

FREE



EBCI seeking grant funding for three economic development projects  
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Resolution to change name of EBCI withdrawn  
Pages 12-13

# GWY ᏆᏍᏍᏁ ᏆᏍᏍᏁ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of  
anvyi (march) 11-17,  
2026

# Growing and growing

## Per capita distribution approved from cannabis sales

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Myrtle Driver Johnson, Beloved Woman of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), made history by making the first legal purchase of cannabis in the State of North Carolina on April 20, 2024 when she purchased several cannabis products at the grand opening of the Great Smoky Cannabis Company dispensary, lo-



Cannabis plants are shown growing in a hoop house at the farm in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) in Cherokee, N.C. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

see CANNABIS page 4



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- Session 5: July 12-17
- Session 6: July 19-24
- Session 7: July 26-31
- Session 8: Aug. 2-7
- Session 9: Aug. 9-14



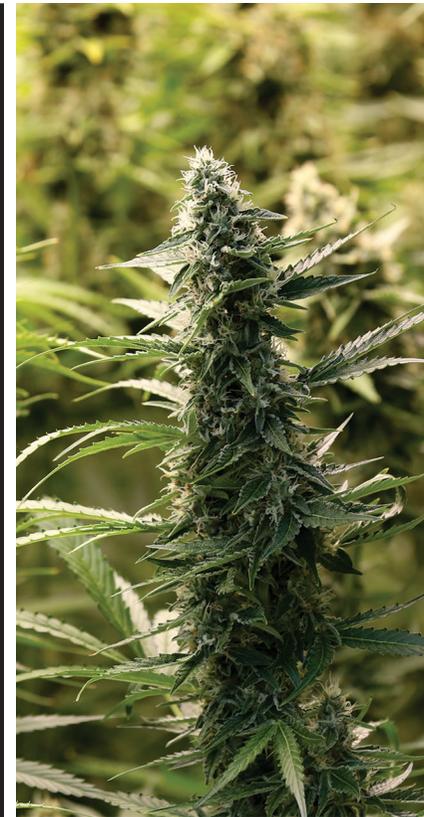
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[ymcacampwatia.org](http://ymcacampwatia.org)



### Image of the Week

This rainbow was spotted over Aniwodihhi (Painttown) in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Friday, March 6. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

### Quote of the Week

**“This milestone reflects a vision that has guided our work from the very beginning. When Qualla Enterprises was established, our purpose was clear: to build a sustainable economic engine that would create diverse opportunities, strengthen our tribal resources, and return meaningful benefits directly to our community.”**

Forrest Parker, Qualla Enterprises, LLC general manager, on the announcement of a per capita distribution to enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, beginning on April 20, from revenue generated by the Tribe's cannabis operation

### Letters Policy

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

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

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

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

#### One Feather staff

##### Editor - Robert Jumper

robejump@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6482

##### Assistant Editor - Scott McKie Brings Plenty

scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6263

##### Reporter - Brooklyn Brown

broobrow@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6264

##### Ad Sales Coordinator - Dawn Arneach

dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6489

##### Subscription Clerk - Indica Climbingbear

indiclim1@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6262

**CANNABIS:** From front page

located in Cherokee, N.C. Now, two years later to the day, EBCI tribal members will see the fruits of the labor from that cannabis operation in the form of a per capita distribution.

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) approved Ord. No. 112 (2026) during its regular session on Thursday, March 5, 2026 which amends Cherokee Code Chapter 117 “to provide for the distribution of certain revenues from Qualla Enterprises, LLC to the Tribe and tribal members”.

The Great Smoky Cannabis Company is run by Qualla Enterprises, LLC, an entity of the EBCI. It opened for medical cannabis sales on April 20, 2024. Adult-use (21+) cannabis sales to EBCI tribal members and members of other federally recognized tribes began on July 4, 2024; and sales of adult-use cannabis for everyone began on Sept. 7, 2024. Qualla Enterprises, LLC operates both the dispensary and a cannabis farm located in Tsiqwohi (Birdtown) in Cherokee, N.C.

Forrest Parker, Qualla Enterprises, LLC general manager, told the One Feather, “Qualla Enterprises is proud to announce a per capita distribution to enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, beginning on April 20, 2026. This milestone reflects a vision that has guided our work from the very beginning.

When Qualla Enterprises was established, our purpose was clear: to build a sustainable economic engine that would create diverse opportunities, strengthen our tribal resources, and return meaningful benefits directly to our community. From day one, our goal has



Myrtle Driver Johnson, left, Beloved Woman of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), makes the first legal purchase of cannabis in the State of North Carolina as the Great Smoky Cannabis Company, located in Cherokee, N.C., opened officially on the morning of Saturday, April 20, 2024 for sales of medical cannabis. Eric Bird, right, an EBCI tribal member and employee at the Great Smoky Cannabis Company, showed her products and made the first sale.

been to ensure that the success of this enterprise translates into real value for the members of our community.

This distribution is one significant step in that journey—and a testament to the power of our sovereignty. By reinvesting the success of this industry into our

transform an ambitious idea into a thriving enterprise that enhances the welfare of our people. We must continue on our path to strengthen our sovereignty and solidarity from within our own community.

As we move forward, Qualla Enterprises remains dedicated to responsible growth, transparency,

**If you have any further questions regarding this per capita distribution, call (828) 359-7065.**

people, we are working to create long-term stability and generational wealth for our community. We are demonstrating what is possible for an industry built by and for the Cherokee people.”

Parker added, “We are grateful to the many tribal leaders, employees, partners, and community members who helped make this vision a reality. Their commitment and hard work have helped

and continued reinvestment in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. We are committed to supporting our community today, while creating opportunities for generations to come.”

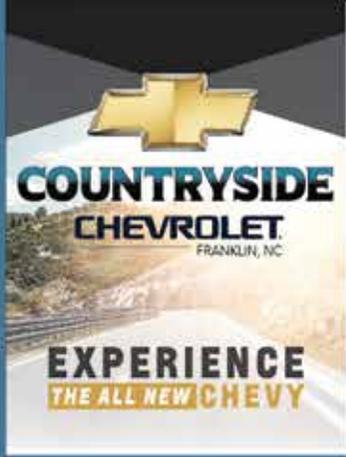
Information from the EBCI tribal government website (ebci.gov) states, “The first Qualla Enterprises per capita payments will be issued on April 20, 2026. Going forward, these payments will

be made annually in April with the specific issuance date being determined each year. If a member is enrolled in the GenWell program, they will receive the payment as GenWell, and it will not be taxed. If the adult is not enrolled in the GenWell program, they will receive the payment as per capita and be subjective to taxes. We will not withhold taxes from this payment, but if the member receives this payment as per capita and they receive a 2026 1099, this payment will be included as taxable income on the 1099.”

It further states, “The Finance Office will make the payment in the method that we have on file via a mailed check or a direct deposit. The deadline to make direct deposit changes at the Finance Office for this payment is March 20, 2026. The deadline to make mailing address changes at the Enrollment Office for this payment is March 13, 2026.”

It continues, “No garnishments will be withheld from this first payment. We will re-visit this issue to determine whether garnishments will be withheld from the April 2027 distribution. Distributions to minors and incompetents will be held in a Qualla Minors Fund account.”

That information further states on the Qualla Minors Fund, “Distributions from the Qualla Minors Fund account will occur annually on the same day that Qualla Enterprises per capita payments are made. To qualify for the payment, minors must have received a gaming per capita/GenWell payment in December of the previous calendar year. The first distribution from the Qualla Minors Fund will be in April 2027.”



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# EBCI seeking grant funding for three economic development projects

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is seeking \$50 million in grants for three economic development projects on the Qualla Boundary (Cherokee, N.C.).

During a special called session on Tuesday, March 3, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) approved Res. No. 134 (2026) which approves “The EBCI Division of Commerce, as the lead agency in a coalition with Kituwah Structured Services LLC, is authorized to apply for and accept funds from the EDA (U.S. Economic Development Administration) in the estimated amount of \$50,000,000 for a total project amount of \$71,724,300 for FY2026-28”.

The resolution was submitted by Brandi Claxton, EBCI secretary of treasury, who said that the EDA will look at each of three projects independently and could award funding for one, two, or all three. She added, “For this grant, if we are awarded it, we can make changes to the design as long as still fits the overall use. So, what we have submitted in the application is not set in stone.”

The three projects, as outlined in Exhibit A in Res. No. 134, include:

- **Qualla Commons** at the old Cherokee Elementary School site
  - Total Project Cost: \$34,959,300
  - Total Tribal Portion: \$14,371,300
  - Federal Grant Portion: \$20,588,000



The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is seeking \$50 million in grants for three economic development projects on the Qualla Boundary (Cherokee, N.C.). Two of which are planned for the old Cherokee Elementary School site shown in this photo on the morning of Wednesday, March 4. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

- **Movie Theatre Expansion**

- Total Project Cost: \$14,615,000
- Total Tribal Portion: \$2,923,000
- Federal Grant Portion: \$11,692,000

- **Resort Hotel** next to the old Cherokee Elementary School site

- Total Project Cost: \$22,150,000
- Total Tribal Portion: \$4,430,000
- Federal Grant Portion: \$17,720,000

Dinilawigi Taline Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Vice Chairman) David Wolfe made the motion to pass Res. No. 134 and stated, “We had discussions on these, lengthy discussions, and all three are noble projects that we’ve been looking forward to moving and trying to get the funds to do these, and this

grant would certainly help in those endeavors.”

Sean Ross, EBCI secretary of commerce, spoke about the project for the old Cherokee Elementary School site. “We’re in the process of finalizing renderings for this space based on the CEDs (Community Economic Development) report and some of the needs, wants, and wishes of the community which we’ve incorporated into this space. This space encapsulates 22.5 acres. It is in and around the elementary school site.”

Within that space, Secretary Ross said they are planning a splash pad, an ice rink, a bicycle pump track, an alpine coaster, a

satellite Indian Village including pavilions and demonstration area, a retail sector in the middle of the space, artist studios, a food truck area, a zip line and ropes course, an enhanced riverwalk space, and additional green space.

He noted, “We can make adjustments within this, but just be mindful that it has to be within the realm, due to the grant parameters, of economic development.” Jeremiah Wiggins, Kituwah LLC chief investment and analytics officer, said the resort hotel will be a 90-key operation from one of the three major brands – Wyndham, Marriot, and Hilton.

He also spoke on the expansion of the theatre property. “The other component would be a family entertainment center which would be an expansion of the existing theatre property that is already there – 20,000 square feet consisting of 10,400 square feet of sports simulators, VR rooms – six golf, six baseball, one VR; 5,625 square foot 75-unit redemption arcade; and a 3,900 square foot two-meal period, casual dining restaurant, 155 seats.”

Nine of the Dinilawigi representatives voted to approve Res. No. 134. Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee Co.) Rep. Michael Smoker and Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer were absent. Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather abstained noting prior to the vote, “I’m going to abstain from this vote until I can hear back from my community.”



**Update on Whitewater Landing paving**

Several weeks ago, we published a photo of the trail around Whitewater Landing, off of Whitewater Dr. in Cherokee, N.C., which is being paved with concrete. You can see the progress, which is almost completed, in this photo taken on the morning of Wednesday, March 4, 2026. The project opened in August 2025, and Sean Ross, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians secretary of commerce, spoke during the opening of the ongoing improvements that will occur at the site. At that time, he noted, "This is something that we can continue to build on, continue to develop, and continue to be proud of within your vision." (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

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# EBCI tribal legislative updates

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

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

for the week.

## New Ordinances

**Ord. No. 135 (2026)** – This ordinance seeks to establish a hunting season for elk on the lands of the EBCI.

The whereas section of the legislation states, “Currently, the Tribe allows for the hunting of various animals, but not elk; and it is now possible to establish a limited elk season which balances increased hunting opportunities for enrolled members and the responsible management of the elk population on tribal lands.”

This ordinance seeks several changes to Cherokee Code Chapter 113 including removing the word “elk” from Sec. 113-5(a)(6) which currently states, “It shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, kill, or take any

bird of prey or elk.”

It also seeks to add subsection (g) in Section 113-8 (Big Game) as follows:

(g) The season for hunting elk shall be Oct. 1 through Nov. 1.

(1) Hunting elk shall be by permit only as issued by the Natural Resources Department.

(2) The bag limit for elk is one per permit.

(3) A hunting license is not a substitute for an elk hunting permit.

(4) The Natural Resources Department shall adopt rules, including but not limited to the manner of taking, harvest reporting systems, and permit fees and allocation methods to regulate elk hunting.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by the EBCI Natural Resources Dept. and the Timber Committee, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Recent Action: Per Cherokee Code Sec. 117-38(a), all ordinances must set for 25 calendar days prior to being acted upon.

**Ord. No. 136 (2026)** – This ordinance seeks to “establish the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ digital sovereignty”.

The whereas section states, “Digital sovereignty encompasses:

- Tribal governance over network infrastructure (broadband, internet service providers, communications)
- Control and stewardship of tribal data (collection, storage, sharing, privacy)
- Self-determined digital policy frameworks that reflect Indigenous values and community needs
- Using digital infrastructure to support education, healthcare, public safety, economic development, and community services under tribal control.”

The whereas goes on to state, “Digital infrastructure and access remain uneven across Indian Country. Developing an Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians digital sovereignty law offers a roadmap to build and govern our infrastructure – tailored to our needs, not imposed from outside. Empowering tribal control of data and tech supports broader sovereignty: economic development, public safety, community health, education, climate resilience, natural resources protection, and cultural preservation.”

There were no changes to the Cherokee Code referenced in this proposed ordinance.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Wayohi (Wolfstown) Rep. Mike Parker, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Recent Action: Per Cherokee Code Sec. 117-38(a), all ordinances must set for 25 calendar days prior to being acted upon.

**Ord. No. 137 (2026)** – This ordinance seeks “to amend Tribal law to provide that distributions from the Minor’s Trust Fund to eligible enrolled members may be made as part of the Tribe’s Gen-Well program, and not subject to federal income tax, when the distributions comply with requirements of the General Welfare Exclusion adopted by the Internal Revenue Service.”

The whereas section states, “Historically, per capita distributions from the Minor’s Trust Fund have been subject to federal income taxation; and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service has issued guidance, or is expected to issue guidance, providing that distributions from the Minor’s Trust Fund

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to eligible enrolled members may satisfy GWE (General Welfare Exclusion) requirements and therefore be free from federal taxation as income.”

The ordinance proposes minor language changes to Cherokee Code Chapter 16C (Gaming Revenue Allocation Plan) to make the above amendments regarding GenWell.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by EBCI Attorney General Michael McConnell and EBCI Secretary of the Treasury Brandi Claxton, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Recent Action: Per Cherokee Code Sec. 117-38(a), all ordinances must set for 25 calendar days prior to being acted upon.

### Legislation we're currently watching

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

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Cherokee Chief Justice Bradley Letts, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025.

Recent Action: This ordinance was tabled again during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

### Recently Passed

**Ord. No. 108 (2026)** – This

ordinance, which has been deemed the William Thomas “Dooley” Saunooke law, amends Cherokee Code Sec. 113-4 to codify the actions of fishing guides.

The ordinance adds a section to Cherokee Code Sec. 113-4 entitled ‘Fishing Guides’ that reads as follows:

(a) A ‘fishing guide’ is defined as someone who provides knowledge, instruction, or assistance to an angler during a fishing trip for payment or other remuneration from or on behalf of the angler. This term does not include fishing instructors acting on behalf of Cherokee Central Schools or the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

(b) Fishing guides must have a valid fishing license issued by the Department.

(c) Fishing guide licenses may only be issued to: (1) An enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. (2) A parent of an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. (3) A spouse of an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Introduced: This ordinance was submitted by Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman) Jim Owle and Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

Recent Action: This ordinance was passed 10-2 during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026. The two dissenting votes were Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper and Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Venita Wolfe.

### Killed or Withdrawn

**Ord. No. 107 (2026)** – This ordinance sought to amend several portions of Cherokee Code re-

garding the filing and publishing of ethics reports generated by the EBCI Office of Internal Audit and Ethics.

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

Following are some of the changes that were sought in this ordinance:

- Amend Cherokee Code Sec. 96-6(a) to change the time “any covered employee who believes that he or she has been subject to prohibited discrimination found in Cherokee Code Section 96-5” from 180 calendar days to 30 calendar days.
- Amend Cherokee Code Sec. 117-45.1(a)(1) regarding the definition of “Tribal Official” as it relates to appointed positions.
- Amend Cherokee Code Sec. 117-45.3(k) regarding reporting of gifts and donations by tribal officials. Right now, the Code reads, “Tribal officials shall report to the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics, in accordance with that office’s rules of procedure, any gift, donation, or contribution received or provided by the tribal official.” The ordinance seeks to amend that line to insert “in excess of \$200 in value” after the word contribution.
- Amend several parts of Cherokee Code Sec. 117-107 regarding reports from both audits and inves-

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

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

Recent Action: This ordinance was withdrawn during the Dinilawigi session of Thursday, March 5, 2026 at the request of Ugviyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks. He noted that a new version may be submitted following discussions at a work session held Monday, March 2, 2026.

**Ord. No. 110 (2026)** – This ordinance sought to amend Cherokee Code Chapter 40 (Eminent Domain) regarding condemnation of land for public purpose, compensation of land holder, and determination of land value.

see EBCI LEGISLATIVE next page

**EBCI LEGISLATIVE:** From page 9

One part of this ordinance sought to amend Cherokee Code Sec. 40-1 which now reads, "The Tribe shall have power to condemn land within the Cherokee Indian Reservation whenever such land is deemed by the Tribal Council to be necessary for a public purpose. The exercise of eminent domain shall be initiated by the Tribal Council passing a resolution identifying the land to be taken for a public purpose, the possessory holder and leasehold tenants and the purpose for which the land will be used."

The ordinance sought to add the following sentence to the end of the above section, "Eminent domain shall also include inverse condemnation of a possessory

holding that may have occurred by any action of the Tribe that restricts, hinders, or otherwise interferes with a possessory holder's access to or use of a possessory holding."

Introduced: This ordinance was submitted by Robert Osley Saunooke during the Dinilawigi regular session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

Recent Action: This ordinance was killed unanimously during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

**Ord. No. 111 (2026)** – This ordinance sought to amend Cherokee Code Chapter 1 (Civil Procedure). The whereas section states, "Tribal Council has the power and authority to amend the laws of the Tribe to provide a means for recovering

damages for the negligent actions of the Tribe, its agents and employees; and since the Supreme Court decision in Campos (Cherokee Supreme Court, Campos vs Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, August 2024), the Tribe has continued to maintain and pay for insurance policies to cover negligent actions of the Tribe, its agents and employees, even though said policies are now invalidated by the Supreme Court decision; and the Tribe has continually maintained and promoted the responsibility for covering damages arising from the negligent and bad actions of the Tribe, its agents and employees, and there is now no mechanism in place that would prevent innocent victims of negligent or bad actions of the Tribe."

Introduced: This ordinance

was submitted by Robert Osley Saunooke during the Dinilawigi regular session on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

Recent Action: This ordinance was withdrawn during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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

**5K WALK/RUN FOR  
CHEROKEE LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION**

**When: Saturday March 28, 2026**

**Where: Kituwah Field (Ferguson Fields)**

**Open registration is from 8am-10:30am  
5K starts at 11am**

March is Indigenous Languages Month for our GWY community. To celebrate this, adult second language learners are creating a community free event in efforts to bring language and health to our people. The event will be a 5K walk/run for GWY Language Revitalization during the morning-afternoon hours of March 28<sup>th</sup> Along with the 5K we to plan on having songs, social dances, and storytelling during the event. The event will be held at our Mother Town, also known as Kituwah Fields, as this place is central to our history and where our language began.

YSG ᏍᏏᏉ

**Event Organizer:**

**Madison Hye Long - ᏅᏍᏏᏉ ᏅᏍᏏᏉ  
828.736.4335  
madisonhye1@gmail.com**



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# Ordinance proposing changes to judicial code tabled

By BROOKLYN BROWN  
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Bradley Letts, a member of the EBCI, has submitted an ordinance proposing changes to the judicial code, Chapter 7 of the Cherokee Code, that has now been tabled four times to work

session with the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council).

Letts makes the proposals based on Chapter 7-21(2) which reads, "The Chief Justice shall make an annual report to the Tribal Council at the Annual Council concerning the following issues... (2) "Suggested clarifications, changes or additions, if any, to the Cherokee Code to facilitate the administration of justice;"

Having started his position in 2024, Letts opted to use his first year to experience the system and see what changes might need to be made. After concluding his annual report, Letts suggested wording changes to the code and an additional associate justice. Letts implemented a five-week session schedule for 2025 to 2030 for the Supreme Court. The

Supreme Court has a 3-person panel including the Chief Justice and two associate justices. Letts said the 3-person panel would not change, but there would now be an additional justice who can fill in if another justice is not able to be there. The additional associate justice, like the other associate justices, would be a part-time temporary employee paid by the hour. Justices are nominated by the Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) and confirmed by Dinilawigi. The Chief Justice serves a term of six years, and the associate justices serve four years.

Letts argues that the additional justice would improve the timeliness of opinions by maintaining court schedules in the absence of a justice. Letts said the assignment of associate justices to cases would be a random selection similar to the federal court system.

Letts said that concerns were raised for "legislating from the bench," if the Chief Justice makes proposals to the code. Letts said, "There has to be a bench," arguing that a trial must be in motion for legislating from the bench to occur. Letts argued that Chapter 7-21(2) codifies making suggestions for changes and clarifications to the judicial code as an inherent aspect of his position as Chief Justice.

The changes were discussed again at the Dinilawigi session on

the morning of Thursday, March 5. Brenda Toineeta Pipestem, a member of the EBCI who served on the Cherokee Supreme Court for 25 years, said, "I'm here today to request that we table this particular amendment item for further work. The work of the court, the work of the judiciary is incredibly important and words matter. We do not want to inadvertently pass law that's going to harm us as a tribe."

Pipestem goes on to specifically point out Sec. 7-2 Jurisdiction of the Judicial Branch, which says in part, "The territory of the Eastern Band [of Cherokee Indians (added by Letts)] is comprised of all lands within the Qualla Boundary..." In Letts' ordinance, the "all lands within the Qualla Boundary" would be removed. Read the full ordinance here.

Pipestem said removing those words could limit jurisdiction as there are fee lands within the Qualla Boundary that we could lose jurisdiction over.

The ordinance was tabled with a motion by Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper, seconded by Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Venita Wolfe. Three voted to oppose, including Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather, and Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer.

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# Resolution to change name of EBCI withdrawn

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Following a lengthy discussion, a resolution that sought to change the name of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to Eastern Cherokee Nation was withdrawn during the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) session on Thursday, March 5. Res. No. 147, submitted by former Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Patrick Lambert and EBCI Beloved Woman Myrtle Driver Johnson, was withdrawn unanimously.

The resolution states, “The people known today as the Eastern

Band of Cherokee Indians are the direct descendants of the historic and original Cherokee Nation, a sovereign Indigenous nation which existed since time immemorial and maintained continuous presence and governance in the mountains of western North Carolina; and the designation ‘Eastern Band’ did not originate from Cherokee tradition, law, or self-identification, but was an external administrative label applied by federal and state officials in the 19th century to describe us, the Cherokees, who remained in the east following the Removal of 1938-39.”

It further states, “The Tribe’s incorporation under North Carolina law in 1889 cemented this externally imposed label – ‘Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ – for purposes of landholding and state

governance, and not as a reflection of Cherokee cultural identity, sovereignty, or political continuity; and the Cherokee people who remained in their homeland were not a ‘band’ or subordinate segment of another tribe, but a sovereign community, led by their own leaders, living on lands acquired by themselves and on their behalf by William Holland Thomas, and continuing the governance and identity of the Cherokee Nation.”

During discussion on the resolution on Thursday, former Ugvwiyuhi Lambert noted, “This is something that I think, for our children and our grandchildren, and all future generations to be known as a nation is of vital importance.

The Cherokee Nation has even said publicly that we’re just a

splinter group, we’re just a band, we’re not to be taken seriously in other words...so I think we need to take our rightful place in nations and stop being a band. Because, if you say, ‘band of the Cherokees’, then that means that we’re just a splinter group or we’re an arm of the Cherokee Nation.”

He added, “With everything that’s recently happened...it’s time to take that step and remove the colonial attachment of calling us a band whenever, really and truly, we are a nation. We have our own courts. We pass our own laws. We govern ourselves. That’s more than a band does...we’re not part of that larger government in Oklahoma. We are our own tribe, and I think it’s vitally important that we stand up and recognize that.”

Dallas Bennett, an EBCI tribal

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**MARCH 28**

**COMMUNITY EASTER EVENT**

**MARCH 31**

member who serves as a constituent services representative in the Office of Taline Ugvwiyu (Vice Chief) Alan B. Ensley, commented, "I'm a proud member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and I do not agree with this legislation."

He explained his position. "First, changing the official name of this tribe is not just symbolic. It would require changing a tremendous number of things limited not only to our tribal seal, our flag, government documents, signage, legal records, and notifying countless state and federal agencies. Second, we have operated as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for generations. Under that name, we have entered into countless compacts, contracts, grants, and other legal agreements. That name

carries legal weight and stability. Third, I don't believe it sends a good message for us to suddenly change our name after all these years. Our identity as Cherokee people has remained strong and consistent. We don't shift our identity the way other groups sometimes do. We are a sovereign people and a nation and that has never been in question. But, I believe the name we have carried for generations should remain the name we continue to stand under."

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather said she encourages further discussion on the issue. "I have been, kind of batting this back and forth in my brain as well and, in my opinion, from where I sit, I think that nothing in English can name us. Nothing in English is who we are. And, so

I think that if we are going to entertain or discuss a name change, that name change needs to come in our original language in representation of the original people, of who we've always been. I am in full support of talking about this and continuing this conversation. I believe that it does deserve meaningful, intentional conversation. And, I think that we absolutely should think about changing it back to our original language. Nation, band, all of those English terms, for me, don't hit the same as our original language."

She supports the idea of the issue going to a referendum vote. "I love the idea of going to all of our community clubs and having this discussion. I also think that I can't determine this myself, and I don't think that this body should determine this. I think if we're going to talk about us being a nation or a community, or whatever we want to call...the people - we're actually the people - that the people need to make this determination. It does need to go to, I believe, a referendum and I also think that there needs to be some constitutional talk that is included with this conversation. We are in the process of writing our own constitution."

Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper said he agrees with Rep. Feather. "We are elected by our constituents to make decisions, but this is a decision that all members of the tribe should have a say in. And, for us to sit here and put our own personal interests forward to what we want to do here, I just think that's out of place."

He further stated, "There are legal ramifications. There are financial ramifications. These are put in place for a reason and to

say that we should just wave our hands and change our name on a whim, I don't believe that that's our duty. We give these types of decisions to the people."

Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle said he didn't agree with the proposed name change. On the issue of the words 'band' and 'nation', he commented, "The band says a local unit. Well, if that's the case then we are a band because we are local in the place we originated."

He added, "My people are saying no. I even had a text a while ago that a referendum would be a waste of money."

Myself, personally, I don't agree with it...I've probably gotten more comments on this than anything that's ever been on the agenda since I've been on Council, going on my ninth year here."

Ugvwiyuhi Michell Hicks commented, "With the feedback that I've had, it's not been positive. But, I will say, it's good to talk about these kinds of things. I think it's very important."

We went through a period of time to where we are now 'citizens', and I've never had a comfort level with that. I'm a community member. I'm a tribal member. And, at the end of the day, principally, I'm an enrolled member. But, we've all got perspective. That is my perspective. I'm a member. I'm not a citizen. That's just the way I look at it. But, I think this is triggering really good conversation."

He further said, "There would be a lot to change - agreements and contracts and everything that we do at the federal level would have to change. This is not an easy task."



Cherokee Indians Housing Division's (CIHD) Financial Lending Services Program, congratulates our new homeowner! CIDH was happy to assist with Down Payment Assistance and Rate Buy Down Funds for Mr. Aidan Allison on the purchase of his home in the Birdtown Community!



Congratulations, Aidan on becoming a homeowner!! We would like to thank Aidan for allowing CIHD to assist him in making his homeownership dream become a reality. Congratulations!!!

# Resolution passes for Birdtown Community Club to receive annual funding

By BROOKLYN BROWN  
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the afternoon of Thursday, March 5, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) voted to pass a resolution granting Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Community Club a one-time waiver to receive the \$10,000 awarded to each community club annually. The Community Club Council had withheld Tsisqwohi's funding due to Tsisqwohi officers having not met the attendance requirement of four Community Club Council meetings as established by Res. No. 557 (2023).

Read the resolution here that was submitted by Tsisqwohi Community Club Chairman Joey Owle, Vice Chairman Mason White, Secretary Heather Owle, and Treasurer Deb Slee.

Owle and Owle addressed Dinilawigi. Chairman Owle stated, "We were supposed to have attended four meetings. I assumed that we had attended those meetings because we had gone to eight total, but they said that five of them didn't count because they were a different type of meeting."

Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep.



Tsisqwohi Anetso (Birdtown Stickball) plays an exhibition game during Birdtown Day on the afternoon of July 26, 2025, in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown). (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

Shannon Swimmer explained that there are Community Club Council meetings held every other month that community club officers are supposed to attend, and then there are special meetings with Executive, Cherokee Indian Police Department, and other entities of the tribe. Those meetings do not count towards the attendance requirement.

Owle went on to say that Community Club Council meetings often coincide with Tsisqwohi's monthly meetings. Secretary Owle said some of the Tsisqwohi officers also had serious health issues that prevented them from attending meetings.

The resolution passed with a motion by Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle, seconded by

Wayohi nole Widagalinidisgv (Wolfstown and Big Y) Rep. Mike Parker. Four voted to oppose, including Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Venita Wolfe, and Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer.

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# EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION



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

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
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## MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH! TAKE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE PHS SOCIAL WORK STRENGTH

### Meet Pam!

Medical Social Worker for Tribal In-Home Care Services

Bachelor's of Social Work (Western Carolina University)



"I enjoy supporting and advocating for patients and their families... in navigating the healthcare system, addressing emotional, social, and financial challenges related to medical conditions and helping to find the appropriate resources."

Pam is a longtime advocate of the social work profession. She joined Tribal In-Home Care Services in 2019 and has been serving WNC since 1996.

ᎠᎩᎠ Sgi, Pam!

## Attention EBCI Artists/Craftspeople

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



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A-NV-YI MARCH

SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2026

# Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

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

## New this week

### **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.

## 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 Committee on the Judiciary as well as the Committee on Natural Resources on July 23, 2025. There are no hearings scheduled for this bill in either committee as of press

time.

### **S.2452 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act).**

According to the legislation text, this Senate bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4712.

Introduced: July 24, 2025 by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 24, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

### **S.2564 (Tribal Gaming Regulatory Compliance Act).**

The opening text of the bill states it is “to ensure all federally recognized Tribes that are eligible for gaming in the United States are regulated under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act”.

It specifically seeks to amend Public Law 100-89 (Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act). Section 3 of the bill states, “This Act shall be construed to ensure the full applicability of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701) to gaming activities on Indian lands of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Indian lands of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe.”

Introduced: July 31, 2025 by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 31, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

see LEGISLATIVE next page

**LEGISLATIVE:** From page 17

S.2577 (McCarran-Walter Technical Corrections Act). This Senate bill, according to its text, would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4596.

Introduced: July 31, 2025 by Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 31, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**House Resolution 666 (Supporting the goals of Overdose Awareness Day and strengthening efforts to combat the opioid crisis in the United States).** This House resolution states in part, “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 acknowledgement to the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 11, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**S. 2832 (Native American Entrepreneurial and Opportunity Act of 2025).** This bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration.

Introduced: Sen. John W. Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) on Sept. 17, 2025

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

**H.R. 5488 (To extend funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians).** This bill would amend Title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. It would appropriate “\$160,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to remain available until expended”.

Introduced: Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) on Sept. 18, 2025

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

**H.R. 5739 (Italian Heroes and Heritage Act).** This House bill would, according to the legislation, “prohibit federal funds from being provided to any state or local government that celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day”. Section 2(a) (1) of this bill states, “Christopher Columbus set sail 533 years ago in 1492 to bravely cross the Atlantic Ocean and discovered new land that would soon after become known as America.”

Section 2(b) states, “It is the

sense of Congress that Oct. 13 should continue to be celebrated nationwide as Christopher Columbus Day, as it has been since 1892, to honor our Italian-American heritage and our forefather, Christopher Columbus, who helped to discover this great land.”

Introduced: Rep. Michael A. Rulli (R-Ohio) on Oct. 10, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Oct. 10, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**S. Res. 450. (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture).** The resolution states, “Columbus Day does not currently provide an opportunity to reflect on the stories and perseverance of the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that are now part of the United States; and where, prior to western contact, Indigenous Peoples lived and flourished in the lands that are now part of the United States for thousands of years”.

Introduced: Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) on Oct. 14, 2025

Action: This resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Oct. 14, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. Res. 809 (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to celebrate and honor In-**

**Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture).**

This House resolution is identical to S. Res. 450 (above).

Introduced: Rep. Norma J. Torres (D-Calif) on Oct. 14, 2025

Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 14, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**S.3041 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act).**

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

Introduced: Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) on Oct. 23, 2025

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

**H.R. 5820 (Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe Recognition Act).**

This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe of California and Nevada, a group based in Lee Vining, Calif.

Introduced: Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.) on Oct. 24, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 24, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 5869 (Tribal Water Infrastructure Grants Expansion Act).**

This House bill would “amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to assistance for Indian Tribes”.

According to the bill, “In addition to amounts otherwise made avail-

able 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.

**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 federal government will be protected to the maximum extent possible; (4) to advance repatriation of cultural items, including human remains, under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); and (5) to strengthen support for the policy of the United States of protecting and preserving traditional, cultural, and ceremonial rites and practices in accordance with Public Law 95-341 (commonly known as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act).

Introduced: Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.) on Nov. 20, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 20, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**S. 3767 (A bill to establish Assistant Secretary for Indian Health).**

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

**LEGISLATIVE:** From page 19

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

**H.R. 7325 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2026).** This House bill would establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies “to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Policies, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American people”. If passed, an initial Commission Report would be required

within four years and annual reports would be required from that point on.

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

Action: This House bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Committee on Education and Workforce on Feb. 3, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**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 orga-

nizations 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.

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>

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Oysters can change genders back and forth.
- If the earth doubled in size, trees would fall over and dogs couldn't run without breaking a leg, due to the doubling of surface gravity.
- While we like to alter and decorate them, earlobes don't have any true biological purpose.
- Unlike any other rocky planet in the solar system, Mars isn't actually round, but shaped more like a rugby ball, with different sizes along its three axes.
- Platypuses sweat milk.
- Sorry, dieters, but there's no such thing as a zero-calorie food. Even things like celery and watercress contain more energy than the body needs to process them.
- Odors can pass through liquid.
- In 2013, an Indian woman was so badly constipated that doctors finally had to remove a football-size fecal mass from her body.
- A penguin can reach depths of up to 550 meters in a single dive.
- Research suggests that if you sleep badly and wake up multiple times during the night, you'll be more likely to recall any dreams you had.
- A lightning bolt is five times hotter than the surface of the sun.
- The world record for underwater breath-holding was set by Budimir Sobat in 2021, who held his breath for a total of 24 minutes and 37 seconds. Us average Joes, on the other hand, can typically hold ours between 30-90 seconds.
- You have a 50% chance of sharing a birthday with a friend.
- Wondering if you'll need an umbrella soon? Try looking at a pine cone. If it's closed, the air is humid and rain could be on the way.
- There are more algae in the oceans than stars in the universe.

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**Thought for the Day:** “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” — *Mark Twain*

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**Untreated Wastewater  
Discharge reported in  
Oconaluftee River Basin**

**Submitted by Cherokee Water &  
Sewer Program**

CHEROKEE, NC – In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1C, the Cherokee Water & Sewer Department is reporting an untreated wastewater discharge that occurred on March 5.

The incident involved an estimated 5,000 gallons of untreated wastewater, resulting from a discharge at 319 Big Cove Rd. The wastewater entered the Oconaluftee River, located in the Oconaluftee River Basin.

The Division of Water Resources was notified of the event on March 5 and is currently reviewing the matter.

For more information regarding this incident, please contact the Cherokee Water & Sewer Programs at (828) 359-6106.

**CIPD Arrest Report for  
Feb. 23 to March 1, 2026**

*The following people were arrested by the Cherokee Indian Police Department and booked into the Anthony Edward Lossiah Justice Center. It should be noted that the following defendants have only been charged with the crimes listed and should be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Mugshots can be viewed online at theonefeather.com.*

Ensley Jr., Paul – age 62  
Arrested: Feb. 23  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 2)  
Charges: Possession of a Contraband Substance

Driver, Richard McAdoo – age 51  
Arrested: Feb. 24  
Released: Feb. 25  
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Hopkins, Matthew Scott – age 35  
Arrested: Feb. 24  
Released: Feb. 27  
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Crowe, John Everette – age 53  
Arrested: Feb. 25  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 2)  
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Probation Violation

Littlejohn, McKinley David – age 64  
Arrested: Feb. 25  
Released: Feb. 25  
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation, Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Mitchell, Joshua Lloyd – age 28  
Arrested: Feb. 25  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 2)  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Brady Sr., Billy Joe – age 58  
Arrested: Feb. 26  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 2)  
Charges: Drug Trafficking

Cruz, Yona Awigadh – age 40  
Arrested: Feb. 26  
Released: Feb. 27  
Charges: Second Degree Trespass

Davis, Camille Yvonne – age 35  
Arrested: Feb. 26  
Released: Feb. 26  
Charges: Second Degree Trespass

McCoy, Douglas Pearson – age 35  
Arrested: Feb. 26  
Released: Feb. 27  
Charges: Public Intoxication

Wilnoty Jr., Michael Warren – age 34  
Arrested: Feb. 26  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 2)  
Charges: Resisting Public Officer

Armachain Jr., Steven – age 43  
Arrested: Feb. 27  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 2)  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Probation Violation

George, Elizabeth Serena – age 28  
Arrested: Feb. 27  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 2)  
Charges: Failure to Appear on

Misdemeanor

Tooni, Norman – age 69  
Arrested: Feb. 27  
Released: Feb. 27  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Assault on Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer

Locust, Richard Fred-Hawk – age 24  
Arrested: Feb. 28  
Released: Feb. 28  
Charges: Weapons Offense

Chambers, Jeffery Scott – age 61  
Arrested: March 1  
Released: March 1  
Charges: Driving While Impaired, Hold Until Sober

Teesateskie, Kaos – age 21  
Arrested: March 1  
Released: March 1  
Charges: Driving While Impaired

**GWY ᏫᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏆᏚᏗᏍᏔᏅ**  
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# Cherokee Tribal Court Disposition Summary for Feb. 1-28

Submitted by Cherokee Tribal Court

*Note: The following cases were disposed of in Cherokee Tribal Court during the time period of Feb. 1-28. The date of each offense is in parenthesis.*

Arch, Robert L.

- Fail Wear Seat Belt-Rear Seat (Sept. 24, 2023). Guilty/Responsible

Arkansas, Steven W.

- Simple Assault (Nov. 23, 2025). PJC. Prayer for Judgement continued for 6 months.

Bacigalupi, Dylan M.

- Drug Trafficking (Feb. 20, 2026). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

Beck, Jackie L.

- Drive Left of Center (June 26, 2025). VD.  
- Rear Lamps Violation (Sept. 7, 2025). VD.

Begtrup, Jennifer K.

- Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (July 31, 2025). Guilty. 8 months, suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation.  
- Criminal Conspiracy (July 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  
- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (July 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Bernhisel, Chad L.

- Second Degree Trespass (Feb. 2, 2026). Guilty.  
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Feb. 2, 2026). Guilty.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Feb. 2, 2026). Guilty.  
- Second Degree Trespass (Feb. 2, 2026). Guilty.  
- Larceny (Oct. 12, 2025). Guilty.  
- Second Degree Trespass (Oct. 12, 2025). Guilty. 12 months probation, suspended. 12 months supervised probation.  
- Receiving or Possessing Stolen Property (May 25, 2013). Dismissed.

Blackfox, Charles B.

- No Operators License (Jan. 28, 2026) No contest/Responsible.

Bowling, Hannah M.

- Fail Wear Seat Belt - Rear Seat (Nov. 6, 2024). Guilty/Responsible.

Bradley, Judson G.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Jan. 14, 2026). VD, other.

Bryson, Sally J.

- Speeding (March 28, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.  
- No Operators License (March 28, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.  
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 6, 2024). VD.  
- Speeding (Nov. 25, 2025). VD.  
- DWLR (Nov. 25, 2025). VD.

Calhoun, Travis L.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 13, 2025). Guilty. 12 months suspended, 24 months supervised probation, 20 hours community service.

Catt, Elizabeth L.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 7, 2025). Guilty per plea.  
- Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (Aug. 7, 2025). Guilty per plea. 12 months, suspended, 18 months supervised probation.

Castro-Wachacha, Julian T.

- Fail Wear Seat Belt - Rear Seat (Oct. 25, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Chekelelee, Isaiah E.

- Larceny From and On a Vulnerable Adult (July 27, 2025). Prayer for judgement continued 12 months.  
- Cruelty to Animals (July 27, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Childers, Kristen O.

- Second Degree Trespass (March 19, 2025). Guilty.  
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (March 19, 2025). Guilty.  
- Resist, Delay, or Obstructing (Nov. 1, 2024). Guilty.  
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Nov. 1, 2024). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 36 days served, suspended, 12 months supervised.

Crowe, Angela D.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Aug. 20, 2025). Dismissed due to the insufficiency of the charging document(s).

Crowe, Dallas E.

- Operate Veh. No Ins. (Jan. 23, 2026). VD.  
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (May 28, 2025). VD.

Cucumber, James E.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Nov. 1, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation, 20 hours community service.

Davis, Vincent C.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Sept. 21, 2025). Guilty.  
- Assault by Strangulation (Feb.

10, 2026). Guilty. 12 months suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Davis, Frederick T.

- Disorderly Conduct (Feb. 16, 2026). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

Day, Justus K.

- Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle (March 6, 2024). Guilty. 90 days, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Driver, Calvin D.

- Probation Revocation (Oct. 30, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  
- Probation Revocation (Oct. 30, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  
- Probation Revocation (Oct. 30, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  
- Probation Revocation (Oct. 30, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 30, 2025). Guilty.  
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Nov. 20, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation.  
- Probation Revocation (Oct. 30, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  
- Aggravated Weapons Offense (July 17, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Jan. 4, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 22, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Dec. 31, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  
- Speeding to Elude Arrest (Dec. 31, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  
- Driving While Impaired (July 16, 2022). Dismissed per plea.

<p>Eggen, Caleb J.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (July 3, 2025). Dismissed due to no labs submitted.  - Drug Trafficking (July 3, 2025). Dismissed due to no labs submitted.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (July 3, 2025). Dismissed due to no labs submitted.  - Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a Controlled Substance (July 3, 2025). Dismissed due to no labs submitted.</p>	<p>Property (Oct. 30, 2024). Guilty.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (July 2, 2025). Guilty. 3 years, credit for 159 days served, suspended, 3 years supervised probation.  - Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Nov. 26, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Nov. 26, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  - First Degree Trespass (Nov. 26, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  - False Pretenses (Oct. 30, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  - No Operators License (July 2, 2025). Dismissed per plea.</p>	<p>- Drug Trafficking (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  - Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver of a Controlled Substance. (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  - Lane Change Signal Violation (Sept. 18, 2025). VD.</p>	<p>Lillard, Tynighia A.  - Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Sept. 26, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.  - Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Sept. 26, 2025). VD.  - No Liability Insurance (April 8, 2025). VD.  - Expired Registration Card/Tag (April 8, 2025). VD.  - Unsafe Tires (April 8, 2025). VD.  - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 8, 2025). VD.</p>
<p>Ensley, Charles D.  - Larceny (Dec. 21, 2025). Guilty. 6 days, credit for 6 days served.</p>	<p>Hudson, Shawn F.  - Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 29, 2025). Guilty.  - Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Sept. 24, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation.</p>	<p>Lambert, Trevan H.  - Probation Revocation (Sept. 26, 2025). Admitted.  - Assault on a Female (Feb. 17, 2026). Guilty.  - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Sept. 20, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 12 months supervised probation.  - Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Oct. 15, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 12 months supervised probation. Special condition serve 30 days, credit for 7 days served. Sentences run consecutively.</p>	<p>Littlejohn, Jasmine M.  - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 14, 2025). VD.</p>
<p>Evitts II, James M.  - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Feb. 14, 2026). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Jenkins, Randall  - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (July 22, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.</p>	<p>Ledford, Austin T.  - Larceny (Nov. 26, 2024). Guilty.  - Breaking and Entering (Nov. 26, 2024). Guilty.  - Criminal Mischief to Property (Nov. 26, 2024). Guilty.  - Second Degree Trespass (Nov. 26, 2024). Guilty. 3 years, credit for 129 days served, suspended, 3 years supervised probation.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Nov. 26, 2024). Dismissed per plea.  - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 29, 2024). Dismissed per prior plea.  - Expired Registration Card/Tag (May 29, 2024). Dismissed per prior plea.</p>	<p>Lossiah, Jessica T.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty.  - Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Jan. 10, 2026). Guilty.  - Providing or Possessing Contraband (Jan. 10, 2026). Guilty.  - Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Jan. 10, 2026). Guilty. 24 months, suspended, 24 months supervised probation, special condition serve 3 months, credit for 44 days.  - Additional Lighting Equip. Viol. (Aug. 27, 2025). VD.</p>
<p>Fraday Sr., Jeffrey  - Fail Wear Seat Belt - Rear Seat (April 5, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.</p> <p>Gemberling, Johnathon M.  - Drug Trafficking (Feb. 20, 2026). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Junaluska, Kody F.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty.  - Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Sept. 18, 2025). Guilty.  - Criminal Conspiracy (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.  - Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (July 16, 2023). Dismissed per plea.  - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, transferred to Wellness Court.</p>	<p>Lee, Brandon W.  - Fail Wear Seat Belt - Rear Seat (June 2, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.</p>	<p>Maney, James H.  - Child Not in Rear Seat (Jan. 13, 2026). VD.</p> <p>Maney, Siceria M.  - Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 23, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 24 months supervised probation.</p>

see **COURT REPORT** next page

**COURT REPORT:** From page 23

Martin, Brandon K.

- DWLR (March 21, 2025). VD.

McEntire, Jazlyn E.

- No Operators License (Sept. 8, 2025). VD.

Miles, Christopher A.

- A&A DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 8, 2025). VD.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (May 25, 2024). Guilty/Responsible.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 25, 2024). VD.

Myers, Lauren I.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Sept. 27, 2025). Prayer for Judgement Continued for 6 months.

Oocumma, Eugene M.

- Probation Revocation (Nov. 10, 2025). Admitted.

- Second Degree Trespass (Aug. 25, 2025). Guilty.

- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (Aug. 25, 2025). Guilty. 176 days, credit for 176 days.

Orr, Alexandra L.

- Expired/No Inspection (Jan. 23, 2026). VD.

Pascual Jr., Jose Q.

- DWLR (Oct. 2, 2025). VD.

Pheasant, Thomas E.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Aug. 12, 2025). Dismissed.

- Assault on a Female (Aug. 12, 2025). Dismissed.

- Limitations on Privilege of Over-taking and Passing (Jan. 9, 2024). VD.

- Fail Stop Sign/Flash Red

Lt. (Dec. 4, 2024). VD.

Reed, Seth P.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Jan. 11, 2026). Guilty.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (June 16, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Elder Abuse and Neglect (June 16, 2025). Guilty. 18 months, credit for 14 days served, suspended, 18 months unsupervised probation.

- No Registration Card/Tag (May 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- No Liability Insurance (May 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Rockwood, Kayleen C.

- Improper Equip - Speedometer (Jan. 23, 2026). Guilty/Responsible.

Sequoyah, Lewis C.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (July 31, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation, special condition serve 3 months on electronic home confinement.

Sherrill, Tameka S.

- Probation Revocation (May 28, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Probation Revocation (May 28, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Probation Revocation (July 8, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Probation Revocation (July 8, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Drug Trafficking (May 27, 2025). Dismissed with leave.

- Probation Revocation (Feb. 14, 2025). Admitted.

- Probation Revocation (Feb. 14, 2025). Admitted.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (April 28, 2025). Guilty.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (July 11, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver of a Counterfeit Controlled Substance (March 1, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using/Possessing) (March 1, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Delivering, Manufacturing) (March. 1, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Probation Revocation (April 28, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Probation Revocation (April 28, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (April 14, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (April 14, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Second Degree Trespass (April 5, 2024). Dismissed per plea.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Advertising) (Aug. 16, 2023). Dismissed per plea.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Feb. 13, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Sierra, Benjamin I.

- Injuring Real Property (July 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (July 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Criminal Conspiracy (July 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (June 15, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation, special condition serve 10 days, credit for 10 days.

Smith, Gregory L.

- Assault on a Female (Aug 31, 2024). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

- Criminal Mischief to Property (Aug. 31, 2024). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation. Sentences run consecutively.

Smith, Charles T.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Oct. 30, 2025). Guilty. 6 months suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Swayney, Dwayne E.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Dec. 1, 2025). VD.

Swayney, Eric M.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Oct. 19, 2025). VD.

- Child Not in Rear Seat (Oct. 19, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Tahquette, Michelle L.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Nov. 5, 2024). VD.

Taylor Sr., John P.

- Fail Wear Seat Belt - Rear Seat (Oct. 9, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Taylor, Brandon C.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 31, 2025). Guilty.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 31, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Taylor, Leslie L.

- Drug Trafficking (Oct. 15, 2025). Guilty.

- Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver of a Controlled Substance (Oct. 15, 2025). Guilty.

- Transporting Controlled Substance into the Territory of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Oct. 15, 2025). Guilty.

- No Operators License (Feb. 26, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (June 19, 2025). Guilty.

- Drug Trafficking (Oct. 15, 2025). Guilty. 18 months, credit for 126 days served, Date of Release Nov. 10, 2027)

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 12, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 24, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Taylor, Sydney N.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Feb. 12, 2026). VD.

Taylor, Dustin R.

- Fail Wear Seat Belt - Rear Seat (Aug. 21, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

Teesateskie, Uktena

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Nov. 8, 2025). VD.

Toineeta, James E.

- DWLR (Jan. 9, 2026). VD, other.

Tolley, Lawrence A.

- Second Degree Trespass (Feb. 11, 2026). Guilty.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Feb. 11, 2026). Guilty.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3, 2025). Guilty.

- Second Degree Trespass (Nov. 27, 2025). Guilty. 5 months, credit for 15 days served, Date of Release July 5, 2026.

Vestal, Bradley R.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Feb. 14, 2026). Guilty/Responsible.

Villagomez, Valentin

- Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public (Feb. 21, 2026). Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

Wachacha, Mike L.

- Improper Equipment - Speedometer (Jan. 23, 2026). Guilty/Responsible.

Wahnetah, Kyle A.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 13, 2025). Guilty. 8 months, runs concurrent with all other sentences.

Walkingstick, Louiza G.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Feb. 12, 2026). Dismissed.

Walkingstick, Lakisha N.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Nov. 28, 2025). Guilty. 30 days, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Watty, Jason A.

- DWLR (June 16, 2025). Guilty.

- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (June 16, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

- Public Nuisance (Sept 20, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Welch, Charla H.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Feb. 14, 2026). VD.

- No Liability Insurance (Nov. 19, 2025). VD.

- No Operators License (Nov. 19, 2025). Guilty/Responsible.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Nov. 19, 2025). VD.

- Drive/Allow MV No Registration (Aug. 30, 2024). VD.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 31, 2024). VD.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (July 31, 2024). VD.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (March 7, 2025). VD.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Aug. 30, 2024). VD.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 7, 2025). VD.

- Expired/No Inspection (March 7, 2025). VD.

Wildcat, John T.

- Probation Revocation (May 14, 2025). Admitted.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (May 14, 2025). Guilty. May Remove EHC. Compliant for one year with no violations. All prior pleas were entered in 2025).

- Probation Revocation (May 14, 2025). Admitted.

Wildcatt, Patricia A.

- Cruelty to Animals (April 21, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Wolfe, Victor J.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 17, 2024). Guilty/Responsible.

- Larceny (Nov. 12, 2024). Dismissed, codefendant accepted responsibility.

Wolfe, Keleetah L.

- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Oct. 13, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 12 months

supervised probation, special condition serve 23 days, credit for 23 days.

Wolfe, Diamond S.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (July 4, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 24 months supervised probation.

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

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (July 5, 2025). Guilty.

- Public Intoxication (June 10, 2025) Guilty.

- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Jan. 5, 2022). Guilty.

- Escape from Imprisonment and Custody (July 5, 2025). Guilty.

- Probation Revocation (Oct. 15, 2025). Admitted.

- Probation Revocation (Oct. 15, 2025). Admitted.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Octopus. 15, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 24 months supervised probation. Sentences run concurrently.

- Probation Revocation (Oct. 15, 2025). Admitted.

Wright, David E.

- Grand Larceny (June 19, 2019). Guilty. 6 months, suspended, 12 months unsupervised probation.

Youngdeer, Steven H.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Oct. 16, 2025). Prayer for Judgement Continued for 12 months.

## EBCI students co-chair powwow at UNC

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**  
One Feather Reporter

**C**HAPEL HILL, N.C.—Roxi Bark, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), valedictorian of Cherokee High School Class of 2024, and a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), co-chaired the annual Carolina Indian Circle Powwow at UNC on Saturday, March 7, in Woollen Gym, with co-chair and UNC sophomore Isabella Garcia, who is a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and a descendant of the EBCI raised in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown). Garcia is a graduate of Swain Co. High School.

The Carolina Indian Circle is the Native American Student Group for undergraduate students at UNC. The group hosts several student-led events throughout the year, including the annual powwow. Bark and Garcia were elected as the powwow co-chairs by their peers.

“Stepping into the role of Powwow Co-Chairs, Roxi and I wanted to give back to the Circle as much as it was giving to us, but knew we had huge shoes to fill and a lot of hard work ahead of us,” Garcia said.

The theme for the 2026 powwow was “Fanning the Flame”.

Garcia commented, “With our theme, ‘Fanning the Flame’, we weren’t just commemorating almost 40 years worth of the Carolina Indian Circle’s legacy of hosting the largest student-run Powwow in North Carolina, but actively recognizing and honoring our ancestors for their resilience and sacrifice. As descendants, we fulfill our responsibility or ‘fan the flame’ of our ancestors through celebration and practice of our traditions and culture, ensuring that the next seven generations inherit that same fire and spirit from the ones who came before.”

The powwow included several Indigenous art and food vendors, and a full day of dancing



Isabella Garcia, left, and Roxi Bark, both sophomores at UNC, co-chair the Carolina Indian Circle Powwow on Saturday, March 7 at UNC. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

including a “Battle of the Blues” men’s versus women’s blue regalia special.

a Campus Life Experience (CLE) credit toward their degree requirements.

Students who attended the powwow earned



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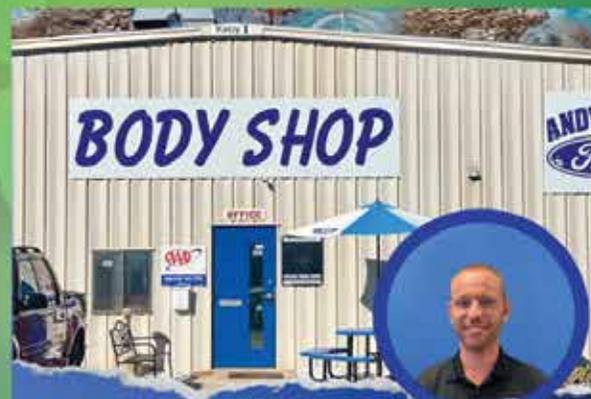


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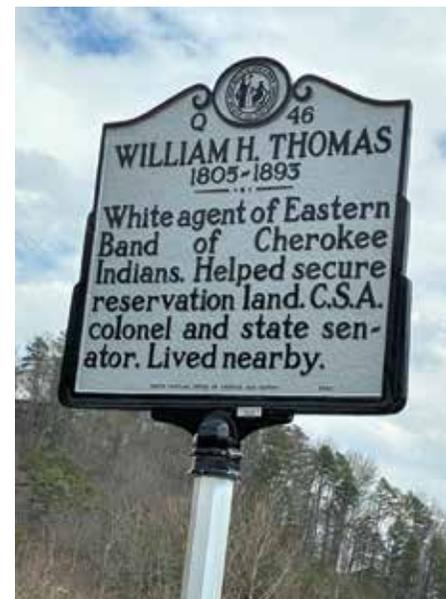
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## New corrected historical marker unveiled

A new corrected historical marker about William Holland Thomas, on Highway 74 just west of exit 74 (for Cherokee, N.C.), was unveiled on Thursday, March 5. The project was led by Britan Sides, who had interned at the Museum of the Cherokee People and worked with the North Carolina State Sign agency, with documentation provided by Thomas's descendant Elizabeth Avery Thomas; Kathi Littlejohn, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI); and Robin Swayney, an EBCI tribal member from the Museum of the Cherokee People. Shown, left to right, are Sides, Thomas, Littlejohn, and Swayney. (DAWN ARNEACH/One Feather photo)



# "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"



**EBCI COMMUNITY  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Cherokee Supreme Court  
sessions for 2026:**

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

- *Cherokee Tribal Court*

**Jury Duty cancellation**

Jury duty for Cherokee Tribal Court scheduled for Monday, March 16 has been cancelled. All individuals who received a summons for this date are excused. There will be no jury trials for the month of March.

- *Cherokee Tribal Court*

**Foundation accepting  
nominations for**

**Lula Owl Gloyne Award**

The nominations for the annual Lula Owl Gloyne – Person of Excellence Award are officially open. Following the standard of excellence first set by Beloved Woman Lula Owl Gloyne, who worked as the first registered nurse of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), this annual award serves to honor a deserving individual whose actions and contributions have improved the healthcare of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The inaugural Lula Owl Gloyne Award was presented in memoriam to Lula's daughter, the late Mary Wachacha in June 2022. Since 2022, other recipients have included Dr. Victoria Harlan and Susan Crowe. The 2025 award was presented to Mistee Cutshaw

just before she passed away from pancreatic and liver cancer.

“The Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation is honored to help carry forward Lula Owl Gloyne’s legacy through the annual award that bears her name,” said Foundation Chairman Sheyaheshe Littledave. “Her example set a standard of service and commitment that continues to guide our work today. By recognizing those who follow in her footsteps, we both honor her impact and ensure her legacy lives on as we continue advancing health care for the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.”

Nominees are expected to reflect the following core values:

- Contributions to Healthcare: Nominee has made significant contributions to the advancement of healthcare on behalf of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Selflessness: Nominee acts in the best interests of others and promotes their health & wellness.
- Accomplished: Nominee has risen above and beyond the call of duty to achieve results. This includes educational and professional achievements and serving as role model and mentor to others.
- Resilient: Nominee is an advocate on behalf of others to ensure the prosperity of the next seven generations of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- Visionary: Nominee demonstrated forward thinking and a vision for the future of healthcare for the EBCI – regardless of barriers.

Nomination forms are available on the Foundation’s website at [cihfoundation.org](http://cihfoundation.org) or by emailing Foundation Director Brittney

Lofthouse at [Brittney.lofthouse@cherokeehospital.org](mailto:Brittney.lofthouse@cherokeehospital.org). Nomination must be submitted to the Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation by March 31. The CIH Foundation Board will review all nominations and will announce this year’s recipient on May 1. The 2026 recipient of the Lula Owl Gloyne – Person of Excellence Award will also be recognized at the 15th Annual Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation Gala scheduled for June 27 at the Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort.

- *Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority*

**Photographers wanted**

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

- *Cherokee Historical Association*

**THANK YOU LETTERS**

**Thank you from the family of  
Gary French**

The family of Gary French, of the Big Cove Community, would like to express our deepest appreciation for the sympathy and kindness shown to us as we mourn his passing. The shared memories offered during the visitation and funeral, along with the many phone calls, flowers, cards, gifts of food and service, and words of condolence, meant more to us than we can express.

We would especially like to thank Long House Funeral Home and its employees for their professional and caring arrangements. Bear Lambert and Jarrett Wildcat, who honored Gary’s life. We’re grateful to Steve Youngdeer Post 143 for their honoring Gary with military rites.

We also extend a special thank you to Cherokee EMS, to the Chief and Vice-Chief for sending some of Gary’s favorite foods. EBCI Family Support program was outstanding in serving our family. Thanks to sister Yvonne French Bushyhead who was with us throughout.

To everyone who reached out to us during this time of mourning, we are deeply grateful for your continued support and love. Your kindness has brought comfort during our time of need.

Gary will be missed dearly by all who knew him.

With love,

**Margaret, Greg, Dante,  
Khloe, and Jamar and family**



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- **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 ᏆᏍᏍᏁ ᏆᏍᏍᏁ**  
**CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI**

**OBITUARIES** ობიტუარ

**Dawson Wilnoty**

Dawson Wilnoty, age 27, from Cherokee, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. He was born Oct. 25, 1998 to Michael and Savannah Wilnoty. He was the grandson of Cleo and Chief Jonathan Taylor and the late Harriet James Seqyouyah and Bernard Wilnoty.

Dawson was a 2017 graduate of Cherokee High School, where he played for the Cherokee Braves football team. He was the brightest light in every room he walked into, known for his big smile, loud laugh, and the kind of presence you never forget.

He loved the New Orleans Saints football team, standing by his team through every season.

He was an avid Star Wars fan and always had country or rock music playing somewhere nearby. Those things brought him joy, but it was his love for people that truly defined him.

Dawson was preceded in death by his older brother, Dennie Wilnoty, along with other beloved family members, Topper Taylor (uncle), Sherry Southards (aunt), Edith McCall (aunt), Frances Taylor (aunt), Bernice Swayney (aunt), Caroline Wilnoty (aunt) and Dennie Wilnoty (uncle), as well as many close friends and classmates gone too soon. We find comfort in knowing they are together again.

He leaves behind his mom and dad, Mike and Savannah, who loved him endlessly; his sister and brother-in-law, Taylor and Lucas, who will forever carry both

the pride and privilege of being his; and his niece and nephew, Ayla and Elijah, who will grow up knowing how much their uncle loved them. He also leaves behind two special aunts, Denise Ballard and Terry Taylor, as well as close cousins, Kaniah and Onyx, Jacelyn, Lavayah, and Akino, and numerous extended family and close friends whose lives are better because he was part of them.

Funeral services for Dawson were held on Thursday, March 5 at the Peaches Squirrel Sports & Recreation Center with the burial following at the Yellowhill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were brothers: Daniel Fuller, John Trampler, Jeffery Girty, and Dodge Crowe; close friends: George, Steve, and Buster Swayney; brother-in-law, Lucas Watson; cousin, Braylon James;

and uncle, Bug James.

ოცლათგ - Denadagoihyu, until we meet again.

**Rebecca 'Becca' Suzanne Crowe**

Rebecca 'Becca' Suzanne Crowe, 42, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026.

Rebecca was born on June 14, 1983, in Sylva, N.C., to her parents Nikki Moore and the late Clayton Crowe. She lived in the Birdtown community and was proud of her heritage. She attended Grace Academy Church in Cherokee.

Becca was a loving mother to three children, Evie, Adam, and Olly, who were her pride and joy. Her beloved fur babies, Snickers, Aysa, and Zipp, also meant so much to her. She enjoyed joking around and making people smile. Her contagious laugh lifted the

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**MARCH 9-MARCH 15, 2026**

WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
<b>Tuckasegee River</b>	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Black Caddis, Parachute Adams, Pheasant Tail, Mop, Girdle Bug, Eggs, Streamers
<b>Chattooga &amp; Whitewater Rivers</b>	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	BWOs, Black and Brown Stoneflies, Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, Elk Hair Caddis
<b>Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River &amp; Small Streams</b>	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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AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE+	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE
4:59 AM-6:59 AM 5:24 PM-7:24	5:49 AM-7:49 AM 6:14 PM-8:14 PM	6:40 AM-8:40 AM 7:06 PM-9:06 PM	7:32 AM-9:32 AM 7:58 PM-9:58 PM	8:24 AM-10:24 AM 8:49 PM-10:49 PM	9:14 AM-11:14 AM 9:39 PM-11:39 PM	10:03 AM-12:03 PM 10:27 PM-12:27 AM

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spirits of anyone who heard it. She was an excellent food and beverage server at various places in Cherokee. Her hobbies included being outdoors, researching conspiracies, watching comedy shows, and doing arts and crafts. She was dearly loved by her family and friends. Rebecca was predeceased by her father, Clayton Crowe.

She is survived by her mother, Nikki Moore; her son, Adam Cotterman; her daughters, Evelyn and Olivia Cotterman; her sisters, Heather Hoyle and Cherise Maples; and her loving partner, Austin Lambert.

A funeral service was held on Friday, March 6 at the Chapel of Long House Funeral Home, with the Rev. Andrew Brooks officiating. Burial followed the service at Birdtown Cemetery.

Long House Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

#### **Mrs. Bambi Lynn Sneed**

*Aug. 30, 1959 - March 4, 2026*

Mrs. Bambi Lynn Sneed, a woman whose life was defined by love, culture, compassion, and unwavering devotion to her family and community, passed from this world leaving behind a legacy that will continue to shine for generations. Born Bambi Lynn Armachain on Aug. 30, 1959, in Oceana, W.V., she was the cherished daughter of William and Edith Armachain. She carried with her the pride and strength of her Native American heritage, honoring her culture and community in Cherokee, North Carolina, with grace, dignity, and joy.

Bambi lived a life of service. She graduated from Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla. on May 23, 1987, from the Department of Nursing, and soon after became a Registered Nurse, certified by the

North Carolina Board of Nursing on Aug. 19, 1987. She dedicated countless hours to the Cherokee Indian Hospital, caring for her people with skill, compassion, and a heart full of purpose. Her patients felt safe in her presence, and her coworkers admired her dedication to healing and helping others.

On March 30, 1990, in Wallhalla, S.C., Bambi married the love of her life, James “Dike” Sneed. Their love story was one of devotion, laughter, and partnership. When Dike fell in love with Bambi, he also fell in love with her two daughters, Shondi and Hannah, who were already the center of her world. He embraced them wholeheartedly, loving them as his own from the very beginning. He often spoke of how blessed he felt—not only to marry Bambi, but to gain two daughters who brought joy, purpose, and pride into his life. Together, Bambi and Dike built a home filled with warmth, tradition, humor, and unconditional love.

Bambi’s family continued to grow, and her grandchildren became the light of her life. She cherished each one deeply: Dylan Girty, Grae Crowe (Rayna), Jace Girty (Amber), Jeffrey Girty (Lele), Josh Girty, Jensen Mintz (Tye), Rhyan Girty (Mike), and Jogeta Panther. Every grandchild held a special place in her heart, and she poured her love, wisdom, and laughter into each of them.

Her joy expanded even further with her great-grandchildren, who brought her endless smiles and pride: Walela, Raylyn, Jabari, Grayson, Lonnie, Ridley, Layana, Riley, Jrue, and Rhemi. She also holds in her arms in heaven her precious great-grandchild, Baby Mintz, born into eternity.

Bambi’s family circle also in-

cludes her son-in-law, Jeff Thompson, who loved and respected her deeply and shared in the joy of being part of the family she nurtured.

A woman of many passions, Bambi loved UNC Chapel Hill basketball, cheering with unmatched enthusiasm. She had a remarkable sense of humor—quick, bright, and unforgettable—able to lift spirits and spark laughter wherever she went. Her creativity flowed through her love of Cherokee arts, especially beadwork, pottery, and crafting brimmed hats with traditional flair. Through her hands, she preserved culture, beauty, and memory.

She was a proud Native American woman, a devoted wife, a loving mother and grandmother, a gifted nurse, and a keeper of tradition. She lived with purpose, loved without hesitation, and gave of herself freely. Her presence was a blessing; her absence leaves a space that cannot be filled.

She is survived by her loving husband, James “Dike” Sneed; her daughters, Shondi (Jeff Thompson) and Hannah; her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren; and a community forever touched by her kindness, humor, and spirit. Though she has journeyed on, the love she gave, the lives she healed, and the traditions she carried will continue to shine brightly. Her story is one of strength, devotion, and heart—a story that will be carried forward by those who loved her most.

May her memory be a blessing, and may her spirit continue to guide and protect her family always.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 10 in the Chapel of Long House Funeral Home, with Brother Neil Fergu-

son officiating. Burial followed at the Campbell Sneed Cemetery in Cherokee, NC. Pallbearers were her grandsons: Dylan Girty, Grae Crowe, Jace Girty, Jeffery Girty, Josh Girty, Tye Mintz, and Mike Hernandez.

Long House Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



1. Name the German tennis player who won the 1991 Wimbledon men’s singles championship and won an Olympic gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Games playing doubles with Boris Becker.

2. What Canadian TV sports drama series debuted in 2025 and followed the romance between hockey players Shane Hollander (Hudson Williams) and Ilya Rozanov (Connor Storrie)?

3. In the early 1900s, golf innovator Arthur F. Knight patented a center-shafted, mallet-headed putter named after what city in New York’s Mohawk Valley?

4. Running back Carnell Williams, 2005 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, was nicknamed after what brand of luxury car?

5. The “Deep South’s Oldest Rivalry” is the nickname of the college football series between what two teams?

6. In 1950, the Fort Wayne Pistons and Minneapolis Lakers played the lowest-scoring game in NBA history with how many combined points?

7. What facility, first opened in London in the 1840s, used pig lard, salt and copper sulfate to create the world’s first indoor artificial ice rink for skating?

#### **Answers**

1. Michael Stich.
2. “Heated Rivalry.”
3. Schenectady.
4. Cadillac.
5. The Auburn University Tigers and the University of Georgia Bulldogs.
6. 37 (the Pistons beat the Lakers 19-18).
7. The Glaciarium.

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## COMMENTARY

# Dearly Beloved? The bitter dispute over recognition

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

“Women warriors were known as ‘pretty women’ who, with age, might become ‘beloved women,’ and men who were renowned warriors became ‘beloved men,’ beloved because they risked their lives for the people.”

“Men’s power as war chiefs, peace chiefs, and priests was balanced by women’s power as clan mothers and beloved women. A ‘beloved woman,’ who was acclaimed by consensus for her outstanding service to the tribe, decided the fate of captives and prisoners; she could decree death, slavery, or adoption.”

(“Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook”. Barbara R. Duncan & Brett H. Riggs. Museum of the Cherokee Indian & University of North Carolina Press. 2003.)

We, in our history, have had great leaders, both male and female. As Drs. Duncan and Riggs pointed out in their book that historically, particularly women were documented as being called upon to be beloved people who had a critical role in the governance of our tribe. It wasn’t a submission process or competition that produced a community’s interest in having a person hold the designa-

tion as a beloved person.

Take this account in *The Memoirs of Lieut. Henry Timberlake*. For the uninitiated, Lieut. Timberlake reportedly spent a year as an emissary to the Overhill townships of the Cherokee from 1761 to 1762 and accompanied three Cherokee leaders on a trip to London to meet King George III. His documentation and observations of Cherokee life in the 18th century are considered to be some of the most detailed and significant.

“There were some honorary titles among (the Cherokee people), conferred in reward of great actions; the first of which is Outacity or Man-killer; and the second Colona, or the Raven. Old warriors, likewise, or war-women, who can no longer go to war, but have distinguished themselves in their younger days, have the title of Beloved. This is the only title females can enjoy; but it abundantly recompenses them, by the power they acquire by it, which is so great, that they can, by the wave of a swan’s wing, deliver a wretch condemned by the council, and already tied to the stake.

“The ‘War-Women’ probably had a vote on questions relating to peace and war and were arbiters of the fate of captives in certain circumstances. Judge Haywood says, ‘The Cherokees had the law or custom of assigning to a certain woman the office of declaring what punishment should be inflicted on great offenders; whether, for instance, burning or other death, or whether they should be pardoned. Mrs. (Nancy) Ward exercised this office when Mrs. (William) Bean, about the year 1776, was taken from the white settlements on the upper parts of the Holston. Being bound and about to be burned

on one of the mounds, the Pretty Woman (Beloved Woman Nancy Ward) interfered and pronounced her pardon.” *National Aboriginal History of Tennessee and James Mooney’s Myths of the Cherokees*

On March 2, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) had a work session on Beloved recognition. Some in the community had concerns about the process of lifting tribal members to be considered for the bestowing of the title of Beloved on tribal members.

Based on the history of the position or title, it is hard to make a case that what we considered as the role of the Beloved person is what it was in the history of the Cherokee people. These members of our tribe were held in such high regard as to give them the power over life and death.

Not so today. Beloved people are certainly honored, but very much in the way most tribal elders are honored. But Beloved people have no governmental status, having powers to make or execute law at their discretion, or as Timberlake said, “by the wave of a swan’s wing”. Apparently, Beloved Women’s authority in certain situations was final and absolute. It just doesn’t work in the system of governance that we have chosen. It’s nobody’s fault, nor is it necessarily wrong, specifically. We all, as tribal members, either chose or acquiesced to the style of leadership we have. But it is different, and that seems to be a source of turmoil for those attempting to put up nominations for the position of Beloved person.

Times have changed. We struggle with attempting to capture the essence of our history and culture in a world that doesn’t resemble what we were at all, not

in modern society and definitely not in Indian Country. If we go based on the history of the Beloved, modern-day tribal members will have a tough row to hoe to attain the status of Beloved. The Cherokee people have not been at war with anyone for quite some time, and that seems to be the genesis of the status of the Beloved Women. While we do have men and women who have honorable service, some with great distinction, in the United States military, I do wonder what that would look like compared to the Beloved’s of old who gained their distinction by battling against the United States (and other indigenous tribes).

The work session seemed to be a battle between members of the tribe who waited for recognition for years to be recognized through a committee established in approximately 2018. The committee had been established by the Dinilawigi to set guidelines and vet candidates through a submission process. The committee would then bring back recommendations via resolution to the Dinilawigi for a vote (that would decide who would be a Beloved person). However, the Dinilawigi didn’t say that resolutions couldn’t be submitted by other members of the tribe and, in fact, had considered others for Beloved recognition without the vetting or recommendation of the Beloved committee.

Either way doesn’t seem to be the traditional way. In the book written by Duncan and Riggs, it says, “acclaimed by consensus”. That doesn’t sound like a vote of Dinilawigi. That sounds like a vote of the people. I’m just saying that if we are going to stay true to the traditions of the tribe, then let’s stay true to the traditions of the

tribe, not our modern interpretation of the traditions.

The work session had an ugly tone that turned something that should have been a reverent and honorable consideration of Cherokee people who have dedicated time and life to our tribe into a hot debate over who should be able to submit their names. A turf war. At least two of the committee members suggested that they were ready for the committee to be dissolved if that was the will of Dinilawigi. At least one accused the Council of “going behind the back of the committee”, a statement that the Dinilawigi Chairman took exception to and flatly disputed. I have my disagreements with the government, but in this case, I do agree with the Chairman. The Dinilawigi, according to the

Charter, entertains lawful submissions of legislation to them, and it is their sworn duty to make law. It was a poor choice of words and exceptionally bad timing to make a presumption of that nature, especially in public and in front of the body that will decide the issue.

Members of the committee also insinuated that the approval by Dinilawigi of the resolution for the most recent nominee was politically motivated, or appeared to be, because it did not go through the committee and was submitted by a member of a community directly to the Council. One member of the Beloved Woman Committee challenged that the most recent Beloved Man being accepted through resolution (a person who is now deceased and died before he was recognized) was not well-

known enough to be considered and compared their qualifications to be beloved to his. Even the chairperson of the Beloved committee said that the decision to approve or reject people for the title rests with the Dinilawigi, and the committee’s job is to research and recommend. Would that preclude tribal members from doing vetting and making a recommendation to the Council, especially if we all agree that the current law is that the Council has the final word?

If the government must approve the candidate, whether from a committee or an individual, it will always be political. Unless our tribe is willing to take these names to a referendum so that a nominee can be “acclaimed by consensus”, which is closer to the traditional way, there will always be an element of politics in the selection.

Even those in disputes with the Beloved Committee stated that they are helping with making the process better, but the committee has challenges communicating with submitters and bringing a final recommendation to the Council. It was stated in the session that only one person has been brought to Dinilawigi by the committee for appointment through resolution since 2019. The Committee stated clearly that they are doing this to select people who can be held up as examples for generations. That too does not seem to be the traditional place of a Beloved person. In fact, it looks to have been bestowed on someone so that they could serve in a political position with a purpose for the tribe. Surely, the position should be seen as revered, but it had a practical purpose foremost.

I hope that more productive discussions are ahead on the issue of Beloved Men and Wom-

en. Ideally, it would be proper for the community to vote for or against a person put forward for consideration. Barring that, and assuming the Dinilawigi wants this process to continue in its current form, there should be an overhaul of the scope of work for the committee, with timelines established for workflow. Criteria for being a Beloved should be discussed with the community and, yes, as one committee member said, once the community approves the criteria, it should be codified, if we are going to say that this position of recognition is a position of tribal honor. One speaker at the meeting suggested that the vetting and recommendation could come from the Community Club Council. That would be a step closer to the traditional way.

Sadly, the work session was very contentious, and people were referred to disrespectfully, including people who serve our community. The committee says that their efforts are to protect the sacredness of the title or position of a Beloved person. Hopefully, that translates into honoring the sacredness of the person or persons being considered. I’m not just speaking of the committee’s responsibility, but for all of us.

## MISSING-COLD CASE

### Michelle Lyn West

NO PHOTO OR RENDERING AVAILABLE

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'4"-5'6" Weight: 130-135 lbs Female Age: 58

Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Date of last contact: July 9, 1991

Last Known Location: Tucson, Arizona

Circumstances of Disappearance: On 7/9/1991, Michelle West left the family apartment building in Tucson, AZ. She planned on walking to a friend's house that lived in the area, and it's not clear if Michelle made it to the friend's house and they weren't home, or if she never made it to the house and disappeared somewhere along the way. Michelle has not been located and has had no contact with anyone including her children and immediate family since she left to visit her friend. Family said she would never have left them of her children of her own free will. West was believed to have been wearing jeans, a tie-dye shirt, and a red and possibly a red/black checkered sweatshirt.

If you have seen or have information about Michelle West, contact Detective David Miller, Homicide Investigations, Tucson Police Department (520)791-4444.

Source: Namus.gov

**GWY ʘV° ʘYLC**  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER ° TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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

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



## Ask a Therapist

# Are we all just overstimulated?

By BROOKE BARRETT, LMCHC

**Question:** I keep finding that I am more frustrated lately with little things. I get mad and annoyed so much easier and by the end of the day I am so tired I just feel defeated. I didn't used to be like this. What is happening?

**Answer:** If you find yourself snapping over small things, feeling irritated by normal noise, or completely drained by the end of the day, you may be overstimulated. Part of the reason so many of us feel overstimulated isn't a personal flaw, but the reality of the world we live in. We are living in a time of constant input. Our phones deliver news, messages, alerts, and opinions all day long, and we are reachable by almost anyone at any time. There are very few natural stopping points anymore. Work follows us home.

Conversations continue late into the evening. Even rest often comes with a screen attached. In earlier generations, stimulation had clearer limits and more built-in quiet. Today, our nervous systems are processing more information in a single day than many people once experienced in a week. It's not surprising that our mind and bodies feel overloaded.

Overstimulation happens when your nervous system takes in more input than it can process. That input isn't just sound. It's screens, conversations, multi-tasking, responsibility, emotional stress, and being "on" for other people. When it doesn't let up, your body changes into protection mode.

That's when everything feels louder, closer, and waaaay more irritating. You may feel exhausted but wired. Think "Tired but Wired". Your system may crave silence.

Most of us rarely experience true quiet anymore. Even our downtime involves doom scrolling, watching, listening, or planning.

Depending on your home at any moment your brain is processing a dog barking, tv on, phone ringing, people talking, and a toddler biting your foot all at the same time. Or is that just me?? Either way, consider the amount of information the brain is processing even in your "down time". Over time, your nervous system stays on high alert. And eventually, it runs out of capacity.

### **Overstimulated Self Check In:**

Have small sounds or interruptions felt unusually sharp or irritating lately?

Do I feel more edgy at the end of the day than I do in the morning? Do I feel exhausted but still restless or "on edge"?

Have I been reaching for more caffeine to push through the day? When was the last time I sat for even a few minutes without a screen, conversation, or background noise?

Does my body feel tense, tight, or easily startled?

The solution doesn't have to be a big gesture of going full "off grid

wilderness mode". It's intentional. Lower the volume where you can. Turn off background noise. Dim the lights. Put the phone down for ten minutes. Step outside. Take a slow breath with a longer exhale than inhale. Small reductions in input help your body reset.

Needing less stimulation doesn't mean you can't keep up, it means your nervous system needs recovery.

Truthfully, we were never meant to be "on" all the time. Small changes can have big results.

*Have a mental health or relationship question? Submit anonymously to Ask a Therapist at asktherapistbrooke@gmail.com. Your question might help others too.*

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



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

@CherokeeOneFeather  
on YouTube

# **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**

# Fireworks

## Part 1 of 2

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

### Scripture references:

Hebrews 12:1-3, Mark 8:34-37,  
Exodus Chapters 36-38

Pastors, ministers, teachers, and musicians can get lost in their desire to serve the Lord and begin to serve themselves. Maybe you've met some. Perhaps you have fallen into Satan's snare of pride. We are going to define how easy it is to happen and what is needed to escape the sin of hubris.

We are human, and Satan is wily to grab our basic instincts and pull us down into selfish pride

instead of glorifying God. Unfortunately, it happens, and in these last days, we have seen it much too often. Satan uses fame, riches, and pride to draw disciples away from God.

Far too many Kingdom servants lose their way after being called to glorify God. Sadly, some fall into the sin of exalting themselves, and their motives become skewed. We all need to test ourselves and our motives for what we do in our belief that we do it for God alone. The Fireworks title is a pun, but it isn't funny if your work is heading in the wrong direction.

I was born and raised in Montana in the fifties and sixties. The 4th of July was the biggest holiday of the year for me. Bigger than Christmas or my birthday or anything. Our family plans always

included doing something special. For many years, it was rodeos in Roundup or Red Lodge, and it always, always concluded with fireworks somewhere. I can't remember too many years since that time that my family and I failed to make an effort to see fireworks anytime we got a chance. It's not always on the 4th of July that you can see fireworks somewhere.

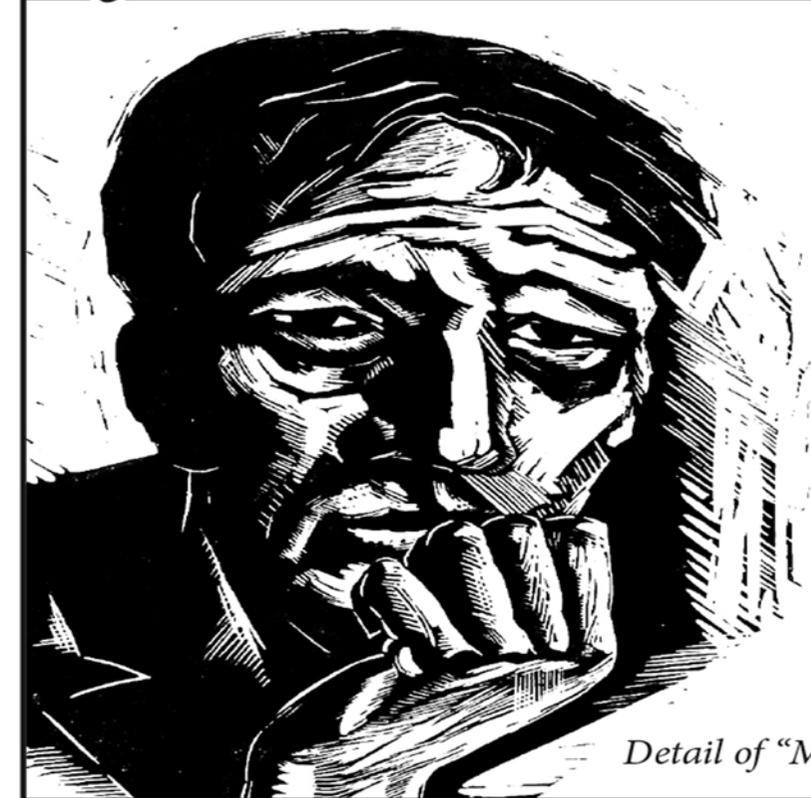
Have you ever seen them? Think about when you heard and felt the booms, saw the colors, the smoke, and smelled the black powder. How glorious the sights and sounds of a good fireworks display are. I can even give you a rating of good, mediocre, or bad shows. I've spent hundreds of dollars shooting off our own shows of fireworks at home, even though it was illegal in some places we lived. But, if you've

never lit a fuze, run, and stood back with your eyes to the sky to see the fireworks, then I'd say you may have missed some living.

Do you know who made the fireworks? Ever met anyone who mixed the powders or made the internal packages that created the unique displays of red or green or sparkly blues and gold? How about those guys who lit the fuzes and set up the cannons that controlled the direction or the sequence of all those beautiful bursts of light in the sky? We rarely think about or give credit to the explosives maker or the people who lit the cannons. All we see and remember is the glorious display of lights and sounds.



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



We demolish arguments  
and every pretension  
that sets itself up against  
the knowledge of God,  
and we take captive every  
thought to make it  
obedient to Christ.

☞ 2 Corinthians 10:5 ☞

*Detail of "Man in Thought" by Hanns Kralik (1929)*

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# Amber Waves

HERE YOU GO, GERALD HONEY. GRANDMA MADE HER SPECIAL GINGER DOODLE COOKIES.

NO SUGAR, JUST DRIED FIGS, OATMEAL, PRUNES, WALNUTS AND PLENTY OF FLOUR.

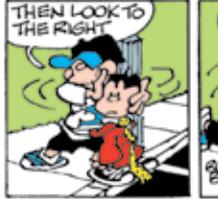
IT'S GRANDMA'S SECRET RECIPE!

I THINK IT BEST GRANDMA KEEPS THIS A SECRET. MPMH!



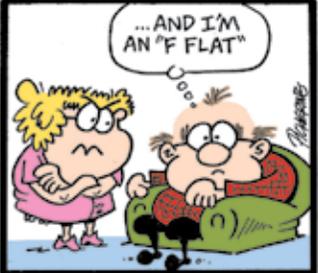
by Dave T. Phipps

## TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

## The Spats

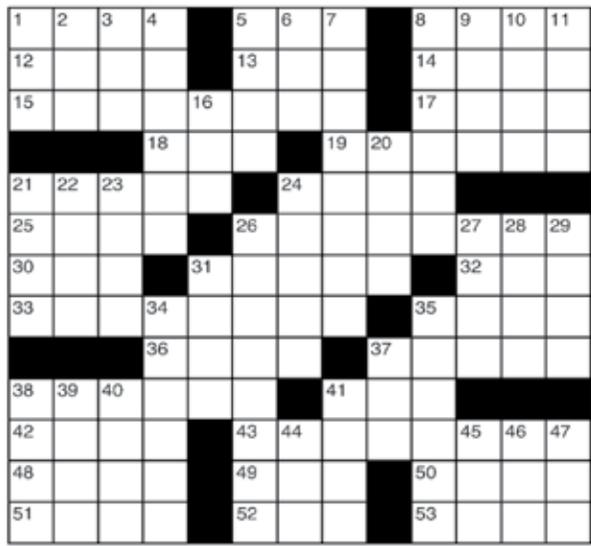


by Jeff Pickering

# King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 Makes a choice
- 5 Pear-shaped fruit
- 8 "The Black Prince" author Murdoch
- 12 High point
- 13 Hostel
- 14 Central point
- 15 "Citadel" actress Chopra
- 17 Only
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Rappers' improvisations
- 21 Signaled "Hi!"
- 24 — Bator
- 25 Battery fluid
- 26 Female royal
- 30 Roulette bet
- 31 Carried on, as war
- 32 Pickles on "Rugrats"
- 33 Inmate
- 35 Chorus syllables
- 36 "I dropped the fruitcake!"
- 37 How distant stars shine
- 38 Politico
- 41 Parcel of land
- 42 Latin 101 word



- 43 Archbishops, e.g.
- 48 Get overemotional
- 49 Slithery fish
- 50 Prime-time hour
- 51 Villa d' —
- 52 Tofu source
- 53 Bigfoot's cousin
- 5 Twain hero
- 6 Squid squirt
- 7 More knotted, as a tree
- 8 Harmonious
- 9 Leeway
- 10 Between jobs
- 11 Beholds
- 16 Help
- 20 Royal flush, e.g.
- 21 Get bent out of shape
- 22 Computer brand
- 23 Caesar's "I saw"
- 24 Implores
- 26 Primitive flutes
- 27 Wax-coated cheese
- 28 Ledge
- 29 Do in
- 31 Courts
- 34 Mollify
- 35 Lengthy list
- 37 — Perignon
- 38 Leaf
- 39 Flightless birds
- 40 Endure
- 41 Easter bloom
- 44 Classic car
- 45 Dead heat
- 46 Sinusitis doc
- 47 Six, in Sicily

## DOWN

- 1 Antonym (Abbr.)
- 2 Capita lead-in
- 3 — chi
- 4 Used a Zoom alternative

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

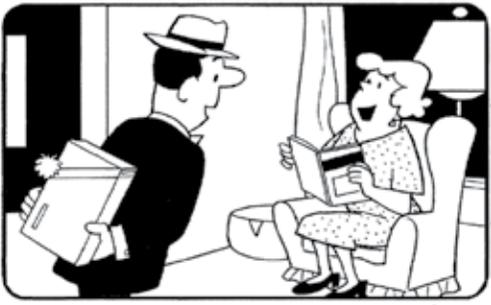
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is larger. 2. Bottom of lamp is not showing. 3. Ear is different. 4. Book cover is different. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Ribbon is moved.

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

### Answer

### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

### King Crossword

Answers

- Trivia Test Answers
- 1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; 2. Emily Brontë; 3. Badminton; 4. 13; 5. Oahu, Hawaii; 6. Tim Berners-Lee; 7. Biennials; 8. John Jackson Parr; 9. Virtual Private Network; 10. Ganyমে of Jupiter

## Benefits/Fundraisers

**NAIWA Indian Dinner Fund-raiser.** March 20 at 11 a.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C. Indian Dinners and a drink for \$15. This is a fundraiser for NAIWA. Info: Lucille Wolfe (828) 736-5285

**Senior Citizens Trip Fundraiser.** March 21 starting at 7 a.m. at the Deb West Senior Center 145 Tsali Manor St., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Breakfast, yard sale and bake sale. To reserve a table, call (828) 359-6299

## EBCI Community Events

**MANNA Foodbank Community Market.** March 19 from 11:30 a.m. p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Wolf-town Gym 27 Long Branch Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Stop by for free grocery staples, produce and other perishable items. Bring your own bags. Free and Open to all community members. Info: (828) 359-6934

**Screening of “A Sacred Thread”.** March 25 from 5 :30 p.m. – 8 p.m at the Bardo Arts Center 241 Centennial Dr., Cullowhee, N.C. 28723. This is a free event, but registration via Eventbrite is required. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email events@pbsnc.org with questions. This PBS NC documentary follows the Snowbird Cherokee of western North Carolina as they fight to preserve their language, customs and ancestral traditions before they disappear. Through intimate storytelling about the Snowbird Cherokee’s art, culture and deep connections to their sacred land, the film offers a powerful

portrait of a resilient community safeguarding its heritage. Arrive at 5 p.m. to tour a special Cherokee Language and Culture Exhibition or visit the WCU Fine Art Museum. Info: (828) 227-2505

**Easter Vendor Extravaganza.** March 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pam Taylor Painttown Gym, 10 Old Gap Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Come shop with your local artisans and vendors. There will be food onsite. Info: Angie Garcia (828) 778-4585

**Egg-cellent 5K fun run and egg hunt.** April 4 starting at 9a.m. at Cherokee High School, 86 Elk Crossing Ln., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Support the Junior Class at Cherokee High School and help fund this year’s prom. Along the 3.1-mile course, runners will find color-coded eggs hidden throughout each mile. Participants may collect one egg per color – so keep your eyes open and choose wisely! Eggs may contain candy, small prizes, or a few “egg-stra” special surprises. Whether you’re racing for time or just out for a fun jog with friends, this event is designed to be family-friendly, festive, and just the right amount of competitive. Come ready to run, have fun, and make an egg-cellent difference for our Juniors. Info: runsignup.com/race/nc/Cherokee/eggcellent5kfunrun.

**Spring Rod Run.** April 24- 25 Old Cherokee High School Site, 1501 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Thousands in Cash Give-aways, Early Bird Show and Shine Thursday after Lunch, Tool Box and Cooler Scooter Raffles, 50/50, Cruise Thru the Great Smokies National Park, Participant Meal, Valve Cover Racing, Model Car

Contest, Vendors, Swap Meet, Food Vendors, Home Built Trophies, and More! Pre-Register before April 10 and be entered for a huge cash prize. Info: Cherokeeodders.com

## EBCI Community Regular Meetings

**NAIWA (North American Indian Women’s Association, Inc.) Cherokee Chapter** meets the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the West Senior Center in Cherokee, N.C. Eligibility for membership: any American Indian or Alaska Native or Canadian First Nations woman, 18 years of age or older, who is officially identified as a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe/Nation. The meetings contain information on purpose and further aims. All who meet the

eligibility are invited to attend.

## Cherokee Cultural/Historic Events

**Fingerweaving Fridays.** March 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Art Studio, Museum of the Cherokee People 5869 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Bring your own materials or a current fingerweaving project or help yourself to the Museum’s materials at no cost. Fingerweaving Fridays are free of charge and open to enrolled EBCI members, EBCI parents, and spouses. Registration is not required: just show up! Info: (828) 497-3481

**Cherokee Singers Gatherings.** March 18 and March 25 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Big Y Gym, 2641 Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee,

## CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida  
SŌHi ႠD RVLႠJ DႠႠYL



**Milo “Tater Swift” Perez** lives in Aniwodihi (Painttown) with his humans, Analee and Aurora Hernandez.



Sponsored by:

**CHEROKEE**  
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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

N.C. 28719. Gatherings will be led by various men in the community in an effort to pass on the social songs and dances. All ages are invited. Each gathering will focus on different social dances - for Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians enrolled members and non-enrolled spouses/parents. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Info: Cherokee Winter Social on Facebook and Instagram.

**2026 James A. Cooper Memorial Lecture in Cherokee Studies: Stacy Leeds (Cherokee Nation).** March 20 at 5 p.m. in the TJ Holland Education Room, Museum of the Cherokee People 589 Tsali

Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Presented by Western Carolina University's Cherokee Studies program, the 2026 James A. Cooper Memorial Lecture welcomes Dean Stacy Leeds (Cherokee Nation), Willard H. Pedrick Dean, Regents Professor and Foundation Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, for her presentation 'The Future of Tribal Sovereignty, Powered by the Past.' This event is free of charge and open to all; registration is not required. Info: (828) 497-3481

**5K Walk/ Run for Cherokee**

see **EVENTS** next page



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Change is still dominant for Rams and Ewes, both in the workplace and in their private lives. This is also a good time to look at a possible relocation if this has been one of your goals.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Doing things for others is what you do well. But don't forget that Bovines thrive on the arts, so make some time for yourself to indulge in your passion for music and artistic expressions.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) While the Romantic Twin considers where to go for an upcoming vacation, the Practical Twin will start making travel plans now to take advantage of some great bargains.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Your sensitive nature helps you deal with a difficult emotional situation. Be patient and continue to show your sincere support wherever (and for whom-ever) it is needed.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You're making progress as you move through some unfamiliar territory. And while there might be a misstep or two along the way, you're overall heading in the right direction. Good luck!

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Some good news arrives — and just in time to remind you that you're making progress. Perhaps things aren't moving as quickly as you'd prefer, but they're moving nevertheless.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October

22) This is a good week to step back and assess the facts that have recently emerged to see where they can be used to your advantage. Also, don't hesitate to make changes where necessary.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You should begin to experience some support from those who now agree with your point of view. This should help counter the remaining objections from die-hard skeptics.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Don't let your aim be deflected by trivial matters as you try to resolve a confusing situation. Take time to find and thoroughly assess the facts before making any decision.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The possibility of moving to another location has come up. But before you dismiss it as unworkable, you should check it out just in case it does have some merit after all.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) New relationships, personal or work-related, show mixed signals. It's best to assume nothing. Let things play themselves out until you have something substantive to work with.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your ability to make needed changes without causing too much, if any, negative ripple effect comes in handy when dealing with a sensitive matter either on the job or within your family.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Although you like things to go smoothly, you're not shy about making waves when you believe that the situation calls for it.

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# VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

## Thefts of taxpayer money

Note to thieves: Don't get stopped on a traffic violation while you're carrying a pile of stolen goods and electronics in your car, especially if you're crossing state lines. One pathetic criminal was stopped while transporting electronics that were bought by an in-house thief at the VA who was in charge of buying goods with government credit cards.

The VA thief had handed over part of his \$200,000 stash of stolen electronics to have them sold by his thief partner. Found in the traffic stop were phones, a gun with a magazine, credit cards belonging to other people and a pile of cash. At the VA thief's home additional electronic items were found, including soundbars, headphones and speakers.

Unfortunately, these thieves will only serve a year in prison, but they do have to pay back nearly \$200,000.

The VA's Office of Inspector General (along with the IRS and the Small Business Administration) was in on the investigation of a thief who stole \$1 million in CARES Act funds — and bought himself a 9-hole golf course. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security money was to help small businesses stay afloat through the Covid pandemic, a loan to be used for payroll, rent, mortgage and other business-related expenses.

The thief owned four companies at the time (including a bar, a bistro and a grill) and applied for economic injury money on all of them because he wasn't able to get a standard bank loan for the golf course purchase. When applying for the money, he neglected to mention that one of the companies was being sold to someone else at the time.

He could have gotten up to 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Instead, he was sentenced to only 15 months in prison and a year of supervised release — after fraudulently obtaining over a million dollars of taxpayer money.

Perhaps taxpayers will get the money back: The golf course is currently for sale.

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## Advancing animal rights starts in the home and community

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I'm 11 years old, and I feel really strongly that all animals should be treated well. Not just pets. But how can I help animals when I'm just a kid? Will people take me seriously? — **May D., Omaha, Nebraska**

**DEAR MAY:** People of all ages can make a difference for animals. Kudos to you for caring and wanting to make the world better. Pets, livestock, wildlife and animals used for testing all deserve consideration and humane treatment.

The first thing to do is get more people on your side. Talk to your parents about how you feel and how you want to take meaningful action to help animals. Tell your friends. Talk to your teachers. Some may want to help right away, but others may not seem interested or even be against certain kinds of animal welfare. Expect that you'll get a little pushback from some people, and don't give up.

Second, educate the people in your life. Your voice is a powerful asset in advocating for animal rights. Knowledge is also essential. Pick one animal rights issue in your town or state, learn about it, and tell your family and friends what you've learned.

Third, get involved with groups that actively promote animal welfare. (You'll need your parents' support and permission.) Help with a cleanup, join a peaceful rally, volunteer at a local shelter or write a letter to your local congressperson. These small acts add up to big results that get legislation passed, raise awareness and directly help all kinds of animals.

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

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**EVENTS:** From page 41

**Language Revitalization.** March 28 registration starts at 8 a.m. 5K will start at 11 a.m. at Kituwah Mother town, 3831 Ela rd., Bryson City, N.C. 28713. Along with the 5K, there will also be songs, social dances and storytelling. Info: Madison Hye Long (828) 736-4335, madisonhye1@gmail.com

**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 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.)*

**HIP Committee.** March 11 at 8:30 a.m.

**Lands Committee.** March 12 at 9 a.m.

**Parks & Rec. Committee.** March 12 at 1 p.m.

**Roads Committee.** March 16 at 9 a.m.

**Timber Committee.** March 16 at 10 a.m.

**Planning Board.** March 16 at 1 p.m.

**THIP Community Meeting.** March 17 at 10:30 a.m.

**Health Board.** March 18 at 8:30 a.m.

**Enrollment Committee.** March 23 at 9 a.m.

**Lands Committee.** March 26 at 9 a.m.

### **Pow Wow Listings**

**Spirit of Nations Pow Wow.** March 28 at Jefferson County High School at 115 W. Dumplin Valley Rd. in Dandridge, Tenn. Info: www.indiancreekproductions.com

**Yellowhorse Pow Wow Celebration.** April 4-5 at Founders

Hall at 4950 Swinyar Dr. in Collegedale, Tenn. Info: Tamera Hicks (423) 240-7270 or NAServices.org@gmail.com

### **Support Groups**

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

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

**Cherokee Cancer Support Group,** potluck dinner with a speaker the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Betty's Place, 40 Goose Creek Rd, Cherokee, N.C. Anyone is welcome to attend the potluck. The group provides educational and emotional support to clients and families of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians members with cancer. The group can provide financial assistance for fuel, lodging, and transportation and also can assist with mastectomy items, nutritional supplements, wigs, and related products. The group can volunteer to take a client to their appointment if it is requested in a timely manner. Betty's Place is open Monday through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: (828) 497-0788

**Life@WesternCarolina.** 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](http://www.NA.org)

### **Western N.C. and Beyond Events**

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

**A Return to our Roots: Herbal Oils and Salves class.** March 21 starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, TN. 37882. Join us as we learn how to make healing topical herbal oils and salve! Another ancient remedy for all kinds of skin, muscle, and pain issues. We will also touch on

culinary herbal oils! Then we will demonstrate how to make a healing salve. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

**Family Program: A Celebration of Storytelling.** March 21 from 12 p.m. – 2:30p.m. at McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture, 1327 Circle park Dr., Knoxville, Tenn. 37996. Come meet Eli Langley (Coushatta tribe of Louisiana) as he takes us on a narrative journey through time and traditions, and work with Tatiana Potts, printmaker, who will guide us through a bookmaking workshop. Families are invited to explore storytelling through hands-on activities inspired by the exhibition Homelands: Connecting to Mounds through Native Art. Info: (865) 974-2144

**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](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

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

**Kids Take over the Museum.** May 4 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. At the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, TN. 37882. There is no shortage of activities for your young crafter or artist, get their hands and minds busy on basket weaving, blacksmithing, and pottery making. Over 25 demonstrations, on-site vendors and special events

are lined up for this huge day at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. Visitors play loads of games that were popular choices for kids on the mountain homestead. Plus, representatives from the Museum of the Cherokee will be on hand to share their cultural heritage. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

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

#### Cherokee Community Clubs

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

**Widagalinidigv (Big Y) Community** meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community gym at 6:30 p.m. Info: Chair Bunsey Crowe (828) 788-4879, [bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com](mailto:bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com) For building rental contact Bunsey Crowe.

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

# Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



When **harvesting ramps**, it's important to remember to harvest sustainably. While digging, remember to only take what you need, cut above the roots, don't sell what you harvest, and give away what you don't need. Using traditional harvest methods like these keeps our culture alive and also protects the plants we care for. Additionally, if you have health conditions, let your healthcare provider know what traditional foods you eat.

see **EVENTS** next page

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

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

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

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

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

dwayne4251@gmail.com, 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.



## Moments in time

• On **March 23, 1983**, Barney Clark died of varied complications 112 days after becoming the world's first person to receive a permanent artificial heart. The last four months of his life had been spent in a hospital bed at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City, where he was attached to a 350-pound console that pumped air in and out of the implant through a system of hoses.

• On **March 24, 1943**, G.I. Joe, one of military history's most decorated homing pigeons, was hatched. During World War II, he flew 20 miles in 20 minutes, just in time to save a battalion from being bombed, and was credited with saving some 1,000 British troops.

• On **March 25, 1957**, the U.S. Customs Department confiscated 520 copies of Allen Ginsberg's book "Howl." Poet and bookstore owner Lawrence Ferlinghetti had published it the previous fall, leading to his arrest on obscenity charges. But he was found not guilty after nine literary experts testified at his trial that the poem was not in fact obscene.

• On **March 26, 1968**, President Lyndon B. Johnson decided to convene a nine-man panel of retired presidential advisors after Defense Secretary Clark Clifford told him that the Vietnam War was "a real loser." The group became known as the Wise Men and included generals, members of the State Department and McGeorge Bundy, National Security Advisor to both John F. Kennedy's and Johnson's administrations.

• On **March 27, 1998**, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of the drug Viagra, an oral medication to treat male impotence, which was originally studied for its effects on hypertension and angina pectoris.

• On **March 28, 2006**, Duke University officials suspended its men's lacrosse team for two games following allegations that team members had sexually assaulted a stripper hired to perform at a party. The following spring all charges were dropped for lack of evidence, and nearly two decades later the accuser admitted her story was false.

• On **March 29, 1865**, the final campaign of the Civil War began in Virginia when Union troops under General Ulysses S. Grant moved against the Confederate trenches around Petersburg.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Boaz (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first chapter begins, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God"? *1 Timothy, Titus, James, 2 John*
3. From Acts 16, what Asian city was the home of Lydia? *Derbe, Thyatira, Samaria, Jericho*
4. In John 2, where did Jesus work his first miracle? *Ur, Cana, Antioch, Thessalonica*
5. From 2 Samuel, who killed a giant having 12 fingers and 12 toes? *Mephibosheth, Jambres, Abimelech, Jonathan*
6. In John 11, what city was home to Mary, Martha and Lazarus? *Corinth, Gaza, Bethany, Sardis*

(6) Bethany, (3) Thyatira, (4) Cana, (5) Jonathan, ANSWERS: (1) Neither, (2) 1 Timothy, (3) Jonathan, (4) Cana, (5) Jonathan, (6) Bethany. *Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.*

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## The Garden Bug Herbals



Many of the earliest medical writings were known as "herbals." They were books that described plants and how they might be used to heal illnesses. Most began as traditional oral information, written down so they could be shared more widely. These collections also included other natural materials in the environment which were thought to be useful as medicines, such as milk, salt, honey, and even gemstones.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: [circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov](http://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov)

At left: "Gladiolus bulbs with leaves and flowers" from *De Historia Plantarum* (1644).

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Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday  
Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednes-  
day 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 wel-  
come.

**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. Pas-  
tor 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. Wednes-  
day Bible Study 6 p.m.

**Cherokee Church of God.** 21  
Church of God Drive. Sunday  
School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship  
Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night  
Service 7 p.m. Every third Sunday  
they have a fellowship meal to cel-  
ebrate all the birthdays throughout  
that month. Everyone is cordially  
invited for any of the services and  
meals. Pastor Rev. Owen Isaacs

(828) 242-0754

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



## APRIL ROSS

*Director of Care Management for  
Tribal Option*

**Education:** Masters in Healthcare Informatics  
and Masters in Nursing and Healthcare  
Leadership from Duke University,  
Bachelors in Nursing from Western Carolina  
University, and Associates in Nursing from  
Southwestern Community College  
**Years at CIHA:** 23 Years  
**Community/Hometown:** Yellowhill

“This is my hospital and the people we  
serve are my friends, family and people  
that I have known my whole life. I take  
great pride in being able to give back to  
my community.”-April Ross

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

**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 Wolftown Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6pm, Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6pm. Pastor Bro. Dan

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

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

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

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

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Cath-**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wright's 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



brytsoftware.com

## ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS

We are excited to announce the release of Bryt Software, our new loan software designed to help you keep track of your accounts.

Please be aware that you must have an **active email address** associated with your contact information to access the online portal. To do this, don't hesitate to get in touch with the number provided below.

Key features of Bryt Software include:  
**ACH Online Payments via [cihd.brytsoftware.com](http://cihd.brytsoftware.com)**  
**Automatic Notices & Reminders**  
**Access to your Payment History**

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our support team at 828-359-6911.

Sincerely,  
Cherokee Indian Housing Division



# Thinking About Building A Home?

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

## **BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER**

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

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**DoneHauling**

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

**Land wanted to buy by Enrolled Member.**

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

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

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Now Hiring**

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

**LEGAL NOTICES**

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 fudicary(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 fudicary(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**

**BIDS, RFPs, etc.**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:**

**PROCUREMENT OF DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES**  
The Graham County Board of Education (the "Board") announces the requirement for Design-Build services relating to the renovation, repair, and reconstruction of bleachers and other improvements at Big Oaks Stadium (the "Project"), located at 72 Moose Branch Road, Robbinsville, NC 28771.  
The Board is hereby soliciting responses from capable and experienced construction management firms from which a Design-Builder will be selected to provide Design-Build services, including but



**Employment Opportunities**

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist  
Nail Tech  
Lead Massage Therapist  
Spa Attendants

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



**Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings**

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

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

- 9-12 Cherokee Language Instructor
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher - Self-Contained Class
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher- Severe and Profound
- 6-12 Part-Time Vocal Instructor
- 6-8 Math Teacher
- Elementary Teacher(s)
- Elementary School Nurse (RN or LPN)
- Elementary Nurse Assistant (CNA)
- 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)





**CHEROKEE INDIAN  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



# OPEN POSITIONS

## New Positions

Assistant Director of IDD  
Inpatient Technician – Nights  
Respiratory Therapist – Temporary  
Patient Access Specialist – Temporary  
Receptionist - Part Time without Benefits - Weekends

## Behavioral Health

Mental Health Therapist - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus  
(Cherokee Central Schools, Child and Family – Snowbird, Family Safety, Family Intensive Treatment, Medication Assisted Treatment)  
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwtiyi  
Targeted Case Manager – Child and Family, , MAT  
Residential Technician - Kanvwtiyi  
MAT Manager  
Residential Technician - Female - Part Time without Benefits

## 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

## Finance

Patient Access Specialist - 3rd Shift

## Food & Nutrition

Dietary Manager

## Human Resources

Employee Relations Specialist

## Medical

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

## Nursing

Case Management Support – Primary Care  
Certified Medical Assistant or LPN – Primary Care  
LPN TJCC  
Registered Nurse ED – Mid Shift or Night Shift - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus  
Registered Nurse ED – PTI – Night Shift  
RN Inpatient – Part Time with Benefits  
RN Inpatient – Nights - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus  
RN Inpatient – Nights - PTI  
Specialty Services Nurse  
Medical Social Worker

## Nutrition

Clinical Dietician

## Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner

## Physical Therapy

Occupational Therapist I  
Physical Therapist I

## 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  
Tribal Option Care Manager

# CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

[CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS](http://CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS)

828.497.9163 EXT. 6343



# Job Opportunities



**Closing Sunday, March 15, 2026**

1. Mental Health Therapist – Child Advocacy – Public Health & Human Services (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)
2. Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
3. Early Childhood Language Specialist Assistant – Kituwah Academy – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
4. Receptionist – Qualla Boundary EHS/HS – CERS (L5 \$15.00 - \$20.28 per hour)
5. Manager (Operations) – Qualla Boundary EHS – CERS (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)
6. Maintenance Technician – Housing Program – Housing (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
7. Special Ops Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
8. Housekeeper I – Snowbird & Cherokee County Housekeeping – Snowbird/Cherokee County Services (L6 \$16.37 - \$20.47 per hour)
9. Forestry Administrative Officer – Forestry – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)
10. Supervisor (Forestry) – Natural Resources – Operations (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
11. Office Administrator – Cherokee Fire Department – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.3 per hour)
12. Fire Chief – Cherokee Fire Department – Operations (L17 \$76,877 - \$102,502) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
13. WTP Operator – Water Treatment – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
14. Store Clerk – Tribal ABC Commission (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION

**Open Until Filled**

1. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
2. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Patrol Officer (Multiple) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
4. Sergeant - Corrections - EBCI Law Enforcement (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
5. Sergeant (Patrol) - CIPD - EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
6. 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**

## Enjoy the elk—safely!

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



**smokies life**



## Cherokee Boys Club Job Announcements

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Boys Club  
 P.O. Box 507,  
 Cherokee, NC 28719  
 828-427-9101

Admin--Finance

Accounts Receivable Specialist--\$47,700--\$53,000

Agelink

3 Agelink Teachers--\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits

Children's Home

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

Service Department

1 Master Technician--\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with Benefits  
 1 Technician--\$21,200--\$29,150 per year with Benefits  
 3 Seasonal Mowers

Bus & Truck Department

Seasonal Bus Drivers  
 Truck Drivers

**\*SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS\***

# Job Fair

Take Your Shot at Success!

MARCH 19 | 1pm - 5pm

Employment Office

Located on the second floor  
of the casino parking garage

**Harrati's**  
**CHEROKEE**  
CASINO RESORT

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



## March is Developmental Disabilities Month

*Celebrating and advocating for those with developmental disabilities in our community.*



h.᠗GVP (Ni hi tsa tse li) "It belongs to you."



EBCI TRIBAL OPTION



# Breaking News & Alerts

Search: Cherokee Indian Police Dept



**SCAN**  
TO DOWNLOAD!



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# THE GOOD STUFF

## Blythe selected to participate in forum

Driver Blythe, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has been selected to be a part of the Southern Forum on Agricultural, Rural, and Environmental History conference that will be held at Western Carolina University. Blythe's proposal, "Cherokee Arts and Crafts and the Southern Mountain Environment", was selected to be a part of the SFARE conference in February and he will present later this month on Saturday, March 21.

The year's event is sponsored by the Department of History at Western Carolina University, The Center for the History of Agriculture, Science, and the Environment of the South (CHAS-ES) at Mississippi State University, and the Agricultural History Department.

Blythe said, "It goes without saying how important agriculture and natural resources are to the Cherokee identity. Throughout our history, the Cherokee have utilized natural resources for our craftwork, utilitarian use items, and most commonly the art we sell here in Cherokee. I am honored to be a part of this conference and look forward to sharing some of my work that deals with Cherokee territory here and in surrounding areas in Western North Carolina as well"

Blythe is currently in his last semester of graduate school at Western Carolina University and his primary focus of research is in Cherokee art history and preservation. (Photo contributed)



<< Solis wins at Arnold Sports Festival  
Damian Solis, left, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, participated in the Arnold Sports Festival XPC 21 Deadlift Salute event in Columbus, Ohio on Friday, March 6. He placed first in the Sub-master 35-39 division with a 710 deadlift. He is pictured with Nathaniel and Nicholai Solis. (Photo courtesy of Reyna Solis)

# The GOOD STUFF

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

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

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

**GWY ᏫᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏆᏚᏛᏁᏍᏔᏅ**  
**CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI**



<< **Enjoying Dr. Seuss Week**  
Phoebe Marcella, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Elawodi (Yellowhill), celebrates Dr. Seuss week. She is shown dressed for Wacky Wednesday on March 4. (Photo courtesy of Dawna Paul)

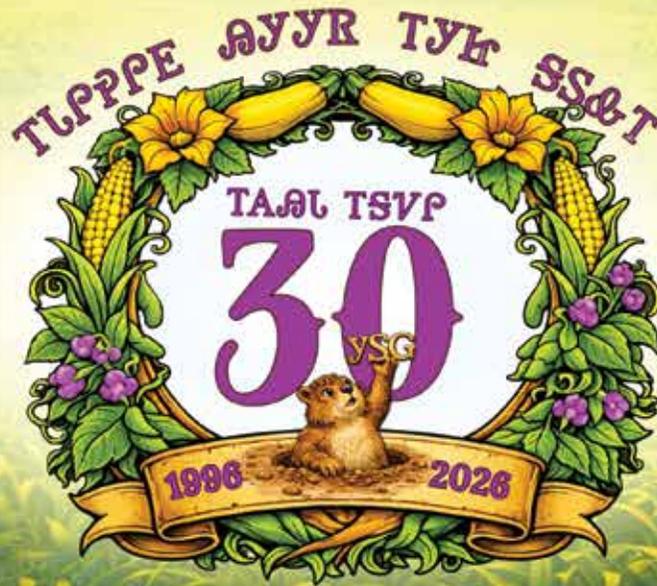
# ANNUAL KITUWAH CELEBRATION

June 6, 2026 • 10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Kituwah Mound-3831 Ela Rd, Bryson City, NC 28713

## TAAL TSVF

“Ours Forever”



SOCIAL DANCES - ENTERTAINMENT - STICKBALL DEMONSTRATION  
- FOOD - COMMUNITY GATHERING

Call for EBCI Vendors -  
Artisans, Farmers, Crafters, Demonstrators  
Scan this QR Code or call:  
(828)359.6406

