

FREE



Cherokee One Feather website



Swimmer
commits to D1
program for cross
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Rivercane patch
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to be preserved
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GWY ᏫᏍᏍᏍ ᏍᏍᏍᏍᏍ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
vsgiyi (dec.) 10-16,
2025

Immeasurable impacts

Second Tsalagi
Aniwonisgi
Didanvdadisdi
(Cherokee Speakers
Memorial Day)
event held

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The second Tsalagi Aniwonisgi Didanvdadisdi (Cherokee Speakers Memorial Day) event was held on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the Kalvgviditsa Tsalagi Aniwonisgi Tsunatsohisdihi (Cherokee Speakers Place), located adjacent to the New Kituwah Academy in Cherokee, N.C.

see **SPEAKERS** page 4



Students in the Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP) sing three songs in Cherokee language to honor the speakers who passed in 2025 during the second Tsalagi Aniwonisgi Didanvdadisdi (Cherokee Speakers Memorial Day) event was held on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the Kalvgviditsa Tsalagi Aniwonisgi Tsunatsohisdihi (Cherokee Speakers Place). (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photos)



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Winner of 11 North Carolina Press Assoc. awards in 2024-25 including: Sports Coverage (third place)

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Please email all flyers and photos to us at:

Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

We can not accept either via Facebook Messenger due to the resolution of those images. Also, please do not tag us in Facebook posts as we do not receive notification of these.

Quote of the Week

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

"We've lost 98 percent of rivercane throughout its range in the southeast. So, we want to restore it. For restoration purposes, scientific purposes, and artisan purposes, the patch is super important."

- Caleb Hickman, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Fisheries and Wildlife Management supervisory biologist, speaking about the permanent protection of the 433-acre Cane River Confluence property in Yancey County by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC)

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; and Indica Climbingbear.

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“If you see a speaker, sit down and talk to them.”

- Roger Smoker, Cherokee fluent speaker and chairman of the Cherokee Speakers Council

SPEAKERS: From front page

During the event, the following Cherokee Speakers who passed in 2025 were honored and memorialized: TZᎠ Wiggins Blackfox, ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵ John Long, ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵ Yahníe Squirrel, ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵ Ramona Lossie, ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵ R.T. Charlie Bigwitch, ᎠᎵ ᎠᎵ Mianna Cucumber Luther.

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) passed Res. No. 212 (2024) last June, making Tsalagi Aniwonisgi Didanvdadisdi an official EBCI tribal holiday that will be observed each year on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The resolution was submitted by Scarlett “Gigage” Guy, adult language education coordinator for the Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP), after receiving approval from the Cherokee Speakers Council. The first memorial event was held on Nov. 26, 2024.

In her remarks at the Nov. 25 event, Guy said, “I am grateful to the Cherokee speakers and to the council for helping me, and I am glad that you all supported the resolution, and that the Tribal Council passed the resolution, and adopted this day as a tribal holiday in order for us to honor those who have impacted our community and our lives in immeasurable ways.”

Roger Smoker, Cherokee fluent speaker and chairman of the Cherokee Speakers Council, also gave remarks. “We have speakers who are still present with us this morning. Those are the ones we have to rely on, especially for the learners who are coming up. If you see a speaker, sit down and talk to them.”

Ugwyiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks gave his remarks, stating “We all have a responsibility...This land, this building, our language, every little one that’s coming up, do we respect them enough to teach them the right way as to how to be Tsalagi. Prayers lifted for all the families, for the loved ones we lost this year.”



Bo Lossiah, manager of the Kituwah Preservation Education Program (KPEP), rings the memorial bell for the six speakers who passed in 2025.



Brunch with Santa

December 25

**10am - 4pm: Brunch Buffet
Selu Garden Café**

**A Winter Wonderland Experience featuring
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Carving Station

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Winter Soups & Salads

Omelet Station & Breakfast Bar

Brunch Entrees & Sides

Assorted Christmas Desserts & Hot Chocolate Station



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Rare rivercane patch in Yancey Co. to be preserved

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

YANCEY COUNTY, N.C. – An area in Yancey County that contains a rare rivercane patch is being preserved, and artisans of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) will be able to harvest some for traditional weaving.

Caleb Hickman, EBCI Fisheries and Wildlife Management supervisory biologist, noted, “The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), with support from the Office of Fisheries and Wildlife Management for Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), and the North Carolina Land and Water Fund recently finalized the permanent protection of the 433-acre Cane River Confluence property in Yancey County. The site lies where the Toe and Cane Rivers join to form the Nolichucky - a place of ecological rarity and deep Cherokee cultural significance.”

The land is now owned by SAHC who will operate under a land management plan that will allow EBCI artisans access for harvesting sustainably.

He said that EBCI artisans were able to access the area in 2021 through RTCAR (Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources) and the previous owners. “They (RTCAR) knew that it would have substantial potential for artisans because of the size of the cane patch. The size of the cane patch is a very rare find because of the height and also



Caleb Hickman, EBCI Fisheries and Wildlife Management supervisory biologist, is shown at the 433-acre Cane River Confluence property in Yancey County. (Photos courtesy of Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy)

individual clones - the cane itself is very big around and that's what artisans prefer."

Hickman added, "I worked up a project with a graduate student through the University of Georgia to assess how artisan harvest would affect the growth of the patch and the success of the patch, if it was a good traditional ecological knowledge system for harvesting, and to also evaluate the patch as an ecosystem because it was substantial. We thought it would be a great example of what we want to see in a rivercane patch throughout its range. We've lost 98 percent of rivercane throughout its range in the southeast. So, we want to restore it. For restoration purposes, scientific purposes, and artisan purposes, the patch is super important."

Michelle Pugliese, SAHC land protection director, commented, "From a water quality perspective it was really important to protect. And, just the size of the property also as a stand-alone, intact, forest resource - not only mature forest but also early successional forest where there's a meadow that provides good habitat for migratory birds and other species. When we learned about the rivercane and the significance of the rivercane to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for local artisans, and rivercane also from a biological standpoint as stabilizing riverbanks - there are so many reasons this property became a very high priority for us to preserve."

She went on to say, "We still have a lot of work to do to secure the property even though we do own it. Since we purchased the property using some loan funds, I am working with the N.C. Land and Water Fund to receive that grant to repay the loan. We intend to own it for the long-term as a



Shown, left to right, at the site are Damon Hearne, North Carolina Land and Water Fund field representative for the Western District; Michelle Pugliese, SAHC land protection director; and Chris Kaase, SAHC stewardship and GIS manager.

preserve that we're calling the Cane River Confluence."

Chris Kaase, SAHC stewardship and GIS manager, said he is looking forward to expanding the relationship between the EBCI and SAHC. "To have this opportunity to work with the Eastern Band for purposes of resources and research that are important, both culturally and for arts and everything else, is a real opportunity.

All in all, this partnership is just a big win-win, I think, for everyone. Once we get land that we own protected through the mechanism of ownership, we then take a year to write what is called a Land Management Plan. So, it's our guide for how we intend to manage this property over the short term. Then we revisit those things over time. So, we are looking forward to that collaborative process with these goals in mind. Again, it's just a real opportunity for everyone to come in and be a part of managing this property for

all that it is important for."

Kaase said they plan to formalize the agreement with the EBCI soon. "In the next steps, we will identify the things that we want to provide for on the property, then formalize that into some sort of MOU or agreement. Then, that will essentially provide for the ability of people to get on the land in whatever way that we do collaboratively. I imagine that is going to be conversations amongst us to figure out how best to put that together."

Pugliese added, "Both Chris (Kaase) and I are going to be working with the Eastern Band and the artisans to manage that relationship and formalize the commitment that we have to make sure that that rivercane continues to be accessible to the Cherokee. A condition of receiving the money from the State of North Carolina is that they have to place a conservation easement over the property...which places permanent

restrictions on development and subdivision of the land. The State of North Carolina is going to hold that conservation easement. SAHC will be responsible for monitoring the easement."

Hickman spoke of the importance of the site. "This is super rare. It's already an endangered environment - we've lost 98 percent of it throughout its range. So, when you talk to an ecologist about endangered species, that's one of the factors you look at is the distribution of where it used to be versus where it is now and how is it going to progress. It's clonal, so underground they're all connected, it's not individual plants. It's basically a large single organism. So, it's a very different way to look at this. That's a very productive site for a few reasons - it hasn't been cut for a while, but it's also a different site because it's not right up against the river. So, the management of that site will be super important to do it right."

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) rescinds resolution approving constitution opinion referendum

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – A referendum that was approved in October regarding opinions on the future of the work being done on a constitution for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) will not occur. The referendum, originally approved with the passage of Res. No. 23 during a Dinilawigi session on Oct. 21, was cancelled with the passage of Res. No. 65 during a Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4 which rescinded Res. No. 23.

Res. No. 23 (2025) set a refer-

endum for March 2026 to address the following:

- Which of the following statements best describes your opinion about changes to the EBCI Charter and Governing Document? (pick one)

1. The Charter and Governing Document should be replaced entirely with a new constitution document, as presented by the Constitution Committee, which is voted on by tribal voters.

2. The Charter and Governing Document should be amended in sections with each amendment, as presented by the Constitution Committee, voted on by tribal

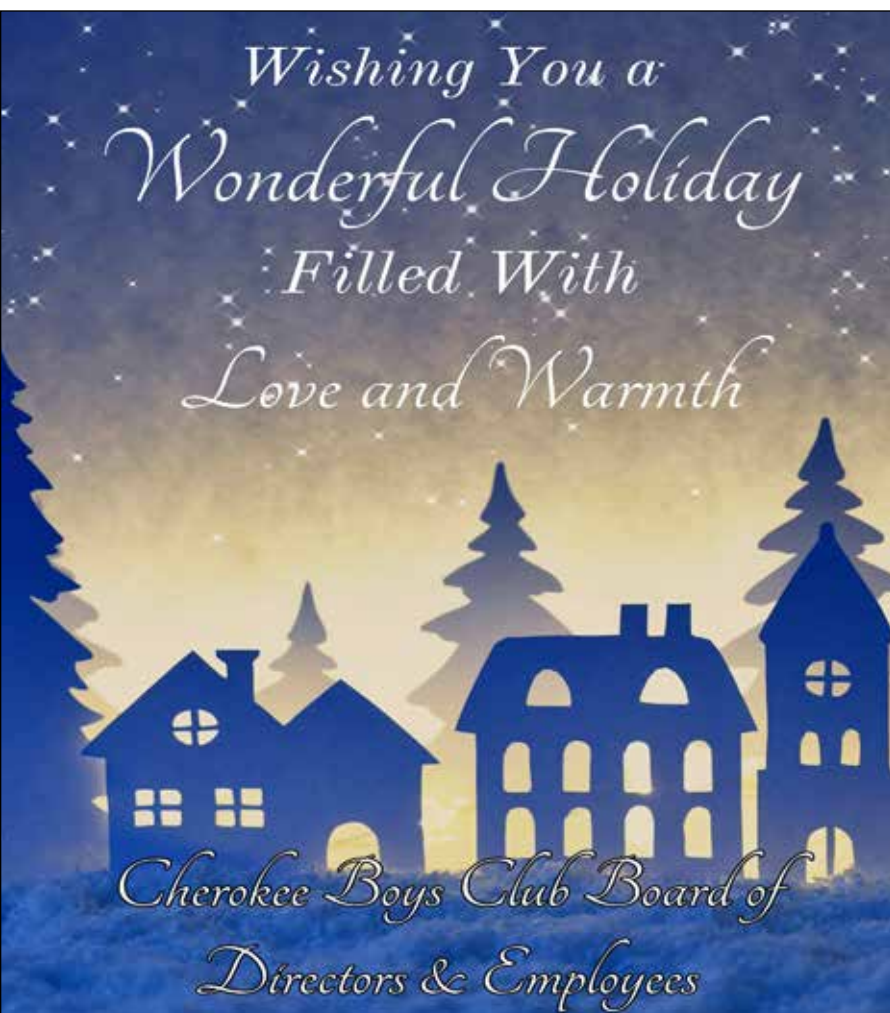
voters.

Res. No. 65 was submitted by Mary “Missy” Crowe, an EBCI tribal elder from Elawodi (Yellowhill). During discussion on the legislation on Thursday, she commented, “I’m all for our people to have a voice and a say, especially when it comes to important issues like this.”

She brought up the fact that Res. No. 23 was passed with four Dinilawigi representatives away on official business including: Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Reps. Lavita Hill and Venita Wolfe, Elawodi Rep. Shennelle Feather, and Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Mike Parker.

Crowe said, “We’ve been discussing this constitution for over six years. And, prior to July of 2023 we had the opportunity to have a vote on a governing document and Tribal Council rescinded that for us to actually have a vote, a say on a true governing document. So, my concern is that a referendum, I feel, needs to be held on a document. Opinions - everybody has them. But we have to look at other avenues to ensure that our community members have that opportunity, which they do.”

Nancy Pheasant was appointed the Constitution Committee chair-



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person recently. She spoke on the legislation on Thursday saying, “I commend the Yellowhill Community for having active conversations in their community meetings about the constitution. Because, as you guys are all fully aware, this constitution has been an issue for the last, I would almost say, not 10 years, but we’re looking 20, 30, 40, even 50 years back in our history. So, this should be considered a priority on everyone’s list.”

She encouraged the community to have their voices heard on the constitution. “All the Constitution Committee meetings are open to the public and in our policies, prior to me even stepping in as a representative on the Constitution Committee itself, they had already established in their policies that the first thirty minutes of every meeting is open to where anybody can come in and have at least a five minute period to express their opinions. To come in and ask those important questions. To find out what the Constitution Committee is actually doing.”

Pheasant said that prior to Res. No. 23 being passed that originally approved the referendum, the Constitution Committee had already decided which direction

to take. “We have been moving progressively along toward coming up with a document or a draft to bring to Tribal Council prior to a referendum going out to the people for it to be voted on...in our meeting in October, prior to the resolution going out for this opinion referendum, the Constitution Committee had already made that vote and made that decision on where we were going to start. We had planned on using the draft that was pulled from the last referendum.

We were planning on making those amendments that are necessary to bring that document up to what the people have voiced to the Constitution Committee itself as to what they wanted. As well as not just replace the Charter, we’re also working, and have been continually working on combining what’s already established in the Charter with a constitution. So it’s not just a Charter, and it’s not just a constitution, it’s a marrying of the two documents to ensure that everybody is represented.”

Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer has been involved in the work on the constitution for awhile. “This is the third capacity now that I’ve had on the

Constitution Committee because I worked with them when I was at the court. So, from the judicial side, and then from the community club side, and now from Tribal Council’s side and being able to look at it from all three different lenses. I still believe in this constitution, and I believe in the work that has been done thus far. I don’t agree with kicking it further down the road. As Nancy has pointed out, these meetings have been open to the community for at least the last eight or nine years that I’ve been working on it. They used to meet every Monday over at the EOC building. Those meetings were open to the public. It was advertised in the One Feather. It was on Facebook. And it’s up to the people to come out and voice their opinions.”

Cherokee Code Section 161-9(c)(8)(b) states, “Not less than 30 percent of registered voters must vote in a referendum/initiative election to answer a question on a ballot question or the election is deemed void.”

When advocating for passage of her legislation, Crowe questioned the cost and feasibility of having a stand-alone referendum outside of a regular tribal election

cycle. “A referendum does cost a lot of money. It also requires 30 percent of voters to cast their votes to even be acknowledged. So, that’s not a guarantee.”

Rep. Swimmer, who is part of the current Constitution Committee, agreed and pointed to the 2027 tribal election that will include Dinilawigi on the ballot as well as Ugviwiyuhi (Principal Chief) and Taline Ugviwiyu (Vice Chief). “I think that would be the perfect time to have at least a part, if not all, of the constitution up for a referendum vote. So, I think that’s what we need to focus on. We need to focus on getting all or at least large portions of it up for a vote at the Chief’s election so that we’re guaranteed to meet that 30 percent threshold.”

Rep. Feather, who also serves on the Constitution Committee, commented, “I do agree that we need a constitution and it is a priority for me. I would like for us to really get in and work together on this and figure out what’s the next steps to move forward together.”

Res. No. 65 passed unanimously.



Check out our new
Qualla: Our Community
video series at the
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YouTube channel

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on YouTube

EBCI tribal legislative updates

TRIGGER WARNING: This article contains references to violent and sexual crimes.

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The One Feather will now provide regular legislative updates on various pieces of legislation of the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). The focus will be on ordinances that change Cherokee Code, but sometimes resolutions of importance to the operation of

the tribal government will also be included. The legislation is shown in the order in which they were introduced following the new ones for the week.

New Ordinances

Ord. No. 54 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Sections 105-4, 106-21, and 106-22 to “clarify remedies for failure to pay Tribal levy and other fees and to clarify when appeals may be made to Business Committee”.

The whereas section states, “Tribal law requires businesses operating in Cherokee to do so under a Business License issued by the Tribe and to pay Tribal levy and other amounts to the Tribe; and periodically, businesses fail to pay their levy obligations to the

Tribe in a timely manner. Some sections within Cherokee Code Chapter 105 and Chapter 106 should be amended to clarify and make consistent the authorities and remedies available to the Tribe when a business fails to pay Tribal levy and other fees required by Tribal law.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by EBCI Attorney General Michael McConnell, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ordinances passed, killed, or withdrawn

Ord. No. 2 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Section 130 (Public Health) specifically regarding the Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center. The

whereas section states, “To maintain consistency and continuity as a service provider, the Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center would benefit from established definitions and a clearly defined program structure.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Anita Lossiah, EBCI Public Health and Human Services director of human services, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: This ordinance was passed unanimously during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 3 (2025). This is an ordinance approving amendments to Cherokee Code Chapter 16D adding the Tribal Bingo Enterprise (TBE). The whereas section states, “...the Tribal Council hereby

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adopts the following ordinance to amend the current UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) Ordinance codified at Chapter 16D to include the TBE in addition to the TCGE (Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise)...

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by the Tribal Bingo Enterprise Board of Advisors, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: This ordinance was passed unanimously during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 4 (2025). This ordinance seeks to add the charge of taking indecent liberties with children to the Cherokee Code. The whereas section states, “Currently, the Cherokee Code does not prohibit the conduct commonly listed as ‘indecent liberties with children’; and the prohibited conduct within this proposed ordinance covers a broad range of behaviors that should be prohibited under Cherokee Law.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by the EBCI Office of the Attorney General, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: This ordinance was passed unanimously during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 5 (2025). This ordinance seeks to add the charges of manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter to Cherokee Code. The whereas section states, “Currently, the Cherokee Code relies on common law definitions of voluntary and involuntary manslaughter and does not express the prohibition via statute; and codifying the common law crimes of voluntary and involuntary manslaughter is an exercise of sovereignty; and in

doing so expresses Tribal Council’s intent to protect the citizens of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians by expanding criminal prohibitions to allow for more robust prosecutions.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by the EBCI Office of the Attorney General, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: This ordinance was passed unanimously during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 12 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 113 of the Cherokee Code regarding searches by game wardens. The whereas section states that amendments are needed “to clarify that Game Wardens may conduct lawful searches in furtherance of their responsibilities to enforce game laws; and other amendments are also needed in Chapter 113 to reflect changes in the operation and terminology used by the Natural Resources Department and Natural Resources Enforcement”.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Monday, Nov. 10. This ordinance was passed unanimously during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 13 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 113 of the Cherokee Code and establish a deer hunting season within the lands of the EBCI. The whereas section states, “Currently, the Tribe allows for the hunting of various animals, but not deer; and it is not possible to establish a deer

season which balances increased hunting opportunities for enrolled members and the responsible management of the deer population.” This ordinance was amended during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4 to state the season for white-tailed deer will be “the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday to Jan. 1”.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Monday, Nov. 10. This ordinance was passed during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4 with only one opposing vote – Aniwodihhi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamp-er.

Ord. No. 17 (2025). This ordinance seeks to “amend Cherokee Code Sections 92-10 and 117-45.3 to allow program managers and directors who meet the definition of tribal official to be TERO certified and to be able to contract with the Tribe to provide certain services directly benefiting tribal members”.

The whereas section states, “There is no dispute about the intent and efficacy of the prohibition when it is applied to elected officials and higher-level appointed officials; and the prohibition, however, can impose a hardship on other employees who have become tribal employees after forming an outside business as a sole proprietor or a closely-held business that provided services to tribal members and their families. Tribal law should be amended to remove the prohibition for tribal employees below the level of Di-

vision Secretary who may want to contract with the Tribe to provide desired services to tribal families on the Qualla Boundary.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Tyler Blankenship, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Oct. 16.

Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Wednesday, Nov. 19. This ordinance was withdrawn during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 18 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 117 of the Cherokee Code to establish a Committee on Aging and Disability. The whereas section states, “It is in the best interest of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to modernize and update official terminology to reflect respectful and inclusive language by replacing the term ‘handicapped’ with ‘disabled’ and ‘elderly’ with ‘aging’; and the programs and tribal members will benefit by establishing the Committee on Aging and Disability within the Cherokee Code to ensure consistency, transparency, and accountability in programs that serve the aging and disabled populations of the EBCI.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by EBCI Secretary of Community, Education, and Recreation Services Sky Sampson, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Oct. 16.

Action: This ordinance was withdrawn during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 39 (2025). This ordinance would create a Cherokee Fire and Rescue Commission in a new Chapter (not yet numbered) in the Cherokee Code. The whereas section states, “The culture of

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 7

fire and rescue departments are a unique environment that need guidance and direction from those who are knowledgeable of fire and rescue operations, as well as having experience in the field of fire and rescue; and the establishment of a Fire and Rescue Commission will provide the community with a resource that allows the people the opportunity to voice their questions, concerns, and opinions.” Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by John Reed, was deemed read and tabled during Dinilawigi on Nov. 3.

Action: This ordinance was withdrawn during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Legislation we’re currently watching

Ord. No. 6 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 7 (Judicial Code) of the Cherokee Code. The whereas section states that section “should be amended to clarify and add provisions controlling matters such as the structure and operation of the courts, the roles and powers of the judicial officers, and the procedures ensuring independent and impartial judicial officers”. Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Cherokee Chief Justice Bradley Letts, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Wednesday, Nov. 19. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Ord. No. 11 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 113G of the Cherokee Code regarding underground storage tanks.

The whereas section states, “Regulation of USTs (underground storage tanks) is an important topic because they often serve as holding containers for gasoline and petroleum products, which can cause environmental damage if leaked into the ground or into a water source; and updating regulation is also important because doing so is needed to maintain the Tribe’s Memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through which UST owners and operators have access to North Carolina’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund.” Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Monday, Nov. 10. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4. Another work session has been scheduled for Monday, Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Ord. No. 14 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 113 of the Cherokee Code to update the fishing laws of the EBCI. The whereas section states, “...amendments are also needed in Chapter 113 to reflect changes in the operation and terminology used by the Natural Resources Department; and in order to clarify the Cherokee Code to reflect these changes in how the Tribe regulates its natural resources, specifically fish and recreational fishing...”

Among others, several proposed changes include: Amending Section 113-5(b)(5) to read, “Using non-native bait determined by the Department to be invasive

shall be unlawful.” Also, there is a proposed change to fishing hours changing it from one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset to thirty minute before sunrise and thirty minutes after sunset.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13.

Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Monday, Nov. 10. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Res. No. 27 (2025). This resolution seeks to enhance the transparency by requiring regular reporting by the Executive and Legislative branches of the EBCI tribal government. The

whereas section states, “Tribal Council passed Res. 308 (2020) that updated the reporting criteria and template for annual reports from tribal programs; and there is currently no requirement or mechanism that requires the Principal Chief, Vice Chief, or Tribal Council to provide a monthly or annual report of official business activities.”

The legislation adds, “...the Tribal Council hereby require the Principal Chief, Vice Chief, and Tribal Council to produce a monthly and annual report for dissemination to tribal news media outlets, community clubs, and the general EBCI constituency.”

Introduced: This resolution, submitted by Joey Owle of Wayohi (Wolftown), was read and then tabled during Annual Dinilawigi

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page



EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

The EBCI Housing Division has identified individuals with loans through Tribal and Qualla Housing who are seriously delinquent. Those borrowers have or will be receiving foreclosure notices.

Lending Services can HELP!

Financial Lending Services offers the Foreclosure Prevention Program for those receiving foreclosure notices from the Cherokee Indians Housing Division. We can refinance your home with a favorable rate and term to allow you to keep you and your family in your home. Let us help.

Call or email for more information:

Michelle Stamper	michstam@ebci-nsn.gov	828-359-6904
Tina Larch-Rivera	tinalarc@ebci-nsn.gov	828-359-6912
Misty Millsaps	mistmill@ebci-nsn.gov	828-359-6919

Cherokee Central Schools and New Kituwah Academy receive STEAM Education Grant

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Seven local school systems and four schools, including Cherokee Central Schools (CCS) and New Kituwah Academy (NKA) were awarded the “Bridging the Gap with STEM-E” grant from Cherokee Preservation Foundation (CPF) to increase accessibility to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) by providing elementary through high school students with mobile science unit field trips, exploration in entrepreneurship, STEAM study within their classrooms, and teacher STEAM professional development. The grant partners include the Western Region Education Service

Alliance (WRESA) and the Mountain Satellite Office of the North Carolina State University Science House.

CCS reports receiving a total of \$257,125 in grant funding. NKA reports receiving a total of \$6,200.

Dr. Beverly Payne, Cherokee Central Schools assistant superintendent, said this grant will support ongoing efforts by CCS to enhance STEAM education for CCS students. “Cherokee Central Schools has worked these past few years to explore ways to increase STEAM learning in ways that are engaging and impactful for CCS students. The Cherokee Preservation Foundation has been a supportive and generous partner in our STEAM efforts for years. Their support allows CCS to host

field trips to local universities to learn about STEAM learning opportunities, purchase science lab equipment and online science-based learning programs, and to host an E-STEAM Night. The E-STEAM nights hosted prior to the pandemic were highly favored by CCS students and families. This project will allow us to bring it back better than before. Additional details about the CCS E-STEAM Night will be shared soon,” she shared.

“STEAM isn’t just a program, but it is more of a mindset that will be an asset to students throughout their lives. STEAM teaches students to think critically, solve problems, and collaborate—skills that strengthen both our classrooms and our community. It

provides opportunities to practice the growth mindset.”

Emily Darling, WRESA grant coordinator who was selected by NKA to provide comment on the grant, says the grant funding will keep classrooms up to date in STEAM learning. “Current trends in STEAM education emphasize hands-on, interdisciplinary learning that uses real-world problems and emerging technologies like engineering design, coding, and maker tools to deepen student understanding. This grant is essential to equip educators, students, and schools with the training, resources, and experiences needed to meet modern learning expectations and prepare a future-ready workforce.”

LEGISLATIVE: From page 12

on Oct. 30.

Action: A work session is scheduled for this resolution on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m.

Res. No. 28 (2025). This resolution seeks an updated weighted vote used in Dinilawigi to be approved and implemented based on the 2023 EBCI Tribal Census. Section 19 of the EBCI Charter and Governing Document states, “In order to provide equal representation to all members of the Eastern Band, the members of the Tribal Council shall, in their deliberations, cast votes on a weighted basis, with the weight of each vote determined by each Council member. A tribal census, for the pur-

poses of determining the weight of the votes to be cast by each Tribal Council member, shall be conducted prior to the 1981 tribal election and prior to the election each ten years thereafter to determine the number of enrolled tribal members residing in each township.” The whereas section of the resolution states, “The last update to the weighted vote in Cherokee Code Chapter 117 was in October 2001 via Res. 20 (2001).”

The resolution, if passed, directs the following, “...the Tribal Council hereby fulfill its responsibility to provide for accurate and fair representation of the constituents of each community by determining an updated weighted vote for each tribal community within (90) days of the passage of this

resolution.”

Introduced: This resolution, submitted by Joey Owle and James Bradley, both of Wayohi, was read and then tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Oct. 30.

Action: A work session is scheduled for this resolution on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m.

Res. No. 30 (2025). This resolution seeks public access through the EBCI Tribal Portal to Granicus Legistar, the software used by the Tribal Operations Program (TOP) to manage legislation. The whereas section states, “The Tribal Operations Program has utilized Granicus Legistar, a comprehensive agenda and meeting management solution designed specifically for government organizations since

about 2014; and Granicus Legistar streamlines the legislative process by managing documents, drafting files, and publishing agendas and minutes.”

If passed, the legislation directs the following, “...Tribal Council direct the IT Department to establish public access to Granicus Legistar, through the Tribal Member Portal, and provide for the greatest level of transparency in government activities, as permissible, through the functionality of Granicus Legistar.”

Introduced: This resolution, submitted by Joey Owle of Wayohi, was read and then tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Oct. 30.

Action: A work session is scheduled for this resolution on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 11 a.m.

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

S. 3236 (A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008). This is a “bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure Tribal consultation and representation under the food distribution program on Indian reservations”.

Introduced: Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) on Nov. 20
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on Nov. 20. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 6285 (To amend the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act). The full text of this bill has not been made public yet.
Introduced: Rep. Jill N. Tokuda (D-Hawai'i) on Nov. 21
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce on Nov. 21. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of

press time.

Bills we're currently watching

H.R. 226 (Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act). This House 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 acknowledgement 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. A hearing was held in the Committee on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 2:30 p.m. Click here to view.

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 tacked on to H.R. 3838 (National Defense Authorization Act FY26) with House Amendment 98 and was passed on

Sept. 10 with the main bill on a roll call vote of 231-196. The Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act FY26 (S.2296) was approved on Oct. 9 by a vote of 77-20. Sen. Thom Tillis submitted amendment 3273 to add the text of this bill to S. 2296. No action was taken on this amendment, and it was not included in the final vote taken.

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 Congress.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. It was reported without amendment by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs chairperson, on July 31. That same day, it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders (Calendar No. 139).

H.R. 2412 (Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act). This House bill would establish an Office for Indigenous Affairs and an Advisory Commission for

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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 acknowledgement 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 Finance. 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 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 hear-

ings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S.2160 (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025). This Senate seeks the same as H.R. 3255 (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025).
Introduced: June 25 by Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-Mich.)
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. 4276 (To amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act). According to congress.gov, this bill amends the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act “to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations”.
Introduced: July 2 by Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai'i)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 2. This bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, and a hearing was held in that Subcommittee on Nov. 19.

S.2211 (Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2025). This Senate bill seeks to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. For both programs, it seeks funding in the amount of \$160,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.
Introduced: July 8 by Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-Maine)
Action: This will was referred to

the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on July 8. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4463 (To amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993). The text of the legislation states, “Subsection (d) of section 7 of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–116), is amended by striking ‘; however, in no event may an individual be enrolled as a tribal member unless the individual is a lineal descendant of a person on the final base membership roll and has continued to maintain political relations with the Tribe.’”
Introduced: July 16 by Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 16. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs on Sept. 4, and a hearing was held on this legislation in the subcommittee on Sept. 9.

H.R. 4596 (McCarren-Walter Technical Corrections Act). According to the bill’s text, this legislation would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”.
Introduced: July 22 by Rep. Timothy M. Kennedy (D-New York)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 22. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee
see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 15

tee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4750 (To extend federal recognition to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

Introduced: July 23 by Rep. Eugene Simon Vindman (D-Va.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 23. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4712 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act). According to the legislation text, this House bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes”.

Introduced: July 23 by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary as well as the Committee on Natural Resources on July 23. There are no hearings scheduled for this bill in either committee as of press time.

S.2452 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act). According to the legislation text, this Senate bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4712.

Introduced: July 24 by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 24. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Commit-

tee for this bill as of press time.

S.2564 (Tribal Gaming Regulatory Compliance Act). The opening text of the bill states it is “to ensure all federally recognized Tribes that are eligible for gaming in the United States are regulated under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act”.

It specifically seeks to amend Public Law 100-89 (Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act). Section 3 of the bill states, “This Act shall be construed to ensure the full applicability of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701) to gaming activities on Indian lands of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Indian lands of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe.”

Introduced: July 31 by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 31. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S.2577 (McCarran-Walter Technical Corrections Act). This Senate bill, according to its text, would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4596.

Introduced: July 31 by Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 31. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

House Resolution 666 (Supporting the goals of Overdose

Awareness Day and strengthening efforts to combat the opioid crisis in the United States). This House resolution states in part, “Substance use disorder and drug overdose affect all socioeconomic groups, racial and ethnic groups, geographical regions, and ages; and Black and American Indian or Alaskan Native populations are more likely to die from a drug overdose than their White counterparts”.

The resolution continues, “The House of Representatives (1) recognizes Overdose Awareness Day (reporter’s note – it is usually Aug. 31, but a specific date is not listed in the resolution) in the United States; (2) commits to advancing the passing bipartisan policies that reduce the stigma surrounding substance use disorders and overdoses; and is dedicated to collaborating with states, localities, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, health care providers, patients, and families to support a comprehensive system that promotes prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery from opioid use disorder.”

Introduced: Rep. Lori Trahan (D-Mass.) on Aug. 29

Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Aug. 29. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this resolution as of press time.

H.R. 5144 {Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County, Virginia Federal Recognition Act}. This House bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

Introduced: Sept. 4 by Rep. Jennifer A. Kiggans (R-Va.)

Action: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 4. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5257 (To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust). The full title of the bill states “To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust by the United States pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934, for the benefit of an Indian Tribe that was federally recognized on the date that the land was taken into trust”.

Introduced: Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) on Sept. 10

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 10. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5327 (To extend federal recognition to the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

Introduced: Rep. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-Va.) on Sept. 11

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 11. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 2832 (Native American Entrepreneurial and Opportunity Act of 2025). This bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration.

Introduced: Sen. John W. Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) on Sept. 17

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on

Sept. 17.

H.R. 5488 (To extend funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians). This bill would amend Title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. It would approve “\$160,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to remain available until expended”. Introduced: Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) on Sept. 18
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Sept. 18.

H.R. 5739 (Italian Heroes and Heritage Act). This House bill would, according to the legislation, “prohibit federal funds from being provided to any state or local government that celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day”. Section 2(a) (1) of this bill states, “Christopher Columbus set sail 533 years ago in 1492 to bravely cross the Atlantic Ocean and discovered new land that would soon after become known as America.”

Section 2(b) states, “It is the sense of Congress that Oct. 13 should continue to be celebrated nationwide as Christopher Columbus Day, as it has been since 1892, to honor our Italian-American heritage and our forefather, Christopher Columbus, who helped to discover this great land.”
Introduced: Rep. Michael A. Rulli (R-Ohio) on Oct. 10
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on

Oct. 10. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. Res. 450. (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture). The resolution states, “Columbus Day does not currently provide an opportunity to reflect on the stories and perseverance of the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that are now part of the United States; and where, prior to western contact, Indigenous Peoples lived and flourished in the lands that are now part of the United States for thousands of years”.
Introduced: Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) on Oct. 14
Action: This resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Oct. 14. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. Res. 809 (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture). This House resolution is identical to S. Res. 450 (above).
Introduced: Rep. Norma J. Torres (D-Calif) on Oct. 14
Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee

on Natural Resources on Oct. 14. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S.3041 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act). This Senate bill would “allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain tribal criminal matters”.
Introduced: Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) on Oct. 23
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5820 (Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe Recognition Act). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe of California and Nevada, a group based in Lee Vining, Calif.
Introduced: Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.) on Oct. 24
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 24. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5869 (Tribal Water Infrastructure Grants Expansion Act). This House bill would “amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to assistance for Indian Tribes”. According to the bill, “In addition to amounts otherwise made available under Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, there is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to make

grants, in cooperation with the Director of the Indian Health Service...for (A) projects and activities eligible for assistance under 603(c) of such Act; and (B) training, technical assistance, and educational programs related to the operation and management of treatment works eligible for assistance...”
Introduced: Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.) on Oct. 28
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Oct. 28. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5910 (To authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes). As stated in the title, this House bill would amend 69 Stat. 539, Chapter 615, 25 U.S.C. 514(a) to authorizes such leases.
Introduced: Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (R-Wyo.) on Nov. 4
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 4. There are no scheduled hearings in this Committee on 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>

**Cherokee Tribal Court
Disposition Summary
for Nov. 1-30, 2025**

Submitted by Cherokee Tribal Court

Note: The following cases were disposed of in Cherokee Tribal Court during the time period of Nov. 1-30, 2025. The date of each offense is in parenthesis.

Anthony Jr., Troy D.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Sept. 7, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Sept. 7, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- Public Intoxication (July 18, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Arch, Willie W.

- No Liability Insurance (Sept. 22, 2025). Voluntary Dismissal.

Armachain, Larissa

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (June 6, 2024). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (June 6, 2024). Guilty. 6 months suspended, 12 months supervised probation, obtain SAA, follow recs.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Aug. 30, 2025). Guilty. 3 months suspended, 12 months supervised probation, concurrent with other sentence.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (June 6, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

Bell, Alexander K.

- No Operators License (March 27, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- DWLR (May 30, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Jan. 15, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Jan. 15, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Jan. 15, 2025). Guilty. 60 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation.

Bird, Eddie

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (June 27, 2025). Guilty per plea.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (June 27, 2025). Guilty per plea. 12 months suspended, 24 months supervised probation, obtain SAA and Batterers Assessment, comply with all recommendations.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Oct. 16, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Bird, Taylor S.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Sept. 2, 2025). Voluntary Dismissal.

Bowman, Sakuro M.

- Injuring Real Property (April 29, 2023). PJC. Prayer for judgement continued for one year, pay restitution.

Bryant, Matthew C.

- Expired Operator's License (Sept. 22, 2025). Voluntary Dismissal.

Buchanan, Brandon T.

- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Nov. 11, 2022) Dismissed. Defendant adequately sentenced in Federal Court.

- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Nov. 11, 2022) Dismissed. Defendant adequately sentenced in Federal Court.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V Marijuana) (Nov. 11, 2022) Dismissed. Defendant adequately sentenced in Federal Court.
- Homicide in the First Degree. (Nov. 11, 2022) Dismissed. Defendant adequately sentenced in Federal Court.

Cartwright, Barton R.

- Disorderly Conduct (July 29, 2025). PJC. Prayer for judgement continued for one year.

Cisneros, Angela L.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 27, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 24, 2025). Guilty/Responsible. Pay costs.

Cole Nash, Christy K.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 28, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- Operate Veh. No Ins. (June 28, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.

Cole, Cheryl D.

- Public Nuisance (April 18, 2025). Guilty. 30 days suspended, 6 months unsupervised probation.

Cucumber, Natasha D.

- No Liability Insurance (July 14, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.

Davis, Kathrina M.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Sept. 16, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.

Ensley, Trina L.

- Probation Revocation (June 3, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (June 3, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (June 3, 2025). Admitted.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (May 20, 2025). Guilty.
- Public Intoxication (June 3, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, credit for 20 days served, 24 months supervised, serve 90 days as special condition of probation, 90 days served.
- Probation Revocation (May 21, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (June 3, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (May 21, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (May 21, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (May 21, 2025). Admitted. Probation extended 24 months

French, Anthony R.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V). (July 15, 2025). Guilty.
- Second Degree Trespass (March 9, 2024). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 13, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (July 15, 2025). Guilty.
- No Operator's License (April 25, 2025). Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (April 25, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V). (April 25, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, special condition of probation serve 6 months, credit for 27 days served.

Fuller, Jamie M.

- Harassment (Aug. 13, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.	al.	- Probation Revocation (June 24, 2025). Admitted.	- DWLR Not Impaired Revb. (Oct. 21, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- Cyberstalking (Aug. 13, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.	Hornbuckle, Joniah B. - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Aug. 8, 2025). Guilty.	- Probation Revocation (June 24, 2025). Admitted. Remain on terms from 4/2/25 judgement.	McCrory, Sarah K. - Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Nov. 9, 2025). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.
George, Michael A. - Disorderly Conduct (Dec. 17, 2024). Guilty. - Public Intoxication (Sept. 18, 2024). Guilty. - Operate Veh. No Ins. (May 17, 2024). Dismissed per plea. - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V). Guilty. 365 days suspended, credit for 211 days served, 12 months supervised probation, special condition of probation serve 90 days, credit for 90 days served. DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 17, 2024). Dismissed per plea.	Horseman, Kathleen - Allow Unlicensed to Drive (June 6, 2025). Dismissed per plea.	Long, Bessie A. - Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (June 16, 2025). Guilty. - Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (June 16, 2025). Guilty. - Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (June 16, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, 12 months supervised probation.	Miller, Joshua A. - Unsafe Movement (Oct. 30, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Pay costs.
George, Chadwick E. - Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified. (Dec. 2, 2022). Voluntary dismissal.	Jackson, Rain E. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 21, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.	Lossiah, Jiah A. - Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified. (Feb. 14, 2024). Guilty/responsible. Pay costs.	Morgan, Frances A. - Public Intoxication (Oct. 8, 2025). Guilty. 10 days suspended, 6 months unsupervised, complete SAA, comply with recommendations.
Girty, Jarren J. - Expired/No Inspection (Aug. 18, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.	Keel, Ashely A. - No Liability Insurance (Aug. 14, 2025). Voluntary dismissal. - Child Not in Rear Seat (Aug. 14, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.	Maney, Julianna A. - Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (June 3, 2025). Guilty. 30 days suspended, 6 months supervised, 24 hours community service, complete SAA, comply with recommendations.	Morgan, Kyle A. - Probation Revocation (Nov. 19, 2025). Admitted. - Probation Revocation (Nov. 19, 2025). Admitted. - Probation Revocation (June 22, 2025). Admitted. - Probation Revocation (June 22, 2025). Admitted. 365 days, credit for 129 days served.
Greenarch, Thomas I. - Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers. (Nov. 6, 2025). Dismissed upon further investigation.	Lambert, Noreen A. - Exceeding Posted Speed (Aug. 5, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.	Maney, Zacchaeus Z. - Fraudulent Use of a Credit, Debit, or Bank Card (May 8, 2025). Guilty. 6 months suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, 40 hours community service.	Nash, Meisha - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 2, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Pay costs.
Holloway, Lydia N. - Second Degree Trespass (March 13, 2025). Guilty. 6 months suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation.	Lambert, Birda F. - Larceny (Jan. 21, 2025). Guilty. - Larceny (June 18, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, credit for 98 days served, 24 months supervised probation.	Matamoros, Ismael V. - No Operator's License (April 4, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.	Otter, Logan M. - Sex Offender Crimes (Oct. 14, 2024). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 6 days served.
Hornbuckle, Mary A. - Failure to Maintain Lane Control (Sept. 7, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.	Ledford, Ashyra D. - Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified. (April 19, 2023). Dismissed - No Operator's License (Aug. 23, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.	Mathis, Randy D. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 11, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Costs waived.	Owle, Lloyd E. - A&A DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Dec. 31, 2024). Voluntary dismissal. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Feb. 13, 2025). Voluntary dismissal. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 28, 2025). Voluntary dismissal. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June
	Locust, Robyn L.	McCoy, Joseph C. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 20, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.	see COURT REPORT next page

COURT REPORT: From page 19

24, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Pay costs.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 12, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 17, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Sept. 11, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (May 18, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 18, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 10, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified. (Feb. 14, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.

Queen, Marlene M.

- Drive without Two Headlamps

(Sept. 24, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.

- No Liability Insurance (Sept. 24, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.

Reed, Danielle

- Larceny (Nov. 14, 2024). Guilty. 6 months suspended, 6 months unsupervised.

Saine, Angelica C.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (May 2, 2025). Guilty. 30 days suspended, 12 months supervised probation, 24 hours community service, obtain SAA, comply with recommendations.

Sequoyah, Johnson L.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Nov. 7, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Nov. 7, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Pay costs.
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified.

Smith, Angel N.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 8, 2025). Guilty per plea. 30 days suspended, 12 months unsupervised, 10 hours community service.

Smith, Christian N.

- No Operator's License (April 28, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Pay costs.

Smoker, Keri

- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (June 30, 2025). Guilty. 45 days electronic home confinement.

Smoker, Kaleb S.

- No Operator's License (Oct. 21, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag. (Oct. 21, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.

al.

Thomas, Hunter T.

- Canc/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (Sept. 17, 2025). Voluntary dismissal.

Tiger, Ernest D.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Oct. 16, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Toineeta, Victoria E.

- Escape from Imprisonment and Custody (Jan. 15, 2025). Guilty. 24 months suspended, 24 months supervised probation, special condition of probation serve 44 days, credit for 44 days served.

Watty, Kyle Q.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Feb. 6, 2025). Guilty.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg. Card/Tag (Feb. 6, 2025). Guilty.
- Providing Alcoholic Beverages to/Possession of/Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages by/Persons under 21 Years Old. (Jan. 1, 2014). Guilty.
- Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (June 14, 2025). Guilty. 3 years suspended, 24 months supervised probation, special condition of probation serve 4 months in detention, credit for 157 days served, and serve 242 days on electric home confinement.

Watty, Erika S.

- Transporting a Child Outside the Territory of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with Intent to Violate Custody Order (June 4, 2025). Dismissed. Successful mediation.
- Transporting a Child Outside the Territory of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with Intent

to Violate Custody Order (June 4, 2025). Dismissed. Successful mediation.

Welch, Austin J.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 16, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 16, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 16, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Welch, Anthony K.

- Drug Trafficking (April 10, 2024). Dismissed with leave.

Welch Jr., Benny L.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 30, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Aug. 9, 2024). Voluntary dismissal.

Wilnoty Sr., Michael W.

- Communicating Threats (July 21, 2025). Guilty.
- Harassment (July 21, 2025). Guilty.
- Communicating Threats (May 20, 2024). Guilty. 12 months suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation, no contact with victims.

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

**The last One Feather
print issue of the year
will come out
Wednesday, Dec. 17.**

**Worm (utsiya)
for
Commissioner
Jackson County
North Carolina
District 1**

**VOTE
MARCH 3, 2026**

**German “Worm”
Vivas**

**Paid Political Ad by
Season of Change Campaign**

CHEROKEE INVITATIONAL



DECEMBER 20-23, 2025 CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA 777 CASINO DR, CHEROKEE, NC 28719

ALABAMA

GRISOM HS
HAZEL GREEN HS
MAE JEMISON HS
THOMPSON HS

FLORIDA

ANDREW JACKSON
CENTRAL POINTE NAT'L
MONTVERDE
TOCOI CREEK

GEORGIA

ARCHER HS
CAMPBELL HS
CREEKSIDE
HAMPTON HS
HOLY INNOCENTS'
LANIER
LUELLA
NEWTON
SOUTH FORSYTH HS

MARYLAND

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
ROSEDALE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

NORTH CAROLINA

AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
CANNON SCHOOL
CHEROKEE HS
DAVIE COUNTY HS
FORSYTH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
GRACE CHRISTIAN SANFORD
HICKORY RIDGE HS
LAKE NORMAN HS
MCDOWELL
NC GOOD BETTER BEST ACADEMY REG.

NORTHWEST GUILFORD
OAK CITY PREP
PROVIDENCE DAY
SEAFORTH HS
WEDDINGTON
WINSTON SALEM CHRISTIAN NAT'L
WINSTON SALEM CHRISTIAN REG.

SOUTH CAROLINA

LEGACY EARLY COLLEGE
MILITARY MAGNET ACADEMY

TENNESSEE

DANIEL BOONE
PAGE

VIRGINIA

MILLER SCHOOL
S3 ACADEMY
TPLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
WILLIAM FLEMING



One Feather Poem of the Week

The Cup

By Katrina Neff
Bryson City, N.C.

I pour into me, love and compassion.
I pour into me the things I had to ration.
I pour into me, understanding and care.
I pour into me the healing that I share.

My cup runneth over.

Your turn.

I pour into you, self awareness and strength.
I pour into you the embrace you keep
at arms length.
I pour into you, self-love and a deeper clarity.
I pour into you cultural connection and
prosperity.

Remember, fill yours first before you
lift someone up,
Because we cannot pour from an empty cup.



GWY ʔV ʔYLC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

**CIPD Arrest Report for
Nov. 17-23, 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.

Morgan, Kyle Adam – age 38
Arrested: Nov. 17
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 24)
Charges: Probation Violation

Neugin, James – age 49
Arrested: Nov. 17
Released: Nov. 17
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Otter, Logan – age 31
Arrested: Nov. 17
Released: Nov. 19
Charges: Writ of Habeus Corpus

Parton, Reagan Elizabeth – age 32
Arrested: Nov. 17
Released: Nov. 17
Charges: Probation Violation

Holder, Timothy Dale – age 53
Arrested: Nov. 18
Released: Nov. 19
Charges: Writ of Habeus Corpus

Cheeks, Jared Taylor – age 31
Arrested: Nov. 19
Released: Nov. 19
Charges: Temporary Hold

Walkingstick, James Richard – age 45
Arrested: Nov. 19
Released: Nov. 20
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Watty, Jason Adam – age 48
Arrested: Nov. 19
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 24)
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Wolfe, Daliyah Lanae – age 27
Arrested: Nov. 19
Released: Nov. 19
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Panther, Jordan Phillip – age 36
Arrested: Nov. 20
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 24)
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (two counts)

Cornwell, Charlene Lorene – age 56
Arrested: Nov. 21
Released: Nov. 22
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance

Driver, Calvin Douglas – age 27
Arrested: Nov. 21
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 24)
Charges: Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court, Pre-Trial Release Violation

George, Charles Edward – age 50
Arrested: Nov. 21
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 24)
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor, Possession of Controlled Substance II

Lambert, Allyson Denise – age 42
Arrested: Nov. 21
Released: Nov. 22
Charges: Wellness Court Violation

Arkansas, Steven Walker – age 52
Arrested: Nov. 23
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 24)

Charges: Child Abuse in the Second Degree, Assault on a Female

Romero, Jose Armando Garcia – age 51
Arrested: Nov. 23
Released: Nov. 23
Charges: Hold Until Sober

West, Jet Twin – age 24
Arrested: Nov. 23
Released: Not released as of report date (Nov. 24)
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Williams, Selma – age 19
Arrested: Nov. 23
Released: Nov. 23
Charges: Hold Until Sober

**CIPD Arrest Report for
Nov. 24-30, 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.

Cisneros, Angela Lista – age 38
Arrested: Nov. 24
Released: Nov. 24
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance

Radford, Hunter Allen – age 25
Arrested: Nov. 24
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 1)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Child Abuse in the Second Degree; Pre-Trial Release Violation

Ivey Jr., Jacob Jackson – age 43
Arrested: Nov. 25
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 1)
Charges: Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court, Possession Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of a Controlled Substance

Maney, Jason Champ – age 19
Arrested: Nov. 25
Released: Nov. 25
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Pagan, Cristian Jovany – age 30
Arrested: Nov. 25
Released: Nov. 25
Charges: Temporary Hold

Burke, Lisa Elaine – age 52
Arrested: Nov. 26
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 1)
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Fox, Chase Durwood – age 25
Arrested: Nov. 26
Released: Nov. 26
Charges: Temporary Hold

Littlejohn, Curtis Ray – age 56
Arrested: Nov. 26
Released: Nov. 26
Charges: Receiving or Possessing Stolen Property, False Pretenses

Lossiah, Kashayla Brooke – age 36
Arrested: Nov. 26
Released: Nov. 26
Charges: Drug Paraphernalia and Possessing

Collins, Rickey – age 24
Arrested: Nov. 27
Released: Nov. 28
Charges: Hold Until Sober

George, Adrian Shane – age 35
Arrested: Nov. 27
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 1)

Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Resisting Public Officer, Disorderly Conduct

Hinson, Stephanie – age 53

Arrested: Nov. 27

Released: Nov. 27

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Messerly, Landen – age 24

Arrested: Nov. 27

Released: Nov. 27

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Voss, Kyle August Paul – age 39

Arrested: Nov. 27

Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 1)

Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance

Davis III, William Tosh – age 50

Arrested: Nov. 28

Released: Nov. 28

Charges: Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (two counts)

Walkingstick, Lakisha Nicole – age 31

Arrested: Nov. 28

Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 1)

Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Jessup, Brandi Aliece – age 25

Arrested: Nov. 29

Released: Nov. 29

Charges: Driving While Impaired

Hebenstreit, Donovan – age 18

Arrested: Nov. 30

Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 1)

Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (two counts)

PUBLIC NOTICE AND TESTIMONY

Confirmation Hearing pursuant to Cherokee Code Chapter 117 Article III-A

Confirmation hearing for Brett Smith to the Kituwah, LLC Board

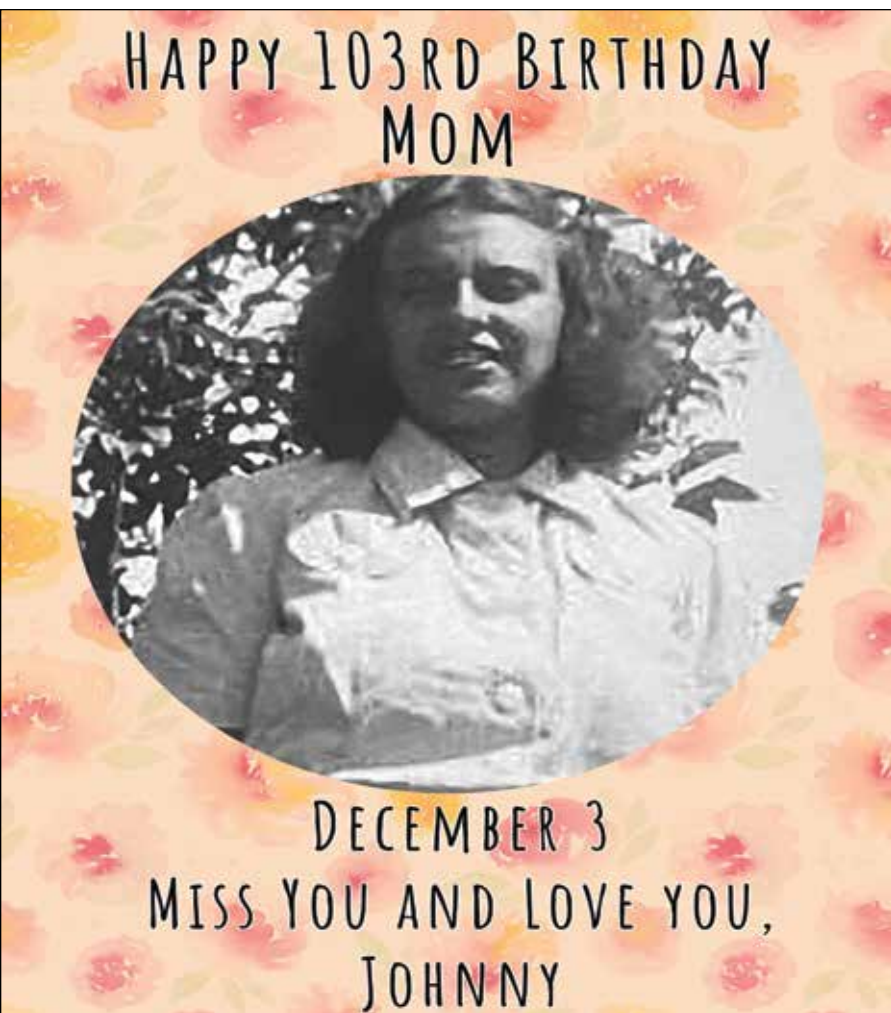
Thursday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m.
Tribal Council Chambers; Cherokee, N.C.



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

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

**The final date for public comment will be
Thursday, Dec. 11.**



TSALI CARE CENTER

Holiday Visitor DO'S

- SIGN IN WHEN YOU ARRIVE AND SIGN OUT WHEN YOU LEAVE
- CHECK WITH NURSING STAFF IF YOU PLAN TO TAKE A RESIDENT OUT, ESPECIALLY IF IT WILL BE MORE THAN A FEW HOURS OR OVERNIGHT
- MAKE SURE MEDICATIONS ARE COORDINATED WITH NURSING OR PHARMACY BEFORE LEAVING THE FACILITY
- ASK NURSING STAFF IF PERSONAL CARE ITEMS ARE NEEDED FOR OUTINGS
- DROP OFF PERSONAL CLOTHING AT THE FRONT DESK OR WITH STAFF SO IT CAN BE LABELED AND LAUNDERED
- CLEARLY LABEL PERSONAL ELECTRONICS BROUGHT IN FOR RESIDENTS
- HAVE MAINTENANCE AND NURSING APPROVE PERSONAL FURNITURE LIKE RECLINERS & HOLIDAY DECORATIONS TO ENSURE SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS
- BRING CHILDREN ALONG, AS LONG AS THEY ARE SUPERVISED
- BRING PETS WITH PROPER VACCINATIONS, KEPT ON A LEASH, AND CLEANED UP AFTER

Holiday Visitor DONT'S

- DON'T USE TOBACCO OR VAPING PRODUCTS ON PROPERTY
- DON'T BRING ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES
- DON'T LEAVE OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS SUCH AS COUGH DROPS, CREAMS, OR EYE DROPS IN A RESIDENT'S ROOM WITHOUT CHECKING WITH THE NURSE
- DON'T SHARE FOOD OR DRINKS WITH OTHER RESIDENTS, AS THIS CAN CAUSE ALLERGIES, CHOKING, BLOOD SUGAR ISSUES, OR FLUID CONCERNS
- DON'T BRING HEATERS, ELECTRIC BLANKETS, PLUG-IN AIR FRESHENERS, OR FLAME-LIT CANDLES DUE TO FIRE AND BURN RISKS
- DON'T SKIP THE CHECK-IN PROCESS WHEN TAKING A RESIDENT OUT OF THE BUILDING

As the holidays approach, we want all of our residents to have a wonderful experience. As a reminder, here are some 'dos' and 'don'ts' to being a good visitor at Tsali Care Center this holiday season.

RUNNING

Swimmer commits to D1 program for cross country, track and field

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Dvdaya Swimmer, a member of the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) cross country and track and field teams, is about to take her running career to the Aloha State. She signed a letter of intent, during a ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at the Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C., to run cross country and track and field at the University of Hawai'i which competes in the NCAA Division I Big West Conference.

Swimmer, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Aniwodihhi (Painttown), said of her reaction upon knowing she would be signing, "When I got the phone call, I was so happy, excited, and overall just grateful for the opportunity. After visiting Hawai'i in mid-August, I knew then that I could see myself out there. I remember joking around with my teammates about attending the university to run, but deep down, I truly felt I could make that happen."

She enjoyed her visit to Hawai'i and one aspect really stuck out. "If I could pinpoint one thing that drew me to Hawai'i, I would say it was the rich culture they have. I definitely saw parallels with theirs and ours and I was interest-



Dvdaya Swimmer, seated second from right, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a senior at Cherokee High School, signs a letter of intent, during a ceremony at the Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 2, to run cross country and track and field at the University of Hawai'i. She is shown with her family, left to right, seated – Uweluga Swimmer, brother; Carrah Swimmer, mother; Dvdaya; Micah Swimmer, father; standing – Ogana Swimmer, brother; and Tsu-la Howlingcrane, brother. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

ed in learning more about it."

On her education plans at the university, she commented, "I plan on doing Indigenous Studies in hopes of learning more about their culture as well as other cultures, and how it can apply to our culture. My doda (father) has inspired me to go down that career path and seeing how knowledgeable he is I am motivated to get a master just like him. After I obtain my education, my future career goals would be to work alongside my doda and focus on our language and culture."

Swimmer finishes her high school career as the most decorated runner in CHS school

history. She started with a state cross country title in her freshman year (2022) which was the first in school history. Swimmer also won many honors as a part of the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi volleyball team and basketball team including winning two state titles (2023-24, 2024-25) with the latter.

Following are her main cross country statistics during high school:

- Smoky Mountain Conference Championship (All-Conference 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025)
- 2022, champion
- 2023, champion
- 2024, third place

- 2025, second place

- Regional Championship Meet (1A All-Regional 2022, 2023, 2024; 2A All-Regional 2025)
- 2022, 1A West champion
- 2023, 1A West champion
- 2024, 1A West fifth place
- 2025, 2A West fourth place
- State Championship Meet (1A All-State 2022, 2023, 2024; 2A All-State 2025)
- 2022, 1A champion
- 2023, 1A second place
- 2024, 1A fifth place
- 2025, 2A fourth place

She also competed in track and field in the 800M and 1600M in the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Following are her statistics:

- Smoky Mountain Conference Championship (All-Conference 2023, 2024 in 800M and 1600M)
- 2023, 800M second place, 1600M second place
- 2024, 800M champion, 1600M second place
- 1A West Regional Championship Meet (1A West All-Regional 2023, 2024 in 800M and 1600M)
- 2023, 800M champion, 1600M second place
- 2024, 800M second place, 1600M second place
- State Championship Meet (All-State 2023 in 800M and 1600M and 2024 in 800M)
- 2023, 800M champion, 1600M second place
- 2024, 800M second place

When looking back at her career, Swimmer noted, “Cross country was always something that was consistent for me. When I would be having a not so good day, and or thinking I was doing bad in my other sport. I would just go on a run to clear my head. I always felt better after, and I have never regretted a run that I didn’t plan on doing.”

She began running cross country as a way to stay in shape for basketball. “Then, I realized I was actually pretty decent at it.”

Swimmer notes that winning the 1A state title as a freshman was the highlight of her cross country career. “Coming in as a freshmen, winning an individual state title, making history for CHS and doing it all while having the best support system is something I will forever be thankful for. I was given the opportunity to run and it became one of my biggest blessings.”

Ahli-sha Stephens, CHS head cross country and track coach, knew from the first time she saw her that there was something special. “When Daya started running in 6th grade I knew she was

a natural. It has been an honor watching her grow in the sport of running and competing. I knew in her early years she had it in her to make it to the next level in multiple sports.”

She added, “I’m extremely humble to be a small part of her journey, we spent many hours on the trail, track and parking lots together over the past 6 years. Watching her put in the work and accomplishing all she deserved. Her work ethic and mindset sets her apart.”

Coach Stephens said she is extremely excited for Swimmer and the new opportunities that will arise. “Running is more about mentality, and a strong mindset will set anyone up for success. Daya demonstrates all those qualities. My piece of advice I remind her of often. If you are the smartest, most athletic, fastest person in the room - leave. Go to another room where you are not and are surrounded by people who are smarter, work harder and faster; go there because that is the room where you will be influenced and you will grow. Dvdaya is ready for the next stage, and I wish her the best. Cherokee representation matters, and Cherokee will be represented well in Hawai’i!”

When asked what are some of her favorite things about the sport of cross country, Swimmer noted, “There are many things I love about cross country, but a few of my favorite things are the rewarding feeling of winning, getting a pr, and finishing a hard workout. Another thing I loved was long runs with my teammates this past year. Throughout my high school career I never really had a team, but this past year we had a solid squad, and we would go on long runs, listen to music and chat if we were going slow enough. At the end of

the day, I am most thankful for my parents always being there when I finished every race. Out of all the things I mentioned, that feeling of knowing you’ve done your best and gave it your all then seeing the proud faces of my parents is most definitely my favorite thing about cross country.”

Carrah Swimmer, Dvdaya’s mother, praised her daughter’s tenacity. “Her work ethic has always been elite and, honestly, came pretty easy to her when she was small. A lot of her friends played on her teams so time and social events didn’t affect her. As she got older, she noticed a lot of her friends slipping away, a really tough time for her. Then, COVID hit and the ability to go to practice hit hard. That’s when she started to work on her own.

Every day she would shoot ball, dribble, pass volleyball, or run. There was never a day that she would just do absolutely nothing. The shutdown took a huge toll on her mental health, she had to be doing something productive, being an athlete helped. As she entered high school her drive completely changed. As she entered high school her drive and work ethic just took off. She noticed that some people were against who she was as an athlete and began to pay attention to how people talked about her. That was also a tough time, but that ultimately was the driving factor.”

Carrah added, “She absolutely loved proving anyone wrong, me included. Her size never stopped her, and she knew she would have to work three times harder because of her size. I have always boasted, but she is humble. She knows in a split of a second it could all be taken away. She has such a huge understanding of who she is and what her role is in this

life. She knows God has given her these blessings and he can take it away. She gives her absolute best in everything she does.”

Dvdaya wishes to thank some people who helped her along her way. “I want to take this opportunity to thank my parents for everything they have done for me, for every sacrifice, every late night, every early morning, every quiet act of love that I didn’t always notice but have always felt. You’ve supported me in everything I do in life, stood by me when things were hard, and celebrated every win, big or small. Your guidance, patience, and belief in me have shaped who I am today, and I am endlessly grateful for the values you’ve taught me and the strength you’ve helped me build. I wouldn’t be where I am without you, and no matter how far I go, I carry your love with me in everything I do. Thank you for being my foundation, my motivation, and my biggest supporters, and for never being as hard on me as people assumed you were, for always understanding me in ways others didn’t see, and supporting every decision I always chose to make. You let me grow at my own pace, trusted me, and guided me without ever making me feel pressured or unheard. I’m truly grateful for the way you raised me and for the compassion you showed when no one else knew the full story. Gv Ge Yu.”

GWY ᏊᏃᏍ ᏊᏃᏍᏍᏍᏍ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

**Deadline:
Fridays at
12 p.m.**

Qualla Nonprofit Alliance working for the people, collaboratively

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The U.S. Chamber of Commerce explains the concept of nonprofits as, “A nonprofit organization has a legally approved purpose or social cause beyond profit generation. Its income is not dispersed to any shareholders but is instead invested back into the organization.”

A group of nonprofit organizations serving the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) community has joined together

recently to form the Qualla Nonprofit Alliance. Participants in the Alliance include: Cherokee Historical Association, Sequoyah Fund, Center for Native Health, Museum of the Cherokee People, Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual Inc. Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute, Uwena, Becky’s Place, the Cherokee Speakers Council, and Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness.

Laura Blythe, an EBCI tribal member and Cherokee Historical Association (CHA) program manager/executive management team,

said of the Alliance, “We’re coming together, sharing resources, we’re actually going to try to develop some type of an event that we can host funders for different projects in the area that we might have going on.

Whenever we can utilize each other’s resources or programming to help capacity and development within our organizations, we do that.”

Trey Adcock, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and executive director of the Center for Native Health, said the Alliance has been

meeting once a quarter and is starting to have conversations with each other on building sustainable futures for their organization.

“What I’ve seen is that we’re sharing resources - we’ve had guest speakers come, we’ve created a resource list...so, we’re having conversations about how we can mutually support each other and build off of each other’s capacities...it’s a lot of community-building that we’re doing.”

Hope Huskey, an EBCI tribal member and chief operating officer of the Sequoyah Fund, said it

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CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

THE CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE VACANT BOARD POSITION RESERVED FOR SOMEONE WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

The Governing Board of the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority is comprised of 11 members who are responsible for the direction and oversight of the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority and other health programs that may be assigned to CIHA by Tribal resolution. With the exception of those serving in their positions as Chief Executive Officer, Clinical Director, and Secretary, PHHS, each board member serves a four-year term.

Position Requirements:

- Individuals must have a Bachelor's degree
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Preferred Qualifications:

- Demonstrated commitment to health services for the EBCI
- Enrolled member of the EBCI
- Current or past experience as a CIHA Patient Family Advisory Committee member

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 19, 2025

To apply, submit a letter of interest to the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority:

Mail: Maggie Jackson 1 Hospital Rd. Cherokee, NC 28719	In Person: Maggie Jackson Cherokee Indian Hospital Administrative Offices	Email: Maggie.Jackson@Cherokeehospital.org
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is important for people to understand where the funding comes from for nonprofit organizations serving the EBCI community. “A lot of community members may think that we’re tribal entities, or that we’re completely funded by the tribe and no one who’s meeting with us is. We’re all grant writing and fundraising and trying to keep our organizations alive. So, we wanted to get that out to the community, but then also build our capacity as organizations so that we can learn from each other on where are the funding dollars, how can we collaborate with those funding dollars, and just get more money into Cherokee as a whole.”

She added, “I think the goal is to look at diversity of funding so if your organization is dependent on just federal funds, how can we change that route to where you have a more diverse funding source where you’ve got foundations, like Trey mentioned, or tribal funding, state funding. Then, also private donations. There’s a lot of money in this region, so how can we tap into some of those funds as well so that when things happen like this government situation, we don’t look at losing all these nonprofits that are so essential for the Cherokee community.”

Collaboration is the main point of the Alliance and is key to all discussions.

Blythe noted, “Here, in the Cultural District, we have to collaborate with our cultural partners constantly. One, so we don’t overlap the educational pieces that we’re providing the guests. But, also, for CHA, our goal is to start diversifying the edutainment that we can provide in fun, unique ways that our guests can utilize and want to come see us again. But also, how can we blend with the community? So, keeping all

those things in mind, collaborating with partners, funders, sponsors, developing the foundation, collaboration is key.”

Adcock called collaboration vital to local nonprofit organizations. “We can’t survive if we don’t have good partners. We have a relationship-based framework for how we try to conduct ourselves, so, I think for us it’s just about entering into reciprocal relationships that can be mutually-beneficial and supportive. We just can’t survive without it. We have to be able to build coalition and community.”

Huskey commented, “Sequoyah Fund likes to represent the business community as a whole, and the business community is also dependent on a lot of these non-profits, whether it’s the economic drivers that are the cultural partners, or it’s the community development support that some of these other non-profits give on financial literacy and health and wellness. We recognize that it’s really important and it’s making our community a stronger place to be.”

She went on to say, “We’re such a small community that we’re all intermingled and mixed in the ways that we support each other and the organizations anyway. Understanding our organizations’ capacities, none of us have the ability to do all of this. So, being able to utilize the expertise of these other organizations helps. Instead of looking at it as a way to compete, it’s how do you integrate them into what you’re doing to make your project or your program stronger.”

Blythe has high hopes for the Alliance and what everyone will be able to accomplish by working together. “I think it’s tough for our area. The far western North Carolina area is always kind of an afterthought for everybody.

We’re small, rural communities. Cherokee gets glamorized by outsiders a little bit. They have this awe-inspired feel towards Cherokee culture and people, but that doesn’t necessarily make them say, ‘I want to support what you do’. So, I feel like with this Alliance, we can start getting the eyes to our area on the groups that we have and what we’re trying to do for the community, not just in Cherokee but Swain County, Jackson County, local community areas.”

She added, “The community in the surrounding areas might know what non-profit is, but funders automatically think that we’re tribally-funded. We get less than 10 percent of our annual budget funded by the Tribe and that’s just something that was written in a couple decades ago.”

Adcock shared his vision for the Alliance and its partners, “In five years, my dream would be that people are leveraging nonprofit partnerships on the Boundary to serve the community in a more robust capacity.”

Huskey said, “I think there’s an opportunity to make our organizations stronger building this network and potentially being able to access more resources for organizational development...I think we’ll be stronger non-profits at the end of five years with, hopefully, more money, but also the ability to go after more money.

One of our strong points that we’re really going to try to promote is, ‘hey whenever you’re giving to one of us, you’re sort of helping the community as a whole...it’s making your dollars spread a little more impactfully as a donor if you have this ability to give to multiple organizations, or know that these organizations are working together as a support system’. I think that can be mean-

ingful to a potential donor.”

If you work with a nonprofit organization and would like to learn more about the Qualla Non-profit Alliance, contact one of the following:

- Laura Blythe at laura@cherokeeadventure.com
- Trey Adcock at trey_adcock@centerfornativehealth.org
- Hope Huskey at hopehuskey@sequoyahfund.org



1. What New Orleans Saints receiver crashed helmet-first into a sideline TV camera during a 1971 win over the Dallas Cowboys?
2. What three events make up horse racing’s Canadian Triple Crown?
3. What women’s pro tennis tournament was first played in 2021 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania?
4. At the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games, what country’s basketball team forfeited their gold medals after it was revealed that most of their players had no mental or physical handicap?
5. What Major League Baseball team owner claimed to have engaged in a fistfight with two fans in a hotel elevator during the 1981 World Series?
6. According to NBA rules, what is the maximum pressure (in pounds per square inch) of an official basketball?
7. What starting pitcher for the Kansas City Royals won two AL Cy Young Awards (1985, 1989) and was named MVP of the 1985 World Series?

Answers

1. Danny Abramowicz (his cracked helmet is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame).
2. The King’s Plate, Prince of Wales Stakes and Breeders’ Stakes.
3. The Transylvania Open.
4. Spain.
5. New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner.
6. 8.5 PSI (the minimum is 7.5 PSI).
7. Bret Saberhagen.

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EBCI Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, and Eastern Cherokee BIA host Eco-Cultural Wildland Fire training

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Natural Resources Department supported by the Eastern Cherokee Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Nature Conservancy held a National Wildlife Coordinating Group FFT2 wildland fire training recently with an eco-cultural focus to build tribal workforce development and produce community fire practitioners and wildland firefighters.

31 participants, including 29 EBCI members, completed the week-long training. The week kicked off with a Community Fire Day at Kituwah, where cultural specialists shared the history and significance of fire in Cherokee culture. “The Community Fire Day was about rekindling those relationships with knowledge and understanding our life ways with fire and landscape; Re-indigenizing the way fire is administered, and just learning how that kind of collective of people coming together can be utilized and incorporated into some of the past frameworks of training and fire ecology,” said Tommy Cabe, EBCI forest resource specialist.

The Community Fire Day, and the rest of the training week, included collaborations and presentations from the EBCI Earth Keepers, the Kituwah Preservation Education Program, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office,



Beau Carroll, lead tribal archeologist for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, gives a presentation at the Community Fire Training event that was held at the Peaches Squirrell Sports & Recreation Complex in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Oct. 27. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

Atsila Anotasgi Cultural Specialists, Mother Town Program, Levi West, Tara McCoy, Atsei Cooper, EBCI Fire and Rescue, the Nature Conservancy, the Center for Native Health, the Cultural Fire Management Council, the Eastern Cherokee BIA Fuels Crew, and the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network.

Evan-Marie Petit, fire prevention specialist for the BIA Eastern Cherokee agency, said “This created a powerful blend of cultural revitalization and fire management skills. This sets a precedent for

East Coast tribes. To my knowledge, this is the first Tribal led training with a cultural emphasis on the East Coast and that is a big accomplishment.”

Josh Parris, EBCI forestry manager, said he hopes for more trainings in the future. “From a workforce development perspective, it’s an excellent opportunity. I really appreciate the fact that this is kind of coalescing, and that the state of BIA Fire here at the Cherokee Agency now is really conducive to us working together and having a common goal, which

is to get work done and to bring more people in.”

Logan Blankenship, Tsalagi Fuels Module, is excited about a growing workforce, “Me and Gabe [McMillan], were brought in as AD firefighters. I’ve been a big voice in getting our AD program back, so that’s cool to see. I grew up around this, so I knew this was a career option for me, but not a lot of other kids know about it. It’s about giving them new opportunities and empowering our youth.”

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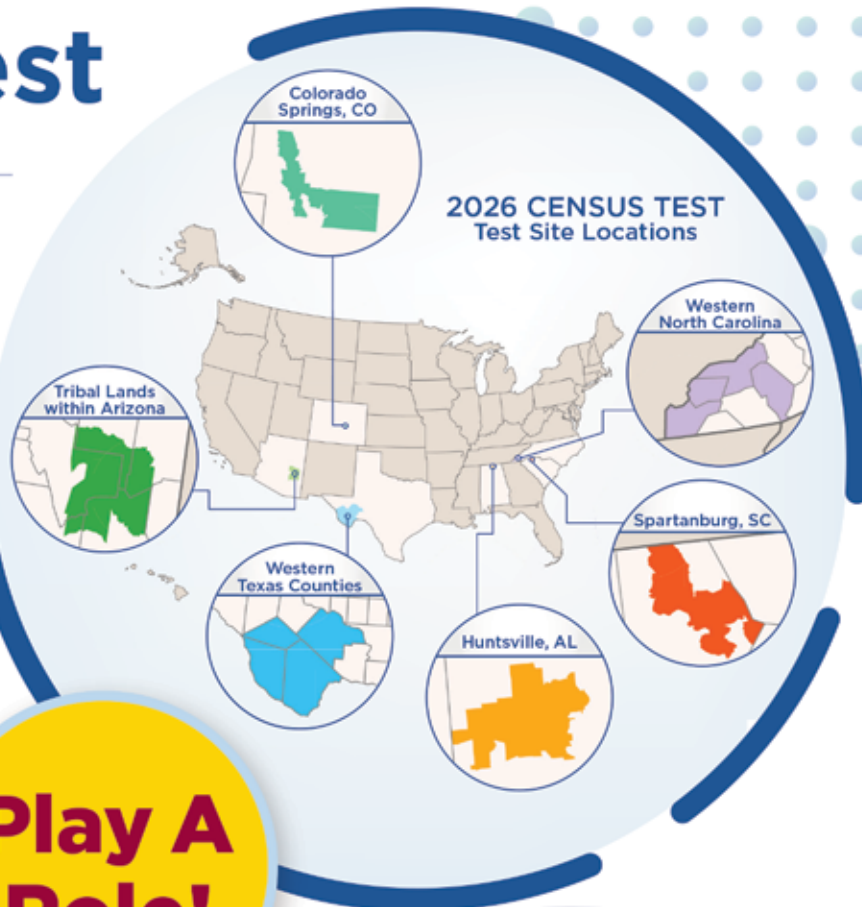
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EBCI Community Clubs win at WNC Communities

Submitted by WNC Communities

CHEROKEE, N.C. —The WNC Honors Awards, a signature program of WNC Communities, continued its 76-year tradition of recognizing rural community development clubs for their innovative ideas, volunteer-powered leadership, and grassroots service. The celebration was held on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort Convention Center with over 300 guests, marking one of the largest gatherings in the program's recent history.

Nine EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) clubs were recognized, including Big Cove Community Club (Swain), Big Y Community Club (Jackson), Birdtown

Community Club (Swain), Cherokee County Indian Community Club (Cherokee), Painttown Community Club (Jackson), Snowbird Community Club (Graham), Towstring Community Club (Swain), Wolftown Community Club (Jackson), and Yellowhill Community Club (Swain). Each EBCI club won \$1,000, and Towstring won Best in Class at the Trillium Level and won an additional \$500.

This year, 81 communities from 16 western North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians were honored, receiving a total of \$121,000 in cash awards for their work to strengthen local quality of life. The 2025 theme, “Appalachian Hands, Appalachian Hearts: United in



Members of the Big Y Community Club receive recognition of Mountain Laurel level during the annual WNC Communities Awards held on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort Convention Center. Shown, left to right, are Ann Coggins, Brianna Lambert, Bunsey Crowe, and Trudy Crowe. (Photo courtesy of Sarah LeeAnn Photography)

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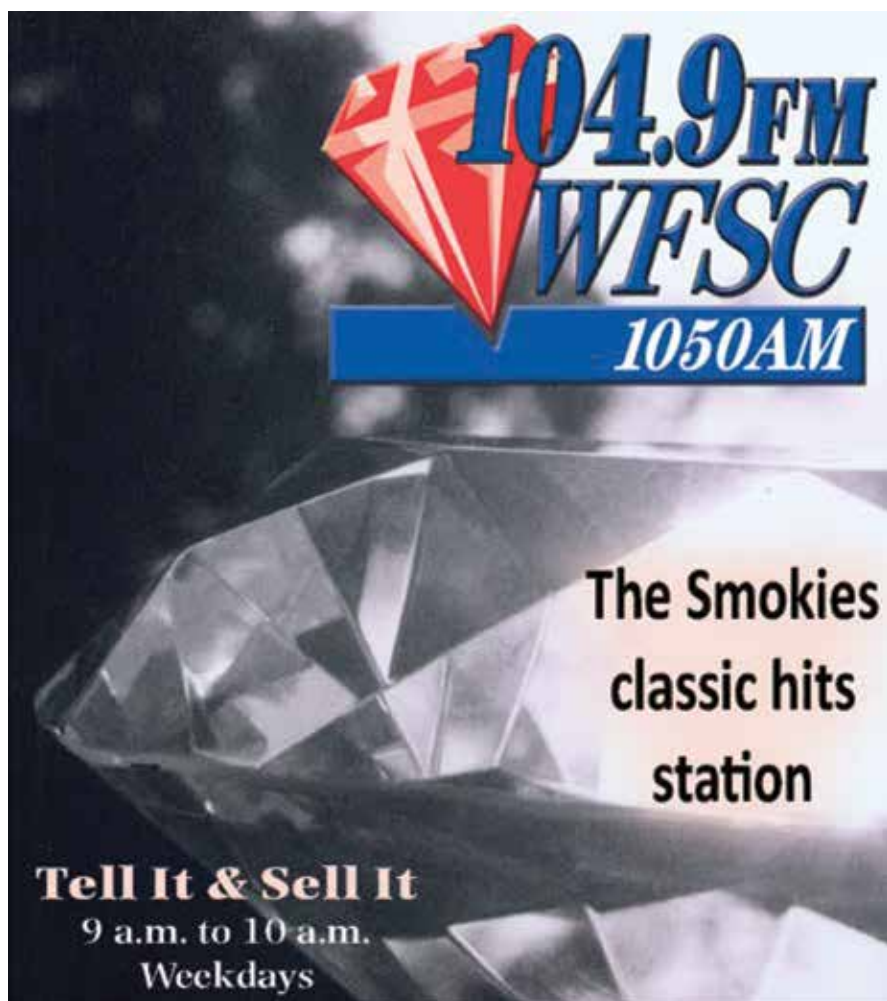
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Service to WNC,” reflects both the remarkable commitment demonstrated by communities in the wake of Tropical Storm Helene and the renewed regional focus on volunteerism heading into 2026.

Throughout the year, the WNC Honors Program supports its member communities through shared learning, regional trainings, and peer-to-peer exchange. That collaboration continued at this year’s Awards, where attendees connected around successful projects including emergency response hubs, intergenerational programs, broadband access efforts, and health and wellness initiatives.

Together, the 81 participating communities represent approximately 100,000 households across Western North Carolina. Over the past year, they engaged more than 7,707 volunteers, who contributed

317,157 service hours to projects focused on benevolence, food access, education, youth programs, beautification, health and wellness, and economic development. The combined value of that volunteer time — along with funds raised through grants and community-based fundraising — totals more than \$16.6 million invested back into Western North Carolina.

This year, all participating communities received \$1,000 to support their efforts. Additionally, communities were assessed across six different competencies and awarded a level of Trillium, Mountain Laurel, Redbud, or White Oak according to their demonstrated capacity to lead and serve. These competencies include Good Governance, Leadership Excellence, Financial Stewardship, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention,

Community Programs and Civic Engagement, and Collaboration. Several communities advanced to the next level, and Best in Class Awards were presented to the top performers in each tier. Seven Trillium communities received an additional \$750 each. Thirteen Mountain Laurel communities earned an extra \$1,250. Three Redbud communities were awarded \$2,500 each, and two White Oak communities received \$3,500 apiece for Best in Class. Two Jackson County communities received Best in Class awards: Caney Fork Community Development Council (Mountain Laurel) and Qualla Community Club (Trillium). Townstring Community Club of Swain County also received a Trillium Best in Class award.

WNC Communities also awarded the Calico Cat Awards,

President’s Awards, and the Impact Award. Cedar Mountain Community Center in Transylvania County received the Calico Cat Jr. award and Fines Creek Community Association of Haywood County received the Calico Cat Sr. award for their significant efforts toward the improvement and upkeep of their facilities over the past year.

The President’s Awards honored communities for longstanding participation:

- 25 years: Cathey’s Creek Community Center; Ellenboro Woman’s Club; Texana Community Development Club
- 50 years: Unaka Community Development Club; Upper Laurel Community Organization Inc.
- 75 years: Cane Creek Community Council, Inc.

Lastly, the Fines Creek Community Association Center in Haywood County received the Impact Award, which honors a community for its outstanding effort to positively improve the wellbeing of both its residents and the surrounding region. Fines Creek was a major post-Tropical Storm Helene hub and relief center providing critical supplies to 17 Western North Carolina counties and into neighboring regions of Tennessee and Virginia.

Generous sponsorships from Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort, Harrah’s Valley River Casino & Hotel, Duke Energy, Wells Fargo, Biltmore Farms, Inc., First Citizens Bank, The McClure Fund, Buncombe County Farm Bureau, New Belgium Brewing, Henderson County Farm Bureau, and Dogwood Health Trust brought in \$121,000 to award to the 81 community centers and clubs participating in the 2025 WNC Honors Awards.

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General Benjamin Grant

General Benjamin Grant, born Sept. 5, 1945, in White County, Tenn., to the late Rebecca Catolster Grant (Cherokee) and Ernest “Lone Wolf” Grant (Lakota Sioux),

passed away on Dec. 3, 2025. He is mourned and survived by his second wife of 20 years, Ute Grant; his two sons, Ernest and Antonio; siblings, Amy (Ernestine) Walker, Tony Tahquette, Harley Grant (Brenda), and Patricia Grant-Edgemon (Andy); 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was a dad to many adopted daughters and saw every child he ever met as his grandchild. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Danielle Poncho.

General was an innovator and a builder at heart and carried the personality of a natural leader. After many years in construction and a sustained injury, he used his artistic abilities to provide for his family. He traveled the Powwow trail extensively and was a renowned Champion dancer, famous for his personal and inspiring dance style. His fearless mind, multiple talents, and spiritual certainty made him successful in

all aspects of his life, despite his severe dyslexia and tragic experiences, including the loss of his first wife of 35 years, Virginia.

As an independent, award-winning artist for nearly 50 years, General created carvings, sculptures, furniture, and crafts, and eventually became the first Cherokee Master Silversmith. Through his extensive travels to Native American art shows and powwows, he promoted Cherokee, North Carolina, as a destination for art collectors and focused on the preservation and reintroduction of Wampum as part of the original Cherokee culture before European influence. His love and pride for Native artwork made him a mentor to many artists. He always supported and encouraged others to become successful and independent.

In the same manner, he was seen as a spiritual leader within a wide and international circle of

people who practice traditional Lakota ceremonies and teachings. General’s commitment to the Canupa (the pipe) allowed him to turn his life around and become a highly respected individual. The core understanding of Mitakuye Oyasin - “all my relatives, we are all related” - combined with General’s funny, kind, generous, and approachable nature made it possible for people of all cultural and spiritual backgrounds to relate to the universal wisdom he shared with everyone fortunate enough to meet him. He left a legacy and lives on in many hearts and minds.

A wake and viewing was held on Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Traditional Hands Working Studio, 22 Grant Drive, Cherokee, N.C. Remembrance and recognition of his life was held Friday at the same location, followed by burial at the Catolster Johnson Family Cemetery on Joe Johnson Road.



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Weekly Fishing Report

DEC. 8 - DEC. 14, 2025

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Tuckasegee River	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Yellow Sallies, Sulphurs, Tan Caddis, October Caddis, Prince Nymph, Golden Stoneflies, & terrestrials such as ants, beetles, and inchworms
Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	Yellow Sallies, Sulphurs, Tan Caddis, October Caddis, Prince Nymph, Golden Stoneflies, & terrestrials such as ants, beetles, and inchworms
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Yellow Sallies, Sulphurs, Tan Caddis, October Caddis, Prince Nymph, Golden Stoneflies, & terrestrials such as ants, beetles, and inchworms

BEST FISHING TIMES BASED ON THE LUNAR CYCLE

MONDAY, DEC. 8 AVERAGE 2:17 AM-4:17 AM 2:44 PM-4:44 PM	TUESDAY, DEC. 9 AVERAGE 3:10 AM-5:10 AM 3:34 PM-5:34 PM	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10 AVERAGE+ 3:57 AM-5:57 AM 4:20 PM-6:20 PM	THURSDAY, DEC. 11 AVERAGE 4:41 AM-6:41 AM 5:02 PM-7:02 PM	FRIDAY, DEC. 12 AVERAGE 5:23 AM-7:23 AM 5:43 PM-7:43 PM	SATURDAY, DEC. 13 AVERAGE 6:03 AM-8:03 AM 6:23 PM-8:23 PM	SUNDAY, DEC. 14 AVERAGE+ 6:44 AM-8:44 AM 7:04 PM-9:04 PM
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EBCI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherokee Preservation Foundation Approves a \$20,000 Award for Planning Grant

SYLVA, N.C. - The Cherokee Preservation Foundation (CPF) has approved a \$20,000 planning grant to the Southwestern Commission Regional Council of Governments (SWC) led by the Mountain West Partnership (MWP), a division of the SWC. The project will advance sustainable economic development through culturally aligned collaboration with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).

This planning grant will identify economic development goals and opportunities that honor and uphold EBCI values and priorities. With a total project cost of \$40,000, funded equally by CPF

and SWC, the initiative will seek to build on trusted, long-term partnerships among EBCI, SWC, MWP, and regional stakeholders, serving as a foundation for future shared projects.

The Mountain West Partnership supports economic development across the seven westernmost North Carolina counties and the Qualla Boundary through business recruitment, retention, and expansion support, site and infrastructure readiness, and regional partnership efforts — including collaboration with workforce and education partners to help meet employer needs. Key project leads include Josh Carpenter, MWP Director, and Eli Hashemi, MWP Economic Developer, ensuring alignment with EBCI priorities and goals.

“The work that the MWP does

to support businesses is made better through partnerships, and I am very excited about our partnership with the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. We are kindred organizations that are moving our region’s economy forward,” said Josh Carpenter, director of Mountain West Partnership

The study is designed to build relationships rooted in cultural alignment and shared purpose, with meaningful engagement from EBCI leadership, regional partners, community members, and local businesses throughout the process

By project completion, SWC and MWP will deliver a framework outlining shared priorities, partnership opportunities, and strategies for economic and community development, reflecting the strengths and diversity of western North Carolina.

This planning grant marks a significant step in advancing SWC and MWP’s mission to foster collaboration and support regional prosperity.

The CPF remains dedicated to preserving Native culture, protect-

ing the natural environment, and supporting diverse economic opportunities. This grant aligns with CPF’s economic and workforce development alongside Cultural and Environmental Preservation.

- Southwestern Commission
Regional Council of Governments
release

THANK YOU LETTERS

Thank you for care

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers. I thank my Lord for bringing me back home! There are so many people that were praying for me, and I sincerely appreciate all of you. A special thanks to my family. I want to thank Cherokee EMS for their quick response and taking action for MAMA to fly me to Mission in Asheville. Then on to the Trama Unit, ICU staff, Regular Room staff and finally a week at Care Partners. I sure do appreciate the treatment I received from these different units. Great to be home and I look forward to seeing you all. Thanks again and I love every one of you.

Wilbur Paul

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Send your photos and info to us at:
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GWY 𐏎 𐏎 𐏎
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COMMENTARY

Top men are on it

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

We are judged by our actions, or our lack of action. In the public arena, the old saying is “perception is reality”. Public transparency laws are implemented in communities to minimize public speculation, as it is generally understood that withholding information will foster gossip and conjecture.

I have a once-per-week breakfast meeting with a bunch of septuagenarians (that is the

fifty-cent word for people in their seventies). Each morning as we gather, the conversation is usually peppered with politics and ailments. One of the frequently discussed topics is primary care medicine and pharmaceuticals. Some are firm antivaccination believers. I believe the antivaccination philosophy grew from our nation’s fight against COVID-19. The taking of the vaccine became a political propaganda point. So, they will talk about this or that conspiracy, or how they don’t trust the medical establishment, or how the doctors are in league with the pharma companies to give non-sensical drugs and treatments to unsuspecting patients. More than one of the gentlemen at the table stated that it doesn’t pay or benefit the medical community to keep us

healthy. They basically said that it pays for them to keep us sick or, at least, believe that we are. But the facts contradict opinions. In 1950, global life expectancy was an average of 47 years. In 2000, life expectancy increased to 66.8 years. By 2000, global life expectancy reached 76.8 years. In 2023, the expectancy increased to 79.3. (census.gov and the World Health Organization)

Because of the battle that has occurred and is occurring politically in the U.S., facts are being mixed with fiction because of technology and gullibility. Sadly, media bias and participation in mixing fact, truth, conjecture, and opinion to produce a targeted outcome in the minds of those who depend on them to provide objective reporting to form their own opinions and make decisions. Yes, there are still media outlets that regulate personal opinion out of the reporting of news and documentation of history. However, it is still a regular practice, even in local reporting, for reporters to publicly presume intent from actions, conjecture meaning from silence, and extrapolate outcomes from limited data. Some so-called journalists are nothing more than gossip moderators, joining in with the voices of dissent in our communities. For every cause, good or bad, in our culture, there will always be those who promote the anti-cause.

We live in a world and a culture that thrives on fantasy. Notice the celebration of artificial intelligence. We, as a society, promote and endorse anything that will keep us from having to think for ourselves.

Artificial intelligence makes it even easier for those with an agenda to exploit the public. AI

has been touted as the best thing since sliced bread. And in some applications of it, it does look like it will benefit mankind by providing services more effectively and efficiently. But it does so, many times, at the cost of livelihoods and isolation for those who it replaces, and those who receive its services. AI encourages us not to do it for ourselves. Even worse, it encourages us not to think for ourselves. It is getting more and more difficult to spot articles written by AI and those written by a flesh-and-blood journalist. Unfortunately, the way AI works in writing is for a user to provide a set of “facts,” and then AI writes an article (or report, or a presentation), pulling from resources on the World Wide Web to create the story. AI does what it is told, so if the user’s “facts” contradict reality, AI will not correct the user. It will just keep searching until it finds a way to craft something that fits the user’s narrative. Just like any good gossip would do.

We, as a tribe, have been debating and searching for ways to communicate facts and truth to our people without sharing them with other people. The government has told us that “they” might get certain information about us and use it to damage us (financially). Roughly a year ago, we were told that the Tribal Portal would be the answer to providing community members with the financial information that we did want “them” to see. Since then, little to no financial information has appeared on the Portal. Sure, the GenWell/Per Capita payout was uploaded there (one set of numbers) every six months. We, at One Feather, were told not to distribute those numbers publicly. But as soon as the numbers hit the Portal,



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several tribal members published the numbers to their social media pages.

And the only other major piece of financial information shared was the tribe's annual report. A great report and well-produced, but again, keeping that information quasi-private has not worked. At some point, the report was submitted to a public relations organization, which awarded the report a Bronze InSpire Award for Best in Show by the North Carolina Public Relations Society of America. Don't get me wrong, the report and those who produced it (who were, according to the post, Rooster Media/French West Vaughan and the Executive Team), in my opinion, did an outstanding job and are well-deserving of the award. I am just saying that the understanding was this was a "for community eyes only" document that was provided via a secure portal and very limited print distribution, yet was given to an outside state-based chapter of an agency (which identifies itself as "the leading professional organization serving the communications community") for review and evaluation.

I always like to throw a little pop culture in, just for context's sake. Remember the 1981 movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (Paramount Pictures/Lucasfilm)? In one of the final scenes, Indiana Jones is sitting at a table with his museum director (Brody) and two government officials (Musgrove and Eaton). Jones has turned over the Ark to the government for a finder's fee and a promise to return the Ark to the museum. The exchange goes like this: Musgrove: You've done your country a great service. Eaton: And we trust you found the settlement satisfactory? Brody: Quite.

Eaton: Good, good. Then I guess that about does it. Brody: When can we have the Ark? (Eaton's glance flicks over to the mysterious bureaucrat, then back to Brody) Eaton: I thought we answered that. It's someplace very safe. Jones: That's a powerful force. Research should be done. Eaton: Oh, it will be, Dr. Jones, I assure you. We have top men working on it right now. Jones: Who? Eaton: Top...men. (Jones exchanges a look with Brody) Jones: We may be able to help. Eaton: We appreciate that. And we won't hesitate to call on you. Musgrove: (dismissing them) Thank you. Thank you again. As they exit the museum, Jones meets with his love interest in the film (Marion). Marion: Well, they aren't going to tell you, so why don't you just forget it? I'd think you'd had enough of that Ark. Just put your mind on something else.

To say that this scene is typical of government interactions with the media would be an understatement. When we retooled the One Feather back in 2014, the government had a public relations person at the head of the chain of command for the paper. If you ever read the Cherokee Code (and if you are a tribal member, I hope that you do know the Code), you know that having political manipulation of the One Feather is against our tribal law. Yet, that had somehow been sidestepped or overlooked when the organizational chart was made back then. So, for at least a few years, the tribal media drifted toward being nothing more than a public relations mouthpiece for the government.

The way the Charter is written, the community has little say in how they are governed beyond the ability to vote. And even that is in

question. Referendum votes are at the will of the government, not the community. And even when the Charter lays out a specific right of the people, compliance is not a sure thing. Our government has continued to delay and put off a tribal census to satisfy the requirement of our primary and foundational governing document, the Charter, for decades.

I'll close with a little food for thought from former Ugviyuhi (Principal Chief) Robert S. Youngdeer.

"When I took office on October 3rd, 1983, and during December when the Christmas List was submitted to me, I objected to names of non-members receiving Christmas checks, which at the time was \$50.00. Jumping ahead to 1986, the tribal council passed a resolution resolving that the Christmas checks for the old and infirm be in the amount of \$100 per head. It was brought out at a council meeting after I left office that the council thought that I would veto the resolution, but to their surprise, I approved and signed the resolution. I knew in my heart that had I vetoed the \$100 Christmas Gift Resolution, the Council would have over-ridden my veto, making me the bad chief who did not care for the old and afflicted tribal members.

"The submitted \$100.00 per person Christmas list consisted of 1,124 names and at \$100 per head the Gifts totaled a staggering \$112,400.00. To my surprise, I found the same dozen or so names on the list that I had previously objected to.

"1,124 names of older and afflicted people, some of whom were not tribal members at a cost of \$112,400, was a far cry from the \$225.00 spent on forty-five members who received \$5.00 a piece

the Christmas season of 1912. "I am telling you this to try and give you a feel of things to come during my time as Principal Chief of the Eastern Cherokee. It is not to ask for your sympathy but to let you know the obstacles placed in the way of a new top political person. I shouldn't say, exploding onto the scene but I was not a member of the clique, you know the old pros, who liked to rule the roost by not allowing the tribal members to have a constitution, which would have contained three branches of government, neither branch more powerful than the other." "The Memoirs of Robert Youngdeer" by Robert S. Youngdeer, 2012, Museum of the Cherokee Indian Press, page 335.



The family of Bopper Johnson would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude during our time of sorrow. Thank you to the many people who gave food and flowers. Many thanks to all the singers and especially thank you for all your prayers.

Yona Wade serves, represents with style

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Yona Wade is a true servant to his people and one who is dedicated to making sure the world knows of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).

Wade, an EBCI tribal member from Aniwodihhi (Painttown), serves as emcee for many events in the community – his voice, delivery, and organizational style elevating each one. And, he dresses impeccably – always representing at the highest level.

Wade is highly educated and received a bachelor of music and a master in fine arts in voice and performance arts management from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He has also finished his doctorate of education recently from Peabody College – Vanderbilt University.

His singing voice is magical – truly. I’ve had the honor of hearing him sing on various occasions, and it is simply incredible.

Wade’s musical talent is summed up best in a quote by Beethoven who said, “Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.”

Wade is currently the head of training and development with the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority. He previously worked for years at Cherokee Central Schools as the director of the Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center and the director of community affairs.

In 2019, he received an Indigenous Excellence Award from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

Wade was one of the riders representing the EBCI on the 2013 Remember the Removal bicycle ride, which retraces the northern route of the Trail of Tears from New Echota, Ga. to Tahlequah, Okla. Prior to leaving on the journey, he noted, “I am grateful to be given this opportunity to not only represent my tribe, but my community and family. The Trail of Tears was a dark chapter in our history as Cherokees and Americans. This ride for me is a way to show respect to those who walked those many miles and praise those who were able to stay and who, in time, would make up the core of our Eastern Band.”

Representation always seems to be on the forefront of Wade’s work, and he always represents the EBCI in a wonderful way and in many varied spaces. He was part of the EBCI contingent that attended the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in New Zealand last month. That is one of many events – both internationally and nationally – that he has been a part of to make sure that the world knows of the EBCI and its culture and people.

While researching this column, I came across a photo from 2013 where Wade was a part of an EBCI contingent that helped facilitate a formal partnership between the Tribe and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. This was just one of numerous – no, seriously, numerous – instances of Wade in working these spaces and helping to provide representation.

He is service-minded in everything he does, and Wade has served on various EBCI



Yona Wade, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Aniwodihhi (Painttown), emcees the 7th Annual Kananegsi Fashion Show at the Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Event Center in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Nov. 8, 2025. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

committees and boards including the Board of Directors for the Cherokee Historical Association, the TERO Commission, the EBCI Pageant Board, the Right Path Adult Leadership Program Board, the Advisory Board of the Western Carolina University Cherokee Center, and more.

The soul and passion for which

Wade has for his people and culture is palpable in everything he does and everywhere he travels. I’ll finish with a quote by Lao Tzu, 6th century Chinese philosopher, who noted, “Music in the soul can be heard by the universe.”

That is true of everything Wade embodies.

Ask a Therapist

Therapists tips for staying sane during the holidays



By BROOKE BARRETT, LCMHC

As the holidays have approached, I received several questions regarding this topic and decided to combine them into some next steps.

The holidays are a beautiful time...Lights, food, community, and the sudden return of family dynamics we thought we healed from back in June. If you're already feeling nervous about certain relatives, the long drives, or the emotional landmines that only show up this time of year...you're not alone. Here's a down-to-earth guide to help you get through it with your peace (and humor) intact.

1. Start With a Quick Self-Check (Before You Walk Into the Chaos)

Ask yourself:

-How am I feeling? Overwhelmed? Fine? Hungry? Spiritually exhausted?

-What do I need right now? A deep breath? A minute in the car? A snack so you don't enter the house

already irritated?

****Why this helps:** Showing up calm is easier than calming down after you're already triggered. Plus, nobody makes good decisions when their blood sugar is low.

2. Set Personal Limits (Quietly, in Your Own Mind..Not like you're at Tribal Council)

You don't need to announce your boundaries like you're speaking at Tribal Council....just know them for yourself.

Think ahead:

-Topics I'm skipping: politics, "When are you having another baby?" and anything involving your childhood.

-People I'll limit time with: you know exactly who.

-Amount of emotional labor I'm willing to do: somewhere between 0 and "I'll nod politely, but that's all."

****Why this helps:** Going in with a plan saves you from being blindsided by a conversation you absolutely did not have the emotional bandwidth for.

3. Use Micro-Exits Like a Ninja

You don't need a dramatic "I CAN'T DO THIS" moment. Try micro-breaks instead:

-“I'm going to check on the rolls.”

-“Be right back—I need some air.”

-“Let me go play with the kids for a sec.”

-Classic: “Bathroom.” (No one questions the bathroom.)

****Why this helps:** These tiny escapes let you reset your nervous system before it hits full “flight mode.”

4. Be Honest About Expectations

Many of us hope family gatherings will magically be different this year..warmer, easier, more respectful. But if they've been the

same every year since 2004...they probably aren't changing today.

Ask yourself:

-What am I hoping for?

-Based on history...is that likely?

****Why this helps:** Reality saves heartbreak. And sometimes “pretty good” is actually great.

5. Keep a Few Neutral (but Powerful) Phrases Ready

When conversations drift into territory you're not touching this year, try:

“Let's switch topics.”

“I hear you, but I'm stepping out for a minute.”

“Interesting! Anyway...” (A personal favorite because it works.)

****Why this helps:** Scripts keep your brain from panicking when someone brings up something wildly unnecessary.

6. Notice the Old Family Role You Slide Into

Almost everyone becomes a past version of themselves around family:

The peacemaker—The fixer—The listener—The one who does all the work—The one people vent to—and my personal favorite... the one who holds the baby the entire time

Ask yourself:

What role do I fall back into? Do I actually want to do that this year?

****Why this helps:** You're allowed to show up as your present-day self, not the 13-year-old version your family remembers.

7. Plan a Simple Reset Afterward

Even good gatherings can leave you drained. Decide ahead of time what helps you unwind:

-A quiet evening at home

-A walk outside

-A hot shower

-Calling a friend who “gets it”

-Total silence, phone on airplane mode

****Why this helps:** You deserve time to come back to yourself. Holidays are supposed to be meaningful...not emotionally depleting.

Final Thought

The holidays aren't about performing, fixing, or managing everyone else's feelings. They're about connection, rest, culture, community, and showing up as your real self.

If you can stay grounded, use a little humor, set small boundaries, and take breaks when needed... you'll handle the season better than you think.

And remember: sometimes the most healing thing you can do is simply say, “I'll be right back,” step outside, breathe, and return when you're ready. This is the season to slow down. I will hold your hand metaphorically while I say this... If you read this article and think “I am not doing any of that”... You might be the one stressing out everyone else around you. In that case, start with step one at the top..Happy Holidays.

Have a mental health or relationship question? Submit anonymously to Ask a Therapist at ask-therapistbrooke@gmail.com. Your question might help others too.

****This column is for educational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional mental health advice, diagnosis, or treatment. If you are in crisis, please reach out to a licensed mental health provider or dial 911**

GWY ȩV° OYLC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

**Deadline:
Fridays at
12 p.m.**

I Miss Church

Part 3 of 3

By Lamont H. Fuchs, Ed.D.
(<https://preacherspurs.com>)

Scripture references: Leviticus 19:30, Romans 3:18, Proverbs 1:7, Heb 12:28, Matthew 22:36-38, 1 Peter 3:15, Isaiah 40:8, Romans 1:21, Revelation 19:5, Ecclesiastes 7:10, Revelation 4:11

Heb 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” NIV

If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring. It will forfeit the loyalty of millions and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. (King 1963)

I am not sure what you want to call this discussion. A call to repent or a call to revive. Maybe both are in order, but if this Spur calls you to action in your heart or church, my prayer is fulfilled by reading these words.

Revelation 19:5 “And a voice came forth from the throne, saying, Give praise to our God, all ye his servants, ye that fear him, the small and the great.”

I will leave you with two Charles Spurgeon quotes that came to me while writing this commentary. So I felt I had to include them.

“The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning

them.” (Capoccia 1986)

The second is, “Other men may teach socialism, deliver lectures, or collect a band of fiddlers that they may gather a congregation, but I will preach the Gospel.” (“The Mustard Seed: A Sermon for the Sabbath-School Teacher,” n.d.)

Lastly, I understand and have been pricked to know I need correction and wisdom. The following verse tells us not to look back at the better days of our lives. It is not wise. So, here we are – take it or leave it.

Ecclesiastes 7:10 “Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.”

I was inspired to write this commentary because of the signs of the times. I belong to a Wednesday morning ‘Breakfast Club’ of men who fellowship with prayer, sharing devotions over eggs and

bacon or biscuits and gravy. Most of the men in this group are over 60, and everyone has been either a preacher, deacon, Sunday school teacher, or minister of one type or another. We shared a conversation one day about the above topic, and one man said, “Our church is full of old folks, and they are all going to die very soon. The church will disappear with them. Somehow, we must attract some youth. That’s the way to grow a church.” We all knew what he meant, but is that what it takes to keep the church doors open? It appears this man and those in his congregation felt it was up to them to make an environment that would bring younger people to join their church. I am sure they have already tried everything except doing church as they were raised. This dilemma is impacting churches across this nation. The answer is in this commentary. People need, want, and

are looking for a Savior. Give them One to honor and respect.

Lord, God, and Father, today we ask You to forgive us for putting You second or third in our lives. We ask that You forgive us for not giving You all the honor and glory with awe and reverence in Your presence when we call upon Your name. Lord, revive us as the body of Christ to remember who we are and who You are. Powerful Creator of all things, Giver of all that is good, Master, Redeemer, Savior, and Lord above all. King of Kings, All Mighty, and First and Last. God, may we never forget. Amen.

Revelation 4:11 “Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created.”



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

LUKE 1: 39-42



Detail from “Two Women”
by Fernand Léger (1922)

Amber Waves



TIGER



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 BOLTHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

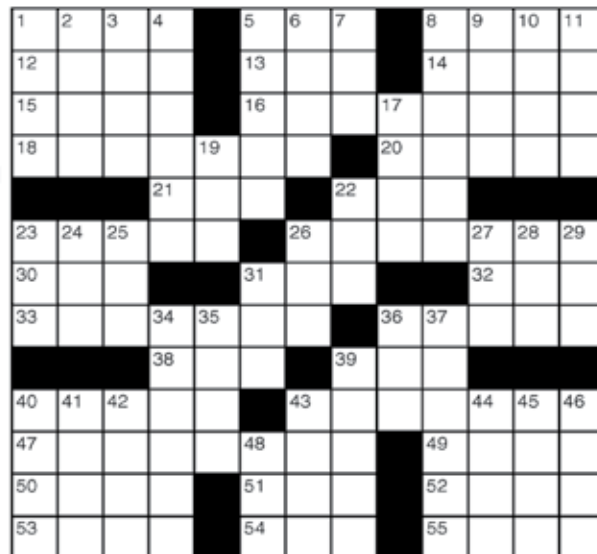
Differences: 1. Picture frame is missing. 2. Doorknob is larger. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Collar is higher. 5. Stripe is added to sleeve. 6. Book is smaller.

by Dave T. Phipps

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Touse
- 5 Resistance unit
- 8 Prego rival
- 12 Bickering
- 13 Zodiac animal
- 14 Pub orders
- 15 Tabula —
- 16 Sheer fabrics
- 18 Santiago resident
- 20 Playful sea critter
- 21 Mormon church, for short
- 22 Top card
- 23 Army bigwigs
- 26 Scolding
- 30 "Humbug!"
- 31 Cooking fuel
- 32 French pronoun
- 33 Upbeat
- 36 Rose protector
- 38 Weeding tool
- 39 Spanish gold
- 40 Parlor pieces
- 43 Bar exercises
- 47 Trailblazing congresswoman
- 49 Shirley —
- 49 Power co. supply
- 50 Suffix for million
- 51 "Levitating" singer Lipa



DOWN

- 2 Artist Chagall
- 2 Beehive State
- 3 Spanish ayes
- 4 Stable enclosures
- 5 Killer whales
- 6 Virtuoso violinist Hilary
- 7 2001, to Cato
- 8 Traveled the rapids
- 9 Oodles
- 10 Hereditary unit
- 11 Cold War initials
- 17 Central points
- 19 Asner and Harris
- 22 Sounds of relief
- 23 Telly network
- 24 Fan's cry
- 25 Sashimi fish
- 26 Automobile
- 27 "As I see it," in a text
- 28 Fish-fowl insert
- 29 Tom Collins liquor
- 31 "My word!"
- 34 Stages
- 35 Ritzy
- 36 Part of TNT
- 37 Truthful
- 39 "Holy cow!"
- 40 Con job
- 41 Columbus' home
- 42 Evergreens
- 43 Crossword hint
- 44 — Bator
- 45 Lima's land
- 46 "Shool!"
- 48 Quirky

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1	3	6	4	7	6	8	2	5
2	8	5	9	7	7	3	6	3
3	9	8	3	2	6	4	1	4
4	6	1	3	8	7	5	2	4
5	7	2	5	7	4	6	3	6
6	3	2	6	4	1	7	8	1
7	8	9	5	6	1	7	8	6
8	2	3	7	9	8	2	6	5
9	8	2	6	4	5	3	7	1
10	6	5	7	1	4	3	2	1

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
2. HISTORY: Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
3. MOVIES: Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
4. MUSIC: Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
5. ANATOMY: What's another name for the patella?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
7. FOOD & DRINK: Who perfected the Champagne method?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the national flowers of Japan?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
10. SCIENCE: Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

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HAPPENINGS

Event listings are FREE of charge. Send your flyers/info to Dawn at dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov or to Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

Benefits/Fundraisers

Turkey Shoots at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. Good fun, great prizes, great benefits.

- Dec. 13 at 3 p.m., fundraiser for Big Cove Free Labor
- Dec. 20 at 3 p.m., fundraiser for Big Injun Racing

EBCI Community Events

Cherokee County Clinic Ribbon Cutting. Dec. 10 at 12 p.m. at 2355 Tomotla Rd., Marble, NC. 28905.

Cherokee Christmas Bazaar. (Note change of venue). Dec. 12 and 13 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Pam Taylor Gym, 10 Old Gap Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Enjoy Christmas shopping with multiple vendors. Contact Angie Garcia (828) 778-4585.

Wolftown Community Holiday Light Contest. Register by Dec. 12. Voting will be done on the evening of Dec. 13. Prizes for the top three homes. Register with Tuff (828) 788-4088

Ollie Bird Descendants Family Dinner. Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at Rock Springs Baptist Church Upper Room, 129 Old Gap Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. RSVP (828) 788-5563

Tsalagi Magical Christmas Parade. Dec. 13 at 5 p.m., Downtown Cherokee, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Info: Cherokee Welcome Center (828)359-6491 or email chriswatt@ebci-nsn.gov

Family Safety Giving Trees. now till Dec. 15 visit one of the Giving Tree locations, (PHHS Administration building 43 John

Crowe Hill Dr., Cherokee, NC. 28719, Mountain Credit Union US 441 Whittier, NC. 28789 or Jacob Cornsilk Complex 60 Snowbird School Rd., Robbinsville, NC. 28771). Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at Family Safety Building 117 John Crowe Hill Dr., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Family Safety invites you to make a difference this holiday season by sponsoring a child from the Giving tree.

Last Minute Christmas Shopping. Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Building at 1416 Acquoni Rd. in Cherokee, N.C. Vendors contact Carol Bernhisel (828) 736-1059.

Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post #143 Meeting and Christmas Dinner. Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Peaches Squirrell Sports and Recreation Complex at 1212 Birdtown Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Santa and Mrs. Clause will be onsite to visit with the Post and bring joy.

Mother's Gathering. Dec. 17 from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Choices Conference Room at 810 Acquoni Rd. in Cherokee, N.C. Topic: Diabetes, activity will be making healthy holiday treats. Info: Kristina Hyatt at Kristina_hyatt@centerfornativehealth.org

Manna Food Bank Community Market. Dec. 18 from noon – 2 p.m. at the Wolftown Gym, 27 Long Branch Rd., Cherokee, NC 28719. Stop by for FREE grocery staples, produce and other perishables from MANNA Foodbank, bring your own bags. Info: Megan Stamper (828) 359-6934

2025 Cherokee Youth Center Christmas Bazaar. Dec. 18 from

9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Cherokee Boys and Girls Club, 1570 Acquoni Rd. Info for vendors: (828) 359-8113

Yellowhill Community Christmas Light Contest. Judging on Dec. 19, 1st place \$ 300, 2nd place \$200, 3rd place \$100 winners announced at Yellowhill Christmas Dinner. To enter your house for judging, call Virginia at (828)788-8659.

Holiday Kids Event. Dec. 20 from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the Peaches Squirrel Complex, 1212 Birdtown Rd. Cherokee, NC. 28719. Free festive fun for the family. Hosted by the Jones – Bowman Leadership Award Program.

Cherokee Invitational Women's Basketball. Starting Dec. 20 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Resort 777 Casino Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Featuring High School and College teams. Info: www.cherokeeeinvitational.com/event

Wolftown Bingo Night. Jan. 10 at the Wolftown Community Club at 12 Burgess Dr. in Cherokee, N.C. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Info: Lynn (828) 736-6150

Cherokee Cultural/Historical Events

Cherokee Winter Social. Jan. 31, 2026 at the Peaches Squirrel Sports & Rec. Complex 1212 Birdtown Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. MC: Catcuze Tiger. Everyone welcome! Traditional Dress and Ribbon Shirts/ Skirts encouraged. All Cherokee Singers welcome,

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

SŌHĭ ʌD RVLTʌJ DʒʌYL



River,
a 5-year-old
Pitbull/Boxer mix,
lives with humans
Courtney and
David Harris in
Sylva, N.C.

Sponsored by:



CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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

bring your rattles & drums. Food provided by Nikki's Frybread.

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 Snowbird 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.

Quallatown Makers. Tuesdays

from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in 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 artforms are welcome. Coffee will be provided. Participants are welcome to bring their own snacks.

EBCI Community Regular Mtgs.
NAIWA (North American Indian Women's Association,

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Handle that potentially awkward situation by warming up your confidence reserves and letting it radiate freely. Also, expect an old friend to contact you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's not too early for the practical Bovine to begin planning possible New Year workplace changes. A recent contact can offer some interesting insights.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A request for an unusual favor should be carefully checked out. Also check the motives behind it. Your generosity should be respected, not exploited.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Party time beckons, but for some Moon Children, so do some workplace challenges. Deal with the second first, then you'll be free to enjoy the fun time.

LEO (July 23-August 22) A warm response to an earlier request might be a positive indicator of what's ahead. Meanwhile, Cupid could pay a surprise visit to single Leos looking for love.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) How you respond to a proposed change in a project could affect your situation. Be prepared to show how

well you would be able to deal with it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The revelation of a secret could cause some changes in how to deal with a workplace matter. It very likely also validates a position you have long held.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An attempt to get too personal could upset the very private Scorpio. Make it clear that there's a line no one crosses without your permission.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The savvy Sagittarian might be able to keep a family disagreement from spilling over by getting everyone involved to talk things out.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be careful not to push people too hard to meet your ideas of what holiday preparations should be. Best to make it a cooperative, not a coerced, effort.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected request could make you rethink a position you've had for a long time. Meanwhile, plan a family get-together for the weekend.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Someone might find that it was a fluke to try to use your sympathetic nature to get you to accept a situation you're not comfortable with. Good for you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You like challenges that are both mental and physical, and you enjoy always beating your personal best.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

The VA year in review

Veterans who have a relative who gets medical care under CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs) will be happy to know that the massive backlog of applications has been eliminated.

CHAMPVA covers the 900,000 veterans' dependents, survivors, caregivers and spouses who need care. Until recently there were over 70,000 applications that were stuck in a backlog, some taking 150 days to process.

That backlog no longer exists, even though 4,000 new applications are coming in per week. As of now, the process has been automated, which speeds things up. Appeals have seen similar success with a recent 20,000 appeals being reduced to 1,000.

Other things have been happening at the same time, per a VA news release:

The VA has set over a million appointments in the early morning, during evenings and on weekends to make it easier to get an appointment.

They're spending \$800 million to improve facilities.

This year they broke a previous record and processed 3,000,000 disability claims.

The VA hooked up with Medicare and Medicaid to pinpoint \$106 million in duplicate billing.

Permanent housing was found for over 51,000 homeless veterans.

The VA canceled the plan to install \$77 million worth of electric charging stations.

And in big dollar amounts, the VA has stepped up to deal with a potential \$272 million in medical bills that were caused when the previous administration halted the processing of co-payment claims for community care. The problem at the time was the PIT, the Program Integrity Tool, which was supposed to identify waste and fraud in community care billing. Instead, it was creating duplicate claims, overwriting claims and more. (The VA Office of Inspector General identified 18 defects in the program, which they estimated consisted of 40 million community care claims.)

As of last month, PIT is processing claims again.

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Planning for a Christmas puppy

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I know you're probably going to scoff at this, but we want to give our kids a puppy for Christmas. The whole cute scene by the Christmas tree, and all. This isn't a last-minute decision, as we have been talking about it for several months. We feel that our children, who are 10 and 8 years old, are old enough to play a role in the puppy's care and training. Of course, we will take the lead in all matters. My husband researched the best family-friendly breeds, and we've contacted three different breeders to tell them our plan. What do you think? — Zoey in Knoxville, Tennessee

DEAR ZOHEY: You'll get no scoffing from me. If there's a "right" way to give kids a Christmas puppy, this is it. Rather than a spur-of-the-moment decision, you're both putting a lot of thought and planning into this. You have a realistic view of the kids' contribution to the puppy's care and training. You are talking with multiple breeders and communicating your plans to them. This is the responsible way to bring a new pet home.

Be ready for the wrinkles, however. You're adopting a living thing, and they grow by their own schedule. Good breeders will emphasize that they don't guarantee puppies will be ready for homes by a specific date, so have a contingency plan if the puppy isn't mature enough to come home on Christmas Eve. Your kids will be just as thrilled, and you can stage the "reveal" later so you can capture those family photos.

Building a little flexibility into your puppy plan will give you the opportunity to pick the exact breed of dog you'd like, and to meet the puppy ahead of time to determine its temperament.

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

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EVENTS: *from page 41*

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.

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

Work Session on Ord. No. 11 (Underground Storage Tanks). Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Work Session on Tabled Res. No. 27 (Requirement for Executive and Dinilawigi to provide reports). Dec. 16 at 9 a.m.

Work Session on Tabled Res. No. 28 (Weighted Vote). Dec. 16 at 10 a.m.

Work Session on Tabled Res. No. 30 (Transparency in Tribal Government, Legistar). Dec. 16 at 11 a.m.

Work Session on Beloved Women. Dec. 16 at 1 p.m.

Confirmation hearing for Brett Smith to the Kituwah, LLC Board. Dec. 18 at 1 p.m.

Pow Wow Listings

Prairie Unity Competition Pow Wow. Dec. 19-21 at Stride Place in Portage la Prairie, Man-

itoba, Canada. Emcees: Clifton Goodwill and Ricky White. Host Drum: Dakota Hotain. Info: Ralph Francis (204) 870-9713 or Joan Smoke (204) 871-4668, or email info@prairieunity.ca

Christmas by the Sea Pow Wow. Dec. 20-21 at Imperial Beach Pier Plaza in Imperial Beach, Calif. MC: Randy Edmonds. Host Northern Drum: Dancing Cloud. Host Southern Drum: Red Warriors. Info: (619) 708-7858, grassdancer7@yahoo.com

Cheyenne Arapaho Labor Day Pow Wow Committee Fund-raiser/Benefit Pow Wow. Dec. 28 at the Emergency Response Center Building in Concho, Okla. MC: Marshal Williamson. Head Singer: Howard Cozad. Info: (405) 889-6949, (580) 791-1689, (405) 570-3776, or (580) 210-3345

Pechanga Pow Wow. Jan. 9-11 at the Pechanga Casino Resort Hotel in Temecula, Calif. Emcees: Bart Powaukee, Howie Thomson. Invited Drums: Eyabay, Ho Chunk Station, Leading Arrow, Meskwaki Nation, Omaha Whitetail, Sizzor-tail, Whitefish Jr., Wild Rose. Info: powwow@pechanga.com or call 888-PECHANGA

First Peoples Festival Friendship Pow Wow. Jan. 17-18 at the Estes Park Events Complex in Estes Park, Colo. MC: Steve LaPointe. Host Northern Drum: Drifting Bull. Host Southern Drum: Elk Creek. Info: No contact information was provided

13th Annual Great River Eagle Days Winter Gathering Intertribal Pow Wow. Jan. 24-26 at the Oakley Lindsay Center in Quincy, Ill. MC: Clifton Hall. Info:

Leslie Haslem (217) 430-5087, Ravenwoman2015@yahoo.com

Big Mac Memorial Round Dance. Jan. 31 in the Shakopee Cultural Center in Shakopee, Minn. Emcees: Jackson Rolling Thunder Tahuka, John Teller Jr. Invited Groups: Meskwaki Nation, Southern Boyz, Wild Rose, Red Willow. Info: Terri Ann Taylor (952) 495-4462

Spirit of Nations Pow Wow. March 28 at Jefferson County High School at 115 W. Dumplin Valley Rd. in Dandridge, Tenn. Info: www.indiancreekproductions.com

Support Groups

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

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 Mc-Millan (828) 788-5410

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 meets 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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events Christmas Candlelight Tours. Dec. 12, and 14 at 7 p.m. at the Shelton House 49 Shelton St., Waynesville, N.C. 28786, for an evening of fun. Tours begin at the front porch of the house, where you will be escorted inside to our dining room for drinks and hors d'ouvres. Additionally, harpist Tina Morgan will be playing live music for your enjoyment. After you get settled in, you will receive a tour of the house decorated for the holidays, illuminated by seasonal lights! Live foliage throughout the home, generously provided

by the Waynesville Garden Club and Mountain View Garden Club, are sure to make you feel festive. Spaces for the tours are limited, so make sure you reserve your spot now by purchasing tickets. Info: (828) 452-1551

Asheville Anime Fest. Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Haywood park Hotel One Battery Park Ace., Asheville, NC. 2880. Asheville Anime-Fest is an anime collectors' mecca convention located in the beautiful City of Asheville, North Carolina. Striving to be North Carolina's best and truest anime convention featuring fandoms of multiple genres. As a long-time collector of anime, manga and pop culture items the promoter brings North Carolina an event that will satisfy all anime fandom! Information: www.ashevilleanimefest.com

Christmas at Red Clay. Dec. 14 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Red Clay State Historic Park 1140 Red Clay Park Rd SW., Cleveland, TN. 37311. There will be 4 tours to sign up for. Come enjoy a lantern-lit tour of the historic Red Clay Council Grounds, led by a living history guide from the 19th century. Learn about the Cherokees' activities during the harsh winter months and the missionaries' impacts on Cherokee life. Call (423) 889-3249 to register

Monthly Pet Food Giveaway. Dec. 17 starting at 8 a.m. at the Cherokee Animal Care Clinic 1100 US Hwy 441 N, Whittier, NC. 28789

Qualla Community Club Christmas Market. Dec. 20 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Qualla Community Club 180 Shoal Creek Church Loop, Whittier, NC.

28789. Info: Facebook message Qualla Community Club.

Cherokee Community Clubs
Kolanvyi (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.

Widagalinidisgv (Big Y) Community meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community gym at 6:30 p.m. Info: Chair Bunsey Crowe (828) 788-4879, bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com

Tsisqwohi (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

Tsalagi Gadugi (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

Aniwodihi (Painttown) Community meets the last Monday of each month at the old community building across from the casino at 6 p.m. Info: For building rental, contact Janet Arch (828) 508-8071.

Tutiya (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 Elijah Wachacha (828) 735-6453, ewachacha@ebci-nsn.gov

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

Wayohi (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

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Community meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Yellowhill Activity Center at 6 p.m. Info: Chair Dakota Bone (828) 736-8092, Dbone8312@yahoo.com, For building rental, contact Virginia Johnson (828) 788-8659

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.

see **EVENTS** next page


MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



CODY BRADY

*Peer Support Specialist
CFPSS/CADC-I*

Education: Forensic Peer Support/
Advances Leader Education Training /
BFA / Right Way/ Motivational
Interviewing For Addiction/ Coach Care
Team/SCC for Social Work
Years at CIHA: 4 Years
Community/Hometown: Birdtown



"I Love being a part of CIHA at Analenisgi and the recovery Community. I love My job and helping people everyday . I show up not only as a worker but as a person who battled addiction and mental health. I take pride in sharing my story and helping others reach out for help and support and allowing others to know its ok to not be ok sometime. I love seeing the many faces in recovery and being apart of there healing journey as well as my own." - Cody Brady

ᐱᐢᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ (Di qwa tse li i yu sdi) "Like family to me."

EVENTS: from page 43

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

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 Mission-

ary 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 Method-

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? *Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah*
3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? *Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers*
4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth? *Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance*
5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? *Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron*
6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? *Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not*

ANSWERS: (1) Neither, (2) Isaiah, (3) Engaged, (4) Angel appearance, (5) Jerusalem, (6) Does not
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Moments in time

• On Dec. 22, 2001, the world's first cloned cat, appropriately named CC, or Copy Cat, made her debut in a Texas biomedical lab. She lived for 18 years, possessed all the attributes of a normal cat, and her birth jumpstarted a pet-cloning industry around the world.

• On Dec. 23, 1982, the Missouri Department of Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control told residents of Times Beach, Missouri, that their town was contaminated by the chemical dioxin sprayed on its unpaved roads, with the unfortunate result that the town would have to be demolished. By February, the federal and state governments had spent \$36 million to buy all the town's houses, with the exception of one that the owners refused to sell, and the city was officially disincorporated.

• On Dec. 24, 1801, British inventor Richard Trevithick took seven of his friends for a test ride in his "Puffing Devil," aka "Puffer," the first steam-powered passenger vehicle.


• On Dec. 25, 1971, Garo Yepremian punted a 37-yard field goal in the second overtime of an AFC playoff game, giving the Miami Dolphins a 27-24 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in the longest game in NFL history: 82 minutes and 40 seconds.

• On Dec. 26, 1946, mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel opened the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Singer/comedian Jimmy Durante headlined the entertainment, with music by band leader Xavier Cugat. The opening flopped, however, due to bad weather that kept away many Hollywood guests, and as gamblers didn't have rooms at the hotel, they took their winnings and gambled elsewhere. The casino lost \$300,000 in its first week.

• On Dec. 27, 1935, Regina Jonas became the first woman ordained as a rabbi. After many male rabbis fled Germany during World War II, she stepped into the void, though synagogues, at least, would not welcome her. She died in Auschwitz.

• On Dec. 28, 1917, writer/satirist H.L. Mencken published a history of the bathtub, including a claim that bathing was unlawful in Boston between 1845 and 1862. The story, which was a spoof designed to test reader gullibility, was widely shared by newspapers and historians.

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The Garden Bug

Solomon's Seal

"Solomon's Seal" is the common name for a number of species in the genus *Polygonatum*. These plants display broad, alternating leaves and many clusters of bell-shaped flowers that dangle along each stalk. They prefer rich, moist, well-drained soil, partly or fully shaded. They are drought-tolerant once established, have few insect or disease problems, and are not favored by deer. Beside their use as garden plants, they are used medicinally, and also prepared as food. - Brenda Weaver

Source: hort.extension.wisc.edu

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ist 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

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.

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 Wolfstown 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

see **EVENTS** next page

Tsalagi MINUTE

Sponsored by the
Qualla Boundary
Historical Society



Flint visits Rabbit

In the old days Flint, Tawi'skala, lived way high up in the mountain, not many of the animals liked him, cause he had helped kill many animals. The animals got together and talked of ways to get rid of flint, but all were to scared to try.

Rabbit (Tsistu)said he would go and kill ol flint. Off Rabbit went, up the mountain, finally coming in sight of flints house, flint was standing in his door watching rabbit approach.

Siyo said rabbit, are you the one called Flint. Flint said yes and nothing more. Rabbit waited expecting to be invited inside, but Flint never offered. Finally tired of waiting, rabbit asked Flint if he would like to come down for dinner at his place, which Flint accepted.

After walking for a bit, Flint asked where Rabbit lived, he said his home was down in the broom grass field near the river. They came upon rabbits hole, rabbit said during the summer I usually stay outside where it is cooler. Rabbit made dinner for the two of them , afterward they sat in the grass and just relaxed. Rabbit had gotten out some sticks and his knife and began whittling, Flint asked him what he was doing. Rabbit said I just like to sit and do things with my hands after dinner.

Soon enough Flint was asleep. Rabbit checked several times to be sure Flint was FAST asleep. Once he was sure, he pulled out his hammer and the sticks and with a strong blow, drove the stick into Flint, as quick as he could rabbit dove for his hole in the ground, while all around him Flint exploded into many pieces. This is why today people can find pieces of flint everywhere.

Source: A traditional Cherokee Story



EVENTS: from page 45

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Picasso was once suspected of stealing the "Mona Lisa" from the Louvre. He was brought to court, where it was determined that he was indeed in possession of stolen art, but not da Vinci's masterpiece, and was let off with a warning.

- Ice from seawater melts into fresh water.

- The modern sense of the term "Black Friday" likely originated in the 1950s when Philadelphia police began using it to describe the chaotic traffic of shoppers and sports fans after Thanksgiving and before the Army-Navy football game on Saturday.

- Jimmy Carter was the first American president born in a hospital.

- Pepsi was originally called "Brad's Drink," after its creator, pharmacist Caleb Bradham, who believed it had digestive benefits.

- Volcanoes can create lightning.

- Ulysses S. Grant's middle initial doesn't stand for anything. He was christened Hiram Ulysses Grant, and the initial was added by Congressman Thomas Hamer when he nominated Grant for West Point, thinking it stood for Grant's mother's maiden name.

- Fewer than one in 10,000 people possess the gift of perfect pitch.

- The world's largest beaver dam, located in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park and boasting a length estimated at more than 2,600 feet, is visible from space via satellite imagery.

- Memorial Day's date was first chosen because it was when flowers would be in full bloom.

- In 2012, Susan Warren, who owned a cleaning business, broke into a house but stole nothing. Instead, she washed coffee cups, vacuumed, took out the garbage, and dusted ... then left the homeowners, who were asleep upstairs, her phone number and a bill for her services on a napkin.

Thought for the Day: "If the world should blow itself up, the last audible voice would be that of an expert saying it can't be done." — *Peter Ustinov*

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Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



Ela Dam was constructed from 1924-1925 to provide power to Bryson City and surrounding areas. Now after 100 years of its construction, the dam no longer generates power, and current plans call for the removal of the dam and restoration of the affected portion of the river sometime in the late 2020s. While current plans are uncertain, it is hoped that restoration of this free-flowing river will help restore the population and habitat of the hellbender, sicklefin redhorse, and other significant species. Plans will be determined with input from the local community and partners. If you want to learn more about Ela Dam and this project, you can visit <https://arcg.is/1CuWHL3>

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. Rev. Beverly Parker-Reece

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.

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. Pastor David Birch

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

Event listings are FREE of charge. Send your flyers/info to Dawn at dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov or to Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

MISSING

Pete Nelson Bergman

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'8" Weight: 205 lbs Male Age: 58

Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Date of last contact: November 1, 2025

Last Known Location: Kotzebue, Alaska

Circumstances of Disappearance: Bergman was last seen falling into the ice on his snowmachine while attempting to recover another individual north of Kotzebue around Lockhart Point. Bergman was last seen with a rifle slung around his body, wearing black snow pants, black coat, and black boots.

If you have seen or have information about Pete Bergman, contact Malia Miller, Missing Persons Clearinghouse Manager, Alaska State Troopers (907) 269-5511.

Source: Namus.gov



GWY ᏊᏃᏍ ᏆᏍᏍᏍ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

EBCI Public Health Vending Machine Initiative locations



Graphic by:
GWY ᏊᏃᏍ ᏆᏍᏍᏍ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

- Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority – Analenisgi Wing (113 Cherokee Hospital Loop, Cherokee, NC 28719)
- Pamela Dawn Taylor Gym & Community Center (Formerly known as Paintown Gym) (10 Old Gap Rd., Cherokee, NC 28719)
- Cherokee County Indian Community Club (300 Airport Road, Marble, NC)
- Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution (2266 Old Mission Rd., Cherokee, NC)
- Big Cove Kolanvyi Community Center (8765 Big Cove Rd., Cherokee, NC)
- Big Y Community Club & Gym (2641 Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, NC)
- EBCI PHHS Administration Building (43 John Crowe Hill, Cherokee, NC)
- Food Lion (16 Cherokee Crossing, Whittier, NC) – Still out of service due to electrical problems.
- Peaches Squirrel Sports & Recreation Center (1212 Birdtown Rd., Cherokee, NC)
- Snowbird Jacob Cornsilk Complex (60 Snowbird School Rd., Robbinsville, NC)
- Qualla Boundary Head Start & Early Head Start (897 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC)
- Yellowhill Elawodihi Activity Center (1416 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC)



CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted to buy. Cherokee pottery by Tiney Bigmeat Bradley. Please call Teresa Sweeney at Queen House Gallery@ 828-775-5475 or Tim McCracken@ 828- 734- 9850 **12/10**

Rummage Sale

Two Days Only! Fri & Sat, Dec 12-13 • 9 AM HWY 441 N Bypass — Outpost building in front of Quality Inn. Great Finds: Dining room set, Ethan Allen curio, king-size mattresses, Washer/Dryer, name-brand clothing, paddleboard, Big Green Egg (13"), adult bicycle, MacBook Pro 13", Nintendo Switch Lite, 8x10 rugs & more! Come early for the best deals! **12/10**

For Sale:

- Brand new dinning room set, - 8

upholstered chairs, 6 side and 2 end, 1 16" insert, Pecan finish. Size 38 x 70 \$1,795
- Matching China cabinet 78 x 5' \$995. Both pieces sell for \$2,500
- Ethan Allen curio, beautiful, 4 shelves, 3 drawers, lights, Pecan finish 50 x 65H \$675

To see, call (828)226-0994 or (828) 736-5250. **12/10**

EMPLOYMENT

Tribal Food Distribution Now Hiring

Tribal Food Distribution is looking to hire a contract position for a Nurse Nutrition Assistant. This individual will:
* Assist the Nurse Nutritionist with cooking demonstrations at our main warehouse
* Conduct designated nutrition education activities and distribute

nutrition information to our tail-gate sites in Cherokee and Graham counties

* Partner with the Tribal Cannery to learn best canning practices and then use those to share and educate program participants

* Follow My Cherokee Plate guidelines

* Assist the Nurse Nutritionist as needed with cooking demonstrations, meal planning, recipe creation and distribution, and other such related tasks

* Collaborate with the Tribal Foods Project Coordinator as needed Attend outreach events to distribute nutrition education information

This position will begin once a contract has been finalized and no sooner than January 1, 2026. It will last approximately through September 30th, 2026. We will be accepting applications for the contract until 4:30 on December 12, 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). **12/17**

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-102

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

NED CARL MORGAN

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fudicary(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 fudicary(s) listed below.

Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION

Dylan Morgan
312 Macedonia Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719

12/17

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-104

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

SHERIDAN EVERETT SMITH

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



Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist
Nail Tech
Salon Lead
Lead Massage Therapist
Spa Attendants-Male

For questions, please contact:
Autumn Parker, Spa Operations Manager
828-497-8550 AutumnP@mandaraspa.com
Email: HRRecruitment@onespaworld.com

JOIN OUR TEAM



WE ARE HIRING

Open Positions

- Security Technician
- Housekeeper
- Order Fulfillment Technician (PT)
- Budtender (PT)

Apply Online
www.quallalife.com/careers

More Information
828.589.8285

All Applicants Must be 21 or older.
Tribal Hiring Preference will apply

TION
Jessica Cher Smith
83 Dugan Rd
Cherokee, NC. 28719
1/14/2026

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-097
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
TOM KEITH PARKER
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fudicary(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 fudicary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION

Janie English
34 English Rd
Bryson City, NC 28713
1/21/2026

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-100
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
JAMES MARVIN JOHNSON
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fudicary(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 fudicary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION
Alberta Allison Printup-Johnson

175 Joe Johnson Road
Cherokee, NC 28719
1/21

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-108
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
MIANNA LOUISE LUTHER
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fudicary(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 fudicary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION
Victor Wildcatt
2248 Wolfstown Rd

Cherokee, NC 28719
1/21

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 25-109
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
MARIA ARCH
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fudicary(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 fudicary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION
Dylan Saunooke
52 Flora Mae Smith Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719



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
6 Teachers—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year with benefits

Children's Home
1 Residential Counselor—Full Time—\$17.00 per hour with benefits
1 Residential Counselor—Part Time—\$17.00 per hour w/out benefits

Service Department
1 Master Technician—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year with Benefits
Technician—\$21,200–\$29,150 per year with Benefits

Construction & Facilities
1 Skilled Carpenters—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year with Benefits
Crew Leader—\$47,700–\$53,000 per year with Benefits

RKLI
CYC Youth Council Specialist—Full Time—\$47,700–\$53,000

Bus & Truck Department
Seasonal Bus Drivers
Truck Drivers

SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS



ANALENISGI

DØðhøY
"They are beginning"

Analenisgi provides extensive behavioral health services for eligible members. Offering an extensive continuum of care and providing safe and supportive, culturally grounded environments.

Services Offered through Analenisgi:

Adult Services
Programs include:

- Individual and group outpatient therapy
- Substance abuse treatment
- Domestic Violence program
- Targeted case management
- Recovery Center with peer support services
- Walk-ins accepted for outpatient

IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY FOR GROUP THERAPY AND CLASSES

Recovery Services
Programs include:

- Analensgi Inpatient Services
- Men's & Women's Homes
- Kanvwotiyi (extended recovery)

Family & Child Services
Programs include:

- School-based services
- Dora Reed & Early Childhood services
- Juvenile court-based services
- Family Safety Services
- Child outpatient services (walk-ins accepted)

Scan the QR Code below to access a list of our services and learn more!



Contact us:

 **Analenisgi**
828-497-6892
1 Hospital Road
Cherokee, NC

Child and Family Services
828-497-9163 ext. 6549

On-Call Mobile Crisis After Hours:
Adult: 828-269-0301
Child: 828-736-9797

BIDS, RFPs, etc.**Public Announcement**

The Cherokee Department of Transportation (CDOT) invites the public to view the Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP).

Viewing Details:

Dates: November 24 – December 24, 2025 Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Location: 680 Acquoni Road, Cherokee, NC 28719 To schedule a viewing time, please contact Uriah Maney, CDOT Engineer Phone: 828-359-6122. **12/17**

Request for Proposals

The Welcome Center of The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is seeking proposals from qualified and licensed maintenance contractors to fix and improve the fireplace in the lobby of our building located at 498 Tsali Blvd, Cherokee, NC 28719. Businesses interested must provide a complete proposal detailing their qualifications and proof of licensing. For additional information, please contact RJ Arneach, Welcome Center Supervisor, at 828-508-0749 or rjarneach@ebci-nsn.gov. All completed proposals must be submitted by the close of business on Monday, November 24th, 2025. Proposals should be sent to RJ Arneach, Welcome Center, 498 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, NC 28719, or via email at rjarneach@ebci-nsn.gov. **12/10**

Request for Proposals

Enclosing in a covered smoking area
 BID/RFP DUE DATE: January 12, 2026. Must be signed, sealed and US mailed or delivered to Greg Carroll, Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel, 777 Casino Parkway, Murphy, NC.

BID STATUS: Open and accepting bids and proposals.

Bid/RFP Reference: Enclosing in a covered smoking area

MANDATORY SITE VISIT REQUIRED ON December 29, 2025 at 11:00 am at Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino and Hotel, 777 Casino Parkway, Murphy, NC 28906 – Enter the large parking area north of the new parking garage.

SCOPE:

General Conditions:

Install weather curtains using Fentex brand retractable screens or accepted substitutions by owner.

Provide all M.E.P. for turn key operation

Area is approximately 1550 sq. ft.

Maps of the areas referenced above can be emailed to you upon request.

For additional bid package information or for questions, please contact:

gcarroll@harrahs.com and
 cpinkerton@harrahs.com

12/17

Request for Proposals

New 60'x80' building

BID/RFP DUE DATE: January 12, 2026. Must be signed, sealed and US mailed or delivered to Greg Carroll, Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel, 777 Casino Parkway, Murphy, NC.

BID STATUS: Open and accepting bids and proposals.

Bid/RFP Reference: New 60'x80' metal building

MANDATORY SITE VISIT REQUIRED ON December 29, 2025 at 09:00 am at Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Offsite Warehouse, 2355 Tomotla Rd., Marble NC 28905 – Enter the large gate opening, turn left towards the building.

SCOPE:

General Conditions:

Sealed Engineering drawings are

required to satisfy Cherokee County, NC building department.

Building permits

Civil:

Demo existing 4,000 shed and associated

4" concrete slab work

Black top as needed

Metal Building:

Construct 60'x80' metal building with insulation

Construct breezeway from existing building to new building

Interior fencing

2 overhead doors / 4 personnel doors

Electrical:

New 200A service

Interior and exterior LED lighting

Mechanical ventilation

Service receptacles

Mechanical:

Heat tied into existing propane

Ventilation fans

Life Safety:

Fire Suppression system

Fire Alarm

Maps of the areas referenced above can be emailed to you upon request.

For additional bid package information or for questions, please contact:

gcarroll@harrahs.com and
 cpinkerton@harrahs.com

12/17

Request for Proposals

Mundy's Warehouse Asphalt

BID/RFP DUE DATE: January 12, 2026. Must be signed, sealed and US mailed or delivered to Greg Carroll, Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel, 777 Casino Parkway, Murphy, NC.

BID STATUS: Open and accepting bids and proposals.

Bid/RFP Reference: Mundy's Warehouse Asphalt

MANDATORY SITE VISIT REQUIRED ON December 29, 2025 at 10:00 am at Harrah's Cherokee

Valley River Offsite Warehouse, 2355 Tomotla Rd., Marble NC 28905 – Enter the large gate opening, turn left towards the building.

SCOPE:

8. General Conditions:

a. Grade and prep stone base
 b. Install two layers of heavy-duty asphalt for the entire fence in area.
 c. Entire area is approximately 34,000 sq. ft.

9. Maps of the areas referenced above can be emailed to you upon request.

For additional bid package information or for questions, please contact:

gcarroll@harrahs.com and
 cpinkerton@harrahs.com

12/17



Check out our weekly
 Cherokee Words of
 the Week videos at
 the Cherokee One
 Feather YouTube
 channel

@Cherokee
 OneFeather
 on YouTube

WRAP UP THE YEAR WITH A JOB YOU'LL LOVE!

**Located in the Employment
Office on the second floor of
the casino parking garage.**

December 18th: 1pm - 5pm

**Harrah's
CHEROKEE
CASINO RESORT**

Select positions eligible for hiring bonus. Restrictions apply. Please see Talent Acquisition department for details. Harrah's Cherokee Casinos value diversity and inclusion and are Equal Opportunity Employers. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid photo ID. 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." Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. © 2025, Caesars License Company, LLC



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, December 17, 2025

1. Certified Biological Wastewater Treatment Operator – Wastewater Treatment – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
 2. Housekeeper I – Housekeeping – Operations (L6 \$16.37 - \$20.47 per hour)
 3. Telecommunicator – Public Safety Communications Center – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
 4. Inventory Control Assistant – Facility Management – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour)
 5. Sergeant (Patrol) - CIPD - EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
 6. Captain (Investigations) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L18 \$88,650 - \$110,822) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
 7. Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
 8. GIS Mapping Technician – Geographic Info Systems – Office of the Attorney General (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
 9. Realty Leasing Specialist (Multiple) – Realty Services – Office of the Attorney General (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 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. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Patrol Officer (Multiple) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
4. Sergeant - Corrections - EBCI Law Enforcement (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
5. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Public Safety (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
6. Part-time Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
7. Driver – Transit – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
8. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
9. Certified Nursing Assistant (Multiple) – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (Starting rate of \$20.00/hour)
10. Supervisor – Biological/Waste Water Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
11. Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)
12. Truck Driver/Operator – Infrastructure – Housing (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)



CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY



CHOOSE CIHA

New Positions This Week

Nurse Aide Student – CIHA CNA Class *posted for 1 week only*
IDD Autism Director
Residential Technician - Male
Life Enrichment Assistant – Part-Time with Benefits
Laundry Aide
Housekeeper TCC
Peer Support Specialist
Tribal Option Care Manager Specialty Lead
Tribal Option Specialty Team Care Manager

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Behavioral Health Therapist - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
(Analenisgi MAT, Cherokee Central Schools, Family Safety, Child and Family – Snowbird, Family Intensive Treatment)
Behavioral Health RN
Case Manager/Intake Coordinator - Kanvwtiyi
Employment Specialist – Kanvwtiyi
Nurse Supervisor – Analenisgi Inpatient – Nights
Targeted Case Manager – Family Safety, MAT

ENGINEERING

Electrician and Maintenance Mechanic - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
HVAC/Maintenance Mechanic - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
EVS Supervisor – 2nd Shift
Cook – CIHA Dietary

FINANCE

Billing Analyst II
Patient Access Specialist – Temporary

HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee Relations Specialist

TRIBAL OPTION

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker

MEDICAL

Physician - Primary Care
Hospitalist
Psychiatrist
Credentialing Coordinator
Clinical Dietician

NURSING

Clinical Care Manager - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Clinical Care Manager – Pediatrics - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Clinical Care Manager Float - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
CNA/Medical Clerk
Registered Nurse ED – PTI – Night Shift
RN Inpatient – Part Time with Benefits
Tribal Option Care Management Extender
Tribal Option Case Management Support

OPERATIONS

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner
Dental Assistant II
Dental Hygienist
Dentist - CIHA and Satellite - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Dentist- Pediatrics - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Medical Lab Technician - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Optometrist
Optometric Assistant
Pharmacy Technician II

TSALI CARE CENTER

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
Cook Tsali Care Center

PRE-OWNED



2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon 4x4

43,861 miles

Price **\$36,399**



2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee L Limited 4x4

34,920 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$34,495**



2023 LEXUS GX 460 Premium

25,471 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$56,868**



2021 Chevrolet Express Cargo 2500 WT

93,811 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$22,900**



2022 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Custom

74,070 miles

Price **\$40,995**



2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss

37,551 miles

Price **\$45,985**



2022 Acura MDX Advance Package

55,452 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$38,418**



2023 Toyota 4Runner Limited

34,443 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$48,325**



2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT

48,922 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$22,656**



2022 Jeep Compass Limited 4x4

13,621 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$23,734**



2023 GMC Terrain Denali

15,691 miles

Pricing Info
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Places at Special Olympics competition

Jarvis Brady, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with Pawnee Nation heritage, won a bronze medal in bocce in his division at the 2025 Fall Special Olympics of North Carolina (SONC) held recently in Charlotte, N.C. He competes on the Qualla Boundary Special Olympics team. (Photo courtesy of Katherine Brady)



Catt inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Stephanie Catt, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Southwestern Community College. Inductees must hold at least a 3.5 Grade Point Average, be nominated by a teaching faculty member and rank among the top 20 percent of active students in their respective programs. (SCC photo)

Attention EBCI Artists/Craftspeople

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



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