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Cherokee One Feather website



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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of kawoni (april) 8-14, 2026

## Davy Arch selected as EBCI Beloved Man

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Davy Arch, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), has been selected as a Beloved Man of the EBCI. Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) passed Res. No. 176 (2026), submitted by the Beloved Committee and which approved the designation, during its regular session on Thursday, April 2.

Kimberly Smith, an EBCI tribal member who serves as the service chair of the EBCI Beloved Committee, said at the beginning of the discussion on Res. No. 163, “Our obligation as the Committee has been fulfilled for the 2025 nomination process and offer to Council the proposal for Davy Arch to be appointed Beloved based on the nomination provided

by two EBC citizens, which include multiple letters of support and evidence of Beloved characteristics. The Beloved Committee also included a statement explaining additional research efforts we took, including community input and an in-depth conversation with Davy himself, to ensure Council has substantial information to make a very important decision.”

The resolution making the designation was submitted by EBCI tribal members Driver Blythe and Dawn Arneach. Blythe told Dinilawigi on Thursday, “Behind me is outstanding support from friends, family, historical institutions, and esteemed guests that have come to know Davy Arch through his work, contributions, and preservation of culture and traditions. I cannot say enough

see **BELOVED** page 4



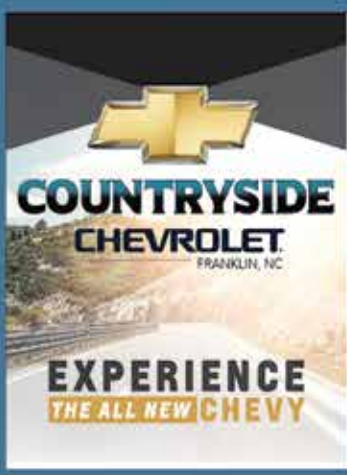
Davy Arch, center front in white shirt, is shown with supporters, including EBCI Beloved Woman Carmaleta Monteith, left of Arch, after he was selected as an EBCI Beloved Man. Dinilawigi passed Res. No. 176 (2026), submitted by the Beloved Committee and which approved the designation, during its regular session on Thursday, April 2. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

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The Cherokee One Feather is the official multi-media outlet for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and operates as an independent free press under Cherokee Code Chapter 75.



Winner of 11 North Carolina Press Assoc. awards in 2024-25 including: Sports Coverage (third place)



### Image of the Week:

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Mitchell Hicks, right, talks with EBCI tribal member Kaylin Arch, left, and her grandmother Carolina Oocumma, an EBCI elder and Cherokee first language speaker, at the Super Hero Every Child Matters Walk/Ride on Saturday, April 4 in Cherokee, N.C. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



Kate Beddard, Cherokee Family Safety social worker, speaking to the One Feather at the Super Hero Every Child Matters Walk/Ride on Saturday, April 4 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.

### One Feather staff

#### Editor - Robert Jumper

rojump@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6482

#### Assistant Editor - Scott McKie Brings Plenty

scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6263

#### Reporter - Brooklyn Brown

broobrow@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6264

#### Ad Sales Coordinator - Dawn Arneach

dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6489

#### Subscription Clerk - Indica Climbingbear

indiclim1@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6262

**BELOVED:** From front page

about Davey Arch as the artist, and the tribal historical leadership will follow to discuss further on that after I'm done.

Davey has lived a life of giving to others and sharing his wealth of knowledge regarding the Cherokee culture, traditions and history.

Through the countless conversations I've had with universities, historical institutions, and programs that specifically deal with preserving our culture and history, Davey has shined as a bright star for our Tribe and has done this for 50 years whenever it comes to the contact with these institutions."

Blythe added, "Davey has given so much in regards to our community. And, through his giving to others and practice with gadugi, Davey has been known to never ask for anything in return. Davey's teachings regarding our Tribe has been to always help and share our culture at the highest standards not just on the Tribe, but he has educated thousands across the state of North Carolina, the Southeast, the United States, and across the world.

Davey is one of the names who represents what it means to be a Beloved individual."

Arneach commented, "The reason I put in for this, along with Driver, is my dad, Lloyd Arneach, has always asked ever since Beloved Man Jerry Wolfe passed away, who would step into his shoes? Who do we have that fits that Beloved Man status? And, he always came back to Davey."

Laura Blythe, an EBCI tribal member and executive co-director for the Cherokee Historical Association, said she has known Arch since she was 15 and became a

tour guide at the Oconaluftee Indian Village. "Through this time, I have learned so much from Davey. He has passed so much knowledge down, not only when I was 15, but even last year when he worked with us at the Village to pass down the knowledge to the mentoring program that we have for youth today. He is an integral part of the cultural district, as a cultural bearer. To know Davey is to know selflessness. He has not only given to his community, but his family and to those of us that he's mentored for decades."

Amanda McCoy, Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc. manager, said, "He was working with the public daily at the Oconaluftee Indian Village teaching the history of our Tribe. He had become a member of Qualla Arts and Crafts and had an exhibition of his work that was organized by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. Throughout his lifetime as an artist and a keeper of Cherokee history, he has worked with children and adults, teaching different classes such as woodcarving, flintknapping, arrow-making, and the sustainable harvesting of the natural materials that our artisans use in their crafts that we do here historically.

He was always an advocate of Cherokee art, culture, and the importance of keeping these alive. Everyone has an inner artist and can create, some more than others. The way we as a people, a Tribe, and a culture will be viewed in the future is by the artwork we create today. Davey has been a living example of his own words through his art, storytelling, and willingness to share his knowledge with anyone that he meets."

Shana Bushyhead Condill, Museum of the Cherokee People

executive director, said, "When I think of what it means to be Beloved, the word that comes to my mind, always, is protector. And, Davey is a fierce protector of our arts, culture, and of what it is to be Cherokee. I can think of nobody better for this honor. He's been a close advocate and ally for us over the years, and with my family personally, and I know that I speak on behalf of everybody at the Museum of the Cherokee People when I say we fully support nominating Davey Arch as a Beloved Man of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians."

Arch himself noted, "It's very humbling and a great honor to be nominated for this position. As a Beloved, I believe that we are charged with sharing the information that turns into the knowledge that, when used properly, will become the wisdom that has sustained us and helped preserve and perpetuate our culture, that causes us to be Cherokee. This is a job that I feel that I've been doing and have loved to do all my life.

I intend to continue the rest of my life in preserving what I know and passing that along to people who, I hope, will continue to pass it along to the future generations. Through our food, our language, our arts, we're recognized as one of the most powerful people in the world. It's humbling to be a part of that. I've been blessed all my life and I feel that, through the Creator's blessing, and having me exposed to the opportunities that I've had in my life, I've been able to reach this point."

He went on to say, "The Beloved are great people in our Tribe and I hope that I can continue to be a part of that and make you proud of me."

Dinilawigi took the vote by standing up as a 'yes' vote, and those who stood include: Wayohi (Wolfstown) Rep. Mike Parker, Aniwodihhi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper, Wayohi Rep. Bo Crowe, Taline Gahvsgi (Vice Chairman) David Wolfe, Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Michael Smoker, Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Rep. Boyd Owle, and Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill. Gahvsgi (Chairman) Jim Owle and Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi Rep. Adam Wachacha were absent. Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather, Aniwodihhi Rep. Shannon Swimmer, and Kolanvyi Rep. Venita Wolfe did not stand.

During the discussion, Rep. Feather commented, "I have a deep respect for Mr. Arch, but I will be abstaining from this vote because how I was taught in my traditional beliefs is that it's a Beloved Woman. I just wanted to make sure that I explained that. I'm not against it, but my teachings tell me that way."

Rep. Swimmer noted, "I know that there are a lot of differing opinions out there in the community. There's a lot of hesitation, push-back, disagreement about the process and about even the existence of the Beloved Committee. We've had discussions at our Community Club in Painttown, and because of those - not because of Davey individually - but just because of the animosity, the disagreements that have arisen around the process of naming someone Beloved, I will not be supporting anyone that comes forward to be named Beloved until that whole process gets worked out to the satisfaction of our community as a whole."

# Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Hicks elected treasurer of the Indian Gaming Association

Submitted by Office of Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks

Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was elected on Wednesday, April 1 as treasurer of the Indian Gaming Association (IGA).

Ugvwiyuhi Hicks brings 39 years of experience in finance and leadership, including roles as an auditor, Chief Financial Officer, Tribal leader, board member, and entrepreneur. His work has consistently focused on disciplined planning, strong financial management, and the execution of long-term strategies.

The IGA serves as the unified voice of Tribal gaming, advocating for policies and initiatives that support Tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong

Tribal governance.

“As Treasurer, the focus is straightforward,” said Ugvwiyuhi Hicks. “Be responsible with what Tribes have built, continue to advocate, support our sovereign rights, and make sure we’re using the best tools and information available to make strong decisions moving forward.”

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is now the largest employer and economic driver in western North Carolina, the result of years of planning, strong leadership, and long-term investment.

“I appreciate the trust from Tribal leaders across Indian Country,” said Ugvwiyuhi Hicks. “I also want to thank our community, Vice Chief, Tribal Council, and my wife Marsha and our family for their support.”



EBCI Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks, shown at podium, was elected on Wednesday, April 1 as treasurer of the Indian Gaming Association (IGA). (Photo contributed)



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# Dinilawigi votes to suspend Qualla Enterprises board members, removes chairperson

By BROOKLYN BROWN  
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the afternoon of Thursday, April 2, the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) voted to suspend the members of the Qualla Enterprises, LLC. board and remove the chairperson.

Qualla Enterprises, LLC, an entity of the EBCI, operates the Great Smoky Mountain Cannabis Co. dispensary as well as a cannabis farm in Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) which supplies the dispensary. Res. No. 181 (2026) to suspend board members Albert Rose, Morgan Owle Crisp, Jacob Reed, and Tagan Crowe, with removal pending investigation by the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics, was submitted by Dinilawigi, with a motion by Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Mike Parker seconded by Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee Co.) Rep. Michael Smoker. Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Bo Crowe abstained. All other members voted to pass.

The decision stemmed from a different resolution, Res. No. 177 (2026), submitted by the Qualla Enterprises, LLC. Board to remove board member Tagan Crowe, alleging dissemination of confidential information. Dinilawigi discussed the resolution at length during the morning part of the session, breaking for lunch and later amending the resolution to state that there was insufficient investigation to remove Crowe. All voted to pass, except for Rep. Crowe who abstained.

Another resolution, Res. No. 180 (2026), submitted by Dinilawigi in the afternoon, also passed, removing Qualla Enterprises, LLC. board chairperson Carolyn West from her position, stating that during the April 2 council session, she “disclosed information and conducted herself such that she would be removed from the board.” Rep. Crowe abstained.

The Qualla Enterprises, LLC. Board alleged in their resolution that by Crowe sending Qualla Enterprises documents to his personal email, he violated his oath of office. Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill argued that by the same logic, Chairperson West should be removed from her position for sending a document titled, ‘first amended consultant agreement with amendment,’ to the outside emails of parties who were not board members in 2023, and made a move to amend Res. No. 177 (2026) and replace Crowe’s name with West’s.

Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper also made a move to amend Res. No. 177 (2026) to suspend the entire board, citing a lack of faith in the board’s function.

During the morning deliberations, Rep. Stamper addressed Qualla Enterprises consulting attorney Rico Frias, “I’m ecstatic to hear how you’re answering these questions because one of the main comments that we get from our departments here that try to cooperate with Qualla is that you’re very argumentative and that you’re very standoffish and that you choose not to answer ques-

tions and that you choose to utilize language that would be threatening to any of our departments. For instance, whenever we need to access financial information, we have several new Council members here that are just trying to gain traction and learn some of these processes, learn operating agreements, read documents, you know, we’re met with stalled efforts, essentially. And whenever we meet with these new members and they have stalled efforts, that prolongs their ability to learn and gain traction in these seats which further constitutes the whole argument that these terms are short, and it’s hard to learn whenever our LLCs are preventing us from learning.”

Rep. Stamper went on to say, “We only have authority over the board members, so if Tagan needs to gain information and he’s getting that information and its on one of our paths, we look for Tagan to do that. I mean that’s for every board member. If that’s being met with some kind of resistance from the attorney that would represent that board, how is this process flowing? And why is it as rigid as it is? It seems like there are a lot of processes that are wrong, and if the board has not addressed these processes, and allows them to prolong and go on further, then it doesn’t matter who we appoint and replace if we were to remove Tagan. The new member is going to be met with the same resistance. I would say that there’s little to no faith in the board members that are currently seated there if they themselves hired you as an attorney to be as

obstructive to these processes that we have in place already well before you.”

Frias stated that he has never threatened any staff of EBCI members and is concerned by the allegation.

While fielding questions, West asked for Dinilawigi to enter closed session, “Vice Chair, if we could go into executive session, we can explain to the Tribal Council why this is of such urgency and who the adverse parties are to the tribe.”

Her request was denied, with Taline Gahvsgi (Vice Chairperson) Wolfe polling Dinilawigi, “There’s been a request that we go into executive session. Do I have a move to go into executive session? No moves to do that.”

Tsisqwohi Rep. Owle asked if there was any evidence that Crowe shared confidential information, “My question is, the bottom line is, was there any statements that he said that he shouldn’t have said, was there anything confidential, any information that he shouldn’t have shared with some of our adverse parties, was there any evidence of that?”

Frias replied, referring to a panel on which Crowe sat and allegedly shared confidential information while attending a conference, “I wish we were able to get that evidence. That’s the reason I called up to try to get the video of it. Unfortunately, they don’t video tape it. And so, we’re not able to get ahold of that information.”

Kolanvyi Rep. Venita Wolfe reiterated Owle’s line of questioning. “You all can twist and

turn this, but the fact is, you all perceive he did something with no evidence, no hard evidence, yet you all decided unanimously as a board to have him suspended, and unanimously as a board to bring this resolution in to have him removed.”

Rep. Wolfe also echoed statements made by Rep. Owle that the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics should have received a complaint of misconduct, rather than Dinilawigi receiving a resolution. “We have a structure for a reason. We have Ethics for a reason and if you had any concerns, that should’ve been the first place you went, not publishing this so that everyone in the community can see what you all think of this person.”

Rep. Wolfe added concerns surrounding Sovereign Cannabis Solutions, an independent contractor of Qualla Enterprises, LLC. “My concern is the managerial company, Sovereign Solutions, what are they doing that is adverse to us? We don’t know that. My concern is a lot of intellectual property, the seeds, the growing, where is that information? The cash, who handles that? There’s a lot of questions and these aren’t questions that are just coming from me, these are questions coming from my constituents, people in the community, that are not happy with the way that this has been run, the veil of secrecy that has been put between this compa-

ny and our people, our stakeholders. We are the sole ownership of this organization, yet we can’t get any information. As a new person, I would like to know this information, so I know exactly what I’m dealing with, and I know not to disclose things that I’m not supposed to.”

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shenelle Feather said she is also upset by the resolution submission rather than an ethics complaint.

“This community is very close, and I’m kind of just speaking to Rico here, our visitor. We are very tight knit, as the board knows, we’re family, and this isn’t the way to do this. This is not the way to do this. I think it’s just in poor taste. I would’ve loved to have had this come to us and have a conversation about it before this went out into the public for their opinions. We all have opinions. I just think that this is not the right way to do this in Indigenous community. The public shaming aspect of this does not sit well with me. It doesn’t sit well with how I was taught, and how I was brought up, and how I was raised in a traditional way. We come and talk to each other about these things. That’s how we do traditionally to be respectful of our community members. I’m assuming you grew up in community with your relatives. I’m hoping that you have those same teachings, because a lot of Native tribes are very similar in the way that they treat each

other. This is out of balance. This is not Tohi. I don’t like that. I just wanted to share that. Whenever we move, we have to move like this water, Oconaluftee River right here, we have to move consistently. This isn’t consistent. This doesn’t feel good to me. I just wanted to say that, respectfully.”

Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer shared her legal perspective, “You said that there was the ‘appearance’ that confidential information was shared. A couple of my other fellow council members alluded to this. The appearance of confidential information being shared could have also happened at the RES panel that happened [that other Qualla Enterprises board members attended and spoke at recently]. If appearance is enough to bring an action like this, then that seems to be a pretty low bar to me. And by the way I am also an attorney, so I get your legalese and all that, but appearance again is a very low standard.”

Crowe also gave remarks. “I stand before you today not just to defend myself, but to speak openly and honestly about what’s happening inside Qualla Enterprises... The real reason I believe I’m here today is not because of any wrongdoing on my part, but because I chose to speak up.” Crowe alleged that the resolution is retaliatory for Crowe raising concerns regarding what he perceives to be a lack of comprehensive meeting

minutes, no adherence to Robert’s Rules of Order, board decisions being ‘heavily influenced if not controlled’ by independent contractors, overspending on infrastructure, a lack of transparency of vendors, employee safety issues, and a failure to follow the consulting agreement with hiring and firing and training of employees. Crowe said he also suggested a \$25,000 spending cap to require board approval, which was denied.

In regards to the allegations against him, Crowe said, “I never shared those documents not once and there is zero evidence that I did. But what’s more concerning is this: independent contractors, someone who doesn’t answer to the tribe, had access to all of my emails. And now, they’ve used that information against me—the contractor, not the board, but the contractor raised that issue in the board meeting. It wasn’t brought to my attention by any board member. Who gave them access to my account? Why do contractors have that level of control over this tribal enterprise?”

Crowe added, “I stand here today denying any wrongdoing, but more importantly, I stand here asking you to look beyond me, look beyond how this board is operating, and look at the influence of contractors. Look at the lack of oversight, transparency, and accountability because this is bigger than me.”



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# Dinilawigi passes resolution that sessions begin with a prayer in Cherokee language

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) passed a resolution during its regular session on Thursday, April 2 stating that sessions should open with a prayer in the Cherokee language.

The legislation states, “Tribal Council traditionally begins its monthly Council sessions with a prayer; and more often than not, the opening prayer is spoken in the English language, and only sometimes in Cherokee.”

It continues, “To properly

respect Cherokee culture and tradition, our Elders and our Creator, and to help preserve the energize our language by making it part of our daily lives, Tribal Council sessions should begin with a prayer spoken in the Cherokee language.”

The resolution directs that Dinilawigi “should adopt the practice of beginning its monthly Council sessions with a prayer spoken in Cherokee”.

The resolution was submitted by Teena Watty with support from Cherokee speakers Sally Arch, Maggie Armachain, John Bird, En-cie Brown, Janie Conseen Brown,

Mike Wachacha, Tony Smoker, Roger Smoker, Myrtle Smoker, Lane Smoker, John Frances Smoker, Onita Bush, Nan Brown, Mary Brown, Alfred Welch, and May-belle Welch.

Following passage of the legislation, Teena Watty told the One Feather, “Residential boarding schools and assimilation took our language from us. That loss didn’t happen by accident—but today, we are doing the work to bring it back through our immersion school, our Speaker’s House, and continuing classes for our members. Our language is who we are. It defines us as a people, as a culture, and as a sovereign nation.

Speaking to the Creator in our own tongue honors our Elders—and shows our young people that our language still lives. When it’s my time to cross over, I want to be able to say I tried. I want to say that in my own language... not someone else’s.”

During discussion on the leg-

islation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Beloved Woman Myrtle Driver Johnson, a first language Cherokee speaker, said, “I would be honored to give the prayer in Cherokee until you decide how you’re going to do it.”

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather commented, “I really like this resolution and I think as an effort for language revitalization, this is a good way to incorporate that on a regular basis - best practices. As a Cherokee person who doesn’t speak fluently, I think we need to be engulfed in it as much as possible. I think our future generations need to, also, be hearing that - whether they’re here or living somewhere else.” The legislation passed unanimously (10-0) by those present with Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman) Jim Owle and Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Adam Wachacha being absent.

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# "IT'S TIME FOR GUTTER MAINTENANCE"

## 6 REASONS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GUTTER MAINTENANCE

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

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

Here is a list of some of those reasons.

### PREVENT EROSION & MOLD



#### 1. Roof Damage

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

#### 2. Wood Fascia Damage

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

#### 3. Damage to Walls, Windows, Doors and Patios

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

#### 4. Damage to Foundations and Landscaping

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

#### 5. Slip and fall

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

#### 6. Prevent Mold

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

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



"DON'T TRIM YOUR GUTTERS"



"CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS"



# EBCI tribal legislative updates (April 2)

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

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

## New Ordinances

**Ord. No. 157 (2026).** This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code 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”.

Currently, funds are allocated to the Debt Service Sinking Fund, Endowment Fund No. 1, Higher Education Endowment, Cherokee Indian Housing Reserve Account, and the Housing Fund. This ordinance seeks to amend that so that 50 percent of the revenue is allocated to the Tribal General Fund and 50 percent is allocated to the Tribe’s Debt Service Sinking Fund.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by EBCI Attorney General Michael McConnell and EBCI Secretary of the Treasury Brandi Claxton, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Recent Action: Per Cherokee Code Sec. 117-38(a), all ordinances must set for 25 calendar days prior to being acted upon.

**Ord. No. 158 (2026).** This ordinance 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 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”.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Kolanvyi Rep. Venita Wolfe, Aniwodihhi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer, and

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shenelle Feather, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

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

**Ord. No. 159 (2026).** This ordinance seeks “to amend Cherokee Code Chapter 47D and Chapter 47B to update the Tribe’s laws on the assignment of possessory holdings by Tribal Council”.

The whereas section of this legislation states, “The Tribe first adopted laws describing the process by which Tribal Council assigns a possessory holding to an enrolled member of the Tribe in 1976 and codified the process in the Cherokee Code in 1988 titled ‘Assignment of Home Sites’ in Chapter 47; and the section regarding the assignment of possessory holdings is currently in Section 47D-4, and since its initial adoption, the Tribe has seen significant change in its laws, procedures, and government structure.”

It continues, “Section 47D-4 does not address the appropriate standards by which to identify property suitable for assignment to an enrolled member of the Tribe, the process by which their applications for land to Tribal Council should be addressed, how much the tribal member should pay for the possessory holding, nor the appropriate tribal agency that should maintain the applications for land or notify both the enrolled member and Tribal Council if the property should revert to the Tribe.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by EBCI Lands Committee, was deemed read and tabled

during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Recent Action: Per Cherokee Code Sec. 117-38(a), all ordinances must set for 25 calendar days prior to being acted upon.

## Recently Passed

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

The whereas section states, “Historically, per capita distributions from the Minor’s Trust Fund have been subject to federal income taxation; and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service has issued guidance, or is expected to issue guidance, providing that distributions from the Minor’s Trust Fund to eligible enrolled members may satisfy GWE (General Welfare Exclusion) requirements and therefore be free from federal taxation as income.”

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

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

Recent Action: This ordinance was passed 10-0 {Dinilawigi Gahvsgi (Tribal Council Chairman) Jim

Owle and Tutiyi/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Adam Wachacha absent} during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

### Legislation we're currently watching

**Ord. No. 6 (2025).** This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 7 (Judicial Code) of the Cherokee Code. The whereas section states that section “should be amended to clarify and add provisions controlling matters such as the structure and operation of the courts, the roles and powers of the judicial officers, and the procedures ensuring independent and impartial judicial officers”. Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Cherokee Chief Justice Bradley Letts, was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. Recent Action: This ordinance was tabled again during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

**Ord. No. 11 (2025).** This ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 113G of the Cherokee Code regarding underground storage tanks. The whereas section states, “Regulation of USTs (underground storage tanks) is an important topic because they often serve as holding containers for gasoline and petroleum products, which can cause environmental damage if leaked

into the ground or into a water source; and updating regulation is also important because doing so is needed to maintain the Tribe’s Memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through which UST owners and operators have access to North Carolina’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Michael LaVoie on behalf of the EBCI Natural Resources Dept., was deemed read and tabled during Annual Dinilawigi on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. Recent Action: This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

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

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

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

ful to hunt, trap, kill, or take any bird of prey or elk.”

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

- (g) The season for hunting elk shall be Oct. 1 through Nov. 1.
- (1) Hunting elk shall be by permit only as issued by the Natural Resources Department.
- (2) The bag limit for elk is one per permit.
- (3) A hunting license is not a substitute for an elk hunting permit.
- (4) The Natural Resources Department shall adopt rules, including but not limited to the manner of taking, harvest reporting systems, and permit fees and allocation methods to regulate elk hunting.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by the EBCI Natural Resources Dept. and the Timber Committee, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Recent Action: This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

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

The whereas section states, “Digital sovereignty encompasses:  
• Tribal governance over network infrastructure (broadband, internet service providers, communications)  
• Control and stewardship of tribal

data (collection, storage, sharing, privacy)  
• Self-determined digital policy frameworks that reflect Indigenous values and community needs  
• Using digital infrastructure to support education, healthcare, public safety, economic development, and community services under tribal control.”

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

There were no changes to the Cherokee Code referenced in this proposed ordinance. Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Wayohi (Wolftown) Rep. Mike Parker, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Recent Action: This ordinance was re-tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

**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.

# 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.

## Passed Recently

**Senate Resolution 650 (A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States).** This resolution states in

part: "Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made precious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate— (1) celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions those women have made and continue to make to the United States; and (2) recognizes the importance of providing for the safety and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women."

Introduced: Sen. Lisa Murkowski

(R-Alaska) on March 18, 2026  
Action: This bill was agreed to without amendment by unanimous consent on March 18, 2026.

## New this week

**S. 4179 (A bill 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).** The full text of this Senate bill was not available as of press time.

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 (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).**

The full text of this House bill was not available as of press time.  
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.

## 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).

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

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

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

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

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

This House bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of North

Carolina, a state-recognized group. Introduced: April 17, 2025 by Rep. Donald G. Davis (D-N.C.)

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

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 7, 2025. There

is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands on June 3, 2025, and a hearing was held in that subcommittee on June 10, 2025.

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

This Senate bill, according to the legislation, would "amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Indian Tribal governments in the same manner as state governments for certain federal tax purposes, and for other purposes". Introduced: June 11, 2025 by U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Mas-to (D-Nev.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

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

**H.R. 3956 (Food Distribution**

**Program on Indian Reservations Act of 2025).** This bill would amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 "to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into self-determination contracts and self-governance agreements with Indian entities to administer the food distribution program on Indian reservations".

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

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

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

This Senate seeks the same as H.R. 3255 (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025.

Introduced: June 25, 2025 by Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-Mich.)

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 25, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

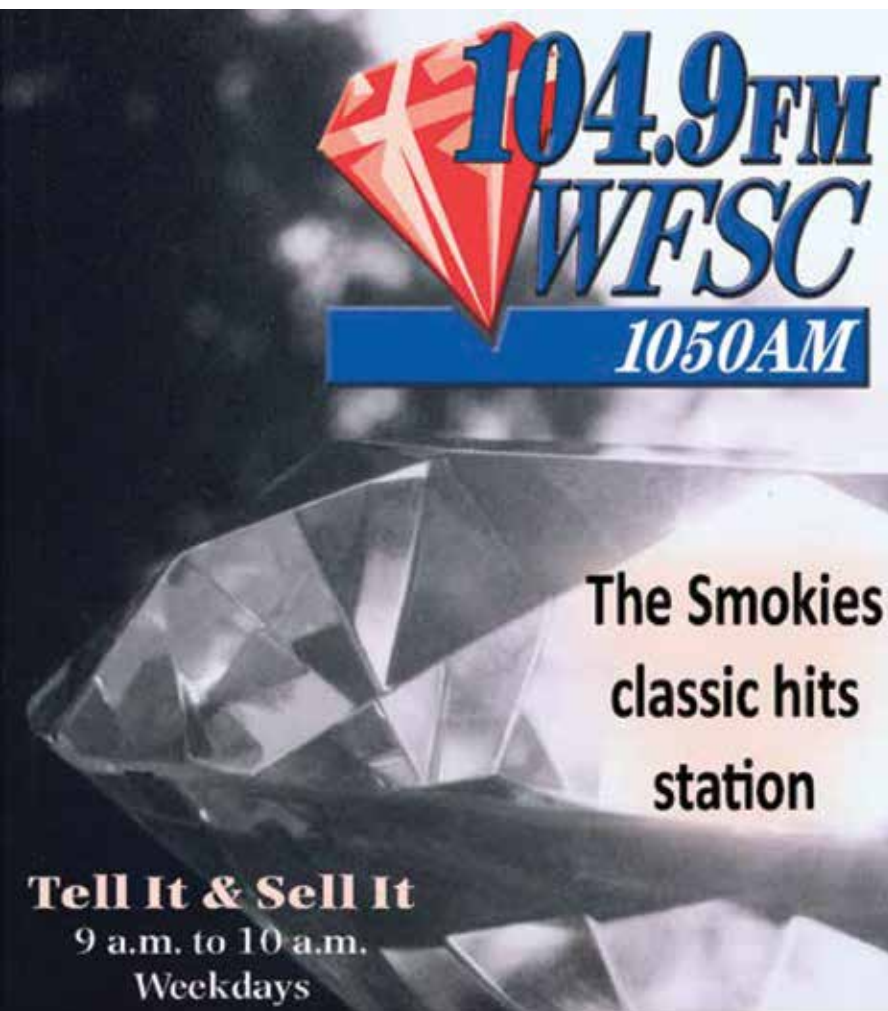
**H.R. 4276 (To amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act).**

According to congress.gov, this bill amends the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act "to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations".

Introduced: July 2, 2025 by Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai'i)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural

see LEGISLATIVE next page



**LEGISLATIVE:** From page 13

Resources as well as the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 2, 2025. This bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, and a hearing was held in that Subcommittee on Nov. 19, 2025.

**S.2211 (Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2025).** This Senate bill seeks to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. For both programs, it seeks funding in the amount of \$160,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Introduced: July 8, 2025 by Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-Maine)

Action: This will was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on July 8, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 4463 (To amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993).** The text of the legislation states, “Subsection (d) of section 7 of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–116), is amended by striking ‘; however, in no event may an individual be enrolled as a tribal member unless the individual is a lineal descendant of a person on the final base membership roll and has continued to maintain political relations with the Tribe.’”

Introduced: July 16, 2025 by Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 16. It was

referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs on Sept. 4, 2025, and a hearing was held on this legislation in the subcommittee on Sept. 9, 2025. A Committee mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026, and it was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

**H.R. 4596 (McCarren-Walter Technical Corrections Act).**

According to the bill’s text, this legislation would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”.

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

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

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

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

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

**H.R. 4712 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act).** According to the legislation text, this House bill would “amend the

Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

del Sur Pueblo and Indian lands of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe.”

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

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

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to 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-recog-

nized group.

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

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introduced: Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) on Sept. 18, 2025  
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Sept. 18, 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

see LEGISLATIVE next page

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**LEGISLATIVE:** From page 15

are now part of the United States for thousands of years”.

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

Action: This resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Oct. 14, 2025.

There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**H.R. 5820 (Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe Recognition Act).** This House bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Mono Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe

of California and Nevada, a group based in Lee Vining, Calif.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introduced: Rep. Jill N. Tokuda

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

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

According to the bill, the purposes are,

“(1) to protect the confidentiality of culturally sensitive information provided by Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian Organizations to the federal government;

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

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

**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 (A bill to allow members of federally recognized tribes to use their tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer).** The full text of this bill is not yet available as of press time.  
Introduced: Feb. 25, 2026 by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.)  
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 25, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that

Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 7699 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act).** This House aims “to ensure that federal laws that enable federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply to tribal law enforcement agencies”.  
Introduced: Feb. 25, 2026 by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.)  
Action: This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 25, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

S. 3994 (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.

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

STAFF REPORT

# 5th Annual News Summit and Law Reporting Fellowship Launch

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**  
One Feather Reporter

**R**ALEIGH, N.C. - On Friday, March 27, I attended the 5th Annual North Carolina News and Information Summit at McKim-

mon Conference and Training Center at North Carolina State University (NC State) and met with my mentor and cohort for the 2026 Law and Justice Reporting Fellowship I received officially on March 18.

The fellowship is a year-long \$5,000 grant for criminal law reporting. The grant will aid my travel, overtime pay, and public records access and subscriptions in covering cases that leave Cherokee Tribal Court and enter the Federal Court system. I will specifically follow cases with crimes related to the Missing and Murdered Indige-

nous People (MMIP) crisis on the Qualla Boundary, which includes murder, but also includes crimes that are part of a pattern of violence that can lead to homicide, such as domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, sex trafficking, and assault. With the maximum sentence of 3 years for any crime in tribal courts, we often see our major crimes cases leave Cherokee Tribal Court to pursue federal court sentencing. This is a process that I hope to illuminate through my reporting for education and clarity for my tribal community.

Through this reporting, I plan

to navigate the justice system to strengthen awareness and illustrate a journalistic approach to violence prevention and education. My mentor is Kate Martin, a senior data reporter for APM Reports. She also previously worked as a sexual violence and health reporter for NBC News.

The News and Information Summit was also a great networking event where I met several North Carolina journalists and discussed my work as a journalist for my tribal newspaper.

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**CIPD Arrest Report for  
March 23-29, 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.*

Sneed, Samuel Otter – age 24  
Arrested: March 23  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 30)  
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Wolfe, Jasmyn Tiandra – age 29  
Arrested: March 23  
Released: March 25  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Rabassa Santiago, Victor A. – age 51  
Arrested: March 25  
Released: March 28  
Charges: Violation of Domestic Protection Order

Braun, Randall Wyatt – age 31  
Arrested: March 26  
Released: March 27  
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Driver Jr., Bobby Dean – age 41  
Arrested: March 26  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 30)

Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Simple Assault

Jackson, Maurice Jordan – age 24  
Arrested: March 26  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 30)  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Mathis, Randy Dean – age 49  
Arrested: March 26  
Released: March 29  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor, Neglect of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult, Exploit Disabled Elder, Driving While License Revoked (nine counts), Aiding and Abetting, No Operator's License

Reed, Seth Payton – age 33  
Arrested: March 26  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 30)  
Charges: Assault by Strangulation, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Probation Violation

Robinson, Christopher – age 32  
Arrested: March 26  
Released: March 27  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Davis, Corey Matthew – age 36  
Arrested: March 27  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 30)  
Charges: Probation Violation

Girty II, Jeffrey Scott – age 27  
Arrested: March 27  
Released: March 27  
Charges: Public Intoxication; Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers

Maye Jr., Cecil Dean – age 42  
Arrested: March 27  
Released: Not released as of report date (March 30)

Charges: Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Locust, Lillian Shuonne – age 47  
Arrested: March 29  
Released: March 29  
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Vestal, Bradley Ronald – age 25  
Arrested: March 29  
Released: March 30  
Charges: Hold Until Sober



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Introduced in 1990, the PGA Tour Player of the Year award trophy is named in honor of what golf great?
2. The Balmy Beach Beachers, winners of Grey Cup championships in 1927 and 1930, were a Canadian rugby football team located in what city?
3. In the original Trivial Pursuit board game, what color was used to represent the Sports & Leisure category of questions?
4. The phrase “get through to tea” - meaning persevere until the afternoon break - originated in what sport?
5. What Ohio stadium was home to the University of Akron Zips football team from 1940 to 2008?
6. Who scored the gold medal-winning goal for the U.S. Men's Hockey Team in their 2-1 overtime victory over Canada at the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics?
7. What member of the Los Angeles Lakers, nicknamed “Swaggy P,” had his look of bewilderment inspire an internet meme in 2014?

**Answers**

1. Jack Nicklaus.
2. Toronto.
3. Orange.
4. Cricket.
5. The Rubber Bowl.
6. Jack Hughes.
7. Nick Young.

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# Joscelyn Stamper breaking records, and she's not done

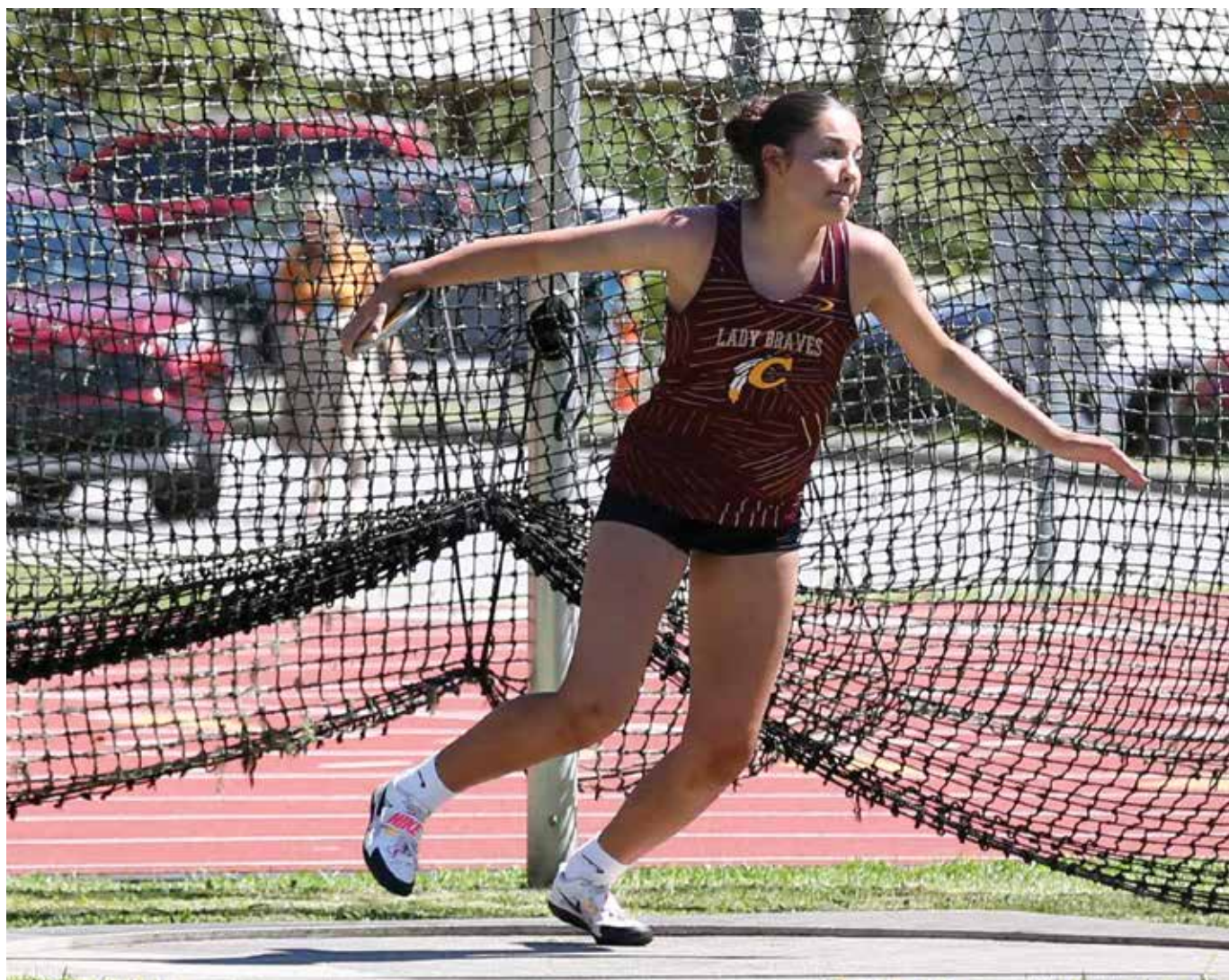
By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.  
One Feather Asst. Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Joscelyn Stamper has a calm, kind demeanor that probably surprises a lot of people when they find out just how competitive she is athletically. She recently broke the Cherokee High School women's discus throw record with a distance of 137-6, and she isn't even close to being finished. Oh, and she also holds the school record in the shot put with a throw of 40-0.

Stamper, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a junior at CHS, spoke to me recently about her track and field throwing career to date. "The first thing that I noticed straight off the bat was it was just me. In team-affiliated sports, everything gets dispersed. A loss gets dispersed. A victory gets dispersed. The work gets dispersed. But, track and field, throwing, it was just me.

So, if I woke up that day and I didn't want to go extra weights, I knew at the end of the day it was only going to be my fault if I didn't and it didn't work out in the end. So, my freshman year, when I had fallen short, that's when it hit me because that's the human thing - you want to blame something else, you want to get it off of you. And I was like, 'I can't, this is me'. There are those days that I decided to skip practice and those days that I decided to maybe not eat the best things or not go to weights. That's what that got me. The next year I came in completely 100 percent devoted and locked-in."

As a freshman, Joscelyn won the discus throw at the Smoky



Joscelyn Stamper competes in the discus throw at the Smoky Mountain Conference Championship held at Cherokee, N.C. on May 1, 2024 at Cherokee High School in Cherokee, N.C. A freshman at the time, she won the competition with a throw of 110-2. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

Mountain Conference Championship held at CHS on May 1, 2024. Her throw that day was 110-2. She followed that up with a 1A West Regional title with a throw of 120-11 at Montreat College Track in Black Mountain, N.C. on May 11, 2024. The next week, she took third place in the 1A State Championship held in Greensboro, N.C. with a throw of 113-0.

As a sophomore, she repeated at SMC Champion at the meet held at CHS on April 30, 2025 with a

throw of 125-1. She also repeated as 1A West Regional champion at the meet held at J. Alan Peoples Track in Columbus, N.C. on May 9, 2025 with a throw of 129-0. Then, she won her first state title in discus throw at the 1A State Championship held in Greensboro, N.C. on May 16, 2025 with a throw of 129-11.

As a junior, she has been tearing it up.

With a throw of 36-7 in shot put, she won the state title at the

1A/2A Indoor State Championship held at the JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem, N.C. on Feb. 11, 2026. A month later, she broke her own school record in discus throw at a regular meet at Murphy High School on March 18, 2026.

A multi-sport athlete, Joscelyn said training for each sport is different. "It's definitely different movements lift-wise. There's a lot more core in discus and discus is a lot more technical. You don't have to be as strong or big. It's a

lot of, 'you have to have your feet here, here, and here, and here, and it's got to move quickly'."

She finds that playing multiple sports helps her with each. "You get on the phone with college coaches and they ask, 'we see that you're a multi-sport athlete'. They love it. They love the cross-training. It's amazing, it truly is. You prevent injury. You're not doing repetitiveness all year long. So, every sport that I play translates into one another. Volleyball, you have your core, you have your shoulder strength. Basketball, you get a little heavier - you're more stable for discus. It's a cycle."

She has been recognized all over for her athletic accomplishment. Joscelyn won the Apollo Flame Division II Female Athlete of the Year Award at the 63rd Annual Western North Carolina Sports Awards held at the Omni Grove Park Inn on the evening of Sunday, May 25, 2025.

In 2024, she was a co-recipient of the Bertha Saunooke Memorial Female Athlete of the Year Award from Cherokee Central Schools.

At both the 2024 and 2025 Smoky Mountain Conference Track and Field Championship, she was named SMC Female Field Athlete of the Year.

Twice (2024 and 2026), she was named Most Outstanding Player for the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) varsity basketball team in the state championship game. She has won a state title in each season she has played for the team so far (2024, 2025, and 2026).

Joscelyn's mother, Miranda Stamper, is a two-time state champion in discus throw as well, and she helps her daughter set goals. "There's not been anything that we've set that she's not gotten,



Joscelyn Stamper, left, is shown with her mother, Miranda Stamper, at Cherokee High School on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Both are state champions in discus throw.

attained, won, whatever. It's crazy stuff, too, that we'll set. Right now, there's a couple on the board for track and field and she's two and a half feet away from that."

Miranda is the head coach for the Tsalagi Anata Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Lady Braves) women's varsity basketball team, but for track and field, she is simply mom. "It is a sport where I can sit back and watch. I was a little bit more involved when she was in middle school, but now being able to turn over to Mike Winchester, and he's a great coach. Being able to just sit back and watch and enjoy the track meet and cheer her on...she's one of the most competitive kids I've ever met and to put anything

in front of her, competitively, it's awesome just to watch her inch up. And then, eventually, know she'll beat anything else that we put on the board as well."

She is proud of her daughter on and off the field/court. "It's awesome to see other coaches see her athletic side. Her awards for athletics are very important to a kid. But, even more so, the compliments that I hear from the community, from the state official that has been the security down there who literally brought her a bag of candy...he was like, 'I met Joss when she was a freshman down here - best kid I've ever met. Phenomenal'...That, more than anything, makes a mom proud.

The athletic awards are great, but when you see stuff like that, her whole family, her community has done a great job of getting her here."

The next level is still a year away, but it is on her mind as college coaches are reaching out frequently. Joscelyn wants to do it on her terms. "My number one goal going into high school is that I knew I wanted to be a collegiate athlete, and I knew I wanted to pursue something at the next level. I want to have options. I don't want to settle. I want to choose something that's going to make me happy. So, putting in the work to get there was the first step." Being a multi-sport athlete means decisions regarding which one to pursue at the next level are also looming. "At the beginning, I couldn't imagine myself saying goodbye to one sport, two sports. I couldn't imagine it. It's a part of me. It's who I am...but, I made that decision earlier on that I don't think triple sports in college is going to work out for me. And, even dual sports, I think I'm pretty set on picking one and going full-force into that for two very big reasons. I want to go out and get an education. And, I want to go out and pursue something that I'm very passionate about. Splitting that time between two sports and an education, that would be overkill." When asked what advice she would give to younger athletes, Joscelyn noted, "I wish somebody would've told me, 'you're going to look dumb. It's going to be awkward. You're not going to be the best at the beginning. But, trust the process. If you put your head down and you understand all those things, you understand that it's going to take a while, and it's going to be ok'."

## No excuse for child abuse

In recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month, the Super Hero Every Child Matters Walk/Ride was hosted by Cherokee Family Safety, a program of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in the Public Health and Human Services Division, on Saturday, April 4 in Cherokee, N.C. The event included a walk and activities held at the Unity Field.

*Photos by Scott McKie B.P./One Feather Asst. Editor*





# Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority announces IDD Preferred Provider Directory to expand services for Community

Submitted by  
Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority

Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority (CIHA), in partnership with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), is proud to announce the establishment of an IDD Preferred Provider Directory as part of the ongoing Enrichment Center Project. This initiative represents a significant step forward in strengthening services for individuals and families navigating intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and autism within the community.

Expanding on existing services already available at CIHA or through Tribal Programs such as Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee (VOC), which has served individuals with disabilities in the Cherokee community and surrounding areas for more than 50 years, the Preferred Provider Directory identifies trusted partners who deliver essential services designed to support individuals across every stage of life. As the Enrichment Center Project continues to develop to supplement the

work VOC provides in areas such as vocational evaluation, supported employment, community living supports, and long-term care services, these providers will work alongside CIHA and the Tribe to expand access to care. In many cases, services will be brought directly into Cherokee, ensuring that individuals and families can receive support closer to home and in a way that reflects the needs and values of the community.

The directory includes a wide range of services aimed at helping individuals live, learn, work, and grow in meaningful ways. These services include in-home and out-of-home respite care, which provide short-term support so caregivers can rest and recharge. Crisis respite services offer immediate assistance during times of heightened stress or emergency.

Families will also have access to Family Navigators, who help guide them through available resources and identify services that best meet their needs. Alternative Family Living options provide opportunities for individuals to live in supportive home environments,

while consultative services connect families with experts who can develop tailored care strategies.

Long-term supports and personal care services assist individuals with daily living tasks and help them remain active participants in their communities. Day programs and community integration services focus on building skills, fostering relationships, and encouraging engagement through structured activities.

For those seeking greater independence, supported living and community living services provide guidance with everyday responsibilities such as budgeting, cooking, and navigating public spaces. Research-based treatment options, particularly for individuals with autism, ensure access to proven therapeutic approaches delivered by trained professionals.

Employment and life transition services are also key components of the directory. Supported employment programs help individuals find and maintain meaningful work, while community transition services assist during major life changes, such as moving

from school into adulthood.

In addition, specialized services such as music therapy offer alternative pathways for communication and emotional expression, creating opportunities for connection and growth for individuals of all abilities.

This effort reflects a shared commitment between CIHA and the EBCI to build a system of care that is accessible, culturally grounded, and responsive to the community. The long-term vision of the Enrichment Center Project is to address longstanding gaps in services by creating sustainable infrastructure, strengthening partnerships, and expanding local capacity.

For more information about the IDD Preferred Provider Directory and the Enrichment Center Project progress, visit the newly launched dedicated landing page at [www.cherokeehospital.org/idd-enrichment-center-project-progress](http://www.cherokeehospital.org/idd-enrichment-center-project-progress).



Check out our new  
Qualla: Our Community  
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## **ENRICHMENT CENTER PREFERRED PROVIDERS**

*The Preferred Provider Directory identifies trusted partners who deliver essential services designed to support individuals across every stage of life. As the Enrichment Center Project continues to develop, these providers will expand access to care. In many cases, services will be brought directly into Cherokee.*

Headquartered in Chapel Hill, Voices Together is a nonprofit offering board-certified music therapy services across the Carolinas. They use research-based music interventions to support communication, emotional expression, and skill development for individuals with autism and IDD. Through group and individual sessions, they create inclusive environments that promote connection and confidence. Their work blends clinical expertise with cultural awareness to strengthen community belonging.



Based in Asheville, Amivie provides community-based supports that focus on relationships, independence, and family-centered care. Their services include community living support, supported employment, respite care, and alternative family living. Amivie emphasizes building trusted, long-term connections that reflect each individual's needs and cultural values. Their approach supports both individuals and caregivers in creating stable, meaningful lives.



All Ways Caring HomeCare brings nearly 40 years of experience supporting individuals in home and community settings. They offer supported living, employment services, community engagement, and respite care designed around personal choice and independence. They currently serve thousands of families across 90+ counties in North Carolina.



Located in Charlotte, Abound Health has more than 20 years of experience providing person-centered services for individuals with IDD. Their offerings include respite care, host homes, supported employment, community living supports, and consultative services. Founded by parents, their model emphasizes family partnership and culturally informed care. They focus on empowering individuals to reach their full potential while supporting caregivers every step of the way.



Based in Wilmington, Community Alternatives of North Carolina has supported individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities for more than 34 years by providing home & community-based services, host home placements, supported living, and employment assistance tailored to each person's goals.



Visit: [cherokeehospital.org/idd-enrichment-center-project-progress](http://cherokeehospital.org/idd-enrichment-center-project-progress)



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**Lloyd Knowles Arneach Sr.**

Lloyd Knowles Arneach Sr., born Oct. 6, 1943, to Francis Newman Arneach and Roberta Mollie Gloyne, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026.

Lloyd grew up in the Elawodi

(Yellowhill) community of the Qualla Boundary. As a youth, he spent time at his grandmother Arneach's and grandmother Lula's homes, where he enjoyed listening to wrestling on the radio. When he was a young teenager, a neighbor, Mrs. Mary Ulmer Chiltoskie, took him and other Cherokee youths to share Cherokee stories with surrounding communities—an experience that planted a seed that would later grow.

Although he found that college was not his path, a summer session at Mars Hill College changed his life when he met the love of his life, Charlotte Cleveland. Soon after, he joined the United States Air Force. While serving, he qualified for and competed in the United States Air Force Olympic Trials for the 1964 Olympics. While stationed in Washington, D.C., Lloyd and Charlotte began their life together. After serving in Vietnam, they eventually settled in Kennesaw, Ga. Lloyd built a career in computer programming, working at AT&T until his retirement.

Around 1989, he was approached by folklorist Dr. John Barrison of Georgia State University to contribute a chapter to the book "Storytellers: Folktales and Legends from the South", sharing Cherokee stories as part of a collection of traditional voices from across the region. Following its publication, he was invited to join the Southern Order of Storytellers and began sharing Cherokee stories professionally. Earlier, in the 1970s, Lloyd traveled to schools to teach Cherokee history, crafts, and weaponry. Over time, his storytelling took him far beyond his community—from the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., to Texas, the Kennedy Center, and

into Canada. With his black hat and ribbon shirts, many of which were made by Henri Gloyne and the late Arlene Reagan, he left a lasting impression wherever he went.

During the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, Lloyd served as a Cherokee consultant for the Festival of Fires, helping organize a major cultural event that brought Native artists and traditions to an international audience. He also played a role in coordinating the ceremonial run of Cherokee runners who carried a sacred flame from Cherokee, N.C. to Georgia, symbolizing the continuity of Cherokee heritage. The event culminated with Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills lighting the flame to open the festival, creating a powerful and lasting tribute to Native culture. In recognition of his lifetime of contributions and service, he was nominated by Scott Brings Plenty and commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel in 2025, the highest civilian honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He had a deep love for anetso (stickball), beginning to play with the men at age 14. Lloyd will be remembered for his voice, his stories, and the way he carried his Cherokee heritage with pride wherever he went. In addition to his parents, Lloyd was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Charlotte Harrison Cleveland Arneach; his brother-in-law, Lindsay Cleveland; and his stepsister, Carolyn Henry Queen.

He is survived by his son, Lloyd Arneach Jr. (Tari), and his daughter, Dawn Arneach; his grandchildren, Cheyenne Arneach, Landon (Luci) French, William Arneach, Sam (Samantha) Arneach, and Sandra Arneach; and his great-grandchildren, Tanin Newman Arneach, Daliliah Ar-

neach, Gabriela French, Petey Arneach, Emmalynn Arneach, Eeve Arneach, and Eloise Arneach. He is also survived by his sister, Tami (Dave) Hogner; his niece, Jessica Hogner; and his nephew, Aaron (Terri) Hogner; along with great-nieces and great-nephews Jayce Daniels, Tyce Hogner, Lexi Daniels, Lolo Hogner, Lyric Hogner, and Em'ree Dickson. He is further survived by his stepbrother, Ralph (Joan) Henry. He leaves behind many special friends, including Michalyn Palmer, Francesca Craig, Miami Lively, Ernie and Sonja LaPointe, Wilbur Paul, Flo Mizell Smiley, and Deborah Hobby.

A celebration of his life will be held at the Yellowhill Community Building, 918 Acquoni Road, Cherokee, NC 28719. The family will receive friends beginning at 12 p.m., with the service to follow at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 11. A military graveside service will be conducted by the US Air Force and Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post #143.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons and close family friends.

The family asks that you wear your Billy Jack black hat if you have it, and your team jersey if you played stickball.

Long House Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

**Jeanette "Ann" Walkingstick**

April 29, 1947 – March 23, 2026

Jeanette "Ann" Walkingstick, of Cherokee, peacefully departed from this world on Monday, March 23, 2026.

Ann was the daughter of the late Ramsey Walkingstick and Mabel Teesateskie Walkingstick. She grew up in the Yellowhill Community as the second oldest of nine children and spoke only Cherokee

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at home. She lived in Georgia for many years, working in downtown Atlanta for a while before returning to Cherokee in 2004. There, she became one of the first Cherokee Language Speakers at New Kituwah Academy when it opened, serving as a dedicated teacher for 10 years. She began teaching her first child at 6-months-old and worked with children of all ages until her retirement in August 2009.

She returned to work from August 2010 to 2014, then worked on a contract from 2015 to 2020, and made a brief comeback in 2022 until her health no longer permitted it. Ann loved sewing and was an excellent seamstress, creating several traditional Cherokee garments and pow wow regalia over the years. She enjoyed making all kinds of crafts, trying her hand at making honeysuckle, pine needle, and gourd baskets, beading, and cornhusk dolls. She was always busy working on something and inspired all her children in some way to be crafty. Ann had a green thumb and loved being outside, soaking up the sun, and tending to her flowers. On her best days, she could often be found in the kitchen, enjoying cooking for any occasion. Ann loved making people laugh and always had a good story up her sleeve, rarely meeting a stranger.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Chief Dean Walkingstick; her sisters, Geneva Faye Walkingstick, Angela Tindall Morris, and Nancy Lois Lambert; and her son, Delano Ray Lett.

Ann leaves behind four children, Laura Ann Walkingstick, Anthony Curren Lett (Lisianna Jones-Cloud), Hollie Marie Stover, and Mark Hollis Stover Jr. She

also leaves four grandchildren, Ashley Marie Sena (Anthony), Brooke Ann Moore, Alexander Stephen Lett, and Sandra Ollie Ann Taylor. Additionally, she is survived by four brothers, Moses Walkingstick, Owen Walkingstick, Bruce Moses, and Tony Moses. She is also remembered by several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, along with many other family members and friends within the community, as well as members of the New Kituwah Academy and Kituwah Preservation & Education Program.

The family held a potluck celebration of life on Saturday, April 4 at the old Yellowhill Community Building at 918 Acquoni Rd. in Cherokee, N.C.

#### **Harold Luther Coleman**

Harold Luther Coleman, 86, born Sept. 3, 1939 was called home to his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. He is, and will always be, best known as Papaw. Harold was the son of the late Bailey and Myrtle Coleman of Grape Creek. He was born, raised, and was a lifelong resident of Cherokee County. He was also preceded in death by his only brother, Steve Coleman.

Harold was a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as well as a member of Cherokee Masonic Lodge #146, Scottish Rite, and was a Shriner. He was a United States Army and Army National Guard Veteran who served his country proudly. He was a ranger with the N.C. Forest Service for 30 years until he retired. Harold was one of the founding members of the Grape Creek Volunteer Fire Department, where he served for decades. He was also a charter member of the Cherokee County Indian Community Club.

He loved his Lord, reading the word, spoiling grandkids rotten, storytelling, Braves baseball and of course his dog, Heidi.

He and his wife, Jean, were married for 53 years and built a life on hard work, raising kids, and helping anyone who needed it. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his four children, Pam and husband, Tom, Bruce and wife, Laura, Sherry and husband, Barry and Marty and wife, Donna; Harold's seven grandchildren, three of whom he raised, Scott and wife, Brandy, Jake and wife, Amanda, Josh and wife, Lindsey, Michelle and husband, Bryan, Michael and wife, Megan, Karlee and husband, Adam, and Colby and wife, Riley.

Harold was also the great grandfather of 12 great grands who he loved dearly. In addition to the children he helped raise, there were many others who leaned on and had the privilege of having Harold in their life and that meant so much to him.

Also surviving are Harold's sisters, Anna Shuler and husband, Marvin, Kay Amos, and Joyce Hogsed and husband, Maynard; as well as many nieces and nephews.

No services are planned at this time.

Ivie Funeral Home, Murphy in charge of all arrangements. An online guest register is available at [www.iviefuneralhome.com](http://www.iviefuneralhome.com)

#### **Clara Saunooke**

Nov. 26, 1940 – March 31, 2026

Clara Saunooke, a dedicated sister, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and cherished member of the Bird Town community, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 31, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and service.

Born in Santo Domingo, New

Mexico, Clara carried the warmth and spirit of her hometown with her throughout her life. After graduating from high school, she felt called to care for others, which led her to a career in nursing. She served her patients with skill, kindness, and steady dedication, offering comfort in moments of fear and hope in times of uncertainty. Clara gave up her career to tend to her family, which she and Sam started. Once the three children began attending school, she continued her passion for helping others by working in the public school system, assisting students both in and out of the classroom. Besides caring for her family, Clara was a devoted Sunday school teacher. She found great fulfillment in sharing her faith and guiding young hearts with patience and kindness. Her kindness, wisdom, and steady presence left a lasting impression on many children and families. Clara was well-liked and highly respected in her community. Known for her generous spirit, warm smile, and listening ear, she formed friendships that lasted for decades. Whether through her work, her church, or her neighborhood, she quietly and meaningfully touched many lives. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved her. Clara's life was a testament to service, faith, and family - a legacy that will live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind. If you knew Clara, you would know the peace she had in her heart. If you don't know this peace, look to Matthew 7:7-8: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds. And to the one

see **OBITUARIES** next page

**Turbidity Conditions  
on Raven Fork**

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

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

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

*- EBCI Natural Resources*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Throughout the day, attendees

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

The conference will conclude with the Visit Smokies Membership Meeting and the announcement of the Best of the Southern Smokies People’s Choice Awards, recognizing outstanding businesses and experiences across the region.

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

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

*- Visit Smokies release*

**Cherokee Supreme Court  
sessions for 2026:**

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

*- Cherokee Tribal Court*

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**OBITUARIES:** From page 27

who knocks, the door will be open.

Clara was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Sam Saunooke; her daughter, Lila Saunooke; her brothers, Pete, Delphine, and Luis Bird; and her sister, Josie Garcia, all of whom she held close to her heart. Although she faced deep loss, her faith and dedication to family sustained her.

She is survived by her brothers, Joe and Martin Bird and her sister, Marie Tenerio, as well as two sons, Daniel and David Saunooke, who were the pride and joy of her life. She also leaves behind her daughter-in-law, Terri Saunooke, whom she loved as

her own. Clara’s legacy continues through her treasured grandchildren, Davey Saunooke and granddaughter-in-law Lauren Saunooke; Brenna Saunooke and grandson-in-law Michael Carretero; Peyton Saunooke; and her great-grandson, Sterling Saunooke, who brought her immeasurable happiness in her later years.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 7 at Long House Funeral Home Chapel in Cherokee, N.C., with Rev. Merritt Youngdeer officiating. Burial followed at Partridge Cemetery in Cherokee, NC. Long House Funeral Service, Cherokee, N.C., was in charge of arrangements.

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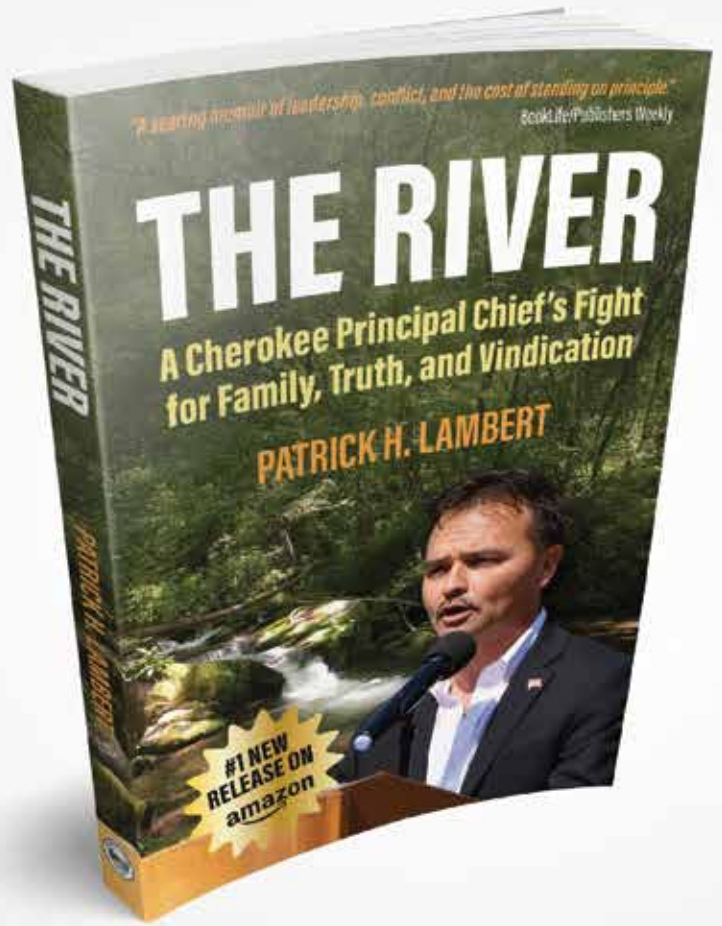
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The Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program is currently accepting applications for the 2026 - 2027 program year.

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/](http://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.



## COMMENTARY

### Government and media are more alike than they care to admit

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

Sometimes, the government and media are at odds. I know that comes as a shock, but it is true. Government, because of its political nature, strives to create an image of leadership perfection. Voters determine who sits in elected seats. Voters have expectations of provision and security. They want someone who projects an image of being able to supply that provision and security. The more a candi-

date may act like they can provide and secure, the more likely they are to see the community vote for them. So, to sit in and maintain an elected seat, those seeking office must convince the community that they are the ones to provide for them and make them feel safe.

I'm not saying that is a bad thing. I don't know the hearts of politicians, just like I don't know the hearts of anyone else. As old folks used to say, what is in your heart is between you and your creator. Personally, I think most politicians at least start with good intentions. Maybe they have had a life of public service through charitable work. Maybe they lived in areas where living conditions were not great, and they felt compassion and a sense of duty to change things for the better. Or

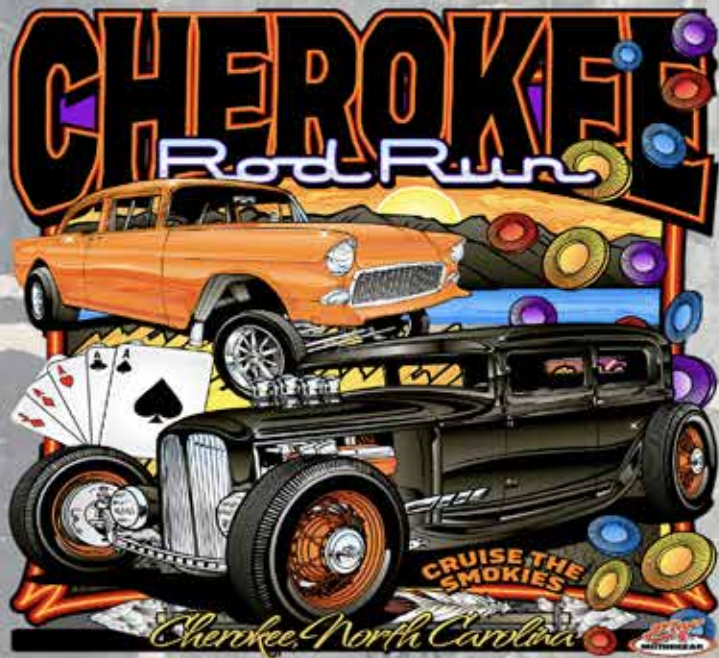
maybe they have observed poor or corrupt politicians and the damage that they do and feel that they must try to change the course of what is going on. For whatever reason, those brave souls enter the political arena to try to make a better world, or at least a better community.

And maybe their focus on doing good and governing well remains good for years. Then, the power of position starts to change the way they think about their duty to the community. Like the old story of the frog in the frying pan, the heat is turned up so slowly that the frog doesn't even realize that he is being cooked. A little shortcut to make a process or move go more smoothly. A small misdirection to ensure that what they think is a positive outcome is

realized. Before they know it, they are slaves to the system that they wanted to change or do away with by running for office.

Most of you will be familiar with the adage, "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". The saying implies that holding unchecked power leads to moral decline, causing politicians to prioritize self-interest over the community. As authority increases, the likelihood of corruption becomes absolute.

Our tribal system of government is ripe for fulfilling this adage. Don't believe me? Read the tribal Charter and Governing Document. Read it thoroughly and count the number of references to the community you see. Count the civil rights included in the docu-



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ment.

Our Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) has legislative powers, as it should, but it also has executive and judicial powers. They have the power to make law, to interpret law, and to execute law (Charter Sections 23-24). There is an Executive Branch or Committee. There is a Judiciary that many tribal members think should be a true branch of government. But empowerment and separation of powers will be a very difficult sorting, if it ever comes to pass. The tribe, be it government officials or community activists, has attempted to create a constitution for decades. The most recent effort started approximately a year and a half ago. They are working from a draft constitution that took six years to produce. That draft was first approved for a

referendum vote, then rescinded by the Dinilawigi. We do not seem to be any closer to creating a real “by the people, for the people” constitution than we were eight years ago.

Modern news media thrives on dramatic, passionate, provocative stories. They find chinks in the armor. The community wants to know the truth, well, most of the community does. But the community wants much more than just the facts. Check out your favorite social media feed. It will be filled with “facts” from friends, family, solicitors, and so-called news providers. These stories, represented as factual, are very likely to be embellished and spun, providing readers and viewers with not “just the facts” but opinionated prose that is geared to either tickle your

ears or lead you to a particular conclusion about what is being told to you. News has become a victim of the desire to make a profit. Because of this, those in charge of news organizations, particularly for-profit news organizations, feel obligated to entertain their audiences. Publishers and producers have great power, much like politicians. Another classic adage goes like this, “never pick a fight with people who buy ink by the barrel”. There is some truth to the sentiment that one shouldn’t challenge a newspaper or media organization unless you have more influence, resources, or a larger audience than they do.

But, along with great power, also goes the temptation to use that power for self-gain instead of communal good. Again, we can see where power might corrupt and absolute power might corrupt absolutely. And I am afraid many of our news organizations have fallen into that trap of conscience. I have witnessed it from both sides: as an editor being asked to compromise my values for the sake of a political agenda, and as a government official being scrutinized by an overzealous reporter with an agenda to create a political slant. The community should never assume that the motives of a reporter match their own, nor should a journalist compromise the facts to satisfy a need for sustenance. We want to believe that a “free” press protects us. We, the press, are indeed supposed to be watchdogs for the community, serving as neutral observers and documenters of history in the making.

But politicians, media, you, and I are all human. And humanity is imperfect and prone to making choices for the good of the one, not the many. Personally, I believe

perfection comes from the Divine, and none of us is close to Godly. So, we must rely on discernment. Even “good” hearts with “good” intentions make mistakes. We must have the wisdom to take information without bias, from within us and from without. Many times, motive matters as much as action. We must know that leaders and media can and sometimes do have personal agendas that will surface in their actions. The key to retaining an elected seat in government is the vote. The key to retaining ownership of a media outlet is the dollar. Be careful to factor those facts into any information you see from both.

The old saying, “Life is hard. Life is harder when you’re stupid,” is very relevant to our lives today (Higgins,1972).



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## MISSING

### Ralph Raymond Rivas



Enrolled with Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the Lovelock Indian Colony

Height: 5'8" Weight: 140 lbs

Male Age: 32

Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: December 23, 2025

Last Known Location:  
Lovelock, Nevada

Circumstances of Disappearance:  
Rivas has regular contact with his mother and the mother has not seen him for more than a week.

If you have seen or have information about Ralph Rivas contact Special Agent Gregory Guiza, Western Nevada Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs (775) 887-3500.

Source: Namus.gov



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\*GPA forgiveness may be available



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

# He Thinks of Us

## Part 1 of 2

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

Scripture reference: Psalm 139

When we think of God, we often think He is there but unattached until we call upon Him.

However, those who forget how close He is must be reminded that our God is mighty and powerful and always with us.

This message reminds us that God thinks more about us than we think about Him. People give God human attributes, including our capabilities and weaknesses. In doing that, we deny God His divine power, authority, and omnipresence. When we consider how

God is, we can only imagine, and even then, we fall infinitely short of how powerful He truly is.

I am inspired and awestruck when I try to imagine the grandeur of our God. When I am down or lonely, depressed, or confused, I think about how God is there to lean on anytime, all the time. God is good, and these verses are meant to remind us.

Psalm 139 is a great place to put God's love in perspective. Verses 13-16 are often used to prove from God's Word that life begins at conception and that God controls our making in the womb. "For thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Wonderful are thy works; And that my soul

knoweth right well. My frame was not hidden from thee, When I was made in secret, And curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance; And in thy book they were all written, Even the days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was none of them."

It is unconscionable to me that anyone could think an unborn person is not a child of God and should be treated with the same respect as any person. Only an unbeliever, in my opinion, could think otherwise.

But the chapter contains much more about His love, concern, and thoughts about us. So if you have gone this far without reading the entire Psalm 139, stop now and go back and read it entirely.

My intent is not to repeat everything Psalm 139 says but to highlight those parts that might seem fantastic or deeper than how we think about the workings of God. The conclusion is obvious to me. We haven't got a clue about the height and depth of God's mind or abilities. These are things people forget when we consider how great is our God.

Father God in Heaven and on earth, my prayer today matches verses 23-24. I need You every hour, Lord. Let me lean on you for everything in my life. My life is Yours. You have given me everything to nurture and mold me; everything I am is what You have made me be. Thank You, Lord, for being my God and making Yourself known to me through Your Word. Amen.



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19: 13,14

*Detail of "Sara" by Irving Amen (1970)*





# EVENT LISTINGS

Event listings are FREE of charge. Send your flyers/info to Dawn at dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov or to Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

## Benefits/Fundraisers

**Turkey Shoots** at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. Good fun, great prizes, great benefits. - April 18 at 3 p.m., fundraiser for Big Cove Free Labor

## Cherokee Children's Home

**BINGO Fundraiser.** April 11, doors open at 5 p.m. games start at 5:30 p.m. at the Peaches Squirrel Sports & Recreation Center, 1212 Birdtown Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Concessions available. All proceeds go to the Cherokee Children's Home. Info: Sharon Dills (828) 507-7720

## EBCI Community Events

**Spring Garden Fair.** April 24 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center 1416 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Featuring seeds, plants, yard art, education, and a re-purpose it contest for youth ages 5-17. Garden kits will be given away from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (must show enrollment card). NAIWA will be serving sausage biscuits and Indian dinners. Info: Lucille (828) 736-5285, Mariah (828) 788-3071 or email Carmaleta at carmaleta@msn.com

**Spring Rod Run.** April 24- 25 Old Cherokee High School Site, 1501 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, NC. 28719. Thousands in Cash Give-aways, Early Bird Show and Shine Thursday after Lunch, Tool Box and Cooler Scooter Raffles, 50/50, Cruise Thru the Great Smokies National Park, Participant Meal, Valve Cover Racing, Model Car Contest, Vendors, Swap Meet, Food Vendors, Home Built Trophies, and More! Pre-Register before April 10 and be entered for a huge cash

prize. Info: Cherokeeodders.com

**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

**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.

## 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 Singers Gathering.** April 15 and April 22 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Wolfstown Community Building, 12 Burgess Dr., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Space is limited. EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) singers and dancers of all ages are invited to join. Each gathering will focus on different so-

cial dances. Info: Cherokee Winter Social on Facebook.

**Statehood Day.** May 31 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Celebration of Tennessee Statehood Day. On June 1, 1796, Congress approved the admission of Tennessee as the sixteenth state of the Union. The 1809 Blacksmith shop will be open with demonstrations going on throughout the afternoon. Come out and share the afternoon with living history in the 1800's Dog-trot Log cabin. Learn about Cherokees in the Civil War. The acorn printing press will be doing demonstrations throughout the day. All Statehood Day activities are free, and people can also enjoy free admission to the

museum. Info: (423) 884-6246

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

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

**CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK**  
Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida  
SŌHi ႠD RVLႠJ DႠႠYL

Submit your pet to us at:  
**Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com**

Include the following:  
Name, breed, age, human's name(s), community/town



food vendors. Info: (423) 884-6246

### Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Meetings

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

**HIP Committee.** April 8 at 8:30 a.m.

**Lands Committee.** April 9 at 9 a.m.

**Parks & Rec. Committee.** April 9 at 1 p.m.

**Lands Acquisition Committee.**

April 13 at 1 p.m.

**Health Board.** April 15 at 8:30 a.m.

**Qualla Housing Committee.** April 16 at 8:30 a.m.

**Roads Commission.** April 20 at 9 a.m.

**Timber Committee.** April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

**Planning Board.** April 20 at 1 p.m.

see **EVENTS** next page



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Aspects indicate a potential for confusion or misunderstandings. Keep the lines of communication open between you and your mate or significant other.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Romantic aspects are strong but confusing. Be alert! Use your good Bovine sense to avoid charging into something that isn't quite what it seems to be.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Working out problems with family members or others who are close to you should be your priority. Meanwhile, travel aspects are strong, especially in job-related situations.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) The Cancerian Crab likes to take charge of things. But be careful that you don't pinch off more than you can hold, or you might find it all slipping out of your grasp.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A new opportunity beckons for Leos and Leonas who are ready to take on some tough challenges. Additionally, family matters continue to improve but still need close attention.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) What seems to be a disappointment could be a blessing in disguise. Use your good Virgan mind to analyze the situation and learn some valuable lessons.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) There are some conflicting considerations that will need careful sorting out. Remember, you do best when you're able to balance sense and sentiment.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Aspects show conflicting signs around friendships. Be careful about taking advice from someone who might have an agenda that isn't in your best interests.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Relationships are supposed to be about give-and-take, but you might find that you've been doing all the giving while getting little in return.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Sometimes indecision can be a positive factor in helping to resolve doubts about a potential commitment. Don't be rushed into acting before you feel ready to do so.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Take off your rose-colored glasses and see this new situation for what it is — and for what it isn't. Remember, you haven't been told the whole truth yet.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Watch that you don't drain your energy reserves as you dive into a new and increasingly demanding project. Take time out for rest and relaxation.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You live your life on a finely tuned balance between the passions of an Aries and the perception of a Taurus. You most likely excel in the arts.

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## VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

### Veteran suicide prevention grants

Across the country, state and local governments, nonprofits, certain tribes and other community organizations are going to share in a \$112 million grant program for their work in veterans suicide prevention.

The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (also known as SSG Fox SPGP) promotes outreach to identify veterans at risk, clinical services for emergency treatment, case management, baseline screening, education, peer support, help with connecting with benefits and more. Help can also be in the form of temporary income support, legal services, child care, financial counseling and fiduciary help.

And it works: Over 90% of veterans who got these services reported improvements in their mental health and well-being.

The grant organizations will work with local VA medical centers to verify that the individual is a veteran, has some risk factors (such as traumatic brain injury, recent loss, homelessness or history of abuse) and has been assessed as to the degree of risk of suicide.

Veteran suicide stats are, as they always have been, grim to consider. The national suicide report for 2025 says that the number of suicides have decreased (for 2023, the last year numbers were available). Specifically, 2023 had 44 fewer veteran suicides than in 2022. The report calls that an "encouraging" result — even though the number for 2023 was a whopping 6,398 veterans.

In an analysis of the stats, 61% of those veterans were not getting VA health care. The group most affected were veterans ages 18 to 34 with risk factors of homelessness, health problems and pain, with pain being the biggest risk factor.

To learn all the details about the SSG Fox SPGP grant program, see [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/docs/SSG-Fox-SPGP-Program-Guide-508.pdf](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/docs/SSG-Fox-SPGP-Program-Guide-508.pdf).

If you (or a veteran you know) are at risk for suicide, call the VA crisis hotline at 988, then press 1. That's all you need to dial. Or text to 838255. Or go online to chat at [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net). Somebody is there 24/7. It's free and confidential, and you don't have to be enrolled in VA health care or benefits.

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### A pet's end of life: When is it time to let go?

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** A couple of months ago, I had to put my dog "Spacey" to sleep. He fought cancer for several months, but when he could no longer eat or stand up, I decided, after talking to the vet, that it was time. I still feel very guilty about the decision and am second-guessing myself. Would he have passed peacefully at home? Was there anything more I could have done? I just couldn't see him suffer any longer. How do you know when it's time to let go of a pet? — Julie in Gainesville, Florida

**DEAR JULIE:** I'm so sorry about the loss of Spacey. It's clear from your letter that you loved him and didn't want him to suffer.

The thoughts you're having are part of the grieving process. Was there anything more you could have done to heal your dog? I think you know the answer.

The decision on when to say goodbye to a pet is a tough one. You did the right thing by talking with the vet. Together, you assessed his quality of life and determined that your dog was only going to get worse, not better. And you didn't want to see Spacey suffer any longer.

Please, be kind to yourself. You were there for your dog, every day. You cared for him, fed him, got his regular checkups. When Spacey got sick, you worked with the vet to get the best treatment for him. And when he was too weak and in too much pain to go on without great and unnecessary suffering, you held him while he left this world.

The American Veterinary Medical Association offers guidance on dealing with the loss of a pet that I think will be a great help: [www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/coping-loss-pet](http://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/coping-loss-pet).

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

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**EVENTS:** From page 37

**Lands Committee.** April 23 at 9 a.m.

### Pow Wow Listings

**MSUB Pow Wow.** April 10-11 at MSU Billings PE Building in Billings, Mont. MC: Ruben Littlehead. Host Drum: Bad War Cloud. Info: <https://msubillings.edu/powwow>

**NCIPA 32nd Annual Pow Wow and Art Market.** April 10-12 at Northside Aztlan Community Center in Fort Collins, Colo. Emcees: Corky Old Horn, Zach Rockwell. Host Northern Drum: Meskwaki Nation. Host Southern Drum: Bad Medicine. Info: [ncipa.pw@gmail.com](mailto:ncipa.pw@gmail.com)

**5th Annual Pow Wow of Arts and Culture.** April 11 at Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington, Del. MC: Keith Colston. Host Drum: Red Blanket. Info: Iz Balleto (302) 351-8552, [lballeto@delart.org](mailto:lballeto@delart.org)

**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@yahoo.com](mailto:rollingthunder34@yahoo.com), or visit [www.rthunder.com](http://www.rthunder.com)

### Support Groups

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Analenisgi. Info: [www.AAwnc80.com](http://www.AAwnc80.com)

**Celebrate Recovery** meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Baptist Church at 812 Tsalagi Road, in Cherokee, N.C. This is a Christ-centered recovery program

for anyone struggling with hurt, hang-ups, and habits of any kind. All are welcome. Info: Chris McMullan (828) 788-5410

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

**Life@WesternCarolina.** each Wednesday morning during the academic school year the Life@ group meets on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. For those over the age of 50 and looking for ways to engage with the community. To learn more or register visit [life.wcu.edu](http://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 Caro-

lina NA Helpline (855) 227-6272, or [www.NA.org](http://www.NA.org)

### Western N.C. and Beyond Events

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

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

**Greening up the Mountains.** April 25 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in downtown Sylva, N.C. 28779. Greening Up the Mountains Festival, now in its 28th year, is a heritage arts festival that celebrates the arrival of Spring and Earth Day through both traditional and contemporary forms of Appalachian art, music, food, and beverage which honor our community and local artisans. The festival is sponsored by both the Town of

Sylva and the Main Street Sylva Association. The Greening up the Mountains Festival enjoys crowds of upwards of 12,000 attendees and has 150 vendor booth spaces. In addition to a variety of arts, crafts, and food vendors, attendees can enjoy a 5k run, beverage arts featuring local craft breweries, and live music throughout the day. Info: [Greeningupthemountains.com](http://Greeningupthemountains.com)

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

**Forest Bathing Guided Walk.** April 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Mingus Mill Parking Lot in Cherokee, N.C. Join certified guide Debby Singleton for a therapeutic stroll to experience the restorative benefits of the forest. 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](mailto:membership@smokieslife.org)

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

**Kids Take over the Museum.** May 4 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. At

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

**Hummingbird Research Webinar.** May 7 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Discover which plants best bene-

fit 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](mailto:membership@smokieslife.org)

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

**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](mailto:membership@smokieslife.org)

**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](mailto:membership@smokieslife.org)

### Cherokee Community Clubs

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

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

**Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Community** meets the second Monday 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](mailto:joepalmer1013@yahoo.com)

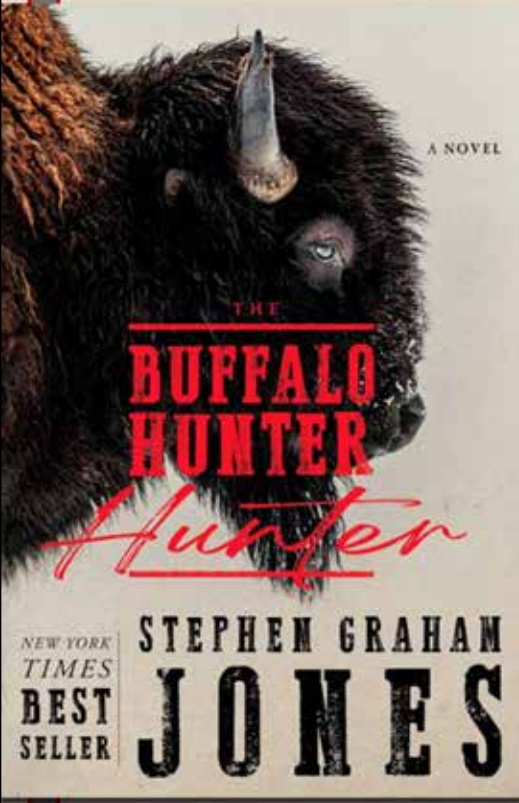
see EVENTS next page

# Qualla

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

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





**“The Buffalo Hunter Hunter”**  
Author Stephen Graham Jones

“The Buffalo Hunter Hunter” is a 2025 novel by Native American author Stephen Graham Jones. This historical novel is set in the emerging days of the state of Montana, following a Blackfeet Indian named Good Stab as he haunts the fields of the Blackfeet Nation looking for justice.

The story begins when a diary written in 1912 is discovered within a wall in 2012. What is revealed is the slow massacre of a nearly forgotten series of events depicting 217 Blackfeet dead in the snow. Good Stab, who shares the narrative of his unusual and abnormally long life over a series of confessional visits, voices these events. This is a Native American revenge story, captured in the vivid voices of the time.

Book reviews state that the novel is a slow burn which ultimately pivots upon the Marias Massacre, a historical atrocity in which the United States Army murdered Native Americans. This book is a bloody reckoning with some of America's most shameful history, and it has not only chronicled Blackfeet culture but also spoken against the flawed rendering of the Native American experience.

-NPR

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

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

**Toledvyi (Tow String) Community** meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community building at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Jacob Long (828) 736-9128, jacob-long19982@gmail.com

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

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

**Cherokee Houses of Worship**

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

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

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

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

**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. Wednes-



**Moments in time**

• On April 20, 1871, Congress passed the Third Enforcement Act, aka the Ku Klux Klan Act, which authorized President Ulysses S. Grant to declare martial law, impose heavy penalties and use military force to suppress terrorist organizations, in particular the Ku Klux Klan.

• On April 21, 1794, Josephine de Beauharnais, the future Empress of France and first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, was imprisoned during the Reign of Terror. Released five days after the beheading of her then husband Alexandre de Beauharnais, her marriage to Napoleon ended in divorce after she failed to provide him an heir, but he continued to provide for her, declared her "Empress for life" and allowed her to retain the title of Empress Josephine.

• On April 22, 1915, German forces fired more than 150 tons of lethal chlorine gas at two French colonial divisions in Ypres, Belgium. It was the first major such attack by the Germans and devastated the Allied line.

• On April 23, 1961, Judy Garland delivered a Carnegie Hall performance that was greeted by a standing ovation before she even began to sing and was interrupted throughout by additional ovations. That performance has often been lauded as "the greatest night in showbiz history."

• On April 24, 1953, Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. He retired as prime minister two years later but remained in Parliament until 1964, the year before his death.

• On April 25, 1989, James Richardson was released from a Florida prison 21 years after being wrongfully convicted of murdering his seven children. Special prosecutor Janet Reno had agreed to the release after evidence showed his conviction resulted from misconduct by the prosecutor. His neighbor, Betsy Reese, confessed to the crime.

• On April 26, 2012, former Liberian president Charles Taylor was found guilty of abetting horrific war crimes, including rape and mutilation, in Sierra Leone. His conviction was the first for war crimes by a former head of state in an international court since the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders after World War II.

**BIBLE TRIVIA**  
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. To keep Adam and Eve away after the Fall, what did God place around the Tree of Life? *Smoking pits, Deep moat, Cherubim with flaming swords, Walking vipers*
3. In 2 Samuel 12, God gave Solomon what additional name? *David, Amon, Jedidiah, Joab*
4. What type of water did Jesus offer the Samaritan woman at the well? *Fresh, Cool, Living, Clean*
5. From John 10, to what type of animals are Christians compared? *Camels, Sheep, Lions, Serpents*
6. Which of these was a type of food? *Yoke, Manna, Prodigal, Mina*

ANSWERS: (1) New, (2) Cherubim with flaming swords, (3) Jedidiah, (4) Living, (5) Sheep, (6) Manna  
"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

Cyclamen are most popular as houseplants, although there are landscaping types. They bloom only in the cooler months; warm temperatures cause them to go into dormancy. Their blossoms come in showy colors like pink, purple, red and white, on delicate stems. When their striking heart-shaped green leaves are present, the plant is actively growing. During this period, water whenever the soil feels dry. Avoid getting water on the leaves or crown of the plant, which can cause it to rot.

**Cyclamen**  
- Brenda Weaver  
Source: www.thespruce.com

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day Night Service 7 p.m. Pastor Roberta French 497-6918

**Bigwitch Baptist Church.**

2290 Bigwitch Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday service 6 p.m. Pastor James "Jimbo" Sneed. All are 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@](mailto:embassymediagroup@)

see EVENTS next page

**MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF**



**LAKOTA GRINDSTAFF**

*Public Relations Specialist*

Education: B.S.B.A in Marketing from Elon University and MBA in International Business from Appalachian State University  
Years at CIHA: 1.5  
Community/Hometown: Yellowhill

"I first started working at CIHA as an intern and now have a full-time position here. It is an honor to work at CIHA and, in my position, to be able to give back to my community and help spread the word about the resources that CIHA provides. The relationships I have built here both within CIHA and with our community partners mean so much to me. The environment at CIHA is truly like family to me, and I am so grateful to work in a hospital where the staff genuinely care about patients from the heart."-Lakota Grindstaff

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



**Are you interested in supporting EBCI's homebound elders?**

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

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

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

**QUESTIONS Call (828) 400-4281.**

**EVENTS:** From page 41

gmail.com

**Goose Creek Baptist Church.**

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

**Grace Bible Church.** 344 Whittier School Rd., Whittier, N.C.

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

**Grace Community Church of**

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

**Grace Fellowship Church.**

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

**Jesus is the Light Full Gospel Ministries.**

1921 US 441 N. Sunday service 10 a.m. Thursday service 7 p.m. Pastor Margie Hall 736-9383

**Living Waters Lutheran Church.**

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

**Macedonia Baptist Church.**

1181 Wolfstown Rd. Sunday School

10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6pm, Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6pm. Pastor Bro. Dan Conseen, 497-1611, 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

**Shoal Creek Baptist Church.**

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

**Tsalagi NATURE**

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



There are many different species of **native phlox** in our area, each with its own characteristics. These plants can vary in size, ranging from just 3 inches tall to as much as 5 feet in height. Phlox begins blooming in early spring, with different species continuing to flower into summer. Their blooms are typically shades of purple, white, or pink, adding color to open fields and forest floors in early spring. These flowers are an important source of food for pollinators, especially hummingbirds and butterflies, making them both beautiful and ecologically valuable.

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

**Straight Fork Baptist Church.** Big Cove Loop. Sunday school 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship 11 a.m. Sunday evening worship

6 p.m. Wednesday night prayer service 7 p.m. Youth group meetings also. Interim Pastor – Harley Maney Jr.

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

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

er, N.C. 28789. Sunday worship service 10 a.m. Rev. Beverly Parker-Reece

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

**Wrights Creek Baptist Church.** Wrights Creek Rd. Sunday School

10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 p.m. Visitors welcome. Pastor David Birch

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



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
**CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD**  
 Email: [info@ebci-ccb.org](mailto:info@ebci-ccb.org) Phone: 828-229-8650



Great Smoky Mountains HERITAGE CENTER VISIT TOWNSEND TENNESSEE

THE 5TH ANNUAL GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS FIBER FAIR

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS FIBER FAIR RETURNS TO THE THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS HERITAGE CENTER IN TOWNSEND, TENNESSEE!

Join us for two days of family-friendly fun celebrating the traditional skills and craftsmanship of the Great Smoky Mountains. Enjoy hands-on classes with skilled fiber artists, watch live demonstrations, and enjoy food, music, and local vendors. Meet llamas, sheep, and other fiber-producing animals, and see how their fleece becomes clothing, art, and handmade goods.

EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING THAT TRADITIONAL FIBER ARTS HAVE TO OFFER IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS.

- HANDS-ON FIBER ART CLASSES
- OVER 30 FIBER ART VENDORS
- LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATIONS
- FOOD, DRINK & LIVE ANIMALS

Whether you're new to fiber arts or an experienced creator, the 5th Annual Great Smoky Mountains Fiber Fair has something for everyone.

Call Today: 865-448-0044

123 Cromwell Drive | Townsend, TN

**EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS**  
 Show Up for Your Health

Need to cancel your appointment?

Please call your Primary Care Team 24 hours in advance.

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

CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

# SHINE A *Light* ON CHILD ABUSE



Raise  
awareness  
& promote  
prevention.



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

**oWh**

KA-WO-NI APRIL

**CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH**

## PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION



Teachers. Nurses.  
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North Carolina.

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WESTERN**

**Western  
Carolina  
UNIVERSITY**



# Thinking About Building A Home?

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

## **BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER**

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

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**CLASSIFIEDS**

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

**LEGAL NOTICES**

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 fudicary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred

from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fudicary(s) listed below.  
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION  
Adele Jacobs Madden  
379 Castlewood Lane  
Sylva, NC 28779  
**4/8**

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. 26-011  
**Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:**  
**LEONARD E. LOSSIAH**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit them to the fudicary(s) listed on or

before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fudicary(s) listed below.  
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION  
John Edward Saloli Lossiah  
P.O Box 12  
Cherokee, NC 28719  
**4/22**

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. 26-020  
**Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:**  
**JAMES BARNES**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against this estate are notified to exhibit

them to the fudicary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fudicary(s) listed below.  
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION  
Jordan Price  
P.O Box 2383  
Cherokee, NC 28719  
**4/15**

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. 22-100  
**Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:**  
**LAWRENCE “EDDY” HILL**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against




## Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist  
Nail Tech  
Lead Massage Therapist  
Spa Attendants

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



## Cherokee Boys Club Job Announcements

**Agelink**  
2 Agelink Teachers—\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits

**Snowbird**  
1 Snowbird Teacher—\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits

**Construction & Facilities**  
1 Skilled Carpenter—\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits  
1 Carpenter Helper - \$18,020-\$23,850 per year with benefits

**Children's Home**  
2 Residential Counselor—Full Time—\$17.00 per hour with benefits  
2 Residential Counselor—Part Time—\$17.00 per hour w/out benefits

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

**Bus & Truck Department**  
Seasonal Bus Drivers  
Truck Drivers

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Boys Club  
P.O. Box 507,  
Cherokee, NC, 28719  
828-497-9101

**\*SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS\***

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

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

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**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against

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

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

James Sneed  
P.O Box 773  
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**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against

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

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

Scott Lambert  
88 Koga Cove  
Cherokee, NC 28719

5/6

**BIDS, RFPs, etc.**

**Request for Proposals**

2026 Cherokee Indian Fair Sound, Light Production, Stage and Entertainment

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians/Destination Marketing is seeking a company to provide quality sound, lighting, a SL320 stage package, headliner, and entertainment for all productions during the Cherokee Indian Fair from October 5, 2026, through October 10, 2026. This RFP covers the requirements from a qualified contractor to provide sound, lighting, production, an SL320 stage package, secure a headliner, and entertainment for the 2026 Cherokee Indian Fair. Proposal Submission Deadline is 4pm EST., April 17, 2026

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

Email: [lisafrad@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:lisafrad@ebci-nsn.gov)  
4/15

**NOTICE**

The EBCI Cannabis Control

Board is proposing the amendment of administrative rules pursuant to Cherokee Code 17-18, 17A-3, and 150-4. These amendments to Titles 17 and 17A of the Cherokee Administrative Regulations are needed to address processes of batch testing, non-cannabis psychotropic items, update terms, language, and make other necessary modifications. Written comments may be mailed to the EBCI CCB at Attn: EBCI CCB, P.O. Box 549, Cherokee NC 28719 or emailed to [info@ebci-ccb.org](mailto:info@ebci-ccb.org). The period for public comment is 30 days from the publication of this notice. 4/8



**Request for Proposals  
Scope of Work/Deliverables**

This RFP is for the design and make of: 4 Crowns: Miss Cherokee, Teen Miss Cherokee, Jr. Miss Cherokee, and Little Miss Cherokee.

**2026 Teen, Jr. Miss, and Little Miss Crown Specifics**

Teen Miss 7", Junior Miss 5" and Little Miss 3" high, EBCI seal in center (seal must have all wording)

- Use any colors/design for personal touch
- Must present design and type of beads that will be used on the crown to the Board. Bid will not be accepted without presentation of

see TRADING POST next page

**Cherokee Central Schools  
Job Openings**

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

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

- 6-12 Performing Arts Teacher**
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher Assistant**
- 7-8 Math Teacher**
- Elementary Teacher(s)**
- Elementary School Nurse (RN or LPN)**
- K-5 Special Education Teacher Assistant**
- K-5 Special Education Teacher (Self-Contained Classroom)**
- K-5 Teacher Assistant**
- K-5 School Counselor**
- K-5 Cherokee Language Instructor/Teacher**
- K-5 Mental Health Classroom Teacher Assistant (GRANT FUNDED)**
- Administrative Assistant-Security/Facilities Custodian (Full-Time, Evening Shift)**

TRADING POST: From page 47

design.

**2026 Miss Cherokee Crown**

9" high, EBCI seal in center (seal must have all wording)

- Use any colors/design for personal touch
- Must present design and type of beads that will be used on the crown to the Board. Bid will not be accepted without presentation of design.

All submissions and questions must be sent to the EBCI Pageant Board at [ebci.pageant.board@gmail.com](mailto:ebci.pageant.board@gmail.com) or call Mollie Grant at 828- 736-2258. Deadline: No later than April 20, 2026. **4/15**

**Public Notice to Acquire Land into Trust – BIA Regional Director Decisions**

**ACTION:** Notice of decision to acquire land into trust under 25 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 151.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, on the below date, has made a determination to acquire real property in trust for EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS.

The land referred to as former GOOSE CREEK - STAMPER PROPERTY, herein and is

described as: See "Exhibit A" for legal descriptions.(SEE BELOW)

**DATE:** This determination was made on 03/18/2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** BIA EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 545 MARRIOTT DRIVE, SUITE 700, NASHVILLE, TN 37214, telephone (615) 827-5273.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published to comply with the requirement of 25 CFR § 151.12(d)(2)(iii) that notice be given of the decision by the authorized representative of the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land in trust. A copy of the determination is available [at the following website: n/a AND/OR from the office identified in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION section of this notice]. Any party who wishes to seek judicial review of the Regional Director's decision must first exhaust administrative remedies. The Regional Director's decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) in accordance with the regulations in 43 C.F.R. 4.310-4.340.

If you choose to appeal this decision, your notice of appeal to the IBIA must be signed by you or your attorney and must be either postmarked and mailed (if you

use mail) or delivered (if you use another means of physical delivery, such as FedEx or UPS) to the IBIA within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The regulations do not authorize filings by facsimile/fax or by electronic means. Your notice of appeal should clearly identify the decision being appealed. You must send your original notice of appeal to the IBIA at the following address: Interior Board of Indian Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22203. You must send copies of your notice of appeal to (1) the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, MS-4141-MIB, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; (2) each interested party known to you; and (3) the Regional Director. Your notice of appeal sent to the IBIA must include a statement certifying that you have sent copies to these officials and interested parties and should identify them by names or titles and addresses.

If you file a notice of appeal, the IBIA will notify you of further procedures. If no appeal is timely filed, this decision will become final for the Department of the Interior at the expiration of the appeal period. No extension of time may be granted for filing a notice of appeal.

**EXHIBIT A:**

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians To The United States of America in Trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Metes and Bounds Land Description

BEING AND COMPREHENDING a tract of land containing 5.75 acres, more or less, in the Charleston Township, Swain County as

shown on a map or plat of a survey prepared by Aaron J. McNeill Land Surveying, Aaron J. McNeill, PLS, dated August 30, 2022, entitled "Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Charleston Township, Swain County, North Carolina," recorded in Plat Cabinet 4, Slide 3991, Swain County Registry, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a nail set in the center line of Goose Creek Road (NCSR 1362) being the southeastern corner of the 5.75 +/- acres tract of land being a point in the line of Gaynelle Estes (now or formerly DB 168/517) and said nail being located S 14°32'54" E passing an iron rod found at 467.37 feet, for a total distance of 508.21 feet from an IPF in the northeast corner of said tract; thence with the centerline of the road, the following courses and distances:

- S 84°25'48" W a distance of 42.98 feet to a point;
- S77°03'10" W a distance of 57.24 feet to a point;
- S 71°12'21" W a distance of 45.36 feet to a point;
- S 58°20'15" W a distance of 42.23 feet to a point;
- S 38°48'42" W a distance of 43.83 feet to a point; S 32°29'18" W a distance of 43.29 feet to a point in the line of Martha Wiggins (now or formerly DB 335/597);
- S 44°14'44" W a distance of 40.24 feet to a point;
- S 64°25'26" W a distance of 47.23 feet to a point;
- S 88°29'39" W a distance of 50.49 feet to a point;
- N 75°54'52" W a distance of 34.64 feet to a point;
- N 75°51'03" W a distance of 21.81 feet to a point;
- N 89°01'30" W a distance of 39.80 feet to a point;

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**Open Positions**

- Cashier
- Steward (Part Time)
- Plant Health Technician (Indoor)
- Receiving Clerk

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# OPEN POSITIONS

## New Positions

Patient Access Specialist – Part Time with Benefits  
Billing Analyst II  
RN Wound Care – Tsali Care Center  
Physician and IM Rural Track Director

## Behavioral Health

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

## Complementary Medicine

Acupuncturist  
Massage Therapist

## Dental

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

## Eye Clinic

Optometrist  
Optometric Assistant

## Finance

Accountant I – LTC Financial Support – Tsali Care Center

## Medical

Physician - Pediatrics  
Psychiatrist  
Hospitalist

## Nursing

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

## Nutrition

Clinical Dietician

## Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner

## Summer Internships

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

## 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

## Tribal Option

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

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Located in the Employment Office  
on the second floor.

April 9, 10am-3pm  
April 23, 1pm-5pm



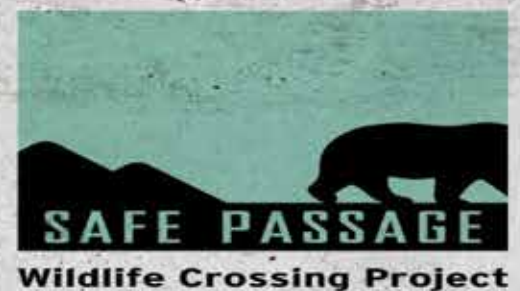
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**CHEROKEE**  
CASINO RESORT

Some positions require the hiring process. Harrah's is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid photo ID. Must be 21 or older to enter casino floor and to gamble. Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort will accept no smoking. Please call 1-800-GAMBLER. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. © 2020, Harrah's Cherokee Casino, LLC.



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# Job Opportunities



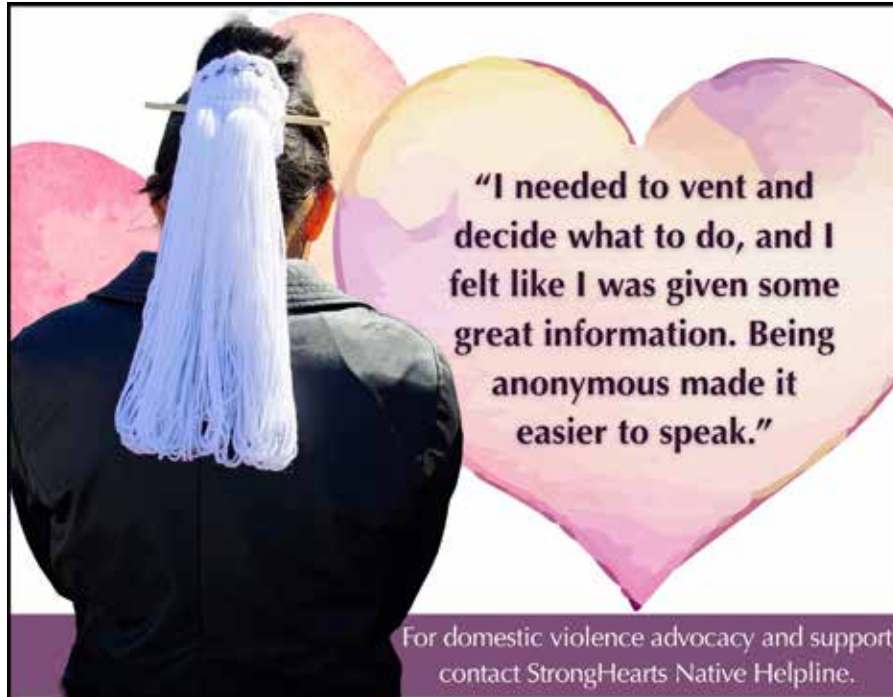
Closing Sunday, April 12, 2026

1. Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
2. Air Quality Specialist – Environmental & Natural Resources – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)
3. Laborer – CDOT – Operations (L7 \$16.61 - \$20.77 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
4. Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant – Tribal Historic Preservation Office – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
5. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer – Tribal Historic Preservation Office – Operations (L16 \$68,827 - \$86,050)
6. Receptionist – Transit – Operations (L5 \$15.00 - \$20.28 per hour)
7. Driver (Monday – Friday, 3pm - 12am) – Transit – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
8. WWT Operator – Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
9. Water & Sewer Protection Inspector – Water & Sewer – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)
10. Fire Captain – Fire Department – Operations (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
11. Fire Lieutenant – Fire Department – Operations (L13 \$24.36 - \$30.46 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
12. Truck Driver/Crew Leader – Solid Waste – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
13. Lead Maintenance Technician – Housing Program – Housing (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
14. Office Administrator – Housing Program – Housing (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
15. Grants Analyst – Budget & Finance – Treasury (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)

### Open Until Filled

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

EBCI Human Resources Mon- Fri 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
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**Saturday, April 25, 2026**  
 10am - 4pm. - Sylva, NC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Free Admission</b></li> <li> <b>9am 5K Run/Walk</b></li> <li> <b>Arts and Crafts Vendors</b></li> <li> <b>Food and Drink Vendors</b></li> <li> <b>Fun for the Entire Family</b></li> <li> <b>Sylva's largest Street Festival</b></li> <li> <b>Shop, Dine, Play, Stay in Sylva</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE</b> BRIDGE PARK STAGE</p> <p><b>10:00AM JUNIOR APPALACHIAN MUSICIANS</b></p> <p><b>11:30AM BIRD IN HAND</b></p> <p><b>1:00PM FUZZY PEPPERS</b></p> <p><b>2:50 PM PMA</b></p>
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## EBCI Public Health Vending Machine Initiative locations



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

# THE GOOD STUFF



### NAYO Champions

The Anitsgili team, representing the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, won the 12-14 girls division at the NAYO Basketball Tournament hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on April 2-4. The team is shown, left to right, front row - Natalie Swimmer, Walela Hernandez, Kaylahni Williams, Taytem Saunooke, Maya Lossiah; back row - Kennedy Moore, Trinnity Jackson, Makeena Armachain, Ariel Crowe, Adalynn Taylor, and Ehko Lossiah. Not pictured: Lolo Bell and coaches Whitney Rogers, Lori Taylor, and Shannon Bark. (Photo courtesy of Shannon Bark)



### Pretty

Following a heavy rainfall, this kamama (butterfly) was spotted on an azalea bush in Aniwodihi (Painttown) in Cherokee, N.C. on the afternoon of Saturday, April 4. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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