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Cherokee One Feather website



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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAH LI

week of
vsgiyi (dec.) 17-23,
2025

Honoring distinguished service

Littledave,
Stephens
receive Frell
Owl Award

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Sheyahshe Littledave and Ahli-sha Stephens, both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, were named the recipients of the prestigious Frell Owl Award during a ceremony at Granny's Kitchen in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Monday, Dec. 8. The award is presented annually by the Cherokee Boys Club Board of Directors "for

see **AWARD** page 4



Sheyahshe Littledave, second from left, and Ahli-sha Stephens, second from right, received the Frell Owl Award, presented by the Cherokee Boys Club, during a ceremony at Granny's Kitchen in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Monday, Dec. 8. They won the award for work on their podcast, "We Are Resilient", which highlights MMIP (Missing and Murdered Indigenous People) cases. Shown, left to right, are Ugviyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, Littledave, Stephens, and Cherokee Boys Club General Manager Greg Owle. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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RSVP & GM: Harrah's Cherokee Casinos



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



<<

Image of the Week

Complete with a ribbon skirt, a Cherokee Gingerbread Woman, part of the Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Community Float, walks in the Cherokee Magical Christmas Parade through downtown Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 13. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./ One Feather photo)

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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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.

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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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AWARD: From front page

distinguished service to Cherokee children and families”.

Greg Owle, Cherokee Boys Club general manager, opened the program and spoke about the award stating, “The Frell Owle Award is given to those who best exemplify the character and accomplishments of the late Mr. Frell Owle, and to those who have significantly contributed to the welfare of Cherokee children and families.”

Littledave and Stephens were honored for work on their podcast called “We Are Resilient” which highlights MMIP (Missing and Murdered Indigenous People) cases. Visit their website at <https://www.war-podcast.com> to listen to episodes.

Owle read the nomination for Littledave and Stephens. “Through their tireless work and advocacy, storytelling, and mentorship, Sheyahshe and Ahli-sha exemplify the very values Frell Owle championed. Their podcast shines a light on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People crisis. They receive no financial compensation for this work. Their dedication stems purely from passion and purpose, despite balancing full-time careers and active family lives with children in sports. They continue to commit countless hours to advocacy and education, providing their genuine devotion for the well-being of Indigenous families...together, Sheyahshe and Ahli-sha represent the strength and spirit of Cherokee women leading with courage and passion and cultural pride. Through their advocacy, mentorship, and storytelling, they honor the legacy of Frell Owle by uplifting Cherokee families, empowering youth, and



Greg Owle, Cherokee Boys Club general manager, opens the program.

ensuring that the stories of Indigenous people continue to be told.”

After the award presentation, Stephens said it was an honor just to be nominated. Other nominees included Brianna Bynum and Kimlyn Sneed Lambert.

Stephens commented, “I know that Brianna and Kimlyn are amazing women in our community, and I think that as long as we continue to do good work for each other, that we’re only going to influence each other. I think that we carry each other in our hearts as Indigenous women, as Indigenous leaders, because our future has to see us stepping out, stepping up, and filling those roles even when we’re nervous, even when we’re tired, and even when we’re so busy, we make time to always remember who we are. Because it’s not about us, it’s about our future, and it’s about other people around us.”

She added, “I think I found the secret to life within myself. What makes me happy is just giving to

others. Because, no matter how much money I make, I’ll never make enough. No matter how many days off I get, I’m going to want more - how much sleep I get, I’m going to want more, materialistic things, I’m always going to want better. But, I think if I give of my time and of my energy to other people and see that they’re successful and taken care of, that’s the secret to joy and the secret to life for me.”

Littledave said she was also very honored to be nominated, and she spoke about their work. “The podcast started about four years ago and, really, the work we do is outside of our regular jobs, it’s outside of the work we do with our kids. We make time, any kind of spare time we have, to do this podcast. We edit, we research, we record, we meet every week. The work is constant. So, I’m just really proud of how far we’ve been able to come on this podcast.”

Ugwyiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks spoke during the

event. “Ahli-sha and Sheyahshe, thank you for all your work and truly your message. It’s a message of strength. It’s a message of being united on an extremely important issue.

My heart goes out to each one of the families that have been impacted. We all have in some way, but being directly impacted and truly, in a lot of situations, not getting real answers...I just can’t imagine the long-term impact and trauma that creates within the family, within one’s life... We just appreciate the message that you guys are putting out there.”

Past recipients of the Frell Owl Award include: Principal Chief John A. Crowe (1983), Stella Kanott (1984), The Scar Crowe Family (1985), Ray Kinsland (1986), Pearl and John Reagan (1987), Betty Crisp (1988), Jerri Reagan Kinsland (1989), Mary Chiltoskey (1990), Dora Reed (1992), Marie Junaluska (1995), David and Sharon Crowe (1996), Ernestine Walkingstick (1997), Jody Adams (1998), Gary Maney (1999), Mary Sneed (2000), Mary Mantooth (2001), David McCoy (2002), Glenda Crowe (2003), Denise Ballard (2004), David McQueen (2005), Skooter McCoy (2006), Johnson “Booger” Arch (2007), Kathy Wolfe (2008), Carmaleta Monteith (2009), Roy Lambert (2010), Sandi Owle (2011), Lana Lambert (2013), Catherine Blythe Sanders (2014), Will Poolaw (2015), Lou Johnson and Wilbur Paul (2016), Alan and Mary Jane Smith (2017), Isaac “Ike” Long (2018), Michael Yannette (2019), Peaches Squirrel (2021), Lloyd Carl Owle (2022), Butch and Louise Goings (2023); and Jennifer Thompson and the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority Physical Therapy Department.

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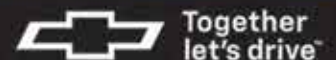
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EBCI tribal legislative updates

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.

Action: There has been no action on this legislation as of press time.

Ord. No. 75 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Section 17-12 regarding the Cannabis Control Board. The whereas section states, “Section 17-12 should be amended to clarify that the persons nominated by the Principal Chief are subject to confirmation by Tribal Council, that they may serve until their replacement is appointed, and to express that the members of the Board shall select one of the Board members to serve as Chairman of the Board”.

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

Action: A work session is scheduled for this ordinance on Jan. 5, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Ord. No. 76 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Sections 16-2.01 and 16A-3 regarding terms of members of the Tribal Gaming Commission (TGC) and the Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise (TCGE) Board of Advisors respectively. The whereas section states, “Although the TGC and TCGE Board of Advisors have different roles and responsibilities, and work separately, the ordinances governing the TGC and the

TCGE Board would be improved by making the terms of the members on each governing body consistent between them, to express the requirement for confirmation of appointees by Tribal Council, and to state that appointees may serve until their replacement is appointed”.

The ordinances also seeks to amend the term of office for the TGC from three years to five years.

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

Action: A work session is scheduled for this ordinance on Jan. 5, 2026 at 11 a.m.

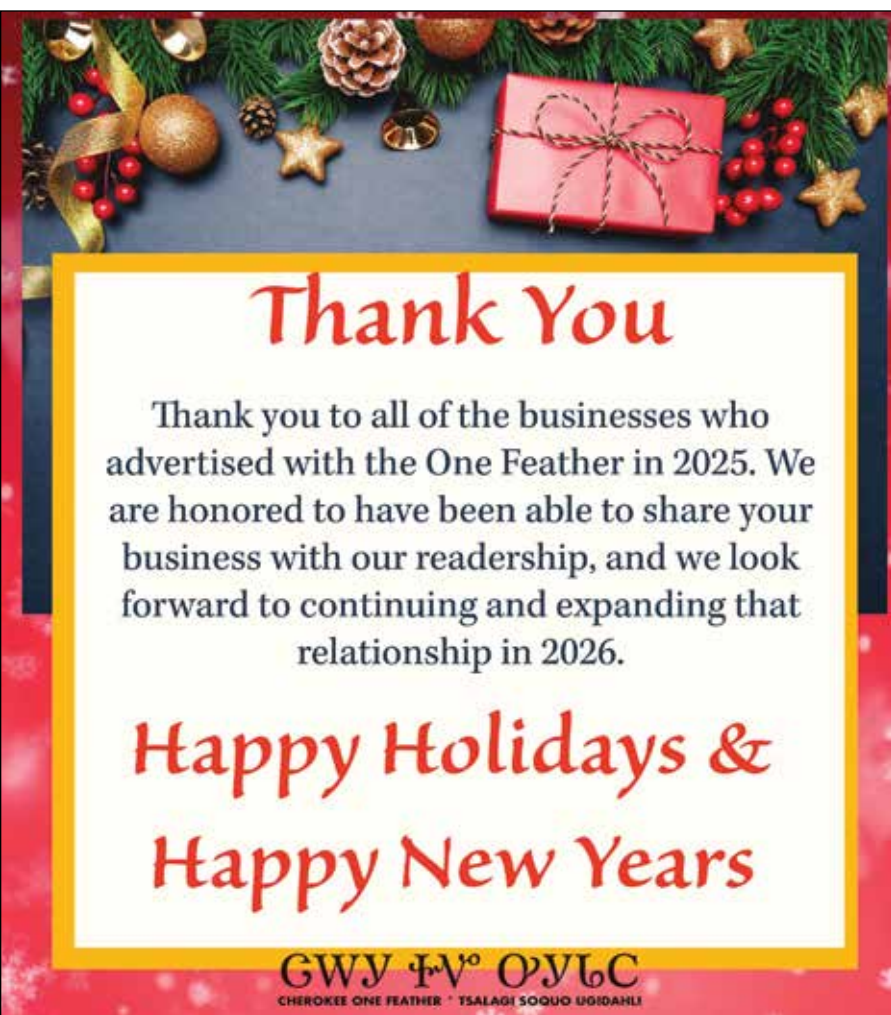
Legislation we’re currently watching

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, commu-

nity clubs, and the general EBCI constituency.”

Introduced: This resolution, submitted by Joey Owle of Wayohi (Wolftown), 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 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 purposes 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.

Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority celebrates opening of new Cherokee County Clinic

Submitted by Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority

MARBLE, N.C. - The Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority (CIHA), alongside Tribal leadership, community members, and project partners, celebrated the opening of the new Cherokee County Clinic on Wednesday, Dec. 10. The state-of-the-art facility, located at 2313 Tomotla Road in Marble, N.C., represents a significant milestone in enhancing local health services for members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) living in Tsalagi Gadugi (Cherokee County).

The new clinic, which replaces

the original site established more than three decades ago, was first championed by former Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Rep. Glenda Fisher.

During the event, Casey Cooper, chief executive officer of Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority, opened the ceremony by honoring Fisher for her decades of advocacy. Fisher reflected on the early years when Tsalagi Gadugi residents routinely traveled long distances to Cherokee for even the most basic care. She shared gratitude that the vision she fought for has not only endured but grown into a modern health care facility built with intention, cultural ground-

ing, and community need at the forefront.

Cooper also recognized the Cherokee County Clinic staff, noting that they consistently earn some of the highest patient satisfaction and access scores within the entire CIHA system. He emphasized that the new facility provides room for continued growth, allowing CIHA to expand services in direct response to local demand. Beginning in mid-January, dental services will return to the Cherokee County Clinic which now features an entire dedicated dental suite. Rehabilitation services such as physical therapy will expand to two days per week,

with long-term plans to introduce occupational therapy and speech services as the community's population and needs continue to grow. The clinic, which is outfitted with all new furniture and state-of-the-art equipment including intercommunication solutions installed by the Franklin-based company, Tek-Tone, will also support increased capacity for integrated care, care management, preventive health services, behavioral health, and telehealth.

Cooper highlighted the community support the project has garnered since inception, including when then-Junaluska Leadership Council member Madison Orr

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Byers raised concerns about access gaps for Tsalagi Gadugi and Tutiya (Snowbird) families. Her advocacy ultimately led former Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi Rep. Bucky Brown and Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi Rep. Adam Wachacha to champion the effort and introduce Resolution 576, which authorized funding for a new clinic designed to meet current and future demand.

As the project advanced, CIHA and its partners uncovered that the construction site sits within the original Trail of Tears corridor. This discovery required careful planning, archaeological review, and meaningful consultation to ensure the building process honored the cultural and historical significance of the land. Cooper thanked the project team for adapting plans with care and attention, ensuring the clinic's footprint respected the site while still accommodating the programs and services essential to the community.

Ugwyiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks joined the ceremony to congratulate the community and recognize the many hands behind the project. He spoke to the resilience of the Cherokee people and the importance of continuing to invest in health care access for citizens living outside the Qualla Boundary. He noted that the new clinic strengthens the Tribe's commitment to bringing high-quality, culturally grounded health care closer to where families live.

CIHA Director of Engineering Damon Lambert acknowledged the work of architects McMillan Pazdan & Smith, construction partners Owle Construction, Arrowhead Contractors, and Diamondback Premier Contracting, and CIHA operational teams who worked through weather delays, supply chain challenges, and a



Marsha Hollifield, Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority Governing Board, cuts the ribbon to open the new Cherokee County Clinic in Marble, N.C. on Wednesday, Dec. 10. (CIHA photos)

phased construction and transition timeline to bring the facility to life. Staff began moving into the building last week and officially started seeing patients on Monday.

Just before Tribal Leadership and members of CIHA's Governing Board officially cut the ribbon on the new clinic, Bo Taylor offered a traditional honor song for Madison Orr Byers, Councilmember Adam Wachacha, and former Councilmember Bucky Brown in recognition of their efforts to bring the project to fruition. Following the ribbon cutting, an open house allowed community members to tour the new clinic. Visitors explored clinical spaces designed to support integrated primary care, behavioral health, care management, physical therapy, dental care, and future specialty services. The building reflects Cherokee aesthetic elements, natural materials, and a layout that supports both efficiency and a sense of welcome.

The new Cherokee County



Ugwyiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks addresses the crowd during Wednesday's event.

Clinic is now open at 2313 Tomotla Road in Marble, North Carolina, offering enhanced access to care, more room for specialty and reha-

bilitative services, and a renewed commitment to serving Cherokee families close to home.

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

H.R. 6206 (Protect Culturally Sensitive Information Act).

According to the bill, the purposes are,

“(1) to protect the confidentiality of culturally sensitive information provided by Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian Organizations to the federal government;

(2) to create a safe, respectful space for consultation between the federal government and Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian Organizations that encourages a free-flowing exchange of information and ideas;

(3) to build trust, strengthen relationships, and expand opportunities for costewardship between the federal government and Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian Organizations by ensuring that culturally sensitive information provided to the federal government will be protected to the maximum extent possible;

(4) to advance repatriation of cultural items, including human remains, under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); and

(5) to strengthen support for the policy of the United States of protecting and preserving traditional,

cultural, and ceremonial rites and practices in accordance with Public Law 95-341 (commonly known as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act).

Introduced: Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.) on Nov. 20

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 20. 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: This 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.](#)

This bill was tacked on to the final draft of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that was released by Congress on Dec. 7. The Lumbee Fairness Act can be found in Section 8803 (pages 3,057 to 3,082) of the 3,086-page Act. The NDAA has not been voted on as of press time.

H.R. 474 (Lumbee Fairness Act). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, a state-recognized group. This bill is identical to S. 107.

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Jan. 16. This bill was tacked on to the final draft of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that was released by Congress on Dec. 7. The Lumbee Fairness Act can be found in Section 8803 (pages 3,057 to 3,082) of the 3,086 page Act. The NDAA has not been voted on as of press time.

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

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

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

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 Committee 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 acknowl-

edgment 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 avail-

able 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 authorize 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.

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.

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>



**CIPD Arrest Report for
Dec. 1-7, 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.

Ramirez, Hugo Gardo – age 40
Arrested: Dec. 1
Released: Dec. 2
Charges: Drug Paraphernalia, Pre-Trial Release Violation

Collins, Samantha – age 21
Arrested: Dec. 2
Released: Dec. 5
Charges: Domestic Violence

Hornbuckle, Jamie Ray – age 49
Arrested: Dec. 2
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Littlejohn, Emery Lee – age 40
Arrested: Dec. 2
Released: Dec. 4
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance (two counts)

Brady, Wendy Pearl – age 48
Arrested: Dec. 3
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule II (two counts), Providing or Possessing Contraband, Drug Trafficking

Climbingbear Jr., Henderson – age 77
Arrested: Dec. 3
Released: Dec. 4

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Lemons, Lauren Ashley – age 37
Arrested: Dec. 3
Released: Dec. 3
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule II

Rickman, John Preston – age 38
Arrested: Dec. 3
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule II, Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule I

Tolley, Lawrence Allen – age 53
Arrested: Dec. 3
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Second Degree Trespass

Best, Jeffery Allen – age 36
Arrested: Dec. 4
Released: Dec. 5
Charges: Simple Possession of a Controlled Substance

Calhoun, Chad Lawrence – age 42
Arrested: Dec. 4
Released: Dec. 4
Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Crowe, Ervin Ivandale – age 53
Arrested: Dec. 4
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule II, Providing or Possessing Contraband, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court

Taylor, Stephanie Nichole – age 35
Arrested: Dec. 4
Released: Dec. 4
Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Collins, Ozzy Daniel – age 24

Arrested: Dec. 5
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Hollifield, Tiffany Michelle – age 25
Arrested: Dec. 5
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Janes, Jesse Levi – age 43
Arrested: Dec. 5
Released: Dec. 6
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Collins, Samantha – age 21
Arrested: Dec. 6
Released: Dec. 6
Charges: Simple Assault, Assault and Battery, Simple Affray

Erazo Santos, Darlin Oquely – age 47
Arrested: Dec. 6
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Pheasant, William Hewitt – age 24
Arrested: Dec. 6
Released: Dec. 6
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Robles, Abriana Nicole – age 29
Arrested: Dec. 6
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Disorderly Conduct; Assault on Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer

Saunooke, Heather Louise – age 53
Arrested: Dec. 6
Released: Dec. 6

Charges: Simple Assault, Assault and Battery, Simple Affray

Gomez, Kasper – age 19
Arrested: Dec. 7
Released: Dec. 7
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Hill, Corey James – age 28
Arrested: Dec. 7
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 8)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Assault by Strangulation, Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Lambert, Samara Dejanae Ayy – age 19
Arrested: Dec. 7
Released: Dec. 7
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Lopez, Nabor Canseco – age 55
Arrested: Dec. 7
Released: Dec. 7
Charges: Driving While Intoxicated

Menoz, Marcos – age 55
Arrested: Dec. 7
Released: Child Abuse in the Second Degree (three counts), Domestic Violence and Dating Violence
Charges:

Sampson, Timber – age 18
Arrested: Dec. 7
Released: Dec. 7
Charges: Simple Assault, Assault and Battery, Simple Affray; Assault on a Female (two counts)

Williams, Selma – age 19
Arrested: Dec. 7
Released: Dec. 7
Charges: Hold Until Sober



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PEP20-03-01-041



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Indoor Track & Field Cherokee participates in Polar Panther Invitational

One Feather Staff Report

FRANKLIN, N.C. – Cherokee High School's (CHS) indoor track team participated in the Polar Panther Invitational hosted by Franklin High School at the Macon Middle School Track in Franklin, N.C. on Wednesday, Dec. 3. The following teams competed in the event: Andrews, Cherokee, Enka, Franklin, Macon Early College, Pisgah, Robbinsville, Rosman, Shining Rock Classical Academy, Smoky Mountain, Swain Co., and Tuscola.

Following is the list of CHS athletes' performances:

Women's 1000M Run:

- Dvdaya Swimmer, first place, 3:06.28

Women's Shot Put:

- Joscelyn Stamper, first place, 38-6

- Roxy Solis, sixth place, 27-6

- Briann Teesateskie, 13th place, 22-5

Men's 300M Dash

- Reggie Hyatt, 18th place, 47.53

- Isaiah Ledford, 22nd place, 50.90

Men's Shot Put

- Zaynon Taylor, second place, 40-7

- Johnny Long, fifth place, 38-10

- Dalton Bradley, 11th place, 31-2

- Jess Walkingstick, 22nd place, 26-8

Following is a listing of winners in each competition:

Men's Events

55M Dash: Reid Laseter, Franklin, 6.81

300M Dash: Josh Lowe, Pisgah, 39.13

500M Dash: Brandon Jordan, Tuscola, 1:06.86

1000M Run: Benjamin Koeller, Robbinsville,

3:00.51

1600M Run: Benjamin Frederick, Robbinsville,

4:54.29

3200M Run: Landon Boxberger, Robbinsville,

11:17.04

55M Hurdles: Jonas Phillips, Franklin, 8.67

4x200M Relay: Pisgah, 1:37.45

4x400M Relay: Franklin, 4:08.34

4x800M Relay: Smoky Mountain, 9:43.48

High Jump: CJ Engert, Franklin 5-11

Long Jump: Rod Latner, unattached, 19-2.5

Triple Jump: Yasir Myels, unattached, 40-4

Pole Vault: Wyatt Outlaw, Swain Co., 8-3

Avery Farley, Robbinsville, 8-3

Shot Put: Logan Patrick, Andrews, 41-4

Women's Events

55M Dash: Michelle Ortega, Franklin, 7.54

300M Dash: Anna Timan, Franklin, 44.06

500M Dash: Michelle Ortega, Franklin, 1:20.96

1000M Run: Dvdaya Swimmer, Cherokee,

3:06.28

1600M Run: Amy Mendoza-Lopez, Franklin,

5:31.00

3200M Run: Olivia Arnold, Tuscola, 12:07.28

55m Hurdles: Olivia Powll, Pisgah, 9.60

4x200M Relay: Tuscola, 2:05.72

4x400M Relay: Pisgah, 4:27.49

4x800M Relay: Tuscola, 10:19.82

High Jump: Isabella Shope, Franklin, 4-9

Long Jump: Sarah Rhinehart, Pisgah, 16-3.5

Triple Jump: Sarah Rhinehart, Pisgah, 32-5.5

Pole Vault: Channing Ray, Franklin, 7-3

Shot Put: Joscelyn Stamper, Cherokee, 38-6

Indoor Track & Field

Cherokee hosts meet

One Feather Staff Report

Cherokee High School (CHS) hosted a polar bear meet on the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 9 with three other schools including Andrews, Rosman, and Swain Co.

Following is the list of CHS athletes' performances:

Women's Shot Put:

- Joscelyn Stamper, first place, 37-1

- Roxy Solis, fourth place, 27-1

- Briann Teesateskie, fifth place, 26-6

Men's 300M Dash

- Reggie Hyatt, fourth place, 47.48

- Isaiah Ledford, fifth place, 47-70

Men's Long Jump

- Jess Walkingstick, fourth place, 12-4

Men's Shot Put

- Johnny Long, third place, 40-9

- Zaynon Taylor, fourth place, 38-4

Following is a listing of all of the winners in each competition:

Men's Events

55M Dash: Kaden Sawyer, Swain Co., 6.97

300M Dash: Kaden Sawyer, Swain Co., 41.54

500M Dash: Elijah Dingle, Swain Co., 1:21.97

1000M Run: Gus Burgess, Swain Co., 3:20.96

1600M Run: Gus Burgess, Swain Co., 5:28.73

55M Hurdles: Sevnyn Soares, Swain Co., 9.42

4x200M Relay: Swain County, 1:44.61

High Jump: Elijah Dingle, Swain Co., 4-8

Long Jump: AJ Johnson, Andrews, 16-11

Triple Jump: Christian Helton, Andrews, 34-3

Shot Put: Wesson Baines, Swain Co., 42-4

Women's Events

55M Dash: Natalie Garrett, Andrews, 8.67

300M Dash: Jasmine Pitawankwat, Rosman,

54.44

500M Dash: Audrey Monteith, Swain Co.,

1:39.18

1600M Run: Carola Castellano-Martinez,

Swain Co., 7:40.88

55M Hurdles: Sierra Collins, Swain Co., 11.60

Long Jump: Lelani Queen, Swain Co., 16-11

Triple Jump: Lelani Queen, Swain Co., 31-1

Shot Put: Joscelyn Stamper, Cherokee, 37-1



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Ensley honored at State Championship game
Kellen Ensley, left, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), was named the Class 1A State Championship Game Carolina Panthers West Defensive MVP following the state title game on Thursday, Dec. 11. Ensley is a senior member of the Robbinsville Black Knights team who played Wilson Prep at Kenan Stadium on the campus of the University of North Carolina. (Photo contributed)



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PUBLIC NOTICE AND TESTIMONY

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

**Confirmation hearing for
Hannah Youngdeer, Ericka Panther,
and Randall Crowe
to the Cannabis Control Board**

**Thursday, Dec. 18 at 1:30 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.**



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Atlanta Braves Cultural Committee and Atlanta Braves hold Career Expo

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the morning of Thursday, Dec. 11, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Atlanta Braves Cultural Committee and the Atlanta Braves held the Beyond the Diamond Career Expo at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Event Center for EBCI high school and college students to explore careers in professional sports.

Students from Cherokee High School and three college students were in attendance, as well as Cultural Committee members Amy West, Laura Blythe, and Doug Reed, and several Atlanta Braves employees from various departments.

Eugene Brooks, director of Arts, Culture, Entertainment (A.C.E.) marketing for the Atlanta Braves, provided opening remarks, followed by lunch and a panel with Atlanta Braves employees.

Art Evans, vice president of talent, led the panel discussion, including Daniel Mumphery, community and Henry Louis Aaron Fund coordinator; Katie Kovacs, marketing and operations coordinator; Kimberly Chamorro, A.C.E. marketing coordinator; and Taylor Koesters, marketing project manager.

Koesters joined the Atlanta Braves in 2021 when the team won the World Series. "It was definitely



Atlanta Braves Cultural Committee members Laura Blythe, Doug Reed, and Amy West are shown at the Beyond the Diamond Career Expo held on Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Event Center. This event was for EBCI high school and college students to explore careers in professional sports. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

a memory that I'll never forget," she shared. "This organization is like a family. We spend so much time together, especially in baseball, because it's a long season, but that's what makes it fun." Koesters also highlighted the importance of networking, stating that networking is the reason she got her job with the Atlanta Braves. Kovacs said working for a major league baseball team is a unique experience. "Every day is different. I think that's exciting. Working in

this business, I don't think I've had the same day twice."

Working in such a dynamic environment, Kovacs said taking initiative is important. "Take initiative. That's what stands out to me, and that's what employers want to see."

Mumphery said one of his favorite aspects of working for the Braves is being able to serve surrounding communities, such as hosting EBCI Night at Truist Park. "What's really cool for me to see is

the opportunities that we're able to provide to our communities."

After the panel, students were divided into breakout sessions with the varying departments.

West said, "The purpose of this event is to focus on giving our students the opportunity to see what jobs are available and have a fun experience most don't get." West said the Braves also visited the Deb West Senior Center on Dec. 10 and gave out small gifts to EBCI elders.

Cherokee Cablevision provides update on Tribal Fiber Project

Submitted by Cherokee Cablevision

CHEROKEE, N.C. – As Cherokee Cablevision, wholly owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and operated by BalsamWest, continues to make progress on the fiber build across tribal lands, they want to keep residents informed about what's happening in their communities. This update provides important details about the work underway, and what to expect during construction.

The Cherokee Cablevision (CCV) Board has made the decision to make every home and business in Phases 1 and 2 fiber-ready, regardless of current service interest.

This decision affects resi-

dents and businesses in Elawodi (Yellowhill), Kolanvyi (Big Cove), Wayohi (Wolfstown), Aniwo-dihi (Painttown), and Widagalinidigv (Big Y) communities, where crews are actively working to extend fiber to every structure. If you do not want a fiber ready home or business, Cherokee Cablevision needs to know as soon as possible. Please note, connections are currently being built to every structure for free. If you deny the connection now, you may incur significant installation costs after construction contractors are finished.

Having a fiber-ready home or business does not mean you are obligated to sign up for services, but it will be available if you decide that you do want service in

the future.

Entering Property: What to Expect

As construction continues, residents may notice increased activity around their homes, including fiber lines being attached to exterior walls via a small box on the outside of the home (NID). Crews attempt to make contact by knocking on doors before beginning work. If no one answers, the service connection is installed in the area where your existing utilities enter the home. All of this is done at no cost to the homeowner or business owner.

Crews may also need access to your driveway so they can access aerial Duke Power lines. If crews are blocking your driveway, you can approach them to request access.

Residents who encounter construction issues can reach out to our Customer Service Team, at (828) 339-2900. From there, they will escalate to Vantage Point Solutions.

Fiber Network Construction Progress

If you are in Phase 1 (Elawodi, Kolanvyi), they are ready to take your order. Phase 2 (Wayohi, Aniwo-dihi, and Widagalinidigv) is coming online quickly, with over 700 locations already tested and active. Both phases are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Phase 2 Progress


- 91.65 of 91.67 total miles of fiber have been placed
- 1,558 of 1,633 service drops to homes and businesses completed
- 767 addresses have been tested and confirmed serviceable

Looking Ahead: Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) and Whittier/Tso Iyagayvli Tali Sgohits(v) Sgwa Itsutsiloda (3200 Acre Tract)

With Phase 1 completed and Phase 2 nearly complete, attention is turning to Phases 3 and 4 (Birdtown/Whittier/3200 Acre). Construction of the transport line has begun; this will connect everything back to the Cherokee Network Fiber Huts. Both phases have been pre-engineered, and construction is now beginning. They anticipate to secure the remaining funding needed to complete all phases around the first of the year. For future updates, residents are encouraged to follow Cherokee Cablevision's Facebook page and check the website for all project updates.

Requesting Fiber Services

Are you interested in Fiber services? For more information, contact our Customer Service Team at (828) 339-2900 or visit our website at www.cherokeecablevision.com.



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

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Hammered Copper sculpture part of Forest Botanical Region Living Monument

Located at the Forest Botanicals Region Living Monument High Knob Destination Center in Norton, Va., a sculpture titled "Forest Shelter," or "Inage Galtsodv in the Cherokee language, was created by the artist team of Nathan Wachacha David Bush, right, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and William Rogers to celebrate the relationships that Appalachian peoples have long held with forest botanicals, stretching from pre-colonization to today. Rogers and Bush are revitalizing Cherokee copper craft. They were selected for the project through a competitive application process by the Forest Botanicals Region Living Monument's leadership team and advisory board early in 2024. (Photos by Shannon E. Bell)



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Meet the EBCI's 2026 Remember the Removal Riders

Special to the One Feather

Following are the riders who will represent the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on the 2026 Remember the Removal (RTR) bicycle ride. The ride will retrace the northern route of the Trail of Tears from New Echota, Ga. to Tahlequah, Okla. Exact dates are not yet available for this year's ride, but it will occur in June 2026.

Meli Jackson, 24,
Wayohi (Wolftown)

Not going to lie, the Remember the Removal Ride has been one of the top things I've wanted to accomplish for a long time. It became a personal goal of mine the moment I first heard about the program. My reason for signing up



The riders who will represent the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on the 2026 Remember the Removal (RTR) bicycle ride are shown, left to right, including: back row - Rachel Bruneel, Sara-Marie Ferguson, Steven Michael Smith, Meli Jackson, Kamiyo Lanning; front row - Ernest Pheasant, Arlenea Chapa. (Photo courtesy of Nelson Lambert)



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.

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

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goes far beyond just myself. I want to be better connected with our culture, our history, our language, our land, and our people so that I can be a positive influence for my younger siblings. I want to share with them - and with the rest of my community - everything I learn and experience on this journey.

For my brothers especially, I want to show them that if they have a goal or a dream, no matter how big or small, they can accomplish it - even when the odds are stacked against them. Just like our ancestors, when the odds were stacked against them and who others tried to eliminate, we are still here today.

I've been part of athletic teams my entire life, and the camaraderie and connection you build with your teammates is something that stays with you forever. Being part of a team like RTR is an opportunity not many people get to experience. The long hours of riding, training, and simply spending time together are where the strongest bonds are formed. When I ask RTR alumni what their favorite part was, nine times out of ten they say the connections they built—not only within EBCI but also with Cherokee Nation riders. That is what I look forward to the most and a big factor why I chose to sign up.

**Steven Smith, 31,
Tsisqwohi (Birdtown)**

I chose to sign up for RTR after hearing and seeing the experiences that previous riders had and how impactful it was for them. I heard so many stories about how they became more connected with our language and culture and selfishly I wanted to have those experiences for myself and learn more about my culture, family, and language.

**Rachel Bruneel, 26,
Elawodi (Yellowhill)**

I signed up to do the ride because growing up in Florida I was stripped of our culture and history. My great grandmother and my grandma both spoke our language and made baskets. My grandma moved to Florida when she was young where she raised my mom and lost the ability to speak the language. Over the last three years of living in Cherokee I have made it a goal to connect with our people, our culture, our history, so I can be more in tune with who we are as people. I want to be able to raise my daughter with her culture and traditions so she knows who she is. Two years ago, I heard what the RTR was, and I wanted to be a rider but knew I was not going to be able to do it because my daughter was only four months old.

Last year, I followed two former riders who posted about their journey daily and I said I am going to be a part of the next team. Seeing last year's ride inspired me to be a part of the RTR group. I looked forward to the post every single day to see what they were learning and where they were at. I want to show my daughter that when you set a goal you can achieve it no matter the circumstances you are in. I have always wanted to challenge myself and to push one step further each time and be the strong role model my daughter and other people need. Being an athlete for most of my life has prepared me to build connections with my teammates along with those from Cherokee Nation. I am looking forward to the long days of training, being able to grow as a person, and completing this once-in-a-lifetime ride that will forever change my life.

Kamiyo Lanning, 45, Wayohi

I applied to RTR because I decided that I wasn't going to let a prior disappointment in the application process, keep me from experiencing something I know is life-changing. Over the past couple of years, I've worked hard to prioritize both my mental and physical health. After serving as support staff for the past two years, I built friendships and a support system of legacy riders that have encouraged me to try again this time-focusing on my team, my growth, and our journey. I'm excited to experience this with my teammates. It's important to never forget who we are, where we come from, and why we are still here.

**Sara-Marie Ferguson, 32,
Aniwodihi (Painttown)**

I felt that joining the RTR 2026 team would be a great opportunity for me to not only be an example and an inspiration to my community, but an opportunity to improve my physical health and learn more about my culture and the hardships that my ancestors endured.

Ernest Pheasant, 16, Aniwodihi

The reason I signed up for RTR is because I wanted to learn more about my culture and past and also share my experiences with family and future generations to come.

**Arlenea Chapa (alternate), 43,
Wayohi (Wolftown)/Rough Branch**

I've watched many members of our community complete the Removal Ride, and everyone I've spoken to has described it as a life-changing experience, one that gives you a new perspective on life, culture, and yourself. Over the past few years, I've been on my own journey of growth, working

hard to improve both physically and mentally. Mountain biking has played a big role in that, helping me build strength, discipline, and confidence. But I believe the Removal Bike Ride will offer something deeper; a chance to connect with my Cherokee identity in a way I haven't yet experienced.



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Who became the first Japanese male player to win one of golf's major tournaments when he won the Masters in 2021?
2. At the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Eric Moussambani, a swimmer from Equatorial Guinea, won his heat in the 100-meter freestyle despite recording the slowest time in Olympic history. (His only two competitors were disqualified.) What nickname did the media give him?
3. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Cronin, a player, manager, executive and former president of the American League, has his No. 4 retired by what Major League team?
4. Hockey Hall of Famer Babe Siebert drowned in August 1939 at age 35, just weeks before he was to take over as the new head coach of what NHL team?
5. What stunt did actor Michael Sergio pull off during Game 6 of the 1986 World Series?
6. A bridge in West Virginia is named after what boxer and longtime Fayetteville police chief? (Hint: He was Muhammad Ali's first professional opponent.)
7. Thai billionaire Vichai Srivadhanaprabha, who died in a helicopter crash in 2018, was the owner of which English Premier League football club?

Answers

1. Hideki Matsuyama.
2. "Eric the Eel."
3. The Boston Red Sox.
4. The Montreal Canadiens.
5. He parachuted onto the field at the New York Mets' Shea Stadium.
6. Tunney Hunsaker.
7. Leicester City F.C.

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"Top 10" Photos of 2025

Following are some of my favorite photos I was able to take during 2025. I labeled this my personal "Top 10", but it isn't a ranking, and it is not to say that these are necessarily better than others. These are just ones that spoke to me. When taking photographs, I look for emotion and try to tell a story. Sometimes, I am happy with my photographs, and other times I feel I miss the target badly. I feel these hit the mark.

- **SCOTT MCKIE B.P./**One Feather Asst. Editor
Photos are on pages 24-26



Catcuce Tiger, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who works in the Cultural Department at Cherokee Central Schools, served as the emcee for the Cherokee Winter Social held at the Peaches Squirrel Sports & Recreation Complex in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Saturday, Jan. 25.



Simon Montelongo, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a lead processor at the Great Smoky Cannabis Co. farm in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown), demonstrates a machine that makes vapes using cannabis products in this photo taken in March 2025.



Nancy Pheasant, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, welcomes the students to the Kuwohi Connection Day with the story of Medicine Lake. The event was held at Kuwohi (Mulberry Place) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 9.



Aubrey Little, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, models an outfit by Little Thunderbird Designs (Malia Crowe-Skulski) at the 7th Annual Kananegsi Fashion Show held Saturday, Nov. 8 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, N.C.



Rick Bottchenbaugh, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Kolanvyi (Big Cove), dances in the Golden Age Men's Traditional contest at the annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow on Friday, July 4 at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C.



Members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) play an exhibition game of anetso (stickball) during the Annual Kituwah Celebration held at Kituwah (Mother Town of the Cherokee) on Friday, June 6. This event is held in recognition of the EBCI gaining control over the site when it purchased the 309-acre tract in 1996. The land was placed into trust for the EBCI by the federal government in 2021.



The Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi are shown at midcourt following being awarded their state championship trophy and medals. The Anata Anitsvyasdi defeated the East Bladen Eagles 84-48 in the 1A Women's Basketball title game played at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem, N.C. on the afternoon of Friday, March 14. Shown, left to right, are Asst. Coach Jason McMillan, Madison Rogers, Team Statistician Ahli-sha Stephens, Tsuli Lossiah, Livia Crowe, Asst. Coach Paige Stamper, Whitney Rogers, Dvdaya Swimmer, Joscelyn Stamper, Daisee Fourkiller-Raby, Emily Brady, Yvonne Saunooke, Marlee Hicks, Head Coach Miranda Long Stamper, Kyla Moore, Lilly Lossiah, and Team Manager Will Poolaw. In front, holding the ball, is Team Mascot Penelope Stamper. It was the second title in a row for the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi.



<<

Nakai Pheasant (#30), a member of the Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) junior varsity team, scores on a 32-yard touchdown pass from Greyson Panther in the second quarter of a game against the Rosman JV Tigers at Ray Kinsland Memorial Stadium in Cherokee, N.C. on Thursday, Aug. 21. Braves superfan Wesley Bird can be seen in the background celebrating. The Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi won 50-0.



Alfred Welch, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), sings a traditional song during the Fading Voices Demonstration Days in Tutiya on Saturday, May 24.



A sign designating the area in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park known as Kuwohi (mulberry place) was officially unveiled on the morning of Tuesday, April 1. Shown, left to right, are Lavita Hill, Mary "Missy" Crowe, and Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Hill and Crowe, both EBCI members, were instrumental in the name restoration effort.

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WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
Tuckaseegee 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. 15
AVERAGE

7:26 AM-9:26 AM
7:48 PM-9:48 PM

TUESDAY, DEC. 16
GOOD

8:10 AM-10:10 AM
8:33 PM-10:33 PM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17
BETTER

8:57 AM-10:57 AM
9:22 PM-11:22 PM

THURSDAY, DEC. 18
BETTER++

9:47 AM-11:47 AM
10:13 PM-12:13 AM

FRIDAY, DEC. 19
BEST

10:39 AM-12:39 PM

SATURDAY, DEC. 20
BEST++

11:31 AM-1:31 PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 21
BETTER

12:23 PM-2:23 PM

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EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS, SHOW UP FOR YOUR HEALTH

"Top 10" Photos of 2025

Sgi nigad for another wonderful year of coverage! Our community is vibrant, unique, and certainly fun to photograph. I'm excited to see what 2026 brings for Cherokee.

- BROOKLYN BROWN

One Feather Reporter and Editorial Board Chairperson
Photos are on pages 28-30



AniKituhwa Warrior Sonny Ledford performs at the Red Clay Cultural Celebration in Cleveland, Tenn. on Aug. 9.



Cherokee Nation fluent speaker Tom Belt gives a presentation on the significance of the Cherokee town of Cowee at the Cowee Mound in present day Macon County on April 9.



2024-25 Junior Miss Cherokee Misha Slee throws cornhole at the 2025 Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Day on July 26.



Children's Day was held Oct. 8 at the 113th Annual Cherokee Indian Fair.



On the morning of Sept. 29, silent protestors stand in front of the Anthony Edward Lossiah Justice Center as former Swain Co. Sherriff Curtis Cochran attends Cherokee Tribal Court for a hearing on his alleged sexual abuse charges.



The 2025 Cherokee High School Commencement Ceremony concludes with confetti from the largest senior class in school history of 100 graduates on May 24.



The Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post 143 presents the colors at the second Tsalagi Aniwonisgi Didanvdadisi (Cherokee Speakers Memorial Day) event 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.



The newly crowned 2025-26 Miss Cherokee Marcela Garcia, Junior Miss Cherokee Keilani Arch, Teen Miss Cherokee Ava Walkingstick, and Little Miss Cherokee Alessandra Ramirez pose for their first picture together as Cherokee royalty following the Teen Miss Cherokee pageant held Oct. 9 at the 113th Annual Cherokee Indian Fair.



Cherokee High School Jr. Livia Crowe wrestles with intensity in the Maroon & Gold Scrimmage held Nov. 6 in Charles George Memorial Arena.



Tsisqwahi (Birdtown) and Kolanvyi (Big Cove) face off in an Anetso (Stickball) exhibition game held Oct. 6 during the 113th Annual Cherokee Indian Fair.

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***One Feather
Poem of the Week***

Flowing Down Past

***By Danelle Bushyhead
Cherokee, N.C.***

Going down the lively creek,
Memories it shares,
Softly and deep.
Each movement holds and caresses,
Rocks hold the shape of a past.
Each moment flows quietly away.

GWY 𐏎 𐏎 𐏎
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

OBITUARIES ᏊᏞᏲᏚᏚ

Irvin Phillip Owle

Irvin Phillip Owle, 83, passed away on Monday, Dec. 8, 2025, at Maggie Valley Nursing and Rehab in Maggie Valley, N.C., after a period of declining health.

He was born in Cherokee on Oct. 31, 1942, to the late Samuel and Callie Smith Owle.

Irvin dedicated 30 years working for AC Transit in Oakland, Calif., as a body and mechanic worker. He was known for his

humor, kindness, generosity, and deep love for his family. His passions filled his life with joy - horse racing, fishing, riding his motorcycle, and proudly supporting his favorite football team, the Oakland Raiders.

In addition to his parents, Irvin was preceded in death by his sisters, Ethelyn Roberts and Dora Owle, as well as his brothers, Charles Owl, Joseph Owl, John Owl, Benjamin Owl, Samuel Sr. Owl, and Alfred Owl.

His survivors include his son,

Samuel Christopher Owle; his daughters, Robyn Lynn Owle Holway and Kelly Michelle Pursch; his sister, Betty Crawford; grandchildren Samuel, Tracy, April, Sean, and Emily; nephew, Samuel Jr. Owl; Tom Owl; Chelis Owl; Chris Koko; nieces, Kathy Rose, Carol Wolf, Rhonda Wilnoty; and his former spouse, Janice Catherine Owle.

Besides many other family members, too numerous to mention individually, each of whom he held in high regard.

Irvin's warmth, humor, and generous spirit will always be remembered. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Dec. 16 in the Chapel of Long House Funeral Services in Cherokee, N.C. The family received friends immediately prior to the service.

Long House Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.



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EBCI ANNOUNCEMENTS& NEWS

Cherokee Historical Association hires two new staff members to lead new programming initiatives

Submitted by Cherokee Historical Association

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Cherokee Historical Association (CHA) has expanded its full-time administrative staff with the creation of two new roles: Cultural Outreach & Event Specialists. These positions, funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, will be responsible for leading new programming initiatives set to launch in 2026. Ryleigh Long and Marcus Bradley, both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, joined the Cherokee Historical Association team in November.

Long, a graduate of Swain County High School, completed

the Oconaluftee Indian Village Mentorship Program in 2020. She has worked as a tour guide, artisan, and lecturer at the Village each season since.

Bradley, who holds a bachelor's degree in business, began working at Oconaluftee Indian Village in 2012. He is now a tour guide, artisan, lecturer and serves as the Programming Assistant.

Long and Bradley's extensive experience, deep cultural knowledge, and strong commitment to guest engagement will play a key role in building new programming that serves our community and enriches the experience of visitors.

For decades, Cherokee Historical Association has functioned primarily as a seven-month seasonal organization, concluding operations in early November.

Over the past two years, the non-profit organization has intentionally expanded its programming

to prepare for the transition to year-round operation. With the increased capacity that comes with a larger staff, CHA will now be able to launch year-round programming in 2026. New mission-driven programming led by the Cultural Outreach & Event Specialists includes off-season self-guided tours at Oconaluftee Indian Village, video modules for classrooms, and tours to historically relevant sites in the region.

Program Director Laura Blythe shares, "In my role overseeing program development, I'm proud to see the foundation we began laying two years ago taking shape in these new year-round offerings. The addition of Marcus Bradley and Ryleigh Long as Cultural Outreach & Event Specialists strengthens our ability to serve visitors and our local community in meaningful ways. Their experience and passion for Cherokee culture will help bring these initiatives to life and support Cherokee Historical Association's long-term sustainability. Moving into a full annual schedule requires thoughtful growth, and the pieces are now coming together as new programs and experiences take shape while holding true to our mission. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Cherokee Preservation Foundation for funding these roles and supporting CHA's continued growth."

Long and Bradley are both eager to deepen their understanding of Cherokee history and culture, with the goal of sharing this knowledge with the wider community.

Long expressed excitement, saying, "I am excited to learn more about the surrounding cultural sites and locations," while Bradley emphasized a passion for education, adding, "I love learning

and teaching others about Cherokee history and our culture. I am excited to learn more."

Cherokee Historical Association invites the community to stay informed about upcoming program launches. More information will be shared on CHA's website (CherokeeHistorical.org) and social media channels in the coming months.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Thank you,

To everyone who helped my husband General B. Grant to journey on. An overwhelming support from countless relatives turned the hard task of the wake, services and burial into a comforting experience for everyone involved. Special thanks go out to nieces Marsha, Dakota, Nikki and Shennelle; also, thanks to Mike and Taryn, Reese and Shane, John John, Bruce, Drayke, Faith, Eddie, Dave, Aracelli, Maria-Teresa and Angel, Betty and Ralph, Mark and Naiche, Jerome, Salvador, Jayme, every one of the estimated 20+ pallbearers and other men and women who helped preparing the road and sending him off. The tribal support on so many levels was invaluable for the smooth course of events. Forgive me if I don't mention your name here. There was more support than I could comprehend. The fire was tended day and night for four days, food was prepared, his last resting place was dug, tents were put up, chairs and tables delivered, and I don't know who all participated in that. Many things were taken care of without me even realizing. So please, take my universal, heartfelt gratitude. Together, we were part of a beautiful ceremony, worthy of the great man who moved on.

Ute Grant, December 2025

Trying to sell a couch, a lamp, etc.?

Advertise your item in the Cherokee One Feather classifieds.

All items under \$25,000 are **FREE** of charge. Send your listing -

up to 30 words -

to Dawn Arneach at

dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov or

Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com.



COMMENTARY

2025

By **ROBERT JUMPER**

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

Since our last edition of 2025 is near, I thought it would be a good idea to recount the headlines of the year.

Jan. 15 - You are not forgotten, MMIW: IWMF One-Year Grant in Review.

Jan. 22 - Healing is culture, New Museum exhibit on view at CIHA

Jan. 29 - Bill to place Tennessee lands into trust for EBCI introduced again

Feb. 5 - Shop local for Valentine's Day

Feb. 12 - Housing is moving for-

ward, Tribe breaks ground on new housing in Wayohi (Wolfstown)

Feb. 19 - With a Native Voice, "Homelands": EBCI artists featured in McClung's mound exhibit

Feb. 26 - "Every Brave, Every Day", CCS School Board holds two meetings in February

March 5 - Maker of War, boxing club (Women's History Month)

March 12 - Mother Town improvements, Kituwah pavilion construction underway

March 19 - Two In A Row, Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) repeat as state champions

March 26 - It's ok to feel the pain, Cherokee High School students advocate for mental health

April 2 - "Noble warriors", Post 143 hosts National Vietnam War Veterans Day event

April 9 - Coming full circle, Sign

designation Kuwohi installed in Park

April 16 - "Learning by burning" EBCI Natural Resources holds cultural burning of river cane

April 23 - Sharing her culture: Scarlett Guy (Miss Cherokee 2023-2024) to run for Miss Indian World

April 30 - Community love and support, Cherokee community gathers to support Autism education and acceptance

May 7 - Splish! Splash! Kanunohi! Bullfrog Place Park opens in Cherokee

May 14 - Flip the Script, Tribe celebrates Older Americans Month

May 21 - Running for hope, McCoy doing transcontinental fundraiser run

May 28 - "The past shaped us", CHS Class of 2025 graduates most ever with 100

June 4 - Historical drama turning 75, "Unto These Hills" set to celebrate its diamond anniversary

June 11 - "We are still here", Annual Kituwah Celebration held

June 18 - EBCI Chestnut Project update, USDA reopening public comment period for GMO chestnut tree

June 25 - Connecting to the ancestors, Remember the Removal riders finish their journey

July 2 - Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow

July 16 - "I need to go and do my part", Tribal elder's memory (Fred B Lundsford) honored with Congressional Record

July 23 - Cherokee Fire and Rescue Department commended for high state rating

July 30 - Natural wonder, Ribbon-cutting held for Soco Falls Trailhead improvements project

Aug. 6 - "A place for peace", Tohi Edasdi Recovery Community Center opens officially

Aug. 13 - Back-to-Back Champions, Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) honored for the second straight state title

Aug. 20 - The greatest generation, Last living EBCI World War II serviceman (Cabe "Cody" Monroe Lambert) honored with Congressional Record

August 27 - Never before seen, Previously unseen photo of Charles George donated to Post 143 Museum

Sept. 3 - A landing party, White-water Landing opens officially in Cherokee

Sept. 10 - "Neither snow nor rain...", Renovations have been completed at the Cherokee Post Office

Sept. 17 - "A sacred space", Kuwohi Connection Day held to educate students

Sept. 24 - "What a blessing", Kuwohi Celebration marks one-year anniversary of name restoration

Oct. 1 - "Beautiful and captivating", Mingo Falls Revitalization celebrated with Ribbon Cutting

Oct. 8 - Every child matters, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event held

Oct. 15 - Marking a new chapter, EBCI holds Inauguration for Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) and School Board

Oct. 22 - Dedicated service, VOC Building named for Kimlyn Sneed Lambert

Oct. 29 - Hope, Strength, and Healing, EBCI acknowledges Purple Lotus Day

Nov. 5 - Fashion Issue, features on the Kanenesgi Fashion Show

Nov. 12 - "Saving the Voices", Recording Cherokee Speakers for the future

Nov. 19 - Noble warriors, Veteran's Day event held in Cherokee

Nov. 26 - Ceremonial Grounds project about to start

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Dec. 10 - Immeasurable impacts, Second Tsalagi Aniwonisgi Didan-vdadisdi (Cherokee Speakers Memorial Day) event held

Looking back on this year's newspaper, I am so proud of the amazing team that delivers Qualla Boundary news to you. While the headline might capture the focus of the week each week for our community, that is only the tip of what those editions brought to us in community news over the year. Each edition contains roughly 45 pages of content: articles, commentaries, advertisements, community events, photos, calendars, Cherokee language, culture, and history. Between the print edition and the online readership, millions have seen the contributions of the amazing One Feather team. And the course of Eastern Band Cherokee history has certainly been affected by the reporting contained in this tribal media outlet. We don't just report, we engage our community and readership.

Scott McKie Brings Plenty is the "old man" at the One Feather. Even though I am older physically than Scott, he has the longest history with the paper. I will tell you that, many times, like I have told Scott, he is the heart and soul of the Cherokee One Feather. I don't know anyone more dedicated and passionate about our community. He and his wife, Sheena, are heavily engaged community members and work as one when it comes to the newspaper, or pretty much anything else. It is a rare occasion when Scott is out on coverage to not see Sheena there at his side. Scott is an artist when it comes to writing and photography. And the care and pride he has in this community is culminated every week in each edition of One Feather. Side note: When I asked Scott to tell me how long he had been with

the paper, I anticipated some years in response. In Scott's typical "attention to detail" fashion, he replies, "27 years, 4 months, and 18 days." We are so fortunate to have a true, traditional journalist in our community who cares about integrity, accuracy, compassion, and transparency. That is Scott McKie Brings Plenty.

Dawn Arneach has accumulated approximately a decade and a half in service at the Cherokee One Feather. She has worked under multiple editors in various roles in her contribution to the community with the paper. Dawn is our advertising sales coordinator, guiding the direction of One Feather sales. But Dawn is another person who works and sacrifices beyond what is expected in a 40-hour work week. If at any time the ball is dropped by any of her teammates (including me), she is there to pick it up and carry it to the finish line. She cares deeply about her community and the information that she gets to them from the tribal newspaper. It is a rare day when I don't call on her experience and talent to help me when I am trying to work something out. And if you ask any member of the team, you will find they have similar experiences with Dawn. She is one of a kind, and we are glad that things worked out so that she could be with us in her current role.

Brooklyn Brown came to join us just as the Cherokee Indian Fair was about to start in 2023. Brooklyn "hit the ground running", or maybe it should be said that we found out how good she could swim by throwing her into the deep end of the pool. Brooklyn is another incredibly talented journalist. She held writing positions in other organizations before coming to the One Feather, and combined with her education,

she has written some of the most meaningful, heartfelt, and impactful articles and commentaries in the Cherokee One Feather over the past two years. She is quick, energetic, and has a sixth sense about relating to people and getting the most out of a story. She, too, is one of those assets that would be out of our reach were it not for her commitment to this community. We are fortunate to have her on the One Feather team.

Indica Climbingbear has been with us just over a year. Indica's role is that of our subscription clerk. Indica also serves as our front desk and administrative person. As a tribal community member, Indica's passion for community and service is obvious. With many irons in the fire, both personally and professionally, Indica manages to be an integral part of the One Feather team, ensuring subscription and retail print deliveries take place, administrative traffic is handled, and participates in the policy-making functions for which each team member is responsible. Indica quickly became a

valuable member of the Cherokee One Feather team and family.

Twelve years have flown by for me as the editor of the Cherokee One Feather. It is because I have been surrounded by an amazing team and community. We spend our time at the paper focused on the job that was laid out for us in Chapter 75 of the Cherokee Code and adhering to the Free Press Act. We are duty-bound to provide you with information so that you may be informed and make informed decisions. We also serve as a conducive forum for the community to speak to the government and the government to speak to the community. We are guardians, entrusted with the duty to provide a fair and safe forum for the readership of the One Feather to speak their minds. We all take our responsibilities to you seriously. On behalf of the Cherokee One Feather team, we thank you for the opportunity to have served you all. We hope that your holidays are safe, quiet, and full of joy and peace.

GWY ᏫᏍᏍᏍ ᏅᏍᏍᏍ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

For ads or subscriptions:

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Subscription Clerk – Indica Climbingbear,
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Janell Rattler always puts Cherokee elders first

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – If elders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) are involved, Janell Rattler will not be far behind – assisting wherever and however she can. She is the Senior Games coordinator in the Cherokee Recreation Program and has made it her life’s work to make sure that Cherokee elders have the opportunity to be active and healthy.

In an article for Women’s History Month in March, written by my colleague Brooklyn Brown, Rattler expressed her passion for elders. “When you work with the elders, it’s keeping them active, keeping their mind active. Our Native women are really competitive, and each of my seniors always aspire to bring home as many medals as they can. It’s a good feeling knowing we can help provide that.”

Rattler, an EBCI tribal member from Tutiya (Snowbird), is always advocating for elders and was a driving force behind the EBCI building the Multi-tainment Center, which includes bowling lanes, at Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort.

She spoke on the issue during a 2016 Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) session where the funding was approved. “This is a passion of theirs, and bowling is the biggest event that they love to participate in for Senior Games.”

If you see Rattler out and about, one thing is always readily apparent – her smile. She is a happy person and exudes joy to those around her. I’d be more sur-



Janell Rattler, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), is shown at the annual Elder’s Day celebration as part of the 113th Cherokee Indian Fair on Oct. 9 at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

prised to see a photograph of her not smiling than to see an actual, clear photograph of Bigfoot.

Rattler is active in many other realms too and serves on the Cherokee Preservation Foundation Board of Directors – a North Carolina Governor-appointed position she will hold until 2028. She is the local program co-coordinator for the Special Olympics Qualla Boundary team and is the vice president of the Cherokee Division for the Great Smokies

Little League. She also represented the Tutiya Community Club at the EBCI Constitutional Convention held in March 2023.

Her passion for EBCI elders, and the tribe as a whole, is endless.

William Arthur Ward, 20th century American writer whose epigrams were published in Reader’s Digest, once said, “The more generous we are, the more joyous we become. The more cooperative we are, the more valuable we

become. The more enthusiastic we are, the more productive we become. The more serving we are, the more prosperous we become.”

Rattler is generous, joyous, cooperative, valuable, enthusiastic, productive, serving, and prosperous.

If I found out that Ward wrote this specifically with Rattler in mind, I wouldn’t be surprised one little bit.

December report from Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper

Hello everyone,

This is my Council Report for the month of December. November was a very busy month, and I hope each of you enjoyed a restful holiday season with family and friends. As always, my report follows the standard format below.

Community Events

- Dec. 10 - Cherokee County Clinic Ribbon Cutting. A ribbon cutting was held at the new Cherokee County Clinic located at 328 Airport Rd in Marble, N.C.
- Dec. 12 – Winterfest. Winterfest continues throughout the month at Oconaluftee Island, featuring free ice skating, food trucks, festive lights, and rotating family-friendly activities such as photos with Santa, stocking decorating, and scavenger hunts. Winterfest dates include Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, and 31.
- Dec. 13 – Christmas Parade. Just a reminder to all, the Tribe will be closed beginning Dec. 22 through Jan. 1. Normal hours will resume Jan. 2.
- Dec. 21 and 22 - Cherokee Invitational. Come support our Back-to-Back State Champion Lady Braves as they compete at the Harrah's Cherokee Convention Center.
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 – Christmas
- Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve Fireworks will begin at 10 p.m.

Project Updates

Recently Completed Projects

This list will be updated as projects are completed for the



Aniwodihi (Painttown)
Rep. Michael Stamper

calendar year 2026

Projects Currently Underway or Nearing Completion

No substantial changes to the projects listed below. As the holiday season passes by, more work and updates will be noted.

Nvdiyeli Trail

The project is nearing completion. Concrete stairs are being poured, handrails are being installed, and new signage is in progress.

Ceremonial Grounds

The project is currently out for bid. Once the bidding process is complete, the contract will move to the Business Committee for approval. Until a contract is finalized, no completion date is available. (No change from November report)

Multipurpose Facility (Old High School Site)

Currently in the design and development phase; a completion date has not yet been determined. (No change from November report)

New Restroom Facilities for the Historical Area (Indian Village and Fire Mountain

Trails)

Designs have been approved, and the RFP process is about to begin. The goal is to complete this project before the new season opens. (No change from November Report)

Ordinances

(Any ordinance that has been passed, killed, or withdrawn will not appear on this list)

- Amendments to the UCC Ordinance, Chapter 16D of the Cherokee Code, to include the Tribal Bingo Enterprise
- Amendments to the Judicial Code, Chapter 7 of the Cherokee Code
- Compliance with NC State requirements for Underground Storage Tanks
- Amendments to election laws
- Amendments to Cannabis Con-

trol Board terms

- Amendments to TCGE/TGC terms

Work Sessions

Upcoming Work Sessions

Dec. 17

- 1:30 p.m. – Junior NAIWA: Rights of Nature Resolution
- 2:30 p.m. – Res. 37 Fishing Guides

Jan. 5


- 10 a.m. – Tabled Ord. 75 (2025): Cannabis Control Board terms
- 11 a.m. – Tabled Ord. 76 (2025): TCGE/TGC terms


Recently Held Work Sessions

As of submission there are no recently held work sessions to report

Season's Greetings from Museum of the Cherokee People

Preserving our history, culture, and stories since 1948



 Museum of the Cherokee People
motcp.org

**Free admission & store discount
for enrolled members**

Monthly Question from Readers

This month's topic focuses on Boards and Commissions that support Tribal operations and governance. Thanks to regular notices from the Cherokee One Feather, many community members are aware of upcoming vacancies and appointment opportunities. Currently, there are 14 boards and commissions that enrolled members may serve on. These include:

- Tribal Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (5 members: 4-year terms)
- Tribal Gaming Commission (3 members: 3-year terms)
- Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise (5 members: 5-year terms)
- Qualla LLC (5 members: 5-year terms)
- Cannabis Control Board (5 members: 5-year terms)
- Kituwah Economic Development

- Board (5 members: 5-year terms)
- Investment Committee (5 members: 5-year terms)
- TERO Commission (5 members: varied terms)
- Cherokee School Board (7 members: 4-year terms)
- Board of Elections (6 members: 4-year terms)
- CIHA Governing Board (11 members: 4-year terms)
- Audit & Ethics Committee (5 voting members: 4-year terms)
- Sequoyah National Golf Board (7 members: 2-year terms)
- Police Commission (8 members: 3-year terms)

These boards and commissions play important roles in ensuring accountability, oversight, and strategic direction across Tribal programs and enterprises. Community members have expressed interest in discussing whether

adjustments—such as streamlining responsibilities or updating code language—could improve efficiency or reduce overlap. Any future conversation on this topic should include a full range of viewpoints, with a focus on what best serves the Tribe as a whole.

As our government continues to evolve, it's natural to review structures periodically to ensure they remain effective. Tribal Council remains open to evaluating updates where appropriate and as guided by community input.

I welcome your thoughts:

Do you feel changes to the structure of boards and commissions would be helpful? Are there specific boards you believe could benefit from updated responsibilities or alignment? If you are satisfied with the current structure,

please share that as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. I look forward to sharing more updates with you next month. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Michael Stamper
Tribal Council Representative
Painttown Community
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This is our last
print issue for
2025. Thank you
for your support
this past year.

CLAIM 4 TICKETS

NATIVE HERITAGE NIGHT SAT. FEB 28 @ 7:30PM



<https://www.gofevo.com/event/EBCINIHN260228>

CLAIM OFFER



GAS SOUTH ARENA

MISSING

Over the course of 2025, the Cherokee One Feather has highlighted 46 indigenous missing persons from across Indian Country and some from our own community. We hope that putting a spotlight on these individuals will one day bring them home and bring peace to their families and friends.

Our primary source for the missing person feature is NAMUS, a product of the Department of the Interior. NAMUS lists missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons across the U.S. Of the 25,824 active missing cases on the database, 907 are identified as American Indian/Alaska Native. Of the 15,500 unidentified persons on NAMUS, 273 are identified as American Indian/Alaska Native. And of the 21,366 unclaimed persons on the NAMUS database, 40 are listed as American Indian/Alaska Native. In each case, there is someone who knows what happened to them. And there are people who are waiting for their loved one to come home.

Thank you to the readership for your prayers, shares, and words of encouragement for those missing and those with missing loved ones. Never stop searching.

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Christmas Story

Editor's Note: Faith and belief are personal choices. What I believe, you may choose not to believe.

What you believe, I may not choose to believe. What follows is a story of love and hope. It is here for you to either accept or reject. Your choice. As a believer, I pray that you have a blessed and safe Christmas filled with love and hope.

"The Message" by Eugene Peterson

(2018, NavPress,
Colorado Springs, Colo.)

Scripture References: Luke 1:26-56; Luke 2:1-21; John 3:16-18

A Virgin Conceives (Luke 1:26-56)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's (Mary's cousin) pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

"Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you."

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.' The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever—no end, ever, to his kingdom."

Mary said to the angel, "But

how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest will hover over you. Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God. And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is, six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say."

Then the angel left her.

Blessed Among Women

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit and sang out exuberantly,

"You're so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed! And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me? The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, the babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy. Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!"

And Mary said, "I'm bursting with Good News; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me and look what happened—I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others! His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattering the bluffing

braggarts. He knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back to her own home.

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-21)

About that time, Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to their own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So, Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

An Event for Everyone

Shepherds were camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them, and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is the Messiah and Master. This is what

you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once, the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

"Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him." As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told! When the eighth day arrived, the day of circumcision, the child was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived.

The Why (John 3:16-18)

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because that person fails to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

Amber Waves

MOM, MOM, IT'S SNOWING OUT! I'M GONNA GO PLAY OUTSIDE.



GEEZ, WHY DO MY GRANDPARENTS HATE WINTER? IF IT'S SO BAD WHY CALL IT A "WINTER WONDERLAND"?



ZIP!!



MAYBE BECAUSE RIGHT NOW I WONDER IF I BROKE SOMETHING



TIGER



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

5	6	7		8	1	3	4	2
			7		6			
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

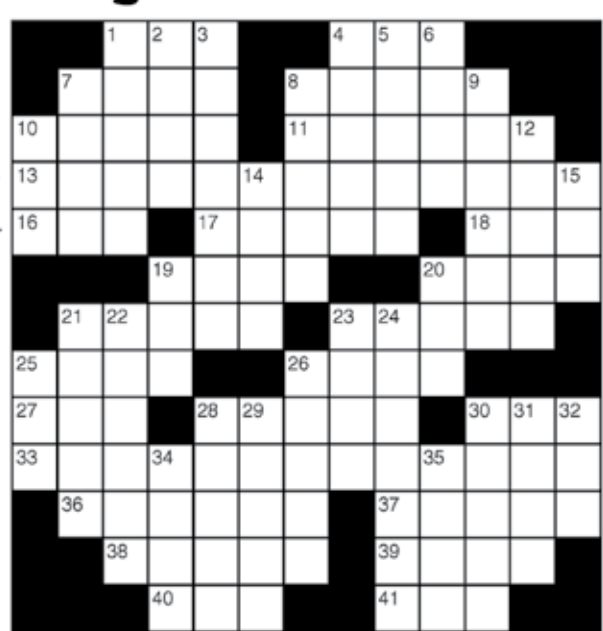
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mailbox is open. 2. Patch on sleeve is higher. 3. Mouth is open. 4. Roof is smaller. 5. Cap is different. 6. Mitten is missing.

ACROSS

- Train alternative
- Tease
- Former frosh
- Wyoming's — Range
- Valerie Harper sitcom
- Eventually
- Play dough?
- Observe
- Concepts
- Sailor
- Peevish fit
- Hardy lass
- Winner's gesture
- Seaboard
- Sneaky laughs
- Mediocre
- Actress Gasteyer
- Flinch, say
- Gratuity
- Work week start, for many
- Some Algonquians
- Smidgens
- Where the action is
- Family
- Chang's brother

King Crossword



- Solo in space
- City on the Loire
- Couturier Chanel
- African bird
- Scene stealer
- "The Metamorphosis" protagonist
- Asian noodles
- Gawking at
- Giant
- uproar
- Film ratings
- Challenge
- The Big Easy acronym

DOWN

- Trailblazer Daniel
- High hairstyle
- Giving form to
- Uganda neighbor
- Things
- Nitwit
- Loafer, for one
- Apartment sign
- Apt. divisions
- Breadmaking need
- Norse god
- Decade parts (Abbr.)
- Serena, to Venus
- Eastern "way"
- Snake poison
- "The Woman in Me" singer

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

Weekly SUDOKU

N	H	A	V	E	N	E			
N	A	V	E	N	E				
S	I	O	I	S	I	O	I	S	I
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S	I	O	I	S	I	O	I	S	I
S	I	O	I	S	I	O	I	S	I
S	I	O	I	S	I	O	I	S	I
S	I	O	I	S	I	O	I	S	I
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S	I	O	I	S	I	O	I	S	I

Solution time: 24 mins.

King Crossword

Answers



- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first left-handed president?
- GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the largest cave in the world?
- MOVIES: Who is the voice of Buzz Lightyear in the "Toy Story" movies?
- HISTORY: Who was the first emperor of Rome?
- LITERATURE: In what city is James Joyce's novel "Ulysses" set?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of Data's cat on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"?
- ASTRONOMY: What is an exploding star called?
- SCIENCE: What kind of cloud is associated with thunderstorms?
- U.S. STATES: Which states have no sales tax?
- ANATOMY: What is the function of the carotid arteries?

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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. 20 at 3 p.m., fundraiser for Big Injun Racing

EBCI Community Events

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

Last Minute Christmas Shop. Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pam Taylor Gym 10 Old Gap Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Multi vendors, food onsite. Info: Angie Garcia (828) 778-4585

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.cherokeevinvitational.com/event

Straight Fork Baptist Church Christmas Nativity Play. Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. at the Church at 1171 Big Cove Road in Cherokee, N.C. Everyone is welcome. Dinner will be after the program.

Ledford Family Reunion. Dec. 27 at 12 p.m. (alternate date will be Jan. 3 if weather is bad on Dec. 27) at the Yellowhill Activity building at 1416 Acquoni Rd. Cherokee, N.C. Bring a side dish/main dish. Bring a gift for adult/kid for the different activities or auction items. Door prizes, eldest male and female prizes, bingo, kids games, ugliest Christmas sweater.

8 Point Deer Hunt. Now through Jan. 1, 2026. Tags available at EBCI Natural Resources 1840 Paint town rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719 last day to get tags is Dec. 22. All tags must be returned by Jan. 9 by 4 p.m. Info: (828) 359-6110.

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

EBCI Community Night with the Georgia Swarm. Feb 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gas South Arena 6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy., Duluth, Ga. 30097. As a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, you may claim up to four (4) complimentary tickets to the Georgia Swarm's annual Native Heritage Night on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Gas South Arena in Duluth, GA. Simply login to <https://www.gofevo.com/event/EBCINHN260228>, to select your seats. Upon adding seats to your cart, your discount code will be automatically applied for the four (4) complimentary tickets! An order processing fee of \$5 will be applied at checkout.

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, 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 Robbins-

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK


Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

SŌHĭ ʌD RVLTʌJ DʒʌYL




Gabby,
a 1-year-old
German
Shorthaired
pointer, lives in
Wayohi (Wolftown)
with humans
Shelena and Shane
Ledford.

Sponsored by:



CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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



ville, 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, 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.

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An old adversary wants to make amends over the Christmas holiday. The decision is yours. But wouldn't it be nice to share the upcoming new year with another friend?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) As news of your work gets around, expect to receive a special holiday "gift" from influential contacts who could help you launch your new projects in the new year.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Instead of fussing over what you didn't do to prepare for the holidays, relax and enjoy the kudos for a job truly well done. A happy surprise awaits you early next year.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The best way to shake off lingering holiday blues is to join loved ones in the fun and festivities of this special time. A confusing situation starts to make sense in upcoming weeks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Special emotional rewards mark this holiday time for Leos and Leonas who are able to open up to new relationships and the possibilities they offer in the upcoming year.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your efforts to make the holidays especially memorable for some people will be rewarded in some unexpected (but very welcome) ways in the

upcoming year.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be assured that your efforts to make this holiday special for everyone won't go unnoticed by those who could make some important changes in your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Lots of folks want you to light up their holiday parties. But try to take some quiet time 'twixt those glittering galas to spend with some very special people.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While the current round of holiday revels has your social life on the fast track, someone special might want to keep pace with you next year as well.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Enjoy all the fun you deserve at this holiday time. However, don't lose sight of the need to check out some of the changes the new year is expected to bring.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) What happens during this holiday time can help clear up some of the confusion jeopardizing a once-stable relationship. Follow your instincts on what to do next.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your holidays are brightened by new friends eager to become part of your life. But don't forget to spend time with that one special person. (You know who.)

BORN THIS WEEK: You have the ability to encourage people to reach their potential by setting an example with your own efforts.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Saving lives with Buddy Check

One of the most valuable things you can do in the new year will be to check on your buddies, those you've served with and those in your area, and make a regular routine of it. It's called Buddy Check, and you could be saving a life.

A few stats:

— Depending on the source you read, there are 17 to 22 veteran suicides per day. Yes, the numbers have decreased slightly over the years, but even one is too many.

— The rate of male veteran suicides is 60% higher than for nonveterans. For women veterans, the numbers are even higher.

— The reasons vary. Between needing to adjust to civilian life, homelessness, isolation, not wanting to ask for help and PTSD, many of our buddies are in trouble, especially if brain injury (even mild TBI) is part of the equation.

This is where you come in, with Buddy Check.

Go online to va.gov and search for "Veteran Buddy Checks." Click on the fact-packed 20-minute training video and learn how you can help. Become familiar with the S.A.V.E. acronym — know the Signs, Ask the right questions, Value their life and Enlist help. Then take the pledge to check on 10 veteran buddies.

Your best source to locate other veterans is the Together We Served website (www.TogetherWeServed.com). To access the data base you'll need to enter your name, email address and branch of service. If you want, you can add a few details about yourself. Once on the site, you'll find a unit directory and over 2 million veterans who've signed up. You can start with their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TogetherWeServed.

Look at the American Legion Buddy Check. Go to www.legion.org and search for "Buddy Check." Learn about their program and download the tool kit.

If you are the one who needs help, don't wait, don't hesitate. Help is only a phone call away, day or night, at the Veterans Crisis Line. Dial 988 and press 1. Or text to 838255. For confidential support for a family member or friend, see VeteransCrisisLine.net.

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Great gifts for pets and owners

Do you have a friend who owns pets, or a pet of your own that you'd like to join in the holiday cheer this Christmas? There are more products than ever for pets — the challenge is finding the perfect gift from the many choices available. Here are a few items that have impressed me recently, and may make a perfect gift for the dog, cat or pet owner in your life.

Heated dog/cat bed: For older dogs and cats, a heated pad or bed provides welcome comfort for their aching joints, especially in winter.

Sturdy chew toys: Kong ruled the "indestructible" chew toy market for quite a while, but sturdy, creative chew toys are available from other brands as well. Know the size of the dog (toy, small, medium, large) before buying so you get the appropriate-sized toy for their jaws.

Scratch pads: Vertical or horizontal scratch pads for cats help them maintain their claws and relieve boredom — without destroying furniture.

Cat tree: Help cats safely reach a higher plane of existence ... so they can stare out the window. Cat trees fight boredom and most include attached toys and scratch pads, creating an all-in-one activity center.

Window perch: Need to save space? Try a window perch or hammock instead of a cat tree. Most mount on the sill, so cats can lounge while staring at the fauna outside.

Gift cards: If you're not sure what a pet owner needs, then a gift card to an online or brick-and-mortar pet supply store is the way to go.

If you're short on cash but want to give a thoughtful gift: Offer to walk dogs or pet-sit. Help elderly pet owners care for their pets. Or, volunteer at a local shelter.

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

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EVENTS: *from page 43*

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

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

Confirmation Hearing for Hannah Youngdeer, Ericka Panther, and Randall Crowe to the Cannabis Control Board. Dec. 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Work Session on Tabled Ord. No. 6 (Judicial Code). Jan. 5, 2026 at 9 a.m.

Work Session on Tabled Ord. No. 75 (Amendment to Cannabis Control Board). Jan. 5, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Work Session on Tabled Ord. No. 76 (Amendment to TCGE Board). Jan. 5, 2026 at 11 a.m.

Pow Wow Listings

Prairie Unity Competition Pow Wow. Dec. 19-21 at Stride Place in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, 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.indiancreekproduc-](http://www.indiancreekproduc-tions.com)

[tions.com](http://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 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.

Stecoah Stories & Seeds, Speakers Series. Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 11, 25 March 11, 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the Stecoah Valley Center 121 Schoolhouse Rd, Stecoah, NC. 28771. Event is Free, donations are appreciated. Local stories of Graham County, includes soup lunch. Info: (828) 479-3364 www.stecoahvalleycenter.com.

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) Com-

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

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



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

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

Cherokee Church of God. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Night Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m.

see **EVENTS** next page

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



ERIN HYDE

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

Education: AAS- Southwestern Community College (2023 Graduate)
Years at CIHA: 8 Months
Community/Hometown: Robbinsville, NC

"I love being a part of an organization that has so much respect for their community, employees, and culture. I've been welcomed by the community and strive to achieve the guiding principle "the one who helps from the heart." Before starting my journey at CIHA, I focused on working with children with intellectual/physical disabilities and developmental delays. Since I started at CIHA, I have been able to build a pediatric program, along with our speech and physical therapy team, to offer support for the next generation and generations to come. Working in Occupational Therapy allows you to help people of all stages of life become more independent and perform their daily activities. It's a necessity in this community and I'm thankful to be a part of it. I look forward to seeing it grow in years to come!" - Erin Hyde

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

Every third Sunday they have a fellowship meal to celebrate all the birthdays throughout that month. Everyone is cordially invited for any of the services and meals. Pastor Rev. Owen Isaacs (828) 242-0754

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Embassy Christian Center Church of God in Christ. 87

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

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Bethlehem (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? *Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi*
3. With perhaps two different biblical answers, who was the father of Joseph? *Jacob/Heli, Gideon/Ishmael, Solomon/Nahum, Samuel/Pilate*
4. Which Old Testament prophet predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem? *Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum*
5. For the journey to Bethlehem, how did Mary and Joseph travel? *Bible not specific, Cart, Rode donkey, Small raft*
6. Which of these wasn't a gift from the wise men (Magi)? *Silver, Myrrh, Gold, Frankincense*

ANSWERS: (1) Neither, (2) Nazareth, (3) Jacob/Heli, (4) Micah, (5) Bible not specific, (6) Silver

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. 29, 1609 or 1610, Count Gyorgy Thurzo made an investigative visit ordered by King Matthias to Csejthe Castle in Hungary and made a horrifying discovery: Countess Elizabeth Bathory overseeing the torture of young girls. Already known for her abuse and murder of servants and peasants, her title and high-ranking relatives had previously given her impunity, but her atrocities eventually led to her being cited as one of history's first vampires.

On Dec. 30, 1936, autoworkers occupied the General Motors Fisher Body Plant Number One in Flint, Michigan, in one of America's first sit-down strikes, which lasted 44 days. Their aim: to win recognition of the United Auto Workers as the only bargaining agent for GM's employees. An additional goal was for the company to stop outsourcing work to nonunion plants and to establish a fair minimum wage scale, a grievance system and a set of procedures to help protect assembly-line workers from injury.

On Dec. 31, 1879, inventor Thomas Edison delighted onlookers with the first public demonstration of his incandescent lightbulb in Menlo Park, New Jersey. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company even ran special trains to the city for the event.

On Jan. 1, 1995, the tales of giant rogue waves recounted by sailors for centuries were finally proved when a freak 85-foot-high wave was measured hitting the Draupner oil platform off the coast of Norway.

On Jan. 2, 2006, an explosion in the Sago Mine in Sago, West Virginia, trapped 13 coal miners. Tragically, all but one eventually succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. The cave-in launched scrutiny and criticism of the media, the company that owned the mine and then-president George W. Bush's administration.

On Jan. 3, 1993, backup quarterback Frank Reich led the Buffalo Bills to a 41-38 overtime victory over the Houston Oilers in an American Football Conference playoff game immortalized to football fans as "The Comeback."

On Jan. 4, 2007, Nancy Pelosi, a Democratic representative from California, became the first woman to hold the Speaker of the House position. She would become Speaker again in 2018.

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The Garden Bug Myrrh

Myrrh trees grow in the very hot, very dry regions of the Arabian Peninsula, Somalia and Ethiopia. The resin of the myrrh tree has a long and ancient history as a valuable substance in many cultures. To harvest it, the tree itself is wounded repeatedly to cause its resin to "bleed" out, then harden. These secretions are then collected and used to make perfume, incense, flavoring for food and as medicine. Myrrh can be grown in warm, arid parts of the U.S. such as southern California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: healthyplants.com/Myrrh

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

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

Wednesday night service 7 p.m. Pastor Eric Moore

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

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

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

The Peaks Church. Meets at Smokey Mountain Elementary

School gym. Sunday services 10 a.m. Pastor Aaron Langston

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

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

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

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

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

Straight Fork Baptist Church.

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a
partnership with
EBCI Natural Resources





Lichen may look like moss, but it's a unique organism formed by a partnership between fungus and algae. Lichen absorbs all the nutrients it needs from the air, making it extremely sensitive to pollution. By trapping dust and absorbing pollutants like nitrogen and sulfur, it helps clean the air we breathe and serves as an important indicator of overall forest health. Lichen also protects trees, rocks from the elements, and provides food and nesting material for many birds and animals. There are over 900 species of lichen in western North Carolina.

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: *from page 47*

Big Cove Loop. Sunday school 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship 11 a.m. Sunday evening worship 6 p.m. Wednesday night prayer service 7 p.m. Youth group meetings also. Interim Pastor - Harley Maney Jr.

Waterfalls Baptist Church.

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

Whittier United Methodist

Church. 150 Church St., Whittier, N.C. 28789. Sunday worship service 10 a.m. Rev. Beverly Parker-Reece

Wilmot Baptist Church. Thom-

as 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



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

EBCI Public Health Vending Machine Initiative locations



Graphic by:
GWY ᏊᏍᏉ ᏄᏍᏗᏁ
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)

2026 Census Test

The 2026 Census Test will help improve how everyone is counted in the next census.

Your community has been selected to participate. The 2030 Census results will shape your community for the next decade—and a successful 2026 Census Test is a key step.

Starting in March, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail. In some areas, census takers will visit homes to count people in person.

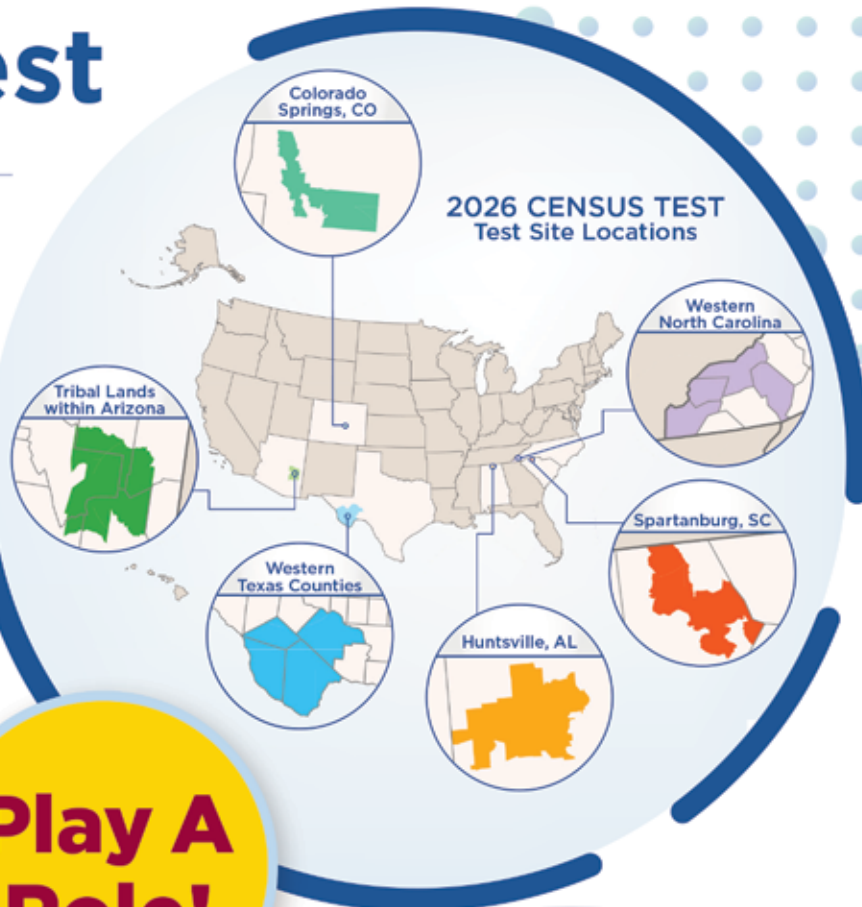
Your response helps build a better census for the future.

We're testing improvements to:

- How people respond on their own.
- How we collect data in person.
- How we process the information we collect.

United States
Census
Bureau

**Play A
Role!**



Learn more:

census.gov/2026test



Local jobs are available in the test site areas.

Apply today at census.gov/2026jobs.



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 demonstra-

tions, 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 PUBLICA-TION

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 PUBLICA-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



Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist
Nail Tech
Lead Massage Therapist
Spa Attendants

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

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

Victor Wildcatt
2248 Wolftown 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 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

Dylan Saunooke
52 Flora Mae Smith Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719

1/21

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. 25-111

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
SALLY JULIA TRAMPER KENT

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

Todd Kent
P.O. Box 1195
Cherokee, NC. 28719

1/28

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

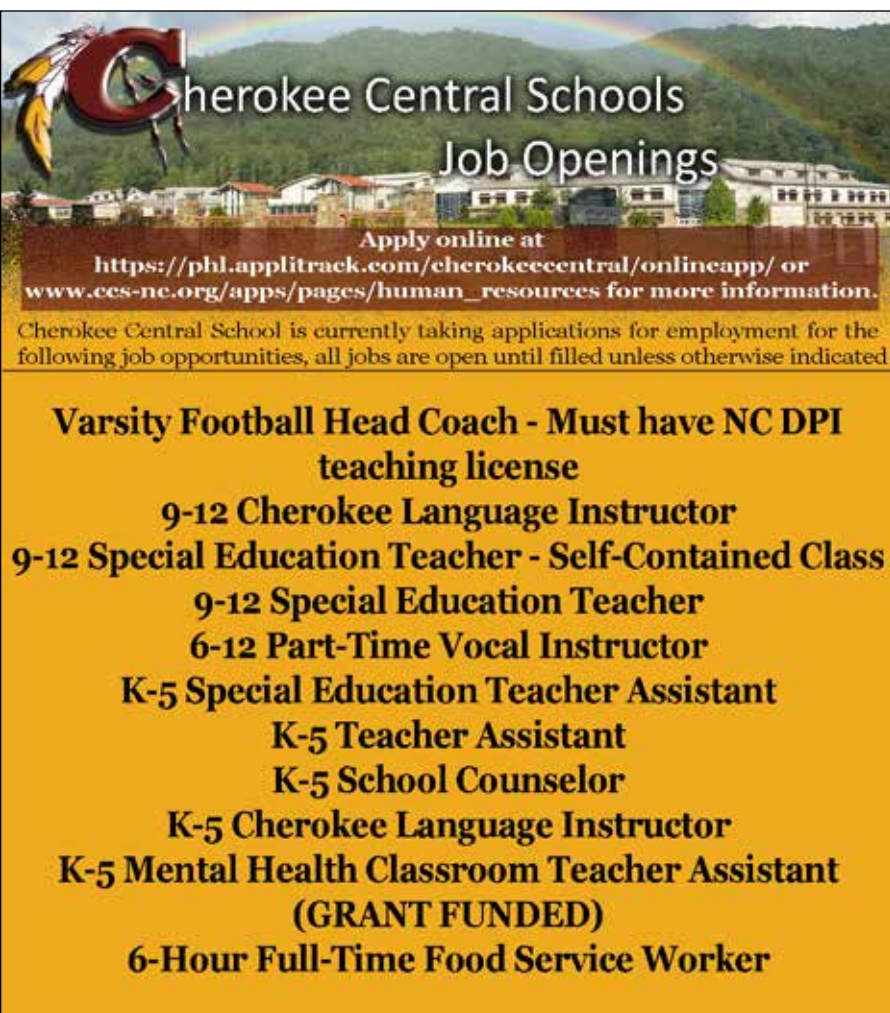
Enclosing in a covered smoking area

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



Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

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

Cherokee Central School is currently taking applications for employment for the following job opportunities, all jobs are open until filled unless otherwise indicated

- Varsity Football Head Coach - Must have NC DPI teaching license**
- 9-12 Cherokee Language Instructor**
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher - Self-Contained Class**
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher**
- 6-12 Part-Time Vocal Instructor**
- K-5 Special Education Teacher Assistant**
- K-5 Teacher Assistant**
- K-5 School Counselor**
- K-5 Cherokee Language Instructor**
- K-5 Mental Health Classroom Teacher Assistant (GRANT FUNDED)**
- 6-Hour Full-Time Food Service Worker**



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
828-497-2101

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

garage.
SCOPE:
General Conditions:
Install weather curtains using Fen-
tex 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 infor-
mation 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 RE-
QUIRED 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 open-
ing, turn left towards the building.

SCOPE:
General Conditions:
Sealed Engineering drawings are
required to satisfy Cherokee Coun-
ty, 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 infor-
mation or for questions, please
contact:
gcarroll@harrahs.com and
cpinkerton@harrahs.com
12/17

MANDATORY SITE VISIT RE-
QUIRED 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 open-
ing, 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 infor-
mation or for questions, please
contact:
gcarroll@harrahs.com and
cpinkerton@harrahs.com
12/17

Request for Proposals

The Cherokee Tribal Court
seeks competitive proposals for a
Public Administrator. This service
will be paid on a contractual basis
from the Cherokee Tribal Court.
Interested individuals should sub-
mit a brief proposal including the
following:
Name and Contact Information
Copies of Certificates and Licenses
Relevant Work Experience

Proposals may be submitted
at any time, but those received on
or before December 19, 2025, will
receive priority over later submis-
sions. Please mail or email propos-
als to:

Amber Shuler, Court Administra-
tor Cherokee Tribal Court
PO Box 1629
Cherokee, NC 28719 ambeshul@
ebci-nsn.gov

This is a solicitation of pro-
posals and not an offer to con-
tract. The Cherokee Tribal Court
reserves the right to decline any
proposals received. **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

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





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

Open Until Filled

1. **Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) 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 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION**
6. **Part-time Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION**
7. **Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)**
8. **Certified Nursing Assistant (Multiple) – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (Starting rate of \$20.00/hour)**
9. **Supervisor – Biological/Waste Water Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION**
10. **Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)**
11. **Truck Driver/Operator – Infrastructure – Housing (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)**
12. **Sergeant (Patrol) - CIPD - EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION**
13. **Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)**
14. **Supervisor – Family Safety – Public Health & Human Services (L15 \$61,776 - \$77,230) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION**

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



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



CHOOSE CIHA

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

IDD Autism Director
Mental Health Therapist - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
(Analenisgi MAT, Cherokee Central Schools,
Family Safety, Child and Family – Snowbird, Family
Intensive Treatment)
Analenisgi Inpatient Registered Nurse
Case Manager/Intake Coordinator - Kanvwotiyi
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwotiyi
Employment Specialist – Kanvwotiyi
Targeted Case Manager – Family Safety, MAT
Residential Technician – Male - Kanvwotiyi

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 – Pediatrics - \$10,000
Hiring Bonus
Clinical Care Manager Float - \$10,000 Hiring
Bonus
CNA/Medical Clerk
Registered Nurse ED – Mid Shift or Night Shift -
\$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse ED – PTI – Night Shift
RN Inpatient – Part Time with Benefits
Tribal Option Care Manger Specialty Lead
Tribal Option Specialty Team Care Manager

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
Cook Tsali Care Center
Laundry Aide
Housekeeper TCC

THE GOOD STUFF



Marine Corps boot camp graduate

Matthew Garcia Wahnetah, son of Carla Wahnetah, and a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Elawodi (Yellowhill), graduated from boot camp for the United States Marine Corps at Parris Island, S.C. on the morning of Friday, Dec. 5. Wahnetah is a recent graduate of Cherokee High School. Shown, left to right, are sister Olivia, mother Carla Wahnetah, and Matthew Garcia Wahnetah. (Photo contributed)



Atlanta resident wins big at WSOP Circuit Stop at Harrah's Cherokee

Derek Sein-Lwin, of Atlanta, Ga., won the \$1,700 buy-in Main Event World Series of Poker Circuit stop at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort which concluded on Monday, Dec. 8. According to Poker.org, "Sein-Lwin navigated a tough field of 1,190 players in the Cherokee Main Event, which guaranteed a prize pool of nearly \$2 million. For his incredible victory, the Atlanta resident earned the largest prize of the entire Circuit series, taking home \$281,514." The Mini Main Event was won by Marshall White, of Banner Elk, N.C., who won \$135,620. Tyler Phillips, of Cornelius, N.C., won the Monster Stack and a prize of \$129,911. The Multi-Flight was won by Levi Carden, of Flomaton, Ala., who won \$102,692. (Photo courtesy of Poker.org)



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

@CherokeeOneFeather
on YouTube



Brunch with Santa

December 25

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

**A Winter Wonderland Experience featuring
Cookie Decorating and Pictures with Santa**

Carving Station

Charcuterie & Appetizer Table

Winter Soups & Salads

Omelet Station & Breakfast Bar

Brunch Entrees & Sides

Assorted Christmas Desserts & Hot Chocolate Station

