

FREE



EBCI wrestlers compete at state meet  
Pages 16-17



Junaluska Museum's online collection is telling story of Tutiya (Snowbird)  
Pages 20-21

# GWY ᏆᏍᏍᏅ ᏆᏍᏍᏅ ᏆᏍᏍᏅ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of  
ka-ga-li (feb.) 25  
- anvyi (march) 3,  
2026

# “Unrelenting”

## New exhibit at Museum to tell Cherokee perspective of ‘250’

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The United States of America is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, and the Museum of the Cherokee People is dedicated to making sure that a Cherokee voice is included. The Museum is set to open a new exhibit on Tuesday, March 17 entitled “Unrelenting: Cherokee People and the American Revolution”.

Shana Bushyhead Condill, Museum executive director, said the title is very purposeful and took a lot of thought and brainstorming from herself and Museum staff.

“The message that we’re trying to get across with the title is that every time we’re making a decision, it is about our connection to land and where we are.

Our connection to land is unbroken, and will never be broken, ever. So, no matter what, whatever time frame that we’ve been in since contact - or even prior - it’s never been broken. So, that was important to us. Then, the other piece of that, the resilience piece of it, or the unrelenting piece of it gives action to Eastern Band folks as actors. So, it’s not just that we were getting our fields burned and

see UNRELENTING page 4



Signs in the front of the Museum of the Cherokee People in Cherokee, N.C. advertise a new exhibit opening on Tuesday, March 17 entitled “Unrelenting: Cherokee People and the American Revolution”. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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## Quote of the Week

**“Our connection to land is unbroken, and will never be broken, ever. So, no matter what, whatever time frame that we’ve been in since contact – or even prior – it’s never been broken.”**

Shana Bushyhead Condill, Museum of the Cherokee People executive director, speaking about land connectivity representations in the Museum's upcoming exhibit entitled "Unrelenting"

## Letters Policy

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

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

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

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

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This exquisite lidded doublewoven rivercane late 18th century basket, photographed in the Museum of the Cherokee People archive on Tuesday, Feb. 17, will be part of the “Unrelenting” exhibit.

**UNRELENTING:** From front page

being murdered, we were doing things as well. So, we were actors in that story. Typically, when you’re looking at history from that time period...it’s romantic.”

She added, “We know that there were many, many people taking all kinds of action to ensure that we could stay here on our ancestral homelands. So, it’s unrelenting - the action that our people take to keep us here still today.”

The Museum hosted an open call for proposals inviting artists to submit art to be considered for inclusion in the exhibit so that contemporary voices can be

visualized interpreting past events. These include some EBCI artists such as: Joshua Adams, Aaron Lambert, Louwana Jo “ᎠᎵᎠᎵ” Montelongo, Qualla (Paula) Nelson, Isabella Saunooke, Laura Walkingstick, Tara White, and Alicia Murphy Wildcatt. Other artists include: Beth Anderson (Cherokee Nation), Karen Berry (Cherokee Nation), Martha Berry (Cherokee Nation), Anagali Shace Duncan (Cherokee Nation), Keli Gonzales (Cherokee Nation), and Robert Lewis (Cherokee Nation, Navajo Nation, Apache).

Dakota Brown, Museum director of education, commented on the exhibit’s message. “For us, as

Cherokee people, our stories are often told for us. I think that this is a common theme that we come up against here at the Museum. We haven’t had the opportunity to tell a Cherokee perspective of the Revolutionary period, and I think it’s time for us to be able to add that lens to what this looks like. I wish we could tell more than what we have the space to tell, but we just have a few walls in that space to be able to tell the story and lay the groundwork. That’s how I’ve pictured this exhibit to be. We haven’t been able to lay that groundwork yet, and this is our opportunity to be able to do that, to tell the story from our

perspective.”

Condill commented, “One of the goals for the exhibition, not only is it to make people more complex - it’s not just a good guy, bad guy situation - but also that this context of warfare for generations was also really important for us to get across. Since 1711 - and you could go further back to contact - we’re in a constant state of anxiety, ready to fight or ready to defend. What is that like feeling that way for generations, and how does that impact who we are today? We talk about what generational trauma is, and I think we’re typically going back to forced removal, but even before that, there

was a lot of crazy happening in our home.”

Brown added, “Not only do I want to tell a Cherokee story, but I want it to be a little richer and a little bit fuller than just what happened in military actions. What are the stories and what are the whys behind these moments that make them impactful for us today. That, to me, is always important - bringing that through - thread to today. How does it still impact us? Because it does, and that’s one of the things that talking through this period and seeing how all of these things, all of this land loss, we can look at the land that we have today as a direct result of that period and the continued actions after that. I think being able to look at those time periods and see how they impact us, as Eastern Band people, today is important for me.”

Martha Berry, a Cherokee Nation citizen, has contributed a beaded bandolier bag, entitled “When the Highlands Met the Mounds”, to the exhibit which she says honors her Cherokee heritage as well as the Jacobites, Scots who rebelled against the British.

In her artist statement on the piece, she noted, “The first Jacobite to marry into my Cherokee family came at the time of the American Revolution. Seven generations later, a descendant of another Jacobite family, the Gramhams, turned up in Tulsa almost exactly two centuries later. His family had fled Scotland, moved to Ireland and changed their name, then meandered to Canada, Chicago, Kansas, and finally Oklahoma. In 1972, he met and married this Cherokee girl.



Martha Berry has contributed a beaded bandolier bag, entitled “When the Highlands Met the Mounds”, to the exhibit which she says honors her Cherokee heritage as well as the Jacobites, Scots who rebelled against the British.

The materials and symbolism of this piece tell these stories. The wool fabric is the ‘Graham of Montrose Ancient’ clan tartan. The bead designs are adaptations from artifacts found in the mounds of the Southeastern United States. The symbol on the pouch flap represents ordinary soldiers. Also depicted is the Sun, and the Ursa Major constellation and Polaris, the North Star.”

Brown said they hope people gain a new perspective on the time period of the American Revolution

upon visiting the “Unrelenting” exhibit.

“I think there were really complex decisions being made and some I agree with and some of them I don’t,” she said. “But, I think, as a Cherokee person, I feel proud of the folks that were trying to do what they thought was right in those moments. So, I hope for Cherokee folks it’s pride, but I do think that maybe our other visitors that are coming through here might feel a little taken aback by the approach that we’re taking

with this.

I really wanted to be very direct and very honest about the way that I saw that period...I hope that they leave our exhibit and enter into our exhibit with an open mind, curiosity, to hear what a Cherokee side could look like, or what a Cherokee side can look like from that period.”

For more information on the Museum of the Cherokee People, visit: <https://motcp.org>

# Anna Ferguson wants to bring a Cherokee voice to Raleigh

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Anna Ferguson wants to bring a Cherokee voice to Raleigh. She is seeking the District 119 seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Ferguson, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) born and raised on the Qualla Boundary, will face Mike Clampitt and Mike Yow in the Republican Primary on Tuesday, March 3. Mark D. Burrows is the sole Democratic candidate so there will not be a Democratic primary.

She said her main goal is to truly represent the EBCI and western North Carolina – who she feels has been forgotten about in Raleigh.

“My big overall message is I’m hoping, if I’m elected, to go down there and to be able to make enough noise to say, ‘hey, we’re here. I know we’re geographically about as far as we can get from Raleigh, but because of that we are often overlooked and that needs to not be happening. So many resources are being sent east or central, you need to start distributing to the west’. We’re rural, but that makes us no less important to the state.

For the Tribe, specifically, we need someone in there that has our voice. There are other people in there that do not have our voice and who actively are working against our voice. So, we’ve got to just get our foot in there so somebody’s in there saying, ‘hey, we’re first in line when legalized marijuana comes because it will come to the state. When it comes, we need to be the ones that are first in



Anna Ferguson (Photo contributed)

line. We’ve established ourselves in that industry. Recognize us. We’re your first federally recognized tribe here’.”

She added, “I am the only candidate in this race who will take Cherokee into consideration like I will. When people ask what the district covers, I always say it’s Transylvania, Jackson, Swain County, and the Qualla Boundary. I’m the only candidate that knows to make that distinction and knows why to make that distinction.”

Ferguson serves on the EBCI Planning Board, the EBCI Governing Board of Audit and Ethics, the advisory board of the Eastern Band of Cherokees Community Foundation and has served in many other capacities over the years.

Getting into politics was not in her plan, but she wants to make a difference. “You can’t expect change if you’re not involved in change and you just sit on the sidelines and complain about it. So, when I first started consider-

ing it, the more I thought about it the more I thought, ‘I have to try. I can’t say I left this place a better place if I don’t at least try’.”

Two major areas she wants to address in Raleigh, if elected, are education and health care.

“We’re last in the country for dollars spent per student in public education. I don’t know how you could lay your head down at night and know you’re last in the country. Something has to change there.

It comes down to teacher pay, and you’ve got to make sure that funding makes it to teacher’s salary without being siphoned off before it gets there.” On health care, she said funding cuts can be catastrophic. “We’re going to have federal health care cuts. Those are being translated to state health care cuts and the place they want to hit first, of course, are your rural communities. I know there are hospitals that have already been closed down east.... so, you can see the writing on the wall. It will start coming to, not so

much Cherokee, but it will start coming to Swain County, Transylvania County. I don’t know that they understand when you close a facility here, it’s an hour to get to Asheville.”

Ferguson said she has her own ideas and doesn’t like being lumped in with any other politicians.

“I get hit with questions about the current administration. It’s the Trump administration...it’s kind of posed to me as a litmus test and I don’t like it because I feel like it makes me one-dimensional, and it forces me to co-opt someone else’s platforms and someone else’s agendas. That’s not what I’m doing this for. I’m doing this because we need things to change here and I want to be a part of that change. If people want to ask me about my ideas, ask my opinions, or what I see coming, ask me that. Don’t ask me to piggy-back off somebody else’s. We’re going to do it differently and we’re leaving the past in the past. We’re moving forward.”

She went on to say, “If you have a question, please ask me. Don’t assume that you know what I’m standing for because you might not. And, it’s important that you do before you decide if I’m your candidate.”

In the end, she encourages everyone to go vote. “It’s the only way you’re going to change anything. It feels insignificant, but it’s not.”

Ferguson can be reached via an email link on her website: <https://www.voteannaferguson.com>.

She related to the One Feather that she personally answers each email.



#### Oath of office

Cruz Galaviz, second from left, was sworn in to the Kituwah LLC Board by Cherokee Court Judge Sunshine Parker at the Cherokee Court in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 20. Shown, left to right, are Tammie Chekelelee, Galaviz's mother; Galaviz; Anona Sugie Lambert, Galaviz's grandmother; and Cassidy Ed Chekelelee Galaviz, Galaviz's brother. (ROBERT JUMPER/One Feather photo)



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##### Everyone:

- ID
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- Dates of birth (yourself, spouse & dependents)
- Bank Account/Routing #s

##### Income

- W-2s
- Pension/IRA/annuity income (1099-R)
- Social security/RRB income: SSA-1099, RRB-1099
- Interest, dividend income (1099-INT, 1099-OID, 1099-DIV)
- Income from sales of stock or other property (1099-B, 1099-S)
- Gambling income (W-2G)
- Any other 1099s received

\*If you are enrolled in GenWell you will not be issued a 1099

##### Health Insurance

- Form 1095-A if you enrolled in an insurance plan through the Marketplace (Exchange)

##### Educational Expenses

- Forms 1098-T from educational institutions
- Form 1098-E if you paid student loan interest

##### Misc.

- IP Pin issued by the IRS if you have previously been a victim of tax-related identity theft

# Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

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

## New this week

**H.R. 7396 (Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act).** This House bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration which “shall be responsible for establishing a

working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting, and capital access...” Introduced: Feb. 5, 2026 by Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Kan.) Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business on Feb. 5, 2026, and a mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026 where it was reported favorably (24-0 vote).

## 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

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**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, 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 Natu-

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

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**LEGISLATIVE:** From page 9

ral 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. A Committee mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026, and it was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

**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).**

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 Transportation and Infrastructure on Oct. 28, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 5910 (To authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally**

see LEGISLATIVE next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 11

**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.

**S. 3767 (A bill to establish**

**Assistant Secretary for Indian Health).** This Senate bill would “amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health”.

Introduced: Feb. 3, 2026 by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Feb. 3, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 7325 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2026).** This House bill would establish a Truth and Healing

Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies “to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Policies, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American people”. If passed, an initial Commission Report would be required within four years and annual reports would be required from that point on.

Introduced: Feb. 3, 2026 by Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.)

Action: This House bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Committee on Education and Workforce on Feb. 3, 2026. 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. Name the third baseman for the Atlanta Braves who led the National League in hits and batting average and won NL MVP honors in 1991.

2. What brand of athletic footwear and apparel, established in New York in 1972, sponsored the likes of Pele, Dan Marino, Lawrence Taylor, Muhammad Ali, Reggie Jackson, Spud Webb and others in the 1970s and 1980s?

3. What driver did Kevin Harvick beat by one point to win the 2014 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship?

4. Name the Detroit Lions offensive lineman who suffered a spinal cord injury in a 1991 game and went on to found an organization dedicated to curing paralysis?

5. In 1940, what NFL team became the first to travel to a road game by airplane when they flew from Chicago to New York?

6. He's an author (“Stan Musial: An American Life”) and longtime sports columnist for The New York Times. His younger brother was a longtime NBA insider for the New York Post, NBC and TNT. Who are they?

7. What NBA team selected Jackson State's Purvis Short with the fifth overall pick in the 1978 NBA Draft?

#### Answers

1. Terry Pendleton.
2. PONY.
3. Ryan Newman.
4. Mike Utley.
5. The Green Bay Packers.
6. George and Peter Vecsey.
7. The Golden State Warriors.

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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.

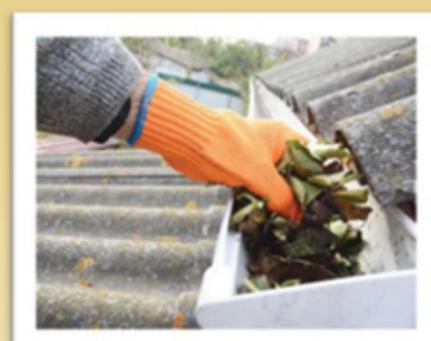
Exposure to mold can also affect a family's health, from triggering asthma and coughs, to causing runny noses, and other, more severe respiratory conditions."



"DON'T TRIM YOUR GUTTERS"



"CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS"



# Cochran hearing postponed, two more local sheriffs face removal

By BROOKLYN BROWN

One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C.—The pretrial hearing set for Feb. 17 in Cherokee Tribal Court for the sexual abuse case against former Swain Co. Sheriff Curtis Cochran was postponed to June 8. Graham Co. Sheriff Brad Hoxit faces removal due to alleged abuse of power for personal gain, and former Cherokee Co. Sheriff Dustin Smith resigned effective Feb. 6 due to allegations of willful and habitual negligence, both levied by District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch.

Hoxit was scheduled to appear in Superior Court Feb. 20 for a hearing on his removal, but Special Superior Court Judge William T. Stetzer postponed the removal hearing to a later date not yet scheduled. Hoxit is currently suspended from his position.

The petition for removal submitted by District Attorney Welch reads in part, “Causes for removal and permanent disqualification under North Carolina General Statute 128-16: Defendant has committed repeated acts of willful misconduct or administration in office in violation of N.C.G.S. 128-16(2) and has committed repeated acts that should result in defendant being adjudged as guilty of corruption or malpractice in office pursuant to the North Carolina Constitution Article VI, Section 8...Defendant’s active engagement in a criminal investigation surrounding a county commissioner when the defendant had an active conflict. Defendant was having a

romantic relationship with Graham County Commissioner Jacob Nelms’s wife or estranged wife, Adrian Nelms. Defendant failed to disclose the conflict to the District Attorney and Superior Court Judges while seeking search warrants, and/or to Department of Insurance Investigators at the beginning of that investigation.”

An official letter requesting resignation dated Jan. 28, 2026, sent to now-former Cherokee Co. Sheriff Dustin Smith by District Attorney Welch reads in part, “For three years, citizens have come to me to complain about several instances where you have been willful or habitually negligent and/or refused to do your duties of the office of Sheriff. Citizens have also complained of misconduct or maladministration in office.” Welch cited several incidents including alleged inaction and statements surrounding the Cherokee Co. police shooting of Jason Kloepfler, and the death of Cherokee Co. Detention Officer Francisco Paul Flattes, who was shot and killed in the line of duty by an escaped inmate.

The One Feather will continue to provide updates on these cases.

## CIPD Arrest Report for Feb. 9-15, 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.*

Walkingstick, Christopher Ray –

age 50  
Arrested: Feb. 9  
Released: Feb. 10  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, Obstructing Officers; Driving While Impaired

Armachain, Stacy Leighann – age 25  
Arrested: Feb. 10  
Released: Feb. 10  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Chouk, Rhonda Oun – age 55  
Arrested: Feb. 10  
Released: Feb. 10  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Davis, Vincent Collin – age 29  
Arrested: Feb. 10  
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 16)  
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Assault by Strangulation

Hornbuckle, Erin Charise – age 42  
Arrested: Feb. 10  
Released: Feb. 12  
Charges: Public Intoxication, Disorderly Conduct

Burrell, Brian Douglas – age 38  
Arrested: Feb. 11  
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 16)  
Charges: Restrictions Hindering Sex Offender Registration

George, Yolanda – age 55  
Arrested: Feb. 11  
Released: Feb. 12  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Tolley, Lawrence Allen – age 53  
Arrested: Feb. 11  
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 16)  
Charges: Second Degree Trespass; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstruct-

ing Officers; Pre-Trial Release Violation

Youngdeer, Kayandra Elaine – age 21  
Arrested: Feb. 11  
Released: Feb. 12  
Charges: Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors

Biddix, Buster Lee – age 40  
Arrested: Feb. 12  
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 16)  
Charges: Drug Trafficking; Manufacture, Sell, Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver of a Controlled Substance; Transporting Controlled Substance into the Territory of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Walkingstick, Louiza Gail – age 19  
Arrested: Feb. 12  
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 16)  
Charges: Violation of Wellness Court

Bish, Chloe Anna-Belle – age 25  
Arrested: Feb. 13  
Released: Feb. 13  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Catolster, Dominick Alfred – age 35  
Arrested: Feb. 13  
Released: Feb. 13  
Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Mithcell, Joshua Lloyd – age 28  
Arrested: Feb. 13  
Released: Feb. 13  
Charges: Non-Compliance with Wellness Court

Evitts II, James Michael – age 35  
Arrested: Feb. 14

Released: Feb. 14  
Charges: Temporary Hold

Watty, Kevin Redford – age 42  
Arrested: Feb. 14  
Released: Feb. 16  
Charges: False Pretenses, Drug Trafficking, Providing or Possessing Contraband, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon

Lossiah, Damian – age 22  
Arrested: Feb. 15  
Released: Feb. 15  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Welch, Benny Lee – age 62  
Arrested: Feb. 15  
Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 16)  
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

## **EBCI Public Health reports zero measles cases; continues monitoring**

**Submitted by EBCI Public Health & Human Services**

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) announced 22 measles cases in North Carolina since late December 2025. As cases rise across the state, NC DHHS urges vaccination for everyone ages one year and older and recommends health care providers consider early vaccination for infants living in or routinely visiting certain areas in

North Carolina.

Right now, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) has zero cases of measles. Areas of community spread has been identified in Buncombe County and the Charlotte Metropolitan area. Community members can view cases & location information on the NC DHHS dashboard at [dph.ncdhhs.gov/measles](http://dph.ncdhhs.gov/measles).

EBCI Public Health strongly encourages anyone who is unvaccinated to speak with their primary care provider about receiving the MMR vaccine. It is recommended for:

- All unvaccinated individuals ages one year and older
- Individuals traveling internationally or to an outbreak area in the United States

For infants 6-11 months old living in or routinely visiting certain areas in North Carolina, please contact your primary care provider to speak about options for early vaccination.

EBCI enrolled members and those with close personal ties to our community may receive the MMR vaccine by contacting Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority primary care. North Carolina residents outside of the EBCI service area should contact their health care provider or local health department for vaccine availability.

### **How measles spreads**

Measles is spread by direct person-to-person contact as well as through the air. The virus can live for up to two hours in the air where the infected person was

present. Symptoms of measles usually begin 7-14 days after exposure, but can appear up to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever (may spike to more than 104 degrees)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots) two to three days after symptoms begin
- A rash that is red, raised, blotchy; usually starts on face, spreads to trunk, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin
- Measles can also cause complications including diarrhea, pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling of the brain), and suppression of the immune system.

If symptoms develop, call ahead before visiting the doctor or emergency room so steps can be taken to prevent exposure to others. This is critical for prevention.

If an EBCI community member is identified as potentially exposed to measles, they may be contacted by EBCI public health department or a North Carolina Public Health Outreach Team member by phone, text message, email, or in person. Exposure locations will be added to the state's public measles exposure list as appropriate. Our goal is to ensure that anyone in our community who may be at risk receives timely information and guidance.

### **EBCI Public Health monitoring**

EBCI Public Health actively monitors measles and other dis-

eases. The EBCI Natural Resources Department tests wastewater as an early warning system for disease. When someone is sick, small traces of viruses can be detected in the sewer system. By testing wastewater, Public Health can sometimes identify signs of illness spreading before people begin seeking care. This testing does not identify individuals — it provides only a community-level snapshot. At this time, there have been zero detections of measles in our wastewater.

According to the 2023 Tribal Health Assessment, EBCI has a 95 percent measles vaccination rate. That level of coverage provides strong community protection and is something our people should be proud of. However, it also means that approximately 5 percent of the community remains vulnerable — including infants under 12 months of age who are not yet eligible for vaccination, as well as unvaccinated children and adults.

EBCI PHHS officials noted, “EBCI Public Health will continue monitoring wastewater data and vaccination coverage closely so we can respond quickly if anything changes and keep our community safe. Protecting our people requires each of us to take personal responsibility and to come together in the Cherokee spirit of “Gadugi” — working collectively for the health and well-being of our entire community.”

# EBCI wrestlers compete at State; Cherokee High School tallies two State placers



Pippa Welch, a senior wrestler for the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) and a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) from Kolanvyi (Big Cove) takes third in the 1A-4A 152 Women's NCHSAA State Championship, becoming the highest state placer in the history of Cherokee High School women's wrestling. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photos)

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**  
One Feather Reporter

**G**REENSBORO, N.C. - Pippa Welch (women's 152, third place) and Levi Tramper (HWT, fourth place) from Cherokee High School, both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), competed in the 2026 NCHSAA State Championship Tournament held Feb. 19 to Feb. 22 in Greensboro Coliseum.

Six members of the EBCI from other schools also competed: Robbinsville High School's Ayden Conley (men's 126), Jeremiah Phillips (men's 165, third place), and Myah Winfrey (women's 145, third place); Smoky

Mountain High School's Isabella Chapa (women's 165); Swain Co. High School's Madison Mashburn (women's 126) and Kobe Mashburn (men's 144). EBCI first descendant Landon Pope won first place in the 4A (men's 215) NCHSAA State Championship. Robbinsville High School also won the Individual 1A/2A Team State Championship and the 1A/2A Dual Team State Championship, with wrestling efforts from Conley and Phillips securing both victories.

Welch, a senior for the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves), took third after a win by points in the first round, a loss in the semifinals, a win by pin in the consolations, and a final victory in



Levi Tramper, right, a sophomore for the Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) takes fourth in the 1A/2A HWT Men's NCHSAA State Championship. He is shown with the other placing wrestlers in the HWT division including Jerry Joines (Allegheny), third place; Rayland Martinez (Hayesville), first place; and Josh Lemke (Rosewood), second place.

the third-place match. With that victory, Welch became the highest state placer in Cherokee High School women's wrestling history. Welch was named the Smoky Mountain Conference Co-Wrestler of the Year with Swain Co.'s Claire Ball.

Tramper, a sophomore for the Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves), took fourth after a loss in ultimate tiebreaker in the first round, a win by pin in consolations, another win by pin to head to the third-place match, and a loss in ultimate tiebreaker in the third-place match.

Coached by head coach Todd Odom, and assistant coaches Adam Jaimez and Roger Neadeau,

Cherokee wrestling wraps up a successful season with a great run at state. The Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi had nine wrestlers qualify for regionals. They also won the Smoky Mountain Conference Tournament Championship, as well as the Osley B. Saunooke Memorial Invitational, qualified for the State Dual Team Championship, and placed second in the Smoky Mountain Conference Dual Team Championship. The Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi qualified for the Dual Team State Playoffs and had twelve wrestlers qualify for regionals. Cherokee wrestling ends the 2025-26 season with Welch and Tramper qualifying and placing in the state meet.

ON THE SIDELINES

# A wrestler's code for life

By BROOKLYN BROWN

One Feather Reporter

Wrestling is special. It's ancient, it's biblical, it's unlike any other sport in the world, but it can help you be better in every other sport.

I'm the sister of a Division I college wrestler and the 2019 NCHSAA 1A HWT State Champion and Most Outstanding Wrestler Noland Brown. Watching Noland wrestle was one of the most difficult things I've had to do as his big sister. When he stepped on the mat, it was just him. I couldn't help him, my parents couldn't help him, he had to help himself. As a big sister, that's hard, and family members of wrestlers know what I'm talking about. Still, it's also one of the best things I've ever had the privilege of being in his corner for.

I respect anyone who steps on a wrestling mat, win or lose. It's just you out there, and it's a tough sport - the body contortions, the stamina, the grit, how fast things can change. And that's also what makes it brilliant. The statistics fall away. It's about who wants it more. And if you do lose, can you get back up?

Pippa Welch got back up.

Wrestling is a model for life, and in life, she's a winner, because she got back up.

Pippa wrestled hard in her first-round bout, winning 12-2 in points. She lost her semifinals match later that day, and most people would give up after that.

But Pippa came back the next



Pippa Welch, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Cherokee High School women's wrestling team, claims third place in the 2026 NCHSAA State Championship at 152 lbs. on the evening of Friday, Feb. 20 in Greensboro Coliseum. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

day ready to fight. She won her consolation match by pin, advancing to the third-place match.

Just a few hours later, Pippa would dominate her final match.

She did not let up. She did not relent. Until the very end, she gave it everything she had, and she emerged victorious. Iyusdiqwo means anytime, anywhere, whom-

ever. Iyusdiqwo, even if you lose, even if it hurts, fight, fight, fight.

That's wrestling, and that's a winner.

# Shirley Reagan receives USA Judo National Referee certification

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Shirley Reagan, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has been doing Judo for years, and she recently hit a milestone in the sport she loves. She has received certification as a USA Judo National Referee and can officiate any national tournament in the United States.

“Now, I’m certified - one of 35 women in the United States,” said Reagan, who holds a black belt in Judo. “At the National level in the United States, there’s 266 men, so it’s growing with the women. When I started, I could remember two women refereeing at that level.”

She started in the sport years ago with the Yellowhill Judo Club. “I had competed 10 years because I was a little older when I started. Then I started refereeing regional tournaments all around and I really liked it. I never did try for the National referee stuff because I didn’t have enough confidence in myself. So, I was going to turn 70 in December and I thought, ‘well, if I’m ever going to try, I’m going to do it’.”

She added, “I had to take an online exam...and had to score so high on it. It’s 50 questions chosen out of 200 and you have to



Shirley Reagan, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has received certification as a USA Judo National Referee and can officiate any national tournament in the United States. She is shown prior to a Judo class at the Don “Kool-Aid” Queen Gym in Wayohi (Wolfstown) in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 18. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

know Judo to know the stuff. So, I passed that and I had to pick a points tournament to be evaluated. So, I picked the Dallas Open, which the referees I know said, ‘no, don’t do that one. It’s the biggest one’. I thought, ‘well, if I can do the biggest one, I can make it’. There were 1,200 competitors

and I had three evaluators and I passed it.”

Reagan has really taken to being a referee. “I really enjoyed it. I was selected to referee the youth Nationals in Wichita, Kan. next month. Hopefully, I’ll get to referee the Junior Olympics.” Reagan is very active in the sport

as an instructor as well helping out at classes in both Wayohi (Wolfstown) and Soki (Waynesville, N.C.).

“It’s a martial art, but it’s also an Olympic sport. The rules are really controlled. There’s throws that you learn that you can do, but they’re not allowed in competition because they’re highly likely to injure somebody. I like that it’s regulated like that. I just love it. I loved it from the time I started. All three of my kids made black belts. I’m a black belt. My brother and his two sons earned their black belts. Now I’ve got five grandkids coming up doing it.”

She said it helps keep her active after retirement.

When asked what advice she would give to someone starting out in Judo, Reagan said, “I would tell them that if they’re not starting out as a child, they need to be a little patient, but you will get there if you just keep working at it. You don’t have to compete, if that’s not your bag, because it is a martial art and you can just learn the sport.”

Reagan said that Judo is a sport that is for all ages. “It’s something you can do your whole life. It doesn’t end when high school ends.”

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Submit your Good Stuff photos and posts to us at:  
[Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com](mailto:Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com)



# Thinking About Building A Home?

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

## **BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER**

<b>SITE INSPECTION APPLICATION</b>	<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.
<b>PROPERTY SURVEY, TRANSFER &amp; RIGHT OF WAYS</b>	<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.
<b>PRE-APPROVAL PRE-QUALIFICATION</b>	<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
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<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.
<b>HOME BUYING SEARCH &amp; QUOTE</b>	<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.
<b>DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (DPA) &amp; LOAN PROCESS</b>	<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.
<b>CIDH &amp; REALTY – On Trust Lands</b>	<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.
<b>DPA funds – Off Trust Lands</b>	<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.
<b>LOAN CLOSE</b>	<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.
<b>SITE PREP SCHEDULING</b>	<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.
<b>SERVICES PROVIDED BY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NEW HOMES</b>	<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**

<b>Tribal Realty</b>	<b>Infrastructure Dept.</b>	<b>Housing Services</b>	<b>Timber Permits</b>
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		

# Junaluska Museum’s online collection is telling story of Tutiya (Snowbird)

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

TUTIYA (Snowbird) – The Junaluska Museum has been working recently on a project to bring its collection online and the story of the people of Tutiya (Snowbird) alive. As of this printing, there are 129 records divided into three categories (Snowbird Day School Collections, Tutiya (Snowbird) Community Collections, and Fading Voices Collection).

The online collection can be seen at:  
<https://junaluskamuseum.ebci.gov>

Angelina Jumper, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and Junaluska Museum cultural resources supervisor, speaks to the impetus behind the project. “Since 2015, the Junaluska Museum has been without a physical space. Much of our collection has lived in off-site storage, we also had a growing amount of digital media that hadn’t been properly digitized, organized, or preserved. All at the same time, our community was asking for access to family photos, historical materials, and shared memories.”

She added, “That combination with limited physical access and an urgent need for preservation is what pushed us toward going digital. Initially, we envisioned a simple, accessible online archive so we could start sharing what we already had with the Snowbird community. But as we began the

## THEMES FROM THE JUNALUSKA MUSEUM COLLECTION



THEME  
Snowbird Day School Collections  
SJAʌdʌSGIʌʌJT ʌʌhZPʌʌT  
[View All](#)



THEME  
Tutiya Community Collections  
SJAʌ ʌSSY ʌʌIhAWʌʌ  
[View All](#)



THEME  
Fading Voices Collection  
TJʌʌhʌʌE DʌʌAʌS  
[View All](#)

The Junaluska Museum has been working recently on a project to bring its collection online and the story of the people of Tutiya (Snowbird) alive. (Screenshot from webpage)

process, we realized we needed something much more comprehensive, a system that respected Tribal data sovereignty and could support long-term stewardship, not just public-facing access.”

Jumper said the project was only possible through their partnership with the EBICI OIT (Office of Information Technology) and Terentia, which is a company whose mission statement reads, “Empowering museums and cultural institutions with next-generation solutions for DAM (digital asset management), collections management, and collections engagement.”

Jumper commented, “What started as a goal to build a digital archive became a full digital asset management system designed

around our values and needs as a tribal museum. Terentia provided us with a data-sovereign platform that allows us to store all forms of media: photographs, documents, oral histories, and more, in a way that works for us. It’s not just about displaying content; it’s about caring for our materials, and interpreting them, our way.”

Kayleen Cree Rockwood, an EBICI tribal member and Junaluska Museum cultural coordinator, added, “The Tribe’s IT department had reached out to us about a potential digital assets management system, which would allow us to digitize our collections and store them in a centralized location, but also allow us to create virtual exhibits for the community.”

Jumper, from Tutiya herself,

said the main goal of the project is to enhance the history of Tutiya and its families. “Our primary goal is to give the Snowbird community access to their family photos and shared memories while preserving as much archival material as community members are willing to entrust to us. We built this system from the ground up, especially when it comes to metadata, permission levels, and collection labels.

Instead of forcing us into a standard museum template, the Terentia team worked with us to design a structure that fits a small Tribal museum holding community-based collections. We can now create individual collections for community members and search by family connections or even the

different smaller communities within Snowbird. Historical documents can be organized by time period, community, or a person's role. We can label whether they were Tribal officials, community club members, or day school students. We're essentially able to build living profiles that connect photos, documents, and oral histories, allowing us to tell fuller life stories rather than just catalog objects."

There is much more to come on this project.

Jumper noted, "We've been working closely with our IT department to explore what's next. We recently partnered with TimeLooper to create a prototype virtual exhibit, Rooted in Resistance ([timelooper.com/eastern-band-chokeee](http://timelooper.com/eastern-band-chokeee)), which debuted at the ATALM (Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums) conference last year. That experience gave us our first real look at what immersive virtual exhibits could be, and it confirmed that this is likely the direction we're heading. Digital preservation is the foundation, but virtual storytelling is where we see a lot of future potential."

One of the processes involved as the project evolves is photogrammetry which is defined as "a process for determining geometric properties and distances from two-dimensional photographic images".

Jumper said that has been a learning curve. "Any new technology comes with challenges, but seeing artifacts come to life through photogrammetry makes it worth the hundreds of photos required to capture every angle. We started using an iPhone 16 Pro and have gradually moved into DSLR cameras to achieve even higher-resolution results. We've had tremendous support from the Terentia team throughout this process, especially on the photogrammetry side, which really shows how hands-on and collaborative their approach is."

Rockwood noted, "Learning photogrammetry has definitely been a learning experience. Since we have no experience with this type of technology, we learned how tedious the process can be. We have scanned several physical artifacts from our collections. Once we learn to use AgiSoft, we will put those artifacts in our col-

lections online."

This project has helped bring Jumper and Rockwood closer to the community they work in. Jumper commented, "This project has deepened our understanding of the interconnected families, histories, and lived experiences within Tutiya. As materials are brought together digitally, we are discovering connections between people, locations, and events that were not always visible before. The process has revealed the richness of the community's story and reinforced the importance of preserving everyday memories alongside formal historical records. It's also reinforced how much knowledge lives within the community itself. Many items gain meaning only when families share context, names, and stories, reminding us that archives are strongest when they're built collaboratively. My favorite part about this work is when we are identifying people and someone tells me a good story about one of my great grandparents and how people today remember them as a community member back in the day."

Rockwood said, "I am not from this community. I was born and

raised in Cherokee. Since moving to Snowbird, I have learned how deep and rich the history is here. The community was built on resilience, and its members show it every day. My hope is that people want to learn about Snowbird's history, and that we can help with that at The Junaluska Museum." Jumper is excited about the future of the project. "This project is reshaping what the Junaluska Museum can be. Without a physical building, we've leaned into becoming a digital-first, community-centered museum that prioritizes access, sovereignty, and relationship-building.

The system we've created allows us to preserve materials responsibly, tell more complete stories, and engage younger generations through digital and virtual platforms. It also positions us for future growth, whether that's expanded virtual exhibits, deeper community partnerships, or eventually reconnecting digital collections with a physical space. Most importantly, it ensures that Snowbird's history remains in Snowbird hands where it is preserved, organized, and shared according to community values."

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# CARE

# CLINIC



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ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Cherokee Supreme Court  
sessions for 2026:**

- April 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
- July 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
- Sept. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
- Oct. 9

- *Cherokee Tribal Court*

**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*

**Bill Taylor Scholarship taking applications**

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for the Bill Taylor School, a North Carolina Community Foundation scholarship. It's free and easy to apply through the NCCF Scholarships Portal.

Criteria: Enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians or their spouses, children or other immediate family members attending a two- or four-year college or university.

Applications are due by Tuesday, March 3. Scholarship awards are made in the late spring or early summer, and payments are made directly to the student's college or university.

To apply or to learn more about this scholarship and others, visit [nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships](http://nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships).

Info: Shari Williamson at [swilliamson@nccommunityfoundation.org](mailto:swilliamson@nccommunityfoundation.org)

- *North Carolina Community Foundation*

**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](mailto:brandonF@bbswnc.org) or call (828) 347-6097.

- *Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Western North Carolina*

**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 Boundary 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 proj-

ect 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.

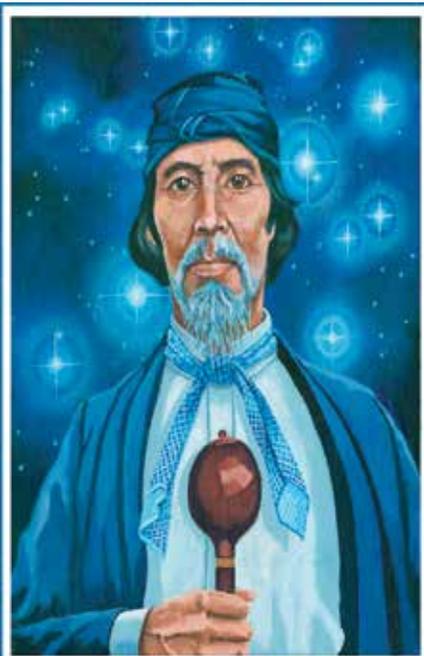
Info: The Center for Native Health, visit: [www.centerfornativehealth.org](http://www.centerfornativehealth.org)  
- *Center for Native Health release*

**Sequoyah Fund launches  
"Paperwork & Progress  
Night" to support local small  
business owners**

Sequoyah Fund announced the launch of Paperwork & Progress Night, a new monthly after-hours event designed to help small business owners complete important administrative tasks in a supportive, social environment.

Paperwork & Progress Night is a three-hour working session where owners can bring one task, multiple tasks, or a major project to work on, such as bookkeeping cleanup, licensing and renewals, business planning, or preparation for loan and grant applications. Light refreshments will be served, and a Sequoyah Fund representative will be present to answer questions, help participants get unstuck, and connect owners to local small business resources.

"These events are designed to create two outcomes: real progress on the work that keeps businesses healthy, and stronger connections among local owners," said Sequoyah Fund CEO, Russ Seagle. "It's a practical way to turn easily procrastinated tasks into an ener-



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gizing, productive evening.” Attendance is open to small business owners in Cherokee and surrounding communities. Participants must be business owners. Owners may not send managers or other staff in their place. Discussions will be treated as confidential, and there are no attendance requirements.

The first event will be held Tuesday, March 10 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the large conference room in the Ginger Lynn Welch Complex at 810 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. Registration information is available at <https://bit.ly/admin-night>

- Sequoyah Fund release

### Sequoyah Fund launches monthly Small Business Roundtable for Cherokee-

### Area business owners

Sequoyah Fund announces the launch of a new monthly event designed specifically for small business owners: the Small Business Roundtable. Held during lunchtime as a BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag Lunch) gathering, each roundtable is scheduled for 1 hour and 15 minutes and will focus on one timely topic affecting business ownership, including marketing, management, taxes, and broader economic issues facing small business owners of every industry.

The roundtable format is confidential and facilitator-led to encourage candid discussion and practical problem solving. Attendance is open to any small business owner in the Cherokee-area community, with one important requirement: Attendees must be

business owners and may not send managers or representatives in their place. Participants will also receive a copy of roundtable notes following the session for reference.

The first session is planned for Wednesday, March 18 at the large conference room in the Ginger Lynn Welch Complex at 810 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. Registration details will be available at <https://bit.ly/2026roundtables>.

- Sequoyah Fund release

### THANKYOU LETTERS

#### On behalf of Don Swimmer siblings and family

We appreciate our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, for the prayers and churches adding Don to their prayer lists. We appreciate the Medical teams and cancer specialists that help during the times of his needs. Thank you to the Transport team.

To the friends and families that called, prayed, and brought food, and flowers, you are appreciated so much. We know that

we will see our dear brother again soon. He was our comedian, our jokester and brought so much laughter to us all.

We apologize for the delay in our thank you, but never forgot the calls, concern, and wellbeing. We thank our free labor men that dug the grave from Big Cove, Paint town, Wolfe town and tribal construction.

Straight fork church family and Bro. Harley Maney. The singers who came and gave comfort through music and fellowship. Our prayers were answered, not in our way, but God the Father's way. He gave Don a new body the moment his heart stopped and he entered in the arms of the greatest physician. Mom and Dad, brothers and other family waiting on the side to greet him.

Again, we thank our community for the support, love, and prayers during the time of our loss of Don.

Swimmer Family

## MISSING

### Wesley Dixon Jones

Enrolled with Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Height: 5'8" Weight: 120-140 lbs

Hair: Black Eyes: Brown

Male Age: 71

Date of last contact: October 5, 2025

Last Known Location: Pendleton, Oregon

Circumstances of Disappearance: On October 5, 2025, in the early afternoon,

Wesley was last seen in a motor vehicle on Shortmile Road on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla County, Oregon. Jones was last seen wearing dark sweats with a red/black wind breaker and (Tigerscot) cowboy boots.

If you have seen or have information about Wesley Dixon, contact Tony Barnett, Investigations Supervisor, Umatilla Tribal Police Department (541) 278-0550.

Source: Namus.gov



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**OBITUARIES ᏊᏏᏁᏂᏁ**

**Dawn "Sissy" West**

Dawn "Sissy" West, a diehard Duke fan, 50, of Cherokee, started her new life on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026. A native of Cherokee, she was the daughter of the late Paul "Buck" West and Mary Jackson West.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her two brothers, Patrick West and Roman "Booda" West; paternal grandfather, Cecil West; and maternal grandparents, Walter and Sally Jackson.

She is survived by her children, Damion Dae Cline, Constance Anna Cline, Amy Diana West (Silas and Coraline), Syllas Gauge Davis, Lucian Ezekiel Davis; two grandchildren, L'Ree

Aliyena Lossie-Cline, Lily Walela Cline; grandmother, Amy West Thompson; aunt, Deb West; uncle, Richard Sneed Sr., and many family and friends.

Funeral service was held on Sunday, Feb. 22 at Big Cove Baptist Church. Kenny Davis officiated with burial at West Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Moe Davis, Jathan Davis, Ty West, Damon Cline, Syllas Davis, and Silas Reed-Littlejohn.

**James "Matt" Barnes**

James "Matt" Barnes, 68, of Cherokee, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, at Maggie Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation.

James "Matt" was born on Aug. 12, 1957, in Alameda Coun-

ty, Calif. He lived many years in Florida before moving to Cherokee, N.C. James was a member of Yellowhill Baptist Church and was saved by Preacher Roland Whitaker. He was preceded in death by his mom, Louisa Crowe Barnes; sisters, Marion Sherrill and Cindy Crowe; brother, Clayton Crowe; and son, Ronald Stevie Barnes.

James is survived by his son, Jordan Price of Minnesota; sisters, Esther Barnes of Cherokee and Edwina Jones(Kermit) of Lexington, N.C.; and grandchildren, Joseph, Isabella, and Little Stevie. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews, including a special niece, Azure "Blondie" Gaston, along with her family and friends.

A funeral service was held on Monday, Feb. 23 in the Chapel of

Long House Funeral Home. Burial followed at the Burgess-Oocumma Veterans Cemetery with military honors provided by the American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post 143. Long House Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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

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

**FEB 23- MARCH 1, 2026**

WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
<b>Tuckasegee River</b>	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Black Caddis, Midges, Small Perdigons, Soft Hackles, Pheasant Tail Nymphs
<b>Chattooga &amp; Whitewater Rivers</b>	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	Black Caddis, Midges, Small Perdigons, Soft Hackles, Pheasant Tail Nymphs
<b>Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River &amp; Small Streams</b>	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++
4:27 AM-6:27 AM 4:55 PM-6:55 PM	5:25 AM-7:25 AM 5:56 PM-7:56 PM	6:27 AM-8:27 AM 6:58 PM-8:58 PM	7:30 AM-9:30 AM 8:01 PM-10:01 PM	8:31 AM-10:31 AM 9:00 PM-11:00 PM	9:28 AM-11:28 AM 9:56 PM-11:56 PM	10:21 AM-12:21 PM 10:46 PM-12:46 AM

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# EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION



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

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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.

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Michelle Stamper  
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## COMMENTARY

# Actions should be louder than words, or genealogy

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

When we started researching the banishment list over a decade ago, the exclusion power outlined in the Code (the Cherokee Code) was being used, but a couple of the directives in it were not being followed. One, there used to be a directive in Code that the Court would, at least every six months, provide a list of offenders who had

been convicted of crimes deemed worthy of exclusion according to the Code. Since the list could have only been a list of tribal members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, when the exclusion law was implemented, very few offenses, if any, could be tried against a non-Indian in Tribal Court. So, there must have been some intent to hold tribal members at least equally accountable for high crimes and threats against the tribe, to include the possibility of exclusion.

When I asked a former Chief Justice about the number of times the list had been submitted to the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council), he stated that he had never heard of that being carried out and really wasn't familiar with the ordinance.

Ultimately, when I pressed the question in 2022, the government's answer at the time was to remove the requirement to report that information to Dinilawigi.

The second was that the banishment or exclusion list was to be public-facing. When we first started bringing real focus on the issue of banishment in 2014, I started searching for a copy of the banishment list. Since there is Cherokee Code language that says, "It shall be unlawful for any person to harbor, conceal, or give succor to any known excluded person." (Cherokee Code Section 2-10), I assumed that a list of who might cause me to violate the law (by aiding and abetting them to remain on the Qualla Boundary after being banned) would be very readily available. Well, not so much. I went first to the government programs to ask for a copy. The answers I received ranged from "We don't have that" to "We may have a partial list we can provide".

That was the beginning of the One Feather's push to assemble and publicize a current banishment list. Over time, we have not only organized and published the banishment list, but other tribal programs have also jumped on it and are now sharing the list through their websites and phone apps.

I don't know if the tribe could compel outside service providers to maintain that database in their applications for services, so that when a banished person applied for, for example, power services on the Qualla Boundary through an electric company, they would be able to alert tribal authorities so that proper issuance of additional charges could be leveraged. Theoretically, if the power compa-

ny doesn't alert the tribe in a case like this, that would violate Section 2-10 of the Code.

Here's the rest of that section of law: "Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a crime and may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 12 months imprisonment or a fine not to exceed \$5000.00 or both. Any person convicted under this section shall be sentenced to serve an active term of imprisonment of at least 30 days, which may not be suspended."

The word "succor", in its noun form, means "assistance and support in times of hardship and distress." In its verb form, it means "give assistance or aid to".

You must connect the dots a bit with this language, but I take that to mean that if you assist a person in living on the Boundary, you are providing succor. Living in modern society without electric power is a burden. I would judge that providing electrical services at a residence inside the territorial lands of the Eastern Cherokee for someone who had been lawfully banished would qualify as a violation of law. Thus, the need for outside service providers to help the tribe keep people off our land who have been deemed a threat to "the Tribe's natural, economic, and cultural resources, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tribal members (CC Section 2.1.e)."

The exclusion process, codified in 1994, is like a notice of illegal trespass (my interpretation of the law; you may have your own). Exclusion itself is like an addition to the law through resolution, specifically naming an individual as unwelcome on Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian lands. To be

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excluded, all that is needed is for the Dinilawigi and Executive Office to believe that a person meets the criteria in Section 2.1.e, and they can lawfully vote to kick a person off the Boundary. Two glaring examples stick out, one involving a person who made malicious and alleged false claims against the heritage of the tribe (I say “alleged” because these claims were never adjudicated), and another who, while not being convicted or reprimanded of any crime or policy violation, was deemed to have done something that would insult or threaten children. No crimes in law. An opinion by a body politic.

I am not saying those applications of the exclusion law were unjust. I am just saying those are examples of how the process is subjective instead of objective.

This brings up a touchy (i.e. controversial) subject. The Code clearly intended the use of banishment to include members of the EBCI. There is an entire subsection dedicated to it. Section 2-6 is titled “Enrolled members; permanent exclusion.” It says, “If an enrolled Tribal member is permanently excluded from Cherokee lands, then the member’s name may be removed from the membership roll of the Tribe by resolution of Tribal Council and all privileges pertaining thereto may be suspended indefinitely. If a first-generation descendant is permanently excluded from Cherokee trust lands, Tribal Council may also, by resolution, suspend or revoke the privileges and benefits that the excluded person would otherwise have been eligible to receive as a

first-generation descendant.” In 2022, this language was added or amended to Code. Previously, the language said that if a tribal member was banned, it also meant that they were disenrolled.

Representatives of Dinilawigi debated this issue for years. It was glaringly obvious that they, as a body, did not want to remove someone from the rolls of the tribe, even if those enrolled members were committing offenses and acting in a way that could be interpreted as a threat to “the Tribe’s natural, economic, and cultural resources,” and at threat to “the health, safety, and welfare of Tribal members.” Two people could commit the same crimes against tribal members. For the non-Indian, a resolution for exclusion would be drafted and approved for that person to be banished from tribal lands. The other person, a tribal member, might go through the court system, but would not face banishment from the Dinilawigi.

We keep the exclusion list on the One Feather website current to the last ratification in the exclusion list (<https://theonefeather.com/ebsci-banishment-list/>). I urge you to pull that list up and

click on any of the most recent exclusion resolutions and try to find one that doesn’t have this line in the justifications for banishment: “Whereas (name) is not a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians...” The intent of this line in the resolution seems to be to clarify that we are not attempting to exclude a tribal member. If banishment were being applied based on actions, and giving behaviors equal weight, regardless of membership or affiliation, there would be no need to identify their membership status as a bullet point for exclusion justification.

And that’s the reason that I wanted to remind you of this. If someone is trafficking sex or drugs on the Boundary, as was the case in the most recent exclusion, should it matter what their membership status is to be considered for banishment? In some tribes, they have created their banishment and disenrollment laws specifically to address their own members whose behavior harms their own. They see it as more heinous than if an outsider does it, because they are harming one of their own. So, my question is, why do we, as a tribal community, see it differently here?

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## Nancy Pheasant blends artistry with history

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – With the clouds rolling over the mountains on a crisp fall day at Kuwohi, I had the opportunity to see students captivated with the story of Medicine Lake. They were listening to Nancy Pheasant, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), telling stories and imparting wisdom as one of the educators at the annual Kuwohi Connection Days.

Prior to sharing her story at the event held on Sept. 9, 2025, she told the students, “The story that I want to share with you today is another reason why we think this mountain is a sacred space for the Cherokee. This is also known as a place for Bear Council, meaning that the Bear People, or the Bear Clan, once held councils here. It’s not only a sacred space for the Cherokee, but it’s also a sacred space for the animals as well as the plants that surround us.”

Pheasant is a true educator and represents the EBCI very well wherever she goes. She has a way of painting a picture in your mind as she speaks.

At an event held Sept. 16, 2025 honoring the one-year anniversary of the name restoration of Kuwohi, Pheasant told the crowd, “I just want you all to stop, turn around, and look. Look where you’re standing. Even though the mountain is covered in clouds this morning, and we can see the mist as it rolls down the mountain-



Nancy Pheasant, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, welcomes the students to the Kuwohi Connection Day with the story of Medicine Lake. The event was held at Kuwohi (Mulberry Place) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

side and over the tops of the pine trees and down the rocks, this is a sacred place. I just want you guys to take in that connection, not only to the land that we stand on, but to each other. For everyone that is gathered here this morning, we’re here for a reason.”

Pheasant is an artist with her storytelling, and she is also a multi-media artist in general being a very accomplished shell carver, beadworker, basket maker, potter, and fashion designer.

She started her pottery journey with a class taught by Tara McCoy, an EBCI tribal member and noted potter, in 2023 as part of the Community Learning Workshop by the Museum of the Cherokee People.

At the opening of the work-

shop’s exhibit featuring the student’s work, called the Gadugi Pottery Exhibit, Pheasant told me that evening as I was covering the event, “I had to switch thinking because it’s an entirely different medium. But, for me, it was easy to rely on knowing designs already and being able to recognize and create my own designs into the pottery. But, it’s a whole different world... To me, that was the best part. To be able to take a lump of clay that looked like dirt and create something with it.”

Pheasant is a multi-talented woman, but most importantly, she is a kind soul. Every time I see her at an event, she is full of passion and energy. She carries that same energy into her work and efforts to



Pheasant is shown doing a shell carving at the Kanesegi Basket & Carving Festival in Cherokee, N.C. on Nov. 9, 2019.

do her part at educating the public about Cherokee culture.

Nancy Pheasant is a wonderful cultural educator, and she is a wonderful human being.

COMMENTARY

# Community member has concerns over legislation review process

By CYNDI LAMBERT  
Tsisqwohi (Birdtown)

I have struggled with the idea of sharing this with your readers - especially our tribal members - or just keeping quiet. But, I have decided it is important for our people to know what is happening with their Tribal Council.

A few months ago, several of our elders approached me and asked whether there was a way to provide a small amount of additional assistance to help offset rising fuel and heating costs. When an elder of our Tribe asks for help, we have a responsibility to listen and to act. So, I submitted a resolution to Tribal Council requesting an increase of \$250 per eligible elder household to the existing Tribal Heating Assistance Program—a program whose benefit amount has never been increased since it was created, despite years of rising energy costs and a higher cost of living. What happened next is something every tribal member should know about.

On Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 7, I had an appointment with the Chief. When I walked through the front door and began to check in at the window, I heard someone yell my name. At first, I thought I was hearing things, but then several people were calling for me. I looked over and saw most of the Tribal Council representatives sitting in the chambers - only one

was absent. The AG came toward me and said the Council members were going over the agenda and were about to discuss my resolution. I asked him why, because I was confused - I was there for a meeting with the Chief, not to discuss my resolution. But I went ahead and walked into the chambers.

When I stood at the podium, Jim said they were discussing my resolution and asked if I had anything to say. My first response was, “This is new.” He immediately responded that it wasn’t. Well, it was new to me because I was not aware that Tribal Council discusses resolutions and ordinances behind closed doors, without the knowledge or presence of those who submitted them. I felt ambushed. I was not there to discuss my resolution off-camera.

Three Council members questioned me, and a couple others made comments, while the rest said nothing. I felt like I was being interrogated - as if I had done something wrong by simply submitting a resolution on behalf of our elders. I answered their questions and told them I hoped they would pass it.

It was uncomfortable and intimidating being put on the spot like that. I had no more to say, so I walked out.

There were maybe half a dozen people in the audience, and several of them were employees. I would think there would be far more people present if they had been informed that resolutions were being discussed before the regular session. I was never called or informed that my resolution would be taken up the day before council - and I’m sure other people who have submitted legislation weren’t aware either.

Here’s what troubles me most. Cherokee Code Section 117-13(a) is clear: “The Tribal Council shall meet at least one day in each month in the Tribal Council Chambers with the regularly scheduled date to be the first Thursday of each month.”

The Code further specifies that the Wednesday immediately preceding that Thursday session is designated for “Community Reports and Requests for Time”—not for secretly debating resolutions submitted by tribal members. And the Tuesday before is designated for the Budget session. That is what the law says. There is nothing in Cherokee Code that authorizes an undisclosed pre-Council session where resolutions are discussed off the air, without notice to the people who submitted them, and without public knowledge.

Furthermore, Cherokee Code Section 117-13(b) requires that any executive session closed to the public can only occur “upon a motion duly made and adopted during an open session,” and that “every motion to close a meeting shall cite one or more of the permissible purposes.” There was no such motion on January 7th. There was no open session from which to recess. There was just a room full of Council members discussing my resolution behind closed doors.

And let us not forget Becky’s Law - Cherokee Code Section 117-30.1 - which states: “There shall be opportunity provided to community members to voice their opinions on actions contemplated by the Tribal Council.” How can community members voice their opinions when they don’t even know a discussion is taking place?

Here’s a thought: What if I hadn’t walked through that door? I would have had no idea any of

this was going on. What if I had refused to go in? Then what? More importantly, what is the purpose of these secret pre-council meetings? I have yet to get a straight answer.

It would have been far more respectful and courteous to simply call me and discuss any concerns or questions beforehand.

The following day, Thursday, during the regular Council session, disrespectful comments were made - not just toward me, but toward a former Chief as well. There was an unfounded allegation that I was being disrespectful to our employees who manage tribal programs, especially our senior programs. Yet, when I responded to their questions and comments, I was met with condescension. Interestingly, some of those who had plenty to say the day before had nothing to say on Thursday.

Let me be clear: the idea that I or anyone associated with me would disrespect the employees who manage our tribal programs - especially our elders programs - is absurd. I don’t know where that accusation came from, because it is the first time I have ever heard it from anyone. If you know us, you know that we honor and cherish our elders. If they ask for our help we will do everything in our power to help them, and we will continue to advocate for them no matter what.

The resolution was killed. The motion to kill it was made by a Painttown Council member and seconded by a Yellowhill council member. Three members supported it, and I appreciated their support. They seemed to understand there was a real need and respectfully stood up for our elders.

see **CONCERNS** page 31

# February report from Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper



Hello everyone,

This is my Council Report for the month of February. I want to begin by publicly expressing my appreciation for the collective effort shown by our Tribal programs in both the preparation for and response to the recent snowstorm on the Boundary. As always, my report follows the standard format below.

## Community Events

Feb. 24– Groundbreaking Ceremony for Bingo

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held for the new Class II gaming facility beginning at 2:30 p.m.

## Project Updates

### Recently Completed Projects

This list will be updated as projects are completed for the calendar year 2026.

### Projects Currently Underway or Nearing Completion

There have been no substantial changes to the projects listed below.

## Nvdiyeli Trail

The project is nearing completion. A ribbon-cutting date will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

## Ceremonial Grounds

Groundwork has been contracted and is currently underway.

## Multipurpose Facility (Old High School Site)

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

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

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

## Ordinances

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

- Amendments to the Judicial Code, Chapter 7 of the Cherokee Code
- Compliance with NC State requirements for Underground Storage Tanks
- Amendments to election laws
- Amendments to ethics laws for filing complaints
- Amendments to fishing – Naming “Tom Dooley Law”
- Amendments to update the Tribe’s fishing laws
- Eminent Domain
- Civil Procedure
- Establishing a Minor’s Fund from revenues from Qualla LLC

## Work Sessions

### March 2

- 9 a.m. – Work session with Beloved Woman/Man Committee

- 10 a.m. – Tabled Ord. 107 (2026): Ethics Ordinance
- 2 p.m. – Work session for Underground Storage Tanks – EPA and NCDEQ

## Recently Held Work Sessions

- Feb. 4
- 1 p.m. – Request from Lands Committee: Fair market value for land
  - 2 p.m. – Tabled Ord. 14 (2025): Update Tribe’s fishing laws
  - 3 p.m. – Natural Resources: Hunting laws (Elk)

## Monthly Update for Readers

This month’s topic focuses on Tribal Government and Strategic Planning. As elected officials, our responsibility is to keep the public informed and engaged regarding where we are as a Tribe and where we are headed. As a sovereign government operating with the interests of our members at the forefront, we must continually evaluate our strategies and adjust as needed.

A common challenge is creating and maintaining long-term strategic plans as administrations change. Developing five- or ten-year plans can be ambitious when no elected official is guaranteed another term. This reality often leads administrations to focus on goals that can realistically be accomplished within a four-year term.

I believe we, as EBCI, are in a precarious position. Historically, our lobbying goals and objectives have centered on Indian Country and preserving tribal sovereignty in all its forms. For decades, EBCI has built strong relationships at both the state and federal levels and has done so successfully. This is not to suggest we abandon those efforts or reduce our engagement. On the contrary, we should contin-

ue strengthening those relationships—but perhaps with a different mindset.

As some may be aware, EBCI will be withdrawing from tribal organizations of which we are founding members, including the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). These discussions have taken place over several years, largely due to concerns about the increasing number of state-recognized groups and the impact that growth has had on the unified voice of federally recognized tribes within those organizations. This decision was not made lightly. The relationships we have built across Indian Country and with other federally recognized tribes remain invaluable to EBCI.

When I refer to a precarious position, I also mean that we are living in a time when technology allows information to be shared instantly and widely. Community members can voice their opinions within minutes, and that engagement demonstrates that people are paying attention and that they care. That level of awareness can and should be used to our advantage.

If there are initiatives you believe your elected officials should pursue, voice your opinion. In today’s political environment, communication matters. Reach out to your Council member, Chief, Vice Chief, county commissioner, state representatives, members of Congress, Senators, and Governor. I welcome and appreciate input from our communities regarding items on Tribal Council’s agenda.

This is an effort to emphasize that we are in a position to realign

see **FEBRUARY** next page

**FEBRUARY:** from page 30

our strategic goals with a rapidly changing environment. The world we are living in during 2026 is different from 2025. As enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe, we have never had to bargain, beg, or plead for our legitimacy before federal legislators, and we will continue to make an impact in Indian Country.

Community members have the ability to help shape what our future strategic plan looks like. Do we place a heavier focus on the Town of Cherokee? Do we prioritize placing all newly purchased

lands into trust status to reclaim ancestral homelands that once spanned five states? Do we focus more on services for enrolled members? Or do we concentrate more heavily on revenue-generating projects?

These are significant decisions that elected officials will be responsible for making, and those decisions will affect generations to come. We cannot afford to be silent. We cannot afford to lose momentum. We must continue working toward generational wealth and long-term sustainability. "We are still here... and we always will be."

In closing, I have received requests to provide more information about Tribal programs and the services they offer. Rather than highlighting specific programs, I believe it is best to provide an overview of all divisions within the Tribal workforce and the services they provide. This cannot be accomplished in a single report, so I will begin breaking down each division in the coming months to give greater insight into available resources and important service deadlines.

There are eleven (11) divisions that make up the Tribal workforce: Finance, Human Resources, Op-

erations, Information Technology, Office of the Attorney General, Commerce, Community Education & Recreation Services, Law Enforcement, Snowbird & Cherokee County, Public Health and Human Services, and Housing. In future reports, I will highlight programs within each division and outline the services they provide.

**Michael Stamper**  
Tribal Council Representative  
Painttown Community  
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**CONCERNS:** from page 29

To put this in perspective: the total annual cost of this increase was determined to be less than \$286,000 - roughly two and a half hours of normal tribal operations. Earlier this year, a 6 percent cost-of-living adjustment went into effect at a cost of approximately \$4.8 million annually. By compar-

ison, this proposed increase for our elders was modest, reasonable, and long overdue.

Just recently, western North Carolina experienced a severe cold snap, and many elders have expressed how much they could have used the additional heating assistance during those bitter days. Some of our elders are already turning their heat down

once tribal assistance is exhausted, just to make ends meet. That is a troubling reality—and it is exactly what this resolution was intended to address.

I hope this opens some eyes. What I witnessed in council was disrespect. I also learned that secret discussions are taking place in apparent disregard of Cherokee Code, without public knowledge,

and with a total disregard for anyone who brings forth legislation that should be heard in regular council sessions - on the air, for all to see. Several people I spoke to had no idea any of this was happening.

As one elder said to me during the break: "Keep going, keep trying."

And I most certainly will.





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# Cracked Pot

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

Scripture References: 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-10, 13-18, Romans 11:29

How often do you hear from those around you, “What can I do?” with the tenor of failure? Your choice to motivate others in service suggests we change these exact words into a tenor of service – “What can I do for God?”

God has given each of us a talent or gift to be used for His Glory. It comes with a lifetime warranty to be used for as long as we are valuable to Him. (His Word says we are so valuable to Him that He gave His only Son to die for us.) Some gifts and talents may be for a season, and that season is for a reason, but there is always another gift or talent that can be used for a lifetime. So whether you are young or old, in development or past your prime, engage yourself in service to God, for He has a purpose in you.

From a personal perspective, many retired people have concluded that being retired means doing nothing and being responsible to no one. Others feel they are not gifted or do not want any extra work beyond whatever might bring a paycheck home. Yet, as Christians, we are ALL ministers; as such, we each have responsibilities to glorify God, continuing in the Great Commission in any way we can. Using the talents God gives is also a matter of tithing, in my opinion. God gave you the talent to use to glorify Him. If you still have the talent, give back to Him in gratitude that you can still use that talent.

The following story is well-known and often used to encourage those who feel inadequate or

broken. Maybe they have an evil past. Perhaps they cannot do what they want to do for Christ. Trust God in what He says. Each of us has been gifted through His Spirit to do a good thing for His glory. This story has many attributes to draw on, and this message is one. The story was copied from (Poonan n.d.).

A water-bearer in India had two large pots, both hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot always arrived half full.

The poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water-bearer one day by the stream:

‘I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you must do all of this work, and you don’t get full value from your efforts.’

The bearer said to the pot, ‘Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side? That’s because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you’ve watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.’ (Poonan n.d.)

The story is relevant to the fact that God uses cracked pots. You do not need to be perfect for God to use you. Draw the strength in Paul’s words

to motivate yourself and others.

“Wherefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day.” 2 Corinthians 4:16

As John Wesley wrote, ‘Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.’ (Goodreads 2018)

A. L. Williams, the founder of the term life insurance company, Primerica of the 80s, used this quote to inspire his sales force to work harder. As John Wesley wrote above, the motto is good for ministers to live a Christian life. The impact of these words comes into force when you read them four times with different inflections on the verbs. “All you can do is all you can do.” Try it, and you will see the strength in the motto. (Daledawn 2020)

God can and will use you to glorify Him. He wants you to be useful to Him. Therefore, serve Him and love Him with all your heart, with all your strength, with all your soul.

“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” Romans 11:29

“And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9  
Lord, my God, thank You for being such a mighty and awesome God. When the world would cast us aside for our weak and uselessness, give us strength and power to work for You. What a blessing it is from You to be useful to You and Your Glory. Take me home when You are done. Let me say I fought the good fight and ran the whole race, not out of pride for anything but for serving You. Amen.



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

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

# Amber Waves

KIDS, I'M EXCITED TO HEAR WHAT WORDS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE YOU LEARNED.



MY NEIGHBOR SPEAKS SPANISH, SO HE GAVE ME SOME WORDS TO WRITE DOWN.



GERALD, DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OR PHRASES YOU CAN SHARE WITH THE CLASS?

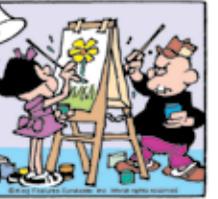
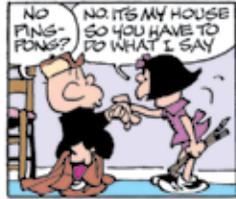


SURE DO... WHEN MY GRANDPA GETS MAD HE SPEAKS FRENCH AND THEN PARDONS HIMSELF.

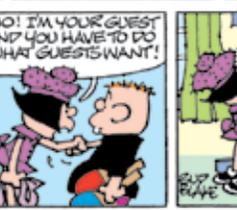


by Dave T. Hippo

# TIGER



by Bud Blake



by Jeff Pickering

# The Spats



# Weekly SUDOKU

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

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



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Camera is lower. 2. Music note is higher. 3. Rail is added to fence. 4. Cap is different. 5. Hill is added. 6. Tree trunk is thicker.

1. Seize the night; 2. Ronald Reagan; 3. Magneto; 4. Belize; 5. "Great Expectations"; 6. Six; 7. "The Good Place"; 8. Louis XIV of France; 9. Washington; 10. The pancreas

Trivia Test Answers

# King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Golfer Ernie
  - 4 Gullet
  - 8 Engine noise
  - 12 Horror star Chaney
  - 13 Costa —
  - 14 Inter —
  - 15 Past
  - 16 Novelist Jennifer
  - 17 Pealed
  - 18 Fresh starts
  - 21 Boom times
  - 22 Small batteries
  - 23 Humorist Dave
  - 26 Flow out
  - 27 Depot vehicle
  - 30 "Iliad" setting
  - 31 Shade
  - 32 Spring honorees
  - 33 — Salvador
  - 34 Supporting
  - 35 Rolled-up sandwiches
  - 36 Evergreen tree
  - 37 Hindu honorific
  - 38 Age-old knowledge
  - 45 Soccer leg-end
  - 46 Spring flower
  - 47 Plastic — Band
  - 48 Verbal
  - 49 Quitter's word

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18			19				20			
		21			22					
23	24	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	

- 50 Neighbor of Leb.
- 51 Duck's hang-out
- 52 Checks out
- 53 Tel. number add-on
- 7 Hopeful
- 8 Seine city
- 9 — Bator
- 10 Saturn
- 11 Cleaning cloths
- 19 Conceal, in a way
- 20 Arrest
- 23 "Dynamite" band
- 24 Notre Dame coach
- 25 Harry Potter pal
- 26 Where Ger. is
- 27 Large snake
- 28 Ref
- 29 Radiator sound
- 31 "That's wonderful!"
- 32 Hosp. scans
- 34 Charge
- 35 Places for bracelets
- 36 Relinquish
- 37 Pigs
- 38 Per person
- 39 Roman emperor
- 40 Family
- 41 Tea carrier
- 42 Rx amount
- 43 Cameo stone
- 44 Humorist Sahl

# DOWN

- 1 Flair
- 2 Theater section
- 3 Winter fall
- 4 Eerie
- 5 Bobby who lost to Billie Jean King
- 6 Smoothie berry

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# Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "carpe noctem" mean in English?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was a lifeguard in his earlier life and saved 77 people from drowning over a seven-year period?
- MOVIES: Who is the primary nemesis of Professor X in "X-Men"?
- GEOGRAPHY: English is the official language in which Central American country?
- LITERATURE: Which English novel features characters such as Pip, Miss Havisham and Estella?
- MUSIC: How many strings does a standard guitar have?
- TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom stars a character named Eleanor Shellstrop?
- HISTORY: Which European ruler is known as the Sun King?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Mount St. Helens?
- ANATOMY: Which human organ produces insulin?

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

Answer  
Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 21 mins.  
Answers  
King Crossword

## Benefits and Fundraisers

**Bingo Fundraiser.** Feb. 28 doors open at 4 p.m. games start at 5p.m. at the Pam Taylor Paint-town 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

**Big Y Breakfast fundraiser.** Feb. 28 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.

**Turkey Shoot.** Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. This is a fundraiser for the Big Cove Free Labor Group. Good fun, great prizes, great benefit.

## 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

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

in Duluth, GA. Simply login to <https://www.gofevo.com/event/EBCINH260228>, to select your seats. Upon adding seats to your cart, your discount code will be automatically applied for the four (4) complimentary tickets! An order processing fee of \$5 will be applied at checkout.

**ServSafe Food Safety Course & Exam.** March 2 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the EBCI Commerce Department in the Ginger Lynn Welch Complex, 810 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Class and exam for food service supervisory staff in any foodservice establishment. Info: Laura, lwlauffe@ncsu.edu or call the EBCI Extension Office (828) 359-6939

**Circle of Security Parenting Program.** March 4 from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Cherokee Choices Community Room 806 Acquoni Rd, Cherokee, NC 28719. RSVP for space call Rob (828) 507-2783 or email [stokelyrob@gmail.com](mailto:stokelyrob@gmail.com). 8-week series, dinner provided, led by Elizabeth Fyvolent and Rob Stokely, on how to build a strong relationship with your child(ren). It is designed to help you learn how to respond to your child's need in a way that enhances your connection with him/ her, which often leads to changes in the child's behavior. It helps parents give their child(ren) a feeling of security and confidence so they can explore, learn, grow and build positive relationships.

**Spring Rod Run.** April 24- 25 Old Cherokee High School Site, 1501 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Thousands in Cash Give-aways, Early Bird Show and Shine Thursday after Lunch, Tool Box

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

**First Annual Spring Men's Retreat.** May 9-10 at Camp Living Waters 1510 W Dep Creek Rd., Bryson City, N.C. 28713. All men, all churches, all invited. Speaker Jonathan Frady. Free, sign up is now open. Info: Foreman Bradley (423) 579-2807 or Eddie Morrow (828) 507-2271.

## Cherokee Cultural/Historic Events

**Fingerweaving Fridays.** Feb. 20 and 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: Catcuze Tiger. Everyone welcome! Traditional dress and ribbon shirts/skirts encouraged. All Cherokee singers welcome, bring your rattles & drums. Food provided by Nikki's Frybread.

### CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

ᏅᏍᏏᏏᏏ ᏅᏍᏏᏏᏏ ᏅᏍᏏᏏᏏ ᏅᏍᏏᏏᏏ



Back row - **Luna Grace** (Yorkie), **Captain Chaos "CC"** (Chihuahuamilkman), and front - **Gogglehead** (Chihuahua/milkman) live in Wayohi (Wolftown) with their humans Leslie and Fonz Sneed.

Sponsored by:



**CHEROKEE**  
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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



**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.)*

**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.

see **EVENTS** next page



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A little woolgathering is good right now. It helps you sort out some problems before you try to work out their solutions. But don't be out of it for too long, or you'll miss getting in on something important!

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your acquisitive self will find this to be a favorable time for buying something that you've wanted for a long time. Meanwhile, your inquisitive self leads to the disclosure of some important facts.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) It's time to come down to earth and face the reality about someone in your life. Get to the truth, then decide what you'll do about the relationship.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Relationships on the job and in your personal life seem to be up in the air at this time. Trying to get a handle on things is frustrating and probably futile. Wait for events to return to a steady, even flow.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You might be everyone's idea of a cool cat, but you'd really prefer going somewhere warm for a while. This is the time to do it! Expect good news from someone who is working hard on your behalf.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Things seem to be slowing down. Use this quieter time to do some much-needed meditation. You'll come away with a new understanding of what compels you to do what you do.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October

22) Marriage and mergers are favored at this time. Relationships, both personal and professional, might appear to be unraveling. But quick action can make long-lasting repairs.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A loved one reacts happily to a romantic suggestion. Consider a cruise or a trip if you have the time and money. But a movie and dinner will do just as well.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Don't wait for someone to help you bridge an emotional gap between you and a loved one. You need to take the initiative yourself. The result will be worth all the effort that you put into it.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Stop blaming yourself for a problem at work. Someone else set the situation in motion, leaving you on the spot when something had to be done. So, perk up! You have lots of people on your side.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Positive aspects continue to favor explorations of new career opportunities. While you're eager to check these prospects out, you also need to spend more quality time with your family.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Cupid has an arrow with your name on it. But you need to help him find his target by getting out into the social swim where, with luck, the chubby cherub could pin two hearts with one arrow!

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are honest and loyal. People trust you with their secrets. You would make a wonderful counselor or member of the clergy because you know how to listen to the heart, as well as the voice.

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**VETERANS POST**

by Freddy Groves

**Top scores for VA cemetery services**

It comes as a big surprise, given the seriousness of burying a loved one, but the VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) just earned an extremely high score on satisfaction with its services. As measured by the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) of over 100 government services and agencies for 2025, the NCA ranked 98 out of 100, the highest score ever. The NCA twice earned a score of 97, while the average of other government agencies was 70.4.

Last year the NCA buried over 130,000 veterans and their family members at the 157 national cemeteries in 44 states. Burial and memorial benefits include a gravesite, perpetual care of the site, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, a marker or medallion, a burial flag given at the funeral and military funeral honors that include the playing of "Taps."

If you're a veteran, have you made your final plans yet? Are they in writing? When the time comes, it will be easier on your family if arrangements have already been concluded. You can do this by having a pre-need determination done (VA Form 40-100007) to determine your eligibility and approval for burial.

Start with [va.gov/burials-memorials](http://va.gov/burials-memorials) and click "Eligibility." Have your DD-214 in hand. If you need help, call them at 800-535-1117.

To learn more about your burial and memorial benefits, see [www.cem.va.gov/burial-memorial-benefits](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial-memorial-benefits).

As part of advance planning, consider the Veterans Legacy Memorial website ([www.vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm.cem.va.gov)). Each veteran buried at a VA national cemetery has a webpage listing name, dates of birth and death, war period served, decorations, rank and more. Family members can later add photos and documents if they wish. Your advanced planning might include a handful of photos and information you'd like to see added later. Include the phone number 866-245-1490 in your information in case your family needs help with uploading files when the time comes.

Be sure your family knows where you're keeping your pre-need approval and Veterans Legacy Memorial documents.

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**Brushing pets' teeth: A chore with lifelong benefits**

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** My vet said at their last checkup that both my dog "Petey" and cat "Storm" need their teeth brushed every day. I've never heard of this. How do I brush their teeth? Do I just use a regular toothbrush? — Jerry in Yellow Springs, Ohio

**DEAR JERRY:** Brushing your pets' teeth is really a thing. Not just dogs and cats, but any mammalian pet can suffer from plaque, tartar and tooth decay, just like us. And poor teeth results in poor health — difficulty eating, which makes it tough to get enough nutrients, and potentially more serious diseases.

Daily brushing is recommended for both dogs and cats, but if you're able to get it done three or four times per week, that's way better than nothing at all. Often, you have to do it daily because your pet may not sit still long enough to clean all of their teeth at once.

Here's how to brush both your pets' teeth with minimal trauma:

— Never use human toothpaste: It may contain xylitol, which is poisonous to pets. Instead, buy a toothpaste for dogs (peanut butter flavor is popular) and one for cats.

— Special pet toothbrushes that fit over your finger are the easiest to use.

— Introduce brushing gradually. Give your pet a little toothpaste on the tip of your finger. Then use your finger to gently swipe their teeth, starting at the gums and swiping downward.

— Use gauze wrapped around your finger at first, and transition to the pet toothbrush as they get more comfortable.

— If your pet won't hold still long enough to do all their teeth, that's OK. Do another section of teeth the next day.

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

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Learn about Herbal Syrups! Learn the steps in making syrup and how to use them for health and enjoyment and some of the history behind them. We will taste test a few and learn the history behind them. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

### **A Return to our Roots: Tinctures & Glycerites class.**

March 14 starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, Tenn. 37882. Join us as we learn how to make an ancient health remedy using herbs and alcohol. (We will also demonstrate how to make a glycerite for those who don't want alcohol in their remedies). Tinctures are a long-lasting remedy that have been used for thousands of years for health reasons. Tinctures were used regularly by our Appalachian ancestors and are still used by millions of folks today! Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

### **A Return to our Roots: Herbal Oils and Salves class.**

March 21 starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, Tenn. 37882. Join us as we learn how to make healing topical herbal oils and salve! Another ancient remedy for all kinds of skin, muscle, and pain issues. We will also touch on culinary herbal oils! Then we will demonstrate how to make a healing salve. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

**5th Annual Fiber Fair.** April 24 and 25 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, Tenn. 37882. A celebration of time-honored craftsmanship where wool is spun, skills are shared, and fiber art lovers can browse to their heart's content. Over two days, more than 20 vendors will fill the Heritage Center's historic grounds. Throughout the weekend, experienced fiber artists will demonstrate traditional techniques and lead hands-on workshops rooted in Appalachian tradition. Local spinners and weavers will also be onsite, showcasing the enduring skills that shaped many aspects of mountain life. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

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](mailto:greeningupthemountains@townofsylva.org).

**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

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

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/video-information](http://rodeoroadshow.rodeoticket.com/stampede-in-the-smokies/video-information).

### **Kids Take over the Museum.**

May 4 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, Tenn. 37882. There is no shortage of activities for your young crafter or artist, get their hands and minds busy on basket weaving, blacksmithing, and pottery making. Over 25 demonstrations, on-site vendors and special events are lined up for this huge day at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. Visitors play loads of games that were popular choices for kids on the mountain homestead. Plus, representatives from the Museum of the Cherokee will be on hand to share their cultural heritage. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

### **Cherokee Community Clubs**

**Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Community** 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](mailto:bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com) For building rental contact Bunsey Crowe.

**Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Community** meets the second Monday

Sponsored by the Qualla Boundary Historical Society

**Tsalagi**  
**MINUTE**

**Cherokee Supreme Court**

The Cherokee Supreme Court predates the U.S. Court of Appeals, 61 federal judicial districts, and the admission of 26 states of the United States.

Oct. 9 is a profoundly important date for the Cherokee Tribal Court and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation held its first session on Oct. 9, 1823, hearing as its first case *James Griffin vs Nancy West*.

- Information from EBCI Cherokee Supreme Court

CHEROKEE TRIBAL COURT  
GWY JOLAPLAI

GWY 4V° OYLC  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

EVENTS: From page 37

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 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



## Moments in time

• On **March 9, 1841**, at the end of a historic case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, with just one dissenting vote, that the enslaved Africans who seized control of the Amistad slave ship had been illegally forced into bondage and thus were free under American law.

• On **March 10, 1982**, all solar system planets aligned on the same side of the sun in an event called a syzygy. Fortunately, and contrary to the natural catastrophes predicted in the 1974 bestselling book "The Jupiter Effect" by John Gribbin and Stephen H. Plagemann (including an earthquake in the San Andreas fault), Earth went on with business as usual.

• On **March 11, 1997**, former Beatle Paul McCartney added "Sir" to his name when he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his "services to music" at London's Buckingham Palace. Three of his children accompanied him, but wife Linda was unable to attend as she was dealing with breast cancer, which would end her life a little more than a year later.

• On **March 12, 1988**, a sudden hailstorm caused a stampede of fans at a soccer match in Kathmandu, Nepal's National Stadium, killing at least 70 people and injuring hundreds more.

• On **March 13, 1942**, the Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army began training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps." More than a million dogs served on both sides during World War I, the most famous being Rin Tin Tin, who made his film debut in 1922.

• On **March 14, 1979**, Judy Chicago's art installation "The Dinner Party" debuted at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, earning praise for its feminist focus as well as controversy over its use of genital imagery. It remains on permanent display at the Brooklyn Museum in New York City.

• On **March 15, 2021**, Deb Haaland became the first Indigenous person in American history to serve as a cabinet secretary when she was sworn in as Secretary of the Interior.

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Isaiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first chapter begins, "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus"? *Matthew, Luke, John, Acts*
3. From Acts 9, where did Peter cure Aeneas? *Tyre, Neapolis, Lydda, Gibeon*
4. As found in Numbers 20, where did Aaron die? *Mount of Olives, Pisgah, Mount Hor, Gilboa*
5. From Acts 24, what was Felix's wife, Drusilla? *Pharisee, Gentile, Greek, Jewess*
6. In II Kings 1, what Philistine city worshipped Baalzebub? *Ekron, Succoth, Gomorrah, Antipatris*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Acts, 3) Lydda, 4) Mount Hor, 5) Jewess, 6) Ekron

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

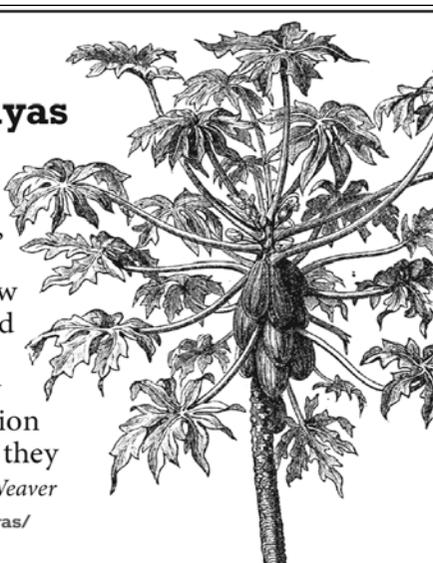
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## The Garden Bug

### Papayas

Botanically, papaya "trees" aren't really trees; they are large, herbaceous plants. When fully grown, they have a single, hollow trunk, with a crown of stalks and leaves thrusting outward at the top, similar to a palm tree. They tend to drop off in fruit production after the third or fourth year, so they may need replacement. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [morningchores.com/growing-papayas/](http://morningchores.com/growing-papayas/)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Cherokee Church of God.** 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. 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](mailto:embassymediagroup@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Macedonia Baptist Church.** 1181 Wolfetown Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6pm, Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6pm. Pastor Bro. Dan Conseen, 497-1611, [mbccherokee@outlook.com](mailto:mbccherokee@outlook.com), Website: [www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church](http://www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church)

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

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

**Olivet United Methodist Church.** 811 Olivet Church Road. Sunday School 9am. Sunday Ser-

see **EVENTS** next page

**EVENTS:** From page 39

vice 9:45am.

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

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

**Rock Creek Missionary Baptist Church.** 240 Sherrill Rd., Bryson City, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday evening

service 6 p.m. Pastor Rev. Ned Welch. Check our FB Page “Rock Creek Baptist Church” for the latest updates.

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

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

**Shoal Creek Baptist Church.** 184 Shoal Creek Church Loop Rd., Whittier, NC 28789. Sunday Continental Breakfast 9:30 a.m.,

Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m., Wednesday evening Fellowship Meal 6 p.m., Wednesday evening Prayer Service 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice 7 p.m. Dr. Mickey Duvall, Pastor

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

**Straight Fork Baptist Church.** Big Cove Loop. Sunday school 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship 11 a.m. Sunday evening worship 6 p.m. Wednesday night prayer service 7 p.m. Youth group meet-

ings also. Interim Pastor – Harley Maney Jr.

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

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

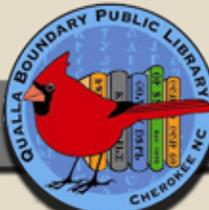
**Wilmot Baptist Church.** Thomas Valley Road. Sunday school: 10 a.m., Worship: 11a.m., Sunday night worship: 6 p.m., Wednesday prayer service: 7 p.m., every other Monday night (Youth night) singing, bible study and crafts: 6 p.m.

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

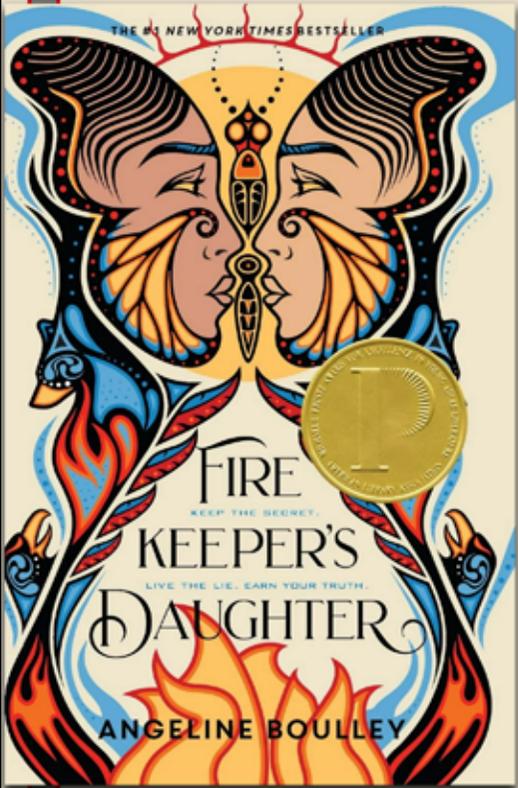
**Yellowhill Baptist Church.** Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Pastor Foreman Bradley 506-0123 or 736-4872

**Event listings are FREE of charge. Send your flyers/info to Dawn at [dawname@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:dawname@ebci-nsn.gov) or to [Cherokeeflame1966@gmail.com](mailto:Cherokeeflame1966@gmail.com)**

Brought to you through a partnership with the Qualla Boundary Public Library



# Qualla BOOK OF THE WEEK



**“Firekeeper’s Daughter”**  
Author Angeline Boulley

“Firekeeper’s Daughter” is a debut young adult novel by Angeline Boulley.

This novel focuses on Daunis Fontaine, an 18-year-old girl with an Ojibwe father and French mother, who feels torn between cultures. When she witnesses a murder and goes undercover for the FBI, Daunis uses her knowledge of both cultures to help close the case, bringing justice to a few of her teammates and closest allies.

Boulley’s love for her culture is so deeply engrained into this story. Each account of Ojibwe philosophy/traditions feels like a connection to home, and every portrayal of injustice feels like a call to action.

Boulley is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

This novel earned the attention of Higher Ground (former First Lady Michelle and former President Barack Obama’s production company), who chose it for a Netflix TV deal.

# YOUR VOICE IN NC GOVERNMENT.



## Anna Ferguson

FOR NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT ANNA FERGUSON

## H.E.L.P. Program Lawn Maintenance and Garden Plowing



H.E.L.P.

### Eligibility Requirement:

- Must be an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Applicants applying for assistance must own and reside in home full-time
- Applicants 70 and older are not required to submit a disability or doctor's statement.
- Applicants under the age of 70 must not be physically able to mow.
- Applicants over 59.5 years of age require a doctor's statement.
- Applicants under 59.5 years of age require proof of permanent disability/SSI (Social Security Administration Statement)

### Mowing

- Client/Family is responsible for getting yard clear of any trash/debris.
- Animals must be properly secured when mowing contractor arrives.
- Seasonal: April 1 to Sept. 30, 2026
- Mowing/weed eating will include a 50 ft. perimeter around the home including car ports.
- Lawns mowed outside the 50 ft. perimeter will be the homeowner's responsibility.

### Garden Plowing

- Seasonal:  
March 1 to May 30, 2026
- Available up to a 100 ft. by 100 ft. area
- One (1) garden per household



Applications are available starting March 2 at the Deb West Senior Center  
The deadline for applications will be May 31.

Please call (828) 359-6638 with any questions you may have.

## 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**

### Land wanted to buy by Enrolled Member.

1 to 5 acres with a buildable spot. I expect to pay a lot more than \$500 an acre. My family is from Big Cove but anywhere on the boundary is fantastic. I'm not holding out for an acre from the tribe. I don't think that's ever going to happen, so I hope someone can help. Please contact me on

352-809-9131 and leave a message if I don't answer!! I would be a good neighbor. **3/25**

## EMPLOYMENT

### Now Hiring

Cherokee/Great Smokies KOA is hiring for Summer 2026. Several job openings beginning March 1, 2026 including: Housekeeping, Guest Services Representative, Guest Guide, and Recreation Staff. Please apply in person at Cherokee/Great Smokies KOA at 912 KOA Campground Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. **3/25**

## LEGAL NOTICES

### 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



## 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



## STAFF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- Director of the Cherokee Center
- Housekeeper - Day Shift and 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift
- HVAC Technician - multiple positions
- Administrative Support Specialist
- High Voltage Distribution Specialist
- Director of University Police/Chief of Police
- Senior Project Engineer

## FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- *Instructor - Nutrition & Dietetics*
- *Instructor - Social Work*
- *Asst Professor - Special & Digital Collections Librarian*
- *Asst Professor of Practice - Costume Design*
- *Asst Professor - Communication Sciences & Disorders*

## VISIT [JOBS.WCU.EDU](https://jobs.wcu.edu) FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY

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

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 ap-

pointment 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**

**BIDS, RFPs, etc.**

**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 juvenile 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**

**Updated Flood Risk Data**  
Public Open House to Review

Updated Flood Risk Data for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), North Carolina

Residents, business owners, and community leaders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are invited to attend a public open house meeting on Thursday, February 26th at the Yellowhill Community Building, 1416 Acquoni Road, Cherokee NC 28719 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this event is to review and discuss the latest updates to local flood hazard and flood risk data.

The open house will give participants the opportunity to:

- \* Review the results of the preliminary flood risk data

- \* Learn how to submit appeals and comments on the revised studies

- \* Ask questions about the updated flood studies and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Local staff will be available to help residents locate their properties on the updated maps and better understand their level of flood risk. Representatives from the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program will also be on site to explain the preliminary map update process, answer questions about flood insurance, and provide guidance on floodplain management.

The flood hazard data is accessible online at <https://fris.nc.gov/>. Select the Preliminary tab to view the preliminary data to determine whether your property is affected by this update.

This event is open to the public. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend. Info: Derek Tahquette, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Natural Resources Department at 828-359-6141. **2/25**

## Request for Proposals

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

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

RFP Release Date: February 20, 2026

Proposal Deadline: March 9, 2026 (5:00 p.m. EST)

Full RFP and submission instructions can be obtained by emailing: [tonya@rkli.org](mailto:tonya@rkli.org) or visiting [www.rkli.org](http://www.rkli.org)

RKLI reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, for any reason, without appeal. **3/4**

## Seeking Concrete Contractors

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO Contractors for the “C1 Expansion” project. This work will consist of constructing multiple concrete slab on grades for various structures.

A mandatory Pre-bid will be held March 9th at 9 am. Pre-bid meeting will be located at 91 Bingo Loop Rd Cherokee NC 28719 in the small conference room. Be advised that all attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

For more information, contact Charles Bryson at 828-788-5494.

**3/4**

## Seeking Electrical Contractors

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO Electrical Contractors for

the “C1 Expansion” project. This work will consist of providing electrical service and electrical installation on multiple new structures.

A mandatory Pre-bid will be held March 9th at 10 am. Pre-bid meeting will be located at 91 Bingo Loop Rd Cherokee NC 28719 in the small conference room. Be advised that all attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

For more information, contact Charles Bryson at 828-788-5494.

**3/4**

## Seeking Wall Systems Contractors

Please be advised that Qualla

Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO Contractors for the “C1 Expansion” project. This work will consist of constructing multiple wall system types in various structures.

A mandatory Pre-bid will be held March 9th at 11 am. Pre-bid meeting will be located at 91 Bingo Loop Rd Cherokee NC 28719 in the small conference room. Be advised that all attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

For more information, contact Charles Bryson at 828-788-5494.

**3/4**

## Attention EBCI Artists/Craftspeople

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





## Cherokee Boys Club Job Announcements

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Boys Club  
P.O. Box 507,  
Cherokee, NC, 28719  
812-427-2101

### Agelink

- 2 Agelink Teachers—\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits
- 1 Snowbird Child Development Teacher—\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits
- 1 Cook—Snowbird Child Development--\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits

### Children's Home

- 1 Residential Counselor—Full Time—\$17.00 per hour with benefits
- 4 Residential Counselor—Part Time—\$17.00 per hour w/out benefits

### Service Department

- 1 Master Technician--\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with Benefits
- 1 Technjcian—\$21,200--\$29,150 per year with Benefits

### Construction & Facilities

- 1 Skilled Carpenter----\$18,020--23,850 per year with Benefits
- 1 Crew Leader—\$47,700--\$53,000 per year with Benefits

### Bus & Truck Department

Seasonal Bus Drivers  
Truck Drivers



## Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

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

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# OPEN POSITIONS

## New Positions

**MAT Manager**  
**EVS Technician – 2nd Shift**

## 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)  
**Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwotiyi**  
**Targeted Case Manager – Child and Family, , MAT**  
**Residential Technician – Male - Kanvwotiyi**

## Complimentary Medicine

**Acupuncturist**  
**Massage Therapist**

## Dental

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

## EVS

**EVS Technician – 3rd Shift**

## Eye Clinic

**Optometrist**  
**Optometric Assistant**

## Food & Nutrition

**Dietary Manager**

## Medical

**Physician - Primary Care**  
**Physician - Pediatrics**  
**Psychiatrist**  
**Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant**  
**Hospitalist**

## Nursing

**Case Management Support – Primary Care**  
**Case Management Support – Cherokee County Clinic**  
**Certified Medical Assistant or LPN – Primary Care**  
**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**

## Nutrition

**Clinical Dietician**

## Pharmacy

**Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner**  
**Pharmacy Technician II**

## Physical Therapy

**Occupational Therapist I – Temporary**  
**Physical Therapist I – Temporary**

## 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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# THE GOOD STUFF



<<  
**Drum Tao performance**  
 Atsoise Galvtsi, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Elawodi (Yellowhill) attended the Drum Tao "The Best" performance at the Bardo Arts center at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 19. She is pictured with one of the performers, Shoko Sakaguchi. (Photo by Randy French)



## Indoor track champion

Ogana Swimmer, right, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a junior at Sequoyah High School (Okla.), won the OCCTCA (Oklahoma Cross Country and Track Coaches Association) Indoor State Track men's 4x800M relay with his team consisting of, left to right, Chuja Flute, Evan Nofire, and Thomas Yahola. Swimmer also won the men's 800M run and took second place in the men's 1600M run. The event was held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. on Saturday, Feb. 21. (Photo courtesy of Carrah Swimmer)



## Travel League Champions

The Travel League Cherokee Peewee Girls went undefeated (12-0) to win both the regular season and the tournament championships. The team is shown, left to right, back row - Coach Paislee Fourkiller-Raby, Nori Taylor, Nevaeh Littlejohn, Jaycee Sneed, Mika Johnson, Mataya Sampson, Jaxtyn Bark, Ani Bradley, Coach James Raby; front row - Sarah Hampton, Sariyah Ben, Charleigh Brown, Liliya Stamper, Kaylin Arch, Maliyah Brown, Maddie Fourkiller-Raby, Tsigilili "Naomi" Bird, and Coach Sis Fourkiller. Not pictured - Addisyn Teesateskie. (Photo courtesy of Monica Sneed)

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