Bug Firecracker bush

This Southern shrub matures quickly, often displaying several trunks and growing as wide as it gets tall – up to 9 feet. Tubular, orange-red blossoms appear in the spring and keep blooming into the heat of the summer, attracting hummingbirds. In the fall, small, blackish-purple fruit appear, which the birds love. Firecracker bushes drop their leaves when temps get chilly, but the roots are hardy to 20 degrees Fahrenheit. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: tropicalplantsofflorida.com, horticultureunlimited.com

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Big Cove Missionary Baptist Church. 6183 Big Cove Road. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday evening prayer meeting 7 p.m., Monthly business meeting is first Wednesday 7 p.m.

Big Cove Pentecostal Holiness Church. 7710 Big Cove Road. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Pastor Roberta French 497-6918

Bigwitch Baptist Church. 2290 Bigwitch Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday service 6 p.m. Pastor James “Jimbo” Sneed. All are welcome.

Boiling Springs Missionary Baptist Church. 960 Old Bryson City Road in the 3200 Acre Tract. 488-9202

Cherokee Baptist Church. 812 Tsalagi Road. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Adult Bible Study Wednesday 6 p.m. Pastor Ric Eddings 497-2761

Cherokee Bible Church. Olivet Church Road. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Service 7 p.m. Pastor Randy Miller 497-2286

Cherokee Church of Christ. 2350 Old Mission Road and Hwy. 19. Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.

Cherokee Church of God. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Night Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night

Service 7 p.m. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Every third Sunday they have a fellowship meal to celebrate all the birthdays throughout that month. Everyone is cordially invited for any of the services and meals. Pastor Rev. Owen Isaacs (828) 242-0754

Cherokee Church of the Nazarene. 72 Old School Loop off Big Cove Road. Sunday Morning Service 11 a.m. Continental Breakfast served Sunday 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Prayer Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. Food and Clothing Ministry M-Th 4-8 p.m. Pastors Lester and Lisa Hardesty 497-2819

Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness Church. Located behind the Wolfetown Gym. Sunday School: 10 a.m, Sunday worship: 11 a.m, Sunday evening worship: 5 p.m. Wednesday night worship: 6 p.m. Pastor Tim Melton 674-2690

Cherokee United Methodist Church. Hwy 19 – Soco Road. Sunday Church Service 11 a.m. Wednesday dinner at 6 p.m. followed by Bible Study. Pastor - Rev. Beverly Parker-Reece

Cherokee Wesleyan Church. Hwy 19 across from Happy Holiday Campground. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Interim Co-Pastors Lester and Lisa Hardesty 497-2819

Christian Acts Church at the

Crossroads. 3501 Hwy. 441, Whittier, N.C. (near Mountain Credit Union). Sunday School and Continental Breakfast 10 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m., Wednesday service – music practice at 5 p.m. and Bible Study at 6 p.m., Saturday Prayer Service 6 p.m. (828) 556-0115


Echota Baptist Church. 1274 Birdtown Road. Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Service: 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Service: 6 p.m. Pastor David Hall (828) 508-1906


Ela Baptist Church. 4450 Ela Rd., Bryson City, N.C. Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Wednesday 6 p.m. Pastor Justin Hunt (828) 736-1155

Embassy Christian Center Church of God in Christ. 87 Vinewood Circle, Whittier, located on the campus of Church of God Gateway Campground and Conference Center. Full season starts Aug. 4. Sunday School 10 a.m. and Morning Worship 11 a.m. Year-round services – church online live streamed from the 24/7 church channel, Embassy TV <https://embassytv.net> Tuesday Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Will Chambliss, Thursday Night Women’s Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Brenda Miller-Chambliss (828) 835-2359 or embassymediagroup@gmail.com

Goose Creek Baptist Church. Sunday School – 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m., Sunday Evening Services 6 p.m. Pastor – Bro. James Gunter 631-0331, Info: John and Linda George 497-3512

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF





KASSANDRA MATTHEWS

Pediatric RN Case Manager

Education: Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Western Carolina University
Years at CIHA: 3
Community/Hometown: Franklin, NC

“I chose CIHA because it reflects my passion for delivering high-quality healthcare to children and supporting their families. The organization's commitment to integrated care and community health deeply resonates with my professional values and personal beliefs, and I am proud to be part of a team that shares these principles.” - Kassandra Matthews

ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ (Di qwa tse li i yu sdi) “Like family to me.”

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: *from page 53*

Grace Bible Church. 344 Whittier School Rd., Whittier, N.C. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday services 6:30 p.m. Pastor Brent Stewart. Search Grace Bible Church NC on Facebook. Check the page as some Wednesdays there are no services. Also, Sunday worship service is live-streamed.

Grace Community Church of Cherokee. 320 Highway 441 N., Whittier, NC 28789. Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m. Pastor Scott Hill 508-7836

Grace Fellowship Church. Great Smokies Center. Sunday Service 10 a.m. Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.



KOLANVYI / Big Cove Events
Please join us for these important events. Bring your family, suggestions, and get involved and informed. Sgi

Mon, July 7, 2025
6 PM Meet the Big Cove Council Candidates
Refreshments available

Chair Butch Hill
Vice-Chair Janice K Wildcatt
Treasurer Lisa Hardesty Secretary VACANT

8765 Big Cove Rd
Cherokee, NC. 28719

Jesus is the Light Full Gospel Ministries. 1921 US 441 N. Sunday service 10 a.m. Thursday service 7 p.m. Pastor Margie Hall 736-9383

Living Waters Lutheran Church. 30 Locust Road. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Pastor Jack Russell (918) 868-4166

Macedonia Baptist Church. 1181 Wolftown Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6pm, Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6pm. Pastor Bro. Dan Conseen, 497-1611, mbccherokee@outlook.com, Website: www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church

Newsong Church. 3548 Wolfetown Rd. Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday night service 6:30 p.m., Tuesday Night Prayer 7 p.m., Wednesday night service 7 p.m. Pastor Eric Moore

Old Antioch Baptist Church. 2868 Wrights Creek Rd. Sunday morning service 10 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m. Wednesday evening service 6 p.m.

Olivet United Methodist Church. 811 Olivet Church Road. Sunday School 9am. Sunday Service 9:45am.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Mission. 82 Lambert Branch Road. Saturday Mass at 4:30 p.m. in English and 6:00 p.m. in Spanish. Pastor Fr. Victor Ameh, MSP. For more information, go to www.stjosephbryson.org.

The Peaks Church. Meets at Smokey Mountain Elementary School gym. Sunday services 10

a.m. Pastor Aaron Langston

Rock Creek Missionary Baptist Church. 240 Sherrill Rd., Bryson City, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday evening service 6 p.m. Pastor Rev. Ned Welch. Check our FB Page "Rock Creek Baptist Church" for the latest updates.

Rock Springs Baptist Church. 129 Old Gap Road. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Service 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m. Pastor Greg Morgan 497-9455, 736-1245 (cell)

Sequoyah Sovereign Grace Church. 3755 Big Cove Road. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Sunday Bible Study 1 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m. Pastor Tim James 497-7644

Shoal Creek Baptist Church. 184 Shoal Creek Church Loop Rd., Whittier, NC 28789. Sunday Continental Breakfast 9:30 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m., Wednesday evening Fellowship Meal 6 p.m., Wednesday evening Prayer Service 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice 7 p.m. Dr. Mickey Duvall, Pastor

Spruce Grove Baptist Church. 780 Lands Creek Rd., Bryson City, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 7 p.m., Wednesday evening service 7 p.m., third Saturday singing 7 p.m. Pastor Ernie Cable. Email: sprucegrovebc.1920@gmail.com

Straight Fork Baptist Church. Big Cove Loop. Sunday school 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship 11 a.m. Sunday evening worship

6 p.m. Wednesday night prayer service 7 p.m. Youth group meetings also. Interim Pastor - Harley Maney Jr.

Waterfalls Baptist Church. 82 Waterfalls Church Rd., Sunday School 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 5 p.m., Wednesday evening service 6 p.m. Praying for a Pastor.

Whittier United Methodist Church. 150 Church St., Whittier, N.C. 28789. Sunday worship service 10 a.m. Pastor Rob Griffin (828) 582-0564

Wilmot Baptist Church. Thomas Valley Road. Sunday school: 10 a.m., Worship: 11a.m., Sunday night worship: 6 p.m., Wednesday prayer service: 7 p.m., every other Monday night (Youth night) singing, bible study and crafts: 6 p.m. Pastor: Tristan Smith

Wrights Creek Baptist Church. Wrights Creek Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 p.m. Visitors welcome.

Yellowhill Baptist Church. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Pastor Foreman Bradley 506-0123 or 736-4872

Events listings are FREE.
Send them to us at
scotmckie@ebci.nsn-gov
or
Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com.



HARRAH'S CHEROKEE KNOWS FOOD

Harrah's
CHEROKEE
CASINO RESORT

Must be 21 or older to enter casino floor and to gamble, and must present a valid state or federal photo ID upon request. Know When to Stop Before You Start. If Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. © 2025, Caesars License Company, LLC.



CLASSIFIEDS

For Lease: Commercial space in shopping center, now available, approximately 3,000 square feet of commercial space located in the Cherokee Crossing Shopping Center, Cherokee, NC. Property includes existing improvements. For more information, contact the Tribal Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (TABCC) at (828) 788-0594. 7/2

EMPLOYMENT

The Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution Program is looking for a contractor to work as a Nurse Nutritionist to provide us with the following:

Monthly cooking demonstrations at our Cherokee location as well as our tailgate sites in Cherokee and Graham Counties.

Film cooking demonstrational videos that can be shared through the website and social media accounts.

Create and assist with distributing flyers, recipes, and nutritional fact sheets to participants.

Create and produce a cookbook featuring USDA FDPIR food package items.

Provide nutritional information and/or provide cooking demonstrations for various outreach events when applicable to promote Tribal Food Distribution.

Coordinate with Project Coordinator to update website and social media accounts with new nutrition information, recipes, and cooking information/tips.

Ensure all nutritional information distributed by the program follows the My Cherokee Plate

guidelines.

Encourage FDPIR participant involvement through the sharing of pictures, videos, and photos to be featured on various Tribal Food Distribution social media platforms and handout materials.

Collaborate with Project Coordinator as needed.

Collaborate with other programs as needed

Assist with completing grant reporting and submitting progress updates as determined by granting agency.

This position will begin once a contract has been finalized and no sooner than August 1, 2025, and will last through May 31, 2026. We will be accepting applications for the contract until 4:30 on July 11, 2025 . Proposals may be submitted to Lindsey Konieczka, Tribal Food Distribution Office Coordinator, via email (lindholl@ebci-nsn.gov) or by mail (PO Box 1123, Cherokee, NC 28719). 7/2

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. 25-057

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

JAMES ROBERT SQUIRREL

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

Dawn Jumper
P.O.Box 434
Cherokee, NC. 28719
7/9

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. 25-051

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

CALVIN EUGENE MURPHY

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

Vickie Murphy
P.O. Box 958
Cherokee, NC. 28719
7/9

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. 25-059

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

RAY ANTHONY MCCOY

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

Tyler McCoy
P.O.Box 64
Cherokee, NC. 28719
7/9

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. 25-062

Notice to Creditors and



Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our New Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel
777 Casino Parkway, Murphy NC 28906

Massage Therapists
Hair Stylists
Nail Technicians
Esthetician
Senior Concierge
Concierge
Spa Attendants

For questions, please contact:
Angie Pugh, Spa Operations Manager
828-497-8550 angieh@mandaraspa.com
Email: HRRecruitment@onespaworld.com

Debtors of:

JAMES GERALD WALKER

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

Dorothy M Walker
P.O. Box 292
Bryson City, NC. 28713
7/9

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-060
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

**HENRIETTA LUCILLE
SAMPSON**

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

Tyson Sampson
P.O. Box 195
Cherokee NC 28719
7/16

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-060
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

**HENRIETTA LUCILLE
SAMPSON**

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

Tyson Sampson
P.O. Box 195
Cherokee, NC. 28719
7/23

**THE EASTERN BAND OF
CHEROKEE INDIANS
THE CHEROKEE COURT**

AMY TEESATESKIE and MARGARET TEESATESKIE, Plaintiffs
v. ERIKA SERRANO WATTY and
UNKNOWN FATHER Defendants
(FILE NO. CV 25-083)

To: Erika Serrano Watty and Unknown Father,

Take notice that a Complaint for Temporary Emergency Custody and Permanent Custody and Order for Temporary Emergency Custody has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief sought related to custody of minor child, I.W., under the laws of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and filed in the above-mentioned file in the Cherokee Court, Cherokee, North Carolina. You are required to appear for a hearing on the return of the emergency custody order and make a defense to such pleadings not later than August 4, 2025, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 17th day of June, 2025.
Carpenter & Guy, PLLC Kimberly N. Carpenter Attorney for Plain-

tiffs 559 West Main Street Sylva, NC 28779
(828)339-1011
kim@wnc.law
7/16

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-065
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
**MARGARET LORETTA
WOLFE**

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
Anna Wolfe
68 Lloyd Owle Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719
7/16

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-066
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
ERNEST DOC PANTHER

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
Charles R Panther
244 Pennsylvania Avenue
Canton, NC 28716
7/16



Cherokee Boys Club Job Announcements

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.

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

Agelink:
5 Teachers —\$31,800–\$39,780 per year w/Benefits

Service Department:

- o 1 Master Technician—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year w/Benefits
- o 1 Parts/Service Writer—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year w/Benefits
- o 1 Detail Technician—\$19,080–\$25,440 per year w/Benefits
- o 1 Body Shop Helper—\$18,020–\$23,850 per year w/Benefits

C&F:

- o 2 Skilled Carpenters—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year w/Benefits
- o 2 Carpenter Helpers—\$18,020–\$23,850 per year w/Benefits

Cherokee Children's Home:

- o 2 FT Residence Counselors—\$17.00 per hour w/Benefits
- o 2 PT Residence Counselors—\$17.00 per hour w/Benefits
- o 1 Overnight Residence Counselors—\$17.00 per hour w/Benefits

Bus & Truck:

- o Seasonal Bus Driver—Need to check rate of pay
- o Truck Drivers—Need to check rate of pay

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-069

BIDS, RFPs, etc.



BIDS
The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors for the demolition of structures at 103 Recreation Park, Cherokee NC. 28719. Submittal Contact: Ernest Tiger RFP #CIHD-2025-04 Qualla Housing Services

Cherokee Indian Housing Division, PO Box 1749, 687 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719
Cell-828-736-6922
Office-828-359-6748
ernetige@ebci-nsn.gov
7/2

Request for Proposals
Videographer

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Food Sovereignty Projects
Project Title: Tribal Food Sovereignty Media Series – EBCI Cooperative Extension
Project Location: Qualla Boundary, Western North Carolina
Issued by: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Cooperative Extension
Project Director: Ronald “Chumper” Walker
EBCI Cooperative Extension Director – chumwalk@ebci-nsn.gov
Primary Contact: Jess Mrugala EMFS Local Food Coordinator - jmrugal@ncsu.edu
RFP Purpose & Summary:

The EBCI Cooperative Extension Office is seeking proposals from experienced videographers to create a documentary-style video series that will educate the community about traditional Cherokee foodways. The series will focus on the history, language, stories, growing practices, seed saving, cooking practices, and food preservation techniques of traditional Cherokee and Appalachian crops. These videos will be an integral part of the Extension Office’s educational programming to support demand for traditional, Cherokee grown and foraged foods.

Application Materials to be sent to Chumper & Jess at the above email addresses with the contract title you are applying for in the subject line of the email. Proposals due by July 11, 2025
7/2

INVITATION TO BID

Re: Demolition CIHD-2025-06
TERO Vendors:

The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to Complete Remodel Unit-112 Pioneer, Cherokee, NC. 28719 Please contact CIHD for additional information.

Ernest Tiger, Property Manager, Qualla Housing Services, Cherokee Indian Housing Division, PO Box 1749, 687 Acquoni Rd., Office 828-359-6748, ernetige@ebci-nsn.gov
7/16

Request for Proposals

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Employment Rights Office seeks an experienced and qualified attorney or law firm to provide legal services to the Tribal Employment Rights Commission and the Tribal Employment Rights Office. Interested parties may request the RFP information packet by contacting Jacob Crowe at (828)-359-6544 or by email at Jacocrow@ebci-nsn.gov. All proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, August 4th, 2025. All Interested parties must be an enrolled member of the EBCI. 7/16

INVITATION TO BID

Re: CIHD-2025-08 Paint & Repairs Unit-10 Lambert Wilson Way
TERO Vendors:

The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to conduct Paint & Repairs for Unit 10 Lambert Wilson Way, Whittier, NC. 28789

Please contact CIHD for additional information. Ernest Tiger, Property Manager, Qualla Housing Services, Cherokee Indian Housing Division, PO Box



STAFF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Housekeeper - 2nd Shift
- Exceptional Children (EC) Teacher/Coordinator
- Network Engineer
- Assistant Director for Annual Giving - Catamount Athletics

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Cherokee Clinical Assistant Professor
- eResources Librarian
- Assistant Professor - Counseling
- Visiting Assistant Professor of African American History

VISIT [JOBS.WCU.EDU](https://jobs.wcu.edu) FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY

An Equal Opportunity/Access/Pro Disabled & Veteran Employer.
Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations the application and interview process please call 828.227.7218 or email at jobs@email.wcu.edu.

1749, 687 Acquoni Rd. Office 828-359-6748, ernetige@ebci-nsn.gov 7/16

INVITATION TO BID

Re: CIHD-2025-07 112 Garden Place Ln. Tree Trimming & Removal

TERO Vendors:

The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to conduct Tree Trimming & Removal at 112 Garden Place Ln.

Cherokee, NC. 28789.

Please contact CIHD for additional information. Ernest Tiger, Property Manager
Qualla Housing Services, Cherokee Indian Housing Division, PO Box 1749, 687 Acquoni Rd. Office 828-359-6748, ernetige@ebci-nsn.gov 7/16

INVITATION TO BID


Re: CIHD-2025-09 Stain & Seal Decking-Lambert Wilson Way
TERO Vendors:

The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to conduct Stain & Seal Decking Lambert Wilson Way, Whittier, NC. 28789

Please contact CIHD for additional information. Ernest Tiger, Property Manager, Qualla Housing Services, Cherokee Indian Housing Division, PO Box 1749, 687 Acquoni Rd. Office 828-359-6748 ernetige@ebci-nsn.gov 7/16

Seeking Contractors

The Cherokee Indian Housing Division is seeking qualified T.E.R.O. contractors, general contractors, developers, or property management companies to provide comprehensive services related to duplexes and triplexes. Please contact Jacob George at 828-359-6931 or by email at jacogeor@ebci-nsn.gov for more information. Qualifications are due July 16th. 7/16



Did you know that when air temperatures are 80 degrees, asphalt temps can reach 125? That is hot enough to cause burns to paws in as little as 60 seconds. And **the interior of a vehicle may reach 123 degrees**, and environment that can cause heat stroke and death in as little as 15 minutes. That's no place for family member, whether the member is human or furry. Pay attention to the temps and environment for your pets and children. Don't invite tragedy and pain. **Keep life cool and comfortable for the entire family, especially those who cannot help themselves.**

EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS
Show Up for Your Health

SIGN UP TODAY TO GET APPOINTMENT REMINDERS SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR PHONE SO YOU NEVER MISS ANOTHER APPOINTMENT!




FOR QUESTIONS OR TO ENROLL, STOP BY PATIENT ACCESS AT CIHA OR CALL:

EAGLE CLINIC:
828.497. 9163 EXT. 6345

SEVEN CLANS:
828.497.9163 EXT. 6849

**Works with most major wireless carriers*



Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

Apply online at
<https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or
www.ccs-nc.org/apps/pages/human_resources 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

- Pathseekers School Counselor (6-12)
- K-5 School Counselor
- K-5 Elementary Teacher
- K-5 Elementary Teacher Assistant
- K-5 Special Education Teacher Assistant - 2 positions
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher Assistant (Lifeskills)
- 8th High School Math Teacher
- Contract Nurse (RN)
- Gear Up Coordinator (Grant Funded)
- 2025-26 College Advising Corps Adviser (To apply visit: advisingcorps.appstate.edu)
- JV Cheerleading Head Coach
- JV Boys Basketball Coach
- JV Girls Basketball Coach
- Varsity Football Assistant Coach
- Varsity Cheerleading Head Coach
- Elementary Cherokee Language Instructor
- High School Cherokee Language Instructor
- Middle School Soccer Head Coach
- Middle School Soccer Assistant Coach



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



CHOOSE CIHA

New Positions This Week

Pharmacy Technician I

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor - Kanvwotiyi
Masters Level Therapist \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
(Analenisgi Outpatient, Analenisgi MAT, Cherokee
Central Schools, Family Safety, Child and Family –
Snowbird, Family Intensive Treatment)
Outpatient Behavioral Health Nurse Manager
Outpatient Behavioral Health Nurse RN \$5,000 Hiring
Bonus
Residential Technician, Men's – FT
RN – Behavioral Health – Inpatient- Part Time Intermittent
RN – Behavioral Health – Inpatient FT \$10,000 Hiring
Bonus
Targeted Case Manager

FINANCE

Billing Analyst II
Patient Access PTI

MAINTENANCE

HVAC Technician/Maintenance Mechanic
Electrician/Maintenance Mechanic

MEDICAL

Physician (Emergency Department, Primary Care, Pedi-
atrics)
Mid Level FNP/PA

RADIOLOGY

Radiology Technologist II (2nd Shift) - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Radiology Technologist II – Part Time w/Benefits
Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist Student PTI

NURSING

Care Management Extender – Primary Care
C.N.A – ER – FT - \$3,000 Hiring Bonus
C.N.A. - Immediate Care Center – Part Time Intermittent
CNA/Medical Clerk PTR
LPN/CMA – Primary Care - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
LPN – Primary Care - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
RN – Inpatient – Night Shift - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
RN Clinical Care Manager – Primary Care - \$5,000 Hiring
Bonus
Tribal Option Care Manager – Primary Care - \$5,000 Hiring
Bonus
CFSP Care Manager, IDD/TBI/LTSS Care Manager(Intel-
lectual & Developmental Disabilities, Traumatic Brain Injury,
Long Term Support Services, Children and Families Spe-
cialty Program)- Primary Care - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
RN Supervisor-Inpatient (Nights)
RN Infection Control
Telemetry Nursing Assistant
Clinical Nurse Educator

OPERATIONS

Optometrist
Dental Assistant II
Dental Assistant I
Dental Hygienist
Dentist - CIHA and Satellite
Dentist-Pediatrics
Pharmacy Technician III – Part Time Intermittent
Occupational Therapist I - Emergency Hire

TRIBAL OPTION

HOP Medical Social Worker (3 positions)
Tribal Option Business Analyst – NOT A REMOTE POSI-
TION
Provider Network Manager

TSALI CARE CENTER

Certified Medication Aide - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Certified Nursing Assistant - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Licensed Practical Nurse - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse – \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse – Part Time Intermittent



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

Closing Sunday, June 06, 2025

1. Director – Qualla Boundary HS – CERS (L17 \$77,106 - \$96,387)
2. Heavy Equipment Operator/Saw man – Tribal Construction – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Crew Leader (Plumbing) – Qualla Housing Services – Housing (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)

Open Until Filled

1. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
2. Child Advocate Coordinator – Child Advocacy – Public Health and Human Services (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
3. Case Manager/Forensic Interviewer – Child Advocacy – Public Health and Human Services (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
4. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
5. Patrol Officer (Multiple) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
6. Bailiff – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
7. Sergeant - Corrections - EBCI Law Enforcement (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
8. Sergeant (Patrol) - CIPD - EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
9. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Public Safety (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
10. Part-time Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
11. Driver – Transit – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
12. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
13. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Head Start – CERS (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
14. Certified Nursing Assistant (Multiple) – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (Starting rate of \$20.00/hour)
15. Supervisor – Biological/Waste Water Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
16. Maintenance Technician – HELP – Education (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
17. Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)
18. Carpenter – Qualla Housing – Housing (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
19. Cannery Operations Coordinator – Cooperative Extension – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
20. Early Childhood Language Specialist Assistant- New Kituwah Academy- CERS (L9 \$17.27- \$21.59)
21. Truck Driver/WWT Maintenance – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
22. WWT Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
23. Supervisor (HIS/Inventory) – Tribal Construction – Operations (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
24. Environmental Regulatory Specialist – Environmental & Natural Resources – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)



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New Kituwah Academy celebrates Pre-Kindergarten Graduation

On the morning of June 20, New Kituwah Academy, operated by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, proudly held its Pre-Kindergarten graduation ceremony at the Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center in Cherokee, N.C. The event marked a special milestone for the young Cherokee language learners and their families, celebrating the end of an important chapter in their early Cherokee language journey.

This year's graduation marks the 17th Pre-Kindergarten class to graduate since New Kituwah Academy opened its doors in 2004. NKA officials noted, "The Academy remains dedicated to language revitalization and cultural education, nurturing the next generation of Cherokee speakers and leaders. Families, staff, and community members gathered in support of the students' achievements, creating a joyful and memorable occasion. As the children move forward, New Kituwah Academy continues its mission to preserve and strengthen Cherokee language and culture through education."

(Photo per New Kituwah Academy)

The students are shown, left to right, back row –

- ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Kaway - Tsalagi Awonisgi, Isabella Turner - Cherokee Speaker Award
- ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Guwaya - Agadu agatahi tsalagi, Kuwaya Walkingstick - Language Warrior Award

- ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Kawi - Uweti udoduquu, Joella Owle - Storyteller Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Svnoyi – Ditlilostanhvsggi, Ayla Watson - Artist Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Saloli - Sdayi tsulvsdanehi, Embree Beck - Hardest Worker Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Ugeyudi - Osda hadvgisgi, Naavy McKinney - Good Listener Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Yona - Agadu tsalagi gawonisgi, Leona Ramirez - Language User Award
- Front Row –
- ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Nano Nulinigvgv – Alisdelvhido, Jachai Arch - Enthusiastic Helper Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Tsodani - Agadu udoduquu, Xavier Reed - Most Improved Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Tsiya - Adanvtedi vgatliyigesesdi, Tsiya Huskey - Strong Character Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Adela – Gotlvinvsggi, Eryx Watty - Creative Award
 - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ - ᎠᎩᎩᎩ ᎠᎩᎩᎩ, Talugisgi - Disesdi Disinah, Jameson Anders - Numbers and Math Award



Softball tournament champions

The Benchwarmers 18U team won the Native Youth Classic championship held on the Poarch Creek Reservation in Atmore, Ala., June 20-21. Ele Smith, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Wayohi (Wolftown), was a member of the team alongside her teammates from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The team is shown, left to right, back row - Maeli Ben, Taelyn Mingo, Gianna Eaves, Natalie Eaves, Ele Smith, Alanee Wheeler, and Tahleaya Denson; front row - Amhyleigh Fireplace, Xiomara Fireplace, Shae Jimmie, Alyssa Sockey, Sanaeya Martin, and Yazzie Williams. (Photo contributed)



Softball tournament champions

The Hunters 10U and 8U teams, from Tahlequah, Okla., won the Native Youth Classic tournament on the Poarch Creek Reservation in Atmore, Ala. June 20-21. All the 10U girls are Cherokee Nation citizens, and most of the 8U girls are as well with one Creek (Harper Davis), one Keetoowah (Ever Cline), and one Eastern Shawnee (Phoenix Sanders). The team is shown, left to right, back row - Coach Jake Robinson, Ayana Foreman, Kenzleigh Clark, Emersyn Watkins, Emma Johnson, Abigail Carnes, Harper Davis, Ever Cline, Hadlee Wilson, Phoenix Sanders, Lyvia Cole; front row - Zoe Kenyon, Lexi Teehee, Mayvis Robinson, Emberly Eagleton-Turner, Taylin Scraper, Brinley Eagleton, Armani McCarter, Abby Johnson, and Coraline Robinson. (Photo contributed)



Native Swag places at baseball tournament

The Native Swag 12U team took third place at the Native Youth Classic championship held on the Poarch Creek Reservation in Atmore, Ala., June 20-21. Junior Smith, standing fourth from the left, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Wayohi (Wolftown), was a member of the team alongside his teammates from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The team is shown, left to right, kneeling - Kenzo Dixon, Kaison Morris; standing - Kingsten Mingo, Brayon Billie, Marin Williams, Junior Smith, Peyton Eaves, Coach Gavin. (Photo contributed)



Academic honors

Elijah Peyton Watty, left, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a 2022 graduate of Cherokee High School, made the Dean's List and President's Honor Roll this semester at the University of Oklahoma. He was recently selected Vice President of Pre-Law at Price Business School and currently serves as the Director of the JC Leadership Program Gala. Elijah's interest and major leans toward Corporate Law. He will be studying abroad this summer in London. His family is very proud and wish him safe travels and much success in his future endeavors. (Photo courtesy of his grandparents, Flora Bradley and Donita Chanteau)

Sakonige Uah!

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