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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
kawoni (april) 29 -
anasgvti (may) 5,
2026

Educator and servant

WCU to honor Joyce Dugan for decades of service to education, EBCI, WNC

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter
and **JULIA DUVALL**
WCU Assistant Director
of Communications



Western Carolina University will award an honorary Doctor of Education to Joyce Conseen Dugan, former Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in recognition of her leadership, lifelong commitment to education and contribu-

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

see **DUGAN** page 4

A Thrift store with
thrift store prices

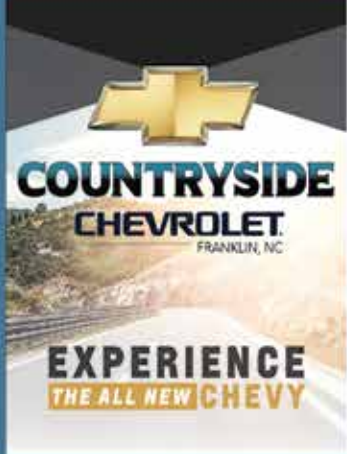
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Image of the Week:

This brilliant Kamama (Butterfly) is spotted pollinating in Toledvyi (Towstring) in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Friday, April 24. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)



Kenzie Roberts, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who is the vice chairperson of the Yardeka (Creek) Indian Community Center and is a grassroots organizer on a variety of cultural and environmental issues, speaking on the dangers of data centers at a Town Hall Meeting on the subject held Saturday, April 25 at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C.

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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DUGAN: From front page

tions to the Cherokee people and western North Carolina.

Ugviyuhi Dugan is a two-time alumna of WCU, earning a bachelor of science in education in 1974 and a master of science in education in 1981. She began her career as an educator and rose into leadership roles in Indian education, including work shaping Bureau of Indian Affairs school programs.

“Western Carolina University is deeply honored to recognize Chief Joyce Dugan with an honorary Doctor of Education,” WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown said. “Her lifelong commitment to education, leadership and service reflects the values we strive to instill in our students and graduates. Joyce’s impact on Western Carolina University, our region and on future generations exemplifies the transformative power of education. She has more than earned this honor, and we look forward to celebrating her legacy for years to come.”

Ugviyuhi Dugan later served as director of education for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), where she led the creation of a tribally controlled school system and worked to integrate Cherokee language and culture into the curriculum. That approach continues to influence Cherokee education today.

In 1995, Dugan was elected Ugviyuhi of the EBCI, becoming the first and only woman to hold the position. Her administration coincided with a period of economic growth and structural change for the tribe. During her tenure, she implemented financial reforms, strengthened governance practices and established

a cultural division within tribal government focused on language revitalization, artifact repatriation and cultural education.

One of Ugviyuhi Dugan’s most significant accomplishments as chief was leading the effort to reclaim and preserve Kituwah, the ancestral mother town of the Cherokee people. The preservation of the site has contributed to ongoing cultural revitalization within the Cherokee community.

During a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new pavilion at Kituwah on May 29, 2025, Ugviyuhi Dugan said that reclaiming Kituwah spurred a cultural renaissance for the EBCI. “I think the most important thing that came of this was people all of a sudden began to recognize our history and realize that we needed to do more to promote our history and to learn...I think it was meant for this to come back to us.”

Ugviyuhi Dugan also supported responsible gaming policies, expanded health initiatives focused on diabetes prevention and treatment, and emphasized environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Current EBCI Ugviyuhi Mitchell Hicks, who served as the Tribal Finance Officer under Dugan’s administration, shared his remarks on the legacy and impact Dugan continues to have for the EBCI. “Chief Joyce Dugan’s leadership helped shape the future of our Tribe in ways that are still felt today. As the first and only woman to serve as Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from 1995 to 1999, she broke barriers while staying grounded in our values and responsibility to our people. Her vision and determination led to pivotal efforts to

reclaim and protect our homelands, including the return of our mother town, Kituwah, which stands as one of the most meaningful achievements for our Tribe. Chief Dugan created a government structure that shifted the levels of accountability and helped cultivate young talented individuals to be future Tribal leaders in many capacities. Additionally, Chief Dugan was a cornerstone in the development of the Cherokee Central Schools facility and athletic fields.”

He continued, “On a personal level, I have always held Chief Dugan in the highest regard. She has been a mentor and an example of what it means to lead with strength, humility, and purpose. This recognition from Western Carolina University is a fitting tribute to her legacy, and I join our community in celebrating her lasting contributions to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.”

After leaving office, Ugviyuhi Dugan continued to serve in leadership roles across tribal enterprises, public relations and career development. She has served on numerous boards, including the Western Carolina University Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2021, the Cherokee Indian Hospital Governing Board, the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, the North Carolina Tourism Board and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Board.

She has received multiple honors, including Distinguished Woman of North Carolina in Education in 1992, Outstanding Woman of Western North Carolina in 2000 and the Western Carolina University Distinguished Alumni Award in 1997. In 2003, she co-authored “The Cherokee,” a tabletop book

highlighting Cherokee history and artistic traditions, and in 2006 she received an honorary doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for her work in cultural preservation.

Ugviyuhi Dugan is currently working with historian Allen Bryant on a memoir focused on her tenure as principal chief. The book is expected to be published later this year.

Western Carolina University will formally confer the honorary degree during the morning commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. In 1974, the Major League Baseball Rules Committee permitted the use of what material in the manufacture of official baseballs?
2. How many times did Vic Toweel knock down Danny O’Sullivan in their 1950 world bantamweight title boxing match before O’Sullivan retired in the 10th round?
3. Pauley Pavilion is the home arena of what men’s and women’s college basketball teams?
4. Mikhail Shaidorov, gold medalist in men’s figure skating at the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics, competed for what country?
5. The Harley J. Earl Trophy, first awarded in 1959, is presented to the winner of what auto race?
6. In January 2016, the Detroit Pistons’ Andre Drummond set a new NBA record for missed free throws in a single game with how many?
7. What tennis player defeated Pete Sampras to seal the upset win for France over the U.S. at the 1991 Davis Cup, and later served as director of the French Open from 2016 to 2021? (Hint: His name is not memorable.)

Answers

1. Cowhide (baseballs were historically made from horsehide).
2. 14, a title fight record.
3. The UCLA Bruins.
4. Kazakhstan.
5. NASCAR’s Daytona 500.
6. Drummond missed 23 of 36 attempts.
7. Guy Forget.

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For updates on the Enrichment Center Project, visit: cherokeehospital.org/fidd-enrichment-center-project-progress

Eastern Cherokee Organization hosts town hall on Data Centers

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The Eastern Cherokee Organization, a grassroots organization comprised of members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), hosted a Data Center Town Hall to bring awareness of the impacts that the centers can have on a community. The event was held in collaboration with the Indigenous Environmental Network and the Bigwitch Indian Wisdom Initiative on Saturday, April 25 at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C.

This meeting was organized to inform the public about data centers. Currently, there is pending legislation in the EBCI Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) concerning data centers.

Ord. No. 158 (2026) seeks to amend Cherokee Code Chapter 47E to place a ban on data centers establishing a Data Center Development Moratorium within the lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The whereas section of this legislation states in part, “High impact digital infrastructure facilities (herein referred to as data centers), present a clear and present danger to the lands and people of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and these facilities have often been forced on rural areas in western North Carolina and have made the quality of life considerably worse for those who live nearby them.”

It continues, “These facilities



Cheyenne “Chey” Morgan (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians/Oglala Lakota), Stop Data Colonialism coalition coordinator, speaks at a Data Center Town Hall meeting at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Saturday, April 25. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

require an enormous amount of water to operate, and we recognized that our water is sacred and should not be used for this purpose; and it is well documented that these facilities create a humming sound which causes nearby residents to develop health problems of both a physical and mental variety.”

The ordinance calls for the moratorium to “remain in effect indefinitely”.

Ord. No. 158 was submitted by Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Kolanvyi Rep. Venita Wolfe, Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer, and Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather, and was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on

Thursday, April 2.

During the event on Saturday, information was distributed from Honor the Earth, an Indigenous non-profit centered on environmental issues. One of the fact sheets states, “A hyperscale data center is a massive facility built to house the machines that power artificial intelligence (AI), store digital data, and support cryptocurrency. These centers can consume as much water and power as entire towns and cities.”

Saturday’s event featured three guest speakers including: Jordan Harmon, a Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen who serves as the policy specialist for the Indigenous Environmental Network; Cheyenna “Chey” Morgan, a member

of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians with Oglala Lakota heritage who serves as the Stop Data Colonialism coalition coordinator; and Kenzie Roberts, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who is the vice chairperson of the Yardeka (Creek) Indian Community Center and is a grassroots organizer on a variety of cultural and environmental issues.

Harmon noted, “We focus our advocacy on the hyperscale data centers because the impact is so big and it’s so new. We really didn’t see hyperscale data centers until around the 2000s, and a lot of them started being built as crypto mines. Now, they’re being built as AI data centers, mostly.”

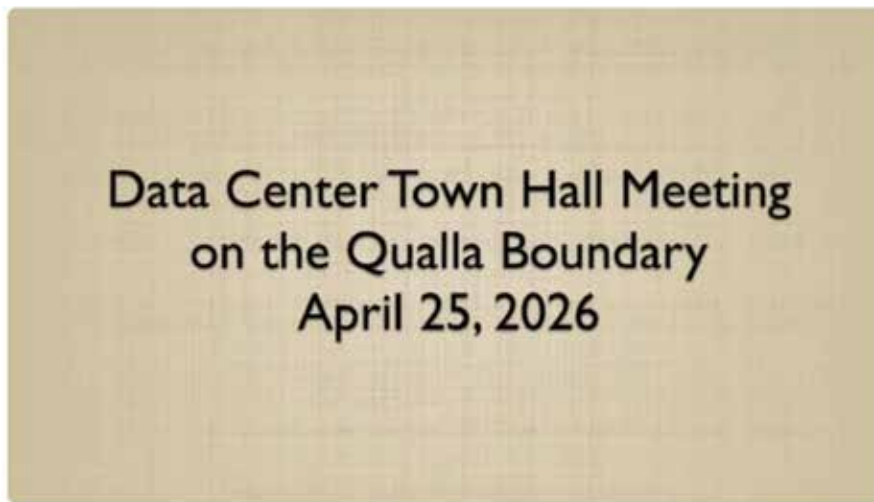
She spoke about water quali-

ty issues. “You’ll hear a lot about ‘water conservation’, ‘closed-loop systems’, and ‘water-positive data centers’. That’s all just language they’re using to manipulate how you view the data center. Even with systems that, so-called ‘conserve water’, they have to add chemicals for the cooling agent. Some of those chemicals are PFAs, which are the forever chemicals.”

Morgan added, “You can’t recycle polluted water. On top of the amount of PFAs and chemicals that they put in that will not be removed from this system, you can’t restore watersheds and also remove the pollution at the same time when one is actively polluting the systems.”

She went on to say, “Indigenous lands, rural, and fossil fuel frontline communities are being targeted. We are not sacrifice zones. They will loot our lands, they pollute our waters, they take our waters, and they promise us all of this money and all of these job opportunities to lower-income communities. And, that’s just wrong.”

Roberts spoke about cultural concerns regarding AI. “Just about every tribe has their own protocols and procedures of cultural consent. You don’t take more than you need. You make sure that you leave enough for everybody to receive that abundance. So, with data centers, particularly, that is directly antithetical to many of our beliefs as Indigenous people.



Data Center Town Hall Meeting on the Qualla Boundary - April 25, 2026

The One Feather recorded this meeting. You can view it in its entirety on the Cherokee One Feather YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CherokeeOneFeather>.

A lot of these different food practices and cultural practices, the work is the point. We are being pushed this narrative of productivity, that faster, more expedited, that is the way of the future, that is something that we should subscribe to. But, for us as Indigenous people, the work is the point. The process is the point.”

Roberts added, “With ChatGPT and OpenAI, they explicitly say that anything that you teach these large language models, they own. So, you think about any type of iconography...through that narrative of profitability, through that narrative of progression, they are feeding an exploitative entity all of our information, all of our cultural information. And, as a result, they own it...and if they own it, then somebody else is able to extract from that. Somebody else

is able to emulate it in a different way.

A lot of people think that if you feed these languages into ChatGPT, it’s an avenue to language revitalization and preservation. They think that it’s going to help save the language. But, in reality, it is corrupting it to such degree that if another beginner language learner were to be introduced to any of those hits from ChatGPT, they’d be learning a completely different language.” She ended her part of the presentation with, “When we fight, we win.”

Rep. Wolfe spoke during the meeting noting, “We are very passionate about working for our people and protecting our people, and our land, and all the resources that we have in this beautiful area. My concern, also, is our language

and keeping our language pure and alive. We’ll have that conversation because I think that’s going to come up next to make sure that we, like other tribal nations are not letting ChatGPT take over our language, and pollute it, and, basically ruin and kill it.”

The EBCI isn’t the first federally recognized tribe to tackle the issue. According to Native News Online, last month, the Tribal Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma voted unanimously to pass a moratorium on data centers. That resolution states in part that the Nation will “implement a moratorium on the advancement of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and hyperscale data center development within the Seminole Nation and within tribal lands and territories”.

Mary “Missy” Crowe, an EBCI tribal elder from Elawodi (Yellowhill), is a project coordinator and southeast regional representative for the Indigenous Environmental Network. At the end of the meeting on Saturday, she thanked the three guest speakers. “They have been leading the way in the fight against hyperscale data centers. At the end of the day, we all need clean water, and we all need clean air, and we all need clean and healthy food.”

For more information, visit: <https://www.honorearth.org>



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

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

CCS School Board holds April meetings

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The School Board of Cherokee Central Schools (CCS) met on Monday, Apr. 7, and Monday, Apr. 20, in the Central Office Board Room. The Apr. 20 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Thompson at 5:33 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Melanie Lambert led roll call. Members and staff present included Jennifer Thompson, chairperson and Elawodi (Yellowhill) rep.; Tara Reed-Cooper, secretary chairper-

son and Widagalinidisgv (Big Y) rep.; Melanie Lambert, vice chairperson and Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) rep.; Roberta Toineeta, Wayohi (Wolftown) rep.; Kenny Davis, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) rep.; Micah Swimmer, Aniwodihi (Painttown) rep.; Dr. Beverly Payne, assistant superintendent; Consuela Girty, superintendent; Heather Driver, human resources coordinator; Diane Driver, executive administrative assistant; and Michael Stampfer, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) rep.

The agenda was approved unanimously with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Lambert.

The Apr. 7 meeting minutes were approved unanimously with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Swimmer. There were no items on the consent agenda for the Apr.

7 meeting.

The Apr. 20 consent agenda was approved with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Lambert. The consent agenda will be unredacted in a period of two weeks. The following resolution was approved from the consent agenda:

Res. 26-121 REDACTED is approved for an increase the Level 5 pay scale at his current step due to obtaining a Master of Arts in Mathematics Education from Western Carolina University effective March 26, 2026.

In good news, Girty shared that CCS is strengthening their partnership with the Kituwah Preservation and Education Program (KPEP). They will send out a community survey on May 1 to receive feedback on ways to better the language revitalization effort. There will be a focus group held on June 17 for CCS, KPEP, and Cherokee fluent speakers and language learners to discuss the results of the survey. Swimmer remarked that he is interested in attending.

Girty also shared that 24 CCS students are travelling to the

swearing-in of EBCI member Anna Ferguson to the North Carolina House of Representatives, 15 of which would be participating as pages on the house floor.

Swimmer shared that several scouting coaches, including University of South Carolina Head Coach Dawn Staley, were present at a basketball tournament hosted by Under Armour over the weekend where members of the Lady Braves basketball team competed.

In new business, a policy revision for 4040/7310 Staff-Student Relations was approved with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Lambert. A job description update for the Social-Emotional Learning Coordinator was approved as amended, including requiring a bachelor's degree in education or a related field, with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Lambert.

The board entered closed session at 6:09 p.m.

The next school board meetings are scheduled for May 4 and May 18 in the Central Office Board Room at 4:45 p.m.

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER · TƒALADI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

EBCI among tribal communities to receive Indian Housing Block Grant funding

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is among the tribal communities to receive funding in a recent announcement of \$1.1 billion in Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The EBCI, a federally recognized tribe, is set to receive \$4,746,585. The One Feather reached out for comment from the Office of the Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) and has not heard back by

press time.

Hundreds of tribal communities will receive funding. The EBCI's sister tribes in Oklahoma will both receive funding including: Cherokee Nation, \$53,133,436; and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, \$2,630,386.

When announcing the grant funding, HUD Secretary Scott Turner said in a comment, "HUD is fully committed to empowering and uplifting Tribal communities by ensuring they have the tools necessary to build successful, high-quality, affordable housing. This investment will help us meet the needs of those living in Indian

Country by promoting healthy communities while strengthening our partnership with tribes and their leaders."

Information from HUD states, "The IHBG program is a formula grant that supports a wide range of affordable housing initiatives in Tribal communities. These initiatives include housing development, operation and modernization of existing housing, housing services for eligible families and individuals, safety and crime prevention measures, and model activities.

This announcement comes as this year marks the 30th an-

niversary of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)—the law that established IHBG. Since its passage, NAHASDA has helped Tribes build, acquire, and rehabilitate more than 160,000 homes across Indian Country."

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the other federally recognized tribe in North Carolina, will receive \$29,772,127. Two North Carolina state-recognized groups will receive funding as well including the Coharie Tribe (\$1,046,538) and the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe (\$1,571,604).

April 23 Constitutional Convention session held without a quorum

By **ROBERT JUMPER**
One Feather Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The Constitutional Convention meeting on Thursday, April 23 was convened with a roll call. Absent from the meeting were Elawodi (Yellowhill) Community Representative Shennell Feather, Aniwodhi (Painttown) Community Representative Shannon Swimmer, Pam Straughn, Randall Crowe, Chief Justice Brad Letts, Associate Judge Barbara Parker, Janet Arch, Lloyd Arneach, Peggy Hill, Raylen Bark, and Colby Taylor. In attendance were Chairperson

Nancy Pheasant, Beloved Woman Carmaleta Monteith, and Jack Cooper.

With four committee members in attendance and only three entities represented, the committee failed to reach a quorum. A quorum is necessary for any voting and action by the committee. Votes on meeting minutes from March 26 and April 9 for approval could not be taken.

One tribal member, James Bradley, did address the committee during the public comment period. He asked that the committee include language in the proposed constitution that would provide

penalties for elected officials who do not follow the law.

He said, "We need to have the ability to hold our government accountable."

The meeting lasted 49 minutes with discussion including accountability, recallability, weighted vote, and other qualification issues. Chairperson Pheasant said that since the Community Club Council had not met since the last constitution committee meeting, she had not addressed the committee's action for her to make inquiries for allotting time at Community Club Council meetings to educate and get feedback from communities on

the proposed constitution.

Chairperson Pheasant stated that the members of the committee in attendance should do "homework", meaning that for the questions that they had raised in the meeting, they should formulate answers themselves and be ready to discuss those at the next meeting.

The next two meetings of the Constitutional Convention are scheduled for May 14 and May 28. These meetings are open to the community.

EBCI Constitution Committee

MEETS 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5:30 PM

TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE COUNCIL HOUSE

88 COUNCIL HOUSE LOOP, CHEROKEE, NC

ACROSS FROM THE DRAMA INN

The meetings are open to all tribal community members. Meetings are livestreamed by the EBCI Communications Department.

Meeting schedule subject to change with short notice.

Chief's Report – March

Siyo, I want to share an update on the work we've been focused on throughout March. I attended the Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony for Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Charles D. Sellars alongside members of the Tribal Council. The Smokies have always held deep meaning for our people, and our relationship with the National Park Service remains important.

We opened the Office of the Principal Chief Summer Internship Program for college students and spent time at Cherokee Cen-



Ugywiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks speaks at the Reservation Economic Summit (RES).

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Ugwiwyuhi Hicks speaks to students at Cherokee Central Schools.

Cherokee Central Schools speaking with juniors and seniors about the opportunity. This program continues to give our students hands-on experience and a closer look at career paths within the Tribe.

Tribal Council passed Ord. No. 112 (2026) regarding Qualla Enterprises' per capita payments. Moving forward, an additional payment will be issued in April each year, separate from the regular June and December distributions.

I met with U.S. Attorney Russ Ferguson for the Western District of North Carolina, and members of our leadership team traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress and federal officials. These conversations

focused on the Tribe's priorities, including our lands-in-trust efforts and ongoing discussions regarding U.S. 441 and an emergency access road across from Cherokee Central Schools.

We also spent time connecting with Tribal leaders from across the country during the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma (UINO) meeting. We participated in discussions during USET Impact Week, reinforcing the importance of staying connected and advocating together on issues impacting Indian Country.

Here at home, Cherokee Central Schools students visited the Tribal Council House as part of their career exploration, where they met with Tribal leadership



Community Bingo Night

and learned more about how our government operates. It's always encouraging to see that level of engagement from our young people.

We also celebrated the Robbinsville Lady Knights on their Regional Championship and want to recognize the Cherokee Lady Braves for winning their third consecutive state championship, an incredible accomplishment!

The Qualla Senior Games kicked off this month with more than 185 participants, and we saw a strong turnout at community events like bingo night, where nearly 200 community members came out.

We welcomed attendees to the North Carolina Emergency Management Association Con-

ference on the Qualla Boundary. We participated in the Reservation Economic Summit, where we connected with Tribal leaders, partners, and entrepreneurs from across Indian Country.

I was also honored to speak to more than 2,000 attendees at the Reservation Economic Summit (RES) and attend the Indian Gaming Association conference to share more about who we are as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the work we're doing as a Tribe.

As always, we remain focused on serving our people, strengthening our partnerships, and moving forward together.

Sgi,
Chief Michell Hicks

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NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED, WALK-INS WELCOME!

LOCATED NEXT TO THE CASINO

Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

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

New this week

There are no new bills this week.

Bills we're currently watching

H.R. 226 (Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act). This House bill would place 76 acres of land

in eastern Tennessee into trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Included in that land are the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, the Chota Memorial, and the Tanasi Memorial sites.

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

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

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

Senate bill would establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. According to Congress.gov, "Among other duties, the Commission must investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policies – federal policies under which American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in boarding schools." Introduced: Feb. 26, 2025 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. It was "ordered to be reported without amendment favorably" by the Committee on March 5, 2025. It was reported without amendment by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs chairperson, on July 31, 2025. That same day, it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders (Calendar No. 139).

H.R. 2412 (Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act). This House bill would establish an Office for Indigenous Affairs and an Advisory Commission for Indigenous Peoples within the Department of State. Introduced: March 27, 2025 by Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai'i) Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 27, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 2929. (Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe recognition bill). This House bill would grant feder-

al 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

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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 sched-

uled 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. It was reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 2, 2026 and was placed on the Union Calendar that same day.

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

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LEGISLATIVE: From page 13

in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”.

Introduced: July 22, 2025 by Rep. Timothy M. Kennedy (D-New York)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 22, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4750 (To extend federal recognition to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

Introduced: July 23, 2025 by Rep. Eugene Simon Vindman (D-Va.)

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

H.R. 4712 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act). According to the legislation text, this House bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes”.

Introduced: July 23, 2025 by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary as well as the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 23, 2025. There are no hearings scheduled for this bill in either committee as of press time.

S. 2452 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act). According to the legislation text, this Senate bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4712.

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

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

S. 2564 (Tribal Gaming Regulatory Compliance Act). The opening text of the bill states it is “to ensure all federally recognized Tribes that are eligible for gaming in the United States are regulated under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act”.

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

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

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

S. 2577 (McCarran-Walter Technical Corrections Act). This Senate bill, according to its text, would “amend the Immi-

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

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

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

House Resolution 666 (Supporting the goals of Overdose Awareness Day and strengthening efforts to combat the opioid crisis in the United States). This House resolution states in part, “The House of Representatives (1) recognizes Overdose Awareness Day (reporter’s note – it is usually Aug. 31, but a specific date is not listed in the resolution) in the United States; (2) commits to advancing the passing bipartisan policies that reduce the stigma surrounding substance use disorders and overdoses; and is dedicated to collaborating with states, localities, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, health care providers, patients, and families to support a comprehensive system that promotes prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery from opioid use disorder.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 5327 (To extend federal recognition to the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia). This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

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

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

press time.

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

Introduced: Sen. John W. Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) on Sept. 17, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on Sept. 17, 2025.

H.R. 5488 (To extend funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians). This bill would amend Title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. It would appropriate "\$160,000,000 for each of

fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to remain available until expended".
Introduced: Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) on Sept. 18, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Sept. 18, 2025.

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

of Congress that Oct. 13 should continue to be celebrated nationwide as Christopher Columbus Day, as it has been since 1892, to honor our Italian-American heritage and our forefather, Christopher Columbus, who helped to discover this great land."
Introduced: Rep. Michael A. Rulli (R-Ohio) on Oct. 10, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Oct. 10, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate 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.

House of Representatives 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".

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

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

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Nov. 4, 2025.

A Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session was held on Dec. 17, 2025, and the bill was reported and placed on the Union Calendar by the Committee on Jan. 14, 2026. This bill was passed by the House on a voice vote on March 3, 2026. It was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 2026.

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

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

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

H.R. 6285 (Native Arts and Culture Promotion Act).

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

Introduced: Rep. Jill N. Tokuda (D-Hawai'i) on Nov. 21, 2025

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce on Nov. 21, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 6206 (Protect Culturally Sensitive Information Act).

According to the bill, the purposes are, “(1) to protect the confidentiality of culturally sensitive information provided by Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawai-

ian Organizations to the federal government;

(2) to create a safe, respectful space for consultation between the federal government and Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian Organizations that encourages a free-flowing exchange of information and ideas;

(3) to build trust, strengthen relationships, and expand opportunities for costewardship between the federal government and Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian Organizations by ensuring that culturally sensitive information provided to the federal government will be protected to the maximum extent possible;

(4) to advance repatriation of cultural items, including human remains, under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); and

(5) to strengthen support for the policy of the United States of protecting and preserving traditional, cultural, and ceremonial rites and practices in accordance with Public Law 95-341 (commonly known as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act).

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

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

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

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

Indian Health”.

Introduced: Feb. 3, 2026 by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Feb. 3, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 7325 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2026).

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

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

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

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). It was placed on the Union Calendar on Feb. 17, 2026.

H.R. 7490 (Tribal Warrant

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

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

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

H.R. 7627 (Tribal Conservation Priorities Inclusion Act).

This House bill aims “to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to include Indian Tribes in certain provisions relating to priority resource concerns”.

Introduced: Feb. 20, 2026 by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.)

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

S. 3945 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act).

This Senate bill aims “to ensure that federal laws that enable federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply to Tribal law enforcement agencies”.

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

Action: This bill was referred to

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

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

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

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

H.R. 7698 (Tribal Firearm

Access Act). This House bill seeks “to allow members of federally recognized tribes to use their tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer”.

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

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

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Committee

on the Judiciary on Feb. 25, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 3994 (PRIME Meat Processing in Indian Country Act). This Senate bill aims “to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to authorize tribal meat inspection under that Act by tribal personnel”. In the title, PRIME means “Promoting Regulatory Independence, Mastery, and Expansion”.

Introduced: Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) on March 4, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 4179 (AI/AN Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act). This Senate bill seeks “to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require that equitable distribution of assistance include equitable distribution to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations”.

Introduced: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on March 24, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on March 24, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 8048 (AI/AN Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act). This House bill seeks “to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require that equitable distribution of assistance include equitable distribution to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations”.

Introduced: Rep. Adelita S. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) on March 24, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce on March 24, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 4276 (A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996). The full text of this bill was not available by press time.

Introduced: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on March 26, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 26, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 8092 (Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Modernization Act of 2026). This House bill seeks “to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996”.

Introduced: Rep. Troy Downing (R-Mont.) on March 26, 2026
Action: This will was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services on March 26, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Here is the contact information for your federal legislators:

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.): <https://www.tillis.senate.gov/email-me>
Sen. Tedd Budd (R-N.C.): [https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/11th District Congressional Rep. Chuck Edwards \(R-N.C.\):](https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/11th-District-Congressional-Rep.-Chuck-Edwards-(R-N.C.):) <https://edwards.house.gov/contact>

**CIPD Arrest Report for
April 13-19, 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.

Bernhisel, Chad Lopez – age 38
Arrested: April 14
Released: April 16
Charges: Second Degree Trespass, Probation Violation (two counts)

Figuroa, Francisco Kalvloi – age 24
Arrested: April 14
Released: April 14
Charges: Probation Violation

Bradley, Cecilia Belle – age 34
Arrested: April 15
Released: Not released as of report

date (April 21)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Styles, Jacob Harley – age 37
Arrested: April 15
Released: April 15
Charges: Possession of Stolen Property

Wiggins, Ian Alexander – age 25
Arrested: April 15
Released: April 16
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Charges: Hold Until Sober

Hornbuckle, Franklin George – age 53
Arrested: April 18
Released: April 19
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Jenkins, Randall – age 42
Arrested: April 18
Released: Not released as of report date (April 21)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Lossiah, Channing Victor – age 29
Arrested: April 18
Released: Not released as of report date (April 21)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Probation Violation

Bernhisel, Michael Eugene – age 24
Arrested: April 16
Released: April 16
Charges: Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury; Simple Assault, Assault and Battery, Simple Affray

Sherrill, Amanda Nicole – age 37
Arrested: April 16
Released: Not released as of report date (April 21)
Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders, Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedules I-V, Providing or Possessing Contraband

Taylor, Rachel Nicole – age 33
Arrested: April 18
Released: April 18
Charges: Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Criminal Code, Aggravated Elder Abuse

Watty, Ashton McClennon – age 21
Arrested: April 18
Released: April 18
Charges: Resisting Public Officer

Mendez Moran, Norgie O'Brian – age 19
Arrested: April 17
Released: April 17
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Youngdeer, Kayandra Elaine – age 21
Arrested: April 18
Released: Not released as of report date (April 21)
Charges: Child Abuse in the Second Degree, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

White, Heather Michelle – age 31
Arrested: April 17
Released: April 17



You Are Invited To a Self-Care themed...
5th Annual Community Baby Shower
Peaches Squirrell Complex,
1212 Birdtown Rd, Cherokee, NC
Wednesday, May 6th 11-5PM
LUNCH is provided! Diapers, Gift Cards, Raffle Prizes for expecting moms & those with babies under 1 Year old.
Resources for a Healthy Baby and family for all!
OPEN to all expecting & new moms or caregivers!
FREE T-shirt for the 1st 100 Participants
FREE Self Care Kit to the 1st 50 MOMS
FREE Chair Massage & Healing Touch Sessions
Questions? Contact Tricia Carver @ tricarv@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6250





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BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

A familial feeling

EBCI members to star in production of “Where the Summit Meets the Stars”

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

OLYMPIA, Wash. - Ashlie Blaske and Steve Wood are both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) starring in a production of “Where the Summit Meets the Stars,” written

by Tlingit actor Frank Henry Kaash Katasse, presented by Sky Bear Media and directed by Nez Perce actor Josephine Keefe, at Harlequin Productions in Olympia, Wash.

Blaske, playing the lead role of Rose, was born and raised in the Seattle area of Washington state. Keefe also played Rose in a previous production of the play.

Wood is playing Blaske’s partner, Anthony. Wood said the character is Tlingit and Italian, which hits home for Wood who is EBCI and Italian. Wood was born and raised in Phoenix, Ariz.

“It’s a beautiful story about an Alaskan Native woman who has a

plane crash in Alaska and wakes up and you have to figure out where she’s at. And then it’s her journey back to herself and back to her home. And the person she ends up being rescued by, you have to figure out who this person is, what their role is in her life. And then Steve plays her partner and there’s flashbacks to our relationship,” Blaske said.

Wood added, “It’s a really great dichotomy of present versus flashback and what we are leaving behind and what our life on earth really means to us because we take it for granted. That’s demonstrated so much through our scenes. It’s very real and easy to identify with.”

Wood worked with Keefe previously on a play called “Sovereignty,” by Cherokee Nation citizen Mary Kathryn Cagle, about the history of the Cherokee Nation from the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 to the present.

“I saw this production [Where the Summit Meets the Stars] as part of the season, and they were looking to cast an all Indigenous ensemble and creative crew up to the musicians and the designers and whatnot, so I just nosed my way in and said, ‘Hey, Josephine, this is really cool. Can you tell me about it?’ And she just said, ‘Well, here’s the script, read it and tell me what you think,’” Wood said.

“Right around the new year, I got some more information, and I submitted all my info, and then I came to Seattle for a weekend, just two days and met with Josephine. We talked about the script, and then the rest is history... though I’m not Tlingit, it’s very interesting and very wonderful to explore other tribes as well. There’s such a familiarity, even though we’re



Ashlie Blaske and Steve Wood, both members of EBCI, rehearse for their upcoming production, “Where the Summit Meets the Stars,” at Harlequin Productions in Olympia, Wash. (Photo contributed)



Ashlie Blaske, a member of the EBCI from Seattle, Wash., will star as Rose in an upcoming production of "Where the Summit Meets the Stars." (Photo contributed)



Steve Wood, a member of the EBCI from Tucson, Ariz., will star as Anthony in an upcoming production of "Where the Summit Meets the Stars." (Photo contributed)

all different from different tribes. It's this amazing familial feeling that I get. It's hard to explain."

Blaske shared her experience landing her role, "My story is similar, but a little different. I've been also acting originally in the Seattle area. Nothing professional by any means. I've been a producer as well. I have a day job. I work in IT. This is just something I do because I love it. It's not my livelihood by any means. I saw this one pop up and it was looking for an Indigenous woman in her 30s. I'm like, "Great. Yes!"

"In the new year, I got a reply back. I shared it with all of my friends in the community and all of my acting partners, and they all said, if you have a chance to work at this theater, you cannot say no. This is the best thing to do in this state. If they want to see you, you need to try. So, I said 'okay,' and went through a couple rounds of auditions, submitted some self-tapes, and then we had a read together at least once, and then it was a couple weeks after that, and here we are."

Blaske and Wood had never met prior to their first read together. "When we logged into Zoom several weeks ago for Ashlie's callback audition, I had already been

cast, but they wanted us to read to see how we were doing. And then we each gave our tribal affiliations and both of us were like, "What?!"

"The costume designer for 'Sovereignty' was EBCI as well, but aside from that, I've never met any other artistic or actor affiliated with the same tribe as I am, and that's really cool," Wood said.

"And we're not even in the same state!" Blaske added, "So for both of us to be part of this project is really cool."

Wood said he and Blaske have formed an easy connection. "It's easy. It doesn't feel forced. I feel like I have known [Ashlie] for some time, and I think our shared affiliation is a part of that," Wood shared.

"There's a sense of the pride there, even if we're not telling a Cherokee story, the pride of being Indigenous, and sharing an Indigenous story. We're making people very aware like, 'Hey, we are viable. We are creative. We are important. We are relevant.'"

The production will run from May 1 to May 17. Buy tickets and get more information at: <http://harlequinproductions.org/show/where-the-summit-meets-the-stars/>.

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Modern storytelling

Blythe-Lewis continuing father's work as Vision Maker Media celebrates 50 years

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

For the past 50 years, Native American filmmakers have had their visions seen and voices heard through an organization now known as Vision Maker

Media.

Francene Blythe-Lewis (Eastern Band Cherokee/Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota/Navajo) serves as the president and chief executive officer of Vision Maker Media – an organization founded by her father, Frank Blythe.

She commented, “As we look to the future, Vision Maker Media is focused on expanding where and how Native stories are shared—across platforms, with new audiences, and a commitment to supporting emerging filmmakers. At the same time, the focus is about staying grounded, ensuring our stories remain personal, immediate, and connected. We’re building upon my dad’s legacy while incorporating space for the next generation to carry the organization forward.”

Starting in 1976 under the name Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium, the organization has dedicated itself to its vision, “A world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate.”

The organization changed its name in 1995 to Native American Public Telecommunications and again in 2013 to its current name of Vision Maker Media.

The late Frank Blythe (Eastern Band Cherokee/Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota) was the founding executive director. Information from Vision Maker states, “Frank Blythe envisioned an organization that not only placed Native stories on public television and radio, but fundamentally changed who controlled the narratives. At a time when Indigenous perspectives were largely absent from media, Frank Blythe built the infrastructures, partnerships, and funding mechanisms needed for Native people to create, produce, and distribute films. He was instrumental in establishing Native media as a recognized and valued field, creating unprecedented opportunities for Native storytellers, producers, and broadcasters.”

Vision Maker Media is always looking to the future.

Raphael Reagan (Eastern Band Cherokee/Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota/Navajo) is the grandson of Frank Blythe. “I think that Vision Maker Media is going to be a leading force in digital storytelling with Native Americans. Specifically, I think gearing a lot of the younger generations into storytelling about their history, their community, and bringing that back within their own communities to share.”

Eric Braat, Vision Maker Media



This still, from Vision Maker Media’s new series “First Peoples, First Stories”, is from an episode entitled “The Love for the Game” by filmmaker Josiah W. Jones (Apache, Chickasaw, Ohkay Owingeh, Kiowa). (Photos courtesy of Vision Maker Media)



Frank Blythe, right, founding executive director of what would become Vision Maker Media, is shown meeting with former vice president Al Gore.

engagement coordinator, commented, “I think right now is pivotal that we work on outreach and we work on expansion and reach a younger and global audience and just drive awareness into everything that we have that may not be being showcased currently and extend the life of our films and our filmmakers beyond the broadcasts and position Vision Maker Media as a cultural leader for also the younger generation.”

Phil Hoffman, Ph.D., is the chief executive officer for New Mexico PBS and a Vision Maker Media board member. “I think there’s two things about the next 50 years. First, I spent a lot of years as a journalist and every day you’re actually writing the first draft of history when you’re a journalist. I think that is an unparalleled thing that Vision Maker has done over the last 50 years. The stories that we have captured, the voices that have been empowered

over the last half a century have created an incredible collection of material that is truly the first-person history for a lot of the Native organizations that have been part of that.

I think, secondly, for the next 50 years, a lot of work that we don’t necessarily talk about or hear as much is the work with young people. I look at that as the next 50 years...the opportunities continue on so they get the opportunity to tell stories as they mature and as their talents mature, hopefully becoming really powerful storytellers when they get into their adult years.”

Jackie Swift (Comanche/Fort Sill Apache), is the Vision Maker Media board co-chairperson. “I think it’s time, from a Native perspective, to stand up and take that lead and be that front visionary to help make that stand. What is that process to differentiate the Media’s identity so that it’s not D.E.I,



Francene Blythe-Lewis (Eastern Band Cherokee/Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota/Navajo) serves as the president and chief executive officer of Vision Maker Media – an organization founded by her father, Frank Blythe.

it’s not defined as D.E.I. There is a unique status there and that should be celebrated and recognized and a lot of education about that so that it doesn’t get blindly looped in to other things.”

She said a production entitled “She Cried That Day”, which centers the issue of MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) in one family, is a great example of how Vision Maker Media is fulfilling its vision.

Swift said a public tour to promote the film is currently ongoing. “When they’re going to communities, both Native and non-Native, they have their mental health professionals to help with anybody within the community that are experiencing or have experienced an incident with a murdered missing Indigenous person. They also talk around the context of the trauma, but also the path towards healing, recovery, and possible activism by changing policies and laws with-

in their local communities or the states that they’re touring to. That is really a perfect example, a best description of a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories.”

Lynn Palmanteer-Holder (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), Vision Maker Media board, noted, “Bridges are being built in partnership. And the way that we’re able to communicate that is through the mediums that Vision Maker has provided. I’m excited to be a part of this and witness what’s happening. But, more importantly, I’m more excited as a daughter of a tribal leader who fought for self-determination and sovereignty for decades.”

She added, “I’m just excited to witness this organization be able to promote and sponsor spaces for Indigenous voices to be able to share that knowledge.”

40 Years... and She Still Hasn't Changed the Locks

Patrick & Cyndi Lambert · April 30, 1986 – April 30, 2026



1986



2026

Forty years ago – no blueprint, no guarantees, and no money.

Beside The River behind the courthouse in Bryson City. No ceremony. No crowd. Just a Justice of the Peace, one witness we picked up along the way (about half drunk), and another stranger we found inside the courthouse. How could that last?

And yet – 14,610 DAYS LATER – she still hasn't changed the locks.

Back then, the state required a doctor's exam and blood test before they'd issue a marriage license. (I've often thought Cyndi might have deserved a second opinion.)

Marriage, after forty years, isn't just about love. It's patience, forgiveness, a sense of humor – and learning that sometimes the smartest thing a man can say is, "You're right." (Even when you were... almost right.)

Cyndi, I believe you are still the most beautiful woman in the room. (With and without my new-found glasses.) Thank you for your grace, and for putting up with me and every one of my ideas for four full decades.

If I had it to do over, I'd probably win a few more arguments – or maybe even allow you to win a couple. But I'd never change the part where I took that blood test and said, "I do."

I'd make that choice again every single time.

**Happy 40th, Cyndi. All my love,
— Patrick**



Spring Garden Fair

The 10th Annual Spring Garden Fair was held at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C. on Friday, April 24. The event was sponsored by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the EBCI Cooperative Extension Office, and NAIWA Cherokee Chapter and included educational booths, art, and garden kits (top photo) were distributed to EBCI tribal members. Below: Elnora Thompson, an EBCI tribal elder, is all smiles at the event. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)





Spring Rod Run

These photos are from the first official day 26th Annual Cruise the Smokies Cherokee Spring Rod Run on Friday, April 24. The event, hosted by the Cherokee Rodders, was held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. Charles Bryson, Cherokee Rodders president, related that they set a record with 533 registered cars as of 1 p.m. on Friday. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)




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


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

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






EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION




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



Lending Services can

HELP!



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

Call or email for more information:

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

Bear Preparedness Tips from EBCI Natural Resources

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**

One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C.- Caleb Hickman, fish and wildlife biologist and supervisor for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Natural Resources department, shared some information and preparedness tips on black bears as the summer months increase bear sightings and activity.

“What every person that works with bears will say is, if you want to keep bears out of your area and out of your things, the best thing to do is to lock your trash up and be diligent about cleaning. They also can queue into things like bird feeders, and they tend to like anything you’re cooking on outside like your grill. Keep it clean or locked away if you can,” he said.

“Don’t be surprised if they do invade your grill area or your bird feeder, and if you suspect you have bear activity, I would keep those things away from anything else that you don’t want damaged. They have an incredible sense of smell. They can smell sometimes up to a mile away some of your food. If they’re up on some of our mountains and the hollers have some wind going through it, they can catch a whiff, and they will find your grill or any grease that’s been thrown out.”

Hickman said understanding bears is how we can prevent any negative interactions.

“We coexist, I believe, because we understand each other. And I think when it goes wrong is when people aren’t understanding the animal anymore. Bears are just going to be wild animals. That’s just who they are. And in our en-

vironment, we’re also right next to one of the largest bear refuge areas on the continent, especially in the eastern United States, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park,” he said.

“What we’re worried about is what’s called food conditioning or food habituation. When bears are associating people with food, they’re a lot more likely to come to you and even bite you. One elder here who has passed away, he was from up in Birdtown area, he gave me a piece of information that I thought made real sense as a biologist, too. He said that he feels like bears bite usually because they sense their environment with their mouth. He said he’d sit there and watch bears when he was hunting. He reminded me of a biologist. He was studying. He said he just watched the bears, and he would see that they go around and they’re curious, but instead of just smelling or feeling, they’ll go up to something and chew on it. They have to sense their environment. The way he said that made total sense to me. When these campers are in the park, and their tent gets bit, it’s just a bear checking it out. They’re not attacking. When you start to understand the bears and their intentions, you realize you’re not really on their menu. They predominantly eat insects.”

Hickman provided best practices for if you do encounter a bear at your home, campsite, or in the woods.

“Don’t approach it, first of all. Keep a distance. If they don’t see you, you should be making noise. You don’t want to startle a bear, especially with cubs. If it’s a sow, a sow is a female bear, and she’s

got her cubs with her, steer clear. Do not walk towards, and if you can, stay in your vehicle. Also, you should lock up your vehicle if you’re at a campsite overnight. Hang your food or keep it in a locked vehicle. Don’t put food in a tent with you,”

“Slowly move away, don’t run, and speak loudly. Some people, actually hikers will wear noise makers when they’re hiking so they can make a little more noise because you can stumble on a bear. It’s good to make sure they’re well aware you’re on your way. Especially if a sow has cubs and you startle them, that’s when it becomes really dangerous,” he added.

Hickman said local bear hunters have made our area safer from bear encounters than others, and maybe even our local dogs, colloquially termed “rez dogs.”

“We know bear hunters can kind of change bear behavior. We’re pretty sure that they’re keeping these bears nice and fearful of people for the most part. We’re also studying right now possibly the effects of our rez dogs on bear behavior. We kind of think that anywhere there’s been rez dogs, dogs just roaming around, we’re not finding nearly as many bears. That’s something we’re not quite sure about, and I got to put statistics to it, but we suspect that,” he said.

“Bear hunters know quite a bit. They know bear behavior pretty well. They also know that these bears will run off if their dogs are chasing them into the park. And of course, the bear nor the dogs can read signs. So, they chase them into the park, but eventually these

bears sometimes will turn around and come back. But they do learn. They can learn, and we don’t see the same number of incidents that Gatlinburg or Pigeon Forge or even Asheville has, and I attribute that largely to the hunting that we have and maybe even our rez dogs.”

Hickman said bears are not a major worry, but preparedness is key. “I don’t have a fear of bears when I’m in the woods. I worry about other animals before I worry about a bear, but it doesn’t mean you should be unprepared. If they’re food conditioned, they may come to you and they may not be fearful of you. But I do feel strongly that our bear hunters have kept these bears fearful of humans, and that keeps us a little safer than say our surrounding communities,” he said.

“Yona is a wonderful animal. They’re great and they’re very important to us and we want to make sure that we protect them but also value them as a resource.”

GWY ᏆᏍᏍᏍ ᏆᏍᏍᏍ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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

"IT'S TIME FOR GUTTER MAINTENANCE"

6 REASONS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GUTTER MAINTENANCE

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

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

Here is a list of some of those reasons.

PREVENT EROSION & MOLD



1. Roof Damage

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

2. Wood Fascia Damage

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

3. Damage to Walls, Windows, Doors and Patios

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

4. Damage to Foundations and Landscaping

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

5. Slip and fall

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

6. Prevent Mold

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

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



"DON'T TRIM YOUR GUTTERS"



"CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS"



EBCI COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherokee Supreme Court sessions for 2026:

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

- *Cherokee Tribal Court*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NEWS

National Park Service requests public input on proposed Oconaluftee River Trail improvements

GATLINBURG, Tenn.—The National Park Service is seeking public input on proposed improvements to the Oconaluftee River Trail in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Through this project, the park would improve connectivity with the gateway community of Cherokee, increase accessibility, repair riverbank erosion and enhance safety and the visitor experience. The NPS will accept comments through April 22.

The Oconaluftee River Trail is a 1.6-mile-long pedestrian and bike trail that connects the park's Oconaluftee Visitor Center and Mountain Farm Museum to downtown Cherokee. More than 100,000 people use the trail each year.

Proposed trail improvements include:

- Improving accessibility and trail surface durability
- Restoring approximately 275 feet of eroded bank along the Oconaluftee River
- Replacing or repairing four existing footbridges
- Building an accessible riverside viewing area along the Oconaluftee River
- Creating a new connection between the park and Cherokee by building a trail from the Oconaluftee

ee River Trail to Saunooke Bridge Road

Public input will inform planning, designing, and compliance to account for factors such as natural resources and cultural resources. Work on some or all the proposed improvements could begin in late 2026 or 2027. The park anticipates a series of partial and full trail closures to accomplish the work, which is estimated to take 12 months to complete.

How to comment:

The preferred manner for providing comments is via an online form through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website. From the project website (<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ORT>), navigate the menu on the left-hand side of the page to “Open for Comment,” then open the “Oconaluftee River Trail” folder. Background materials are at the site, and the green “Comment Now” button links to the online form.

Comments can also be submitted in writing and postmarked by April 22 to:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

ATTN: Oconaluftee River Trail Project

107 Park Headquarters Rd, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

- *National Park Service release*

Cades Cove Vehicle-Free Days begin May 6

GATLINBURG, Tenn. - Great Smoky Mountains National Park will offer Cades Cove Vehicle-Free Days every Wednesday from May 6 to Sept. 30. These designated days give pedestrians and cyclists an opportunity to experience the 11-mile Cades Cove Loop Road without motor vehicles.

Reminders for Vehicle-Free

Day:

- Vehicle-Free Days are popular and parking is limited. Please park only in designated spots to protect pedestrians, cyclists and roadside ecosystems. Remember to purchase a parking tag online, at the Great Smoky Mountains Welcome Center in Townsend or at fee kiosks at the Townsend Wye or Cades Cove before parking.
- Avoid the morning rush by arriving in the afternoon. If there is no parking available in the morning, you will need to leave and return later. The park may ticket or tow illegally parked vehicles.
- Only bikes (including Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes) are allowed. No scooters, skateboards or other non-motorized vehicles are permitted. Wear a helmet if you are biking, and follow the posted 20 mile per hour speed limit.
- Come prepared. The Cades Cove Loop Road has lots of hills and little tree cover. Pack plenty of snacks, water and a first aid kit. There is no cell service, so plan accordingly. Cyclists should bring a toolkit that includes spare inner tubes, pumps, tire levers and a multi-tool. Weather can also be unpredictable, so pack a rain jacket and dress appropriately for the temperature.

Vehicle-free Wednesdays were first implemented in 2020, although there have been vehicle free opportunities—such as vehicle-free mornings—for pedestrians and cyclists in Cades Cove for over 40 years. Since expanding the vehicle-free period to a full day, runners, walkers and cyclists have enjoyed experiencing Cades Cove Loop at a more relaxed pace.

Learn more about vehicle-free days.

- *National Park Service release*

Bear incidents prompt trail closures, safety reminder in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

GATLINBURG, Tenn.—Rangers in Great Smoky Mountains National Park responded to three bear related incidents at Ramsey Cascades Trail on the weekend of April 17-19, including two encounters in which a bear approached visitors and took two backpacks, and a third in which a bear displayed aggressive behavior and briefly chased a group. Ramsey Prong Road and Ramsey Cascades Trail are closed as rangers monitor bear activity.

Also that weekend, rangers also addressed three incidents on Abrams Falls Trail involving an aggressive black bear, including one case where the bear bit a visitor who entered a closed area. The Abrams Falls access road and trail are now open, after several days with no observed bear activity.

During spring, black bear activity increases in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Currently, mother bears are emerging from their dens with young cubs searching for limited early season food sources. Because this is a sensitive time for mother bears and cubs, getting too close can cause stress and lead to unsafe encounters. The National Park Service asks visitors to help protect yourself, others and wildlife by giving bears space, storing trash and food responsibly and staying alert on trails.

Bear safety guidelines and regulations:

- Never approach bears. Stay at least 50 yards (150 feet) away. Violating this regulation can result in fines and arrest.
- Don't create a bear jam. Seeing a bear from your vehicle is always exciting, but stopping in the

middle of the road creates hazards for wildlife, increases emergency response times and impacts other visitors. When viewing a bear from your car, remain inside the vehicle and move on from the bear quickly so as not to impede traffic.

- Secure food and trash. Keep all food, trash and scented items in a locked, hard-sided vehicle and lock vehicle doors. In backcountry areas, use bear cables to hang food or scented items, and do not store these items in a tent or shelter. Pack out all trash and food scraps when hiking.

- Never feed a bear. Feeding wildlife in the park is a federal offense and can result in fines of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment for up to six months. Feeding a bear even once can result in that bear becoming conditioned to human food and losing its fear of humans. Fed bears have been euthanized in the park due to visitor actions.

- Leave pets at home. Dogs can provoke defensive and predatory behavior in bears. Dogs are permitted on the Gatlinburg Trail and Oconaluftee River Trail only.

- Be prepared and stay alert. Be aware of your surroundings, especially when hiking or camping. Always stay with your group. Consider carrying bear spray and know how to use it properly. Bears in the park have exhibited predatory behavior, such as stalking, especially with solo hikers.

- Report violations and unusual bear behavior. If you see someone feeding or approaching a bear, or if you witness unnatural bear behavior, report it to park authorities immediately by calling (865) 436-1230 or filling out a bear incident report.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is home to approximately 1,900 American black

bears and is the most-visited national park in the United States, with around 12 million visitors each year. This combination of high visitation and a thriving bear population increases the likelihood of human-bear encounters.

- *National Park Service release*

Great Smoky Mountains National Park continues rehabilitation of Bullhead Trail to Mount LeConte

GATLINBURG, Tenn. - Beginning Monday, May 4, Great Smoky Mountains National Park will close Bullhead Trail from Monday through Thursday each week, excluding federal holidays, through Nov. 19. During this time, the park will continue the rehabilitation of the Bullhead Trail in partnership with Friends of the Smokies.

Hikers are welcome to hike Bullhead Trail Friday through Sunday and on federal holidays. The park plans to reopen the trail fully in November.

The Bullhead Trail is one of several routes that lead to Mount LeConte, offering a challenging 13.6-mile roundtrip hike to the summit. Through this rehabilitation, the park will enhance overall trail safety by:

- Repairing tread surfaces
- Improving drainage
- Constructing trail structures such as staircases, turnpikes and retaining walls
- Removing tripping hazards like exposed rocks and roots

Specific improvements to the Bullhead Trail include:

- Regrading 3 miles of trail surface for improved safety and better trail drainage
- Repairing existing drystone retaining walls, adding new stone steps and building turnpikes and erosion control structures

- Removing tripping hazards, including roots and rocks
- Widening sections of trail that are eroding and sloughing off of the hill side
- Pruning overgrown vegetation in the trail corridor to improve views and the hiker experience

The park is also improving the top sections of several trails around the top of Mount LeConte to address erosion and rehabilitate parts of those trails. These efforts will also help protect the park's natural resources.

Following the completion of the Ramsey Cascades Trail rehabilitation in 2024, the park and Friends of the Smokies began the rehabilitation of Bullhead Trail as the next project in the Trails Forever program. This program funds a permanent, highly skilled trail crew dedicated to the rehabilitation of high-use trails throughout the park.

The program also funds youth trail crews from the American Conservation Experience and Southeast Conservation Corps who assist with the rehabilitation each year. There will also be volunteer opportunities to assist the crew each Wednesday on Bullhead Trail starting May 20.

To date, Friends of the Smokies has contributed more than \$4 million to rehabilitation projects, including those on Abrams Falls, Trillium Gap, Rainbow Falls, Alum Cave, Chimney Tops, Forney Ridge and Ramsey Cascades trails.

- *National Park Service release*

Great Smoky Mountains National Park announces dates for Annual Firefly Viewing Event

GATLINBURG, Tenn. - Great Smoky Mountains National Park will host its annual synchronous

firefly event at Elkmont from May 20-27.

A lottery for vehicle reservations opens at 10 a.m. April 24 EDT and closes at 11:59 p.m. April 27 EDT. Visitors can enter the lottery at recreation.gov for a \$1 fee.

Every year, in late May or early June, hundreds of visitors gather near Elkmont to watch *Photinus carolinus*, a firefly species known for its synchronous flashing. The park limits access to the Elkmont area during the eight-day period of predicted peak firefly activity to ease traffic, keep visitors safe and protect the fireflies during their mating season.

Visitors may select two preferred viewing days when entering the lottery. The park will issue 120 reservations per night for a total of 960 for the event.

Each reservation admits one vehicle with up to seven occupants.

Applicants will be notified by email by May 6 about their lottery status. Selected applicants will automatically receive a reservation, and a \$29 reservation fee will be charged to the same card used for the application.

The \$29 fee covers the reservation, portable restrooms, supplies and staffing.

Reservations are non-refundable, non-transferable and valid only for the date issued. There is a limit of one lottery application per household per season.

Access is restricted after noon during the viewing period to vehicles with reservations and registered campers in Elkmont Campground. Overnight parking at Little River Trailhead, Jakes Creek Trailhead or the Appalachian Clubhouse is not allowed during this event.

- *National Park Service release*

OBITUARIES ԺԻՆԻՐ

Mikah Jahim "Spud" Lambert

Mikah Jahim "Spud" Lambert, 18 of Cherokee, N.C., passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Mikah was born in Sylva, N.C. to Michael Edward Lambert and Nina Marie Junaluska on Feb. 25, 2008. He went to high school at Jackson Community School and would be graduating in May 2026. He enjoyed hanging out with his best friend, his grandmother, Marie. He loved learning the language, learning traditional medicine, gathering greens from the mountains, working in the garden, tending to his goat and chickens and making crafts. He was a proud member of Qualla Arts and Crafts and truly was "the young elder."

Mikah is survived by his mother, Nina Marie Junaluska (Brandon Welch); six siblings, Darius Lambert, Dacian Tafoya, Samara Lambert, Mychaela Lambert, Milla Lambert, and Lennox Welch, and special brother, Jamy Queen; cousins, Taraji Queen, Cory Junaluska (Autumn), Kyzik Wachacha, Jace Wachacha, Amani Wachacha, Nikolaj Wachacha, Genesis and Notti Junaluska. Aunts Sonya Wachacha (David), and Celine Lambert; grandmother, Marie Lambert Junaluska; great grandmother, Edith Crowe; and special friends, Tony Walkingstick, Carlos Cruz, and Simon Montelongo.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, William "Bill" Junaluska; father, Michael Edward Lambert; paternal grandfather, Adam Eugene Lambert; paternal grandmother, Carlotta

Linette Crowe; uncle, Adam Chris "Doughboy" Lambert; and aunt, Caretta Denise Lambert.

Funeral service will be held at Rock Springs Baptist Church on Thursday, April 30 at 1 p.m. with Pastor Greg Morgan of Rock Springs Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Standingdeer Family Cemetery, Cherokee, N.C. Visitation will be held at Rock Springs Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 29 at 6 p.m. Crisp Funeral Home will be handling the funeral arrangements.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Rock Springs Baptist Church Family, the Office of Principal Chief Michell Hicks, the Office of Vice Chief B Ensley, Painttown Councilman Michael Stamper, Wolftown Councilman Mike Parker, EBCI Facility Management, and Tribal EMS and Fire Department.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- An 1898 book predicted the Titanic's sinking 14 years before it happened.
- During the 1904 Tour de France, Maurice Gerin jumped on a train and caught a ride between cities to get ahead of the other cyclists.
- Antarctica is the world's largest desert, as it is a polar ice desert with very low precipitation.
- As a young, poor artist, Pablo Picasso once burned his own paintings to keep warm.
- The naked man orchid, aka the hanging man orchid, resembles — yes, you guessed it — a nude dude. Native to Mediterranean regions, it's also classified as threatened, possibly due to its popularity as an antidiarrheal, antinfluent and aphrodisiac.
- Pretzels were originally created by monks around 610 A.D. to reward children for learning prayers, with their shape designed to resemble arms crossed in prayer.
- Snake wine, a traditional alcoholic beverage found in Vietnam, China and Southeast Asia, is created by infusing whole, often venomous, snakes in rice wine or grain alcohol for months. The high alcohol content denatures the venom, making it safe for consumption, though the drink is banned in some areas.
- In 2018, scientists at Caltech played a microscopic game of tic-tac-toe built from DNA.
- The dirt on Mars is made up of dust particles just 4% the width of a human hair and contains toxic metals and other harmful compounds that can cause hormonal imbalances and serious disease.
- Feeding pigeons in Venice, Italy, is prohibited to protect historical monuments.

Thought for the Day: "You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space." — *Johnny Cash*

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CHEROKEE RESOURCE & CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY SURVEY

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Ni-ga-da Gi-du-wo-i Di-yu-da-le-nv-hi

“Everything comes from Kituwah”

This survey gathers community perspectives on Cherokee language resources, cultural knowledge, and opportunities for future growth. Your responses will help guide planning and collaboration among programs and entities serving the community. Upon completion, please keep the notification that your response has been submitted. You can take this to the Qualla Library in Cherokee, located in the Ginger Lynn Welch Complex on Acquoni Road and receive a chance to win a prize for your participation. You can also pick up a paper copy of the survey at the Qualla Library.

CHEROKEE RESOURCE &
CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE
COMMUNITY SURVEY



This survey is coordinated by the Kituwah Alliance – a partnership between the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), New Kituwah Academy, and Cherokee Central Schools. Information collected will be used to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that engages stakeholders across our community. The strategic priorities and action steps developed from this data will be shared with the community for input and feedback. Our goal is to ensure that current, accurate data better informs leadership decisions – not only for tribal programs, but for all entities serving our communities – and creates a clear roadmap for the future.



The advocate helped me in ways I could not have even hoped for. She gave me the support system I desperately needed to survive something that otherwise I don't think I could have navigated on my own."

For domestic violence advocacy and support, contact StrongHearts Native Helpline.

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COMMENTARY

An honest day's pay for an honest day's work

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

I have been in the workforce since 1976, so for about half a century. My first job was working as a cook/cleaner at a Hardee's restaurant. Back in the day, if you were too young to cook on the grill, you got all the less glamorous jobs like mopping floors and cleaning bathrooms. I was also charged with backline prep, which meant

slicing tomatoes, onions, lettuce, and pickles. And yes, I washed my hands after cleaning the bathroom before handling the tomatoes. The serving line had to be stocked with those items, along with filling the ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and napkin dispensers. Oh, and I must not forget the "special" sauce (basically thickened Thousand Island dressing). It was a proud day when I was considered responsible enough to do bun warming and prep. Hardee's had a toaster with a conveyor belt in it. I would butter the buns and lay them on the conveyor belt. Buttering consisted of basting the bread with melted butter before running it through the toaster. After that, it was a squirt of sauces, adding the veggies, and passing it to the older, more privileged meat cook for that last

layer of charcoal-broiled goodness. It was a banner day when I leveled up to meat cooker. Nothing makes you feel like a man like cooking burgers. I guess that is why I find so many men at Lowe's every spring upgrading their grills to the latest and greatest.

During my stint with Hardee's, I believe my pay was between three and four bucks an hour. If I still worked at that rate of pay, I would have to work two hours for my favorite drink at Starbucks. It is the caramel crunch Frappuccino, by the way. My birthday is just around the corner, and you never know who might be reading this, wondering what to get me. But I digress.

If you are like me, you will never forget that first work experience. Not working for Mom

and Dad on the farm because you are part of the family, type of work. The kind where you work for someone, you have standards to meet and get that paycheck, and all your taxes are drawn out of it. A place where there is code and policy. A place where your character and ethics are put to the test. It is a part of the transition to adulthood.

A decade later, after more growing and more schooling, I started getting jobs that required me to manage others. Until I graduated from college, I had taken what are typically called "front-line jobs". A front-line employee is one who makes first contact with customers and clients. They are typically the minimum wage or least financially compensated in an organization, even by today's

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standards. When you think about it, it really doesn't make sense that the most impactful interaction between a company and its clients is usually that first interaction with the front-line workers of a company, who seemingly have the least to gain from the interaction.

A few years ago, I wrote a piece on the decline of customer service over the decades. I explained how customer service standards had deteriorated over the past couple of generations. I attributed much of the decline to the lack of focus by organizations on customer service training and the entitlement that is increasingly being taught by our society. We have gone from a society of people who want to work to a society of people who think any employer should be grateful that they would consider working. And I mentioned in the commentary that the "customer is always right" mentality was either dead or buried deep in modern work culture. Some readers had a visceral reaction to that piece and let me know about it.

"You don't see how customers treat us."

"They don't pay me enough to take crap from a customer," and "if they want me to be nice, they need to pay me more."

Long gone is the understanding that we have jobs because of those clients, even the difficult ones. The only need for a workforce is that there are people out there to work for. Yes, they should appreciate the service or products that we provide. Yes, they should not treat us like underlings or subordinates because we are on

the front line of a company. But ultimately, we need them more than we need us. Just as an example, there are not as many people hurrying on down to my former employer, Hardee's (You know, "where the burgers are charcoal broiled"), because the fast-food industry is saturated with restaurants like my old bosses at Hardee's. Both franchise and locally owned and operated, it isn't difficult to find a burger like or better than a Famous Star burger.

For many customers, the make-or-break thing for them is how they are treated by the front-line worker. When I walk into my favorite local coffee shop for my morning coffee, I get flashbacks to watching episodes of Cheers. As soon as I hit the door, I am greeted with "What's shakin', Rob?" or "Good morning, Rob!" with a wink and a smile, and a genuine tone of welcome in their voices. I have been going there for years. Yes, the coffee is made with care, and it is good (to the last drop). But even if the coffee quality took a nosedive, I would have a difficult time moving to a different shop, because of the way I am treated there. The front line knows the importance of that interaction; the owner of the shop makes sure of it. His staff is treated with respect and value, and so his clients benefit from the same respect and value from the front-line workers.

Just a side note: No front-line employee should ever be subjected to derogatory or demeaning behavior from a client. That is one of the reasons it is so important to do customer service training. A work-

er needs to know how to respond to irate and abusive clients, and when to engage management in the situation. The front line should never be tasked with dealing with abusive behavior, and management should always provide the support needed when it occurs.

For a brief stretch, the government and business community on the Qualla Boundary understood and tried to help educate their workforces, having customer service training be a basic training with every hire. I know some still goes on. I can't imagine our adult gaming facilities neglecting such a vital element in their success or failure. But we need more. And it needs to be a priority for every entrepreneur and entrepreneurial training sponsored on the Boundary. Whether you are talking about governmental entities or independently owned companies, we are a tourism economy. And we are limited in what we have (or want) to sell. In many cases, tourism organizations and businesses outside the Qualla Boundary are better at leveraging our tourism assets than we are.

Societal change is like changing the course of a big ship. Turning takes a lot of time and a lot of room. I just took a quick look at the most recent edition of the One Feather. The tribe is advertising 24 governmental vacancies, 40 vacancies at Cherokee Indian Hospital, 17 vacancies at Cherokee Boys Club, 32 vacancies at Cherokee Central Schools, 92 vacancies at Harrah's Cherokee, and 47 vacancies at Harrah's Murphy. Mandara Spa has 4 vacancies, and

Qualla LLC is advertising 4 jobs with multiple positions in some. And not all the companies that are hiring on the Boundary promote in the One Feather, so there are more in the hotel, restaurant, and other product sales companies that we just don't have numbers for.

With each vacancy, we may assume that some service and product availability suffers. If there is enough demand to warrant a position, a vacant position means demand is not being met, or it is being met at the expense of overworking established employees or reducing the quality of customer service. Either way, it is not good business practice and definitely not going to attract and sustain customers.

There are no easy answers. Honest pay for a worker goes beyond the paycheck and benefits. It is being valued, respected, and motivated in a team that cares about the employee and the success of the work effort. And it takes leaders who balance the desire to fill positions with qualified enrolled members with the need to provide services to qualified enrolled members. The longer positions are held open and vacant, the longer tribal members are not getting the levels of service they deserve. It isn't all about hiring. It is largely about providing services.

When you get right down to it, it is pretty simple and seemingly hard to get to. Provide an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. Now I am craving a Famous Star burger and vanilla shake. And, yes, I want fries and a smile with that.

Do you see strays or pet abuse?
EBCI Animal Control 359-2380

April report from Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper

Hello everyone,

This is my Council Report for the month of April. Before I begin, I want to congratulate Anna Ferguson on becoming the first EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) member to serve in the North Carolina House of Representatives. She will represent District 119 for the remainder of this term. Anna Ferguson has made history as the first woman to serve as the House Representative for District 119, and she is also a proud member of the Painttown Community. As always, my report follows the standard format below.

Community Events

April 27 – Painttown Community Club Meeting was held at the Painttown Community Club Building

April 28 – Cherokee Autism/IDD Celebration 2026 was held at the old Cherokee High School site QBHS & EHS and FSN of NC hosted the annual Cherokee Autism/IDD Celebration to engage, celebrate, and bring together an important part of our community. There were special guest speakers from the Cherokee Indian Hospital, EBCI community members, and Dr. El Brown, Founder of Kinderjam.

Project Updates

Recently Completed Projects

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

Projects Currently Underway or Nearing Completion

Nvdiyeli Trail

The project is complete. A ribbon cutting date will be shared as soon as it becomes available. Signage is currently being created. (No change from March report.)

Ceremonial Grounds

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

Multipurpose Facility (Old High School Site)

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

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

Designs have been approved, and the bid process has begun. After bids are collected, a budget will be drafted for project implementation. (No change from March report.)

Ordinances

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

- Amendments to the Judicial Code, Chapter 7 of the Cherokee Code
- Compliance with NC State requirements for Underground Storage Tanks
- Amendments to election laws
- An ordinance establishing an Elk Hunting Season
- An ordinance to establish the EBCI's digital sovereignty
- An ordinance to amend Chapter 55D to provide that revenues obtained by EBCI Holdings, LLC

from the Caesars Southern Indiana Casino, and distributed to the Tribe, shall be allocated to the Tribe's General Fund and Debt Service Sinking Fund

- An ordinance amending Chapter 47E to ban data centers on EBCI Trust Lands

Work Sessions

Work Sessions were held on April 28

- 1 p.m. – Discussion with Housing and Cardinal Homes
- 2 p.m. – Discussion with Kituwah LLC
- 3 p.m. – Discussion about HELP Ordinance

Monthly Update for Readers

This month's topic focuses on the rules that provide a framework ensuring meetings are conducted fairly, efficiently, and with respect for the rights of all members. These rules are commonly known as Robert's Rules of Order.

To begin, no—these are not rules made up by a local Robert. They are a set of procedures developed by General Henry M. Robert in 1876. Over time, updates have been made to ensure meetings remain orderly and effective.

A basic meeting structure found in most professional environments includes:

- Call to Order: The Chair opens the meeting and confirms a quorum.
- Approval of Minutes: Members review and correct previous meeting minutes.
- Reports: Members and officers present reports.
- Old Business: Unfinished items from previous meetings are addressed.

- New Business: New proposals are introduced and discussed.
- Adjournment: The meeting is formally closed.

This structure outlines the typical order of business. How members conduct themselves during the meeting is guided by Robert's Rules of Order. Motions are the tools used to move items along. They require a second before proceeding to a vote, ensuring at least two members believe the action is worth consideration. Common phrases such as "move to approve," "move to table," and "move to kill" are used to address agenda items.

For a typical Tribal Council agenda, the Chair opens the session with a prayer, then opens the floor for any proposed changes to the agenda. If no changes are submitted, new items are addressed based on whether they are resolutions or ordinances. When new ordinances are submitted, a motion is made to "read, give a number, and table," meaning the ordinance is read, assigned a number for the record, and tabled for the mandatory 25 day minimum to allow for public comment. Once new ordinances are addressed, the remaining items can be acted on. Tabled items are discussed first, as they fall under old business.

Once an agenda item is on the floor, members may debate it, propose amendments, or suggest substitutes. Amendments can add, strike, or replace words. Debate continues until members are ready to vote. If an item stalls—meaning there is no further discussion and no motion—the Chair may note that, due to the lack of a motion, the item dies on the floor. This indicates the item did not have

enough support for action and will be removed from future agendas. If an item has a motion and a second to pass, a majority vote is required.

These actions will continue until all items on the agenda have been addressed.

There are times when more than one motion is on the floor for a particular item. For example, if an item has both a motion to pass and a motion to table, which one is acted on first? Under Robert's Rules, the body must take up the lesser action first. In this case, the motion to table is considered first because it does not call for an immediate decision on the item. If the motion to table receives a

majority vote, the item is tabled and the motion to pass is not acted upon. If the motion to table fails, the motion to pass is then considered.

The Chair is responsible for running the meeting and must follow a set of rules understood by all members. This ensures that everyone knows how to conduct themselves appropriately and efficiently. While there are established rules every meeting should follow, additional language can be drafted to provide clarity in situations where complicated scenarios arise.

With all of this said, I hope it highlights the importance of the Chair position and the knowledge

and experience required to conduct a meeting properly. When meetings are not conducted in this manner, order is lost and emotions can take over.

While we are all human and can become overwhelmed with emotion when discussing issues we care deeply about, we must always remain respectful of one another. If each of us understands that we all play a role in how a meeting is run, we can ensure that meetings are conducted in a manner that reflects well on our Tribe. I deeply admire the passion our community shows every day. I will always respect anyone who chooses to speak on any topic, and I ask only that the same respect be

extended to every other member when it is their turn to speak.

I hope this article provides clarity on how meetings can be conducted when a set of principles and procedures is followed. While this is a generalized overview, it is not meant to imply that every meeting must follow this exact structure. Flexibility is encouraged so that meetings can be conducted in the way that best suits the order of business for all involved.

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

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



APRIL 27-MAY 3, 2026



WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
Tuckasegee River	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Parachute Adams, Parachute Hares Ear, Chubby Chernobyl, Elk Hair Caddis, Pheasant Tail Nymph, Hares Ear Soft Hackle, Eggs, Mops, Girdle Bugs
Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Brown Trout	Parachute Adams, Parachute Hares Ear, Elk Hair Caddis, Prince Nymph, Pheasant Tail Nymph, Hares Ear Nymph
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Based on water temperatures	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout, Smallmouth Bass	Thunderhead, Stimulator, Foam Caddis, Soft Hackles, Caddis Larva, Prince Nymph

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BEST FISHING TIMES BASED ON THE LUNAR CYCLE

MONDAY, APRIL 27	TUESDAY, APRIL 28	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29	THURSDAY, APRIL 30	FRIDAY, MAY 1	SATURDAY, MAY 2	SUNDAY, MAY 3
AVERAGE	GOOD	BETTER	BETTER+++	BEST	BEST	BETTER++
9:33 AM-11:33 AM 9:54 PM-11:54 PM	10:15 AM-12:15 PM 10:36 PM-12:36 AM	10:57 AM-12:57 PM	11:40 AM-1:40 PM	12:02 AM-2:02 AM 12:24 PM-2:24 PM	12:47 AM-2:47 AM 1:11 PM-3:11 PM	1:35 AM-3:35 AM 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

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Just missed Him

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

Scripture references: John 5:39-40, 1 John 5:11-12, Matthew 11:2-5, Galatians 2:21, John 9:40-41, John 10:24-25, John 10:31-33, John 14:6-7

A plethora of verses can be found that reveal how all of Israel, except for the disciples and followers of Jesus, discounted Him as Lord. Today's literate world knows of Jesus but only recognizes that He was a prophet or a historical figure. However, many, including Jews and Muslims of today, consider him a mere footnote in their past as a religious figure who has captured the minds of Christians. They don't believe He is the Messiah or Lord referenced in our Old Testament or their Torah and Qur'an.

The Jews, Muslims, Christians, and the rest of the world may know about Jesus, but this commentary is dedicated to showing who He is to me and you. **JESUS IS LORD!**

The story is in the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They witnessed Christ in the flesh, on earth, and in ministry using His own words. You only need to reread them to look for those who didn't recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man, God in the flesh. The fact remains that people were looking for the Messiah yesterday and are looking for the Messiah today and will continue to look for Him tomorrow. He's been here, and He's coming back. There is no other. Many seek God and miss Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes, the Sadducees and Jews all studied

and sought after the Word of God to find the Messiah, only to look right over Him while in their presence. He was standing right before them, and they missed Him. All the clues of the Old Testament, all the miracles He performed, all the things He said of Himself, and they missed Him. People still miss Him.

Ever look for something you can't find all over the house, garage, or workplace? You know what it looks like. You're sure it has to be someplace close to where it belongs, but you don't see it. Then someone else points to exactly where it is, and you have already looked over that same spot a dozen times. It's like you were blind. Someone might say, "If it had been a rattlesnake, it would have bitten you." Strange comparison right there. You can hear a rattler and not see it; if you don't believe what you hear and know your danger, you might die. That's what it's like to search for and miss the kingdom of God. People can learn all about Jesus, but miss the relationship that He is Lord and

that He saves. It is those who miss that and condemn themselves in disbelief.

How did the ancient ones seeking the Kingdom of God respond to Jesus? In their minds, they knew what He was supposed to look like. They decided who He was supposed to be and what they wanted for themselves. In their minds, filled with pride, they were confident that they knew better than their scripture what the Messiah should be. He was not who they wanted.

That thinking is hubris, conceit, pride, and ultimately blind ignorance. In their defense, they were spiritually blinded. They were preordained to condemn Him. That was the plan. People of today seeking the Kingdom of God want to skirt Jesus and make their own way to Heaven. They create their own religion, their own gods, and their own rules. They think they know better, too. But the difference is that the ancient ones were blinded for a grand purpose; you can call upon Jesus to show you the truth through the Holy

Spirit.

Who is blinding you? What's your excuse? Satan is a liar and will keep you from understanding who Jesus is if you let Satan get in the way. Jesus is stronger, His Spirit is stronger, and He overcomes the wiles of Satan. All you need to do is believe and repent, knowing Jesus is Lord God Almighty, and it is He who saves. It is He who is the way to God and the Kingdom of Heaven. Let His Spirit lead you. Ask Him to come into your heart. If you miss Him today, you will miss eternal life with Him. Don't miss Jesus. You might pray like this: Lord, God, and Father, we ask that Your Spirit lead and guide us closer to living a Kingdom life with You as our guide. Light our path, direct our feet, and lead us in a closer walk in truth and in Spirit. Thank you, Lord, for revealing who You are so that our faith becomes the belief to accept You as our Saviour and Lord. Teach us how to live in Your light and walk in Your way. Amen



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

My soul is
among lions;
I lie among
the sons of men
who are set on fire,
whose teeth are
spears and arrows,
and their tongue
a sharp sword.

Psalm 57:4



Detail of "Mondnacht" by George Grosz (1916)

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Amber Waves

OH BOY, THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE GOOD WHEN I SHOW MY FOLKS MY REPORT CARD.



I REALLY NEED TO USE SOME "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE."



MY REPORT CARD CAME TODAY.



NOW DON'T GO BLAMING YOURSELF. YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST.



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Design on lampshade is wider. 3. Club is shorter. 4. Curtain is shorter. 5. Doorway is different.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lopsided win
- 5 Have bills
- 8 Wan
- 12 Golden Fleece ship
- 13 Fix illegally
- 14 Final Four gp.
- 15 Speed
- 17 Teri of "Tootsie"
- 18 Actor Estevez
- 19 Looked closely (at)
- 21 Pitcher Maglie
- 22 Bath powder
- 23 Speed (up)
- 26 Poetic contraction
- 28 Period of rule
- 31 El-Masry of "Star Wars"
- 33 Bro, maybe
- 35 Stair part
- 36 Deeply touched
- 38 Its cap. is Brussels
- 40 "— outta here!"
- 41 "Dream on!"
- 43 Actor Holbrook
- 45 Locust
- 47 Talisman
- 51 Seethe
- 52 Maximum contents
- 54 Diminutive suffix

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15			16				17				
18						19	20				
21						22					
23	24	25		26		27	28		29	30	
31			32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40	
41					42		43		44		
45	46					47			48	49	50
51					52	53					
54									56		
57						58				59	

- 7 Pharaoh's land
- 8 The "A" of UCLA
- 9 Shortage
- 10 Fast runner
- 11 Lawn party site
- 16 Pisa farewell
- 20 Jug handle
- 23 Zodiac animal
- 24 Comic Philips
- 25 Liveliness
- 27 Tease
- 29 "My word!"
- 30 "Science Friday" network
- 32 Secondhand deals
- 34 "Cheer up!"
- 37 Carried out
- 39 Tibetan monk
- 42 Confronts
- 44 "— di Lammemoor"
- 45 Driver with a handle
- 46 Tiny bit
- 48 Walk unevenly
- 49 LAX guesses
- 50 Broadway actress Daly
- 53 Docs' org.

DOWN

- 1 Gushing review
- 2 Utah city
- 3 Wrinkled fruit
- 4 Workshop array
- 5 Baltimore baseballers
- 6 Humorist

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: What is Indiana Jones' real first name in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
2. LITERATURE: What is Charlie's last name in the children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What isthmus connects the Asian and African continents?
4. MATH: What is the first prime number to follow 19?
5. GEOLOGY: What type of rock is formed by cooled lava?
6. TELEVISION: What is the title character's famous line in the TV detective show "Columbo"?
7. BUSINESS: What company's stock ticker symbol is LUV?
8. ASTRONOMY: Which four planets in our solar system have rings?
9. HISTORY: About how many people worldwide were infected by the Spanish flu in the early part of the 20th century?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: If an animal eats only plants, what is it called?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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1. Henry; 2. Bucket; 3. Isthmus of Suez; 4. 23; 5. Igneous; 6. "Just one more thing"; 7. Southwest Airlines; 8. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune; 9. Nearly one-third of the world's population; 10. An herbivore

Trivia Test Answers

EBCI Community Events

Veterans Stand Down. May 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Peach-Comes Squirrell Sports & Recreation Complex at 1212 Birdtown Rd. in Cherokee, N.C. Available resources: Medicaid enrollment, health screenings, mental health services, housing/shelter assistance, peer support, veterans benefits assistance, gear distribution, haircuts, training opportunities, crisis and recovery services, and lunch is provided. Info: Gerard Ball (828) 359-6184, samuball@ebci-nsn.gov

Kolanvyi Day. May 2 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Kolanvyi Fields on Big Cove Rd (Just above the Cherokee Central Schools) Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Stickball games, vendors, storytelling, entertainment, cornhole tournament. Info: Butch (828) 506-8936 or Cindee (828) 736-7879.

Visitors Celebration Day. May 16 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Cherokee Welcome Center 498 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Traditional dancing, music, arts and crafts, storytelling, stickball demonstrations, food trucks and more. Info: (828) 359-6490

40th Anniversary of Fading Voices. May 23 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Little Snowbird 1897 Little Snowbird Rd., Robbinsville, N.C. 28771. Mound Building at 11 a.m. (bring a cup or turtle shell full of dirt from home). Celebrate Snowbird Cherokee heritage, language and community. There will be Cherokee food, music, dance, crafts and games. Admission is free.

EBCI Community Regular Meetings

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

Cherokee Cultural/Historic Events

Cherokee Language Workshop with Ogadudala. Every Monday and Wednesday in May from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ken Blankenship Education Wing, TJ Holland Education Room at 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719, except May 4 (Art Studio). Dreyton Long, Madison Hye Long, Elvia Walkingstick, Jack Cooper, and Meshay Long lead a free language workshop at the Museum.

Cherokee Culture on display at Smoky Mountain Spring Fest. May 2 at the Stecoah Valley Center at 121 Schoolhouse Rd. in Robbinsville, N.C. Cherokee Language Session at 11 a.m. with former Teen Miss Cherokee Kyn-dra Postoak, former Little Miss Cherokee Rhiannon Postoak, and their younger sister, Mia Postoak. The session will introduce simple Cherokee greetings and introductions. Cherokee Crafting at 1:30 p.m. Performance by Raven Rock Dancers at 3 p.m. Info: www.ste-coahvalleycenter.com/calendar

Cherokee History & Stories with Kathi Littlejohn. May 4 at 5 p.m. in the Ken Blankenship Education Wing, TJ Holland Education Room at 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. EBCI Storyteller and historian Kathi Littlejohn leads this monthly informal lecture series. Free and open to the public. Info: <https://motcp.org/events>

Big Cove to Boarding Schools: Educational Journeys of the Nick-Swayney-Bird Family. May 7 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ken Blankenship Education Wing, TJ Holland Education Room at 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. David Armenti will share genealogical research about 11 ancestors from the

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian community, who attended either Hampton Institute's "Indian School" (Virginia) or Carlisle Indian Industrial School (Pennsylvania). Free and open to the public. Info: <https://motcp.org/events>

Statehood Day. May 31 from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Celebration of Tennessee Statehood Day. On June 1, 1796, Congress approved the admission of Tennessee as the sixteenth state of the Union. The 1809 Blacksmith shop will be open with demonstrations going on throughout the afternoon. Come out and share the afternoon with living history in the 1800's Dog-trot Log cabin. Learn about

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

SŌHi ᠗D RVL᠘᠗J D᠙᠗YL



Kawi Belle Toineeta lives with human parents Joseph and Stephanie Toineeta and a whole crew of siblings.



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ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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Cherokees in the Civil War. The acorn printing press will be doing demonstrations throughout the day. All Statehood Day activities are free, and people can also enjoy free admission to the museum. Info: (423) 884-6246

Annual Kituwah Celebration.

June 6 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Kituwah Mound, 3831 Ela Rd., Bryson City, N.C. 28713. Social dances, entertainment, stickball demonstrations, food, community gathering. Call (828) 359-6406 to be a vendor, artisan, farmer, crafter or demonstrator.

Sequoyah Remembrance Day.

Aug. 3 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Come by and learn about the amazing history of Sequoyah at the museum dedicated to the life and story of Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee written language. Info: (423) 884-6246

35th Annual Cherokee Festival.

Sept. 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Cherokee Arts and crafts demonstrations, Cherokee storytelling, flute playing, Cher-

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're the first sign in the Zodiac and like to take the lead wherever you go. But this time, you'd be wise to follow someone who has much to teach you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your adversary hasn't given up trying to undermine you at your workplace. Continue to stay cool — someone who's in authority knows what's happening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Spring debuts with a positive aspect for relationships! Paired Twins grow closer, while the single set finds new romance — perhaps with a Leo or Libra.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Wavering aspects this week mean weighing your words carefully to avoid misunderstandings with others, who could take what you say and run with it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You could soon be on a new career path in pursuit of some long-standing goals, but don't cut any current ties until you're sure that you're ready to make the change.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A former colleague wants to reestablish an old professional connection. It would be wise to make the contact, at least until you know what they are planning.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) A relationship that survived some rocky moments could be facing a new challenge. Deal with the problem openly, honestly and without delay. Good luck!

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A recent and much-appreciated change in the workplace inspires you to make some changes in your personal life as well. Start with a plan to travel more.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A friend needs your kind and caring advice, but you need to know what they are hiding from you before you agree to get involved.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your circle of friends continues to widen. Expect to hear from someone in your past who hopes to reestablish your once-close relationship.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your aspects favor the arts. Indulge in whatever artistic expression you enjoy most. Meanwhile, a workplace situation will continue to improve.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Warning! Your tendency to let things slide until the last minute could have a negative effect on a relationship that you hope can develop into something meaningful.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are both emotional and sensible. You enjoy being with people. Good career choices include teaching, performing, and working with the clergy.

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Two VA grants

Two of the grants recently announced by the VA will have wide-ranging benefits for veterans.

The first, a \$16 million set of grants, supports organizations that provide adaptive sports programs for veterans and service members. Over time, the program has awarded \$160 million in grants. Whether it's for hunting, skiing, cycling or any of the dozens of sports and recreation activities (including art), the programs foster independence and a better quality of life.

The Adaptive Sports Grant Program (department.va.gov/veteran-sports/grant-program) provides the funding for non-federal entities who are experienced in running programs that include instruction and competition in adaptive sports, assistance to the coaches and recreation therapists, and so much more. Paralympic athletes can receive a monthly training allowance, and seniors have their own Golden Age games.

If your organization wants to apply for a grant, look for VA Form 10096 Adaptive Sports Grant Application and see the Grants.gov website.

If you're a veteran or service member who wants to participate in the sports or art, see department.va.gov/veteran-sports. Don't wait too long — many of the events take place in the summer.

Second, the Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG) program gives free VA health care appointment rides to veterans who live in very rural areas with fewer than seven people per square mile. The VA has announced grants totaling \$7 million for organizations (Veteran Service Organizations and State Veterans Service Agencies) who provide the transportation.

Seven people per square mile — that's extremely rural and sparsely inhabited. The areas served include portions of Alaska, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington State and Wyoming.

If you're a veteran who lives in the rural parts of those states and you need transportation to VA medical appointments, go online to www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp and see the list of contacts for your state. There is no cost to you for the transportation.

If your organization wants to apply for grants to become a transportation provider in a rural area, see www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vtp/grant_applicants.asp.

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Preventing animal cruelty: You can make a difference

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: It seems like every day I see another news story about animals being rescued from terrible situations: hoarding, breeding mills and so on. I want to help, but I can't keep animals due to my apartment building's rules. What can I do? I'm tired of feeling helpless. — Macy G., Smyrna, Georgia

DEAR MACY: You are awesome. Thank you for wanting to step in and take action to stop animal abuse. That's the first, most important step.

Now, here's the next step: You can make a difference right in your community, primarily by being watchful and noticing the pets and other animals in the neighborhood. Does a neighbor's dog look emaciated or cower around their owner? Take notes.

On your daily drive, notice the animals that you pass. Is there a house with a lot of animals living outside? If you pass a farm or barn that has livestock or horses, how do the animals look? Are their ribs showing? Do they seem neglected?

From here, take steps:

- Talk to your neighbors. Learn whether they've noticed the same things.

- Create a WhatsApp or Signal group where members can privately share information.

- Get the phone number and email address of the local authority where you can make reports about possible animal cruelty. This may be animal control or the police department.

- When you make a report, include as many details as possible.

Another way to get involved is to support your local animal shelter. Donate funds, food or bedding. Ask about volunteering a few hours a month. Shelters are often the first place that rescued animals are taken to — and the more resources they have, the better they can respond to the needs of these victims.

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

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EVENTS: From page 41

Cherokee dances, name written in Cherokee, genealogy help, craft vendors and food vendors. Info: (423) 884-6246

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Meetings

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

Dinilawigi Regular Session.

May 7 at 8:30 a.m.

Pow Wow Listings

Mni Wakan Oyate Wetu Wacipi.

May 2-3 at the Quentin Burdick Sports Arena in Devils Lake, N.D. Info: Kenneth Graywater (701) 381-2009, akicita@spiritlakevfw.com

Columbia University 14th Annual Pow Wow.

May 2 at Heckscher Playground Lawns, Central Park in New York, New York. MC: Victor Vegas. Info: Jebriel Wharton-Ali at jrw2235@columbia.edu

Virginia Tech 9th Annual Spring Pow Wow.

May 2 in Blacksburg, Va. Info: Mackenzie Locklear at mlocklear@vt.edu

35th Annual Cherokee County Mother's Day Pow Wow & Indian Festival.

May 9-10 at Boling Park in Canton, Ga. MC: Ray Silva. Host Drum: Red Boys. Info: (770) 735-6275, rollingthunder34@ymail.com, or visit www.rthunder.com

6th Annual Teton Pow Wow.

May 9 at the Snow King Sports and Event Center in Jackson, Wyo. Emcees: Chico Her Many Horses,

Kevin Tacan. Host Drum: Fort Peck Sioux. Local Host Drum: Little Brave. Info: Mahpiya Win Spotted Tail (307) 200-7447, mw.spottedtail@nativeamericanjumpstart.org

38th Annual Balboa Park Pow Wow.

May 9-10 in San Diego, Calif. MC: Randy Pico. Host Northern Drum: Blue Star. Host Southern Drum: Red Warrior. Info: Paula Brim (858) 442-5033, paula.brim@att.net

Cal Poly Pomona Annual Honoring Our Mothers and Mother Earth Pow Wow.

May 9 at the Kellogg Arena in Pomona, Calif. MC: Walter Ahhaitty. Host Northern Drum: Bear Springs. Host Southern Drum: Sooner Nation. Info: Desiree Martinez (909) 869-4205, drmartinez2@cpp.edu

Gathering of the People Pow Wow.

May 15-16 at the BSA Center in Evans, Ga. MC: Michael Anderson. Head Singer: Marvin Pair. Info: Barry Rogers (706) 678-1017, oter@nu-z.net

Support Groups

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

Celebrate Recovery meets every

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

Cherokee Cancer Support Group, potluck dinner with a

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

Life@WesternCarolina.

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

MARA (Medication-Assisted Recovery Anonymous)

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

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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events

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

Peddler's Post at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

May 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site at 2620 South Roan St. in Johnson City, Tenn. Local artisans and merchant booths and local, historic-based demonstrators. Free admission. Info: (423) 926-3631 or info@tipton-haynes.org

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

Hummingbird Research

Webinar. May 7 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Discover which plants best benefit hummingbirds and how small changes to a backyard can increase their population. Online

webinar. This is a Smokies Life Branch Out event. Cost: For Park Keepers, \$45; to join and attend, \$85 (Park Keeper basic membership \$40+ event registration \$45). Info: <https://SmokiesLife.org/branch-out-events>, or email: membership@smokieslife.org

Swain Genealogical and Historical Society meeting. May 7 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. Henry Chambers will get a presentation on the early settler history of western North Carolina. Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. This is free and open to the public.

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.

High Elevation Birds & Blooms. May 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Thomas Divide Trailhead in Bryson City, N.C. Starting at an elevation of 4,650 feet, stroll through a northern hardwoods forest and observe the birds and blooms that call the high peaks home. This is a Smokies Life Branch Out event. Cost: For Park Keepers, \$45; to join and attend, \$85 (Park Keeper basic membership \$40+ event registration \$45). Info: <https://SmokiesLife.org/branch-out-events>, or email: membership@smokieslife.org

org/branch-out-events, or email: membership@smokieslife.org

Rev It Up for the Vets. May 16 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Country-side Chevrolet 71 Cat Creek Rd., Franklin, N.C. 28734. Cruise-In and Benefit for Local Veterans. Music, food, and family fun. Trophies for Top 3 vehicles. Info: (828) 524-0734

Living History. May 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days at Sam Houston School House, 3650 Old Sam Houston School Rd., Maryville, Tenn. 37804. Vendors, food truck, kettle corn, re-enactors and so much more! Info: (865) 983-1550

Intro to Night Sky Photography Webinar. June 2 from 6

p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Learn the fundamentals of astrophotography, including gear essentials, composition and camera settings, and ways to help reduce light pollution in your area. This is a Smokies Life Branch Out event. Cost: For Park Keepers, \$45; to join and attend, \$85 (Park Keeper basic membership \$40+ event registration \$45). Info: <https://SmokiesLife.org/branch-out-events>, or email: membership@smokieslife.org

Great Tellico History Day. June 20 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Charles Hall Museum & Heritage Center, 229 Cherochala Skyway, Tellico Plains, Tenn. 37385. Cherokee Culture, Early History, Traditional Skills, and Music., Free admission and parking. Handmade crafts for sale by Cherokee and Early Settler Demonstrators. Food trucks onsite Info: charleshallmuseum@hotmail.com

Smoky Mountain Summer Fest 2026. July 25 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. at the Sevierville Fairgrounds, 754 Old Knoxville Hwy. Sevierville, Tenn. 37862. Classic car shows, food trucks, live music, vendors. Free public admission. Info: (865) 388-0099

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 commu-

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



Photo by Malia Crowe-Skulski

Did you know that just 1–10 minutes in nature can immediately boost attention, improve mood, and lower feelings of stress? Research also shows that spending about 2 hours outdoors each week is linked to greater overall health and wellbeing, and even 20 minutes outside can significantly reduce stress hormones. With regular exposure, these benefits can last for more than a day. Simply walking, playing, or sitting outdoors can be a great addition to your self-care routine. One nice spot to visit could be Whitewater Landing, where this picture was taken.

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: From page 43

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




Dogwood trees

These lovely trees thrive in "sun-dappled" environments that enjoy protection from hours of direct sun. They like being next to tall buildings or taller trees. The most crucial factor when planting dogwoods is water access; they have shallow roots, and even with shade these root systems will dry quickly. If the leaves are light-green, prickly, or crispy, more water is needed. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.thetreecenter.com/flowering-trees/dogwood-trees

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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.

BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ur (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What is God's act of making the heavens and the earth called? *Confirmation, Calvary, Creation, Communion*
3. How many books of the Bible begin with the letter "E"? 0, 2, 5, 6
4. What's a person who has changed from one religion to another? *Zealot, Convert, Mediator, Pillar*
5. From 2 Timothy 1, who was Timothy's devout grandmother? *Dorcas, Lydia, Lois, Hannah*
6. In biblical times, a daric was a Persian ...? *Gold coin, Headwear, Sailing ship, Well*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Creation, 3) Six (Ecclesiastes, Ephesians, Esther, Exodus, Ezekiel, Ezra), 4) Convert, 5) Lois, 6) Gold coin

More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Moments in time

• On May 11, 1659, the Massachusetts Bay Colony passed a law banning the celebration of Christmas, with a prohibition on "feasting and similar satanic practices" accompanied by a five-shilling penalty. Nearly 40 years earlier, the governor of the Plymouth Colony, in similar Scrooge-like spirit, had actually (and personally) confiscated toys.

• On May 12, 1903, cameraman H.J. Miles filmed President Theodore Roosevelt as he rode in a parade in his honor. The resulting movie, later played on nickelodeons in arcades across the country, was unusual not just because Roosevelt was one of the first presidents to have an official activity recorded in that medium, but because his carriage was escorted by the Ninth U.S. Cavalry Regiment, an all-Black company.

• On May 13, 1920, the Socialist Party nominated Eugene V. Debs as its candidate for president in the upcoming November election, notably undercut by the fact that he happened to be serving a decade-long sentence at an Atlanta federal penitentiary.

• On May 14, 1973, Skylab, America's first space station, was successfully launched into orbit around the earth. Eleven days later, astronauts Charles Conrad, Joseph Kerwin and Paul Weitz rendezvoused with the station, repaired a jammed solar panel and conducted scientific experiments during their 28-day stay aboard it.

• On May 15, 1982, the Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder duet "Ebony and Ivory" grabbed the coveted top spot on the Billboard Hot 100, holding it for seven weeks and eventually becoming the biggest hit record of McCartney's post-Beatles career.

• On May 16, 1985, three scientists from the British Antarctic Survey announced, in the scientific journal "Nature," their detection of abnormally low levels of ozone over the South Pole. Within two years, 46 nations signed the Montreal Protocol, pledging to phase out substances known to cause ozone depletion.

• On May 17, 2004, Marcia Kadish and Tanya McCloskey of Malden, Massachusetts, tied the knot at Cambridge City Hall in Massachusetts, becoming the first legally married same-sex partners in the United States. That same day, 77 similar couples wed across the state, while hundreds more applied for marriage licenses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Bible Church. Olivet Church Road. Sunday Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

Pastor Randy Miller 497-2286

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

Cherokee Church of God. 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Service 6:30 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited for any of the services and meals. Pastor Rev. Owen Isaacs (828) 242-0754

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

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

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

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

Christian Acts Church at the 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:

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



SARA FERGUSON

Master's Level Therapist- Adult Team- Analensigi Outpatient

Education: Bachelors in English Literature, Minor in Cherokee Studies, Western Carolina University 2017
Master's in Social Work, Western Carolina University 2024
Years at CIHA: 7 years this December
Community/Hometown: Painttown

"My time spent working at CIHA has been one of the best experiences. I started out in Patient Access in 2018 and I'm now in the Adult outpatient BH clinic as a therapist where I also did my internship. No matter what department I've worked in there is a strong atmosphere of support and community. I chose to work at CIHA so I could give back to my people and improve the lives of others who are struggling with substance use issues and mental health issues like I once did. One of the best parts about working here is that they encourage you to pursue higher education and are willing to work with you in regard to your school and work schedule. If you're looking for a work environment that embodies the value of "like family to me" there is no better place to work than CIHA." - Sara Ferguson

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

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: From page 45

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. Sun-

day Service 11 a.m. Pastor Jack Russell (918) 868-4166

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

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

Wednesday night service 7 p.m. Pastor Eric Moore

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The official motto of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is:

“Our hearts are and continue to be as one”

(Ꮻ Ꮚ Ꮓ Ꮔ Ꮕ Ꮖ Ꮗ Ꮘ Ꮙ Ꮚ Ꮛ Ꮜ Ꮝ Ꮞ Ꮟ Ꮠ Ꮡ Ꮢ)

This was approved by Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) with the passage of Res. No. 498 (2021) on June 1, 2021.

GWY ᏫᏊ ᏃᏊᏌᏍᏏ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER ᏫᏊᏌᏍᏏ ᏊᏌᏍᏏ ᏊᏌᏍᏏ

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

Spruce Grove Baptist Church.
780 Lands Creek Rd., Bryson
City, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m.,
Sunday morning worship service
11 a.m., Sunday evening service 7
p.m., Wednesday evening service 7
p.m., third Saturday singing 7 p.m.
Pastor Ernie Cable. Email: spruce-
grovebc.1920@gmail.com

Straight Fork Baptist Church.

Big Cove Loop. Sunday school 10
a.m. Sunday morning worship
11 a.m. Sunday evening worship
6 p.m. Wednesday night prayer
service 7 p.m. Youth group meet-
ings also. Interim Pastor – Harley
Maney Jr.

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

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

Wilmot Baptist Church. Thom-
as Valley Road. Sunday school:

10 a.m., Worship: 11a.m., Sunday
night worship: 6 p.m., Wednesday
prayer service: 7 p.m., every other
Monday night (Youth night) sing-
ing, bible study and crafts: 6 p.m.

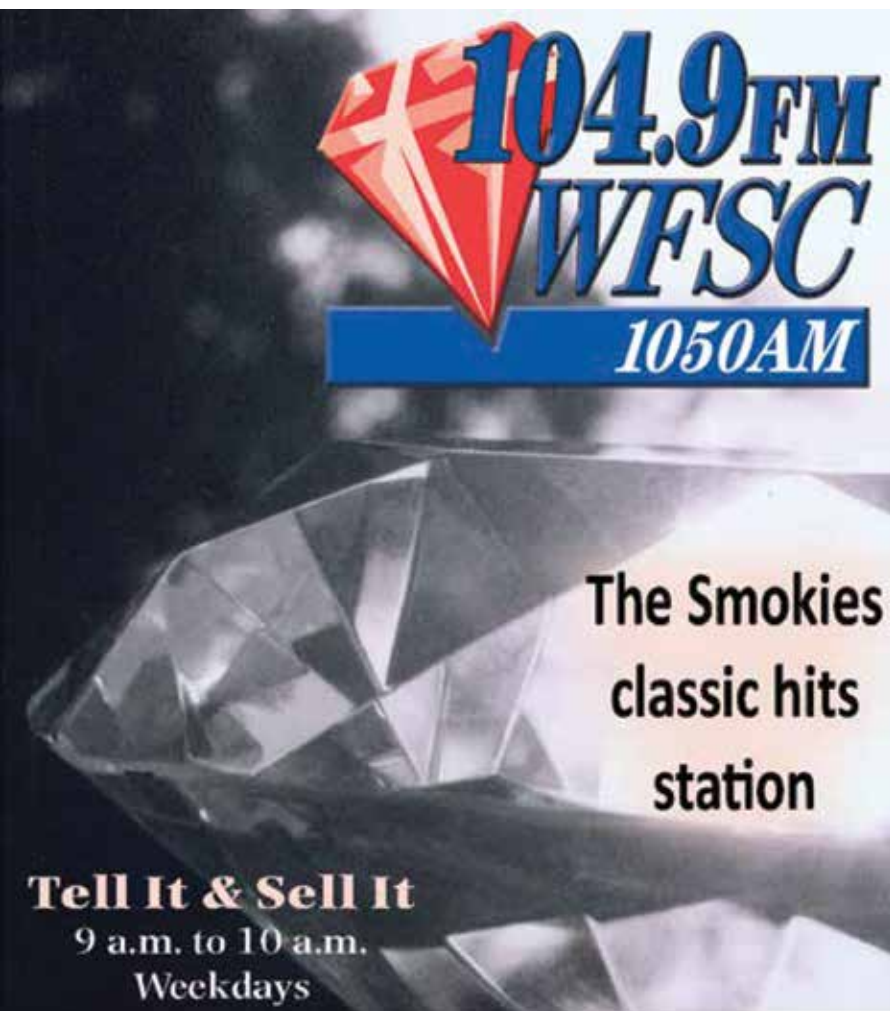
**Wrights Creek Baptist
Church.** Wrights Creek Rd.
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday
Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday
Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday

Night Bible Study 6 p.m. Visitors
welcome. Pastor David Birch

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

Attention EBCI Artists/Craftspeople

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



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EMPLOYMENT

Request for Resumes

The Cherokee Court is now taking resumes for a part-time Magistrate. This position will substitute for the full-time magistrates at the Cherokee Court while the magistrate is on leave status. Familiarity with the Cherokee community and with a court system (state, federal, or tribal) is preferred. Ability to work with the public and handle conflicts is required. This position will have full authority to make all magis-

trate related decisions, including issuing warrants and subpoenas, and other duties as assigned by the Chief Justice. Position will require both in-office and on-call performance of duties.

Interested individuals should submit the following:
Name and Contact Information
Relevant Work Experience
Copies of Certificates

Proposals may be submitted at any time, but those received on or before April 30, 2026, will receive priority over later submissions. Please email or mail to: Amber Shuler, Court Administrator
ambeshul@ebci-nsn.gov
PO Box 1629, Cherokee, NC 28719

This is a solicitation of proposals and not an offer to contract. The Cherokee Tribal Court

reserves the right to decline any proposals received. 4/29

Now Hiring

Do you have a passion for supporting students and families and building community? Community School Coordinator positions available in Cherokee Central and Jackson County Schools. Visit www.communityschoolsnc.org to learn more. 5/6

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 22-100
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
LAWRENCE "EDDY" HILL
All persons, firms and cor-

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

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

Sandy Hill
5395 Big Cove Rd
Cherokee, NC 28719
4/29

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-026
Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
BAMBI LYNN SNEED



Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist
Nail Tech
Lead Massage Therapist
Spa Attendants

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



STAFF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- Administrative Support Associate/Specialist (multiple positions)
- HVAC Technician (multiple positions)
- Scrub Team (2nd Shift)
- Academic Advisor
- Campus Dietitian
- Director of Development

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- Assistant Professor - Nursing
- Teaching Assistant Professor - Psychology
- Instructor in Geosciences - Hydrology
- Instructor - Operations Management
- Assistant Professor of Practice - Aural Skills/Music Theory

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

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

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

James Sneed
P.O Box 773
Cherokee, NC 28719
5/6

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

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

Scott Lambert
88 Koga Cove
Cherokee, NC 28719
5/6

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-027

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
MICHAEL LAMBERT

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-029

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
DONALD ALLEN BRADY

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

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

Theresa Tahquette
2552 Birdtown Rd #71
Whittier, NC 28789
5/20

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-007

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
MARY ANN JACOBS

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

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

Adele Jacobs Madden
379 Castlewood Lane

Sylva, NC 28779
5/13

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-024

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
REBECCA LAMBERT

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

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

Stella Lambert Watkins
P.O Box 1685
Cherokee, NC 28719
5/20

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-021

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:
GARY FRENCH

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit

see **TRADING POST** next page

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TRADING POST: From page 49

them to the fiduciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fiduciary(s) listed below.

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

Yvonne Bushyhead
206 Wild Rose Trace
Cherokee, NC 28719

5/27

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

Advertisement for Re-Bids

Main Street Streetscape Improvements

Sealed bids for the project entitled Main Street Streetscape Improvements will be received by the Town of Bryson City until 2:00 p.m. local time on May 7, 2026, in the second floor meeting room of the Bryson City Fire Department located at 150 Main Street, Bryson City, NC 28713. At said place and time, all Bids that have been duly received, will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The project generally consists of construction and improvements along Main Street (US HWY 19), east of the River Street/Main Street intersection, extending approximately 1,300 linear feet toward Franklin Street, including erosion control; pedestrian and vehicular traffic control; demolition and removal of existing sidewalks, curbs, crosswalks, striping, street landscaping, and other existing in-

frastructure; sidewalk reconstruction; concrete curb; concrete islands; stamped concrete; on-street parking reconstruction; crosswalk realignment; driveway apron adjustments; curb ramps; concrete stormwater flumes and stormwater structure top modifications; electrical conduit and street light installation; vertical adjustments to utility appurtenances; installation of miscellaneous street furnishings and signage; and thermo-plastic striping.

Digital copies of Bid Documents are available for purchase at www.mcgillassociates.com for a fee of \$75.00 per set. These documents may also be viewed for free by selecting this project from the "Bids" link and by entering Quest Project Number 10131930. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com.

Each bid shall be accompanied with a cash deposit or certified check drawn on a bank or trust company insured by the FDIC or a Bid Bond prepared on the form of Bid Bond contained in the Bidding Documents or a Surety Company's standard form and properly executed by a corporate surety licensed under the laws of North Carolina to execute such bonds. The amount of the bid bond shall be equal to five (5) percent of the total of the bid. The bid deposit shall be retained by the Owner if the successful bidder fails to execute the contract or fails to provide the required bonds, as stated above, within ten (10) days after

the proper notice of award of the contract.

Bidders must comply with the requirements of the State of North Carolina and be appropriately licensed as a Contractor as provided in General Statutes Chapter 87.

Bidders are encouraged to only secure project bid documents as noted above. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including any Addenda, obtained from any source other than the Engineer and their representative plan provider, QuestCDN. Each Bidder shall be responsible for the review of all addenda for the project and shall acknowledge the addenda on the bid form.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive

informalities, or to reject non-conforming, non-responsive, or conditional bids. The Owner reserves the right to award a contract to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder or bidders, taking into consideration quality, performance and time.

Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex or national origin. Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Davis-Bacon Act, the Anti-Kickback Act, the Contract Work Hours Standard Act, and 40 CFR 33.1016, and 40 CFR 60-4.

Sam Pattillo – Town Manager,
Town of Bryson City

4/29



**EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

2026 SEASONAL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

The Natural Resources Department is seeking enthusiastic individuals to join the 2026 Seasonal Work Experience Program. Ideal candidates are enrolled college students or recent graduates of natural resource management programs or related fields of study. Gain real work experience working alongside natural resource management professionals in fields such as Watershed Management, Water Quality, Air Quality, Wildlife, Horticulture, Wetlands, Permitting and more!

*Indian Preference Does Apply

Add real work experience to your resume

Hands-on field practice

Flexible start/end dates

Travel

Paid experience

\$15.00 per hr.



SEND RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO:

Cherise Maples

CHERMPL@ebci-nsn.gov

By May 1, 2026

EBCI Tribal ABC Commission

(828) 788-4261



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



OPEN POSITIONS

New Positions

Telemetry Nursing Assistant
Food and Nutrition Manager
Laundry Aide – Tsali Care Center
Cook - Temporary
EVS Technician
Pharmacy Technician III
RN Inpatient – Float – Weekend Days - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Analenisgi Inpatient Technician – Dayshift, Rotating Weekends

Behavioral Health

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

Complementary Medicine

Massage Therapist

Dental

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

Eye Clinic

Optometrist
Optometric Assistant

Finance

Billing Analyst II

Medical

Psychiatrist
Hospitalist
Physician and IM Rural Track Director

Food & Nutrition

Food Service Worker

Nursing

License Practical Nurse – Primary Care
Registered Nurse ED – PTI – Night Shift
RN Inpatient – Nights - PTI
Specialty Services Registered Nurse - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
RN Inpatient – Float – Weekend Days - \$10,000 Hiring
Bonus
Clinical Care Manager – Float

Nutrition

Clinical Dietician

Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner

Summer Internships

Summer Internship Program – Closes May 1
Contracting
Finance
Human Resource
Information Technology
Maintenance
Nutrition
Occupational Therapy
Performance improvement
Physical Therapy
Primary Care
Radiology
Supply

Tsali Care Center

Certified Nursing Assistant - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Certified Nursing Assistant – Night Shift – Tsali Care Center -
\$5000 Hiring Bonus
Licensed Practical Nurse - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse – \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Cook Aide – Tsali Care Center

Tribal Option

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker

CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS

828.497.9163 EXT. 6343

MISSING

Alessandra Lopez

American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'0" Weight: 188 lbs

Female Age: 15

Hair: Black Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: April 20, 2026

Last Known Location: Goodyear, Arizona

Circumstances of Disappearance:

Alessandra didn't show up to school and hasn't been seen since April 20, 2026. No image or additional information available.

If you have seen or have information about Alessandra Lopez contact Special Crimes Detective Steven Angel, Goodyear Police Department (623) 882-7448.

Source: Namus.gov



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ANALENISGI
DᏈᏈᏈᏈᏈᏈ
"They are beginning"

Analenisgi provides extensive behavioral health services for eligible members. Offering an extensive continuum of care and providing safe and supportive, culturally grounded environments.

Services Offered through Analenisgi:

Adult Services

Programs include:

- Individual and group outpatient therapy
- Substance abuse treatment
- Domestic Violence program
- Targeted case management
- Recovery Center with peer support services
- Walk-ins accepted for outpatient

IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY FOR GROUP THERAPY AND CLASSES

Recovery Services

Programs include:

- Analenisgi Inpatient Services
- Men's & Women's Homes
- Kanvwotiyi (extended recovery)

Family & Child Services

Programs include:

- School-based services
- Dora Reed & Early Childhood services
- Juvenile court-based services
- Family Safety Services
- Child outpatient services (walk-ins accepted)

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



Contact us:

Analenisgi
828-497-6892
1 Hospital Road
Cherokee, NC

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

On-Call Mobile Crisis After Hours:
Adult: 828-269-0301
Child: 828-736-9797



Job Opportunities



Closing Sunday, May 3, 2026

1. Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
2. Grants Analyst- Budget & Finance- Treasury (L14 \$26.83 - \$33.54 per hour)
3. Manager- Juvenile Services- PHHS (L15 \$29.70 - \$37.13 per hour)
4. Member Services Representative- Cherokee Fitness Complex- CERS (L7 \$16.61 - \$20.77 per hour)
5. Lieutenant Investigations- Cherokee Indian Police Department- EBCI Law Enforcement (L17 \$37.07 – \$46.34 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
6. Registered Nurse- Tsalagi Public Health- PHHS (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)
7. Head Start Teacher Assistant- QB HS EHS- CERS (L6 \$16.37 - \$20.47 per hour)
8. Certified Biological Wastewater Treatment Operator – Wastewater Treatment – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
9. Fire Training Officer – Fire Department – Operations (L13 \$24.36 - \$30.46 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
10. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
11. Manager Employee Relations- Employee Rights- Human Resources (L16 \$33.09 - \$41.37 per hour)
12. Programmer Analyst- Information Technology- Office of Information Technology (L14 \$26.83 - \$33.54 per hour)
13. Driver- Transit- Operations (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) 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. Part-time Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
5. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
6. Certified Nursing Assistant (Multiple) – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (Starting rate of \$20.00/hour)
7. Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)

EBCI Human Resources Mon- Fri 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Call us (828) 359-6388

www.ebc.com/jobs

Happy 40th Anniversary



May the love and bond you share become stronger as you enjoy many more years together. We wish you another 40 years and a lifetime of happiness. We love you very much! Happy 40th Anniversary!

Love Gina, Henrik, Lilou, Nelson, Kim, Rhett, and Ava.



“Don’t Die in the Chair”

Endurance athlete and running coach Kallup McCoy II, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, recently delivered a standout performance at the grueling “Don’t Die in the Chair” last man standing race, completing 16 loops (66.5 miles) and securing a 4th place overall finish.

The race features a uniquely demanding format: athletes must complete a 4.2-mile loop within a strict time limit. Runners are given 60 minutes for the first loop, with one minute deducted from the allowed time after each subsequent loop. Each lap includes approximately 450 feet of elevation gain, testing both physical endurance and mental resilience.

McCoy pushed through 16 successful loops before timing out on the 17th, showcasing elite-level stamina and discipline in a race designed to expose even the strongest competitors.

“This race is about more than distance,” McCoy said. “It’s about precision, patience, and learning how to operate when the margin for error disappears. Every loop demands your full attention.”

(Photo contributed)

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

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Holloway signs with King University for wrestling

Will Holloway, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a senior at Soddy Daisy High School (Tenn.), signed recently to wrestle at the collegiate level for King University in Bristol, Tenn. This season, he was both regional and sectional champion and placed fifth at the TSSAA State Championship in his division. During his high school wrestling career, Holloway was a part of six state championships (dual and traditional team titles). (Photo courtesy of Jessica Holloway)



Half Marathon runner

Ayla Cruz, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, competed in the Key Biscayne (Fla.) Half Marathon on Saturday, April 25. She placed 21st in the women’s division with a time of 2:27.21. (Photo contributed)



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Arkansas commits to Southern Wesleyan University

Arden Arkansas, a descendant of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Northern Ute tribes, has made a verbal commitment to play college volleyball at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, S.C. She is a junior at Hendersonville High School in Hendersonville, N.C. and plays club volleyball for Stars Carolinas in Spartanburg, S.C.

Arkansas commented, "I'm so grateful for how volleyball has grown me mentally, physically, and emotionally over the years. I'm thankful for my rocks; family and

friends have been there for me more than they know. I'm very thankful for my Mom who has given me the shirt off her back since I can remember and has helped me accomplish what I've wanted ever since I touched a volleyball. I thank God for the coaches that he has placed in my path to lead me to where I'm at, especially Coach Lindsey. I thank God for the strength that he has instilled in me, for granting me a body that's healthy and strong, for believing in me and listening to me even when I don't speak aloud. I want to greatly thank Coach Heinz for blessing me with this amazing opportunity."

(Photo courtesy of Angelena Arkansas)



TSALAGI UWODUHI (Beautiful Cherokee)

These geese were having a nice swim in Raven Fork in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Sunday, April 26. (Photo by A.D. Ralston)



Ferguson takes oath of office for N.C. House

Anna Ferguson, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), was sworn in as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives during a session in Raleigh, N.C. on Tuesday, April 21. Appointed by the Republican Party, she will represent District 119 and serve out the term of the late Rep. Mike Clampitt who passed away on March 18. Ferguson, the first EBCI tribal member to serve in the N.C. House, is the Republican candidate in the race for the District 119 seat later this year. (Photo courtesy of Travis Long/News & Observer)

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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SPRING INTO MAY WITH FRESH SAVINGS AT ANDY SHAW FORD!

Drive into May with blooming deals at Andy Shaw Ford!



2022 Ford Mustang
Stock #: P4640

2025 Ford F-150 Tremor
Stock #: T9673A

2025 Ford Mustang EcoBoost Premium
Stock #: V9568M

2022 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon
Stock #: 4632A

\$23,746

\$66,459

\$36,123

\$33,846



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Greg Jamison
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Justin Varley
Sales Consultant



Jason Foxworth
Sales Consultant



Hollie Johnson
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