

FREE



Groundbreaking held for The Boundary Bingo & Slots Pages 6-7



Cherokee Winter Social held Photos pages 18-19

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of anvyi (march) 4-10, 2026

“It is a part of us”

Noquisiyi Mound deed signing ceremony held

By ROBERT JUMPER
One Feather Editor

FRANKLIN, N.C. – Elaine Eisenbraun, executive director of the Noquisiyi Initiative, began the celebration with a short narrative of the long road to transferring the Noquisiyi Mound back into the hands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) on Thursday, Feb. 26.

Roger Smoker, an elder of the EBCI of the Tsalagi Gadugi/Tuti-yi (Cherokee County/Snowbird) Community led the assembly of roughly 250 in prayer, facing east

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Juanita Wilson, Bob McCollum, Mayor Stacy Guffey, and Ugwiyuhi Michell Hicks sign the deed transferring ownership of the Noquisiyi Mound to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. (ROBERT JUMPER/One Feather photo)



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Image of the Week:

Catcuce Tiger, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, sings during the annual Cherokee Winter Social held at the Peaches Squirrell Sports & Recreation Complex in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 28. Fellow EBCI tribal member Matt Tooni can be seen in the background singing as well. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

Quote of the Week

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

“The Noquisiyi Mound is not just a piece of land. It is a part of us. It is a part of the Cherokee people.”

Ugwiwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks speaking at the deed signing ceremony for the Noquisiyi Mound in which the Noquisi Initiative signed the deed to the Mound (shown in the photo above on Feb. 16) over to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on Thursday, Feb. 26

Letters Policy

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

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

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

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

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NOQUISIYI: From front page

and speaking the prayer in the Cherokee language.

Clouds and rain could not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. Protected by the large garage bay on the Mound property and in the shadow of the Noquisiyi Mound, Jarett Wildcatt, a member of the EBCI, provided a moment of meditation and reflection as he played flute for the assembly.

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Tsalagi Gadugi/Tutiya (Cherokee County/Snowbird) Rep. Adam Wachacha gave opening remarks. He expressed appreciation to those in the Noquisiyi Initiative, the Franklin mayor and aldermen, and the Tribe for the work that led to the signing of the deed over to the EBCI.

Taline Ugwiyu (Vice Chief) Alan B. Ensley then recognized members of the Dinilawigi, representatives of the Town of Franklin government, and the members of the Noquisiyi Initiative board. He thanked them for continuing to work together until the signing could be accomplished. Taline Ugwiyu Ensley noted that Ms. Eisenbraun had shared a vision of the creation of the Noquisiyi Mound possibly happening one handful of dirt at a time. He said that, while attending a Fading Voices Festival, one of the observances was to circle the mound, with each tribal member holding a turtle shell containing a small amount of dirt. It reminded him of the time, dedication, and commitment that each generation had to the land and to the Cherokee people.

Those who were present to sign the deed transfer included Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Mi-



Approximately 250 Cherokee people, joined by Franklin and Macon County community members, attended the Noquisiyi Mound deed signing.

chell Hicks; EBCI member Juanita Wilson and Noquisiyi Initiative Board of Directors co-chair; Bob McCollum, Noquisiyi Initiative Board of Directors co-chair; and the Honorable Stacy Guffey, Town of Franklin Mayor. Each was allowed to share thoughts on the signing.

Wilson shared her own personal challenges that correlated with the long societal and legal journey to the Mound acquisition. She talked about the need for perception change when talking about the history of the Mound and the differences of opinion over who should be caretakers.

She said, "We tried to make this controversy over the Mound a good thing. We decided that 'the politics' wasn't for us. As a group (of both tribal and Franklin town members), we set about learning about each other, Franklin people,



Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee Co.) Rep. Adam Wachacha gave an opening address to the gathering for the Mound signing ceremony.

Macon people, Cherokee people. We learned that there was so much love and dedication to this Mound, even when it was not under our stewardship.”

McCollum spoke of the many partnerships that were developed to facilitate the discussion and ultimate transition of the Mound. He named the members of the Noquisiyi Initiative board which included, in addition to Wilson and himself, Fred Alexander, Justin Setzer, Angelina Jumper, Dr. Barbara Duncan, Bo Lossiah, Gina Meyers, Tonya Carroll, Ty Boyd, Nancy Taylor, and Dawn Arneach.

“Our board is 50/50; members of the Cherokee community and the other half are from the Franklin/Macon County community. Today is a testament to what people can do if they work together.”

Mayor Guffey thanked the Franklin Town Council for its unanimous vote to remove stipulations that would have prevented or delayed the transfer of the Mound to the tribe. He also thanked the

town’s administrative staff.

He spoke of the importance of how we view land and its sacred value. “That feeling, the sacred connection to the land, the belief that you don’t hold it for yourself. You hold it for your children and their great-grandchildren, is something that we share.” He spoke to the return on investment for Franklin of transferring the Mound back to the Cherokee people. “You know, we too often try to measure things in dollars, and cost, and profit, and short-term gain. If you ask me what the economic benefit is to Franklin for returning the Mound, the honest answer is that I don’t know. And further, I don’t care. Because that was never the point; the reason this (town) council voted unanimously was to do the right thing”.

Mayor Guffey said, “Sometimes the soul of a place is worth more than a parcel of land. Wouldn’t our world be a better place if we led with that principle?”

Ugviyuhi Michell Hicks recognized the Dinilawigi, past and present, for their work and diligence in making the day happen. He acknowledged all those involved in seeing that the signing is occurring.

“As tribal leaders, we have a responsibility to govern, not just in the present, but to protect what truly defines us as a tribe. What truly defines us as a sovereign nation.”

Ugviyuhi Hicks spoke to the Cherokee history of western North Carolina and particularly the Franklin area, stating that this area was where much of the cultural exchange with early Europeans took place. “The Noquisiyi Mound is not just a piece of land. It is a part of us. It is a part of the Cherokee people. It was torn away. We lost ownership of the land 207 years ago. It’s our responsibility to start tying the pieces back together. This is not a land transaction today. You (the town of Franklin) are sharing part of our history with

us. You are bringing back just a piece of who we were.”

With that, the officers of the Noquisiyi Initiative (deed holders), the Mayor of the Township of Franklin, and Ugviyuhi Michell Hicks signed the deed over to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Prior to the 2020s, the Noquisiyi Mound was known as “Nikwasi”. A short history (courtesy of Dr. Barbara Duncan): “Nikwasi was Nikwasi when we Aniyvwiya got here to this area. Nikwasi is a burial/platform mound. The Mound has never been the subject of a destructive major archaeological excavation and is the largest unexcavated mound in the Southeast. Nikwasi is the home to a race of people called the Nu-Ne-Hi, who are immortal beings that sometimes come to protect the inhabitants of the area. Nikwasi was forcibly taken from our care and from our ceremonies by Europeans who desperately wanted the land.”



Check out our new
Qualla: Our Community
video series at the
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on YouTube

Groundbreaking held for The Boundary Bingo & Slots

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The bingo operation of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) closed in 2020 due to COVID-19, and it never reopened. Now, a new facility is being constructed on Tsali Blvd. on a piece of property that has previously been a movie theater and was most recently a home furnishing store.

Leaders of the EBCI broke ground on The Boundary Bingo & Slots Class II gaming establishment in Elawodi (Yellowhill) in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 24. The 35,000 square foot building, a project of the Tribal Casino Gaming Enter-



This photo shows an overview of the property where the new building will be located. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)



EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION



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Leaders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) break ground on The Boundary Bingo & Slots Class II gaming establishment in Elawodi (Yellowhill) in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 24. Shown, left to right, are Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee Co.) Rep. Michael Smoker, Dinilawigi Taline Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Vice Chairman) David Wolfe, Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi Rep. Adam Wachacha, Tsiqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle, Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman) Jim Owle, Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, Aniwoihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Aniwoihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer, Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather, and EBCI Tribal Elder Annie Owens.

prise (TCGE) and Tribal Bingo Enterprise (TBE), will offer bingo, Class II gaming machines, and a concession area and is set to open in summer 2027.

Tommy Lambert, TCGE chairperson, commented, “This is really an important project. We closed our bingo project down back in 2020 during COVID and haven’t had any bingo since then. This project is unique, too...this will be the third project that TCG has been over that’s been a ground-up project.”

Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks said he is very excited about this project. “There’s been many, many folks that are interested in getting our bingo going.

We’ve been trying to do monthly, quarterly bingos to kind of get us up to when we get this thing open, so the sooner the better.”

He added, “I just appreciate all the contractors (Dale Partners, architects; Rabren, general contractor) who are stepping up and helping to make this project move, hopefully under budget and on time.

As we think about our community and what we’re responsible for as tribal leaders, we also have that same expectation from folks that contract with the Tribe. Get to know the community. Get to understand some of the things that we’re looking for.”

Ugwiyuhi Hicks commented,

“We have a lot of things that are moving right now and none of us can do it alone. We have to work together and we have to make sure that the fiscal aspect of these projects align. And also that the ideas and initiatives are properly planned out. That’s how we get things done.”

Jimmy Peavy, project manager, said 60 percent of the building will be gaming space broken up between Class II gaming machines and the bingo hall. He said they will be able to fit approximately 500 people per game on the bingo and 250 to 300 on the Class II machines. “We know that this is more than what we had previously at the old bingo place.”



Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks speaks during Tuesday’s groundbreaking event.

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. 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.

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.

S.2577 (McCarran-Walter Technical Corrections Act).

This Senate bill, according to its

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LEGISLATIVE: From page 9

text, would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4596.

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

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

House Resolution 666 (Supporting the goals of Overdose Awareness Day and strengthening efforts to combat the opioid crisis in the United States). This House resolution states in part, “Substance use disorder and drug overdose affect all socioeconomic groups, racial and ethnic groups, geographical regions, and ages; and Black and American Indian or Alaskan Native populations are more likely to die from a drug overdose than their White counterparts”.

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

that promotes prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery from opioid use disorder.”

Introduced: Aug. 29, 2025 by Rep. Lori Trahan (D-Mass.)

Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Aug. 29, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this resolution as of press time.

H.R. 5144 {Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County, Virginia Federal Recognition Act}. This House bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

Introduced: Sept. 4, 2025 by Rep. Jennifer A. Kiggans (R-Va.)

Action: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 4, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5257 (To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust). The full title of the bill states “To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust by the United States pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934, for the benefit of an Indian Tribe that was federally recognized on the date that the land was taken into trust”.

Introduced: Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) on Sept. 10, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 10, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5327 (To extend federal recognition to the Nottoway

Tribe of Virginia). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 5739 (Italian Heroes and Heritage Act). This House bill would, according to the legislation, “prohibit federal funds from being provided to any state or local government that celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day”. Section 2(a)

(1) of this bill states, “Christopher Columbus set sail 533 years ago in 1492 to bravely cross the Atlantic Ocean and discovered new land that would soon after become known as America.”

Section 2(b) states, “It is the sense of Congress that Oct. 13 should continue to be celebrated nationwide as Christopher Columbus Day, as it has been since 1892, to honor our Italian-American heritage and our forefather, Christopher Columbus, who helped to discover this great land.”

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

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

S. Res. 450. (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture).

The resolution states, “Columbus Day does not currently provide an opportunity to reflect on the stories and perseverance of the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that are now part of the United States; and where, prior to western contact, Indigenous Peoples lived and flourished in the lands that are now part of the United States for thousands of years”.

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

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

H.R. Res. 809 (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture).

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

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

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

S.3041 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act). This Senate bill would “allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain tribal criminal matters”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 5869 (Tribal Water

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

Introduced: Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.) on Oct. 28, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Oct. 28, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5910 (To authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes).

As stated in the title, this House bill would amend 69 Stat. 539, Chapter 615, 25 U.S.C. 514(a) to authorize such leases.

Introduced: Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (R-Wyo.) on Nov. 4, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 4, 2025. A Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session was held on Dec. 17, 2025, and the bill was reported and placed on the Union Calendar by the Committee on Jan. 14, 2026.

S. 3236 (A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008). This is a “bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure Tribal consultation and representation under the food distribution program on Indian reservations”.

Introduced: Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) on Nov. 20, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on Nov. 20, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 6285 (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

see LEGISLATIVE next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 11

Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health”.

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

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

H.R. 7325 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2026). This House bill would establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies “to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School

Policies, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American people”. If passed, an initial Commission Report would be required within four years and annual reports would be required from that point on.

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

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

H.R. 7396 (Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act). This House bill would establish an Office of Native American

Affairs within the Small Business Administration which “shall be responsible for establishing a working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting, and capital access...”

Introduced: Feb. 5, 2026 by Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Kan.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business on Feb. 5, 2026, and a mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026 where it was reported favorably (24-0 vote).

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>

MISSING

Besalynn James

Enrolled with Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation

Height: 5'2" Weight: 180 lbs

Female Age: 63

Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: January 21, 2025

Last Known Location: Lummi Nation, Washington

Circumstances of Disappearance: Besalynn was last seen 1/21/2025 in the area of Bellingham, WA on foot headed in an unknown direction. Besalynn was reported missing to the Lummi Nation Police Department on January 25, 2025. She has a scar on her right arm. She has a tattoo of the word "Bes" on one of her arms. Besalynn was last seen wearing a "Native American Missing Indigenous Women" shirt and black pants

If you have seen or have information about Besalynn James contact the Lummi Nation Police Department (360) 312-2274.

Source: Namus.gov



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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Eastern Russia serves breakfast when western Russia serves dinner.

• If you are born blind due to lesions in the brain (congenital cortical blindness), rather than lesions in the eye (congenital peripheral blindness), you apparently can't become schizophrenic.

• Words have a lifespan of anywhere between 1,000 and 20,000 years.

• While inducting Bob Dylan into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Bruce Springsteen noted that he first heard Dylan's song "Like a Rolling Stone" in the car with his mother, who liked the music but after a minute looked at her son and said, "That boy can't sing."

• The Oscar statue must always appear in an upright, vertical position and cannot be dressed, altered, rotated, stretched or embellished in any way.

• Oak trees are more prone to being struck by lightning than any other tree.

• A wildlife photographer documented an unlikely duo in northern Finland: a young female gray wolf and a male brown bear that met every night for 10 days. They weren't observed fighting, but roaming, playing and even eating from the same plate.

• Broccoli contains more protein per calorie than steak.

• On July 26, 2025, Thaddeus Daniel Pierce was born from an embryo that had been frozen since May 1994.

• North Dakota has the most golf courses per capita out of any state in America.

• After the beloved TV series "I Love Lucy" ended, Desi Arnaz offered Vivian Vance (Ethel) and William Frawley (Fred) their own spin-off called "The Mertzes," but Vance declined, primarily because she didn't want to work one-on-one with Frawley. The pair's onscreen chemistry notably didn't mirror their offscreen relationship.

• Lint can be used as a highly efficient fire starter.

Thought for the Day: "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered." — *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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"IT'S TIME FOR GUTTER MAINTENANCE"

6 REASONS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GUTTER MAINTENANCE

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

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

Here is a list of some of those reasons.

PREVENT EROSION & MOLD



1. Roof Damage

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

2. Wood Fascia Damage

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

3. Damage to Walls, Windows, Doors and Patios

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

4. Damage to Foundations and Landscaping

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

5. Slip and fall

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

6. Prevent Mold

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

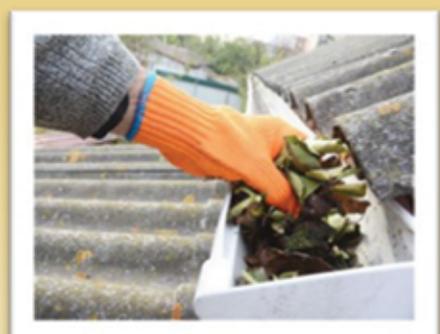
Exposure to mold can also affect a family's health, from triggering asthma and coughs, to causing runny noses, and other, more severe respiratory conditions."



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New TGC Commissioner

Nelson Lambert, left, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tsisqwohi (Birdtown), was sworn in to the Tribal Gaming Commission (TGC) by Cherokee Chief Justice Brad Letts on Feb. 17 at the Tribal Gaming Commission office in Cherokee, N.C. Nelson, shown with his wife, Kim Lambert, was appointed to the position by Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks. (Photo contributed)

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**CIPD Arrest Report for
Feb. 16-22, 2026**

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

Youngdeer, Kayandra Elaine – age 21

Arrested: Feb. 16

Released: Feb. 19

Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Child Abuse in the Second Degree (two counts)

Davis, Fredrick – age 32

Arrested: Feb. 17

Released: Feb. 17

Charges: Second Degree Trespass, Disorderly Conduct

Driver, Derek Wilson – age 33

Arrested: Feb. 17

Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 23)

Charges: Probation Violation

Inthirati, Ly – age 55

Arrested: Feb. 17

Released: Feb. 17

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Lambert, Trevan Holden – age 20

Arrested: Feb. 17

Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 23)

Charges: Assault on a Female, Pre-Trial Release Violation

McMillan, Barry Jason – age 48

Arrested: Feb. 18

Released: Feb. 18

Charges: Grand Larceny; Theft of

Property Lost, Mislaid, or Delivered by Mistake

Walkingstick Jr., Mike Daniel – age 33

Arrested: Feb. 18

Released: Feb. 19

Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Crowe, Adelia Lynn – age 26

Arrested: Feb. 20

Released: Feb. 21

Charges: Assault on Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer (two counts); Resisting Public Officer; Disorderly Conduct; Malicious Conduct by Prison (two counts)

George, Michael Abraham – age 28

Arrested: Feb. 20

Released: Feb. 20

Charges: Driving While Impaired

Wildcatt, Stephanie Ann – age 39

Arrested: Feb. 20

Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 23)

Charges: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Bacigalupi, Dylan Michael – age 27

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Feb. 21

Charges: Temporary Hold for Jackson Co.

Ben Jr., Larindo Helly – age 18

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Feb. 22

Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Providing Alcoholic Beverages to, or Possession of, or Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages by Persons Under the age of 21

Cardenas, Ayena Marie – age 25

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 23)

Charges: Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Reckless Endangerment

Carroll, William Adron – age 45

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Feb. 21

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Foster, Casey Tyler – age 26

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Feb. 22

Charges: Public Intoxication

Germeerling, Jonathon – age 27

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Feb. 21

Charges: Temporary Hold for Jackson Co.

O'Kelley, Sophia May Francis-Salali – age 18

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 23)

Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Villagomez, Valentin – age 25

Arrested: Feb. 21

Released: Feb. 22

Charges: Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public

Bush, Jason R. – age 59

Arrested: Feb. 22

Released: Feb. 22

Charges: Hold until Sober

Tramper, Chanttin Travis – age 18

Arrested: Feb. 22

Released: Not released as of report date (Feb. 23)

Charges: Breaking and Entering

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A passion for politics

Grayson Mathis' extraordinary collection of political signatures

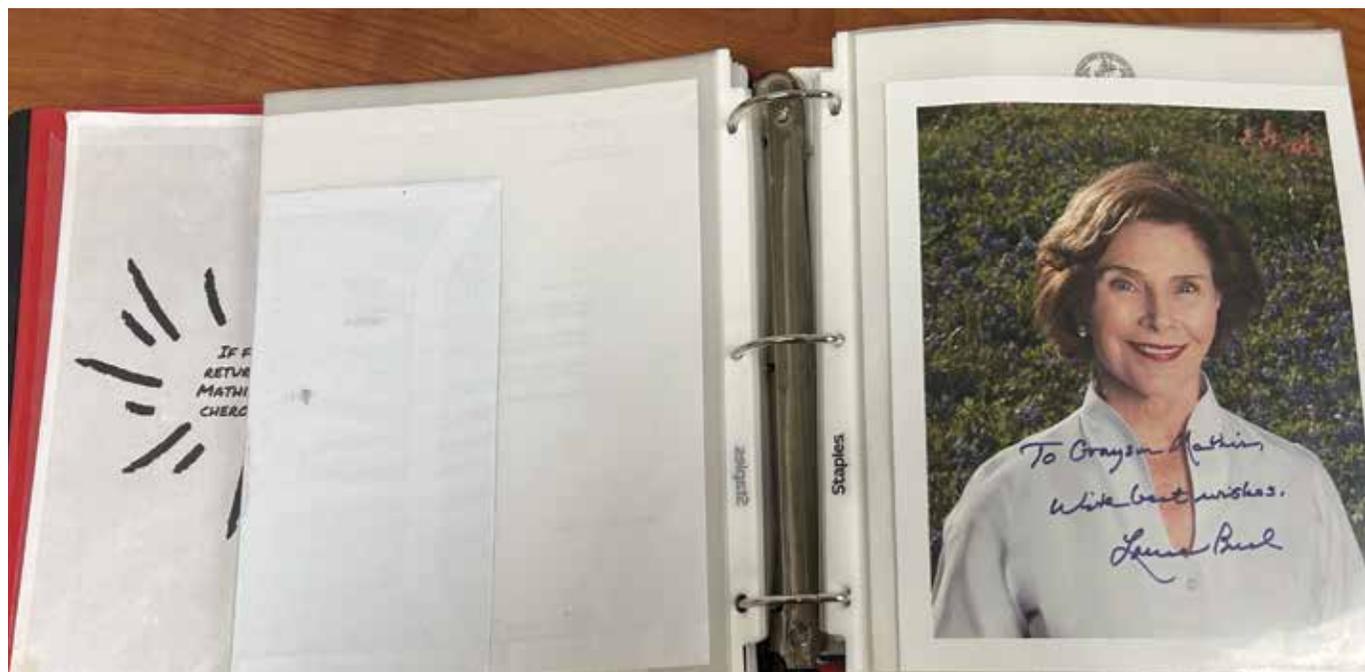
By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Grayson Mathis is a 13-year-old member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) attending North Carolina Cyber Academy. He has a passion for politics and history, and he has begun a massive project of collecting signatures from politicians, and some celebrities, amassing nearly a hundred in a little over a year.

In January 2025, Mathis began requesting signatures by mail for politicians across the United States, from district representatives to the President of the United States to the presidents of foreign countries, and even Larry the Cable Guy. He even received a Christmas Card from King Charles. He also collects and distributes challenge and service patches and coins for law enforcement and veterans.

Mathis' favorite mail he's received is from Ralph Norman, U.S. representative for South Carolina's fifth congressional district. His most recent mail came from Johnny Depp, with an autographed photo of the actor as Captain Jack Sparrow from *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

"My goal is to do all 435 members of the House of Representatives, all 100 senators, and the cabinet," he said.



Shown in this photo is Mathis' binder of signatures including a signed photo of Laura Bush, former First Lady of the United States. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

Mathis says he would like to be a historian. He enjoys learning about the Titanic and U.S. history. He said he might run for a seat in the House of Representatives one day.

For now, Mathis is doing his civic duty by volunteering to stuff mailers and assist during elections, following the news, and reading up on his representatives.

One signature he could not obtain, but got close enough, was the CIA. "I requested an autograph from the director of the CIA, and they wrote me a letter back and said they couldn't send autographs out, but they sent me a drawstring bag with a notebook in it, some flyers on the CIA, a pen and a notepad."

Mathis' family travels with him to historic sites and meet and greets with politicians. He visited



Mathis, right, meets Adam Smith, a candidate running for North Carolina's 11th Congressional District seat. (Photo contributed)

Washington D.C. when he was younger but would like to go again soon. The signature he hopes to

receive next is the Speaker of the House, and/or the Vice President of the United States.

Yoga

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

Gentle yoga: Gentle Yoga movement, breathwork, and guided relaxation with incorporation of therapeutic based movements or restorative poses for neck, shoulders, back and hips. Thursdays 12-12:50pm

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

Walking Club

Mondays and Wednesdays at 12pm

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

SEAT Workout and Nutrition classes

March 6,13, 27, at 10am

1 hour program combines 30 minutes of seated exercise with 30 minutes of nutrition. Contact Shelby to sign up at shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6783

Beginner Pilates

Mondays 12-12:45pm

March 9, 23, 30

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

Move and Meal Prep

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

Thursdays 12-1pm Begins March 26

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

March Lunch and Learn: The New Dietary Guidelines

March 25, from 12-1pm

Lunch is provided. Contact April to sign up at apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov or 359-6201.

Family Fly Tying Event

March 24, from 5-7pm

This event is for boys and girls in 7th-12th grade.

Parent/Caretaker must attend with their child. All materials will be provided at no-cost to the family. Dinner will be provided.

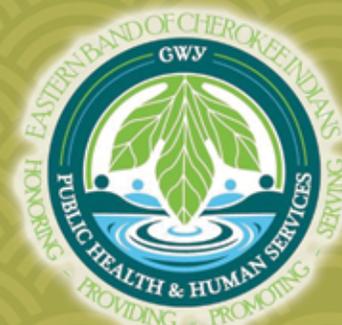
Contact Shelby to sign up or for more info. shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov or 359-6783.



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MARCH

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Cherokee Choices

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

Vision: Generations of Wellness

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

Follow Cherokee Choices on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
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Cultural fun

The annual Cherokee Winter Social was held in the Peaches Squirrel Sports & Recreation Complex in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 28.

Photos by Scott McKie B.P./One Feather







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Maxwell Guo, from Alpharetta, Ga., won the Main Event at the recent World Series of Poker (WSOP) circuit stop in Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, N.C. (Photo by Poker.org)

Georgia's Maxwell Guo wins gold in record-breaking World Series of Poker Main Event at Harrah's Cherokee

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The World Series of Poker (WSOP), the world's most prestigious brand in poker, awarded \$9.7 million during its most recent Circuit tour stop at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in western North Carolina, which ran Feb. 12-23. And the largest payday of all was secured by tournament rookie Maxwell Guo, took down the Main Event for over \$380,000.

"I feel pretty good," Guo shared with Poker.org following his win. "I'm still kind of processing everything. I still feel a lot of adrenaline from the whole day. I think it'll kind of hit me later."

Guo, from Alpharetta, Ga., primarily plays cash-game poker. This one was only his third-ever tournament attempt, and he happened to be a part of the largest Main Event in history at Harrah's Cherokee, a casino that has been hosting WSOP Circuits since 2013.

The newly crowned champion

outlasted a record 1,824-entry field in the latest installment of the WSOP Circuit Cherokee Main Event. The massive turnout generated a \$2.7 million prize pool, surpassing the \$2 million guarantee, and culminated in a career-defining triumph, with Guo capturing the coveted gold ring and the grand prize of \$386,231.

Beyond the Main Event, the 12-day poker festival saw other standout winners grabbing six-figure payouts, including three-time Super Bowl Champion Richard Seymour, who took down the \$2,200 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller.

Other winners included:

- Event #2 Mini Main: Jones Jesse; Springfield, Mo.; \$179,655
- Event #7 Monster Stack: Justin Harvell; Nashville, Tenn.; \$141,126
- Event #17 High Roller: Richard Seymour; Suwanee, Ga.; \$106,577

- Poker.org release

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Prescribed fire operations planned for EBCI tribal lands

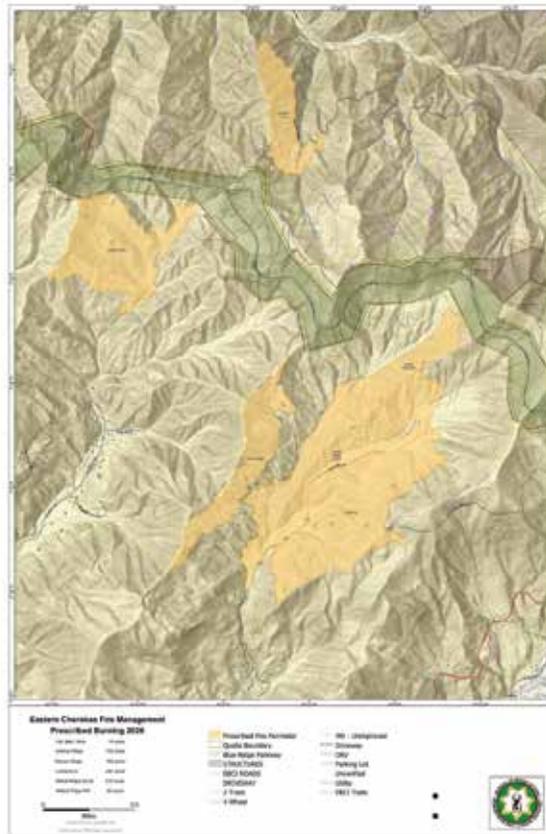
Submitted by Eastern Region
BIA Cherokee Agency

The Eastern Cherokee Agency BIA and US Wildland Fire Service are planning to implement multiple prescribed fire operations in the Tribal Reserve, Tribal Wildlife openings, and on possessory holder land, starting Feb. 24 through April 15.

Officials noted, "Daily weather conditions and recent precipitation will determine the exact date of ignitions. There may be an abundance of smoke in the area during this period. The Cherokee Agency BIA and USWFS fire team appreciates your understanding. Thank you for your patience during these important activities."

The 6,111-acre Tribal Reserve Area is primarily composed of mixed hardwoods, Pine, Spruce, Mountain Laurel, and Rhododendron, along with numerous medicinal and culturally significant species, streams, and riparian zones.

Fire Managers want to emphasize the



importance of prescribed burn operations and their significant benefits to the Eastern Cherokee landscape and cultural resources.

Prescribed fire will be used where past fire

exclusion has caused adverse fuel loading and succession from Oak-Hickory dominant forest type to mesic (Poplar, Maple, Rhododendron). Prescribed fire plays a vital role in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing habitat of native plants, animals as well as threatened, endangered, and culturally significant species.

Using prescribed fire as a land management tool can also reduce the risk of wildfires to communities and developed areas.

These prescribed Fire units are thoughtfully planned with input and ecological objectives from the EBCI Natural Resources Department/ Fish & Wildlife.

Tribal reserve Burn units:

Dobson Ridge RX

Lickstone Ridge 2 RX

Flat Bald west RX

Jenkins Ridge RX

Middle ridge South, middle ridge NW RX

Possessory holder unit:

Lewis RX - Birdtown

For questions and concerns, please contact: Eastern Region BIA Cherokee Agency/ USWFS Fire Prevention Specialist Evan-Marie Petit at (707) 684-6544, evan.petit@bia.gov

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359-6262, indiclim1@ebci-nsn.gov**

**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*

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 by April 1. You may also email with questions if needed.

- *Cherokee Historical Association*

**Bill Taylor Scholarship
taking applications**

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

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

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

To apply or to learn more about this scholarship and others, visit nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships.

Info: Shari Williamson at swilliamson@nccommunityfoundation.org

- *North Carolina Community Foundation*

THANK YOU LETTERS

**Thank you from new
EBCI Honorary Member**

Thank you all for the incredible honor of becoming an honorary member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Words are inadequate to convey the kindness and warmth felt during that time. I am truly honored and humbled by the love, support, and inclusion I've received by people I know and many I didn't. It has been a tremendous privilege to be able to work and serve with you and for

you over these many decades. The friends and family made here have brought me lasting joy and happiness. You all have changed my life in so many ways, all for the good. Your humor is sustaining and motivating, and your resilience and forward thinking has always reflected the tribalism, unity, and connectedness, of a strong sovereign nation. I am not a speaker of the Kituwah language, but what I have learned reflects a people of endurance, of thoughtfulness, kindness, and great intelligence. I am so grateful for time spent with speakers, elders, young people and others and to witness the generations of those coming up who are working hard to promote language and culture and embrace all those things to know who they are and share with others. I will always be grateful to the EBCI community and honored to be considered a sister and friend. I also would like to thank the support of my WCU community who have allowed me to do the work I am privileged to do. Good relationships and living and working on Kituwah homeland have provided us with a great responsibility and honor to learn and share with our Kituwah neighbors, brothers, and sisters. Thank you.

Lisa J. Lefler,
Dillsboro, N.C.

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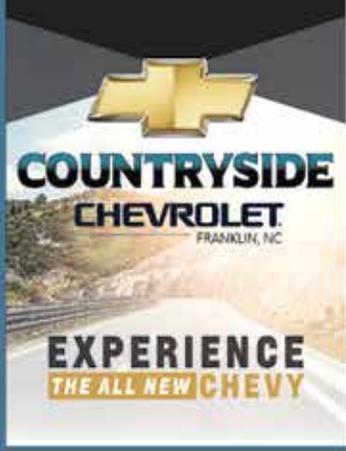
Brooke Barrett
LCMHC
(Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

Submit questions for Brooke to answer in her biweekly column:
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Rebecca Hillane Lambert

Rebecca Hillane Lambert, age 69, of Cherokee, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026. Born on May 26, 1956, to Hilliard and Thadress Green

Sneed.

Hillane married the love of her life, Sam Lambert, and together they shared 47 years of love, family, and God’s grace. Hillane especially cherished her children and grandchildren, who will carry forward her legacy of faith and compassion.

Hillane is survived by her husband, Sam Lambert; father, Hilliard (Sandra) Sneed; daughters, Rachel Lambert, Lindsay Lambert (Bill) and Stella (Chris) Watkins; daughter-in-law, Leysa Lambert; grandchildren, Sammy Lambert, Jonathan Saylor, Kellin Blankenship, Christian Saylor, Elias Blankenship, Ashton Saylor, Landon and Maddy Watkins; brothers, Ernest-Cub (Carlene) Sneed, Paul (Robin) Sneed, Jeff (Shondi) and Will Thompson; sisters, Sally (Fred) Penick and

Lisa (Ed) Weatherford; brothers-in-law, Ted (Stephanie) Lambert and Raymond Owle, Johnnie Stephens; and special lifelong friend Aneva Turtle Hagberg; and many nieces and nephews.

Hillane was preceded in death by her beloved mother, Thadress Green Sneed; son, Jimmy Lambert; sisters, Ava Sneed and Deborah (Mouse) Thompson; brother-in-law, Michael Lambert and sister-in-law, Madge Owle.

Hillane spent 40 years working as a Registered nurse. She served as the Health Service Administrator Representative on the Hospital Board for over 16 years. She was also the Director of Unity for many years. She was known for her dedication, leadership, compassion, excellence and her work touched the lives of many, especially in children and other vul-

nerable populations and she was a constant advocate in the field of behavioral and mental health. She approached every task with integrity and a servant’s heart.

Hillane loved her flower garden, baking delicious cakes and her family most of all. Those who knew Hillane will remember her for her kindness, generosity, strength and her great sense of humor.

A celebration of Hillane’s life was held on Tuesday, March 3 at Olivet United Methodist Church. Pastors Ben Bushyhead and John Ferree presided. The family takes comfort in knowing that Hillane is now in the presence of Jesus, healed, with no pain and rejoicing in eternal life.

“Her children rise up and bless her, her husband also and praises her.” Proverbs 31:28

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

MARCH 2-MARCH 8, 2026

WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
Tuckasegee River	March 2-6	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Black Caddis, Parachute Adams, Pheasant Tail, Mop, Girdle Bug, Eggs, Streamers
Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	BWOs, Black and Brown Stoneflies, Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, Elk Hair Caddis
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Black and Brown Stoneflies, Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, Thunderhead, Elk Hair Caddis, BWOs

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BEST++	BEST	BETTER	BETTER++	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE
11:10 AM-1:10	11:56 AM-1:56 PM	12:18 AM-2:18 AM 12:40 PM-2:40 PM	1:01 AM-3:01 AM 1:22 PM-3:22 PM	1:44 AM-3:44 AM 2:05 PM-4:05 PM	2:27 AM-4:27 AM 2:49 PM-4:49 PM	4:12 AM-6:12 AM 4:36 PM-6:36 PM

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PROPERTY SURVEY, TRANSFER & RIGHT OF WAYS	<input type="checkbox"/> Surveying requests for approved buildable sites will be done by the Tribal Surveying dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Property transfers will be done by the owner to the home buyer at Tribal Realty. <input type="checkbox"/> The home buyer must own the property for financing purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> All road and utility right of ways or utility easements must be in place before any site work begins.
PRE-APPROVAL PRE-QUALIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant will meet with Homebuyer Services Coordinator where they are required to have Site Inspection forms completed, unless applicant is wishing to purchase a home. <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will assist applicant with packaging loan applications to lender. <input type="checkbox"/> Lender will issue a prequalification letter indicating maximum loan amount. <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will send Infrastructure a copy of the prequalification letter
INFRASTRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Once pre-approved/qualified, the infrastructure application must be completed. <input type="checkbox"/> Legal description proving ownership of the property must be included. <input type="checkbox"/> Must be an EBCI enrolled member constructing a permanent residence on trust lands to receive Infrastructure services.
HOME BUYING SEARCH & QUOTE	<input type="checkbox"/> Prequalified borrower will begin their house search, keeping in mind the size of the site that was approved. <input type="checkbox"/> Borrower will request a sales quote, floor plans and foundation plan for their home. <input type="checkbox"/> After receiving quote and house plans, Borrower will submit all documents and drawings to Homebuyer Services Coordinator. <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will submit estimate, plans and drawings to Infrastructure. <input type="checkbox"/> Simultaneously, HBS Coordinator will submit same plans to the lending institution, as well as financial documents to keep loan active. Financial documents are updated with lender every 30 days.
DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (DPA) & LOAN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> Homebuyer Services Coordinator will process documents to request Down Payment Assistance for 20% of sales contract amount, up to \$50,000.00, and will request \$5,000.00 in Rate Buy Down (RBD) gift funds simultaneously. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will submit to Loan Compliance Committee for review. Committee will review for completeness of application. <input type="checkbox"/> Completed applications are submitted to Secretary of Housing for approval and signature. <input type="checkbox"/> Approved applications are then submitted to the Principal Chief for approval and signature. <input type="checkbox"/> The approved and signed applications are returned to Homebuyer Services Coordinator. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will continue to send financial docs on a continual basis to lender until loan close is scheduled.
CIDH & REALTY – On Trust Lands	<input type="checkbox"/> After receiving signed loan approvals, the Homebuyer Services Coordinator will send DPA firm commitment to Tribal Realty to initiate Ownership Statement (OS), Lease and Assignment. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will also send a letter to lender to notify approval of DPA and RBD. <input type="checkbox"/> Once OS, lease and assignment are received, these documents will be forwarded to the lending institution. <input type="checkbox"/> Lending Institution will contact client to “lock in” their interest rate, taking into consideration the gift funds to purchase discount points.
DPA funds – Off Trust Lands	<input type="checkbox"/> After loan approvals are received, Coordinator will send letter notifying lender the borrower has been approved for DPA and RBD funds and request closing attorney information. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will complete the Promissory Note and Deed of Trust and to be signed at closing and recorded at Register of Deeds in the county of purchase. <input type="checkbox"/> Closing attorney will send copy of recorded documents back to Coordinator. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will submit recorded documents to Realty to be recorded for off-boundary loans.
LOAN CLOSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Prior to loan close, Coordinator will request AP checks for issuance of DPA and RBD to be disbursed to the lender at closing. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator will notify Site Prep that loan has closed. <input type="checkbox"/> Home construction may start after loan close. <input type="checkbox"/> Client will begin working with Lender’s Construction Loan Specialist for completion of construction.
SITE PREP SCHEDULING	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed purchase agreement, house floor plans and firm commitment must on file with homebuyer services and Infrastructure. <input type="checkbox"/> If 1 acre or more will be disturbed during site prep construction, a SWPP (Storm Water Protection Plan) must be completed by our contractor before any work can begin.
SERVICES PROVIDED BY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NEW HOMES	<input type="checkbox"/> For qualified EBCI enrolled members residing on trust land, Infrastructure provides: <input type="checkbox"/> Site Prep, Footers, Block Foundation, Block Underpinning, Vinyl Underpinning, Gutter System and Final Grade to prevent erosion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

THE GOOD STUFF

Beloved Woman Dr. Carmaleta Monteith leads by example

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Dr. Carmaleta Littlejohn Monteith, Beloved Woman of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Elawodi (Yellowhill), is a force to be reckoned with. Her boundless energy, along with the passion and love she has for her people, combine to make her unstoppable.

She received the Beloved Woman designation in 2021 with the passage of Res. No. 447 (2021) by Dinilawigi on May 6, 2021. The legislation, submitted by the EBCI Beloved Women Committee, states, “Carmaleta Littlejohn Monteith, an outstanding member of the Yellowhill Community, has dedicated her life to embodying the Cherokee Core Values and strongly exudes characteristics of a Beloved Woman.”

That day, she commented, “The women that precede me, I respect and honor them, and I hope to be able to hold the integrity of this honor and continue to serve. We’re not islands unto ourselves. It takes everyone in the community to achieve things.”

Beloved Woman Dr. Monteith is the chairwoman of the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority Governing Board and helped found the Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation Board. Two years ago, the Carmaleta Monteith Endowment for Cherokee Hospital Foundation was established at the North



Dr. Carmaleta Monteith, Beloved Woman of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is shown at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Whitewater Landing in Cherokee, N.C. on Aug. 27, 2025. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF) and “will offer scholarships and funding opportunities for continuing education and professional development” according to a press release by NCCF.

In that same release, Brittney Lofthouse, CIHA executive director of development and community relations, said of Beloved Woman Dr. Monteith, “With dreams and ambition rooted in education and a desire to never stop learning, Carmaleta has adapted and transformed her influence a

dozen times over in her lifetime, always adjusting to meet the greatest needs of those around her. She is a waymaker. A creator. A visionary. And she does it all with a fervent love and passion for the Cherokee People.”

With her, it is always Cherokee first, Native first. She wants to be at the table – not for accolades nor recognition, but to be able to represent and have the Cherokee voice heard loudly and clearly.

In 2014, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the current Cherokee

Indian Hospital, Beloved Woman Dr. Monteith noted, “This is the first hospital that our community has had any say in.”

Given her example, this is the last time someone will have to say those words. She makes sure that Cherokee people have a say.

In 2009, Beloved Woman Dr. Monteith received the Frell Owle Award, an award given by the Cherokee Boys Club honoring those for service to Cherokee families.

The day that Dr. Monteith was named an EBCI Beloved Woman, EBCI Taline Ugvwiyu (Vice Chief) Alan B. Ensley summed up her work ethic and influence, “She’s never said no to anything that’s been asked of her...the work that she’s done with the school and the hospital has impacted our communities more so than any of the other projects. She’s the lady behind the scenes that makes things work for all of us.”

Whether working with the hospital, the NAIWA (North American Indian Women’s Association), the Yellowhill Community Club, or other organizations, she is always at the front lines of helping the EBCI people.

The late great Muhammad Ali once said, “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.”

Beloved Woman Dr. Carmaleta Monteith has more than paid her rent. She is a gem.



Here Are Just a Few Reasons to Consider Drafting a Will

EBCI Tribal Court

*****Please be advised this list is not all-inclusive, but simply outlines several important details**

1. **A Will Protects Your Wishes** – It ensures that your belongings, property, and treasured family items go exactly where you want them to go. Without a Will, others will make that decision. A Will is a way to keep control over your own legacy and ensure your wishes are honored.
2. **Reduces Family Stress** – Losing a loved one is extremely difficult. When you have a Will, it removes confusion and helps to prevent disagreements among family members. A Will provides clarity, so your children and grandchildren are not left trying to guess what you wanted.
3. **Protects Your Personal Possessions** – A Will ensures that items are kept within the family, if that is your wish, and that the items are passed to the individual you desire.
4. **Can Help Prevent Land Disputes** – A Will can help prevent conflicts over land by assigning property beforehand.
5. **Choosing Guardians for Children or Dependents** – If you are raising your grandchild/grandchildren, or caring for someone with disabilities, a Will allows you to choose who continues that care. This protects the child/children or dependent.

When someone passes away, a Will can help everything move smoothly and respectfully. It is an act of love for your family to have a Will and accompanying documentation prepared.

It is never too early or too late to draft your Will. You may change your Will at any time if necessary. You do not have to get it perfect the first time. A simple Will can be made now and adjusted later.

If you have questions or need assistance in drafting a simple will, please contact Legal Assistance at (828) 359-7400.



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- Family Safety Services
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Scan the QR Code below to access a list of our services and learn more!



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

On-Call Mobile Crisis After Hours:
Adult: 828-269-0301
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Dog Bones

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

Scripture references: John 8:36, Romans 8:1, Titus 3:3, Romans 8:6, Phillipians 4:7, John 10:9-11, John 14:27

Our sins are before us, but our past is behind us. Many of us need to remind ourselves of these truths.

If we live in our past and constantly relive our sins, then even though God has forgiven us, we haven't forgiven ourselves. The scripture base tells us that it is not what God wants. Satan throws our past in our faces to tear us down and make us feel unworthy. Jesus died and was raised again to free us from those chains.

Each Wednesday morning, an eclectic group of men meets for prayer, devotion, breakfast, and fellowship. Our mix of devotees has been or currently are preachers, teachers, deacons, or church leaders. From that mix, we include those who are also military veterans, Christian motorcyclists, computer programmers, musicians, realtors, chemical engineers, newspaper editors, and combinations of those. This group of men's ages varies from the thirty-some-things to the eighty-year-olds, but each one adds to the collection of stories and experiences that are rich with the flavor of living full Christian lives. This faith commentary comes from a Wednesday devotion of one of these men.

Marty is a retired Marine from the Vietnam era who did his share of fighting while flying helicopters in battle. He is currently (at the time of this writing) the President

of the Western North Carolina Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) and a former pastor of a local Baptist church.

One day, while sitting in our local Veterans' Administration hospital waiting room, Marty overheard a conversation between two other veterans sitting behind him. One of the veterans was a younger man who had served in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. The other was an older man who had served in combat in Vietnam. They began cordially talking about the weather and the hospital service they received, and then the younger man began to relate war stories that were haunting him for the things he had seen and done. The older man tried to interject his experience, but the young man wouldn't let him get a word in edgewise. Finally, the old man said, "Let me tell you about a dog I used to have." The young man's attention was taken, as ours was, trying to relate what this guy's dog had to do with the younger man's experiences. The older soldier told a story about how he had a big dog whom he rewarded with a meaty bone from the butcher shop. The dog chewed on the bone for a time, then buried it. After a few days, he dug up the bone, chewed it, reburied it, and left it for a few more days. The dog dug up the bone again a week later, now very rancid. He chewed on it again, but this time he seemed happy to bury it again for the last time. Everyone got the message except, apparently, the young man.

Did you get the message from that story? Those of us who have lived for any length of time have a bad memory in our past that we dig up and chew on. The older it gets, the more that specific sinful

past or offense pricks our consciousness. It is best to bury it and forget about it. But some people can't do that, and it destroys them; for others, it is just a bad memory that returns in nightmares for years afterward.

As Christians, we have a Savior who died for our sins and freed us from the chains of guilt and condemnation. Whenever we (or satan) dig up that nasty bone again, we have a bar of soap that cleans that memory out of our minds and gives us peace only God can give. It may take years of therapy for non-Christians to forgive and forget, if they live that long. I could share how thousands of war veterans have committed suicide, unable to purge the memory of things they've done, seen, or had done to them. But it is not just war victims who suffer these burdens from evil memories, and how they can destroy lives. What everyone needs is Jesus. He is the balm that soothes the pain of guilt, condemnation, and unforgiveness. His sacrifice on the cross paid for all those sins. He is the one whose grace covers the pain, guilt, and shame satan holds over us. Others need to hear that. I pray for the young war victim in this story to find Christ and heal his burden.

As we witness to the lost and those we meet, our past is a tool to effectively remind others that we all have a sin sickness that only the Holy Spirit of God can heal. Everyone has sinned, and when reminded of it, many seek salvation. No one is getting to Heaven with sin on their ledger. As Christians, we know the One who cleans the slate. Lead others to Christ. Jesus saves.

Lord God and Father, we praise Your Holy Name above all. Remind us each day that You are

good and Your gifts come in many packages. Thank You for allowing us to love and forgive ourselves because You love and have forgiven us. Lord, we pray that others will find Your love, forgiveness, and peace in You. Please help us to show others where they will find salvation from the evil that troubles their minds. Help us to show others where they can find the renewing of their minds through Christ. Amen.



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Four members of the "Miracle on Ice" 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team — Mike Eruzione, Jack O'Callahan, Jim Craig and Dave Silk — played hockey for what college team?
2. What women's professional indoor volleyball league had its inaugural season in 2025, with the team from Austin, Texas, winning the first championship?
3. In the 1990-1991 season, which NBA team finished with a historically bad 1-40 road-game record?
4. Which Philadelphia college's athletic teams are nicknamed the Dragons?
5. Brothers Vince, Joe and Dom DiMaggio all played baseball in the minors for what Pacific Coast League team?
6. Rock climber Adam Ondra, winner of both the lead climbing and bouldering titles at the 2014 Climbing World Championships, hails from what country?
7. What team selected Eric Lindros with the first pick of the 1991 NHL entry draft but was forced to trade him to the Philadelphia Flyers a year later because he refused to play?

Answers

1. The Boston University Terriers.
2. League One Volleyball (LOVB Pro).
3. The Sacramento Kings.
4. Drexel University.
5. The San Francisco Seals.
6. The Czech Republic.
7. The Quebec Nordiques.

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

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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events

Swain County Genealogical and Historical Association meeting. March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional

Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Dr. in Bryson City, N.C. Richard Eller will present "The Lincoln-Enloe Story". aConversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. This is free and open to the public. Buttermilk Farms Antique Auction. March 7 at 1 p.m. at Buttermilk Farms Auction House 19S Bryson City, NC. 28713. Preview welcome, absentee bids welcome, plenty of parking, plenty of seating, concessions on site. Info: Susan Leading Fox (828) 366-2215

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Keep an open mind about a suggestion that you see as unworkable. Give it a chance to prove itself one way or another. The results could surprise both supporters and detractors.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) News about an upcoming venture causes you to make some last-minute adjustments in your plans. But the extra work will pay off as you come to learn more about the potential benefits of opening up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A more positive aspect grows out of your determination to reach your immediate goals. Continue to keep your focus sharp and on target by steering clear of petty quarrels and other pesky problems.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid adding to an already turbulent situation by acting as a voice of reason. You might have to shout over the tumult, but your words will ultimately be heard and heeded.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The possibility of a new acquisition always makes Leonine eyes light up. But be careful that what you see is what you want. Appearances can often be deceiving.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) No matter how much you might feel that you're in the right, resist saying anything that could reignite a still-unresolved situation. Let the mat-

ter drop and move on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Help with a personal problem comes from an unexpected source. You might also find that workplace pressures easing. Use this period of calm to restore your spent energies.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might have to share the credit for a project that you're working on. But there'll be enough credit to go around, and your efforts will be recognized and rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Details need to be dealt with before you can move on to another area. Make sure you don't leave any loose ends that could later cause everything to unravel.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) News about a change in the workplace carries with it a challenge you could find difficult to resist. Check it out. It could be what you've been waiting for.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Allowing your artistic nature to fully express itself will help restore your spirits and put you in the mood to take on a new career challenge. Meanwhile, a Libra creates excitement.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Expect to happily plunge right into a hectic social whirl starting at the week's end. Your aspects favor new friendships, as well as the strengthening of old relationships.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your spiritual strength is an inspiration to others. You give people around you the faith to go after what they want.

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Second amendment no longer trampled

For the first time in three decades, the VA will no longer assist the FBI in depriving veterans of their right to own firearms.

This is a very big deal.

For too long, any veteran who needed fiduciary help to manage his finances was reported to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and was deemed a "prohibited person." There went the veteran's right to own a firearm — all because he needed help writing a check for his electric bill.

Yes, a fiduciary does more than just make payments. Their job is to protect the veteran who can't manage financial affairs because of age, injury or disease. A fiduciary is appointed only after medical determination that the veteran is in need of help. The fiduciary then undergoes a background check, credit report check and more to be certain who is going to be managing the veteran's affairs.

The fiduciary then (apparently) spends a lot of time filling out forms, submitting information, verifying school attendance for any dependents, reporting on illnesses and medical conditions, and so much more.

Needing help managing finances shouldn't mean that a veteran cannot own a firearm — but it has, for decades.

Being denied approval to own a firearm, courtesy of the FBI's NICS, can be for any number of serious reasons, such as having domestic violence convictions, being put in a mental institution and being addicted to controlled substances. Nowhere on the list is needing assistance with writing monthly checks or doing paperwork.

And now, finally, the VA is going to right this wrong.

Additionally, the VA is going to be sure the FBI goes back and removes any of the info that saw past veterans deprived of their right to own a firearm after being reported to NICS. Plus the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) is going to review its own rules to be certain veterans' rights aren't being trampled this way.

It's about time.

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Toy Poodle Barks Almost Nonstop

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 6-month-old toy poodle, "Jenks," is incredibly cute, but he has a sharp, loud bark for such a little guy — and he barks almost nonstop when we're home. I know anxiety is an issue with many small breeds, and I'm wondering how I can best address this. — John, via email

DEAR JOHN: It's worth looking into. Contact Jenks' veterinarian to discuss the issue, as I'm sure you'll get a number of different suggestions ranging from behavior training to anti-anxiety medication.

Jenks is still pretty young. How much time does he spend alone at home? If you have to be out for eight hours or more, you may want to have someone — a friend or a pet sitter — come in to check on him, take him out to pee and play a little bit.

You also should establish a routine that he can count on, one that includes plenty of time spent with him either playing or training. Both of these are times when he's getting your full attention and positive reinforcement, as well as a way to work off some of that puppy energy that's also behind the barking.

As your puppy matures into an adult, he may mellow out somewhat. But in the meantime, it's up to you to provide structure and training to reinforce the behavior you want in Jenks. If these efforts don't seem to improve the constant barking, talk with your vet about addressing his anxiety with medication.

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

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EVENTS: From page 33

A Return to our Roots: Herbal Syrups class. March 7 starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, TN. 37882. Join us as we take herbal tea making a step further and learn about Herbal Syrups! Learn the steps in making syrup and how to use them for health and enjoyment and some of the history behind them. We will taste test a few and learn the history behind them. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: gsmheritagecenter.org

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Tsalagi Gadugi (Cherokee County) Community meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community building; potluck at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

Info: Chair Joe Palmer (828) 361-9219, joepalmer1013@yahoo.com

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

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

Toledvyi (Tow String) Community meets the second Tuesday 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. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Pastor Roberta French 497-6918

Bigwitch Baptist Church. 2290 Bigwitch Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m.,

Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday service 6 p.m. Pastor James “Jimbo” Sneed. All are welcome.

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

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

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

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

19. Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.

Cherokee Church of God. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Every third Sunday they have a fellowship meal to celebrate all the birthdays throughout that month. Everyone is cordially invited for any of the services and meals. Pastor Rev. Owen Isaacs (828) 242-0754

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

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

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

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

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources

The agreement, “Gathering Plants and Plant Parts in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by Members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for Traditional Purposes by Traditional Means,” between the EBCI and NPS allows for the harvesting of sochan through a permitted process for tribal members within the park. This agreement increases access to our traditional homelands while also demonstrating that our traditional harvesting methods are sustainable and grounded in traditional ecological knowledge. To sign up for a sochan harvesting permit, tribal members can complete the application at this site: <https://forms.gle/vYwtjfYS6ZU7Hu7CA>

see **EVENTS** next page

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

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

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

Embassy Christian Center Church of God in Christ. 87 Vinewood Circle, Whittier, located on the campus of Church of God Gateway Campground and Conference Center. Full season starts

Aug. 4. Sunday School 10 a.m. and Morning Worship 11 a.m. Year-round services – church online live streamed from the 24/7 church channel, Embassy TV <https://embassytv.net> Tuesday Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Will Chambliss, Thursday Night Women’s Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Brenda Miller-Chambliss (828) 835-2359 or embassymediagroup@gmail.com

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

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

Grace Community Church of Cherokee. 320 Highway 441 N., Whittier, NC 28789. Sunday

Morning Worship 11 a.m. Pastor Scott Hill 508-7836

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

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

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

Macedonia Baptist Church. 1181 Wolfstown Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11a.m., Sunday Evening Worship

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Colossians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first chapter begins, “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month”? *Ezra, Ezekiel, Micah, Malachi*
3. From Exodus 10, what was blown out of Egypt by a strong west wind? *Rivers, Locusts, Sinners, Nightness*
4. In 1 Chronicles, who killed a seven and a half foot tall Egyptian giant? *Benaiah, Gideon, Jannes, Baruch*
5. From Genesis 28, what city was the site of Jacob’s famous dream? *Lachish, Perga, Haran, Bethel*
6. In Colossians 4, what city was home to Philemon? *Berea, Shechem, Beersheba, Colossae*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Ezekiel, 3) Locusts, 4) Benaiah, 5) Bethel, 6) Colossae

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

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Moments in time

• On **March 16, 1827**, “Freedom’s Journal,” America’s first Black-owned-and-run newspaper, debuted in New York City. A mix of news, service and abolitionist advocacy, it was distributed in 11 states, Canada, Haiti and the U.K.

• On **March 17, 461 A.D.**, Christian missionary, bishop and apostle of Ireland St. Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland after 40 years of living in poverty, teaching and traveling, during which time he converted thousands of Irish and built churches around the country.

• On **March 18, 1911**, composer Irving Berlin copyrighted “Alexander’s Ragtime Band,” a multimillion-selling hit that helped turn American popular music into a major international phenomenon.

• On **March 19, 1931**, the Nevada state legislature voted to legalize gambling in an attempt to lift the state out of the Great Depression’s tough times. Today, state gambling taxes account for the lion’s share of Nevada’s overall tax revenues.

• On **March 20, 1345**, scholars at the University of Paris alleged the Black Death was born of what they called “a triple conjunction of Saturn, Jupiter and Mars in the 40th degree of Aquarius.” Also known as the Plague, it cut a swath across Europe, the Middle East and Asia during the 14th century and left an estimated 25 million dead in its wake.

• On **March 21, 1956**, James Wong Howe became the first Asian American to win an Academy Award, for Best Cinematography for “The Rose Tattoo,” starring Anna Magnani and Burt Lancaster. According to Smithsonian Magazine, Howe claimed a knack for making “old stars young, plump stars thin, ordinary faces beautiful.”

• On **March 22, 1999**, 22-year-old Cynthia Vigil Jaramillo was discovered running naked and with a padlocked metal collar around her neck down an unpaved road near Elephant Butte State Park in New Mexico. She had been abducted three days earlier in Albuquerque by David Parker Ray and Cynthia Lea Hendy, who brought her to their mobile home, where she was raped and tortured. While law enforcement agents believed Ray had many more victims, he was never charged with or convicted of murder and died in custody in 2002 on the way to beginning a 200-year sentence for kidnapping.

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The Garden Bug

First day of spring

This year, the vernal (or spring) equinox happens on March 20 at 10:46 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time. It is the astronomical **beginning of the spring season** in the Northern Hemisphere and of the autumn season in the Southern Hemisphere. In the Northern Hemisphere, the spring equinox occurs when the Sun crosses the “celestial equator” going south to north. – Brenda Weaver

Source: www.almanac.com

“The Goldfinch” by Albert Flamen (1655–60)



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Breaking News & Alerts

Search: Cherokee Indian Police Dept



SCAN
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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**

Museum of the Cherokee People: Internship Applications Open

Museum of the Cherokee

People is accepting applications for its Cross-Departmental Internship (six weeks, not exceeding 20 hours per week, \$15 hourly). The intern will assist in various facets of museum work, gaining hands-on experience in all museum divisions. Learn more and apply at motcp.org/employment. **3/4**

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

Request for Proposals

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

The consultant will support strategic planning, program evaluation planning, logic model

alignment, marketing/PR recommendations, and creation of a three-year implementation calendar.

RFP Release Date: February 20, 2026

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

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

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

Seeking Concrete Contractors

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO Contractors for the “C1 Expansion” project. This work will



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 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
828-497-2101

Admin--Finance
Accounts Receivable Specialist—\$47,700--\$53,000

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

Bus & Truck Department
Seasonal Bus Drivers
Truck Drivers

SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS

consist of constructing multiple concrete slab on grades for various structures.

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

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

3/4

Seeking Electrical Contractors

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO Electrical Contractors for the "C1 Expansion" project. This work will consist of providing electrical service and electrical installation on multiple new structures.

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

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

3/4

Seeking Wall Systems Contractors

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO Contractors for the "C1 Expansion" project. This work will consist of constructing multiple wall system types in various structures.

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

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

3/4

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 not limited to, preconstruction/cost estimation, bidding/procurement, and construction services for the Project; final budget and approval by the Board of Education. Total project budget is estimated at approximately \$1,000,000.

Deadline for receipt of responses is Friday, March 20, 2026 at 3pm. If fewer than three (3) responses are received by the deadline, the secondary deadline is March 27, 2026. For more information, please refer to the full RFQ, posted on the GCS website at <https://www.graham.k12.nc.us>, or email David Matheson, Asst. Superintendent, at dmatheson@graham.k12.nc.us.

This the 23rd day of February,

2026. 3/25

INVITATION TO BID Re: 2026 Kituwah Office Building: Electrical

Quartz Modular is seeking sealed bids from qualified TERO contractors to complete the construction of the Kituwah Office Building.

Kituwah KG3-10Box Modular Office

General Contractor: Quartz Modular

Trade: Electrical

Scope Overview: Provide all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary to complete field electrical work required for service installation, modular interconnection, and final commissioning of the modular office building.

Mandatory On-Site Meeting Date:



Cherokee Central Schools
Job Openings

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

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

- Varsity Football Head Coach - Must have NC DPI teaching license
- 9-12 Cherokee Language Instructor
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher - Self-Contained Class
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher
- 9-12 Exceptional Children Inclusion Teacher
- 6-12 Part-Time Vocal Instructor
- K-5 Special Education Teacher Assistant
- K-5 Teacher Assistant
- K-5 School Counselor
- K-5 Cherokee Language Instructor
- K-5 Mental Health Classroom Teacher Assistant (GRANT FUNDED)
- K-5 Behavior Support Teacher Assistant
- 6-Hour Full-Time Food Service Worker
- Part-time Food Service Worker
- Elementary School Nurse (RN or LPN)
- Middle School Nurse Assistant (CNA)

JOIN OUR TEAM



WE ARE
HIRING

Open Positions

- Security Guard



Apply Online
www.quallallic.com/careers



More Information
828.589.8285

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

3/13/2026
 Proposal Due Date: 3/20/2026
 Please contact Quartz Modular for
 additional information at
 recruiting@quartzmodular.com.
3/11

additional information at
 recruiting@quartzmodular.com.
3/11

INVITATION TO BID
Re: 2026 Kituwah Office
Building: Foundation

Quartz Modular is seeking
 sealed bids from qualified TERO
 contractors to complete the con-
 struction of the Kituwah Office
 Building.
 Kituwah KG3-10Box Modular
 Office
 General Contractor: Quartz Mod-
 ular
 Trade: Foundation
 Scope Overview: Provide all labor,
 materials, equipment, and super-
 vision necessary to construct a
 standard crawlspace foundation
 per approved plans.
 Mandatory On-Site Meeting Date:
 3/13/2026
 Proposal Due Date: 3/20/2026
 Please contact Quartz Modular for

INVITATION TO BID
Re: 2026 Kituwah Office
Building: HVAC

Quartz Modular is seeking
 sealed bids from qualified TERO
 contractors to complete the con-
 struction of the Kituwah Office
 Building.
 Kituwah KG3-10Box Modular
 Office
 General Contractor: Quartz Mod-
 ular
 Trade: HVAC
 Scope Overview: Provide all labor,
 materials, equipment, and super-
 vision necessary to furnish and
 install a complete HVAC system
 for the modular office building
 Mandatory On-Site Meeting Date:
 3/13/2026
 Proposal Due Date: 3/20/2026
 Please contact Quartz Modular for
 additional information at
 recruiting@quartzmodular.com.
3/11

INVITATION TO BID
Re: 2026 Kituwah Office
Building: Painting(Exterior)

Quartz Modular is seeking
 sealed bids from qualified TERO
 contractors to complete the con-
 struction of the Kituwah Office
 Building.
 Kituwah KG3-10Box Modular
 Office
 General Contractor: Quartz Mod-
 ular
 Trade: Painting (Exterior)
 Scope Overview: Provide all labor,
 materials, and equipment neces-
 sary to complete exterior paint-
 ing and finish work after siding,
 soffit, and fascia installation for a
 modular office building following
 set and dry-in.
 Mandatory On-Site Meeting Date:
 3/13/2026
 Proposal Due Date: 3/20/2026
 Please contact Quartz Modular for
 additional information at
 recruiting@quartzmodular.com.
3/11

INVITATION TO BID
Re: 2026 Kituwah Office
Building: Plumbing

Quartz Modular is seeking
 sealed bids from qualified TERO
 contractors to complete the con-
 struction of the Kituwah Office
 Building.
 Kituwah KG3-10Box Modular
 Office
 General Contractor: Quartz Mod-
 ular
 Trade: Plumbing
 Scope Overview: Utility water
 and sewer connections, mod-
 ule-to-module plumbing tie-ins,
 fixture hookups, and final pressure
 testing for modular office building.
 Licensed and insured required.
 Mandatory On-Site Meeting Date:
 3/13/2026
 Proposal Due Date: 3/20/2026
 Please contact Quartz Modular for
 additional information at
 recruiting@quartzmodular.com.
3/11



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
 HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

**PRIMARY CARE
 PHONE NUMBERS**

*Please call your
 primary care home if
 you need anything or
 need to cancel an
 appointment.*

hAGVP (Ni hi tsa tse li)
 "It belongs to you."

Eagle Clinic

Dr. Mahar:
 (828)497-3476

Dr. Houser:
 (828)497-3727

Quana Winstead:
 (PA-C):(828)497-1991

Dr. Winchester:
 (828)497-3576

Dr. Brown:
 (828)497-3576

Kylee Savage (PA-C):
 (828)497-9163

Seven Clans Clinic

Dr. Jones:
 (828)497-3475

Trudy Crowe (FNP):
 (828)497-3711

Dr. Givens:
 (828)497-3552

Kelsey Two Bears
 (PA-C):(828)497-3477

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

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

Kayla Parris (PA-C):
 (828)497-9163

Satellite Clinics

Snowbird

Mary Postell-Jones
 (FNP):(828)479-3974

**Cherokee
 County Clinic**

June Hensley
 (FNP)828-837-4312

DCC

William Kelley
 (PA-C):(828)359-6659



EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS, SHOW UP FOR YOUR HEALTH



Job Opportunities



Closing Sunday, March 08, 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. **Part-time Store Clerk - Tribal ABC Commission (L8 \$16.94 – \$21.18 per hour)**
SAFETY SENSITIVE

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 - \$37.14per hour)**

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



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.

oᎮY Sgi, Pam!

Dobʼs

A-NV-YI MARCH

**SOCIAL WORK
MONTH 2026**



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



OPEN POSITIONS

New Positions

Residential Technician - Female - Part Time without Benefits
Patient Access Specialist – 3rd Shift
Employee Relations Specialist
Tribal Option Care Manager
Medical Social Worker
Specialty Services Nurse

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 – Kanvwotiyi
Targeted Case Manager – Child and Family, , MAT
Residential Technician – Male - Kanvwotiyi
MAT Manager

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

Food & Nutrition

Dietary Manager

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

Nutrition

Clinical Dietician

Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner

Physical Therapy

Occupational Therapist I – Temporary
Physical Therapist I – Temporary

Tsali Care Center

Certified Nursing Assistant - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Licensed Practical Nurse - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse – \$10,000 Hiring Bonus

Tribal Option

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker
Tribal Option Care Manager - Float
Tribal Option Specialty Team Care Manager – IDD

CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS

828.497.9163 EXT. 6343



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PERFECT CAST.
FIND YOUR
SPIRIT.**

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Plan your visit today:
VisitCherokeeNC.com



Job Fair

Take Your Shot at Success!

March 5 | 10am-3pm
March 19 | 1pm-5pm

Employment Office
*Located on the second floor
of the casino parking garage*

**Harrah'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 When To Stop: Before You Start. © Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. ©2026, Caesars License Company, LLC.



SME students win Future City Competition award

A group of 7th-grade students from Smokey Mountain Elementary competed in the North Carolina Statewide Future City Competition recently. They are shown, left to right, including Gabriel Threadgill, Michael Ward, Marijane Tafoya, Macayla Mendoza, Briley George, Angelina Ly, and Emily Keat. Tafoya and George are members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Their team, Galactic City, wrote a 1,500-word academic research paper, gave a 7-minute presentation to professional engineers, and constructed a 25" x 50" model of a city that exists over 100 years in the future. The theme for this year was "Farm to Table", asking students to create a future city that eliminated food waste. At the State competition, Galactic City was recognized by the engineering firm Carolina AGC for Best Use of Construction Materials. This award acknowledged the team for the materials they used for their model of their city, as well as the description of the materials they would use to construct their real future city. (Photo courtesy of Smokey Mountain Elementary)



Arneach's team ranked in Wyoming

Madisyn Arneach, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with Northern Arapaho heritage, is a junior on the Lander Valley High School women's varsity basketball team in Lander, Wyo. The team is 15-2 on the season and is currently ranked #2 in the state. They are entering regional and state competition this week. (Photo by Alyoysa C'Bearing)



EBCI represented at 2026 Indigenous Bowl

Camden Breazeale and Jayden Trmaper, both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, played in the 2026 Indigenous Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 22 at Soboba Oaks on the Soboba Indian Reservation in San Jacinto, Calif. Breazeale is from Murphy High School and Trumper is from Cherokee High School. (Photo courtesy of Kyra Lossiah)

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:
Cherokeonefeather1966@gmail.com

GWY ᏫᏍᏏ ᏍᏏᏉᏍᏗ
 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



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**New Kituwah Academy
 Perfect Attendance**
 The following students and teachers, shown left to right, at New Kituwah Academy Early Childhood had perfect attendance for the month of February: back row - ᄆᄆᄆᄆ - Tamara Sampson, ᄆᄆ - Livingston Lane, ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ - Ava Lambert, ᄆᄆᄆ - Blakelyn Wachacha, ᄆᄆᄆᄆᄆ - Cameron Hemphill, ᄆᄆᄆ - Carrson Crowe, ᄆᄆ - Hailee Lossiah; and front row - ᄆᄆ - Donna Morgan, ᄆᄆᄆᄆ - Ozilline Gloye, ᄆᄆᄆᄆ - Blaze Bird, and ᄆᄆ - Ani Bynum. (Photo courtesy of New Kituwah Academy Early Childhood)



<<
Wrestling champion
 Will Holloway, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird) and a senior at Soddy Daisy High School (Soddy Daisy, Tenn.), placed fifth in the 138lb division at the TSSAA (Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association) Class A Individual State Wrestling Championship on Saturday, Feb. 21. His team also won the 2026 TSSAA Division I Traditional Wrestling Team Championship. Holloway finishes his high school wrestling career with his team earning six state titles (three dual and three traditional team titles). (Photo courtesy of Jessica Holloway)

**One Feather
 Poem of the
 Week**

The One Feather is seeking submissions for a new weekly poem feature.

Submit your work to Scott at
scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov
 or at
Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

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 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



**DARE
DISCOVER
DREAM**

YMCA Camp Watia

Coed Overnight Camp in Bryson City, NC

Every summer is filled with friends new and old, adventures big and small, and connections that will last a lifetime. We inspire campers to see what's possible at YMCA Camp Watia. Special pricing of \$150 per camper only available to EBCI members for summer 2026. Open to grades 3-12.

- Session 1: June 14-19
- Session 2: June 21-26
- Session 3: June 28-July 3
- Session 4: July 5-10
- 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



For more information call: 828-359-6934 or
contact Megan Stamper at megastam@ebci-nsn.gov

ymcacampwatia.org