



FOUR SEASONS

The Care You Trust

At Four Seasons, Hospice is All About

Quality of Life

**Calling Hospice early means
we can concentrate on
what matters most to you.**

Whether that is spending time with family or friends, going on an adventure, celebrating special moments, or whatever your goals, involving Hospice Care early is important.

**What you do is up to you.
*Helping you is up to us.***



**Request Care or Start the Conversation Today!
866.466.9734 or [FourSeasonsCare.org](https://www.FourSeasonsCare.org)**



P.O. Box 501, Cherokee, N.C., 28719 - Located in Ginger Lynn Welch Complex
theonefeather.com, (828) 359-6261 - Cherokee's award-winning newspaper since 1965.
CONTENTS (c) 2025 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER



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.



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 Ꮻᎃᎅ ᏅᎆᎃᏍᏏ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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 Letters critical of specifically named minor children will not be published.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.

One Feather staff

Editor - Robert Jumper

robejump@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6482

Assistant Editor - Scott McKie Brings Plenty

scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6263

Reporter - Brooklyn Brown

broobrow@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6264

Ad Sales Coordinator - Dawn Arneach

dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6489

Subscription Clerk - Indica Climbingbear

indiclim1@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6262

EBCI tribal legislative updates

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The One Feather will now provide regular legislative updates on various pieces of legislation of the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). The focus will be on ordinances that change Cherokee Code, but sometimes resolutions of importance to the operation of the tribal government will also be included. The legislation is shown in the order in which they were introduced following the new ones

for the week.

New Ordinances

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

Legislation we're currently watching

Ord. No. 6 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 7 (Judicial Code) of the Cherokee Code. The whereas section states that section “should be amended to clarify and add provisions controlling matters such as the structure and operation of the courts, the roles and powers of the judicial officers, and the procedures ensuring independent and impartial judicial officers”. Introduced: This ordinance, sub-

mitted by Cherokee Chief Justice Bradley Letts, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. A work session is scheduled for Feb. 3, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Ord. No. 11 (2025). This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 113G of the Cherokee Code regarding underground storage tanks. The whereas section states, “Regulation of USTs (underground storage tanks) is an important topic because they often serve as holding containers for gasoline and petroleum products, which can cause environmental damage if leaked into the ground or into a water source; and updating regulation is also important because doing so is needed to maintain the Tribe’s Memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through which UST owners and operators have access to North Carolina’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund.” Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025.

Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

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

The whereas section states, “Tribal law requires businesses operating in Cherokee to do so under a Business License issued by the Tribe and to pay Tribal levy and other amounts to the Tribe; and periodically, businesses fail to pay their levy obligations to the Tribe in a timely manner. Some sections within Cherokee Code Chapter 105 and Chapter 106 should be amended to clarify and make consistent the authorities and remedies available to the Tribe when a business fails to pay Tribal levy and other fees required by Tribal law.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by EBCI Attorney General Michael McConnell, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025.

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

EXPERIENCE A New Kind of Dentistry



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

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

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

78 Nelson Street, Clyde, NC 28721

CALL TODAY

(828) 662-3737

www.DrHighsmith.com



JOHN HIGHSMITH, DDS
SYLVIA JERNIGAN, DDS

Cosmetic, General, Implant & Laser Dentistry

GWY ᏆᏍᏉ ᏅᏍᏗᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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

CCS aligned with BIE strategic direction

By BROOKLYN BROWN
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On Jan. 20, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) shared the 2024-2030 strategic direction of the BIE. The full strategic direction focuses on strengthening student success through cultural instruction,

which Cherokee Central Schools (CCS) superintendent Consuela Girty says is already in motion for the school system.

"As a tribally operated school system, Cherokee Central Schools sees the BIE's new Strategic Direction as confirmation of what we live every day: students thrive when identity, language, wellness, and strong instruction are woven together. At CCS, we don't treat language and culture as an add-on; it should be a part of how we teach, lead, and build belonging," she said.

"Our vision is clear - Empower our students; preserve our nation; ensure our future. That shows up in our daily work as we strengthen instruction, expand future readiness, and keep the Cherokee language connected to school life in meaningful ways. We will continue

to reflect, measure what matters, and improve alongside our families and community partners—because Every Brave, Every Day means supporting the whole child while holding high expectations."

Girty said some examples of their vision in action includes partnerships with tribal early childhood programs, operating a PreK within CCS, continuing to strengthen relationships with Dadiwonisi, the Snowbird Adult Language Program, and the Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP), including adult language learners who are currently completing field experience in CCS classrooms, and supporting language initiatives, such as a Cherokee language video commentary led by Cherokee speakers and second language learners during a recent home bas-

ketball game against Robbinsville (One Feather article forthcoming on that initiative).

Girty added that the Cherokee Growing Readers Book Garden initiative is also part of CCS's vision in alignment with the BIE strategic direction.

Girty said the CCS annual reports are available on their website and share more about CCS programs for student success.

GWY ᏆᏍᏏ ᏅᏍᏗᏁᏍᏔᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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



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.

The logo for radio station 104.9 FM WFSC 1050 AM features a large, faceted red diamond graphic on the left. To the right of the diamond, the text "104.9 FM" is written in a large, blue, serif font. Below that, "WFSC" is written in a smaller, blue, serif font. At the bottom, "1050 AM" is written in a white, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

**The Smokies
classic hits
station**

Tell It & Sell It
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Weekdays



Thinking About Building A Home?

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW AND YOUR DREAM HOME COULD COME TRUE

BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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 the bill was reported and placed on the Union Calendar by the Committee on Jan. 14, 2026.

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



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Which World Golf Hall of Famer became the first female to shoot lower than 300 in a 72-hole tournament when she won the 1947 U.S. Women’s Open with a 295 score?
2. The San Diego Sockers, New York Arrows and Baltimore Blast were among the most successful teams in what arena soccer league that played from 1978 to 1992?
3. Which U.S. state’s legislature passed Act 130, commonly called the 1936 Sunday Sports Law, which permitted professional sports to be played on Sundays?
4. He was selected by the San Francisco 49ers with the final pick of the 2022 NFL Draft. His young brother played college football for Florida State, Nebraska and Nevada. Who are they?
5. Name the pitcher who won the National League Cy Young Award with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1987 and won a World Series title with the Minnesota Twins in 1991.
6. The Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame opened in 1999 in which U.S. city?
7. Which two college football teams have played for the Land of Lincoln Trophy (a bronze stovepipe hat) since 2009?

Answers

1. Betty Jameson.
2. Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL).
3. Pennsylvania.
4. Brock and Chubba Purdy.
5. Steve Bedrosian.
6. Knoxville, Tennessee.
7. The Illinois Fighting Illini and the Northwestern Wildcats.

**CIPD Arrest Report for
Jan. 12-18, 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 the onfeather.com.

Crowe, Albert Jason – age 34
Arrested: Jan. 12
Released: Jan. 12
Charges: Weapons Offense

Sherman, Christopher – age 20
Arrested: Jan. 12
Released: Jan. 15
Charges: Failure to Appear on

Misdemeanor
Berry, Michael Adam – age 41
Arrested: Jan. 13
Released: Jan. 13
Charges: Temporary Hold

Ledford III, Noah – age 33
Arrested: Jan. 13
Released: Jan. 13
Charges: Probation Violation

Cruz, Yona Awigadh – age 40
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Jan. 14
Charges: Temporary Hold for Jackson Co.

Esquivel, Bryton Nichole – age 27
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Jan. 15
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedules I-V

Hollifield, Tiffany Michelle – age 25
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Little, Shalina Lynn – age 23
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance, Drug Paraphernalia

McCoy, John Herbert – age 72
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Jan. 17
Charges: Domestic Violence

Murphy, Reena Lashanda – age 34
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Jan. 14
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedules I-V

Waldroup, Brandon Eugene – age 45
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance, Manufacture Schedule I Controlled Substance, Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Watty, Kourtney Lee – age 30
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Jan. 14
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Wolfe, William Dennis – age 54
Arrested: Jan. 14
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Abusive Sexual Contact

Climbingbear Jr., Henderson – age 77

Arrested: Jan. 15
Released: Jan. 15
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Ensley, Charles Dennis – age 35
Arrested: Jan. 16
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Pre-Trial Release Violation

Owle, Kenneth Randall – age 63
Arrested: Jan. 16
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Second Degree Trespass; Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a Controlled Substance

Walkingstick, William Guy – age 53
Arrested: Jan. 16
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Driving While Impaired, Weapons Offense

Driver, Dylan Daniel – age 32
Arrested: Jan. 17
Released: Jan. 18
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance (two counts)

Burgess, Brandon Keith – age 51
Arrested: Jan. 18
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Simple Assault and Battery, Simple Affray; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officer

Driver, Kendall Juanye – age 26
Arrested: Jan. 18
Released: Not released as of report date (Jan. 19)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

SEQUOYAH FUND
BY PROSPER

HOUSING REHAB LOAN

Let us help you turn your dream into a reality!

LOANS UP TO \$50,000!
FIXED INTEREST RATE

CALL TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY!

828-359-5007
www.sequoyahfund.org

"IT'S TIME FOR GUTTER MAINTENANCE"

6 REASONS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GUTTER MAINTENANCE

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

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

Here is a list of some of those reasons.

PREVENT EROSION & MOLD



1. Roof Damage

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

2. Wood Fascia Damage

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

3. Damage to Walls, Windows, Doors and Patios

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

4. Damage to Foundations and Landscaping

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

5. Slip and fall

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

6. Prevent Mold

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

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



"DON'T TRIM YOUR GUTTERS"



"CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS"



WRESTLING

Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) win SMC Championship

One Feather Staff Report

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) won the women’s Smoky Mountain Conference Wrestling Championship on the evening of Thursday, Jan. 22 at Cherokee High School which hosted both the men’s and women’s championship. With a total of 145 points, the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi topped Swain Co. who came in second with 132 points and Robbinsville in third with 122.

Cherokee was led by four wrestlers who won the conference championship in their weight division including: Livia Crowe (132), Sara Toineeta (138), Annie Trampler (165), and Hailey Winchester (235).

Other Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi who placed include: Caidyn Teesateskie (100), second place; Meikka Pheasant (107), third place; Eloise Frady (114), fourth place; Jaylee Arch (12), third place; Deanna Long (126), third place; Jamee McMillan (145), second place; Pippa Welch (152), second place; and Harper Welch (185), second place.

Other women’s conference champions include:

- 100 – Jany Echeverria, Swain Co.
- 107 – Julia Vazquez, Robbinsville
- 114 – Ivy Werner, Murphy
- 120 – Claire Ball, Swain Co.
- 126 – Alexis Miller, Robbinsville
- 132 – Alexis El-khouri, Robbinsville
- 145 – Myah Winfrey, Robbinsville
- 152 – Makayla Hunt, Swain Co.
- 185 – Ashlynn Sprivey, Rosman

Robbinsville High School won the men’s team title with a score of 223 followed by Hayesville and Murphy who tied at 122 and the Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) in fourth with 94.

The following Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi placed: Nakai Pheasant (138), third place; Siah Tee-

sateskie (144), fourth place; Kimo Sokol (165), second place; Darius Taylor (175), second place; Kyson Jenkins (190), third place; Blake Sequoyah (215), third place; and Thomas Trampler (285), second place.

Men’s conference champions include:

- 106 – Weston Adams, Murphy
- 113 – Sullivan Cunningham, Swain Co.
- 120 – Adair Panama, Robbinsville
- 126 – Ayden Conley, Robbinsville
- 132 – Zander Lucksavage, Robbinsville
- 138 – Loxston Hooper, Robbinsville
- 144 – Kevin Hall, Robbinsville
- 150 – Lleyton Hooper, Robbinsville
- 157 – Gabriel Patterson, Hayesville
- 165 – Jerimiah Phillips, Robbinsville
- 175 – Luke Green, Robbinsville
- 190 – Brayden Lane, Robbinsville
- 215 – Christian Koeller, Robbinsville
- 285 – Rayland Martinez, Hayesville

Indoor Track & Field

Swimmer sets record as Cherokee participates in Swain County Polar meet

One Feather Staff Report

BRYSON CITY, N.C. – Cherokee High School’s (CHS) indoor track team participated in the Swain County Polar meet held at the Swain Co. High School Track on Wednesday, Jan. 21. According to Cherokee Central School Athletics, Dvdaya Swimmer, Cherokee senior, set a new school record in the 1600M Run with a time of 5:27.73.

The following teams competed in this event in addition to Cherokee: Andrews, Robbinsville, Rosman, Shining Rock Classical Academy, Smoky Mountain, and Swain County.

Following is a list of CHS athletes’ performances:

Women’s 1600M Run

- Dvdaya Swimmer, first place, 5:27.73

Women’s Shot Put

- Joscelyn Stamper, first place, 36-9
- Roxy Solis, third place, 29-9
- Briann Teesateskie, fifth place, 27-4

Men’s 55M Dash

- Isaiah Ledford, fourth place, 8.01
- Reggie Hyatt, sixth place, 8.42

Men’s 300M Dash

- Reggie Hyatt, sixth place, 52.33
- Isaiah Ledford, seventh place, 55.65

Men’s 500M Dash

- Reggie Hyatt, third place, 1:38.16
- Isaiah Ledford, fourth place, 1:41.71

Men’s 1600M Run

- King Beheler, third place, 5:26.60

Men’s Long Jump

- Jess Walkingstick, third place, 13-4.5

Men’s Shot Put

- Zaynon Taylor, third place, 42-0
- Jess Walkingstick, ninth place, 29-10

Following is a list of winners in each competition:

Men’s Events

55M Dash: Kaden Sawyer, Swain Co., 6.85

300M Dash: Kaden Sawyer, Swain Co., 37.97

500M Dash: Colton McCoy, Robbinsville, 1:09.11

1000M Run: Nathan Frederick, Robbinsville, 2:43.04

1600M Run: Benjamin Frederick, Robbinsville, 4:57.33

3200M Run: Landon Boxberger, Robbinsville, 11:13.38

55M Hurdles: Sevyn Soares, Swain Co., 9.11

4x200M Relay: Swain Co., 1:40.08

High Jump: Elijah Dingle, Swain Co., 5-0

Long Jump: Sevyn Soares, Swain Co., 16-1

Triple Jump: Colton McCoy, Robbinsville, 39-10

Pole Vault: Wyatt Outlaw, Swain Co., 10-6

Shot Put: Isiac Collins, Robbinsville, 53-0

Women’s Events

55M Dash: Ella McNeely, 8.00

300M Dash: Ella McNeely, 47.28

1000M Run: Carola Castellano-Martinez, Swain Co., 4:56.36

1600M Run: Dvdaya Swimmer, Cherokee, 5:27.73

55M Hurdles: Aniya Swartz, Rosman, 11.21

4x200M Relay: Rosman, 2:08.95

High Jump: Aniya Swartz, Rosman, 4-4

Pole Vault: Bristol Brown, Swain Co., 7-9

Shot Put: Joscelyn Stamper, Cherokee, 36-9

CLAIM 4 TICKETS

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

GEORGIA SWARM
PHILADELPHIA WINGS

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/EBCINH260228>

CLAIM OFFER



Residential and Business Fiber Internet Pricing Plans

300/300Mbps

Residential

\$60/mo

Business

\$152/mo

⊖ No Contracts

500/500Mbps

Residential

\$99/mo

Business

\$164/mo

⊕ 24/7 Customer Support

1Gig

Residential

\$111/mo

Business

\$176/mo

⊕ Local Technicians

Peace of Mind - Managed WiFi

- Residential - 10/mo
- Business - \$25/mo

Provides equipment needed to disperse the WiFi throughout your home or business

IPTV Coming Soon:

- Bronze Package - \$60/month - 33 Channels
- Silver Package - \$130/month - 107 Channels
- Gold Package - \$150/month - 214 Channels

828.339.2900

www.cherokeecablevision.com

MISSING

Faith Elizabeth Nicole Chamberlin

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'2"-5"5"

Weight: 120-135 lbs

Female Age: 15

Hair: Blonde/Strawberry

Eyes: Green

Date of last contact: December 1, 2025

Last Known Location: Cheney, Washington

Circumstances of Disappearance: It is believed Faith is currently located in the Toppenish/Yakima Washington area with her girlfriend. She last ran away and was found in the Toppenish area of Washington State staying at a residence with her girlfriend. Faith Chamberlin's natural hair color is "dirty blond", but last known hair color was dyed described as split dyed with half brown and half reddish brown. It is possible she had changed her hair color to dark blue. Her hair was last known to be shoulder length. Half of her right eyebrow is shaved, and she has a slit shaved in her left eyebrow. She was last seen wearing a diamond studded nose ring (stud) right nostril. She has a homemade tattoo located right side of chest between armpit and breast, a tattoo is of a small letter "C". She was last seen wearing black sweatpants with flame design, short green Ugg boots (size 7), unknown shirt, and a possible hooded sweatshirt dark in color.

If you have seen or have information about Faith Chamberlin contact Detective Sergeant Zebulon Campbell, Cheney Police Department (509) 535-9233.

Source: Namus.gov



GWY ƒV° OYLC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Cherokee Historical Association moves to co-directorship, names new executive leaders

Submitted by
Cherokee Historical Association

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Local non-profit organization, Cherokee Historical Association, has moved to a co-director leadership structure. After the departure of the previous executive director in 2023, the Board of Directors installed an interim executive management team.

As of Jan. 1, 2026, the Board has named Laura Blythe and Lance Culpepper as the executive co-directors of the organization.

Blythe, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), has been involved with Cherokee Historical Association (CHA) for nearly 25 years, starting as a tour guide at Oconaluftee Indian Village as a teenager. She has served as the Program Director of Cherokee Historical Association for 10 years, overseeing programming across CHA's cultural campus. Blythe holds a bachelors degree from Western Carolina University, a certificate in Cultural Heritage Tourism from George Washington University, as well as



Laura Blythe

certificates from the Right Path Leadership Program and the Pathways for Nonprofit Leadership.

In addition to her work at CHA, Blythe is on the board of Color My Outdoors, on the Western Carolina University Cherokee Advisory Board, a member of the Atlanta Braves Cultural Committee, and a founding member of 7 Moons MTB.

Blythe shares, "My passion for this work comes from a lifetime of connection to Cherokee history, culture, and community. Leading



Lance Culpepper

Cherokee Historical Association is both a personal and professional honor, and as the first EBCI woman to serve as an Executive Director at CHA, I'm committed to ensuring our stories are preserved, shared, and celebrated with care, pride, and purpose."

Culpepper joined the Cherokee Historical Association team in 2022 as operations director. He has 19 years of experience in non-profit work and outdoor drama, including 15 years with Roanoke Island Historical Association, where he served as the associate producer of the outdoor drama "The Lost Colony".

Culpepper holds a certificate

from Cherokee Path for Professionals by WNC Nonprofit Pathways. His professional affiliations include the Institute of Outdoor Theatre and the Southeastern Theatre Conference, where he serves as the Chair of the Outdoor Theatre Committee which presents the National Conference on Outdoor Theatre annually.

Culpepper looks forward to continuing to support Cherokee Historical Association's mission, stating, "Being a part of CHA's Executive Co-Director team during this pivotal and exciting time in our history is an honor. I look forward to advancing our mission of sharing Cherokee history and culture as we work to enhance the visitor experience and build a blueprint for the next 75 years."

Cherokee Historical Association's board and staff are enthusiastic about the new leadership model, anticipating that it will ensure long-term organizational stability as Cherokee Historical Association moves forward with new programming initiatives.

IMMEDIATE

CARE

CLINIC



CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

 75 Paint Town Rd
Cherokee, NC

NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED, WALK-INS WELCOME!

LOCATED NEXT TO THE CASINO

OBITUARIES ᏆᏞᏲᏁ

Amanda Sue Lambert

Amanda Sue Lambert, 62, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at Tsali Care Center in Cherokee, N.C., after an extended illness.

Amanda was born on April 8, 1963, to the late Ronald and Bernice Welch Lambert. During her early years, she worked as a cashier at local craft shops. Later, she briefly worked as a sewer at a sewing plant in Bryson City, N.C. Amanda also loved making crafts with her mother. Together, they created beadwork, bullnettle necklaces, cornbread necklaces, and many other handmade items. Amanda had a deep love for nature. She especially enjoyed spending time in the woods, searching for edible mushrooms and native

greens, and she found joy and peace in the outdoors.

In addition to her parents, Amanda was preceded in death by her siblings, Theresa Diane Brady and Ronald "Boug" Lambert.

She is survived by her daughter, Erica Lambert; granddaughter, Kaiden Lambert (Will); grandson, Dason Bryant; niece, Ashley Brady (Michael); nephew, Brett Brady; great-nephew, Tristian Armachain; great-niece, Journey Armachain; and two special cousins, Pamela and Shandrea Squirell. Pallbearers will be Brett Brady, Michael Armachain, Dayson Bryant, Will Marvel, Austin Duda, and Delbert Ward.

Amanda will be buried in the Bernice W. Lambert cemetery beside her mother.

Long House Funeral Service will announce arrangements.

Richard Joseph Meuse Jr.

Richard Joseph Meuse Jr., 37, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026, at his residence.

Richard was a lifelong resident of Cherokee and worked as a warehouse clerk for The Cherokees. He graduated from Cherokee High School. As a youth, he attended Straight Fork Baptist Church, where he played Joseph in the Christmas play. He loved music, collectibles, and enjoyed vintage shopping.

Richard was preceded in death by his son, Mickey J. Meuse; his father, Richard J. Meuse Sr.; his paternal grandparents, Oliver and Lorraine Meuse of Cohoes, New York; and his maternal grandparents, Jeff and Jane Taylor. Additionally, four paternal uncles, two maternal uncles, and several cousins also preceded him in death.

He is survived by his mother, Cynthia T. Meuse; brother, Steven J. Meuse; sisters, Julie A. Meuse, Amy Meuse (James), Stephanie Smith (Tyler), Kimberly Meuse, Jane, Holly (Troy), and Lori (Ira); nieces, DJ Hornbuckle, Nellie Lambert, and Alan Hubbard; nephews, Brendan A. Lambert, Jacolby Lambert, Wyatt Wright, Houson T. Hornbuckle Jr.; half-brother, Siah; great-uncle and great-aunt, Jack and Ruth Lossiah; great-aunt Dolly J. Taylor; and aunt and uncle, Benjamin and Judy Marble of New York, along with aunt, JoAnn Outhout of New York.

A memorial service will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30 in the Chapel of Long House Funeral Home.

Long House Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



LONG HOUSE FUNERAL HOME, INC.

(828) 497-1408

**407 Wolftown Rd
Cherokee, NC. 28719**

We provide individualized funeral services designed to meet the needs of each family.

- *How to Prepare
- *Grief resources
- *365 Days of Healing
- *Common Questions

Contact us with your questions, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

www.longhousefuneralhome.com

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

JAN 26 - FEB 1, 2026

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

BROUGHT TO YOU BY TUCKASEEGEE FLY SHOP

BEST FISHING TIMES BASED ON THE LUNAR CYCLE

MONDAY, JAN. 26	TUESDAY, JAN. 27	WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28	THURSDAY, JAN. 29	FRIDAY, JAN. 30	SATURDAY, JAN. 31	SUNDAY, FEB 1
AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE+	AVERAGE	GOOD	BETTER++	BEST
5:35 AM-7:35 AM 6:03 PM-8:03 PM	6:31 AM-8:31 AM 7:01 PM-9:01 PM	7:32 AM-9:32 AM 8:04 PM-10:04 PM	8:36 AM-10:36 AM 9:08 PM-11:08 PM	9:41 AM-11:41 AM 10:12 PM-12:12 AM	10:43 AM-12:43	11:40 AM-1:40 PM

COURTESY OF WWW.SOLUNARFORECAST.COM

Call 828-586-2155 or visit www.mountainlovers.com




EBCI ANNOUNCEMENTS& NEWS

2026 Cherokee Indian Fair

Theme Contest

Deadline Feb. 3 at 4 p.m. Prize is \$250 for winning entry. Enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are eligible to enter. Rules: open to all ages, entrants younger than 18 must have a parent or guardian co-sign the liability release form and along with the W9. Theme must be culturally oriented. Theme must be seven words or less and write a short paragraph describing the meaning of your theme. Only one entry per person. Entry forms available at the Cherokee Welcome Center (828) 359-6490 Emailed forms can be emailed contact: Lisa Frady at lisafrady@ebci-nsn.gov or Brandy Sequoyah at bransequ@ebci-nsn.gov. Winner will be selected at the next Cherokee Indian Fair Committee meeting on Feb. 4. EBCI Destination marketing department and their immediate families

are not eligible to enter.

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 His-

torical 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

Thank you from the Sampsons

We would like to thank you all for your kind and generous words of love and support as we mourn the passing of Una Teetsie Sampson.

We were overwhelmed with the amount of support and beautiful stories shared with each of us and we are so thankful for those as we move forward with her in our hearts.

She was an amazing woman and a true reflection of what this community is about. We truly ap-

preciate each of you for loving her as you did. May God bless each of you for blessing us and as Teet would say, "Go Braves!"

Thank you

Overdue thank you! I want to thank everyone that came to sit with us, brought food, and helped in anyway during my sister Teet's passing. We had so much love shown to us during that time can't name everyone individually, so this is a heartfelt thanks to all. We realize how many people she touched by the outpouring love we received during that time. She was loved by so many people, and the kids at school. She loved her work, and co workers that included the teachers, and administrators too. We miss her so much. Love and prayers for all from the Sampsons. Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!

Tinker Sampson

GWY ᏫᏚᏍᏗ ᏆᏚᏗᏍᏗ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

For ads or subscriptions:

**Ad Sales Coordinator – Dawn Arneach,
359-6489, dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov**

**Subscription Clerk – Indica Climbingbear,
359-6262, indiclim1@ebci-nsn.gov**

EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS

Show Up for Your Health

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



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

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

**EAGLE CLINIC:
828.497. 9163 EXT. 6345
SEVEN CLANS:
828.497.9163 EXT. 6849**

**Works with most major
wireless carriers*

2026 Census Test

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

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

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

Your response helps build a better census for the future.

We're testing improvements to:

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



Play A Role!



Learn more:

census.gov/2026test



Local jobs are available in the test site areas.

Apply today at census.gov/2026jobs.

Attention EBCI Artists/Craftspeople

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





i talk
they hear you®

START TALKING BEFORE SHE HEADS OFF TO SCHOOL.

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

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

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov

#TalkTheyHearYou

PEP20-03-01-041



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

COMMENTARY

The Standard

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

“A flag or emblem formally used to show the central or rallying point of an army in battle,”
www.thefreedictionary.com.

I remember, as a young man, watching war movies and being amazed at the bravery and patriotism of soldiers. And I have observed many military ceremonies. It is moving to watch flag-draped coffins carrying a soldier to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery. The flags give a sense of pride when they are presented at our events on the Quala Boundary by our beloved veterans. Many times, national flags, along with Eagle staffs, lead the grand entries of our powwows. Much like the old days, when there was reverence for what the flag represented, it is a symbol of national pride. Thousands upon thousands of indigenous American peoples have served with great distinction in the Armed Forces.

The relationship between America and its indigenous peoples is complex and, in some cases, contentious. After all, those immigrating into this country took for their own use land and resources that the Creator had for centuries provided for the indigenous tribes. It certainly is reasonable to think that when the first permanent settlement in the U.S. was established by the Spanish in 1565, and then by 1598 had settled the land now known as Texas and New Mexico (www.sandiego.gov), native peoples would begin to suspect that the intentions of the immigrants weren't innocuous. There were pain and degradation of native peoples as their land and resources were taken and promises and treaties were broken. Eventually, their very existence was threatened, resulting in generations of trauma and bitterness that remain for many indigenous peoples today.

And yet, even after an unspeakable tragedy at the hands of those who came to this country speaking peace and coexistence, indigenous peoples worked to survive and thrive in the

new world that the immigrants were forcing on and building around them. And in the face of pressure to be assimilated, generation after generation held on to their heritages and cultures. And even while conflicted because of the history of this country, the men and women of tribes have stood behind a flag to preserve, protect, and defend the nation and the land where they have lived for millennia.

But as we have moved from generation to generation, we have lost the veneration we once had for symbols of national patriotism, both federal and tribal. Patriotism has morphed from societal pride to individual pride. I think that in recent generations, the idea of unity has taken a brutal beating. Read your history. For most cultures, there is no time when people bond together and work for the common good as they do during a major conflict that challenges their way of life. In every major conflict, up to the Vietnam police action, nations, both their military and their civilian components, turned to face the challenge of oppressors. Vietnam was a turning point in that we lost the unity, the coalition of a common cause. We could not find the common thread of protecting the common good that bonded the civilian and military components of our nation.

So, during that period of transition, the U.S. flag became a rallying point for factions from within instead of a standard of unity against the threats from without. We went from a mentality of “You're a grand old flag. You're a high-flying flag. And forever in peace may you wave. You're the emblem of the land I love. The home of the free and the brave.” (George M Cohan, 1906, You're a Grand Old Flag) to many in the country see a national flag as a symbol not of nation but of governance. And as divided as the United States citizenry is regarding governance, particularly over the past generation, the national flag has become either a symbol of reverence of nation or one of condemnation of government.

The flag remains a powerful symbol of the status of national pride. Some revere it, protecting it from even touching the ground. It is a symbol of heroism and sacrifice when draped over the casket of a public servant, a memento of the memory of national bravery that is carefully folded and presented to a loved one.

For those who have disdain for government or societal conditions, it has become a way to gain notoriety and possibly, to some extent, take out their frustrations concerning those conditions. One very popular and extreme practice is the burning of a national flag. Others throw it on the ground, spit on it, trample upon it, and find other provocative ways to use it to express their hatred for what it stands.

Flags hold their power as symbols. The flags of nations are their symbols of sovereignty. Flags are extensions of their identity. The care a nation provides for its official flag is indicative of the health of its nation.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' tribal flag is a mirror of the tribal seal. A gold (some say yellow) background with an exact representation of the tribal seal. There was a long history of dispute over the tribal identity in our name (Should we be “Indians” or “Nation”), and even symbols of who we are (olive leaves or oak leaves), trying to display peace or resilience as part of our moniker. And while several resolutions were put into law about the use of the tribal seal, the actual codifying of a description or definition as to what the tribal seal or flag is seems to have been missed in the discussion. Surely, a seal used by the tribe was trademarked with the federal government so that the tribe may control the use of the trademarked seal, but it was adopted by resolution and not incorporated into the Cherokee Code. Looking for some indication of our tribal meaning behind the flag, I found (actually, our assistant editor supplied) a copy of Resolution 471, which should be a legal protocol for the use and presentation of the tribal flag. I say “should be” because, since there isn't a ready reference for our government or community of tribal resolutions, it is likely that most of us don't know what that protocol says, and it is not likely to be enforced to any degree.

Speaking of the health of a nation being represented in its flags, I make it a regular practice to notice the condition of the flags that our government flies, in addition to those our businesses and community fly above our establishments. In many cases, if you look at the conditions of those flags, especially the tribal flag, and you try to assess the health of our tribal nation by the way they are kept. You

might get the impression that our tribe is on life support. Tattered, faded, and frayed flags may be found wherever you may roam on the Qualla Boundary.

That is why I say that we have lost touch with the meaning of that national standard. In Indian Country, it is common practice to make use of a seal as an official flag. So far, so good. Now, the tribal nations of Montana have established and put out a “Tribal Flags and Seals Brochure” through the University of Montana Native American Studies Department. It explains the symbolism of each element of the member nations’ seals and flags.

To quote, “The flags of the eight tribal nations reflect unique cultures and histories and

are powerful symbols of their sovereign status.” Do we ever consider what our flag means to us? To others? Is it a symbol of Cherokee pride? Or just something that looks good as a backdrop for a special event, tourist photo opportunity, or some other mundane use? Do we run it up the flagpole and then forget it’s even there until it is so battered, ragged, and faded that it is somewhat difficult to envision it being a symbol of sovereignty and unity?

The psychological power of the flag cannot be overstated. When a battle was won, one of the essential acts was the lowering of the defeated flag and the raising of the conqueror’s flag. When ships wanted to signal their surrender, they would lower their standard (their

flag). Planting flags on Mount Everest is a symbol of national pride, personal achievement, and recognition of the causes of those making the perilous journey to the top. As Gene Cernan, Apollo 17 astronaut, planted the U.S. flag on the moon, he said, “This was one of the proudest moments of my life. I guarantee it.”

For me, flags are reminders of who and what we are. It shines a light on our history and culture. It honors our ancestors who fought to make and keep us who we are. It is our rallying symbol when we are challenged. It is our symbol of hope when all seems lost. We shouldn’t take it for granted. We shouldn’t disrespect it. We should not neglect it. It is our standard.

Protect what matters. Secure all your guns.

Don't live with the threat of family fire.
Learn how to make your home safer at
EndFamilyFire.org



Beau Carroll is passionate about having a Cherokee voice in archaeology

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Beau Carroll is a true educator who is passionate about his Cherokee culture and heritage. A member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), Carroll is the lead archaeologist with the EBCI's Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Carroll is a quiet man, something I can relate to, but when he speaks, listen. He always has something poignant and important to say.

Always educating, Carroll was a presenter at the Kuwohi Connection Days held at Kuwohi in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Sept. 9, 2025. He told the students about this job noting, "Anything that's important culturally, we are involved in and care for – special mountains like this place, rivers, mounds, archaeological sites, old towns, burials, historic cemeteries. We protect artifacts – tools, pottery, old baskets, carvings. We also protect stories and help keep language because that's the way our people remember the past. Every story, artifact, tells us who we are and where we came from. So, by protecting them, we're able to pass it on to future generations."

His work is not only inspiring for young students; it has been of vital importance to the preservation of Cherokee history. He helped lead and co-author a study entitled "Talking Stones: Cherokee syllabary in Manitou Cave, Alabama" that was published in the Cambridge University Journal of Antiquity Volume 93, Issue 368 in April 2019.

The study revolved around



Beau Carroll, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and lead archaeologist at EBCI's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, is shown at the Kuwohi Connection Day event at Kuwohi in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Sept. 9, 2025. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

Cherokee syllabary being found in a cave in Alabama. Others working on the study included Jan Simek, Carroll's advisor at the University of Tennessee; Alan Cressler, cave photographer; Julie Reed, then-associate history professor at Penn State University and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation; and Tom Belt, a Cherokee Nation elder and first language Cherokee speaker.

Carroll and Belt worked on the translations which described anetso (stickball) games. The first two inscriptions translated spoke of a stickball game in April 1828. The first one translated as "leaders of the stickball team on the 30th

day in their month April 1828" and the second one read "we who are those that have blood come out of their nose and mouth" and included a signature of Richard Guess, Sequoyah's son.

At the time, Carroll told the One Feather the importance of having Cherokee people at the forefront of the study. "Usually, studies like these are from the outside looking in because the people who are conducting the study are not Cherokee. This study is different because it has another point of view that is lacking in the academic world. This work was personal, and I felt I needed to show that Cherokee people haven't

had much of a voice in the archaeological community, but that was going to change. My main focus was to show the benefits of tribal consultation, and the work speaks for itself."

In 2012, Carroll received the Outstanding Scholar Award from the College of Arts and Sciences Anthropology Department at Western Carolina University (WCU). He received a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology, archaeology, and Cherokee Studies from WCU that same year. He received a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) in archaeology from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville in 2025.

Carroll's doctoral dissertation is entitled "We Have Come to Turn It: Merging Archaeological Practices with the Cherokee Concept of Duyudvi ('the right way' or 'the right path')". His dissertation abstract states, "As the lead archaeologist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, I examine colonial legacies within the field and propose ways to allow for meaningful change through Indigenous-led collaborative work that incorporates community-based research and culturally grounded interpretations."

It adds, "When Cherokee language expertise, traditional knowledge, and first-hand accounts are combined within cultural resource management, a more meaningful way to practice Indigenous studies emerges."

The passion Carroll has for educating others on Cherokee culture is admirable and serves as a guide to others. Every day, he works to make sure that the field of archaeology has a Cherokee voice.

January report from Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper



Hello everyone,

This is my Council Report for January. I hope everyone has had a safe and productive start to the new year. As always, my report follows the standard format below.

Community Events

Jan. 12 – Groundbreaking Ceremony for “Cherokee Cultural Grounds”

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the newly named Cherokee Cultural Grounds, formerly known as the ceremonial grounds in front of the Council House.

Project Updates

Recently Completed Projects

This section will be updated as projects are completed throughout calendar year 2026.

Projects Currently Underway or Nearing Completion

There have been no substantial changes to the projects listed below. As we move past the holiday season, more updates are expected in the coming months.

Nvdiyeli Trail

The project is nearing completion. A ribbon-cutting date will be announced once it is finalized.

Cherokee Cultural Grounds (formerly the Ceremonial Grounds)

As noted above, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on Jan. 12.

Multipurpose Facility (Old High School Site)

The project remains in the design and development phase. A completion date has not yet been determined. (No change from December report.)

New Restroom Facilities – Historical Area (Indian Village and Fire Mountain Trails)

Designs have been approved, and the RFP process will begin soon. The goal is to complete this project before the new season opens. (No change from December report.)

Ordinances

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

- Amendments to the Judicial Code, Chapter 7 of the Cherokee Code
- Compliance with North Carolina State requirements for Underground Storage Tanks
- Amendments to election laws
- Amendments to CC Tribal Levy and other fees

Work Sessions

Upcoming Work Sessions

- Feb. 3 at 9:30 a.m. – Tabled Ord. No. 6 (2025): Judicial Code

Recently Held Work Sessions

- Jan. 5 at 9 a.m. – Tabled Ord. No. 6 (2025): Judicial Code
- Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. - Tabled Ord. No. 75 (2025): Cannabis Control Board terms
- Jan. 5 at 11 a.m. - Tabled Ord.

No. 76 (2025): TCGE/TGC terms

Monthly Question from Readers

This month, I want to focus on the Annual Report. First, I want to express my appreciation to everyone involved in producing this document. It requires significant effort and planning, and I am grateful for the transparency it provides to the public.

One item I would like to highlight is Days of Operating Cash. This financial metric measures how many days an organization can cover operating expenses assuming no additional cash inflow. For the Tribe, it reflects how long programs could continue if revenue from our enterprises were temporarily disrupted.

While this metric is useful for strategic planning, it can also create unnecessary concern by presenting a “worst-case scenario” that may not reflect our overall financial health. This leads to my question for EBCI members: Is this the type of information you want emphasized when discussing the Tribe’s financial position?

There are other commonly used financial measures that also demonstrate solvency—the ability to meet financial obligations—without focusing on revenue interruption scenarios. These include:

- Debt-to-equity ratio
- Financial leverage
- Proprietary ratio

The debt-to-equity ratio compares total debt to total equity, or the value of our assets. This helps show whether projects are funded through debt or other resources. A higher ratio can indicate increased risk, but it may also reflect growth by leveraging outside funding rather than tribal cash.

Financial leverage measures the use of borrowed funds to increase returns. In many cases,

projects are financed through debt so cash reserves can be used for other investments that earn more than the cost of borrowing. When projects generate revenue, higher financial leverage can be a positive indicator.

The proprietary ratio is the opposite - it shows how much of a project is funded with cash rather than debt. This approach reduces risk and is often appropriate for projects that are not intended to generate direct revenue. Recent projects such as Soco Falls and Whitewater Landing did not rely on tribal cash reserves and do not impact days of operating cash. While these projects do not generate direct revenue, they enhance tourism and community pride—benefits that are not easily reflected in financial statements but are highly valuable.

In closing, using Days of Operating Cash is not a poor measure of financial health. It is a helpful planning tool and provides insight into daily operating capacity. I also want to clearly state that the Tribe is in a strong financial position. This discussion is simply meant to highlight that there are multiple ways to present financial transparency to the public.

The Tribe operates as a business, and these metrics help assess our financial standing. The members of the EBCI are our shareholders, and it is our responsibility to share this information in a clear and understandable way, even when there may be differing opinions on direction.

Respectfully,
Michael Stamper
Tribal Council Representative
Painttown Community
(828) 736-6192
mikestamper@ebci-nsn.gov

Your engine light is on

Part 1 of 2

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

Scripture references: Psalms 1:1-2, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, Romans 12:2, Matthew 4:1-11, Philippians 4:8, Romans 8:5-8, Romans 8:38-39.

Critical decision-making instruction is lacking in our basic educational systems. Many organizations teach about Critical Thinking, but few teach students how to think critically about anything. Religious organizations consider the topic of Critical Thinking to be somehow New Age and should be discouraged from our educational syllabi. As Christians, we must think critically and make good decisions based on the Truth of God's Word, not worldly bias or Satan's influence.

False indications, faulty intelligence, and worldly bias often play in the lives of Christians who lose focus on the Truth and lose faith in God. Satan is the great deceiver whose only purpose is to confuse and lead us in the wrong direction by pushing us to wrong thinking. If you had ever ridden with me in my old 2005 pickup, you might have seen my engine light glowing on my dashboard. It's been like that for about five years now. It makes my wife nervous, and it used to bug me, too. I've tried fixing it and taken it to several mechanics; they all have prescribed fixes. I've tried those remedies that only cost a few bucks. A few recommendations would have cost a lot of money, and I've not done

those. You see, the pickup starts and runs fine with the light on. There may be a real fix, but it doesn't matter because I know it's not a big deal. I figured out I can get by. I ignore the lie; I don't get excited about it or change my driving habits.

The information that the sensor and indicator give me is faulty. False intel in life, if believed, can have costly, if not fatal, results. The idea is that sometimes we make bad decisions based on faulty intel. Many times that intel comes directly from the lies of Satan.

False swatting has become a significant problem across the US. You can Google what it is and find several incidents at schools, businesses, and private homes. An infamous event happened on Dec 28, 2017, in Wichita, Kansas. A local police officer (sniper) shot Andrew Finch to death after being mistakenly swatted by an online gamer playing "Call of Duty". The unidentified gamer got

into an argument with another online gamer and decided to play a prank. He submitted a 911 call and mistakenly gave the wrong address, resulting in a SWAT team response. Andrew Finch answered the door and was told to put his hands up. When he unexpectedly dropped one hand to his waist, he was immediately shot by the sniper officer. He was DOA at the hospital.

The original information was false, and the result was permanent. Andrew Finch, a father who had young children, was murdered.

In many ways, we all live with false information that pervades our daily lives. Some of it is the news we receive from media of all types. Some of it is gossip we hear from friends or family. As Christians, we should be diligent in guarding ourselves against these lies and deceptions. Our walk should be in Spirit and truth, but it is much more complicated than just saying so.

Consider how many people do terrible things based on false information. Suicide, murder, abortion, divorce, fights, division, you can name several negative results when people take action based on false information.

Critical thinking requires us to fight the indicator light. Those lights on your car's dashboard have been called 'idiot lights' by mechanics for years because they know the truth. Indicator lights don't tell you the whole story. You must dig deeper. You have to see all the angles and not jump to conclusions. You can not let prejudice or even previous experiences tell you what is right or wrong. You have to weigh the evidence and search for the truth. If you don't know the difference between true and false, you can't make a good decision, and you may as well hope for good luck. Do not put your faith in a warning light regardless of how long it burns.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Detail of "Rippling Water" by Frank Benson (1920)

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124: 6-8

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

Presentation by Cherokee Tribal Court – “The Importance of Having a Will, and the Process of Filing an Estate”. Jan. 29 at 11:15 a.m. at the West Senior Center (formerly known as Tsali Manor). The Cherokee Tribal Court will be presenting information regarding wills and estates for our Tribal seniors. Handouts will be provided. If you have questions pertaining to these topics, please make plans to attend.

MANNA Foodbank Community Market. Jan. 29 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Wolftown Gym 27 Long Branch rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Stop by for free grocery staples, produce and other perishable items. Bring your Own bags. Free and Open to all community members. Info: megastam@ebci-nsn.gov or (828) 359-6934

Tribal Sovereignty in the 21st Century. Jan. 29 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum of the Cherokee People in the TJ Holland Education Room 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. As part of the James A. Cooper Lecture Series, Cherokee Studies presents Stacy Leeds, Cherokee Nation Citizen. Leeds is the leading scholar of Indigenous law and policy, with extensive experience in law, higher education, economic development and conflict resolution. INFO: bh-riggs@email.wcu.edu

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

Valentine’s Fashion Market. Feb. 13 from 4p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute 171 Boys Club Loop, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Snag a last minute gift for your loved one. Featuring Kanesegi Artists: Faith Long-Pressley of Ganvhida Design, Tara McCoy, Tonya Carroll,, Alicia Wildcatt of Greybeard Metal Smithing, Paula Wojtkowski of Unapologetically Rez, Tooter Owens, Mary Thompson, Alex Lane and Louise Goings. Info: kananesgi17@gmail.com

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.

Spring Rod Run. April 24- 25 Old Cherokee High School Site, 1501 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Thousands in Cash Give-

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

SŌHI ʌD RVLLEʌJ DʌʌYL



Otis, age 1, and Piper, 7-months-old, live with Roger and Natalie Bivens in Wayohi (Wolftown). If you look in the background, you can see Loki, age 10, who is a former Pet of the Week.



Sponsored by:

CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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

aways, Early Bird Show and Shine Thursday after Lunch, Tool Box and Cooler Scooter Raffles, 50/50, Cruise Thru the Great Smokies National Park, Participant Meal, Valve Cover Racing, Model Car Contest, Vendors, Swap Meet, Food Vendors, Home Built Trophies, and More! Pre-Register before April 10 and be entered for a huge cash prize. Info: Cherokeeodders.com

Cherokee Cultural/Historical Events
Cherokee Winter Social. Jan. 31 at the Peaches Squirrel Sports & Rec. Complex 1212 Birdtown Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. MC: Catcuce Tiger. Everyone welcome! Traditional Dress and Ribbon Shirts/

Skirts encouraged. All Cherokee Singers welcome, bring your rattles & drums. Food provided by Nikki's Frybread.

Fingerweaving Fridays. Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Museum of the Cherokee People Art Studio 589 Tsali Blvd, Cherokee, NC. 28719 Bring a project or choose materials from the Museum's selection at this free craft circle open to beginner and experienced weavers. Info: (828) 497-3481

Cherokee Storytellers meet the fourth Tuesday of every month

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You need to be certain that all the right conditions are in place before you take the first step. It can't hurt to listen to good advice from those who have your best interests at heart.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be careful not to get involved in other people's disputes unless you know the facts behind the disagreements. This is the best way to be assured of making wise and honest decisions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You still need to be careful about how you're going to spend the energy reserves that you finally got around to restoring. Best advice: Avoid overdoing it; let things take their course.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your aspect continues to favor travel — alone or with a special person. So, if you've been putting off making some getaway plans, it's still a good time to get started on them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some so-called golden opportunities that continue to dazzle the Lion still need to be carefully checked out. Be suspicious about anything that looks like the "perfect" prospect.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Changes at the workplace could make it more difficult to do things the way that you prefer. But the wise Virgo who shows some flexibility could find it paying off in a big way.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might want to check out the

explanation you were given for a sudden shift in your duties. There's a possibility you haven't been told all the facts that you deserve to know.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Having confidence in your abilities is important, especially when you could be facing a new challenge, whether it's in the workplace or in a personal relationship. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A new work-related opportunity might not be all that it appears to be. Before making any decisions, you might want to check with others who have had some experience in this area.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A situation involving someone close could benefit from your timely intervention. Avoid being judgmental. There will be plenty of time later for the "little talks" you like to have.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Travel could be a surprise element in a new project. Be prepared for other previously undisclosed aspects that might also come to light as you proceed with the work.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Try to balance your work-related responsibilities with the time that you're spending on your recently revived social life. In addition, an old friend might be planning to return after a long absence.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your sensitivity makes you aware of the needs of others. Have you considered a career as a counselor?

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Incomplete training for audiologists

You wouldn't think you would need to wonder about a risk of suicide related to the audiology department of a clinic or the kind of work they do there or in having a hearing checkup. But you'd be wrong.

Tinnitus (ringing, buzzing, clicking or other sounds in the ears) is the number one service-connected disability, and those who have it often also have PTSD, behavior disorders, substance abuse, mental health problems and anxiety. It seems that looking for those concerns when there is a diagnosis of tinnitus would be standard care when being seen by an audiologist.

Again, you'd be wrong.

What doesn't always happen is training of audiology staff in suicide risk identification and intervention.

Clinical staff are trained to do a yearly suicide risk screening on patients. However, audiologists are not always recognized as clinical staff. Therefore, audiologists are only partially trained — they only receive Signs, Ask, Validate, Encourage and Expedite training. Clinical staff, on the other hand, receive the full Skills Training for Evaluation and Management of Suicide and need to complete it within 90 days of starting their job.

What the VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) found in 132 facilities was that nonclinical staff got the training, but most clinical staff did not.

Are audiologists considered health care providers, or not? That question was batted back and forth, with policymakers seeming unsure. And it left the OIG with a concern: If audiologists are not considered health care providers, are they or are they not getting the correct suicide risk training? And are they actually doing the suicide screenings?

The OIG investigation results from two years indicate that no, they're not doing all the screenings. For those two years, only 22 and 39% of screenings were done. And at 15 facilities, no screenings were done at all.

For 29,000 VA patients who only get audiology care, that means nobody was doing any suicide risk assessments on them for those two years.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



Frosty temps result in cold paws

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My cat "Fiero" is a robust outdoor cat who loves being outside all day and comes in at night. Recently, he came in limping a bit. I couldn't see any damage to his paws, but the pads felt really cold and he didn't like me touching them. Can cats' paws freeze in the cold? — Fred S., Madison, Wisconsin

DEAR FRED: Yes, cats absolutely can be injured in cold weather. While they are more inclined to find a warm and cozy spot, away from ice and snow, cats are still at risk of frostbitten paw pads, cuts from jagged ice or salt, hypothermia and possible poisoning from licking ice melt off of their paws.

I suspect that Fiero's paw pads are frostbitten, and he may have gotten slightly hypothermic as well, especially if it was bitterly cold outside. Contact the veterinarian for guidance so that he recovers quickly from the injury.

While Fiero is happiest outside, you can create a space for him inside to watch birds and wildlife outdoors. Set up a window shelf that he can relax on while looking out of the window. Another option is to stream a "cat TV" channel. These increasingly popular live streams — found mostly on YouTube — are designed to draw cats' attention to twittering birds and curious squirrels on the screen.

Additionally, give him an outlet for his excess energy. Place scratch pads throughout the house so he can sharpen his claws without destroying the furniture. Try different cat toys to get him to chase and play.

For less-bitter-cold days outside, set up a covered shelter in a sunny spot next to your house for Fiero to rest in. This can reduce the risk of a cold injury.

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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

EVENTS: *from page 31*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Gourd Dance & Stomp Dance. Jan. 31 at Mary E. Silvers Exhibit Hall in Stillwater, Okla. Info: nasaosu@gmail.com

Myaami Winter Gathering. Jan. 31 at the Miami Nation Council Building in Miami, Okla. MC: George Alexander. Host Drum: Ironbow. Info: Julie Olds (918) 541-3131, Nate Poyfair (918) 325-0295, <https://miamination.com/>

Sweetheart Dance. Feb. 7 at the Bridgestone Intermediate School in Oklahoma City, Okla. MC: Carla Whiteman. Head Singer: Leonard Cozad Jr. Info: Felecita Toledo (405) 408-5310

Prairie Island Waniyetu Wacipi. Feb. 13-15 at the Treasure Island Resort & Casino Event Center in Welch, Minn. Emcees: Whitney Rencountre and Redwing

Thomas. Host Drum: Bad River. Invited Drums: The Descendants, Hay Creek, Ironwood, Smokeytown, Bad Nation. Info: <https://prairieisland.org>

20th Annual Gathering at the Rapids. Feb. 14-15 at GLF Memorial Gardens in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. MC: Joey Awonohopy. Host Drum: Blackstone. Co-Host Drum: Bear Creek. Info: Elizabeth.nahwegezhic@algomau.ca

Quapaw Nation Gourd Dance and Hand Games. Feb. 14 at Miami Council House in Miami, Okla. MC: Awk-A-Noxie Hamilton. Info: Lane Ellick (918) 543-1853 or Shawn Ellick (918) 290-0026

15th Annual Bay Area American Indian (BAAITS) Two Spirit Pow Wow. Feb. 14 at Fort Mason Festival Pavillion in San Francisco, Calif. Info: admin@baaits.org

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

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.

Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society meeting.

Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Dr. in Bryson City, N.C. Don Casada will present "Jacob Shope's Mule Sets the Record Straight" about the Deep Creek area. Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. This is free and open to the public.

Stecoah Stories & Seeds,

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

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 Po Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society meeting. Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Dr. in Bryson City, N.C. Don Casada will present "Jacob Shope's Mule Sets the Record Straight" about the Deep Creek area. Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. This is free and open to the public. Licenses and submit your application. Applications will be accepted through March 20, 2026. For more information, please contact the event coordinators at greeningupthemountains@town-of-sylva.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

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



LINDSAY EDWARDS
Deputy Pharmacy Director

Education: B.S. Biology, PharmD at UNC-Chapel Hill
Years at CIHA: 18 Years
Community/Hometown: Birdtown/3200 Acre Tract

"I am fortunate to have worked at CIHA since my residency and have had lots of personal and professional growth over the years. I now work on pharmacy billing, and it is very rewarding to be able to help my community directly and indirectly every day."-Lindsay Edwards

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

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: from page 33

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bigwitch Baptist Church. 2290 Bigwitch Rd. Sunday School

10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday service 6 p.m. Pastor James "Jimbo" Sneed. All are welcome.

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

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

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

Cherokee Church of Christ. 2350 Old Mission Road and Hwy.



Moments in time

• On Feb. 9, 2022, snowboard marvel Chloe Kim made history as the first athlete to earn a gold medal in the women's snowboard halfpipe event in two consecutive Winter Olympics. Four years earlier, she had also become the youngest winner of that event at age 17.

• On Feb. 10, 1943, duct tape was born when factory worker Vesta Stoudt, who packed WWII munitions, sent a letter to Franklin Delano Roosevelt outlining, with drawings, her idea to replace weak paper packing tape with a tougher and waterproof cloth version. The president was impressed enough to launch the suggestion into production.

• On Feb. 11, 2012, singer Whitney Houston was found dead in the bathtub of her suite at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The cause of death was determined to be accidental drowning, with contributing factors of heart disease and cocaine.

• On Feb. 12, 1970, Joseph Searles III became the first Black member of the New York Stock Exchange, following in the footsteps of Clarence B. Jones, who three years previously was the first African American to become an allied NYSE member, but without trading floor access.

• On Feb. 13, 1861, Col. Bernard J.D. Irwin, an assistant army surgeon serving in the first major U.S.-Apache conflict, volunteered to go to the rescue of 2nd Lt. George N. Bascom, who was trapped with 60 men of the U.S. Seventh Infantry by the Chiricahua Apaches in southeastern Arizona, in what became the earliest military action to be awarded a Medal of Honor.

• On Feb. 14, 1980, playwright Lillian Hellman sued novelist and critic Mary McCarthy for libel, demanding \$2.25 million in damages. The case posed the tricky question of where the legal line stands between a critic's free speech and malicious libel.

• On Feb. 15, 1961, the entire 18 member U.S. figure skating team was killed in a plane crash in Berg-Kamphenhout, Belgium, while on their way to the 1961 World Figure Skating Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Investigators were unable to determine the exact cause of the crash, though mechanical difficulties were suspected.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Deborah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which of these wasn't on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus? Peter, James, John, Andrew
3. From Matthew 13, how many of Jesus' "brothers" wrote books of the Bible? 0, 1, 2, 3
4. Which of these had 300 concubines? Pharaoh, King Solomon, Saul, Adam
5. What is the biblical interpretation of a concubine? Oven, Secondary wife, Chariot, Gold bracelet
6. In which city did King Ahasuerus mainly live? Corinth, Gath, Berea, Shushan

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Andrew, 3) Two (James and Jude), 4) King Solomon, 5) Secondary wife, 6) Shushan

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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

The Garden Bug

Top gardening apps

Apps for planning:	Apps for plant care:
• Planter	• Planta
• iScape	• From Seed to Spoon
• Gardenize	• Garden Manager
• Gardroid	• Moon and Garden

- Brenda Weaver
Source: gardentherapy.ca

© 2026 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

19. Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Sunday
Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednes-
day 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 Ser-
vice 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Ser-
vice 7 p.m. 21 Church of God Drive.
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday
Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednes-
day 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 Naz-
arene.** 72 Old School Loop off
Big Cove Road. Sunday Morning

Service 11 a.m. Continental Break-
fast 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 Holi-
ness Church.** Located behind the
Wolfetown Gym. Sunday School:
10 a.m, Sunday worship: 11 a.m,
Sunday evening worship: 5 p.m.
Wednesday night worship: 6 p.m.
Pastor Tim Melton 674-2690

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

Cherokee Wesleyan Church.

Hwy 19 across from Happy Holi-
day 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., Wednes-
day 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 Con-
ference Center. Full season starts
Aug. 4. Sunday School 10 a.m. and
Morning Worship 11 a.m. Year-
round services – church online live
streamed from the 24/7 church
channel, Embassy TV [https://em-
bassytv.net](https://embassytv.net) Tuesday Night Bible
Study 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Will
Chambliss, Thursday Night Wom-
en'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., Sun-
day 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 ser-
vices. Also, Sunday worship service
is live-streamed.

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

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a
partnership with
EBCI Natural Resources



The **Spruce-Fir Moss Spider** is the
world's smallest tarantula, only about
1/8 of an inch long. This endangered
species lives in the cool, mossy
spruce-fir forests above ~5,400 feet
and is found only on fewer than 25
mountaintops in North Carolina,
Virginia, and Tennessee, including
places like Kuwohi and Mount
Mitchell. It relies on the green moss
mats that grow on trees, rocks, and
boulders in these high-elevation
habitats. Its ecosystem is under threat
due to the invasive Balsam woolly
adelgid, acid precipitation, and
climate change.

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: from page 35

Grace Fellowship Church.

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

Jesus is the Light Full Gospel Ministries.

1921 US 441 N. Sunday service 10 a.m. Thursday service 7 p.m. Pastor Margie Hall 736-9383

Living Waters Lutheran Church.

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

Macedonia Baptist Church.

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

Newsong Church.

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

Old Antioch Baptist Church.

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

Olivet United Methodist 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 Span-

ish. Pastor Fr. Victor Ameh, MSP. For more information, go to www.stjosephbryson.org.

The Peaks Church.

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

Rock Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

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

Rock Springs Baptist Church.

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

Sequoyah Sovereign Grace Church.

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

Shoal Creek Baptist Church.

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

Spruce Grove Baptist Church.

780 Lands Creek Rd., Bryson City, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 7 p.m., Wednesday evening service 7

p.m., third Saturday singing 7 p.m. Pastor Ernie Cable. Email: sprucegrovebc.1920@gmail.com

Straight Fork Baptist Church.

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

Waterfalls Baptist Church.

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

Whittier United Methodist Church.

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

er-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

Ask a Therapist

A community space for mental wellness



Brooke Barrett
LCMHC
(Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

Submit questions for Brooke to answer in her biweekly column:
cherokeefonefeather1966@gmail.com

OGAN UDAYVLTU AGOWATISGU IGA
GROUNDHOG SHADOW SEEING DAY



Custom Jewelry • Rock Shop



Smoky Mountain GOLD & RUBY MINE
Hwy. 441
Downtown Cherokee
828-497-6574 www.smgrm.com

94.1FM WBHN
CLASSIC COUNTRY
Your #1 STATION FOR CLASSIC COUNTRY

TRAD O

12:30-1pm Weekdays

Scan The QR Code To Download Our Mobile App!





CLASSIFIEDS

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

DoneHauling

One-time cleanouts, regular trash pickups, and large-item hauling for Qualla Boundary residents—honest, affordable, and convenient. Tribally owned & operated. Call or text for a free quote: 828-341-0099. **3/25**

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. 25-111

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

**SALLY JULIA TRAMPER
KENT**

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

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

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

1/28

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 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 PUBLICA-
TION

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

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

Dylan Morgan

312 Macedonia Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719
2/5

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 PUBLICA-
TION

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

2/11

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-005

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

UNA SAMPSON

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

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

Ryne Sampson
P.O. Box 2408
Cherokee, NC. 28719

2/18

MANDARA SPA

Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist
Nail Tech
Lead Massage Therapist
Spa Attendants

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

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 Cherokee, North Carolina
 Estate File No. 26-006
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

ANNA SUE OWLE

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

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

Charles E. Owle Jr.
 1555 Route 206
 Tabernacle, NJ 08088
2/18

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

Request for Proposals

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

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

RFP Release Date: January 9, 2026

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

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

rkli.org

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

BID

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

Looking for Contractors

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO General Contractors for the project, “57K Indoor”. This work will consist of foundation design/ placement, and installation of a 57,000 sf red iron building.

A mandatory Pre-bid will be held February 12th 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. **2/4**



**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)**
- K-5 Behavior Support Teacher Assistant**
- 6-Hour Full-Time Food Service Worker**
- Part-time Food Service Worker**



STAFF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- *Housekeeping - 2nd Shift*
- *Scrub Team - 2nd Shift*
- *Greenhouse Manager*
- *Accounting Technician*
- *Exceptional Children (EC) Teacher*

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- *Assistant/Associate Professor - Construction Management*
- *Assistant Professor of Practice - Costume Design*
- *Assistant Professor - Photography*
- *Assistant Professor - Emergency Medical Care*
- *Assistant Professor - Mathematics*

VISIT JOBS.WCU.EDU FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY

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

Breaking News & Alerts

Search: Cherokee Indian Police Dept



SCAN
TO DOWNLOAD!



Built by:





Clarion Pointe has the following jobs available:

Assistant General Manager – Full Time – Exempt - Under the direction of the General Manager, oversees the Front Desk, Housekeeping, and Food and Beverage Departments. The Assistant General Manager ensures that all policies and procedures are followed to uphold company standards.

Executive Housekeeper – Full Time – Non-Exempt - Under the direction of the Assistant General Manager, oversees the housekeeping department. The Executive Housekeeper organizes and monitors overall cleanliness of the hotel's interior and exterior. The Executive Housekeeper ensures that all policies and procedures are followed to uphold company standards.

Front Desk Manager – Full Time – Exempt - The Front Desk Manager is responsible for the strategic management of the

Front Office department following Choice Hotels' brand standards, policies, and procedures. This role is responsible for the operation of all Front Desk operations, the Housekeeping Team, and the Food and Beverage.

Front Desk Agents – 3 Full Time, 3 Part Time, Non-Exempt - Efficient check-in/check-out of guests. Respond to inquiries and complaints in an efficient, courteous, and professional manner to achieve maximum customer satisfaction while complying with or exceeding all standard operating procedures and service. The

Front Desk Agent must have good data entry skills and basic computer knowledge. Strong customer service skills. Ability to work in a high-stress, fast-paced environment while maintaining a professional and positive demeanor. You must be well-organized and detail-oriented. Ability to work in a diverse and team-focused environment. Full Time Shifts – 7:00am – 3:00pm, 3:00pm – 11:00pm, 11:00pm – 7:00am, PT shifts Vary

Room Attendant – 4 Part Time – Non Exempt, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm - The Room Attendant plays a crucial role in maintaining the overall cleanliness of the hotel's guestrooms. Their duties include being able to stand and bend for several hours. You must be able to clean guest rooms and common areas to Choice Hotels' standards. Ability to work in a diverse, fast-paced environment. Room attendants are required to disinfect and fully clean guest rooms and common areas within the required time.

Laundry Attendant: 1 – Full – Time – Non Exempt - The role of Laundry Attendant is to ensure that all linen is properly washed, dried, cleaned, restocked, and all closets are maintained with proper pars. To operate all laundry equipment and maintain a safe environment.

Anyone interested should pick up an application and position description at the Kituwah Office across the road from the Waffle House, between the hours of 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday -Friday or email kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com.

Exempt means it's a salaried position; non-exempt means it's an hourly position



Cherokee Cinemas & More has the following job opportunities:

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

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

Janitor – Part Time – Less than 30 hours a week – Pay depends on experience
A Janitor cleans the theater and theater property during non-operating hours. Responsible for cleaning floors, carpets, walls, doors, seats, restrooms, sidewalks, parking lots, concession stands, etc. Works after the theater closes or before the first show of the day. Ensures that the next day's Customers will walk into a sparkling clean theater.

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

Executive Vice President: Full-Time/Exempt Position

The Executive Vice President (EVP) is a key enterprise leader responsible for driving operational execution, strategic growth, and federal contracting excellence across the Kituwah Global Government Group. This role oversees a diverse portfolio of federal and commercial programs, ensuring consistent, compliant, and high-performing results aligned with tribal economic development objectives.

The EVP is accountable for revenue expansion, disciplined program management, operational maturity, and risk mitigation across a growing family of 8(a), small business, and commercial entities. This includes direct oversight of program operations, shared services coordination, capture and growth strategy, and long-term enterprise planning.

This position mirrors EVP/COO responsibilities in major tribal government contracting organizations and requires a senior executive with demonstrated success scaling multi-entity platforms under SBA regulations and complex federal acquisition environments.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree in business administration, Public Administration, Government Contracting, or a related field required.
- Minimum 15+ years of progressive leadership experience, including 10+ years in federal contracting or federal services.
- Experience leading a federal contracting enterprise or business unit with annual revenue typically ranging from \$50M–\$500M+.
- Deep knowledge of SBA tribal 8(a) regulations, federal procurement processes, and multi-entity tribal corporate structures.
- Demonstrated success in scaling operations, improving margins, and managing complex portfolios with multiple agencies.
- Strong financial acumen, including cost accounting standards, indirect rate management, DCAA compliance, and financial forecasting.
- Expertise with federal contract vehicles, including IDIQs, GWACs, Schedules, and MATOCs.
- Ability to build trusted relationships with federal clients, teaming partners, and tribal governance structures.
- Exceptional communication, negotiation, and executive presentation skills.
- Must be a U.S. citizen with an active Secret clearance; Top Secret/SCI preferred.

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

Maintenance Technician – Salary Depends on Experience

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

Resident Technician – 2nd/3rd Shift – Salary Depends on Experience

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

Housekeeping Concierge - \$14.00 - \$19.00

The Housekeeping Concierge is responsible for the overall property cleanliness and customer assistance needs primarily at the Chestnut Tree (Workforce Housing) property. Cleaning duties may include cleaning floors, rooms, restrooms, kitchens, common spaces, etc. Job duties can also extend into supporting operational needs such as mail delivery, occupant access, and maintenance needs reporting.

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

Kituwah Services LLC has the following jobs available:

Senior Director of Professional Services:

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

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Preferred minimum 10 years of global experience specializing in design, program and project management using both BICSI, TIA and PMI-PMBOK Standards for Telecommunication/Information Technology Engineering for voice and data telecommunication network infrastructures,
- Must have extensive experience designing secure network plans, security design plans, and active shooter programs.
 - Technical and Board Certifications including RCDD, RTPM, CPP, CISSP or similar experience.
 - Must have experience managing projects from initial project planning through project execution and supervision of all phases of projects that require multiple subcontractors and team members.
 - Must be knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Revit enabling full 2D and 3D design plans and requirements
 - Strong verbal, presentation and writing skills
 - Additional qualifications:
 - o Strong leadership skills (Includes thought leadership and problem-solving)
 - o Successful start-up and Day 2 management experience
 - o Knowledge of daily internal and external (customer-facing) operations
 - o Familiarity with proper meeting management structure and protocols
 - o Strong project-management skills
 - o Sales-and-marketing management experience
 - o Extensive DoD and/or federal law enforcement project experience
 - o Global or multi-national business experience

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

Kituwah Technologies LLC has the following jobs available:

Project Manager/Estimator

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

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

Low Voltage Technician I

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

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

Low Voltage Cable Technician II

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

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

Low Voltage Cable Technician III

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

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

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

NEW YEAR NEW JOB



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



OPEN POSITIONS

New Positions

Physician - Pediatrics
Tribal Option Specialty Team Care

Behavioral Health

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

Dental

Dental Assistant II
Dental Hygienist
Dentist - CIHA and Satellite - \$10,000 Hiring
Bonus

Executive

Administrative Assistant

Eye Clinic

Optometrist
Optometric Assistant

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

Tribal Option

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker
Tribal Option Specialty Team Care Manager
(LTSS)
Tribal Option Care Manager - Float

CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS

828.497.9163 EXT. 6343

Enjoy the elk—safely!

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



smokies **life**



Snowbird Peewee Lady Warriors go undefeated
 The Snowbird Peewee Lady Warriors won the Smoky Mountain Youth Basketball Conference and went undefeated for their season. The team was coached by Holly Jackson, Fonz McCoy, and Joseph McCoy. The team is shown, left to right, including Peyton Ball, Ari Harkins, Hadley Millsaps, Hartlee Jackson, Onie Swimmer, and Lenora Ramirez. Not pictured – Ollie Blevins. (Photo contributed)



Subscribe to the
One Feather today.
 Send back the form below, or
 call us at (828) 359-6262 to
 pay with a card.

GWY ᏫᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏆᏚᏛᏁᏍᏔᏅ
 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

*Please email all flyers and
 photos to us at:*

**Cherokeefonefeather1966
 @gmail.com**

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

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The price is \$40 for the year.

GWY ᏫᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏆᏚᏛᏁᏍᏔᏅ
 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

PRE-OWNED



2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon 4x4

43,861 miles

Price **\$36,399**



2021 Chevrolet Express Cargo 2500 WT

93,811 miles

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



2022 Acura MDX Advance Package

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

37,551 miles

Price **\$45,985**



2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT

46,922 miles

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



2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss

12,162 miles

Pricing Info
Price **\$53,995**

COUNTRYSIDE
CHEVROLET
HOME OF THE
10 YEAR
POWERTRAIN
WARRANTY!
CALL US FIRST ON NEW & USED VEHICLES UNDER 100K MILES.

HABLAMOS ESPANOL
Permitabos ayudarle con sus necesidades de compra de automoviles!



COUNTRYSIDE
CHEVROLET
FRANKLIN, NC

ALL VEHICLES ON LOT ARE TARIFF-FREE