



Cherokee One Feather website



Longperson inherent rights  
recognized by Dinilawigi  
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BASKETBALL  
Hicks signs  
with Pfeiffer  
University  
Page 18

# CWY Ᏼ威 O-YU-C

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of  
u-no-lv-ta-ni (jan.)  
14-20, 2026

# Historic moment

Franklin Town  
Council paves  
way for Noquisiyi  
Mound deed  
transfer to EBCI

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

**F**RANKLIN, N.C. – The Franklin Town Council approved a resolution that paves the way for the deed of the Noquisiyi (formerly known as Nikwasi) Mound to be transferred from the Noquisi Initiative to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Town Council approved the resolution unanimously during its

see NOQUISIYI page 4



The Noquisiyi Mound (formerly known as Nikwasi), in Franklin, N.C., is shown in this photo taken on the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 5. Several hours after the photo was taken, the Franklin Town Council approved a resolution that paves the way for the Mound's deed to be transferred to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)



Visit <https://theonefeather.com/links/>

For cultural links, tourism links,  
and EBCI tribal program/entity links



2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon 4X4

43,861 miles

Price \$36,399



2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee L Limited 4X4

36,920 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$34,495



2023 LEXUS GX 460 Premium

25,471 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$56,868



2021 Chevrolet Express Cargo 2500 WT

93,811 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$22,900



2022 Acura MDX Advance Package

56,452 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$38,418



2022 Jeep Compass Limited 4X4

13,621 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$23,734



2022 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Custom

74,070 miles Price \$40,995



2023 Toyota 4Runner Limited

36,643 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$48,325



2023 GMC Terrain Denali

15,691 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$30,995



2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss

37,561 miles Price \$45,985



2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT

49,022 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$22,656

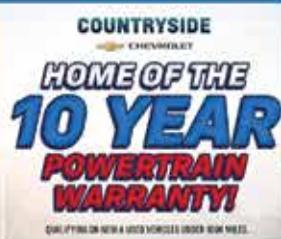


2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss

12,162 miles

Pricing Info

Price \$53,995



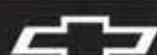
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let's drive



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



### Image of the Week:

It felt like spring, but residents of the Qualla Boundary (Cherokee, N.C.) were treated to an incredible sunset on Christmas eve. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



**"I just wanted to extend a thank you and say sgi for helping us steward this mound for the past hundreds of years that it's been in your possession. We've got thousands of years worth of history with this mound, but to know that your town has protected it and safeguarded it in the way that it has is just something I almost don't even have words for."**

- Angelina Jumper, Noquisi Initiative board member, speaks to the Franklin Town Council during a discussion on Monday, Jan. 5 on a resolution to approve a deed transfer on Noquisiyi Mound from the Niquasi Initiative. Jumper is an EBCI tribal member and serves as the EBCI cultural resources supervisor.

### Letters Policy

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

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

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

The Editorial Board of the Cherokee One Feather consists of: Brooklyn Brown, chairperson; Dawn Arneach, vice chairperson; Robert Jumper; Scott McKie Brings Plenty; and Indica Climbingbear.

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Angelina Jumper, standing right, Noquisi Initiative board member, speaks to the Franklin Town Council during discussion on the resolution on Monday. Jumper is an EBCI tribal member and serves as the EBCI cultural resources supervisor.

## NOQUISIYI: From front page

regular monthly meeting at the Franklin Town Hall on Monday, Jan. 5.

Bob McCollum, Noquisi Initiative board co-chair, opened Monday's comments by stating, "80 years ago some of my relatives, some of your relatives, started this process and what I would like to see here tonight is a vote of good faith. Let's close the loop on this. Let's give this third-acre piece of property back to the people that should have it. And, set a gold standard here for other communities across the country that face similar things and don't have a process, a guidepost, to go by if they want to do it. This community can be that and I look to each of you here tonight to help make that

happen."

The resolution states, "The Town Council of the Town of Franklin recognizes, honors, and celebrates the deep historical and shared cultural significance of Noquisiyi and the Mound."

It continues, "The Town of Franklin held title to the real property of the Nikwasi Mound site from Oct. 7, 1946 until May 6, 2019, when it conveyed the site to Nikwasi Initiative, a North Carolina nonprofit formed for the express purpose of preservation of the site as required by N.C.G.S (North Carolina General Statute) 160A-266."

The Noquisiyi Mound is a site sacred to the EBCI and was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, being listed there as Nequasee.

Angelina Jumper, Noquisi Initiative board member, told the Town Council, "What you all are discussing and voting on tonight is really, really important for us as Cherokee people. It's amazing, and I'm almost speechless, that when we get land back that it means so much to us. But, particularly this site, Noquisiyi Mound. I just wanted to extend a thank you and say sgi for helping us steward this mound for the past hundreds of years that it's been in your possession. We've got thousands of years worth of history with this mound, but to know that your town has protected it and safeguarded it in the way that it has is just something I almost don't even have words for."

Jumper is an EBCI tribal member and serves as the EBCI

cultural resources supervisor. She added, "A lot of our mound sites throughout western North Carolina have been plowed, they've had a lot of damage to them that's almost made them no longer mounds - you can hardly see them there. And, when you drive through the town of Franklin you can see that mound is still high and full of all of the history, ceremony, medicine, and love that not only we have put into it, but now we've had hundreds of years worth of your town putting that love into it as well."

Franklin Mayor Stacy Guffey submitted the resolution and fully supports a deed transfer. He stated, "I think this is something that's been a long time coming, and just in my individual opinion long overdue."

I talked to one of the ladies who was involved in that original effort last week. We had a long phone conversation and talked about this resolution to authorize the transfer of the mound and her comment was, 'Well, it's come full circle now because that's why we did it in the first place. Because it should go back to the Cherokee people. It's their mound'."

Elaine Eisenbraun, Noquisi Initiative executive director, commented, "Thank you for sitting here in this room on this day and hopefully completing the circle, bringing something home...it's not just people that can come home, it's places that can come home, too. And, that mound wants to come home to its people."

Our mission is really a bridge between Cherokee and non-indigenous people. And, that's what

we're trying to build here is to make that bridge longer and stronger so that the mound resides with its family and yet the rest of us are interactive with it as well. That's what we want to do."

Amber Allen, an EBCI tribal member and Noquisi Initiative project coordinator, spoke Monday stating, "I'm happy to hopefully see this come to fruition. I've worked a little over a year with Noquisi Initiative and I've learned so much, not only just about the mound but the town of Franklin. Thinking about how the past was to how the future can be - about having this relationship with the EBCI, the continuation with Franklin and the things that we can do together."

Information from the Noquisi Initiative states, "Noquisi means star place and was a Cherokee

town situated in present-day Franklin, N.C. Though its exact age remains unknown, Noquisi appears on maps as early as 1544, and British colonial records first mention it by name in 1718. At the heart of Noquisi on the banks of the Little Tennessee River, the town's meeting hall once towered over the landscape, built atop the mound which was formed by Cherokee women carrying baskets of soil to that location. Today, Noquisi Mound, the settlement's only surviving landmark, rises as the gateway to Franklin."

Jumper said she is excited to see the future of the collaboration. "That mound is one of the mounds that we really have out in the open public like that. A lot of our mounds are secluded, off the beaten path. This mound has two roads that go right around it so it

makes it a perfect place for people to come and interpret what these mounds mean and really feel the meaning that they have all the way through them. I look forward to seeing how the Tribe collaborates with you guys in making that vision real and bringing the true essence of what the mound means to us as Cherokee people into something like an interpretive center, signage, or just continuing to grow the knowledge this town has and respect for the Cherokee people."

Now, the issue will have to come before EBCI leaders before an official deed transfer is completed. The One Feather will continue to follow this story as it develops.

# EBCI set to leave NCAI in October

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

**C**HEROKEE, N.C. – The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) will leave the NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) at the end of September. Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) voted unanimously to approve Res. No. 96 during its regular session on Thursday, Jan. 8 that approves the EBCI to leave the tribal organization after its current dues run out on Sept. 30.

“There is a lot of frustration with NCAI and the amount of state-recognized tribes that they allow,” Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, who submitted the resolution, said during Thursday’s session. “This is something that not only impacts us for the short-term but impacts us for the long-term.”

Res. No. 96 states, “NCAI is an organization of federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native governments, and non-federally recognized (“state recognized”) groups that, according to the NCAI website, works to develop consensus on national policy issues that impact tribal interests; and the

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians supports the mission of NCAI, but the Tribe is discouraged by the shifting priorities of NCAI.”

It continues, “NCAI has moved away from serving the interests of federally recognized tribes which it was founded to serve and that have a trust relationship with government-to-government status with the United States of America; and the interests non-federally recognized groups often diverge significantly from the interests of federally recognized tribes, and the divergence harms federally recognized tribes and diminishes their sovereignty.”

At the 80th Annual NCAI Convention and Marketplace, held in November 2023 in New Orleans, La., the EBCI and the Shawnee Tribe sought several constitutional amendments for the NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) that would bar state-recognized tribes from voting membership. Those did not pass.

A search of the current NCAI tribal directory lists the following state recognized groups identifying as having Cherokee ancestry:

- Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama in Haleyville, Ala.
- Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama in Falkville, Ala.
- Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee in Rosepine, La.
- Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee in Cumming, Ga.
- United Cherokee Ani-Yun-Wiya Nation in Guntersville, Ala.

That same listing identifies 40 tribal nations in the Southeast Region with the breakdown as fol-

lows: 19 federally recognized tribes and 21 state recognized groups.

During Thursday’s Dinilawigi session, Res. No. 97 (2026), also submitted by Ugvwiyuhi Hicks, was brought to the floor. That resolution, which was subsequently tabled by Dinilawigi, seeks for the EBCI to leave USET (United South and Eastern Tribes) as well.

It was stated that a work session will be scheduled to further discuss Res. No. 97. That has not been scheduled as of press time, and the One Feather will report when it is set.

Res. No. 97 states, “USET is a non-profit, intertribal organization serving 33 federally recognized tribes located in the eastern United States; and, unfortunately, USET has increasingly promoted and approved membership by non-federally recognized groups (“state-recognized”) that cannot meet the requirements under federal law to become federally recognized tribes.”

The EBCI was one of four federally recognized tribes that founded what would become the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) – founded originally as the Inter-Tribal Council of United Southeastern Tribes. On April 18, 2025, those four tribes (EBCI, Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida) signed an Accord Agreement and formed a new alliance they feel will better serve their needs.

The idea for the Accord Agreement came out of discussions involving the lack of effectiveness

of USET that led to the passage of Res. No. 202 (2024) by the EBCI Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) on May 2, 2024.

USET states its purpose as follows, “USET is dedicated to enhancing the development of tribal nations, improving the capabilities of tribal governments, and improving the quality of life for Indian people through a variety of technical and supportive programmatic services.”

USET is comprised of 33 federally recognized tribes. In addition to the four founding members, USET consists of the following: Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Seneca Nation of Indians, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Penobscot Indian Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe – Pleasant Point, Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Onedia Indian Nation, Mi’kmaq Nation, Catawba Indian Nation, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, The Mohegan Tribe, Cayuga Nation, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Shinnecock Indian Nation, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, Nansemond Indian Nation, and Monacan Indian Nation.

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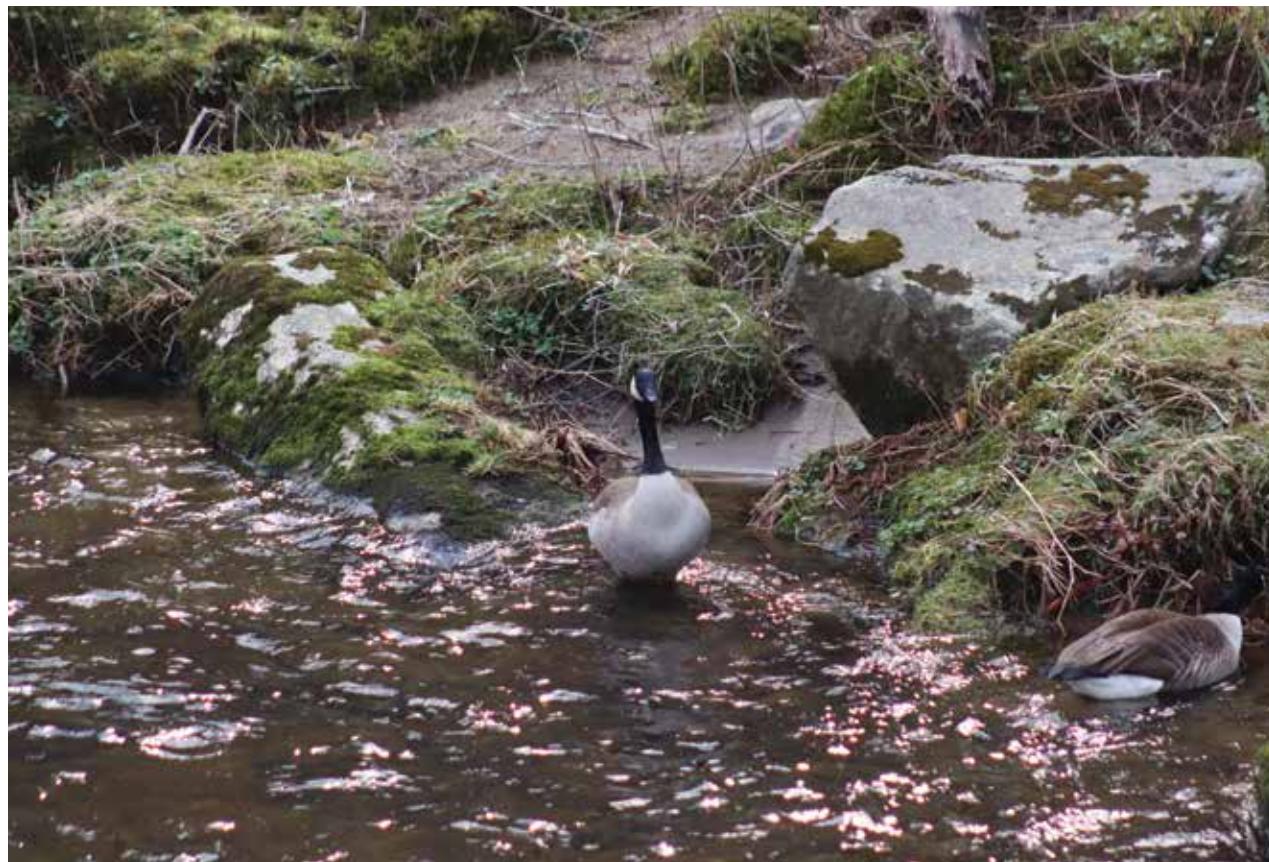
# Longperson inherent rights recognized by Dinilawigi (Tribal Council)

By BROOKLYN BROWN  
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the morning of Thursday, Jan. 8, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) unanimously passed a resolution recognizing "the inherent rights of the Longperson, a natural entity within the boundary and ancestral homelands of the Cherokee people."

The resolution, submitted by the NAIWA Daughters, the Cherokee Youth Council, Beloved Woman Carmeleta Monteith, and the Earthkeepers, reads in part, "WHEREAS, in Cherokee tradition, the waterways are known as the Longperson, a living, conscious being whose head begins in the mountains and whose feet stretch to the sea. The Longperson is a sacred presence, offering life, guidance, healing, and protection to our people."

The resolution recognizes the inherent rights of Longperson to protect and ensure the health and habitat of the Qualla Boundary's waterways, and establishes a "Rights of Nature Task Force," whose functions are detailed in the



The water of the Oconaluftee River that flows through the Qualla Boundary of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) appears to glitter in the sun on a chilly morning in February 2024. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

resolution.

Jasmine Smith, NAIWA Daughters chairwoman, began her remarks with, "We wanted to acknowledge that we cannot have this discussion without our relative, Longperson, present. Held in

two vessels, created by the hands of Beloved Women, these waters were borrowed from the headwaters in the National Park, and will be returned to the Oconaluftee in a water ceremony following the session."

Smith closed teary-eyed, "Today, we implore this legislative body to stand with us, not because it's your responsibility as elected leaders, but because it is the right thing to do as Cherokee people."



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

@CherokeeOneFeather  
on YouTube

# EBCI tribal legislative updates (Jan. 8)

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

**C**HEROKEE, 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

There were no new ordinances submitted during the regular Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

## Recently passed, killed, or withdrawn

**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, 2025.

**Action:** This ordinance passed by a vote of 11-1 during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. Kolanvi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill was the lone dissenting vote.

**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 Ad-

visors 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, 2025.

*Join us in celebrating our journey as the oldest Native American arts and crafts cooperative in the United States!*

*Grand reopening of the History Gallery  
January 15, 2026 at 11:00*



The image shows a white, single-story building with a long porch and large windows. A white car is parked in front. In the foreground, there is a circular logo for "Qualla Arts" and another for "CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION". The address "645 Tsali Boulevard Cherokee NC 28719" is written at the bottom.

**Qualla Arts**  
AND CRAFTS MUTUAL, INC.

645 Tsali Boulevard  
Cherokee NC 28719

Action: This ordinance was withdrawn during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. The vote to withdraw went as follows: For – Dinilawigi Chairman Jim Owle, Dinilawigi Vice Chairman David Wolfe, Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Mike Parker, Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Bo Crowe, Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Venita Wolfe, Tutiyi/Tsaliagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Michael Smoker, and Tutiyi/Tsaliagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Adam Wachacha; Against – Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer, Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather, and Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle.

#### 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, 2025. Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025.

This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

during the DINILAWIGI session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

**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, 2025. Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled

**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, 2025.

Action: This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

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# Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

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

## New this week

There are no new bills this week.

## 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.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 grant federal acknowledgment to the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, a state-recognized group in Michigan.

Introduced: May 7 by Rep. Hillary 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 bill 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 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

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

**LEGISLATIVE:** From page 11

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-Oklahoma.) on Sept. 10

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natu-

ral 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 acknowledgement 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 re-

ferred 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 acknowledgement to the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe of California and Nevada, a group based in Lee Vining, Calif.

Introduced: Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.) on Oct. 24

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 24. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 5869 (Tribal Water Infrastructure Grants Expansion Act).** This House bill would “amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to assistance for Indian Tribes”.

According to the bill, “In addition to amounts otherwise made available under Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, there is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to make grants, in cooperation with the Director of the Indian Health Service...for (A) projects and activities eligible for assistance under 603(c) of such Act; and (B) training, technical assistance, and educational programs related to the operation and management of treatment works eligible for assistance...”

Introduced: Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.) on Oct. 28

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Oct. 28. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 5910 (To authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes).** As stated in the title, this House bill would amend 69 Stat. 539, Chapter 615, 25 U.S.C. 514(a) to authorizes such leases.

Introduced: Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (R-Wyo.) on Nov. 4

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 4. A Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session was held on Dec. 17, 2025, and bill was Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent.

**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.

**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.

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>

## Attention EBCI Artists/Craftspeople

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



**CIPD Arrest Report for  
Dec. 8-14, 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.

Davis, Victoria Illene – age 19  
Arrested: Dec. 8  
Released: Dec. 10  
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Hughes, Kevin Matthew – age 37  
Arrested: Dec. 9  
Released: Not released as of report

date (Dec. 15)  
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Cline, William (Bud) Donald – age 34  
Arrested: Dec. 10  
Released: Dec. 11  
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedules I-V

Pheasant, William Hewitt – age 24  
Arrested: Dec. 10  
Released: Dec. 10  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Lequire, Charles Dewight – age 51  
Arrested: Dec. 11  
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 15)  
Charges: Child Abuse in the Second Degree; Simple Assault, Assault and Battery, Simple Affray

Meuse, Steven Jarret – age 28  
Arrested: Dec. 11  
Released: Dec. 12  
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Cucumber, James Everette – age 30  
Arrested: Dec. 13  
Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 15)  
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Sequoyah, Jeremy Isaac – age 32  
Arrested: Dec. 13  
Released: Dec. 13  
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule II

Walden, Justin Kenneth – age 45  
Arrested: Dec. 13  
Released: Dec. 13  
Charges: Second Degree Trespass

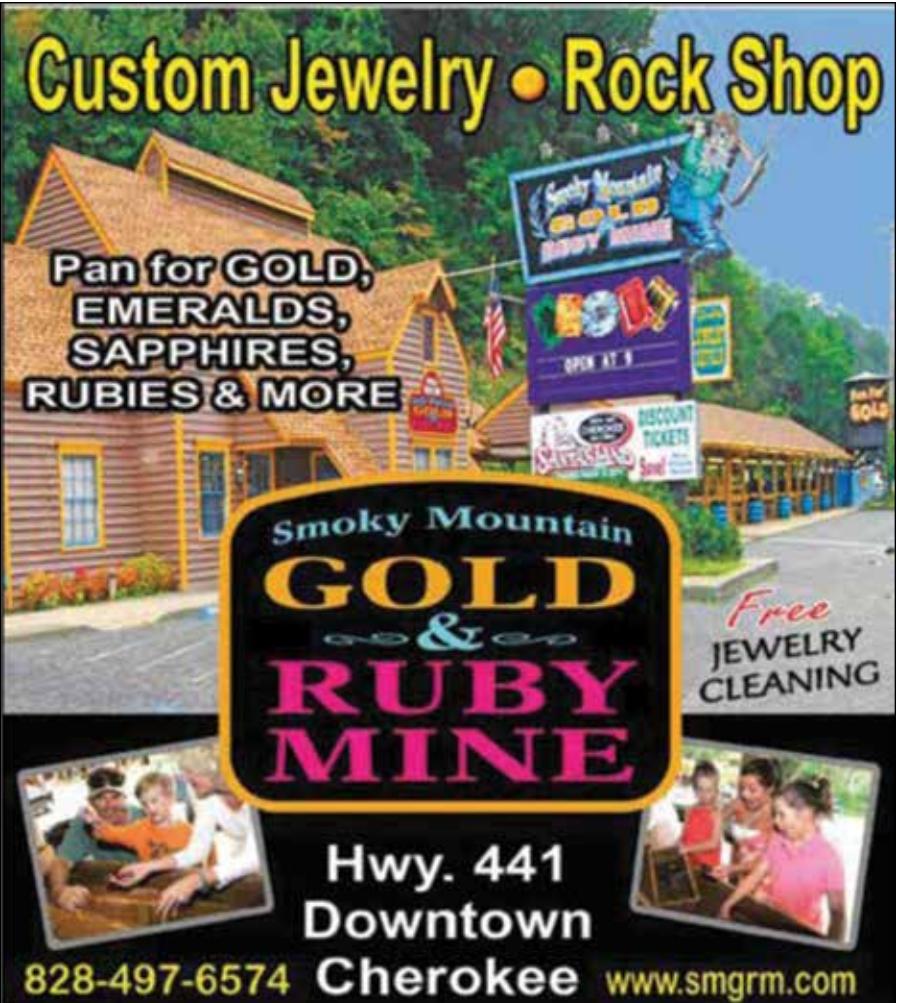
Patterson, Ryan Worthy – age 25  
Arrested: Dec. 14  
Released: Dec. 14  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Sheriff's Office, and Chief Carla Neadeau of the Cherokee Indian Police Department (CIPD), join U.S. Attorney Ferguson in making the announcement.

According to records filed in the case, from 2021 to 2023, Hester trafficked methamphetamine and fentanyl in Buncombe and Jackson Counties. Court documents show that on July 11, 2023, Cherokee Indian Police Department officers encountered Hester who was attempting to use a fake identification card at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort. During the encounter, officers seized from Hester more than \$11,380, fentanyl, and a loaded pistol from a holster on Hester's hip. The officers later searched Hester's backpacks that contained quantities of fentanyl and methamphetamine, a pistol with an affixed machinegun conversion kit, known as a "Glock Switch," a 30-round extended magazine loaded with 23 rounds of ammunition, digital scales, and other drug paraphernalia.

According to court records, on July 14, 2023, law enforcement conducted a search of Hester's Buncombe County home, where they found fentanyl, methamphetamine, a stolen pistol, a semi-automatic shotgun, a rifle, an AR-style 5.56 rifle (privately made firearm), and multiple rounds of ammunition. Hester has a prior felony conviction, and he is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

On June 20, 2025, Hester pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a machine gun. He is in federal custody and will be transferred to the custody of the



**Man sentenced to 21 years in prison on drug and gun charges**

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – Grey Alan Hester, 50, of Candler, N.C. was sentenced on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, to 21 years in prison followed by five years of supervised release on drug and gun charges, announced Russ Ferguson, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

Alicia Jones, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Charlotte Field Division, Jae W. Chung, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which oversees the Charlotte District Office, Sheriff Quentin Miller of the Buncombe County

Federal Bureau of Prisons upon designation of a federal facility.

In making the announcement, U.S. Attorney Ferguson thanked the DEA, ATF, Cherokee Indian Police Department, and the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office for their investigation of the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher S. Hess of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Asheville handled the prosecution.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and trans-national criminal organizations (TCOs), and protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime. Operation Take Back America streamlines efforts and resources from the Department's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETFs) and Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN).

- U.S. Department of Justice release

## CIPD Arrest Report for Dec. 15-21, 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.*

Bowman, Ronald Sequoyah – age 52  
Arrested: Dec. 16  
Released: Dec. 18  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Radford, Hunter Allen – age 25 Arrested: Dec. 16 Released: Dec. 18 Charges: Driving While License Revoked, Hit and Run Fail to Stop (Property Damage), No Liability Insurance, Reckless Endangerment	Climbingbear Jr., Henderson – age 77 Arrested: Dec. 19 Released: Dec. 20 Charges: Hold Until Sober	Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation
Radford, Jake Michael – age 26 Arrested: Dec. 16 Released: Dec. 18 Charges: Interference with a Criminal Process	Hollifield, Tiffany Michelle – age 25 Arrested: Dec. 19 Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 22) Charges: Probation Violation	Perez, Jonathan Paul – age 26 Arrested: Dec. 20 Released: Dec. 21 Charges: Temporary Hold
Smoker, Keri Philana – age 48 Arrested: Dec. 16 Released: Dec. 16 Charges: Filing a False Emergency Report	McCoy, Christopher – age 31 Arrested: Dec. 19 Released: Dec. 22 Charges: Child Abuse in the Second Degree	Ensley, Charles Dennis – age 35 Arrested: Dec. 21 Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 22) Charges: Misdemeanor Larceny; Domestic Violence; Injuring Telephone Wires or other Communication Equipment or Interfering with Emergency Communication
Wildcat, Edison – age 60 Arrested: Dec. 16 Released: Dec. 17 Charges: Hold Until Sober	Hoyt, Alexis Dalene – age 20 Arrested: Dec. 20 Released: Dec. 21 Charges: Temporary Hold	<b>CIPD Arrest Report for Dec. 22-28, 2025</b>
Lakins, Charles Edward – age 48 Arrested: Dec. 18 Released: Dec. 19 Charges: Resisting Public Officer; Assault on Law Enforcement, Probation, or Patrol Officer	Jackson, Maurice Jordan – age 24 Arrested: Dec. 20 Released: Dec. 20 Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor	<i>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.</i>
Owle, Leigh Ann – age 48 Arrested: Dec. 18 Released: Dec. 19 Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor	Jenkins, James Derrick – age 34 Arrested: Dec. 20 Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 22) Charges: Possession of Firearm by Felon, Probation Violation	Hornbuckle, Erin Charise – age 42 Arrested: Dec. 22 Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6) Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor
Toineeta, Victoria Eden – age 35 Arrested: Dec. 18 Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 22) Charges: Probation Violation	McCoy, Richard James – age 36 Arrested: Dec. 20 Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 22) Charges: Second Degree Burglary; Child Abuse in the Second Degree; Simple Assault, Assault and Battery, Simple Affray; Robbery (two counts)	Crowe-Key, Bowdy Chance – age 29 Arrested: Dec. 23 Released: Dec. 23 Charges: Possession of Firearms by Felon
Brady-Cole, Jillian Kaye – age 36 Arrested: Dec. 19 Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 22) Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor	McCoy, Rickenna Dawn – age 36 Arrested: Dec. 20 Released: Not released as of report date (Dec. 22)	Kirby, Angel Morningstar – age 33 Arrested: Dec. 23 Released: Dec. 23

see ARREST REPORTS next page

**ARREST REPORTS:** From page 15

Charges: Driving While Impaired

Smoker, Keri Philana – age 48

Arrested: Dec. 23

Released: Jan. 1

Charges: Filing a False Emergency

Report

Brereton, Katie Ann – age 52

Arrested: Dec. 24

Released: Dec. 24

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Magana, Rafaelita Cecilia – age 30

Arrested: Dec. 24

Released: Dec. 29

Charges: Driving While Impaired; Child Abuse in the Second Degree; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

McCoy II, Timothy Jason – age 34

Arrested: Dec. 24

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6)

Charges: Homicide in the First Degree, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Assault by Pointing Gun

Thompson, Victoria Grace – age

35

Arrested: Dec. 24

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6)

Charges: Accessory after the Fact, Obstructing Governmental Functions, Second Degree Trespass

Wolfe, Terrance Russell – age 28

Arrested: Dec. 24

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6)

Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

McCoy, Carl Ray – age 21

Arrested: Dec. 25

Released: Dec. 26

Charges: Driving While Impaired

Taylor, Salvador Hugo – age 34  
Arrested: Dec. 25  
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6)

Charges: Assault with a Deadly Weapon; Child Abuse in the Second Degree; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Criminal Mischief to Property

Vega Garcia, Junior – age 53  
Arrested: Dec. 25  
Released: Dec. 25  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Oglesby, Crystal Ann – age 46  
Arrested: Dec. 26  
Released: Dec. 26  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Wilnoty, Megan Dawn – age 32  
Arrested: Dec. 26  
Released: Dec. 26  
Charges: Probation Violation

Bradley, Amber Carol-Leigh – age 35  
Arrested: Dec. 27  
Released: Dec. 27  
Charges: Simple Assault and Battery, Simple Affray; Driving While License Revoked

Dyer, Daniel William – age 37  
Arrested: Dec. 27  
Released: Dec. 27  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

### **CIPD Arrest Report for Dec. 29, 2025 to Jan. 4, 2026**

*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.*

Hill, Steven Raymond – age 54  
Arrested: Dec. 29  
Released: Dec. 29  
Charges: Simple Assault

Humphrey, Mary Elizabeth – age 50  
Arrested: Dec. 31  
Released: Dec. 31  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

McCoy, Tristen Michael – age 20  
Arrested: Dec. 31  
Released: Dec. 31  
Charges: Weapons Offense

Sutton, Liberty Anell – age 21  
Arrested: Jan. 1  
Released: Jan. 1  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Teesatuskie, Gavin Hunter – age 18  
Arrested: Jan. 1  
Released: Jan. 1

Charges: Receiving or Possessing Stolen Property; Aiding and Abetting, Acting in Concert, Accessory before the Fact

Waldroup, Brandon – age 45  
Arrested: Jan. 1  
Released: Jan. 1  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Hornbuckle, Jamie Ray – age 49  
Arrested: Jan. 2  
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6)  
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Lane, Jacqueline Evonne – age 53  
Arrested: Jan. 2  
Released: Jan. 5  
Charges: Exploitation of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult

Ross, Cassandra Dawn – age 39

Arrested: Jan. 2

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6)

Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor, Pre-Trial Release Violation

Washington Jr., Robert Lee – age 33

Arrested: Jan. 2

Released: Jan. 2

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Sequoyah, Danica J. – age 28

Arrested: Jan. 3

Released: Jan. 5

Charges: Assault inflicting Serious Injury, Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Stephens, Evangeline Wolf – age 73

Arrested: Jan. 3

Released: Jan. 3

Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Blanton, Tylina Rae – age 24

Arrested: Jan. 4

Released: Jan. 5

Charges: Driving While Impaired

Martin, Sean Emanuel – age 35

Arrested: Jan. 4

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 6)

Charges: Resisting Lawful Arrest, Reckless Endangerment, Obstructing Governmental Functions, Assault with Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill and Inflicting Serious Injury (two counts), Aggravated Reckless Endangerment (two counts), Assault by Pointing Gun (two counts)

Sequoyah, Azuriah Kay – age 19

Arrested: Jan. 4

Released: Jan. 4

Charges: Disorderly Conduct

# Planning Board holds December meeting

By BROOKLYN BROWN  
One Feather Reporter

**C**HEROKEE, N.C. - On the afternoon of Dec. 15, 2025, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Project Management and Planning team provided project updates to the Planning Board, led by manager Rebecca Bowe.

The updates included:  
Nvndayeli Trail, which is under construction, with a sign package to be installed in the new

year.

Fire Substation #3, which is under construction and set to complete in March 2026.

The Cherokee Indian Police Department Evidence Building, which is under construction and set to complete in September 2026.

The Ceremonial Grounds, with a groundbreaking scheduled for Jan. 12, 2026, and completion set for late Spring 2027

Whitewater Landing Phase 2, which includes converting gravel paths to a hardscape, creating a new pavilion, extending the locust fencing, constructing a lattice around the observation deck, and fencing around the pump station, with construction beginning in January 2026.

John Crowe Sports Complex,

with clearing and grubbing underway, grading ongoing at the knoll, and pending design proposal for phase 1 that include updating the upper two fields, sunshades, new lighting, a family/play area, improvements and expansion for parking, and updating the concessions area.

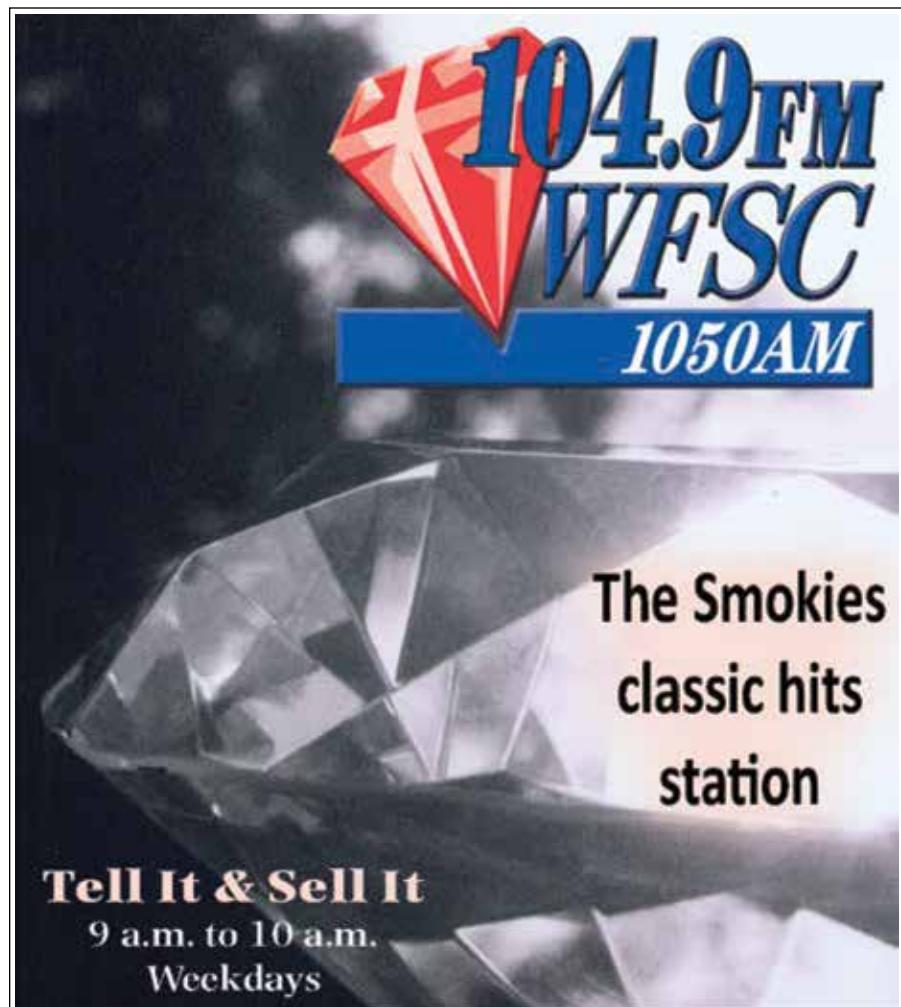
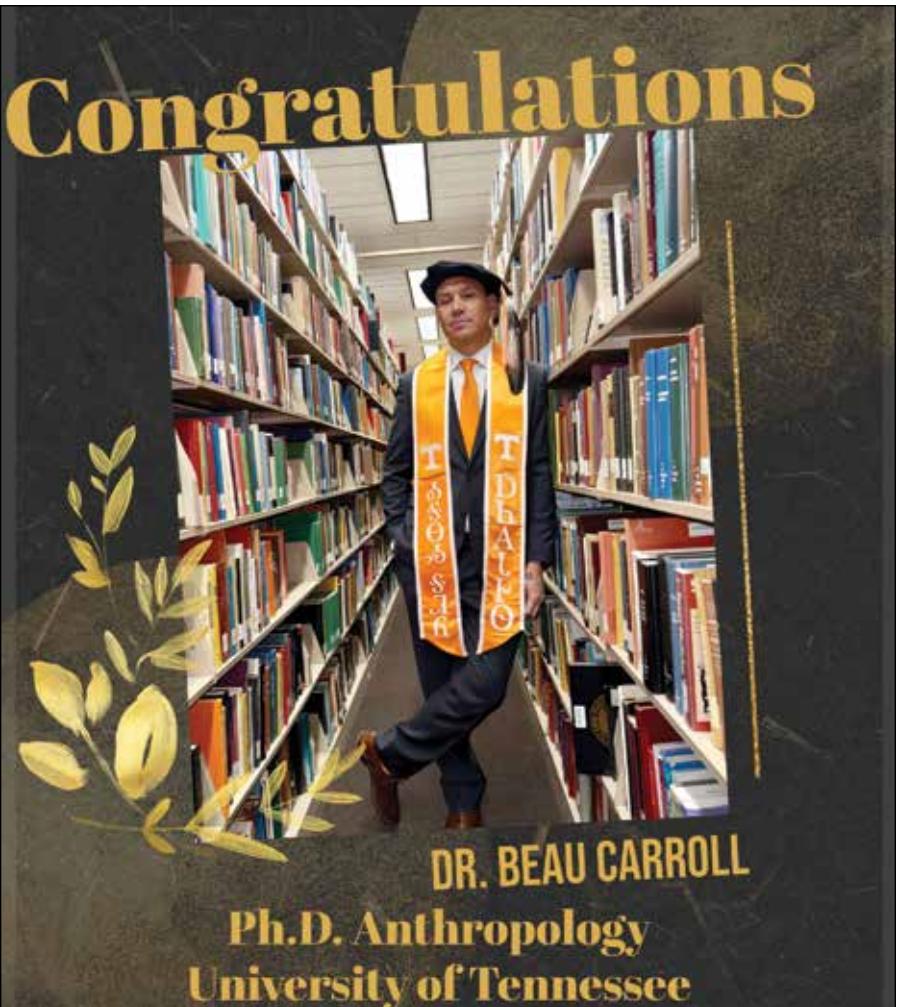
Mingo Falls Trailhead Phase 2, with planning underway to extend water and sewer and improve wayfinding and signage.

The Old High School Site, with phase 1 including fairgrounds improvements to create a main entry, craft additional parking, create restrooms, construct a ticketing/information gate and kiosk, build a stage, and play area with pavilions. Phase 2, which includes a multi-use facility, will begin planning in fiscal year 2027.

The Indian Village Bathrooms, developing a request for proposals for new restrooms, and temporary utility connection to existing water and sewer. Permanent utility construction is set to begin at the end of 2026.

The Junaluska Memorial Site, with bid for construction beginning in Spring 2026.

Other projects in early stages include the veterans' cemetery with design plans beginning in January 2026, the veterans' new facility with planning beginning, the Bradley Campground with design options received, the Tsali Care Facility with planning in progress, and New Kituwah Academy with a feasibility study near completion.



## BASKETBALL

# Hicks signs with Pfeiffer University

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Marlee Hicks, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and a senior on the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) varsity basketball team, has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Pfeiffer University next season. Surrounded by family, teammates, and friends, she signed the letter during a ceremony at Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 6. Hicks won the 1A Women's Basketball state championship last year with the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi.

Craig Barker, Cherokee High School principal, spoke highly of Marlee at Tuesday's event. "She's a phenomenal athlete, everybody here knows that. But, not only is she a phenomenal athlete, she is a phenomenal student as well. She is a representation of her tribe and her family. She always represents our school with honor, respect, and integrity - along with her family."

He continued, "She's a tireless worker and I'm a firm believer that you get what you deserve. She's put the time in. She's put the work in. Pfeiffer's got a dandy right here. We're extremely proud of her. We love her."

Miranda Stamper, Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi head coach, commented that she was impressed with the fact that Hicks meshed so well with the team having transferred from Swain Co. for the 2024-25 school year. "She came in, earned the respect of the girls immediately." "It was just really cool to see her come in and mesh so well. It's just because she's an awesome kid. I know when she goes to Pfeiffer she's going to probably break every academic record that they have there. Athletically, she's awesome, great to have, great to be around."

In addition to basketball, Hicks plays golf and softball for Cherokee. She was named 2025 Smoky Mountain Conference Player of



Marlee Hicks, center, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and a senior on the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) varsity basketball team, signed a letter of intent during a ceremony at Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 6. to play basketball at Pfeiffer University next season. She is shown with her parents, EBCI First Lady Marsha Hicks and EBCI Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

## the Year in golf.

Jason McMillan, CHS golf coach, said, "She's amazing and the stuff that she had to go through to get here, the adversity that she had to go through, that just speaks volumes to who she is and the mentality that she has. Anybody that plays golf, you have to have some mental toughness - you're versus yourself every day out there on the golf course and that's what Marlee has. She proved that this year being player of the year in golf, which we're very proud of her for."

Mental toughness is what you need and that's what I think one of her best qualities is being mentally tough. I think that will help her going into Pfeiffer, bringing that mindset into Pfeiffer, along with academics and who she is."

Marlee's father, EBCI Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, said, "We tried to do good by every one of our kids - raise them up and hopefully they're proud of their heritage, they're proud of being from Cherokee and represent to the best of their ability. I think we've done a pretty decent job of that. Even though they're all cut from the same thread, Marlee is just a little bit different. It's different in a good way...sometimes she can cut really hard. She's very funny, but she's always probably the

most loyal individual that I've ever known. And, if she's loyal to something, you're not going to change that."

He went on to say, "As coaches, and friends, and family, we're not preparing you just for this game, which is fun to watch at the time. We're preparing you for life and life doesn't get any easier as you get older. You've got to lean on these influences and recognize why some might have been a little tougher on you than others - because they want you to grow. They want you to be that best person that you can be."

Brianna Bynum, Cherokee Middle School principal, commented, "She's an outstanding student athlete and a true student leader who truly lives the spirit of gadugi. I say that because Marlee consistently gives back to her community. As many of you know, you may see her. She serves others with humility and leads by example. Her service and scholarship and leadership, as she was honored with the Amanda Swimmer award, and her dedication, has earned her recognition across basketball, golf, and softball."

The Pfeiffer University Falcons compete in the USA South Athletic Conference in NCAA Division III.



# Thinking About Building A Home?

**FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW AND YOUR DREAM HOME COULD COME TRUE**

## BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER

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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913

# Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi play in Coaches vs Cancer event for Natalie Grant

Special to the One Feather

The Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) played Daniel Boone High School (Tenn.) in the Coaches vs Cancer event held at TC Roberson High School on Saturday, Dec. 13. The team chose to play for (SUIT UP FOR) Natalie Grant. She recently battled cancer and beat it.

Mrs. Natalie Grant, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has been with Cherokee Central Schools for 15 years teaching the Cherokee Language. She spent the first nine years in the elementary school as a language immersion instructor and is now in her sixth year working in the 8th grade. She is the mother of three, but if you were to ask any former or current student they will tell you that they are one of her kids, too.

In the early morning hours of Aug. 2, 2024, she was seen in the ER for excruciating back pain. A CT scan was taken with the speculation of a kidney stone. After a 4-hour wait, at 7:30 a.m., she went home to rest and await scan results. By 8:30 she received a call to report back to the ER immediately. In her mind, she was thinking it was "appendicitis and emergency surgery is needed." The scan confirmed a kidney stone but also revealed a suspicious mass on her left kidney. She was referred to a urologist who confirmed a renal cell carcinoma on the left kidney. On Oct. 28, 2024, a 2" cancerous mass was cut away from the kidney, and on Oct. 30,



The Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) played Daniel Boone High School (Tenn.) in the Coaches vs Cancer event held at TC Roberson High School on Saturday, Dec. 13. Shown, left to right, back row - Traelin Carey, Kaden Stephens, Zayden Crowe, Brandon Blankenship, Mack Burgess, Tayvin Bark, Utsela Saunooke, Drallen Ledford, Tsula Howling-crane; front row - Kaden Cucumber, Dalton Yates, Natalie Grant, Matix Stamper, Dillon Beam, Samuel "Koga" Hernandez, and Jordan "LJ" Panther. Not pictured: Head Coach: James "Jimmy" Cleaveland, Assistant Coaches, Josiah Fourkiller-Lossiah, Jace Wolfe, and Damion Ledford. (Photo courtesy of Cherokee Central Schools)

she made her way home to begin the healing process.

Each cancer survivor story varies. No one wants or asks for cancer. She is thankful her story resulted in an easier remedy but that is not always the case. Continue to pray for those battling all sicknesses and diseases. Get those yearly checkups.

Natalie is a great example of Every Day Every Brave, this is one of Cherokee central schools' mottos.

"Every day, every brave" refers to the concept of "everyday brav-

ery": the idea that courage is not just about grand, heroic gestures, but also about the many small, daily acts of facing challenges, anxieties, and fears in one's personal life. All of our students and staff, here at Cherokee Central Schools, are so thankful to God that Mrs. Natalie's fight with cancer was a victory and that she is still with us and is keeping our Cherokee language alive within our students and the classroom. Go Braves!



# "IT'S TIME FOR GUTTER MAINTENANCE"

## 6 REASONS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GUTTER MAINTENANCE

It certainly isn't the most fun weekend project, but it's an important one, nonetheless. While it's certainly easier to procrastinate cleaning out your gutters, there are several problems that can arise from debris building up. If the reality is that you're just not going to get out and do it, then it can be a good idea to call in a professional service to come in and make sure it gets done well.

People don't often stop and think of the issues that can arise from clogged gutters, but there are many. If water is not able to properly flow away from your house, then damage can result in several different locations, from your roofing to your foundation. There are number of reasons to make sure that your gutters get cleaned out.

Here is a list of some of those reasons.

### PREVENT EROSION & MOLD



### 1. Roof Damage

When leaves and other debris clog up your gutters to the point that water is flooding over, you can end up having issues with rot on your roofing. This is one of the main reasons that it's important to keep your gutters clean.

### 2. Wood Fascia Damage

If water backs up in your gutters, it becomes very heavy (8 lbs. per gallon) which can cause the gutter attachments to pull away from the wood fascia it is attached to and damaging the wood. Water spilling over the edges of gutters and onto the wood fascia boards will cause the wood to rot and weaken as well.

### 3. Damage to Walls, Windows, Doors and Patios

Water that spills over the gutter edges, falls onto walls, window frames, doors and whatever surface is below. These features of your home are not designed to have this much water contact. They count on your gutters and downspouts doing their job in order to last longer. Eventually this extra water contact will cause these features of your home to rot, warp and weaken.

### 4. Damage to Foundations and Landscaping

Your foundation supports the entire structure of your home. Excess water contact here can cause your foundation to leak, shift, and crack or even sink. Clean gutters and downspouts carry water away from your home and foundation to points where it can be easily absorbed into the ground or drainage system. Your landscaping also suffers when this excess water falls on trees, plants and flowers. It is simply the difference between watering plants with a garden hose vs watering with a fire hose. Too much water directed in one spot can be a bad thing.

### 5. Slip and fall

Again, with clogged gutters, water is falling in places you don't expect it to. This can lead to slippery situations where water is falling from the clogged gutters above onto a walkway, entry or driveway. Keeping gutters and downspouts clean keeps the water moving away from your home and walkways and helps keep your home as "slip-free" as possible.

### 6. Prevent Mold

"Moisture is the enemy," Damp and wet areas are prime locations for mold growth, which damages the structural integrity of the home.

Exposure to mold can also affect a family's health, from triggering asthma and coughs, to causing runny noses, and other, more severe respiratory conditions."

#### "DON'T TRIM YOUR GUTTERS"



#### "CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS"



## WRESTLING

# Cherokee takes second place at Enka Duals Boys meet

### One Feather Staff Report

The Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) varsity wrestling team took second place in Pool D at the Enka Duals Girls meet in Candler, N.C. on Saturday, Jan. 3.

Following are results per trackwrestling.com:

#### Cherokee High School defeated

#### Mountain Heritage High School 57-11

- 106 - Colton Wilnoky (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 113 - Elliott Wildcat (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 120 - Kollin Sampson (Cherokee High School) over Bodhi Glover (Mountain Heritage High School) Dec 11-4
- 126 - Mattias Kelley (Mountain Heritage High School) over Eden Littlejohn (Cherokee High School) TF 19-3
- 132 - Brayon Tucker (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 138 - Max Fraiser (Mountain Heritage High School) over Nakai Pheasant (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:35
- 144 - Double Forfeit
- 150 - Siah Teesateskie (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 157 - Kimo Sokol (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 165 - Kingston Welch (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 175 - Kyson Jenkins (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 190 - Blake Sequoyah (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 215 - Thomas Tramper (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 285 - Double Forfeit

#### Enka High School defeated

#### Cherokee High School 71-9

- 106 - Maddox Crooke (Enka High School) over Colton Wilnoky (Cherokee High School) TF 17-2

- 113 - Jacobie Morrison (Enka High School) over Elliott Wildcat (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:37
- 120 - Colton Farmer (Enka High School) over Kollin Sampson (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:13
- 126 - Sheppard Homan (Enka High School) over Eden Littlejohn (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:38
- 132 - Colson Stroupe (Enka High School) over Brayon Tucker (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:20
- 138 - Jack Redd (Enka High School) over Nakai Pheasant (Cherokee High School) Fall 2:20
- 144 - Kord Moody (Enka High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 150 - Titus Nielsen (Enka High School) over Siah Teesateskie (Cherokee High School) Fall 2:53
- 157 - Jackson Gacono (Enka High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 165 - Kimo Sokol (Cherokee High School) over Liam Mallory (Enka High School) Dec 11-6
- 175 - Tyler Nielsen (Enka High School) over Kingston Welch (Cherokee High School) Fall 3:47
- 190 - Henry Greathouse (Enka High School) over Kyson Jenkins (Cherokee High School) Fall 2:25
- 215 - Ryan Luther (Enka High School) over Joseph Saunooke (Cherokee High School) Fall 4:47
- 285 - Thomas Tramper (Cherokee High School) over Garren Merrill (Enka High School) Fall 0:39

#### Tuscola defeated Cherokee High School 66-18

- 126 - Aydan Mull (Tuscola) over Eden Littlejohn (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:31
- 132 - Michael Lettner (Tuscola) over Brayon Tucker (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:19
- 138 - Zachary Duncan (Tuscola) over Nakai Pheasant (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:41
- 144 - Micah Howard (Tuscola) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 150 - Henry Spivey (Tuscola) over Siah Teesateskie (Cherokee High School) Fall 4:46
- 157 - Tanner Lanning (Tuscola) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 165 - Benjamin Ulery (Tuscola) over Kimo

Sokol (Cherokee High School) Fall 3:00

- 175 - Kingston Welch (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 190 - Brenyn Hatton (Tuscola) over Kyson Jenkins (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:28
- 215 - John Smith (Tuscola) over Blake Sequoyah (Cherokee High School) Fall 3:19
- 285 - Nick Messer (Tuscola) over Thomas Tramper (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:57
- 106 - Colton Wilnoky (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 113 - Elijah Youngdeer (Cherokee High School) over Ezra Puett (Tuscola) Fall 0:49
- 120 - David Levi Wood (Tuscola) over Kollin Sampson (Cherokee High School) Fall 2:59

## WRESTLING

# Cherokee takes second place at Enka Duals Girls meet

### One Feather Staff Report

The Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) varsity wrestling team took second place in Pool B at the Enka Duals Girls meet in Candler, N.C. on Saturday, Jan. 3. Following are results per trackwrestling.com:

#### Cherokee High School defeated

#### Clyde A. Erwin High School 72-0

- 100 - Caidyn Teesateskie (Cherokee High School) over Alison Del Villar Cruz (Clyde A. Erwin High School) Fall 0:22
- 107 - Meikka Pheasant (Cherokee High School) over Katie Lopez (Clyde A. Erwin High School) Fall 1:10
- 114 - Dahilia Long (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 120 - Eloise Frady (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 126 - Dahilia Long (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 132 - Livia Crowe (Cherokee High School) over Jitzel Salazer (Clyde A. Erwin High School) Fall 2:30
- 138 - Sara Toineeta (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 145 - Jamee McMillan (Cherokee High School) over Brianna Caldwell (Clyde A. Erwin

High School) Fall 0:36

- 152 - Pippa Welch (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 165 - Annie Tramper (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 185 - Harper Welch (Cherokee High School) over Abigail Valladares (Clyde A. Erwin High School) Fall 4:30
- 235 - Hailey Winchester (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf

### **Enka High School defeated Cherokee High School 36-35**

- 114 - Destinee Morris (Enka High School) over Dahilia Long (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:18
- 120 - Riley Spencer (Enka High School) over Eloise Frady (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:37
- 126 - Tehya Morrison (Enka High School) over Dahilia Long (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:42
- 132 - Livia Crowe (Cherokee High School) over Layla Harwood (Enka High School) TF 18-1
- 138 - Sara Toineeta (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 145 - Violet Darnell (Enka High School) over Jamee McMillan (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:31
- 152 - Pippa Welch (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 165 - Shannon Gobble (Enka High School) over Annie Tramper (Cherokee High School) Fall 3:32
- 185 - Harper Welch (Cherokee High School) over Emma Lewellen (Enka High School) Fall 3:54
- 235 - Hailey Winchester (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 100 - Solstice Park (Enka High School) over Caidyn Teesateskie (Cherokee High School) Fall 2:57
- 107 - Meikka Pheasant (Cherokee High School) over Erika Herrera (Enka High School) Fall 5:52

### **Cherokee High School defeated North Buncombe High School 54-18**

- 126 - Jaylee Arch (Cherokee High School) over Reagan Hawkins (North Buncombe High School) Fall 0:00
- 132 - Samantha Gangemi (North Buncombe

High School) over Kahya Cucumber (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:33

- 138 - Livia Crowe (Cherokee High School) over Baileigh davis (North Buncombe High School) Fall 0:18
- 145 - Sara Toineeta (Cherokee High School) over Carly Franklin (North Buncombe High School) Fall 0:40
- 152 - Pippa Welch (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 165 - Nayaa Addo (Cherokee High School) over Gracie Duncan (North Buncombe High School) Fall 0:54
- 185 - Harper Welch (Cherokee High School) over Gabby Trull (North Buncombe High School) Fall 0:29
- 235 - Kinzlee Buckner (North Buncombe High School) over Hailey Winchester (Cherokee High School) Fall 1:30
- 100 - Caidyn Teesateskie (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 107 - Meikka Pheasant (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 114 - Eloise Frady (Cherokee High School) over Caelyn Bowen (North Buncombe High School) Fall 1:13
- 120 - Khole Beck (North Buncombe High School) over Kaidyn Walkingstick (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:32

### **Cherokee High School defeated St. Stephens High School 42-24**

- 132 - Livia Crowe (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 138 - Sara Toineeta (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 145 - Anel Chavez (St. Stephens High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 152 - Double Forfeit
- 165 - Pippa Welch (Cherokee High School) over Trenady Sprenger (St. Stephens High School) Fall 0:23
- 185 - Harper Welch (Cherokee High School) over Harper Pyatte (St. Stephens High School) Fall 2:41
- 235 - Hailey Winchester (Cherokee High School) over Unknown (Unattached) Forf
- 100 - Sydney Baker (St. Stephens High School) over Caidyn Teesateskie (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:42
- 107 - Meikka Pheasant (Cherokee High School) over Kylie Xiong (St. Stephens High

School) Fall 0:44

- 114 - Karla Martinez (St. Stephens High School) over Dahilia Long (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:51
- 120 - Nevaeh Smith (St. Stephens High School) over Eloise Frady (Cherokee High School) Fall 0:49
- 126 - Deanna Long (Cherokee High School) over Savannah Lasher (St. Stephens High School) Fall 2:30



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Which Hockey Hall of Famer and four-time Stanley Cup champion may be best known for the Canadian donut shop chain he cofounded in 1964?

2. Which NFL head coach compiled a 34-46 regular-season record with the Dallas Cowboys (1998-99) and Buffalo Bills (2010-12)?

3. What horse racing facility in Hallandale Beach, Florida, hosted the Breeders' Cup in 1989, 1992 and 1999?

4. What international agreement, signed in 1981, requires all member countries to protect the International Olympic Committee's five interlocking rings logo from unauthorized commercial use?

5. What university is known as "Sportscaster U." for its many alumni — including Marv Albert, Mike Tirico, Dick Stockton, Sean McDonough and Ian Eagle — with distinguished careers in sports media?

6. What two college football teams play for the Old Brass Spittoon rivalry trophy?

7. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer and Portland Trail Blazers head coach who was arrested in October 2025 as part of an investigation into rigged sports gambling and poker games.

### **Answers**

1. Tim Horton.
2. Chan Gailey.
3. Gulfstream Park.
4. The Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol.
5. Syracuse University.
6. The Indiana Hoosiers and Michigan State Spartans.
7. Chauncey Billups.

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# EBCI tribal member selected as Red Earth Artist

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

**M**argaret Littlejohn Wakefield, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has been selected as an Official Red Earth Festival Artist for the 2026 event. She will display her paintings at the Festival set for Aug. 1-2 at the OKC Convention Center in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Wakefield, who signs her work 'Tsani Usdi' which is Littlejohn in the Cherokee language, said she was shocked and cried tears of joy when she found out the news. "I was absolutely flabbergasted when I realized I had been chosen as the Official Festival Artist. When I opened my email I just scanned the first line or two to see if I had been accepted. Once I saw that I had been juried in I didn't pay attention to the attachment because I was so excited. I was too busy calling my sister and telling her we were going to Red Earth. It wasn't until I went back over the email that I opened the attachment and saw that I had been chosen as the Official Artist!"

She is very excited for the event and has begun preparations. "My booth will have a prominent place at the Red Earth Festival. So, it's really important that it looks professional and presents well because I'm representing the festival as well as our EBCI artists here. I will be demonstrating during both days of the festival and I do that regardless because I'm always painting, always working and it opens up lines of communication between myself and potential collectors. I also

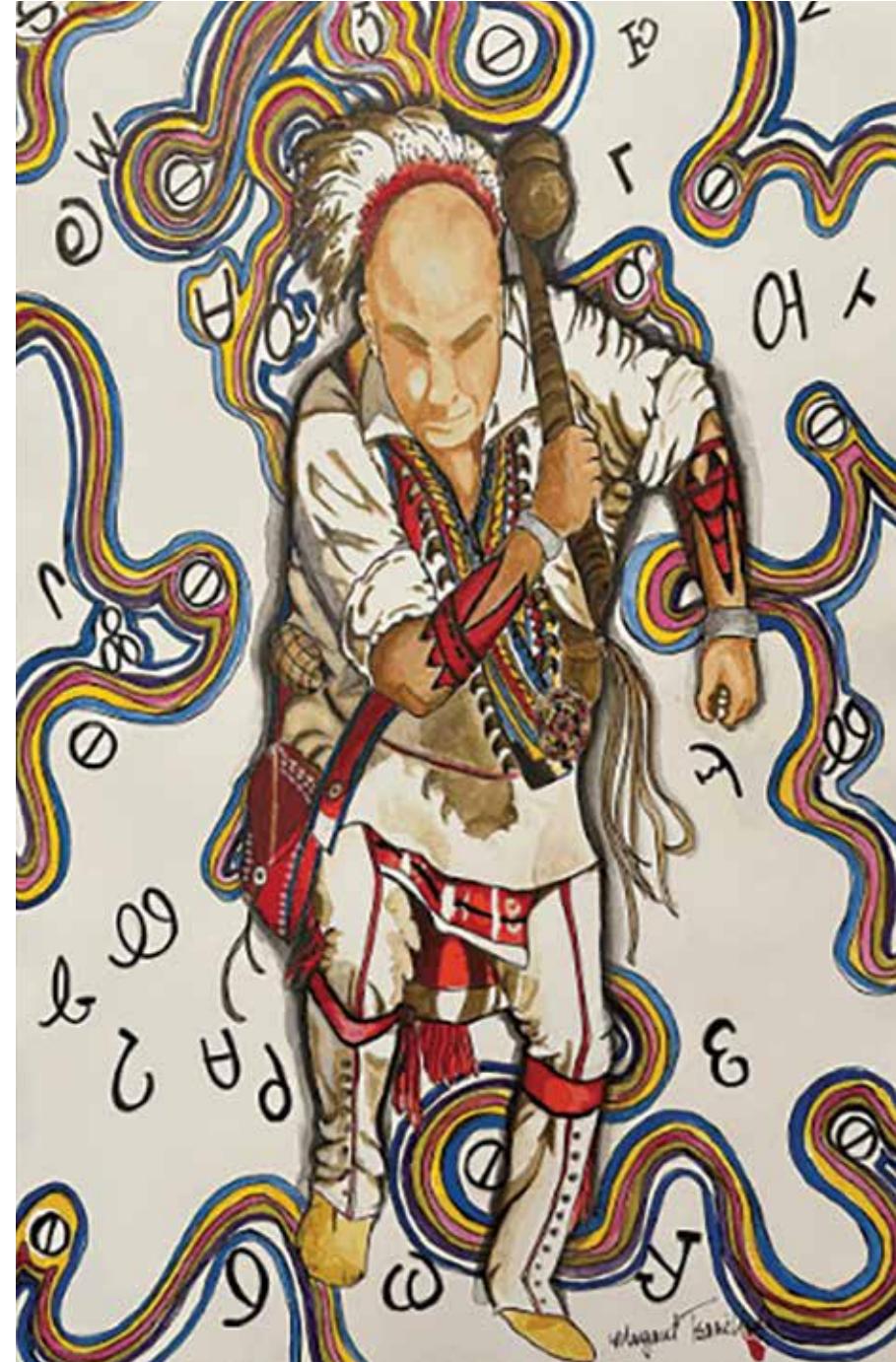


Margaret Littlejohn Wakefield, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has been selected as an Official Red Earth Festival Artist for the 2026 event. (Image courtesy of Margaret Littlejohn Wakefield)

keep an extra seat in my booth in case someone just needs to sit for a minute and that usually ends up in a conversation also. I meet the most interesting people and get great feedback from it. I've submitted a proposal to speak at this year's festival but I haven't heard about that at this time."

She was at Red Earth decades ago. "I was at Red Earth way back in 2000, the year after my father walked on. I was accepted on the first go round. Due to medical and mental health issues I wasn't able to apply in later years and then I took a 6-year hiatus from my art altogether. It wasn't until two years ago that I picked up a pencil, much less a paint brush."

Wakefield added, "I had moved to Aiken, S.C. in the meantime because I wanted to be with horses. I started drawing again. But, it wasn't until my wonderful



"He Dances of War" is a painting by EBCI artist Margaret Littlejohn Wakefield. It is part of her series entitled 'Warriors of Kituwah'. (Image courtesy of Margaret Littlejohn Wakefield)

friend, Jenean Hornbuckle, sent me a message telling me I couldn't resist color for too much longer. All I had left were some tubes of Sennelier watercolors. I had never really worked in watercolors, I was scared of them. The day after she

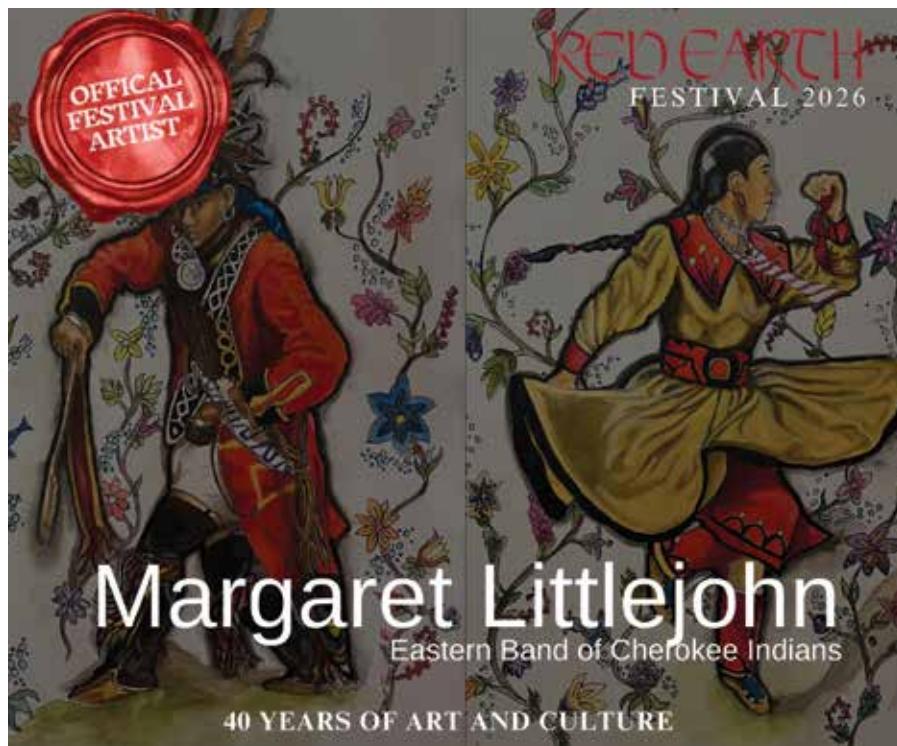
sent that message I picked up my one brush and painted a horse. What a revelation! It changed my life."

At the Red Earth Festival, Wakefield noted that she'll have 40 to 50 pieces of original art as

well as Giclee prints for sale. All of the work will be matted and framed.

"Naturally, I'm really excited about the two chosen for the (Red Earth) poster, Ga-sha-le-ni Ge-ga-ge-i and A-sha-no-hi Da-lo-ni-ge-i. But, I'm most proud of my Warriors of Anikituhwah paintings. These paintings are what changed my whole artistic purview. These paintings are my first time incorporating acrylic inks into my watercolors as well as being my first attempt at painting the human figure.

We're a woodland people and I think it's terribly important that we portray that in our art. I also paint other things that are fun, like my hares, Tsi-Sdu, that are part of our stories or perhaps paintings that bring awareness to our missing and murdered Indigenous peoples. My red handprint series has horses searching the



The poster announcing Wakefield as an Official Festival Artist features two of her paintings including Ga-sha-le-ni Ge-ga-ge-i and A-sha-no-hi Da-lo-ni-ge-i.

different landscapes with a red handprint delicately incorporated

into the sunset, the forest, etc. I'm glad to donate an image to any

organization helping in this."

She does her paintings in watercolor or acrylic inks with most being a combination of the two styles. "I love the delicate washes and glazes they produce. I build up my paintings layer by layer, sometimes I may have eight or nine glazes to produce a certain look or effect, like the clothing on the two Smoke Dancers that were chosen for the poster."

Wakefield is very appreciative of the support she has received for her art over the years. "I especially want to thank those who have helped me along the way, Jenean Hornbuckle for her encouragement and friendship, my aunt Carmelita Monteith, my late father, Mickey Littlejohn, and my mother, Mary Mason, both of whom instilled a love of art in me, and my community without whom none of this would be possible."

## The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Presents The WNC Fly Fishing Trail Weekly Fishing Report



WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
Tuckaseigee River	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Pheasant Tail Nymphs, Midges, Soft Hackles, Perdigons, Eggs, Streamers
Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	Small Black Stones, BWOs, Midges, Soft Hackles
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Small Black Stones, BWOs, Midges, Soft Hackles

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TUCKASEEGEE FLY SHOP

MONDAY,  
JAN. 12  
AVERAGE  
6:06 AM-8:06 AM  
6:28 PM-8:28 PM-

TUESDAY,  
JAN. 13  
AVERAGE+  
6:52 AM-8:52 AM  
7:16 PM-9:16 PM

WEDNESDAY,  
JAN. 14  
AVERAGE  
7:41 AM-9:41 AM  
8:06 PM-10:06 PM

THURSDAY,  
JAN. 15  
GOOD  
8:32 AM-10:32 AM  
8:58 PM-10:58 PM

FRIDAY,  
JAN. 16  
BETTER  
9:25 AM-11:25 AM  
9:51 PM-11:51 PM-

SATURDAY,  
JAN. 17  
BETTER++  
10:17 AM-12:17 PM  
10:43 PM-12:43

SUNDAY,  
JAN. 18  
BEST  
11:08 AM-1:08 PM

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# Lindley Wyatt brings her culture to the runway

By BROOKLYN BROWN  
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Lindley Wyatt, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), is a junior at Western Carolina University (WCU) double majoring in Marketing and Management. Wyatt is also a fashion model signed with a Sante Fe Indigenous modeling agency.

Wyatt began modeling at 16 when she modeled in the 4th Annual Kanasigi Fashion Show held in Cherokee, N.C. Nov. 5, 2022.

"I've been interested in modeling & fashion for a while. When I was in the seventh and eighth grade, around 12 to 13 years old, people started telling me I should be a model. I've always been the tallest girl in my class. I was busy with other activities like competitive dance, basketball, cross country and track, and didn't pursue it. The opportunity to model came when Kanasigi Fashion Show did a model call when I was 16," she said.

"Kanasigi does great with it; they really work with the models. The committee brings in other Indigenous models to work with us and teach us how to walk and pose. Since I did that first Kanasigi show, I've modeled in other Indigenous shows across Indian country."

Wyatt is scheduled to appear in the First Peoples Fashion Show in Estes Park, Colo. this January, the Utah Indigenous Fashion Show in March, as well as returning to Santa Fe Fashion Week in May.

"The Kanasigi Committee, Tonya Carroll, Hope Huskey, Faith Long-Pressley and Tara McCoy, introduced me to modeling and have supported me along the way. I appreciate all they have done and how they have encouraged me and been there for me," she said.

Wyatt shared that modeling Indigenous fashion is her preference as a model. "I love modeling in Indigenous shows; you get to meet Native models and Native designers from all over Indian Country. It's like the 21st century pow-wow. I have modeled at other non-Native fashion shows but prefer Indigenous shows. It's important that we are having Indigenous fashion shows. It puts us out there, it makes us and



Lindley Wyatt models for designer Paula Wojtkowski in the 7th Annual Kanasigi Fashion Show held Nov. 8 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Event Center. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

our art, culture and creativity seen," she said.

"Some of my favorite experiences modeling have been getting to know models from other tribes and their cultures. Also, the humor backstage. All Indigenous people seem to have a similar humor."

Wyatt said modeling has gone hand in hand with her studies at WCU. "Marketing and modeling are both about presentation, whether it is an outfit, brand or event. I am currently doing an internship in the marketing department at the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad. I am responsible for marketing the content for

the train. Modeling is like content, too—how you present fashion in a way that people see it, like it and want it," she said.

"It's also been a great experience to be behind the scenes of Indigenous Fashion Shows across Indian country. I've learned so much behind the scenes about how it comes together for the finished product."

After graduation, Wyatt plans to pursue a master's degree in project management to promote Indigenous culture, fashion and art throughout the country.

### January Yoga

**Slow Flow Yoga Tuesdays and Gentle Thursdays at 12pm**  
**Yoga classes will be taught in the oga room at Cherokee Choices.**  
**For more info contact Robin at [robibail@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:robibail@ebci-nsn.gov).**

### Walking Club

**Starts February 2, 2026.**

**Mondays and Wednesdays at 12pm**

**Looking to get active, but want to ease into it? Join us on weekly walks and get moving! We will rotate locations weekly. Reach out to Shelby for more info at [shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov) or 359-6783.**

### Positive Indian Parenting

**8 lessons begin on January 20, 2026**

**Tuesdays at 12pm.**

**A culturally based parenting curriculum that is participant based. For more info contact Shelby at [shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov) or 359-6783**

### SEAT Workout and Nutrition classes

**January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026**

**1 hour program combines 30 minutes of seated exercise with 30 minutes of nutrition. Contact Shelby to sign up at [shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov) or 828-359-6783**

### Mediterranean Diet Meal Prep Series

**February 5th – 26th on Thursdays 12-1pm**

**The Mediterranean diet is the #1 recommended heart health, anti-inflammatory diet. Join us and learn some easy tips and recipes to incorporate into your daily life. Contact April to sign up at [apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov) or 359-6201**

### FIT Fridays

**January 23rd – March 13th Fridays 12-1pm**

**A mix of strength, music based cardio ND Pilates. All levels welcome.**

**Sign up with Tori at [victtram@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:victtram@ebci-nsn.gov) or 359-6778**

### After-work Workout

**6-week series beginning February 3, 2026**

**Tuesdays 4:45-5:45pm**

**Contact April at [apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov) or 359-6201 for more info or to sign up.**

### Beginner Pilates

**Mondays 12-12:45pm**

**Starts February 2, 2026**

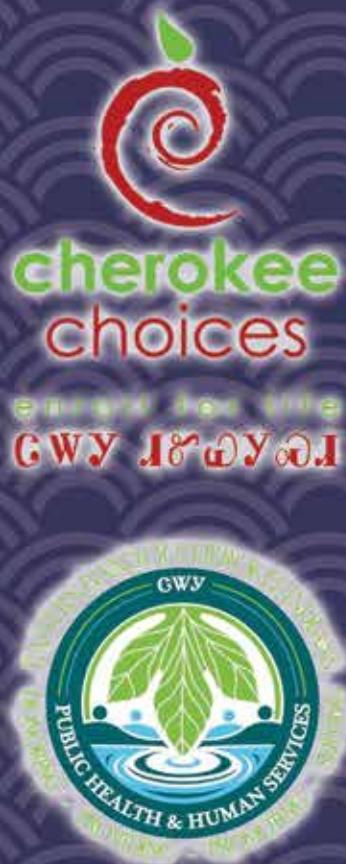
**Contact April at [apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov) or 359-6201 for more info or to sign up.**

### Move and Meal Prep

**A quick workout with a healthy lunch to-go at the end!**

**Thursdays 12-1pm Begins March 5, 2026**

**Contact April at [apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov) or 359-6201 for more info or to sign up.**



**January  
unolvtni  
O-ZA-WH**

### **Cherokee Choices**

**Is a chronic disease prevention program for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians under the Public Health and Human Services Division.**

**Vision: Generations of Wellness**

**Mission: To Promote Physical, Mental, Emotional, Spiritual, & Cultural Well-being among the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in order to prevent Chronic Diseases.**

**Follow Cherokee Choices on Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/CherokeeChoices](http://www.facebook.com/CherokeeChoices)**

## EBCI ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

### Call for artists

Over the next six months, in the Maker Space in the Qualla Boundary Public Library at 810 Acquoni Rd. Cherokee, NC. 28719, is seeking interested artists to teach one or more of these workshops: feather capes, fingerweaving, bandolier bags, pucker toe moccasins, beadwork, copper, silver and metalwork. Infor: Chi Shipman (828) 359-6725 or chiship@ebci-nsn.gov

### Painttown Scholarship

Now accepting applications for the Painttown scholarship. It is a \$500 annual scholarship to a student who resides in the Painttown community and attending a four year accredited university. For an application, please contact Janet Arch at 828-736-2781. **1/28**

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NEWS

#### Major safety upgrades coming to the Spur in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

GATLINBURG, Tenn.—Beginning in January, the National Park Service (NPS) will begin a multi-year project to improve safety and infrastructure on the Gatlinburg Spur, the scenic road connecting Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This project is designed to improve safety and traffic flow for the millions of visitors and local residents who travel this corridor each year.

The first phase of construction will take place Jan. 5 to April 14 and will include the following improvements:

- Paving of road shoulders to elim-

inate hazardous edge drop-offs.

- Replacement of outdated or damaged guardrails.
- Safety improvement at gravel pull-offs.

During this phase, single-lane closures will occur daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will not exceed one mile in length. Motorists should expect traffic delays and drive with caution. To minimize disruptions during peak travel periods, no construction will take place on federal holidays, weekends (after 12 p.m. Friday), or during the Easter travel period (March 30 to April 10). No nighttime work is currently planned.

This first phase is part of a multi-year project to improve safety on the Spur. Future improvements will take place as funding allows and will include replacing Wiley Oakley and Husky

Grove Bridges, rehabilitating or replacing Gum Stand Bridge, and completing rock scaling and minor roadway realignments to improve rockfall protection. The park is currently in the design phase for the Wiley Oakley/Le-gion Field Bridge replacement. These improvements are all based on recommendations of the 2019 Traffic Study conducted by the NPS and the Federal Highway Ad-ministration. An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the identified improvements was completed in May 2022 and the park is now implementing the preferred alter-native of the EA.

The Spur is a vital transpor-tation link within Great Smoky Mountains National Park, forming part of the scenic Foothills Parkway. Stretching approximately 4.2 miles, this four-lane divided

**The American Indian/Alaska Native population has had the second highest rates of homicide and firearm homicide in the nation since 2018.**

**In 2023, American Indian or Alaska Natives in the U.S. were twice as likely to die by homicide or firearm homicide compared to the white population.**

**Violence Policy Center research about female homicide victimization shows that since 2015 the rate of female AI/AN victims killed by males is second highest in the nation.**

# #MMIP

From the Violence Policy Center's research on American Indian/Alaska Native Victims of Lethal Firearm Violence in the United States

Read more:

<https://vpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/AIAN2025.pdf>

roadway connects Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg and serves as a gateway for millions of park visitors each year. While it offers stunning views of the Smokies, the Spur is also one of the busiest routes in the area, carrying an average of 40,000 vehicles per day during the summer season. These improvements will enhance safety and preserve the scenic experience for all who travel this route.

- National Park Service release

### **National Park Service seeks tips to help identify a suspect involved in assault**

GATLINBURG, Tenn. - The National Park Service is seeking tips from the public to aid in the ongoing investigation of an assault that occurred in the Deep Creek area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

On Dec. 22, 2025, at approximately 5:40 p.m., an individual approached two vehicles believed to have been involved in a motor vehicle collision near the Deep Creek Picnic Area. As the individual approached, one of the vehicles - described as a white SUV - drove away. A second vehicle - described as a newer-model silver or gray four-door pickup truck equipped with a lift kit and bearing a weighted North Carolina registration - motioned for the individual to approach. When the individual approached, the driver of the vehicle pointed a handgun at them. The individual fled from the scene and heard multiple gunshots being fired from the area where the encounter occurred.

Both the SUV and pickup truck, as well as a grey sedan believed to be associated with the group, were seen fleeing the area towards Bryson City, N.C.

The suspect was described as a thin male in his late teens

or early 20s with tan skin, a thin mustache, and wearing a hooded jacket. He and a group of approximately ten individuals who are believed to be associated with the suspect, were observed in the Deep Creek area prior to the assault and are believed to have been there for most of the late afternoon.

Although no additional details are available at this time, information from other visitors is often very helpful to investigators. If you were in the Deep Creek area during the late afternoon of December 22 or if you have any information that could help, please contact us. You don't have to tell us who you are, but please tell us what you know.

CALL the NPS Tip Line 888-653-0009

ONLINE [go.nps.gov/SubmitATip](http://go.nps.gov/SubmitATip)  
EMERGENCY dial 9-1-1

- National Park Service release

### **THANK YOU LETTERS**

#### **Thank you from family of Irvin Owle**

Thanks to everyone who attended our dad's service (Irvin Owle) and to those who sent flowers, cards, and messages. We extend our love and thanks to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for their generous food donation. We truly value your kindness and support.

With gratitude,  
**Robyn, Kelly, and Samuel**

#### **Thank you Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship**

The late Richard Crowe, who graduated with his master's degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (1982), believed in supporting Native American college and graduate students. Crowe died too young at the age of 36. In his honor, the Richard

Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship awards money to graduate and professional students, while they pursue their degrees. Thank you very much for supporting me. Your scholarship program also encourages recipients like me to understand the story of Crowe's life and career. Though I did not know him, I know that he was a talented man, a veteran, a mechanic, and a public speaker.

Thank you to those who once knew Crowe and who founded the scholarship in his name. Thank you, Richard Yogi Crowe, for your inspiration and character. Let us carry your legacy forward.

**Nolan Arkansas**

PhD student in art history  
at Duke University

#### **Thank you Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund**

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship for the Spring 2026 Semester. I am honored to be chosen by a foundation that honors the legacy of Richard "Yogi" Crowe and his commitment to the advancement of our people. I am currently a Professional MBA student at University of Tennessee - Knoxville, where I am pursuing a Master Degree in Business Administration.

This scholarship provides more than just financial relief; it provides me with the motivation to continue working hard toward my goals. By easing the burden of tuition and expenses, you have allowed me to focus more deeply on my studies.

Thank you again for your generosity and for supporting the educational dreams of EBCI tribal members.

Sincerely,  
**Ahli-sha Stephens**

# **Strange BUT TRUE**

By Lucie Winborne

- Giraffes have no vocal cords but can still communicate with low-frequency sounds.

- In 1926, Clyde Barrow, of Bonnie and Clyde fame, was arrested with his older brother Buck for possession of a truckload of stolen turkeys.

- The first recorded cookbook was written in cuneiform on tablets in ancient Babylon around 1700 B.C.

- Gioachino Rossini's aria "Di tanti palpiti" was known throughout Europe as "the rice aria," since it was composed while he waited in a Venice restaurant for his risotto to cook.

- Sunsets on Mars are blue.

- Studies have suggested that the average human attention span is now about nine seconds — shorter than that of a goldfish.

- In 1820, Missouri imposed a \$1 bachelor tax on unmarried men ages 21-50. The short-lived law was designed to encourage marriage, population growth and family establishment in the new state.

- A Russian safari park became famous after a tiger named Amur didn't eat a goat that had been placed in its enclosure as live food.

- Detachable heads were used on Roman statues.

- The first U.S. submarine was a hand-cranked, pedal-powered wooden craft from the Revolutionary War dubbed "the Turtle."

- Astronauts sent to space can experience a kind of motion sickness known as space adaptation syndrome, or space sickness, with the most notable case inflicting former senator Jake Garn, whose bout was so disabling that his name became used as an informal measurement for the illness.

- Great Sand Dunes National Park allows visitors to race down all its dunes on custom-made sand boards and sleds.

- Incas believed that sunflowers were the physical manifestation of their sun god, Inti, on Earth, adorning temples and priestesses with them.

\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the wise. Seek what they sought." — Matsuo Basho

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# Cherokee High School 2nd quarter Honor Roll

## 8th grade

**Principal's Honor Roll:** Keilani Arch, Uli-ahna Beheler, Amelia Holiday, Emma Milhollen, Odie Owle, Gabriel Read, Carter Stephens,

**Alpha Honor Roll:** Drayzin Beheler, Nahnie George, Kaiser Hernandez, Piper Owl, Aryahnie Pheasant, Lily Robertson, Adalynn Taylor,

**Beta Honor Roll:** Laylauna Allison, Kirsten Anderson, Brannon Arch, Makeena Armachain, Tybee Back, Uriah Ben, Xavion Davis, Michael Driver, Tai Foalima, Leland Goforth, Makai Hernandez, Nicolas Holder, Deagan Hornbuckle, Kenleigh Hornbuckle, A-ge-yv Jenkins, Kealan Jumper, James Ledford, Brayden Littlejohn, Jeshua Lossiah, Abelia Mahan-Flores, Emily Maney, Jack Maney, Story Martens, Curren McCoy, Hunter McMillan, Kaelyn Montelongo, Lucas Myers, Kyleigh Porter, Johnavon Postoak, Robert Rattler, Adrian Santos, Sean Schultz, Jabrien Smith, Riley Standingdeer, Katielynn Taylor, Kynleigh Taylor, Nickyle Teesatuskie, Lillianna Toineeta, Skyler Welch, Selina Yanez

## 9th grade

**Principal's Honor Roll:** Nazari Bell, Kellin Blankenship, Blaze Crowe, Georgia Girty, Dominique Gonzalez, Hynasha Ledford, Maya Lossiah, Jeron Martens, Kennedy Moore, Ava Murphy Walkingstick, Janessa Owl, Andyn Pheasant, Janiyah Rattler, Kalia Reed, Nyra Reed, Cambry Stamper, Elliott Wildcat, Hailey Winchester,

**Alpha Honor Roll:** Mathias Arneach, Cher Crowe-Garcia, Derreus Diaz, Jacqueline Fourkiller-Raby, Kodesgi Jackson, Colin Lossie, Riley McCoy, Greyson Panther, Josue Rivera, Devyn Wittman,

**Beta Honor Roll:** Jaylee Arch, Jaymsey

Armachain, Khrystyna Armachain, Kingzlli Beheler, Laila Crowe-Taylor, David Davis, Genesis Ensley, Kyson Jenkins, Kyla Keel-Aguilera, Jordan Panther, Boomer Pheasant, Nakai Pheasant, Kirk Reed, Taytem Saunooke, Blake Sequoyah, Joslynn Thompson, Julius Walkingstick, Ko'dee Wolfe,

## 10th grade

**Principal's Honor Roll:** Ander Antone, Jessica Arsana, Lillian Bradley, Khloe Cucumber, Zoe De Los Reyes, Ariel Hoyle, Jean Layno, Jae McMillan, Camaron Ocumma, Kiara Sneed, Briann Teesateskie, Armani Watty,

**Alpha Honor Roll:** Kiarra Caley, Kimberly Crowe, Mason Crowe, Nanette Hull, Felix Lossiah, Lilly Lossiah, Julissa Martin, Elvia McCoy, James Smith Jr., Roxy Solis, William J Welch,

**Beta Honor Roll:** Alexander Antone, Kyam Arch, Marek Brown, Mack Burgess, Rubiana-Lyn Conner, Kahya Cucumber, Eloise Frady, Gabrielle George, John Gloyne, Dagoberto Guerrero, Morgan Hernandez, Raul Hernandez, Olivia Huskey-Morales, Trenten Larch, Jay-Jay Ledford, Caius Littlejohn, Haley Locust, Rayden Locust, John Morgan, Taleeah Murphy, Nicolas Paramo, Ernest Pheasant, Jayla Pheasant, Kahmera Pheasant, Meikka Pheasant, Preston Roach, Preston Roach, Ivan Santos, Kimo Sokol, Alana Squirrel, Kylea Swayney, Marcelita Swayney, Jayanna Thompson, Thomas Tramper, Jess Walkingstick, Aliyah Watty, Cainyan Welch,

## 11th grade

**Principal's Honor Roll:** Nayaa Addo, Sage Bark, Dillon Beam, Brandon Blankenship, Israel Cotton, Livia Crowe, Kymani Foalima-Squirrel, Daisee Fourkiller-Raby, Kiowa George, Kayla Guillen, Courtney Hitt, Reginald Hyatt, Johnny Long, Chaz Martens, Elizabeth Myers, Aaliyah Rogers, Utsela Saunooke, Joscelyn Stamper,

**Alpha Honor Roll:** Martin Arteaga, Carter Bird, Emilee Brady, Jarvis Brady, Carmen Cline, Aubree Grimes, Christian Luna-Martinez, Levi Ocumma, Denver Poterfield, Kaden Stephens, Dalton Yates,

**Beta Honor Roll:** Jade Arneach, Elias Blankenship, Chloe Cooper, Marley Crowe, Kaden Cucumber, Tanner Davenport, Ayaisha Driver, Jezakiah Driver, Nicholas Ensley, Ilana George, Braden Howlingcrane, Kyitan Johnson, Drallen Ledford, Chloe Locust, Emily Maney, Dawson Panther, Daksh Patel, Rodrigo Santiago, Kylen Sneed, Luke Stamper, Addison Stewart, Annie Tramper, Kingston Welch, Madigan Welch, Lucas Wildcat,

## 12th grade

**Principal's Honor Roll:** Maya Brabham, Brihana Burgos Delgado, Brett Elders, Jayvin George, Samuel Hernandez, Marlee Hicks, Shawnee Kirkland, Isaiah Ledford, Evan Nations, Dailin Panther, Jonathan Saylor, Gabrielle Smith, Keith Smith, Cecily Swimmer, Keeifer Taylor, Samantha Toineeta

**Alpha Honor Roll:** Tayvin Bark-Cruz, Traelin Carey, William Ellwood, Javan Garcia, Oscar Guillien-Swayney, Hailey Owle, Jocelyn Saunooke, Yvonne Saunooke, Izabella Terrell,

**Beta Honor Roll:** U-sgwa-ni-gdi A-kwi-na, Marleigh Aguilera, Francesca Armachain, Krenston Armachain, Logan Biddix, Dante Big-witch, Owen Bird, Hayden Bowling, Audrina Cooper, Talan Crowe, Zayden Crowe, Payton Driver, Tsa-li Dv-di-s-di, Elora Fuson, Emilio Garcia, Fred George Jr., Tyler Jones, Conner Junaluska, Taylor Kazhe, Ayden Lambert, Leland Locust, Leilah Lossie, Kayla Morgan, Jaime Panther, Noah Perez-Driver, Ayden Queen, Chaske' Raines, Calvin Roan Eagle-Littlejohn, Alicia Sampson, Timber Sampson Rattler, Nia Sequoyah, Sara Toineeta,



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Chat online: [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)



# ANALEENISGI

DӨӨHAWY  
*"They are beginning"*

Analeenisgi 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 Analeenisgi:

### 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:

- Analeenisgi 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:

Analeenisgi

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



## START TALKING BEFORE SHE HEADS OFF TO SCHOOL.

**It's never too early to have a conversation about alcohol and other drugs.**

The sooner you talk about the dangers of underage drinking and substance use, the greater chance you have of influencing your child's decisions about using alcohol and other drugs. For tips on how—and when—to begin the conversation, visit

[www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov](http://www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov)

#TalkTheyHearYou

PEP20-03-01-041



**SAMHSA**  
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Joyce Cooper, second from right, presents a check for a second endowed scholarship through the SCC Foundation to SCC President Dr. Don Tomas, left, Allied Dental Programs Director Abra Brooks, and Executive Director for Institutional Advancement Evan Hatch (right). (SCC photo)

## Cooper endows “Hand Up” Scholarship at SCC

**S**YLVA – As a lifelong educator and charity worker, Joyce Cooper has a history with Southwestern Community College that is rooted in philanthropy as she serves on the SCC Foundation Gala Planning Committee, as well as the Board of Trustees, and she previously endowed the “Pass It On” Scholarship for SCC Health Sciences students.

Her generosity now continues through the Joyce Cooper “Hand Up” Endowed Scholarship Fund that she has established through the SCC Foundation. This endowment is designed to support students enrolled in the Allied Dental program at SCC.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to endow a second scholarship through the Foundation,” said Cooper. “The scholarship will continuously help SCC students through the years as they strive to establish new careers and life goals. I look forward to encountering SCC graduates when I visit my dentist.”

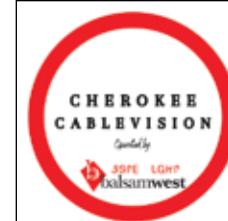
The annual \$1,000 scholarship will be provided to qualifying students pursuing a diploma in Dental Assisting or an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene.

“We are extremely thankful for Joyce’s generosity and passion for providing a hand up to our students,” said Dr. Don Tomas, President of SCC. “She’s been an active, outgoing supporter of our gala for years, and I am personally grateful for her service on our Board of Trustees. Both of her endowed scholarships will make a positive difference in countless lives for generations to come.”

For more information about the scholarship or to find out how you can change lives through the SCC Foundation, contact Evan Hatch at [e\\_hatch@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:e_hatch@southwesterncc.edu) or 828.339.4241.

- Southwestern Community College release

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# MISSING

## Norman John Tretikoff

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'11" Weight: 220 lbs

Male Age: 53

Hair: Black Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: October 11, 2025

Last Known Location:

Anchorage, Alaska



Circumstances of Disappearance: Norman has not been in contact with family or friends since October 11, 2025. Norman did update his driver's license photo on November 10, 2025. No other details are available.

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

Source: Namus.gov

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## OBITUARIES JHFFR

### Steven Kyle Sutton Sr.

Steven Kyle Sutton Sr., a cherished husband, father, and friend, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, at Caromont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia. He was born on Sept. 27, 1960, in Cherokee, N.C. to Janice Moles Sutton and the late Billy Sutton.

Throughout his life, Steven embraced nature and enjoyed the thrill of deer hunting and the serenity of fishing, often finding joy in the great outdoors. He had a special fondness for the mountains and cherished the beauty of the scenery that surrounded him. Steven's passions extended to gardening, where he cultivated not only plants but also cherished memories.

Known for his vibrant spirit,

Steven was a happy and free-spirited person who genuinely loved connecting with others. His warm personality and friendly demeanor made him a beloved figure in the lives of many, earning him the reputation of a consummate people person.

In addition to his mother, Steven is also survived by his wife of 20 years, Kelly Cloninger Sutton; his children, Steven K. Sutton, Jr., Jerry Sutton, and step-son, Thomas James Bees; and his grandchildren, Piper and Robert. He also leaves behind nieces, nephews, and cousins who will forever remember his kindness and joyful presence.

As we remember Steven Kyle Sutton Sr., let us celebrate a life well-lived, a heart deeply connected to family, and a soul that found happiness in everyday moments.

His legacy of love and laughter will undoubtedly continue to resonate within the hearts of all who knew him.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, Dec. 27 at Bradley Cemetery, Cherokee, NC. Funeral arrangements were handled by Benson Funeral & Cremation Services, Mt. Holly. Online condolences may be made at [www.bensonfuneralservices.com](http://www.bensonfuneralservices.com).

### Gregory Dean Bradley Jr.,

Gregory Dean Bradley Jr., 28, went to his eternal home on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, surrounded by his family. Born June 17, 1997, Greg is the son of Gregory Bradley Sr. (father) and Rhoda Bigmeat (mother). He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Russell Bigmeat I; his paternal grandfather, Fred Bradley; his paternal great grandmother, Elzina T. Bradley; and maternal great grandmother, Ruth

Silcox.

He is survived by his mother and father; his sister, Nya-sha Bradley; his nephews, Geyv George, Itse Agaliha Benjamin Vaughn, and Fred Bradley; his paternal grandmother, Kina Bradley; his maternal grandmother, Sarah Hershberger (John); special friend, Peggy George; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends in Cherokee, N.C. and Jellico, Tenn.

Greg had a heart of gold and was kind to everyone. He was a giving person in life, and that giving continued even in death as he was able to help others live by donating his organs, eyes, and tissues.

Greg loved music, games, and most of all his family. You often hear it said that only the good die young, and that is true of Greg. He was an angel bound for heaven. Enjoying Christmas in paradise, Greg leaves his family with the special gift of endless laughs and precious memories.

Pallbearers will be Russell Bigmeat II, Russell Bigmeat III, Jason Bradley, Josh Little, Steve Little, Mikey Littlejohn, Robert "Spook" Sherrill, and Hunter Lambert. Funeral services will be held at Antioch Baptist Church, with Dwayne (Bear) Lambert officiating. Burial to follow at Upper Billy Ray George Cemetery.

A viewing was held Tuesday, Dec. 23, and the funeral service was held Wednesday, Dec. 24. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

2 Corinthians 5:1 KJV

SHWFBZ ΘΘΥ TGZ RGA  
R.R. SHWFBZ ΘΥPKR GFC,  
SHWFBZ DLNFA OΛWΩA

OrLGLdOa, DLNFA dWΩ  
JEWOa, HFRθ DΛΘF&J, DfY HFRθ SAGT JLNFA.

### Brent Powers

Brent Powers, 44, of Whittier and the Snowbird Community passed away Friday, Dec. 19, 2025 at his residence. He was the son of the late Joyce Gregory.

He was a heavy equipment operator and loved running bulldozers.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Amanda Smoker; sister, Brandi Powers; stepdad, Ellis Gregory; and niece, Brina Blauvelt.

He is survived by sisters, Brittany Powers, Bethany Powers, Brianna Powers, Rosie Gregory; grandmother, Molly Lossiah; life partner, Savetta Williams; special nephews, Blaze Powers and Baylor Crisp, and several other nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 27 in the chapel of Crisp Funeral Home.

### Edna Vera Saunooke Goshorn

Edna Vera Saunooke Goshorn, 96, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, in Cherokee, N.C. She was born in Cherokee, N.C., on July 18, 1929, to the late Stacey Powell Saunooke and the late Anderson Saunooke.

Edna graduated from Cherokee High School in 1947. She attended Western Carolina for two years and then transferred to Missions Nursing program in Asheville from 1950-53 and became a registered nurse. She married the late John Goshorn Jr. in 1953 where they resided in Bel Air, Md., a suburb of Baltimore. While there, she worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital as an operating room nurse. During her career, she also worked as a private duty

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nurse, a home health nurse, and a school nurse. Edna and John raised three daughters and eventually moved back to Cherokee in 1980 where they built a house in Whittier, N.C. With another couple, they built and managed the Sleep Inn Motel in Cherokee.

Edna was very active in the Presbyterian church. She became a member of the Bryson City Presbyterian Church in 1980 and joined the Presbyterian Women USA. She became active in the Worldwide General Assembly Council and traveled to eastern Europe on a mission trip. Later, she represented Native American women for the Racial Ethnic Dialog (RED).

Edna was a member of the Cherokee Home Extension and the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She enjoyed traveling, competing in Senior Games, crafting, and reading but mostly loved spending her free time with her family, friends, and fur babies. Her three grandchildren and daughter-in-law were her pride and joy, in which she was a huge inspiration. During her last two years of life, she lived with her daughter, Donna, in Sylva, N.C. She kept her sharp mind, memory, and humor until the very end. She was the matriarch of the Saunooke family, and she will be missed by many.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Bob, Joseph, and James Saunooke; and a sister, Valeria Saunooke. She was also preceded by two daughters, Diane Goshorn of Cherokee, N.C., and Shan Goshorn of Tulsa, Okla.

She is survived by one daughter, Donna Beck of Sylva, N.C., two grandsons, Brandon Beck (Lauren) of Whittier, N.C., and Loma Pendergraft of Seattle, Wash., and one granddaughter, Neosha Pendergraft of Brooklyn, New York. She

is also survived by a son-in-law, Tom Pendergraft of Tulsa, Okla., and three bonus granddaughters, Natalee Pendergraft (Erika) of Tulsa, Okla., Carolee Pendergraft Ashmann (Jason) of Owasso, Okla., and Sommer Pendergraft of Charleston, S.C.

Edna's remains will be buried with her husband John in the Bryson City Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden. A memorial service is planned for January, but the date has not yet been set. This will be announced when it becomes available.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Cancer Society, Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, or any local pet shelter of your choice.

#### **Noahndria Larayne Walker**

Noahndria Larayne Walker, 30, of Cherokee, passed away after an extended illness on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. Noahndria was a lifelong resident of Cherokee and a loving mother, wife, daughter, and daughter-in-law. She was preceded in death by her son, Toma Walker Jr., and her grandfather, Jerome Watty.

Survivors include her husband, Toma Walker; daughter, Dallas Walker; father, Noah Arch; mother, Gloria Watty Vargus; and stepfather, Deyve Vargus. She also leaves behind her grandmother, Geneva Watty; brother, Willie Arch; and sister, Nalisha Watty. Many nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive. She will be missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at the Walker Family Cemetery, 10573 Big Cove Road, Cherokee, N.C.

Long House Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

#### **Terri Lehua Harrison**

Terri Lehua Harrison, 61, of Cherokee, N.C., completed her earthly mission early evening on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025.

She was a person full of love and spirit who had many friends. She had been a mother and a wife for many years. She will surely be missed by those who knew her deeply.

She is preceded in death, by her maternal and paternal grandparents, a brother, and a daughter. She is survived by her mother, a son, a daughter, and a stepdaughter. May Terry find the peace, joy, and learnings that she so deserves in the spirit world and with her Heavenly Father.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Dec. 30 in the Chapel of Long House Funeral Home. Burial followed at Hornbuckle Cemetery.

Long House Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements

She is survived by her sons, Brian Thompson (Shaundel) and Anthony Calonaheskie both of Cherokee, N.C. Eugenia has four grandchildren; Marleigh Aguilera, Camaron Oocumma, Andre Aguilera, and Bryan Aguilera all of Cherokee, N.C.

She is survived by three brothers; Eugene Thompson (Amy) of Rock Hill, S.C., Edward Thompson of Cherokee, N.C., Grant Hartfield (Regina) of Mississippi and Navy Brothers; Scott Scheider and Eric Manning among many, many other Navy Brothers and Sisters; four sisters, Donna Swquoyah (James), Vickie Thompson, Rita Driver (Bob), Charlene Otter all of Cherokee, N.C.; also nieces and nephews.

Eugenia was preceded in death by her parents, Eugene and Geraldine Thompson, of Cherokee, and her husband, Sequoyah Guess of Oaks, Okla.

She graduated from Cherokee High School Class of 1984, enlisted in the Navy in 1985, worked as Health Check Coordinator, a Certified Nurses Assistant for the Child Services Coordinator that serviced at risk children on the Qualla Boundary, and worked at the Cherokee Casino.

Eugenia held the title of Miss Cherokee in 1983. She traveled extensively representing the Eastern Band of Cherokee, competed in the 29th National Miss Indian America contest in Sheridan, Wyo., attended the Red Clay ceremonies where the Eastern and Western Cherokee reunited for the first time since the Trail of Tears in 1838.

She enjoyed and had patience to make finger woven belts and beaded jewelry, loved watching Mar and Cam in their school



**Eugenia Thompson Guess**

Eugenia Thompson Guess, born July 21, 1966, went home peacefully after an extended illness surrounded by family on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025. She loved the Lord, and he was her anchor through her days spent in the hospitals.

see **OBITUARIES** next page

activities and was very proud of their accomplishments. She always loved the hugs from her little and big nieces and nephews. Eugenia is loved and will be greatly missed by her family, Keetowah and CNO family, classmates, Navy brothers sisters and friends. She has been a very kind and loving Mother, Sister, Daughter, Friend, and Grandmother.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at her residence on 96 Jeff Arneach Dr., Cherokee, N.C. Burial followed at the Thompson Cemetery in Birdtown.

#### **Thomas Joseph "Tom" Haigler**

Thomas Joseph "Tom" Haigler, 96, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at home in Bryson City, N.C., with his daughter by his side. Tom lived an incredibly full life that included service to his country, hard work, world travels, countless hobbies, and treasured friendships across the globe.

Born on Nov. 19, 1929, in McCaysville, Ga., to Cora and Don Haigler, Tom was one of 13 children. At around six years old, he followed his siblings, Frank and Lucille ("Lou"), to the Cherokee Indian Reservation to attend boarding school, forming friendships that lasted a lifetime. While boarding school experiences varied for many, Tom often shared that his time there was good.

After graduating from Swain County High School in 1948, Tom worked in a family friend's hospitality business while also continuing his education at Berea College in Kentucky in 1949. He often spoke fondly of Berea, saying, "I loved Berea very much — the campus was beautiful, I made

wonderful friends, and I will be forever grateful to my sister, Lou, for making that experience available to me."

During this period, Tom met and married Rosemarie Wilde of Bryson City. In 1950, "tired of being broke," he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Navy, beginning a career of service he deeply loved and often recalled with joy and pride. Gifted with a natural talent for electronics, Tom specialized in aviation electronics, a field in which he excelled.

Together, Tom and Rosemarie embraced the adventure of Navy life. Their journey took them to Sicily, Hawaii, the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, and numerous other overseas bases, allowing them to travel widely and experience the world. Among all the places they lived, Brunswick, Georgia held a special place in their hearts. Stationed there many times, Tom worked on blimps at NAS GlynCo, a role he remembered fondly.

Tom deployed during the Korean War aboard the USS Oriskany (CV 34) and later served two deployments to Vietnam aboard the USS Midway (CVA 41). While stationed in Florida, Tom and Rosemarie welcomed their children, William Kenneth ("Ken") and Traci Beth, completing the family that would accompany them through their remarkable life of service and adventure.

After retiring from the Navy as a Master Chief, Tom was recruited by a close family friend into the paper industry, working first with Gulf States Paper in Tuscaloosa, AL, and later with Inland Container in Rome, GA. During these years, Tom and Rosemarie built a warm and welcoming home, always open to friends, family, and neighbors.

Additionally, Tom and Rosemarie inherited a small motel and restaurant in Bryson City, NC, beginning another new chapter as small business owners. They would go on purchasing and building other motels they would operate on the Cherokee Indian Reservation, working hard but also building relationships and developing close friends along the way. In 1992, with the arrival of gaming on the reservation, Tom was appointed to the Cherokee Indian Gaming Commission, where he served for 17 years. He took great pride in ensuring the rules and regulations of the casino and its related operations were upheld, and he cherished the relationships he built with his colleagues.

Following Rosemarie's passing in 2020, Tom continued to live life with energy and enthusiasm. He pursued his many hobbies, and cherished time with his family and friends. A man of boundless skill and generosity, Tom could fix almost anything, tell a captivating story, and began writing an autobiography. He loved photography, woodworking, and vegetable gardening. His laughter was infectious, his advice was wise, and his kindness touched everyone he met.

Tom is survived by his daughter, Traci Lowe (Tim); his grandchildren, Jason and Erik; his brother, Larry (Melba) and many beloved nieces, nephews, and friends who became family. He was preceded in death by his son, Ken; his wife of nearly 65 years, Rosemarie Wilde Haigler; his parents, and 12 of his siblings.

A small celebration of Tom's life was held on Jan. 9 at Crisp Funeral Home in Bryson City, N.C. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Four Seasons Hospice. Tom's

family will be forever grateful to the incredible nurses and staff who supported them with exceptional skill, professionalism, and deep compassion.

Tom's life was a testament to service, love, and adventure. His stories, laughter, and unwavering kindness will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree, the warmth of a summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea, the generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night, the wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagle's flight. Then God combined these qualities, when there was nothing more to add, He knew His masterpiece was complete, and so, He called it..."Dad".

#### **Leonard E. Lossiah (Butch)**

Leonard E. Lossiah (Butch), 77, of Cherokee, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025.

A native of Cherokee, he was the son of the late Calvin and Gertrude Owle Lossiah. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his aunt, Alice K. Owle; one sister, Jeanie George; a niece, Karen L. George; and his pit, Dixon (Gobber).

He is survived by his son, John Edward Saloli Lossiah, and Belgian Malinois Tobin both of the home; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 29 at Crisp Funeral Home. Burial followed at Lossiah Family Cemetery.

#### **Doyle Jack Smith**

Doyle Jack Smith, 79, of Bryson City, N.C., passed away surrounded by his family after a 10-month battle with Glioblastoma Multiforme, a rare and incur-

able brain cancer.

Doyle is survived by his wife of 57 years, Frances Owl-Smith; one son, Travis Smith of Whittier, N.C.; two daughters, Natalie Smith (Tony Gadis) of Canton, N.C. and Hannah Smith (Manuel Maples) of Whittier, N.C. He had three grandchildren: Austin Smith (Boston, Mass.); Galen Krugly (San Francisco, Calif.); and Avery Maples (New Haven, Conn.). He is also survived by two brothers: Buford Smith of Bryson City, N.C. and Perry Smith (Robin) of Hot Springs, N.C.; and two sisters: Christine Hoyle of Bryson City, N.C. and Jackie Tall-ey, of Lake Jocassee, S.C.

Doyle is preceded in death by his parents Jack and Rachael Smith of Bryson City, N.C.

He graduated from Swain High School Class of 1964, was an Army Veteran serving during the Vietnam War, and a retired barber. He and his wife lived in Chapel Hill, N.C., Scottsdale, Ariz., and Farmington, N.M. before returning to Waynesville, N.C. in 2005 and finally retiring back home to Bryson City 14 years ago.

Funeral Services were at Crisp Funeral Home in Bryson City on Tuesday, Dec. 23. Burial services were at Swain Memorial Gardens immediately after. Memorial Donations can be made to Four Seasons Hospice at [www.fourseasonsfdn.org](http://www.fourseasonsfdn.org).

#### **James Richard Walkingstick**

James Richard Walkingstick, also known as Jamie, 45, of Cherokee, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., after an extended illness.

Jamie was a lifelong resident of Cherokee. He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents; his father, Rex Driver; his sister, Hookie Walkingstick;

as well as a niece, Justice Taylor, and many other family members.

Survivors include his mother, Gracia Walkingstick Taylor; a brother, Cecil Walkingstick; three children, Rex Walkingstick, Native Walkingstick, and a daughter, Louisa Walkingstick; one grandchild; three special nieces, Marilyn Walkingstick, Cecilia Perez, Emma Perez, and their children. He also leaves behind three maternal aunts, Willie Sue Walkingstick, Jessie Walkingstick, and Suzette Sanchez; paternal aunts, Donna Teesateskie and Bessie Smoker; aunts, Pearl Wolfe and Berdina Salazar; and one uncle, Robert Wolfe. Additionally, he is survived by a special friend, Sally Rogers, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He will be missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

A funeral service was held on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at The Big Cove Pentecostal Church with Pastor Ann French officiating. Burial followed at Wolfe Cemetery, located on Walker Calhoun Road on Big Cove Loop in Cherokee, N.C.

Long House Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.



**Una Lea "Teetsie" Sampson**

Una Lea "Teetsie" Sampson, 62, went to her heavenly home where she was greeted by loved

ones on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025 at Mission Hospital. She worked in the kitchen at Cherokee Central Schools for over 14 years. One of her biggest joys was when children would see her out in public and say "hey there's the lunch lady!" She had a love for our community, school and people. She was a die-hard Cherokee Braves, Duke and Carolina Panthers fan.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Thelma Leauna "Mickey" Sampson; aunts, Lily Wolfe, Elsie Martin, Jo Bee Kalonaheskie, Lawanda Maney, Mary Catt; uncle, Duffy Sampson; sisters, Cheryl Carrol, Henrietta "Zet" Sampson; grandchildren, R-ly Panther, Aniyah Sampson, and Jacob Lane.

She is survived by her children, Ryne Sampson (Sky), Charity Sampson; grandchildren, Cameron Sampson, Timber Sampson, Maia Lane, Kylana Sampson, Eli Sampson, Mataya Sampson, Makiyah Sampson; two brothers, Leon Sampson, Delbert Sampson; two sisters, Harriet "Babe" Sampson, Inez "Tinker" Sampson; her aunt, Gwen Wildcatt; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins and a special sister, Roberta Kalonaheskie.

Visitation will be Sunday, Jan. 4 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Wrights Creek Baptist Church in Cherokee, N.C. Funeral services will be held on Monday, Jan. 5 at 12 p.m. at the church.

Pallbearers will be Ryne, Cameron, Timber, Eli, Steve, Jaden, Dustin, and Donavan.

#### **Hershel Felix Hyatt**

**June 20, 1948 – Dec. 28, 2025**

Hershel Felix Hyatt enjoyed the simple pleasures of life-fishing, racing, and hunting-but nothing brought him more joy than time spent with his family. He was a

devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, and a steady presence to all who knew him. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the family he loved so deeply. He will be remembered for his strength, his kindness, and his unwavering love for those closest to him.

Born on June 20, 1948, Hershel passed away on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Felix and Inez Hyatt, and his brother, Lavon Hyatt.

Hershel is survived by his beloved wife, Palestine (Tiny) Hyatt, with whom he shared a lifetime of love and devotion. He leaves behind two sons whom he was immensely proud of: Hershel Hyatt Jr. (Melanie) and Alex Hyatt (Tina). He was a cherished grandfather to four grandchildren, Sarah Hopkins (Wyatt), AJ Hyatt (Makayla), Harlie Hyatt, and George Hyatt (Sadie), along with several nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

He is also survived by his sisters, Lillian Hyatt and Dean Hyatt, both of Bryson City, and his brothers, Michael Harlan and William Hyatt.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 1 at Crisp Funeral Home Chapel. Revs. Dale Green and JT Lambert officiated with burial at Lauada Cemetery.

Pallbearers were AJ Hyatt, George Hyatt, Ernie Conner, Jay Proctor, Jimmy Millsaps, Wyatt Hopkins, and Chad Millsaps.

#### **Thomas Eugene Pheasant Jr.**

Thomas Eugene Pheasant Jr., 23, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025, in Cherokee, N.C.

Thomas was born on May 16,

see **OBITUARIES** next page

**OBITUARIES:** From page 37

2002, in Sylva, N.C., to parents Thomas Eugene Pheasant and Greta Calhoun. He was a lifelong resident of Cherokee, N.C., in the Wolftown Community. Thomas graduated from Cherokee High School, where he played football for the Cherokee Braves. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, especially fishing with his brother William and having fishing contests to see who would catch the biggest or most fish.

Thomas was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, William Edward Pheasant and Nola Elora Pheasant; his maternal grandparents, Hayes Calhoun and Kim Calhoun; and his uncle, Justin Calhoun.

In addition to his parents, Thomas is survived by his sig-

nificant other, Breanna Nichole Mangold; two brothers, Darren Thomas Pheasant of Dillsboro, N.C., and William Hewitt Pheasant of Cherokee, N.C.; his nephew, Denahi Pheasant; and his nieces, Kalayah Pheasant and Sariyah Pheasant. He is also survived by his cousins, Joshua Bushyhead, Felicity Watty, Kevin Watty, Chase Calhoun, Landon Seay, and Zach Seay. Additionally, he is survived by his guardians, Morgan and Clara Calhoun, and other relatives, including Beth Calhoun, Katrina Taylor, Braden Taylor, Jesse Lambert, Bill Taylor, Draven Calhoun, Darian Bradley, and Cory Lambert.

He was loved dearly by his family and friends and will never be forgotten.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, at Rock

Springs Baptist Church in Cherokee, N.C., with Rev Michael Teem and Rev Greg Morgan officiating. Burial followed at Pheasant Cemetery in Cherokee, N.C.

Pallbearers were family and friends.

Long House Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

**Josephine Yde Bradley (Jo)**

Josephine Yde Bradley (Jo), beloved wife, mother and friend, passed away on Friday, Dec. 19, 2025 surrounded by her family at the age of 87. Born in Leesburg, Fla., she was the daughter of Emil and Doris Yde. Jo is survived by her devoted husband, Frank Bradley, and their three children, Elizabeth, Margaret and William as well as three grandsons, Reis, Jacob, and Everett - all of whom will forever cherish and miss her

loving spirit and generous heart.

Throughout her life, Jo extended her compassion to all creatures great and small. Known for rescuing animals and welcoming "stray" souls into her home, she had an open heart and an open door for anyone in need.

After beginning her career in Boston, Jo later worked at NASA, where she met her husband, Frank. While raising her children she quickly became her student's favorite substitute teacher. Her faith guided her throughout her life as a devout Episcopalian, and she remained deeply committed to her church and community.

Family visits were always cherished, and Jo's spirited competitiveness made every game of cards, dominoes, and Scrabble both memorable and full of laughter. She loved her football and tennis,



## Open Call for Vendors

Artisans, Crafters, and Food and Beverage Vendors are invited to submit their application for the Greening Up the Mountains Festival to be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** Greening Up The Mountains

Festival is the premiere spring festival for Western North Carolina. The festival, sponsored by the Town of Sylva, will once again take place in historical downtown Sylva. This year's festival seeks artisans and crafters selling their own handmade products. Arts, Crafts, and Food Vendors from the expanded Appalachian area are encouraged to apply.

Please visit the festival's website:

<http://www.mainstreetsylva.org/greening-up-the-mountains/> to review the 2026 Vendor Policies and submit your application. Applications will be accepted through March 20, 2026. For more information, please contact the event coordinators at [greeningupthemountains@townofsylva.org](mailto:greeningupthemountains@townofsylva.org).

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View and photograph elk from a distance of at least 50 yards.



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cheering fiercely for her favorites.

Jo had a special gift for making her children feel loved. Her hugs were unmatched, and she never stopped encouraging them to come back home, where she felt they truly belonged.

We will miss you, carrying with us all the love you gave so freely throughout your life.

Services will be held at a later date.

#### **Mary R. Smith**

Mary R. Smith, 89, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at Tsali Care Center in Cherokee, surrounded by her loving family.

Mary was born on Sept. 11, 1936, in Maggie Valley, N.C., to the late Homer and Mattie Adaline Cagle Sutton. She was the wife of the late Ned D. Smith Sr. Mary retired as a preschool teacher and was a member of the Cherokee Church of God.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her son, Ricky Dale Smith. Her brothers included John, Thomas "TA," Houston, Ralph, and James. Her sisters were Georgia, Mollie, Annie, Minnie, and Nellie Frances. Her grandson was Heath "Ty" Oocumma. Her great-great-grandchildren include Reagan and Mathias Reed.

She is survived by her children, Pat Oocumma (Wilson), Vicki Reed (Barry), Ned David Smith Jr. (Anita), Dianne Smith, and Sherry Brown (Darrel). Her brother is Gene Sutton. Her grandchildren are Tiffani Reed (Stephen), Tara Reed-Cooper (Tres), Zachary Smith (Amanda), Tristan Smith (Dana), Nathaniel Smith (Leslie), Kiera, Nastassia Baldwin, Forrest Baldwin and granddaughter-in-law Sherry S. Oocumma. Her great-grandchildren include

Silas Reed (Amy), Ietan Reed (Arnessa), Hayes Reed (Ryen), Hallie Ann Oocumma, Danielle Crabtree, Caiden Smith, Fern Smith, Isabella Galindo, Gabriella Bradley, and Uwodihi Bird, Axxle Moore, Fox Moore and Lyric Baldwin. Her great-great-grandchildren are Coraline Eden, Cali, Nova, Tiana, and Dakota. Special niece Karen Shook and special nephew Harold Sheffield Jr., Wendy Wiggins, and special great-granddaughters Brittany Gurrola and Kamea and Oscar. Her special friends include Phyllis Lambert, Rena Cooper, Doris Pressley, and Elenor West. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at Cherokee Church of God in Cherokee, N.C. Burial followed at John D. Smith Cemetery in Cherokee, N.C.

Pallbearers were grandsons and great-grandsons. Honorary pallbearers included Wilson Oocumma, Barry Reed, "Gene" Sutton, Tres Cooper, Ben Wiggins, Stephen Little and Caiden Smith.

Long House Funeral was in charge of arrangements.

#### **Byron Jase Locust**

Byron Jase Locust, 26, of Cherokee, went home to be with the Lord Monday, Jan. 5, 2026. A native of Cherokee, he was the son of James William Locust Jr. and Elisha Wildcatt Locust of Cherokee.

He was a member of Goose Creek Baptist Church. He was a member of the 2017 Cherokee Braves Championship Team and graduated in 2018 from Cherokee High School.

He loved the Philadelphia Eagles.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Dianne Wildcatt; sister, Jalee Panther; uncle, D.D. Wildcatt; grandfather, Gary Toineeta.

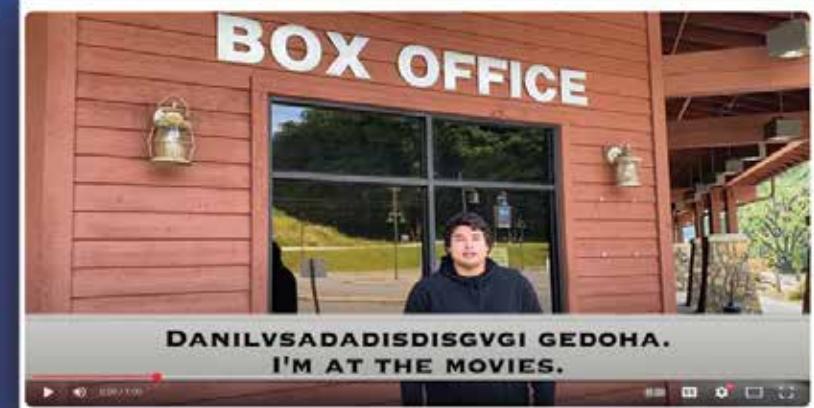
In addition to his parents, he is survived by sister, Laila Locust (Adrian) of Cherokee; brother, Arthur Locust of Cherokee; girlfriend, Brianna Murphy of Cherokee; son, Pavio Jase Locust; niece, Zaylee (Bunkins) Gomez all of Cherokee; uncles, Stephen Kirkland (Erin), Christopher Kirkland (Jazz); aunts, Jami Kirkland, Carrie Wildcatt, Christine (Ed) Goings, Heather Locust (Chuck), Robyn Locust; Granny Evelyn; grandpa Jimmy Locust; and many

cousins.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 13 at Rock Springs Baptist Church. Brothers Dan Conseen and Greg Morgan officiated with burial in the Locust Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were uncle Stephen Kirkland, and his brothers, that fought with him in the trenches.

In the words of Byron, "I'll see youns in a lil while."



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

**@Cherokee OneFeather on YouTube**

# Educate, don't opinionate

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiyi (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

Okay, this is probably one of my most unpopular topics, particularly to my colleagues. I really have an issue with media outlets that attempt to manipulate public opinion by injecting media bias, or that of their advertisers, into news stories. Moreover, I am concerned that those who manage news media operations attempt to convince their readership that the bias is not happening.

It doesn't matter how good a writer or journalist a person is, try as they might, their opinion is going to seep into the reporting of events happening and actions taken. It may not be blatant. It may be in the turn of a phrase, or an assumption expressed, or a telling of part of the story while leaving out the part that is not appealing to the writer but may be the most relevant to the reader.

The current tactic of using mundane and meaningless trivia to attract readers is really concerning. Print space, and for that matter, online space on media websites/social media, are powerful tools. Properly wielding this type of power requires strong ethics and sometimes a compassionate heart for your readership and for the community that the media serves. In a community that is so extremely divided in all areas of living, in faith, in governance, in sociology, it takes very little "spark" to cause additional divisiveness.

I know, I am beating a dead horse, but this is so important for readers to understand. I so want all of us to make decisions like our lives depend on it, because that could be reality. But in many cases, readers like you and I are left to wonder if an article we have read is a factual account or the meanderings of a pundit who has selectively crafted their article to express their judgment of what is to be considered true.

Is a free press freer than a governmental-ly-regulated press? Well, yes and no. Surely, a

free press is a major deal to most societies. It is so much so in the United States that it is stated in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. We have it codified in our law in Chapter 75 of the Cherokee Code (but not in our governing document, the Charter). Surely, there is less chance of governmental manipulation in a privately owned (be it profit or non-profit) media outlet. But we must consider who has ownership. The beef with government-owned and -operated media has always been the fear that the government would control the content and therefore be able to manipulate the message and the people. But what about manipulation by the owners, operators, and managers of news organizations? What about the writers themselves?

On this subject, I have been characterized as a "glass-half-full" or a "doom and gloom" guy. Or that I am just propagating a false narrative about media created by one faction or another to prevent people from learning certain truths. Or that maybe I am just a naïve dupe being used by "them" to destroy the credibility of mainstream media. But the influence of some writers, anchors, and purveyors of information infused in their articles and reporting is unmistakable. No fantasy here. Just a deep concern that the media, wittingly or unwittingly, is one of the factors in causing the societal divides that most of us feel and fear. Most of us have no problems believing that there are bad actors in the realm of governance. It would be foolish and defy logic to think that there are no bad actors in the field of journalism. That, indeed, would be living in a fantasy world.

Manipulation, whether blatant, subtle, or hidden, is not what I personally want in a newspaper or media outlet. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy good commentary and even might be convinced by a writer who expresses his or her opinion with the right zeal and logic. And there are even times when a person cannot muster a logical argument, but their confidence in their position is so enthusiastic that I can make up my mind to take it on faith. But at least, if these expressed thoughts are properly identified as commentary, I understand not to be misguided into thinking that all the words of the writer are to be taken as fact.

Giving specific examples of what I'm talking about when I refer to those writers who attempt, be it conscious or unconscious, to manipulate through selective or suggestive prose is a challenge. There is an adage that states, "any press is good press." By giving print or media space to a writer or their publication, even if it is to criticize a behavior, potentially promotes their brand and, in the end, may accomplish one of the typical goals of sensational writing, which is to promote self. But most readers may easily find examples of this type of writing and media presentation. Unfortunately, it is prevalent in many of the modern media outlets.

Most stories, like people, have "good and bad sides". In almost all cases, a journalist will make the effort to explore and report all the information relevant to the education of the community. But just as there are just and unjust situations in life, so too there are just and unjust reporters. And what I mean by being unjust is that they neglect relevant information or promote their theories on an issue as expert analysis when it is really just opinion sharing. We are supposed to be ethical and sensitive in our approach to coverage as journalists. We may have extremely passionate positions on the very subjects that we cover day-to-day. One of the benefits we enjoy in a democracy (or a representative republic) is the right to speak our minds to our fellow citizens and to the public. But the mind can house both fact and fiction. When we don't have facts, we are prone to suppose. And we can do that all on our own. Some call it "thinking out loud." We don't need manipulation from an overzealous writer who, instead of expressing their opinions in opinion letters or commentaries, chooses to interweave their opinions into articles to be taken as fact by their unsuspecting readers.

Just a small example of the danger of supposition in news coverage and interpretation: Hypothetically, a person is accused and arrested for a crime. Now, accusation and arrest are certainly cause for a heightened awareness from the community. Crime is an attractive beat for journalists. Some because it is one of those areas of public interest where there isn't a need to sensationalize. Many of the stories of crime and punishment are far beyond what an

everyday reader will encounter in their lives. But, as any good journalist (and most attorneys) will tell you, accusation and arrest are not a judgment of guilt. Depending on how that story is communicated in the media, and when, it will affect the public perception of both the accused and the accuser. If a journalist is assigned to a beat like crime coverage and gets a few stories under their belt, they may get the impression in their heads that they are experts in that field. This can happen with long-time writers or those fresh out of journalism school. And when you think you are an expert, you tend to think it is okay to pontificate in news stories. And it happens all over the journalistic spectrum, from national to regional to local news. Now you typically won't see a full-blown scandal sheet-type newspaper or media outlet anymore, but even mundane and meaningless trivia will sometimes be peppered with the writer's supposition as "expertise" on a matter.

I found an interesting quote on Wikipedia on this subject. "Scandal sheets were the precursors to tabloid journalism. Around 1770, scandal sheets appeared in London, and in the United States as early as the 1840s. Scandal sheets in the early 20th century were usually 4- or 8-page cheap papers specializing in the lurid and profane, sometimes used to grind political, ideological, or personal axes, sometimes to make money (because 'scandal sells'), and sometimes for extortion." Klatt, Wayne (2009). *Chicago journalism: a history*, Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company.

Please don't interpret this as a condemnation of the craft. Good writing is like good art. I indeed consider journalists who are ethical and

discerning in their reporting to be artists in this field. And by way of comparison, in the field of journalism, you have your fine artists, and then you have your graffiti artists. I know several incredible, talented journalists who faithfully and professionally undertake the work of historical documentation. In fact, I work with a couple. I also know a few who are not. Even the best journalists can be drawn into using poor judgment when the lure of gaining popularity from a sensational story is before them or when faced with the potential for financial gain.

I firmly believe in the free press. It is a concept that we, on the Qualla Boundary, fight for constantly. I am also a big fan of our local media outlets. Like many of my colleagues, I think the community's best chance of getting the straight stories comes at the local level and having multiple sources to get a full view of the issues. But free press doesn't mean a free-for-all when it comes to ethical journalism. It means, to me, that the press will be free to document the truth, the whole truth. And the truth isn't the writer's personal or political agenda.

There is a saying that I have heard since I was a boy here in the mountains. "Take it with a grain of salt" is a phrase that I have long understood to mean that things aren't always what they seem. This is true for many things in life, including journalism, or what passes for it in some people's eyes. Looking at this phrase, I found a little Wiki-wisdom that was eye-opening for me. "The phrase is thought to come from Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia* regarding the discovery of a recipe written by the Pontic king Mithridates to make someone immune to poison. One of the ingredients in

the recipe was a grain of salt. Threats involving poison were thus to be taken 'with a grain of salt', and therefore less seriously." [www.phrases.org.uk](http://www.phrases.org.uk).

Poison. Strong word for a profession that has so much influence on how we live today. Journalism used to be referred to as the Fourth Estate, the watchdog for our society, sounding the alarm when things were becoming poisonous for our communities. But that designation of Fourth Estate has all but vanished from modern culture. "Americans' confidence in the mass media has edged down to a new low, with just 28% expressing a 'great deal' or 'a fair amount' of trust in newspapers, television, and radio to report the news fully, accurately, and fairly. This is down from 31 percent last year and 40 percent five years ago. Meanwhile, seven in 10 U.S adults now say they have 'not very much' confidence (36 percent) or 'not at all' (34 percent)." [News.gallup.com](http://News.gallup.com). Oct. 2, 2025.

Just my opinion, but we, as organized media, continue to try to use that Jedi Mind Trick from Star Wars to convince our readers that we are indeed ethical outlets focused on truth-telling, writing opinion pieces that attempt to convince the masses. But if the community continues to see journalists editorialize in their reporting, we are communicating to them that we are capable of "talking the talk," but we are unwilling to "walk the walk." The reason that confidence in our profession is waning is obvious to the readers; it should be obvious to those of us in this business. All we need is to have the courage and integrity to accept the community's wisdom and make a change in how we report.

**GWY ᏣV° OYŁC**  
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**COMMENTARY**

# What sovereignty actually means in 2026

By UGVWIYUHI (Principal Chief)  
MICHELL HICKS

As we enter a new year, there have been more public conversations about Tribal sovereignty and that attention creates opportunity. But when important ideas are discussed more widely, it matters that they are understood clearly.

For the Eastern Band of Cher-

okee Indians, sovereignty is the work of governing. It means that sovereignty shows up in how we make decisions, exercise jurisdiction, protect our lands, and provide for our people. It shows up in budgets, laws, services, and long-term planning across generations. It is instilled in our daily functions, and guides our decisions, both now and in the future.

In 2026, sovereignty means responsibility. It means governing carefully, lawfully, and honoring trust obligations. It means managing resources so that our children and grandchildren inherit stability, not uncertainty. These responsibilities do not change based on

public attention or political cycles. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has maintained an unbroken presence on our homelands and a continuous system of governance. Our institutions were not built quickly, and they were not built for display. They were built to last, shaped by history, experience, and accountability to our community.

Culture remains central to who we are, but it is lived rather than performed. Our ability to protect and pass on culture depends on strong governance and steady leadership. As conversations about Indigenous issues continue to expand, it is important to remember that sovereignty is not

interchangeable with identity, and it cannot be simplified without consequence.

For us, this has never been about proving who we are. It has always been about doing the work, quietly, consistently, and with care for those who come next.

In 2026, our responsibility remains the same. We will continue to govern with integrity, protect what was entrusted to us, and leave a strong foundation for future generations. That is what sovereignty means to us and how it exists today.

**GWY ᏴV° OYI<sub>lo</sub>C**  
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Jan. 24, 7:30 PM

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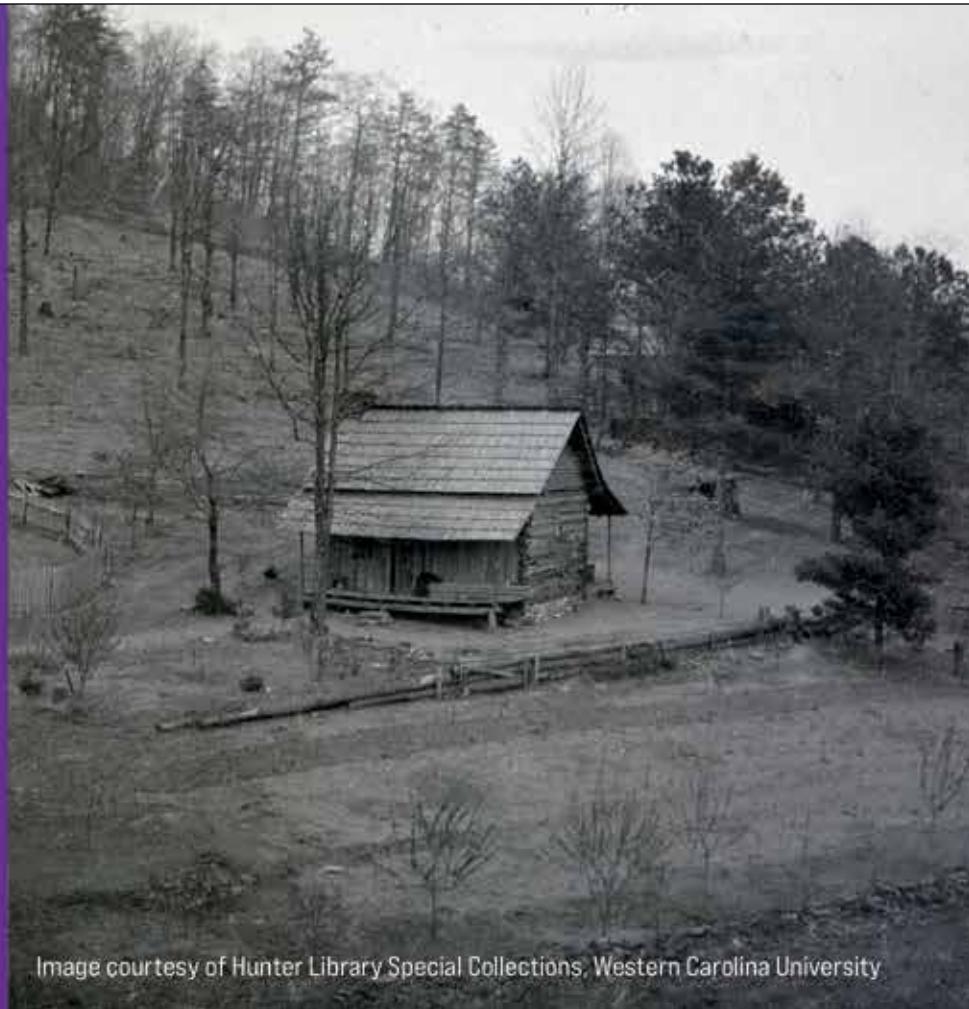


Image courtesy of Hunter Library Special Collections, Western Carolina University

# 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.



**Play A Role!**

**2026 CENSUS TEST**  
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**Local jobs are available in  
the test site areas.  
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**census.gov/2026jobs.****

# Sticking with your New Year's Resolutions (without burning out)



By BROOKE BARRETT, LMCHC

**Question: Every year, I am excited to set goals and want to do better for myself and my family. I start strong and then crash out quickly. Why does this happen and how can I keep my goals going?**

**Answer:** Every January, we set goals with the best intentions...eating better, slowing down, saving money, and being more present. And by February, many of us are already wondering what went

wrong.

The truth is: most resolutions fail not because we lack willpower, but because we ask too much of ourselves, too fast, with very little support. If you aren't someone who easily gets up at 5 am, why would you expect yourself to change that overnight?

Here's how to set realistic goals.... and how to reassess the ones you've already made.

## Step 1: Shrink the Goal

If your resolution feels heavy, vague, or overwhelming, it's too big. Instead of:

"I'm going to get healthy"

Think

"I'll take a 10-minute walk three days a week"

Goals should feel slightly challenging, not punishing. A good rule of thumb: you should be able to do it on your hardest day, not just your best one.

## Step 2: Anchor It to Real Life

Ask yourself:

- When will this happen?
- Where will it fit in my actual schedule?
- What might realistically get in the way?

If a goal doesn't account for your energy, responsibilities, or season of life, it's not a motivation problem.....it's a planning problem. I told myself I was going to start learning how to make bread when I had a newborn at home. Plot twist, my bread still comes

from Food Lion because I was not in a season of life to be juggling being a new parent and learning another new skill on top of that. Doesn't mean I can never fulfil my dream of mastering the craft of "Brooke's Breads"....just means this isn't my season to do so. Think of this when creating your goals.

## Step 3: Track Effort, Not Perfection

Progress isn't about streaks or all-or-nothing thinking. Instead of asking, "Did I stick to it perfectly?" ask:

"Did I show up more than I did last month?"

"What did I learn about myself?"

Consistency grows from self-trust, not self-criticism. If you set yourself without flexibility, the first time you have to adapt to your new goal, it feels like failure instead of growth.

## Step 4: Re-Evaluate Without Shame

If a resolution isn't working, that doesn't mean you failed. It means something needs adjusting.

Ask:

- Does this goal still matter to me?
- Is it aligned with my values....or with pressure?
- Do I need to scale it down, pause it, or let it go?

Letting go of a goal that no longer serves you is not quitting..

A Note on Growth and Toxic Positivity

Growth is important. Change can be healing. But we also live in a culture that tells us we should always be improving, optimizing,

or fixing ourselves.

That's where toxic positivity sneaks in....when gratitude is used to dismiss pain, or growth becomes a way to avoid honoring what already exists.

Sometimes the most meaningful resolution isn't about becoming someone new but learning to notice and appreciate the life you've already worked hard to build. Gratitude doesn't mean settling. It means grounding. And from that grounded place, change when it's needed becomes more sustainable, more compassionate, and more real.

If you're struggling to keep your resolutions this year, consider this: maybe the goal isn't to do more, but to be kinder to yourself while you do it.

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." - Albert Einstein

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

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

everyone's limitations in mind. My experience is that the staff do a great job of making that goal attainable. I believe it is the best 12-week commitment a person can make! I always walked out feeling better than I did walking in!

Thank you,

**Jenean Hornbuckle**  
Aniwodihi (Painttown)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Happy with Fitness class experience

I want to share my experience with our community in hopes that more of them will take advantage of what I feel is a great opportunity. There is a fitness class being offered at the Fitness Center through the Physical Therapy Department of the Cherokee Indian Hospital called "Get Real and Heal." My understanding is that it is being offered to anyone who has had a cancer diagnosis. I think it was designed to keep

# EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS

## *Show Up for Your Health*

*Need to cancel your appointment?*

*Please call your Primary Care Team 24 hours in advance.*

*Letting your Primary Care team know you can't make your appointment allows them to schedule other patients that also need their care.*



CHEROKEE INDIAN  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

# Back to work

Part 1 of 2

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

Scripture references: Ephesians 2:8-10, James 2:26, Rom 16:1-16, Colossians 3:23-24, Hebrews 12:15, Ecclesiastes 11:4-6, Psalms 90:17, 1 Corinthians 15:58

Many of us have worked in the ministry alongside hundreds of good people who relished the opportunity to do for others by being the hands and feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. The fields are ripe in the combat zone, but the soldiers are few (mixing metaphors). We need more faithful workers to prepare the soil, plant the seed, and disciple the harvest the Lord

brings.

Work will not get you into heaven, no matter what. But God endorses and expects His own to work for us, our family, and Him.

For many years, I led groups of maintenance technicians in a public school system. I was fortunate that many on each team were Christians. Occasionally, people need counseling when they become discouraged. Especially in an environment where working hard was expected, but few were ever appreciated or noticed. That's the nature of the maintenance field. I often used these verses.

"whatsoever ye do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that from the Lord ye shall receive the recompence of the inheritance: ye serve the Lord Christ." Col 3:23-24

The verses worked on the

Christians but did not affect those less spiritually inclined. I referenced this passage, especially in the weeks before I retired from that establishment. Pastors and teachers shy away from discussing work for fear that some might think it is a way they can earn their way into heaven, which is far from the truth. Working in the ministry shows love and faith in the Father, who has done exceedingly more for us. It is one way we can tithe by offering the best of ourselves to Christ. After all, God gives all good gifts, including our talents and inspiration.

The sixteenth chapter of Romans (see v. 1-16) is a great reference when you wish to honor those who glorify God working in His service. We all know individuals who expect to be praised, while others expect nothing because they

are humble and desire to serve their Lord.

I've had the extreme privilege of working alongside many excellent and talented people in ministry. To list them all would make me sound like bragging when the reality is I was honored to be among some great Christians who were sold out in service to God. God gives all good gifts, and many of those gifts come to people as talents and abilities that others do not possess. You don't need to name names; they know who they are, and everyone else knows who they are. They are the ones who organize and promote events, cook the meals, enlist others, gather resources, generate ideas, clean the floors, buy the little extras that are needed, and pick up the pieces, whatever they are.



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him."

Genesis 21: 17,18





# HAPPENINGS

## 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.  
- Jan. 17 at 3 p.m., fundraiser for Big Cove Free Labor

## EBCI Community Events

**Blood Drive.** Jan. 14 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Building, 14116 Acquoni Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Info: 1-800-REDCROSS

**Autism Support.** Jan. 14 from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Dora Reed Center 897 Acquoni Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Light refreshments and water provided, meeting takes place in the Dora Reed Multipurpose Room. Info: Candy Ross (828) 359-2203 or Amanda Bradley (828) 359-2204.

**Get Real & Heal.** Jan. 12 - April 10. Mon. Wed. & Fridays at 10 a.m. at the Cherokee Fitness Complex 810 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. FREE 12 week group exercise program for patients who have had a cancer diagnosis. Info: Sherri.Watterson@Cherokeehospital.org

**Transplant Lobby Day.** Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Cherokee DaVita Dialysis 171 Tsali Care way, Cherokee, NC. 28719. You are invited to Transplant Lobby Day at Cherokee DaVita. Info: (828) 506-9009

**Grand Reopening of History Gallery.** Jan. 15 at 11 a.m. at Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual 645 Tsali Blvd. Cherokee, NC. 28719. Celebrating the journey as the oldest Native American arts and crafts co-operative in the United

States. Info: (828) 497-3103.

**MANNA Foodbank.** Jan. 15 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. at Wolftown Gym 27 Long Branch Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. FREE and open to all community members. Bring your own bags. Info: Megan Stamper (828) 359-6934

**HINIGOLIYA Family Movie Night.** Jan. 15 from 4:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Qualla Boundary Public Library 810 Acquoni Rd. Cherokee, NC. 28719. Join us for a family-fun movie night at the library and watch the Cherokee dubbed version of "How to Train Your Dragon". FREE event. Info: (828) 359-6725

**Careers & Cocoa.** Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Cherokee Indian Hospital HR, 1 Hospital Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Have a chat about all open positions and questions you have about careers at Cherokee Indian Hospital. Info: Devyn Smith (828) 497-9163m ext 6457.

**Unto These Hills Auditions.** Jan. 24 from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the Cherokee Historical Association Mainn Office 564 Tsali Blvd. Cherokee, NC. 28719. Casting for Indigenous youth and adults for the 2026 season. Info: (828) 497-2111

**Blood Drive.** Jan. 27 from 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Cherokee High School, 86 Elk Crossing Lane, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Donate in Memory of Mianna "Peaches" Squirrell. Students must be 16 years of age to donate.

**Sweetheart Market.** Feb. 13 from 10a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Pam Taylor Gym 10 Old Gap Rd., Cher-

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

okee, NC. 28719. Over 30 vendors, gifts for your sweetheart. Several varieties of food onsite. INFO: Angie Garcia (828) 778-4585.

**Books on the Boundary: "The Bone Thief".** Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum of the Cherokee People Store 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, NC. 28719Museum of the Cherokee People's book club meets to discuss The Bone Thief by Vanessa Lillie (Cherokee Nation). Info: (828) 497-3481

**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 Language Workshop with Aniyona.** Jan. 12 and 14, 19 and 21, 26 and 28 from 5 p.m.- 6 p.m. at the Museum of the Cherokee People Multipurpose Room in Cherokee, N.C. CLMAP graduates lead a free language workshop for all at Museum of

## CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

### SƏUi ƏD RVLTLƏJ D&ƏYI



**Zayla**, a 9-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer, lives in Wayohi (Wolftown) with human, Shamyah Ledford.

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the Cherokee People. Info: (828) 497-3481

**Cherokee Winter Social.** Jan. 31 at the Peaches Squirrel Sports & Rec. Complex 1212 Birdtown Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. MC: Catcuce Tiger. Everyone welcome! Traditional Dress and Ribbon Shirts/ Skirts encouraged. All Cherokee Singers welcome, bring your rattles & drums. Food provided by Nikki's Frybread.

**Fingerweaving Fridays.** Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Museum of the Cherokee People Art Studio 589 Tsali Blvd, Cherokee, NC. 28719 Bring a project or choose materials

from the Museum's selection at this free craft circle open to beginner and experienced weavers. Info: (828) 497-3481

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

**Cherokee storytelling and Cherokee history** in the Snowbird Community Library at 60 Snowbird School Rd. in Robbinsville, N.C., every fourth Monday

see **EVENTS** next page

22) A loved one's health problem could, once again, make demands on your time and attention. But this time, make some demands of your own, and insist that others pitch in and help.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) This is a good time for the traditionally staid Scorpion to plan adjustments in your day-to-day schedules. Be more flexible and allow for more impromptu, off-the-cuff actions.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Avoid creating unnecessary fuss over a situation that you don't approve of. If it's going to work, it will do so despite your objections. If it fails, it will do so without a push from you.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Working with a trusted colleague could open your mind to exploring some considerations that you previously dismissed. Meanwhile, the weekend brings news from a loved one.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Resolving a recent problem leaves you in a good position to strengthen your influence on how things get done. But continue to encourage ideas and suggestions from others.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A new friend suggests an interesting opportunity, but check it out before you snap at it. It might be a good deal for some people, but it might not work in helping you reach your goals.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of helping people solve their problems, making you a respected counselor and trusted friend.

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tsalagi soquo ugidaahli, week of u-no-lv-ta-ni (jan.) 14-20, 2026

# VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

## Expansion of veterans cemeteries

The VA awarded \$77 million in grants for 20 veteran cemeteries across the country during fiscal year 2025. These grants will allow the establishment of the first state veterans cemetery in Alaska (to serve 12,000 veterans) and the expansion of 19 others.

Besides the establishment of a veterans cemetery in Alaska, the grants will allow expansions of existing veterans cemeteries in Arizona (2), Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky (2), Massachusetts (2), Montana, New Mexico (2), North Carolina (3), Tennessee, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

In fiscal year 2025, more than 43,000 veterans were buried in grant funded cemeteries, with 124 cemeteries supported since the program began in 1980. Over the years, grants have provided over \$1 billion to these state cemeteries. The goal: to provide burial access within 75 miles of home to 94% of all veterans.

As an added benefit, veterans who are buried in VA grant cemeteries are also included on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site ([www.vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm.cem.va.gov)).

The VLM is an online memorial with the records of over 10 million veterans who are buried at VA National Cemeteries, VA grant funded cemeteries such as the ones receiving grants this year, U.S. Park Service National Cemeteries, and many others. The Legacy page for each veteran is a place for family members, friends and former military comrades to add their own memories of the veteran.

To find a veteran's page, do a search on the VLM website. You need the veteran's first and last name, but you can fine-tune your search by adding year of death, the cemetery you want to search, the branch of service and other information.

If you want to add details to your veteran's legacy page, first look around at other pages to get an idea of the possibilities. You can add awards and decorations, career details, a military timeline, a biography, PDF documents that can include newspaper clippings, photos and much more.

To learn more about the VA's burial and memorial benefits, go to [www.cem.va.gov/burial-memorial-benefits](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial-memorial-benefits).

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## Those Annoying Little Nips

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** We took our 2-year-old German shepherd to the vet last month to have a cyst removed. The surgery went fine; however, ever since Max came home he has been "playfully" biting and nipping at our hands and arms. We thought we trained him out of this behavior. Why has he resumed it? — Mary G. in Greenville, S.C.

**A:** Ouch! A playful nip from a puppy can be annoying, but from a nearly adult dog — especially a big German shepherd — that nip can be downright painful.

Puppies first exert this behavior with their littermates. Light biting and nipping (mouthing) is a form of play, but like all play, it has a purpose: The puppies are testing each other, trying to see who is the dominant pack member. If you've ever observed the mother of this litter, you know that the puppies rarely try this behavior with her — because she's the pack leader. Those little nips are silenced by a low but meaningful growl from the parent.

Mouthing is not an acceptable behavior in your home, either, and active and playful dogs often go through months of consistent training and reinforcement to curb their urge to nip at family members. Max was trained not to do this, but now he has started up again.

Max may have reverted to this behavior because of the stressful event that just took place. Being stretched out on a table, knocked out and operated on can upset anyone, and in this case Max could feel that his place in the world has been upended.

However, just because your dog may be feeling insecure, it does not excuse his behavior. Reinforce his earlier training. Establish the fact that you are the "pack leaders" and will not tolerate playful bites. Keep to a consistent training (and feeding and sleeping) schedule, especially for the next couple of months. Getting Max into his regular routine and letting him know you are still in charge may be the reassurance he needs that everything is all right.

*Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).*

**EVENTS: from page 49**

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.

**Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Mtgs.**

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

**HIP Committee.** Jan. 14 at 8:30 a.m.

**Qualla Housing Committee.**

Jan. 15 at 8:30 a.m.

**Work Session on Beloved**

**Women.** Jan. 15 at 1 p.m.

**THIP Community Meeting.**

Jan. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

**Health Board.** Jan. 21 at 8:30

a.m.

**Pow Wow Listings**

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

**13th Annual Great River**

**Eagle Days Winter Gathering**

**Intertribal Pow Wow.** Jan. 24-26 at the Oakley Lindsay Center in Quincy, Ill. MC: Clifton Hall. Info: Leslie Haslem (217) 430-5087, Ravenwoman2015@yahoo.com

**Big Mac Memorial Round**

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

**Spirit of Nations Pow Wow.**

March 28 at Jefferson County High School at 115 W. Dumplin Valley Rd. in Dandridge, Tenn. Info: [www.indiancreekproductions.com](http://www.indiancreekproductions.com)

**Support Groups**

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Analenisgi. Info: [www.AAwnc80.com](http://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 McMillan (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](http://life.wcu.edu) or contact Western Carolina University Educational Outreach (828) 227-7397.

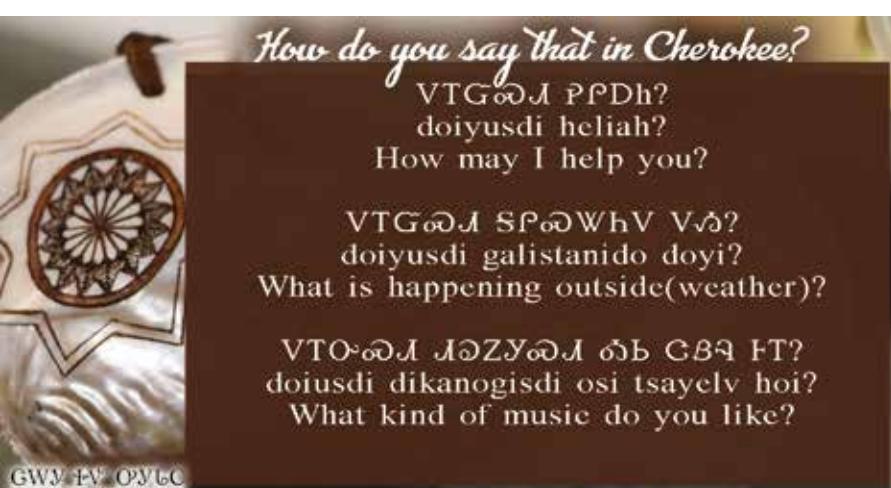
**MARA (Medication-Assisted Recovery Anonymous)** meets Thursdays at 5 p.m. in the Rivercane Room at Analenisgi. Info: Analenisgi (828) 497-9163 or visit: <https://cherokehospital.org/locations/analenisgi>

**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](http://www.NA.org)

**Western N.C. and Beyond Events**

**Stcoah 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](http://www.stecoahvalleycenter.com).

**Calling all Vendors.** Greening Up The Mountains is looking for Artisans, Crafters, and Food and Beverage Vendors to submit their application for the Greening Up the Mountains Festival to be held on April 25 from 10 a.m. until



4 p.m. This year's festival seeks artisans and crafters selling their own handmade products. Arts, Crafts, and Food Vendors from the expanded Appalachian area are encouraged to apply. Please visit the festival's website: <http://www.mainstreetsylva.org/greening-up-the-mountains/> to review the 2026 Vendor Policies and submit your application. Applications will be accepted through March 20, 2026. For more information, please contact the event coordinators at [greeningupthemountains@townofsylva.org](mailto:greeningupthemountains@townofsylva.org).

#### Cherokee Community Clubs

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

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

**Tsisqwahi (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](mailto: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.

**Tutiyi (Snowbird) Community** meets the first Tuesday of each month, or the Tuesday before Tribal Council, at the Jacob Corn-silk Complex, at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Elijah Wachacha (828) 735-6453, [ewachacha@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

see **EVENTS** next page

## EVENTS: from page 51

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

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

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

**Cherokee Church of God.** 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Night Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Every third Sunday they have a fellowship meal to celebrate all the birthdays throughout that month. Everyone is cordially invited for any of the services and meals. Pastor Rev. Owen Isaacs (828) 242-0754

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

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

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

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

**Christian Acts Church at the**

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

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

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



## Moments in time

• On **Jan. 26, 1875**, a gang of men likely led by Pinkerton Detective Agency staff, who mistakenly believed that outlaws Frank and Jesse James were holed up in their family home, raided the house, leaving their mother, Zerelda James, permanently maimed and their 9-year-old half-brother, Archie Samuel, dead from an exploded flare meant to flush the brothers out.

• On **Jan. 27, 1970**, John Lennon composed and recorded "Instant Karma," his third solo single prior to the Beatles' official breakup, in one day. Though he remarked that he "wrote it for breakfast, recorded it for lunch, and we're putting it out for dinner," the song was actually released to the public almost two weeks later.

• On **Jan. 28, 1777**, poet, playwright and British General John Burgoyne submitted a plan to the British government that would isolate New England from the other colonies, which involved an invasion of 8,000 British troops from Canada moving south through New York and taking the Americans by surprise. Its failure that autumn launched severe criticism, and soon after Burgoyne retired from active service.

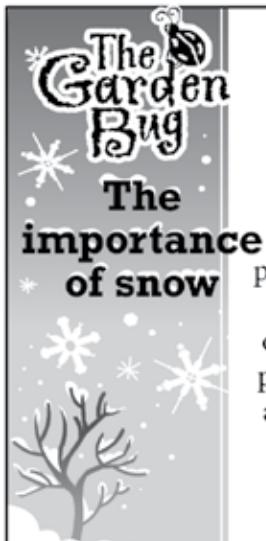
• On **Jan. 29, 1929**, The Seeing Eye, America's first school designed to train guide dogs for the visually impaired, opened in Tennessee. For the benefit of skeptical reporters, co-founder Morris Frank showcased his own dog, Buddy, on busy New York streets.

• On **Jan. 30, 1994**, American speed skater Dan Jansen set a new world record of 35.76 at the World Sprint Championships in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

• On **Jan. 31, 1961**, a chimp named Ham became the first hominid in space, after a 16.5-minute suborbital flight, paving the way for the first human in space three months later.

• On **Feb. 1, 1917**, Germany returned to the policy of unrestricted submarine warfare it had suspended in response to pressure from America and other neutral countries. The previous day, German chancellor Theobald Bethmann Hollweg had announced that "the destructive designs of our opponents cannot be expressed more strongly. We have been challenged to fight to the end. We accept the challenge. We stake everything, and we shall be victorious."

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As snowflakes form in the clouds and fall to the earth, they collect nitrogen and other particulates like sulfur from the atmosphere. These nutrients will serve as natural fertilizers later on. As these flakes collect on the ground and form thick, mounded heaps of snow, this provides excellent insulation and shelter for the vulnerable garden beds beneath. The soil, the organisms in the soil and root systems are now protected from severe temperature fluctuations and icy winds. As the months become warmer, the melting snow gently releases moisture and nutrients into the soil. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: nsidc.org, www.almanac.com, mothernaturesapprentice.com

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**Embassy Christian Center**

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

**Goose Creek Baptist Church.**

Sunday School – 10 a.m. Sunday  
Worship Service 11 a.m., Sunday  
Evening Services 6 p.m. Pastor –  
Bro. James Gunter 631-0331, Info:

John and Linda George 497-3512

**Grace Bible Church.** 344

Whittier School Rd., Whittier, N.C.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday  
worship 11 a.m., Wednesday ser-  
vices 6:30 p.m. Pastor Brent Stew-  
art. 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 Ser-  
vice 6:30 p.m.

**Jesus is the Light Full Gos-  
pel 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. Sun-  
day 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 Con-  
seen, 497-1611, [mbccherokee@outlook.com](mailto:mbccherokee@outlook.com), Website:  
[www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church](http://www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church)

**NewSong Church.** 3548 Wolfe-  
town 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 Ser-  
vice 9:45am.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Cath-  
olic Mission.** 82 Lambert Branch

Road. Saturday Mass at 4:30 p.m.  
in English and 6:00 p.m. in Span-  
ish. Pastor Fr. Victor Ameh, MSP.  
For more information,  
go to [www.stjosephbryson.org](http://www.stjosephbryson.org).

**The Peaks Church.** Meets at

Smokey Mountain Elementary  
School gym. Sunday services 10  
a.m. Pastor Aaron Langston

**Rock Creek Missionary Bap-  
tist 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

# Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a  
partnership with  
EBCI Natural Resources



**The Dick's Creek project** is a  
collaboration between the United  
States Forest Service and the EBCI  
Natural Resources Department. On  
five acres within the Dick's Creek  
project, the forest has been thinned  
and planted with white oak  
seedlings to encourage long-term  
regeneration. Downed trees left on  
the forest floor provide habitat for  
wildlife. White oak regeneration has  
been a community-identified  
priority for artisan resources and  
overall forest health.



EVENTS: from page 53

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., Wednes-  
day evening Fellowship Meal 6  
p.m., Wednesday evening Prayer  
Service 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice 7  
p.m. Dr. Mickey Duvall, Pastor

**Spruce Grove Baptist Church.**  
780 Lands Creek Rd., Bryson  
City, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
Sunday morning worship service  
11 a.m., Sunday evening service 7  
p.m., Wednesday evening service 7  
p.m., third Saturday singing 7 p.m.

Pastor Ernie Cable. Email:  
sprucegrovebc.1920@gmail.com

**Straight Fork Baptist Church.**  
Big Cove Loop. Sunday school 10  
a.m. Sunday morning worship  
11 a.m. Sunday evening worship  
6 p.m. Wednesday night prayer  
service 7 p.m. Youth group meet-  
ings 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., Whitti-  
er, N.C. 28789. Sunday worship  
service 10 a.m. Rev. Beverly Park-  
er-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) sing-  
ing, 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. Wednes-  
day Night Service 7 p.m. Pastor  
Foreman Bradley 506-0123 or  
736-4872



To submit a missing or  
murdered indigenous  
people case for the W.A.R.  
team to research and  
bring to light, go to  
<https://war-podcast.com>

# One Feather Poem of the Week

## Freedom

By Janet Gatlin of Bryson City, N.C.

*Moonlight stretches across a dark ground  
Soil takes in the nourishment it needs  
Growth finds strength without a sound  
Circle of life is all around me*

*Spirit of living hope releases the soul  
Coming from a spring lying deep within  
Strong love searches the heart of stone  
Path you're on now is not where you've been*

*Never walk away without knowing you  
Truth shines bright inside self-honesty  
Remember where you've been, because it's true  
Acceptance of it all gives joy of being free*

GWY FV<sup>o</sup> OYLC  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

## EXPERIENCE A New Kind of Dentistry



If you are looking for a compassionate,  
caring dentist who understands your  
goals, then you just found her at the  
practice of John Highsmith, DDS and  
Sylvia Jernigan, DDS.

Dr. Jernigan uses only the latest  
techniques and materials in the  
industry for efficiency, effectiveness,  
and precision. And she can address all  
of your general and cosmetic needs.

If you are looking for a new dental  
home, we welcome you to join ours!

The logo for Highsmith and Jernigan Dentistry. It features a stylized, italicized letter "H" and "J" intertwined. Below the initials, the text "JOHN HIGHSMITH, DDS" and "SYLVIA JERNIGAN, DDS" is written in a serif font. At the bottom, the text "Cosmetic, General, Implant & Laser Dentistry" is written in a small, sans-serif font.

78 Nelson Street, Clyde, NC 28721

CALL TODAY  
**(828) 662-3737**  
[www.DrHighsmith.com](http://www.DrHighsmith.com)



Subscribe to the  
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call us at (828) 359-6262 to  
pay with a card.

Return this form with a check or money order made payable to:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**The price is \$40 for the year.**

**GWY FV OYLC**  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

ANDY SHAW  
**Ford**  
SYLVA, N.C.

# KICK OFF 2026 IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT!

New year, new goals... and maybe a wheel new set of  
keys! 🚗 It's time to shift gears, turn the page, and roll  
into the new year with a ride that fits your vibe.



2020 Ford Mustang EcoBoost  
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Stock Number: 4536A



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2024 Ford Ranger Lariat  
Stock Number: T9490A  
\$39,997



2015 Lincoln Navigator Base  
Stock Number: T9554B  
\$16,998



Blake Parks  
General Sales Manager



Dustin Shuler  
Assistant Sales Manager



Greg Jamison  
Fleet Manager/Sales Consultant



Justin Varley  
Sales Consultant



Hollie Johnson  
Finance Manager



CONTACT US

828-586-0900

[www.AndyShawFord.com](http://www.AndyShawFord.com)

1231 E Main St Sylva NC

Service Team

ALL MAKES, ALL MODELS,  
WE SERVICE THEM ALL!

# TRADING POST DG莫爾 Do सोलोर

## EMPLOYMENT

**For Sale** - Surround sound stereo system, brand new in the box \$700, Norman Rockwell Plates and figurines, unique picture of Elvis, and a copy of his driver's license. Call (828) 400-7453. **1/28**

## Project Coordinator

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

Coordinate the Healthy Eating Action Team (HEAT) activities and help lead initiatives that are directed within the meetings.

Assist with the maintaining of social media accounts.

Encourage FDPIR participant involvement through the sharing of pictures, videos, and photos to

be featured on various Tribal Food Distribution social media platforms and handout materials that features nutrition education.

Conduct and attend various community outreach events, including but not limited to community club meetings, fairs, gatherings, or university presentations.

Collaborate with Nurse Nutritionist as needed.

Collaborate with other tribal resources and outside programs to promote FDPIR nutrition education for participants.

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

This position will begin once a contract has been finalized and no sooner than February 1, 2026 and will last through September 30,

2025. We will be accepting applications for the contract until 4:30 on January 20th. Proposals may be submitted to Amelia Arkansas, Tribal Food Distribution Manager, via email (amelowle@ebci-nsn.gov) or by mail (PO Box 1123, Cherokee, NC 28719). **1/14**

## LEGAL NOTICES

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

### Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

#### SHERIDAN EVERETT SMITH

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fiduciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fiduciary(s) listed below.

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

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

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. 25-097

### Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

## Debtors of: TOM KEITH PARKER

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

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

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 fiduciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fiduciary(s) listed below.

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

## Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist  
Nail Tech  
Lead Massage Therapist  
Spa Attendants

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

## JOIN OUR TEAM



Open Positions

- Security Guard

WE ARE  
HIRING



Apply Online  
[www.qualaallc.com/careers](http://www.qualaallc.com/careers)



More Information  
828.589.8285

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

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 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

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 PUBLICA-  
TION

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 PUBLICA-  
TION

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

**1/28**

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. 26-002  
**Notice to Creditors and  
Debtors of:**

**RACHEL G. MORGAN**

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

Dylan Morgan  
312 Macedonia Rd  
Cherokee, NC 28719  
**2/5**

**BIDS, RFPs, etc.**

**BIDS**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
RALEIGH, N.C.

The Deadline for submitting Electronic Bids on the following projects as well as the public reading will be January 20, 2026, at 2:00 pm. The public reading will be held in Contract Standards and Development Unit Conference Room (Room 156 A/B), Building B, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Century Center Complex, 1020 Birch Ridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27610. Please enter door B-2.

(C205129) PAMLICO;  
(C204814) WAYNE;  
(C205162) WAKE;  
(C205036) ROBESON;  
(C205128) ROCKINGHAM;  
(C205163) LEE;  
(C205161) CHATHAM;  
(C205117) CABARRUS;  
(C205132) CLEVELAND



**Cherokee Boys Club Job Announcements**

Application and job description can be picked up from the receptionist at the Boys Club information window between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The selected applicant must submit to a pre-employment drug screen and local, state, and federal civil and criminal background and sexual offender screens.

Payroll direct deposit is mandatory. Indian preference does apply in the filling of this position.

If claiming Indian preference, applicant must submit the appropriate certificate.

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

Agelink

4 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\***

A bid bond or bid deposit in the amount of 5% of the bid will be required.

These contracts are subject to all appropriate Federal Laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Plans, proposal forms, and specifications may be obtained at the Raleigh Office of the Department of Transportation, Telephone # 919-707-6925.

Department of Transportation, Mr. Patrick Norman, PE Chief engineer. **1/14**

### Request for Proposals

The Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute (RKLI), a division of the Cherokee Boys Club, is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to lead development of our 2027-2029 Strategic Plan.

The consultant will support

strategic planning, program evaluation planning, logic model alignment, marketing/PR recommendations, and creation of a three-year implementation calendar.

RFP Release Date: January 9, 2026

Proposal Deadline: January 26, 2026 (5:00 p.m. EST)

Full RFP and submission instructions can be obtained by emailing: tonya@rkli.org or visiting www.rkli.org

RKLI reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, for any reason, without appeal. **1/21**

### BID

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO General Contractors for the Design Build project, "Dispensary



**Cherokee Central Schools**  
Job Openings

Apply online at  
<https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or  
[www.ces-nc.org/apps/pages/human\\_resources](http://www.ces-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**

**JV Baseball Head Coach**

**JV Softball Head Coach**

**9-12 Cherokee Language Instructor**

**9-12 Special Education Teacher - Self-Contained Class**

**9-12 Special Education Teacher**

**9-12 Exceptional Children Inclusion 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**

Drive Thru Canopy".

A mandatory Pre-bid will be held February 2nd at 8 am. Pre-bid meeting will be located at 91 Bingo Loop Rd Cherokee NC 28719 in the small conference room. Be advised that all attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

For more information, contact Charles Bryson at 828-788-5494. **1/28**

### INVITATION TO BID Re: 2026 Residential Remodeling Advertisement:

The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to complete Residential Remodeling Services in Cherokee, NC. CIHD 2026-28 RTS C-304 Residential Remodeling CIHD 2026-29 CFSV B-102 Resi-

dential Remodeling CIHD 2026-30 262 Eagles Nest Residential Remodeling CIHD-2026-31 Tsali Manor Unit-10 Residential Remodeling CIHD-2026-32 Tsali Manor Unit-7 Residential Remodeling

Please contact CIHD for additional information.

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

**1/21**

**GWY IV° OYLC**  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHU

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



**HIKE TO THE SUMMIT OF YOUR CAREER**

**JOB FAIR**

January 22 | 1PM - 5PM

Employment Office

**Harrah's CHEROKEE CASINO RESORT**

Must be 21 or older to enter. Legal age to gamble and must present a valid state or federal photo ID upon request. Know When To Stop. Before You Start. Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-2776. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. ©2026. Casinos License Company, LLC.





# Job Opportunities



**Closing Sunday, January 18, 2025**

1. Part Time Store Clerk- TBCC- Independent (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
2. Supervisor (Transfer Station) - Solid Waste- Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)
3. Equipment Operator (Composting) - Solid Waste- Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
4. Office Administrator- Water & Sewer- Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
5. Certified Biological Wastewater Treatment Operator - Wastewater Treatment - Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
6. Driver- Transit- Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
7. Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)

## Open Until Filled

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

**EBCI Human Resources Mon- Fri 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Call us (828) 359-6388**  
**www.ebci.com/jobs**



**KITUWAH LLC.**

Kituwah LLC has the following jobs available:

## Maintenance Technician – Salary Depends on Experience

The Maintenance Technician works directly with the Maintenance Supervisor to maintain the overall property. This will include maintaining the overall condition and appearance of the external and internal areas of Kituwah LLC-managed properties in areas of basic plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, and other areas as needed or assigned. The Maintenance Technician will promote professionalism and excellent customer service and respond promptly to all work orders.

## Resident Technician – 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Shift – Salary Depends on Experience

The Residence Technician works directly with the Maintenance Supervisor in order to maintain the overall property Kituwah LLC oversees, primarily including Workforce Housing (Chestnut Tree), Clarion Pointe, and Cherokee Cinemas. Duties will include maintaining the overall condition and appearance of the external and internal areas, including support functions of the operations, such as entry to rooms, basic janitorial, and issues that arise after hours. The Maintenance Assistant will promote professionalism and excellent customer service and respond in a timely manner to all work orders.

Anyone interested should submit resumes, request the job description, and application from Kristin Smith at [kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com](mailto:kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com) or at the Kituwah G3 Office (Across the Street from Waffle House) between the hours of 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday-Friday.



Kituwah Services LLC has the following jobs available:

## Senior Director of Professional Services:

Provide leadership to position the company at the forefront of the ITS and related industries. Assist EVP with to develop and execute a strategic plan to advance the company's mission and objectives and to promote revenue, profitability and meet growth and earnings objectives. Has responsibility for all areas of marketing, operations and program/project management for cabling systems, physical security and related systems, hardware and software. Oversee internal and external service delivery operations to insure production efficiency, quality, service, and cost-effective management of resources across multiple lines of business.

### JOB REQUIREMENTS

Preferred minimum 10 years of global experience specializing in design, program and project management using both BICSI, TIA and PMI-PMBOK Standards for Telecommunication/Information Technology Engineering for voice and data telecommunication network infrastructures,

- Must have extensive experience designing secure network plans, security design plans, and active shooter programs.
- Technical and Board Certifications including RCDD, RTPM, CPP, CISSP or similar experience.
- Must have experience managing projects from initial project planning through project execution and supervision of all phases of projects that require multiple subcontractors and team members.
- Must be knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Revit enabling full 2D and 3D design plans and requirements
- Strong verbal, presentation and writing skills
- Additional qualifications: o Strong leadership skills (Includes thought leadership and problem-solving)
- o Successful start-up and Day 2 management experience
- o Knowledge of daily internal and external (customer-facing) operations
- o Familiarity with proper meeting management structure and protocols
- o Strong project-management skills
- o Sales-and-marketing management experience
- o Extensive DoD and/or federal law enforcement project experience
- o Global or multi-national business experience

Anyone interested should submit resumes, request the job description, and application to Kristin Smith at [kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com](mailto:kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com) or at the Kituwah G3 Office (Across the Street from Waffle House) between the hours of 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday-Friday.

# NEW YEAR NEW JOB



CHEROKEE INDIAN  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY



## OPEN POSITIONS

### New Positions

Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant

Cook Aide

EVS Technician

Tribal Option Care Manager - Float

Residential Technician – Female – Part-Time without Benefits

Peer Support Specialist – Bridge

Peer Support Specialist - Kanvwotiyi

RN Inpatient – Nights

RN Inpatient – Nights - PTI

Contracting Assistant

### Behavioral Health

Mental Health Therapist - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus

(Cherokee Central Schools, Child and Family – Snowbird, Family Safety, Family Intensive Treatment, Medication Assisted Treatment)

Employment Specialist - Kanvwotiyi

Case Manager/Intake Coordinator - Kanvwotiyi

Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwotiyi

Targeted Case Manager – Child and Family, Family Safety, MAT

Residential Technician – Male - Kanvwotiyi

Residential Technician – Female

### Dental

Dental Assistant II

Dental Hygienist

Dentist - CIHA and Satellite - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus

Dentist- Pediatrics - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus

### Dietary

Cook – CIHA Dietary

### Eye Clinic

Optometrist

Optometric Assistant

### Finance

Billing Analyst II

### Lab

Medical Lab Technician - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus

### Medical

Physician - Primary Care

Psychiatrist

### Nursing

Case Management Support – Primary Care

Certified Medical Assistant or LPN – Primary Care

Clinical Care Manager – Pediatrics - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus

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 Specialty Team Care Manager (LTSS)

### Nutrition

Clinical Dietician

### Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner

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

### Tribal Option

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker

CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

[CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS](http://CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS) | 828.497.9163 EXT. 6343



Kituwah Technologies LLC has the following jobs available:

### **Project Manager/Estimator**

Project managers/estimators are responsible for planning and overseeing projects from the beginning stage of setting the budget to completion in a timely fashion and within budget. Project managers plan and designate project resources, prepare budgets, monitor progress, and keep stakeholders informed the entire way. This is all done within the confines of a company's goals and vision.

- 5-8 years of project management/estimation and related experience
- Project Management certifications preferred.

### **Low Voltage Technician I**

A Low Voltage Cable Technician installs and tests low-power systems like security, fire alarms, data networks (Cat5/6, Fiber), and AV/home theaters, cable pulling, termination, troubleshooting, documentation, and ensuring code compliance, often working in residential, commercial, or data center settings. Follow safety protocols (OSHA) while working with specialized low-voltage (<50V) wiring

- 2+ years of experience in cable repair and installation (preferred, not required)
- High School Diploma

### **Low Voltage Cable Technician II**

A Low Voltage Cable Technician installs, tests, and maintains low-power systems like security, fire alarms, data networks (Cat5/6, Fiber), and AV/home theaters, reading blueprints, cable pulling, termination, troubleshooting, documentation, and ensuring code compliance, often working in residential, commercial, or data center settings. Configure devices, provide customer training, and follow safety protocols (OSHA) while working with specialized low-voltage (<50V) wiring

- 2+ years commercial and/or industrial low voltage experience
- BICSI, NICET, ESA & OSHA Certifications are a PLUS but not required

### **Low Voltage Cable Technician III**

A Low Voltage Cable Technician installs, tests, and maintains low-power systems like security, fire alarms, data networks (Cat5/6, Fiber), and AV/home theaters, reading blueprints, cable pulling, termination, troubleshooting, documentation, and ensuring code compliance, often working in residential, commercial, or data center settings. Configure devices, provide customer training, and follow safety protocols (OSHA) while working with specialized low-voltage (<50V) wiring

- 5+ years commercial and/or industrial low voltage experience
- 2+ years supervisory experience
- BICSI, NICET, ESA & OSHA Certifications are a PLUS but not required

### **Service Technician**

A successful Service Technician candidate can adapt to a variety of work environments and quickly solve problems. Their main responsibility is to provide excellent customer service while maintaining equipment. Service Technicians work in the field, traveling to customer locations to provide service, maintenance, and installation. They use their technical skills to troubleshoot issues when they arise to keep the customer's equipment functioning properly. A Service Technician not only ensures the equipment is installed and works properly but also manages customer relationships to boost customer retention and satisfaction, which ultimately boosts the company's profitability.



Kituwah Services LLC has the following jobs available:

#### Senior Director of Professional Services:

Provide leadership to position the company at the forefront of the ITS and related industries. Assist EVP with to develop and execute a strategic plan to advance the company's mission and objectives and to promote revenue, profitability and meet growth and earnings objectives. Has responsibility for all areas of marketing, operations and program/project management for cabling systems, physical security and related systems, hardware and software. Oversee internal and external service delivery operations to insure production efficiency, quality, service, and cost-effective management of resources across multiple lines of business.

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Preferred minimum 10 years of global experience specializing in design, program and project management using both BICSI, TIA and PMI-PMBOK Standards for Telecommunication/Information Technology Engineering for voice and data telecommunication network infrastructures,

- Must have extensive experience designing secure network plans, security design plans, and active shooter programs.
- Technical and Board Certifications including RCDD, RTPM, CPP, CISSP or similar experience.
- Must have experience managing projects from initial project planning through project execution and supervision of all phases of projects that require multiple subcontractors and team members.
- Must be knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Revit enabling full 2D and 3D design plans and requirements
- Strong verbal, presentation and writing skills
- Additional qualifications: o Strong leadership skills (Includes thought leadership and problem-solving)
- o Successful start-up and Day 2 management experience
- o Knowledge of daily internal and external (customer-facing) operations
- o Familiarity with proper meeting management structure and protocols
- o Strong project-management skills
- o Sales-and-marketing management experience
- o Extensive DoD and/or federal law enforcement project experience
- o Global or multi-national business experience

Anyone interested should submit resumes, request the job description, and application to Kristin Smith at [kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com](mailto:kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com) or at the Kituwah G3 Office (Across the Street from Waffle House) between the hours of 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday-Friday.



**CHEROKEE  
CINEMAS  
& MORE**

#### Cherokee Cinemas & More

Cherokee Cinemas & More has the following job opportunities:

#### Theater Manager – Full Time – \$40k - \$60k – Depends on Experience

The Manager is a full-time salaried exempt employee. Is responsible for the overall operation of the movie theatre. This includes proactively leading the theater team to ensure achievement of business goals in revenue, expense, profitability, guest satisfaction, inventory control, and employee morale as well as acting as a representative of Kituwah, LLC in a way that is consistent with our mission statement and policies. The Theater business is 365 days a year, please be aware that you will be required to make sure the business is open each of these days.

#### Janitor – Part Time – Less than 30 hours a week – Pay depends on experience

A Janitor cleans the theater and theater property during non-operating hours. Responsible for cleaning floors, carpets, walls, doors, seats, restrooms, sidewalks, parking lots, concession stands, etc. Works after the theater closes or before the first show of the day. Ensures that the next day's Customers will walk into a sparkling clean theater.

Job Description and Applications can be picked up at the offices of the Kituwah, LLC, 1158 Seven Clans Lane, KG3 Building across the road from Waffle House, if you have any questions, please call Kristin Smith at 828-508-6502. Open until filled.

#### Ferguson for North Carolina District 119 House of Representatives

Anna Ferguson of Painttown Community announced her decision to run for North Carolina District 119 House of Representatives. As a lifelong resident of Western North Carolina, Ms Ferguson has a solid understanding of the importance in making sure state leadership recognizes the needs of Swain, Jackson, Transylvania Counties and the Qualla Boundary. Her commitment is to carry the voice of District 119's residents back to Raleigh.

If chosen as State Representative, Ms Ferguson would be the first member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee to serve in North Carolina state government.



Pictured left to right: Brother in law Charles Bryson, sister Samantha Ferguson, husband Greg Gilleland and son Justin Gilleland, father Hoppy Ferguson.

Paid Political Ad by Candidate

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[dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov) or [Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com](mailto:Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com).



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