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# GWY Ꮖᎃᎅ Ꮖᎃᎅᎃᎅ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of  
anasgvti (may) 6-12,  
2026

# “We all feel loss”

## 7th Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Walk held

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) wore red to remember relatives taken too soon and bring awareness for those currently missing. The 7th Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Walk, hosted by the Qualla Boundary MMIW (QBMMIW) Organization, was held at the Oconaluftee Island Park on the afternoon of Saturday, May 2. Maggie Jackson, co-organizer



The 7th Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Walk, hosted by the Qualla Boundary MMIW Organization, was held at the Oconaluftee Island Park on the afternoon of Saturday, May 2. The media was asked to refrain from taking photographs of participants and the One Feather honored that request and only took photos of signs. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

see MMIR page 4

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Questions? Contact Tricia Carver @ [triccarv@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:triccarv@ebci-nsn.gov) or 828-359-6250





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**“We all feel a void. We all feel that loss. If we can come together and continue to just hold each other up, like the river cane do. When you see it grow, they don't grow by themselves. They have to grow in a bunch because they hold each other up. And, that's what we have to continue to do and continue to reflect.”**

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather speaking at the 7th Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Walk in Cherokee, N.C. on Saturday, May 2

### 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 Letters critical of specifically named minor children will not be published.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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**MMIR:** From front page

of the event and a leader of QBM-MIW, commented, “This event is powerful because at QBM-MIW we believe that centering families and coming together as a community is essential. When families are honored and held with care, remembrance becomes healing and awareness becomes a responsibility.

Here, on the Qualla Boundary, there are 66 known and documented cases of missing or murdered Indigenous relatives. Those are not statistics. They are lives. They represent children, parents, siblings, and loved ones whose absence is still felt every single day.”

She added, “We can protect our people by believing families, by honoring lives with dignity, by refusing silence, and by working together to create safety, accountability, and care.”

EBCI Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks said, “It’s never easy preparing these words because of the sadness, and the grief, and, truly, the unanswered questions that a lot of our families continue to hold.

We have to lean on each other. We have to know that a community is behind you, families are behind you...there’s nothing easy about these circumstances.”

Anna Ferguson, an EBCI tribal member who serves as the representative of the 119th District in the N.C. House of Representatives, noted, “I’m also sad because when we lose our loved ones, we carry that grief not only personally, but we carry it together. But, I’m also angry. I’m mad because we still have to have an event, and we still have to have a walk, and we still have to stomp our feet and say, ‘when our people go missing, it matters. It

matters just as much’.

I look forward to the day when we don’t have to have events to tell people that we matter and that our missing people hurt just as much as anyone else.”

Following are some statistics, from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), on violence against American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women:

- More than 4 in 5 (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime.
- More than half (56.1 percent) have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.
- More than half (55.5 percent) have experienced physical violence by intimate partners in their lifetime.
- Almost half (48.8 percent) have been stalked in their lifetime.
- The murder rate of AI/AN women is almost three times that of non-Hispanic white women.

The National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC) states, “Homicide is roughly the third leading cause of death among Indigenous women ages 10-24.”

Information from NIWRC continues, “95 percent of cases identified by the Urban Indian Health Institute had not been covered by the mainstream media. Because of limited data, there is no reliable nationwide count of how many Native women go missing or are murdered each year.”

Information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs states, “According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Vital Statistics System, homicide was the fourth leading cause of death among 1-44 year old American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) males and the sixth leading cause of death among 1-44 year old AI/AN females

in 2023.”

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shenelle Feather commented, “I have so much respect for everyone who is here and who is grieving and who is desiring answers and may not ever get them. I hold you all, each of you, in my prayers, in my heart every single day.

I think that’s important to acknowledge that we are one, we are all here together, and we feel the loss together. That is not any different than other Indigenous communities.”

Rep. Feather went on to state, “This collective nervous system, this community, we all feel loss. We all feel grief. No one is more valuable than the other.

We all feel a void. We all feel that loss. If we can come together and continue to just hold each other up, like the river cane do. When you see it grow, they don’t grow by themselves. They have to grow in a bunch because they hold each other up. And, that’s what we have to continue to do and continue to reflect.”

Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Venita Wolfe said, “I look around and I see so many beautiful people with great hearts. And, having to be here today is sad. It makes me sad to know that we lost people, and we’re still looking for them.

It also makes me happy to see us come together in one area, in one place, and know that, whatever happens, we’re here for each other. I’m here for you...Grieving is hard. And I know not having answers makes it harder.”

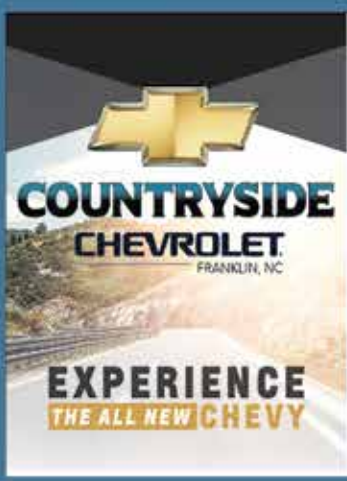
Carla Neadeau, Cherokee Indian Police Dept. Chief of Police, said, “Today, we stand together in recognition of strength and resilience of Indigenous relatives - strength that has carried generations forward

despite the injustices that we have faced. The Cherokee Indian Police Department is working tirelessly to combat the harm that has long plagued our community. We understand that the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People is not just a law enforcement matter. It is a crisis that demands attention, understanding, and action by all across Indian Country.”

She said the CIPD cannot do it alone. “It takes all of us - families, leaders, educators, and allies, to bring justice, healing, and hope. Let this be our message to Indigenous people everywhere - you are not forgotten. Your voices matter. Your lives are worthy of protection and justice. Together we stand, determined to stop the harm and to create a world where the future is bright, safe, and full of promise.”

Noland Brown is a therapist at Analansigi at the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority. He commented, “Experiencing grief in a Native community is different because when one of us grieves, we all grieve. We are connected through kinship and we experience loss together. That’s why events like today are so important because it’s a community to come together to grieve together. Grief is generational. We carry it in our bones and our blood. And, when we go to water, we can let our grief flow into the river and let the healing power of that water seep into our heart. We can lean on our family and our tribe who share that same grief.”

As Cherokee men, we must restore our tradition of protecting, uplifting, and valuing our women and children to break these cycles of harm. That is part of the healing that will change and give our grief meaning and revive our community.”



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# Modules set for new Kituwah, LLC office

By BROOKLYN BROWN  
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the morning of Tuesday, April 28, modules were set at the area across the road from McDonald's in Cherokee, N.C. for the new office building for Kituwah, LLC. The building is under construction by Cardinal Homes, a business of Kituwah, LLC. Sam Owle, chief executive officer of Kituwah, LLC., says they expect to be in the new office space by Oct. 1, the beginning of fiscal year 2027, if not sooner.

"We've been deeply in need of an office building and a space for our team that's centralized and united. We lost the former office building to a fire in December of 2023... This office building is going to give us the space to expand as well."

Owle said the team was working out of the old Chestnut Tree Inn for a while, which was not sustainable.

"For a while, there was a makeshift office in the old Chestnut Tree building, and that needs major renovation done. We had to send in some environmental testing. There was some mold. There was some asbestos in that building. It wasn't sustainable to stay there. And in the meantime, we've had some of our folks over at the KG3 office, and then obviously some of us are stacked here [at the Kituwah Home Center] on top of



Cardinal Homes, a business of Kituwah, LLC., sets modules for their new office space on the morning of Tuesday, April 28. (BROOKLYN BROWN/One Feather photo)

each other, using this as a makeshift office until we got through all the approvals to do this building. So, the general process has been long from that standpoint. It took longer to get the go ahead, work through all the necessary hurdles to get it approved first. But once it was approved, it's been in our capital budget. The board has had this planned in the capital budget for the past couple years," Owle said.

"Once we got it approved, the construction on those modules started in late November of 2025, and they were finished roughly at the end of January with some finishing work in February due to holidays. But after that, it was really getting the lag from then to now finalizing contractors and then getting a set date, getting that crew ready."

As for the old Chestnut Tree Inn, Owle said the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) will have to make the decision about what to do with the building.

"A lot of people get confused about that property and the Clarion Pointe. Those are all tribal purchases, tribal properties, and we were tasked with improving them and making them commercially viable. So, the Chestnut Tree, those renovations have been done to the rooms. They've been consistently pretty full with folks from the casino and some of the work groups that the casino has. That actual space down there, there needs to be a real assessment of what does it look like? What does the tribe want to do with it? There are these concepts out there where you have like these living spaces and communal spaces as part of workforce housing. Due to the age of the building, some of the environmental stuff, there will have to be an assessment done on: Does it make sense to gut it and renovate it, or does it make sense to knock it down and build something else?"

Owle said moving into the new

office space will also improve technology for the company.

"We're centralizing technology. There was pretty weak connection over there prior, and the accounting folks need constant connection for their systems and financial transactions. We were using Starlink as well, and then we have internet over here. So just consolidation of some of those expenses is going to be one benefit and then having access to better technology to keep from any kind of workplace interruptions," he said.

Owle added that the new space will open the opportunity for internships. "We were talking about this last summer, and it was still up in the air whether we were going to be able to get this thing moving, but we put it down anyway as a goal and said, 'We're going to assume this will be done by the first of fiscal year of '27 and by the summer of '27 calendar year, we will have interns.'"



**Deed Signing**

A parcel of land in Henderson County, N.C., about 47 acres, was signed over to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) from the Noquisi Initiative on Monday, April 27 in the office of Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks. Signers were Noquisi Initiative co-chairs Juanita Wilson and Bob McCollum and Ugvwiyuhi Hicks. Shown, left to right, seated - McCollum, Ugvwiyuhi Hicks, and Wilson; back row – Lisa Kretschmer; Amber Allen, Noquisi Initiative project coordinator; Ronald Chumper Walker, director of EBCI Cooperative Extension; Dawn Arneach, Noquisi Initiative board member; and Elaine Eisenbraun, Noquisi Initiative executive director. (ROBERT JUMPER/One Feather photo)

**EBCI Project Management project updates**

By **BROOKLYN BROWN**  
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Rebecca Bowe, manager of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Project Management department, provided the following project updates:

The Cultural Grounds, formerly the ceremonial grounds, are undergoing construction with a targeted completion date of summer 2027.

The Evidence Building is undergoing construction with a targeted completion date of September 2026.

The Oconaluftee Island Park Boardwalk is waiting for a proposal for a design to remove the damaged sections and replace them with a bridge section. They are hoping to get reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the design and construction of the replacement, since the damage occurred during Hurricane Helene.

**EBCI Tribal ABC Commission**

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## Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute awarded grants from Cherokee Preservation Foundation

Submitted by  
Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute

CHEROKEE, N.C. The Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute (RKLI) has announced it has been awarded a grant of \$268,160 from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to support administrative costs associated with managing and overseeing its culturally based leadership programs.

This funding will sustain the continued growth and impact of RKLI's core programs, including the Cherokee Youth Council, Youth Cultural Exchange Program, Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program, Duyugodv'i Right

Path Adult Leadership Program, Kituwah Ways, Dinedi Eginely, and The Native Plant Program. These initiatives are designed to strengthen leadership development through the seven Cherokee core values, community engagement, and intergenerational learning.

In addition to this award, RKLI also received a \$156,916 grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to support the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program for the 2026–27 program year. This program serves members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who are pursuing undergraduate degrees and focuses on developing the next generation of Cherokee leaders through service, mentorship, and cultural connection.

The Jones-Bowman Leader-

ship Award Program is named in honor of former Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Leon Jones and Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Rep. James Bowman, both founding board members of the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. Funding for the 2026–27 program year will directly support 12 fellowships, as well as key program components including two retreats, an end-of-year luncheon, and the fellows' group project. These experiences provide participants with opportunities to grow as leaders, engage with their community, and deepen their understanding of Cherokee values and traditions.

"We are grateful for the continued support from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation," said Tonya E. Carroll, RKLI Department manager, "This investment allows us to carry forward another

year of impactful programming and remain focused on our mission to create a community of lifelong, selfless leaders who are deeply rooted in Cherokee culture."

For more information about the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute and its programs, please visit [www.rkli.org](http://www.rkli.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

## Qualla Boundary Public Library successfully completes makerspace planning grant through Cherokee Preservation Foundation support

Submitted by  
Qualla Boundary Public Library

CHEROKEE, N.C. — The Qualla Boundary Public Library

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

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Tribal Realty</b>	<b>Infrastructure Dept.</b>	<b>Housing Services</b>	<b>Timber Permits</b>
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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 Reacquisition Act).** This House bill would place 76 acres of land

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

al acknowledgement to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina, a state-recognized group. Introduced: April 17, 2025 by Rep. Donald G. Davis (D-N.C.) Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 17, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 3255. (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025).** This House bill will would grant federal acknowledgment to the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, a state-recognized group in Michigan.

Introduced: May 7, 2025 by Rep. Hillar J. Scholten (D-Mich.) Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 7, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

**H.R. 3444. (Tribal Self-Determination and Co-Management in Forestry Act of 2025).** According to the bill text, this House bill is "To direct Federal land management agencies of the Department of the Interior to establish Tribal Co-Management Plans and to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for the performance of certain activities of the Forest Service, and for other purposes". Introduced: May 15, 2025 by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.)

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

**EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION**

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

Lending Services can **HELP!**

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

Call or email for more information:

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

Committee on Agriculture. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands on June 3, 2025, and a hearing was held in that subcommittee on June 10, 2025.

**S. 2022 (Tribal Tax and Investment Reform Act of 2025).** This Senate bill, according to the legislation, would “amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Indian Tribal governments in the same manner as state governments for certain federal tax purposes, and for other purposes”. Introduced: June 11, 2025 by U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)  
Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on Jun 11, 2025. There is not a sched-

uled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**S. 2211 (Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2025).**

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

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

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

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

The text of the legislation states, “Subsection (d) of section 7 of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993

(Public Law 103-116), is amended by striking ‘; however, in no event may an individual be enrolled as a tribal member unless the individual is a lineal descendant of a person on the final base membership roll and has continued to maintain political relations with the Tribe.’” Introduced: July 16, 2025 by Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.)

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

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

According to the bill’s text, this legislation would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of federally recognized Indian Tribes

see LEGISLATIVE next page

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**LEGISLATIVE:** From page 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

press time.

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

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

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

fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to remain available until expended".  
Introduced: Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) on Sept. 18, 2025

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

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

Section 2(b) states, "It is the sense

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

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

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

**Senate Res. 450. (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture).**

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

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

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

**House of Representatives Res. 809 (A resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Monday in October 2025 as "Indigenous Peoples' Day"**

**to celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples and their shared history and culture).**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

see LEGISLATIVE next page

## Summer-Rayne Saphera Rattler



**Enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, graduates May 9th from Bradley Central High School in Cleveland, Tennessee and is headed to University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to major in Music Education.**

**Family is from Snowbird/Birdtown.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session was held on Dec. 17, 2025, and the bill was reported

and placed on the Union Calendar by the Committee on Jan. 14, 2026. This bill was passed by the House on a voice vote on March 3, 2026. It was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ian Organizations to the federal government;

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

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

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

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

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

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

**S. 3767 (A bill to establish Assistant Secretary for Indian Health).** This Senate bill would “amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for

Indian Health”.

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

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

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

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

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

**H.R. 7396 (Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act).**

This House bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration which “shall be responsible for establishing a working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting,

and capital access...”

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

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

### **H.R. 7490 (Tribal Warrant**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **S. 3945 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act).**

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to

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

### **S. 3946 (Tribal Firearm Access Act).**

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

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

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

### **H.R. 7698 (Tribal Firearm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **S. 3994 (PRIME Meat Processing in Indian Country Act).**

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

Introduced: Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) on March 4, 2026

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

### **S. 4179 (AI/AN Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act).**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **S. 4276 (A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996).**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is the contact information for your federal legislators:

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

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

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

**CIPD Arrest Report for  
April 20-26, 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.*

Beck, Jackie Lynn – age 48  
Arrested: April 20  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders

Edwards, Sawyer Arie – age 33  
Arrested: April 20  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Failure to Appear, Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders

Washington Jr., Robert Lee – age 34  
Arrested: April 20  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors; Offensive Touching; Taking Indecent Liberties with Children; Assault on a Female; Child Abuse in the First Degree

Henry, Andrew James – age 49  
Arrested: April 21  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders

Jones, James Craig – age 39  
Arrested: April 21

Released: April 21  
Charges: Temporary Hold

Taylor, Dennis Edward – age 55  
Arrested: April 21  
Released: April 23  
Charges: Assault on a Female, Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Gonzalez Jr., Roberto – age 38  
Arrested: April 22  
Released: April 23  
Charges: Resisting or Obstructing Officers

Hornbuckle, Calvin Daniel – age 42  
Arrested: April 22  
Released: April 23  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Jenkins, Randall – age 42  
Arrested: April 22  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence, Weapons Offense

Treadwell, Christopher – age 37  
Arrested: April 22  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Failure to Comply with Court Order

Wolfe, Jacob Dewayne – age 38  
Arrested: April 22  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, of Obstructing Officers; Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Bird, Elexa Kayleigh – age 20  
Arrested: April 23  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Brady, Cammy Jo – age 39

Arrested: April 23  
Released: April 24  
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedules I-V

Cruz, Luis Ramon – age 37  
Arrested: April 23  
Released: April 24  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Edwards, Casey John – age 43  
Arrested: April 23  
Released: April 23  
Charges: Temporary Hold

George, Michael Anthony – age 32  
Arrested: April 23  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Possession of Controlled Substance Schedule II, Possession Drug Paraphernalia, Pre-Trial Release Violation, Probation Violation

Lambert, Trevan Holden – age 20  
Arrested: April 23  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Criminal Mischief to Property

Littlejohn, Emery Lee – age 40  
Arrested: April 23  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Smith, Alexis C. – age 27  
Arrested: April 23  
Released: April 24  
Charges: Child Abuse in the Second Degree

Esquivel, Deliah Grace – age 24  
Arrested: April 24  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Domestic Violence

Fourkiller-Raby, Malakai – age 21  
Arrested: April 24  
Released: April 25  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Queen Jr., Hugh Nolan – age 35  
Arrested: April 24  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Armitage, Nickosia Shantelle – age 33  
Arrested: April 25  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Extortion (two counts), Harassment (two counts)

Wilson, Dillon Henry – age 29  
Arrested: April 25  
Released: April 25  
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Fourkiller-Raby, Malakai – age 21  
Arrested: April 26  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury, Criminal Conspiracy

Gloyne, Juddson Lebron – age 20  
Arrested: April 26  
Released: April 26  
Charges: Driving While Impaired, Criminal Mischief to Property

Pepion, Bitiste James – age 22  
Arrested: April 26  
Released: Not released as of report date (April 27)  
Charges: Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury

# "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"



# Cherokee Historical Association announces renovations and improvements

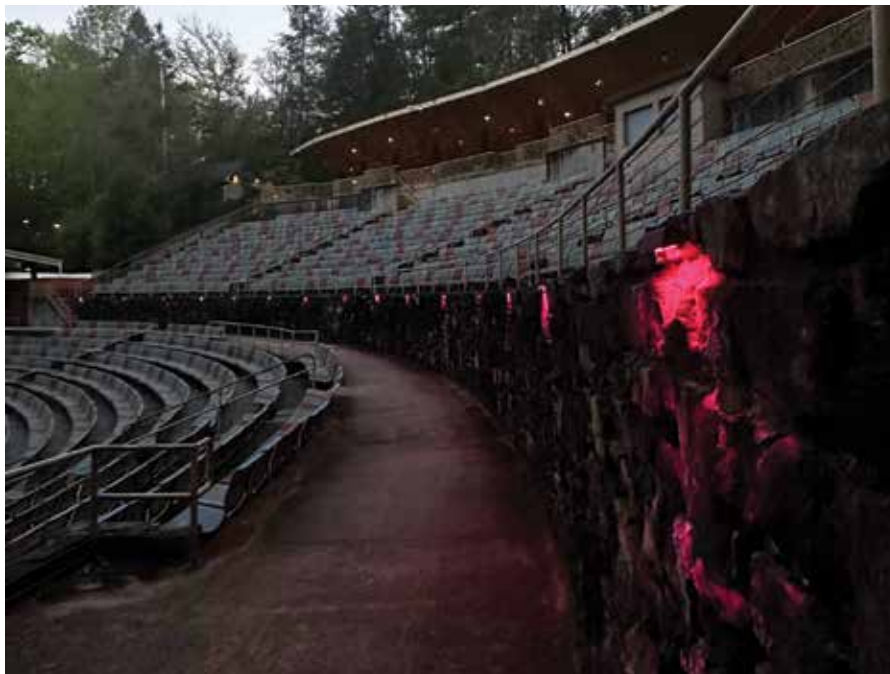
By **BROOKLYN BROWN**  
One Feather Reporter

**C**HEROKEE, N.C.—Laura Blythe, Cherokee Historical Association (CHA) program director, said there are several renovations and improvements completed and underway for the Oconaluftee Indian Village and Unto These Hills Mountainside Theater.

“We have a ton of new projects on our plate. We’ve worked very closely with Cherokee Preservation Foundation who have helped fund a lot of our upgrades that are taking place. And then we’ve also been able to develop some good relationships with different tribal departments, and we have some really big construction work and new projects coming up on their end as well,” Blythe said.

“One of the main things is the Nvdiyeli Trail has been redone. New signage will be in soon and it’ll be open to the public to travel that path again. They have done beautiful rail work up there.”

Blythe shared that another major renovation was an upgrade to lighting and sound for the theater. “With a grant ask last year from Cherokee Preservation Foundation, we had some money to upgrade lighting and sound for the show and guest experiences. We just put in, with Asheville Lighting and Design Company, all new safety lighting and house lighting for the theater. Stairways, walkways, all of that is lit underneath. The rain shelter has some upgraded lights. Around the rock wall in the lower



Light upgrades are shown at the Unto These Hills Mountainside Theater. (Photo contributed)

level has new updated lights. All the pathways on either side. The lights are color-changing, and they dance to music, different things like that, so we’re excited about that. It’s something that’s been needed for guest safety for sure, but just to build upon the aesthetic, too, and that’s now complete. We also have upgraded sound coming in for the show. We had been utilizing some microphones that needed to be replaced for a little while, and so this year the sound quality should be better for the audience to hear. And you won’t miss a beat and lose a mic in the middle of the show.”

She said there has also been sound added at the Village. “We have added a sound system inside the Village. We have a bunch of new programs that we have

launched. One is our self-guided tours where typically we’re open mid-April through the end of October for our staff, and now we’re actually doing a self-guided tour with a video recording, signage, some immersive elements, like they can weave a very large vinyl basket mat, and we have a scavenger hunt that takes place for the self-guided tour. So, they can go to a location, answer clues, different things like that, and then they get a prize at the gift shop if they complete the scavenger hunt. With the sound system, we play Cherokee myths and legends, and then we have some ambient noise that makes it feel like there’s people and animals here with us. And then we can make announcements, too, so it’s really a safety thing as well.”

Blythe said there are renova-

tions planned for the Village for fiscal year 2027. “We are getting ready, with support from Cherokee Preservation Foundation, we’re focusing heavily on our 75th anniversary next year for the Village. We’re hoping to upgrade the fencing and some of the cabins inside, some of the buildings, the public facing spaces. And we’re hoping to be able to upgrade some of our employee spaces as well...hopefully we can get that all squared away by April of 2027. We are also working on a commemorative book for the 75th anniversary season, and we are currently working through archives, sifting through thousands upon thousands of pictures and film and footage. We did get an archivist grant, so we’re going to have some assistance. Archivists will be coming in to do an internship and help us separate and digitize some of our old films.”

Blythe added, “We have updated signage along the top underneath the rain shelter with display cases that have old props from the show throughout the years. We’re going to do something similar inside. We’re going to do like a ‘walk through time’ in signage so people can see where the Village was, kind of where it’s at now, and we completed our master plan to do a full campus wide upgrade in October of 2025. And through that, we’re hoping to work with an EBCI department to potentially do a canopy tour. We’re hoping to make a lot more upgrades for the Village, a lot more major upgrades to turn the Mountainside Theater into

a world class venue for alternate shows.”

Blythe said another update is the Cherokee Homeland Tour. “We do have a really big program coming out, which we are planning on offering to community members and guests. We worked with Kathi Littlejohn for about a year and a half, going on two years to develop a program that CHA can run called Cherokee Homeland Tours. We have so many significant historical sites, even in our backyard. We drive past them every day to go to work, go home, pick our kids up. We are going to start doing guided tours and take bus groups around or van groups around these locations, that way we can show our community members what’s in their backyard. And then our guests, we want them to actually

put their feet down and feel what we feel just living here every day and knowing that this is where we’re from. We have a Qualla Boundary tour, and then we’re going to try to gear some stuff up for the satellite tours with the mounds in Franklin and Hayesville, Robbinsville, Nantahala, western North Carolina and then hopefully we can branch into East Tennessee.”

Blythe and her team are excited for the future of CHA. “These improvements are all really new and they all just launched and we’re scratching the surface, but our mindset in CHA is we have to start growing. We have to start shifting and we’ve wanted to for a very long time. Now we just have the right team that is motivated and ready to move and do something.”



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## CLASS OF 2026



MADILYN BIRD

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Mom & Dad

# Cherokee Central Schools 8th Grade and High School Concert Band earns Excellent Rating

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

The Cherokee Central Schools 8th Grade and High School Concert Band earned an Excellent Rating at the Trills and Thrills Music Festival held at William Blount High School in Alcoa, Tenn. on Saturday, April 25.

Sarah Hopkins, Cherokee Central Schools band director, commented, “I was immensely proud of the hard work that they had put into earning their ratings. Most of them were nervous, as one is when doing something new for the first time, but they put everything they had into that performance and that’s all a teacher can ever hope for.”

The Band earned the Excellent Rating which is the second top tier of five which includes: Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. The Excellent Rating denotes “an unusually high level of performance but not quite deserving of the highest rating due to minor defects or a lack of polish/finesse”.

The group played two selections – “Rain” by Brian Balmages and “Lightning” by Todd Stalter.

The following students competed in the festival: Jaymsey Armachain - Flute, Mathias Arneach - Flute, Preeya Oocumma - Clarinet, Andyn Pheasant - Clarinet,



The Cherokee Central Schools 8th Grade and High School Concert Band earned an Excellent Rating at the Trills and Thrills Music Festival held at William Blount High School in Alcoa, Tenn. on Saturday, April 25. They are shown, left to right, back row - Michael Driver, Andyn Pheasant, Boyd Taylor, Cayden Grimes, Dagan Conway, Darian Oocumma, Galvin Reed, Timothy Daza; front row - Ernest Pheasant, Kale Crowe, Kendryk Crowe-Jackson, Tsalagi Brady, Jaymsey Armachain, Katielynn Taylor, Laila George, Preeya Oocumma, and William Lossiah-Henderson. (Photo courtesy of Cherokee Central Schools)

Dagan Conway - Trumpet, Boyd Taylor - Trumpet, Darian Oocumma - Alto Saxophone, Katielynn Taylor - Alto Saxophone, Cayden Grimes - Baritone, Kendryk Crowe-Jackson - Baritone, Tsalagi Brady - Tuba, Michael Driver - Percussion, William Lossiah-Henderson - Percussion, Laila George - Percussion, Galvin Reed - Per-

cussion, Ernest Pheasant - Percussion, and Kale Crowe - Percussion.

Hopkins commented, “This group has come a long way. I’ve had the privilege of watching them refine their musical abilities while also growing in their ability to work together as a cohesive band. They’ve truly begun to understand that in a small ensemble like ours,

success depends on everyone stepping up and playing their part. Every member matters. It has been an honor to see them support one another, grow together, and continually push each other to be the best they can be.”



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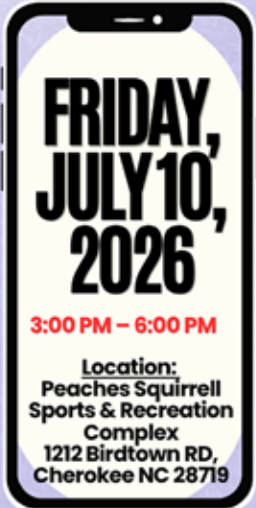
# 2026 CHEROKEE

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## LIVE WESTERN



# Katelynn Ledford-McCoy is SCC's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient

**S**YLVA, N.C. – In order to mount a comeback, one must first encounter a pitfall.

For Katelynn Ledford-McCoy, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the pitfall was a doozy. It began with a foray into drugs, advanced to a crippling addiction and culminated with some jailtime.

At some point along the way, she realized it was time to climb out – so she got into recovery and later enrolled in classes at Southwestern Community College.

“I had just a little bit of hope,” Ledford-McCoy recalled, “and I honestly had a lot of fear. But once I got started and I got to meet all the instructors and had people to help and support me and love me along the way, I knew each day that the hope that I was carrying was growing.”

Fast forward nearly 10 years after being released from jail, and her comeback is breathtaking. Ledford-McCoy is an SCC graduate. Along with her husband Kallup McCoy II, she founded RezHOPE – a non-profit organization that aims to help others overcome addiction and live



Katelynn Ledford-McCoy, right, who earned her degree from Southwestern Community College in 2023, has been named the recipient of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award. (SCC photo)

fulfilling lives. She now serves as RezHOPE's Executive Director. She's an ultra-marathon runner, a public speaker, an inspiration to many – and she has now been named the eighth recipient of Southwestern's Distinguished Alumni Award.

“I feel like whenever you've gone through something dark in your life, and you've been able to

come out on top, it's our purpose to turn around and help those that are still struggling or coming behind you,” said Ledford-McCoy, who earned associate degrees in Human Services Technology and Addiction & Recovery Studies from Southwestern in 2023. Ledford-McCoy will be honored during the graduation ceremony for SCC's Health Sciences Division

at 10 a.m. on May 16 in Myers Auditorium on Southwestern's Jackson Campus. The award will also be acknowledged during ceremonies for Arts & Sciences and Early College (12:30 p.m.) and the Career Technologies Division (3 p.m.).

This is the eighth year Southwestern has bestowed the Distinguished Alumni Award. Previous recipients have been Kyle Dowling (2019), Dustin Wilson (2020), John Mattox (2021), Jared Ballew (2022), Dr. Rivers Woodward (2023), Lorelei Garnes (2024) and Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks (2025).

“Katelynn is one of the more inspiring individuals you will ever meet,” said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC's president. “Not only has she overcome the odds to change the trajectory of her own life, but she's also committed her life to helping others make a positive change as well.”

For more information about the Distinguished Alumni Award at SCC, visit [www.southwesterncc.edu/award](http://www.southwesterncc.edu/award).

- *Southwestern Community College release*

## Chief's Awards

The annual Chief's Awards were presented by Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks in the Tribal Council Chambers in Cherokee, N.C. on the morning of Friday, May 1. These awards are given to members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in area schools in fifth, eighth, and twelfth grades, who excel in academics and other areas of school. Note: Taline Ugwiyu (Vice Chief) Alan B. Ensley was unable to attend as he is recovering from a medical procedure.

### Cherokee Central Schools

12th Grade: Tayvin Bark- Cruz, Marlee Hicks

8th Grade: Makai Hernandez, Amelia Holiday

5th Grade: Cheydon Calhoun, Jaiva Brown

### Smoky Mountain School District

12th Grade: Sienna Wahnetah, Logan Wildcat

8th Grade: Nayati Sequoyah, Elijah Jones

5th Grade: Danny Toineeta, Allana Kemp

### Swain County School District

12th Grade: Syllas Stanberry, Kierra Toineeta

8th Grade: Ernest Locust, Kayleigh Robie

5th Grade Swain East: Landon Strohm, Eliza Chavez

5th Grade Swain West: Paislee Stanberry,

Bryce Catolster

### New Kituwah Academy

Tawodi Colin Winchester, Tsoiyani Trinnity Arch

### Franklin High School

12th Grade: Jack Teesateskie

### Robbinsville School District

12th Grade: Waylon Holder, Katie-Lyn Gross

8th Grade: Kamdon Driver, Tacey Bridges

5th Grade: Zaidyn Garland, Woodleigh Welch

### Andrews High School

12th Grade: LaDannien Rattler, Chanteah Rattler

Rattler

### Murphy High School

12th Grade: Camden Breazeale, Karson Chastain



**New Kituwah Academy holds Art Show at N.C. Arboretum**

New Kituwah Academy (NKA) and the North Carolina Arboretum hosted the NKA Youth Art Show on Wednesday, April 29 at the Arboretum. The board of the Qualla Arts and Crafts Cooperative reviewed, provided feedback, and selected students' art for the show. Students also created and presented information posters about traditional Cherokee weaponry, about the structure and harvest of ramps, and about the work that they do in collaboration with the Arboretum's Project EXPLORE, a citizen-science education program. Their artwork was featured alongside Washington-based sculptor Karen Sixkiller. As a Cherokee Nation citizen much of her work is inspired by indigenous stories. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a workshop to sculpt their own water beetle taught by Sixkiller.

Crystal Carpenter, New Kituwah Academy Elementary principal, commented, "NKA is grateful to the N.C. Arboretum staff and Karen Sixkiller for this opportunity to celebrate our students. The children's artwork will remain on display till the end of May."

In the photo above, Rachel Hicks Slee and Dr. Hartwell Francis participate in the workshop.

In the photo below, artwork is on display by the New Kituwah students. (DAWN ARNEACH/One Feather photos)



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## HOSPICE CARE

# Real Talk About Hospice

## What's True & What's NOT



### Myth: Hospice Overmedicates Patients

There's a common myth that hospice overmedicates patients and that the goal is just to keep everyone drowsy and "out of it."



**The Truth:** At Four Seasons Hospice, we discuss the patient and family's priorities when we first meet with them and ensure they get the right medication for their goals. Our highly trained providers specialize in symptom management and use precise doses to ensure comfort and also clarity, if that is a priority for them. *Hospice isn't about being "out of it." It's about being present for the moments that matter most.*



### Myth: Hospice is a Place or Facility

Many people think hospice is a facility you have to move into when you're dying.



**The Truth:** Hospice is actually a specialized medical service and not a facility or hospital that you move into. The vast majority of people receive care right in their own homes, in their favorite chair, surrounded by familiar things. At Four Seasons Hospice, we come to you, wherever you call home, providing comfort for the patient, and support for the caregiver and family. If symptoms become unmanageable at home, we do offer in-patient care in our Elizabeth House or another contracted facility, but often only a temporary stay to adjust medication is needed.



To Explore other Common Myths, Scan this QR Code:



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### Yoga

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

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

Thursdays 12-12:50pm

Pre and Post natal Yoga available by appointment.

Contact Robin at robibail@ebci-nsn.gov

or 359-6785 to sign- up prior to class

### Walking Club

Mondays and Wednesdays at 12pm

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

### Beginner Pilates

Mondays 12-12:45pm

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

### Mother's Day 5k

May 9, 2026

Proceeds will be donated to the Richard Yogi Crowe Fund

Registration Begins at 8– 8:45am Walk/Run Begins at 9am

At Kituwah Fields (We will update if anything changes)

.General fee is \$15 but will increase to \$20 on May 1, 2026 \$10 for youth ages 1-12 and elders ages 59+

Contact Yolanda Saunooke at (828)-359-6784

or yolasau@ebci-nsn.gov with questions.

### Resources for Resiliency 2-day Training

May 14th and 15th, 2026 8:30am-3:30pm Lunch is provided.

Learn about trauma and stress and their effects on the body. Learn tools to help you with every day stressors.

Contact Shelby to sign up or for ore info at shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6783

### Cherokee Cultural Perspectives on Health: A lunch and learn series

Lunch is provided. Wednesdays 12-1:30pm @ Museum of Cherokee People in the multipurpose room

May 20: Cultural Considerations in Healthcare – Dr. Freida Saylor, DSW, LCSW, LCAS

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



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#### **Cherokee Choices**

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

**Vision:** Generations of Wellness

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

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**EBCI COMMUNITY  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CIHA to host Community  
Open House for Children's  
Mental Health Awareness  
Week**

In recognition of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (May 3-9), Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority invites community members to attend a Community Open House at Analenisgi on Friday, May 8 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Analenisgi lobby of the Cherokee Indian Hospital in Cherokee, N.C.

This drop-in event is designed to connect families with the programs, services, and support available for children across the community. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet members of

the Child & Family Services team, learn more about behavioral health programs, and explore resources focused on safety, wellbeing, and healthy development.

The open house will also offer the first public look at the proposed plans and potential site options for the future Child & Family Behavioral Health Center, providing an opportunity for the community to learn more about this important initiative and its impact on local children and families. The event will feature free giveaways as well as a visit from Paw Patrol's very own, Chase and Marshall to help provide a welcoming space for families to ask questions and engage directly with care teams.

This event reflects CIHA's continued commitment to supporting

children and strengthening families through accessible, culturally tailored care. To learn more about Analenisgi's Child and Family Services, visit [Cherokeehospital.org/analenisgi-child-family-services-2](http://Cherokeehospital.org/analenisgi-child-family-services-2) or call (828) 497-9163 ext. 6549.

- Cherokee Indian Hospital  
Authority

**Cherokee Supreme Court  
sessions for 2026:**

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

- Cherokee Tribal Court

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NEWS**

**Backcountry Camping fee  
change takes effect at Great  
Smoky Mountains National  
Park**

GATLINBURG, Tenn.—Beginning Thursday, April 30, Great Smoky Mountains National Park transitioned its backcountry permit reservation system to Recreation.gov. This transition will improve reliability, security and customer support for backcountry users.

Visitors with existing reservations do not need to do anything—the park will honor all permits issued before the switch.

The \$8 per person, per night backcountry camping fee will remain the same. The following fee

changes will support the operation and maintenance of the park's reservation system on Recreation.gov:

- New \$6 non refundable fee per permit
- Appalachian Trail thru hiker pass will increase from \$40 to \$44.50.
- Maximum permit fee will no longer be capped at \$40.

The park's Backcountry Office manages more than 100 campsites and shelters and provides personalized assistance to thousands of hikers each year. Staff are available daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., both in person and by phone, to answer questions, review itineraries, offer safety guidance and notify hikers of trail closures or severe weather conditions that may affect travel plans. Backcountry fees support critical services including staffing, equipment and supplies and the maintenance of backcountry campsites and shelters.

Thousands of hikers have used the park's backcountry reservation system each year since 2013 to access the Smokies' remote wilderness areas. The reservation system helps protect natural resources, improve the visitor experience and enhance safety.

Learn more about backcountry camping in the Smokies: <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/backcountry-camping.htm>

- National Park Service release

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# TSALAGI UWODUHI (Beautiful Cherokee)



## Duck in Raven Fork

This female Common Merganser Duck was spotted in Raven Fork in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. on Tuesday, April 20. (Photo by Alecia Ralston)



## Gosling in Kolanvyi

This gosling was spotted having a walk in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. on Sunday, April 26. (Photo by Alecia Ralston)



## Equa awi at Kituwah

These equa awi (elk) were spotted at Kituwah – the Mother Town of the Cherokee – on Friday, May 1. (Photos by Samantha Stephenson)





**Patricia Ann Panther**

Patricia Ann Panther, 73, of the Big Cove Community in Cherokee, went to her heavenly home on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

She was the daughter of the late Samuel Sr. and Katie Panther. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Julius Taylor, Charles

Davis, Samuel “Snake”, Floyd, and Ernest Panther; sisters, Frances Welch, Evelyn Wachacha, Wilma Pheasant, Hattie Panther, Katherine Panther, and Alma Johns; and two daughters, Kimberly Kay Panther and Natalie Denise Panther.

Patricia is survived by her son, Alan Taylor (Reyna); daughter, Marlana Taylor; grandsons, Keeifer (who she raised as her son) and Asher Taylor; Shelby Solis (who was like a granddaughter); brothers, Kenny Panther (Dianne), Patrick Panther (Sharon), Richard Panther (Kathie), and Jim Panther; sisters, Alice Kekahbah, Loretta Bradley, Gloria Panther and Deborah Panther; and special friends, Fay Catolster, Ruth Lossiah, Gloria Hyatt, and Angie Parton.

Patricia or “Patsy” as known by many, retired from the EBCI Cherokee One Feather Office after many years. She attended Yellowhill Baptist Church. She had a strong faith and believed in the power of prayer. She enjoyed doing ceramics, scrapbooking and genealogy. Her grandsons brought so much joy to her life. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral Services were held at Yellowhill Baptist Church on Friday, May 1. Brothers Foreman Bradley and Harley Maney Jr. officiated with burial in the Panther Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Alan Taylor, Chelise Santoyo, Alf Welch, Jobie Littlejohn, Walker Bowman, Charles “Little Charlie” Welch, Verron “Boo” Davis, Bryan Panther, and Robbie Panther.

Honorary Pallbearers were Keeifer and Asher Taylor.

**Jerry Max Raby**

It is deep sadness and loving remembrance that we announce the passing of Jerry Max Raby,

71, of the Qualla community, who passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Jerry is preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Evelyn Raby; his first wife, Lawanda Jackson Raby “Sue”; and their two sons, Justin Raby “Jarvis” and John Raby “John Bug”.

Jerry was the 14th child out of 15 children. Raised on the family farm from an early age, he developed a strong connection to the land and a deep appreciation for the rhythm of farm life- something that would shape the course of his life. Jerry retired from Qualla Housing Authority, to work alongside his brothers on the family farm to raise cattle and hay. Jerry enjoyed the hard work of raising cattle, cutting hay, and the many other responsibilities of being a farmer. He was at his happiest in the quiet of the early morning caring for the herd, checking the pastures and watching the seasons change across the fields he called home. Farming was not just his work, but his way of life.

Left to treasure his memories of farming is his wife, Missy Sutton- Raby; siblings, Brenda (Henry) Jones of Whittier, Rob (Mary) Raby of Pickens, S.C., Linda Hughes of Pickens, S.C., Ruth Ammons of Bryson City, Roger (Helen) Raby; and grandson, Kyler Crowe

Siblings preceded in death, Donald Raby, John Raby, Thomas “Tink” Raby, Lorraine Beck, Janie Waldroop, Buford Raby, JD Raby, Lottie Beck, and Opal Johnson. Those who knew Jerry will remember his steady presence, strong work ethic, and the quiet pride he took in his farm and cattle. He taught those around him the value of hard work, responsibility, dedication, and respect. He found

his greatest contentment in the hands-on working of the cattle, calving season, and ensuring the heard was well cared for in every season. To neighbors and friends, Jerry was the person you called when something broke or when you needed help without having to ask twice.

Outside of farming and raising cattle, he enjoyed bass fishing, deer hunting, NASCAR races, and horses. Jerry cherished time spent with family and friends. Jerry was a member and faithfully attended Long Branch Baptist Church, Dillsboro until his health declined. Jerry will be remembered not only for farming and raising cattle, but for the steady, honest way he lived every day.

Services were held at Crisp Funeral Home Bryson City, N.C. on Sunday May 3 with the Rev. Jimmy Grissiom and Rev. Eddie Stillwell officiating. Burial followed at Sherrill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were among friends and family.

**Kathleen Talalah**

Kathleen Talalah, 60, of Cherokee, passed away on Friday, April 24, 2026, after a period of declining health at Cherokee Indian Hospital.

Kathleen was born on July 1, 1965, in Chicago, Ill., to the late Samuel D. and Dorothy Talalah (Deford). She worked in the food service industry. She was the wife of the late Eugene Anthony Rodriguez. In addition to her spouse and her parents, she was predeceased by her four children and three sisters.

Kathleen is survived by her sons, Gene Talalah and Manuel Rodriguez; her daughters, Samantha Talalah and Darian S. Jenkins; and her sisters, Pam Talalah and

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Carol Talalah of Chicago, Illinois, and Martha Talalah of Cherokee. A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 8 in the Chapel of Long House Funeral Home. The family will receive friends immediately prior to the service.

Long House Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



#### **Alethea Thomas Smith**

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. Proverbs 31:10

Alethea Thomas Smith, age 85, of the Shepherds Creek community, went home to be with her Lord on Friday, May 1, 2026.

A lifelong resident of Swain County. She was the daughter of the late Theodore and Virgie Thomas.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by all of her siblings, Mary Lee Oliver, Dorothy Williamson (Bo), Bill Thomas (Beulah), Evelyn Thomas, Maxine Hundley (Mike), and Carolyn Cheek.

She is survived by her husband of 60 wonderful years, Dock A. Smith, Jr. and her only son and daughter-in-law Alan and Mary Jane Smith; as well as her four grandchildren, David, Gabby, Kody and Mali. She is also survived by one special brother-in-law, Bobby Cheek, as well as numerous nieces

and nephews.

Alethea was a faithful member of Deep Creek Baptist Church and served in various roles over the years in the church prior to her health failing.

Alethea was a retired bookkeeper who worked for over 30 years for John Cope at Cope Chevrolet. And then worked for Rollon Smith for many years until her retirement. It was her job to keep Dock, Alan, John and Rollon all straight. She took that job seriously, and they all loved her for it. Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, May 5 at Crisp Funeral Home Chapel.

Her Pastor Mike Cogdill and Reverend Merritt Youngdeer officiated. Burial followed in the Bradley Family Cemetery on Bunches Creek in Cherokee. Pallbearers were Terry Cooper, Jeff Waldroup, Kirk Lossiah, Eric Brown, Joe Wolfe, and Elrod Toineeta.



#### **Goliath Taylor**

Dec. 6, 1944 - April 30, 2026

Sherman Taylor, better known as “Goliath” to most, passed away on Tuesday, April 30 at the age of 81, surrounded by the love of his family. Though known to many as a quiet and steady man, to those who loved him most, he was a constant presence—strong, dependable, and full of quiet humor.

He shared 65 years of life with his beloved wife, Shirley, including

63 years of marriage—a testament to enduring love, partnership, and commitment. Together they raised five children, providing not only for their needs but also shaping their lives through quiet strength and example. He was a man who didn’t always say much—but when he did, it mattered. As his daughter shared, “When he spoke, it parted the clouds”.

For 33 years, Goliath dedicated his work to Tribal Construction, where he earned the respect of his coworkers not only for his skill but for his work ethic and character. Even years later, people still spoke of how good he was to work with and the humor he carried with him each day.

He was known for his ability to fix anything, his toughness balanced with gentleness, and the way he showed love through action. Whether it was cooking a favorite meal for one of his children or grandchildren, he always made sure his family had what they needed—even the extras. And sometimes, simply being there without hesitation, he gave fully of himself.

To his grandchildren and extended family, he was “Papaw,” a steady presence in everyday moments that became lifelong memories. Late-night pickups, simple meals, laughter echoing through the house, and routines that never changed formed the fabric of a childhood filled with love. He didn’t need many words; his presence said everything. He stepped into roles beyond expectation. To many, he was more than an uncle—he was a father figure, a role model, and a source of unwavering support.

Even in life’s hardest moments, his strength never wavered. And now, his family takes comfort in

knowing that his suffering has passed and that his legacy of love, strength, and quiet devotion will live on.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Timpson and Emma Taylor; brothers, Reuben Taylor, Frank Taylor, Lee Taylor, Fred Taylor, and Collin Taylor; and sisters, June Maldonado and Eva “Kat” Taylor.

He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley; his children, Edwin Goliath “Tiny” Taylor (Kendra), Tim Taylor (Ruth), Greg Taylor (Tina), Jonee Taylor, and Consie Girty (Jeff); his grandchildren, Nick Taylor (Chantelle), Jordan Taylor, Alex Jernigan-Taylor (Melissa), Eric James, Alisha Taylor (Cory), Celine Taylor (Colin), Taylor Taylor, Georgia Grace Girty, Wilder Morgan, and Zoey Morgan; nine great-grandchildren, his siblings, Louise Goings (Butch), Ramona “Bear” Taylor, Faye “Goose” Junaluska (Arch “Bunt”), James “Enos” Taylor (Delores), Katrina Maney (Gary), Helen Arch, and a large extended family who will carry his memory forward.

More than anything, Goliath will be remembered for how he made people feel—safe, supported, and loved. His life was not defined by words, but by actions, and those actions built a legacy that will never fade.

As his family holds onto the memories he leaves behind, they take comfort in a phrase he often reminded them of: “This is not goodbye—it’s a see you soon.”

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Betty’s Cancer House or the Cherokee Children’s Home.

The family will receive friends at Crisp Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## COMMENTARY

# Is there a passion for a tribal constitution?

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

For decades, the tribe has given lip service to the idea of a constitution for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Members of the community have advocated. They have assembled. They have planned. They have devoted their time, their resources, and their insights to meetings. There has been enough support for the idea that Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) representatives have openly endorsed it and, at one point, unanimously voted to present referendum questions to the tribal community to decide the fate of a tribal constitution proposal.

For a roughly three-year stretch, I was a frequent member and attendee of the constitution committee meetings. Back then, you didn't have to be chosen by designation through resolution. You just had to be a community member. The most recent of a decades-long quest for a constitution was a roughly six-year process. In fact, I participated in drafting sessions with EBCI Beloved Woman Carmaleta Monteith and Lloyd Arneach from the committee, who proposed the draft that was eventually submitted to Dinilawigi with a resolution to hold a referendum.

While there were differing levels of agreement with the proposed constitution in its entirety, the Dinilawigi agreed unanimously

(at the time) that the decision on the constitution should be the people's, not the Council's.

The draft constitution, crafted over six years, had input from many members of the tribal community. It had been shared, presented, and tweaked repeatedly during that time. It was featured in the One Feather article by article alongside committee rationales for the language of each section or article. In the end, special sessions of the Community Club Council were held publicly about the proposed draft. In those sessions, which were comprised of officers from each community club, the draft constitution was examined line by line, taking a full Community Club Council vote for each individual article of the proposed constitution. In my opinion, the draft was thoroughly vetted by the Community Club Council, and it was so sure of its content that they were the official submitters of the document and resolution to the Dinilawigi.

By contrast, how much biographical information do you see about candidates for elected seats before a tribal election? In my opinion, there was more information available to the community about the proposed constitution for a longer period than is available for most candidates for the most important seats in tribal government.

Mailings were sent out by the EBCI Election Board outlining both the questions that I submitted for consideration concerning Dinilawigi terms, those unanimously approved by Dinilawigi and ratified by the Ugwiyuhi (Principal Chief) in late 2021 and again in early 2022, and the proposed constitution question,

voted for by Dinilawigi and ratified by the Ugwiyuhi in April 2023. It was considered, at the time, a landmark event in the history of the EBCI, since the decision would be placed in the hands of the community for a tribe-wide referendum vote. There were celebratory tears from members of the community and at least one member of the Dinilawigi. Six-plus years of diligence had seemingly come to a head at that April meeting to allow the community-crafted constitution's fate to be decided by the community.

But in May 2023, after years of silence on the drafting of the constitution, the Attorney General and his staff sought a meeting with the Constitution Committee to ask that group to join him in asking that the questions be nullified and removed from the ballot, in favor of his resolution to ask new referendum questions to consider modifying the existing Charter "in small increments" to achieve some level of controlled adjustment to the law to settle larger issues like civil rights and adding a judicial branch. He stressed that having multiple outstanding resolutions addressing the same issue could be "potential" for "causing significant difficulties at the ballot box" and "conflict". He said he was concerned that language in the proposed constitution might be "an abrupt and dramatic change" in the way the government operates. He also stated he disagreed with the Constitution Committee and the Community Club Council on the proposed constitution and the attempt to have a referendum vote on it, and added, "It is not just me but the AG's Office."

In his explanation, the Attorney General said that his resolu-

tion had been submitted per tribal code, as had the one from the CCC, and the Dinilawigi would make the decision.

Shannon Swimmer of the Aniwoodihi (Painttown) Community (now Aniwoodihi Dinilawigi Representative) said in the May 2023 Dinilawigi session, "I have been attending the (Constitution) Committee meetings for a while. Our original intentions were that we would work alongside the Attorney General to make any possible changes. But then he brought to our attention that if we made any changes to any word whatsoever to the current document that was approved by the Tribal Council, we would have to rescind and go through this process again. The Constitution Committee's concern was that it would not be passed by the Council. We would be taking several steps back. Right now, we have a constitution that is ready to be voted on. The Tribal Council has already authorized the referendum so that people can either vote for it or against it. We plan on having more informational sessions to educate people, answer any questions, and hopefully alleviate any of their concerns. You are not going to lose your per capita. You are going to have rights that are protected by this constitution. That was the whole point of working on this. It was to guarantee people's rights. The AG's office is doing a great job of representing its client. Their client is the tribal government, not the members of the Eastern Band. We are representing the Eastern Band people, not the government. That is why we are here today: to ask that the resolution (to nullify the referendum questions and replace them with a question to allow

modification of the Charter to limit the scope of change) be killed and people are allowed to vote on the constitution as it was approved by Tribal Council, and that the people get to have their voice, in September, heard.”

Rep. Swimmer is now on the “Constitutional Convention,” which was created by Dinilawigi to “organize” the constitution creation effort. The Attorney General, at the behest of the legislative branch, crafted yet another resolution, submitted and passed in the June 2023 session, that eliminated the term and constitutional questions from the September ballot and killed the proposal submitted by the Attorney General. It also dissolved the constitution committee that had worked for six years on the 2023 draft and created a

committee with the title Constitutional Convention. It laid out the makeup of the committee to include government elected officials. At the most recent committee meeting, April 23, 2026 the Constitutional Convention was unable to conduct business because it did not have a quorum. Out of 15 designated members, including alternates who are supposed to attend in case of absence, four members attended. For those of you who like math, that’s a 26 percent attendance rate. Some had “excused absences”, but most of the committee was simply absent with no explanation provided. In the April 9 session of this committee, it reached quorum roughly twenty minutes into an approximately 90-minute session.

The Constitutional Conven-

tion was established on July 13, 2023, with the ratification of Res. No. 627. Since that time, the committee has been engrossed in policymaking and leadership adjustments. When they finally got around to addressing the constitution, there was a question as to whether they would start afresh, use the Attorney General’s red line version, or use the 2023 draft submitted to Dinilawigi and approved for referendum vote as a foundation for a new constitution draft. The Constitutional Convention decided to use the 2023 draft. In April 2026, nearly three years after its establishment, the committee started addressing the first article of the constitution. They selected Article 4. The committee’s stated goal is to have a draft ready for consideration by Dinilawigi for a referendum vote during the 2027 election.

In 2019, \$75,000 was allocated to the constitution committee. In Res. No. 627 (2023), that money was carried over for the use of the Constitutional Convention. No expenditure has been publicly reported.

The bottom line is that if the enrolled members of our tribe are not interested and are content with having privileges instead of rights, if we stand silent when the opportunity to establish a

judicial branch of government is made available to us, then why do we continue to take up people’s valuable time and tie up financial resources? If we are satisfied and willing to live with the system as is or are possibly so afraid of the “unintended consequences” that may come with taking control of our own destiny that we refuse to engage, then there is indeed no passion for a governing document “for the people, by the people.”

I hope this commentary makes you mad. I don’t care if you get mad at me for my words, mad at the government, mad at the system, or mad at yourself. One group you should not be mad at is the Constitutional Convention. This group of volunteers has been given a mountainous task and has had the cards stacked against them from the beginning. What about that low attendance in the April sessions? To me, that is just an indication of the frustration that these volunteers are feeling. At least they volunteered for the good of the community. Rep. Swimmer’s premonition in 2023 proved true. The effort for a constitution for our people has taken several steps backward. Only the Principal People can turn it back around. But will we?



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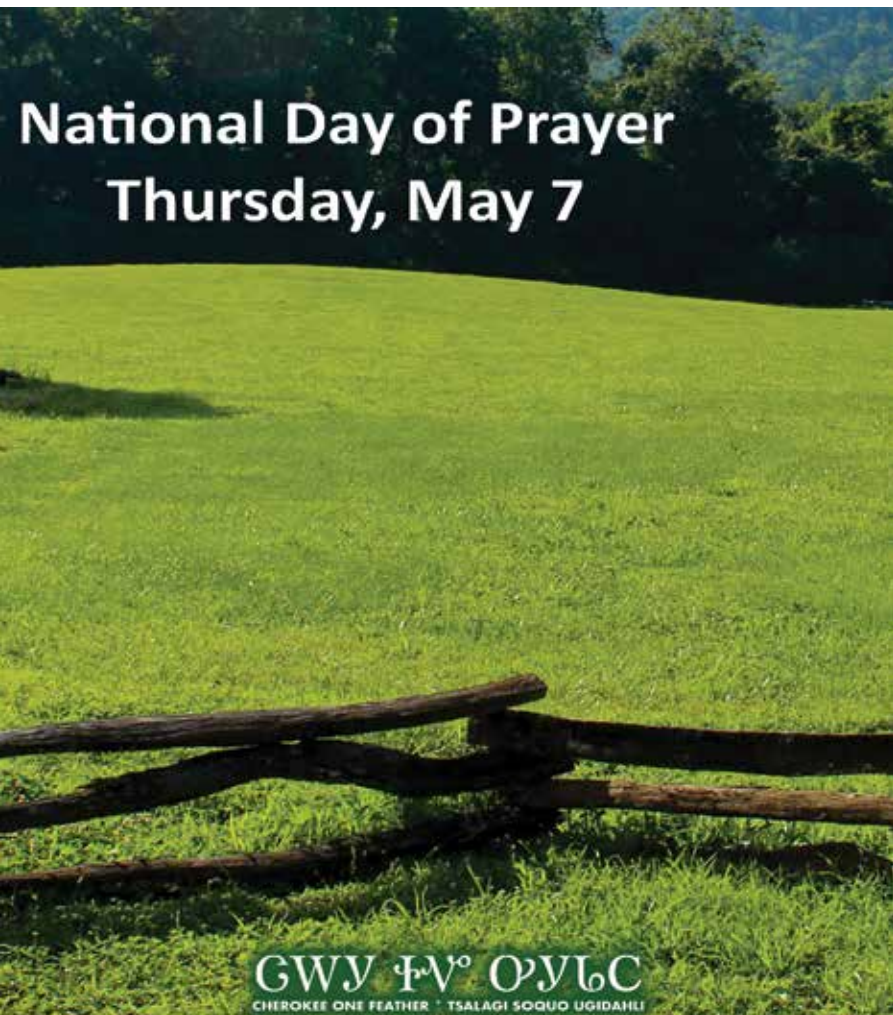
**MAY 15-17**

**MEMORIAL DAY FISHING TOURNAMENT**

**MAY 23-24**

**7 CLANS RODEO**

**MAY 23-24**



**National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 7**

**GWY Ꮻᎃᎆ Ꮕᎆᎃᎆ**  
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER \* TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

## MISSING

### Varnell Middleton, Jr.

African American/American Indian/Alaska Native

Height: 5'8" Weight: 165 lbs

Male Age: 19

Hair: Black Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: March 10, 2026

Last Known Location: Jackson, Mississippi

Circumstances of Disappearance: Last spoken to through text on March 10 and then last known location was the OYO Hotel on I-55.

If you have seen or have information about Varnell Middleton, Jr. contact Jackson Police Department (601) 960-1234.

Source: Namus.gov



**GWY Ꮻᎃᎆ Ꮕᎆᎃᎆ**  
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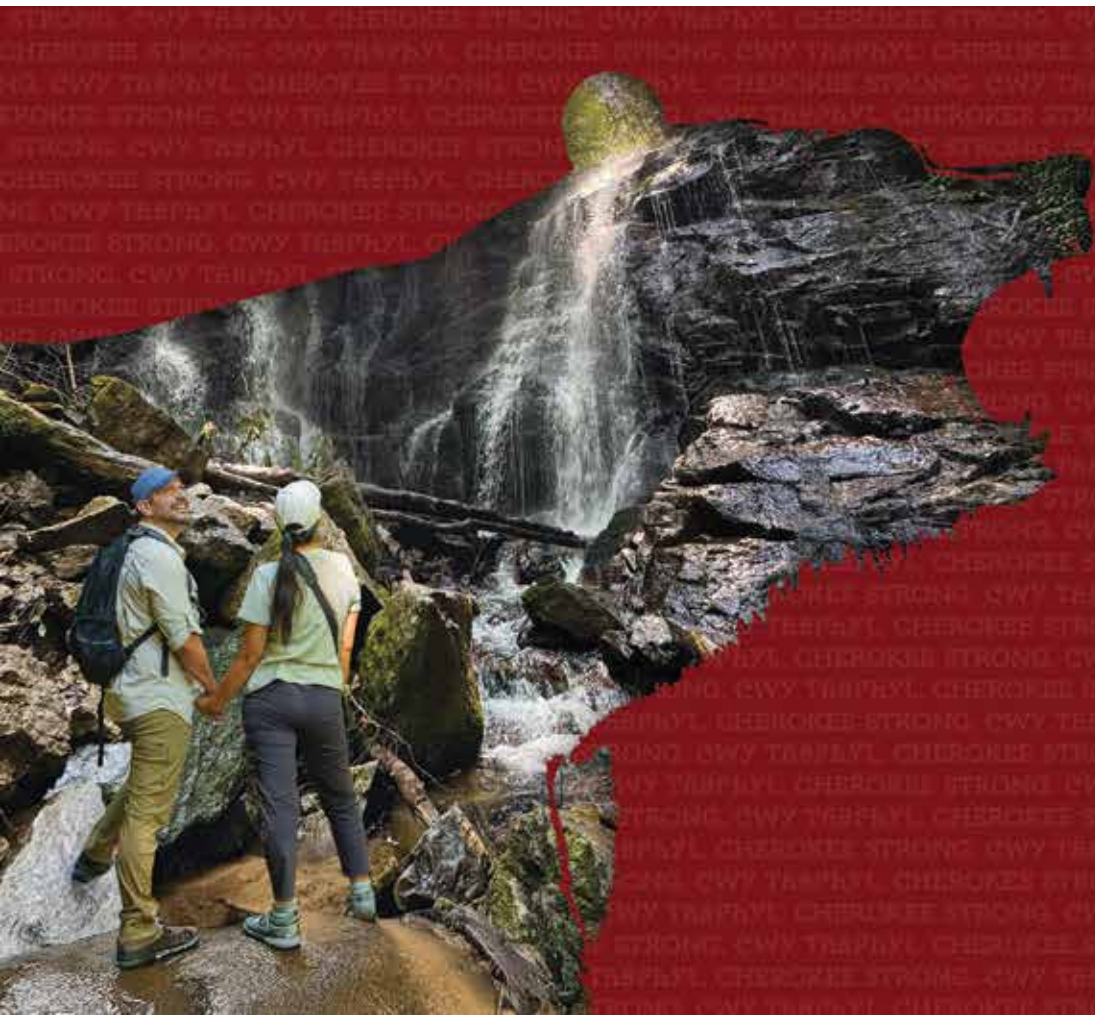
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## Layaway Plan, Part 1 of 2

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

People relate to their own experiences. In their way, people use their knowledge to perceive a unique concept. Preachers like Billy Graham use these shifts in thought to take people from a

‘known’ to an ‘unknown,’ teaching the hearers of God’s word to think differently to move them toward the truth about Christ. This word about the layaway plans is to reach those who will draw a parallel and relate this concept to salvation.

The Spirit works in mysterious ways. No one can tell how people are drawn to accepting Jesus in faith and truth with a desire to change and accept the grace of God. There isn’t a ‘one fits all’ approach to leading individuals to Christ. For centuries, preachers and teachers have used logical or impressive approaches they thought might be unique for a particular audience. This commentary might engage some to think differently and turn understanding into faith and belief in Jesus, and recognize the grace He offers each of us.

Small business stores and department stores still use layaway plans. It is better than going into

debt, and no interest is required. Sometimes you can take advantage of excellent deals when you find what you want on sale, but you don’t have the money to pay for it. There are worthy comparisons and contrasts to salvation.

Have you ever put a sale item or an expensive purchase on layaway at a store? Maybe you didn’t have the money needed to buy it outright. Perhaps you wanted a place to keep it until it was needed. Sometimes mistakes happen. The store might lose or break what you purchased, and they will give you your money back. Sometimes they might make the mistake of putting it back on the shelf and reselling it to someone else. Maybe their accounting gets mixed up, and they don’t have your purchase record or matching layaway ticket, and you must find those receipts and the payments made.

What happens when Jesus saves you? A layaway plan is when

you make payments for something someone else is keeping for you until you pay in full. They usually keep your purchase in the back room or storage bin. God’s layaway plan is better. If anything, it’s the opposite of the typical store plan. Jesus has already made the deposit and paid for your eternal future by dying on the cross many years ago in Jerusalem. His one-time sacrifice was for the sins of the world, your sins, and mine. When you earnestly accept His payment by calling on His name to save you from death and sin, He gives you a deposit of the Holy Spirit. You take away the gift of eternal life instantly. Not when you die, but immediately. It’s almost like a reverse kind of mortgage. You not only get to live blessed with an eternal deposit, but you get the whole gift to take with you forever. If it sounds too simple and unbelievable, it almost is.



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Religion that God  
our Father accepts  
as pure and faultless  
is this: to look after  
orphans and widows  
in their distress and  
to keep oneself from  
being polluted  
by the world.

 JAMES 1:27



*Detail of “Mothers” by Kathe Kollwitz (1919)*



## EBCI Community Events

**Community Open House for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.** May 8 from 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the lobby of Analenesgi at the Cherokee Indian Hospital, 1 Hospital Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Meet the child and family services team, learn about programs and services, explore resources, free giveaway. Info: (828) 497-9163 ext 6549.

**Kolanvyi Day (new date).** May 9 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Kolanvyi Fields on Big Cove Rd (Just above the Cherokee Central Schools) Cherokee, NC. 28719. Stickball games, vendors, storytelling, entertainment, cornhole tournament. Info: Butch (828) 506-8936 or Cindee (828) 736-7879

**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

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

**40th Anniversary of Fading Voices.** May 23 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Little Snowbird 1897 Little Snowbird Rd., Robbinsville, N.C. 28771. Mound Building at 11 a.m. (bring a cup or turtle shell full

of dirt from home). Celebrate Snowbird Cherokee heritage, language and community. There will be Cherokee food, music, dance, crafts and games. Admission is free.

**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 Senior Center in Cherokee, N.C. Eligibility for membership: any American Indian or Alaska Native or Canadian First Nations woman, 18 years of age or older, who is officially identified as a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe/Nation. The meetings contain information on purpose and further aims. All who meet the eligibility are invited to attend.

## Cherokee Cultural/Historic Events

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

**Big Cove to Boarding Schools: Educational Journeys of the Nick-Swayney-Bird Family.** May 7 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ken Blankenship Education Wing, TJ Holland Education Room at 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. David Armenti will share genealogical research about 11 ancestors from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian community, who attended either Hampton Institute's "Indian School" (Virginia) or Carlisle Indian Industrial School (Pennsylvania). Free and open to the public. Info: <https://motcp.org/events>

**Statehood Day.** May 31 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Celebration

of Tennessee Statehood Day. On June 1, 1796, Congress approved the admission of Tennessee as the sixteenth state of the Union. The 1809 Blacksmith shop will be open with demonstrations going on throughout the afternoon. Come out and share the afternoon with living history in the 1800's Dog-trot Log cabin. Learn about 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

## CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

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**Kenai, a 4-year-old German Shepherd, and Winnie, a 6-months-old Dachshund mix, live in Tutiya (Snowbird) with their family. Their mom is Ansley Jackson.**

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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.



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Love rules the amorous Aries! It's time to make Sheep's eyes at someone you'd like to know better. (A loving Leo, perhaps?) And don't be surprised by what follows.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) You might enjoy spending your time at home, decorating and redecorating all you like. But friends old and new won't accept "regrets" to their invitations. So, go out and have a great time.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You need someone who appreciates you. If this person is already in your life, congratulations! If not, don't settle for anyone who doesn't value you.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A previous problem is cleared up soon to your advantage. Meanwhile, give your self-confidence a much-needed boost by taking on a tough project that you know you can handle.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You're often picked to lead in a group situation, but this can cost you time and energy that you might want to spend elsewhere. Feel free to decline. People will still love the Big Cat.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) You're usually the staid and steady sort. But the adventurous side of you emerges, and you feel like doing something different — and maybe a mite daring. Good for you!

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You need more preparation before

– 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.)*

### Reports to Council. May 6 at 9

see **EVENTS** next page

tackling a poorly performing venture. Research possible solutions. The more you know when you start, the more likely that all will end well.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your work is noticed with approval. A promotion could follow. Meanwhile, at home, there's some unexpected fallout from a family matter that you thought had been cleared up.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A relationship that you thought just needed time to ripen could be withering instead. It's not too late to save it with reassurances that it's still your priority.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Your problem with accepting workplace-related changes will disappear once you accept the fact that — like it or not — change is part of progress.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Don't feel guilty about indulging in luxuries like beauty treatments for yourself and beautiful things for your home. They bring joy to the soul, and you deserve them.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Don't keep a low profile about your project until you're sure that it can succeed. You'll achieve more if you allow others to know what you've done and to share in the work.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You move with a natural grace and elegance that is found in those who (like you) were born to dance. Children take to you and want to be your friend.

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## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### Abusing the loan program

It sounds like there was a lot of money to be made from Covid, at least according to investigation reports from the VA's Office of Inspector General. Unfortunately for certain thieves, however, the OIG was all over them when the scams were revealed.

The head thief in one case was a part-time pastor who was nailed on four counts of wire fraud for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) scams. He devised a scheme to apply for loans that were supposed to be used for payroll and business expenses during the Covid downturns. Not only that, but he approached and then coached church members (one of them a VA employee) on how to apply for the "free money" funds, including pretending they had actual businesses to run.

He then taught them how to apply for loan forgiveness (which was a bonus of the program if funds were actually used to pay employees) so they wouldn't have to pay the money back. All they had to do, it seems, was to follow his instructions. It helped that he worked for a Small Business Administration-approved lender ... and split the money with him.

Part of their downfall came from inflating income figures from a real tax return — which did not indicate that there was any kind of business income at all, not realizing that it would be a simple matter for one government agency to speak to another agency to verify facts. Another mistake was leaving a paper trail of emails wherein he instructed one of his church members on the steps to take to apply for the loans.

When sentenced, the pastor could get 20 years for each count of wire fraud. One coconspirator (who did not own a business) could get 60 years — 20 for each of three counts. The other (who also did not own a business but had a great paper trail of how-to instruction emails for applying for the fraudulent loans) is cooperating and likely won't see any jail time.

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### Can pet cancer be prevented? What owners should know

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** My 11-year-old dog "Jethro" is being treated for cancer. At first, I didn't pay attention to the little lumps that appeared on his skin, and he seemed healthy otherwise. But at his annual checkup, the vet said the lumps were suspicious. After some tests, Jethro got radiation and then surgery to remove the biggest lumps, and they're monitoring the others. I just wonder if there was any way I could have prevented this from happening. Could I have noticed something sooner? — Gerald V., Wytheville, Virginia

**DEAR GERALD:** Don't beat yourself up too much. You did all the right things for your dog: regular checkups, prompt treatment and continuing support. I'm very glad to hear that Jethro is on the mend and being monitored.

A cancer diagnosis in a pet is always stressful for the owners. Skin lumps (soft tissue sarcomas) are just one type of cancer. Certain cancers are more prevalent in specific breeds, and no pet is completely free of risk.

Owners often beat themselves up after a diagnosis, wondering if their pet's food, level of exercise or weight contributed to them developing cancer. According to the Animal Cancer Foundation, (acfoundation.org) there are no proven diets that prevent cancer in pets.

However, studies have shown that nutritionally supportive diets can help pets already diagnosed with cancer. Many veterinarians recommend a diet higher in protein and healthy fats and lower in carbohydrates to support overall pet health. Avoid raw diets, as bacteria in raw foods can weaken an already compromised immune system.

Continue to keep a close eye on Jethro and work with the veterinarian to spot fast-growing lumps on his skin. Focus on giving him a great quality of life with exercise, a healthy diet and lots of love.

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

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**EVENTS:** From page 39

a.m.

**Work Session on Election Ordinance.** May 6 at 1 p.m.

**Dinilawigi regular session.** May 7 at 8:30 a.m.

**Lands Acquisition Committee.** May 11 at 1 p.m.

**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

**35th Annual Cherokee County Mother's Day Pow Wow & Indian Festival.** May 9-10 at Boling Park in Canton, Ga. MC: Ray Silva. Host Drum: Red Boys. Info: (770) 735-6275, rollingthunder34@ymail.com, or visit www.rthunder.com

**6th Annual Teton Pow Wow.** May 9 at the Snow King Sports and Event Center in Jackson, Wyo. Emcees: Chico Her Many Horses, Kevin Tacan. Host Drum: Fort Peck Sioux. Local Host Drum:

Little Brave. Info: Mahpiya Win Spotted Tail (307) 200-7447, mw.spottedtail@nativeamericanjumpstart.org

**38th Annual Balboa Park Pow Wow.** May 9-10 in San Diego, Calif. MC: Randy Pico. Host Northern Drum: Blue Star. Host Southern Drum: Red Warrior. Info: Paula Brim (858) 442-5033, paula.brim@att.net

**Cal Poly Pomona Annual Honoring Our Mothers and Mother Earth Pow Wow.** May 9 at the Kellogg Arena in Pomona, Calif. MC: Walter Ahhaitty. Host Northern Drum: Bear Springs. Host Southern Drum: Sooner Nation. Info: Desiree Martinez (909) 869-4205, drmartinez2@cpp.edu

**Gathering of the People Pow Wow.** May 15-16 at the BSA Center in Evans, Ga. MC: Michael Anderson. Head Singer: Marvin Pair. Info: Barry Rogers (706) 678-1017, 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: Sacred 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.AAwnc80.com

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

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

**Life@WesternCarolina.** each

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

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

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

### Western N.C. and Beyond Events

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

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

**Kids Take over the Museum.**

May 4 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. At the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center 123 Cromwell Dr., Townsend, TN. 37882. There is no shortage of activities for your young crafter or artist, get their hands and minds busy on basket weaving, blacksmithing, and pottery making. Over 25 demonstrations, on-site vendors and special events are lined up for this huge day at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. Visitors play loads of games that were popular choices for kids on the mountain homestead. Plus, representatives from the Museum of the Cherokee will be on hand to share their cultural heritage. Info: (865) 448-0044 online at: [gsmheritagecenter.org](http://gsmheritagecenter.org)

### Hummingbird Research

**Webinar.** May 7 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Discover which plants best benefit hummingbirds and how small changes to a backyard can increase their population. Online webinar. This is a Smokies Life Branch Out event. Cost: For Park Keepers, \$45; to join and attend, \$85 (Park Keeper basic membership \$40+ event registration \$45). Info: <https://SmokiesLife.org/branch-out-events>, or email: [membership@smokieslife.org](mailto:membership@smokieslife.org)

**Swain Genealogical and Historical Society meeting.** May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Dr. in Bryson City, N.C. Henry Chambers will get a presentation on the early settler history of western North Carolina. Conversation

and refreshments will follow the presentation. This is free and open to the public.

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

**Swain County Democratic Party Monthly meeting.** May 11 at 7p.m. at the United Community Bank at 145 Slope St., Bryson City, N.C. (Community Room, enter in back). Zoom option available: Contact [swaincountydems@gmail.com](mailto:swaincountydems@gmail.com) to receive a link. All Democrat and left-leaning unaffiliated voters

are invited.

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


**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 Invitational” 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](http://www.thebascom.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

# Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with  
EBCI Natural Resources





Did you know that western North Carolina has **native succulents**? One of them is mountain stonecrop, also known as woodland stonecrop. This succulent thrives in shaded, rocky areas and blooms small, white flowers in April-May. It is the most widespread Sedum species in eastern North America. It also adapts well to garden use if you're looking to add more native plants around your home. Here is one blooming on the Oconaluftee river trail.

see **EVENTS** next page

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and so much more! Info: (865) 983-1550

**Intro to Night Sky Photography Webinar.** June 2 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Learn the fundamentals of astrophotography, including gear essentials, composition and camera settings, and ways to help reduce light pollution in your area. This is a Smokies Life Branch Out event. Cost: For Park Keepers, \$45; to join and attend, \$85 (Park Keeper basic membership \$40+ event registration \$45). Info: <https://SmokiesLife.org/branch-out-events>, or email: [membership@smokieslife.org](mailto:membership@smokieslife.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bunsey.crowe@kituwahllc.com) For building rental contact Bunsey

Crowe.

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

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

**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-



# Moments in time

• On May 18, 1974, India became the world's sixth nuclear power after successfully detonating its first nuclear weapon, a fission bomb similar in power to the American atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan. The test occurred on the anniversary of the Buddha's enlightenment.

• On May 19, 1836, Cynthia Ann Parker, at about 9 or 10 years old, was kidnapped by Comanche, Kiowa and Caddo Native Americans in Texas. She was adopted into the Comanche tribe and later married a chief, by whom she had three children. Parker lived with the Comanches until Texas Rangers recaptured her and forced her to return to live among whites again.

• On May 20, 1506, Christopher Columbus died in Valladolid, Spain, at the age of 55, still erroneously believing that he had reached Asia. His last months were spent in poor health with what modern doctors suspect was Reiter's syndrome, and making futile attempts to recover his titles and wealth from King Ferdinand.

• On May 21, 1994, the Flavr Savr tomato made its first appearance in grocery stores. Engineered to delay ripening, it was the first genetically modified food product approved for human consumption in the U.S. and was priced at 70 cents more per pound than its more conventional counterparts.

• On May 22, 2004, Michael Moore's documentary film "Fahrenheit 9/11," a sharp critique of George W. Bush's foreign policy decisions, won the Palme d'Or, the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

• On May 23, 1783, following his own prediction that he would enter eternity courtesy of a lightning bolt, American Colonial patriot James Otis did indeed pass away when lightning found him as he stood in a friend's doorway. According to the Boston Gazette, he "expired without a groan."

• On May 24, 1915, Thomas Edison announced his invention of the telescribe, a device designed to allow businessmen to record telephone conversations by combining a telephone receiver with his phonograph. Though it was highly praised at first, it failed to catch on and was withdrawn from the market.

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Eve (KJV), first mother on Earth, in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. To save her son's life, what mother waterproofed a basket and placed the young Moses in it among the reeds of the River Nile? *Lois, Jochebed, Eunice, Hagar*

3. What evil mother instructed her daughter to ask for John the Baptist's head? *Salome, Herodias, Athaliah, Rebekah*

4. Who brought a new little coat to her son, Samuel, every year at Shiloh? *Hannah, Elizabeth, Priscilla, Martha*

5. Which mother bore six sons and one daughter to Jacob? *Sarah, Miriam, Leah, Ruth*

6. From Judges 5:7, who arose herself as a mother in Israel? *Esther, Naomi, Jezebel, Deborah*

ANSWERS: (1) Neither, (2) Jochebed, (3) Herodias, (4) Hannah, (5) Leah, (6) Deborah

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

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*Anaxyrus americanus* like dense vegetation, so they can stay under cover as they hunt for food.

They also need access to water for their early development. With these needs met, American

toads can live in many places. They are commonly found in gardens and agricultural fields, and prefer dark spaces beneath porches, decks, flat

### The American toad

stones, logs, lumber, clay pots and similar areas. When cold weather comes, toads dig backwards into their lairs and hibernate.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: [animaldiversity.org](http://animaldiversity.org)



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

4088, dwayne4251@gmail.com, For building rental contact Lynn Catt (828)736-6150.

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

**Cherokee Houses of Worship**

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

**Acquoni Baptist Church.** 722

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tract. 488-9202

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

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

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

**Cherokee Church of God.** 21 Church of God Drive. Sunday School 10:30 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 Method-**

see **EVENTS** next page

# MEET YOUR CIHA STAFF



## ZANE WACHACHA

Provider Network Manager – Tribal Option

**Education:** BA in Arts in History & Political Science from Warren Wilson College and Executive MBA from the University of Tennessee '24

**Years at CIHA:** 6 Years  
**Community/Hometown:** Snowbird

"Starting my career here at Cherokee Indian Hospital six years ago was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Working here at Cherokee Indian Hospital gives me the opportunity to serve my own community in a meaningful way and to see the difference our care makes in the lives of our enrolled members. Being able to witness that impact firsthand, whether it is through improved access to care, stronger support for our families, or better health outcomes, reminds me why this work matters. It is not just about the tasks we complete each day; it is about knowing that what we do directly supports the wellbeing of our people. That connection to our community and seeing real change happen is what keeps me motivated and grounded in this work every single day. CIHA gave me my purpose."- Zane Wachacha

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

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**ist 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](mailto:embassymediagroup@gmail.com)

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

**Grace Bible Church.** 344 Whittier School Rd., Whittier, N.C. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday

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

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

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

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


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

**Macedonia Baptist Church.** 1181 Wolfstown Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 6pm, Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6pm. Pastor Bro. Dan Conseen, 497-1611, [mbccherokee@outlook.com](mailto:mbccherokee@outlook.com), Website: [www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church](http://www.macedoniabaptistcherokee.church)

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

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

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



**Qualla**  
**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

The book cover for "That Lonely Section of Hell" by Lorimer Shenher is displayed. The cover art shows a dark, narrow street at night, illuminated by streetlights, with a car visible in the distance. The title "LONELY SECTION OF HELL" is prominently displayed in large, white, bold letters. Above the title, it says "THE BOTCHED" and below it, "SERIAL KILLER WHO ALMOST GOT AWAY". The author's name, "Lorimer Shenher", is at the bottom. A quote from Stacey May Fowles is at the top right: "The most important book of the year." The book is being featured as the "Book of the Week" by the Qualla Boundary Public Library, as indicated by the banner at the top of the advertisement.

**“That Lonely Section of Hell”**  
Author Lori Shenher

“That Lonely Section of Hell” is part–true crime, part-memoir, and immersed in a cultural crisis. The author, Lori Shenher, is a former police detective. She worked in the Vancouver investigation of missing and murdered Indigenous women which led to the conviction of serial killer Robert Pickton. In this book, she tells the story of her involvement in the case and the PTSD she suffered as a result. This story details the ways in which the system failed, continues to fail, and needs to change.

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

**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



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Which member of the U.S. Men’s National Soccer Team suffered a skull fracture after being elbowed in the head by Brazil defender Leonardo in the 1994 FIFA World Cup?

2. Which NASCAR driver made history in 2026 by becoming the first driver to win the first three points races of the Cup Series season?

3. Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver Don Hutson has his No. 14 jersey retired by what NFL franchise?

4. What piece of catcher’s equipment, primarily used by the Baltimore Orioles, was banned by Major League Baseball beginning with the 1965 season?

5. What forced the CFL’s 50th Grey Cup championship game in Toronto in 1962 to be suspended in the fourth quarter and completed the following day?

6. What was the name of the 1969 Broadway musical that starred Muhammad Ali (billed as Cassius Clay) as a militant political activist?

7. In 1979, track athlete Steve Scott became the founder of what sport when he played 18 holes of golf in under 30 minutes?

**Answers**

1. Tab Ramos.
2. Tyler Reddick.
3. The Green Bay Packers.
4. The oversized catcher’s mitt.
5. Dense fog.
6. “Buck White.”
7. Speedgolf.

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**PHHS Employee Spotlight**



**Sheena Kanott Lambert, MPH,**  
*Public Health Director*

**Education:**  
Master of Public Health,  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, 2011

**Years at PHHS: 14**

**Community/Town:**  
RWAJA, Elawodi  
(Yellowhill)

“My work in public health is deeply personal. It’s rooted in love for our people, respect for our culture, and a responsibility to protect the health and future of our community. Every life we touch matters—every prevention effort, every conversation, every moment of support. We are not just delivering programs; we are walking alongside our people through some of their hardest moments and helping create pathways to healing. I am proud to serve in a role where I can give back, advocate, and help build a healthier future for the next seven generations. This work is more than a job—it’s a calling.”

## 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 and Jackson County Schools. Visit [www.communityschoolsnc.org](http://www.communityschoolsnc.org) to learn more. 5/6

## LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Estate File No. 26-026

### Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

**BAMBI LYNN SNEED**

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

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

James Sneed  
P.O Box 773

Cherokee, NC 28719  
5/6

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

### Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

**MICHAEL LAMBERT**

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

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

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

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

### 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:

**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@mandaraspa.com](mailto:AutumnP@mandaraspa.com)  
Email: [HRRrecruitment@onespaworld.com](mailto:HRRrecruitment@onespaworld.com)

**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

**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**

**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

see **TRADING POST** next page

**TRADING POST:** From page 47

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 26-0032**

**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 prop-

erty: 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

see **TRADING POST** next page

**TRADING POST:** From page 49

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 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**

### **REQUEST FOR 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. 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**



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**Jacqueline "Jackie" Davis**

*Missing from:* Cherokee, N.C.

*Missing since:* Jan. 1, 1969

*(14 years old)*

*Height:* 5'0"-5'5" *Weight:* 120 lbs

*Contact:* 615-564-6600



**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

GWY ƒV° OʻVLC  
CHEROKEE NATION - TALASHI SOQU UGIDAHLI

UNLOCK YOUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY AT OUR

# JOB FAIR

Located in the Employment Office on the second floor.

May 7, 2026 | 10am - 3pm  
May 21, 2026 | 1pm - 5pm

## Cherokee Central Schools Job Openings

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

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

- Varsity Football Assistant Coach (Closing May 15, 2026)
- Facilities and Security Administrative Assistant (Closing May 15)
- 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-5 School Counselor
- K-6 Mental Health Classroom Teacher Assistant (Grant Funded)
- 7-8 Math Teacher
- 7-12 Performing Arts Teacher
- 9-12 Special Education Teacher Assistant
- Special Education Employment Educator
- CMS Girls Basketball Head Coach
- CMS Boys Basketball Head Coach
- Custodian (Full-Time, Evening Shift)
- Social-Emotional Learning Consultant (SAMHSA Funded Position)



**CHEROKEE INDIAN  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**



# **OPEN POSITIONS**

## **NEW POSITIONS**

Cook - Tsali Care Center  
Training and Development Coordinator  
Behavioral Health RN - PTI

## **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 – Kanvwtiyi  
Targeted Case Manager – Child and Family, MAT  
Residential Technician - Female - Part Time without  
Benefits

## **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**

Food Service Worker  
Cook - Temporary

## **MEDICAL**

Psychiatrist  
Hospitalist  
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

## **NUTRITION**

Clinical Dietician

## **PHARMACY**

Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner  
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

## **TRIBAL OPTION**

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker

**CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026**

**CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS**

**828.497.9163 EXT. 6343**

# THE GOOD STUFF



<<  
**Pageant winner**  
Irie Wright, a student at Cherokee Elementary School, won the title of Little Miss North Carolina at the American International Miss pageant held recently. She will represent North Carolina in the National Pageant on Aug. 14-16 in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. (Photo courtesy of Ashley Wright)



<<  
**Phi Theta Kappa inductee**  
Jaelyn Lossiah, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Elawodi (Yellowhill), was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society on Tuesday, April 28 at Southwestern Community College. To receive this honor, a student must have 12 or more hours of college-level credit at SCC, a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and be nominated by a member of the program faculty. Lossiah will graduate from SCC on May 16 with an associ-

ate in science degree in early education. She is currently employed at Qualla Boundary Head Start/Early Head Start as a teacher assistant. She enjoys working with children and hopes to be a teacher in her own classroom in the near future. (Photo contributed)



<<  
**Wildcatt sworn in as member of N.C. Bar**  
Gwynneth Wildcatt, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was sworn in as a member of the North Carolina Bar Association on Wednesday, April 29 in a ceremony at the Swain Co. Courthouse in Bryson City, N.C. She is a graduate of Western Carolina University (2017) and Mitchell Hamline School of Law (2025) and currently is the Cherokee Indian Hospital director of accessibility, resources, and member services. (Photo courtesy of Rosie McCoy/Cherokee Tribal Court)



<<  
**Softball champions**  
Onie Swimmer and Hartlee Jackson, both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, played key roles in their 8U softball team's undefeated run in becoming tournament champions in the Blue Ridge Mountains Little League this past weekend. (Photo courtesy of Taryn McCoy).

Submit your Good Stuff to us at:

[Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com](mailto:Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com)



**Cherokee students play with Asheville Empire Lacross Club**

Some Cherokee Central School students recently had the opportunity to play a lacrosse season with the Asheville Empire Lacrosse Club, gaining valuable experience against strong competition. Throughout the season, these student-athletes showed real commitment, traveling to Asheville multiple times each week to train and compete at a high level. They are shown, left, to right, including Kyam Arch, Hunter Wittman, Journey Watty, Noah Dossett, Lucas Wildcat, Joslynn Thompson, and Christian Malloy. In a special moment during their final game of the season, the entire Empire team took the field wearing Cherokee High School lacrosse uniforms, representing their school and community with pride. It was a great sight and a meaningful way to close out the season. (Photo courtesy of Dawnenna Calhoun)



**New Kituwah Academy Early Childhood Perfect Attendance**

The following students at New Kituwah Academy Early Childhood had perfect attendance for the month of April: back row - DĤ - Ani Bynum, DĠP - Ayr Wolfe, AW - Aspen Thompson, AWŌ - Jabari Girty, DĤĤ - Atsini Perkins, DĤĤT - Daryn Lambert, VĤ - Livingston Lane, EĤSC - Kamiyah Sequoyah, ŬŬB - Blakelyn Wachacha; front row - ŌŌĤPĤ - Macy Thompson, ŌŌŪWŪT - Olive Crowe, ōŋŋ - Jazzlyn Lossiah, ŌōĤ DĤĤĤŪ - Layana Girty, ŪĠS - Michael Watson, and ōŌĤ - Kanati Lee-Cooper. (Photo courtesy of New Kituwah Academy Early Childhood)



**Job Opportunities**



**Closing Sunday, May 10, 2026**

1. Sergeant Detective – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L16 \$33.09 - \$41.37 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12915
2. Equipment Operator- CDOT- Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12916
3. Full Time Store Clerk- TABCC- Independent (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12917
4. Part Time Store Clerk- TABCC- Independent (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12918
5. Library Assistant- Snowbird Community Library- Snowbird & Cherokee County (L8 \$16.94 – \$21.18 per hour) 12919
6. Maintenance Technician- QB HS/EHS- CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) 12920
7. Receptionist- Senior Citizens- CERS (L5 \$15.00 - \$20.28 per hour) 12910
8. Certified Biological Wastewater Treatment Operator – Wastewater Treatment – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12904
9. Fire Training Officer – Fire Department – Operations (L13 \$24.36 - \$30.46 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12907
10. FT Paramedic – Emergency Medical Services – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12898
11. Sergeant Patrol- Cherokee Indian Police Department- EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12922
12. Detective- Cherokee Indian Police Department- EBCI Law Enforcement- (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE 12923
13. Teacher- QB HS/EHS- CERS (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) 12900

**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](http://www.ebci.com/jobs)**

# CHANGE

A *Life*



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-- Ryan Trubicza,  
2024 William B. Dillard Scholarship



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for Summer/Fall!