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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
ka-ga-li (feb.) 11-17,
2026

Dedicated service

Dr. Lisa Lefler named Honorary Member of EBCI

By BROOKLYN BROWN
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the morning of Thursday, Feb. 5, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) voted unanimously to name Dr. Lisa Lefler an Honorary Member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). The resolution was submitted by Secretary of Community, Education, and Recreation Sky Sampson and can be viewed here.

“Dr. Lisa Lefler has dedicated over two decades to serving the Cherokee community, advancing health and wellness in collaboration with the PHHS Division, Cherokee Indian Hospital, WCU Cherokee Center, the Cherokee Studies Program, and the Institutional Review Board (IRB), as well as being a member of the Cultural IRB (CIRB) since 1998. Her research on historical grief and trauma has positively influenced many EBCI members through initiatives such as the Cherokee Choices Program and, subsequently, the Culturally Based Native Health Certificate Program.”

Dr. Lefler is the director of the
see HONORARY page 4



Dr. Lisa Lefler, center, is shown with her supporters following Dinilawigi’s (Tribal Council’s) unanimous decision to name her an Honorary Member of the EBCI on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 5. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)



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

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

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

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HONORARY: From front page

Culturally Based Native Health Certificate Program at Western Carolina University (WCU). She is also the director of the Center for Native Health. As a professor in the WCU College of Health and Human Sciences, Dr. Lefler has taught medical anthropology, psychological anthropology, applied research methods, Appalachian studies, Cherokee studies, and Native American studies, and works as a researcher in alcohol and drug studies with American Indian

populations, American Indian fatherhood, applied Indigenous knowledge, and Native Health.

Dr. Lefler also worked in U.N.I.T.Y Healing Center for several years with Dr. Tom Belt. After decades of research and work at WCU and in the Cherokee community, the pair wrote a book, "Sounds of Tohi: Cherokee Health and Well-Being in Southern Appalachia."

Belt supported the resolution, as did Tommy Cabe, Sarah Thompson, Frieda Saylor, Angelina Jumper, Sheena Lambert, Tina

Saunooke, Patty Grant, Louise Goings, Robin Bailey-Callahan, Driver Blythe, Sky Sampson, Roseanna Belt, Brett Riggs, Onita Bush, Vicky Bradley, Tyson Sampson, Casey Cooper, Sonya Wachacha, and Paxton Myers.

EBCI member Driver Blythe, one of Dr. Lefler's former students, said during the Dinilawigi session, "She has been a key ally, and her rigorous study and her tenure through Western Carolina University and all other educational avenues that she has participated in has done nothing but to better

the Eastern Band and other tribes that she has worked with."

EBCI elder Onita Bush added, "She is one powerful woman, she is one powerful leader, and it is an honor for me to even be close to her because she's also mine and my husband's sister. We adopted her as our sister because we love her so much...It is an honor to have her as an honorary member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians."

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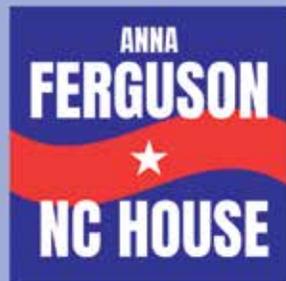
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EBCI tribal legislative updates (Feb. 5)

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.

Passed, Killed, or Withdrawn

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

Among others, several changes include: Amending Sec. 113-5(b) (5) to read, "Using non-native bait determined by the Department to be invasive shall be unlawful." Also, there is a proposed change to fishing hours changing it from one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset to thirty minutes before sunrise and thirty minutes after sunset.

This ordinance also amends Sec. 113-5(c)(1) to reduce the

fishing creel limit from 10 to seven fish per day per permit holder.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie, on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Oct. 13, 2025.

Action: This ordinance was passed (9-3) during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026. The three dissenting votes were: Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman) Jim Owle, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, and Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Mike Parker.

Ord. No. 54 (2025). This ordinance amends 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 passed by a majority vote (11-1) during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026 with Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper being the dissenting vote.

New Ordinances

Ord. No. 107 (2026) - This ordinance seeks to amend several portions of Cherokee Code regarding the filing and publishing of ethics reports generated by the EBCI Office of Internal Audit and Ethics.

The whereas section of the legislation states, "These laws were written broadly and, in their current form, sometimes allow a person to file a complaint based on allegations that are false or cannot be substantiated; and these laws have resulted in the publication of reports even when the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics has found that the person against whom the complaint was made did not violate the Code of Ethics, and the publication causes unfair and damaging publicity for the person who did no wrong."

Following are some of the changes sought in this ordinance:

- Amend Cherokee Code Sec. 96-6(a) to change the time "any covered employee who believes that he or she has been subject to prohibited discrimination found in Cherokee Code Section 96-5" from 180 calendar days to 30 calendar days.

- Amend Cherokee Code Sec. 117-45.1(a)(1) regarding the definition of "Tribal Official" as it relates to appointed positions.

- Amend Cherokee Code Sec. 117-45.3(k) regarding reporting of gifts

and donations by tribal officials. Right now, the Code reads, "Tribal officials shall report to the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics, in accordance with that office's rules of procedure, any gift, donation, or contribution received or provided by the tribal official." The ordinance seeks to amend that line to insert "in excess of \$200 in value" after the word contribution.

- Amend several parts of Cherokee Code Sec. 117-107 regarding reports from both audits and investigations adding that the reports where a violation was found would be distributed. It also seeks to eliminate most of Sec. 117-107(c) regarding the handling of the reports and submission of them to the One Feather for publishing. First off, that subsection would be renamed from Public records to Referral for prosecution. Three entire subsections would be deleted regarding the reports being sent to the Office of the Attorney General for any redactions and then sent to the One Feather for publication. Those processes would be amended, and Sec. 117-107(c) would simply read, "Completed the final audit reports and investigative reports issued by the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics which conclude a violation of the Code of Ethics occurred shall be forward to the Tribal Prosecutor for potential criminal investigation and prosecution."

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by EBCI Attorney General Michael McConnell, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

Action: There is no action on this ordinance yet.

Ord. No. 108 (2026) – This ordinance, which has been deemed the William Thomas “Dooley” Saunooke law, would amend Cherokee Code Sec. 113-4 to codify the actions of fishing guides and add an entire section under Sec. 113-4 entitled Fishing guides. That section sets up a licensing process for fishing guides which is defined in the proposed ordinance “as someone who provides knowledge, instruction, or assistance to an angler during a fishing trip for payment or other remuneration from or on behalf of the angler. This term does not include fishing instructors acting on behalf of Cherokee Central Schools or the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman) Jim Owle and Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026. Action: There is no action on this ordinance yet.

Ord. No. 110 (2026) – This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Chapter 40 (Eminent Domain) regarding condemnation of land for public purpose, compensation of land holder, and determination of land value. One part of this ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Sec. 40-1 which now reads, “The Tribe shall have power to condemn land within the Cherokee Indian Reservation whenever such land is deemed by the Tribal Council

to be necessary for a public purpose. The exercise of eminent domain shall be initiated by the Tribal Council passing a resolution identifying the land to be taken for a public purpose, the possessory holder and leasehold tenants and the purpose for which the land will be used.”

The ordinance seeks to add the following sentence to the end of the above section, “Eminent domain shall also include inverse condemnation of a possessory holding that may have occurred by any action of the Tribe that restricts, hinders, or otherwise interferes with a possessory holder’s access to or use of a possessory holding.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Robert Osley Saunooke, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi regular session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026. Action: There is no action on this ordinance yet.

Ord. No. 111 (2026) – This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Chapter 1 (Civil Procedure).

The whereas section states, “Tribal Council has the power and authority to amend the laws of the Tribe to provide a means for recovering damages for the negligent actions of the Tribe, its agents and employees; and since the Supreme Court decision in Campos (Cherokee Supreme Court, Campos vs Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, August 2024), the Tribe has continued to maintain and pay for insurance policies to cover negligent actions of the Tribe, its agents

and employees, even though said policies are now invalidated by the Supreme Court decision; and the Tribe has continually maintained and promoted the responsibility for covering damages arising from the negligent and bad actions of the Tribe, its agents and employees, and there is now no mechanism in place that would prevent innocent victims of negligent or bad actions of the Tribe.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Robert Osley Saunooke, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi regular session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026. Action: There is no action on this ordinance yet.

Legislation we’re currently watching

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

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Cherokee Chief Justice Bradley Letts, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled

during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

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

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. Action: A work session was held on this ordinance on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

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 (McCarren-Walter Technical Corrections Act).

According to the bill’s text, this legislation would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”.

Introduced: July 22, 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).

see LEGISLATIVE next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 9

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

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

Introduced: 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 Transpor-

tation 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. The women’s team tennis competition formerly known as the Federation Cup was renamed in 2020 to honor which tennis great?

2. American publishing conglomerate Doubleday & Company purchased which Major League Baseball team in 1980?

3. Which retired NASCAR driver was among seven people killed in a December 2025 plane crash in North Carolina?

4. What female long-distance runner from Germany won the Boston Marathon three straight times from 1994 to 1996?

5. French soccer great Thierry Henry was named manager of what Major League Soccer club in November 2019?

6. Name the heavyweight boxer who was injured in a 1964 police shooting incident, recovered to fight Muhammad Ali in 1966, and died at age 66 after being struck by a car while walking in Houston in 1999?

7. Motorsports legend Craig Breedlove set five world land speed records from 1963 to 1965 driving turbojet-powered vehicles, all known by what name? (Hint: The Beach Boys recorded a song about it.)

Answers

1. Billie Jean King.
2. The New York Mets.
3. Greg Biffle.
4. Uta Pippig.
5. The Montreal Impact.
6. Cleveland Williams.
7. “Spirit of America.”

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Sleight and Roland child abuse cases schedule update

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**

One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - In August 2024, Bevier Hasbrouck Sleight III, then 78, who was employed as Santa at Santa's Land Fun Park & Zoo in Cherokee, was arrested by Cherokee Indian Police Department on 13 child abuse charges including two counts of aggravated sexual abuse; two counts of sexual abuse; two counts of abusive sexual contact; three counts of offensive touching; two counts of contributing to the delinquency, undiscipline, neglect, or abuse of minors; and two counts of child abuse in the first degree. Sleight is not yet set for trial. His next court date is scheduled for March 23 in Cherokee Tribal Court.

The mother of the minor victims, Caroline Roland, was subsequently charged federally with child abuse, child neglect, and assault in Indian country. The prosecuting attorney is Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Scott, and Roland's trial is set for April 6 in federal court in Asheville, N.C.

The One Feather will continue to follow the cases of Sleight and Roland.

CIPD Arrest Report for Jan. 26 to Feb. 1, 2026

The following people were arrested by the Cherokee Indian Police Department and booked into the Anthony Edward Lossiah Justice Center. It should be noted that the

following defendants have only been charged with the crimes listed and should be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Mugshots can be viewed online at theonefeather.com.

Holt II, Ronald Allen – age 50
Arrested: Jan. 26
Released: Jan. 26
Charges: Temporary Hold

Davis, Jeffery Marcell – age 41
Arrested: Jan. 27
Released: Jan. 30
Charges: Larceny, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Probation Violation

Lossie, Woodrow Wilson – age 21
Arrested: Jan. 27
Released: Jan. 28
Charges: Simple Assault, Child Abuse in the Second Degree, Probation Violation

Pipes II, Eric Lee – age 37
Arrested: Jan. 27
Released: Jan. 31
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (two counts)

Tranter, Alaia Lynn – age 20
Arrested: Jan. 27
Released: Jan. 28
Charges: Assault on a Child, Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Davis, Jessica – age 51
Arrested: Jan. 28
Released: Jan. 30
Charges: Simple Assault, Domestic Violence

Henry, Andrew James – age 49
Arrested: Jan. 29
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 2)
Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Nierenhausen, Warrior – age 48
Arrested: Jan. 29
Released: Jan. 30
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Sequoyah, Richard Noah – age 45
Arrested: Jan. 29
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 2)
Charges: Probation Violation

Morgan, Jennifer Renee – age 25
Arrested: Jan. 30
Released: Feb. 1
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Wilnoty, Laranzo Daniel – age 39
Arrested: Jan. 30
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 2)
Charges: Failure to Appear on

Misdemeanor

Wolfe, Yulonda Renee – age 54
Arrested: Jan. 30
Released: Jan. 30
Charges: Simple Assault, Assault and Battery, Simple Affray

Downs, Whitney Allison – age 32
Arrested: Jan. 31
Released: Jan. 31
Charges: Breaking and/or Entering

Sampson, Jessa Emma – age 27
Arrested: Jan. 31
Released: Jan. 31
Charges: Hold Until Sober

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**Cherokee Tribal Court
Disposition Summary
for Jan. 1-31**

Submitted by Cherokee Tribal Court

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

Arch, Cassandra A.

- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (April 29, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Armachain, Maribel

- No Operators License (May 21, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Armachain, Brian W.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Dec. 11, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Arneach, Cheyenne R.

- Probation Revocation (Dec. 13, 2025). Admitted. Return to treatment, remain on EHC, continue serving sentence.

Bradley, Marley H.

- Reckless Driving-Wanton Disregard (Oct. 24, 2025). Guilty/Responsible. Amended to unsafe movement.

Brady, William J.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (April 18, 2013). Dismissed without leave
- Aggravated Reckless Endangerment (May 8, 2025). Dismissed

per plea.

- Elder Abuse and Neglect (May 8, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (May 8, 2025). Dismissed without leave.

Brown, Lucas W.

- Exceeding Safe Speed (Dec. 28, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Burton, Chad D.

- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (July 4, 2025). Dismissed without leave.

Crowe, Bobby A.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Oct. 19, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

- Reckless Driving to Endanger (Oct. 19, 2025). VD

Crowe, Maritsa S.

- No Liability Insurance (Sept. 3, 2025). VD - other.

- DWLR (Sept. 3, 2025). VD - other.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Dec. 30, 2025). VD.

- No Liability Insurance (Dec. 30, 2025). VD.

- Exceeding Posted Speed (Dec. 30, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Davis, Leonardo C.

- Violation of Registration Provisions (Oct. 10, 2023). Guilty/Responsible.

- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Oct. 10, 2023). Guilty/Responsible.

Davis, Jeremiah I.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (May 11, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (April 12, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Operation of a Motor Vehicle without Financial Responsibility a Misdemeanor (Sept. 26, 2023). Dismissed per plea.

- No Operators License/Drivers License (Sept. 26, 2023). Dismissed per plea.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (May 11, 2025). Alford plea.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Feb. 27, 2025). Alford plea.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Feb. 27, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Probation Revocation (Aug. 22, 2023). Guilty per plea. 18 months suspended, credit for 198 days served, 18 months supervised probation.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (April 12, 2024). Alford plea.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (April 12, 2024).

Davis, Jeffery M.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (June 30, 2025). Guilty. 6 months suspended, credit for 3 days, 12 months supervised probation.

Davis, Malia M.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Nov. 30, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Dugan, Christopher D.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Sept. 7, 2026). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Ensley, Charles D.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Jan. 16, 2026). Dismissed due to insufficiency of the

charging document(s).

Garcia, Jaime L.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 31, 2024). Guilty/Responsible.

George, Charles E.

- No Liability Insurance (Jan. 7, 2026). VD.
- DWLR (Jan. 7, 2026). Guilty/Responsible.

Goldsmith, Sherman D.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 29, 2024). Dismissed upon further investigation.
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Oct. 27, 2021). Dismissed upon further investigation.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev.

(March 5, 2025). Dismissed upon further investigation.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 15, 2025). Dismissed upon further investigation.

- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Nov. 13, 2022). Dismissed upon further investigation.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 2, 2025). Dismissed upon further investigation.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 28, 2024). Dismissed upon further investigation.

- No Operators License (Dec. 31, 2024). Dismissed upon further investigation.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 4, 2024). Dismissed upon further investigation.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Aug.

19, 2024). Dismissed upon further investigation.

Harris, Clifford B.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (April 26, 2025). Dismissed due to insufficiency of the charging document(s).

Herman, Mitchel W.

- No Liability Insurance (Dec. 31, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Hicks, Miracle Y.

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

Holt, Ronald

- Disorderly Conduct (Jan. 26, 2026). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

Hornbuckle, Erin C.

- Communicating Threats (Dec. 25, 2024). Dismissed per plea.
- Aggravated Weapons Offense (Dec. 25, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Dec. 25, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Assault on Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer (Dec. 25, 2024). Guilty. 6 months suspended, credit for 30 days, 6 months unsupervised probation.

Jenkins, James D.

- Probation Revocation (Dec. 20, 2025). Guilty. 3 year sentence activated, Date of Release 1/22/2029.

Lambert, Aiyana

- Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (July 8, 2025). Dismissed without leave.

Lambert, Austin R.

- Canc/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (Feb. 16, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Public Intoxication (Oct. 18, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Weapons Offense (Oct. 18, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 29, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- A&A DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Feb. 16, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Jan. 30, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

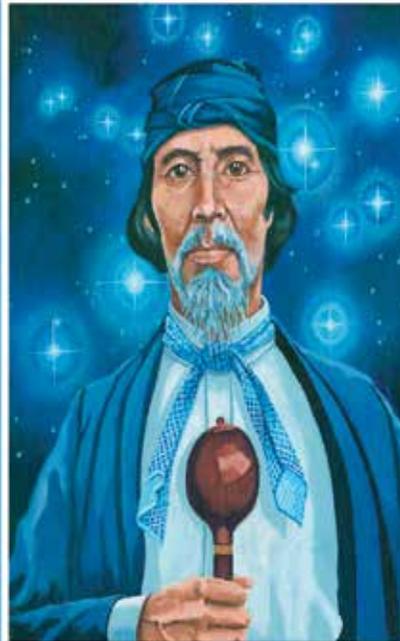
- Driving While Impaired (Feb. 16, 2025). Guilty. 6 months supervised probation, 24 hours community service.



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see COURT REPORT next page

Ledford, Ronda C.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Oct. 28, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Ledford III, Noah
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Sept. 10, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (July 21, 2023). Dismissed per plea.

Lewis, Jacob T.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Dec. 13, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- Expired/No Inspection (Dec. 13, 2025). VD - other.

Locust Jr., Luke K.
- Driving while Impaired (June 5, 2023). Guilty. 6 months supervised probation, 24 hours community service.

Maney, Joe E.
- Breaking and Entering (Jan. 25, 2026). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

McCoy II, Timothy J.
- Cancl/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (Nov. 8, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

McCoy, Melanie S.
- Cancl/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (Nov. 21, 2025) Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

McCoy, Jackie W.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 17, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

McMillan, Barry J.
- Larceny (Sept. 21, 2025). Dismissed with leave.

Messick, Erick M.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (March 8, 2024). Guilty. 6 days, credit for 6 days served.

Nicolas, Jessica D.
- Speeding (Nov. 3, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Nierenhausen, Mato U.
- Drive Left of Center (Dec. 24, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Dec. 24, 2025). VD.
- No Liability Insurance (Dec. 24, 2025). VD.
- No Operators License (Dec. 24, 2025). VD.

Okelley, Sara B.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Nov. 26, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Oocumma, Jamison C.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Nov. 13, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Panther, Jordan P.
- Operate Veh. No Ins. (July 5, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Cancl/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (July 5, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Second Degree Trespass (July 21, 2025). Guilty.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstruct-

ing Officers (July 21, 2025). Guilty.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Nov. 20, 2025). Guilty.
- Larceny (July 21, 2025). Guilty. 3 years, credit for 62 days served, serve 180 days as special condition of probation, 3 years supervised probation.
- Receiving or Possessing Stolen Property (July 21, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Criminal Code (July 21, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (July 21, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Breaking and Entering (July 21, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Abuse of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult: Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Criminal Code (July 21, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Oct. 28, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Pete, Cal J.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Oct. 27, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Oct. 27, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Plummer, Kevin B.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Oct. 8, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Queen, Jesse J.
- No Liability Insurance (Oct. 31, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Queen, Joel

EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

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

Lending Services can **HELP!**

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

Call or email for more information:

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

No Operators License (Oct. 16, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Reed, Moses

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (June 4, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (June 4, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (June 4, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, credit for 1 day served, 24 months supervised probation.

Resendiz, Cesar R.

- No Operators License (Dec. 31, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Robinson, Denerio R.

- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (Sept. 11, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Ruth, Killian R.

- Cancl/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (Nov. 17, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Sampson, John P.

- Violation of Registration Provisions (march 27, 2016). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Oct. 5, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Saunooke, Josephine L.

- Fail to Stop-Steady Red Light (May 4, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Sequoyah, Imelda G.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Jan. 23, 2026). Dismissed without leave.

Sequoyah, Danica J.

- Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (Jan. 3, 2026). Stricken.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Jan. 3, 2026). Stricken.

Sequoyah Jr., Gary L.

- Aggravated Weapons Offense (Aug. 21, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Smoker, Keri

- Probation Revocation (Dec. 15, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Sneed, Rider L.

- Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Feb. 25, 2022). Guilty.
- Manslaughter (Feb. 25, 2022). Guilty.
- Assault by Pointing a Gun (Feb. 25, 2022). Guilty.
- Aggravated Reckless Endangerment (Feb. 25, 2022). Guilty. 6 years suspended, special condition serve 12 months on EHC, 36 months supervised probation.
- Homicide in the First Degree (Feb. 25, 2022). Dismissed per plea.
- Assault with Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill and Inflicting Serious Injury (Feb. 25, 2022). Dismissed per plea.

Standingdeer, Andrea D.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Jan. 6, 2026). Guilty/Responsible.

Swayney, James D.

- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Oct. 13, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Taylor, Taylor N.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Sept. 3, 2024). Dis-

missed per plea.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 29, 2024). Dismissed per plea.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 25, 2024). Dismissed per plea.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 1, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

Wachacha, Alexis B.

- DWLR (Nov. 19, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Wade, Jason L.

- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (June 25, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 25, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Wahnetah, Carla M.

- Exceeding Posted Speed (Jan. 7, 2026). VD.
- DWLR Impaired Rev. (Jan. 7, 2026). Guilty/Responsible.

Walkingstick, Danette Q.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Aug. 26, 2025). Dismissed upon

compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Walkingstick, James R.

- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (June 22, 2025). Dismissed in the interest of justice.

Watty, Kourtney L.

- Driving While Impaired (Dec. 3, 2023). Guilty. 12 months supervised probation, 48 hours community service, surrender license.

Watty, Michael R.

- Offensive Touching (Sept. 6, 2025). Guilty.
- Assault on a Female (Sept. 6, 2025). Guilty. 139 days, credit for 139 days served.
- Abusive Sexual Contact (Sept. 6, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Wolfe, Terrance R.

- Assault on a Female (Sept. 28, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Youngdeer, Kayandra E.

- No Liability Insurance (Sept. 13, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

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Indigenous Poetry Anthology seeking EBCI writers

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

Work is currently being solicited for a new contemporary Indigenous poetry anthology from the Wesleyan University Press, and members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) are being encouraged to submit their work for consideration.

One of the project's three editors is Dr. Mary Leuna Christensen, an EBCI tribal member who is a teaching assistant professor in the English Department at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville. She is joined by Annie Wenstrup (Dena-ina) and No-u Revilla (Ōiwi).

Information from Dr. Christensen on the submission process states, "If you are interested in submitting to the anthology, we would be elated! Please send three to five poems. We welcome visual poetry and multi-modal work that explores color, shape, image, audio, and movement. A website hosting audio, video, and visual components will be an extension of the print anthology."

Dr. Christensen said, "It seems like more and more Indigenous poets are experimenting with poetic forms, concrete shapes, and a page's white space. I think doing so allows poets to push back against Western traditions and to bring in their own cultures

and traditional arts. For example, Kenzie Allen's poem aptly titled "Long House" is in the shape of a long house.

However, it can be hard for these poems to find homes in print publications typically because of financial constraints faced by many publications—wider trim or page size and color printing can be

outside of budgets. Our anthology will allow for a larger trim size (ideally a finished product of 7x10) and the inclusion of some colored text and images."

She added, "Personally, I would love to see more poems that include traditional arts in some way (like pottery, basket/blanket weaving, or beading). I speak for myself and my co-editors when I say that all three of us love to see work that includes the poet's Indigenous language— even if it's just a word or two.

Poets whose work is selected for inclusion in the anthology will then be asked to submit a micro craft essay (500-800 words) that speaks to their poetics. Accepted poets will also be asked to share one poem by another Indigenous writer that has shaped their understanding of Indigenous poetics."

Dr. Christensen has a bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University, a master of fine arts degree from Eastern Washington University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her work can be read in publications including Poetry Northwest, Poetry Daily, and the Common.

Her debut poetry collection, entitled "Beading Water" is set to be released by Wesleyan University Press sometime next year. Christensen was an inaugural 2022 Indigenous Nations Poets Fellow and returned in 2023 and 2025. "In July 2023, Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle invited me to read and facilitate a poetry workshop at the Museum of the Cherokee People as part of 'Confluence: An Indigenous Writers' Workshop Series'. In 2024, I also read with Annette at an event sponsored by Cherokee Central Schools: 'A Celebration of EBCI Writers in the North Carolina Literary Review!'"

"Poetry allows for play and experimentation in ways that prose isn't always able to," said Dr. Christensen. "It doesn't matter if the poem is free verse or following

a more traditional form, such as a sonnet or sestina, - there are ways the writer can push back against expectations that best benefit the poem's subject matter.

For me, poetry allows for the examination of tough matters like personal grief and larger cultural losses such as the loss of Indigenous practices and language, and land historically and systematically altered. Poems, too, give room for the taking back of agency - for reaction against erasure and for the inclusion of Indigenous languages."

When asked who her favorite poets and inspirations are, Dr. Christensen noted, "The anthology follows the lineage of Heid E. Erdrich's anthology "New Poets of Native Nations" (Graywolf Press, 2018) and Joy Harjo's "When the Light of the World was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through" (W.W. Norton & Company, 2020). My personal favorite poetry collections are Layli Long Soldier's "Whereas" (Graywolf Press, 2017), and Jake Skeets's "Eyes Bottle Dark with a Mouthful of Flowers" (Milkweed, 2019). I would also be amiss if I didn't recommend No'u Revilla's "Ask the Brindled" (Milkweed, 2022) and Annie Wenstrup's "The Museum of Unnatural History" (Wesleyan University Press, 2025)."

You can submit your work here:
<https://wesleyanuniversitypress.submittable.com/submit/340085/indigenous-poetry-anthology>



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EBCI COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Photographers wanted

Submission by April 1. Cherokee Historical Association is seeking proposals from qualified photographers to take marketing photos during the 2026 season. Photos to be taken at the Oconaluftee Indian Village and Unto These Hills. Photographers should be local to the area. Additional considerations will be given to Indigenous candidates. Proposal should include: fee for 20 photos(including editing), any additional service fees, timeline to receive final photos, portfolio or sample of work. Cherokee Historical Association will select the proposal offering the best overall value, considering quality, experience and cost. Submit

proposals to Chelsey@Cherokee-Adventure.com by April 1. You may also email with questions if needed.

- Cherokee Historical Association

Volunteer Income

Tax Assistance (VITA)

Feb. 2 – April 15, Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. call for an appointment (828) 359-6001.

Join our Local Advisory Council

Help shape the future of mentorship on the Qualla Boundary. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Western North Carolina. Seeking community leaders, parents, retirees, business owners and residents to join the local advisory council. Contact Brandon Fouts email

brandonF@bbswnc.org or call (828) 347-6097.

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Western North Carolina

Museum shares opportunities for EBCI creatives

Submitted by
Museum of the Cherokee People

As a first-voice institution, Museum of the Cherokee People is committed to facilitating opportunities for Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) creatives on the Qualla Boundary and beyond. The Museum is excited to share three current opportunities for EBCI writers and filmmakers to hone their craft and share their work:

Full scholarship to the Appalachian Writers' Workshop, Hindman, Ky., July 26-31

In partnership with the Hindman Settlement School, Museum of the Cherokee People is pleased to offer the Confluence Scholarship for the 49th annual Appalachian Writers' Workshop, held from July 26-31, 2026 in Hindman, Ky. Created to ensure access to high-quality writing instruction for enrolled members of our Tribe, the Confluence Scholarship is open to enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

A week-long residency, the Appalachian Writers' Workshop welcomes published and unpublished writers alike, all learning alongside one another in a supportive environment guided by the region's unique tradition. The Workshop

CHEROKEE
INDIAN FAIR

2026 CHEROKEE INDIAN FAIR THEME CONTEST

PRIZE IS \$250 FOR THE WINNING ENTRY!

If you are an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, you are eligible to enter this contest. Here are a few simple rules:

- *Contest is open to all ages. Entrants younger than 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian to co-sign the liability release form and submit it with a W-9 form.
- *The theme MUST be culturally oriented.
- *The theme must be seven words or less and write a short paragraph describing the meaning of your theme. (Last year's fair theme was "Connecting Our People, Plants and Culture")
- * Only one entry per person.

The entry forms will be available at the Cherokee Welcome Center, (828)359-6490, between the hours of 7:45am till 4:30pm, daily. Forms can also be emailed to interested participants. Please contact Lisa Frady at lisafrad@ebci-nsn.gov or Brandy Sequoyah at bransequ@ebci-nsn.gov for a form.

Deadline for entering the contest is **Friday, February 3rd at 4:00 pm**. Please email your entry form to Lisa Frady, Brandy Sequoyah or turn it in at the Cherokee Welcome Center.

The winner will be selected at the next Cherokee Indian Fair Committee meeting on February 4th, 2026.

****EBCI DESTINATION MARKETING DEPARTMENT, AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ENTER CONTEST.****

MISSING

Trayona Kaylynn Whiteskunk

Enrolled with Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Height: 5'5" Weight: 133 lbs
Female Age: 17
Hair: Black Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: January 29, 2026
Last Known Location: Goldsby, Oklahoma

Circumstances of Disappearance: Trayona Whiteskunk has been missing since January 29, 2026, at approximately 6:38 PM, when she left her residence in Goldsby, OK. Trayona was wearing a red sweater, grey sweatpants, brown Ugg boots, and black glasses.

If you have seen or have information about Trayona Whiteskunk contact the Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police (580) 436-1166.

Source: Namus.gov



provides an opportunity to study craft in structured workshops, attend special topic sessions, and enjoy captivating readings by our award-winning faculty. This historic gathering is known for providing rigorous instruction in a family-like atmosphere, where writers of place come together at the banks of Troublesome to meet a year-round community.

Beginning, emerging, and established EBCI writers are all encouraged to apply and, if selected, are eligible to receive the Confluence Scholarship. Applications are due by March 1: hindman.org/workshop/application

Full scholarship to the Tremont Writers Conference, Townsend, Tenn., Oct. 21-25

Presented by Museum of the

Cherokee People, the Confluence Scholarship grants one enrolled member of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians all-expenses paid attendance to the Tremont Writers Conference, held in Townsend, Tenn. Oct. 21-25.

Join renowned authors Kelli Jo Ford, a Cherokee Nation citizen, Linda Parsons, Ron Rash, and Crystal Wilkinson—along with professional park educators—for a writers' conference like no other set on a lush, secluded campus nestled within America's most-visited national park. Apply today to be a part of your chosen cohort: fiction, nonfiction, or poetry—and enjoy the benefits of award-winning author workshop leaders dedicated to focusing on you and your work.

Apply via [writers.gsmit.org]

writers.gsmit.org. For scholarship consideration, under the "Tell us a little about yourself" section, include the text "Confluence Scholarship" and your EBCI enrollment number. Applications are due May 15.

Call for film submissions: The Way We See the World, Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, Aug. 7

Museum of the Cherokee People seeks short films by Indigenous filmmakers for consideration for the fifth annual The Way We See the World: Spotighting Indigenous Pop Culture event. Since 2022, MotCP's annual The Way We event highlights Native pop culture and showcases timely perspectives for Cherokee people, primarily by Cherokee people. These free community-centered events put Native self-representation in the spotlight and uplift creative work that explores identity through artistic expressions in film, music, visual art, and more. View past event lineups: [motcp.org/the-way-we]

Applications close Feb. 20. Learn more and submit your film via weblink.donorperfect.com/tww.

Elder Meal & Support Initiative launched

CHEROKEE, N.C. - With a newly awarded two-year grant from Dogwood Health Trust, The Center for Native Health has partnered with the Deb West Senior Center to provide prepared, microwavable meals and beverages to approximately 160 homebound Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians elders on Tribal employee holidays.

Meals will be delivered throughout the Qualla Bound-

ary and Snowbird communities, ensuring elders receive nutritious food and meaningful personal connection.

The Initiative also includes the creation of an "Adopt an Elder" campaign to build a sustainable network of community support for these Tribal citizens. Participants will commit to delivering meals on Tribal employee holidays and making regular in-person visits and phone calls.

In addition, the project will provide in-home fall risk assessments to participating elders who have not previously been assessed, further supporting safety and overall well-being.

For questions about this project or to learn how to contribute, please contact the Project Leader, Turner Goins, at (828) 400-4281.

The Center for Native Health is a 501(c)(3) located on the Qualla Boundary and was founded in 2009 with the vision of supporting balanced wellbeing of southeastern Native communities through the preservation and respectful application of Native knowledge to empower the people, Land, and culture.

Info: The Center for Native Health, visit:

www.centerfornativehealth.org

- *Center for Native Health release*

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Deadline: Fridays at 12 p.m.

OBITUARIES JhFR

Jack Allen Lambert

Jack Allen Lambert, 67 of the Birdtown Community, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026. Jack was born on Sept. 30, 1958 to Sheila and Walter "Bud" Lambert.

He was a lifelong resident of the Birdtown Community. As a young man, he was baptized at 10 years old on Sept. 1, 1968. He would later graduate from Cherokee High School. He then spent most of his life working with the public as a small business owner in the tourism industry. He enjoyed interacting with people and connecting with friends he made over the years. He also loved being outdoors, traveling, and working hard.

He is survived by Becky Lam-

bert and their children, Damon Lambert (Sheena) and Brett Lambert (Monique); their four grandchildren, Zayden, Shalayla, Carter, and Ophelia; mother, Sheila Lambert; father, "Bud" Lambert; brother, Tom Lambert (Myra); sister, Vickie L Bradley (Dallas); nephews, Jason Lambert, Adam Lambert; and nieces, Sheena Miracle (Drew), Chloe Abernathy (Luke), and Emma Blythe.

Funeral Services were held Thursday, Feb. 5 at Crisp Funeral Home Chapel. Following the service, Jack was laid to rest at Birdtown Cemetery in Cherokee, N.C.

Jason Lambert provided the welcome and opening prayer, and special speaker Brett Lambert

followed.

Paul Ferree Hornbuckle Sr., Paul Ferree Hornbuckle Sr., 67, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at his home in Whittier, N.C.

Paul was born on May 14, 1959, in Cherokee, N.C., to the late Ernest and Laura Long Hornbuckle. He was a renowned master woodcarver and a member of Qualla Arts and Crafts. He was also a member of Rock Springs Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, Paul was also preceded in death by his siblings Squinch, Sis Rosie, Glen, Neetsie, Naomi; and son, Matthew Armachain.

Paul is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Hornbuckle (Jumper);

sons, Paul Hornbuckle Jr., PJ Armachain, and Dennis Jumper; his daughter, Crystal Arkansas; his four brothers, Butch (Carol), David (Juanita), Charlie; his special brother, Pete Long; his sisters, Beanie, Guynell, and Sherry (Bobby); and several grandchildren, nieces, and nephews also survive.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at Rock Springs Baptist Church in Cherokee, N.C., with Pastor Greg Morgan officiating. Burial followed at Long Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were family and friends.

Long House Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	Black Caddis, Midges, Small Perdigons, Soft Hackles, Pheasant Tail Nymphs
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Black Caddis, Midges, Small Perdigons, Soft Hackles, Pheasant Tail Nymphs

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AVERAGE+	AVERAGE	AVERAGE+	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	GOOD	BETTER++
5:20 AM-7:20 AM 5:43 PM-7:43 PM	6:07 AM-8:07 AM 6:32 PM-8:32 PM	6:58 AM-8:58 AM 7:23 PM-9:23 PM	7:49 AM-9:49 AM 8:16 PM-10:16 PM	8:42 AM-10:42 AM 9:08 PM-11:08 PM	9:34 AM-11:34 AM 9:59 PM-11:59 PM	1:00 AM-3:00 AM 10:24 AM-12:24 PM

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"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."

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

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Child: 828-736-9797

COMMENTARY

Takin' care of business and the elderly

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

You hear it all the time in our community. We love and appreciate our elders. And it shows.

The Tsali Manor gives extensive care to our senior community on the Qualla Boundary. Tribal Public Health and Human Services department employees work hard to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of tribal elders.

If we live long enough, the day we need care that goes beyond our

family's ability to keep us safe, healthy, and well-being will come. Our physical bodies are just not designed to last forever. We are what produce department managers would call perishable. I know as I continue into my golden years, things that were common and easily are becoming more challenging. This recent cold, wintery, icy, snowing episode would have been a chance to play in ears gone by. Now, it is a challenge. How long can I hold out without getting out into this dangerous, slippery world? How long will my power hold out? Will anyone care enough to check on us to make sure we are okay?

My grandmother spent her last years with us at my mother's home. "Mammaw", that was our

name for my grandmother, was an incredible woman. My grandmother was my best buddy when I was a boy. Off and on, she would stay with her sons and daughters after they had moved off and started their own families. During those times, she didn't move in because she needed "taking care of". She was typically invited so that she could take care of grandchildren while the mother and father of those kids could work or have a rest from the daily onslaught of duties that come with child rearing. Mammaw was an expert caregiver. You see, she had raised nine children of her own, and she raised some of those children during the Great Depression in the Appalachian Mountains. Her husband, my grandfather, was drowned when he dove into a local river to save my uncles who had been pinned under a log in swift water. So, Mammaw was left to raise all those kids alone. She worked and fed them all. She kept them in school and attended to all their needs. She guided my uncles to manhood, many of them serving in the Navy, Air Force, and Army.

For several years, after my mother's divorce and we had moved to Virginia Beach, my grandmother was my caregiver. Mom worked while Mammaw fed me, got me off to school, helped me with homework, made sure I was clean, dealt with my issues mental and physical. One memory I hope that I never lose is a humorous moment with my Mammaw during Hurricane Camille in 1969. Mammaw and I were space nuts. We loved watching anything having to do with astronauts, rockets, etc. When an Apollo mission was on television, we were glued to the set. So, when Camille hit,

Mammaw and I were sitting in the living room, watching a replay of the Apollo 11 walk on the moon. My mother, who had been at work, comes bursting through the front door, obviously frightened and worried. She says, "Are you two okay?" Mammaw assures her that we are fine and wants to know why she is home from work and in such a tizzy. Mom says, "Don't you know that we are in the middle of a hurricane?" Mammaw, never taking her eyes off the moon walk, calmly replies, "Well, we knew the wind was blowing awfully hard." It took a lot to rattle my Mammaw.

As she grew older, the reasons for her visits flipped. As I went to college, Mammaw came to live with my mother, not to take care of anyone, but to be taken care of. She needed help doing most things. It was even risky business for her to get up to go from one side of her room to the other. My mother and my sister would come when Mammaw would call to help her from one place to the other. When I was at home from school. I would join in the day-to-day care of my Mammaw. There was bathing, cleaning her room, feeding, and spending time with her. With increasing frequency, she would have medical issues that would mean a trip, either in our personal vehicles or in an ambulance to the hospital. Finally, one of those trips to the hospital was the one when God said it was time to come home and she passed from this life to the next. That last trip to the hospital only lasted a few days and she was gone.

I have watched friends and family have to make the difficult choice to pass caregiving on to strangers in an assisted care or total care facility. It can be

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gut-wrenching. Looking at an elderly person on the street, you are not able to see the contributions of love that they have given to a person or community. I am always appalled and saddened by those who make sport out of harming the elderly. In 2013, Daniel Kelley contributed an article to Reuters titled "Knockout game: A crime trend or random violence?" in it he says, "Police throughout the United States are investigating whether a rash of teen attacks on strangers, many of them elderly, is a crime trend known as the "knockout game" or a series of random acts of violence. A savage assault outside a pizza parlor in Philadelphia left a man severely injured, but with all his belongings intact. Reports of "knockout game" incidents - a shocking new

national crime trend to some, and an urban myth to others - have emerged across the country, and officials have been left wondering how to address the problem. The "knockout game," as it has been reported, works like this: Teens punch a stranger, hoping to send the victim into unconsciousness with a single blow, generally while being filmed for posting on social media." (www.reuters.com) Now, you might say "never in Cherokee", and most incidents of elder abuse on the Boundary are not as random or blatant, but all you need to do is look at the Cherokee Police Department arrest reports or the Court's disposition reports to see that physical violence against elders is not just a "colonizer" thing. Fortunately, we have some of the best protections for elders and

some of the most outstanding caregivers in any municipality right here on the Boundary. One of the great advantages of being a small, close-knit community is that most of us feel a deep sense of family for everyone in the community. This historically matriarchal society truly "mother's" every person in the family. Commitment to children and elders here is as strong as in any community. And being a relatively small community, manpower and resources may be centralized and focused in a way that few municipalities may create. Tribal health services on the Boundary do not need a governmental mandate to be motivated to provide care for the elderly. It is in their blood. And, on top of the nurturing nature of our people, there are indeed governmental mandates that protect our elders, providing directives for care and provision.

Whether our Tsali Manor and tribal elder program services, or surrounding county elder care facilities, professional caregivers

have a special mission. They are part of a society's giving back to the people who cared for us when we were young and unable to care for ourselves. On top of their contributions to being in the workforce and creation of the community that we live in and perpetuating the culture of our people, elders made personal sacrifices for the members of their families. And if you don't know that or if you haven't been engaged in the life of a person for the decades of their lives, it is easy to just see that weakened, older person as a burden instead of the treasure that they are. But in the mind of the gifted caregiver, every elder has value, worthy of honor and respect and the best of care.

I am moving through the stages of life with the knowledge that if I live long, I will need more care. I am thankful for those who choose the profession of caregiver and for the services that are provided by our community, for myself and for the many others who are already in their care.



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.

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THE GOOD STUFF

Ugvwiyuhi Dugan inspires with strength and compassion

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Joyce Dugan, former Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), is a visionary leader who inspires with her strength and compassion. She was elected the 24th EBCI Ugvwiyuhi in 1995.

One of her largest accomplishments as Ugvwiyuhi was spearheading the effort to purchase Kituwah – the Mother Town of the Cherokee in 1996. That year, she took a resolution to Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) asking that they purchase the property, then known to most as Ferguson Fields, for \$2.1 million. Dinilawigi passed the legislation unanimously and it has been under EBCI control since.

During a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new pavilion at Kituwah on May 29, 2025, Ugvwiyuhi Dugan said that getting Kituwah back spurred a cultural renaissance for the EBCI. “It was then that we began to learn about it. We didn’t know about it. We didn’t know the history. We didn’t know how important it was. We started hearing from our brothers and sisters in Oklahoma, who had heard stories about it, that it was known as the Mother Town of the Cherokees, from whence we all came. Then, we began to learn and study.”

She added, “But, I think the most important thing that came



Joyce Dugan, former Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, gave opening remarks at the “Empowering Indigenous Women in Leadership” panel discussion at the NCIA (National Congress of American Indians) Mid-Year Conference and Marketplace on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort Event Center exhibit hall in Cherokee, N.C. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

of this was people all of a sudden began to recognize our history and realize that we needed to do more to promote our history and to learn...I think it was meant for this to come back to us.”

An event was held on May 21, 2022 to celebrate Kituwah being placed into trust for the EBCI by the U.S. Department of the Interior the previous fall. The EBCI was joined at this celebration by the other two federally recognized

Cherokee tribes – Cherokee Nation (Okla.) and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma.

Ugvwiyuhi Dugan spoke eloquently at this event and encouraged all Cherokee people to connect with their past and present. “Enjoy your day. Love each other. And think about what all went on down here on this piece of land. And listen to the sounds of those children, those mommas and

daddies who lived here. I’ve been told that if you’re real quiet down here in the evenings you can hear them. I don’t doubt that.”

Ugvwiyuhi Dugan gave opening remarks at the “Empowering Indigenous Women in Leadership” panel discussion at the NCIA (National Congress of American Indians) Mid-Year Conference and Marketplace on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort

Event Center exhibit hall in Cherokee, N.C.

“Each step along this journey, there were people who encouraged me – people who had my back.” She spoke of women working in tribal communities, “Without them, our tribe would surely fail. Every tribe has those women in our communities.”

Ugwyiyuhi Dugan encouraged women to seek tribal public office stating, “If I can do it, so can you.”

She spent a large portion of her adult life in education having served twice as the superintendent of Cherokee Central Schools. Ugwyiyuhi Dugan earned a bachelor of science degree in education and a master of science degree in education – both from Western Carolina University where she was named a Distinguished Alumni in

1997.

She received an honorary doctorate of laws degree from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill at the spring commencement in 2006.

Ugwyiyuhi Dugan was honored with the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion in a ceremony at the Cherokee Council House on Oct. 14, 2024. Information from the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation states, “The Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion is the second highest award and is granted for extraordinary contributions to the well-being of others at the national or world level, to world peace, or to inter-faith and inter-ethnic understanding.”

Gregory Hunt read from Ugwyiyuhi Dugan’s nomination

letter, “Joyce Conseen Dugan has been and continues to be described by many as a servant leader, women rights advocate, educator, cultural steward for her people, forward-thinker, volunteer, mentor, and many more. Early in her life, Joyce decided she wanted to be somebody that helped others reach the same rungs on the ladder that she has reached. Her lifelong work and volunteerism for all people regardless of race, religion, or backgrounds have left a lasting impact on the Eastern Band of Indians and everyone else regardless of who they were or where they came from with her efforts to promote culture and improving the lives and aspirations to always reach for that next rung of the ladder of life.”

A servant leader, an educator, a cultural steward – all words that describe Ugwyiyuhi Dugan perfectly. Her lasting impact on the EBCI and the world will be her example of being strong and resilient at the same time as being kind and compassionate. That is a rarity in the world these days, but that is Ugwyiyuhi Dugan – a rarity.

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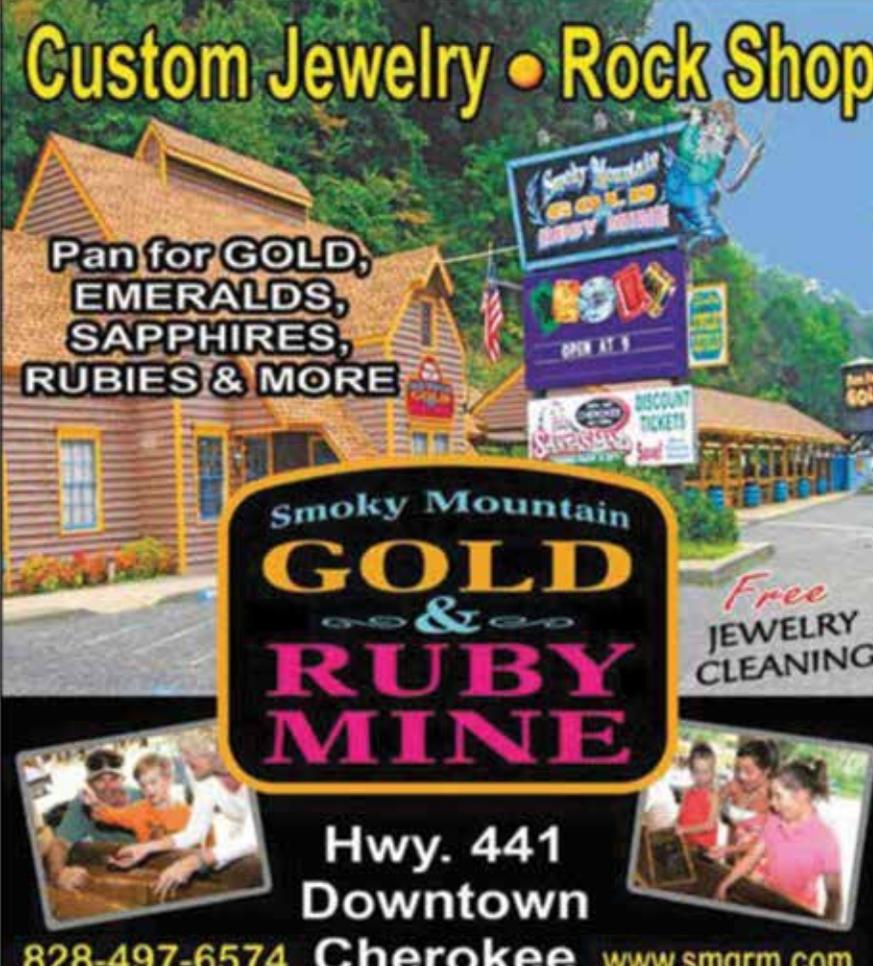
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Proposed Ordinance 107 (2026) will shield community information from the tribal members

By Cherokee One Feather
Editorial Board

The Attorney General submitted proposed legislation to withhold internal audit and ethics report findings from the community.

An ordinance change two years ago, requested by the Cherokee One Feather, standardized the communication of findings made by our internal auditors. The practice before had been for the Cherokee One Feather to submit a specific request and receive specific documentation, leaving the possibility of reports slipping by unnoticed. The institution of

the current law requires the One Feather to receive the reports as they are handed down by the Audit and Ethics division and board, after review and warranted redaction by the Attorney General.

Proposed Ordinance 107 (2026) seeks to remove language that provides transparency to the community and would remove the requirement to provide the audit and investigative findings of our internal auditors to the very stakeholders to whom they belong. We see this as overreach by the Attorney General. His office already has a right of redaction written into Cherokee Code Section 117, and specifically in the section he

seeks to delete, that allows him and his office to redact information from the concluded findings before being sent to the Cherokee One Feather.

Neither the One Feather nor the EBCI Office of Internal Audit & Ethics was contacted by the Attorney General's Office prior to this proposed ordinance being submitted.

The Attorney General's proposed language change would block this community information from being shared with tribal members. The Cherokee One Feather maintains an archive of reporting from various entities within the tribe on the website,

www.theonefeather.com, including audit and ethics reports and findings.

Our government is famous for saying that it stands behind its commitment to transparency to the members of our tribe. This move to shield community information from release is the opposite of transparency. We ask the tribal community to voice your concern to your Dinilawigi representatives, Ugvwiyuhi Michell Hicks, and Taline Ugvwiyu Alan B. Ensley, and ask them to oppose this new threat to withhold information from the tribal community.

Dementia Prevention

By KATE MORROW,
MS, RD, LDN, CDCES

Did you know food choices can preserve your brain function? Many diets claim to assist people in reaching specific health goals. MIND, which is short for Mediterranean- DASH Diet Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay, has been shown to keep our brains healthy. A 2015 study revealed that those following the MIND diet

had brains 7.5 years younger (over an average of 4.7 years) than those with the lowest diet quality scores, even when considering other factors like exercise and education level. As the MIND diet is based on two diet patterns known for promoting heart health and blood pressure, choosing to follow this eating pattern has added benefits beyond preventing dementia. The foods listed below are loaded with vitamins and minerals, feeding our minds with the nutrients needed to work their best throughout our lives. Consider starting now with any of these recommendations to

prevent mental decline.

Healthy items the MIND diet guidelines suggest:

- 3+ servings a day of whole grains
- 1+ servings a day of vegetables (other than green leafy)
- 6+ servings a week of green leafy vegetables
- 5+ servings a week of nuts
- 4+ meals a week of beans
- 2+ servings a week of berries
- 2+ meals a week of poultry
- 1+ meals a week of fish
- Mainly olive oil if added fat is used

The unhealthy items, which are higher in saturated and trans

fat, include:

- Less than 5 servings a week of pastries and sweets
- Less than 4 servings a week of red meat (including beef, pork, lamb, and products made from these meats)
- Less than one serving a week of cheese and fried foods
- Less than 1 tablespoon a day of butter/stick margarine

Morrow is a registered dietitian nutritionist at Cherokee Indian Hospital.

Ask a Therapist

How to use social media in a healthier way: Scrolling with intention



By BROOKE BARRETT, LMCHC

This is not an article that is going to tell you how social media is the downfall of humanity and the only escape is going off grid. Social media isn't going anywhere. For many of us, it's how we stay connected, learn new things, and even find support we might not have access to otherwise. The problem isn't social media itself... it's how easily it can slip from being a useful tool into something that quietly drains our mood, attention, and sense of self. Most things can be good (in moderation). If you pause and consider the amount of work our brains are constantly doing to keep up...we see more information in 3 swipes of your finger, than our grandparents saw in their entire lifetime. And most of us do it first thing in the morning.

Using social media in a healthy way doesn't require deleting all

your apps or swearing off scrolling forever. It starts with intention.

Here are a few therapist-approved tips for building a healthier relationship with social media.

1. Notice how it actually makes you feel

Before worrying about screen time limits, pay attention to your body and mood. After scrolling, do you feel inspired, calmer, connected...or tense, inadequate, and restless? Your nervous system gives feedback long before your brain labels something as "too much." If an app consistently leaves you feeling worse, that's information worth listening to.

2. Pick your feed like you would decorate your home

You wouldn't keep items in your house that make you feel small or stressed every time you see them. The same applies to your feed. Mute, unfollow, or take breaks from accounts that trigger comparison, shame, or outrage... even if they're popular or "educational." Follow people who feel grounding, realistic, and aligned with your values.

3. Set boundaries around when - not just how much - you scroll

Mindless scrolling often happens when we're already depleted: late at night, first thing in the morning, or during moments of stress. Consider creating "no-scroll zones," such as before bed, during meals, or while spending time with your kids. These boundaries protect your attention and help your brain actually rest.

4. Use social media for connection, not self-evaluation

Social platforms are designed to encourage comparison, even when we don't mean to. If you notice yourself measuring your parenting, body, productivity, or

worth against what you see online, gently remind yourself: you are seeing highlights, not real life. Try shifting your use toward messaging friends, sharing authentically, or engaging with content that feels human rather than performative.

5. Take breaks without making them dramatic

You don't need to announce a digital detox or delete everything to step back. Even a weekend break, a few app-free evenings, or removing an app from your home screen can reduce compulsive use. Healthy breaks are about relief, not punishment.

6. Be mindful of who's benefiting

If social media is part of your work, advocacy, or creative life, it's okay to use it intentionally. But if you notice that your labor, attention, or emotional energy is constantly going outward with little return, it may be time to recalibrate. You're allowed to protect your mental health—even from platforms that claim to be "helpful."

Weekly Challenge

Rearrange your social media apps on your phone and replace them with something like your calculator or another app. You will immediately notice how often you automatically open an app when you suddenly become confused why you are staring at your calculator instead of Facebook! Give it a try and see how often this happens for you

At its best, social media can be a place for learning, laughter, and community. At its worst, it can quietly disconnect us from ourselves and the physical world happening in front of you. The goal isn't perfection...it's awareness. When you scroll with inten-

tion, you stay in charge of the tool, instead of the tool running you. If you're finding it hard to step back, that doesn't mean you're weak. It means the system is designed to hook your attention. Compassion for yourself and your nervous system is always a good place to start.

If you've read this entire article without opening another app, that alone deserves recognition. Have a mental health or relationship question? Submit anonymously to Ask a Therapist at ask-therapistbrooke@gmail.com. Your question might help others too.

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



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

@Cherokee OneFeather on YouTube

COMMENTARY

The Dead Zone - Why Billie Eilish is right about "Stolen Land"

By TROY LITTLEDEER | @kituwahpunk

CANDY MINK SPRINGS, Okla. — History is not a ghost. It is a neighbor. It lives in the 38 tribal nations headquartered here in Oklahoma and in the ancestral homelands of the 574 sovereign nations across Indian Country. It lives in the treaties that the U.S. Constitution calls the "Supreme Law of the Land." On Sunday

night, history stepped onto the Grammy stage. Singer Billie Eilish, wearing a pin that read "ICE Out," said: "No one is illegal on stolen land."

The backlash was fast. On Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, Sen. Ted Cruz mocked her during a hearing. He asked if movie studios in California were "stolen property." Critics like Kid Rock called her appearance "sad" and told her to "look to Jesus." Even in Indian Country, some folks are tired of seeing celebrities use our history as a soundbite while they live in mansions. But the critics are missing the real point.

Whether she meant to or not, Eilish's statement did two things. She didn't just make a moral point; she exposed a federal agency that uses the word "illegal" as a

weapon against anyone who gets in their way. They use that word to justify targeting anyone who inconveniences power. By calling the land "stolen," she shined a light on a corrupt system. She used her fame to shield all our people - both the ones coming to the border and the ones who have been here since the beginning of time.

Critics say Eilish is a hypocrite for living on Tongva land while talking about theft. But the Tongva are still working through federal acknowledgment—which means they can't afford to say much of anything publicly without risking their case. That silence isn't endorsement or criticism. It's proof that tribal recognition has been turned into a hostage negotiation.

The federal government just proved it will use tribal recogni-

tion as a political tool. In December 2025, they gave federal status to the Lumbee Tribe—a group that has claimed Cherokee, Croatan, and Tuscarora heritage depending on the decade—by sneaking it into a defense spending bill. The Lumbee were state-recognized in North Carolina until that political deal let them skip the legal process that requires documentation and proof.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Chief Michell Hicks fought against it, calling it a "political decision" rather than a legal one. This isn't just a Cherokee problem; it is a threat to all of Indian Country. If the government can grant tribal status based on political deals instead of treaties and history, then they can also take it away or use it as leverage. Our status as Indigenous people—



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whether we are Cherokee Nation citizens, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians (UKB) members, EBCI, or citizens of any of the 574 sovereign nations—is based on treaties and documented history. When recognition becomes something Washington trades for political loyalty or casino money, those treaties mean less. Our sovereignty becomes a government franchise instead of an inherent right.

This explains why Eilish’s statement hit such a nerve. When the government weaponizes “fake” to control tribal recognition and “illegal” to justify violence, both serve the same purpose: deciding who counts as legitimate and who becomes disposable. She didn’t just call out stolen land; she exposed a system that uses language as a weapon. The Lumbee case proves recognition can be bought. What happened in Minneapolis proves what the government does to people it labels “illegal.”

The Minneapolis Killings

In January 2026, federal agents killed two people during an operation known as “Opera-

tion Metro Surge.” They killed Alex Pretti, a VA nurse who was recording them, and Renée Nicole Good, a poet and mother who was just dropping her kid off at school. The Indigenous Journalists Association says at least five Native Americans were detained in those same raids.

On Jan. 13, Oglala Sioux Tribe President Frank Star Comes Out sent a letter to the government demanding the release of tribal members. He called the arrests “unlawful” and a “violation of binding treaties.” This is what happens when federal agencies like the DHS act like the law doesn’t apply to them. If they can ignore tribal rights and question our IDs, then “illegal” can mean anyone.

The Fight for Our Land

These killings happened in Minnesota, but the same federal power is trying to ignore tribal borders in Oklahoma and South Dakota.

In Oklahoma, Gov. Kevin Stitt is pushing a “one-rule” system that Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation Chuck Hoskin Jr. says

would erase tribal jurisdiction protected by the Supreme Court’s McGirt decision. In South Dakota, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem is overseeing enforcement actions that tribal leaders say violate treaty boundaries. The pattern is clear: state and federal officials are testing how far they can push into Indian Country.

The Reality

Our tribes are not social clubs. We are sovereign governments. We have authority that is older than the U.S. Constitution. There are 574 tribes in this country, each with its own borders and laws. When federal agents act like they have total immunity on our land, they are breaking the law.

Treaties are the bedrock of this country. If an agency like ICE ignores those treaties, they have failed the American people. They aren’t serving the law anymore; they are just using intimidation.

The Path Forward

Fixing a government that has lost its way is an act of patriotism. Whether it’s a nurse in Minneapo-

lis, an EBCI citizen in the Smokies, or a UKB member in Adair County, Oklahoma, no one is safe if federal agencies can ignore the law. Billie Eilish is not “sad.” She is right. She called out an agency that uses the word “illegal” to justify violence. In these cases, the ones breaking the law are the ones wearing the badges.

The treaties didn’t move. We didn’t move. Power will.

Troy Littledeer is a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians and an award-winning journalist and photographer. He works as a freelance writer for Osage News and contributes to NDNSports.com after previously serving as a multimedia specialist for the Cherokee Phoenix. His reporting focuses on tribal sovereignty, federal Indian law, and Oklahoma athletics. Littledeer is the founder of the nonprofit news outlet The Watchfire and a lifetime member of the Indigenous Journalists Association. He lives in Adair County, Oklahoma with his wife and their two sons.



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

@CherokeeOneFeather
on YouTube

SPEAKING OF FAITH

Cats vs. Dogs

Part 1 of 2

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

Scripture references: Matthew 8:2-3, Matthew 15:30-3, Matthew 25:44-45, Mark 2:16, Matthew 28:19

Bias is natural and becomes part of our thought process without our consent or realizing it even occurs. That is why bias is so difficult to overcome, even when we are made aware that we have a critical bias. Racism is like that, but there are many others we need to consider as well. Controlling our bias-based thought requires prayer and practice to overcome the effects on our thought processes. It is a daily battle for some; for others, they don't seem to care or realize the impact on others.

Let us consider how our bias can keep us from being like Christ, which impedes our ability to spread His word or do His work. The blessings we miss are beyond our ability to understand.

“And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?”
Luke 10:27-29

Following this verse is one of the most famous parables of Jesus. The story is of the Good Samaritan, verses 30-37. Then, in the days of Jesus, bias was prominent, but no more than today. The story continues to have such an

impact coming from today's pulpit because it strikes at the very root of our bias. Consider who your neighbor is.

This is a story of classic miscommunication. You see, all our lives, we have seen dogs chasing cats. And we assumed that there was an inbred hate or a natural predator/prey relationship between the two animals.

For some of us who have had both a cat and a dog or more than one of each, we know they can become friends. They can lie down, lick each other's faces, and even share their food.

As told to me by a wise old Saudi man, the chase between a cat and a dog is all about miscom-

munication. It is the very crux of what bias and miscommunication are all about.

When a cat sees another animal, it begins with fear and defense, raising its back and tail in the air to make it look bigger or fiercer. But, in fact, it is afraid.

When a dog sees another animal, it also begins in fear and raises the hair on its back, but instead of raising its tail, it tucks its tail in a protective mode. When a dog sees a cat, though, all these natural tendencies of the dog and cat are miscommunicated. After all, they can't discuss it; they work entirely off visual indicators.

If the opposing animal is not aggressive, the dog innately

becomes curious and begins to engage and befriend the cat in play. When a dog wants to play, it raises its tail, and when another animal runs, the dog gives chase; that's fun to a dog. So, when a dog sees a cat raise its tail, he thinks she wants to play and becomes aggressive. The cat, already in fear, sees a dog become aggressive and takes flight to flee from the aggressor. The game is on.

When the cat is cornered or is caught, flight becomes a fight, and the cat goes into self-defense and counterattack. When the dog gets a paw full of claws in the nose, it is immediately confused by how quickly the play turns into a fight.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call understanding your nearest kin, that they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words.

Proverbs 7: 4,5



Detail of “Eden Bar” by Max Beckmann (1923)

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Amber Waves

DINNERTIME, STEP RIGHT ON UP. NO NEED TO SHOVE. THERE'S PLENTY FOR ALL.



HERE YOU GO, LADIES. EAT ALL YOU CAN.



YOU GUYS SURE AREN'T PICKY. I'M ON MY THIRD PAIL AND YOU'RE STILL GOING!



OH GROSS! MOM, ALL MY FOOD IS TOUCHING! AND WHAT'S THAT GREEN STUFF?



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



NO PING-PONGS WITH YOU! PLEASE?



I'LL PLAY IF YOU PROMISE NOT TO THROW YOUR PADDLE AT ME AGAIN



...IF YOU LOSE! PROMISE? OKAY



NO PADDLE THROWING! I PROMISE

by BUD BLAKE



I WIN! 21 TO 8



The Spats



IT'S SUPPOSED TO RAIN TODAY.



I'D BETTER GET MY CLOTHES OFF OF THE LINE



I HATE TO WET MY PANTS!!

by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Pocket is different. 4. Log is different. 5. Eartlap is longer. 6. Rabbit's ear is moved.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Canine cry
- 4 Dalai —
- 8 Sultry Horne
- 12 Uncle, to Juan
- 13 Bard's river
- 14 401(k) relatives
- 15 Provider of free groceries
- 17 Lapel jewelry
- 18 Fawn's mom
- 19 Nome resident
- 21 Nuanced
- 24 English cathedral city
- 25 100%
- 26 Poseidon's realm
- 28 Follow
- 32 L-Q bridge
- 34 Cover
- 36 Gear teeth
- 37 Avid
- 39 Kauai souvenir
- 41 Last (Abbr.)
- 42 Conducted
- 44 Justice Antonin
- 46 Movie promo
- 50 Sprite
- 51 Campus mil. group
- 52 Eats for parakeets
- 56 Jazzy James Braxton

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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		18				19		20		
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25				26		27		28		29 30 31
32			33		34		35		36	
37				38		39		40		41
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53				54 55
56					57				58	
59					60					61

- 58 French assent
- 59 Twain hero
- 60 Jazz legend Getz
- 61 ER workers
- 7 Composer Satie
- 10 "Peter Pan" dog
- 11 Professional gp.
- 16 Speck
- 20 Pub pint
- 21 "Ditto"
- 22 Forearm bone
- 23 Snaky fish
- 27 Be sick
- 29 1997 Vanessa Williams film
- 30 Hybrid fruit
- 31 "Como — usted?"
- 33 Louisiana symbol
- 35 — Moines
- 38 Seminary subj.
- 40 Stranded during a blizzard
- 43 Unpaid bills
- 45 TV alien
- 46 Not kosher
- 47 Indian flatbread
- 48 Envelope abbr.
- 49 Funny person
- 53 Genetic letters
- 54 Wilder's " — Town"
- 55 Insult, slangily

DOWN

- 1 Justice Dept. agency
- 2 2016 Olympics city
- 3 Gourmand's online journal
- 4 File stickers
- 5 Director DuVernay
- 6 " — Lisa"
- 7 Bracelet site
- 8 Feign singing

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Honduras?
2. FOOD & DRINK: What is the name of the Pillsbury Doughboy?
3. TELEVISION: In which state is the sitcom "Roseanne" set?
4. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called arachibutyrophobia?
5. MUSIC: Which 1992 Radiohead song has the lyric "I wish I was special"?
6. MOVIES: Who is Indiana Jones' nemesis in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is known for giving the longest inauguration speech to date?
8. LITERATURE: "Cry, the Beloved Country" is a novel set in which country?
9. HISTORY: Which organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917?
10. ANATOMY: Which element is a primary component of bones?

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword

Answers

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Trivia Test Answers
1. Tegucigalpa; 2. Poppin' Fresh; 3. Illinois; 4. Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth; 5. "Cry, the Beloved Country"; 6. Dr. Rene Bellon; 7. William Henry Harrison, 1 hour and 45 minutes; 8. South Africa; 9. International Committee of the Red Cross; 10. Calcium

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.

EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS

Show Up for Your Health

Need to cancel your appointment?

Please call your Primary Care Team 24 hours in advance.

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



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

Benefits and Fundraisers

Senior Citizens Bingo Fund-raiser. Feb. 20 doors open at 5 p.m. games start at 6 p.m. at the Deb West Senior Center, 145 Tsali Manor St., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Raising funds to help with the Seniors Annual Trip. Concessions will be available. Info: (828) 359-6299

Big Y Breakfast fundraiser. Feb. 21 starting at 8 a.m. at Big Y Community Building 2641 Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. \$10 platter includes: scrambled eggs, potatoes, biscuit, gravy & your choice of bacon or sausage and drink (orange juice, apple juice, coffee or water). Info: Bunsey (828) 788-4879.

Bingo Fundraiser. Feb. 28 doors open at 4 p.m. games start at 5 p.m. at the Pam Taylor Painttown Gym, 10 Old Gap Rd, Cherokee, NC. 28719. The fundraiser is to raise funds to help Garret and Chloe Pearson for a mission trip to Honduras in June. Info: Chloe Pearson (828) 788-5555

EBCI Community Events

FIT Fridays. Feb 6 – March 13 from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. at Cherokee Choices 806 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Info: Tori (828)359-6778

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. 12 from 10a.m. – 3 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.

SEAT Workout and Nutrition Classes. Feb. 13, 20, and 27. from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. at Cherokee Choices 806 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Info: Shelby (828) 359-6783

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 Kananesgi 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

Yellowhill Community Valentine Day Dinnner. Saturday, Feb. 14 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Yellowhill Old Rock Building at 918 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28179. Community members and workers that worked through the Snowy/Icy days bring your family too. Menu: Chicken noodle soup and crackers and drinks provided. Community members please bring either cupcakes or brownies for dessert. Info: Dakota Bone (828) 736-8092.

Childbirth Classes. Feb. 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

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

MANNA Foodbank Community Market. Feb. 19 from 11:30 a.m – 2 p.m. at the Wolfstown Gym 27 Long Branch Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Stop by for FREE grocery staples, produce and other perishables from MANNA foodbank. Bring your own bags. Info: mmahan@ebci-nsn.gov or (828) 359-6939

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

SŌHi ႰD RVLႰႰJ DႰႰYL



Loki, an Orange Cat, lives with Sheyahshe Littledave in Aniwodihi (Painttown).



Sponsored by:

CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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

Big Y Community Yard Sale. Feb. 21, doors open at 8 a.m. at Big Y Community Building 2641 Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719 Info: Bunsey (828) 788-4879.

EBCI Community Night with the Georgia Swarm. Feb 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gas South Arena 6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy., Duluth, Ga. 30097. As a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, you may claim up to four (4) complimentary tickets to the Georgia Swarm's annual Native Heritage Night on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Gas South Arena in Duluth, GA. Simply login to

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/EBCINHN260228>, to select your seats. Upon adding seats to your cart, your discount code will be automatically applied for the four (4) complimentary tickets! An order processing fee of \$5 will be applied at checkout.

Spring Rod Run. April 24- 25 Old Cherokee High School Site, 1501 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Thousands in Cash Giveaways, Early Bird Show and Shine Thursday after Lunch, Tool Box and Cooler Scooter Raffles, 50/50, Cruise Thru the Great Smokies

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Yours is one of the most potent good-luck signs of the Zodiac. And this week you'll get some news that reinforces why this is so. A loved one shares in the good tidings.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) There's an underlying sense of anger that makes the Divine Bovine see red. Deal with it now before it explodes so that you can avoid more problems from the fallout.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Even if you don't expect to make a career move anytime soon, investigating an upcoming offer will certainly pay off. Travel arrangements also need to be made soon.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend from the past returns and makes an unsettling demand. Don't allow your emotions to take over. Deal with the situation openly and honestly.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A workplace problem needs more attention before it can be settled. Meanwhile, your financial picture improves, and someone's surprise revelation creates an unusual reaction.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Being the sixth sign of the Zodiac makes you more selective than most folks. But you might need to be a mite more flexible about a long-deferred matter.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) The blame game could get out of hand. All accusations need to be weighed carefully in order to determine what is true and what is potentially harmful innuendo.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A new job could be within your grasp. Be patient and allow the decision-making process to work itself through. On another note, spend more time with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Sometimes you might feel like you're not getting your share of life's good things, but prospects open up this week that could make you feel otherwise.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Patience and understanding finally enable you and a loved one to work out your pesky problems once and for all. Good luck!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Expect good news from someone whom you thought had forgotten you. This could lead to a change that you had earlier considered but then set aside.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A romance that seems to be floundering needs tender, loving care if you hope to rescue it. In addition, be prepared to change travel plans as new information emerges.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can bring various elements together to create something new and wonderful. No wonder you're considered the Celestial Chemist!

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Two very different scammers

Scammers come with varying motives, intelligence levels — and with different intentions.

While it's disturbing that anyone steals from the VA, it's twice as bad when the scammer is a veteran. Here is a guy, a veteran, who claimed he was disabled and couldn't work due to service-connected injuries; he therefore received VA disability benefits.

You'd think he would stay home, being so disabled, but instead he used his benefit money on luxury international vacations, worked out several times a week, ran his own business and had a very active lifestyle.

His scam netted him nearly a quarter of a million dollars before he was stopped. After pleading guilty to 10 counts of theft, he was only sentenced to 18 months in prison (not long enough) and will have to pay back the money as well as a \$20,000 fine.

Then there's the young computer hacker who broke into the U.S. Supreme Court 25 times, as well as the VA health system computers and AmeriCorps, by using stolen login credentials. Bragging about what he'd done, he took screenshots of someone's personal information and posted it all online. Then, using other stolen credentials, he got into the VA's "MyHealthEVet" website and grabbed his victim's personal information — and posted it online.

Among other pieces of information, he got the victim's name, email address, phone number, home address, date of birth and the answers to three security questions. For other victims he was also able to get (and post) information about citizenship status, Social Security number, veteran status, blood type and list of medications prescribed.

For all this fraud against others, leaving them shocked and feeling violated and at risk for identity theft, he could get a mere one year in prison (not long enough) and a \$100,000 fine. It appears that he didn't try to sell the information, that he only wanted the bragging rights for his hacking.

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Spotting a cat's toothache

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: In the past few days, my cat "Albert" hasn't been eating much food, and he's avoiding hard kibble. He also doesn't like being picked up and meows loudly when I try to pet his head, scratches and tries to get away. This is different behavior for him. Could it be because he recently had a spat with "Jake," my other cat? — Harry in Sioux Falls

DEAR HARRY: A profound behavioral change could signal a hidden injury or an infection. It may or may not have been caused by a fight with another cat, so don't treat Jake any differently because of their disagreement.

Because Albert isn't eating much and is sensitive to being petted on the head, he could also have a toothache. His eating pattern is in line with a dental problem, but don't rule out a possible injury. Regardless, a call to the veterinarian is the best step to take at this point.

The vet will be able to take a closer look at Albert and perform blood, urine and stool tests to see if an infection is present or if something else is going on. If they suspect a tooth problem, Albert will undergo a dental cleaning and evaluation (under anesthesia) and the vet will design a treatment plan for him. Afterward, a prevention regimen of daily brushing and/or special cat chews will help both Albert and Jake keep their teeth healthy.

You can find a list of toothache symptoms in cats here: vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/dental-pain-in-cats. Because cats instinctively hide their illness or injury, it's important to watch for subtle signs that they are suffering. You did this, and it'll be a huge help for Albert because he will get timely treatment and be feeling better quickly.

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

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EVENTS: From page 39

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/Historic Events

Fingerweaving Fridays. Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2:30pm-4:30pm 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 Winter Social. Feb. 28 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.

EBCI Community Regular

Meetings

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) Meetings

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

HIP Committee. Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Lands Committee. Feb. 11 at 9 a.m.

Parks & Rec. Committee. Feb. 11 at 1 p.m.

TCGE Report. Feb. 18 at 8:30 a.m.

Qualla Enterprises LLC Report. Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.

Balsam Report. Feb. 18 at 11 a.m.

Qualla Housing Committee. Feb. 19 at 8:30 a.m.

TGC Report. Feb. 25 at 8:30 a.m.

EBCI Holdings Report. Feb. 25 at 9 a.m.

Kituwah/KGC LLC Report. Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority Report. Feb. 26 at 8:30 a.m.

Museum of the Cherokee People Report. Feb. 26 at 9:15 a.m.

Pow Wow Listings

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 Awonohopay. Host Drum: Blackstone. Co-Host Drum: Bear Creek. Info: Elizabeth.nahwegezhi@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

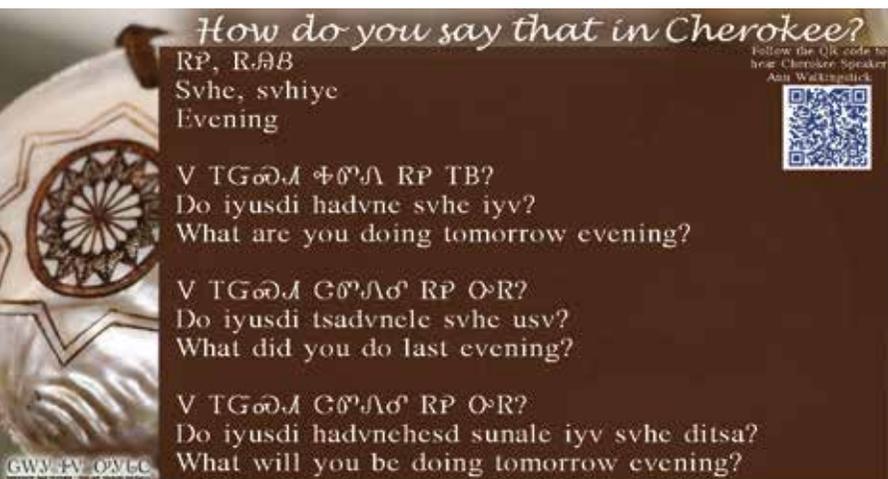
Yellowhorse Pow Wow Celebration. April 4-5 at Founders Hall at 4950 Swinyar Dr. in Collegedale, Tenn. Info: Tammera Hicks (423) 240-7270 or NAServices.org@gmail.com

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

Winter Heritage Festival. Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, TN 37882. Admission: Adults (13+) \$15.00; Kids (5-12) \$10.00. Info: Terence Norman, Museum Events Coordinator, (423) 355-8575 or tnorman@gsm-heritagecenter.org

Roughest & Toughest Brawl. Feb. 27 and 28 Doors open at 6:30 p.m., fights begin at 8 p.m. at Smoky Mountain Event Center 758 Crabtree Rd., Waynesville, NC. 28985 Info: [www,Roughestand-Toughest.com](http://www.Roughestand-Toughest.com)

Calling all Vendors. Greening Up The Mountains is looking for Artisans, Crafters, and Food and Beverage Vendors to submit their application for the Greening Up the Mountains Festival to be held on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This year's festival seeks artisans and crafters selling their own handmade products. Arts, Crafts, and Food Vendors from the expanded Appalachian area are encouraged to apply. Please visit the festival's website:

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

Stampede in the Smokies. May 1 and 2 gates open at 6 p.m. action begins at 8 p.m. at the Great Smoky Mountains Event Park 113 Hyatt Creek Rd., Bryson City, NC. 28713 To enter text (864) 784-4110 by April 28. Info: rodeoroadshow.rodeoticket.com/stampede-in-the-smokies/rodeo-information.

Cherokee Community Clubs

Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Commu-

nity meets the first Tuesday of each month at the new community building at 6 p.m. Info: 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 For building rental contact Bunsey Crowe.

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

Toledvyi (Tow String) Community meets the second Tuesday

see **EVENTS** next page

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF

PATIENCE OWL
Talent Acquisition & Employment Manager

Education: MBA, Human Resource Management
Community/Hometown: Cherokee County

"Joining CIHA has been an unexpectedly meaningful experience. As someone who had never worked in healthcare before, I wasn't sure what to expect. But what I found was a team whose dedication to caring for others extends beyond patients. It's reflected in how they treat their colleagues too. Being both an employee and a patient of CIHA, I've seen firsthand the love and intention that goes into the care provided here. It's given me a whole new respect for the work CIHA does and continues to do for our enrolled members. I'm proud to be part of an organization that serves the Cherokee community with heart, purpose, and a deep commitment to well-being and hope to recruit and employ individuals who share that same mindset in my new role. "- Patience Owl

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

EVENTS: From page 41

of each month at the community building at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Jacob Long (828)736-9128, jacob-long19982@gmail.com

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, For building rental contact Lynn Catt (828)736-6150.

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

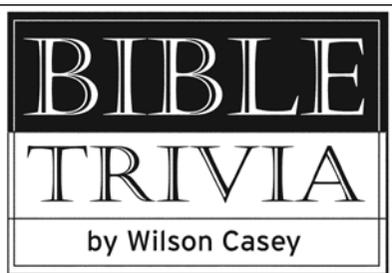
Big Cove Missionary Baptist Church. 6183 Big Cove Road. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday evening prayer meeting 7 p.m., Monthly business meeting is first Wednesday 7 p.m.

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.



1. Is the book of Romans (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Daniel 3, who saw four men walking in the fiery furnace? *Solomon, Job, Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar*
3. In 2 Kings 9, who was thrown from a window and struck the ground dead? *Hezekiah, Jezebel, Joash, Abner*
4. With whom did Lot fully escape the city of Sodom? *Wife, Two daughters, Son, Two friends*
5. From the book of Genesis, who was the wife of Joseph? *Tamar; Rebekah, Asenath, Taphanes*
6. What does "Naomi" mean? *Beautiful star, Holy woman, Pleasant, Righteous*

ANSWERS: (1) New, (2) Nebuchadnezzar, (3) Jezebel, (4) Two daughters, (5) Asenath, (6) Pleasant
Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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Moments in time

• On Feb. 23, 1885, John Lee went to the gallows in Exeter, England, for allegedly murdering Emma Keyse, a rich older woman who'd employed him. Insisting he was innocent, he was nonetheless convicted and sentenced to hang. However, the lever to release the floor beneath his feet malfunctioned and he didn't drop. Baffled authorities sent him back to prison for the next 22 years, though his death sentence was commuted. Upon his release, he emigrated to America, leaving the cause of his reprieve unsolved.

• On Feb. 24, 1961, the first 15 students received their Bachelor of Hamburgerology degree (not a traditional academic one!) from McDonald's Hamburger University, aka the "Harvard of Fast Food."

• On Feb. 25, 1837, Vermont blacksmith Thomas Davenport received the first U.S. patent for an electric motor. He insulated the wires with strips of fabric from his wife's silk wedding dress (cut by his wife, and with her full approval).

• On Feb. 26, 1968, Allied troops who'd recaptured the imperial capital of Hue from the North Vietnamese during the Tet Offensive found the first mass graves in Hue. Communist troops who had held the city for 25 days had massacred about 2,800 civilians whom they identified as sympathizers with the government in Saigon, and one authority estimated they might have killed as many as 5,700 people in Hue.

• On Feb. 27, 1935, 6-year-old rising Hollywood star Shirley Temple received the first-ever kid-size "juvenile" Oscar, measuring about half the height of a full-size Oscar.

• On Feb. 28, 1982, the J. Paul Getty Museum became the most richly endowed museum in the world when it received a \$1.2 billion bequest left to it by the late J. Paul Getty. A good portion of the endowment went to construct the Getty Center, a six-building complex on a hilltop in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles.

• On March 1, 1960, the first-ever Playboy Club opened its doors in downtown Chicago. Female servers known as "bunnies" were subject to the rules of a 42-page manual threatening demerits for offenses ranging from chewing gum to unkempt bunny tails.

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Southern start
In Texas, Georgia, Florida and other southern states, February is the start of garden season.

- It's time for southerners to plant root vegetables, including carrots, beets, and onions sets. Plant your peas if you haven't already, and get your cabbages, kales, and broccoli in the ground.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and dead stalks on perennials.
- Transplant snapdragons and pansies. Direct seed poppies and sweet peas.
- Give the compost pile a flip. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.bhg.com

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Adult Bible Study Wednesday 6 p.m. Pastor Ric Eddings 497-2761

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

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

Cherokee Church of God. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Every third Sunday they have a fellowship meal to celebrate all the birthdays throughout that month. Everyone is cordially

invited for any of the services and meals. Pastor Rev. Owen Isaacs (828) 242-0754

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

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

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

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

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

0115

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

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

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

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

Grace Bible Church. 344 Whittier School Rd., Whittier, N.C. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday services 6:30 p.m. Pastor Brent Stewart. Search Grace Bible Church NC on Facebook. Check the page as some

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



While winter is a harsh season for the **Black-capped Chickadee**, these tiny birds spend fall preparing for the cold ahead. Chickadees “scatter hoard” up to 1,000 seeds in hidden locations each day, and their brains actually grow new neurons during this time, causing the hippocampus to become about 30% larger to help them remember those food caches for weeks. They also join mixed flocks with other winter birds, increasing their chances of spotting predators and finding food. All this preparation helps the chickadee survive some of the coldest days of the year.

see **EVENTS** next page

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 Parker-Reece

Wilmot Baptist Church. Thom-

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

Wrights Creek Baptist Church.

Wrights Creek Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 p.m. Visitors welcome. Pastor David Birch

Yellowhill Baptist Church.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• The cubicle got its name from the Latin “cubiculum,” meaning bed chamber.

• When your “inner voice” speaks in your head, it triggers small muscle movements in your larynx.

• Harriet Tubman was the first woman to lead a U.S. military raid.

• Java junkies, take note: The American Psychiatric Association’s DSM-5 handbook classifies caffeine withdrawal as a mental disorder.

• A newborn blue whale gains about 200 pounds a day during its first year.

• Jim Henson made his first Kermit puppet using his mother’s old coat and two halves of a ping-pong ball.

• Sometimes it snows on Mars, but the snowflakes are made out of carbon dioxide, not water. The flakes don’t fall, but create a fog-like effect.

• Australia is home to approximately 170 kinds of snakes, including some of the world’s most venomous. The good news? Snake bites aren’t common and are rarely fatal. One study estimated that snake bites account for just two deaths per year in Australia.

• Scottish band the Bay City Rollers chose their name after sticking a pin in a map of America, which landed on the city Michigan.

• Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is the second cousin, 16 times removed, of King Richard III, whom he portrayed in the 2016 BBC miniseries “The Hollow Crown.”

• Members of the Secret Service’s Presidential Protection Division always travel with bags of blood in the motorcade in the event a transfusion is needed.

• Wisdom teeth serve no purpose. They’re left over from hundreds of thousands of years ago. As early humans’ brains grew bigger, mouth space was reduced, crowding out this third set of molars.

• One of Walt Disney’s first art jobs was drawing cartoons for a local barber in exchange for haircuts.

Thought for the Day: “Friends are the siblings God never gave me.” — *Mencius*

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The Swain County Sheriff’s Office

Invites all to

Drug Awareness Classes for parents and other adults

Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Current Drug Trends	Drug Laws	Gateway Drugs
Inhalants	Vaping	The Adolescent Brain
Why Teens Use	Children of Alcoholics	Addiction
Warning Signs	Paraphernalia	Pregnancy/Drug
Bullying		

at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
76 Main Street

Parking in back of church and county administration parking lot
Call 828-488-0159 (extension 0) for more information



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CLASSIFIEDS

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**

5 Family Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 9 AM until 3 PM at Painttown Community Building 59 Painttown Community Road, Cherokee, NC. 28719 INFO: 828-736-2781. **2/11**

FOR SALE - New dining room table includes 8 upholstered chairs, with a Pecan finish. Asking \$1,500. Also, same matching China cabi-

net \$675. Ethan Allen Curio, with lights and glass shelves. 3 drawers, beautiful \$630.00. Call to see (828)-226-0994. **2/11**

Wanted any masonite or metal signs that say: "Genuine Indian" and "Hand Made by the Cherokees Qualla Indian Reservation Cherokee, NC". ColemancollectorTN@gmail.com. **2/18**

LEGAL NOTICES

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 corpora-

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

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

Patricia Leigh Calhoun
P.O. Box 2005
Cherokee, NC. 28719
2/11

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 PUBLICATION
Ryne Sampson
P.O. Box 2408
Cherokee, NC. 28719
2/18

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-006



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@mandaraspaspa.com
Email: HRRrecruitment@onespaworld.com



Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

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

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

- Varsity Football Head Coach - Must have NC DPI teaching license
- 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
- Elementary School Nurse (RN or LPN)
- Middle School Nurse Assistant (CNA)

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

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

In the Tribal Court

In the Matter of H.L.

Petitioner: The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Public Health and Human Services Department of Human Services

TO: UNKNOWN PARENTS OF THE MINOR CHILD

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled juvenile action. The nature of the relief being sought is the adjudication and disposition of a petition alleging

the minor child H.L born September 30, 2010, as a dependent child, filed in the Cherokee Tribal Court on August 21, 2025.

You must answer or otherwise respond to the pleading within forty (40) days of the date of first publication of this Notice. If you fail to answer or otherwise respond within the time prescribed, the matter will proceed. If you are not already represented by appointed counsel, you are entitled to appointed counsel in this matter, and to that end, provisional counsel will be appointed for you in this matter, and the appointment of provisional counsel shall be reviewed by the court at the first hearing after service of process in this matter.

You are advised to IMMEDIATELY contact the Clerk of Tribal Court for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at (828) 359-6213, to obtain further information about this case, including a copy of the pleadings filed herein and the date(s) and time(s) of scheduled hearings.

First published this the 4th day of February, 2026.

Jamie Arnold
Family Safety Program Attorney
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
(828)359-1009

2/25

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

In the Tribal Court

In the Matter of N.H.

Petitioner: The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Public Health and Human Services Department of Human Services

TO: UNKNOWN PARENTS OF THE MINOR CHILD

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled juvenile action. The nature of the relief being sought is the adjudication and disposition of a petition alleging the minor child N.H. born August 16, 2011, as a dependent child, filed in the Cherokee Tribal Court on March 27, 2025.

You must answer or otherwise respond to the pleading within forty (40) days of the date of first publication of this Notice. If you fail to answer or otherwise respond within the time prescribed, the matter will proceed. If you are not already represented by appointed counsel, you are entitled to appointed counsel in this matter, and to that end, provisional counsel will be appointed for you in this matter, and the appointment of provisional counsel shall be reviewed by the court at the first hearing after service of process in this matter.

You are advised to IMMEDIATELY contact the Clerk of Tribal Court for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at (828) 359-6213, to obtain further information about this case, including a copy of the pleadings filed herein and the date(s) and time(s) of scheduled hearings.

First published this the 4th day of February 2026.

Jamie Arnold
Family Safety Program Attorney
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
(828)359-1009

2/25

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

In the Tribal Court

In the Matter of R.W. and K.I.
Petitioner: The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Public Health and Human Services Department

of Human Services

TO: UNKNOWN PARENTS OF THE MINOR CHILD

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled juvenile action. The nature of the relief being sought is the adjudication and disposition of a petition alleging the minor children R.I.B. and K.I born December 3, 2019 and December 11, 2013, as abused and neglected children, filed in the Cherokee Tribal Court on November 25, 2024.

You must answer or otherwise respond to the pleading within forty (40) days of the date of first publication of this Notice. If you fail to answer or otherwise respond within the time prescribed, the matter will proceed. If you are not already represented by appointed counsel, you are entitled to appointed counsel in this matter, and to that end, provisional counsel will be appointed for you in this matter, and the appointment of provisional counsel shall be reviewed by the court at the first hearing after service of process in this matter.

You are advised to IMMEDIATELY contact the Clerk of Tribal Court for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at (828) 359-

JOIN OUR TEAM



WE ARE HIRING

Open Positions

- Plant Health Technician



Apply Online
www.qualla.com/careers



More Information
828.589.8285

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

6213, to obtain further information about this case, including a copy of the pleadings filed herein and the date(s) and time(s) of scheduled hearings.

First published this the 4th day of February, 2026.

Jamie Arnold
Family Safety Program Attorney
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
(828)359-1009

2/25

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

INVITATION TO BID

Re: 2026 Residential Remodeling Advertisement:

The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to complete Residential Remodeling Services in Cherokee, NC.

108-A Wayah
108-B Wayah
78-B Wayah
112 Tsula Dr.
59 Awi Dr
242 Eagles Nest.

Please contact CIHD for additional information.

Ernest Tiger, Property Manager,
Qualla Housing Services, Cherokee
Indian Housing Division, PO Box
1749, 687 Acquoni Rd., Office 828-
359-6748 ernetige@ebci-nsn.gov
2/11

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Project Management Program
810 Acquoni Road, Ste 117
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
Ph. (828) 359-359-6702
Project Title: New Village
Restroom Facility
The Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians (EBCI) Project
Management Program is request-

ing separate sealed bids for the services of a licensed contractor to provide work under contract for the construction of a new restroom facility located adjacent to the Oconaluftee Indian Village and the Fire Mountain trailhead.

The project area is located within the existing parking area serving the Oconaluftee Indian Village located at 288 Drama Road Cherokee, North Carolina. Contract specifications and bidding documents will be provided to any licensed contractor upon request. Contact Becky Bowe, at (828)359-6702 or by email at rebebowe@ebci-nsn.gov to request a bid package.

A mandatory pre-proposal on-site meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM (EST) on February 19, 2026. Proposals should be submitted to Ms. Becky Bowe in a manner prescribed in the RFP and must be received by 1:30 PM (EST) on March 5, 2026. Any proposal received after the time and date specified shall not be considered.

Please be advised that Indian Preference (TERO) regulations apply for award and execution of this contract. 2/11

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HAYWOOD COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
IN RE J.J.B.; W.R.B.
25JA000081-430; 25JA000082-
430

TAKE NOTICE that juvenile petitions regarding the male minor child J.J.B. and female minor child W.R.B. described above have been filed with the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court in Haywood County, North Carolina in a juve-

nile proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is to determine if the above-described minor children have been abused, neglected, or are dependent. Juvenile Petitions regarding Tammy Leigh Reed as to the minor child J.J.B. and Natasha Regina Bigmeat; Buster Lee Biddix; and, Unknown Biological Father as to the above child, W.R.B. have been filed bearing the docket numbers set forth in the above caption.

TO: Tammy Leigh Reed, Respondent Mother of male minor child J.J.B. born on July 31, 2012 in Jackson County, North Carolina, conceived with the child's father, J.L.B., respondent; and, Natasha Regina Bigmeat, Respondent Mother, Buster Lee Biddix, Putative Father, and Unknown Biological Father of the female minor child W.R.B. born on October 17, 2018 in Buncombe County, North Carolina.

You are entitled to attend any hearing affecting your parental rights. You are entitled to have

counsel appointed by the Court if you are indigent. If you desire counsel, you should contact the Haywood County Clerk of Court, Juvenile Division, Haywood County Courthouse at (828) 454-6500, immediately to request counsel or obtain further information. These are new cases and any attorney appointed previously will only represent you provisionally unless you make an appearance in this court proceeding. Upon your failure to appear, the Petitioner, the Haywood County Health and Human Services Agency, seeking service against you, will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 11th day of February 2026.

Rachael J. Hawes, Attorney for
Petitioner
Haywood County Health and Human
Services Agency
157 Paragon Parkway, Suite 300
Clyde, North Carolina 28721
828-452-6620
Attorney Bar# 39135
2/25

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OPEN POSITIONS

New Positions

Certified Nursing Assistant – Emergency Department Hospitalist
Case Management Support – Cherokee County Clinic
Occupational Therapist I – Temporary
Physical Therapist I - Temporary

Behavioral Health

IDD Autism Director
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, , MAT
Residential Technician – Male - Kanvwotiyi

Dental

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

Eye Clinic

Optometrist
Optometric Assistant

Medical

Physician - Primary Care
Physician - Pediatrics
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
LPN TJCC
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
Unit Coordinator

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 Care Manager - Float
Tribal Option Specialty Team Care Manager – IDD

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Job Opportunities



Closing Sunday, February 15, 2026

1. Training & Development Specialist – Training & Development – Human Resources (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)
2. Firefighter – Fire Department – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Assistant Court Clerk – Tribal Court – Judicial Branch (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
4. Electrician Assistant – Facility Management – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour)
5. Lead Environmental Lab Technician – Environmental & Natural Resources – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
6. Driver – Transit – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
7. Supervisor – Family Safety – Public Health & Human Services (L15 \$61,776 - \$77,230) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
8. Administrative Assistant – Tribal In Home Health – Public Health & Human Services (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour)
9. Mental Health Therapist – Child Advocacy – Public Health & Human Services (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)
10. Senior Office Administrator – Health Delivery Administration – Public Health & Human Services (L12 \$46,301 - \$57,886)
11. Breastfeeding Peer Counselor – WIC – Public Health & Human Services (L5 \$15.00 - \$20.28 per hour)
12. Project Coordinator – Infrastructure – Housing (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)

Open Until Filled

1. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) per hour SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
2. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Patrol Officer (Multiple) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
4. Sergeant - Corrections - EBCI Law Enforcement (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
5. Sergeant (Patrol) - CIPD - EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
6. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Public Safety (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
7. Part-time Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
8. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
9. Certified Nursing Assistant (Multiple) – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (Starting rate of \$20.00/hour)
10. Supervisor – Biological/Waste Water Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
11. Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)

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

EBCI Public Health Vending Machine Initiative locations



Graphic by:
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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER TRIBAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS
HOUSING DIVISION

HOUSING LOTTERY



**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PREQUALIFICATIONS
IS MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026, AT 4 PM.
DRAWING WILL BE THURSDAY, MARCH 7,
2026.**

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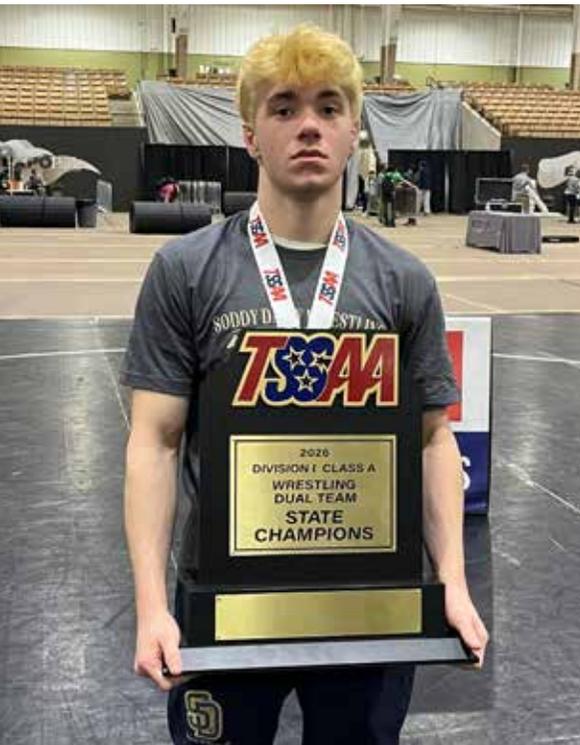
Showings for pre-qualified borrowers may be
scheduled for appointment by contacting Tina Larch-
Rivera at 359-6912 or Misty Millsaps at 359-6919.

Attention Candidates for Municipal Primary Elections!

The Cherokee One Feather invites you to address
the Qualla Boundary Community.

Please send your responses to the following
questions to cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com
by **noon** on **February 20th** for the February 25 print
edition. Include your name, the seat you are running
for, and a brief bio. Please try to limit your respons-
es for each question to 50 words or less.

1. Please provide a brief overview of the main
issues on which you are campaigning, and how
they pertain to your county.
2. If you are pursuing a Sherriff's seat, how do you
plan to collaborate and strengthen relationships
with the Cherokee Indian Police Department?
3. If you are pursuing a public office in the
seven-county area, how do you plan to collaborate
and strengthen government-to-government
relationships with the Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians (EBCI)?
4. How do you plan to serve your constituents
who are members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians (EBCI) and reside in the county you
represent.
5. If you are pursuing a public office in a county
that encompasses part of the Qualla Boundary,
how do you plan to serve your Qualla Boundary
constituents?



<< **Wrestling champion** Will Holloway, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), is a senior member of the Soddy Daisy (Tenn.) High School wrestling team which became three-time TSSAA Division 1 Class A State Dual Champions on Saturday, Jan. 31. Holloway wrestled at 138 and 144 and went 2-1 for the day. (Photo courtesy of Holloway family)



<< **Snow fun** Usdi Strong, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was overjoyed with the recent snow storm in Siliqwo (Sylva, N.C.). (Photo contributed)



A warm fire Khy Winstead, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and his dog, Cash, warm by the fire following playing in the snow on Saturday, Jan. 31 in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) in Cherokee, N.C. (Photo courtesy of Myra Lambert)



MathCounts champion Eric H. Fry, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and an 8th grade homeschool student, won several awards at the MathCounts Competition held in Asheville, N.C. on Saturday, Feb. 7. He took first place in Individual Round, first place in Countdown Round, and third place in Team Round. He has qualified for the MathCounts State Competition in Durham, N.C. in March. (Photo courtesy of Fry family)



Rare clouds

These rare Asperitas clouds were spotted in Elawodi (Yellowhill) in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 6. (Photo by Brooke Wilbur, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Environmental Compliance)



Signs to D1 track program

Harper Clow, seated, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at Bentonville West (Ark.) High School, signed a letter of intent recently to compete in pole vault for the University of Central Arkansas. The Bears compete in the NCAA Division 1 Atlantic Sun Conference. Shown, left to right, standing are Jackson Clow, brother; Heather Clow, mother; Tim Clow, father; Madelyn Clow, sister; and Robert David Smith, grandfather. (Photo courtesy of Clow family)

the
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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:
Cherokeefather1966@gmail.com**

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