

FREE



Solar project up and running at New Kituwah Academy Pages 6-7



Cherokee Police Commission holds January meeting Page 5

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week of u-no-lv-ta-ni (jan.) 21-27, 2026

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

A community space

Groundbreaking held for Cherokee Cultural Grounds

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Leaders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) broke ground on the new Cherokee Cultural Grounds in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 12. The project is being built on the site of the old Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds and will include a terraced lawn amphitheater, a retractable stage, eight pavilions, picnic areas, food truck access, walking paths, and a large greenspace area.

see **GROUNDS** page 4



Leaders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) broke ground on the new Cherokee Cultural Grounds in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 12. Shown, left to right, are Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Bo Crowe, EBCI Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Michael Smoker, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Venita Wolfe, Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle, Taline Ugvwiyu (Vice Chief) Alan B. Ensley, Dinilawigi Taline Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Vice Chairman) David Wolfe, and Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)



Visit <https://theonefeather.com/links/>
For cultural links, tourism links,
and EBCI tribal program/entity links

"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"





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

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

Advertise your item in the Cherokee One Feather classifieds. All items under \$25,000 are **FREE** of charge. Send your listing - up to 30 words - to Dawn Arneach at dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov or Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com.



Quote of the Week

"We all carry a lot of memories here...I'm excited, more than any other project that we have on the agenda, for this project because this is ours. These grounds are ours."

Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks speaking at the groundbreaking for the Cherokee Cultural Grounds on Monday, Jan. 12

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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GROUNDS: From front page

EBCI Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Mitchell Hicks told the crowd on Monday, “We all carry a lot of memories here...I’m excited, more than any other project that we have on the agenda, for this project because this is ours. These grounds are ours. I was doing research on some of the resolutions that were touched on in the past - in the Crowe administration, or Chief Taylor when he was Chairman. It was all about making these grounds the best that we can make them for our people so that we can utilize them for cultural purpose, for ceremonial purpose, the fairgrounds. All these things were part of that intent. I’m just glad that we’re able to bring this project into fruition over the next several months.”

He added, “As I was coming back into office and listening to the sound of the people, this was the number one request - get these grounds back in order. Because, that’s who we are. That’s what they’re about. We need to make sure that we leave these future generations these grounds to continue the Cherokee way.”

EBCI Taline Ugwiyu (Vice Chief) Alan B. Ensley said, “It’s a great day. As a tribal leader, I’ve been through a lot of projects over the years. Like the Chief said, when we got into office this was the number one priority. The previous Ceremonial Grounds had stayed in place for 20 or 30 years...a lot of good memories on all the different fairgrounds that we’ve had here.”



The site for the new Cherokee Cultural Grounds is shown on the shadowy afternoon of Monday, Jan. 12. Work is set to start on the site on Monday, Jan. 19.

The project is slated to start on Monday, Jan. 19 and will be completed by the spring or summer 2027.

EBCI Secretary of Commerce Sean Ross said, “This space is about the community. Every bit of the strategy that we put together is to build something that is directly related to attend to the needs of our people.”

He spoke to the name of the project – Cherokee Cultural Grounds – noting, “The question came up months ago, ‘what type of ceremonies are you going to do there?’ So, we thought as a group, ceremonial is very, very confining. Not everything that we do as a people here is ceremonial. But,

everything that we do as EBCI members is cultural. It’s inherent in everything that we do from day to day. So, we want to celebrate that.”

Becky Bowe, EBCI Project Management manager, said, “We’re just really excited to share this with the community. All these old, great memories that you all have been sharing here today, we hope that’s just a stepping-stone and we get to create new ones as we move forward.”

She went on to say, “You’re going to see this site change very quickly. We hope to share this and open this for you all next spring/summer of 2027. Some of the old features that were here before

we’re going to bring back - just kind of a modern, new twist on it - with an amphitheater. We’ll have two restrooms/storage facilities on each side of the site. That way, it will make it more convenient for the community as they’re here for events.”

Dan McCoy, an EBCI tribal elder and retired long-time Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman), told several stories and his memories of the grounds. “I appreciated the communion that we had here, and the fellowship, and all the years that we had on this field here. I listened to a lot of stories from the elders.”

Police Commission holds January meeting

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The Cherokee Police Commission held their monthly meeting in the GINGER Lynn Welch building on the afternoon of Jan. 13. Chairperson Anita Lossiah called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Commissioner Israel Rodriguez led roll call. Commissioners in attendance were Rick Queen (Wayohi, Wolfstown), Treasurer Kym Parker (At-Large), Hillary Norville (Tutiya, Snowbird & Tsalagi Gadugi, Cherokee Co.), Chairperson Anita Lossiah (Elawodi, Yellowhill). Secretary Israel Rodriguez (At-Large), and Vice Chairperson Gene Tunney Crowe

(Tsisqwohi, Birdtown) Regina Rosario (Aniwodihi, Painttown) and Joseph Buddy Johnson (Kolanvyi, Big Cove) had an excused absence.

The agenda was approved with a motion by Parker seconded by Crowe. The previous meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Crowe seconded by Queen. Guests in attendance were Cherokee Indian Police Department (CIPD) Chief of Police Carla Neadeau, Tribal Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) Agent Norman "Binky" Reed, CIPD Attorney Cody White, and One Feather Reporter Brooklyn Brown.

Chief Neadeau provided the monthly CIPD report. Neadeau shared that Charlene Otter retired

in December after over 20 years of service as a receptionist for CIPD. The commission approved the report with a motion by Crowe seconded by Parker.

Agent Reed provided the ALE report. Reed shared that ALE taught 200 alcohol education classes in 2025. He stated that ALE has been busy with inspections at Harrah's Cherokee Casino properties and other establishments.

Reed shared that the Tribal Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABC) has suspended the alcohol permit for Snags, a local bar, due to alleged overserving. This led to a discussion among the Police Commission regarding local establishments and the need

for surveillance equipment. The Police Commission unanimously approved a motion by Parker seconded by Crowe to forward a recommendation to Tribal ABC suggesting that working surveillance be a required regulation for obtaining permits. The ALE report was accepted with a motion by Crowe seconded by Queen.

The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m. with a motion by Parker seconded by Crowe.

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Child: 828-736-9797



A total of 290 solar panels have been installed in a project at New Kituwah Academy in Cherokee, N.C. The project, which will power around 40 percent of the school, was funded through an EPA Climate Protection Reduction Grant. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

A bright future

Solar project up and running at New Kituwah Academy

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Participants in the conservation club at New Kituwah Academy, known as Judaculla’s Kids, recently made history. The students flipped a switch on a solar power system for the school that will provide nearly half of the power for the school and have

positive ramifications for decades.

Funding for this project came from an almost \$5 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. In addition to the 121-kilowatt solar array at New Kituwah Academy, this grant funding will also help build an upcoming 52-kilowatt array at the Tribal Council House and TOP Building. This funding previously helped purchase 15 electric school buses for the Cherokee Boys Club fleet as well as build a 400-kilowatt solar microgrid and charging stations for that fleet.

Katie Tiger is now a program director at the Center for Native Health, but she helped secure the grant for the EBCI in her previous position as EBCI Air Quality program supervisor. “This

was very important to me because we’ve been working on it since probably 2020, since the pandemic - thinking about this. We need to have an example for the community. People need to start seeing this in the community and how easy it is.”

She added, “It’s important for the kids. Think about what that does for them as they come to school every day and see this on their school. And, they understand what’s happening with these solar panels and that they’re providing electricity...this is essentially what we want them to teach their parents, their siblings, about conservation and why alternative energy and stuff like this is important.”

Kylie Crowe Shuler, New Kituwah Acad-

emy superintendent, said, “New Kituwah Academy is proud to be among the first EBCI facilities to have solar panels installed on our building. We were grateful for the opportunity to participate in this grant, and we look forward to seeing the positive outcomes the solar panels will bring to our campus.”

Crystal Carpenter, New Kituwah Academy principal, is very excited about the project. “I think the amazing thing for us is, one important aspect that we try to teach our students every day is their connection with their environment and how important it is to take care of it. I think the best way to teach that is to show as an example of what we’re doing within the community to be able to be a leader in preserving the resources around us. So, I think, in my opinion, the best way to teach

students is to be an example for what you’re trying to teach them. So, having this visible and there and showing that we’re making an effort to protect the resources around us is a good example for our students to continue to do the same thing.”

She sees this project as having long-term positive influences on the students. “I also believe that the students that we serve now within the community here and at other schools will be the leaders in the community in the future. So, these students will be the ones guiding the future of the Tribe and the community. So, just providing an example of what is important is necessary.

I think when they’re older and they’re in those leadership roles, what if they say, ‘you know, when I went to school at Kituwah, there

were these solar panels’. And they can continue that initiative for years to come. I think that’s the most powerful impact we can have.”

Carolina Mountain Solar, based in Murphy, N.C., did the installation on the project.

Stewart Senger, with Carolina Mountain Solar, noted that there are 290 solar panels on the school. “The system should cover about 40 percent of the electric bill for the school.”

He said that power can be banked which will be very helpful with the changing weather of the mountains. “Duke Energy, for many years, had a very friendly solar program for people throughout North Carolina. It was basically a one-for-one exchange and that allowed you to make extra power during the day, bank it with Duke Energy, and then they would give it back to you in the evening. Or, if you made too much in the summertime and needed it in the winter, they hang onto it for up to 12 months for you and let you use it when you need it.”

Senger added, “So, say the school is closed for a week and they’re making lots of extra power, you could use it when they’re back in session. That saves a lot of money versus now, which they basically have to use it or lose it.”

He said the entire system is very durable. “The solar panels are incredibly stable because

they’re really just glass, aluminum, and silicone. So, there’s not much to go wrong with them. The warranties on those are 20 years. The life expectancy on them is 30-40. Realistically, they may continue to work way beyond that...the inverters themselves, that’s usually the thing that is the most sensitive because, obviously, that’s electronics. They, though, have a 10-year warranty. So, still fairly long - longer than most cars. And they have a life span of 12-15 years.”

The weather does have an affect on the power output, but it might not be what you expect. Senger noted, “The colder it is, the higher the voltage, specifically. Cold and bright is the very best production. So, the solar panels really like really cold, really bright days. That’s when we oftentimes see our system hit its absolute maximum. It can make about 20 percent more when it’s really, really cold.”

Darius West will be the person at New Kituwah Academy responsible for managing the solar system. The back of the building has a grouping of eight inverters. “They convert the power that the panels bring in to the power that the building can use.”

He said the system is easy to work with. “It has small hiccups but they’re easy to reset...it’s pretty simple. We haven’t had any issues. So far, so good.”

PUBLIC NOTICE AND TESTIMONY

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

Confirmation hearing for Cruz Galaviz to the Kituwah, LLC Board

Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 9 a.m.
Tribal Council Chambers;
Cherokee, N.C.

These hearings are open to the public, and Tribal Council invites public testimony only in accordance with Cherokee Code Chapter 117, Article III-A.

Anonymous comments will not be accepted.

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

The final date for public comment will be Tuesday, Jan. 27.



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

@CherokeeOneFeather on YouTube

Cherokee School Board holds January meeting

By BROOKLYN BROWN
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The School Board of Cherokee Central Schools (CCS) met on Monday, Jan. 12 in the Central Office Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Thompson at 4:51 p.m.

Co-Vice Chairperson Melanie Lambert led roll call. Members and staff present included Jennifer Thompson, chairperson and Elawodi (Yellowhill) rep.; Tara Reed-Cooper, co-vice chairperson and Widagalinidigv (Big Y) rep.; Melanie Lambert, co-vice chairperson and Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) rep.; Roberta Toineeta, Wayohi (Wolftown) rep.; Kenny Davis, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) rep.; Dr. Beverly Payne, assistant superintendent; Consuela Girty, superintendent; Heather Driver, human resources coordinator; Diane Driver, executive administrative assistant; and Michael Stamper, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) rep. Micah Swimmer, Aniwodihhi (Painttown) rep. had an excused absence.

The opening prayer was led by Diane Driver.

The agenda was approved unanimously with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Lambert.

In response to a request from the One Feather Editorial Board, the school board voted to approve, with a motion by Toineeta seconded by Lambert, un-redacting names of employees under the consent agenda after a two-week period is given to alert former employers. Reed-Cooper voted to oppose. The consent agenda will be shared by the One Feather in two weeks.

Revisions to policies 1310-4002 Parent Involvement and 8220 Gifts and Bequests were approved with motions by Reed-Cooper seconded by Toineeta.

The board voted to move custodians under the community affairs department with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Lambert.

The board voted to approve job description updates to the Community Cultural Programming Coordinator, Cherokee Language Instructor (non-certified), Cultural Facilitator Language Coordinator (Pre-K to 12th grade), Cherokee Language Teacher, and Computer

Technician positions.

Brandi Claxton, interim Secretary of Treasury for the EBCI, and Rebecca Bowe, manager of EBCI project management, presented to the board on the 105(l) Lease Program that CCS is applying for to help fund the mold remediation. The school would receive a lease amount of \$12.6 million annually through the program. The board approved the application submission with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Stamper.

The next school board meetings are scheduled for Feb. 2 and Feb. 17 in the Central Office Board Room at 4:45p.m.

Voter info for 2026 North Carolina primary elections

By BROOKLYN BROWN
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C.— Below is voter information for the upcoming North Carolina primary elections that include county elections for the five counties that encompass the Qualla Boundary of

the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Graham, and Cherokee Co.).

Important dates and deadlines for the 2026 primary election in North Carolina:

- Jan. 12: County boards of elections begin mailing absentee ballots to eligible voters who submitted an absentee ballot request form.
- Feb. 6: Voter registration deadline (5 p.m.).
- Feb. 12: In-person early voting begins.
- Feb. 17: Absentee ballot request deadline (5 p.m.).
- Feb. 28: In-person early voting ends (3 p.m.).
- March 3: Primary Election Day.
- March 3: Absentee ballot return deadline (7:30 p.m.).

The primary election is March 3, and the general election is Nov. 3. Learn how to register at <https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering/how-register>. Check to see if you are registered or need to update your registration at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>. A valid photo ID is required at the polls. Tribal enrollment cards are valid. Learn more about valid IDs <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id>.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tribal Realty	Infrastructure Dept.	Housing Services	Timber Permits
Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913	Denny Ensley: (828) 359-6841	Michelle Stamper: (828) 359-6904	Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913
Kaila Cucumber: (828) 359-7442	Sarah Crowe: (828) 359-6121	Misty Milsaps: (828) 359-6919	
Renee Long-Cole: (828) 359-6971	Nekyle Lossiah: (828) 359-6839	Tina Larch: (828) 359-6912	
	Joel Queen: (828) 359-6844		

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, 2025 by Rep. Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann (R-Tenn.)

Action: This bill was passed in the House by a voice vote on Feb. 4, 2025. 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, 2025 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, 2025. It was reported without amendment by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs chairperson, on July 31, 2025. 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, 2025 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 on March 27, 2025. 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, 2025 by Rep. Donald G. Davis (D-N.C.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 17, 2025.

There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 3255. (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025).

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

Introduced: May 7, 2025 by Rep. Hillar J. Scholten (D-Mich.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 7, 2025. 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, 2025 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, 2025, and a hearing was held in that subcommittee on June 10, 2025.

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, 2025 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 on Jun 11, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture on June 12, 2025. 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, 2025 by Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-Mich.)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 25, 2025. 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, 2025 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, 2025. This bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, and a hearing was held in that Subcommittee on Nov. 19, 2025.

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, 2025 by Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-Maine)

Action: This will was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on July 8, 2025. 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, 2025 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, 2025, and a hearing was held on this legislation in the subcommittee on Sept. 9, 2025.

H.R. 4596 (McCarran-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, 2025 by Rep. Timothy M. Kennedy (D-New York)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 22, 2025. 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, 2025 by Rep. Eugene Simon Vindman (D-Va.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural

Resources on July 23, 2025. 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, 2025 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, 2025. 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, 2025 by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 24, 2025. 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, 2025 by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 31, 2025. 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, 2025 by Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 31, 2025. 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,

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

and ages; and Black and American Indian or Alaskan Native populations are more likely to die from a drug overdose than their White counterparts”.

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

Introduced: Aug. 29, 2025 by Rep. Lori Trahan (D-Mass.)

Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Aug. 29, 2025. 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, 2025 by Rep. Jennifer A. Kiggans (R-Va.)

Action: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 4, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

Introduced: Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) on Sept. 10, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 10, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

Introduced: Rep. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-Va.) on Sept. 11, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 11, 2025. 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, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on Sept. 17, 2025.

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 appropriate “\$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, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Sept. 18, 2025.

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, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Oct. 10, 2025. 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, 2025

Action: This resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Oct. 14, 2025. 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, 2025

Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 14, 2025. 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, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on Oct. 23, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press

time.

H.R. 5820 (Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe Recognition Act). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe of California and Nevada, a group based in Lee Vining, Calif. Introduced: Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.) on Oct. 24, 2025. Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 24, 2025. 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, 2025. Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Oct. 28, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5910 (To authorize leases of up to 99 years for land

held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes). As stated in the title, this House bill would amend 69 Stat. 539, Chapter 615, 25 U.S.C. 514(a) to authorize such leases.

Introduced: Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (R-Wyo.) on Nov. 4, 2025. Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 4, 2025. 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, 2025. Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on Nov. 20, 2025. 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, 2025. Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce on Nov. 21, 2025. 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, 2025. Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 20, 2025. 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/>

www.budd.senate.gov/contact/
11th District Congressional Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-N.C.): <https://edwards.house.gov/contact>



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Name the Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher, known as "The Heater From Van Meter," who had his No. 19 retired by the Cleveland Indians in 1956.
2. What U.S. city was awarded the 1976 Winter Olympics but then had to back out after voters rejected using state tax revenues to support the Games in a 1972 referendum?
3. Florida-based sports radio personality and podcaster Jon Weiner is better known by what professional name?
4. How old was Julia Hawkins when she became the first female runner in her age category to record a time in the 100-meter sprint when she ran at the 2021 Louisiana Senior Games?
5. What Hockey Hall of Famer for the Chicago Blackhawks had a brief, uncredited cameo in the 1992 comedy movie "Wayne's World"?
6. In November 1988, which Canadian boxer did Sugar Ray Leonard defeat to win the WBC light heavyweight championship?
7. On Nov. 13, 1934, the St. Louis Eagles' Ralph "Scotty" Bowman became the first player in NHL history to do what?

Answers

1. Bob Feller.
2. Denver.
3. Stugotz.
4. 105 (her time was 1:02.95).
5. Stan Mikita.
6. Donny Lalonde.
7. Score a penalty shot goal.

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**Cherokee Tribal Court
Disposition Summary
for Dec. 1-31, 2025**

Submitted by Cherokee Tribal Court

Note: The following cases were disposed of in Cherokee Tribal Court during the time period of Dec. 1-31, 2025. The date of each offense is in parenthesis.

Arkansas-Bradley, Errika L.
- Second Degree Trespass (Sept. 6, 2025). Guilty.
- Public Intoxication (June 14, 2025). Guilty. 90 days suspended, 180 days unsupervised probation, special condition of probation serve 14 days, credit for 14 days served.

Armachain Jr., Phillip S.
- Probation Revocation (May 9,

2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (May 3, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Bell, Kyrus Z.
- Providing Alcoholic Beverages to/Possession of/Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages by/Persons under 21 Years Old (Sept. 19, 2025). Guilty. 6 months unsupervised probation, 72 hours community service.

Bird, Sydney A.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V)

(Jan. 14, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Trafficking (March 25, 2025). Guilty.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Jan. 14, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Trafficking (Jan. 14, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Jan. 14, 2025). Guilty. 18 months, credit for 142 days served, date of release Jan. 18, 2027.

Bird, Regina D.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Nov. 11, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (March 7, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 49 days served, release to Wellness Court.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (March 7, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) (March 7, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Bradley, Joseph
- Public Intoxication (Oct. 3, 2025). Guilty. 10 days suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Bradley, Keanan S.
- (T) Reckless Driving to Endanger (Nov. 13, 2025). Guilty/Responsible. Amended to unsafe movement, prayer for judgement continued.

Brady, William J.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (May 8, 2025). Guilty.
- Weapons Offense (May 8, 2025). Guilty.
- Communicating Threats (May 8,

2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended. 12 months supervised probation.

Brady, David S.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) *July 17, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for four days served, sentence suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Bryson, Sally J.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 19, 2025). Dismissed with leave

Bustos, John D.
- No Operator's License (May 30, 2025). Guilty/responsible.

Cabrera-Davis, Victoria I.
- Take Away the Vehicle Keys of the Victim (March 13, 2025). Guilty.
- Misd. Larceny (March 13, 2025). Guilty.
- Providing Alcoholic Beverages to/Possession of/Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages by/Persons under 21 Years Old (April 10, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 6 months supervised probation.

Caley Jr., William G.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (June 20, 2025). Alford Plea.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (June 20, 2025). Alford Plea. 24 months, suspended, 18 months supervised probation.

Calonaheskie, Anthony B.
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (Feb. 18, 2023). Guilty.
- Aggravated Reckless Endangerment (Feb. 18, 2023). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Feb. 21, 2025). Guilty. 12 months electronic home confinement, date of

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Collins, Samantha J.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Dec. 6, 2025). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 25, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Conseen, Carrie L.

- Probation Revocation (Oct. 14, 2025). Admitted. Supervised probation until 7/21/26.

Crowe-Key, Feather L.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (April 30, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, supervised probation extended to 7/10/28.

- Probation Revocation (May 5, 2025). Admitted.

- Probation Revocation (April 30, 2025). Admitted.

Crowe, Billy J.

- Public Intoxication (June 20, 2025). Guilty.

- Public Intoxication (Oct. 7, 2025). Guilty. 10 days suspended, 3 months unsupervised probation.

- Probation Revocation (Oct. 7, 2025). Admitted.

Donahue, Tracey A.

- Disorderly Conduct (Oct. 3, 2025). Guilty. 1 day, credit for 1 day.

Ellington, Phillip S.

- Obstructing Government Functions (Aug. 31, 2025). Guilty. 30 days, 6 months unsupervised.

George, Kelcie C.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 31, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's

failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 31, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

George, Elizabeth S.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 24, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Hebenstreit, Donovan

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (June 22, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (June 11, 2025). Dismissed at the request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Henry, Andrew J.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (June 4, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (Oct. 2, 2025). Guilty. 63 days, credit for 63 days served.

Hill, Steven R.

- Disorderly Conduct (Dec. 29, 2025). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Dec. 29, 2025). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

Janes, Jesse L.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Dec. 5, 2025). Guilty.

30 days, suspended, 6 months unsupervised probation.

Johnson, Brandi N.

- Second Degree Trespass (July 23, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 1 day served, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

- Larceny (July 23, 2025). PJC.

Jones, Dustin C.

- Second Degree Trespass (Nov. 5, 2023). Guilty.

- Larceny (Jan. 2, 2024). Guilty.

- Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle (Jan. 2, 2024). Guilty.

- Disorderly Conduct (June 14, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public (June 14, 2024). Guilty. 365 days, credit for 365 days served.

- Criminal Mischief to Property (Jan. 2, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Grand Larceny (Jan. 2, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

Kalonaheskie Jr., Jeremy D.

- No Operator's License (May 11, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Ledford III, Noah

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 10, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Littlejohn, Emery L.

- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (June 1, 2023). Dismissed.

- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Aug. 5, 2023). Dismissed.

Littlejohn, Michael

- Probation Revocation (Sept. 7, 2025). Admitted.

- Interference with a Criminal Process (Sept. 7, 2025). Guilty.

- Second Degree Trespass (Aug. 3, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation, special condition of probation serve 100 days, credit for 93 days served.

Lossiah, Joshua B.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Feb. 23, 2022). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Feb. 15, 2022). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Lunsford, Cameron D.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (June 18, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Maney, Jenny R.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 31, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

McCoy, John H.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Dec. 1, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Medford, Graham A.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 24, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Miles, Christopher A.

- DWLR (Nov. 6, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

see **COURT REPORT** next page

COURT REPORT: From page 15

Morris, George A.

- Harassment (June 11, 2025).
Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Palomo, Tiffany

- Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public (Sept. 2, 2025). Guilty. 1 day, credit for 1 day served.

Parton, Anna E.

- Tampering with Evidence (May 5, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (May 5, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (May 5, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation, special con-

dition of probation serve 90 days, credit for 90 days served.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (May 5, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Feb. 3, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Feb. 3, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Phan, Tien

- Second Degree Trespass (April 29, 2025). Alford Plea. 6 months, suspended, 6 months unsupervised probation.

Powers, Shannon B.

- Public Intoxication (Oct. 9, 2024). Guilty. 1 day, credit for 1 day served.

Price, Colby T.

- Probation Revocation (June 1, 2022). Dismissed per plea.

Roberts, Tony D.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (March 16, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 16, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 86 days served, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Robinson, Denerio R.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Sept. 11, 2025). Guilty. 90 days, credit for 7 days served, suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation.

Saine, Angelica C.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Nov. 5, 2024). Dismissed per plea.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (April 13, 2024). Dismissed per plea.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 13, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

Smith, Luke J.

- Providing Alcoholic Beverages to/Possession of/Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages by/Persons under 21 Years Old (July 8, 2025). Guilty. 6 months supervised probation, 72 hours community service.

Smith, Anthony K.

- Unsafe Passing Yellow Line (Nov. 30, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Standingdeer, Shena D.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 23, 2025) Dismissed per plea.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Court Order (Dec. 1, 2024). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 24 months supervised probation, special condition of probation serve 90 days, runs concurrently with current sentence. Date of release 7/10/26.

Sutton, Katrina

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (May 2, 2025). Dismissed with leave.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (May 2, 2025). Dismissed with leave.

Sutton Jr., John T.

- Assault on a Female (Aug. 20, 2025). Guilty. 90 days suspended, 18 months supervised probation.
- Probation Revocation (Sept. 5, 2025). Admitted.

Taylor, Taylor N.

- Probation Revocation (Aug. 28, 2024). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (Aug. 2, 2024). Admitted. 9 months. Date of release 9/16/26.

Taylor, Jason S.

- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Sept. 9, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, 18 months supervised.
- Probation Revocation (Sept. 9, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (Sept. 9, 2025). Admitted.

Teesateskie, Albert I.

- Speed in Excess of 35 mph (Nov. 17, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Wade, Jason L.

- Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (Aug. 1, 2025). Dismissed due to no labs and/or discovery provided.

Walkingstick, Louiza G.

- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) (June 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) June 4,

Breaking News & Alerts

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2025). Guilty. 24 months, transfer to Wellness Court.

Watty, Irene P.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty.

12 months, credit for 54 days, suspended. 18 months supervised probation, runs concurrent with other judgements.

Welch Jr., James M.

- Disorderly Conduct (Sept. 5, 2025). Guilty.

- Assault on a Female (Oct. 18, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended. 12 months supervised probation, special condition of probation serve 33 days. Credit for 33 days served.

- Indecent Exposure (Sept. 5, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Domestic Violence and Dating

Violence (Oct. 18, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Williams, Becky R.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 23, 2024). Dismissed upon further investigation.

Williams, Savetta R.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Oct. 9, 2025). Guilty.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 9, 2025). Guilty.

- Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public (Oct. 9, 2025). Guilty.

- Public Intoxication (Oct. 3, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 24 months supervised probation.

CIPD Arrest Report for Jan. 5-11, 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.

Lambert, Trevan Holden – age 20

Arrested: Jan. 6

Released: Jan. 9

Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Burgess, Samantha Loise – age 34

Arrested: Jan. 7

Released: Jan. 7

Charges: Probation Violation

Climbingbear Jr., Henderson – age 77

Arrested: Jan. 7

Released: Jan. 7

Charges: Driving While Impaired

Hill, Taleika Nicole – age 42

Arrested: Jan. 7

Released: Jan. 9

Charges: Probation Violation

Huskey, Justin Ryan – age 38

Arrested: Jan. 8

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 12)

Charges: Possession of Firearms by Felon, Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule 3, Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedule 2

Sneed, Samuel Otter – age 24

Arrested: Jan. 8

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 12)

Charges: Probation Violation, Assault Inflicting Serious Injury

Sutton, Stevi – age 30

Arrested: Jan. 8

Released: Jan. 11

Charges: Violation of Domestic Violence Protection Order

Taylor, Johnson Lee – age 57

Arrested: Jan. 8

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 12)

Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury, Maiming

Bigmeat, Matthew Daniel – age 51

Arrested: Jan. 9

Released: Jan. 9

Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Murphy, Leslie Michelle – age 33

Arrested: Jan. 9

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 12)

Charges: Child Abuse in the First Degree (four counts), Sexual Abuse of a Minor or a Ward (four counts), Abusive Sexual Contact (four counts)

Lossiah, Jessica T. – age 38

Arrested: Jan. 10

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 12)

Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia, Drug Trafficking, Providing or Possessing Contraband

Rice, Daniel – age 50

Arrested: Jan. 10

Released: Jan. 10

Charges: Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Davis IV, William Tosh – age 25

Arrested: Jan. 11

Released: Jan. 11

Charges: Driving While Impaired

Reed, Seth Payton – age 33

Arrested: Jan. 11

Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 12)

Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

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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 excepting 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**

Halloween Script Contest

Submit by March 1. Cherokee Historical Association is looking for a new haunted house script to use for Legendary Fears 2026. Should be suitable for outdoor venue and approximately 10 scare actors. Preference will be given to scripts by Indigenous authors and subject related to Cherokee culture. Info: Chelsey@CherokeeAdventure.com

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Board Members of the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund,

Thank you for your continued support of my graduate studies. The generosity of the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship has empowered me to remain focused on my coursework and doctoral research at the University of Georgia, a gift for which I am truly grateful.

Your investment in my academic journey strengthens my commitment to advancing research that uplifts our communities and honors the legacy of those who paved the way for scholars like me. This support not only eases the financial demands of graduate school but also reinforces my determination to pursue work that reflects the values and priorities of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

I remain deeply committed to honoring your generosity in the years ahead by contributing to the EBCI's efforts to preserve our history, language, and culture. Knowing that you believe in my potential motivates me to work diligently toward completing my degree and ensuring that my research contributes meaningfully to my field and to issues important to our community.

Sgi for your commitment to helping students like me thrive. Your support truly makes a difference.

With sincere appreciation,
Constance Owl

Dear Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Committee members,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Committee for their generous support for the Spring 2026 semester. This scholarship continues to be both a practical and meaningful source of support, and I am deeply appreciative of the Committee's ongoing commitment to helping members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians pursue higher education.

As I continue my doctoral studies in Educational Leadership at Western Carolina University, the impact of this assistance is felt

in very real ways. With the rising costs of everyday necessities such as food and gasoline, the Yogi Crowe Scholarship helps offset those increases and reduces the stress that can accompany them. This is especially important as I attend extended weekend class sessions that require travel and additional expenses beyond traditional coursework.

The scholarship also allows me to maintain focus as I move through the writing and revision process of my disquisition. At times, strengthening this work requires unexpected resource purchases or participation in targeted professional development opportunities that emerge as the research evolves. Having financial flexibility ensures that I can respond to these needs thoughtfully and continue producing work that is both rigorous and meaningful. In addition, this support gives me the opportunity to share my work across other professional spaces and to gain valuable feedback from Indigenous researchers and professionals at the regional, state, and national levels. These conversations strengthen the quality of the work and ensure it remains grounded in Indigenous perspectives.

I am grateful not only for the support I have received, but also for the opportunity it creates to give back. It is my hope to one day contribute to this fund and support future EBCI learners as they pursue their own educational goals.

With sincere appreciation,
Consuela B. Girty

Thank you Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship

I would like to thank the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Committee for

their continued support during my spring semester at Western Carolina University. As I continue my graduate studies, the support of the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Committee provides motivation and reassurance during a demanding season of learning. The Yogi Crowe Scholarship reflects the value our community places on education, service, and lifelong learning. I am deeply grateful to be supported by a program that believes in these principles and invests in individuals striving to grow and give back. This encouragement serves as a meaningful reminder that education is a shared effort, strengthened through community support and generosity.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Martens



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

@Cherokee OneFeather on YouTube

Beginning Cherokee



tsulsuhwida COLORS

Wili Usdi: kag iyusdi tsatsi, Eli?
Who is your mother, Eli?

Eli: Sami Uwodige'i dudo'a
Her name is Samantha Brown

Wili Usdi: hi'asg utseli dagwalela?
Is this her car?

Eli: Do usidi?
Which one?

Wili Usdi: Hi'a utana dalonige'i
This big yellow one

Eli: Hadi. Gesdi utseli yigi.
No, it's not hers.

Wili Usdi: Do iyusdi ulsuhwida dagwalela utseli?
What color is her car?

Eli: Gigage'i uha
She has a red one

OBJECTS

ahnawo shirt, cloth
ohla soap
alasulo shoe
ganisi bed
asano dress
gasilo chair
asulo pants
atelido dish, plate

COLORS tsulsuhwida

uwodige'i brown
unega white
gigage'i red
gvhnage'i black
sakonige'i blue
dalonige'i yellow
itse'i green
uwetige'i purple

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE - atseli

agwatseli'i dagwalela my car
tsatseli'i dagwalela your car
utsele'i dagwalela his/her car
digwatseli'i dagwalela my cars
ditsatseli'i dagwalela your cars
tsutseli'i dagwalela his/her cars

Write three short dialogs about your relative's possessions.

kag iyusdi utseli hi'a gigage'i gasgilo?
Whose red chair is this?

agidoda utseli'i
It's my father's

Follow the qr code to
hear
Tulsuhwida Colors



Spoken by the late
Garfield Axe-Long

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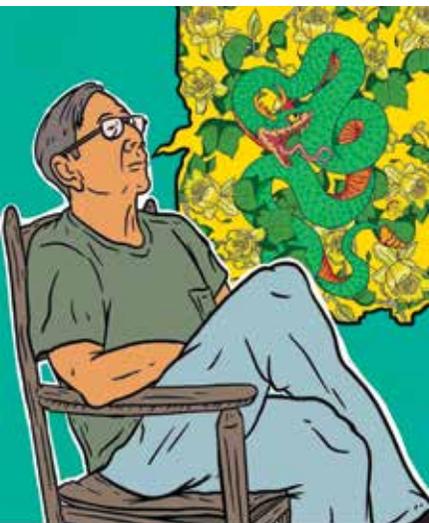
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Donald Lee "Kanogsdaya" Swimmer

Donald Lee "Kanogsdaya" Swimmer, 70, of Cherokee, N.C., took his heavenly flight on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 to reunite with his parents, Luke and Amanda Sequoyah Swimmer; and his sib-

lings, Mary Ellen Wolfe, Johnny, Ronald, Herbert, and McKinley Swimmer.

He is survived by his children, Heather (Brent), Shannon (Kevin), Micah (Carrah), Luke (Tabytha), Jakeli (Skye), and John (Dre); grandchildren, Bradley, Aniyah, Osti, Naomi, Elijah, Dvdaya, Tsula, Ogana, Yona-Uweluga, Kenyon, Khayton (Bubs), Luka, Jhett, Bodhi, Natalie, Finnley, Onie, Otis, Weston, Tyrus, Oden, Pwe, and one on the way; and great-grandchildren, Hendrix, Juni, Amelia Ruth, Luca, and Eleanor. His siblings, Marilyn, Bert, Flora, and Merina also survive him.

Don was a master potter, an oral historian, and had wide knowledge of traditional plants and medicines. He had many careers and experiences. He was a police officer, dispatcher, security guard, truck driver, and a cultural artisan.

He will be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor, and his many entertaining stories that never failed to make you laugh. He took pride in his family and was a beloved son, brother, father, and grandfather.

Don was taken to Straight Fork Baptist Church Wednesday, Jan. 14 by Crisp Funeral Home and remained at the church until the funeral service Thursday, Jan. 15. Burial followed in the Sequoyah/Swimmer family cemetery. Pallbearers were his grandsons.

Honorary pallbearers were Jody Saunooke, Jerry Swimmer, Manuel Watty, Eddie Swimmer, Stephan Swimmer, and Kyle Swimmer.

Viola Lane

Viola Lane, age 72 of Robbinsville, N.C., went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, at Cherokee Hospital.

She was a native of Graham

County and the daughter of the late Mose and Callie Hornbuckle Wachacha.

She is survived by her daughters, Michelle Geyer (Wayne), Jackie Lane, Celina Lane all of Robbinsville, N.C.; brother, Herbert Wachacha of Cherokee, N.C., and sisters, Roxanne Thobaben of Bryson City, N.C. and Onita Bush of Robbinsville, N.C. She is also survived by four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held Sunday, Jan. 18 at Buffalo Baptist Church. Reverend Scotty Chekelelee officiated. Burial followed the service at Mountain Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

Townson-Smith Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Lane family.

John Wesley Raby "John Bug"

John Wesley Raby "John Bug", 40, of the Wolfstown Community passed away on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026.

John Bug is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Ted and Evelyn Raby; maternal grandparents, Boyd and Helen Jackson;

John's mother, Lawanda Jackson Raby "Sue"; and his brother, Justin Raby "Jarvis". John is survived by his father, Jerry Raby (Missy); his life partner, Hannah Calhoun; and his son, Kyler Crowe. Several aunts and uncles also survive.

John Bug was an avid sports fan. He was a life-time fan of the Cherokee Braves and the Dallas Cowboys. John also enjoyed bass fishing.

John Bug knew that life was meant to be shared. He found great joy in being surrounded by family and friends. He loved being a dad. Kyler bought him great joy. His laughter and smile could fill a room. He had a sense of humor and a very quick wit. John Bug will be dearly missed.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19 at Crisp Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Eddie Stillwell will officiate. Following the service John will be laid beside his mom and brother at Sherrill Cemetery Whittier, N.C.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Monday at the Funeral Home.

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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.

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census.gov/2026test



Local jobs are available in the test site areas.

Apply today at census.gov/2026jobs.

COMMENTARY

Tribal politics is not rocket science, but you do have to pay attention

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

Assistant Editor Scott McKie Brings Plenty wrote a series of articles titled “EBCI Government Explained,” in which he provided some down-to-earth explanations of the functions of our government. Scott provided some great reporting on specific topics of tribal governance, and they are well worth the read if you have the time and energy to track those down in our archive of news stories.

We are governed through a document called “The Charter.” Like a constitution, it provides the broad stroke parameters of governmental function for our tribe. Unlike a constitution, the Charter has little language in it regarding the civil rights of the people who are governed. Granted, the Charter does imply the people’s right to vote and some mechanisms for ensuring proper weighted voting for elected officials relative to the community to which each voting member is attached.

The bad news is that for the last several election cycles, the part of the Charter that directs the government to perform a tribal census to determine proper Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) seat weights has been neglected.

From the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Charter and Governing Document, “Section 19. In order to provide equal repre-

sentation to all members of the Eastern Band, the members of the Tribal Council shall, in their deliberations, cast votes on a weighted basis, with the weight of each vote determined by each Council member. A tribal census, for the purposes of determining the weight of the votes to be cast by each Tribal Council member, shall be conducted prior to the 1981 tribal election and prior to the election each ten years thereafter to determine the number of enrolled tribal members residing in each township. After the regular 1981 tribal election and each ten years thereafter, the Tribal Council, at its first regular meeting, shall determine the total number of votes to be cast in the Tribal Council and shall allot a voting authority to each Council member. The voting weight allotted to each Council member shall be determined by computing the mathematical ratio, fraction or proportion that exists between the number of enrolled tribal members residing in each township and the total number of enrolled tribal members.”

You may see the entirety of publicized tribal law by going to www.Municode.com.

In theory, not having a census that accurately establishes the legitimate basis for conducting an election of tribal officials would nullify any election after the decade for census had lapsed without one. And, hypothetically, if you don’t have properly elected officials with legitimately weighted seats, then law transacted by the body politic might be invalid as well. A valiant effort was made in 2023, in that the government authorized a “census” through resolution, crafting the language to address the issue of not having the Charter-prescribed census. But

the census fell short of the intended goal, which was to bring the tribe back into compliance with Charter law.

In the official results of the “EBCI Census 2023” there is no mention of the number of respondents to the survey, although the tribal policy analyst indicated in later interviews that 56 percent of the 11,513 “adult members” took the poll (even allowing electronic responses and offering \$100 per respondent in return for a response).

The EBCI Census 2023 did manage to ask relevant health and safety of the community questions but failed to provide a legitimate count for the purposes of bringing our tribe back into balance in the weighted seats of governance, and back into lawful adherence to Section 19 of the Charter and Governing Document.

One slide (the “census” was presented to the public in a PowerPoint slideshow format) did get close with a slide asking, “In which township are you registered to vote?” 27.05 percent responded that they were not registered; 19.92 percent said Tsisqwohi (Birdtown), 17.45 percent said Wayohi (Wolftown), 9.35 percent Aniwodihhi (Painttown), 9.07 percent Elawodi (Yellowhill), 8.81 percent Tsalagi Gadugi/Tutiya (Cherokee County/Snowbird), and 8.34 percent Kolanvyi (Big Cove). Just as a reminder, Cherokee Code law currently puts those weights at 24 percent for Tsisqwohi seats (12 percent each), 24 percent for Wayohi seats (12 percent each), 12 percent Aniwodihhi seats (6 percent each), 14 percent for Elawodi seats (7 percent each), 12 percent for Tsalagi Gadugi/Tutiya seats (6 percent each), and 14 percent for Kolanvyi seats (7 percent each).

To date, there has been no resolution or ordinance change put before the Dinilawigi to modify the Cherokee Code to reflect any of the results of the EBCI Census 2023. But theory and hypothesis aside, the reality is that life goes on, and unless the community perceives these conditions as critical issues, very little to nothing will ever be done about them. And as one former Dinilawigi representative conjectured to me, the complacency of the constituency might just indicate their satisfaction with the status quo. My counterargument was that another possible reason is that we, the people, have grown accustomed or apathetic to the way things are and simply don’t think something like the weighted vote being accurate is going to make enough difference in their day-to-day lives to expend energy on it. We want change, we just don’t think we can afford it.

We have been governed in a representative republic fashion for many years now. We have struggled with the concept of a democratically controlled society. Mostly, the challenge is about the balance of powers among branches and quasi-branches of government. A legislative branch is necessary for the creation of a social structure for the protection of the people. An executive branch is necessary for the implementation of that social structure for the protection of the people. And, in most democracies, including representative republics, a judicial branch is needed to maintain a system of checks and balances, or to ensure that the decisions of other branches fall within the framework of existing and acceptable law. In other words, the judicial branch would provide for the interpretation of the law and uphold a “checks and

balances” system for the protection of the people.

Separation of powers has always been a challenge in a democracy. It surely has been in our tribal system of governance. The structure of the Charter provides the Dinilawigi with broad powers of governance. Section 23 of the Charter, “The Tribal Council is hereby fully authorized and empowered to adopt laws and regulations for the general government of the Tribe, govern the management of real and personal property held by the Tribe, and direct and assign among its members thereof, homes in the Qualla Boundary and other land held by them as a Tribe, and is hereby vested with full power to enforce obedience to such laws and regulations as may be enacted.”

In one meeting during the debate about the most recent proposed constitution (2022), the legal office expressed its preference for the Charter (or at least its language) because the open-endedness of the language of the current governing documents made it easier to negotiate with businesses, governments, and other entities on issues affecting the tribe. And, since I am not a lawyer or politician, I don’t have the expertise to argue that point. Our leadership may be in a similar situation. If so, then we, the community and the government, are at the mercy of the interpretations of others, be it consultants, lobbyists, lawyers, other governments, etc. Beloved Woman Carmeleta Monteith, during the April Diniawigi session where the constitution referendum questions were approved, said, “I think that they (Council) understand that governments need constitutions, not business charters, to be the governing documents.”

So, for the community’s sake

and for the government’s sake, formalizing a third branch of government, a judicial branch, would make the most sense for our people. In recent discussions of the tribal court system, there were indications that some members of the Dinilawigi would prefer a direct ability to remove judges from their seats. It was even suggested that the Court should be treated like “other boards and committees” in that respect. This gives a possible peek into the mindset some in government have regarding the need for checks and balances and accountability. Currently, in law for the Court, there is an ethics review board consisting of the Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) and Taline Ugwiyu (Vice Chief), Chair and Vice Chair of Dinilawigi, and the President of the Community Club Council, who provide the oversight for judicial behavior. The Attorney General stated that this judicial ethics board has been in place since the court was created. He said, “I think the goal was to have a subset of both branches of government, and a representative from the community,” essentially to limit bias in the retention and release of judges.

See what I mean about paying attention? If you look at the surface, you will think everyone would be on board with having a true third-branch tribal judiciary. But doing so means a potential redistribution of power. And what has hamstrung us, in my opinion, is the timidness of both our community and government when it comes to change in the balance of powers. A referendum question, or set of questions, was approved unanimously for the people’s vote in 2021-22 by Dinilawigi on two separate occasions, ratified, and was sitting, awaiting the October election date. This referendum

vote would have allowed the community to decide on increasing the length of Dinilawigi’s term of office, staggering those terms, and implementing a term limit.

Later, in June 2023, the Dinilawigi approved another set of referendum questions that would have allowed the community to decide the merit of a proposed constitution. After six years of silence on the issue of the tribal constitution while it was being hashed out by community members, including a line-by-line review and approval process by the Community Club Council, the tribe’s legal office stepped forward to announce that the proposed constitution posed a significant threat to the well-being of the tribe. Dinilawigi, based on input from the Attorney General’s Office, disallowed all the referendum questions, and accepted a resolution to reconstitute the constitution committee and the process to include government direction and to do further investigation on how to proceed with a constitution. The referendum questions about Dinilawigi terms had been approved and sitting for nearly two years to be put before the people, but were removed at the same time as the constitution questions within a two-month span of time. Ironically, both the Dinilawigi terms and the Judiciary Branch were included in the proposed constitution.

I will admit to being a little cheeky in saying that tribal politics is not rocket science. It is not my intent to belittle the great sacrifice our tribal leaders make to serve our community. I surely don’t have any access to meetings where those high-level decisions are being hammered out. I have little doubt that our leaders are making their best efforts and consulting with knowledgeable people on

what we need to do to serve our people best. But the little doubt that I do have comes from what I don’t know. And, if you are the average enrolled member, you likely don’t know either. That could be a little. That could be a lot.

On the conclusion slide of the EBCI Census 2023 slide show, it reads, “Thank you to everyone who participated. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated and play a crucial role in ensuring our community’s needs and priorities are accurately represented. Your responses will help us allocate resources more effectively and plan for a brighter future for all EBCI members. Thank you for contributing to the strength and unity of our tribe.” Well, maybe for 56 percent of us. And the 100 bucks did come in handy.



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>

Back to work

Part 2 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

Sometimes we might wonder what motivates others to write letters and notes, clean up the messes, stand in the hot sun or cold weather, do the shopping, set up the tents, hand out the bulletins, play music, pull the cables, visit the sick or dying in the hospitals, homes, or hospices. I'm speaking of those who may never ask but do it out of love or compassion. After

they are asked, some jump in with both feet and tear into their task like a bulldog. As administrators, we sometimes want to put the brakes on their spirited zeal. It is a blessing to have a group of people dedicated to working. A lot can be done, even if it is only a small group of four or five dedicated people. God blesses whenever two or more like-minded servants are gathered together.

The others not described above pull down and quench the Spirit. They are often the ones Satan can convict to do nothing or worse; they backbite, compromise, tattle, and espouse contrary gossip to other potential workers, undermining the proposed idea or program. These displays, whatever you might call them, are church killers. Sadly, I confess to being guilty; I've been there too.

We can't forget the passive-aggressive types, either. These are the ones who were not asked to help, won't volunteer, and now impede progress with slow hands and feet or cease to show up when needed. They are hard to spot, and you might even identify with them at times in your own Christian life. It doesn't feel good to know you can identify with them sometimes.

My confession is that I love to be asked and rarely turn down a request, but I also rarely volunteer. We should aspire to be the sheeple God wants us to be when supporting our church activities. We might not fully agree with the program and may even be somewhat envious of the leaders, but we should never be the ones to quench the Spirit or slow-walk and impede the progress.

"Looking carefully lest there be any man that falleth short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby the many be defiled;" Hebrews 12:15

In other words – don't be that person. Test yourself. If you ask God to search your heart and reveal any evil or wickedness, ask forgiveness and repent. Everyone will be lifted because of it.

Lord God and Father, forgive me when I fall short of doing all I can do. Your Word in James tells us that we sin when we know we should do something and fail to do it. Convict me, Holy Spirit, when I should act but make excuses not to do what You have called me to do. Lord, take me, enlist me, Lord, to be Your hands and feet to do Your will and glorify Your name. Amen.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose
under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up...

❧ Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 ❧

Aztec Sun Stone Calendar



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Amber Waves

MOM, I'M GETTING OLDER, SO I THINK IT'S TIME WE DISCUSS MY ALLOWANCE.



I'D LIKE TO RENEGOTIATE HOW MUCH I GET FOR DOING CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE.



AFTER ALL, YOU MAY ENJOY DOING HOUSEWORK, BUT MY TIME IS VALUABLE.



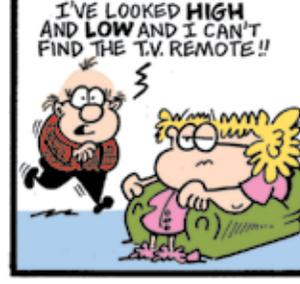
GEEZ, I GUESS THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY A "HOSTILE NEGOTIATION."



TIGER



The Spats



by BUD BLAKE

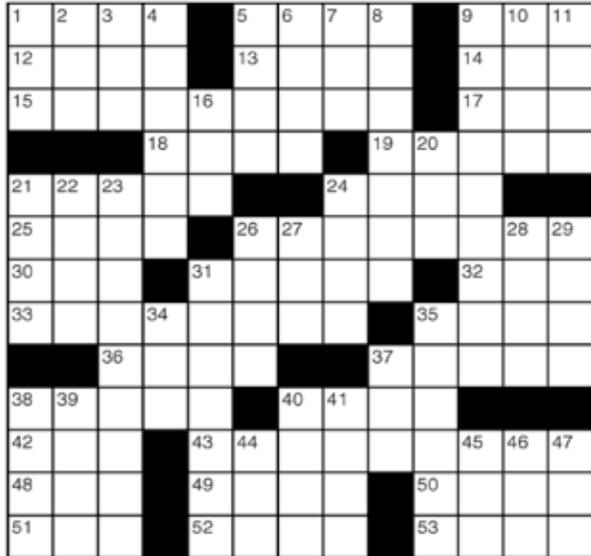
by Jeff Pickering

by GAVE T. Phipps

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Melville captain
- 5 Bottle part
- 9 Schlep
- 12 Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 13 Jai —
- 14 Navarro on "The View"
- 15 Tangy fruit pie
- 17 White wine cocktail
- 18 Night light?
- 19 Comic Chase
- 21 Prove untrue
- 24 Converse
- 25 With (Fr.)
- 26 Woo with a tune
- 30 Rule, for short
- 31 Ohio's "Rubber Capital"
- 32 Crone
- 33 Genius
- 35 Speck
- 36 Fireplace fuel
- 37 Golf great Sam
- 38 "Untrue!"
- 40 Stated
- 42 Jargon suffix
- 43 Small digit
- 48 "Caught ya!"
- 49 Leading man?
- 50 McGregor of film



- 51 Grier of "The L Word"
- 52 Really pesters
- 53 Pixels
- 8 Chef's workplace
- 9 Sierra Nevada resort
- 10 Prof's employer
- 11 Actor Sinise
- 16 Born abroad?
- 20 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 21 Biting remark
- 22 Always
- 23 Defendant's defenders
- 24 Gator's kin
- 26 Takes to the slopes
- 27 Epoch
- 28 Facts and figures
- 29 "Zounds!"
- 31 Luanda resident
- 34 Cyclades isle
- 35 Truly
- 37 Part of RSVP
- 38 Tide type
- 39 Job-safety org.
- 40 Male deer
- 41 \$ dispensers
- 44 Journalist Tarbell
- 45 Pair
- 46 Feedbag bit
- 47 USN rank

DOWN

- 1 The whole enchilada
- 2 Weed whacker
- 3 Branch
- 4 Having superhuman strength, say
- 5 Post-WWII alliance
- 6 Flair
- 7 Lot vehicle

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man is looking the other way. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Necktie is missing. 4. Tie is different. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Armrest is different.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who was the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature?
2. MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Greek gods?
3. LANGUAGE: Which language is the second most spoken in Canada?
4. HISTORY: Which explorer sailed around Africa to discover a trade route between Europe and India?
5. MOVIES: What is the name of Elle Woods' Chihuahua in "Legally Blonde"?
6. GAMES: In what year was the original Pac-Man video game released?
7. TELEVISION: What is the name of the town where "Hart of Dixie" is set?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which popular fruit has seeds on the outside?
9. MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for alopecia?
10. GEOGRAPHY: In which country are the Cliffs of Moher located?

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1. Short story author Alice Munro, 2013; 2. Mount Olympus; 3. French; 4. Vasco da Gama; 5. Bruiser; 6. 1980; 7. Bluebell, Alabama; 8. Strawberries; 9. Hair loss; 10. Ireland

EBCI Community Events

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

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.

Donation Day. Jan. 21 from 7:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. at the Dora Reed Center Multipurpose Room 897 Acquoni Rd, NC. 28719. Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, you can donate on Jan. 20. On Jan. 21 you are more than welcome to look around and take any items that you may need for FREE. Info: Sarah Beck (828) 359-3002.

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.

Childbirth Classes. Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in

the Cherokee Choices Community Room 806 Acquoni Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Info: Tricia Carver (828) 788-4401 email triccarv@ebci-nsn.gov

Cherokee Fitness Complex Elder Member Appreciation Day. Feb. 12 from 5 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Cherokee Fitness Complex 37 Cherokee Boys Club Loop Cherokee, NC. 28719. Come out, bring a friend, there will be food, door prizes, challenges, swag and demonstrations of the new recovery equipment (hydromassage beds and compression sleeves, call to reserve your time slot to try the new NORMATEC compression sleeves). Info: (828) 359-6495.

Sweetheart Market. Feb. 13 from 10a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Pam Taylor Gym 10 Old Gap Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Over 30 vendors, gifts for your sweetheart. Several varieties of food onsite. Info: Angie Garcia (828) 778-4585

Cherokee Fitness Complex Member Appreciation Day. Feb. 18 from 5 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Fitness Complex 37 Cherokee Boys Club Loop Cherokee, NC. 28719. Come out, bring a friend, there will be food, door prizes, challenges, swag and demonstrations of the new recovery equipment (hydromassage beds and compression sleeves, call to reserve your time slot to try the new NORMATEC compression sleeves). Info: (828) 359-6495.

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. 28719 Museum 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/EBCINH260228>, 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. 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 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.

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK
Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida
SŌHI ʌD RVLLEʌJ DʌʌYL



Stitch Catt
lives with
human,
Mattie Catt,
in Siliqwo
(Sylva).



Sponsored by:
CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC
828-497-3401
1100 US 441N, Whittier, NC 28789

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 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. All ages are welcome.

Qualatown 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. Qualatown 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

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although you're getting kudos and other positive reactions to your suggestions, don't let the cheers drown out some valid criticisms. It's better to deal with them now rather than later.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Following your keen Bovine intuition pays off as you not only reassess the suggestions that some people are putting in front of you but also their agendas for doing so.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You continue on a high-enthusiasm cycle as a new project that you've assumed takes shape. You're also buoyed by the anticipation of receiving some good news about a personal matter.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your eagerness to immerse yourself in your new assignment is understandable. But be careful that you don't forget to take care of a pressing personal situation as well.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to learn a new skill that could give the clever Cat an edge in an upcoming competition for workplace opportunities. On another note, enjoy the arts this weekend with someone special.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You could risk creating an impasse if you insist on expecting more from others than they're prepared to give. Showing flexibility in what you'll accept could prevent a stalemate.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although you can weigh all the

factors of a dispute to find an agreeable solution for others, you might need the skilled input of someone you trust to help you deal with an ongoing situation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The good news is that your brief period of self-doubt turns into a positive "I can do anything" attitude by midweek. The better news is that you'll soon be able to prove it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time for Sagittarians to start making travel plans while you can still select from a wide menu of choices and deals — and not be forced to settle for leftovers.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Like your zodiac sign, the sure-footed Goat, you won't allow obstacles in your path to keep you from reaching your goal. Don't be surprised by who asks to tag along with you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Let your head dominate over your heart as you consider the risks that might be involved in agreeing to be a friend's co-signer or otherwise acting as their backup in a financial matter.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Resolve to close the door and let your voicemail take your phone calls while you finish up a task before the end-of-week deadline. Then go out and enjoy a fun-filled weekend!

BORN THIS WEEK: Your capacity for care and compassion helps bring comfort to others. You could serve as a reliable foundation to many.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Thieves don't always do prison time

The reports from the VA's Office of Inspector General are mind-boggling outlines of just how low scammers will go to steal money, and just how much they are able to take. Not all of them, however, will do prison time.

A recent report indicates that one man was able to scam over \$1 billion by creating fake medical drug and device claims. This scheme used telemedicine as well as phone calls, the internet and junk mail to con vulnerable people into handing over their personally identifiable information. Armed with that information, the thieves were able to generate fake doctor orders and use their partner pharmacies, telemarketers and equipment suppliers to ship out unneeded medicine and medical items — and get paid for it all to the tune of \$1.45 billion.

The head thief, CEO of the medical software company behind all the fraud, is not likely to have time to enjoy the fruits of his ill-gotten cash because, at age 79, he's been sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined over \$452 million in restitution.

Then there is the guy who stole VA grants to the tune of \$1.3 million (and DOL grants for half a million) while pretending to run a nonprofit homeless veterans shelter. He didn't just apply for grants once, he did it multiple times. And not only did he spend some of that cash on himself, but he pretended to provide counseling services that the veterans never received.

While he could have received up to 10 years in federal prison, he was only sentenced to 42 months, followed by supervised release.

On the other hand, there is the pain doctor who is managing to not go to prison even after knowingly billing for multiple tests on the same patient on the same day. Instead, it's been called civil, not criminal, but he does have to pay \$13.6 million under the False Claims Act.

How is it the theft of that amount of money doesn't result in prison time?

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Headline

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 1-year-old puppy, "Duke," is super-active and loves the snow. Just walking him around the block isn't enough to dispel his energy, so I'd like to take him on a hike each week. Do you think he's ready for it at this age? — Billy in Claremont, New Hampshire

DEAR BILLY: At a year old, Duke is ready for short hikes. Depending on his breed, size and tolerance for cold, he may be able to handle longer periods, but you'll need to evaluate that by taking him out for gradually longer hikes.

As with any winter hike, whether with dogs or alone, safety and awareness are paramount. Duke needs cold-weather gear, paw protection, and food and water to keep him energized and producing his own heat. Here are a few tips.

— Start small: Keep the first hikes short, less than a mile out and back. Gradually increase the distance. Turn around if Duke starts hesitating, whining or shivering.

— Be prepared: Pack separate food, water, pickup bags and first aid for your dog. Make sure Duke wears a collar with his ID tags attached.

— Communicate: Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.

— Check conditions first: Check the weather, but also contact the park or message a local hiking group to find out what shape the trail is in.

— Follow park regulations: Review rules for hiking with pets on state or federal lands.

— Don't push the limits: Turn back well before your dog (or you) starts to get cold or exhausted. Avoid potential dangers like frozen lakes or avalanche zones.

After the hike, before driving home, dry your dog's coat and check his paws for packed snow or frostbite. Put a warm doggy sweater on him for the ride home.

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

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EVENTS: from page 27

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.

ECI 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.)

Health Board. Jan. 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Confirmation hearing for Cruz Galaviz to the Kituwah, LLC Board. Feb. 3 at 9 a.m.

Confirmation hearing for Nelson Lambert to the Tribal Gaming Commission. Feb. 3 at 9:15 a.m.

Work Session on Tabled Ord. No. 6 (Judicial Code). Feb. 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Pow Wow Listings

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

Yellowhorse Pow Wow Celebration. April 4-5 at Founders Hall at 4950 Swinyar Dr. in Collegedale, Tenn. Info: Tammera Hicks (423) 240-7270 or NAServices.org@gmail.com

Support Groups

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

Celebrate Recovery meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Baptist Church at 812 Tsalagi Road, in Cherokee, N.C. This is a Christ-centered recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, hang-ups, and habits of any kind. All are welcome. Info: Chris 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 or contact Western Carolina University Educational Outreach (828) 227-7397.

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

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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events Stecoah Stories & Seeds, Speakers Series. Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 11, 25 March 11, 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the Stecoah Valley Center

PUBLIC NOTICE AND TESTIMONY

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

Confirmation hearing for Nelson Lambert to the Tribal Gaming Commission

Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 9:15 a.m.
Tribal Council Chambers;
Cherokee, N.C.

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

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

**The final date for public comment will be
Tuesday, Jan. 27.**



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.

“The New Voice of God: Language, Worldview and the Cherokee Bible” presentation. Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. at City Lights Bookstore 3 E Jackson St. Ste 1, Sylva, NC. 28779. Margaret Bender and Tom Belt will share their new book, “The New Voice of God: Language, Worldview, and the Cherokee Bible”. Showing how Cherokee Christians ingeniously adapted Christian practices to create unique social and spiritual identities, “The New Voice of God” documents how this adaptation—manifest in the translation of Christian texts into Cherokee—not only bridged two vastly different languages but also exposed deep philosophical differences, challenging Western cultural norms and reshaping spiritual discourse. Info: (828) 586-9499

Local Geology. Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Jackson County Library 310 Keener St., Sylva, NC. 28779. Learn about local geology with Dr. Waters- Tormey. With over 20 years’ experience teaching and researching geology of the Southern Appalachians as a professor at Western Carolina University. Her main interests are in how rocks formed deep in tectonics plates develop fracture systems as they are brought to the surface by tectonic events. Hosted by the Balsam Mountain Trust. Info: (828) 586-2016.

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.

Cherokee Community Clubs
Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Commu-

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

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

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

Tsalagi Gadugi (Cherokee County) Community meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community building; potluck

at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Joe Palmer (828) 361-9219, joepalmer1013@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Houses of Worship
Abundant Life Apostolic Church. 171 Johnson Br. Road, Bryson City. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship. 7 p.m. Pastor Kevin Linkinhoker

see **EVENTS** next page

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



GRANT ROGERS
Clinical and Business Applications Manager

Education: Bachelor's in Computer Science
Years at CIHA: 23 Years
Community/Hometown: Spring Creek, NC

“I have enjoyed working at CIHA. A lot has changed over the years, and many friends have come and gone. Helping others has always been important to me. I can serve the community by helping those who directly impact our patients.”- Grant Rogers

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

EVENTS: from page 29

488-8937

Acquoni Baptist Church. 722 Acquoni Road. 497-7106. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m., Sunday Choir Practice 5 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m. Pastor Merritt Youngdeer (828) 788-6614

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

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

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

Monthly business meeting is first Wednesday 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Church of Christ.

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

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of James (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Joshua 10, the sun stood still while Joshua's army destroyed what people? *Amorites, Midianites, Egyptians, Philistines*
3. How old was Abram when God changed his name to Abraham? *12, 17, 40, 99*
4. From Genesis 9, who saw a rainbow in the sky? *Adam, Moses, Noah, Abraham*
5. Who was David's oldest brother? *Jonah, Eliab, Joel, Agrippa*
6. From 1 Samuel 2, how many more children did Hannah have? *5, 10, 15, 20*

ANSWERS: (1) New, (2) Amorites, (3) 99, (4) Noah, (5) Eliab, (6) Five

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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Moments in time

• On Feb. 2, 1925, musher Gunnar Kaasen and his 13 dogs successfully delivered an antitoxin serum to Nome, Alaska, which was dealing with a widespread diphtheria outbreak, in a relay spanning 674 miles in five and a half days and in temperatures as low as 85 degrees below zero.

• On Feb. 3, 1780, Barnett Davenport murdered Caleb Mallory, in whose house he was a boarder, along with Mallory's wife, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, in their home. One of post-Revolution America's most famous crimes, it contributed to a change in the way the country viewed lawbreakers.

• On Feb. 4, 1703, 47 samurai were forced to display the ultimate act of loyalty to the regional Japanese lord they had followed by committing seppuku — ritually disemboweling themselves — for the crime of killing the official who had ordered the forced suicide of said lord.

• On Feb. 5, 2003, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell gave a speech to the United Nations outlining America's case that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and making an argument for the invasion that would take place the following month. Unfortunately, some of his talking points were either incorrect or misleading, and Powell later described the speech as a blot on his record.

• On Feb. 6, 1998, a judge reinstated schoolteacher Mary Kay Letourneau's suspended sentence and returned her to prison for seven years after she was caught violating a no-contact order with her former student, Vili Fualaau, when she was found in a parked car with the boy.

• On Feb. 7, 1984, Navy captain Bruce McCandless II became the first human to perform an untethered spacewalk while in orbit 170 miles above the earth, maneuvering freely with a jet pack of his own design after exiting the Challenger space shuttle.

• On Feb. 8, 1994, actor Jack Nicholson approached Robert Blank's car while they were stopped at a red light in North Hollywood, accused Blank of cutting him off in traffic, and then bashed Blank's roof and windshield with a golf club. Charges were dropped after Nicholson apologized and the two reached an undisclosed settlement that included a reported \$500,000 check from Nicholson.

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The Garden Bug

Resolutions for gardeners

- Resolve to incorporate more sustainable methods in your gardening habits, such as improved water conservation and more organic practices in your soil preparation.
- Resolve to reach out to the community more using your gardening skills. Perhaps you could donate your own flower arrangements to local senior activity centers, or donate your canned produce to a food pantry.

Source: www.almanac.com

- Brenda Weaver

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

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

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

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

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

Echota Baptist Church. 1274 Birdtown Road. Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Service: 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Service:

6 p.m. Pastor David Hall (828) 508-1906

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

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

with Dr. Brenda Miller-Chambliss (828) 835-2359 or embassymediagroup@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Macedonia Baptist Church. 1181 Wolfetown Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6pm, Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6pm. Pastor Bro. Dan Con-

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with
EBCI Natural Resources



Judaculla's Kids is a conservation/cultural club for 3rd–6th grade students at New Kituwah Academy, led by The Center for Native Health in collaboration with EBCI Natural Resources Department and NKA staff. This youth initiative enhances outdoor, land-based learning experiences, while celebrating Cherokee cultural teachings and cultivating the knowledge, skills, and leadership of future environmental stewards. The club's name honors Judaculla's teachings of balance, respect, reciprocity, and sustainability.

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: from page 31

seen, 497-1611, mbccherokee@outlook.com, Website: www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church

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

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

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

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

The Peaks Church. Meets at Smokey Mountain Elementary School gym. Sunday services 10 a.m. Pastor Aaron Langston

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

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

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

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

p.m. Dr. Mickey Duvall, Pastor

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

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

Waterfalls Baptist Church. 82 Waterfalls Church Rd., Sunday School 10 a.m., worship service at



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.



Residential and Business Fiber Internet Pricing Plans

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11 a.m., Sunday evening service 5 p.m., Wednesday evening service 6 p.m. Praying for a Pastor.

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

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

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

welcome. Pastor David Birch

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

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

MISSING

T'lasia Ariauna- Elizabe Bennett

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'3" Weight: 150 lbs

Female Age: 13

Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: October 26, 2025

Last Known Location:

Juneau, Alaska

Circumstances of Disappearance:

T'lasia ran away from her residence at approximately 12:18 pm and never returned. No further information is available.

If you have seen or have information about T'lasia contact Detective Christopher Herrick, Juneau Police Department (907) 586-0600 or the Alaska State Troopers (907) 269-5511.

Source: Namus.gov



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EMPLOYMENT

Now Hiring

Cherokee/Great Smokies KOA is hiring for Summer 2026. Several job openings beginning March 1, 2026 including: Housekeeping, Guest Services Representative, Guest Guide, and Recreation Staff. Apply online at Indeed.com – search for KOA in Cherokee, NC.

1/28

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. 25-097 Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

TOM KEITH PARKER

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

Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS
FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION

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

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 fudiciary(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 fudiciary(s) listed below.

Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS
FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION

Alberta Allison Printup-Johnson
175 Joe Johnson Road
Cherokee, NC 28719
1/21

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. 25-108

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

MIANNA LOUISE LUTHER

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

Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS

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Autumn Parker, Spa Operations Manager
828-497-8550 AutumnP@mandaraspaspa.com
Email: HRRecruitment@onespaworld.com

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

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

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

1/28

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 06-001
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
EDNA VERA SAUNOOKE
GOSHORN

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

Donna Beck
229 Appleton Dr.
Sylva, NC 28779

2/5

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 cor-

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

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

Dylan Morgan
312 Macedonia Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719

2/5

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-004
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
WILLIAM PATRICK
CALHOUN

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

Patricia Leigh Calhoun
P.O. Box 2005
Cherokee, NC. 28719

2/11

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

Request for Proposals

The Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute (RKKLI), 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

RKKLI 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 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 Residential Remodeling
CIHD 2026-30 262 Eagles Nest Residential Remodeling
CIHD-2026-31 Tsali Manor Unit-10 Residential Remodeling

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Employment Office

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CASINO RESORT

Must be 21 or older to enter casino floor and to gamble, and must present a valid state or federal photo ID upon request. Know When To Stop Before You Start. ©Gaming Property Co. 1-800-422-2299. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. ©2024. Casino License Company, LLC.

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

BIDS

State of North Carolina
Department of Transportation
Raleigh, NC
The Deadline for submitting

Electronic Bids on the following projects as well as the public reading will be February 17, 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.

- (C205036) ROBESON;
- (C204955) BEAUFORT;
- (C205035) WAYNE;
- (C205167) GRANVILLE;

- (C205174) VANCE;
- (C205088) WAKE, FRANKLIN;
- (C204765) WAKE;
- (C204936) ALAMANCE;
- (C205166) HOKE, SCOTLAND;
- (C205173) MONTGOMERY;
- (C205152) FORSYTH;
- (C205170) ROWAN;
- (C205169) STOKES;
- (C205098) DAVIDSON, FORSYTH;
- (C205168) MECKLENBURG;
- (C205095) MECKLENBURG;
- (C205171) CATAWBA;
- (C205172) IREDELL

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 **1/21**



Contact Dawn Arneach
to advertise with the One Feather:
(828) 359-6489,
dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov



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**
- 2 Agelink Teachers—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year with benefits
 - 1 Snowbird Child Development Teacher—\$31,800–\$39,750 per year with benefits
 - 1 Cook—Snowbird Child Development—\$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
 - 1 Technician—\$21,200–\$29,150 per year with Benefits

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

- Bus & Truck Department**
- Seasonal Bus Drivers
 - Truck Drivers

SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS

**Cherokee Central Schools
Job Openings**

Apply online at
<https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or
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**
- Part-time Food Service Worker**

NEW YEAR NEW JOB



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



OPEN POSITIONS

New Positions

Administrative Assistant
Peer Support Specialist

Behavioral Health

Mental Health Therapist - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
(Cherokee Central Schools, Child and Family – Snowbird,
Family Safety, Family Intensive Treatment, Medication As-
sisted Treatment)

Employment Specialist - Kanvwtiyi
Case Manager/Intake Coordinator - Kanvwtiyi
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwtiyi
Targeted Case Manager – Child and Family, Family Safety,
MAT
Residential Technician – Male - Kanvwtiyi
Residential Technician – Female
Residential Technician – Female – Part-Time without Ben-
efits
Peer Support Specialist – Bridge
Peer Support Specialist - Kanvwtiyi

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
Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant

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
RN Inpatient – Nights - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
RN Inpatient – Nights - PTI

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
Tribal Option Specialty Team Care Manager (LTSS)
Tribal Option Care Manager - Float

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THE GOOD STUFF



Birth announcement

Ashton Graham Cucumber Jr. was born on the morning of Sunday, Jan. 18 at Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva, N.C. He is the son of Bella Jones and Ashton Cucumber. (Photo contributed)

the GOOD STUFF

The One Feather wants to hear your good news and/or accomplishments. Send us your "good stuff" such as:

- * birth, engagement, and wedding announcements
- * awards or other accomplishments (both civilian and military)
- * and other areas of life such as finishing restoring an old car, building a new deck, etc.

Send your photos and info to us at:
Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

GWY ᏫᏍᏍᏁ ᏆᏍᏁᏍᏁ
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\$46,420



2026 Ford F-150 STX
 Stock #: T9618

~~\$51,290~~
\$49,320



2025 Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend
 Stock # V9596

~~\$39,088~~
\$35,023



Blake Parks
 General Sales Manager



Dustin Shuler
 Assistant Sales Manager



Greg Jamison
 Fleet Manager / Sales Consultant



Justin Varley
 Sales Consultant



Hollie Johnson
 Finance Manager



Service Team

CONTACT US

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55,452 miles
Pricing Info
Price **\$38,418**



2022 Jeep Compass Limited 4x4
13,621 miles
Pricing Info
Price **\$23,734**



2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee L Limited 4x4
36,920 miles
Pricing Info
Price **\$34,495**



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 LEXUS GX 460 Premium
25,471 miles
Pricing Info
Price **\$56,868**



2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss
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Price **\$45,985**



2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT
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Pricing Info
Price **\$22,656**



2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss
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