

FREE



March
Constitution
Committee held
Pages 8-9



Meet the
Office
of the Tribal
Prosecutor
Pages 10-11

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
kawoni (april) 1-7,
2026

Language is medicine

5K Walk/Run for Cherokee Language Revitalization held

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

KITUWAH – With a nice breeze blowing over Kituwah, the Mother Town of the Cherokee, the sound of the Cherokee language was in the air on the sunny spring morning of Saturday, March 28. Madison Hye Long, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and Cherokee second language learner, organized the 5K Walk/Run for Cherokee Language Revitalization – an event she hopes will become an annual event.



Participants warm their legs by doing the Cherokee Friendship Dance prior to the start of the 5K Walk/Run for Cherokee Language Revitalization held at Kituwah, the Mother Town of the Cherokee, on the morning of Saturday, March 28. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

Along with over 20 oth-

see **LANGUAGE** page 4



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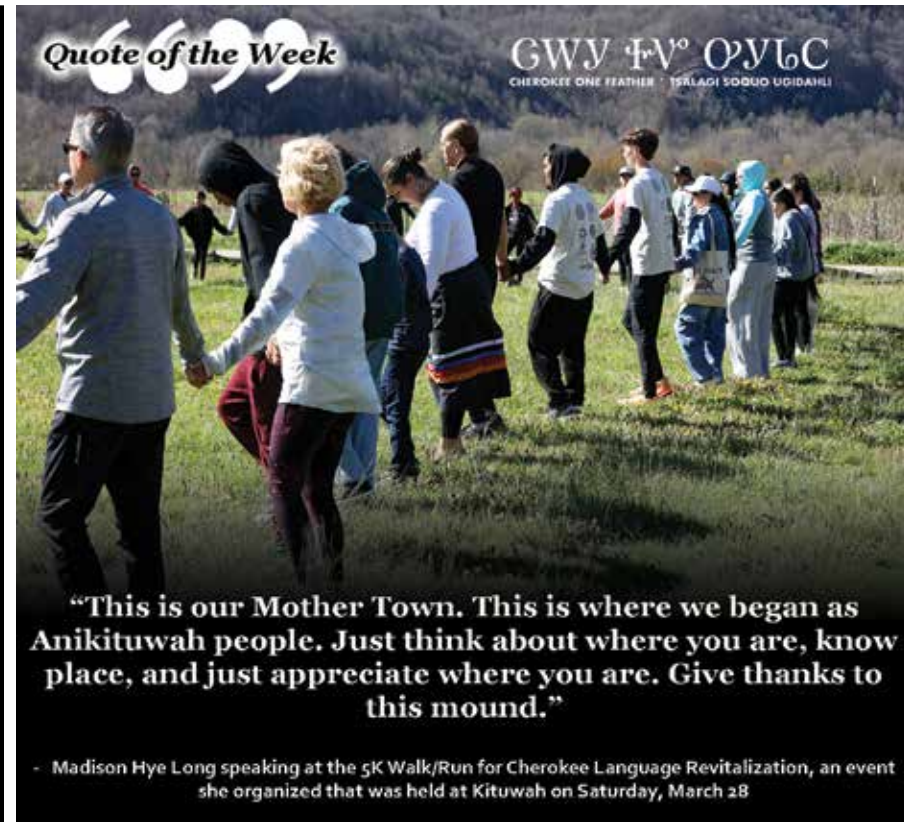
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Image of the Week:

Levi West, Jack Cooper, Mike Thompson, and Ashford Smith – all members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Cherokee second language learners – sing the Cherokee Friendship Song just prior to the start of the 2026 5K Walk/Run for Cherokee Language Revitalization was held at Kituwah, the Mother Town of the Cherokee, on the morning of Saturday, March 28. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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 Letters critical of specifically named minor children will not be published.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

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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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Madison Hye Long, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Cherokee second language learner, addresses the crowd at the beginning of Saturday's event which she organized.



Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather and Meona Feather, sisters, have fun while participating in the 5K walk/run. Both are Cherokee second language learners.

LANGUAGE: From front page

er members of the EBCI, Long attended the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in New Zealand last year and was able to gain a new perspective.

“That was really how I thought of the glass half full than half empty. It’s like right now we’re always focused on ‘the numbers are dropping’, but we still have it. So, we have to act now and that’s why I wanted to do this event. Because, out in New Zealand they were like, ‘you can’t wait. If you have something, you have to make it happen now because you don’t have time’. That really sat with me.”

Long is passionate about language learning and sharing her passion with the EBCI community.

“I’ve been learning the language for about three years now - along with the other language warriors, I like to call them - within the adult language program. Right now, I’m



The 2025-26 EBCI Royalty was on hand for Saturday's event. Shown, left to right, are Junior Miss Cherokee Keilani Arch, Miss Cherokee Marcela Garcia, Little Miss Cherokee Alessandra Ramirez, and Teen Miss Cherokee Ava Walkingstick.

working as an advanced linguist apprentice and we're trying to really crack down and break apart the Cherokee language and really starting to study Cherokee grammar."

The idea for the 5K event came to her while she was running.

"Let's move the language to another realm of just Cherokee identity. I think health is a big thing in our community now. I know a lot of us struggle with diabetes, obesity, and even depression. I talked with Tom Belt and he said, 'this run you're doing, it's for mind, body, and soul because whenever you run that's a form of medicine'. So is learning the language. So, that's why I'm doing this is to build up our people. And, I think one way of doing that is learning the language and getting healthy."

Long is positive about the future of the Cherokee language. "I really think we're in a language revolution as Cherokee people - Eastern Cherokee people, specifically. I know Cherokee Nation is doing a really good job and we're right behind them. I have hope because I have the co-workers I have. I get emotional thinking about it."

Participants at Saturday's event ran the gamut of Cherokee language knowledge - from first language speakers to beginners. "Today we have Frank Cucumber and Elnora Nations (both first language speakers)" said Long. "The speakers always show up for us so we've got to do the same."

Just do it. If you have something you want to do for your community, don't wait, do it. That's what had me thinking of



Seated, left to right, Miss Cherokee Marcela Garcia, Letitia George, Dawn Arneach, and Karyl Frankiewicz play a game where each player lays down a card with pictures on it of various plants and animals and people have to find matches and say the match in the Cherokee language. Abigail Long and Landon French look on. Everyone pictured is a Cherokee second language learner.

this 5K for language revitalization. The month of March is Indigenous Languages Month for our tribe. We need to do more stuff for this month."

Long thanked all of the volunteers who helped her with the event and the sponsors who supported the event including: Kituwah Preservation and Education Program (KPEP), EBCI Dinilawigi (Tribal Council), Noquisi Initiative, Cherokee Bottled Water, Cherokee Choices, and the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute.

"I'm truly grateful. Having everybody here makes my heart so warm. We're all here for language. This is our Mother Town. This is where we began as Anikituwah

people. Just think about where you are, know place, and just appreciate where you are. Give thanks to this mound."

The event included board games played in the Cherokee language.

Participants warmed their legs just prior to the start of the 5K by doing the Cherokee Friendship Dance which was led by Landon French, an EBCI tribal member and teacher at New Kituwah Academy - the Cherokee language immersion school of the EBCI. Levi West, Jack Cooper, Mike Thompson, and Ashford Smith sang the Friendship Dance song for the participants.

Students from New Kituwah

Academy sang the United Cherokee Anthem at the start of the event.

Long said language learning is a community activity where everyone should help each other. "We all just need to help each other. So, if you're struggling to pronounce something, look to your neighbor and say, 'hey, how do you say this?' and they'll help you. This is how we need to start living as Cherokee people - helping each other and learning from each other. We don't have to have AI. We don't have to have Google. We have each other to learn from."

Letter outlines EBCI tribal member's rights to gather in Nantahala, Pisgah National Forests

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

A letter sent to Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks from a U.S. Forest Service official outlines the rights that members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) have in traditional gathering in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest.

The letter, from James E. Melonas, forest supervisor for National Forests in North Carolina, states, "I am hereby documenting authorization of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to collect non-timber forest products and firewood for traditional and cul-

tural purposes within the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests per the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008."

It continues, "This letter provides documentation of authority for enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to collect non-timber forest products derived from naturally occurring mushrooms, fungi, flowers, seeds, roots, barks, leaves and vegetation, as well as firewood (dead and down trees)."

Avery Weatherly, EBCI Natural Resources Department conservation outreach coordinator, said, "This letter was written with the intention of having all cultural

and traditional collection limits for EBCI enrolled members in one document. This was done to increase accessibility to gathering limits and provide clarity on what is considered personal use vs commercial use for EBCI enrolled members."

She added, "EBCI members do not need a permit if they are collecting materials for personal cultural and traditional use. A tribal enrollment card will suffice when gathering otherwise."

Some of the conditions of gathering outlined in the letter include:

- Gathered products may not be sold for commercial purposes.

Forest products with 'value added' may be resold (e.g. unprocessed white oak logs may not be resold, but traditional baskets made from white oak may be sold).

- A 10-cord limit on dead and down firewood per year
- Motor vehicles must remain on designated roads, trails, and areas designated for vehicle use; collection on foot is permissible throughout the Forests, including in wilderness. Motor vehicle access behind closed gates may be provided by prior arrangement between the U.S. Forest Service and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Parking fees may be waived when parking in fee areas by prior

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arrangement...

• Collection within 30 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream is not permitted except for species that cannot be feasibly collected on upland sites. For species collected within this zone, collection of roots or other below ground plants is limited to a maximum of 50 plants per individual gatherer per month.

The letter does list certain species and non-timber forest products that cannot be gathered including:

- American ginseng and live/standing trees (permit program and conditions to be established under a separate letter)
- Mosses, azaleas, lilies, orchids, trilliums (if desired for collection, please contact the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Natural Resources Dept. for further coordination with the USFS)

sources Dept. for further coordination with the USFS)

- Any species that is listed as a Species of Conservation Concern under the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land Management Plan
- Any federally threatened or endangered species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Weatherly spoke to limits, “Tribal members will not need to take products somewhere to be counted. When collection limits are specified, a tribal member cannot go over those limits. When it comes to traditional and cultural materials and the gathering limit is not provided in the letter, the limit is what a tribal member would use for personal use for their cultural and traditional practices.”

She said agreements such as this strengthen the sovereignty of the EBCI. “Over the years, our department has strengthened our relationship with the USFS (U.S. Forest Service). We have had a positive working relationship and have plans to further expand by having a co-stewardship agreement with the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. This letter was written because of a need for clarity on gathering limits and regulations for tribal members, and how those differ from the public. We are now at the table when it comes to USFS decisions and are looking forward to future endeavors.”

Melonas echoed that sentiment of cooperation in the conclusion of his letter. “The National Forests in North Carolina value the unique government-to-government relationship we share with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and look forward to continuing our successful partnership.”

Information from the U.S. Forest Service on the Nantahala National Forest states, “The largest of North Carolina’s four National Forests, the Nantahala encompasses 531,148 acres with elevations ranging from 5,800 feet at Lone Bald in Jackson County to 1,200 feet in Cherokee County along Hiwassee River. The Forest is divided into three Districts, Cheoah in Robbinsville, N.C.,

Tusquitee in Murphy, N.C., and the Nantahala in Franklin, N.C. All district names come from the Cherokee language. Nantahala is a Cherokee word meaning ‘land of the noon day sun’, a fitting name for the Nantahala Gorge, where the sun only reaches to the valley floor at midday.”


The U.S. Forest Service information states the following on the Pisgah National Forest, “The Pisgah National Forest is a land of mile-high peaks, cascading waterfalls, and heavily forested slopes. Comprised of over 500,000 acres, the Pisgah is primarily a hardwood forest with whitewater rivers, waterfalls and hundreds of miles of trails.”

On the Pisgah National Forest, NCPedia states that it was North Carolina’s first national forest. “Currently, the Pisgah National Forest lies in 15 North Carolina counties. The forest is divided into three separate ranger districts according to geographic features. The Grandfather District includes Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga, and McDowell counties. The Appalachian District manages land in Haywood, Madison, Avery, Buncombe, Mitchell, and Yancey counties. Finally, the Pisgah District covers parts of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania counties.”

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March Constitution Committee Meeting held

By **ROBERT JUMPER**
One Feather Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The March meeting of the committee to prepare a constitution draft for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians began without a quorum on Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Cherokee Council House.

Lloyd Arneach Jr. gave the roll call. Those present at roll call were Aniwodí (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer, Nancy Pheasant, Lloyd Arneach, EBCI Beloved Woman Carmaleta Monteith, and Jack Cooper. Those absent were Elawodí (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather, Pam Straughan, Randall Crowe, Cherokee Chief Justice Brad Letts, Cherokee Court Judge Barbara Parker,

Dakota Bone, and Avery Maples. Alternates Peggy Hill and Colby Taylor were also absent. Chairwoman Nancy Pheasant directed that Janet Arch be added to the alternates. Janet Arch was also not in attendance.

Because a quorum was not reached at the start of the meeting, voting could not take place, including the approval of the previous month's minutes.

Chairwoman Pheasant also said that the first 30 minutes of each meeting are reserved for public comment, but no one was in attendance beyond the members of the committee. She said that since there was no quorum, they would discuss issues without voting.

Pheasant said that she had developed a "draft timeline" that had

been sent out to selected members of the committee. Action was for the draft to be distributed to more members of the committee. Pheasant moved on to new business, which she said included "draft constitution work, establishing a working approach, section-by-section reviews with AG (Attorney General) redlines, consensus or motion-based revisions. Items for consideration for the 2023 draft-tribal council age restrictions, judicial authority and enforcement, sovereign immunity, weighted voting, census, supremacy clause, emergency powers, continuity of government, grand council, and recall."

Beloved Woman Monteith discussed the Attorney General's red-lined version. She disagreed

with his recommendation to strike the acknowledgement and history of the foundational documents used to build the 2023 draft.

Randall Crowe came in late to the meeting via Zoom. Pheasant halted the discussion and moved back to the approval of the minutes because the presence of Crowe created a quorum. At that point, they were able to approve their minutes for March 12 and February 19. Arneach read the minutes from the February 19 meeting.

Then Pheasant went back to the question brought up by Monteith. This led to a discussion of how the Attorney General's red lines came to be and the reasons behind them.

see **CONSTITUTION** next page



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Reese Seigfried, *Aren't you just precious?* (detail), 2025, stoneware, paint, ribbon, cotton candy cart, SFX blood, glitter, beads, string, 38 x 32 x 24 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.
@Reese Seigfried

Dinilawigi endorses Ugvwiyuhi Michell Hicks for treasurer of the Indian Gaming Association

By **ROBERT JUMPER**
One Feather Editor

In a special session held on the morning of Friday, March 27, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) considered and approved Resolution No. 156 (2026), endorsing Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks for the position of treasurer of the Indian Gaming Association (IGA).

The resolution reads, "Therefore be it resolved by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that the Tribe strongly endorses and supports EBCI Principal Chief Hicks for the position of treasurer of the Indian Gaming Association."

The legislation was submitted by the Dinilawigi.

Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman) Jim Owle (Tsisqwohi-Birdtown Representative) stated that this is an unpaid committee position with the IGA. Ugvwiyuhi Hicks stated, "I

was asked to consider this position. How does the Eastern Band gain more national exposure? As I thought about whether this makes sense, that is what I kept coming back to."

He said that the IGA meets quarterly with possibly one conference each year. As he considered the position, he said he wanted the leadership of the tribe to be behind him in the decision and potential service on the IGA.

Ugvwiyuhi Hicks expressed that the Dinilawigi endorsement is a step toward the position. The treasurer position is democratically elected from within the IGA. He said that we need stronger representation for the southeast, and he feels he can provide a level of expertise to the organization and fulfill some of that need.

Several of the council members voiced support for the resolution.

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather said, "The Chief would make a really good mem-

ber of this association. I think we should be at the table."

Dinilawigi Gahvsgi Owle said, "Chief, I appreciate you stepping up and putting your name in the hat for this position. It is good to see the Eastern Band getting its name out there again."

Tsalagi Gadugi/Tutiya (Cherokee County/Snowbird) Rep. Adam Wachacha stated, "I appreciate you putting your name in the hat for this position. I know your leadership and vision will do this organization very well."

Taline Ugvwiyu (Vice Chief) Alan B Ensley said, "I echo what has already been said. Anytime we have an opportunity for any of our enrolled members on these national boards and committees, we need to take advantage of it."

Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Venita Wolfe supported the resolution, saying, "We cannot go to the background. We cannot be outside the organizations making decisions that affect us. We must have a voice there."

Responding to a question from Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Mike Parker, Ugvwiyuhi Hicks said that there are approximately 80 members of IGA, and each member has a vote on association decisions, including the election of the treasurer.

Ugvwiyuhi Hicks, "I'm not going out looking for other things to do. I know we have a lot to do. But after what we have dealt with over the last couple of years, this tribe needs better representation at a regional and national level. And that is the reason I am putting my name in the hat."

The resolution was passed unanimously by those Dinilawigi representatives in attendance. Those absent were Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, and Aniwodihhi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer.

Ugvwiyuhi Hicks indicated that the vote by the IGA to elect a treasurer will happen next week.

CONSTITUTION: From page 8

Crowe suggested that the committee use the draft and go through to address specific issues instead of "reinventing the wheel".

Arneach stated, "Well, as far as the AG's red line version, a lot of it has no rhyme or reason, and I'm not going to try to interpret why the AG's office made the corrections, adjustments, whatever you want to call it, to that document because a lot of it just doesn't make any sense."

So, he suggested just taking the

draft and continuing to work on it based on the input from "the entities we have represented".

Crowe agreed and stated he feels that "the AG serves the government, not the people, which is not always the same thing."

After several minutes of discussion, the committee tabled for further discussion.

Arneach and Pheasant discussed the remaining items and the need to assign topics for more in-depth research and have members prepared to recommend based on research.

Several references were made to the draft timeline.

There was a discussion on where to start reviewing different articles, whether they would take them out of order to focus on the most challenging first. Rep. Swimmer expressed concern that government officials are involved in a constitution that is supposed to be driven by the people. The committee voted to begin reviewing Articles 4 through 6, articles that have to do with branches of government and their powers.

There was more committee

discussion concerning scheduling conflicts for individual committee members.

The committee stated that they will take up Article 4 at their next meeting. Pheasant says that April 9 at 5:30 pm in the Council chambers will be the next meeting of the Constitution Committee.

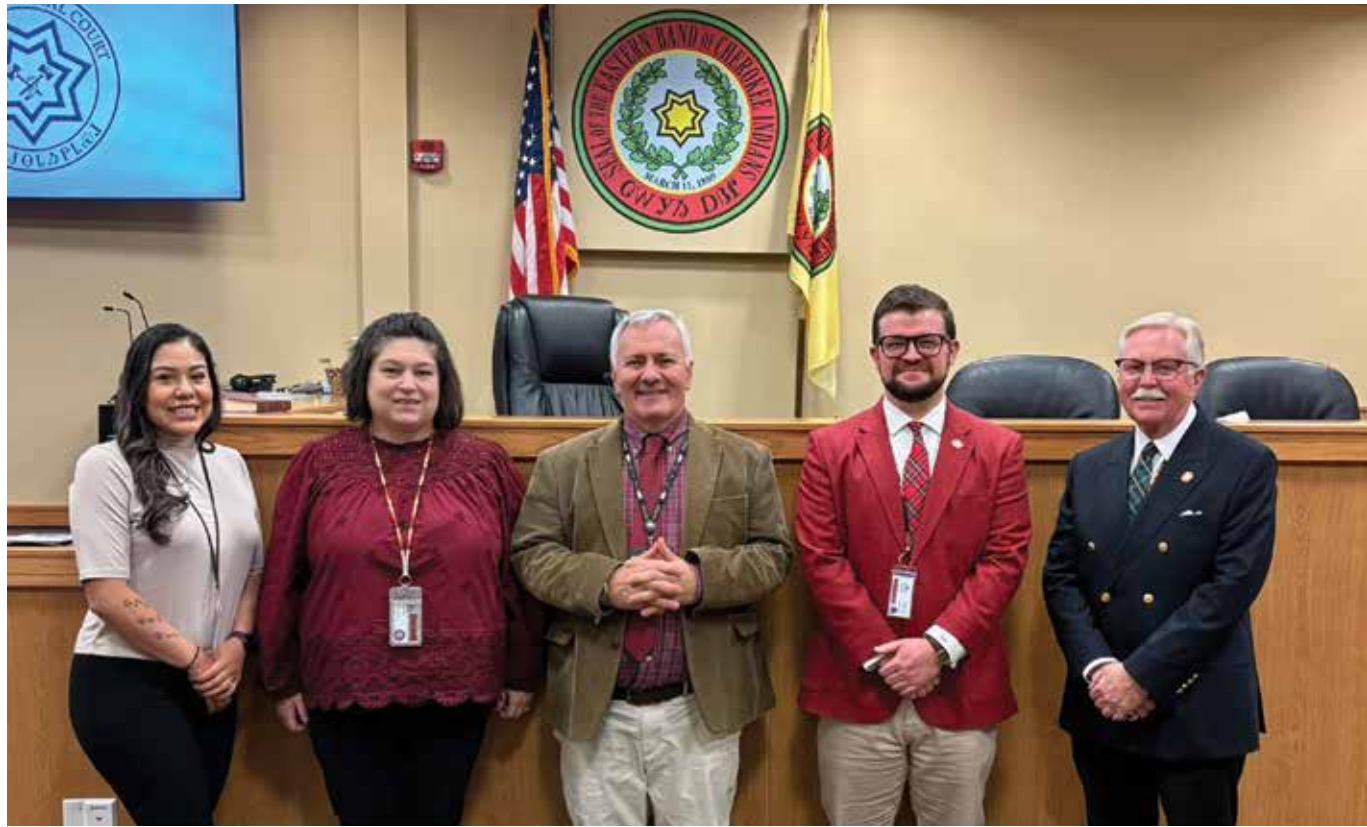
The Constitutional Committee meetings are open to community members and are livestreamed on the EBCI Communications Department Facebook page for a limited time.

Meet the Office of the Tribal Prosecutor

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Office of the Tribal Prosecutor is now fully staffed for the first time with a staff of five: Leo Phillips, lead tribal prosecutor; Randle Jones, senior tribal prosecutor; Hayden Duncan, tribal prosecutor; Amy Teesateskie, paralegal and victim/witness coordinator; and Hali Silvers, victim advocate. Teesateskie and Silvers are both enrolled members of the EBCI.

Duncan said that operating



The EBCI Office of the Tribal Prosecutor is shown, left to right, including Amy Teesateskie, Hali Silvers, Leo Phillips, Hayden Duncan, and Randle Jones. (Photo contributed)



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with a full staff has significantly improved the capacity of their office, “Now that we’re fully staffed, you sort of leave survival mode. So, one thing that we have been trying to do is meet more with law enforcement, take a more proactive stance in doing trainings for them or speaking with them one-on-one. I know that we’ve definitely talked to victims a lot more, too. Just having three of us at any given time is a huge, huge aspect of that. So, I think that that’s our big thing, is just expand our ability to talk to folks in the community, whether that be law enforcement, victims, or just community members who want to learn more.”

Phillips said serving the community is a priority. “This community has given me a lot - friendship, fellowship, food, and a chance to really grow. Representing individuals in the community, two of the first ones were Alfred and Maybelle Welch. That’s a really big shout out to them because they’ve been with me all throughout the whole thing. So, they mean a lot to me. And there’s others like that, too numerous really to go into. I still live in Murphy. I commute every day, and I just feel like it’s a real blessing to be here.”

Phillips worked in private practice for 35 years handling child custody and felony criminal defense. He worked in Graham Co., Swain Co., Macon Co., Clay Co., and the Qualla Boundary, as well as the towns of Andrews and Robbinsville.

Jones served as the Assistant District Attorney for the 24th Judicial District handling murder cases, major crimes, and violent felonies. Jones previously served the tribe as an associate judge

from 2017-21. Jones was unavailable for interview.

Duncan shared, “I was born in Sylva, grew up in Murphy. I went to Murphy High School. And after that, went to Campbell for both graduate and undergraduate. I was a prosecutor in a couple of other counties out near Charlotte, Gaston and Catawba, mostly. I was a DSS lawyer for about a year doing child protective services, but I grew up out here and had been out here quite a bit, so when this came open, I knew I wanted to be back home.”

“I was also a little bit burnt out from, I think, state government. There’s just not a lot of resources there to do much of anything positive, and I was working in communities where we weren’t seeing really much of any positives and particularly seeing anything that you were doing was making an impact,” he said.

I know Cherokee is a community that actually tries to help their folks get back on track and provide them resources to do so.”

Duncan emphasized some of the resources the tribe has that are transformative in his experience as a prosecuting attorney. “It’s a cycle, and a lot of these offenders, they grew up with that, or they don’t know any better or know that there’s an alternative out there. But these folks are part of a tribe; They are part of a central community and for the most part, they don’t leave. In state court, you had sort of a phenomenon that a lot of those folks were transient. They’d commit a crime in one place and then they’d flee to a different city or state.

Here, that doesn’t happen. So, you either deal with the issues

head on and you try and get to the root cause, or they’re just going to continue to do it here over and over and over again. Analenisigi [Recovery Center], for example, is huge for this community and for trying to just get at some of the structural issues that a lot of these folks face. And it’s not just one issue; a lot of the time they’re dealing with several issues, whether it’s substance abuse, alcohol abuse, domestic violence, trauma, and they all feed off each other. So being able to provide a place for a comprehensive evaluation is incredible.”

Phillips added, “You have a tremendous amount of services. You got them not only here on the Boundary, but you also are partnered with facilities around the country that you can send these individuals to if they really need some time alone, away from the community to work on what they have experienced in their lives. So, it truly is a restorative court system, whereas with the state court system, and more so with the federal government, it is all based on punishment. So, you don’t get the opportunity to really see someone not only get their children back, but to go on and be a productive member of society to where they’re contributing back and they’re raising a family. Here, we do see that. And that’s what makes it so rewarding at my stage.”

Phillips shared, “We also we have Hali and Amy who respond individually to the victims or law enforcement, too, with us to find out, is there something that can be worked out with a plea? Do we need active time? Do we need a split sentence? So, we’ve got lots of resources, and when you have

someone like Judge [Barbara “Sunshine”] Parker on the bench, who I can’t say enough good things about, I mean, she’s been fantastic. I’ve seen her when she first started all the way through now and I just am like, ‘Oh my gosh, you finally have not only an enrolled member, but someone that is very in tune to what the community needs.’”

Silvers, who has a master’s in criminal justice and is currently pursuing a paralegal certificate course, said one of her current goals is strengthening communication with victims. “One of my goals is just making sure we get victim contact information because that’s been one of our big issues is contact information isn’t given, which makes it hard for us to contact them to give them updates on court. So, I’m trying, with the help of my office, to get a form that victims can have so it gives all the information we need.”

Silvers added, “There’s times that maybe a DV case comes in at four o’clock on Monday morning, so we have to rush around, and it makes it hard if I don’t have contact information for the victim. I just want to stress that providing contact numbers and up-to-date contact information is important.” The EBCI Office of the Tribal Prosecutor has a Facebook page where they share important updates and even source the community through posts to get in contact with victims and witnesses.

“We’re open, and we’re happy to help where we can, or point you in the right direction,” Phillips said. Their office is located in the front building of the old BIA offices on Tsali Boulevard.



The Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program is currently accepting applications for the 2026 - 2027 program year.

The Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program is a culturally based leadership program for EBCI college undergraduates. EBCI members that are attending trade school, college, or a university this Fall 2026-Spring 2027 may apply. Fellowships of up to \$4000 are awarded annually to assist with completing leadership and cultural goals.

To apply, please visit www.rkli.org/jones-bowman/ or visit the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute at 171 Boys Club Loop, Cherokee. Applications are due by April 17, 2026 at 4:30pm.



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Vietnam War Veterans Day observed in Cherokee

ABOVE: Vietnam War Veteran Frank Cucumber, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and Cherokee first language speaker, rings the Bell of Honor in memory of two fellow EBCI tribal members who were killed in action in Vietnam – PFC John Edward Oocumma and Sgt. John Decatur Burgess. Cucumber performed the ceremony during an event on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, hosted by the Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post 143, on Sunday, March 29 at the Cherokee Veterans Park in Cherokee, N.C. BELOW: Vietnam War Veteran Warren Dupree, an EBCI tribal elder and Post 143 commander, speaks to the crowd on Sunday about the Vietnam War. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)



Yoga

Slow Flow and relax: Yoga for all levels – Tuesdays 12-12:50pm

Gentle yoga: Gentle Yoga movement, breathwork, and guided relaxation with incorporation of therapeutic based movements or restorative poses for neck, shoulders, back and hips.

Thursdays 12-12:50pm

Intro to Yoga: 3 Part series Thursdays 12-12:50pm April 2, 9, and 16th. Great for beginners!

Snowbird Yoga Wednesday April 8th at 12pm at the Snowbird Library.

Pre and Post natal Yoga available by appointment.

Contact Robin at robibail@ebci-nsn.gov or 359-6785 to sign- up prior to class

Walking Club

Mondays and Wednesdays at 12pm

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

Beginner Pilates

Mondays 12-12:45pm

Contact April at apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov or 359-6201 for more info or to sign up.

Move and Meal Prep

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

Thursdays 12-1pm Begins April 2, 2026

Contact April at apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov or 359-6201 for more info or to sign up.

Mother's Day 5k

May 9, 2026

Proceeds will be donated to the Richard Yogi Crowe Fund

Registration Begins at 8– 8:45am Walk/Run Begins at 9am

At Kituwah Fields (We will update if anything changes)

.General fee is \$15 but will increase to \$20 on May 1, 2026 \$10 for youth ages 1-12 and elders ages 59+

Contact Yolanda Saunooke at (828)-359-6784 or yolasaun@ebci-nsn.gov with questions.

Summer Camp

June 1 - June 12th. Ages 9-11 years old

Applications are due May 1, 2026. Space is limited.

Join us this summer as we explore culture, conquer fears and try new things! (Horseback riding, Rafting, yoga, swimming, and more)

Contact Yolanda Saunooke at (828)-359-6784 or yolasaun@ebci-nsn.gov or Tori Bryson at viettram@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6778 for more info.

Positive Indian Parenting

8-week series on Tuesdays and Fridays in May. Class will be at 12pm with lunch provided.

Begins May 1, 2026.

Contact Shelby to sign up at shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6783

Resources for Resiliency 2-day Training

May 14th and 15th, 2026 8:30am-3:30pm Lunch is provided.

Learn about trauma and stress and their effects on the body.

Learn tools to help you with every day stressors.

Contact Shelby to sign up or for ore info at shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6783

Cherokee Cultural Perspectives on Health: A lunch and learn series

Lunch is provided. Wednesdays 12-1:30pm @ Museum of Cherokee People in the T.J. Holland Education Room

April 15: Keep your brain healthy – Dr. Blythe S. Winchester, MD, MPH, CMD, AGSF

April 29: Cherokee 101 Convo – Atsila Anotasgi Lead Cultural Specialist, Museum of Cherokee People

May 20: Cultural Considerations in Healthcare – Dr. Freida Saylor, DSW, LCSW, LCAS

Sign up with Robin at robibail@ebci-nsn.gov or 359-6785 prior to class



**cherokee
choices**

enroll for life

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**APRIL
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Cherokee Choices

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

Vision: Generations of Wellness

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

Follow Cherokee Choices on Facebook

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

Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

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

New this week

There are no new bills this week.

Bills we're currently watching

H.R. 226 (Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act). This House bill would place 76 acres of land in eastern Tennessee into trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Included in that land are the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, the Chota Memorial, and the Tanasi Memorial sites.

Introduced: Jan. 7, 2025 by Rep. Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann (R-Tenn.)

Action: This bill was passed in the House by a voice vote on Feb. 4, 2025. It was received in the Senate the next day and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S.761 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies

Act). This Senate bill would establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. According to Congress.gov, "Among other duties, the Commission must investigate

the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policies – federal policies under which American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in boarding schools."

Introduced: Feb. 26, 2025 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. It was "ordered to be reported without amendment favorably" by the Committee on March 5, 2025. It was reported without amendment by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs chairperson, on July 31, 2025. That same day, it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders (Calendar No. 139).

H.R. 2412 (Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act).

This House bill would establish an Office for Indigenous Affairs and an Advisory Commission for Indigenous Peoples within the Department of State.

Introduced: March 27, 2025 by Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai'i)

Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 27, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 2929 (Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe recognition bill).

This House bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina, a state-recognized group. Introduced: April 17, 2025 by Rep.

Donald G. Davis (D-N.C.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 17, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 7, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 3444 (Tribal Self-Determination and Co-Management in Forestry Act of 2025).

According to the bill text, this House bill is "To direct Federal land management agencies of the Department of the Interior to establish Tribal Co-Management Plans and to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for the performance of certain activities of the Forest Service, and for other purposes".

Introduced: May 15, 2025 by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)

Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands on June

3, 2025, and a hearing was held in that subcommittee on June 10, 2025.

S.2022 (Tribal Tax and Investment Reform Act of 2025).

This Senate bill, according to the legislation, would "amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Indian Tribal governments in the same manner as state governments for certain federal tax purposes, and for other purposes".

Introduced: June 11, 2025 by U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on Jun 11, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture on June 12, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S.2160 (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025).

This Senate seeks the same as H.R. 3255 (Grand

River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025.
Introduced: June 25, 2025 by Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-Mich.)
Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 25, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4276 (To amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act). According to congress.gov, this bill amends the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act “to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations”.
Introduced: July 2, 2025 by Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai’i)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 2, 2025. This bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, and a hearing was held in that Subcommittee on Nov. 19, 2025.

S.2211 (Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2025). This Senate bill seeks to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. For both programs, it seeks funding in the amount of \$160,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.
Introduced: July 8, 2025 by Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-Maine)
Action: This will was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on July 8, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee

for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4463 (To amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993). The text of the legislation states, “Subsection (d) of section 7 of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–116), is amended by striking ‘; however, in no event may an individual be enrolled as a tribal member unless the individual is a lineal descendant of a person on the final base membership roll and has continued to maintain political relations with the Tribe.’.”
Introduced: July 16, 2025 by Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 16. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs on Sept. 4, 2025, and a hearing was held on this legislation in the subcommittee on Sept. 9, 2025. 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 House Committee on the Judiciary as well as the House 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

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 15

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, “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. Hicken-

looper (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 approve “\$160,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to remain available until expended”.
Introduced: Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) on Sept. 18, 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 sched-

uled 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 Fair-

ness Act). This Senate bill would “allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain tribal criminal matters”.

Introduced: Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) on Oct. 23, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on Oct. 23, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

H.R. 5869 (Tribal Water Infrastructure Grants Expansion Act). This House bill would “amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to assistance for Indian Tribes”. According to the bill, “In addition to amounts otherwise made available under Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, there is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to make grants, in cooperation with the Director of the Indian Health Service...for (A) projects and activities eligible for assistance under 603(c) of such Act; and (B) training, technical assistance, and educational programs related to the operation and management of treatment works eligible for

assistance...”

Introduced: Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.) on Oct. 28, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Oct. 28, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

Introduced: Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (R-Wyo.) on Nov. 4, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 4, 2025. A Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session was held on Dec. 17, 2025, and the bill was reported and placed on the Union Calendar by the Committee on Jan. 14, 2026. This bill was passed by the House on a voice vote on March 3, 2026. It was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 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 (Native Arts and Culture Promotion Act).

This House bill would amend the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act Section 1521 to add the following subsection (c), “(2) For any grants made with respect to Native Hawaiian art and culture, the members of the governing board which is required to be established under paragraph (1) shall (A) include Native Hawaiians and individuals widely recognized in the field of Native Hawaiian art and culture.”

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 feder-

al 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

see LEGISLATIVE next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 17

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.

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).

H.R. 7490 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act). This House will “allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain Tribal criminal matters.”

Introduced: Feb. 11, 2026 by Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 11, 2026. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 7627 (To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to include Indian Tribes in certain provisions relating to priority resource concerns).

The full text has not been made public as of this printing. Introduced: Feb. 20, 2026 by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture on Feb. 20, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 3945 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act). This Senate bill aims “to ensure that federal laws that enable federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply to Tribal law enforcement agencies”.

Introduced: Feb. 26, 2026 by Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on Feb. 26, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 3946 (Tribal Firearm Access Act). This Senate bill seeks “to allow members of federally recognized Tribes to use their tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer”.

Introduced: Feb. 26, 2026 by Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 26, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 7698 (A bill to allow members of federally recognized tribes to use their tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer). The full text of this bill is not yet available as of press time.

Introduced: Feb. 25, 2026 by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 25, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 7699 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act). This

House aims “to ensure that federal laws that enable federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply to tribal law enforcement agencies”.

Introduced: Feb. 25, 2026 by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 25, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 3994 (A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to authorize Tribal meat inspection under that Act by tribal personnel). The full text of this bill was not available by press time.

Introduced: Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) on March 4, 2026

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 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>

EBCI Constitution Committee
MEETS 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5:30 PM
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE COUNCIL HOUSE
88 COUNCIL HOUSE LOOP, CHEROKEE, NC
ACROSS FROM THE DRAMA INN

The meetings are open to all tribal community members. Meetings are livestreamed by the EBCI Communications Department.
Meeting schedule subject to change with short notice.

**CIPD Arrest Report for
March 16-22, 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.

Mitchell, Nathaniel Lee – age 25
Arrested: March 16
Released: March 16
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Ward, Toby Joe – age 46
Arrested: March 16

Released: March 19
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Brackett, Bryan Flave – age 58
Arrested: March 18
Released: March 18
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Tramper, Kenneth Lee – age 47
Arrested: March 18
Released: March 18
Charges: Driving While License Revoked

Anderson, Kelijah Micah – age 24
Arrested: March 20
Released: Not released as of report date (March 23)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (three counts), Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (two counts)

Buchanan III, Omer Albert – age 27
Arrested: March 20
Released: March 20
Charges: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Hughes, Bryan Keith – age 59
Arrested: March 20
Released: March 21
Charges: Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Teesateskie, Davisia Zaki – age 19
Arrested: March 20
Released: Not released as of report date (March 23)
Charges: Probation Violation

Toineeta, Marlena Lorraine – age 47
Arrested: March 20
Released: Not released as of report date (March 23)
Charges: Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance

Driver, Kendall Juanye – age 27
Arrested: March 21
Released: Not released as of report date (March 23)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Gregory, Joseph Tanner – age 46
Arrested: March 21
Released: March 21
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Locust, Richard Fred-Hawk – age 24
Arrested: March 21
Released: Not released as of report date (March 23)
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Lossiah, Nekyle Collins-Cagle – age 33
Arrested: March 21

Released: Not released as of report date (March 23)
Charges: Assault on a Female (two counts); Criminal Mischief of Property; Injuring Telephone Wires or other Communication Equipment, or Interfering with Emergency Communications; Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Wiggins, Travis Wayne – age 49
Arrested: March 22
Released: March 22
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Assault on a Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer




by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Fred Lynn, the first player to win American League Rookie of the Year and MVP in the same season, accomplished the feat in 1975 as a member of what team?
2. At the 1956 Melbourne Summer Olympics, which rower from the Soviet Union dropped his silver medal in Lake Wendouree? (It was later recovered by a local teenager.)
3. Which NFL team holds the single-game record for the most penalty yards with 212 in a 1999 game versus the Baltimore Ravens?
4. Hilary Knight, a five-time Olympian on the U.S. Women's Hockey Team, played for what college team from 2007-2012?
5. Which organization, established in 1976, promotes a version of baseball for blind and low-vision players?
6. What two legendary sportscasters were first paired in the CBS booth for an NFL game on Nov. 25, 1979?
7. In the 1946 "Looney Tunes" cartoon "Baseball Bugs," what team was losing to the Gas-House Gorillas 42-0 before Bugs Bunny entered the lineup?

Answers


1. The Boston Red Sox.
2. Viktor Ivanov.
3. The Tennessee Titans.
4. The University of Wisconsin Badgers.
5. The National Beep Baseball Association (NBBA).
6. Pat Summerall and John Madden.
7. The Tea Totalers.

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Project TORCH

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Teaching Our Rich Cultural Heritage: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Teacher Licensure Partnership Program

<p>Get paid to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn your degree • Become a licensed teacher • Make a difference to students in your community • Complete a program specifically for EBCI students <p>Receive...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full tuition for your teacher licensure degree program • Health insurance • Textbook and living stipend • Funding for application, graduation and testing fees • Two years of support from a NC New Teacher Support coach 	<p>Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBCI Enrolled or Family Member of EBCI Enrolled • NC resident for the last 12 months • Have a completed undergraduate degree with minimum 2.7 GPA* • Willing to work at New Kituwah, Cherokee Central Schools, Swain County Schools, or Graham County Schools upon completion • Begin the initial licensure program in May 2026 <p><small>*GPA forgiveness may be available</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
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For questions, contact kdavin@charlotte.edu Register your interest at bit.ly/Project-TORCH

McMinn Living Heritage Museum updates Cherokee exhibit

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

ATHERNS, Tenn. – In the quaint eastern Tennessee town of Athens is the McMinn Living Heritage Museum which tells the story of that area which includes a rich Cherokee history. That story has been updated recently with a new, fresh Cherokee exhibit.

Brett King, Museum executive director, said, “We’ve had a Cherokee exhibit here since the origins of the Museum. We were looking at it and it was like, ‘this looks very 90s or 80s and it’s time to update it and expand it out a little more’. We really wanted to add more signage and information so people could read and learn more about the history versus what we had before, which was a lot of artifacts and small signs and little descriptions of what they were looking at.”

He added, “We wanted to turn it into a thematic narrative where we start from the Paleo period, talk about the importance of the Hiwassee River to the region, the ecosystem, then start progressing through covering the Cherokee culture itself. Then, as the lands and the treaties started occurring between the United States and what eventually led up to the Trail of Tears.”

King spoke of the layout of the exhibit. “We put it in a chronological, left to right, order so people could really get a good grasp of what actually happened here. The Museum itself sits on the Trail of Tears and it went right in front of the Museum...to help educate the



Betty Boyd, Museum curator, and Brett King, Museum executive director, are shown in front of the updated Cherokee exhibit at the McMinn Living Heritage Museum in Athens, Tenn. on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 25. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

public of the importance of that time period and the centrality that this region of the state played in it.”

Betty Boyd, Museum curator, designed the exhibit. “We just did a brief timeline starting with the Paleo-Indian period going all the way up to the Trail of Tears and after the removal. Most of the artifacts we’ve had since the Museum opened. We recently had a few Cherokee baskets donated (by Emily Cate of Athens).”

There is a video that goes along

with the exhibit that gives a brief overview of the Hiwassee River Watershed area and the history of Cherokee and other Native Americans that lived in the region. Boyd noted, “Compared to what it was before, it’s a lot clearer.”

The exhibit took around six months to complete. King stated, “A lot of that was getting the initial research done. Then, once we had the information, figuring out how to display it. Once that was all done, the production and installa-

tion went quickly.

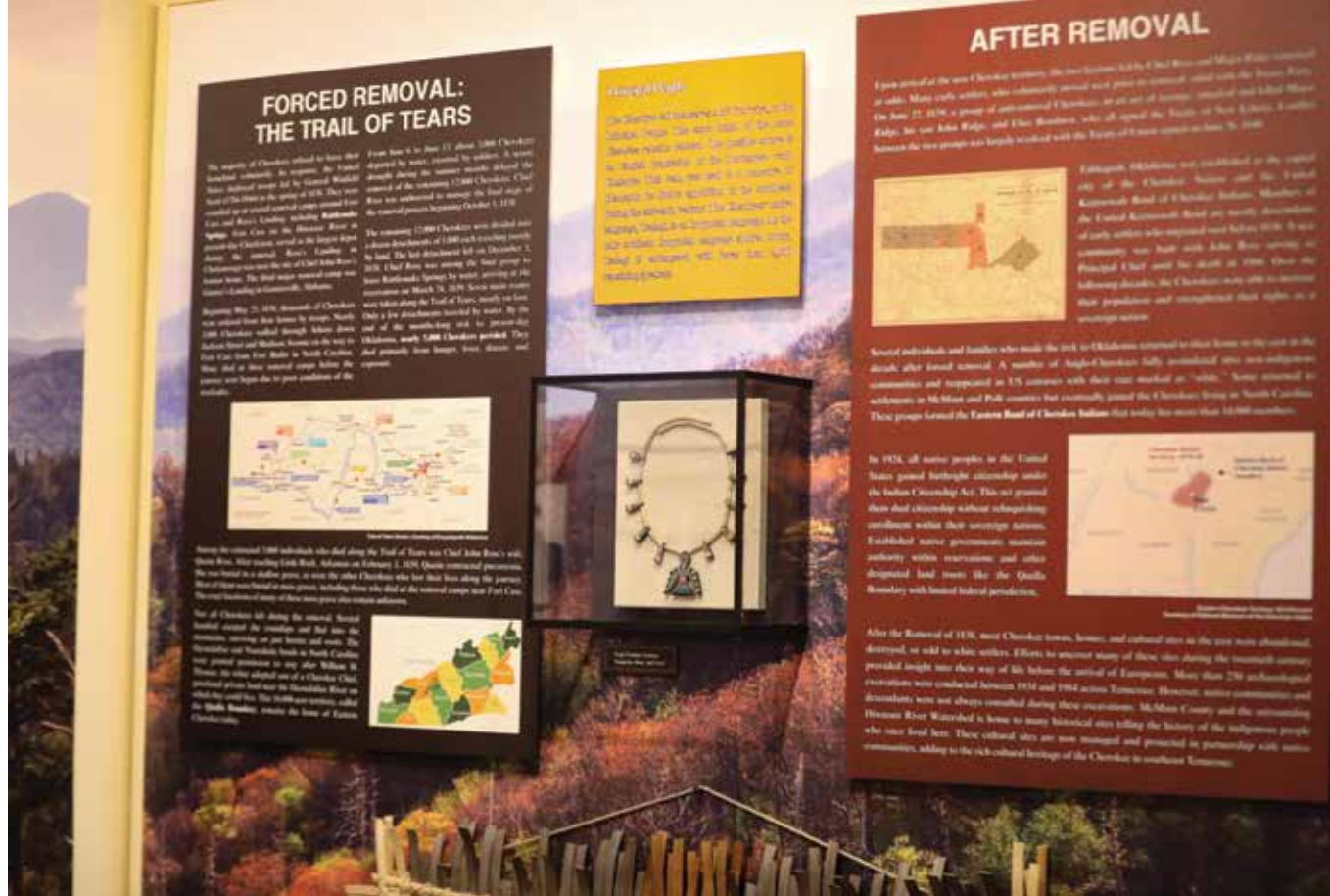
We did a special project fundraiser to raise the money to upgrade this exhibit so all of the Museum supporters were very enthusiastic - from our board members, to our more prominent donors, to the general membership. They were very supportive to help us make this happen.”

A local woodcrafter, Charles Wood, made a boat for the exhibit that visitors can sit in while watching the video. Boyd said, “We’ve

been trying to add more kid-friendly interactive things all throughout the museum, so we wanted to have something where they could sit down.”

King is very happy with the updated exhibit as are patrons. “We’ve gotten a lot of positive feedback on the design of it and the openness of it. They love the diorama. Kids love coming here.”

The McMinn Living Heritage Museum is located at 522 W. Madison Ave. in Athens, Tenn. You can learn more about the Museum by calling (423) 745-0329, visiting <https://www.livingheritagemuseum.org>, or following them on social media (Facebook, Instagram). General Admission prices are as follows: Adults \$5, Seniors (60+) \$3, and Students \$3.



Placards in the updated exhibit discuss the Removal era and post-Removal era for Cherokee people in the area.

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NC

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Reserve your Easter Bunny Photos with Cold Mountain Photography

**EBCI COMMUNITY
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Turbidity Conditions
on Raven Fork**

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is currently conducting a stream restoration project on the upper Raven Fork. This project includes the removal of a diversion dam, restoration of approximately 3,000 linear feet of stream, and improvements to aquatic habitat.

As a result of ongoing construction activities, localized turbidity (cloudy or milky-colored water) may be present in the upper Raven Fork during work hours (Monday–Thursday: 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.). Water clarity should return to normal within a couple of hours after instream work ends. No turbidity impacts are expected on Saturdays or Sundays.

We appreciate your understanding as this important restoration work improves stream health and aquatic habitat for the future.

*- EBCI Natural Resources
Department*

**Visit Smokies to host
Regional Tourism Conference
in Cherokee**

Visit Smokies will host its Regional Tourism Conference on Tuesday, April 14 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, N.C., bringing together tourism professionals, business leaders, public officials and community partners from across the Southern Smokies.

The one-day event aims to strengthen regional collaboration, share key insights and support the continued growth of tourism across the seven westernmost counties of North Carolina and the

Qualla Boundary.

“This conference is about bringing together the people who shape and support tourism in the Smokies,” said Mici Canales, director of marketing for Visit Smokies. “By sharing ideas, strengthening partnerships and learning from one another, we can continue building a stronger, more connected regional tourism economy.”

The conference will begin with a keynote presentation from the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Rail Division, highlighting current and future transportation initiatives that impact visitor access throughout the region. Topics will include infrastructure developments across roadways, rail systems, trails and waterways.

In the afternoon, attendees will hear findings from the “Where the Tourism Flows” regional study, presented by Daniel J. Findley of North Carolina State University. The research examines visitor movement patterns across Western North Carolina and identifies key travel corridors connecting communities and driving tourism activity.

Additional programming will feature perspectives from “Keepers of the Smokies,” including conservation leaders and representatives from Visit North Carolina, who work to preserve the region's natural landscapes, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation assets.

Throughout the day, attendees will have opportunities to network, engage with exhibitors and collaborate with partners across multiple sectors, including hospitality, outdoor recreation, transportation and economic development.

The conference will conclude with the Visit Smokies Membership Meeting and the announce-

ment of the Best of the Southern Smokies People's Choice Awards, recognizing outstanding businesses and experiences across the region.

The event is open to professionals whose work intersects with tourism, community development, and regional growth.

Registration is available at: <https://visitsmokies.ticketspice.com/visit-smokies-regional-tourism-conference-2026>

- Visit Smokies release

**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

THANK YOU LETTERS

**Thank you Richard (Yogi)
Crowe Memorial Scholarship
Fund**

Richard (Yogi) Crowe memorial scholarship fund was established in 1985 to encourage Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian (EBCI) students to further their studies and pursue graduate degrees. It brings me joy and honor to be awarded this scholarship that represents an accomplished and respected Cherokee leader.

This Fall semester I was awarded the scholarship to assist with my travels and learning experience at the UNC Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business school Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. This opportunity presented networking with fellow classmates, live sessions from leading professionals at Thammasat Business school, and cultural excursions such as touring Wat Arun, a Buddhist temple. These experiences developed my

understanding of Thailand's evolving economy and their growing opportunities in medical advancements and innovation. In efforts to increase productivity, Thailand's innovation and economic growth can improve to become competitive with surrounding countries in Southwest Asia despite political turmoil.

Gaining international business insight has opened channels for me to connect not only ideas, but also with people and cultures, fostering collaboration and understanding across borders. This experience has strengthened my confidence in pursuing global opportunities and applying what I've learned to contribute to the economic growth and leadership of my community. I am deeply grateful to the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund for supporting my academic and professional journey. Through this scholarship, I am reminded of the importance of giving back, mentoring others, and continuing to build pathways for future generations of Cherokee scholars to reach their fullest potential.

Sgi,

Kayla Johnson

UNC Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler
Business School fellow
Class of 2027

GWY ᏆᏍᏍᏁ ᏆᏍᏍᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

*Special Deadline
due to
Easter Holidays:
Thursday, April 2
at 4:30 p.m.*

Passing it on: Learning at the Ramp Patch with New Kituwah Academy



New Kituwah Academy students are shown, left to right, at the ramp patch at Standing Indian Campground in Franklin, N.C. on Thursday, March 26 including Yona Ramirez, Saloli Beck, Kuwaya Walkingstick, Ugeyudi McKinney, Adela Watty, Nano Nulinigv Arch, Svnoyi Watson, Tsiya Huskey, Kawaya Waldroup, Tsodani Reed, and Kawi Owl. (Photos courtesy of Kelly Murphy, New Kituwah Academy, and Taylor Wilnoty, KPEP)

Svnoyi Watson

By TAYLOR WILNOTY

New Kituwah Academy parent and Cherokee second language learner

There's something truly special about learning alongside your child, especially when that learning is rooted in culture, language, and community. Recently, I joined the Atse Kituwah Analenisgi (kindergarten) class on a trip to the ramp patch at Standing Indian Campground in Franklin, N.C. on Thursday, March 26. As both a parent and a second-language learner, this experience was more than a day out in the woods; it was a reminder of what it truly means to pass knowledge from one generation to the next.

From the start, the day reflect-

ed our core values. The students weren't simply gathering ramps; they were engaging in a process grounded in respect, responsibility, and relationship. They carefully searched for ramps, learned how to cut them properly, and understood the importance of leaving the roots in the ground so they could grow again. This act of stewardship showed their growing connection to the land—our homeland—and their role in protecting it for future generations. It also reflected a deeper value: taking only what is needed so the land continues to provide for those who come after us.

Equally meaningful was the role of language throughout the experience. The teachers, Utsis-

dalugi nole Tsigwa, and their students intentionally provided the Cherokee language as we searched for and cut the ramps. I appreciated how naturally the language was woven into the activity. Rather than switching back to English, we were encouraged to stay in the language, using words and phrases connected to what we were doing in real time. This kind of immersive, hands-on learning made the language feel alive and relevant—not something separate, but something we carry with us in everything we do.

As a parent, I left feeling proud. As a second-language learner, I left feeling inspired. And as part of this community, I was reminded that preservation doesn't hap-

pen alone—it happens through SSY 'gadugi', through language, through shared experience, and through our commitment to teach the next generation not only how to live, but how to live as GWY DhᵂᵂB.

Word List:

- G.ᵂᵂ (wasdi) - Ramp
- G.ᵂᵂ ᵂᵂᵂ (wasdi tsuyega) - Ramp Patch
- ᵂᵂᵂᵂ (ugwaloga) - Leaf
- ᵂᵂᵂᵂ (tsugwaloga) - Leaves
- Dᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ (atsilvsga) - Flower
- ᵂᵂᵂ (tsugta) - Seeds
- ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ (uwanigatlv) - Stem
- ᵂᵂᵂᵂ (utlanv) - Bulb
- ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ (tsunasdetsi) - Roots
- ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ (hagahaluya) - You Cut It
- ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ (hasgola) - You Dig it

Heart to Heart invites community to “Shine a Light on Child Abuse”

Submitted by EBCI Public Health and Human Services

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center (CAC) invites the community to join in recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month this April by coming together to “shine a light” on children and families. Throughout the month, individuals, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to show their support for victims of child abuse and help raise awareness by:

- Shining a blue light on your building or landmark
- Displaying blue balloons or pin-wheels
- Wearing blue clothes

Heart to Heart CAC thanks the

following organizations that have already expressed their commitment to participating:

- Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort
- Cherokee Indian Police Department
- EBCI Family Safety
- EBCI Public Health & Human Services

Additional community partners are encouraged to join throughout the month.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse can take many forms and may look different in each situation. It generally falls into four categories: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, and may also be referenced as child maltreatment. A child is considered abused

if his or her parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker does any of the following, or allows another person to do so:

- Causes serious physical injury that is not accidental
- Creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury
- Uses cruel or grossly inappropriate discipline
- Commits sex crimes against a child or permits or encourages participation in sex crimes
- Causes serious emotional damage
- Commits crimes involving human trafficking, involuntary servitude, or sexual servitude
- Encourages or approves of delinquent behavior involving immoral acts

What is Child Neglect?

Neglect can include failing to meet a child’s need for safety and wellbeing. Neglect includes a parent or caregiver’s failure to provide for the child’s basic needs for food, shelter, supervision, education, medical or dental care. Neglect can include inappropriate discipline or endangering a child by the parent’s use of controlled substances, including alcohol.

Be Ready to Report

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you can make a report with your local law enforcement and social services organizations. For reports on the Qualla Boundary:

- Call Family Safety Program (828) 359-1520

• After hours, call Cherokee Dispatch (828) 497-4131 and ask for the on-call social worker

About Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center

A Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a safe, child-focused place where children who may have experienced abuse can share their story in a way that helps limit further trauma. Trained professionals work together to prioritize the child’s well-being and safety while supporting families and connecting them to needed resources.

Heart to Heart officials shared, “Child Abuse Prevention Month reminds us that awareness must be matched with action. When we choose to notice, to listen, and to act, we help protect not only a child today, but the strength of our community tomorrow.

We encourage our EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) relatives and neighbors to learn the signs of abuse, trust their instincts, and speak up when something does not feel right. Reporting concerns is not about blame, it is about safety, care, and protecting our children.

This month, we honor the strength and resilience of the children we serve and reaffirm our commitment to protecting them. Together, heart to heart, we can protect our children, strengthen our families, and break the cycle for future generations.”

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APRIL 24 & 25 2026

123 Cromwell Drive | Townsend, TN

Due to the Easter Holidays, the Cherokee One Feather offices will be closed on Friday, April 3 and Monday, April 6.

Cherokee Elementary School Honor Roll 3rd 9wks. Grading Period

3rd Grade Principal Honor Roll: Addisyn Teesateskie, Aliceanah Carroll, Ani Bradley, Athena Crowe, Audree Waldroup, Augustus Shuler, Bentley Arch, Camdyn "Skylar" Johnson, Charli Sherrill, Charlotte Young, Colton Cloer, Ezio Gutierrez, Isabella Rodriguez, Kenley Stilwell, Kristaleena Archer, Kylee Villa, Lavenia Hyatt, Mia Spurlock, Milah Hernandez, Naomi Reed, Nixon Davis, Ramona Bigwitch, Rogue Jones, Samuel McMillan, Thomas Crawford, Tripp Pruitt, Tristan Barnes,

Tristen Long, Zoey Reed

3rd Grade A Honor Roll: Avi Maney, Aydin Welch, Eldon Crowe, Jericho Queen, Mataya Sampson, Mika Johnson, Misty Beheler, Sti-wi Lambert

3rd Grade B Honor Roll: Aaliyah Collins, Abbigail Walls, Ariel Swayney, Aurora Lira, Avere Parker, Aviana Jones, Axton Taylor, Barrett Smoker, Braylin Welch, Connor Wiggins, Daxton Littlejohn, Daylen Rodriguez, Derick Saunooke, Elaina Alexander, Grayson Currie, Haiden Lambert, Harli Sherrill, Hayven Johnson, Janiyha Owl, Jaxon Jimenez, Jayven Crowe, Kaius Blanton, Konchance Morris-Jenkins, Lennox Lambert, Margo Mahan-Flores, Neveah Saunooke, Oakland Wood-

ard, Oaklyn Buchanan, Rhett Lambert, Sakai Ledford, Salem Hornbuckle, Scarlett Bradley, Sean Stamper, Zillon Swayney

4th Grade Principal Honor Roll: Aaron Beach, Addie Martens, Ayla Winter Wildcatt, Berkee Hicks, Damiyn Squirrel, Declan Junaluska, Hihanni Red Bird, Julian Santos, Kamryn Saunooke, Keedan Lossie, Lyla McCormick, Mattie Moore, Neveah Teesateskie, Preston Wright, Raylyn Watson, Rauzlynn Allison, Samuel Sampson, Tobius Williams, Venus Diaz, Zaiden Armachain

4th Grade A Honor Roll: Aliya Thompson, Carter Smith, Tucker George, Vaelyn Owl

4th Grade B Honor Roll: Achaia Johnson, Alena Wade, Alfred Brady, Amrie Pauli, Analee Garcia-Hernandez, Andi Watty, Auley Taylor, Avaleena Teesateskie-Taylor, Avery Owle, Blair Owle, Carletoe Maye, Cassia Crowe, Charity West, Erik Treadway, Fallon Littledave, Francis "Faith" Panther, Harper Walkingstick, Izzabell Taylor, Jamison Lambert, Jarran Johnson, Jeremiah Read, John Davis George, Kiona French, Landyn Thompson, Lawson Davis, Leyoni "Bella" Frady, Lyla Davis, Meleah Rickman, Mikah Ledford, Noah Hall, Osley Blankenship, Otis George, Theseus West, Timbi Panther, Warrick Jones, William Wolfe, Zayden Kalonaheskie;

*Advance
your career.*

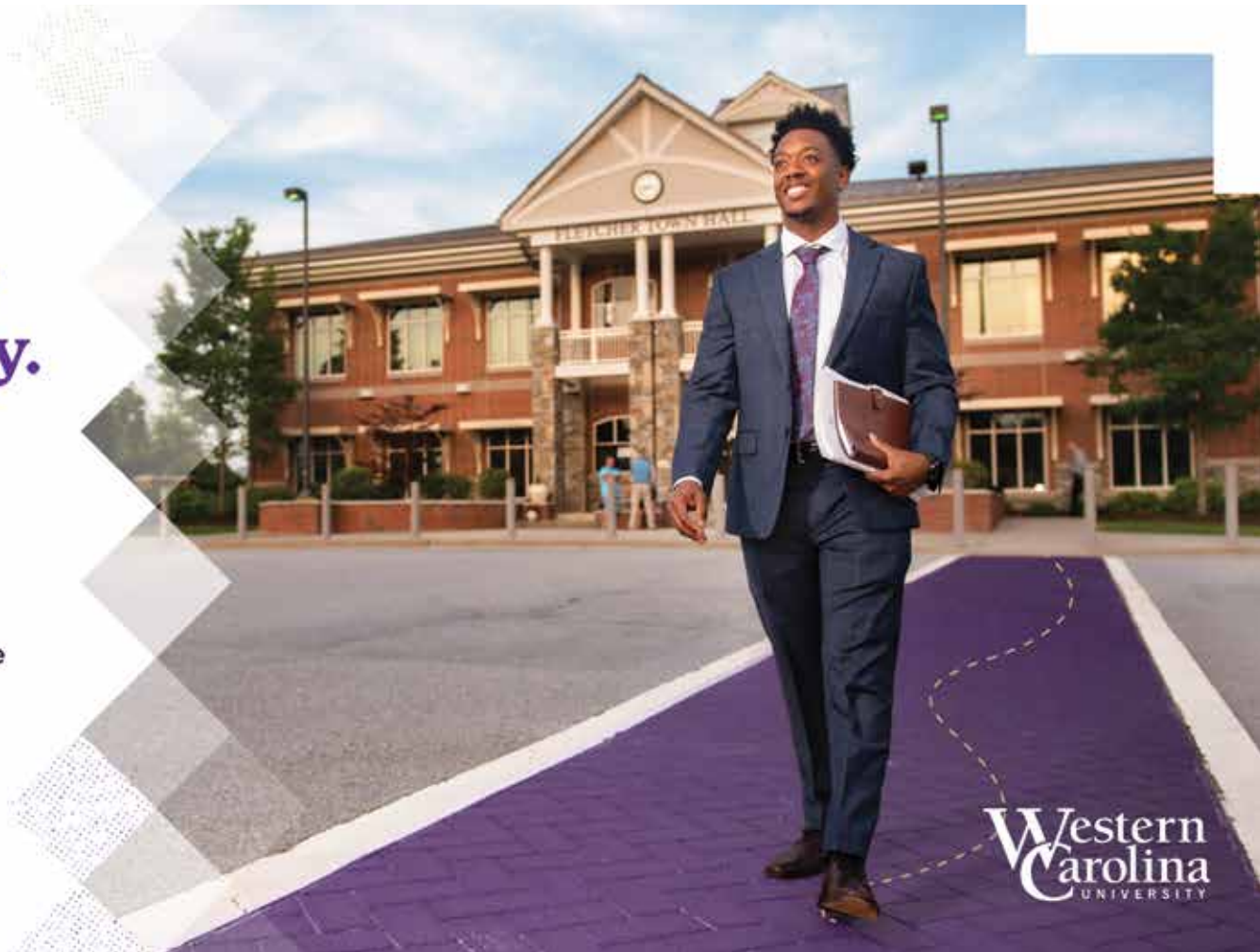
**Serve your
community.**

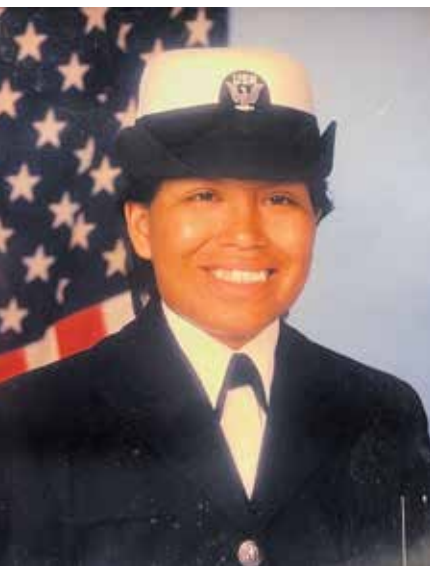
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N.C. on July 24, 1966, to the late Margaret Sherrill Lossiah. She attended Cherokee Central School and graduated from Western Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in social work.

She joined the Navy in 1989 and during her career spanning 20 years, while serving on USS Puget Sound (AD-38) She traveled to Cuba, Bahrain, Diego Garcia, Turkey, Sicily, Norway Djibouti, Suez Canal, Med Indian Ocean & Persian Gulf

While serving on the USS McFaul (DDG-74) she traveled to Oman, Greece, Italy, Seychelles, Bahrain, Med & Persian Gulf Cruise she was active in the Operation Iraqi Freedom. She was stationed at numerous stateside bases. Hawaii being one of her favorite places. She was an Ad-

vanced Undersea MK-46 Maintenance Weaponsman.

After her retirement from the Navy, she achieved her goal to become a certified Social Worker. She was employed with the Earnestine Walkingstick Shelter for five years.

Tommie enjoyed reading, traveling, and talking on the telephone with her Navy buddy Donna Norton. Tommie was a True Tar Heel fan until the end, whether they were winning or losing she was a true believer in Carolina Tar Heel Basketball. She loved attending activities her great-niece and nephews participated in, whether it was watching Otis drawing pictures, CJ under those Friday Night Lights, or having conversations with Chloe.

In addition to her mother,

Tommie was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Andy and Annie B. Sherrill; uncles, David Bird and John Ute Sherrill; aunts, Julie Queen and Rita Wildcatt; and her brother by another mother, Burt Ute Sherrill.

She is survived by two brothers, Andy David Sherrill and Calvin Lossie of Cherokee; one sister, Mollie Lossiah Grant (Rodney); one nephew, Christopher Drew Grant (Beth); two nieces, Vanessa Grant (Dillon) and Jamie Lossie; two great-nephews, Christian Jru Grant and Otis George; and one great-niece, Chloe Locust. She also leaves behind special friends Donna Norton of Pennsburg, Pa., childhood friend, Karen Johnston of White County, Ga.; and Jeanne "Big Chick" Crowe of Cherokee.

Per Tommie's wishes, the

Tommie Sue Lossiah, TM2
Tommie Sue Lossiah, TM2, 59, a retired Navy officer, died peacefully, Thursday March 19, 2026 at Memorial Mission Hospital. Tommie was born in Cherokee,

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MARCH 30-APRIL 5, 2026

WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
Tuckasegee River	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Black Caddis, Parachute Adams, Pheasant Tail, Mop, Girdle Bug, Eggs, Streamers
Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	BWOs, Black and Brown Stoneflies, Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, Elk Hair Caddis
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Black and Brown Stoneflies, Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, Thunderhead, Elk Hair Caddis, BWOs

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MONDAY, MARCH 30	TUESDAY, MARCH 31	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1	THURSDAY, APRIL 2	FRIDAY, APRIL 3	SATURDAY, APRIL 4	SUNDAY, APRIL 5
GOOD	BETTER++	BEST	BEST++	BETTER	GOOD++	AVERAGE
10:51 AM-12:51 PM-	11:35 AM-1:35 PM	12:17 PM-2:17 PM	12:38 AM-2:38 AM 1:00 PM-3:00 PM-	1:21 AM-3:21 AM 1:43 PM-3:43 PM	2:06 AM-4:06 AM 2:29 PM-4:29 PM-	2:52 AM-4:52 AM 3:16 PM-5:16 PM

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family is planning a burial at sea in Norfolk, Va., at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Betty's Place, Charles George VA Medical Center, or Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post 143.

Throughout her 59 years, she touched many lives with her wisdom, humor, and unwavering spirit of perseverance. She will be greatly missed and forever remembered.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas" My Angel.
Crisp Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

David Edward Catolster

David Edward Catolster, 78, of Cherokee, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, March

18, 2026, at his residence.

David was born on Jan. 31, 1948, in Cherokee, N.C., to Betty Bird-Catolster and Boyd Catolster. He was a loving father, brother, and mentor to many.

David was predeceased by his mother, Betty Bird Catolster; his father, Boyd Catolster; and his wife, Chee-Chee Arnold, loving mother of two. His brothers were Richard Catolster and Charles "Umpy" Catolster. His sisters were Rose "Uggy" Ailene Catolster Carter, Alice Catolster, Janice Catolster, and Mildred Catolster (Pot). His brothers-in-law included Ronnie West and Bill Roland Harris. Nieces include Ollie Catolster and Jordan Toineeta.

David is survived by his son, David Arnold (Star Trek); his daughter, Maggie Elizabeth

Sapayah Catolster; his son-in-law, Anthony Hurst; his brother, John "Bear" Catolster (Yonah); his sisters, Elsie Catolster Harris of Cache, Okla., and Nancy Catolster West; his grandchildren, Sean Boyd Catolster-Holloway, Ariel Shianne Catolster-Holloway, Anthony Mitchell Hurst Jr., and Summer Elexis Hurst; and great-grandchild, Mason Grey Catolster-Holloway. He leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews whom he dearly loved. A special thank you to Kelvin Fuller, extended family member and David's nephew, who was his caregiver during the last years of his life.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Long House Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

Braydon Thomas George

Braydon Thomas George, age 10, passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, after an extended illness at Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C.

Braydon was born on Oct. 30, 2015, in Sylva, N.C., to parents Albert Clayton and Kayla Welch George Jr. He attended third grade at Cherokee Elementary School. Braydon was an inspiration to everyone who met him. His ability to smile and shine through his toughest battles served as a source

of courage and strength for many. A fighter from day one, Braydon overcame numerous medical challenges that most doctors said he never would. His endless strength, courage, and determination carried him, as well as our family, through everything. The loss of Braydon will be deeply felt throughout the entire community. His infectious laugh and loving smile will be missed by many.

Braydon was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Dinker and Desi George; his maternal grandfather, Henry Davis Welch; his maternal great-grandparents, William Jackson and Sara Bradley; and many uncles and aunts, including his special uncle, Buck Squirrel.

In addition to his parents, Braydon is survived by his sisters, Braylin Welch and Edna Wilnoty; his uncle, John Cameron George; and his aunts, Amanda George, Kelsey Welch, Hannah Burke, and Kara Welch.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 31 at the Big Y Community Center in Cherokee, N.C., with Rev. James D. Lambert and Rev. Ben Reed officiating. Burial followed at George Family Cemetery in Cherokee, NC.

Long House Funeral Service, Cherokee, N.C., was in charge of arrangements.



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All are available for purchase and can be made into various gifts.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND TESTIMONY

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

**Confirmation hearing for
Albert Martin to the
N.C. Certification Commission**

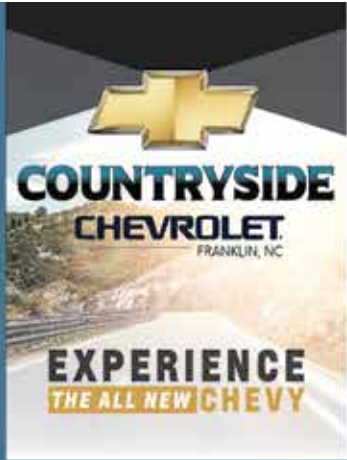
**Tuesday, April 14 at 1 p.m.
Tribal Council Chambers; Cherokee, N.C.**

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

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

**The final date for public comment will be
Tuesday, April 7.**





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Dr. Brown:
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Kylee Savage (PA-C):
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Dr. Givens:
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Kelsey Two Bears
(PA-C):(828)497-3477

Lynn Scarbrough
(FNP):(828)497-3551

Kristina Teglassy
(CRNP): (828)497-3551

Kayla Parris (PA-C):
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Cherokee County Clinic

June Hensley
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William Kelley
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EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS, SHOW UP FOR YOUR HEALTH

THE GOOD STUFF

Nakoa Chiltoskie, traditional talent and knowledge with a smile

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

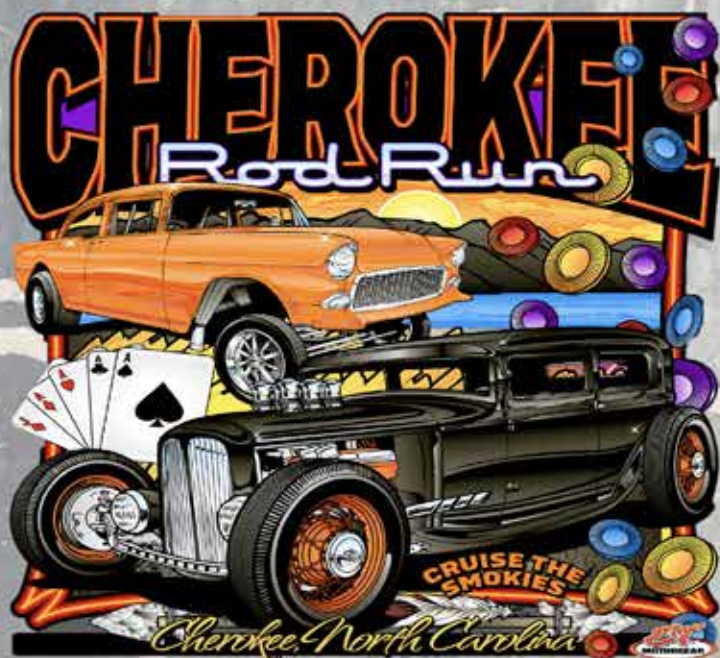
CHEROKEE, N.C. – Nakoa Chiltoskie, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), is an outstanding example of what a community-minded person should be. She is helpful, friendly, willing to share her vast cultural knowledge; and she does it all with a smile.

She is currently an elementary immersion instructor at New Kituwah Academy – the Cherokee language immersion school of the EBCI. Nakoa is a dedicated Cherokee second language learner.

She has a lifelong love of and involvement in Cherokee arts and



Nakoa Chiltoskie, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is shown at the annual Cherokee Indian Fair Parade in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Oct. 7, 2025. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)



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crafts and traditions.

Last spring I interviewed Nakoa for a piece I wrote about the 75th anniversary of the “Unto These Hills” outdoor drama. She worked at “Unto These Hills” from the time she was 9-years-old until age 18 (1987-96). “I worked as a crowd scene actress. At the beginning of the pre-show, Mrs. Maybelle McDonald had a small dance group one year, and we would perform a couple traditional Cherokee social dances.”

She enjoyed her time with the drama. “My favorite part about working with the show was developing such good friendships with the cast. It was so much fun sitting by your friends on the bridge area backstage waiting for your cue to go out for your scene. Many laughs were shared.”

Nakoa has been a pow wow dancer for many years dancing these days as a southern cloth dancer. I interviewed her for our special Pow Wow Issue last June, and she noted, “I am drawn to women’s traditional because of the grace the women show when dancing. The way the fringe moves to the beat, but yet their bodies are held with strict posture. It is very beautiful to watch.”

Some of my favorite things about traveling to pow wows are the memories you make while traveling with your family and getting to see places you have never visited before. It’s always good to see old friends and also make new ones. The food is always a bonus.”

Nakoa is a very experienced seamstress and is known all over for her expertise making both traditional Cherokee and pow wow outfits. “I love to sew. This is one of my favorite parts of making regalia. The feeling of pride that you get when you create some-



Nakoa is shown dancing at the Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on July 1, 2022.

thing that is an expression of your inner creativity and see it come to life is amazing. It motivates you to continue to create. It’s all about taking a traditional concept and making it your own, developing your signature in the art world.”

She is also a very skilled cook of Cherokee traditional foods and has given multiple demonstrations and tutorials on this – most

recently doing a video with the Museum of the Cherokee People on making Cherokee blackberry and grape dumplings.

Nakoa was Miss Fall Festival in 1993 and Miss Cherokee in 1996.

She was a graduate of the 2022 Duyugodv’I Right Path Adult Leadership cohort, a program “designed to provide more in-depth

teachings on Cherokee values, cultural practices, traditional leadership knowledge, and includes an individual or small group community service project”.

Her accomplishments are numerous, but her attitude and positive demeanor is what makes her special. Nakoa is an absolute ray of sunshine in the Cherokee community.

March report from Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper

Hello everyone,

This is my Council Report for the month of March. As always, my report follows the standard format below.

Community Events

March 30 – MMIP Database Community Meeting

Share your input on how the EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) MMIP database can support awareness, prevention, and respectful representation of closed and solved cases while protecting

privacy and sensitive information.
Time: 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Yellowhill Activity Center

April 1 – Community Easter Event

Annual Easter event. Meet the Easter Bunny, participate in the Easter Egg Hunt, and enjoy additional games.

Time: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Location: Old Acquoni Expo Center

April 4 – Every Child Matters Super Hero Walk/Ride

PHHS Family Safety and community partners invite everyone to join a walk/ride to raise awareness and provide education about child abuse.

10:15 a.m.: Meet at the Museum of

the Cherokee People parking lot
11 a.m.: Walk/Ride begins
Additional activities will follow until 2 p.m.

Project Updates

Recently Completed Projects

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

Projects Currently Underway or Nearing Completion

Nvdiyeli Trail

The project is complete. A ribbon-cutting date will be shared as soon as it becomes available. Signage is currently being created.

Ceremonial Grounds

Groundwork has been contracted and is currently underway. (No change from February report.)

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 February report.)

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

Designs have been approved, and the bid process has begun. After bids are collected, a budget will be drafted for implementation of the project.

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
- An ordinance establishing an Elk Hunting Season
- Amendments to the Minors Trust Fund to allow for distributions under GenWell
- An ordinance to establish the EBCI's digital sovereignty

Work Sessions

Upcoming Work Sessions

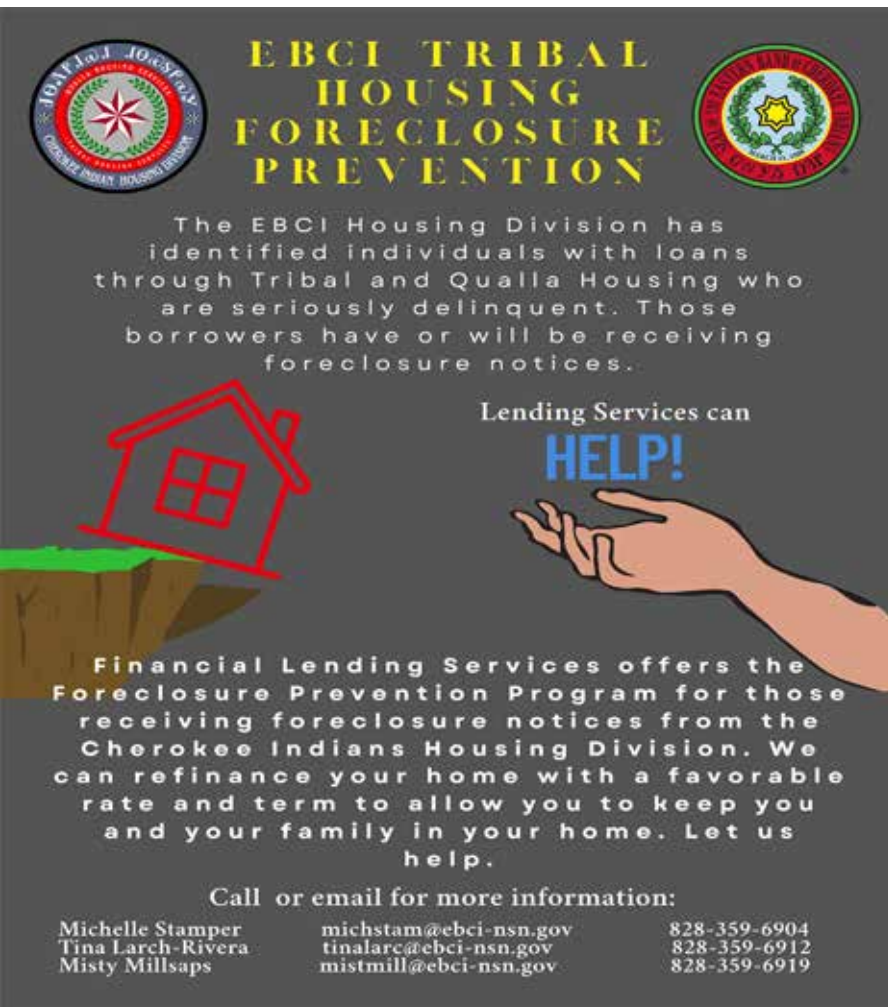
March 31

- 9 a.m. – Tabled Res. 30 (2025): Enhance transparency in Tribal government
- 10 a.m. – Tabled Res. 27 (2025): Transparency in Tribal governance

Monthly Update for Readers

This month's topic focuses on Tribal projects and how they are funded. In my experience with budgeting and planning during my terms on Council, one thing has always been evident: we must invest in projects that benefit our community in some form or fashion. Additional emphasis is often placed on projects that directly benefit the town of Cherokee. On paper, this seems simple—a "no-brainer"—but there are several hurdles that can complicate the idea of "build it here in Cherokee." To begin, one of the easiest things to overlook is the need for development in Cherokee County and Snowbird communities. We have enrolled members who live in these areas, and they require services as well, regardless of population size.

This leads to the next barrier: available land. We currently oc-



EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

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

Lending Services can **HELP!**

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

Call or email for more information:

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

occupy approximately 57,000 acres across a five-county area, held in trust by the federal government. While this may seem like a large amount of land, much of it has already been developed to provide the resources we rely on today. Very few undeveloped parcels remain that are suitable for commercial expansion. This presents both challenges and advantages. Significant resources have been invested in infrastructure, bringing the town of Cherokee up to pace with surrounding areas. We must now maximize that infrastructure to benefit our people and support future development.

The final - and most significant - barrier is funding. I give a great deal of credit to our finance division and grant analysts who actively seek funding opportunities to support economic development and project implementation. However, these funds are limited, especially given the Tribe's success in recent years. While it may seem simple to suggest funding projects through gaming revenue, that approach becomes more complex when considering how those funds are already allocated annually, along with the plateauing trends in the gaming sector. Using gaming dollars for certain projects can lead to difficult decisions in leadership regarding priorities and budget impacts. This is why securing grant funding—especially for projects that provide both community and economic benefits—is essential.

For comparison, consider how other counties and local governments operate. North Carolina uses a tier system to rank counties for economic development funding. This system relies on data such as unemployment rates, median household income, popula-

tion growth, and adjusted property tax base per capita. These factors determine eligibility for state funding. For example, Buncombe County recently qualified for additional support due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene and other natural disasters, which affected unemployment, property values, and infrastructure.

This is not a system currently used on the Qualla Boundary. We do not track property values, median household income, or unemployment statistics. Population tracking is limited to enrollment changes. While not originally the focus, this highlights the need for conducting a regular census—not only for weighted voting purposes, but also for informed economic planning.


What might our local economy look like if project placement—such as the redevelopment of the former Cherokee Elementary property—was determined by economic need within each community? While Yellowhill and Painttown are widely recognized as economic centers, should that prevent expansion into communities like Birdtown or Wolftown? If a tier-based system were applied, Cherokee County and Snowbird might qualify for greater funding allocations to support their development.

In closing, these ideas are offered as food for thought. As a Tribe, we must approach each budget cycle with these considerations in mind. The saying “don’t reinvent the wheel” holds value when we observe successful development strategies in surrounding areas. Strengthening relationships with neighboring communities can also help align regional growth across Western North Carolina. As resources become more limited,

building strong partnerships will be critical to maintaining a stable and sustainable economy for our membership.

Michael Stamper

Tribal Council Representative
Painttown Community
828-736-6192
mikestamper@ebci-nsn.gov



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Fred Lynn, the first player to win American League Rookie of the Year and MVP in the same season, accomplished the feat in 1975 as a member of what team?
2. At the 1956 Melbourne Summer Olympics, which rower from the Soviet Union dropped his silver medal in Lake Wendouree? (It was later recovered by a local teenager.)
3. Which NFL team holds the single-game record for the most penalty yards with 212 in a 1999 game versus the Baltimore Ravens?
4. Hilary Knight, a five-time Olympian on the U.S. Women's Hockey Team, played for what college team from 2007-2012?
5. Which organization, established in 1976, promotes a version of baseball for blind and low-vision players?
6. What two legendary sportscasters were first paired in the CBS booth for an NFL game on Nov. 25, 1979?
7. In the 1946 “Looney Tunes” cartoon “Baseball Bugs,” what team was losing to the Gas-House Gorillas 42-0 before Bugs Bunny entered the lineup?

Answers

1. The Boston Red Sox.
2. Viktor Ivanov.
3. The Tennessee Titans.
4. The University of Wisconsin Badgers.
5. The National Beep Baseball Association (NBBA).
6. Pat Summerall and John Madden.
7. The Tea Totalers.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The chess-playing supercomputer Deep Blue could calculate 100 to 200 billion different positions in less than three minutes.
- One study found that people who drank sugary soda daily had shorter telomeres — linked to aging — equivalent to about 4-5 additional years.
- Each spacecraft headed for Mars gets a thorough cleaning beforehand as a precaution against contamination from Earth.
- TV's classic “Jeopardy” theme was composed by Merv Griffin as a lullaby for his son.
- Forget about naming your new baby IKEA in Sweden, thanks to the country's 1982 naming law prohibiting monikers that “can be supposed to cause discomfort” for the ones saddled with them.
- “Star Wars” sage Yoda was partially modeled from a photo of Albert Einstein.
- During the Cold War, Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to lay aside their differences in the event aliens ever invaded Earth.
- Waste fat from bacon was turned into glycerin and used to make explosives during World War II.
- In 1674, the Women's Petition Against Coffee declared that the popular beverage was turning British blokes into “useless corpses” and proposed that anyone under the age of 60 should be banned from consuming it.
- Chihuahuas have one of the largest brain-to-body size ratios of any dog breed
- Astronauts can grow up to three inches taller in space due to spinal expansion caused by weightlessness.
- Lint in your belly button is caused by abdominal hairs funneling fibers into it.
- Pablo Picasso became a suspect in the 1911 Mona Lisa theft after it was discovered he had kept sculptures stolen from the Louvre by a friend.
- In the United States, lawyers are the third-least trusted professionals, ranking higher only than lobbyists and business executives.

Thought for the Day: “Until you value yourself, you won't value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it.” — M. Scott Peck

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FOMO: Fear of Missing Out

Part 2 of 2

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

Scripture references: Romans 4:1-16

Our plans are not God's plans. Even Jesus did not win every person He met to believe in Him. We do what we can to plant the seeds of obedience and faith and then pray for the Spirit to do the rest. That's what we are called to do. We are the fishermen – the Spirit is the soul catcher. Our battle is against the principalities of the world and Satan, pulling down people with sin. And he has been doing that for much longer than we have been trying to lead a good church program. He has powerful

tools and is well-equipped with a game plan that is tested and proven.

But...our God is stronger! He has defeated Satan from the beginning to the end. We are on the winning team. Amen? Amen!

If people have the FOMO, how about we change that to a FOMO on the blessings of heaven?

Satan has been bombarding our society with the destruction of the family and belonging, not just with each other, but the entire church family. The church should be a family with genuine relationships, including worship and devotion to a real God and Life Everlasting. People are looking for unity, a place to belong.

Few churches excel at discipleship education and experiences. We must teach the expectations of being faithful and loving to those around us. I'm not talking about a school atmosphere, but about a

family atmosphere built on love and trust. In that whole-church concept, we must develop the talents and gifts given to our family with opportunities to use them and share them with the entire church. Think of Acts when people meet in homes instead of segregated rooms. Our churches should create an environment where everyone worships together instead of segregated youth, college-aged, professionals, young married, retired, and elderly groups.

Want to learn about a culture and how to speak a foreign language? The church is unfamiliar and alien to many not raised there from birth. Immerse them in the culture and assimilate their time and energy into church activities and relationships with other Christians. Create a community of people with the unity of the Holy Spirit.

I know this is not a unique

concept of what a perfect church might look like, but we fail to do our best if we are not trying to create this environment of unity, love, and respect for our fellow Christians. We ask God to join us much too often. We need to join Him using the plan He developed. Jesus is the root vine; God is the nurturer of His vineyard. We are the vine shoots to make fruit.

Lord, God, and Father, we praise Your name. Remind us each day that You are the perfecter of unity. Even the Hosts of the Trinity are a constant reminder of unity in One. Jesus, You have asked everyone to come to You, to me united in one Spirit and one family, in one faith. Show us how to gather into one church without division or separation. Bring us together as Your church, a family of Christians living for You.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10

Amber Waves

OUTLAW, KID GERALD NEVER BACKS DOWN FROM THE HAND HE'S BEEN DEALT.



ALWAYS GIVING THEM HIS POKER FACE AND DEAD EYES. THAT'S THE "WILD WEST."



ANY QUEENS?

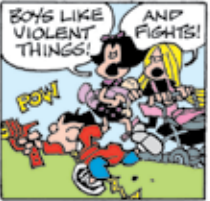


GO FISH OK, MAYBE THE "MILD WEST."

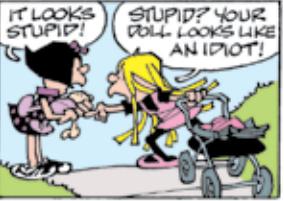
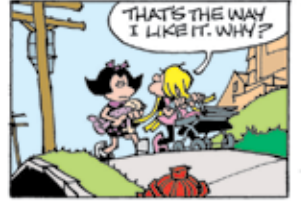


by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Purse part
- 6 Tatter
- 9 Fr. holy woman
- 12 Borders on
- 13 In the past
- 14 Allow
- 15 Trattoria offering
- 16 Wild hurry, as on Black Friday
- 18 Divides in two
- 20 Greek mountain
- 21 Rule in India
- 23 Goat's plaint
- 24 City on the Yangtze River
- 25 Broadway failure
- 27 Zaps in a microwave
- 29 Argue
- 31 Portugal's place
- 35 Fix a lawn
- 37 Bath bubbles
- 38 Long-legged shorebird
- 41 Hwys.
- 43 Scale note
- 44 Spanish "but"
- 45 Rob Roy spirit
- 47 Pressed for time
- 49 Garlicky mayo
- 52 Dijon denial

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44					45			46			
47				48				49		50	51
52					53			54			
55					56			57			

- 53 Blackbird
- 54 "What's in — me?"
- 55 — Lanka
- 56 "Acid"
- 57 Crusoe's creator
- 7 Turkish officials
- 8 Deity
- 9 Melting snow
- 10 "Selma" actress
- 11 Patriot Allen
- 17 Awakens
- 19 Wind indicators
- 21 "Mayberry —"
- 22 Hearty brew
- 24 Spider's home
- 26 Sitting room
- 28 Youngster
- 30 Hanoi holiday
- 32 Exit in haste
- 33 Altar promise
- 34 Visual communication syst.
- 36 Corsage flower
- 38 Whirls
- 39 Choir member
- 40 Resident of Tabriz
- 42 Composed
- 45 Taxpayer IDs
- 46 Refer to
- 48 "Friendly skies" co.
- 50 Brit's restroom
- 51 Fury

DOWN

- 1 Enervate
- 2 TV schedule abbr.
- 3 Work that's done ASAP
- 4 "— boy!"
- 5 Sacred song
- 6 French Baroque composer

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

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

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Picture is moved. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Plates are moved. 4. Chair is moved. 5. Table is wider. 6. Boy is taller.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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- Trivia Test Answers
1. Meat; 2. Seven; 3. United Arab Emirates; 4. Thomas Anderson; 5. Gerald Ford; 6. "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Brontë; 7. Kellogg's Corn Flakes; 8. Transpiration; 9. Aluminum; 10. 33

community Building, 12 Burgess Dr., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Space is limited. EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) singers and dancers of all ages are invited to join. Each gathering will focus on different social dances. Info: Cherokee Winter Social on Facebook.

Statehood Day. May 31 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Celebration of Tennessee Statehood Day. On June 1, 1796, Congress approved the admission of Tennessee as the sixteenth state of the Union. The 1809 Blacksmith shop will be open with demonstrations going on

throughout the afternoon. Come out and share the afternoon with living history in the 1800's Dog-trot Log cabin. Learn about Cherokees in the Civil War. The acorn printing press will be doing demonstrations throughout the day. All Statehood Day activities are free, and people can also enjoy free admission to the museum. Info: (423) 884-6246

Sequoyah Remembrance Day. Aug. 3 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Come by and learn about the amazing history of Sequoyah at the

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Changes in the workplace might be daunting for some, but you love challenges and will do just fine with this one. Remember to work with facts, not rumors.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Just when you need some emotional reassurances, an almost-forgotten friendly gesture gets repaid in the most wonderful way. More good news follows!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You have a chance to restart a stalled personal relationship. Meanwhile, a workplace change bodes well for new opportunities, but you need more facts before you can act.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Talk to your longtime friends about why they're not in sync with your new pal. You might learn some startling facts. Additionally, a difficult workplace situation eases.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) What seems to be a golden opportunity is naturally attractive to Leos, but be careful that it's not just a lot of surface glitter. You need to ask more questions.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) There are still some problems with getting decisions made on your workplace project. Talk to a supervisor about possible ways to break the impasse.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) A family matter could become more complicated and reach an apparent dead end. Don't give up on trying to find a solution. Work patiently with everyone involved.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You'll soon hear more about an offer that could change the direction of your career. Meanwhile, enjoy the newly positive on-the-job environment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Expect a favorable reply to a workplace request. On the home front, a full explanation helps you sort out a long-standing personal problem.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A serious matter needs focused consideration. Watch that your sometimes-capricious nature doesn't create any unnecessary distractions.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You win added support for your determination to turn a bad situation into a good one. One new ally arrives from a most unexpected source.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Family and friends need to be told about a decision that you're about to make. Be prepared to offer a full explanation when asked. Hold nothing back.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can be a fighter and a lover. You are a natural leader with a strong, no-nonsense sense of justice that makes people respect you.

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Is there no way to uncover fraud?

How is it a scammer can impersonate a veteran for over 30 years and not get caught?

Not only did this thief collect Social Security under the veteran's name, but he got medical care from the VA. And he didn't exactly behave during all those years — he was convicted of multiple serious crimes along the way.

When he was finally nabbed, he was living in VA-provided homeless/transitional housing and getting food, clothing, services and transportation. His impersonation was discovered when he was trying to get health care at a VA medical center.

At this point he's in the pen awaiting sentencing, charged only with making false statements, which can get him as little as five years in prison (after committing fraud for 30 years?) and be fined a quarter of a million dollars.

Consider all the possible points where the thief's identity could have been revealed: the Social Security data base, VA records being compared with the real veteran, criminal records ...

Then there was another thief, this time a woman, who not only stole over \$1 million from the VA, but also pulled her sister and son into the scam.

This scammer managed to get disability benefits by claiming she couldn't walk, was partially paralyzed and bedridden, and needed care around the clock.

The truth? She was able to buy a second home and go on fancy international trips. The son and sister said they were caring for her around the clock, while they were actually working at real jobs and she was traveling alone. This fraud went on for 12 years.

The penalties? The scammer is only getting 17 months in prison. The sister was sentenced to only time served and the son to 14 months.

Is there no way to check, no way to uncover this level of fraud before the hit to the American taxpayers reaches a million dollars? It would only take one photo of her trotting off to catch a plane, right?

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Getting ahead of flea & tick season

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Last summer, the flea infestation on my pets was the worst I've ever seen. I don't use topical flea and tick treatments because I'm worried about their toxicity in pets. I don't want to get bit up by fleas again this year. What do you recommend? — Judith L. in Hiram, Georgia

DEAR JUDITH: The battle against fleas and ticks can seem never-ending. Ticks pose an even deeper threat, as many of them carry serious diseases like Lyme and babesiosis. As the weather warms up, flea activity heats up as well.

To reduce the problem, attack it from multiple angles and do so before the summer sets in.

Bathe and comb out your pets to remove any dormant fleas or their eggs. Check them for attached ticks, especially if they spend any time outdoors.

Clean your home thoroughly. Pick up everything off the floor so you reach every spot. Vacuum as far into crevices as possible and along the wall where the carpet or flooring meet. Empty the vacuum outside the house immediately afterward.

Next, move your pets to a separate room and sprinkle a flea powder that contains diatomaceous earth over your carpet and along the edges of vinyl or laminate floors. Use a broom to brush the powder deep into carpet and crevices. Vacuum. Repeat this in every room of your home. (Pets can come back into a treated room after vacuuming.)

I recommend treating your furniture, especially sofas, the same way. Wash all curtains, rugs and bedding.

Clean your home weekly and reapply flea powder at least once a month. Check your pets for ticks every time they come inside the house, and brush their coats daily to remove fleas and their eggs.

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

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EVENTS: From page 37

museum dedicated to the life and story of Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee written language. Info: (423) 884-6246

35th Annual Cherokee Festival. Sept. 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Cherokee Arts and crafts demonstrations, Cherokee storytelling, flute playing, Cherokee dances, name written in Cherokee, genealogy help, craft vendors and food vendors. Info: (423) 884-6246

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Meetings

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

Dinilawigi regular session.

April 2 at 8:30 a.m.

Pow Wow Listings

28th Annual A.I.L.Y.C. Spring Pow Wow. April 4 at the McCurtain County Sports Complex in Broken Bow, Okla. MC: Michael Loman. Host Northern Drum: Little Eagle. Host Southern Drum: Southern Pine. Info: Faith Jacob (580) 306-5692, fhparra@bbisdapp.org, or Brad Willis (580) 236-9537, zerosmoke42@gmail.com

Colorado College Native American Student Union

Annual Pow Wow. April 4 at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo. MC: Leo Chico Her Many Horses. Host Northern Drum: Mile High. Host Southern Drum: Leading Arrow. Info: Debbie Howell at dhowell@coloradocol-

lege.edu

Yellowhorse Pow Wow Celebration. April 4-5 at The Commons aka Founders Hall in Collegedale, Tenn. MC: Jamie Oxendine. Host Drums: Rattlesnake Mountain, The Wild Bunch. Info: Tamera Hicks (423) 240-7270, Naservices.org@gmail.com

Rocky Mountain College Pow Wow. April 4 at the Metra Park Montana Pavilion in Billings, Mont. Emcees: Jerome White Hip and Leonard Bends. Host Drum: Wolf Bear. Info: Ja'Zell Pease (406) 657-1090, nao@rocky.edu

35th Annual Cherokee County Mother's Day Pow Wow & Indian Festival. May 9-10 at Boling Park in Canton, Ga. MC: Ray Silva. Host Drum: Red Boys. Info: (770) 735-6275, rollingthunder34@gmail.com, or visit www.rthunder.com

Support Groups

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

Celebrate Recovery meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Baptist Church at 812 Tsalagi Road, in Cherokee, N.C. This is a Christ-centered recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, hang-ups, and habits of any kind. All are welcome. Info: Chris McMullan (828) 788-5410

Cherokee Cancer Support Group, potluck dinner with a speaker the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Betty's Place, 40 Goose Creek Rd, Cherokee, N.C. Anyone is welcome to attend

the potluck. The group provides educational and emotional support to clients and families of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians members with cancer. The group can provide financial assistance for fuel, lodging, and transportation and also can assist with mastectomy items, nutritional supplements, wigs, and related products. The group can volunteer to take a client to their appointment if it is requested in a timely manner. Betty's Place is open Monday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: (828) 497-0788

Life@WesternCarolina. each Wednesday morning during the academic school year the Life@ group meets on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. For those over the age of 50 and looking for ways to engage with the community. To learn more or register visit life.wcu.edu or contact Western Carolina University Educational Outreach (828) 227-7397

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

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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events

Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society meeting. April 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Dr. in Bryson City,

N.C. Paul Webb and Kaley Kelly will present "Ironfoot Clarke: Unraveling the Tangled Life of Bryson City's Mystery Man". Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. This is free and open to the public.

Maundy Thursday. April 2 at 6 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church 18 Jackson St., Sylva, N.C. 28779. On Maundy Thursday, they remember the night Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Last Supper, washed the disciples' feet, and gave the commandment that we love one another. This solemn and beautiful service includes the opportunity for footwashing as a sign of their commitment to love and service, Holy Eucharist, and the Stripping of the Altar - a powerful tradition that prepares the church for the sorrow of Good Friday. All are welcome. Info: (828) 586-8358

Good Friday Community Service. April 3 at 12 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church 18 Jackson St., Sylva, N.C. 28779. On Good Friday, they gather at noon to remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and reflect on the depth of God's love for the world. This community service brings several local churches together. It includes Holy Eucharist and is followed by the Stations of the Cross: a solemn procession through downtown which commemorates the events of Christ's final hours and helps to connect Jesus' suffering to the suffering present in the world today. All are invited. Info: (828) 586-8358

The Great Vigil of Easter. April 4 at 8 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church 18 Jackson St., Sylva, N.C. 28779. The Great Vigil of Easter is the first celebration of Easter and

is one of the most beautiful and ancient services in the Christian tradition. They begin in darkness with the lighting of a fire outside. The fire is used to light a large Paschal candle, celebrating the victory of love and life over hatred and death. Through scripture, prayer, and song we remember God's saving work throughout history, renew our baptismal covenant, and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter. This powerful and joyful service moves from darkness into light as we proclaim together: Alleluia! Christ is risen! All are welcome to this special night of celebration. Desserts will follow. Info: (828) 586-8358

Easter Sunday. April 5 at 11 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church 18 Jackson St., Sylva, N.C. 28779. Join for a joyful Easter Sunday celebra-

tion as they gather to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the power of God's resurrecting love in our world. The service will include Holy Eucharist, special music, prayer, and the celebration of new life. They'll also attempt to sing Handel's Halleluja Chorus. Following the service, children are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds. All are welcome. Info: (828) 586-8358

Appalachian True Heritage Festival. April 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Downtown Historic Waynesville, N.C. 28786. A day of activities celebrating Appalachian heritage, including a vendor market for handmade art and heritage craft demonstrations. Info: www.visitwaynesvillenc.com

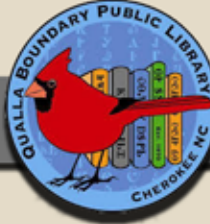
5th Annual Fiber Fair. April 24 and 25 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days. At the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, TN. 37882. A celebration of time-honored craftsmanship where wool is spun, skills are shared, and fiber art lovers can browse to their heart's content. Over two 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


Greening up the Mountains. April 25 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in downtown Sylva, N.C. 28779. Greening Up the Mountains Festival, now in its 28th year, is a heritage arts festival that celebrates the arrival of Spring and Earth Day through both traditional and contemporary forms of Appalachian art, music, food, and beverage which honor our community and local artisans. The festival is sponsored by both the Town of Sylva and the Main Street Sylva Association. The Greening up the Mountains Festival enjoys crowds of upwards of 12,000 attendees and has 150 vendor booth spaces. In addition to a variety of arts, crafts, and food vendors, attendees can enjoy a 5k run, beverage arts featuring local craft breweries, and live music throughout the day. Info: Greeningupthemountains.com

Qualla

BOOK OF THE WEEK

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





“Never Whistle at Night”
Edited by Shane Hawk and Theodore C. Van Alst Jr.

“Never Whistle at Night”, is a collection of short stories, curated by 26 indigenous authors. These original tales introduce readers to ghosts, curses, hauntings, complex family legacies, and acts of revenge.

Blending traditional horror with colonial trauma, folklore, grief, and resistance.; each tale is unique, but all are connected by a hint of survival, transformation, and ancestral presence. Think re-imagined folklore brought to life in a terrifying way. Overall, “Never Whistle at Night” is a journey through the haunted lands of Indigenous experience, where horror is more than fiction. It is cultural truth wrapped in shadow and resistance.

150th Anniversary Celebration. April 26 at 4:30 p.m. at the Shelton House 49 Shelton St., Waynesville, N.C. 28786. Enjoy an evening craft, music, food and history. Guest Speaker Ron Rash. Info: www.shelton-house.org/events.

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

Kids Take over the Museum. May 4 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. At the Great Smoky Mountain Her-

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: From page 39

Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr.,
Townsend, TN. 37882. There is no
shortage of activities for your young
crafter or artist, get their hands
and minds busy on basket weav-
ing, 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

**First Annual Spring Men's
Retreat.** May 9 – 10 at Camp Liv-
ing Waters 1510 W Dep Creek Rd.,
Bryson City, NC. 28713. All men, all
churches, all invited. Speaker Jon-
athan Frady. FREE, signs up are
now open. INFO: Foreman Bradley
(423) 579-2807 or Eddie Morrow
(828) 507-2271.

Living History. May 30 and 31
from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days
at Sam Houston School House,

3650 Old Sam Houston School Rd.,
Maryville, Tenn. 37804. Vendors,
food truck, kettle corn, re-enactors
and so much more! Info: (865)
983-1550.

Cherokee Community Clubs

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

**Widagalinidigv (Big Y) Com-
munity** meets the second Tuesday
of each month at the community
gym at 6:30 p.m. Info: Chair Bun-
sey Crowe (828) 788-4879, bunsey.
crowe@kituwahllc.com For build-
ing rental contact Bunsey Crowe.

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

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

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

**Aniwodihi (Painttown) Com-
munity** 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) Commu-
nity** meets the first Tuesday of
each month, or the Tuesday before
Tribal Council, at the Jacob Corn-
silk Complex, at 7 p.m. Info: Chair
Elijah Wachacha (828) 735-6453,
ewachacha@ebci-nsn.gov

**Toledvyi (Tow String) Com-
munity** meets the second Tuesday
of each month at the communi-
ty building at 7 p.m. Info: Chair

**BIBLE
TRIVIA**
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Gethsemane (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only book of the Bible that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
3. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? *Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples*
4. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? *Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers*
5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? *Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus*
6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? *Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Matthew
(27:65-66), (3) An angel, (4) Disciples,
(5) Thomas (called Didymus), (6) (6) 40

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

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**Moments
in time**

• On April 13, 1012, a ransom of 48,000 pounds was paid by King Aethelred the Unready and British authorities to the Viking army led by Thorkell the Tall for the liberation of Canterbury, after a raid on the city and the capture of Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered a few days later because he refused to let his followers pay for his release.

• On April 14, 1831, 74 soldiers from the 60th Rifle Corps, marching in step, caused the Broughton Suspension Bridge in Manchester, England, to collapse when their rhythmic footsteps led to the snapping of a poorly forged iron bolt in the bridge's supporting stay-chains. Around 40 men were thrown into the Irwell River, but there were no fatalities, as the water was shallow. The unexpected incident led, however, to the British army's prohibition of marching in unison while crossing bridges.

• On April 15, 1911, Walter "the Big Train" Johnson pitched a record-tying four strikeouts in a single inning for the Washington Senators.

• On April 16, 1946, auto racer Arthur Chevrolet, brother of Chevrolet auto namesake Louis Chevrolet, died at the age of 61 by hanging himself in his garage in Slidell, Louisiana, following a long struggle with depression.

• On April 17, 1961, the Bay of Pigs invasion began when a CIA-financed and trained group of Cuban refugees landed in Cuba and attempted to topple Fidel Castro's communist government. The mission failed completely, ending in the deaths of more than 100 and the capture of more than 1,100 men.

• On April 18, 2012, Dick Clark, the TV personality and producer best known for hosting "American Bandstand," died of a heart attack at age 82 in Santa Monica, California. Affectionately dubbed "America's Oldest Teenager," he also hosted the annual holiday show "New Year's Rockin' Eve" and headed an entertainment empire that developed game, awards and talk shows, as well as made-for-TV movies and other programs.

• On April 19, 2020, Turkey surpassed Iran as the Middle Eastern country with the most COVID-19 cases, with 86,306 infections, though Iran continued to experience the most fatalities from the virus.

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Lilies represents hope, love, divinity, purity, gratitude and friendship.

Daffodils are one of the first signs of spring and have a romantic connotation. In Germany they are known as "Easter bells."

Tulips signify the rebirth after winter and feelings of love. Cheerful **daisies** are available in red, yellow, pink and purple.

Hyacinths have incredible fragrance and delicate blossoms. - Brenda Weaver
Source: www.easternfloral.com



Hyacinths

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Jacob Long (828)736-9128, jacob-long19982@gmail.com

Wayohi (Wolfstown) Community meets the first Tuesday of each month at the community building; potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. Info: Chair Dwayne "Tuff" Jackson (828) 788-4088, dwayne4251@gmail.com, For building rental contact Lynn Catt (828)736-6150.

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

Cherokee Houses of Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Baptist Church. 812 Tsalagi Road. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. 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 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 6:30 p.m. 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

see **EVENTS** next page

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



GATLIN CRUZ

Computer Programmer

Education: B.S. in Computer Science from Western Carolina University
Years at CIHA: 1.5 Years
Community/Hometown: Big Cove

"I'm proud to work at CIHA because the work we do has a direct and meaningful impact on our communities. As a programmer, I appreciate being able to use my technical skills to build and improve systems that support the health and wellbeing of our people. It's motivating to know that the solutions I help create contribute to something larger than myself and support both current and future generations. The strong sense of teamwork and shared purpose at CIHA makes the work even more rewarding, both professionally and personally." - Gatlin Cruz

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

EVENTS: From page 41

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

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

Ela Baptist Church. 4450 Ela Rd., Bryson City, N.C. Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Wednes-

day 6 p.m. Pastor Justin Hunt (828) 736-1155

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

Goose Creek Baptist Church.

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

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

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

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

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

Living Waters Lutheran Church. 30 Locust Road. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Pastor Jack Russell

(918) 868-4166

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

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

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

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

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



The Smokies
classic hits
station

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



Are you interested in supporting
EBCI's homebound elders?

The Senior Center is launching a new volunteer-based program this spring!

Seeking volunteers to deliver meals on Tribal employee holidays and provide social connection.

Please join us at the Deb West Senior Center, 145 Tsali Manor St., Cherokee, NC. 28719 from 4:30 - 6pm. on Monday, April 27, for a FREE Cherokee dinner and a short presentation.

QUESTIONS Call (828) 400-4281.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whittier United Methodist Church. 150 Church St., Whitti-

er, 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

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



Bluets are tiny wildflowers that are native throughout most of eastern North America, primarily within the Appalachian Mountains. Some species include Azure Bluet, Tiny Bluet, and Thyme-leaved Bluet. Bluets bloom in spring through early summer and can be found in most elevations where there's open woods. The different species can range from blue, purple, and white.



For a limited time, the One Feather is in Tennessee at the fine outlets below. Pick up your free copy today.

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- Smokies Life (Gatlinburg, Tenn.)
- Townsend Visitor Center (Townsend, Tenn.)
- Sequoyah Birthplace Museum (Vonore, Tenn.)
- Charles Hall Museum (Tellico Plains, Tenn.)
- Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association (Etowah, Tenn.)
- Sam Houston Schoolhouse (Maryville, Tenn.)

GWY ʎV 0YLC
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SHINE A Light ON CHILD ABUSE



Raise awareness & promote prevention.



Light buildings blue, display pinwheels, and wear blue with us on April 10th!

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The price is \$40 for the year.

GWY ᏆᏍᏍᏁ ᏆᏍᏍᏁ
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Thinking About Building A Home?

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW AND YOUR DREAM HOME COULD COME TRUE

BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tribal Realty	Infrastructure Dept.	Housing Services	Timber Permits
Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913	Denny Ensley: (828) 359-6841	Michelle Stamper: (828) 359-6904	Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913
Kaïla 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		

CLASSIFIEDS

Indoor Yard Sale. April 18 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center, 1416 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Info: Virginia (828) 788-8659 or Dakota (828) 7336-8092. **4/15**

EMPLOYMENT

VOC Hiring

VOC is currently seeking dependable Seasonal Workers for 20–40 hours per week, with hours varying based on workload and weather. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and experience safely hooking up and pulling a trailer for equipment transport. Ideal applicants must be reliable, able to work independently, and

comfortable performing outdoor and manual labor tasks. Experience operating basic equipment is preferred. Applications can be picked up at VOC, located behind the Great Smoky Cannabis Company. **4/1**

Volunteers Needed: Museum Education Advisory Committee

The Museum Education Advisory Committee (MEAC) will serve as key community advisors in supporting our mission to preserve and perpetuate the history, culture and stories of the Cherokee People. This volunteer role contributes to the development and evaluation of culturally accurate, engaging, and First Voice educational programs and resources. We

will offer volunteer credit hours to go towards program requirements for undergraduates, resumes or general experience for educators, and professional development opportunities. You must be eighteen years of age to apply. Learn more and apply at motcp.org/2026/03/9volunteers-needed. **4/1**

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-018

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
DONALD LEE SWIMMER
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against

this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fiduciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fiduciary(s) listed below. Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION
Leslie Swimmer
P.O Box 2096
Cherokee, NC 28719
4/1

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-007
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
MARY ANN JACOBS
All persons, firms and cor-



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:

- Assistant Director for Operations (evenings/weekends)
- Associate Director of Purchasing
- Facilities Renovation Coordinator
- Marketing Specialist
- Student Health Counselor
- Director of Student Retention

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- Instructor - Anthropology
- Assistant Professor - Counseling
- Assistant Professor - Marketing
- Instructor - Social Work
- Instructor/Asst Professor - Birth-Kindergarten

VISIT JOBS.WCU.EDU FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY

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Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations the application and interview process please call 828.227.7218 or email at jobs@email.wcu.edu.

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

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

Adele Jacobs Madden
379 Castlewood Lane
Sylva, NC 28779

4/8

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-011

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

LEONARD E. LOSSIAH

All persons, firms and cor-

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

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

John Edward Saloli Lossiah
P.O Box 12
Cherokee, NC 28719

4/22

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-020

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

JAMES BARNES

All persons, firms and cor-

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

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

Jordan Price
P.O Box 2383
Cherokee, NC 28719

4/15

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 22-100

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

LAWRENCE "EDDY" HILL

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

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

Sandy Hill
5395 Big Cove Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719

4/29

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

INVITATION TO BID

Re: 2026 Residential Remodeling Advertisement:

The Cherokee Housing Indian Division is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to complete Residential Remodeling Services in Cherokee, NC. CIHD-2026-44 120 J. Bradley Drive Residential Remodeling CIHD-2026-45 111 J. Bradley Drive Residential Remodeling

Please contact CIHD for additional information.

Ernest Tiger, Property Manager, Qualla Housing Services, Cherokee Indian Housing Division, PO Box 1749, 687 Acquoni Rd., Office 828-359-6748, ernetige@ebci-nsn.gov 4/1

Request for Proposals

2026 Cherokee Indian Fair Sound, Light Production,

Stage and Entertainment

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians/Destination Marketing is seeking a company to provide quality sound, lighting, a SL320 stage package, headliner, and entertainment for all productions during the Cherokee Indian Fair from October 5, 2026, through

**HAVE A PATH?
LOOKING FOR ONE?
EITHER WAY, START HERE.**

**ONE TEAM. TWO DESTINATIONS.
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

Hospitality
Culinary Arts
Beverage Service
Security
Human Resources

Accounting
Marketing
Information Tech
Surveillance
Finance
Engineering

Part-Time & Full-Time Positions Available

**Harrahs
CHEROKEE
CASINOS**



Apply online at harrahschokeejobs.com

Must be 21 or older to enter casino floor and to gamble, and must present a valid state or federal photo ID upon request. Know When To Stop Before You Start** Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4789. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. ©2026, Games Lounge Company, LLC.

JOIN OUR TEAM



**WE ARE
HIRING**

Open Positions

- Processing Lead (Edible Processing)



Apply Online
www.qualla.com/careers



More Information
828.589.8285

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

October 10, 2026. This RFP covers the requirements from a qualified contractor to provide sound, lighting, production, an SL320 stage package, secure a headliner, and entertainment for the 2026 Cherokee Indian Fair.

Proposal Submission Deadline is 4pm EST.,
April 17, 2026

For full details and Packet, contact Lisa Frady, Supervisor of Fairground Operations, Commerce Division – Destination Marketing. Mailing address: P.O. Box 460, Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Phone #: (828)788-1708.

Email: lisafrad@ebci-nsn.gov

4/15

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

For ads or subscriptions:

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

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



Home. Dinner. Family time. All on the other side.

Help animals
safely cross
mountain
highways.
Take the
pledge.



Wildlife Crossing Project
smokiessafepassage.org



Job Opportunities



Closing Sunday, April 05, 2026

- 1. Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)**
- 2. Air Quality Specialist – Environmental & Natural Resources – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)**
- 3. Programmer Analyst – Information Technology (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)**
- 4. Supervisor (WTP Maintenance Technician) – Water Treatment – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)**
- 5. Electrician Assistant/Generator Maintenance – Facility Management – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE**
- 6. Assistant Supervisor (Mother Town) – TERO (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)**

Open Until Filled

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

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



Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

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

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

9-12 Cherokee Language Instructor
9-12 Special Education Teacher- Severe and Profound

6-12 Performing Arts Teacher

7-8 Math Teacher
7-8 Language Arts Teacher

Elementary Teacher(s)
Elementary School Nurse (RN or LPN)

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)

GWY ᏍᎩ ᏄᎩᏛᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli

Ask a Therapist

A community
space for
mental wellness



Brooke Barrett
LCMHC
(Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

Submit questions for Brooke to answer in her biweekly column:
cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



OPEN POSITIONS

New Positions

Intern – Occupational Therapist
Galwodiya Program Coordinator
Patient Access Specialist – 3rd shift
Patient Access Specialist
Cook Aide – Tsali Care Center
Certified Nursing Assistant – Night Shift – Tsali
Care Center - \$5000 Hiring Bonus
Accountant I – LTC Financial Support – Tsali Care
Center

Behavioral Health

Mental Health Therapist - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
(Cherokee Central Schools, Child and Family – Snowbird, Dora
Reed, Family Safety, Family Intensive Treatment, Medication Assisted
Treatment)
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwotiyi
Targeted Case Manager – Child and Family, MAT
MAT Manager - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Residential Technician - Female - Part Time without Benefits
Assistant Director of IDD

Complementary Medicine

Acupuncturist
Massage Therapist

Dental

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

Eye Clinic

Optometrist
Optometric Assistant

Medical

Physician - Primary Care
Physician - Pediatrics
Psychiatrist
Hospitalist

Nursing

License Practical Nurse – Primary Care
Registered Nurse ED – Day Shift or Night Shift - \$10,000
Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse ED – PTI – Night Shift
RN Inpatient – Nights - PTI
Specialty Services Registered Nurse - \$10,000 Hiring
Bonus
Medical Social Worker

Nutrition

Clinical Dietician

Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner

Summer Internships

Contracting
Human Resource
Information Technology
Maintenance
Performance improvement
Physical Therapy
Primary Care
Public Relations
Radiology
Supply

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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EBCI Public Health Vending Machine Initiative locations



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GWY ᏆᏍᏍᏁ ᏄᏍᏗᏁ
 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER ᏍᏏᏁᏁᏁ ᏄᏍᏗᏁ ᏄᏍᏗᏁᏁ

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

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Holy Thursday. The Thursday before Easter, believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples. Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other. *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”* John 13:34

Good Friday. When we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10). The suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God’s plan to save his people from their sins. For Christians, Good Friday is an important day of the year because it celebrates what is believed to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation.

Easter Sunday. When Christians glorify and give thanks for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. After His crucifixion, death, burial, Christ rose from the grave three days later. By this, He conquered death and redeemed us from sin. We strive to celebrate God’s victory over the grave on this holiday. That great moment was announced by angels at the empty tomb of Christ. *“He is not here, but HE HAS RISEN. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise”?* Luke 24:6-7

Shoshoni West
from Tsisquohi (Birdtown)

CLASS OF 2026

Graduated from Colorado State University Global on January 11, 2026.
Will cross the stage on May 29.
Completed studies with honors, a Bachelors of Science in Human Services and inducted into the National Organization of Human Services Honor Society.

EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS
Show Up for Your Health

Need to cancel your appointment?

Please call your Primary Care Team 24 hours in advance.

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

CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

"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"





Pageant winner

Ziara Swayney, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Wayohi (Wolftown), won various awards at the America's Best Pageant in Knoxville, Tenn. on Saturday, March 21. She took first place in Best All-Around, Pretty Smile, and Pretty Eyes among others. (Photo courtesy of family)



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Softball homers

Ele Smith (#22), a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of Wayohi (Wolftown), hit her sixth over-the-fence home run on Tuesday, March 24. An 8th grader at Choctaw Central (Miss.) Middle School, she proudly serves as a catcher for the Choctaw Central varsity softball team. (Photo courtesy of family)



New Kituwah Academy students, families visit ramp patch

New Kituwah Academy kindergarten students and their families took a field trip on Thursday, March 26 to the ramp patch at Standing Indian Campground in Franklin, N.C. Students have been learning about the life cycle of ramps, culturally appropriate foraging practices, and will be exploring how to cook ramps next week. During the trip, students taught their family members the Cherokee words for different parts of ramps and practiced using active language in real-life settings. Osda iga gesv! Participants are shown, left to right, back row - Adrienne Ramirez, Brittany Beck, Brooke Walkingstick, Austin Thompson, Lechay Arch, Jessica Huskey, Taylor Wilnoty, Jayce Watty, Lana Littlejohn; front row - Yona Ramirez, Saloli Beck, Kuwaya Walkingstick, Ugeyudi McKinney, Nano Nulinigvgv Arch, Tsiya Huskey, Svnoyi Watson, Kawaya Waldroup, Adela Watty, Kawi Owl, and Tsodani Reed. (Photo courtesy of Kelly Murphy/New Kituwah Academy)



Elk in river

Fourth grade students at Cherokee Elementary School got to see awi equa (elk) on the afternoon of Friday, March 27 on their field trip to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. (Photo by Shele-na Ledford)



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First 5K
 Little Miss Cherokee 2025-26 Alessandra "Gitaya" Ramirez, who attends New Kituwah Academy, completed her first 5K at Kituwah, the Mother Town of the Cherokee, during the 5K Walk/Run for Cherokee Language Revitalization on Saturday, March 28. (Photo courtesy of Adrienne Ramirez)

One Feather Poem of the Week

CHAIR

Written by M J Rattler

*Rocking chair; from cradle to Grandma.
 Recliners for a nap or a movie or Superbowl.
 Synthetic leather covered chair waiting for your first and last job interview.
 Wooden familiar chair at the kitchen table.
 Musical chairs played at a celebration family meal.
 Uncomfortable chair at the doctor's office.
 Calming colored chair (germ filled),
 in the emergency room.
 Chair, you didn't think that you could sleep in, in the airport.
 Auditorium chair; applause and good deeds.
 Not enough chairs in the traffic courtroom.
 300 chairs in a classroom.
 One chair at your work desk.
 Wheelchair, a help and a hindrance.
 Empty chair, a monument to days gone by.*

*Choose your chair wisely; a sturdy one for the weight of your responsibilities,
 fashionable so that in 30 years it is a classic or the retro rage,
 in a good location with a view and beside someone and some place you love.*

Remember to give up your chair as a courtesy to others.

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



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