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Cherokee One Feather website

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
anasgvti (may)
13-19, 2026

“Champion Your Health”

EBCI holds 22nd Annual Elder’s Walk event

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – According to the Tribal Enrollment Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, there are 2,740 tribal elders (59 1/2 years or older). In recognition of Older Americans Month and to celebrate EBCI tribal elders, the 22nd Annual Elder’s Walk event was held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Friday, May 8. The event was

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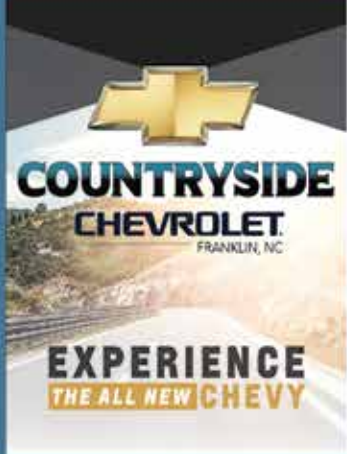


Tribal elders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Robert Jumper, left, and Louise Brown, center, carry the banner in the 22nd Annual Elder’s Walk in Cherokee, N.C. on Friday, May 8. Jumper, Cherokee One Feather editor; and Brown, a Cherokee first language speaker and teacher; are shown with Austin Brown, EBCI Snowbird/Cherokee County Services director. At left, behind the sign, is Loretta Bolden, EBCI tribal elder. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)



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\$22,070 Stock# P805



2021 Nissan Rogue SV Intelligent AWD
\$22,898 Stock# T02709A



2024 Subaru Forester Wilderbess
\$31,590 Stock# T02664A



2024 Toyota Tundra SR5
\$44,995 Stock# T02589A



2021 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 RST
\$30,589 Stock# T02446A



2025 Nissan Rogue SV
\$22,293 Stock# P807



2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 RST
\$41,841 Stock# P792



2019 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid XSE
\$30,651 Stock# P810



2025 Cadillac Escalade Premium Luxury
\$99,305 Stock# P796A



2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss
\$52,377 Stock# T02679A



2022 Honda HR-V AWD EX
\$20,867 Stock# P802A



2022 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT
\$38,844 Stock# P793



Image of the Week:

William Harris, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is shown enjoying the 22nd Annual Elder's Walk, in recognition of Older Americans Month, at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Friday, May 8. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Quote of the Week

“Every day should be elder’s day. Our elders, literally, are the pillars we’re all built on”

State Rep. Anna Ferguson (R-District 119), right, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who serves in the N.C. House of Representatives, speaking at the 22nd Annual Elder's Walk in Cherokee, N.C. on Friday, May 8 - she is shown with Alitama Perkins, an EBCI tribal member

Letters Policy

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

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

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

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

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ELDERS: From front page

sponsored by the EBCI Senior Citizens Center.

The theme of this year's event was "Champion Your Health" in alignment with the nationwide celebration of Older Americans Month as set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living. Information from the ACL states, "The 2026 theme, "Champion Your Health, focuses on prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It encourages taking an active role in managing your own health, advocating for yourself, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence."

Several programs of the EBCI set up informational booths during the event which also included a lunch for the elders.

"This year's theme is 'Champion Your Health'," said Austin Brown, EBCI director of Snowbird and Cherokee County Services. "It emphasizes taking an active role in wellness, advocating for yourself, accessing preventative care, and managing health to support long-term independence and personal responsibility."

He added, "I want to thank everyone for coming out and participating this year - our vendors, our volunteers, our elders."

Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks commented, "Our



Shown, left to right, are EBCI Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks; State Rep. Anna Ferguson (R-District 119), an EBCI tribal member who serves in the N.C. House of Representatives; and EBCI First Lady Marsha Hicks.

elders have given so much to our people, and taking time to celebrate and honor them is something our community should always value. It was encouraging to see so many people come together this morning in support of our elders and to recognize the importance of healthy living at every stage of life.

Thank you to the EBCI Senior Citizens Center for coordinating today's event, and to all of the vendors and organizations who came out to support our elders."

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep.

Shennelle Feather commented, "I'm just so happy to be able to spend some time with you all. I've been able to chit-chat with a few of you. And, I just want to thank you for all the things that you do in our community and the stories that you share. I think that's super important. I just really value the time that I get to spend with you all."

Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill said, "I am very honored to be here with you all. I enjoyed this lovely walk we had today. It was just the right amount. Perfect weather, for sure...it is really nice

to be here together, to talk."

State Rep. Anna Ferguson (R-District 119), an EBCI tribal member who serves in the N.C. House of Representatives, said, "Every day should be elder's day. Our elders, literally, are the pillars we're all built on...everything we achieve and everything we do is built on the foundation our elders built for us. So, every day is elder's day and you all need to be celebrated every day."



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

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



CHEROKEE INDIAN HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ENRICHMENT CENTER

PREFERRED PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT:



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.

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 through a whole-person approach to care. While they do offer Respite services, their broader approach focuses on whole-person wellness.

HOW ABOUT HEALTH SUPPORTS FAMILIES & CAREGIVERS

RESPITE

Provides caregivers with a short-term break, either in the home or in the community. The focus is on carefully matching staff to the individual's personality, needs, and interests to ensure meaningful, supportive engagement.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (SE)

Helps individuals find and maintain meaningful employment aligned with their interests and strengths. In addition to traditional employment supports, we offer opportunities for microenterprise development, empowering individuals to build sustainable, personalized career paths.

Example: Job coaching, skill development, and on-site support to build confidence, independence, and pride.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS, TOO

We understand the trust it takes to care for a loved one. Abound Health listens to families, honors your knowledge, and works alongside you to support your loved one's growth and well-being. Ask about Natural Supports Education!

HOST HOMES / ALTERNATIVE FAMILY LIVING (AFL)

A family-like home where a person lives with a carefully matched host family.

Example: A supportive home where daily care, routines, and relationships help the person feel safe, valued, and included.

COMMUNITY LIVING AND SUPPORT

Assists individuals with daily living tasks so they can continue to live successfully at home and in their community.

Example: Cooking, cleaning, budgeting, personal care, and developing independence skills.

SPECIALIZED CONSULTATIVE SERVICES (SCS)

Provides expert, clinically driven guidance to support individuals with unique needs. The SCS team currently includes:

- Physical Therapy (PT)
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Recreation Therapy
- Positive Behavior Support (PBS)
- Speech-Language Pathology (SLP)
- Psychological Evaluations (coming soon)

These services focus on skill-building, behavior support, and individualized strategies that enhance quality of life for both individuals and caregivers.

Abound Health is actively seeking qualified SCS professionals in the local area who may be interested in providing in-person services in partnership with Abound Health's established and expanding SCS team. This allows them to continue growing access to high-quality, specialized supports within the community.

ABOUND'S MISSION

To provide tools and support that enhance the lives of individuals and the people who care for them.

ABOUND'S VISION

To empower individuals to reach their fullest potential—while honoring their heritage, strengths, and community ties.

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

Resolution for EBCI to support Ela Dam removal advocacy passes

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The Elohi Dinigatiyi (Earth Keepers) and the North American Indian Women's Association (NAIWA) Daughters submitted a resolution that was passed unanimously on the afternoon of May 7 by Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) to "support the removal of Ela dam and the restoration of Longperson."

The resolution is part of an ongoing conservation effort by Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

(EBCI) Natural Resources and several other conservation groups to remove Ela Dam and restore the natural flow of the Oconaluftee River. A conservation group called American Rivers detailed the effort on their website, stating that following a resolution submitted by EBCI member Joey Owle and approved by Dinilawigi in June 2024, a coalition of partners including EBCI Natural Resources formed to advocate for removal of the dam. One such partner, Main-spring Conservation Trust, entered into an Asset Purchase Option and Sale Agreement to acquire Ela Dam from Northbrook Carolina Hydro for removal.

Former One Feather intern Mattilyn Sneed detailed Owle's resolution in a June 2024 article and explained the history of the

dam, stating, "The Ela Dam was constructed in 1925 and is the only obstruction in the 18 miles of the Oconaluftee River. It has changed hands several times over the years, with Northbrook Carolina Hydro purchasing the dam in 2019. On Oct. 3, 2021, a gate system software malfunction resulted in an accidental sediment dump that smothered the streambed below in 18-24 inches of sediment. This had serious effects on the health of the section of river downstream of the dam."

In the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, Aniwodih (Painttown) Rep. Mike Stamper asked about the current funding needs to remove the dam.

EBCI Forest Resources Specialist and member of the EBCI Tommy Cabe said the project is still lacking about \$50 million.

Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks commented, "I appreciate all the efforts and the work that's being done here, and historically, too. This issue has been for quite a bit, and in regard to a funding request, if there is going to be that request, we would need to know that pretty quick, and it looks like it may be a significant amount, but my question is, what is the role of Duke Power here? How much have they stepped up to the table? They created this scenario and have benefited from this scenario, but what is their recent input and assistance with this project? I think that's very important to know."

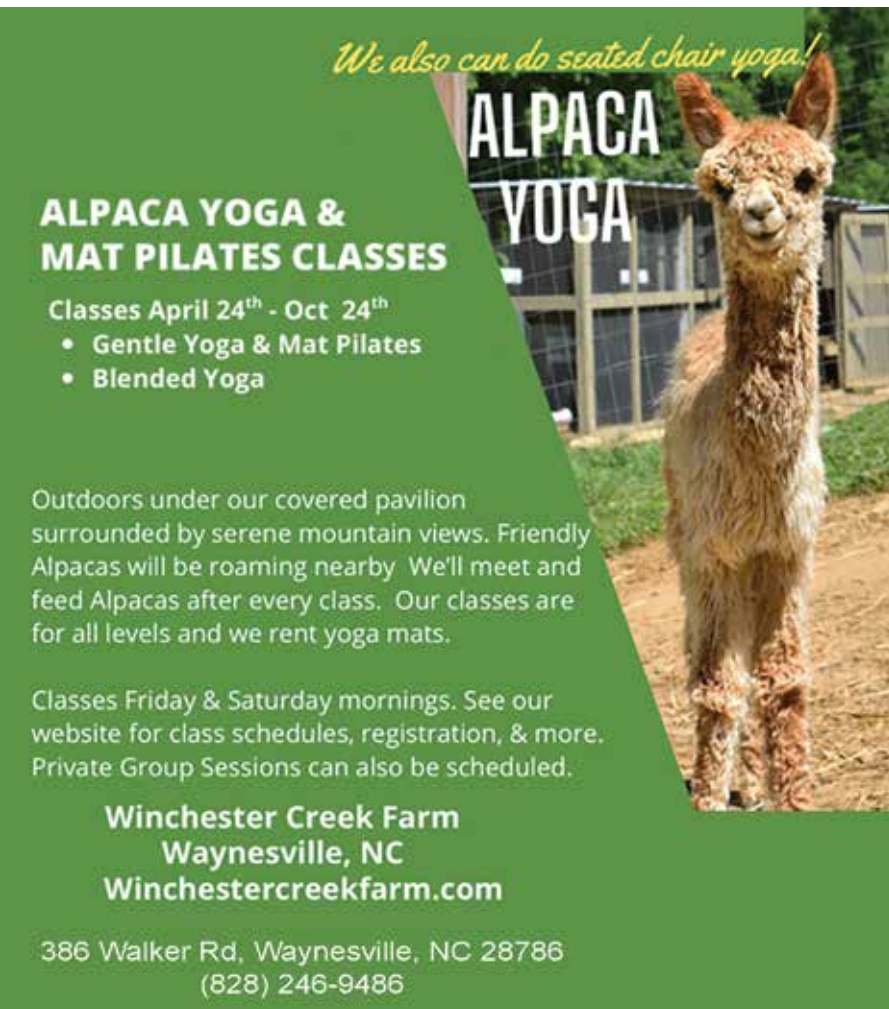
Cabe responded, "One of the things we can do is to bring [Duke Power] to the table. But I do think some of these requests to bring certain entities to the table will come from a higher request like out of [Ugwiyuhi] office to have this meeting to get an understand-

ing of what their role would be and what their contribution may be in this process. With passing this resolution, it puts us into the next phase of what the next layer would look like, and we will work with our collaborators and come up with a plan and present that."

Elohi Dinigatiyi and EBCI member Mary Thompson added, "We need the help and the assistance of our elected leaders to get to some of these other programs, like Duke Power, that we haven't been able to bring to the table. We've done everything we can from our end, from this side. There has been a lot of fundraising through the partnerships, but with the support of this leadership, we can reach out further and we can bring in additional partners and additional funding. Why we didn't put specific numbers in here, we didn't come here asking you to fund 50 million dollars. We come in here asking you for your support and your help."

EBCI member and founder of NAIWA Daughters Jasmine Smith said, "The water is calling for our support and it's our job to be vessels for that call. Every choice we make today is the future we will inherit as EBCI youth. We will be sitting in these seats in the future, and I really just want to emphasize that this is a way where we can shape the narrative our tribe has. We can build those partnerships and relationships, and we can reconnect with culture and reconnect with our aquatic relatives, the Eastern Hellbender and the Sick-lefin Redhorse Fish who have been separated for over 100 years."

Dinilawigi passed the resolution 11-0 with Tutiyi/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee Co.) Rep. Michael Smoker being absent.



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Kituwah, LLC. provides community impact update at Reports to Council session

By BROOKLYN BROWN
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the morning of Wednesday, May 6, Luke Swimmer, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and vice president of marketing and communications for Kituwah, LLC. provided a community impact update at the Reports to Council session for Dinilawigi (Tribal Council).

Swimmer shared that the company selected their first cohort for the Authentic Brands Group (ABG) externship taking place in New York City from May 31 to June 5. The cohort consists of five Cherokee High School students including: Kimo Sokol, Thomas Levi Trampler, John Gloyne, Denver Porterfield, and Kailyana Hornbuckle Standingwater.

Swimmer said himself and Kituwah, LLC. Administrative Specialist Lacey Arch headed up the externship in collaboration with ABG and EBCI Higher Education. Higher Education has provided two chaperones to accompany the students on the externship. Swimmer also shared that the Cherokee Cinemas bathrooms renovations are complete.

Swimmer added that Kituwah,

LLC. has begun monthly volunteer work in the community, most recently assisting with Tsali Manor's Ramp Patch Day. They will be attending the Elder's Walk this Friday, May 8. Swimmer said that if any tribal program has a volunteer opportunity to contact him. Swimmer shared that modules were set for the new Kituwah, LLC. office building.

Swimmer said the company is planning a Community Day scheduled for July 25, details to be announced.



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. On Jan. 22, 1987, how many fans braved a blizzard and became part of an elite club by attending a New Jersey Devils' NHL game?
2. Name the actor who played baseball legend Ty Cobb in director Ron Shelton's 1994 sports biography film "Cobb."
3. What two NFL teams merged for the 1944 season due to a shortage of players during World War II?
4. Anton Geesink became the first non-Japanese judoka to win a gold medal at the World Judo Championships (1961) and won gold at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Geesink represented what country?
5. Name the Brazilian tennis player who won French Open men's singles titles in 1997, 2000 and 2001.
6. Which Cincinnati Reds player won the Tip O'Neill Award for best Canadian baseball player seven times from 2010 to 2017?
7. What South Asian island nation's men's cricket team, nicknamed the Lions, won the 1996 ICC Cricket World Cup?

Answers

1. 334.
2. Tommy Lee Jones.
3. The Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Cardinals.
4. Netherlands.
5. Gustavo Kuerten.
6. Joey Votto.
7. Sri Lanka.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- "Octlantis" is an underwater city off the coast of Australia where octopuses have built homes and formed communities.

- Skin cancer is the world's most common cancer.

- When a 1994 power outage in Los Angeles knocked out city lights, many residents were able to see the Milky Way for the first time and were so confused by the sight that they called 911.

- Theophilus Van Kannel was inspired to invent the revolving door because he disliked opening doors for women.

- Cocoa powder was once used as a makeup foundation.

- Prior to 1949, the grass on tennis courts was kept at 2 inches long, until a player was bitten by a snake. Now it's a safer 5/16 of an inch.

- The tension of the 230-odd strings on a grand piano exerts a combined force of 20 tons on the instrument's cast-iron frame.

- Chickpeas and almonds contain nearly as much protein as steak.

- Hiroshima and Nagasaki are no longer radioactive, largely because the bombs that struck them never touched the ground but detonated in the air.

- Steven Blumberg stole 23,000 rare books from 268 libraries across the U.S., at a value of \$5.3 million, earning him the nickname "Book Bandit" and the distinctive title of America's most successful book thief.

- According to French heritage law, the "Mona Lisa" belongs to the public.

- Ice cream was invented in 7th-century China when King Tang commissioned a group of "ice men" to create a cold dessert from buffalo milk, flour and camphor.

- People belonging to a specific clique in high school, such as "athlete," "cheerleader," "geek" or "teacher's pet," were more likely to be in an office clique.

Thought for the Day: "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." — *Albert Einstein*

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EBCI legislative updates

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

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

New Ordinances

Ord. No. 184 (2026). This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Section 19-15 (Caging of Animals) and Section 19-16 (Black bears).

The whereas section of this legislation states, “Caring for and living with and among our native bears has a long and storied tradition; and the bears were the first to meet in council in their townhouse under Kuwohi, the mulberry place; and the bears are transformed Cherokee of the old clan of the Ani-Tsaguhi, and their chief is White Bear, who lives at Kuwohi near the enchanted lake of Atagahi, to which the wounded bears would go to be cured of their hurts.”

It continues, “Caging these highly intelligent animals, who are so important to our tribal people through history, in sad concrete pens, is a relic of the past and needs to be remedied; and the

practice of caging these bears has been a blight on our tribe, making this action necessary today.”

This ordinance seeks to add subsection (c) to Sec. 19-15 to read, “Any person or business within the territorial jurisdiction of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who shall cage or hold in captivity any bear for the purpose of exhibiting the bear to the public shall be guilty of a crime punishable by imprisonment of up to one year or a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or both.”

This ordinance also seeks to remove all of Sec. 19-16 and replace with the following language, “Henceforth, no bear shall be caged or held in captivity for the purpose of exhibiting the bear to the public by any person or business within the territorial jurisdiction of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Violation of this section is a crime punishable pursuant to Section 19-15(c). Any such bear previously held in captivity under this prior Section 19-16(1) through (7) shall be safely and humanely transferred to an animal sanctuary off the territorial lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Cherokee Animal Control Department shall work with any previous bear owners to supervise and coordinate such safe and humane transfer, which shall occur within 30 days of the ratification of this Ordinance by the Principal Chief.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Mary Crowe, an elder of the EBCI from Elawodi (Yellowhill), was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

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

Ord. No. 185 (2026). This ordinance seeks “to amend and expand drug trafficking to include synthetic opioids and opium”.

The whereas section states, “Changes in the chemical compounds and nature of certain controlled substances have necessitated a change in the language of the Cherokee Code; and specifically, the term ‘opiate’ is defined as ‘any substance...similar to morphine’; and fentanyl is a synthetic compound which falls into the separate defined category of ‘opioids’.”

The ordinance specifically seeks to amend Cherokee Code Sec. 14-95.9(a)(v) adding the terms “Opioids” and “Opium” to the list of controlled substances regarding the crime of drug trafficking.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by the EBCI Office of the Attorney General, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

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

Ord. No. 186 (2026). This ordinance seeks “to clarify and correct the Cherokee Code to reflect the intent of Tribal Council concerning the use of UTVs on approved roads”.

The whereas section states, “Cherokee Code (Sec.) 20-308 provides that ‘UTVs operated on UTV-allowed roads shall be operated in accord with applicable law and rules of the road as would apply to passenger motor vehicles on such roads’; and this provision can be interpreted to mean that all the rules of passenger motor vehicles traveling on the road, to

include registration requirements, apply to UTVs while on the roads as well.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Cherokee Indian Police Dept. Chief of Police Carla Neadeau, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

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

Ord. No. 187 (2026). This ordinance seeks to amend Cherokee Code Sec. 75-53 regarding the hiring of the editor of the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli (Cherokee One Feather) tribal newspaper.

The whereas section states, “The Cherokee Code provides for decisions of termination of the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli editor to be determined by agreement of the Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief), Taline Ugwiyu (Vice Chief), and two-thirds of the sitting Editorial Board; and there is no provision in the Cherokee Code for the Editorial Board to be a part of the selection of the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli editor; and this creates a real or perceived political influence on the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli due to the lack of Editorial Board representation in the editor hiring process.”

This ordinance seeks to add the following sentence to Sec. 75-75(e)(Editor and staff), “The Principal Chief, Vice Chief, and a two-thirds majority of the Editorial Board are required to select or hire the Cherokee One Feather Editor.”

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by the Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli Editorial Board, was deemed read and tabled during the

see LEGISLATIVE next page

LEGISLATIVE: From page 9

Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

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

Ord. No. 188 (2026). This ordinance seeks to create a new chapter of the Cherokee Code regarding Unmanned Aircraft Systems (aka drones).

The whereas section states, “The Cherokee Code does not currently have a chapter or section permitting or regulating the use of unmanned aircraft, commonly known as drones; and the use of unmanned aircraft can serve a beneficial purpose to tribal agencies and the general public; and this benefit, however, must be balanced with restrictions and protections for the general public.”

This ordinance would create Chapter 21 of the Cherokee Code named Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by CIPD Chief of Police Carla Neadeau, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

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

Legislation recently passed

Ord. No. 157 (2026). This ordinance amends 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”.

Funds were allocated to the Debt Service Sinking Fund, Endowment Fund No. 1, Higher Education Endowment, Cherokee Indian Housing Reserve Account, and the Housing Fund. They will follow the pattern below with the passage of this ordinance.

* 50 percent to the General Fund for the General Welfare of the Tribe (i.e. per capita or GenWell)
* 34 percent to the Tribe’s Debt Service Sinking Fund.
* 16 percent to the Tribe’s General Fund to support Tribal program operating expenses.

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: This ordinance was passed during the Dinilawigi regular session on Thursday, May 7 by a vote of 11-0 with Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Michael Smoker absent.

Ord. No. 158 (2026). This ordinance will 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 approves the moratorium to “remain in effect indefinitely”.

Introduced: This ordinance, submitted by Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Kolanvyi Rep. Venita Wolfe, Aniwodihi (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: This ordinance was passed during the Dinilawigi regular session on Thursday, May 7 by a vote of 11-0 with Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee County) Rep. Michael Smoker absent.

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, May 7, 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 tabled again during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 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 unlawful to hunt, trap, kill, or take any bird of prey or elk.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recent Action: This ordinance was tabled again during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 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 (Wolfstown) Rep. Mike Parker, was deemed read and tabled during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Recent Action: This ordinance was tabled again during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

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 hold-

ings 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: This ordinance was tabled again during the Dinilawigi session on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

Learn more about
the EBCI Constitution
process at:

sgadugi.org



John and LouAnn Reed

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

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

New this week

There are no new bills this week.

Bills we're currently watching

H.R. 226 (Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Re-acquisition Act). This bill would place 76 acres of land in east-

ern 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.

Senate Bill 761 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies

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

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

This 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 bill would grant federal ac-

knowledge 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 bill 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).

This bill would "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 Subcom-

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

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

Senate Bill 2022 (Tribal Tax and Investment Reform Act of 2025). This bill would “amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Indian Tribal governments in the same manner as state governments for certain federal tax purposes, and for other purposes”. Introduced: June 11, 2025 by U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

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

H.R. 3956 (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Act of 2025). This bill would amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 “to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into self-determination contracts and self-governance agreements with Indian entities to administer the food distribution program on Indian reservations”.

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

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

Senate Bill 2160 (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senate Bill 2211 (Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2025).

This bill seeks to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. For both programs, it seeks funding in the amount of \$160,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

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

Action: This will was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on

July 8, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4463 (To amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993).

The text of the legislation states, “Subsection (d) of section 7 of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–116), is amended by striking ‘; however, in no event may an individual be enrolled as a tribal member unless the individual is a lineal descendant of a person on the final base membership roll and has continued to maintain political relations with the Tribe.’” Introduced: July 16, 2025 by Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.)

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 16. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs on Sept. 4, 2025, and a hearing was held on this legislation in the subcommittee on Sept. 9, 2025. A Committee mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026, and it was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent. It was reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 2, 2026 and was placed on the Union Calendar that same day.

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

This bill 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”.

see LEGISLATIVE next page

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LEGISLATIVE: From page 15

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 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). This 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.

Senate Bill 2452 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act).

This bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian com-

munities, 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.

Senate Bill 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.

Senate Bill 2577 (McCaran-Walter Technical Corrections Act). This bill 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 bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group.

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

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

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

Introduced: Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okl.) 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 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.

Senate Bill 2832 (Native American Entrepreneurial and Opportunity Act of 2025).

This bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration.

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

H.R. 5488 (To extend funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians). This bill would amend Title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. It would appropriate “\$160,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to remain available until expended”.
Introduced: Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) on Sept. 18, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Sept. 18, 2025.

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

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

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

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

Introduced: Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) on Oct. 14, 2025
Action: This resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Oct. 14, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

House of Representatives Res. 809 (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture). This House resolution is identical to S. Res. 450 (above).
Introduced: Rep. Norma J. Torres (D-Calif) on Oct. 14, 2025
Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee


on Natural Resources on Oct. 14, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 3041 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act). This 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 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 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 Ser-

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page



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LEGISLATIVE: From page 17

...vice...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 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.

Senate Bill 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 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 main 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”.

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.

Senate Bill 3767 (A bill to establish Assistant Secretary for Indian Health). This 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 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 bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration which “shall be responsible for establishing a working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting, and capital access...”

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business on Feb. 5, 2026, and a mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026 where it was reported favorably (24-0 vote). It was placed on the Union Calendar on Feb. 17, 2026.

H.R. 7490 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act). This bill 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 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.

Senate Bill 3945 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act).

This 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.

Senate Bill 3946 (Tribal Firearm Access Act).

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

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

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

H.R. 7698 (Tribal Firearm Access Act).

This bill seeks “to allow members of federally recog-

nized tribes to use their tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer”.

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

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

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

This 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. 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.

Senate Bill 3994 (PRIME Meat Processing in Indian Country Act).

This 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.

Senate Bill 4179 (AI/AN Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act).

This bill seeks “to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require that equitable distribution of assistance include equitable distribution to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations”.

Introduced: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on March 24, 2026

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on March 24, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 8048 (AI/AN Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act).

This bill seeks “to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require that equitable distribution of assistance include equitable distribution to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations”.

Introduced: Rep. Adelita S. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) on March 24, 2026

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce on March 24, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 4276 (Native

American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Modernization Act of 2026).

This bill would simply “reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996”. It is an identical bill to H.R. 8092.

Introduced: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on March 26, 2026

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

H.R. 8092 (Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Modernization Act of 2026).

This bill seeks “to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996”.

Introduced: Rep. Troy Downing (R-Mont.) on March 26, 2026

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services on March 26, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Here is the contact information for your federal legislators:

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.): <https://www.tillis.senate.gov/email-me>

Sen. Tedd Budd (R-N.C.): <https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/>

11th District Congressional Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-N.C.): <https://edwards.house.gov/contact>



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD
Email: info@ebci-ccb.org Phone: 828-229-8650



**Cherokee Tribal Court
Disposition Summary
for April 1-30**

Submitted by Cherokee Tribal Court

Note: The following cases were disposed of in Cherokee Tribal Court during the time period of April 1-30. The date of each offense is in parenthesis.

Anderson, Kelijah M.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 22, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 12, 2025). Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty. 7 days, credit for 7 days served.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 16, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 12, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Bernhisel, Michael E.

- Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (Apr. 16, 2026). Stricken.
- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Apr. 16, 2026). Stricken.

Bird, Eddie

- Resisting, Delaying, and Obstructing Officers (March 13, 2026). Guilty. 3 months, suspended, 6 months supervised probation.
- Probation Revocation (March 13, 2026). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (March 13, 2026). Admitted. 40 days, credit for 40 days served.
- DWLR (March 13, 2026). Dismissed per plea.

Blanton, Shannon D.

- Failure to Notify DMV of Address Change (Jan. 7, 2025). Guilty. Pay court costs.

Bradley, Amber C.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (July 11, 2025). VD.

Bradley, Peggy S.

- No Liability Insurance (April 15, 2026). VD.

Brady, Steven E.

- Reckless Driving - Wanton Disregard (July 18, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Brady, Bobby R.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (July 17, 2013). Guilty. Old charge that had already been addressed in prior plea.

Burrell, Brian D.

- Restrictions; Hindering Sex Offender Registration (Feb. 11, 2026). Guilty. 4 months, credit for 70 days, Date of Release June 13, 2026.

Cole Nash, Christy K.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Nov. 1, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Crisp, Johnathan N.

- Expired/No Inspection (June 19, 2025). Guilty/Responsible. Pay court costs.

Crowe, Kevin K.

- Failure to Notify DMV of Address Change (June 16, 2025). Guilty. Pay court costs.

Cucumber, James E.

- Driving While Impaired (Dec. 13, 2025). Dismissed due to insuff-

iciency of the evidence.

Davis, Karli J.

- Failure to Wear a Seat Belt - Rear Seat (May 31, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Pay fine.

Davis, Corey M.

- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver of a Controlled Substance (Sept. 12, 2025). Guilty. 60 months, suspended, 60 months supervised probation. Special condition of probation serve 18 months with credit for 35 days served. Date of Release Sept. 25, 2027.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 13, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 13, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Drug Trafficking (Sept. 12, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Trafficking (Sept. 12, 2025). Guilty.
- Failure to Stop Sign/Flash Red Lt. (Sept. 3, 2025). Guilty/responsible.
- No Liability Insurance (Sept. 3, 2025). VD.

Davis, Jessica N.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Jan. 28, 2026). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Jan. 28, 2026). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Driver, Dylan D.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Jan. 17, 2026). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Jan. 17, 2026). Guilty.

12 months, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Driver, Kendall J.

- Breaking and Entering (March 1, 2026). Guilty.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Jan. 18, 2026). Guilty. 1 year, credit for 10 days served, suspended. 1 year supervised probation. Wear CAM for first 6 months.

Edwards, Sawyer A.

- Failure to Obey Lawful Order of the Court (Nov. 6, 2025). Guilty.
- Violations and Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (April 17, 2026). Guilty. 6 months, suspended. 12 months unsupervised. As a special condition serve 30 days, credit for 7 days served. Date of Release May 16, 2026.

Eggen, Caleb J.

- Probation Revocation (March 15, 2026). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (March 15, 2026). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (March 15, 2026). Admitted.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (July 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (July 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Probation Revocation (March 15, 2026). Admitted.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver of a Controlled Substance (July 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Trafficking (July 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (March 11, 2026). Guilty. 4 years, credit for 253 days served. Date of Release August 20, 2029.

Foster, Casey T.
- DWLR Impaired Rev. (Sept. 25, 2025). Guilty.
- No Operators License (June 25, 2025). Guilty.
- DWLR (May 31, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended. 12 months supervised.

Fuller, Christina J.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (April 8, 2026). Guilty. 30 days, credit for 1 day served, suspended. 6 months unsupervised probation.

George, Chadwick E.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (May 31, 2023). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.
- Providing or Possessing Contraband (Dec. 3, 2022). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3, 2022). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (May 31, 2023). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.
- Providing or Possessing Contraband (May 31, 2023). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3, 2022). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3, 2022). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Dec. 3, 2022). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.

- Drug Trafficking (Dec. 3, 2022). Dismissed - currently in federal custody.

George, Yolanda G.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Jan. 24, 2026). Guilty.
- Filing a False Emergency Report (Jan. 24, 2026). Guilty. 1 day, credit for 1 day served.

Henry, Andrew J.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Jan. 29, 2026). Guilty.
- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (Jan. 29, 2026). Guilty. 80 days, credit for 80 days served.

Holder, Timothy D.
- Transporting Controlled Substance into the Territory of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Aug. 29, 2025). Guilty.
- Criminal Conspiracy (Aug. 29, 2025). Guilty. 36 months, suspended. 36 months supervised probation. Special condition serve 6 months, credit for 180 days served.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Aug. 29, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Aug. 29, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Aug. 29, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Justice, Felicia A.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Sept. 1, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Lambert, Allyson D.
- Breaking and Entering (April 27, 2026). Dismissed upon further investigation.

Lambert, Uriah E.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 13, 2024). Guilty. 1 year, credit for 11 days served, suspended, 1 year supervised probation.

Lambert, Nikki N.
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (July 8, 2023). VD - other.

Ledford, Allen S.
- DWI - Level 4 (April 16, 2025). Guilty. 120 days suspended. 12 months supervised probation. Surrender license. 48 hours community service.

Lee, Matthew A.
- Failure to Stop-Steady Red Light (Sept. 9, 2024). Guilty/responsible.
- Fail to Signal when Turning (June 6, 2024). Guilty/responsible. Pay court costs and fines.

Lozano, Martha
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Nov. 8, 2025). Dismissed - victim did not appear for hearing.

Malpass, Johathan M.
- Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders (Jan. 20, 2026). Guilty.
- Resisting Lawful Arrest (Jan. 20, 2026). Guilty.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Jan. 20, 2026). Guilty. 92 days, credit for 92 days served.

Martin, Julian D.
- Weapons Offense (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Oct. 25, 2025). Guilty.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Aug. 21, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Aug. 21, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Oct. 16, 2025). Guilty. 365 days, suspended. 18 months supervised probation.
- No Operators License (Oct. 16, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Martin, Brandon E.
- Probation Revocation (Oct. 6, 2025). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (Oct. 3, 2025). Admitted. Continue on probationary term. Plea in exchange for guilty plea for DWI. DWI sentencing continued to July 30, 2026.

Martin, Sean E.
- Aggravated Reckless Endangerment (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Assaulting by Pointing Gun (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill and Inflicting Serious Injury (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Assaulting by Pointing Gun (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill and Inflicting Serious Injury (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill and Inflicting Serious Injury (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Aggravated Reckless Endangerment (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Obstructing Governmental Functions (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.

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- Reckless Endangerment (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Resisting Lawful Arrest (Jan. 4, 2026). Guilty. 6 years, suspended. 24 months supervised probation. Special condition of probation serve 108n days. Credit for 108 days served.

Morgan, Kyle A.

- Breaking and Entering (June 22, 2025). Guilty. 80 days, runs concurrent with prior sentence. Date of Release July 14, 2026.

Muck, Floyd

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (April 8, 2026). Dismissed.

Munoz, Marcos

- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Dec. 7, 2025). Not Guilty.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Dec. 7, 2025). Not Guilty.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Dec. 7, 2025). Guilty.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Dec. 7, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 3 days served. 12 months supervised probation.

Nations, Jason L.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 11, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Otter, Kerry H.

- Escape from Imprisonment and Custody (May 31, 2024). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.
- Drug Trafficking (June 16, 2023). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Owle, Kenneth R.

- Second Degree Trespass (Jan. 16, 2026). Guilty.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Jan. 16, 2026). Guilty.
- Second Degree Trespass (Feb. 10, 2025). Guilty.
- Second Degree Trespass (Feb. 17, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of Firearms, etc. by Felon Prohibited (Feb. 10, 2025). Guilty. 24 months, suspended. 24 months supervised probation. Special condition serve 6 months. Credit for 212 days served.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Feb. 17, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Paul, Jason L.

- Drug Trafficking (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver of a Controlled Substance (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Weapons Offense (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty. 36 months, credit for 7 days served, suspended. Sent to Wellness Court.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Criminal Conspiracy (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Pheasant, William H.

- No Operator's License (Nov. 20, 2025). Guilty.
- No Operator's License (July 10, 2025). Guilty.
- No Operator's License/Driver's License (March 9, 2023). Guilty.

Pay court costs.

Powell, Lady Bird

- Criminal Conspiracy (Oct. 9, 2023). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.
- Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (Oct. 9, 2023). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Jan. 16, 2025). Guilty. 3 months, credit for 90 days.

Radford, Jake

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (Dec. 16, 2025). Guilty.
- Open Cont. After Cons. Alc. 1st (Dec. 16, 2025). Guilty.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Dec. 21, 2025). Guilty.
- No Liability Insurance (Dec. 21, 2025). Guilty.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 13, 2026). Guilty.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (March 13, 2026). Guilty.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Nov. 14, 2025). Guilty.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Nov. 5, 2025). Guilty.
- No Operator's License (Nov. 5, 2025). Guilty.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Dec. 16, 2025). Guilty.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Dec. 7, 2025). Guilty.
- No Liability Insurance (Dec. 7, 2025). Guilty.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Dec. 7, 2025). Guilty.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Sept. 2, 2025). Guilty.
- A&A DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Sept. 2, 2025). Guilty. 120 days, suspended. 6 months supervised probation.

Ramirez, Hugo G.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Dec. 1, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (May 2, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (March 15, 2025). Guilty.
- Second Degree Trespass (march 15, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (May 2, 2025). Guilty.
- Communicating Threats (July 31, 2025). Guilty. 60 months, credit for 62 days served, suspended. 60 months supervised probation.
- Escape from Imprisonment and Custody (May 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Probation Revocation (March 3, 2025). Admitted.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (march 3, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (march 3, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Abuse of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult: Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Criminal Code (July 31, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Reed, Danielle

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 16, 2024). VD - other.
- No Operator's License/Driver's License (July 21, 2023). VD - other.

Reed, Tracy E.

- Reckless Driving - Wanton Disregard (June 21, 2025). Dismissed in the interest of justice.
- Drive Left of Center (June 21, 2025). VD - other.

Reed, Olivia M.

- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Jan. 20, 2026). Guilty. 30 days, suspended. 6 months supervised probation.

Sequoyah, Johnson L.
- Resisting Lawful Arrest (May 24, 2017). Dismissed with leave - old charges, dismissed in prior pleas.
- Larceny (Oct. 21, 2016). Dismissed with leave - old charges, dismissed in prior pleas.
- Violation of Registration Provisions (July 11, 2016). Dismissed with leave - old charges, dismissed in prior pleas.
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (July 11, 2016). Dismissed with leave - old charges, dismissed in prior pleas.
- Violation of Registration Provisions (July 11, 2016). Dismissed with leave - old charges, dismissed in prior pleas.
- Larceny (March 24, 2016). Dismissed with leave - old charges, dismissed in prior pleas.
- Reports and Investigations Required in Event of Accident (Jan. 20, 2016). Dismissed per prior plea.
- Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Jan. 20, 2016). Dismissed per prior plea.

Smith, Deborah L.
- Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (Aug. 12, 2023). Dismissed per plea.
- Assault by Strangulation (Aug. 12, 2023). Dismissed per plea.

Sneed, Samuel O.
- Probation Revocation (Aug. 27, 2025). Admitted. 180 days. Date of Release Sept. 19, 2026)

Taylor, Jamelle N.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Sept. 4, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Sept. 4, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Taylor, Jalen R.
- Probation Revocation (March 12, 2026). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (April 8, 2026). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (April 8, 2026). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (April 8, 2026). Admitted.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (March 4, 2026). Guilty.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (March 4, 2026). Guilty. 9 months, credit for 82 days. Date of Release Oct. 30, 2026).
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 4, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag (March 4, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- Probation Revocation (March 4, 2026). Admitted.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 3, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- A&A DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Feb. 2, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Jan. 22, 2026). Dismissed per plea.

Thompson, Amanda
- Weapons Offense (Oct. 17, 2019). Dismissed.

Thompson, Darius
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Sept. 1, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.
- Assault by Strangulation (Sept. 1, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Toineeta, Taryn K.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Sept. 30, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 2 days served, suspended. 12 months supervised probation.

Wahnetah, Dylan K.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Jan. 5, 2025). Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Jan. 5, 2025). Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Nov. 27, 2024). Guilty.
- Second Degree Trespass (Jan. 5, 2025). Guilty.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Jan. 5, 2025). Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Jan. 5, 2025). Guilty.
- Second Degree Trespass (Nov. 15, 2024). Guilty.
- Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public (May 12, 2024). Guilty.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Feb. 2, 2024). Guilty. 438 days, credit for 438 days served.

Walkingstick, Louiza G.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (June 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V). June 4, 2025). Guilty. Not compliant with Wellness Court. Sentence activated. Date of Release March 29, 2028).

Ward, Brandon L.
- Fail Stop at Stop Sign/Flsh Red Lt. (Jan. 17, 2026). Guilty/responsible. Pay court costs and fine.

Welch Sr., Benny L.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Feb. 15, 2026). Guilty. 6 months, suspended. 6 months supervised probation.

White, Heather M.
- Abuse of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult: Elder and Vulnerable Adult Protection Criminal Code (Oct. 5, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Oct. 5, 2025). Dismissed at request of complainant and/or complainant's failure/refusal to appear and/or testify.

Williams, Desmond J.
- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Oct. 24, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 12 months supervised probation.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Oct. 24, 2025). Dismissed per plea.

Wolfe, William D.
- Abusive Sexual Contact (Aug. 30, 2021). Dismissed per plea.
- Obstructing Governmental Functions (May 8, 2021). Dismissed per plea.

Wolfe, Victor J.
- Second Degree Trespass (Jan. 23, 2025). Dismissed with leave - no report presented by arresting officer.

Wolfe, William P.
- Additional Lighting Equip. Viol. (Dec. 4, 2024). Guilty/responsible. Pay court costs

**CIPD Arrest Report for
April 27 to May 3, 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.

James Jr., Calvin Truman – age 50
Arrested: April 27
Released: April 27
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Youngdeer, Kayandra Elaine – age 21
Arrested: April 28
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Arch, Cheslie – age 36
Arrested: April 29
Released: April 30
Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Hornbuckle, William Richard – age 43
Arrested: April 29
Released: April 29
Charges: Breaking and Entering

Lineberry, Jeffery Wayne – age 39
Arrested: April 29
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Drug Trafficking; Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver of a Controlled Substance; Transporting a Controlled Substance into the Territory of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Bradley, Kyren Jade – age 22
Arrested: April 30
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Criminal Mischief to Property, Simple Assault

Long Jr., Henry Allen – age 35
Arrested: April 30
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Resisting Public Officer

Maye Jr., Cecil Dean – age 42

Arrested: April 30
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Child Abuse in the First Degree (two counts); Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (three counts); Child Abuse in the Second Degree (two counts); Reckless Endangerment

Screamer Jr., James Albert – age 51
Arrested: April 30
Released: May 1
Charges: Indecent Exposure

Watty, Todd Marcus – age 33
Arrested: April 30
Released: April 30
Charges: Public Intoxication

Mathis, Michael Tripp – age 34
Arrested: May 1
Released: May 1
Charges: Temporary Hold for Jackson Co.

Slawek, Andrew David – age 50
Arrested: May 1
Released: May 1
Charges: Temporary Hold for Jackson Co.

Wilson, Dillon – age 32

Arrested: May 1
Released: May 1
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Lee, Palmer – age 51
Arrested: May 2
Released: May 2
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Wildcat, Edison – age 60
Arrested: May 2
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Kekehbah, James Steven – age 43
Arrested: May 3
Released: May 3
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Rattler, Jacob Hunter – age 33
Arrested: May 3
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Public Intoxication, Drug Trafficking, Drug Paraphernalia, Pre-Trial Release Violation

Tramper, Kenneth Lee – age 47
Arrested: May 3
Released: Not released as of report date (May 4)
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

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.



Common Merganser Duck

This male Common Merganser Duck was having fun in Raven Fork in Kolanyvi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. on Friday, May 1. According to information from the Audubon Society, "Its flocks are usually small, but these may combine into big concentrations sometimes at large reservoirs. Common Mergansers living along rivers may spend hours resting on rocks or on shore." (Photo by Alecia Ralston)



Osprey with a catch

This osprey chose wisely to fish Cherokee, N.C. on Friday, May 1. After fishing the catch and release area of Raven Fork, this expert fisher and flyer never released the trout despite evasive flying maneuvers while being chased and attacked by three crows near the campus of Cherokee Central Schools in Kolanyvi (Big Cove). (Photo by Alecia Ralston)



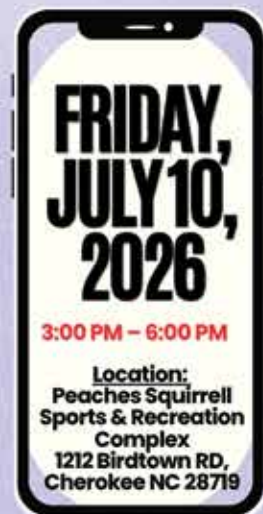
2026 CHEROKEE

RALLY FOR RECOVERY

TABLE VENDOR SIGN UPS



SCAN CODE TO REGISTER



TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY INITIATIVES

EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility: Community Impact



We all eat. So whether you raise cattle, hunt bear, make jerky, need or want fresh, local food - this facility is for you.

“Who Can Use This Red Meat Processing Facility?” Short Answer: Everyone!

You do NOT need to be an EBCI Enrolled Member to schedule processing at this facility; Although we will hold a specific amount of processing appointments per week for Tribal Members.

Anyone will be able to Purchase Meat from our Facility and Retail Store!

Our meat donation program will be distributed to Tribal Members and their Families.

“Who is this Red Meat Processing Facility for? Who will Benefit?”



Farmers

By offering a USDA Inspected and Certified facility our farmers who run for-profit businesses will be able to process their meat in a timely manner and sell that meat to support their business. By offering a variety of value added kitchen processing options, farmers can also have their own recipes of jerky, sausage, patty blends and more - diversifying the products they can sell to make a living.



Hunters

Even though wild meat can't be sold, local hunters will have access to the same certified, safe facility that our for-profit farmers are using. This includes value added processing opportunities like turning your family's secret venison jerky recipe into food safe packaged portions - ready for holiday presents! We are exploring a Tannery too - so your deer hides can become rugs or leather.



Households

A lot of households live on old farmland, with fenced in pastures that now grow weeds. We hope these families will be interested in turning that pasture land back into grazing land, and grow a few cow or hogs for their family's personal consumption. This meat can then be processed at our facility and extension will be there to help along the way!



Local Food Buyers

It's no secret - we need more local, fresh food in our region. The lack of processing infrastructure means a lot of ranchers grow calves then sell them elsewhere - and food is leaving our mountains. Local food keeps more dollars in our economy, supports our neighbor's businesses, and travels less miles - reducing environmental impacts, preservative needs, and saving dollars.



Food Insecure Tribal Members

We will be implementing an optional Gadugi Fee to offset the customer's processing costs. All customers (hunters, farmers, and home growers) can donate cuts of their processed meat to the Tribe to cover some or all of the fees to process an animal. This way, everyone who wants to be more food sovereign in their food choices can participate regardless of cost barriers, and the Tribe can build a surplus of meat to donate to our community in case of a future emergency. This consistent source of meat for our "meat bank," will be distributed regularly to tribal members needing help receiving fresh food.



Elders & Youth

Hunting has decreased among community members - meaning some elders no longer have access to the wild game they ate during their childhood. Alternatively, younger generations have never tasted some traditional meats. By having an accessible facility on Tribal Land we hope more Appalachian and Cherokee people will participate in making traditional meats a part of their diets - once again or for the first time!



Job Seekers

We're building a workplace that values and invests in its people by offering competitive pay and part to full-time, stable employment. We prioritize training and certification for meat cutting, food safety, and equipment use, work-life balance with daytime shifts and no feedlot or overnight animal care, a safe, respectful environment aligned with Tribal values and food sovereignty. Our goal is to create career pathways, not just jobs - building skills that support the community for generations.

- We will probably start hiring in Fall of 2026 - keep an eye out if you'd like to apply!



All Tribal Members

More choices and more food is better for every community - but having traditional meats and meat grown by tribal members is another layer of true freedom and sovereignty for EBCI People. Reliable, accessible, safe, and humane meat as a part of our food supply chain means more resilience and less dependence on outside sources to feed ourselves. There can not be true sovereignty, without food sovereignty and this infrastructure is a big step for all Tribal members and the next seven generations to come.

Have more questions about our facility?



Come by the EBCI Cooperative Extension Office or Give us a Call! We'd love to talk with you.

828 359 6939
876 Acquoni Rd.,
Cherokee, NC 28719



TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY INITIATIVES

EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility: Common Community Concerns



We hear you. There are a lot of concerns and questions about how this facility might impact your life. Here are some answers to the most common questions we have been asked.

“Cherokee is getting a Red Meat Processing Facility? But what about ...”



The Smell?

Our facility will process no more than 10 animals per day, which means animals are only on-site for a short time – minimizing manure and odor. Byproducts like bones and organs are stored in sealed barrels inside a climate-controlled room, then picked up weekly by a licensed rendering company. And the strongest smell you’re likely to notice? Delicious smoked meats from our bacon making smoker – just like a bonfire!



The Location? Isn’t it near some homes?

We had lots of things to consider when picking a location; so many we made another infographic! In summary, all operations will be indoors, with no waste exposure, no feedlot, and no visual impact to nearby homes. Since this is EBCI Tribal Land in Jackson County we will manage it under tribal land-use codes and county regulations. The location will receive approval from both the EBCI Planning Board and Environmental Office, ensuring it’s suited for meat-processing operations without conflict to residential zones.



The Money? Will this be another Tribal Expense?

The facility is being built with a \$6.46 million USDA grant specifically awarded to support indigenous meat processing. To ensure long-term sustainability, the facility will generate income through Processing Fees, Retail Meat Sales, Value-added Products, and Byproduct Sales. These revenue streams will help cover operating costs and reduce future financial burden on the Tribe, all while feeding community members and supporting local food production!

- For more details, check out our “Financial Opportunities & Savings” infographic.



The Environmental Impacts? Will this facility pollute the River?

This facility is designed with strong safeguards for land, water, and air – including a USDA-approved waste collection system, NEPA compliance, and there will be no animal discharge into the river or sewer. All processing operations are indoors, with overnight animal holding pens limiting manure waste.

- For more details, check out our “Place & Planet” infographic.



Recruiting & Keeping Employees?

We’re building a workplace that values and invests in its people by offering competitive pay and part to full time, stable employment; Training and certification for meat cutting, food safety, and equipment use; Work-life balance with daytime shifts and no feedlot or overnight animal care; A safe, respectful environment aligned with Tribal values and food sovereignty. Our goal is to create career pathways, not just jobs – building skills that support the community for generations.

- We will probably start hiring in Fall 2026 - keep an eye out if you’d like to apply!



The Employees? Isn’t it Dangerous to work at a Meat Processing Facility?

The facility will follow all OSHA and USDA FSIS safety standards, including, Proper Protective Equipment, Cold Storage Safeguards, Sanitation and Hygiene Protocols. We’re also working with Friesla, whose “Safe, Robust, Human Processing” model prioritizes ergonomics, injury prevention, and respectful working conditions – creating a safer environment for every employee.



The Noise?

All processing happens indoors, and animals are only present for a few hours at a time, with no feedlot. The design follows Temple Grandin’s noise audit principles to reduce stress on animals and maintain a quiet environment. Calm handling, quiet equipment, and sound-dampening measures help protect both animals and nearby neighbors.



Animal Well-Being? Will this be Humane?

In alignment with Cherokee values, we’re committed to the respectful, humane treatment of all animals – especially those offering themselves to nourish our community. Unlike large-scale industrial operations, our small-scale processing allows for calmer environments and gentler handling. We will use captive bolt stunning, a USDA-approved method that renders animals instantly unconscious and without pain, minimizing suffering. Following Temple Grandin’s low-stress handling principles, our facility uses quiet equipment, minimal wait times, and respectful care in an animal’s final moments. Animals are only on site for a few hours, not days – reducing fear, stress, and exposure to unfamiliar surroundings.

Have more questions about our facility?



Come by the EBCI Cooperative Extension Office or Give us a Call! We’d love to talk with you.

828 359 6939
876 Acquoni Rd.,
Cherokee, NC 28719





EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility: Place & Planet Infographic



Here's some Big Picture information on how the EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility is being built responsibly, with ethical consideration for people, the planet & animals.

What Features do we need at the Facility's Location?



Three Phase Power

To connect the facility to electricity



Sewer Hook-Ups

So employees can wash their hands & clean the equipment



Trailer Access

So customers can easily bring their animals to the facility & buyers can pick-up finished products



Out of a Flood Zone

So our facility can stay safe from a Flood & remain accessible in case of an emergency



On Tribal Land Near the Boundary

So Tribal Members can easily access the facility

Why some locations we considered couldn't work:



Swain County's sewer system is at capacity & they can't take on new business now.



THPO prevents ground disturbance of archeological significant locations; no digging or construction



Some Land options aren't owned by the Tribe & they were too expensive to purchase



What Tribal Regulations keep the Land & People Safe?

- The **Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO)** analyzes the archaeological significance of the land and denies digging or construction at any sites that are culturally important. THPO is in full support of this location and project.
- **EBCI Environmental Office** reviews all land development projects for compliance with Tribal environmental codes and sustainability goals.
- **EBCI Planning & Development Board** evaluates site suitability based on proximity to homes, utility infrastructure, and long-term environmental impact.
- **Land Use and Zoning Guidelines** ensure the selected site is appropriate for processing, with safeguards against noise, waste, and environmental disruption.



What Federal Regulations keep the Land & People Safe?

- The **National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)** ensures that air, water, land, and historical sites are not harmed during a construction project. In order to receive the USDA funding to build the meat processing facility, the Tribe had to conduct a *NEPA Review* for the original site, and we plan to conduct another one for the final site.
- Federal **Clean Water Act** protects surface and groundwater from contamination from facility runoff, waste discharge, and processing effluent. The Federal **Clean Air Act** regulates emissions from equipment and refrigeration systems to ensure clean air quality around the facility.
- Our processing facility will be certified by **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** the highest regulatory body that requires continuous inspection and strict adherence to federal food safety standards protecting the public's health. USDA's **Food Safety Policies and Inspectors** will enforce sanitation, waste disposal, and health protocols to ensure safety for all.
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** requires safe working conditions, equipment use, and employee training in meat processing environments.



Animal Welfare Policies being Implemented:

- **USDA FSIS Humane Handling Enforcement** includes inspections, facility design standards, employee training, and clear consequences for non-compliance.
- **Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA)** requires animals be treated humanely and rendered insensible to pain before slaughter; enforced by USDA FSIS.
- **Temple Grandin's Animal Handling Guidelines** is widely regarded as the gold standard for facility layout and stress-free animal movement.
- **North American Meat Institute (NAMI) Animal Welfare Audit** covers everything from stunning to unloading, a certification often required by retailers and institutions.

Have more questions about our facility's location & regulation implementation?



Come by the EBCI Cooperative Extension Office! We'd love to talk with you.
828 859 6939
876 Acquoni Rd.,
Cherokee, NC 28719





TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY INITIATIVES

EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility: Financial Opportunities & Savings

Big Picture information on how the EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility will be self-sustaining, create Tribal Economic Opportunities, and save households Money!

Revenue Streams:

We are creating an EBCI Specific Tribal Meat Brand featuring jerky, ground meat, sausage, and premium cuts. These products will be created from meat purchased from local farmers and raised by Tribal Extension. Additionally, processing fees and pay-to-raise fees will be collected from clients needing to process domestic and wild animals.

Preserving Food Traditions & Building Food Sovereignty is the biggest Benefit of all for Tribal Members; a priceless investment in our future!



Pay to Raise Fees

Allows tribal members without land the ability to buy an animal that the facility or extension raises and processes.



Processing Fees

Collected from ranchers, hunters, households and food businesses who need animals processed.



Value Added Processing

For anyone looking to turn their meat into jerky, sausage, bacon, burgers and more! Farm-Raised Animals will have a USDA Label so the meat can be sold.



Sales Channels of Tribally Branded Meat

We will get our product to the people through *Direct-to-Consumer Sales* (Tribal Grocery Store is in the works!) *Wholesale* to Institutions (CCS, CIH, Casino & more!)

Potential Bonus Revenue Opportunities!



We are also exploring **Byproduct Sales** of hides for leather, bones for broth or bone meal, organs for pet or fish food, skulls for artisans, and more! This aligns with the Cherokee Tradition of using the whole animal and revitalizing traditional leather working processes.



How does this Facility help Households save Money?

- We will be implementing an optional **Gadugi Fee** to offset the customer's processing costs. Customers can donate cuts of their processed meat to the Tribe to cover some or all of the costs of processing an animal. This way, everyone who wants to be more food sovereign in their food choices can participate regardless of cost barriers. Plus, the Tribe can build a surplus of meat to donate to our community now or in case of a future emergency.
- This facility will be run as a **non-profit model**, meaning we only need to cover our costs, then we will reinvest profits into expansion, local buying programs and more! This keeps our meat affordable to those wishing to purchase fresh, local meat from our up-and-coming retail location, keeping more money in your pocket.
- We plan to sell our meat to ourselves! Tribal entities will be able to purchase our Tribal Brand of Local Meat to feed to community members accessing their services at **competitive, low prices**. So someday when someone you love is at the hospital or your kids are heading to school, local, healthy, fresh meat will be on the menu!
- Local food keeps money in our economy where **we are more resilient during inflation and less dependent on outside suppliers**. This will help all of us save money and achieve some of our Food Sovereignty Goals.

How do Tribal & Local Farmers Benefit Financially from this Facility?



- Local processing saves Farmers **Time and Money**; currently farmers are driving 4+ hours and sometimes have to wait a year to get on a processing schedule! We can offer **reliable, consistent processing** that farmers can depend on.
- A variety of high quality, USDA Certified Value Added Products allows Farmers to **diversify the items their business sells**, creating new market opportunities.
- A Cohesive Tribal Brand allows Small Farmers the opportunity to sell their food to larger institutional buyers they otherwise couldn't. This means **access to larger markets, more consistent customers, and increased product demand**.



Have more questions about our facility's financial plans?

Come by the EBCI Cooperative Extension Office or Give us a Call! We'd love to talk with you.

828 359 6939
876 Acquaní Rd.,
Cherokee, NC 28719



What a way to make a living

The Cherokee Central Schools Musical Theatre performed "9 to 5" at the Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Thursday, May 7.

Photos by Scott McKie B.P./One Feather



Cast and Crew:

Violet Newstead - Elizabeth Myers
Doralee Rhodes - Izabella Terrell
Judy Bernly - Jocelyn Saunooke
Mr. Franklin Hart, Jr. - Colby Lossie
Roz Keith - Kay-Kay Hornbuckle-Standingwater
Joe - Adaneti Durham
Dwayne - Noah Dossett
Josh/Ensemble - Kirsten Anderson
Missy/Ensemble - Lillianna (Anna) Toineeta
Maria Delgado - Addison Stewart
Dick Bernly - Makai Hernandez
Kathy - Parker Mathis
Margaret - Georgia Girty
Bob Enright - Chaz Martens
Mr. Russell Tinsworthy - Hailey Winchester
Ensemble - Kyleigh Porter, Layla Cucumber, Alexander Antone, Christopher Toineeta, Jessie

Toineeta, Riley McCoy, Kenleigh Hornbuckle, Piper Owl, Riley Standingdeer, Benji Miller
Stagecraft - Nayaa Addo, Jade Arneach, Kellin Blankenship, Karmen (KoKo) Cline, Dylan Crisp, Marley Crowe, Alexis Grimes, Ayanna Lambert, Ajalah Locust, Chloe Locust, Julissa Martin, Aniebreigh (Anie) Mora, Denver Porterfield, Chaske' Raines, Janiyah Rattler, Kalia Reed, Grace (Gracie) Smith, Roxy Solis, Kylea (MeMe) Swayney, Armani Watty, Madigan (Madi) Welch, Marissa Wilson
Director/Choreographer - Toby Lawrence
Lighting - Nathan Berlingieri
Art Director/Costumes - Megan Barnes
Sound - Phil Bevilacqua





Kolanvyi Day

The Annual Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Day celebration was held at the Kolanvyi Indian Ballfield in Kolanvyi in Cherokee, N.C. on Saturday, May 9. The event featured anetso (stickball) games for youth, teens, and men as well as food, horseshoes, cornhole, a ribbon skirt contest, and more.

Photos by Scott McKie B.P./One Feather









Faith Long-Presley becomes first to graduate from all four Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute Programs

Submitted by
Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute

CHEROKEE, N.C. —The Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute (RCLI) is proud to recognize Faith Long-Presley, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), as the first individual to complete all four leadership programs offered through the Institute's culturally based leadership learning continuum.

Long-Presley's journey through RCLI programs began as a youth and has continued into adulthood. She participated in the Cherokee Youth Council, the Youth Cultural Exchange Program (formerly known as the Costa Rica Eco-Study Tour), the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program, and most recently completed the Duyugodv'i Right Path Adult Leadership Program.

Today, Long-Presley serves as portfolio risk manager for the Sequoyah Fund and is also the owner of Ganvhida Designs, a small fashion and art business. She continues to remain engaged in community leadership and mentorship.

Her connection to the programs spans almost 15 years. She first joined the Cherokee Youth Council at age 11, where she was introduced to the concept that Cherokee youth have both a voice



Faith Long-Presley, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), is the first individual to complete all four leadership programs offered through the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute's culturally based leadership learning continuum. (Photo courtesy of Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute)

and a responsibility in shaping the future of their community.

Reflecting on her journey through the Institute's programs, Long-Presley shared, "One of the things I appreciate most about the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute is how interconnected all of these programs are. Each stage builds on

the last. You start learning about leadership as a young person, then continue developing those skills through college and early career and eventually bring those lessons into adulthood and community leadership."

She continued developing her leadership skills through the

Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program from 2016 to 2020 and completed the Right Path Adult Leadership Program in 2025. She is currently participating in RCLI's pilot Native Plant Program.

Tonya Carroll, manager of the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute shared, "I first met Faith when she was a fellow in our Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program, and over the years I've watched her grow into a strong leader and role model who continues to be involved in and support our programs. Faith has worked hard for everything she has accomplished."

Throughout her journey, Long-Presley has remained connected to the programs that helped shape her leadership development. She regularly returns to support participants as a mentor, chaperone, and guest speaker.

"While I may be the first person to complete the programs, I know I will not be the last," Long-Presley said. "And I believe our community will be stronger because of it."

The Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute offers culturally based leadership programming for EBCI members. It is a department of the Cherokee Boys Club and is funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

CIHA Immediate Care Center

75 Painttown Rd., Cherokee, N.C. - 359-5550

Smith represents EBCI at United Nations Forum on Indigenous Health



Jasmine Smith, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), made history as the youngest EBCI representative to speak at the recent United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), addressing global leaders on Indigenous health and environmental protection. (Photos contributed)

Special to the One Feather

NEW YORK, New York — Jasmine Smith, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), made history as the youngest EBCI representative to speak at the recent United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), addressing global leaders on Indigenous health and environmental protection.

Representing both EBCI and North American Indian Women's Association Daughters, Smith joined Indigenous youth leaders from across Turtle Island for the "Indigenous Youth Protecting Ocean Kin for Health & Wellbeing" panel. The event was co-sponsored by Indigenous Environmental Network and Earth Law Center.

Smith brought a unique perspective as an EBCI citizen from



the headwaters region, emphasizing the responsibility of upstream communities to protect water systems that sustain life downstream.

"As Cherokee people, we are taught that responsibility flows like our waterways, from the headwaters to the ocean," she said. "We may not always see where the water ends, but we understand the impact of every choice we make. Protecting water is protecting life, past, present, and future."

She also highlighted her work through NAIWA Daughters, including a successful Rights of Nature resolution for waterways and ongoing efforts to restore aquatic ecosystems.

Reflecting on her experience at the United Nations, Smith shared, "I carry my community with me into every room I enter. I am deeply grateful to my family, my elders, and the mentors who have made it possible for me to step into spaces like the United Nations. I'm grateful for the recognition by others to

be seen not just as a future leader."

Fellow panelist Neepah Hyde reinforced Smith's message, emphasizing the connection between environmental and community health, "If the ocean is healthy, we are healthy. Protecting our waters is protecting our people, our culture, and our future."

The discussion underscored the urgent need for Indigenous-led solutions to environmental challenges and highlighted youth leadership as critical to shaping policy and protecting natural resources. The panel event in its entirety is archived in the United Nations digital collection. Visit <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1cfmbfon4> to view the conversation.

The panel also marked the soft launch of the Indigenous Youth Ocean Congress, an initiative aimed at connecting youth globally to advance ocean protection and Indigenous rights <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1cfmbfon4>.

Snowbird Cherokee Traditions receives support from Cherokee Preservation Foundation and Dinilawigi

Submitted by
Snowbird Cherokee Traditions

TUTIYI (SNOWBIRD) - Snowbird Cherokee Traditions has announced the continued support of the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) for its afterschool and summer camp programs. This ongoing funding ensures that Cherokee youth in the Snowbird Community have meaningful opportunities to learn, practice, and preserve Cherokee language, culture, and traditional ways of life.

As the program is completing this year's afterschool program and gearing up for Summer Camp, Director Erik Oswald expressed his appreciation for the commitment shown by both organizations, noting the vital role they play in strengthening cultural identity among

Snowbird's young people.

"We are deeply grateful for the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the EBCI Tribal Council," Oswald said. "Their support allows us to continue providing a safe, educational, and culturally grounded environment for our youth. Their investment in the Cherokee language and our community's traditions ensures these teachings will remain strong for future generations."

The afterschool and summer camp programs offered by Snowbird Cherokee Traditions provide hands-on cultural instruction, language learning, traditional arts, outdoor skills, and community building, all rooted in Cherokee values and the unique heritage of the Snowbird Community.

Snowbird Cherokee Traditions looks forward to continuing this important work and remains committed to serving local families through culturally centered enrichment.

For more information about Snowbird Cherokee Traditions or its programs, please contact: Erik Oswald, director (828) 735-4563

or snowbirdschool@gmail.com.

Kananesgi Committee receives \$40K grant from Cherokee Preservation Foundation

Submitted by
Kananesgi Committee

CHEROKEE, N.C. — The Kananesgi Committee, supported by Sequoyah Fund, has been awarded \$40,000 from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to support the annual Kananesgi Art Market and Fashion Show.

These funds will be used to support logistics and production costs associated with the event, including the planning, coordination, staging, and operational needs required to present a high-quality community celebration of Cherokee art, fashion, and creative expression.

The Kananesgi Art Market and Fashion Show brings together artists, designers, models, community members, and visitors to

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MAY 23-24

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MAY 23-24

highlight the strength and beauty of Cherokee creativity. The event provides a platform for artists and designers to showcase their work, expand their visibility, connect with customers, and celebrate the continued evolution of Cherokee design.

Through this investment, the Kanasesgi Committee will be able to strengthen the event experience for participants, vendors, models, and guests. Funding will help ensure the event is professionally produced, accessible to the community, and positioned to continue growing as a signature celebration of Cherokee art, fashion, and culture.

Kanasesgi reflects the importance of supporting artists and creative entrepreneurs while honoring the cultural knowledge, design traditions, and contemporary talent found throughout the Cherokee community. The event also contributes to local economic activity by drawing visitors, supporting artists, and creating opportunities for small businesses connected to the creative economy.

“We are grateful for the support of the Cherokee Preservation Foundation,” said Hope Huskey, Sequoyah Fund Chief Operating Officer and Kanasesgi Committee member. “This funding helps us continue building an event that celebrates Cherokee artists, designers, and models while creating new opportunities for creative entrepreneurs. Kanasesgi is about visibility, culture, and community, and this investment helps us carry that work forward.”

For more information about the Kanasesgi Art Market and Fashion Show, please visit www.kanasesgi.com or follow Kanasesgi on Facebook and Instagram

Sequoyah Fund receives \$528K grant from Cherokee Preservation Foundation

Submitted by Sequoyah Fund

CHEROKEE, N.C. — Sequoyah Fund has been awarded \$528,190 from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to support small business lending, small business support programming, and administrative expenses that strengthen Sequoyah Fund’s ability to serve entrepreneurs in Cherokee and the surrounding region.

These funds will be used to provide capital for small business loans and to support programming that helps entrepreneurs start, strengthen, and expand their businesses. This investment will allow Sequoyah Fund to continue providing access to affordable financing, one-on-one business assistance, financial education, and other resources that help small business owners build stronger, more sustainable operations.

Through this initiative, Sequoyah Fund will continue working with entrepreneurs who may not be able to access traditional bank financing but have strong ideas, community commitment, and the determination needed to succeed. Funding will support businesses at different stages of development, including start-ups, existing businesses preparing for growth, and entrepreneurs working to stabilize or improve their operations.

The grant will also assist Sequoyah Fund with audit and tax expenses. These administrative investments help ensure that Sequoyah

Fund maintains strong financial systems, meets compliance requirements, and remains positioned to attract and manage additional funding for the benefit of the community.

Additionally, the grant provides funding for the third annual Quallaween event where local and visiting “detectives” work to solve a mystery. Detectives must visit local shops, restaurants, and attractions to gather clues. This event focuses on driving traffic to local businesses while offering prizes to those who successfully solve the case.

Together, these efforts support Sequoyah Fund’s mission to promote economic opportunity through lending, training, and business development services. The funding will help strengthen the local small business ecosystem while supporting job creation, community wealth building, and long-term economic resilience in Cherokee.

“We are grateful for the continued support of the Cherokee Preservation Foundation,” said Russ Seagle, executive director of Sequoyah Fund. “This investment helps us put capital directly into the hands of small business owners while also strengthening the systems that allow us to serve our community well. Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and this funding gives us more tools to help them succeed.”

For more information about Sequoyah Fund and its programs, please visit www.sequoyahfund.org or call (828) 359-5001.

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EBCI COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherokee Supreme Court

Sessions for 2026:

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

- Cherokee Tribal Court

THANK YOU LETTERS

Thank you from the family of Patricia "Pat" Panther

We would like to take a moment to thank our lord and savior Jesus Christ for blessing us with our mom/nana Patricia "Pat" Panther for 73 years. She was a true blessing not only to us but many others as well. She is forever in our hearts. We would like to thank Cherokee Fire Department, Four Seasons Hospice Care, Tribal EMS, Cherokee Hospital Inpatient Staff, Reyna Solis, Kenny and Dianne Panther, Faye Catolster, Gail Long, Gloria Hyatt, Totsie Welch, Jane Owl, Cindee West, Yellowhill Baptist

Church, Pastor Foreman Bradley, Pastor Harley Maney, Straight Fork Baptist Church, Rock Springs Baptist Church, Big Cove Community Club, Tribal Construction, all those who came to sit with us and visit mom, sent food and all the beautiful flowers, and all those who prayed for our mom and family. Your acts of kindness did not go unnoticed, and we appreciate everything everyone did to help us through this hard time in our lives. Please continue to keep our family in your prayers.

Alan, Monie, Keeifer and Asher

Autism/IDD Celebration Brings Community Together for Awareness, Support, and Resources

The recent Autism/IDD Celebration was a tremendous success, bringing together families, caregivers, community partners, and organizations in support of Autism Awareness and individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Qualla Boundary Head Start and Early Head

Start team, Peaches Squirrel Gym, our many dedicated volunteers, participating vendors, and the families and caregivers who made this event so meaningful. Special thanks are also extended to Dr. El Brown, our generous donors, Tribal programs, and the many government and community partners who contributed their time, resources, and support.

This event highlighted the importance of inclusion, awareness, and access to supportive resources while celebrating the strengths and contributions of individuals with Autism and IDD. Through collaboration and community engagement, the celebration created a welcoming space for learning, connection, and shared commitment to support individuals and families across our community.

We are grateful to everyone who played a role in making this event a success and for their continued dedication to fostering understanding, acceptance, and support for all

Sgi,
Candy Ross

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Thank you from SMCC Cheer competitors

Siyo, our names are Tanasi Standingdeer, age 7, and Nikwasi Sequoyah, age 12, and we are the daughters of Sadie Standingdeer. We would like to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who has supported us throughout this cheer season.

We are both proud athletes at SMCC Cheer. Tanasi competes on the 12Y Level 2 team, Lady Lightning, and Nikwasi is on both Lady Lightning and Senior Smoke. This season has been full of hard work, long practices, dedication, and so many unforgettable memories. It all led up to one of the biggest moments of our season - traveling to Tampa, Fla. to compete at Varsity's Rec Summit, a two-day end-of-season national competition.

Throughout the season, our

teams had to work hard and earn bids just to qualify for Summit. The first day of competition was tough for both teams, but on day two everyone came back stronger and more determined. We are incredibly proud that Nikwasi and Senior Smoke earned first place for the second year in a row, becoming National Champions and bringing home rings. Tanasi, Nikwasi, and Lady Lightning also had an amazing performance and placed in the top 5, which is something we are very proud of.

While competing was exciting, the most meaningful part of the trip was the time we spent together as teams. SMCC is more than just a gym—it truly feels like a family. Our teammates feel like siblings, our coaches are like bonus moms and aunties, and the support from all the parents makes everyone feel

included and cared for.

We would like to thank some very special people who made this journey possible:

First, thank you to The Sequoyah Fund and the Cherokee Tribal Gaming Commission for your generous sponsorships that helped make our trip to Tampa possible. Your support means so much and reminds us that cheerleaders (even though a lot of times people don't think cheerleading is a sport) are just as important as any other athletes.

To our mom - thank you for everything you do for us. Cheer is not cheap, and no matter what we're involved in—cheer, school, or anything else—you are always there supporting us. You're not only there for us, but for our teammates and friends as well, and that means more than we can say.

To our sister Makenzie - thank you for always stepping in when Mom is busy. Whether it's helping us get ready, making sure we have everything we need, or even finding a missing cheer shoe right before we leave, you are always there. You truly are a rockstar big sister.

To our Lishi - thank you for always being there for us, whether it's picking us up from practice, helping out when needed, or just showing up to support us. We can always count on you.

To our family - thank you for always checking in on us, calling or texting to see how our competitions went, and constantly encouraging us. Your support never goes unnoticed.

To our coaches—Tonya, Hannah, Ashley, Nikki, Taylor, Jen, Morgan, and KK—thank you for believing in us and pushing us to be better every single day. From the moment we joined SMCC, you welcomed us with open arms and gave us a place where we truly feel at home.

Tanasi would also like to give a special thank you to Zophia, her cheer big sister, for the many hours spent helping her, especially with tumbling and learning new skills. And to all of our teammates - thank you for everything. This season had its ups and downs, but through it all we've always been there for each other. The friendships and memories we've built mean so much to us, and we wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

We are so excited for Season 11 and can't wait to see the new challenges, growth, and accomplishments we will achieve together as a team.

Thank you all for being part of our journey.

With love and gratitude,
**Tanasi Standingdeer and
Nikwasi Sequoyah**

**Join Us
For
RKLI Alumni Day
Thursday May 28, 2026**

Stop by to catch up, share what you have been up to,
enjoy fun activities, grab some swag and food

Drop in anytime between 10am - 6pm!

We welcome any current program participants
and alumni from the following programs:

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- Costa Rica Eco-Study Tour
- Youth Cultural Exchange Program
- Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program
- Duyugodv'i Right Path Adult Leadership Program
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OBITUARIES ᄒᄒᄒᄒ

Bernadine S. Bradley

On Friday, May 1, 2026, Bernadine S. Bradley, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, went to her heavenly home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She was born to the late J.D. and Nancy Shell Smith on Aug. 2, 1944. She loved the Lord and her Church families with all her heart. She had a special love for Preachers and their families, often feeding and caring for each of them, and hosting many missionaries in her home. She loved singing in the church choir. In her younger years, she sang with her sisters in churches in Hudson and Cherokee. She was an avid woodworker and crafter, building and designing anything she set her mind to. She also

enjoyed camping and loved her campground family, with whom she made many lifelong memories. Her greatest joy was her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Bobby Wayne Puett; son, Jerry Lee Puett; and daughter, Kristy LeAnn Puett. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, John Smith and James Smith, and one sister, Marilyn White.

Bernadine (Mom) was the heart and soul of our family and a constant source of love, wisdom, and encouragement.

Those left to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 36 years, Jarrett William Bradley, of the home, along with her daughters, Kim Woods (David) of Hudson, N.C., and Terri Townsend

of Hudson, N.C.; stepdaughters, Natalie Guyon (Peter) of Pueblo West, Colo.; Shauna Bradley (Dino) of Occidental, Calif.; and Laura Woodard (Travis) of Fulton, Calif.; stepsons, Justin Bradley (Alissa) of El Cajon, Calif. and Chris Bradley (Sierra) of Sebastopol, Calif. She is also survived by one brother, Kenneth Shell of Hudson, N.C.; and two sisters, Ann Bumgarner (Leonard) of Hudson, N.C., and Pheabe Phillips of Hudson, N.C. Last but not least, she is survived by 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

One of Bernadine's last requests was to laugh and have fun as long as she could, which she did. She left this world for her heavenly home, surrounded by her family and close friends. While we mourn the passing of our beloved Maw

Maw "B," we take comfort knowing her legacy lives on through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We will be forever grateful for her unconditional love. Her passing leaves an ache in our hearts, but it inspires us to live up to her beautiful example.

A funeral service in Cherokee was held at on Wednesday, May 6 at the Chapel of Long House Funeral Service, with Rev Foreman Bradley and Rev Eugene Ridley officiating. There was also a funeral service in Granite Falls, N.C. at Freedom Independence Baptist Church with Rev Jobie Borders officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Long House Funeral Services was in charge of Cherokee arrangements

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May 11-17, 2026

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Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Productivity-all day	Brown Trout	Yellow Sally's, light Cahill, parachute adams, hares ear nymph, Caddis larva, copper john
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Productivity-all day	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout,	Stimulator, Light Cahill, Ants, Pheasant tail nymph, soft hackles, hares ear nymph

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8:03 AM-10:03 AM 8:25 PM-10:25 PM	8:48 AM-10:48 AM 9:10 PM-11:10 PM	9:34 AM-11:34 AM 9:59 PM-11:59 PM	1:00 AM-3:00 AM 10:24 AM-12:24 PM	11:18 AM-1:18 PM	12:18 PM-2:18 PM	12:49 AM-2:49 AM 1:22 PM-3:22 PM

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Evans Funeral Service and Crematory was in charge of arrangements in Granite Falls, N.C.

Charles "Cotton" Young

Charles "Cotton" Young, 84, was born on April 4, 1942, and passed on Friday, May 1, 2026 peacefully surrounded by the love of his family.

Cotton was a man defined by hard work, honesty, and generosity. He spent 56 years as a truck driver. Through decades of dedication, he built a life rooted in responsibility, perseverance, and providing for those he loved.

When he wasn't working, Cotton enjoyed spending time with his family and "piddling" with lawnmowers. He found joy in simple things and the people who meant the most to him.

Above all else, Cotton loved his family deeply. He is survived by his daughter, Sheri Young Calabrese (Blue); grandchildren, Shad Eller, Ashley Watkins (Michael), and Caleb Bradley (Kelly); and great-grandchildren, Jordan, Tyler, and Xóchitl.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life, Beulah Lambert Young; his sons, Daryl and Allen Young; his parents, Shirley Ray Young and Dovie Mae Randolph Young; and two brothers and two sisters.

Cotton's family takes comfort in knowing he is now reunited with Beulah, the one he loved and missed so dearly. His legacy of devotion, strength, and kindness will live on in all who knew and loved him.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, May 18 at 10 a.m. at Cherokee Bible Church.

Online condolences are encouraged and may be sent to the family at www.fulwoodfuneralservice.com

Michael J Fulwood Funeral & Cremation Service is in charge of services.



Kendra Jean Taylor

Kendra Jean Taylor, 60, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away peacefully in her sleep on the night of Friday, May 8, 2026.

Born on Sept. 20, 1965, in Massachusetts, Kendra was raised by her parents, Philip and Brenda Lukens. Though she made her home in Cherokee for many years, she never lost her Massachusetts spirit. She loved Dunkin' Donuts, Papa Gino's pizza, the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots, and anything she proudly called "wicked awesome".

Kendra met the love of her life, Edwin "Tiny" Taylor, while they were both attending college in Rhode Island, beginning a life together centered around family, laughter, and love.

Above all, Kendra was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and the heart of her family. She loved her children — Alexandra, Jordan, and Nick — fiercely and unconditionally, always making sure they knew they were supported and loved. Her grandchildren — Adaline, Auron, Niyah, and Izzy — brought her immense joy and were

among her greatest blessings.

Those who knew Kendra will remember her radiant spirit, laughter, kindness, and the way she made people feel welcomed and loved. She had a deep love of the ocean, and the peace it brought her. Even through difficult years, she carried warmth, humor, and strength that stayed with those around her. She loved deeply, created lasting memories, and made ordinary moments feel special.

Kendra was a member of the Federated Church of Norfolk in Massachusetts, as well as Cherokee Baptist Church. She treasured the friendships she built throughout her life, especially Jackie McGaha, Pam Wood, and Joyce and Deny Petranick, whose friendships remained meaningful through the years.

She also shared a special bond with her nieces and nephews, loving them as her own. She adored her "special boys" — Buster, Maxwell, and Baxter Taylor — who brought her comfort and companionship.

Kendra shared a close bond with the Taylor family, who became her family in every sense of the word. She deeply loved her in-laws, Shirley Taylor and the late Sherman "Goliath" Taylor, as well as her sisters-in-law, Jonee Taylor and Consie Girty, and brothers-in-law, Tim and Greg Taylor.

She is survived by her husband, Tiny Taylor; her children, Alexandra Jernigan-Taylor and wife Melissa Jernigan-Taylor, Jordan Taylor, and Nick Taylor and significant other Chantelle; her mother, Brenda Lukens; her mother-in-law, Shirley Taylor; her brothers, Mark Lukens and Jeff Lukens; her beloved grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and lifelong friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Philip D. Lukens; her beloved father-in-law, Sherman "Goliath" Taylor; her uncles, Frank and David Lukens; her aunt, Donna Lukens; her paternal grandparents, Ruth and Philip Lukens; and her maternal grandparents, James and Clair McMullins.

Though her family grieves deeply, they find comfort in knowing Kendra is finally free from pain and suffering. Her love, laughter, and memory will remain with those who loved her always.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, May 15 at Crisp Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Betty's Place, PO Box 2220, Cherokee, NC 28713.



Check out our weekly Cherokee Words of the Week videos at the Cherokee One Feather YouTube channel

@Cherokee OneFeather on YouTube

COMMENTARY

We should all do less nose-thumbing and more listening

By **ROBERT JUMPER**

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

Our society has lost its ability to rationally and civilly disagree. I know. You are saying, “Well, duh.” But those of us who say that are likely to do so blindly and sheepishly. Because when we get emotional about an issue, the little bit of sociopath in us comes to the surface. We ignore our own behavior that demonstrates hate, while condemning those who demonstrate it, only from the opposing perspective.

Some are willing to beat you to death in the name of love. You hear them say, “We can disagree

in love.” That has been demonstrated many times in Dinilawigi (Tribal Council). Folks will speak hatefully to each other, then say, “But you know that I love each one of you, and after we leave this room, we are brothers and sisters.” But when they are confronted with disagreement about their positions, figuratively (and sometimes literally) knives are drawn from their pockets, and shoes are kicked off. They are ready to rumble, to borrow from Michael Buffer, the famous boxing announcer.

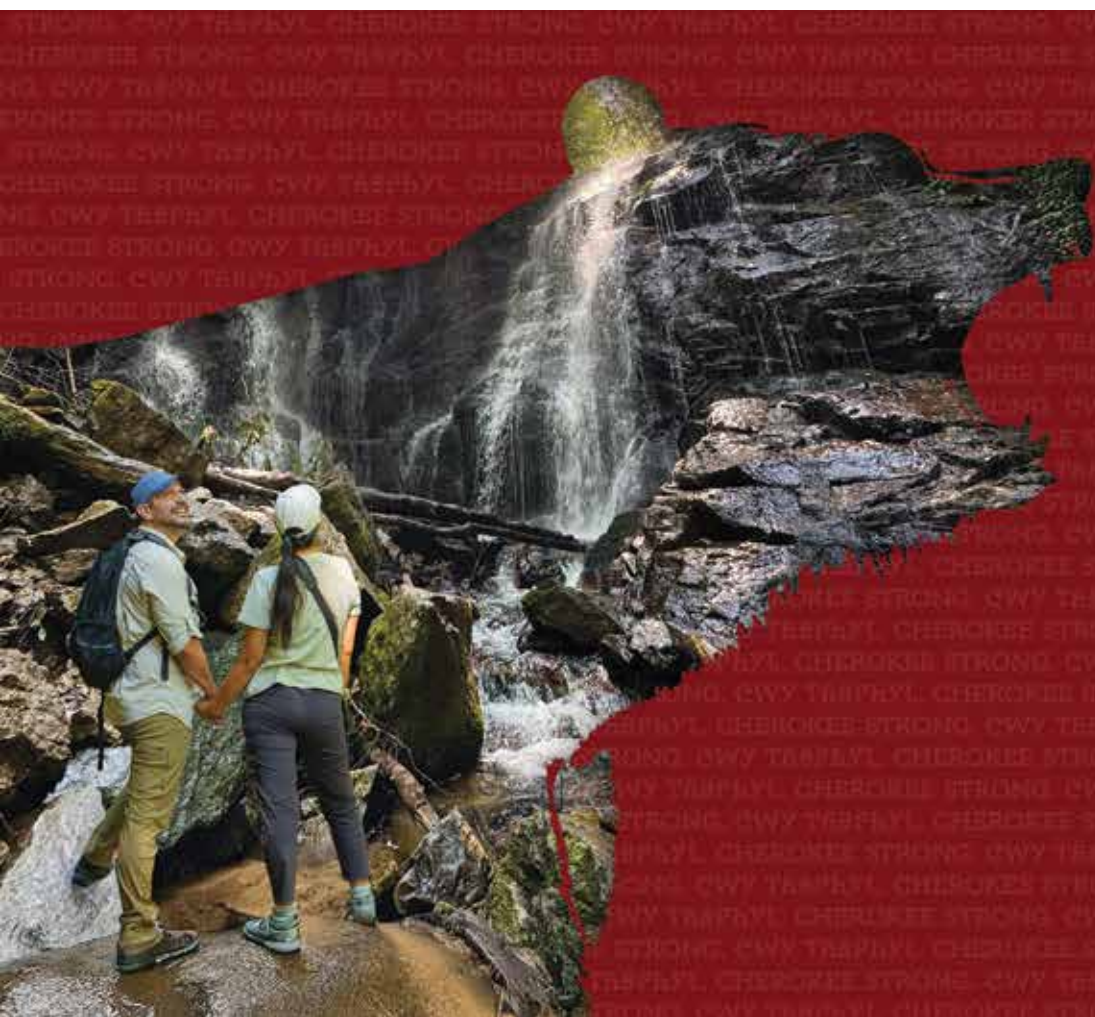
We, particularly in the most recent generation, seem to think everything is either for us or against us personally.

I recently had coffee with a friend who was sharing frustration about a coworker who neglected or ignored duties. Even when confronted, or mildly reminded, of their negligence, they absent-mindedly chastised themselves by saying “I guess I should have done that” and then walked away, to the bewilderment and frustration of coworkers. However, instead of directly inquiring why those tasks are being half-done or being left undone, the people working around them just finish the tasks themselves.

Fear of conflict leads us to remain silent many times and “make do” in hopes that someday, some-

how, things will get better. The type of work my friend is engaged in day-to-day doesn’t allow for things to be half-done, so they feel it is up to them to make sure those half-done tasks are completed so the work can continue uninterrupted.

But there are significant downsides to my friend’s solution. While it is indeed the path of least resistance, having to pause what they are doing to finish the work of another defeats the purpose of going the least resistance route. Effectively, you stop the progress of your own work to do someone else’s work. And even though my friend is kind and level-headed,



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you can bet that in the background, there is animosity or resentment that this person seems to have the time and understanding to know what they need to do, and they are just not doing it. Frustration rises. Productivity drops. A seed of hatred is planted.

So, I asked my friend if they had ever inquired of the coworker why they don't finish the tasks that are daily presented to them. My friend's response is typical of many people in leadership positions and others devoted to having a good work ethic in other areas of their professional and usually their personal lives. They said that it had been easier to just do the work so they could move forward rather than deal with the individual who was shirking their responsibilities.

This is just my opinion. I really feel like that is what the bulk of our society does now, and it is the source of some of the greatest conflicts in our society, whether that is on the Qualla Boundary or other communities surrounding us and extending beyond. We aren't communicating. And when we run into anyone who looks like opposition to us, we go around them instead of asking any questions. And even when we ask questions, we are not listening for the answers. If you lived even a few years on this earth, you have either encountered people who ask you for your

thoughts, then totally disregard or don't hear when you respond, or you yourself have been somewhere else in your mind when someone was trying to explain something to you, and what they said meant nothing to you, because you weren't really listening.

My friend admitted that they hadn't really thought of trying to get that challenging person to talk about why they continue to leave tasks undone to the point that someone else must do it for them. It has always been my observation that when you start doing a task for someone else, who really hasn't articulated a reason for not doing it, the likelihood of them ever going back to doing their complete work is remote. The logic is simple. If I am compensated the same for the work, whether I do it or it is done for me, then my choice is simple. In these later generations of our society, it is indeed rare when someone realizes that the work left undone becomes the burden for someone else.

Part of the challenge is that we tend to answer the questions we have within ourselves before we ever try to seek input from others. Have you ever heard the phrase, "I'd explain it to you, but I can see that your mind is already made up"? We almost instinctively make determinations based on internal opinions without seeking or wait-

ing for information from others. We assume the why is based on the behavior. And we may even do it subconsciously. When my friend described this coworker's behavior and my friend's response to it, the response came from their previous experiences, and, automatically, they or others would "pick up the slack" for the challenging coworker. While the work was completed, there were resulting feelings of defeat, resentment, and hostility. And the source of the challenge, the challenging coworker, was likely oblivious to the feelings created by their actions.

We must take time to ask the right questions and intentionally listen to the responses. My mother used to say, "God gave us two ears and one mouth, so we should listen twice as much as we speak." This is the same mother who taught me that some people "talk just to hear their heads roar". Both are truths of our generation, so we must learn to discern. Stephen Covey, who wrote "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People", said, "Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply."

When you watch a session of Dinilawigi, spend some time listening, really listening, to what is going on. Many times, you will hear impassioned pleas at the podium from people who have

resolutions or ordinances before Dinilawigi. There may even be some empathy expressed for the request. But somehow, when the vote is taken, the resolution or ordinance is defeated. In those situations, you are likely to hear one or more parties say, "In the meeting we had yesterday..." or "As we discussed before we were on air...". You see, minds may be made up long before anyone steps to the podium to make their case during the session. Now, the author of the legislation may or may not have been a party to the previous meeting, but based on their expressions, one could infer that they had not, and some say so outright. Listening to the pleas at the podium, in this case, would be about listening to respond, not listening to understand.

I advised my friend that a possible course of action would be to confront that coworker the next time they let an assigned task get backlogged. When they say, "I guess I should have done that," my friend should use that as their opening. Respond with, "Yes, that would have been the thing to do, so why didn't that happen?" It just might open a dialogue that would make my friend and their coworker understand each other better and potentially move them to a more efficient, effective, productive relationship.



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You are not alone. You are not broken

NOTE: This is the transcript of a speech given by Bradley-Ward at the Darkness Into Hope event held in Tutiya (Snowbird) on Tuesday, May 5.

By **MARISSA BRADLEY-WARD**

Good evening everyone. My name is Marissa Bradley-Ward and I am a person in long term recovery from Substance Use challenges.

First, I want to say thank you. Thank you for being here, for showing up, and for believing in something as powerful as hope. It takes courage to sit in spaces like these- whether you're here for yourself, for someone you love, or simply to understand. Your presence matters.

Tonight, I stand before you not as someone who has it all figured out, but as someone who has walked through darkness- and found a way to keep going.

My story, like many others, didn't start with darkness. It started with being human. With feeling deeply. With trying to navigate life the best way I knew how. But somewhere along the way, things became overwhelming. Pain, trauma, and mental health struggles started to build, and I didn't have the tools- or the support- to handle it all.

So, I did what many people do when they are hurting: I looked for

something to numb it.

Substance use didn't start as destruction. It started as relief. It started as a way to quiet the noise in my mind, to escape the weight I was carrying, to feel okay-even if just for a moment. And for a while, it worked- until it didn't.

What began as a coping mechanism slowly turned into something that controlled my life.

I lost pieces of myself. I lost trust. I lost connections. And, at times, I lost hope.

Living with both substance use and mental health challenges is like being stuck in a cycle that feeds itself. The more you struggle, the more you want to escape. And the more you want to escape, the deeper the struggle becomes. It can feel like there is NO way out.

There were moments when I questioned everything- my worth, my purpose, whether I deserved a better life. And I know I am not alone in that feeling. So many people walk around carrying silent battles, believing they're the only ones who feel this way.

But here is the truth I learned, even when I didn't fully believe it at the time:

You are not alone. You are not broken. And, your story is not over.

Recovery didn't happen overnight for me. It wasn't a single moment where everything changed. It was messy, It was hard. It was uncomfortable. It required me to face things I had spent years trying to avoid.

It meant learning how to sit with my emotions instead of running from them. It meant asking for help- even when my pride told me not to. It meant falling down and choosing to get back up, again, and again.

And one of the most power-

ful parts of my journey has been connection.

People who saw something in me when I couldn't see it myself. People who reminded me of my strength when I felt weak. People who didn't judge me for my past but supported me in building a future.

That is where hope began to grow. Not all at once- but little by little. Hope looked like getting through one day. Then one week. Then believing that maybe...just maybe...I could create a different life.

Today, I stand here in a place I once thought was impossible. I am living proof that change can happen. That healing is real. That even in the darkest moments, there is a path forward.

And part of my purpose now is to give back- to walk alongside others who are where I once was. To remind them that they are worthy of recovery, of healing, of a life filled with meaning.

Because recovery isn't just about stopping substance use. It's about rebuilding your identity. It's about rediscovering who you are. It's about learning how to live - not just survive.

And mental health? That journey continues too. Healing doesn't mean everything is perfect. It means I have tools now. It means I understand myself better. It means I know when to reach out instead of shutting down.

I still have hard days. But I no longer face them alone- and I no longer face them alone without hope.

If you are here tonight and you are struggling- I want you to hear this: You matter. Your life has value. And no matter how dark things feel right now, there is still light ahead.

You don't have to take 10 steps today. Just take one. Reach out. Speak up. Hold on.

And if you are here supporting someone else- Thank you. Your presence, your patience, and your compassion can make more of a difference than you may ever know.

Events like this one are so important because they remind us of something powerful: healing doesn't happen in isolation. It happens in our communities. It happens when we share our stories, when we listen without judgement, and when we stand together.

My past is a part of me - but it does not define me. My struggles shaped me - but they did not break me. And my story is still being written.

So tonight, I choose HOPE.

I choose to believe in second chances- and in my case third, fourth, and fifth.

I choose to believe in growth. I choose to believe that even the darkest paths can lead to something beautiful.

And if I can make it from darkness to hope = I truly believe that anyone can.

Thank you for listening. Thank you for being here. And thank you for believing in Hope.

Bradley-Ward is the Re-Entry peer navigator at the Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness in Cherokee, N.C.

GWY ᏫᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏅᏚᏔᏅ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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

"IT'S TIME FOR GUTTER MAINTENANCE"

6 REASONS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GUTTER MAINTENANCE

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

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

Here is a list of some of those reasons.

PREVENT EROSION & MOLD



1. Roof Damage

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

2. Wood Fascia Damage

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

3. Damage to Walls, Windows, Doors and Patios

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

4. Damage to Foundations and Landscaping

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

5. Slip and fall

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

6. Prevent Mold

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

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



"DON'T TRIM YOUR GUTTERS"



"CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS"



She showed up for 13 years and so did her community

By RENISSA MCLAUGHLIN

EBCI Youth and Adult Education
director

When I spoke with Ava Walkingstick, Youth of the Year Nominee, her Cherokee Youth Center Manager, and the chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the Tar Heel Region, I expected to hear a success story. What I heard was something deeper — a testament to what happens when a community refuses to leave its young people behind.

Ava Walkingstick, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was 5 years old when she first walked through the doors of the Cherokee Youth Center. She is 17 now—a junior at Cherokee High School, the current Teen Miss Cherokee, a member of the Birdtown Community, and this year's Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year nominee for North Carolina, where she earned third place in the state competition. When I spoke with her after the ceremony, it was clear why she had been nominated. It was right there in the way she carried herself: in the steadiness of her voice and the warm smile she extended to everyone in the room.

13 years is a long time to show up anywhere. But Ava has shown up—to the art programs, the soccer clinics, the Vacation Bible School, and every other opportunity the center has offered—year after year, summer after summer. And this year, the Cherokee Youth Center asked her to show up on a bigger stage.

She did not hesitate.

On Tuesday, April 29, the Boys



Matthew Hollifield, Cherokee Youth Center manager; Ava Walkingstick, Youth of the Year nominee; and Ron Green, Boys & Girls Club of the Tar Heel Region chief executive officer. (Photos contributed)

& Girls Clubs of America held its combined North and South Carolina Area Council Youth of the Year Celebration in Charlotte, North Carolina — bringing together honorees, families, club staff, and community leaders from across both states to recognize the region's most outstanding young people. I was moved by what I witnessed there—not just by Ava, but by the full picture of what this program represents.

Ivy Chin, one of this year's judges, put it plainly when she addressed the audience and the honorees gathered from both Carolinas:

“The BGCA National Youth of the Year program is the highest

honor a club member can receive. Every young person in that room has achieved in the classroom, demonstrated leadership, and served their community. Every one of them was worthy of the title.” That is not a small thing. Hundreds of deserving young people are recognized through this program each year—young people who, with the help of their clubs and youth centers, have built something real inside themselves. Something that will carry them forward regardless of what comes next.

Ava competed against ten peers in the regional round, stood among three finalists, delivered a speech, and sat for interviews with

the judging panel. When I asked her to share what the Cherokee Youth Center has meant to her, she did not hesitate.

“The youth center has given me so many opportunities—to make memories and carry those on. They've taught me how to public speak, how to make new friends, how to socialize, and how to be a team member and a leader at the same time.”

What struck me most was not the polish of her words, but the fact that she meant every one of them. This was not a performance. This was a young woman accounting for her own formation, clearly and gratefully.

I asked her what she would say to other teens in this community who have not yet found their way to the center. She did not recite a talking point. She talked about her friends—about the culture of mutual support she found among her peers, even under the competitive pressure of the Youth of the Year process. When asked about her experience in the competition, she said, “We are all definitely supportive of each other. I think that is one thing you can mostly get out of it—making new friends and having people there who are supportive of you. It is definitely one of the most memorable times you are ever going to have.”

I asked Matthew Hollifield, Cherokee Youth Center manager, why Ava had been nominated this year. His response was simple and said with conviction, “Ava is just an outstanding young lady. She represents the youth center, the Boys & Girls Club, and what they stand for very, very well. We

couldn't ask for anybody better to represent us and the tribe."

Hollifield told me he is already looking toward next year, hopeful that Ava will return to compete again and, in his words, "do it even better." That kind of institutional confidence is not handed out lightly. It is earned—the way Ava earned it: one year at a time, one program at a time, one act of leadership at a time.

Ron Green, Boys & Girls Club of the Tar Heel Region chief executive officer, addressed Ava directly at the Charlotte celebration when he presented her with a check for \$500 in recognition of her being named third place. He was not simply congratulating a fi-

nalist. He was speaking to a young woman standing at the edge of her future, and he wanted her to know that her community was standing there with her, "We just want to say thank you for all that you do. It has been such an amazing journey. We hope that this can help further whatever you decide to do — in your post-secondary education, or going into the workforce."

Those words matter. Because the Youth of the Year is not just a title or a trophy. It is a statement of investment—an organization saying, clearly and publicly, that it sees a young person, believes in them, and intends to help carry them forward. Ava Walkingstick has earned that statement.

At the close of our conversation, I asked Ava whether she plans to come back and compete again next year. She smiled—a real smile, not a polished one—and said, "Hopefully."

I believe in her. And I think anyone who meets her will too.

There is a version of this story that is simply about a talented teenager earning a well-deserved honor. But the version I witnessed—in Ava's words, in Matthew Hollifield's pride, in Ryan Green's direct address to her future—is about something larger. I also saw it in the faces of the community that was there in Charlotte to support her: Beth Grant, Youth Center board member; Tevy West

and Tiffany Cooper, Youth Development Professionals at the Cherokee Youth Center; and especially her grandmother, Suzette Sanchez. It is about what a youth center can be when it takes its mission seriously. It is about what a young person can become when she is supported by her community. Ava Walkingstick has been walking through those doors for thirteen years. The Cherokee Youth Center, its staff, her family, and her community have been walking with her. That partnership — quiet, consistent, and profoundly Cherokee — is the real story worth telling.

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SPEAKING OF FAITH

Layaway Plan

Part 2 of 2

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

Scripture reference: 2 Corinthians
1:20-22

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so, through Him, the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” NIV

A layaway plan is when you give money as a down payment to get something reserved that the store keeps as you continue to pay for it. Then, when it is all paid for, you will get it sometime in the future.

God’s plan is that Jesus already paid for it. His gift is waiting, sitting on the shelf until you accept it. When you accept His gift of love and forgiveness, the additional benefit is eternal life and blessings from the moment the Spirit enters you. It’s not only a future blessing; it’s an immediate blessing because He changes your life. The Spirit begins to clean your thoughts and actions; He restores you with love for others. The ben-

efits are now, for each day, forever because He is in you - forever. And He promises you that He will never leave you, never forget you, never lose your ticket, never let you go. He will always be with you, beside you, as your defender, comforter, healer, and friend. A friend better than a brother, a father who provides for your needs with mercy, grace, and rewards of heaven greater than anything you can imagine. You will never die. You will live forevermore with Him in all His glory in heaven.

He made full payment with His life on the cross so you can live forever with Him. You get the whole gift; all you need to do is believe in Jesus, believe He can

save you from your sin, and have faith that He is the only One who can and will do this for you. Take the gift home right now.

Lord God and Father, I ask today that this simple idea might be used to Your glory. I ask that someone see and understand how simple accepting Jesus is and how permanent the results are. Lord, You have no limits in that You can make Your Word come alive and, with Your Spirit, capture the hearts of those You call unto Yourself. Use this word to gather those unto You for Your glory and honor. Amen



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
He puts the deep into storehouses.

Psalm 33:7

Detail of “Ault-Onival” by T. F. Simon (1903)

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TIGER

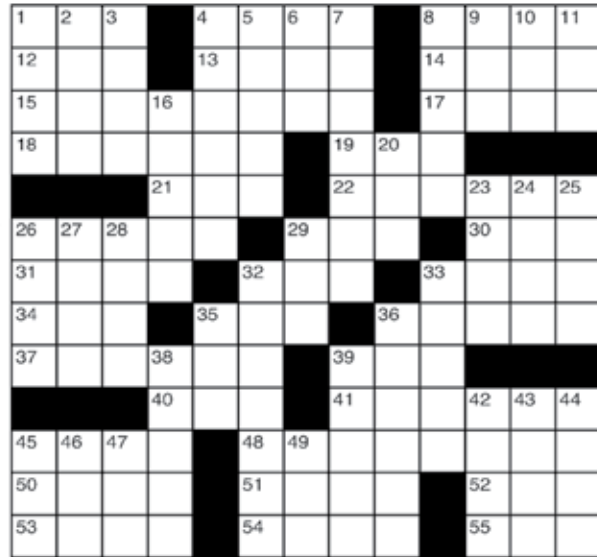


The Spats



ACROSS

- 1 Cry
- 4 Vault
- 8 Daly and Allen
- 12 Common title start
- 13 Killer whale
- 14 Web addresses
- 15 Pithy joke
- 17 Legume
- 18 Suggests
- 19 TV guide abbr.
- 21 Wager
- 22 Expulsion
- 26 Errand runner
- 29 Whatever number
- 30 Hwy.
- 31 Caspian Sea feeder
- 32 Keats creation
- 33 Go caroling
- 34 Capitol VIP
- 35 Year in Madrid
- 36 Epic narratives
- 37 On/off switch
- 39 "You've got mail" co.
- 40 Documentarian Burns
- 41 Obligations
- 45 Beige
- 48 The whole crowd



- 50 Ache
- 51 Aswan's river
- 52 Victory
- 53 Abbr. on a schedule
- 54 Ticked (off)
- 55 Annex
- 9 Rage
- 10 Org. with a style manual
- 11 Nine-digit ID
- 16 Slander in print
- 20 Purchase
- 23 Advanced math
- 24 Sicilian peak
- 25 Bylaws, briefly
- 26 Sudden wind
- 27 Disc-shaped cookie
- 28 Sharp tooth
- 29 Commotion
- 32 Penny
- 33 Like seawater
- 35 Boxing legend
- 36 Turned bad
- 38 Hog's "hello"
- 39 "Hello" singer
- 42 Illinois neighbor
- 43 Wife of Geraint
- 44 Fax
- 45 Clean air org.
- 46 Baseball fan's headwear
- 47 Tear
- 49 Compete

DOWN

- 1 Halt
- 2 "It can't be!"
- 3 Hive population
- 4 Hang around
- 5 Painter Max
- 6 Expert
- 7 Series opener
- 8 Big brass

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Vacuum is moved. 3. Blinds are higher. 4. Drawer is larger. 5. Back of chair is higher. 6. Bottom of chair is different.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 26 mins.

King Crossword

Answers



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Belarus?
2. LITERATURE: Which Ken Kesey novel is set in an Oregon psychiatric hospital?
3. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek goddess of discord?
4. ANATOMY: What is the longest bone in the human body?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was a commanding general in World War II?
6. MATH: What kind of polygon has three sides?
7. BIBLE: What is the last book in the Bible called?
8. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is closest in size to Earth?
9. CHEMISTRY: What is the newest element on the Periodic Table?
10. MOVIES: Which Canadian actor/comedian starred in the movie "Uncle Buck" and died of a heart attack at 43?

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Benefits/Fundraisers

Indian Taco Benefit. May 15 from 11 a.m. till sold out at the Pamela Dawn Taylor Gym, 10 Old Gap Rd, Cherokee, N.C, 28719. For team EBCI fifth and sixth grade boys basketball to travel to Mesa, Ariz. Preorders: Bree at (828) 788-3308

Bingo Night Fundraiser. May 16 at 5 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C. All funds will be used to help the EBCI 3rd and 4th grade team travel to Mesa, Ariz. for a basketball tournament. \$20 adult packs, \$10 kid packs. A small concession will be available.

Bingo Fundraiser. June 13 concession opens at 5 p.m. games start at 5:30 p.m. at the Pamela Dawn Taylor Gym, 10 Old Gap Rd, Cherokee, N.C., 28719. All proceeds go to the fifth grade AAU boys basketball team. Info: Bree at (828) 788-3308

EBCI Community Events

NAIWA Strawberry Festival. May 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C. Featuring strawberry pancakes and strawberry shortcake and hamburgers. Vendor space available at \$10 per table. To reserve a table, call Hope Pheasant (828) 736-5453

Animal Health Clinic. May 15 and 16 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Grace Community Church, 340 HWY 441N, Whittier, N.C. 28789. Dogs and cats, spays and neuters, vaccines. Horses West Nile vaccine, horse float. Info: Dr. Page Wages (919) 906-1280

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

Small Business Startup. May 21 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Sequoyah Fund 8110 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. How to start a small business, write a business plan, define and find your customers, market your business and so much more. Info: Russ Seagle, (828) 359-5001 or russseagle@sequoyahfund.org

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

Barter Market. May 23 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Towstring Community Building 105 Towstring Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Community event to exchange goods or services directly instead of using money. Great way to reduce waste, support neighbors and strengthen community connections. Info: Faith Long-Presley (828) 788-2036 or faithlong3252@gmail.com

Blood Drive. June 2 from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Cherokee High

School 200 Ravensford Dr., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Students must be 16 years old to donate. 16 and 17 year olds must have a signed consent form. Bring Donor card or photo ID, walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment or for more information call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code "Cherokee".

Kananesgi Art Market.

June 20 from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort 777 Casino Dr., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Info: www.kananesgi.com

Animal Clinic. June 26 and 27 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center, 1416 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Spays,

neuters, vaccines, horse west nile vaccine. No appointments, first come first served. For residents of the Qualla Boundary. Info: (828) 497-6091.

NAIWA Blueberry Festival.

Aug. 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yellowhill Activity Center in Cherokee, N.C. Featuring blueberry pancakes. Vendor space available at \$10 per table. To reserve a table, call Hope Pheasant (828) 736-5453

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

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida
SŌHi AD RVLLEJ DŌWYL



Cochise, a 5-year-old Boxer, lives in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) with his human, Barbara Toineeta.



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Cherokee Cultural/Historic Events

Cherokee Language Workshop with Ogadudala. Every Monday and Wednesday in May from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ken Blankenship Education Wing, TJ

Holland Education Room at 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719, except May 4 (Art Studio). Dreyton Long, Madison Hye Long, Elvia Walkingstick, Jack Cooper, and Meshay Long lead a free language workshop at the Museum.

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

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A temporary setback could work in your favor. Use this time to take another long look at a situation that you thought was absolutely foolproof. It's better to find the flaws now instead of later.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You divine Bovines could soon be scoring some impressive Bull's-eyes as you get closer to putting some carefully made plans into motion. Be patient. Time is on your side.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Balance the slightly overly romantic view of your current situation with a much-needed dollop of reality from your practical side. See it as it is — not as you would like it to be.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your self-confidence continues to grow, but be careful not to overextend yourself. Go forward one step at a time. Meanwhile, a partner is ready to provide you with loving support.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) There's no time for on-the-job catnapping for ambitious Leos and Leonas. Changes are coming, and you won't want to miss out on any of the opportunities that go with them.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your adventurous side continues to play a dominant role in many of the decisions that you'll be making during the next few weeks. Enjoy the ride, but don't get carried away.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Avoid distractions that intrude on the time you need to straighten out legal complications. Additionally, expect to do some work-related traveling during the next few months.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be on guard against attempts to take advantage of your kind, caring nature. Also, a trusted friend can help you get the facts before you reach for your checkbook.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A recent unpleasant confrontation could soon flare up again unless all the areas of miscommunication are resolved. The sooner you start the process, the better.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A recent workplace incident could continue to cause problems. Prepare yourself with the facts that you'll need if you're called upon to give your side of the story.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This is a good time to speak up about a troubling situation. The sooner you do, the sooner others will realize what's been going on, and then they'll help you deal with it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A change in travel plans could be the first of many that will occur during the next several months. Meanwhile, deal with a problem involving someone who's close to you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a bright, shining personality that attracts people to you. You also have a way of seeing two sides of every issue. You'd make a fine judge.

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by Freddy Groves

The Star Act

The Major Richard Star Act seeks to allow 55,000 combat-injured veterans (who have less than 20 years of service) to receive their full pay at the same time they get disability benefits. The explanation on the website for the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the history of the act reads like a tennis match, and you could get whiplash watching the ball being volleyed back and forth. We have the vote in the Senate going from the Committee to a vote that was blocked by the Republicans as something we can't afford ... to the Democrats who offered a compromise motion about floor time for the vote ... back to the Republicans ... back to the Democrats ...

Currently, for those who don't have their 20 years, there's a reduction in pay in exchange for disability benefits, and that's what the Star Act can fix.

It's mind-boggling to consider: You serve your country and end up so combat-injured you can't continue and you are medically retired. Then, the rules say, you have to decide between DoD retirement benefits and VA disability benefits. And for every VA dollar, they take away a DoD dollar.

Needing to calculate having VA-disability dollars deducted from DoD pay benefits doesn't help veterans decide their financial future, but passage of the Star Act would.

The Star Act says injured veterans should at least be given a choice of getting Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) or their regular retirement pay plus the Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) service-connected disability compensation. There are financial considerations of all types between the two. One example is that CRSC is not subject to division with a former spouse and CRDP is. CRSC is not taxable; CRDP is. One requires 20 years of service, and one requires 50% disability instead of 10% and being at least 60 years old. There's a lot that goes into the decision.

If you're in a position of needing to decide which financial route to go, see the info at www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/disability/comparison.

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Cancer in pets: Early signs every owner should know

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: When my cat developed cancer, the only symptom he had was weird. "Manny" started jumping up on the kitchen table and staring at me while I made dinner! He never jumped up on the table or kitchen counters before. I thought it was cute and would just scold him and put him down, but he would jump right back up. We were very lucky that his annual checkup took place soon after he started doing that. I told the vet about the behavior, and she ordered an additional blood test, which showed there was a problem. My cat is being treated for lymphoma and is doing very well. So I don't think a sudden change in behavior is just "cute," pay attention! — Linda R., Saratoga Springs, New York

DEAR LINDA: I'm so glad to hear that Manny is doing well! Lymphoma is usually very responsive to chemotherapy, and cats experience few side effects in most cases.

Cats are especially good at hiding illness — it's instinctively built in. Plus, some illnesses mimic other diseases, or just present as quirky behavior changes.

Symptoms of possible cancer in pets can be subtle, so contact your pet's veterinarian if you notice any of the following: changes in behavior or eating habits; loss of interest in favorite activities; lameness or indications of pain; unexplained weight loss; abdominal swelling; lumps or bumps on their skin that change over time; persistent vomiting or diarrhea; bleeding; difficulty eating, breathing or swallowing; or sores that won't heal.

Many of these symptoms show up in diseases other than cancer, which is why it's important to have your pet evaluated by a vet to determine the cause and get the correct treatment.

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

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EVENTS: From page 53

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

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

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

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

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Meetings

(All meetings will be held in the

Cherokee Council House in Cherokee, N.C. unless otherwise noted.)

Lands Committee. May 13 at 9 a.m.

Timber Committee. May 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Planning Board. May 18 at 1 p.m.

Health Board. May 20 at 8:30 a.m.

HIP Committee. May 20 at 1 p.m.

Qualla Housing Committee. May 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Parks & Recreation Committee. May 21 at 1 p.m.

Pow Wow Listings

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

Western Washington University Spring Pow Wow. May 15-16 at the Carver Gymnasium in Bellingham, Wash. MC: Mike Sanchez. Host Drum: Bad Soul. Info: Hayley Abella (360) 650-3827, nasuatwwu@gmail.com

All My Relations Pow Wow. May 16-17 at Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon Campus, in Mount Vernon, Wash. MC: Randy Vendola. Host Drum: Double Runner. Info: AllMyRelations@skagit.edu

UNACC Chief Roland Jerome Memorial Pow Wow. May 16-17 in Devens, Mass. Host Drum: Sa-

cred Earth. Guest Drum: Humble Spirit. Info: Shauna Manning at unacc29@gmail.com

Rising Sun Pow Wow. May 16 at Mount Trashmore Park in Virginia Beach, Va. MC: Keith Colston. Host Drum: War Paint. Guest Drum: Red Clay. Info: Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation at fun@vbgov.com

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Analenisgi. Info: www.AAwncc80.com

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

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

497-0788

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

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

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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events

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

Rev It Up for the Vets. May 16 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Country-side Chevrolet 71 Cat Creek Rd.,

Franklin, N.C. 28734. Cruise-In and Benefit for Local Veterans. Music, food, and family fun. Trophies for Top 3 vehicles. Info: (828) 524-0734

“Connecting to Place: Blue Ridge Craft Trails Invitation- al” art exhibition. May 16 – July 25 at The Bascom: A Center for Visual Arts at 323 Franklin Rd. in Highlands, N.C. 20 craft artists from communities across western North Carolina will be participating including EBCI Beloved Man Davy Arch. The exhibit is free and open to the public, and a reception will be held on June 11 at 5 p.m. Info: (828) 526-4949, www.thebascom.org

Cold Mountain Music Festival. May 29 and 30 gates open at

10 a.m. at Lake Logan 25 Wormy Chesnut Ln., Canton, N.C. 28716. Cold Mountain Music Festival features top-notch musical talent, amazing local food and drink vendors, family-friendly activities, and more - all in one of the most pristine settings imaginable! The centerpiece of our nearly 300-acre campus is mile-long Lake Logan surrounded by the Shining Rock Wilderness and Pisgah National Forest. Info: coldmountainmusic.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

Great Tellico History Day. June 20 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Charles Hall Museum & Heritage Center, 229 Cherohala Skyway, Tellico Plains, Tenn. 37385. Cherokee Culture, Early History,

Traditional Skills, and Music., Free admission and parking. Handmade crafts for sale by Cherokee and Early Settler Demonstrators. Food trucks onsite Info: charleshallmuseum@hotmail.com

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

2026 Trade Fair. Aug. 21 – 22 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, 522 W Madison Ave., Athens., Tenn. 37303. Crafts, music, history, food, textiles, quilting and more. Info: (423) 745-0329

Cherokee Community Clubs



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

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

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

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



Now is a great time to go outside and watch the birds! During mid-April to late-May, millions of birds travel through our area using the Atlantic Flyway, where they journey north from Mexico, Central America, and South America to breed and raise chicks across North America. During this migration, you may spot as many as 25 species of wood warblers, along with vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and hummingbirds. You might even catch a glimpse of a **Scarlet Tanager**, pictured here!

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: From page 55

Tsalagi Gadugi (Cherokee County) Community meets the second Tuesday of each month at the community building; potluck at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Info: Chair Joe Palmer (828) 361-9219, joepalmer1013@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

Cherokee Houses of Worship

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

Acquoni Baptist Church. 722 Acquoni Road. 497-7106. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m. Sunday Choir Practice 5 p.m. Wednesday Prayer

Meeting 6 p.m. Pastor Merritt Youngdeer (828) 788-6614

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

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

Big Cove Missionary Baptist Church. 6183 Big Cove Road. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Samaria (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Judges 11, what judge of Israel was a prostitute's son? *Hosea, Jephthah, Samson, Lot*
3. Which prophet saw a valley full of dry bones come to life? *Isaiah, Ezekiel, Elisha, Jeremiah*
4. From Esther 1, what king did Esther marry? *Jehu, Omri, Ahasuerus, Zedekiah*
5. Who asked, "If a man die, shall he live again"? *Samuel, Judas, Job, Stephen*
6. From 2 Kings 23, where was King Josiah killed? *Megiddo, Anathoth, Philadelphia, Jericho*

ANSWERS: (1) Neither. (2) Jephthah, (3) Ezekiel, (4) Ahasuerus, (5) Job, (6) Megiddo

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

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Moments in time

• On May 25, 1660, exiled English King Charles II set out for Dover to assume the throne and bring an end to more than a decade of military rule. He entered London in triumph four days later, on his 30th birthday, and would reign for nearly 25 years before his death from what was likely kidney failure in 1685.

• On May 26, 1865, Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi division, surrendered, one of the last Confederate generals to do so, under terms similar to that of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. He was the last surviving full Confederate general until his death in 1893.

• On May 27, 1887, the Hells Canyon Massacre took place when two groups of Chinese workers, employed to search for gold in the Snake River in what is now Idaho, were ambushed and murdered by a gang of seven white men known to be horse thieves, who then made off with several thousand dollars worth of gold

• On May 28, 1957, National League owners voted unanimously to allow the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers to move to San Francisco and Los Angeles, respectively, at the mid-season owner's meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

• On May 29, 2003, actor/comedian Bob Hope celebrated his 100th birthday. In a public Hollywood ceremony, city officials renamed the intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Avenue Bob Hope Square, and several 1940s-era U.S. planes flew overhead. Hope's health was too poor for him to attend, but three of his children and some show-business colleagues, including Mickey Rooney, were there to honor him.

• On May 30, 1967, following years of suppression under Nigeria's military government, the breakaway state of Biafra proclaimed its independence from the West African country.

• On May 31, 2009, Millvina Dean, the last survivor of the Titanic sinking, died at age 97. Nine weeks old at the time of the disaster, she was rescued with her mother and brother but her father was not. The family had intended to relocate to Kansas City, but returned to London.

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The caterpillars of fritillary butterflies hatch in autumn, go dormant right away without feeding, and sleep through the winter. They awaken in the spring at the same time as violet plants – their only food – begin to grow.

It is feared that global warming may disrupt this delicate and important synchronization and cause extinction of fritillary butterflies.

– Brenda Weaver
Source: www.fs.fed.us



Fritillaries

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evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday evening prayer meeting 7 p.m., Monthly business meeting is first Wednesday 7 p.m.

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

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

Boiling Springs Missionary Baptist Church. 960 Old Bryson City Road in the 3200 Acre

Tract. 488-9202

Buffalo Baptist Church. 2686 Snowbird Rd. in Robbinsville, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m., Sunday Evening 5 p.m., Wednesday Evening 6:30 p.m. Info: (828) 507-2271

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christian Acts Church at the Crossroads. 3501 Hwy. 441, Whittier, N.C. (near Mountain Credit Union). Sunday School and

Continental Breakfast 10 a.m., Sunday Service 11 a.m., Wednesday service – music practice at 5 p.m. and Bible Study at 6 p.m., Saturday Prayer Service 6 p.m. (828) 556-0115

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

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

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

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

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

see **EVENTS** next page

MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



TERRAN PARKER

RN Supervisor

Education: Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Western Carolina University (RIBN Program)
Years at CIHA: 3.5 Years
Community/Hometown: Robbinsville, NC

“Being part of CIHA allows me to contribute to something much larger than myself. Providing compassionate care and building meaningful relationships- knowing that even a small difference can profoundly impact someone’s life. I am grateful to work alongside such a dedicated and supportive team, one that faces challenges together and keeps those we serve at the heart of everything. Every day brings an opportunity to learn, grow, and show up for others in a meaningful way.” - Terran Parker

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

EVENTS: From page 57

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 Gos-

pel 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 Wolfstown 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

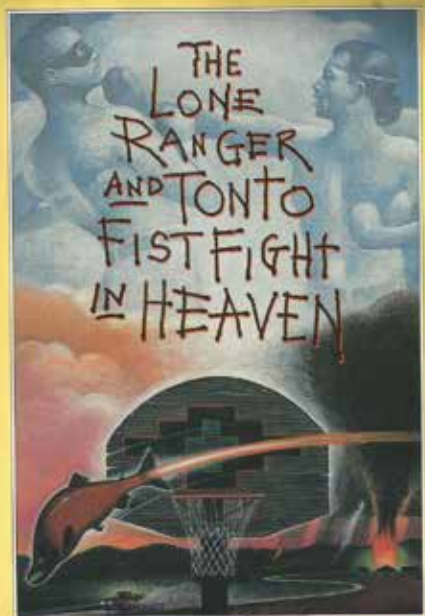
Spruce Grove Baptist Church. 780 Lands Creek Rd., Bryson City, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship service 11 a.m., Sunday evening service 7 p.m., Wednesday evening service 7 p.m., third Saturday singing 7 p.m. Pastor Ernie Cable. Email: sprucegrovebc.1920@gmail.com

Qualla

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



BOOK OF THE WEEK



SHERMAN ALEXIE

"Again and again, Alexie's prose startles and dazzles with unexpected, impossible-to-anticipate moves. With this stunning collection, Sherman Alexie has become quite clearly an important new voice in American literature." —Boston Globe

"The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" Author Sherman Alexie

"The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" was Sherman Alexie's breakthrough book composed of 22 interconnected stories with recurring characters. The book's central characters, Victor Joseph and Thomas Builds-the-Fire, are two young Native-American men living on the Spokane Indian Reservation, and the stories describe their relationships, desires, and histories with family members and others who live on the reservation.

Alexie fuses surreal imagery, flashbacks, dream sequences, diary entries, and extended poetic passages with storytelling to create tales that resemble prose poems more than conventional narratives.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto are symbols for white and Native-American identity. Alexie studs his stories with other references to popular culture to underscore the ways in which representations of Native Americans have played a part in constructing the image they now have.

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

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

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

Wilmot Baptist Church. Thom-

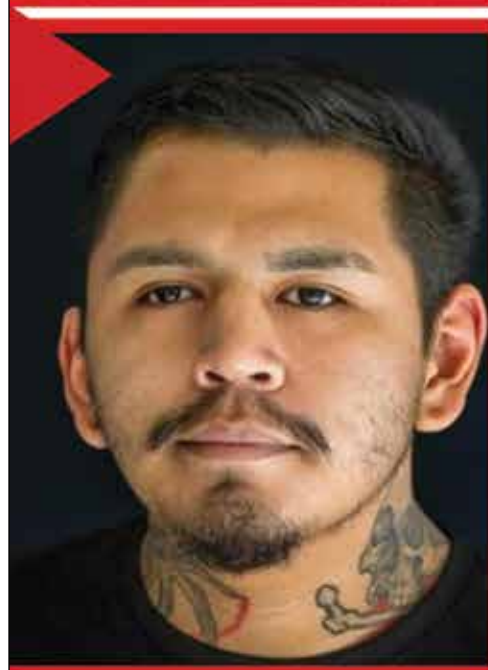
as Valley Road. Sunday school: 10 a.m., Worship: 11a.m., Sunday night worship: 6 p.m., Wednesday prayer service: 7 p.m., every other Monday night (Youth night) singing, bible study and crafts: 6 p.m.

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



Shania Woodall
Missing from:
 Cherokee, N.C.
Missing since:
 April 8, 2025
D.O.B.:
 July 2, 2015
Height: 4'8" to 4'10"
Weight: 100 lbs
Contact:
 828-497-4131



Gabriel Thor Crow
Missing from:
 Asheville, N.C.
Missing since:
 Jan. 27, 2024
D.O.B.:
 Jan. 21, 1997
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 170 lbs
Contact:
 828-252-1110 or
 828-359-6612





Jacqueline "Jackie" Davis
Missing from:
 Cherokee, N.C.
Missing since:
 Jan. 1, 1969
was 14 years old
 5'0"-5'5 120 lbs
Contact: 615-564-6600

MISSING
 GWY ᏉᏍᏗ ᏅᏍᏗᏍᏗ
 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * ᏚᏍᏗᏍᏗ ᏅᏍᏗᏍᏗ ᏅᏍᏗᏍᏗ



PHHS Employee Spotlight

Michael Quillen,
Health Care Administration director

Education:
 BS Business Management,
 BS Accounting,
 CPA - State of Florida

Years at PHHS: 10

Community/Town:
 Whittier, N.C.

"I'm grateful to advance Public Health with an amazing compassionate team."

CLASSIFIEDS

Lefty's Lawn Service. Mowing and weed eating services. (828) 735-3586. 7/29

For Sale: China cabinet \$250. Dining room table with 6 chairs \$50. Call Joy (828) 497-1138. 5/27

EMPLOYMENT

Now Hiring

Do you have a passion for supporting students and families and building community? Community School Coordinator positions available in Cherokee Central, Swain County, and Jackson County Schools. Visit www.community-schoolsnc.org to learn more. 5/20

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

DONALD ALLEN BRADY

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

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

Theresa Tahquette

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

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

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

MARY ANN JACOBS

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

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

Adele Jacobs Madden
379 Castlewood Lane
Sylva, NC 28779

5/13

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

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

REBECCA LAMBERT

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

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

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

5/20

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-040

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

MARTHA ANN

WALKINGSTICK SAMPSON

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

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

Alyssa Sampson
P.o Box 849
Cherokee, NC 28719

5/27

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-038

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

TOMMIE SUE LOSSIAH

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

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

Mollie Grant
P.o Box 613
Cherokee, NC 28719

5/27

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

MANDARA SPA

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

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

GARY FRENCH

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

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

Yvonne Bushyhead
206 Wild Rose Trace
Cherokee, NC 28719

5/27

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-041

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

DEBORAH ANN LITTLEJOHN

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

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

Tasheena Parker
625 Sheep Rock Cove Rd
Whittier, NC. 287889

6/3

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS
CHEROKEE TRIBAL COURT
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA
FILE NO: CV 26-0031

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

TAKE NOTICE THAT: William Richard Boyd, Jr., Substitute Trustee, has begun proceedings to FORECLOSE under the Deed of Trust described below, and under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in such Deed of Trust, and an Order entered by the Judge of the Cherokee Tribal Court, will sell the below described leasehold interest at public auction as follows:

The instrument pursuant to which such sale will be held is that certain Deed of Trust executed by Alexander Hornbuckle, Jr., original mortgagor, for the benefit of Cherokee Indian Housing Division, successor to Qualla Housing Authority ("Noteholder") and recorded in Book 71, at Page 8 in Miscellaneous Documents of the Cherokee Agency. The record lessee of such property, as reflected on the records of the Cherokee Agency not more than ten (10) days prior to posting this Notice of Sale, if not the original mortgagors, is: N/A

The leasehold interest will be sold by the Substitute Trustee at 10:00 a.m. on the 28th day of May, 2026 at the Cherokee Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs door located at 257 Tsali Boulevard, Cherokee, NC 28719.

The leasehold interest to be sold is generally described as 72 Teesateskie Drive, Cherokee, NC 28719 and is more particularly described as follows (the "Property"):

BIRDTOWN COMMUNITY PARCEL NO.795-N (REMAINDER OF PARCEL NO. 795-I) – BEGINNING on an Iron Rod set, in Birdtown Community, at the corner of BT Parcel Nos. 795-F and 846-C. Thence, running with the line of BT Parcel No. 795-F the following three calls, N 60° 16'00"

E 155.72' to an Iron Rod set; N 51° 22'00" E 53.18' to an Iron Rod set; N 40° 29'00" E 66.53' to an Iron Rod set on the southerly Right-of-Way for Fisher Branch Road (BIA RD NO. 472), Thence, with said Right-of-Way; S 55° 53'57" E 36.55' to an Iron Rod set on the westerly side of a 20' access road Right-of-Way. Thence with said Right-of-Way the following courses and distances:

S 13° 32'40" E 45.65' to a PK Nail set; S 36°02'00" W 153.72' to an Iron Rod set; S 30° 40'00" W 75.50' to an Iron Rod found at the Northeast corner of BT Parcel No. 795-K. Thence with the line of BT Parcel No. 795-K, S 59° 09'28" W 109.60' to an Iron Rod set on the easterly line of BT Parcel No. 846-C. Thence with the line of BT Parcel NO. 846-C; N 05° 30'00" E 67.64' to a point; N 21° 10'00" W 87.88' to The Point of BEGINNING.

Containing 0.768 Acres, more or less, together with all improvements located thereon.

TOGETHER WITH A 20' ACCESS ROAD R/W – BEGINNING at a point on the centerline of 20' Access Road Right-of-Way, in Birdtown Community, which lies N 59° 07'30" E 57.97' from a ¾' Iron Rod marking the Wester corner of BT Parcel NO. 795-K; Thence, with said centerline, the following courses and distances:

S 33° 15'19" E 6.72' to a point; S 52° 08'56" E 9.80' to a point;

S 75° 30'02" E 10.54' to a point; N 47° 35'16" E 18.58' to a point;

N 35° 30'47" E 10.71' to a point; N 33° 57'42" E 38.31' to a point;

N 31° 06'54" E 44.78' to a point; N 33° 50'03" E 37.77' to a point;

N 36° 32'29" E 85.16' to a point; N 35° 17'17" E 39.10' to a point;

N 04° 20'05" E 12.98' to a point; N 13° 42'38" W 29.27' to a point;

N 11° 47'32" W 30.79' to a point; N 10° 13'43" W 13.98' to a point on the centerline of Fisher Branch Road, BIA Rd. No. 472 and end of Right-of-Way.

Containing 0.159 Acre, more or less.

Birdtown Community Parcel No. 795-N is adjacent to Fisher Branch Road, BIA Rd. No. 472.

Any leasehold interest described in the Deed of Trust which is not being offered for sale is described as follows: Subject to any and all Release Deeds of Record in the Cherokee Agency and Swain County, North Carolina Registry.

Any buildings located on the above-described property are also included in the sale.

The property will be sold by the Substitute Trustee to the highest bidder for CASH. The highest bidder will be required to deposit IN CASH with the Substitute Trustee at the date and time of the sale the greater of five percent (5.0%) of the amount of the bid or Seven Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$750.00).

The Property is being sold "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Substitute Trustee, Noteholder, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, or authorized agents or representatives of either Substitute Trustee or Noteholder make any warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment, or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the Proper-

see TRADING POST next page

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ty and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way related to such conditions are expressly disclaimed. The Noteholder has reserved the right to withdraw the sale up to and until the deed is delivered by the Substitute Trustee.

The property will be sold subject to levy, special assessments, and all unpaid taxes, if any.

The property will be sold subject to limitations regarding possession and transfer under federal and Tribal law.

An order for possession of the Property may be issued pursuant to Cherokee Code Section 45-24 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the Superior Court Clerk of the Cherokee Tribal Court.

Additional Notice Where the Property is Residential with Less Than 15 Rental Units, including single-family residential real property: Any person who occupies the Property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the Notice of Sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.8, the sale of the Property may be

made by whole or by tract in the discretion of the Substitute Trustee. Further, the Substitute Trustee may offer for sale any and all personal property as permitted by the Deed of Trust in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes Sections 25-9-604, 25-9-610, and 25-9-611, in whole, as individual items, or together with the Property as the Substitute Trustee determines is appropriate in the Substitute Trustee's sole discretion. This notice is intended to comply with the requirements of North Carolina General Statutes Sections 25-9-607 and 25-9-613 providing for the disposition of personal property in connection with a foreclosure of real property and Cherokee Code Section 25-9. Mortgagor is entitled to and may request an accounting of the unpaid indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust.

Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the remaining balance of the successful bid amount in cash or certified funds at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to such bidder, or attempts to deliver to such bidder, a deed for the Property. Should such successful bidder fail to pay the full balance of the successful bid at that time, that bidder shall remain liable on the bid as provided by Cherokee Code Section 45-25.

The Property is being sold subject to all prior and superior: (i) deeds of trust, (ii) liens, (iii) unpaid taxes, (iv) restrictions, (v) easements, (vi) assessments, (vii) leases, and (viii) other matters, if any, which, as a matter of law, survive the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust, provided that the inclusion of this clause in this Notice of Substitute Trustee's Sale of Real Estate shall not be deemed to validate or otherwise effect to

any such matter or other right which, as a matter of law, does not survive the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust.

Any person who occupies the Property pursuant to a bona fide lease or tenancy may have additional rights pursuant to the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act. THIS the 21st day of April, 2026. William Richard Boyd, Jr., Substitute Trustee, 474 Mountain Cove Road, Waynesville, North Carolina 28786

5/27

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

**CHEROKEE TRIBAL COURT
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA
FILE NO: CV 26-0032**

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

TAKE NOTICE THAT: William Richard Boyd, Jr., Substitute Trustee, has begun proceedings to FORECLOSE under the Deed of Trust described below, and under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in such Deed of Trust, and an Order entered by the Judge of the Cherokee Tribal Court, will sell the below described leasehold interest at public auction as follows:

The instrument pursuant to which such sale will be held is that certain Deed of Trust executed by William Thomas Thompson, original mortgagor, for the benefit of Cherokee Indian Housing Division, successor to Qualla Housing Authority ("Noteholder") and recorded in Book LIV, at Page 48 in Miscellaneous Documents of the Cherokee Agency. The record lessee of such property, as reflected on the records of the Cherokee Agency not more than ten (10) days prior to posting this Notice of Sale, if not the original mortgagors, is: N/A

The leasehold interest will be sold by the Substitute Trustee at 10:00 a.m. on the 28th day of May, 2026 at the Cherokee Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs door located at 257 Tsali Boulevard, Cherokee, NC 28719.

The leasehold interest to be sold is generally described as 60 Junaluska Drive, Cherokee, NC 28719 and is more particularly described as follows (the "Property"):

**BIRDTOWN COMMUNITY
PARCEL NO.767-D (REMAINDER Of PARCEL No. 767) – BEGINNING** on an Iron Pipe set in Birdtown Community, on the SE property Boundary of Parcel No. 188 and is a corner to Parcel No. 355. Thence leaving Parcel No. 355 and running with Parcel No. 188, N 60° 58'E 96.57' to an Iron Pipe. Thence running N 29° 02' W 150.00' to Marker No. 2813 a corner to Parcel No. 299. Thence leaving Parcel No. 188 and running with Parcel No. 299, N 89° 59' E 58.96' to a point. Thence running N 88° 24' E 83.76' to a point a corner to Parcel No. 599. Thence leaving Parcel No. 299 and running with Parcel No. 599, S 02° 41' E 220.22' to an Iron Pipe a corner to Parcel No. 355. Thence leaving Parcel No. 599 and running with Parcel NO. 355, N 76° 26' W 168.89' to The Point of BEGINNING

Containing 0.535 Acres, more or less.

TOGETHER WITH A 15' ACCESS RD. R/W – BEGINNING on a point set in the center of an Access Road in Birdtown Community, which is one call as follows from the SE corner of Parcel No. 767-D, N 02° 15' 56" W 57.03'; Thence running with the centerline of the Access Road the following courses and distances:

Thence N 77° 49'27" E 8.71' to a point; Thence N 57° 20'06" E 10.83' to a point;

Thence N 46° 24'02" E 20.81' to a point; Thence N 41° 17'20" E 20.78' to a point;

Thence N 01° 43'02" E 43.88' to a point; Thence N 02° 04'43" E 36.31' to a point;

Thence N 00° 18'57" E 23.62' to a point; Thence N 08° 28'51" E 17.48' to a point;

Thence N 22° 53'24" E 34.65' to a point in the center of Rita Thompson Road (Junaluska) (BIA Road No. 632), and end of Access Road.

Containing 0.074 Acres, more or less.

Any leasehold interest described in the Deed of Trust which is not being offered for sale is described as follows: Subject to any and all Release Deeds of Record in the Cherokee Agency and Swain County, North Carolina Registry.

Any buildings located on the above-described property are also included in the sale.

The property will be sold by the Substitute Trustee to the highest bidder for CASH. The highest bidder will be required to deposit IN CASH with the Substitute Trustee at the date and time of the sale the greater of five percent (5.0%) of the amount of the bid or Seven Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$750.00).

The Property is being sold "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Substitute Trustee, Noteholder, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, or authorized agents or representatives of either Substitute Trustee or Noteholder make any warranty relating to

title, possession, quiet enjoyment, or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the Property and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way related to such conditions are expressly disclaimed. The Noteholder has reserved the right to withdraw the sale up to and until the deed is delivered by the Substitute Trustee.

The property will be sold subject to levy, special assessments, and all unpaid taxes, if any.

The property will be sold subject to limitations regarding possession and transfer under federal and Tribal law.

An order for possession of the Property may be issued pursuant to Cherokee Code Section 45-24 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the Superior Court Clerk of the Cherokee Tribal Court.

Additional Notice Where the Property is Residential with Less Than 15 Rental Units, including single-family residential real property: Any person who occupies the Property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the Notice of Sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Pursuant to North Carolina

General Statutes Section 45-21.8, the sale of the Property may be made by whole or by tract in the discretion of the Substitute Trustee. Further, the Substitute Trustee may offer for sale any and all personal property as permitted by the Deed of Trust in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes Sections 25-9-604, 25-9-610, and 25-9-611, in whole, as individual items, or together with the Property as the Substitute Trustee determines is appropriate in the Substitute Trustee's sole discretion. This notice is intended to comply with the requirements of North Carolina General Statutes Sections 25-9-607 and 25-9-613 providing for the disposition of personal property in connection with a foreclosure of real property and Cherokee Code Section 25-9. Mortgagor is entitled to and may request an accounting of the unpaid indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust.

Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the remaining balance of the successful bid amount in cash or certified funds at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to such bidder, or attempts to deliver to such bidder, a deed for the Property. Should such successful bidder fail to pay the full balance of the successful bid at that time, that bidder shall remain liable on the bid as provided by Cherokee Code Section 45-25.

The Property is being sold subject to all prior and superior: (i) deeds of trust, (ii) liens, (iii) unpaid taxes, (iv) restrictions, (v) easements, (vi) assessments, (vii) leases, and (viii) other matters, if any, which, as a matter of law, survive the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust, provided that the inclusion of this clause in this Notice of Substitute Trustee's Sale of

Real Estate shall not be deemed to validate or otherwise effect to any such matter or other right which, as a matter of law, does not survive the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust.

Any person who occupies the Property pursuant to a bona fide lease or tenancy may have additional rights pursuant to the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act. THIS the 21st day of April, 2026. William Richard Boyd, Jr., Substitute Trustee, 474 Mountain Cove Road, Waynesville, North Carolina 28786

5/27

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

CHEROKEE TRIBAL COURT
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA
FILE NO: CV 26-0030

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

TAKE NOTICE THAT: William Richard Boyd, Jr., Substitute Trustee, has begun proceedings to FORECLOSE under the Deed of Trust described below, and under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in such Deed of Trust, and an Order entered by the Judge of the Cherokee Tribal Court, will sell the below described leasehold interest at public auction as follows:

The instrument pursuant to which such sale will be held is that certain Deed of Trust executed by Duana Jill Owl Wiggins and Richard Allen Wiggins, original mortgagor, for the benefit of Cherokee Indian Housing Division, successor to Qualla Housing Authority ("Noteholder") and recorded in Book LXII, at Page 43 in Miscellaneous Documents of the Cherokee Agency. The record lessee of such property, as reflected on the re-

see **TRADING POST** next page

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records of the Cherokee Agency not more than ten (10) days prior to posting this Notice of Sale, if not the original mortgagors, is: N/A

The leasehold interest will be sold by the Substitute Trustee at 10:00 a.m. on the 28th day of May, 2026 at the Cherokee Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs door located at 257 Tsali Boulevard, Cherokee, NC 28719.

The leasehold interest to be sold is generally described as 429 Blue Owl Road, Cherokee, NC

28719 and is more particularly described as follows (the "Property"):

BIRDTOWN COMMUNITY

PARCEL NO. 69-C (PART OF PARCEL NO. 69-B) – BEGINNING on a point set in Birdtown Community, on the SE corner of Parcel No. 69-E. Thence running the following courses and distances:

N. 84° 32' 30" E 63.46' to a ¾" Rebar; S 05° 27' 30" E 170.00' to a ¾" Rebar; S 84° 32' 30" W 259.51' to a ¾" Rebar; N 07° 41' 50" W 92.75' to a point, a corner to Parcel No. 69-D. Thence running with the line of Parcel No. 69-D, N 76° 46' 56" E 206.48' to a point. Thence 11° 08' 00" W 49.69' to The Point of BEGINNING.

Containing 0.604 Acre, more or less.

TOGETHER WITH A 15' ACCESS ROAD R/W – BEGINNING on a point in the center of a 15.00' Access Road, in Birdtown Community that stands S 07° 41' 00" E 92.75', S 11° 56' 59" E 8.62' from a following courses and distances:

S 48° 33' 17" W 31.94' to a point; S 69° 52' 00" W 31.01' to a point;

S 82° 35' 34" W 42.53' to a point; S 81° 47' 50" W 23.63' to a point;

N 37° 17' 45" W 58.19' to a point; N 48° 08' 38" W 23.31' to a point;

N 65° 06' 36" W 16.30' to a point; S 87° 10' 46" W 30.65' to a point;

S 62° 32' 26" W 107.83' to a point; S 69° 55' 59" W 91.10' to a point;

S 57° 08' 28" W 36.72' to a point; S 54° 38' 07" W 50.13' to a point;

S 84° 23' 53" W 22.39' to a point; S 54° 32' 53" W 15.48' to a point;

N 15° 58' 53" W 22.35' to a point; N 07° 16' 30" W 80.83' to a point;

N 18° 16' 03" E 32.72' to a point; N 32° 56' 36" E 83.29' to a point;

N 32° 50' 45" E 53.08' to a point; N 42° 39' 00" E 36.86' to a point;

N 48° 52' 02" E 101.17' to a point; N 56° 50' 29" E 44.31' to a point;

N 67° 52' 58" E 24.95' to a point; N 74° 27' 37" E 51.20' to a point;

N 81° 39' 07" E 58.70' to a point; N 88° 13' 25" E 113.79' to a point;

N 84° 24' 55" E 35.32' to a point; N 73° 44' 31" E 60.86' to a point;

S 83° 06' 50" E 31.87' to a point; S 75° 29' 07" E 53.83' to a point;

S 89° 59' 36" E 105.17' to a point; S 82° 58' 51" E 60.07' to a point;

S 76° 49' 04" E 63.02' to a point; S 89° 54' 18" E 44.99' to a point;

N 72° 38' 52" E 32.13' to a point; N 42° 37' 12" E 29.18' to a point;

N 24° 33' 51" E 99.78' to a point; N 54° 48' 00" E 126.67' to a point;

N 32° 41' 00" E 106.85' to a point; N 55° 39' 00" E 227.56' to a point; THENCE, N 82° 35' 34" E 66.30' to a point in the center of Mt. Noble Road (BIA Road No. 477), and end of Right-of-Way.

Containing 0.836 Acres, more or less.

Any leasehold interest described in the Deed of Trust which is not being offered for sale is described as follows: Subject to any and all Release Deeds of Record in the Cherokee Agency and Swain County, North Carolina Registry.

Any buildings located on the above-described property are also included in the sale.

The property will be sold by the Substitute Trustee to the highest bidder for CASH. The highest bidder will be required to deposit IN CASH with the Substitute Trustee at the date and time of the sale the greater of five percent (5.0%) of the amount of the bid or Seven Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars (\$750.00).

The Property is being sold "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Substitute Trustee, Noteholder, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, or authorized agents or representatives of either Substitute Trustee or Noteholder make any warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment, or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the Property and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way related to such conditions are expressly disclaimed. The Noteholder has reserved the right to withdraw the sale up to and until the deed is delivered by the Substitute Trustee.

The property will be sold subject to levy, special assessments,

and all unpaid taxes, if any.

The property will be sold subject to limitations regarding possession and transfer under federal and Tribal law.

An order for possession of the Property may be issued pursuant to Cherokee Code Section 45-24 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the Superior Court Clerk of the Cherokee Tribal Court.

Additional Notice Where the Property is Residential with Less Than 15 Rental Units, including single-family residential real property: Any person who occupies the Property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the Notice of Sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.8, the sale of the Property may be made by whole or by tract in the discretion of the Substitute Trustee. Further, the Substitute Trustee may offer for sale any and all personal property as permitted by the Deed of Trust in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes Sections 25-9-604, 25-9-610, and 25-9-611, in whole, as individual items, or together with the Property as the Substitute Trustee determines is appropriate

in the Substitute Trustee's sole discretion. This notice is intended to comply with the requirements of North Carolina General Statutes Sections 25-9-607 and 25-9-613 providing for the disposition of personal property in connection with a foreclosure of real property and Cherokee Code Section 25-9. Mortgagor is entitled to and may request an accounting of the unpaid indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust.

Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the remaining balance of the successful bid amount in cash or certified funds at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to such bidder, or attempts to deliver to such bidder, a deed for the Property. Should such successful bidder fail to pay the full balance of the successful bid at that time, that bidder shall remain liable on the bid as provided by Cherokee Code Section 45-25.

The Property is being sold subject to all prior and superior: (i) deeds of trust, (ii) liens, (iii) unpaid taxes, (iv) restrictions, (v) easements, (vi) assessments, (vii) leases, and (viii) other matters, if any, which, as a matter of law, survive the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust, provided that the inclusion of this clause in this Notice of Substitute Trustee's Sale of

Real Estate shall not be deemed to validate or otherwise effect to any such matter or other right which, as a matter of law, does not survive the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust.

Any person who occupies the Property pursuant to a bona fide lease or tenancy may have additional rights pursuant to the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act. THIS the 21st day of April, 2026. William Richard Boyd, Jr., Substitute Trustee, 474 Mountain Cove Road, Waynesville, North Carolina 28786

5/27

Request for Proposals Project Overview

We are seeking proposals from qualified vendors to supply and install a comprehensive security camera system for our two rental properties. The purpose of this RFP is to enhance security, monitor activities, and ensure the safety of our tenants and properties.

Scope of Work

1. Locations:

- o Property A: Garden Place Ln, Cherokee NC 28719
- o Property B: Lambert Wilson Way, Whittier NC 28789

2. System Requirements:

- o High-definition IP cameras with night vision capabilities

- o Centralized video management system (VMS)
 - o Motion detection and alerts
 - o Remote access via mobile app or web portal
 - o Storage solution (cloud-based or on-premises)
 - o Integration with existing access control systems (if applicable)
- #### 3. Site Survey and Assessment:
- o Conduct an on-site survey to determine optimal camera placement.
- #### 4. Installation and Configuration:
- o Install cameras at strategic locations (entrances, common areas, parking lots, etc.).
 - o Configure VMS settings, user access, and recording schedules.
 - o Test the system for functionality and reliability.

5. Maintenance and Support:

- o Provide ongoing maintenance, including camera cleaning and software updates.
- o Offer technical support for troubleshooting and resolving issues.

6. Training:

- o Train property management staff on system operation, monitoring, and incident response.

Proposal Submission

Interested vendors should submit their proposals by 5-21-2026.

Please include the following:

- *Detailed system specification
- *Proposed equipment list
- *Installation timeline
- *Maintenance and support plan
- *Cost breakdown (including installation, equipment and ongoing fees)

Contact Information

For inquiries and submission of proposals, please contact: Jacob George, Project Manager, jacogeor@ebci-nsn.gov or (828) 788-0055

5/20

QUALIFICATIONS

PROJECT TITLE: Construction Manager at Risk for New Cherokee Museum Collection Facility

The EBCI is requesting statements of qualifications from construction management firms or teams of firms for the purpose of selecting a Construction Manager at Risk (CMR). The CMR will work alongside the design team during the development phase of the project and will be fully responsible for construction of the facilities once a final design is complete.

The project is a two and a half story structure containing approximately 35,000 square feet that will house archeological collections, laboratories, conservations labs and other resources to help the Eastern Band of Cherokee to preserve cultural resources. It will be located near the intersection of Galbraith Creek Road and Ela Road (US Highway 19), Bryson City, North Carolina 28713.

Construction Management firms wishing to receive a "Request for Qualifications" (RFQ) package should contact Becky Bowe at (828) 359-6702 or by email at rebebowe@ebci-nsn.gov. Statement(s) of Qualifications must be received by 2:00 PM on June 2, 2026, at which time they shall be opened in accordance with TERO procedures. Any proposals received after this time will not be considered. Other critical dates and the project timeline are listed in the RFQ. Please be advised that Indian preference (TERO) regulations apply to the bidding and award of this contract. It is the responsibility of the contractor to insure delivery and receipt by the Project Management Program.

see TRADING POST next page

JOIN OUR TEAM



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Open Positions

- Steward



Apply Online

www.quallalife.com/careers



More Information

828.589.8285

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

REQUEST FOR

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Becky Bowe at (828) 359-6702 or by email at rebebowe@ebci-nsn.gov.

5/13

NOTICE

The EBCI Cannabis Control Board is proposing the amendment of administrative rules pursuant to Cherokee Code 17-18 and 150-4. Amendments to Title 17 of the Cherokee Administrative Regulations are proposed to address the sampling protocols for cannabis testing. 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. The period for public comment is 30 days from the publication of this notice. 5/13

BID

Please be advised that Qualla Enterprises LLC, an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting TERO General Contractors for the project, "Pioneer Mowing". This work will consist of general site mowing and maintenance of the pioneer property.

A mandatory Pre-bid will be held May 29th at 8 am. Pre-bid meeting will be located at 91 Bingo Loop Rd Cherokee NC 28719 in the small conference room. Be advised that all attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

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

5/20

Request for Proposal

Kituwah LLC is seeking a Request for Qualification and

Request for Proposal (RFQ/RFP) from qualified contractors to re-construct parking lot for the Kituwah Office Project.

Qualification for Contractor:

1. Must have 5 years' experience with construction of parking lot construction.
2. Must have GC license in said field of scope of parking lot construction.
3. Must have COI with worker's compensation.
4. Must have flexible schedule to perform some of the work before or after Business hauls at the Kituwah office project.

Contractors can get a copy of the scope of work (SOW) at the mandatory meeting which will be held on May 15, 2026 on site at 10:00 AM. Site is located at 1156 seven clan's lane. The SOW will be handed out onsite and the proposals shall be delivered by 3:00pm on May 22, 2026 to Kituwah LLC office at 559 casino trail


in sealed envelope or be emailed to Bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com. Any proposal received after the scheduled time or incomplete will be rejected. The person to contact for questions concerning the SOW for project should be directed to Bunsey Crowe/ Project Manager Via email at Bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com or at (828-508-8050) 5/20

Cherokee Indian Fair Elder's Day RFQ

EBCI Destination Marketing is seeking out qualified caterers to provide the meal at the 114th Annual Cherokee Indian Fair. Those interested in submitting qualifications should contact the following members of the EBCI Destination Marketing Department: Lisa Frady (Lisafrad@ebci-nsn.gov), Brandy Sequoyah (BranSequ@ebci-nsn.gov) or RJ Arneach (RJArneach@ebci-nsn.gov). 5/20

GRADUATION

Dr. Nicolas Squirrell



Member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, received his Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Kentucky on May 8, 2026. He is a member of the Yellowhill Community and the son of Lamont and Angel Squirrell. He is a tribal employee and has served his community for over nine years with dedication, a passion for helping others, and a commitment to sharing knowledge.

Congratulations, Dr. Squirrell, on this incredible achievement and the positive impact you continue to make.



ANALENISGI
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"They are beginning"



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

Services Offered through Analenisgi:

Adult Services
Programs include:

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

IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY FOR GROUP THERAPY AND CLASSES

Recovery Services
Programs include:

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

Family & Child Services
Programs include:

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

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



Contact us:

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

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

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



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



OPEN POSITIONS

NEW POSITIONS

Cashier & Food Service Worker
Tribal Option Care Management Extender
Case Management Support – Primary Care
CMA/LPN – Primary Care
PI Specialist
Executive Chef
EMR System Specialist
Resource Manager
Certified Nursing Assistant ED – Day Shift
Physical Therapist I - Temporary
Clinical Pharmacist - PTI
Cook - CIHA
Radiology Technologist I

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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

COMPLIMENTARY MEDICINE

Massage Therapist

DENTAL

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

EYE CLINIC

Optometrist
Optometric Assistant

FINANCE

Billing Analyst II

FOOD & NUTRITION

Cook - Temporary

MEDICAL

Psychiatrist

Physician and IM Rural Track Director

NURSING

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

NUTRITION

Clinical Dietician

PHARMACY

Pharmacy Technician III

TSALI CARE

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

TRIBAL OPTION

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker

CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS

828.497.9163 EXT. 6343

CHEROKEE BOYS CLUB VACANCIES

Snowbird Child Development

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

Children's Home

2 Residential Counselor—Part Time—\$17.00 per hour w/out benefits

Service Department

1 Technician—\$21,200--\$29,150 per year with Benefits

1 Detail Technician—\$19,080--\$25,440 per year w/Benefits

Bus & Truck Department

Seasonal Bus Drivers

Truck Drivers

SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS

Contact: For more information, please contact Charlene Wolfe at 828-359-5516.

Cherokee Boys Club P.O. Box 507 Cherokee, NC. 28719



Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

Apply online at

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

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

Seasonal Maintenance Intern (must be a rising junior or senior) \$17.09-hourly

Varsity Football Assistant Coach (Closing May 15, 2026)

CMS Girls Basketball Head Coach

CMS Boys Basketball Head Coach

CMS Volleyball Assistant Coach

Facilities and Security Administrative Assistant (Closing May 15, 2026)

IT Network Administrator

K-6 Elementary Teacher(s)

K-6 Elementary School Nurse (RN or LPN)

K-6 Cherokee Language Instructor

K-6 Teacher Assistant

K-6 Special Education Teacher Assistant

K-6 Special Education Teacher (Self-Contained Classroom)

K-6 Mental Health Classroom Teacher Assistant (Grant Funded)

7-8 English/Language Arts Teacher

7-8 Math Teacher

7-8 Cherokee Language Instructor

7-8 Cherokee Language Assistant

7-12 Performing Arts Teacher

9-12 Math II Teacher

9-12 Special Education Teacher Assistant

Special Education Employment Educator

Custodian (Full-Time, Evening Shift)

Social-Emotional Learning Consultant (SAMHSA Funded Position)

UNLOCK YOUR
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AT OUR

JOB FAIR

Located in the Employment Office
on the second floor.

May 21, 2026 | 1pm - 5pm

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UNIVERSITY



Job Opportunities



Closing Sunday, May 17, 2026

1. Utility Worker/Operator Assistant (Multiple) - Qualla Housing – Housing (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12924
2. Carpenter Assistant- Qualla Housing- Housing (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12925
3. Painter- Qualla Housing- Housing (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) 12926
4. Patrol Cadet- CIPD (Multiple) - EBCI Law Enforcement (\$21.00 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12927
5. Youth Development Professional- Cherokee Youth Center- CERS (L6 \$16.37 – \$20.47 per hour) 12928
6. Realty Leasing Specialist- Realty Services- Office of the Attorney General (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) 12867
7. Senior Office Administrator- Health Delivery Administration- PHHS (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) 12825
8. WWT Operator- Waste Water Treatment – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12888
9. Housekeeper I- SB/CC Housekeeping- Snowbird & Cherokee County (L6 \$16.37 - \$20.47 per hour) 12856
10. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12898
11. Field Technician II- Water & Sewer- Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) 12929
12. Compliance Clerk- Water & Sewer- Operations (L9 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) 12930
13. Laborer- CDOT- Operations (L7 \$16.61 - \$20.77 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12931
14. Air Quality Specialist- Office of Environmental & Natural Resources- Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) 12865

Open Until Filled

1. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION 12468
2. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION 11952/12768
3. Patrol Officer (Multiple) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION 11953/12767
4. Part-time Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION 12441
5. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) 11957/12772
6. Certified Nursing Assistant (Multiple) – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (Starting rate of \$20.00/hour) 12003
7. Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) 12132

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



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GWY ᏆᏚᏍᏔᏅᏍᏗ
 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



Blood Drive
Cherokee High School

Foyer
 200 Ravensford Dr
 Cherokee, NC 28719

Tuesday, June 2, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Students must be 16 years old to donate.
 16 and 17 year olds must have a signed consent form.

To make an appointment or for more information,
 please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767)
 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter
 Sponsor Code "Cherokee".

Bring your Red Cross Donor Card or Photo ID.
 Walk-ins are welcome, appointments honored first!



Make summer shine for patients in need. Come to give
 blood June 1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card!



Scan to schedule
 an appointment.

MISSING

Danielle Marie
Zeedar

A.k.a. Danielle Marie Zeedar Boeck
 American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'4" Weight: 165 lbs

Female Age: 40

Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: July 1, 2025

Last Known Location:

Anchorage, Alaska



Circumstances of Disappearance: Danielle has not been in contact
 with family since July 2025 and was experiencing homelessness.

If you have seen or have information about Danielle Zeedar, contact
 Malia Miller, Missing Persons Clearinghouse Manager, Alaska State
 Troopers (907) 269-5511.

Source: Namus.gov

GWY ᏆᏚᏍᏔᏅᏍᏗ
 CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



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Meyer appointed to position in NOAA
Miranda Meyer, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was appointed recently to the position of executive administrative assistant to a Senior Executive Service (SES) member at the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). SES leaders sit just below presidential appointees in the federal system. Meyer noted, "I am very proud of this posting and look forward to aiding in all of NOAA and the National Weather Service's missions while also continually my studies for my Ph.D in theology." (Photo contributed)



<<
Powerlifting medals
Nathaniel Solis, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, competed at the USPA (United States Powerlifting Association) Tested Mountain Madness Powerlifting event in Hendersonville, N.C. on Saturday, May 9. This was his first USPA competition, and he won first place in the Youth 75kg deadlift only division with a lift of 132 lbs. He also won Best Overall Youth Lifter for the event. (Photo courtesy of Reyna Solis)



FOOTBALL: Tramer signs with N.C. Wesleyan University

Jayden Tramer, center, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a senior at Cherokee High School, signed a letter of intent to play football for the North Carolina Wesleyan University Battling Bishops during an event held at the Charles George Memorial Arena in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Tuesday, May 5. He is shown with family members – Nadine Lossiah, left, holding Rome Lossiah, and Kyra Lossiah, right.

He noted, "It's been a long road since freshman year. It's been hard getting into college, signing up for my classes. Having all the coaches all these years like Mike, who's been a lot of help...it was a lot of hardship to get to college. It's worth it to be there now."

Tramer represented the EBCI, along with Camden Breazeale, at the 2006 Indigenous Bowl played Feb. 22 at Soboba Oaks on the Soboba Indian Reservation in San Jacinto, Calif.

The North Carolina Wesleyan Battling Bishops play in NCAA Division III in the USA South Conference. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

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

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

Send your photos and info to us at:

Cherokeefonefeather1966@gmail.com

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-- Ryan Trubicza,
2024 William B. Dillard Scholarship



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