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Cherokee One Feather website



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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
guyegwoni (july)
15-21, 2026

“It’s been a great ride.”

Lambert retiring
after 29 years with
Harrah’s Cherokee
Casinos

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – What started as a visit to a job fair ended with an almost 30-year very illustrious career in the gaming industry of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Lumpy Lambert, an EBCI tribal member, is retiring from Harrah’s Cherokee Casinos with 29 years of service.

“It’s been a great ride,” he said. “I’ve been very fortunate to have the support and the team and team



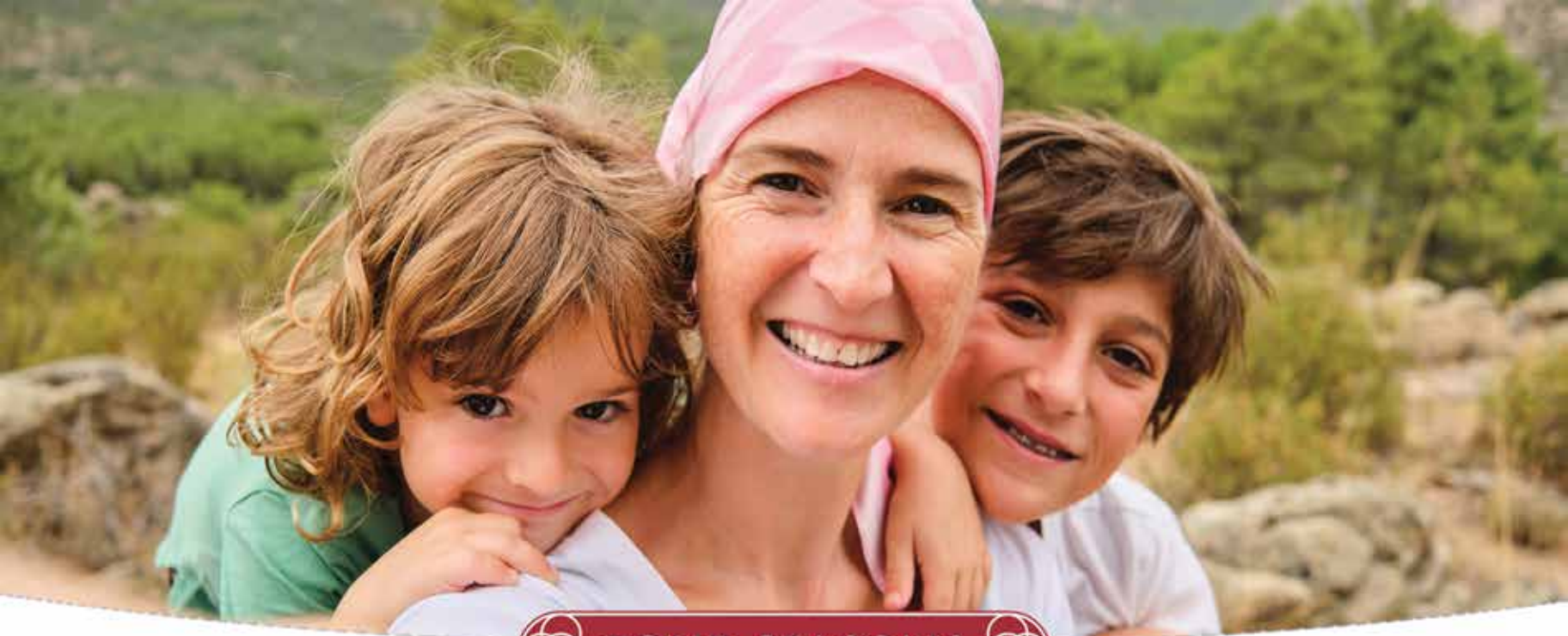
Lumpy Lambert, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is retiring as general manager of the Harrah’s Cherokee Valley River Casino after 29 years of service to Harrah’s Cherokee Casinos. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

see **LAMBERT** page 4

Peregrine falcons soar

Reintroduction results in remarkable comeback in the Smokies





HOSPICE CARE

Real Talk About Hospice

What's True & What's NOT



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Image of the Week:

The eyes of Jade Blankenship, a member of the Colville Tribe with Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians heritage, peek out through the fringe of her shawl as she dances in the fancy shawl contest at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow in Cherokee, N.C. on Friday, July 3. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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 Letters critical of specifically named minor children will not be published.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; and Scott McKie Brings Plenty.

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LAMBERT: From front page

members that we've had at all levels - from the executive to Tribal Council to our boards, both our board, the TCGE board and Tribal Gaming Commission. A lot of butting heads back in the early days, but it's expected. Both sides are just trying to do what they felt was necessary for the operation. Those relationships and those partnerships have just gotten stronger as we've developed with more entities."

The ride started with the job fair in 1997, held in Cherokee at the old Barclay Building. "I just decided I would at least go and check it out, just out of curiosity, and see what some of these positions were and what was being offered. So, I did. Luckily, one of the people there was a casino manager and

he pointed me to operations. So, I went over to operations, and I was one of three enrolled members that were hired as an operations supervisor with no gaming experience, mind you."

At Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, he worked his way up to games manager and later entered the Cherokee Development Program for management training. Lambert was always up for a new challenge.

"Obviously, it was a little challenging at first...then, I just kind of put my head down and went to work. As some of these programs were made available, and certainly as promotional opportunities came about, I put my name in the pot and was able to move from an operations supervisor to the managers. We had two levels - we

had an assistant manager which we called games managers back then, and we had casino managers that were kind of overseeing the shift throughout the property."

After a stint in casino marketing, Lambert accepted the position of vice president of operations - a job he held for 12 years.

"I came back to operations at a really neat time because we started talking about this transition from electronic table games...so we introduced live tables, brought the table games, did the \$650 million expansion. That was the first infusion of capital into the resort to truly make it a resort. That was pretty exciting to be a part of that. We introduced alcohol about the same time, in 2010."

In 2012, he moved into the position of assistant general manager over gaming, and two years later Lambert accepted the position of general manager over the Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino in Murphy, N.C.

"I came over a year before the project (Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino) to work with the board, liaison with the board, boots on the ground for the board, working directly with the contractor on this development. Then a year later, in 2015, we opened this facility."

When asked what he is most proud of regarding his career, Lambert noted, "In a simplest form, just being able to provide the jobs. This property, we really focused on being able to offer jobs. So, the job creation was huge, a huge component. When we were coming down to the communities and talking about what this operation could bring to this area, not only to the tribe but to these communities. So, I think the job creation and the success there for those individuals. A lot of those team members that

were hired on initially are still with us."

Lambert is always encouraging his staff. "I tell this to our new-hire class all the time - there's opportunities in this business. Just be open to them as opposed to just saying, 'well, maybe this is not a good fit for me', maybe you need to just go in and try it first."

So, I think just trying to make sure that the team members get the training that they need and the proper development and support that they need. Those are all key. It starts with employees. You've got to build your business around the employees. A more engaged employee is going to be a more productive employee."

Over the almost three decades in the industry, Lambert has seen many changes. "I'd say the biggest change is just some of the regulatory changes and technology changes. Back when we started this business we had coins, there were hoppers in machines...going from that process to tickets was a huge improvement both for the employees - not having to haul all that coin around the gaming floor - to our customers and guests not having to tote those buckets of coins to the cage."

So, what is next?

"I'm just going to try to figure it out, sort it out. I've got a few little projects to do. I want to improve my golf game a little bit, be able to play a little more golf and just be able to do some of those things. Get back into the gym and do some things, kind of create a new schedule as opposed to the normal schedule that I've been exposed to for the last 29 years."

He added, "We'll just kind of play it by ear and see what happens."

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Town of Murphy to transfer Fort Butler Park to EBCI

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

MURPHY, N.C. – The Town of Murphy approved a resolution on Monday, July 6, 2026 to transfer the Fort Butler Park and Historical Site, aka Fort Butler Memorial Park, to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). This will occur at no cost to the EBCI.

EBCI Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks said in a statement, “I want to thank the Murphy Town Council, Mayor Tim Radford, and especially Tia Lambert for their advocacy and commitment in supporting the return of Fort Butler Park and the surrounding historic site to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. There have been many conversations with the Executive Office to help make this possible, and I am very thankful.

Fort Butler served as the military headquarters for the Cherokee Removal in 1838. It was here that Cherokee families were detained before being forced from their ancestral homelands on the Trail of Tears. The opportunity to return places like Fort Butler to Cherokee stewardship is an important part of preserving our history and strengthening our sovereignty. It allows us to ensure that this story is told truthfully, that those who suffered here are honored, and



Sketch of Fort Butler, February 1838 (Photo courtesy of Museum of the Cherokee People, 2009.003.0593)

that future generations understand both the hardships our people faced and the resilience that continues to define the Cherokee people today.”

Ugvwiyuhi Hicks added, “Preserving Fort Butler in a way that honors its history and helps future generations better understand its significance remains an important priority. An official acceptance event will be planned soon, with the community playing a central role in this historic occasion.”

Murphy Mayor Tim Radford said in a statement, “This is an important step for our community. Fort Butler is tied to a painful chapter in Cherokee history. While the park is located in Murphy, I believe the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians should have the opportunity to care for this site and share its history in their own voice.

The more I thought and prayed about it, the more it made sense. This is not Murphy stepping away from its history. It is about recognizing that history honestly, showing respect, and placing stewardship of this important place with the people most directly connected to its story.” According to the resolution, the land was conveyed to the Town of

Murphy from the Tarheel Investment Company, Inc. on Sept. 1, 1925.

Originally named Camp Huntington, it was renamed Fort Butler in 1837 after Benjamin Butler, U.S. Attorney General under President Andrew Jackson.

Dr. Brett Riggs, an honorary member of the EBCI, and Dr. Lance Greene wrote a paper entitled “The Cherokee Trail of Tears in North Carolina: An Inventory of Trail Resources in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon, and Swain Counties” which details various sites relating to the Removal. In that paper, they write, “Fort Butler, located in present-day Murphy, North Carolina, was headquarters to the Eastern Division of the Army of the Cherokee Nation during the military removal operations of June and July 1838. The fort, with nearly military encampments, hospital, offices, barracks, and other facilities, was the holding area for Cherokee detainees from North Carolina and a staging ground for the forced marches of Cherokee prisoners to the primary internment camps and emigration depot at Fort Cass (now Charleston, Tenn.). More than 3,000 Cherokee prisoners passed through Fort Butler in the

initial stage of the Trail of Tears exodus. As headquarters for the military removal from southwestern North Carolina, and the central location at which North Carolina Cherokees were gathered, Fort Butler is arguably the most historically significant Trail of Tears associated site in North Carolina.”

It adds, “Major Gen. Winfield Scott assumed command of the U.S. Army of the Cherokee Nation at Fort Cass in April 1838, divided the army into three administrative divisions, and designated Fort Butler as headquarters for the Eastern Division...Scott directed Brigadier Gen. Abraham Eustis to take charge of the Eastern Division of the army based at Fort Butler...following the chaotic militia roundup of Georgia Cherokees in late May, Scott suspended further removal operations in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama until June 12, 1838. Because army intelligence considered the North Carolina Cherokees the most likely to resist the military removal, Scott personally came to Fort Butler to observe the resumption of the military operations and to be on hand in case of hostilities. Troops from Fort Butler and its satellite posts deployed into the surrounding Cherokee communities on June 12 and game the military detention of Cherokee citizens without serious incident.”

The paper also states, “The Cherokee prisoners brought into Fort Butler during the first military sweep spent less than a week in camps on the banks of the Hiwassee River before troops moved them to the ‘emigration depot’ at Fort Cass and the Cherokee Agency. The first group of Cherokee prisoners departed Fort Butler on June 18, 1838.”

EBCI MMIWGP Database community input meeting held

By **BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C.—A community input meeting was held on the evening of Thursday, July 9 at the Pam Taylor Gymnasium in Aniwodihli (Painttown) by the Office of the Principal Chief to discuss the ongoing build of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and People (MMIWGP) online database.

The resolution to establish the database was passed in April 2025. The Office of the Principal Chief is spearheading the database with help from Cherokee Indian Police Department (CIPD) and the EBCI Information Technology (IT) department.

The Office of the Principal Chief shared in a public flyer that the community meeting was intended “for feedback and questions regarding the development of the EBCI MMIWGP Database.” They also shared a community input survey in March, which Public Relations Officer Sheyahshe Littledave said received numerous responses.

Those in attendance at the meeting included Littledave, interns Annasette Cooper and Mahala Bird, Maggie Jackson and Diane Welch from the Qualla Boundary Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (QBMMIW) grassroots organization, officers from CIPD, Chief of Police Carla Neadeau, Assistant Chief of Police Josh Taylor, Investigations Captain Roger Neadeau, EBCI IT Director Kevin Jackson, Lisa Wells from Reflections of Inspiration, the family member of an EBCI missing person, and a community member from Wayohi (Wolftown).

Kevin Jackson said the database is currently being built and is not live or accessible yet. “Right now, [the draft database] is just basic information of name, date, location, just really generic. The reason it’s built so generic is right



The Office of the Principal Chief held a community input meeting on the evening of Thursday, July 9 at the Pam Taylor Gymnasium to discuss the development of the EBCI MMIWGP database. (BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT/One Feather photo)

now we’re trying to put our feelers out in the community and find out what the community feels, what they want to share. We know it’s very sensitive and we want to protect that confidentiality piece. I know there’s ongoing investigations. There’s a lot of things that we have to take into consideration when building a database and I think that’s the biggest question is what is shareable from the community’s perspective as far as the families go that have been affected by this issue.”

Jackson said IT is building the database, but CIPD is heading the data entry.

Maggie Jackson added, “If you’re asking what we’ve heard from the community, what they want shared, I think it would depend on what the intent of the project is. Is it just like to create a database of all the known cases, or is there intention to reopen cases, what is the end goal?”

Littledave responded, “The end goal is really just creating awareness...I think the idea was to create just an official database for the tribe that we partner with the PD and partner with legal just so we can have some more eyes on what we’re looking at and more evidence-based data that we can go off of, because the idea is we’re going to bring somebody in from [Public Health and Human Services (PHHS)]and we’re going to work on pattern analysis and kind of have that show us what we need to work on in

terms of awareness or resources or things we need to look at for the community. Teenage dating violence, things like that.”

Welch said she thinks the end goal is multifaceted, “I think it’s justice. I think it’s healing. I think it’s education. I think it’s awareness. I think it’s moving forward and learning better.”

Maggie Jackson added, “If it’s just a database or just a list, then people aren’t going to be as willing to tolerate the trauma of having to relive something with their loved one. But if there is intent behind it and there’s a formal project of what the outcome is to be, then that is going to be more tolerable for people because there’s something worth the pain of having to relive it.”

Kevin Jackson suggested that the public facing aspect of the database include the basic information of each case, and the confidential or intimate details, such as parts of an ongoing investigation, remain behind the public facing aspect of the database but still tracked, so that data tracking can occur without harming the family or the investigation.

Jackson said his team would work on producing a first draft that the community could look at and tear apart at the next meeting to be determined.

The One Feather will continue to provide updates on the database and community meetings held moving forward.

Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens

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

The One Feather provides 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 with recent action

H.R. 7396 (Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act). This bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration which “shall be responsible for establishing a working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting, and capital access...”

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business on Feb. 5, 2026, and a mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026 where it was reported favorably (24-0 vote). The bill was passed by the House by a voice vote on June 23, 2026.

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to

the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on Oct. 23, 2025. This was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders on May 19, 2026. This bill was passed in the Senate by a voice vote on June 10, 2026. It was received in the House on June 15, 2026.

Bills we’re currently watching

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

Senate Bill 761 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act). This bill would establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. According to Congress.gov, “Among other duties, the Commission must investigate the impacts

and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policies – federal policies under which American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in boarding schools.”

Introduced: Feb. 26, 2025 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. It was “ordered to be reported without amendment favorably” by the Committee on March 5, 2025. It was reported without amendment by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs chairperson, on July 31, 2025. That same day, it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders (Calendar No. 139).

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

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

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

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

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

This bill would grant federal 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



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

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

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

H.R. 3444. (Tribal Self-

termination and Co-Management in Forestry Act of 2025).

This bill would “direct Federal land management agencies of the Department of the Interior to establish Tribal Co-Management Plans and to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for the performance of certain activities of the Forest Service, and for other purposes”.

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

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

2025.

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

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

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

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

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

Senate Bill 2160 (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025). This bill seeks the same as H.R. 3255 (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025).

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

Action: The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian

Affairs on June 25, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4276 (To amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act). According to congress.gov, this bill amends the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act “to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations”.

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 4463 (To amend the Cawtawba Indian Tribe of South

see LEGISLATIVE next page

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LEGISLATIVE: From page 9

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. The bill was passed by a voice vote in the House on June 2, 2026. It was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 3, 2026.

H.R. 4596 (McCarren-Walter Technical Corrections Act). This bill would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”. Introduced: July 22, 2025 by Rep.

Timothy M. Kennedy (D-New York) Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 22, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4750 (To extend federal recognition to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia). This bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group. Introduced: July 23, 2025 by Rep. Eugene Simon Vindman (D-Va.) Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 23, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 4712 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act). This bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes”. Introduced: July 23, 2025 by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary as well as the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 23, 2025. There are no hearings scheduled for this bill in either committee as of press time.

Senate Bill 2452 (Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act). This bill would “amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian 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.

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

It specifically seeks to amend Public Law 100-89 (Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act). Section 3 of the bill states, “This Act shall be construed to ensure the full applicability of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701) to gaming activities on Indian lands of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Indian lands of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe.” Introduced: July 31, 2025 by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 31, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 2577 (McCarren-Walter Technical Corrections Act). This bill would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4596. Introduced: July 31, 2025 by Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) Action: This bill was referred to

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

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

Introduced: Aug. 29, 2025 by Rep. Lori Trahan (D-Mass.) Action: This resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Aug. 29, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this resolution as of press time.

H.R. 5144 {Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County, Virginia Federal Recognition Act}. This bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group. Introduced: Sept. 4, 2025 by Rep. Jennifer A. Kiggans (R-Va.) Action: The bill was referred to

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

H.R. 5257 (To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust). The full title of the bill states “To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust by the United States pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934, for the benefit of an Indian Tribe that was federally recognized on the date that the land was taken into trust”. Introduced: Rep. Tom Cole (R-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 bill would grant federal acknowledgment to the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group. Introduced: Rep. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-Va.) on Sept. 11, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 11, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 2832 (Native American Entrepreneurial and Opportunity Act of 2025). This bill would establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration. Introduced: Sen. John W. Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) on Sept. 17, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to

the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on Sept. 17, 2025.

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

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

Section 2(b) states, “It is the sense of Congress that Oct. 13 should continue to be celebrated nationwide as Christopher Columbus Day, as it has been since 1892, to honor our Italian-American heritage and our forefather, Christopher Columbus, who helped to discover this great land.” Introduced: Rep. Michael A. Rulli (R-Ohio) on Oct. 10, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Oct. 10, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Resolution 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 Resolution 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.

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

Lake Kootzaduka’a Tribe of California and Nevada, a group based in Lee Vining, Calif. Introduced: Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.) on Oct. 24, 2025
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 24, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5869 (Tribal Water Infrastructure Grants Expansion Act). This bill would “amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to assistance for Indian Tribes”. According to the bill, “In addition to amounts otherwise made available under Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, there is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to make grants, in cooperation with the Director of the Indian Health 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 bill would

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amend 69 Stat. 539, Chapter 615, 25 U.S.C. 514(a) to authorizes such leases.

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

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 6285 (Native Arts and Culture Promotion Act). This bill would amend the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act Section 1521 to add the following subsection (c), “(2) For any grants made with respect to Native Hawaiian art and culture, the members of the governing board which is required to be established under paragraph (1)

shall (A) include Native Hawaiians and individuals widely recognized in the field of Native Hawaiian art and culture.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introduced: Feb. 3, 2026 by Sen.

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 7490 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act). This bill will “allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain Tribal criminal matters.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senate Bill 3945 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act).

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

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 7698 (Tribal Firearm Access Act). This bill seeks “to allow members of federally rec-

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

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

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

H.R. 7699 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act). This bill aims “to ensure that federal laws that enable federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply to tribal law enforcement agencies”.

Introduced: Feb. 25, 2026 by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 25, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

Introduced: Sen. Markwayne Mul-

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

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

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

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

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

this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 4276 (Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Modernization Act of 2026). This bill would simply “reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996”. It is an identical bill to H.R. 8092.

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

H.R. 8092 (Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Modernization Act of 2026). This bill seeks “to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996”.
Introduced: Rep. Troy Downing (R-Mont.) on March 26, 2026
Action: This 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.

H.R. 8658. (Indian Health Service Emergency Claims Parity Act). The full text of this bill was not available by press time.

Introduced: May 4, 2026 by Rep.

Mike Kennedy (R-Utah)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 4, 2026. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Activities on May 12, 2026. A hearing was held in the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 21, 2026.

H.R. 8954 (Tribal Regulatory Reform Implementation Act of 2026). This bill would “amend the Indian Tribal Regulatory Reform and Business Development Act of 2000 to transfer certain administrative responsibilities to the Secretary of the Interior”.
Introduced: May 21, 2026 by Rep. Jeff Hurd (R-Colo.)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 21, 2026. It was further referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs on June 3, 2026. A hearing was held on this bill in the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 9, 2026.

Here is the contact information for your federal legislators:

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



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



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

Submitted by Cherokee Tribal Court

*Note: The following cases were
disposed of in Cherokee Tribal
Court during the time period of
June 1-30. The date of each of-
fense is in parentheses.*

Arch, Kayla R.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag
(April 24, 2026). VD

Ben Jr., Larindo H.
- Providing Alcoholic Beverages
to/Possession of/Consumption
of Alcoholic Beverages by/Per-
sons under 21 Years Old (Feb. 21,
2026). Guilty.
- Resisting, Delaying, Obstructing
Officers (Feb. 21, 2026). Guilty.
6 months, suspended. 6 months
supervised probation. 72 hours
community service.

Biddix, Callie M.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Ob-
structing Officers (May 23, 2024).
Guilty. 3 days, credit for 3 days
served.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using,
Possessing) (May 23, 2024). Dis-
missed per plea.

Bird, Sydney A.
- Drug Trafficking (Jan. 14, 2025).
Dismissed per plea.

Bradley, Ronald A.
- Second Degree Trespass (Jan.
20, 2026). Guilty. 6 months, credit
for 16 days served, suspended. 12
months supervised probation.

Brady, Torie A.
- Cancl/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag
(Jan. 5, 2025). VD.
- No Liability Insurance (Jan. 5,

2025). Guilty/Responsible.
- Fict/Cancl/Rev Reg Card/Tag
(July 8, 2025). VD.
- No Liability Insurance (July 8,
2025). VD.
- Aid and Abet Operators Lic. Viol.
(July 8, 2025). VD.

Brady, Wendy P.
- Possession of a Controlled
Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3,
2025). Guilty.
- Drug Trafficking (Dec. 3, 2025).
Guilty.
- Providing or Possessing Contra-
band (Dec. 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled
Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3,
2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled
Substance (June 3, 2025). Guilty.
6 years, suspended. 3 years super-
vised probation. Special condition
of probation serve 18 months on
EHC in treatment. Credit for 189
days served. Date of Release June
3, 2027

Burke, Lisa E.
- Obstructing Government Func-
tions (May 10, 2019). Guilty.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or
Possession with Intent to Man-
ufacture, Sell or Deliver a Con-
trolled Substance (Schedules I-V)
(May 10, 2019). Dismissed per
plea.
- Drugs: Possessing a Controlled
Substance Classified in Schedule
I, II, III, IV, and V (May 10, 2019).
Guilty.
- Drugs: Possessing a Controlled
Substance Classified in Sched-
ule I, II, III, IV, and V (May 10,
2019). Guilty. 1 year, suspended.
12 months supervised probation.
Special condition of probation
serve 3 months on EHC. Credit for
18 days served.
- Drugs: Possessing a Controlled
Substance Classified in Schedule

I, II, III, IV, and V (Nov. 11, 2019).
Dismissed per plea.
- Drug Trafficking (Nov. 11, 2019).
Dismissed per plea.
- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or
Possession with Intent to Man-
ufacture, Sell or Deliver a Con-
trolled Substance (Schedules I-V)
(May 10, 2019). Dismissed per
plea.

Cabe-Burgess, Samantha, L.
- Probation Revocation (Jan. 7,
2026). Admitted. Probation ex-
tended to Dec. 27, 2026.
Caley Jr., William G.
- Brake/Stop Light Equip. Viol.
(May 8, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Calhoun, James P.
- Probation Revocation (Nov. 1,
2025). Admitted.
- Weapons Offense (Nov. 2, 2025).
Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order
of the Court (Nov. 2, 2025). Guilty.
270 days, credit for 329 days
served. Date of release July 30,
2026.

Chekelelee, Kaleb R.
- Simple Assault; Assault and
Battery; Simple Affray (Feb. 10,
2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Simple Assault; Assault and
Battery; Simple Affray (Feb. 24,
2025). Guilty. 28 days, credit for
28 days served.

Climbingbear Jr., Henderson
- DWLR (Jan. 7, 2026). Dismissed
with leave.
- DWI - Level 1 (Jan. 7, 2026).
Dismissed with leave.
- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag
(Dec. 3, 2025). Dismissed with
leave.
- Poss. Open Cont/Cons Alc. Psg
Area (Dec. 3, 2025). VD.

Collins, Ozzy D.
- Possession of a Controlled Sub-
stance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 28,
2025). Guilty.
- Criminal Conspiracy (Sept. 28,
2025). Guilty.
- Transporting Controlled Sub-
stance into the Territory of the
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
(Sept. 28, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Sub-
stance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 28,
2025). Guilty. 4 years, credit for 12
days served, suspended 60 months
supervised probation, special
condition of probation serve 90
days on EHC. Date of release Sept.
7, 2026.

Cornwell, Brandon L.
- No Liability Insurance (March 4,
2026). Dismissed.
- No Operators License (April 15,
2026). Dismissed.
- No Liability Insurance (April 29,
2026). Dismissed.

Craig, Ashley N.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev.
(March 5, 2026). Guilty/respon-
sible.

Crowe, Dallas E.
- Expired Registration Card/Tag
(May 24, 2026). Guilty/responsi-
ble.

Cucumber, Ashton G.
- No Operators License (May 13,
2026). Guilty/responsible.

Driver, Richard M.
- Failure to Maintain Lane Control
(Feb. 24, 2026). Guilty/responsi-
ble.
- Reckless Driving (Feb. 24,
2026). Guilty. \$500 fine.

Duran, Sarah E.
- No Operators License (May 27,
2026). VD.

Ensley Jr., Paul - Second Degree Trespass (July 31, 2025). Guilty. - Second Degree Trespass (July 26, 2026). Guilty. - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Feb. 23, 2026). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 24 months supervised probation. Special condition of probation serve 90 days in custody. Credit for 12 days served. Date of release Sept. 1, 2026. Gayosso, Jacqueline E. - Speeding (April 15, 2026). Guilty/responsible. Griffin, Terri W. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 4, 2026). Guilty/responsible. - DWLR (May 18, 2026). Guilty/responsible. Harkness, Shawn P. - Assault on Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer (June 22, 2026). Guilty. - Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (June 22, 2026). Guilty. 365 days, credit for 7 days served, suspended 3 years unsupervised probation, hold for GA warrant. Herman, Hayden M. - DWLR Impaired Rev. (Nov. 7, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence. Hill-Maney, Ariyonna J. - Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (March 8, 2026). Disposition PJC. PJC 12 months. - Breaking and Entering (March 26, 2026). Dismissed per plea.	Holiday, Siah K. - DWI - Level 2 (Sept. 17, 2025). Guilty per plea. - Probation Revocation (Sept. 18, 2025). Admitted. 365 days, credit for 365 days served. - DWLR Impaired Rev. (Sept. 17, 2025). VD - other. - Drive Left of Center (Sept. 17, 2025). VD - other. - Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Sept. 17, 2025). Guilty. - Reckless Endangerment (Sept. 17, 2025). Guilty. - Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Sept. 17, 2025). Guilty. 5 years, credit for 10 days served. Serve 2 years. Date of release June 5, 2028. 24 months supervised probation. CAM device for 2 years, interlock for 2 years. - Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Sept. 16, 2024). Dismissed per plea. - Reckless Driving - Wanton Disregard (Sept. 17, 2025). Dismissed per plea. Hornbuckle, Jamie R. - Weapons Offense (Aug. 11, 2025). Guilty. - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 11, 2025). Guilty. - Aggravated Reckless Endangerment (Aug. 11, 2025). Guilty. - Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (Nov. 2, 2025). Guilty. - Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (Nov. 2, 2025). Guilty. - Weapons Offense (Aug. 11, 2025). Dismissed per plea. - Injuring Real Property (Aug. 11, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 45 days served, suspended 24 months supervised probation. - Public Intoxication (Nov. 2, 2025). Dismissed per plea. - Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (Sept. 13, 2025). Dismissed per plea. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Sept.	13, 2025). Dismissed per plea. Jackson, Maurice J. - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (July 4, 2025). Guilty. 12 months, credit for 3 days served, suspended 24 months supervised probation. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 30, 2024). Dismissed per plea. Jackson, Justin S. - Expired Registration Card/Tag (Aug. 28, 2025). Guilty/responsible. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Sept. 22, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Jenkins, Emmett G. - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 10, 2025). Guilty. - Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Sept. 10, 2025). Guilty. 6 months, suspended. 12 months supervised probation. - FIct/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag (June 4, 2026). Guilty/responsible. - Fail Yld. Stop Sign/Flash Red Light (Sept. 10, 2025). Guilty/responsible. Johnson, Ryan D. - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Nov. 15, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence. Johnson, Brandi N. - Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Nov. 30, 2023). VD. Junaluska, Cory D. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 15, 2026). Guilty/responsible.	Lambert, Uriah E. - Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (Nov. 12, 2020). Dismissed. Lambert, Kayleigh L. - Unlawful to Drive while License Revoked, after Notification, or while Disqualified (April 1, 2023). Guilty/responsible. Ledford, Hannah S. - Expired/No Inspection (June 9, 2026). VD. - Expired Registration Card/Tag (June 9, 2026). VD. Lequire Jr., Charles D. - Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Dec. 11, 2025). Dismissed per plea. - Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (Dec. 11, 2025). Guilty. 4 days, credit for 4 days served. Long Jr., David - Cancel/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (May 21, 2025). Dismissed upon further investigation. - DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 21, 2025). Dismissed upon further investigation. Long, Marcelina R. - Fail Yld. Stop Sign/Flash Red Light (Feb. 20, 2026). Guilty/responsible. Martens, Dorian S. - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (May 5, 2026). Dismissed per plea. - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea. - Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed
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per plea.

- Assault by Strangulation (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty.
- Kidnapping (Aug. 19, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Injuring Telephone Wires, Wires, or Other Communication Equipment; Interfering with Emergency Communication (Aug. 19, 2025). Guilty.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Sept. 14, 2025). Guilty. 9 days, credit for 9 days served.

Montelongo, Bekka E.

- Cancl/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag (June 2, 2026). Guilty/responsible.
- No Liability Insurance (June 2, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Morgan, Jennifer R.

- Improper Equipment (May 20, 2025). Guilty.
- Improper Equipment (April 26, 2025). Guilty.

Owl, Joshua R.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (May 25, 2026). Guilty/responsible.
- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 25, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Panther, James M.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Feb. 2, 2026). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 24 months supervised probation. Special condition serve 3 months on EHC. Credit for 4 days served.

Queen, Joel

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (May 25, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Queen, Marlene M.

- Fail Maintain Lane Control (June 26, 2025). Guilty/responsible.

Reed, Rachel L.

- Simple Assault; Assault and Battery; Simple Affray (July 18, 2024). Dismissed in the interest of justice.

Rickman, John P.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (Dec. 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Probation Revocation (Sept. 15, 2025). Guilty.
- Probation Revocation (Sept. 15, 2025). Guilty. 12 months. Credit for 64 days. Date of release April 8, 2027.

Roland, Davita C.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (March 24, 2025). Dismissed upon compliance/proof/successful completion of deferred sentence.

Sampson, Kyle W.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 19, 2024). Guilty/responsible.

Saunooke, Steven I.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (May 28, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Seay, Zachary H.

- Public Intoxication (June 18, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Injuring Real Property (Jan. 21, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- Providing Alcoholic Beverages to/Possession of/Consumption

of Alcoholic Beverages by/Persons under 21 Years Old (Jan. 21, 2026). PJC. 12 month PJC

Sequoyah, Azuriah K.

- Disorderly Conduct (Jan. 4, 2026). PJC. 12 month PJC.

Smith, James C.

- Failure to Obey Lawful Order of the Court (June 21, 2025). Guilty. 12 months. Credit for 11 days served. Suspended 12 months unsupervised probation. Banished.

Smith, Mary D.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (June 2, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Smith, Ronald F.

- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers (May 29, 2026). Guilty. 31 days, credit for 31 days served.

Smith, Luke J.

- Probation Revocation (June 11, 2026). Stricken.

Standing Bear Light in the Lodge Jr., Luther J.

- Reckless Endangerment (April 7, 2026). Guilty. 12 months, suspended, 18 months supervised probation.

Standingdeer, Andrea D.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (April 30, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Standingdeer, Shena D.

- Violation of Registration Provisions (Oct. 6, 2022). VD

Swayney, Jill C.

- DWLR (May 15, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Swimmer, Micah

- Expired/No Inspection (June 2, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

- Expired Registration Card/Tag (June 2, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Tafoya, Phylicia K.

- A&A DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Oct. 20, 2025). Guilty/responsible.
- A&A DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (Aug. 25, 2025). Guilty/responsible.
- Aid and Abet DWLR (Aug. 5, 2025). Guilty/responsible.

Taylor, Michael N.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 3, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Teesateskie, Davisia Z.

- DWLR Impaired Rev. (Feb. 11, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- Probation Revocation (March 20, 2026). Admitted.
- Probation Revocation (March 20, 2026). Admitted.
- Drug Paraphernalia (Using, Possessing) (March 20, 2026). Guilty. 30 days, suspended, 12 months supervised probation.

Teesatuskie, Gary M.

- Disorderly Conduct (May 23, 2020). Dismissed per plea.
- Assault on a Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer (May 23, 2020). Dismissed per plea.
- Intoxicated and Disruptive in Public (May 23, 2020). Dismissed per plea.
- Obstructing Government Functions (May 23, 2020). Dismissed per plea.
- Resisting Lawful Arrest (May 23, 2020). Dismissed other.

Thompson, Darius

- Improper Equipment (May 3, 2026). Guilty.

Toineeta, Victoria E.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 18, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 18, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Dec. 18, 2025). Guilty. 24 months, suspended, 24 months supervised probation.
- Probation Revocation (Dec. 18, 2025). Admitted.

Vestal, Bradley R.

- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. (March 4, 2026). Guilty/responsible.

Voss, Kyle A.

- Probation Revocation (Aug. 22, 2022). Stricken. Addressed in prior pleadings.

- Probation Revocation (Aug. 22, 2022). Stricken. Addressed in prior pleadings.
- Probation Revocation (Aug. 22, 2022). Stricken. Addressed in prior pleadings.
- Probation Revocation (Aug. 22, 2022). Stricken. Addressed in prior pleadings.
- Probation Revocation (Aug. 22, 2022). Stricken. Addressed in prior pleadings.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (Nov. 27, 2025). Guilty. 1 year, suspended, 12 months supervised probation. Special condition serve 3 months on EHC. Credit for 17 days served.

Wachacha, Kyzik D.

- DWLR Impaired Rev. (April 1, 2026). Dismissed due to insufficiency of the charging docu-

ment(s).

Walkingstick, Louiza G.

- Manufacture, Sell or Deliver, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) (June 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (June 4, 2025). Guilty. Defendant was improperly sentenced at the last setting. Maximum sentence defendant can receive is 12 months. Court will amend the prior judgment to a sentence of 12 months. Defendant will be given credit for days served (70 days). Remainder of sentence suspended (295 days). Six months supervised probation.

Walkingstick, James R.

- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (June 22, 2025). Dismissed.

Ward, Toby J.

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (March 16, 2026). Guilty. 30 days, suspended. 6 months unsupervised probation.

Welch Sr., Benny L.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (May 11, 2026). Guilty.
- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court (May 11, 2026). Guilty. 30 days, suspended. 12 months supervised probation. Special condition serve 8 days. Credit for 8 days.

Wildcat, Edison

- Domestic Violence and Dating

Violence (May 2, 2026). Guilty. 31 days, credit for 31 days served.

Wilnoty, Timothy M.

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Schedules I-V) (March 13, 2026). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 24 months supervised probation.
- Open Cont. After Cons. Alc. 1st (March 13, 2026). Dismissed per plea.

Youngdeer, Kayandra E.

- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (May 1, 2026). Guilty.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (Feb. 16, 2026). Guilty.
- Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (Nov. 3, 2025). Guilty.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (April 12, 2026). Guilty.
- DWLR (Aug. 9, 2025). Dismissed per plea.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (April 12, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (May 1, 2026). Guilty. 12 months, suspended. 18 months supervised probation.
- No Operators License/Drivers License (Aug. 1, 2023). Dismissed per plea.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Feb. 16, 2026). Dismissed per plea.
- Child Abuse in the Second Degree (Feb. 16, 2026). Dismissed per plea.

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Ward enters guilty plea, will register as Tier 1 sex offender

By BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the morning of Friday, July 10, Dakota Ward, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), entered a guilty plea in Cherokee Tribal Court with Judge Barbara "Sunshine" Parker presiding. Ward was sentenced to a total of five years, with a release date of Jan. 2, 2031, for four counts of false imprisonment and four counts of child abuse in the first degree that occurred from June

2009 to January 2019. Ward will also be classified as a Tier 1 sex offender.

Ward's defense attorney is Robert Saunooke. Ward was sentenced to three years in jail to be served consecutively, including his 188 days served. He will also serve an additional two years consecutively in a residential sex offender treatment program that he must apply to and complete successfully, or the two years will also be served in jail. Ward must also pay a total of \$2,436 in fines and fees, which he chose to garnish from his per capita. Judge Parker said part of that total is a \$1,500 fine for child abuse in the first degree that will be given to the Heart To Heart child advocacy program.

The four victims were also granted a lifetime 50(D) protective

order, which is a civil no-contact order for victims of registered sex offenders, which Tribal Prosecuting Attorney Hayden Duncan said is the first 50(D) filed and ordered in Cherokee Tribal Court history. Duncan said Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Scott and Cherokee Indian Police Department (CIPD) Attorney Cody White were extremely helpful, and Leo Phillips, lead tribal prosecutor, said CIPD Sargeant Ashley Cromer was also instrumental for the case.

Ward cannot contact the victims or their immediate families, or the prosecuting witnesses. Ward will surrender in court on Monday, July 13 at 9 a.m.

CIPD Arrest Report for June 22-28, 2026

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

Garcia, Jamie Luiz – age 25
Arrested: June 22
Released: Not released as of report date (June 29)
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Harkness, Shawn – age 48
Arrested: June 22
Released: Not released as of report date (June 29)
Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers; Assault on Law Enforcement, Probation, or Parole Officer

Ensley, Brooke Lea – age 35
Arrested: June 23
Released: Not released as of report date (June 29)
Charges: Providing or Possessing Contraband, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Gunter, Tori Shey – age 38
Arrested: June 23
Released: June 23
Charges: Temporary Hold for Jackson Co.

Jones, James Craig – age 40
Arrested: June 23
Released: June 25
Charges: Violation of Exclusion Resolution and Orders

Sherman, Christopher – age 21
Arrested: June 23
Released: June 23
Charges: Temporary Hold for Swain Co.

Squirrel, Gabrielle Alexis – age 28
Arrested: June 23
Released: Not released as of report date (June 29)
Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders; Child Abuse in the First Degree; Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors (four counts)

Wahnetah, Dylan Keith – age 40
Arrested: June 23
Released: June 23
Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia

Wahnetah, Sandy Welch – age 60
Arrested: June 23
Released: June 23
Charges: Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Welch, Susan Ashley – age 40



Arrested: June 23 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance (two counts)	tive in Public, Weapons Offense	online at theonefeather.com.	Dating Violence
Bark, Darrin Shaderick – age 48 Arrested: June 24 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (three counts), Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court, Kidnapping, Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury, Assault by Strangulation, False Imprisonment	Grimes Jr., Anthony Lewis – age 37 Arrested: June 26 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia	Driver, Rachael Christine – age 30 Arrested: June 29 Released: July 2 Charges: Abuse of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult	Davis, Cory Lamer – age 36 Arrested: July 4 Released: Not released as of report date (July 6) Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence
Crowe, Joel Daniel – age 45 Arrested: June 24 Released: June 24 Charges: Probation Violation	Locust, Shaundell Nicole – age 29 Arrested: June 26 Released: June 27 Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia	Edmundo, Meza Mestiza – age 34 Arrested: June 30 Released: July 3 Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence	Laforce, Hannah Sylvia – age 33 Arrested: July 4 Released: Not released as of report date (July 6) Charges: Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing Officers
Swayney, Raymond Neal – age 41 Arrested: June 24 Released: June 25 Charges: Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance	Wahnetah, Dylan Keith – age 40 Arrested: June 26 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Drug Trafficking, Tampering with Evidence	Bird, Robert – age 21 Arrested: July 1 Released: July 4 Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence	Stapleton, Lance Edward – age 40 Arrested: July 4 Released: Not released as of report date (July 6) Charges: Resisting Public Officer
Thompson, Steven Duane – age 43 Arrested: June 24 Released: June 27 Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence	Wolfe, Daliyah Lanae – age 28 Arrested: June 26 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation	Fuller, Jamie Morgan – age 27 Arrested: July 1 Released: July 1 Charges: Larceny, Possession of Stolen Goods	Charley, Quenton – age 41 Arrested: July 5 Released: Not released as of report date (July 6) Charges: Intoxication and Disruptive in Public
Brady, Cammy Jo – age 39 Arrested: June 25 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance (two counts), Providing or Possessing Contraband, Pre-Trial Release Violation	Rhinehart, Alan Nathaniel – age 47 Arrested: June 27 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders	Littlejohn, McKinley David – age 64 Arrested: July 3 Released: Not released as of report date (July 6) Charges: Public Intoxication, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court	Sampson, Cameron Dante – age 23 Arrested: July 5 Released: Not released as of report date (July 6) Charges: Domestic Violence and Dating Violence (two counts), Assault by Strangulation
Long, Mackinnley Calahan Frye – age 26 Arrested: June 25 Released: Not released as of report date (June 29) Charges: Intoxicated and Disrup-	CIPD Arrest Report for June 29 – July 5, 2026 <i>The following people were arrested by the Cherokee Indian Police Department and booked into the Anthony Edward Lossiah Justice Center. It should be noted that the following defendants have only been charged with the crimes listed and should be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Mugshots can be viewed</i>	Scoggins, Donald Craig – age 47 Arrested: July 3 Released: July 3 Charges: Resisting, Delaying, and Obstructing Officer	Sampson, Ryne – age 40 Arrested: July 5 Released: July 5 Charges: Communicating Threats
		Wachacha-Crowe, Maritsa Stephanie – age 28 Arrested: July 3 Released: July 3 Charges: Hold Until Sober	
		Anthony, Dennis Wade – age 46 Arrested: July 4 Released: July 4 Charges: Domestic Violence and	

This Week in Native News

Compiled by ANN TOINEETA
One Feather Intern

ARIZONA

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has approved a \$244.6 million investment to expand broadband infrastructure across the Navajo Nation. This investment is a part of the Council's long-term goal to provide "reliable internet access to every household."

• *Native News Online*

The 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission (DURAC) met at the Cove Chapter

House in Cove, Ariz. to discuss uranium cleanup efforts, new uranium development proposals, and more.

• *Native News Online*

Arizona regulators have approved "a request to raise the acceptable levels of arsenic in a groundwater well at Pinyon Plain Mine near the Grand Canyon" despite opposition from the Havasupai Tribe, whose reservation is near the mine.

• *Indian Country Today*

KANSAS

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has filed a lawsuit against the Kansas Lottery for allegedly violating tribal sovereignty and federal law by selling lottery tickets and operating lottery machines

within the Nation's reservation boundaries.

• *Native News Online*

OREGON

Glendon Smith, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, has been presented with a public service ambassador award for his work as the tribal liaison for the Oregon State Police. His work has helped the State Police communicate with the nine tribes of Oregon.

• *Indian Country Today*

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Dewey-Burdock project, a 13-year-old uranium mining proposal in Black Hills, S.D., has secured the last of its necessary federal permits. The project has raised concerns over environmental harm and "potential impacts to historic and cultural sites in the Black Hills — land central to the spiritual beliefs and practices of many tribes."

• *South Dakota Searchlight*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The White House has released

a 162-page report accusing the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History (NMAH) of placing "too much emphasis on Indigenous dispossession, slavery, and racial injustice while downplaying the nation's founding ideals and accomplishments."

• *Native News Online*

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition has appointed Nikki Santos, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, as its new chief executive officer (CEO).

• *Indian Country Today*

MISC.

Dead By Daylight, a survival horror video game, has introduced its first Indigenous survivor: Shane "Giiwewigaabaw" Wiigwaas, a member of the fictional Glass River First Nation. He is voiced by Dallas Goldtooth, "a Mdewakanton Dakota/Diné actor, writer, and activist."

• *Indigenous TV*

MISSING

Robert Alkire

Enrolled with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Height: 5'9" Weight: 180 lbs

Male Age: 59

Hair: Gray Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: October 1, 2025

Last Known Location: Lander, Wyoming

Circumstances of Disappearance: Robert

Alkire disappeared from a residence in

October 2025 on the Wind River reservation from a residence. He was known to be living at the residence at the time of his disappearance.

If you have seen or have information about Robert Alkire contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs (307) 332-3112.

Source: Namus.gov



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"IT'S TIME FOR GUTTER MAINTENANCE"

6 REASONS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GUTTER MAINTENANCE

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

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

Here is a list of some of those reasons.

PREVENT EROSION & MOLD



1. Roof Damage

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

2. Wood Fascia Damage

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

3. Damage to Walls, Windows, Doors and Patios

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

4. Damage to Foundations and Landscaping

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

5. Slip and fall

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

6. Prevent Mold

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

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

"DON'T TRIM YOUR GUTTERS"



"CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS"



Bryce Teesateskie has a passion for visual storytelling and cultural preservation

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

Bryce Teesateskie is an up-and-coming documentary filmmaker with a passion for visual storytelling and vision for cultural preservation. A member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), he graduated summa cum laude (with a 4.0 GPA), from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Atlanta campus in spring 2026.

Growing up, Teesateskie was

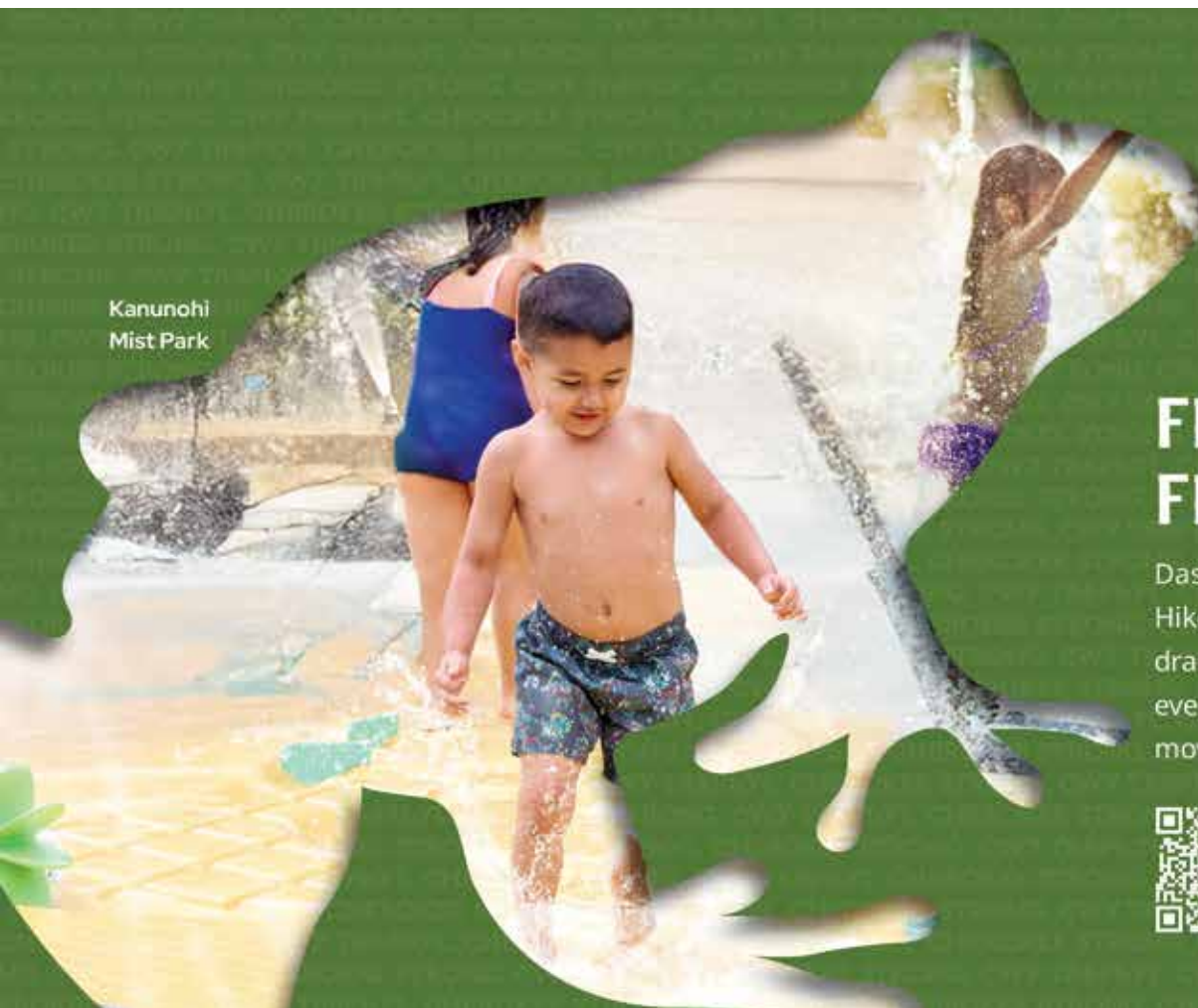
always a fan of movies and visual storytelling.

"I just always enjoyed media and pop culture and those things. Then, when I got to the end of high school, thinking about what I want to do with my life and career-wise, my family had gone on a road trip the summer before I graduated high school and I had made these little videos, essentially documenting our road trip. I had never done anything like that before, so after that I realized I enjoy this whole videoing and documenting and capturing these moments in time."

In December 2025, he was selected to be part of a team of documentarians to go to South Africa. The result of that trip was a documentary he worked on entitled "Silence Meets the Shore" about endangered South African



Bryce Teesateskie, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), is shown in South Africa where he served as director and producer on a documentary entitled "Silence Meets the Shore" about endangered South African penguins. (Photo contributed)



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penguins.

“There were 15 of us that went but it got split up into smaller groups and we got to decide what we wanted to focus on. So, me and two of my classmates filmed a documentary short about the endangered South African penguins in Cape Town. That was a really fun project and a really fun experience to get to go and travel. That was the first time I’ve ever been abroad. I’ve traveled a lot in the U.S. but never went overseas like that so that was a really fun thing. That was, apart from my senior thesis, one of the projects that I’m most proud of and that was the most interesting.”

His experience there was a large learning experience that he values greatly.

“I think the biggest difference is the lack of a safety net. With the student work, it’s sort of self-contained. When it’s purely for an assignment in class, then you know that ‘if this goes wrong, if it doesn’t turn out exactly the way I want’, really no harm, no foul. It’s all about just learning. But, when we went to South Africa, we’re using other people’s time and resources and asking a lot more of other people.

Having that pressure to be professional and do it well and that we were putting a lot more time and resources into it. So, we wanted it to be good, not only for our sake but for the people that we were working with - for their sake. We wanted it to be something that they could watch and be proud of.” Teesateskie was the director and producer on the project, and he was paired with three other students who did sound, photography, and editing.

“When we were coming up with the idea of the penguins, all



Teesateskie is shown in the One Feather office recently. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./ One Feather photo)

of us had an interest in something ecological or with the landscape - we knew that we wanted to do something nature-focused. So, when we were looking into some of the most notable, interesting parts of the South African ecosystem, that was when we came across the South African penguins and how they’re endemic to that location. They are really part of not only the culture of the environment - that it’s something that the people there feel connected to because it is so specific to their location - but also how it’s important to the larger ecosystem and the role that those penguins play.”

He said the ecological diversity was similar to his home in the mountains.

“It was similar in the way that the people we spoke to had this same sort of connection to the land as we do here and the feeling of not only needing to protect it, but sort of living in harmony with it and having a respect for the land. How the plants and the animals and the landscape are an important part of the culture of the people, similar to how we are here.

For the locals there, there is that respect and care for the natural world that I would say is simi-

lar to what we have here. But, then the biggest difference, of course, is what the natural world looks like. We have the elk here and the deer and the birds, and we have our mountain range. But, over there, rather than elk, it’s penguins and it’s monkeys.”

To graduate from SCAD, Teesateskie had to complete what is called a capstone project which takes an entire academic year. He completed a documentary on B.J. Welch and his work with river cane in a Cherokee arts class at Robbinsville High School in Graham County, N.C.

That project spurred an interest.

“After doing that project, I got a lot more interested in Cherokee arts and it made me see the need for documenting and preserving these crafts in video and photo, sort of similar to the language and how it’s rapidly dying out and how the Tribe’s making efforts to combat that. Similarly, I can see how the crafts are slowly fading away. We’re teaching them to the youth and doing these things, but in a lot of ways when our elders pass away, they’re going to take a lot of knowledge with them. Even though we’re teaching the

next generation a lot of this stuff, there’s still a level of expertise and skill that our elders have that you can learn from someone that learned from them, but it’s still not as impactful as learning from some of them just because of the wealth of knowledge that they have. So, I had seen the need for this and the benefit that it can have.”

Teesateskie’s long-term goals will center around this work.

“Now, post-grad, what I’m wanting to do more with my time is devote the next couple of projects that I work on to document and preserve some of these crafts in our community. That way, five, ten, fifteen years from now, even after some of our elders have passed away, people can still go back and watch a video of one of our craftsmen and women making a basket or beadwork - be able to watch and see specifically how they did it with their hands, what specifically they did, and what materials they used...that way we’ll have these things documented and we’ll have this history preserved and we’ll be able to preserve and protect it.”

He added, “People in the surrounding region and across the nation sometimes forget that Natives even exist or they forget that these communities exist and that these people are still here. I think the biggest way to use our voice as a people in the modern age is through video and through media. I really do think that is the strongest way to represent ourselves and to make our voices heard.” Teesateskie’s documentary, “Silence Meets the Shore”, is doing a festival run soon and won’t be available for public viewing until afterwards. Once it is available for public viewing, the One Feather will share that information.

Producing lifelong Cherokee language advocates

KPEP holds curriculum development workshop

By ANN TOINEETA
One Feather Intern

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Members of the Kituwah Preservation & Education Program (KPEP) and the Cherokee Language Masters Apprentice Program (CLMAP) – both programs of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), along with visitors from the Chero-

kee Nation and Akwesasne Mohawk tribes, and others gathered at New Kituwah Academy on June 24-25 for a workshop to develop a three-year curriculum for adult Cherokee language learners.

The first day of the workshop offered the group of visitors, which included members of Cherokee Nation's CLMAP and the Mohawk Kanien'kéha and Ionkwahronkha'onhátie' adult language programs, the opportunity to observe the current curriculum CLMAP is teaching their students. The program is currently two years long, and each cohort has the same teacher for both years.

Taylor "Taluts" Wilnoty, curriculum instruction coordinator

for CLMAP and KPEP, said that this workshop is just the beginning of a much bigger discussion for their curriculum.

"Our goal at the end of this workshop is to gather as much feedback and recommendations from all our stakeholders and then compile it into a cohesive, three-year curriculum for adult language learners," she said.

The workshop started with introductions from the visitors and a short overview by Renissa McLaughlin, EBCI director of youth and adult education.

"We have a wide variety of people in this room and I think that we're going to have a really good conversation," McLaughlin

said. "One of the core values I just wanted to bring out...is group harmony, and I hope that today as we move through our conversations with each other, that we're going to move through this day in harmony."

Wilnoty then explained more about the goals of CLMAP and the workshop.

"Together, we are working to build a curriculum that honors our language, reflects our culture, and supports learners as they grow in proficiency, confidence, and connection," she said. "We want strong curriculum recommendations, language development framework, proficiency assessment considerations, and resource-

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es and teacher support needs.” Aaliyah Swimmer and Scarlett “Gigage” Guy, adult language educators for CLMAP, shared their current curriculum and teaching strategies.

Swimmer, who is teaching the first year of her cohort, explained that the first-year curriculum builds a foundation for the language with vocabulary categories like clothing and body parts. Guy, who is teaching the second year of her cohort, said the second year focuses more on working in depth with first language speakers. Both years also integrate their student’s language learning with the community through cultural field trips.

Guy then spoke on how she hopes this workshop and further developing the CLMAP curriculum will help students reach higher levels of proficiency when the first language speakers are no longer here to help them.

“I know for a fact that the things I’m doing right now, I absolutely could not do without the first language speakers,” she said. “It concerns me that if we don’t have something that can get students to the level they’re at with speakers, then what will we do when they’re not here with us? That’s something I would greatly appreciate advice about- going to prepare for that.”

The workshop then moved onto classroom observations. In the first-year classroom, Swimmer had her class play a game where two students compete to choose the right Cherokee word first. In the second-year classroom, Guy explained how the Dadiwonisi Picture Set Assessments are conducted. Students have to answer various questions from first language speakers about situations in a particular picture in Cherokee.



Scarlett “Gigage” Guy, adult language educator for CLMAP, speaks during a breakout session on Wednesday, June 24, as part of a workshop to develop a three-year curriculum for adult Cherokee language learners. (ANN TOINEETA/One Feather photos)

Additionally, Guy discussed how the second-year curriculum is currently less structured than the first.

“It’s not that we don’t have resources or the help, it’s more about gathering it all and getting it aligned, and getting it edited, and getting it prepared, and being able to follow up on it,” she said.

After the classroom observations, Francis Hartwell, a New Kituwah Academy curriculum developer, explained more about the picture assessments and how they’re recorded. Following this, the visitors were provided with the chance to give feedback and ask questions about what they observed.

Wilnoty said the breakout sessions later in the day focused on “building a cohesive three-

year curriculum where language, culture, assessment, and learning experiences are intentionally built from Year 1 through Year 3.”

“Participants also emphasized more authentic language use, integrating culture throughout instruction, and clear milestones for learner growth,” she said. A major takeaway from the breakout sessions was that their goal is to produce “lifelong Cherokee language advocates,” not just fluent speakers.

“No matter what path graduates choose, we hope they continue carrying the language forward,” Wilnoty said. “Keeping our Cherokee language alive is our shared purpose, and we don’t necessarily need to place labels on fluency.”



Taylor “Taluts” Wilnoty, curriculum instruction coordinator for CLMAP and KPEP, speaks during the first day of the curriculum development workshop.

Pow Wow!

The Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow was held at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C. on July 3-5. The event drew several hundred dancers and had eight drum groups.

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













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Cherokee Youth Council explores Chattanooga

Submitted by the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - 17 members of the Cherokee Youth Council recently traveled to Chattanooga, Tenn. recently for an overnight trip that gave them the opportunity to learn more about Cherokee history and culture while also practicing leadership and independence.

Their first stop was Ross's Landing, a place deeply connected to Cherokee history. Along the Tennessee River, they learned about Dragging Canoe, who stood firm in defense of Cherokee homelands, and Principal Chief John Ross, whose leadership guided the Cherokee Nation through one of its most difficult times. They also discussed the Trail of Tears and how the area was used for the water routes during Removal.

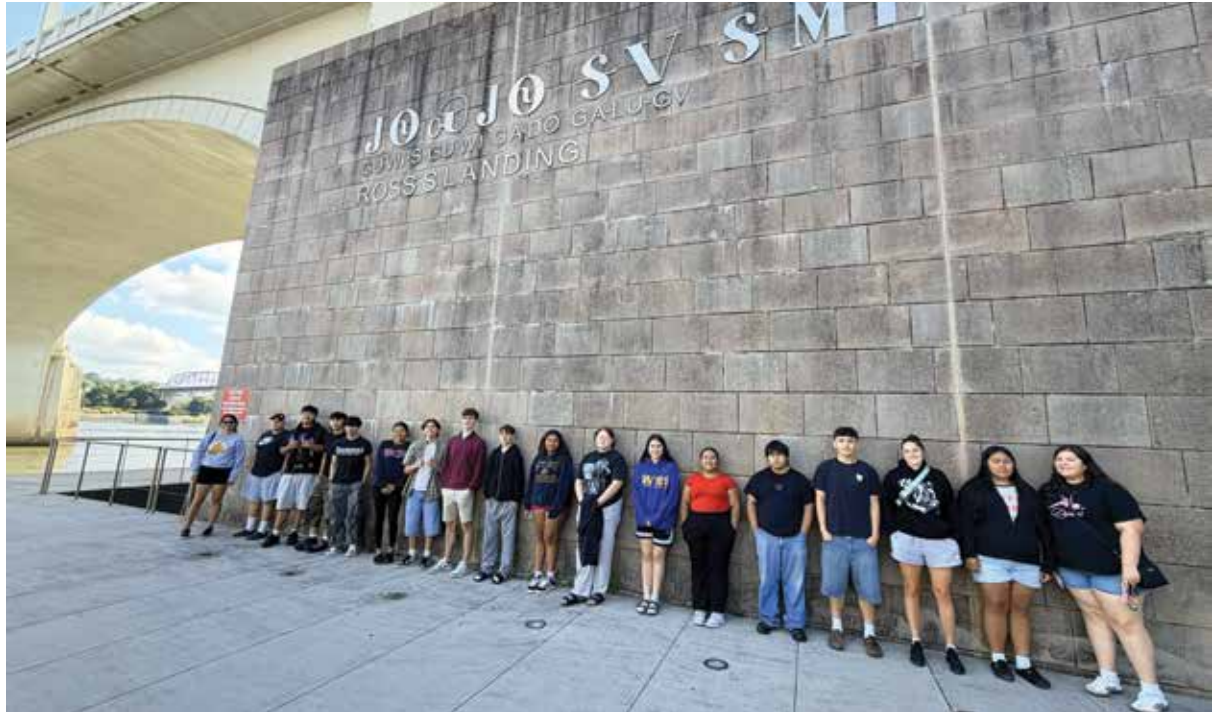
CYC also visited the Tennessee Aquarium, Rock City, and Ruby Falls. Each place gave them a chance to experience something new together, from learning about different ecosystems and conservation to exploring natural rock formations and an underground waterfall.

On their way home, they stopped at Red Clay State Historic Park, the last seat of the Cherokee national government before Removal. A guided tour with Ranger Young led them through the grounds, where they learned about the significance of the site, the Eternal Flame, and the Blue Hole Spring. They also learned about the significance of tobacco and going to water in Cherokee culture and spirituality.

Beyond the sites visited, the trip itself was an important learning experience. Traveling together required them to be responsible, aware of each other, and independent in ways that build real leadership skills. They had to manage time, support one another, and represent their community in public spaces.

>>

Members of the CYC are shown, left to right, at Red Clay including Kierstan Jumper, Darius Taylor, Gavin Teesatuskie, Ross Clapsaddle, Odie Owle, Chaz Martens, Moke Tafoya, Kale Walkingstick, Marlee Hicks, Georgia Girty, MJ Tafoya, Ava Walkingstick, Meeka Taylor, Zailiana Blythe, Rayven Hughes, Felix Lossiah, and Channing Toineeta.



Members of the Cherokee Youth Council (CYC) are shown, left to right, at Ross's Landing including CYC Leadership Specialist Meshay Long, Channing Toineeta, Felix Lossiah, Darius Taylor, Kale Walkingstick, Kierstan Jumper, Chaz Martens, Ross Clapsaddle, Odie Owle, Rayven Hughes, Meeka Taylor, Georgia Girty, Ava Walkingstick, Moke Tafoya, Gavin Teesatuskie, Marlee Hicks, MJ Tafoya, and Zailiana Blythe. (Photos courtesy of Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute)





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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Timber Permits

Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913

NATIONAL PARK NEWS

Great Smoky Mountains National Park to begin demolition of LeConte Lodge Recreation Building

GATLINBURG, Tenn. — Great Smoky Mountains National Park will begin demolition of the LeConte Lodge Recreation Building on Tuesday, July 14. The concessioner of LeConte Lodge will construct a new recreation building later this year.

To support demolition efforts, the park will conduct airlifts between 9 a.m. and noon on July 14 on Mount Le Conte at the lodge. Airlift dates are subject to change pending weather conditions. Additional airlifts are planned for later this summer.

During the three-hour flight window, visitors driving US441/Newfound Gap Road near the Oconaluftee Overlook, just south of Newfound Gap, should expect temporary traffic delays while the helicopter loads and unloads materials.

During the flight window, hikers will not be permitted anywhere on the LeConte Lodge grounds due to safety regulations and quick turnaround times of the helicopter. Visitors will not be able to access LeConte Lodge gift shop, restrooms, water spigots, or food and beverage services due to their location in the safety perimeter. The LeConte Lodge gift shop and other services will reopen once the airlift operation is complete at noon.

Hikers on Mount Le Conte will have access to trails and overlooks around the mountain top during the airlift window. Flaggers will be stationed at three locations on trails near LeConte Lodge (see map) and will ask hikers to pause

their hike briefly during an active airlift. A composting privy is available at the Mount Le Conte Shelter. The shelter itself is currently closed due to bear activity. Drinking water is available at the nearby spring on Trillium Gap Trail (boiling/treating recommended).

Throughout the summer, hikers and lodge guests will see construction around the lodge during the demolition and reconstruction process. Information on additional airlifts and construction will be shared as schedules are finalized.

The LeConte Lodge Recreation Building, built between the late 1960s and early 1970s, has served for more than 50 years as a gathering space and retreat for overnight guests from around the world. Exposure to harsh weather at 6,500 feet elevation has caused significant deterioration to the building, beyond what can be rehabilitated. For the safety of visitors and employees, the structure will be removed and replaced later this year.

The new recreation building will be constructed in the same character and spirit as the beloved original, continuing its legacy as a central gathering place for lodge guests.

- National Park Service release

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Board Members of the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund,

I write with deep gratitude for your continued support of my graduate education. The Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship has played a meaningful role in sustaining my progress at the University of Georgia, allowing me to remain fully engaged in my coursework and dissertation

research. Your generosity lightens the financial responsibilities of doctoral study and strengthens my resolve to pursue work that serves our community with care and integrity.

Your investment in my academic journey affirms the importance of research that uplifts Cherokee perspectives and honors the legacy of those who have worked tirelessly to expand educational opportunities for EBCI students. Knowing that you believe in my potential encourages me to approach each stage of my degree with purpose. I remain committed to ensuring that the work I produce reflects Cherokee values and contributes to ongoing efforts to preserve our history and language. Your support motivates me to continue building scholarship that

is both academically rigorous and grounded in community priorities.

Sgi,
Constance Owl

Thank you Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship

I am deeply honored and grateful to have received support from the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund. This support has allowed me to continue pursuing my doctoral studies while growing as an educational leader committed to serving our community. Throughout this past year, I have had the opportunity to apply what I am learning directly to my work at Cherokee Central Schools. My doctoral research has focused on improving educators' confidence and capacity to recognize and respond to student mental



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.

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

health concerns, particularly with-
in Indigenous communities. At
the same time, I have led district
initiatives that strengthen curric-
ulum, support teacher learning,
and align our educational practices
with the values and priorities of
the community we serve. These
experiences have reinforced the
importance of making decisions
that are grounded in research
while remaining responsive to lo-
cal needs and culture. This journey
has strengthened my ability to
view challenges through a systems
lens, build meaningful collabora-
tion, and lead with empathy, pur-
pose, and humility. Thank you for
believing in me and for investing
in my education. Your continued
support is an investment in leader-
ship that I hope will create lasting
opportunities for our students,

schools, and community. I am sin-
cerely grateful for your confidence
and encouragement as I continue
this journey.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Martens

Thank you from the family of Howard “Skipper” Sneed

The family of Howard “Skip-
per” Sneed would like to express
our deepest gratitude to everyone
who surrounded us with love,
prayers, kindness, and compassion
during the passing of our beloved
husband, dad, grandpa, brother,
uncle, and friend.

The overwhelming outpour-
ing of support through prayers,
visits, phone calls, food, flowers,
cards, donations, and every act of
kindness has brought comfort to
our family during one of the most

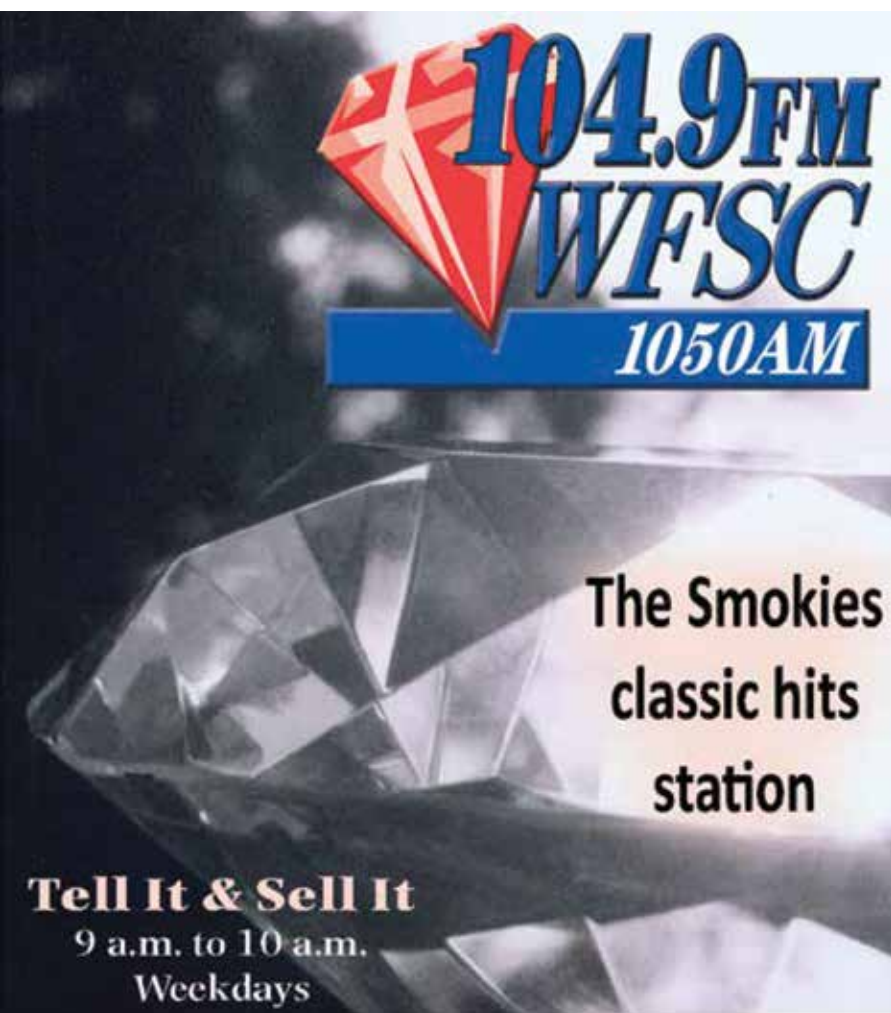
difficult times of our lives. It has
been a beautiful reminder of just
how deeply Skipper was loved
and respected throughout our
community. Seeing so many lives
touched by his kindness, faith, and
servant’s heart has been a tremen-
dous blessing.

We extend our heartfelt thanks
to Acquoni Baptist Church, Paint-
town Free Labor, Zena and Mel-
vin Wolfe, Peters Pancake, Eric
and Holly Hooper, Chief Michell
Hicks, Marsha Hicks, Vice Chief
B. Ensley, Libby Ensley, EBCI
Tribal Council, EBCI Cooperative
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tion Marketing, TABCC, Wolftown
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Club – Bus & Truck Department,
Waterfalls Baptist Church, Chero-
kee Central School Board and Cen-
tral Office, EBCI Tribal Construc-
tion, Enterprise Development and
Cherokee Bottled Water, Cherokee
Community Club Council, Tsa-
li Manor, Straight Fork Church
Choir, Big Cove Baptist Church,
Rock Spring Church, Long House
Funeral Home, Diane Driver,
Mariah Hill, Totsie Welch, Shar-
ri Pheasant, Lori Sanders, Kina
Bradley, Vickie Sluder, Stacy Bird,
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na Parker, Donnie and Trina Owle,
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Thompson, Charlotte Littlejohn,
Ethan, Sabrina, James, and Noah
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ford, Wyatt and Deb Chiltoskie,
Rusty and Teresa Brown, Richard

and Doris Sneed, Bob and Frieda
Simonds, Doris and Virginia John-
son, David Smoker, Sean Ross,
Spencer McCoy, Lisa Frady, Bran-
dy Sequoyah, the Hornbuckle fam-
ily, the Welch family, Bo Crowe,
Kaycee Biddix, Kelly Arch and the
girls, Carolina Oocumma, and the
countless others who reached out
in ways both big and small.

If we have unintentionally
left anyone out, please know it
was not by choice but simply an
oversight during this difficult time.
Every prayer offered, every meal
prepared, every hug shared, every
comforting word spoken, and ev-
ery act of generosity will always be
remembered and appreciated.
Although our hearts are broken,
we find peace and comfort in
knowing that Skipper’s faith has
become sight. We rejoice in know-
ing that he is now with our Lord
and Savior, free from pain, and
hearing the words, “Well done,
good and faithful servant.” While
we will miss him every day, we
hold tightly to God’s promise that
this is not goodbye forever. Be-
cause of our shared faith in Jesus
Christ, we know we will see him
again one glorious day.

From the bottom of our hearts,
thank you for loving Skipper so
well and for carrying our family
through this season with your
compassion, generosity, and
prayers. May God richly bless each
and every one of you.



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OBITUARIES JH&FR

Lillie Mae George Larch

Lillie Mae George Larch, 88, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at Tsali Care Center, surrounded by her children.

Lillie was the daughter of the late Benjamin Franklin George and Sallie Mae Seay, and she was born in Cherokee, N.C., on Feb. 24, 1938. In addition to her parents, Lillie is preceded in death by her sister, Iva Lee George; her husband of 51 years, William Daniel "Bill" Larch Jr.; her granddaughters, Michele Lee Miles and Samantha Renee Larch; and her great-granddaughter, Kimber Marie Miles.

She is survived by her three children, Iva Larch Mills (David

Mills), William Daniel Larch III, and Juliet Larch Ferguson (Neil Ferguson), all of Cherokee, N.C., as well as her nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, with one on the way, all of whom she loved dearly.

As a teenager, Lillie joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where she was a devout member of the Cherokee Ward. She had a strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and knew her Savior.

After high school, Lillie attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, for two years, where she studied Elementary Education. She then returned to Cherokee, where she married Bill Larch, who was an active member of the United States Air Force. Lillie and Bill relocated to Germany and traveled

extensively during his service. While raising three children, Lillie began her career in the Virginia educational system as a teacher's aide in the early 70s, here at home in Cherokee. She returned to school to earn her bachelor's degree and began her career as a licensed teacher in the 80s. Soon after, she obtained her master's degree in early childhood development from Western Carolina University and continued teaching in Cherokee until her retirement in 2008. Lillie also served as the National President of NAIWA and loved serving with her NAIWA sisters and being active in her community.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 2 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hwy 441 in Whittier. Interment

immediately followed at the Larch Family Cemetery on Adam's Creek.

Long House Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Rosa Linda Howard Lowe

Rosa Linda Howard Lowe, 73, of Bryson City, went home to be with the Lord Saturday, July 4, 2026. A native of Swain County, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Jessie Walker Howard.

She was preceded in death by her children's father, David Allen Lowe.

She is survived by her children, Jeffery Allen Lowe (Christy Leigh), Phillip Brian Lowe (Mariah Shea); grandchildren, Ashley Ramey (Bruce), Taylor Woodard (Milton), Auburn McDaniel (Der-



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July 13-July 19, 2026

WATERSHED	STOCKING	PRODUCTIVITY	ACTIVE SPECIES	FLY/BAIT
Tuckaseegee River	N/A	Productivity: Morning	Rainbow Brown and Brook trout, Smallmouth Bass	Fly-Crayfish Streamer, Woolly Bugger, Girdle Bug, Stimulator, Chubby Chernobyl, Micro Dungeon, Beetles
Chattooga & Whitewater Rivers	N/A	Productivity: Morning	Brown Trout	Fly-Cinnamon Ant, Yellow Sally, Small Stoneflies, Yellow Soft Hackle, Purple Parachute
Inside GSMNP Oconaluftee River & Small Streams	N/A	Productivity: Morning	Rainbow, Brown & Brook Trout,	Stimulator, Small Hoppers, Ants, Peacock Soft Hackle, Pheasant Tail, Midge

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BEST FISHING TIMES BASED ON THE LUNAR CYCLE

MONDAY, July 13	TUESDAY, July 14	WEDNESDAY, July 15	THURSDAY, July 16	FRIDAY, July 17	SATURDAY, July 18	SUNDAY, July 19
Best	SEASONS BEST	Best	Good	Average	Average	Average
11:58 AM-1:58 PM	5:56 AM-6:56 AM 8:56 PM-9:56 PM	7:14 AM-8:14 AM 9:34 PM-10:34 PM	8:27 AM-9:27 AM 10:07 PM-11:07 PM	9:37 AM-10:37 AM 10:35 PM-11:35 PM	10:43 AM-11:43 AM 11:02 PM-12:02 AM	11:46 AM-12:46 PM 11:27 PM-12:27 AM

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ick), Morgan Wiggins, Hannah Sneed (Seth), Trey Lowe-Bowman, Isabel Lowe; seven great grandchildren; siblings, Marcia Holli-field (Eddie), Judy Blevins (Jim), Charlie Howard (Sandy), Eugene Howard (Suzanne), Denis Howard; and an abundance of special nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 9 in the chapel of Crisp Funeral Home. Burial was at Holly Springs Cemetery #2.

John William Lucord III

John William Lucord III, 86, of Henrico, Va., entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, July 7, 2026. John was preceded in death by his parents, John M. Lucord Jr. and Pearl Huckstep.

John lived a life defined by faith, service, and devotion to his family and community. The words

of Matthew 25:21 beautifully reflect the life he lived:

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

To those who knew him best, “good and faithful servant” described John perfectly.

Throughout his life, John dedicated himself to serving others. As a young man, he began volunteering with the Lakeside Volunteer Rescue Squad, where he faithfully served for more than 13 years. For over 45 years, he shared his knowledge and compassion as an American Red Cross First Aid Instructor, helping prepare countless individuals to care for others in times of need.

John also devoted more than 40 years to ministry. Holding a

Doctorate of Divinity, he pastored and supplied several churches and faithfully served as a hospital chaplain in two communities, offering comfort, guidance, and hope to countless families during life’s most difficult moments.

Professionally, John retired after 30 years as a Federal Reserve Security Officer, serving with integrity and dedication. He was also a proud member of DeMolay for more than 50 years, where he attained the distinguished Degree of Chevalier, a testament to his lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and mentorship.

Above all, John was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Barbara, for 64 wonderful years. Together they built a family rooted in love, faith, and unwavering support.

He leaves to cherish his mem-

ory his loving wife, Barbara; his children, Greg, Patti Krzywicki, and Kenny (Anita); his grandchildren, Amanda (Mark) and Elizabeth (Kahlil); his great-grandchildren, Hudson, Owen, and Hannah; his sister, Jane; his sister-in-law, Linda; and many extended family members, friends, fellow church members, and colleagues whose lives were enriched by his kindness and faithful example.

The family finds comfort in the words of Matthew 5:4:

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, July 14 at at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 4210 Penick Road, Richmond, Va. Interment immediately followed at Westhampton Memorial & Cremation Park, 10000 Patterson Avenue, Richmond, Va.



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

Services Offered through Analenisgi:

Adult Services
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Programs include:

- School-based services
- Dora Reed & Early Childhood services
- Juvenile court-based services
- Family Safety Services
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Scan the QR Code below to access a list of our services and learn more!

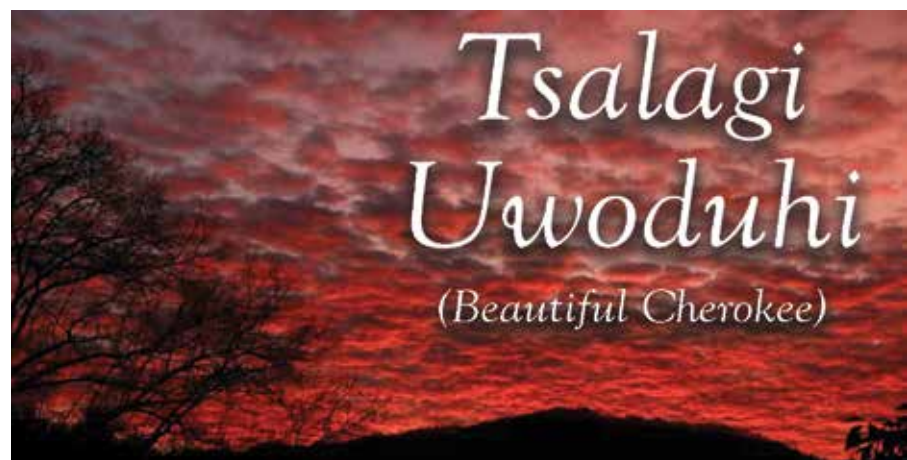


Contact us:

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

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

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



Tsalagi Uwoduhi

(Beautiful Cherokee)

The One Feather is launching a new feature called Tsalagi Uwoduhi (Beautiful Cherokee) to showcase the natural beauty of the lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Submit clear, high resolution photos of plants, wildlife, or landscapes to us at
Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com.

Photos must have been taken on EBCI tribal lands on the Qualla Boundary, Tutiya (Snowbird), or Tsalagi Gadugi (Cherokee Co.).

GWY ᏥᏍᏍᏁ ᏅᏍᏈᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Condemned if you do. Condemned if you don't.

By **ROBERT JUMPER**

Tutiya (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

I have watched some of the confirmation hearings, and there is a bit of a troubling trend starting to appear...again. For many years, confirmation hearings were not a thing on the Qualla Boundary. Appointments came via resolution without looping in the Legislative Branch to the point of dedicating what is basically a work session to an appointment. What is a little bit of a head-scratcher is that the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) does have the power to interrogate and investigate these candidates with-

out a formal confirmation hearing. We see it is routinely done with other items on the agenda when they "move to the table for a work session". A confirmation hearing is essentially just a work session because the actual vote on the nominee doesn't take place until the resolution to do so is on the floor during a session.

During this confirmation session, it was noted that there was an inequity in the standards for personnel versus appointees. Part of the discussion was about allowing community members to be aware of and participate in the selection process. This was during

a session specifically to confirm nominees for appointments to the hospital board.

I have received criticism in the past for saying that we, as a tribe, should do hiring differently. I am a 100 percent proponent of Indian preference in hiring for our tribe. I am also 100 percent against the term "minimally qualified applicant" in all its forms. Our tribe has likely been set back decades because of this language in our personnel policy and in our law. The practice forces the tribe to hire someone who minimally meets the requirements of a position rather than the best-qualified person to serve our people.

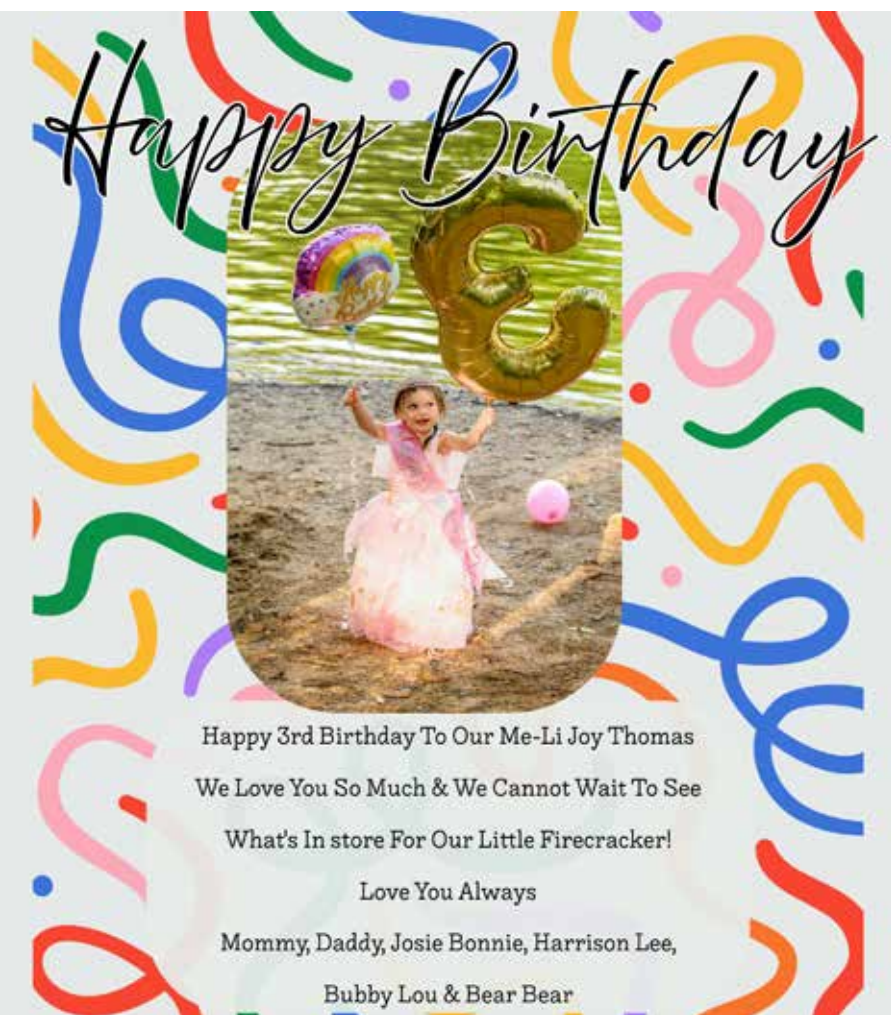
For example, if you were on trial for murder, and the cost of losing that case might be your life, would you seek the representation of a lawyer who was minimally qualified to try murder cases, or would you try to find the best educated, experienced person available? And in that time, when you know the stakes are your freedom and possibly your life, would you be concerned about whether your lawyer was a particular race or nationality? In those circumstances, no honest and sane person is going to put their life in the hands of the less experienced and educated hands.

Speaking of hands, what if it were determined through tests that you needed open-heart surgery? Again, would you look for a person fresh out of med school or a surgeon who has performed several of these surgeries successfully? Would your mentality be, concerning the less qualified

doctor, "Well, he is my cousin, and he has to learn sometime"?

Yes, those are dramatic examples, but even in the so-called less important positions, we as a community should care that things are done right instead of who gets to do them. In the entertainment field, there is an old saying that goes, "There are no small parts, only small actors". The meaning is that every action or service that is needed is a big part for someone who needs it, but that same vision may not be shared by the person who is charged with performing that action or service. That is why it is so important to have a proper standard and proper vetting of candidates for those who apply to serve. By proper, I mean a standard that will provide the most benefit to the community.

I am no better or brighter when it comes to these things than you are. I do not, in most cases, get to sit in on panels, selections, or community boards. I have served on volunteer boards. I feel that, to the best of our ability, we should be of service to our community through service on boards without the incentive of pay. But that is just me, and I know it is not the reality of community service for most in the new world of our post-adult gaming in our tribal community. To land the expertise we want for these boards, we are in a time when pay is sometimes the only way you can get it. In some cases, we won't even volunteer for community yard or river cleanups without the promise of pay (which defies the definition of volunteer, but I digress).



The word “nepotism” was brought up during this confirmation hearing, and I would like to share a thought and hear your feedback on this. One definition of nepotism is, according to Merriam-Webster, “favoritism (as in appointment to a job) based on kinship”.

Let that definition sink in. Because what do we say about the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)? Don’t we say that we are a family culture and that EBCI is one big happy (sometimes) family? Truly, in a body of people numbering a little less than 17,000, of that, 5,000 to 6,000 who are socially and politically active in our community, how realistic is it to think that decision makers and panel participants who make decisions on board service won’t in some way have some intimate

understanding or relationship with a nominee? During my first visit to a Dinilawigi session to be introduced as a media coordinator for the tribe back in 2002, the first question from the representatives wasn’t “What is your experience or education for this position?” The first question was “Who is your kin and what is your community?”

The irony of asserting nepotism, particularly in this case, was that the candidate in question was identified as a very well-qualified candidate. To the person who got up and spoke, or the Dinilawigi members around the table, each said that this candidate appeared to be well qualified to serve. The problem seemed to be that this candidate was kin to someone in power. In this case, it wasn’t the qualifications of the candidate but

the political nature of kinship that was the focus. All precautions in the selection process seem to have been followed, even to the extreme of a leader removing himself from the process to give a fair hearing to the candidate, yet what typically takes Dinilawigi a few minutes to do in a confirmation hearing turned into an approximately 90-minute interview (excluding the 45 minutes devoted to two other nominees who were reappointments). So, when we question or challenge a nominee not for their qualifications, but for who their kin are, would that be reverse nepotism or anti-nepotism? The mind boggles.

Surely the discussion of how we make appointments, and, for that matter, hire personnel, needs to be had. The way we do things on the Boundary has been ingrained in us for longer than I have been a part of the system. In the short time that I have been privileged to serve the community, I have seen things done that challenge the boundaries of policy and law, both for the good of many and sometimes for the good of the few or the one. To get to ethical, equitable fairness in appointments and in hiring, the government will have to make some tough choices. Because in politics, doing the right thing can come with a much higher cost than doing the wrong thing. It is truly a condemned-if-you-do-or-if-you-don’t scenario, primarily because most of us are kinfolk and getting an impartial assessment or perception thereof is next to impossible.

I’ll leave you with something that at first will seem a little high-toned, but it’s really just thoughtful and logical. It comes from Miguel de Cervantes, the author of Don Quixote.

He says, “When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where the madness lies? Perhaps to be too practical is madness. To surrender to dreams-this may be madness. Too much sanity may be madness-and maddest of all: to see life as it is, and not as it should be!”



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. On Jan. 9, 2010, which Detroit Pistons player scored the 10-millionth point in NBA history?
2. Which two figure skaters appeared together on a February 1998 FOX TV special titled “Breaking the Ice: The Women of ‘94 Revisited”?
3. In 2024, endurance runner and activist Deo Kato completed a 518-day, 7,730-mile trek between which two cities?
4. Which stadium was home to the American Football League’s San Diego Chargers from 1961 to 1966?
5. In December 1982, which team upset the No. 1 ranked Virginia Cavaliers, 77-72, in a college basketball game in Honolulu?
6. Name the West German boxer who was knocked out by Muhammad Ali in the seventh round of a 1971 non-title fight in Zurich, Switzerland.
7. Which Dallas Mavericks star scored the first 60-20 triple double in NBA history when he recorded 60-21-10 against the New York Knicks in 2022?

Answers

1. Ben Gordon.
2. Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding.
3. Cape Town, South Africa, to London, England.
4. Balboa Stadium.
5. The Chaminade Silverswords.
6. Jurgen Blin.
7. Luka Doncic.

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Each year in and around Cherokee, NC we celebrate the rivers. People come together on the Qualla Boundary to share a meal, learn about river heritage, enjoy entertainment, and then everyone converges on the rivers to clean and sustain them. **Join us this year to live our connection with Long Person!**

Date:
SEPTEMBER 25TH

Time:
8:00AM-12:30PM

Place:
PEACHES SQUIRRELL
RECREATION COMPLEX,
1139 US-19, CHEROKEE, NC 28719

“THEY SHOWED US THE WAY”
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HLP-2026](https://tinyurl.com/HLP-2026)
LEARN MORE AT:
<https://www.facebook.com/HonoringLongPerson>

HONORING LONG PERSON
Yvwi Ganvhida

SIGN UP HERE

Life is a series of moments that will never occur again

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – This past weekend, I had the opportunity to cover the Annual Eastern Band of Cherokee Pow Wow which is one of my favorite events to photograph every year. It is important for us to remember that life is a series of moments that will never occur again.

The pow wow held this past weekend will never occur again. Now, don't get me wrong, the pow wow will be held over July 4th weekend in 2027, but it will not be the same.

Next year's dance will not be the same. There will be different dancers, singers, spectators, vendors, etc. Every event in the world is like this. It is impossible to replicate an event, and there's no reason to even try.

Even if the same songs are sung next year, they will be slightly different as it is impossible to sing a song the exact same way twice. Dancers will not dance the same way. They might add a different step or move. And, I won't get the same photographs ever again. Rose Kennedy, matriarch of the Kennedy family, once noted, "Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments."

That is so true. Every moment occurs in a second, and then it is gone – forever.

Cherish each moment. Think about each moment. Remember



Robin Jumper, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), has a big smile while dancing in the grand entry at the Annual Eastern Band Cherokee Pow Wow in Cherokee, N.C. on the evening of Friday, July 3. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

each moment because together they comprise your life.

I've written before about the power of capturing moments, a split second in time, through photography. Every smile, laugh, or frown comes and goes in an instant. This scenario gives us the opportunity to hold onto the good moments and try to mitigate the bad ones.

As some of you might know, I don't have a cell phone of my own. I'm old school and just never wanted to be tied down to a device.

Now, my wife does have one so I am not removed from the world and keep up with people through calls and texts through her.

The point being – some people are very tied to their phones. I must say that I was very pleasantly surprised to see very few people at the pow wow – participants and spectators alike - glued to their screen. There were more people enjoying the moments than I've seen in a long time, and it was very refreshing.

At the next event you attend,

try to be mindful of the plethora of moments. Notice the laughter. Notice the joy. Notice the bonds being created.

Georges Duhamel, a French author and self-described "pacifist and internationalist", once said, "We do not know the true value of our moments until they have undergone the test of memory."

Value your moments for your memory's sake.

Summer Strength

4-week series begins July 8

Wednesdays and Fridays at 12pm

Join us for a 30 minute workout twice a week. A protein snack will be provided after each workout.

Contact Tori for more info or to sign up. Viettram@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6778

Cherokee Choices Open House and Health Screen

Drop in on Thursday, August 13 from 11am-4pm.

Wellness resources, food and prizes, blood pressure checks, A1C, Body Scans.

At Cherokee choices community room, 806 Acquoni Rd. Cherokee NC 28719

Contact Robin for more info 828-359-6785 or robibail@ebci-nsn.gov

Can I still Eat That?

5 week series begins on Thursday July 21, 12-1pm. Lunch is provided Learn how to make small changes that will help you live healthier and feel better.

Contact April to sign up 828-359-6201 or apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov

Beginner Pilates

Beginner level Pilates helps improve strength, stability, and flexibility. All levels welcome!

Begins July 13. Mondays 12-12:45pm

Contact April to sign up 828-359-6201 or apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov

Yoga

Begins July 21

Yoga for Everyone Tuesdays 12pm

Gentle yoga Thursdays 12pm

in the Cherokee Choices Yoga Room

Classes are free and open to everyone

Contact Robin to sign up or for more info Robibail@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6785

SEAT

4-week series - August 14, 21, 28 and Sep 4 at 9:30am

A 30 minute chair workout to help strengthen mobility, memory and connection.

Contact Shelby to sign up or for more info Shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6783

Positive Indian Parenting

8 week series begins September 2 - Wednesdays at 12pm

Classes will be held at Cherokee Choices with Lunch provided.

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

Walking Club

Begins September 1 - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12pm

Walking locations will vary and will be emailed out weekly. Sign up with Shelby at shelpark@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6783

Peaceful warriors - Afterschool Youth Program

Begins September 9 - Wednesdays 3:30-4:45pm

Sign ups required. Ages 7-11 Contact Yo ro sign up yolasaun@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6784

Navigating Perimenopause

4-week series begins October 20 - Tuesdays 12-1pm Lunch provided.

Discussion on what perimenopause is, nutrition tips, treatment options, and more. Contact April to sign up apriinni@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6201

Staying Healthy on GLP-1 Medications

Begins September 15, Tuesdays 12-1 - Lunch is provided

We will discuss how to maintain health and

muscle mass while still losing weight on GLP-1 Medicaitons.

Contact Tori for questions or to sign up victram@ebci-nsn.gov or 828-359-6778



**cherokee
choices**

enroll for life
GWY JBWYWI



JULY
guyegwoni
JBWYH

Cherokee Choices

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

Vision: Generations of Wellness

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

**Follow Cherokee Choices on
Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/
CherokeeChoices](https://www.facebook.com/CherokeeChoices)

June report from Aniwodihi (Painttown) Rep. Michael Stamper



Hello everyone,

This is my Council Report for the month of June. I apologize for the delay in submitting this month's report, and I will work to ensure timelier submissions and publications moving forward. As summer settles in, I encourage everyone to slow down and savor the everyday joys around us. We often rush through life and forget to appreciate the people we cherish and the moments we share. Don't let work or other obligations overshadow the time you have with loved ones.

As always, my report follows the standard format below.

Project Updates

Recently Completed Projects

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

Projects Currently Underway or Nearing Completion

Nvdiyeli Trail

No updates for this month. Still awaiting a confirmation for final ribbon cutting unveiling the completed project to the public. More updates will come when the dates are set. All of leadership thanks the public for their patience during this time.

Ceremonial Grounds

As you drive by, you will begin to see more and more progress take place that can give visual to the future shape of the grounds. Take time to self-document this process because one day we will all look back and reminisce on the growth of our beautiful town. These updates are progressing, even if they seem like small changes in the short term.

Multipurpose Facility (Old High School Site)

While there are no substantial updates to this project at this time, please understand that this project is moving at the necessary speeds to coincide with budgets and speeds of other projects. During the next few months, the Tribe will begin the next phase of the water and sewer upgrades to Acquoni road. Please be patient as these upgrades take place.

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

Designs have been approved and the bid process is complete. The next phase will include evaluating the project's scope to reduce costs while maintaining necessary upgrades to the facilities. (No substantial updates to this project for the month of June)

Ordinances Under Consideration
(Ordinances that have been passed, withdrawn, or killed will not appear on this list.)

• Amendments to election laws

- Establishing an Elk Hunting Season
- Updating laws on the assignment of possessory holdings
- Regulating the caging of bears on Tribal land
- Clarifying Cherokee Code regarding UTV use on approved roads
- An ordinance amending CC Chapter 41 defining different types of ownership of a possessory holding
- An ordinance creating CC Chapter 47C to establish Tribal Realty Services in the code
- An ordinance to amend CC Chapter 19-7 in regards to public nuisance

Work Sessions

Upcoming Work Sessions

July 30

- 9 a.m. – Minors Trust Fund

Monthly Update for Readers

This month's update focuses on the economy around us—how it affects you as an individual (micro) and the Tribe as a whole (macro). June marks the halfway point of the year, which means Tribal Leadership receives plenty of scrutiny (and occasionally gratitude) for the Tribe's financial standing. Some of that criticism is fair, and some of it is not. My goal is to offer clarity on what leadership can control and what falls outside our reach.

Percapita Distribution:

The Starting Point

Let's begin with the simplest and most common question: per-capita distribution.

Without revealing the formula behind our Tribe's long term success, I can share what is already widely known. The majority of our distributions come from gaming profits. Historically, our two tribal casinos have performed exception-

ally well. Their success has allowed us to build the economic powerhouse we see today in Western North Carolina. We are the largest single employer west of Asheville—an achievement that did not happen by accident. Leadership played a critical role, and you, the voters, chose the leaders who helped turn that vision into reality.

How Casino Budgets Actually Work

To understand whether criticism toward leadership is fair, it's important to know how casino budgeting works for both the Cherokee and Murphy properties. The Principal Chief nominates Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise (TCGE) board members, and Tribal Council confirms them through a legislative vetting process. Once confirmed, nominees are appointed to the TCGE board, which consists of five members serving five year terms, with a maximum of two terms.

This board approves the operating budgets for both casino properties. These budgets determine expenses and projected revenues for the upcoming year—decisions that ultimately shape the Tribe's financial future. Every operational expense creates ripple effects that influence the bottom line.

Each month, the properties reconcile revenue and determine whether distributions are available. When they are, the profits are split 50/50. Half goes directly to tribal members through percapita/Genwell. This split is mandated by tribal law and approved by the Indian Gaming Commission. Leadership cannot alter it, and all funds are audited to ensure proper handling.

The remaining 50 percent is divided as follows:

- 41 percent to tribal operations
- 4.5 percent to Cherokee Indian Hospital Association
- 4.5 percent to Cherokee Central Schools

The Weight of Responsibility

The TCGE board carries a tremendous responsibility. They approve annual budgets, review weekly expenses, and make decisions that directly impact day to day operations. Every choice centers on one priority: the long term success of the business and, ultimately, tribal distribution.

I've personally witnessed difficult conversations between the board and management—especially during economic downturns. These decisions are never made lightly. They are always rooted in what is best for the Tribe.

Marketing, for example, is a

major expense. It's costly, but it produces measurable returns by bringing customers to Cherokee. Other expenses—maintenance, EVS, security—may not generate immediate revenue, but they are essential. These teams rarely receive the praise they deserve, yet they are the first to be noticed when something goes wrong. Their work is foundational to our success.

The TCGE board shoulders the burden of protecting our livelihood through these decisions. They work closely and effectively with leadership, and communication between them has always been strong.

Is Leadership Being Fairly Criticized?

Whether leadership deserves criticism for the Tribe's financial

standing is a complicated question.

Should elected officials micro-manage board decisions? Should they be more hands on? It's difficult to say—and even harder to imagine what that would look like in practice. The reality is that external economic conditions often play a larger role in casino performance than any internal decision. High gas prices, rising travel costs, and increased cost of living all reduce customers' expendable income. When people have less money to spend, fewer of them travel to "try their luck." These factors are beyond the control of leadership or the TCGE board. Gratitude and Perspective

I am proud of our TCGE and TGC board members. They work tirelessly to ensure our properties operate in a way that gives the Tribe the best chance for continued success. I also want to extend sincere gratitude to every casino employee. Each one plays a vital role in the advantages we enjoy as tribal members.

We are a blessed people. With strong leadership, experienced board members, and a growing base of knowledgeable enrolled members, our future remains bright. The economic slump should not overshadow the progress Cherokee continues to make. Our solid foundation has allowed both legislative and executive branches to invest in new areas that are beginning to bear fruit—returns we will see in the near future. Patience is a tool too few of us practice, but it is essential. Continue asking questions of your leadership, but also allow time for results.

The future is still bright for our Tribe. Do not let a struggling economy dim the light that Cherokee continues to create.

Michael Stamper

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

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
Dhysqy Tgöñl Kituwah Ways

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026–2027 Kituwah Ways Adult Leadership Program (October 2026–September 2027).

Kituwah Ways is an advanced leadership program for graduates of the SGAöT Düyugodv'i Right Path Adult Leadership Program.

Participants will deepen their understanding of Cherokee history and culture while further developing their leadership competencies through monthly sessions that include case studies, lectures, individual project planning and research, and experiential learning.

Eligibility

- Successful completion of the Right Path Adult Leadership Program
- No previous participation in the Kituwah Ways Leadership Program

Applications are available at www.rkli.org under the Right Path Program tab, may be picked up at the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute (Old SCC Building), or requested by emailing tara.mccoy@cherokeeboysclub.com.

Application Deadline:
Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Applications may be submitted by:

- Mail: Tara McCoy, RKLI, P.O. Box 507, Cherokee, NC 28719 (postmarked by July 30)
- Email: tara.mccoy@cherokeeboysclub.com
- In Person: Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute, 171 Boys Club Loop, Cherokee (drop box available after hours)
- Applicants are responsible for confirming receipt of their application.

For more information, contact Tara McCoy at 828-359-5542 or tara.mccoy@cherokeeboysclub.com.




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CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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359-6489, dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov

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Interim Subscription Clerk - Tina Laws
359-6262, tinalaws@ebci-nsn.gov

Take your pick.

Part 2 of 2

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

Scripture references: Proverbs 16:9, Isaiah 55:11, Revelation 3:7, Psalm 73:28, 2 Samuel 7:28

My instructor was a master chef, an older man who retired from the Navy as a chef on battleships and aircraft carriers. He served seamen of all ranks and became the Officer Quarters master chef. He was challenging, motivational, and an excellent teacher. When I showed him the induction (draft) notice I received in the mail, he told me that maybe I could become a cook in the military. The education of my choice

was no longer an option. The following months of military school prepared me for the Vietnam War, and the Air Force seemed to have plenty of cooks. What God and the military turned me into was utterly different. I was totally out of control of my life.

Non-Christians say that's what you can expect when 'life' happens. They're not wrong – it is life, and if you are a child of God, it is a life He has called you into for a purpose. His purpose. You may or may not believe God has that kind of control or that He would do – whatever it was – to change your path. Be assured that God is sovereign and in control of you and everything else around you.

My blessing is to be able to look back over all those years. It increases my faith to know God steered my life and created the

tests and tribulations, experiences, and situations that molded my character as I grew into manhood. God made and shaped me like clay to be the man He wanted. I was to serve Him as He willed for His purpose. It is a blessing to me to see how His hand has shaped and crafted my life. I know God still has control of me, and my life continues without fear as His will is the best for me.

It is possible that God hasn't drastically changed your life in the manner described above. However, that doesn't mean He won't. It could all change tomorrow. That's what this message is all about. When you give your life to Jesus and walk in the Spirit, you must expect that God's will for you might differ from your plans. When you plan for your life, I pray that you are attuned to God's will

and that your life path is synchronized with Him.

I would be remiss not to mention those little changes in our plans that God does to provide an experience, make a divine appointment, or give you a blessing. Those times might be another discussion entirely, for God is sovereign over your whole life, including your day-to-day experiences.

God, Father, and Sovereign Lord of all the earth, bless us with Your countenance and favor. Use us to be Your hands and feet to accomplish Your will in our lives and the lives of others. Guide us, Holy Spirit, wherever we walk with You. Keep us from temptation and deliver us from evil. We ask these things in Your Heavenly name, Jesus, amen.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

✠ GALATIANS 3:27,28 ✠



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EBCI Community Events

2026-27 Kituwah Ways Adult Leadership Program accepting applications. Apply by July 30 by 4 p.m. Apply with Tara McCoy, RCLI P.O. Box 507, Cherokee, NC. 28719 or email tara.mccoy@cherokeeboysclub.com or in person at 171 Boys Club Loop, Cherokee, NC. 28719. Participants will deepen their understanding of Cherokee history and culture, while developing leadership skills. Info: (828) 359-5542

Smoky Mountain Youth Football Jamboree. Aug. 1 at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ray Kinsland Stadium in Cherokee, N.C. Info: Janell Rattler (828) 736-3231 or Timmy Ray Smith 788-2793

NASA Softball Tournament. Aug. 6-8 at John Crowe Ballfields in Whittier, N.C. Info: Janell Rattler (828) 736-3231 or Timmy Ray Smith 788-2793

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

Cherokee Family Safety Program Ride. Aug. 29 register at 9 a.m. ride at 12 noon. Meet at 7923 Big Cove Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. All proceeds go to the Family Safety Program in Cherokee, N.C. Info: Thomas Wolfe (828) 269-8989.

From Darkness Into Hope. Sept. 10 from 3 p.m. – 7p.m. at the Oconaluftee Island Park US-441 N

& Newfound Gap Rd S, Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Annual Mental health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Event. Info: (828) 359-6180

Honoring Long Person. Sept. 25 from 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. meet at Peaches Squirrel Recreation Complex 1139 US-19, Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Share a meal, learn about river heritage, then head to the different parts of the Oconaluftee to clean. Info: facebook.com/HonoringLongPerson

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming to Cherokee. Oct. 7-12 at Burgess – Oocumma Veterans Memorial Cemetery 21 Longbranch Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. The 51st Anniversary of the ending of the “Vietnam War”. Co-hosted by the American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post #143 and EBCI Cherokee Parks and Recreation Department.

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

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

Cornhusk Doll Workshop.

Aug. 7 from 3 p.m. – 5p.m. at Red Clay State Historic Park. 1140 Red Clay Park Rd SW, Cleveland, Tenn. 37311. Learn to craft traditional cornhusk dolls. Taught by EBCI Member Laura Walkingstick. Info: (828) 707-6122 or email Rezdoga-rtstudio@gmail.com

35th Annual Cherokee Festival. Sept. 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sequoyah Birthplace

Museum at 576 HWY 360 Vonore, Tenn. 37885. Cherokee Arts and crafts demonstrations, Cherokee storytelling, flute playing, Cherokee dances, name written in Cherokee, genealogy help, craft vendors and food vendors. Info: (423) 884-6246

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Meetings

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

Health Board. July 15 at 8:30 a.m.

Roads Commission. July 20 at 9 a.m.

Timber Committee. July 20 at

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

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Rowdy, a 10-year-old Blue Heeler, lives in Tutiya/Tsalagi Gadugi (Snowbird/Cherokee Co.) with his humans, Angela Rose Kephart and Mark Kephart.



10:30 a.m.

Planning Board. July 20 at 1 p.m.

Lands Committee. July 23 at 9 a.m.

Minor's Fund Work Session. July 30 at 9 a.m.

Pow Wow Listings

Mandaree Celebration. July 16-19 in Mandaree, N.D. Emcees: Charlie Moran, Lawrence Baker, Jackson Rolling Thunder Tahuka. Host Drums: Mandaree, Ridge Road, Clark's Creek, White Lodge.

Info: No contact information provided

37th Annual Indian Days Pow Wow. July 17-19 at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Seattle, Wash. Emcees: Dave Madera, Grant Timentwa. Host Drum: Eagle Spirit. Info: No contact information provided

73rd Annual Comanche Homecoming Pow Celebration. July 17-19 at Sultan Park in Walters, Okla. Emcees: Martin Flores, Kevin Sovo Jr. Head Afternoon Singer: Timothy Mononessy.

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't be sheepish about asking questions and demanding answers. You not only gain needed information, you also respect your steadfast search for the truth.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A money problem that shows up early in the week is expeditiously resolved by savvy Bovines, who know how to turn a momentary financial lapse into a monetary gain.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to shed negative energy-draining forces and develop a positive approach to handling current — as well as upcoming — personal and/or professional situations.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your urge to do your best on a current task is commendable, but don't let it become all-consuming. Spend some spiritually restorative time with those who love you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This could be a good time for all you Leos and Leonas to take your bows for your recent achievements. Then go off to enjoy some fun times with your prides and joys!

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A negative response to a well-intentioned suggestion could communicate a sense of distrust that you might later find hard to refute. Think carefully before reacting.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your loving attention comforts a family member who's feeling a bit out of sorts. But be careful to prioritize your time so that you don't neglect your work duties.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your curiosity might be resented by some, but those who know you will support your penchant for never settling for less than the truth. So, stay with it!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A pesky situation from the past recurs, albeit in an altered form. Deal with it promptly before it can go from merely irksome to decidedly troublesome.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't wait too long to submit your proposals after giving them a last look over. If necessary, you should be able to defend any portion that gets called into question.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A bid to use your workplace dispute-settling skills in another situation is tempting. But be careful, as you might not have all the facts you'll need if you agree to do it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A sense of self-doubt is so untypical of you that you should have no qualms in shaking it off. Remind yourself of all you've done and can do, then do it again.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your ability to charm others without sacrificing sincerity is what makes people want to follow your leadership.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Getting community care

The VA spent over \$36 billion on community care in fiscal year 2025, and it appears to be money well spent.

The expenditures were courtesy of the 2018 MISSION Act, which lets veterans get their care out in the community from non-VA health care providers — with the VA picking up the tab. Added to that in 2025 was the Dole Act (more specifically, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act), which lets veterans seek care in the community without frequent medical reviews or permissions from VA medical staff.

It used to be that veterans had to get a new referral every 90 to 180 days to keep getting care out in the community. Now, for 30 categories of care — pulmonary, dermatology, podiatry and endocrinology, as a few examples — new referrals will only be needed once a year.

Veterans in three states in particular benefited from that money: Texas at \$3.3 billion, Florida at \$2.8 billion and California at \$2.1 billion.

If you've already been getting community care, find out from the community care office at your VA medical facility where in the permission and referral cycle you are so you know in advance when the next one will be required. Since most of the medical categories will only need a yearly referral, get your schedule in writing so there isn't a problem at the last minute with an expired authorization.

If you need medical treatment that the VA doesn't provide, or if the wait times at your local VA hospital are too long, or if the driving time to your VA hospital is too long, you might qualify for community care. To get specifics, call the community care office for an initial referral. If you already have a community care provider in mind, find out whether they are part of the VA network before you get care from them to be certain the VA will pay for it.

To learn more about getting medical care in your own community, go to department.va.gov/vha/community-care.

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Tips for hiking with your pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: How do I know if my 18-month-old dog is ready to tackle a moderate to difficult hike? I'd like to take "Tab" along on a hike in the White Mountains this summer. — Jack T. in Boston

DEAR JACK: Every dog is different, even energetic dogs that love to be outdoors. Plus, there are other factors to consider before taking your dog on a hike.

Energy level: Is your dog an outdoorsy type who loves to romp and play? Does he already take long walks with you (2 to 3 miles)?

Training: Does your dog respond well to commands? Importantly, does he come immediately when called? Is he well-trained to the leash or does he tug on it?

Socialization: How does your dog react around other dogs — especially strange ones — and people? If he's calm and friendly, that's a great sign. If he's defensive, reactive or aggressive, that's not good.

Health: Does your dog have any known health issues? Does he take medication regularly?

Tab sounds like a young, healthy dog, so the last factor may not be a problem at all. But you should evaluate his training, socialization and overall fitness before tackling a long, difficult hike.

He is at an age where you can start walking him longer distances. Younger dogs have hard limits on how far they can go because their bones are still developing. Start training for the hike by tackling shorter, easy trails in your area. Gradually increase difficulty and distance, and gauge how well he progresses.

Finally, check the rules for bringing dogs on trails in the White Mountains. Most allow them, but always on-leash and under control.

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

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EVENTS: From page 47

Head Evening Singer: Joel Motah.
Info: Nolan Tahdooahnippah
(580) 919-0868, Travis Codynah
(580) 647-1561, Tanya Codynah
(580) 585-1353

80th Annual Dakota Oyate Wacipi. July 17-19 in Griswold, Manitoba, Canada. Emcees: Redwing Thomas, Clifton Goodwill. Host Drums: Dakota Hotain, Dakota Travels, Riverside Dakota, Wild Sioux. Invited Drums: Mato Pejuta, Bad Nation, Otter Trail, Wooden Fence, Bad War Cloud, Poundmaker, Six Shooter, Showtime, Bad Company, Bullhorn. Info: www.svdngovernance.com/dakota-oyate-annual-wacipi

Kanai Pow Wow & Celebra-

tion. July 17-19 at Red Crow Park in Standoff, Alberta, Canada. Emcees: Howie Thomson, Donnie Speidel, Tony Delaney. Info: No contact information provided

Marvin Joe Curry Seneca Veterans Pow Wow. July 17-19 at the Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino Event Center in Salamanca, New York. Emcees: Meeg Snake, Jason Whitehouse. Info: No contact information provided

5th Annual Big River First Nation Pow Wow. July 21-23 at the Big River First Nation Pow Wow Grounds in Saskatchewan, Canada. Emcees: Ruben Little Head, Cornell Tootoosis. Host Drum: Whitetail Boyz. Co-Host Drum: Northern Cree. Info: Curtis Bear (306) 468-7203, Wally Morin

Jr. (639) 470-3329

Kawacatoose First Nation Pow Wow. July 21-23 at the Kawacatoose First Nation Pow Wow Grounds in Raymore, Saskatchewan, Canada. Emcees: Jackson Tahuka, Sanford Strongarm. Host Drum: Stoney Park. Info: (306) 835-2125, kfnpowwow@gmail.com

Oklahoma City Pow Wow Club 76th Annual Indian Hills Pow Wow. July 22-26 at the Indian Hills Pow Wow Grounds in Oklahoma City, Okla. Emcees: Alan Fletcher, Mike Burgess. Head Singer: Sonny Toppah. Info: No contact information provided

Tsuut'ina Nation Annual Celebrations Pow Wow. July 23-26

at Redwood Meadows Fairgrounds in Redwood Meadows, Alberta, Canada. Tuut'ina MC: Hal Eagle-tail. Visiting MC: Jackson Rolling Thunder. Host Drum: Wild Rose. Info: Marcie Two Guns at Marcie.meguinis@tsuutina.com

46th Annual Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Maawan-jj'iding Pow Wow. July 24-26 at Ojibwa Campgrounds in Baraga, Mich. Emcees: Joel Syrette, John Teller Jr. Host Drum: Summer Cloud. Invited Drums: Raining Thunder, Young Kingbird. Info: Info: Chrstine Awonohopay (906) 201-2297

57th Annual Thunderchild First Nation Pow Wow. July 24-26 in Turtleford, Saskatchewan, Canada. Emcees: Juakin Hamilton-Youngbird, Bart Powau-kee, Elmer Rattlesnake, Winston Bear. Host Drum: Cozad. Honorary Host Drums: High Noon, Young Thunder, Big Bear. Invited Drums: Ho-Chunk Station, Blackstone, Wild Horse, Black Otter, Mato Pejuta, Bear Creek, Poundmaker, Cree Confederation, Hay Creek, Iron Swing. Info: Roderick Wapass (306) 392-0041

Ely Shoshone Pow Wow. July 24-26 in Ely, Nev. MC: Harold Begaye. Host Drum: Red Hoop. Invited Drum: Iron Colt. Info: Maria Stanton (775) 388-3816

Fort Totten Days Wacipi and Celebration. July 24-26 at Andrew Shaw Sr. Arena in Fort Totten, N.D. Emcees: Dr. Leander "Russ" McDonald, Harold Blacksmith. Info: (701) 766-4486, akicita@spiritleakevw.com

Gii-Ishkonigewag Pow Wow. July 24-26 in McGregor, Minn.

CHEROKEE WORDS OF THE WEEK

Boat
amo edo tsiyu
(ah-moe ey-doh zee-you)
DᎠ RV ᎠᎾᎾ

Ocean
amequohi
(aah-may-qwoah-hee)
DᎠ ᎠᎾᎾ

Sand
noya
(no-yah)
ᎠᎾᎾ

(I am) Swimming
gadawoa
(gah-dah-woah-ah)
ᎠᎾᎾ

Swimming Pool
adawosdi
(aah-dah-woah-sdee)
ᎠᎾᎾ

Scan the QR codes below to hear audio pronunciations & play along with word games

↑
pronunciations

↑
word games

Emcees: Terry Fiddler, Reuben Crowfeather Jr. Host Drum: Red Willow. Invited Drums: Black Lodge, Fort Peck Sioux, Smokey-town. Info: Taria Aubid (320) 630-5086, taria.aubid@millelacsband.com

Saginaw Chippewa 42nd Annual Pow Wow. July 24-26 at The Hill Campground in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Emcees: Keveon Kingbird, Anthony Monoessy. Host Drum: Under the Pines. Info: (989) 775-5643, PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org, www.sagchip.org/powwow

74th Annual Tulsa Pow Wow. July 25-26 at Arvest Convention Center in Tulsa, Okla. Emcees: Warren Queton, Marshal Williamson. Head Singer: George Valliere.

Info: (918) 724-0762, tpwvendoinfo@gmail.com

Wiconi 20th Annual Living Waters Pow Wow. July 25 at Aldersgate Conference Center & Campground in Turner, Ore. MC: Bob Tom. Host Drum: Four Directions. Info: Gary Eastty (360) 903-9570, magwiconi03@gmail.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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events

Pet Food Giveaway. July 15 starting at 10 a.m. at the Cherokee Animal Care Clinic 1100 US HWY 441N, Whittier, N.C. 28789.

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

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources





Orange and Pale Jewelweed (or touch-me-nots) are native plants commonly found in wet environments like shaded forests and streambanks. Jewelweed blooms from June through September and after flowering, their seedpods explode on contact! Jewelweed often grows near poison ivy, and its leaves and stems may help relieve rash if rubbed on the skin quickly after exposure.

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: From page 49

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

Pistol Creek, Catch of the Day. Oct. 10 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Sam Houston Schoolhouse 3663 Old Sam Houston School Rd, Maryville, Tenn. 37804. Bring a lawn chair. Info: (865) 983-1550

Cherokee Community Clubs

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

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

Crowe.

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

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

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

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

Toledvyi (Tow String) Com-

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

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

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Mark (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? *Back, Stomach, Head, Legs*
3. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection? *3, 40, 100, 346*
4. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? *Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul*
5. What is the Hebrew word that's usually translated as “blessing”? *Berakah, Chosson, Chumash, Ducket*
6. How old was Abraham when he died? *75, 175, 202, 256*

ANSWERS: (1) New, (2) Stomach, (3) 40, (4) Philip, (5) Berakah, (6) 175

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

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Moments in time

• On **July 27, 1981**, 6-year-old Adam Walsh was abducted from a shopping mall in Hollywood, Florida, and later found murdered. Afterward, his father, John Walsh, became an impassioned victims' rights activist and host of the television show “America's Most Wanted.” In 2008, the Hollywood police announced that the case against confessed killer Ottis Elwood Toole was strong enough to close the investigation into Adam's death. Toole died 12 years earlier.

• On **July 28, 1942**, Soviet Union premier Josef Stalin issued Order No. 227, aka the “Not one step backward” order, following German advances into Russian territory. The order stipulated that “panic makers and cowards must be liquidated on the spot. Not one step backward without orders from higher headquarters! Commanders ... who abandon a position without an order from higher headquarters are traitors to the Motherland.”

• On **July 29, 1862**, Marie Isabella “Belle” Boyd was arrested for the first time by Union troops and held at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. A skilled though teenage spy who provided vital information to the Confederate army during the Civil War, she eventually parlayed her experiences into a book and acting career.

• On **July 30, 1956**, two years after urging insertion of the phrase “under God” into the Pledge of Allegiance, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a law officially declaring “In God We Trust” to be America's official motto.

• On **July 31, 1964**, the unmanned U.S. lunar probe Ranger 7 took 4,308 close-up images of the moon before impacting with its surface northwest of the Sea of Clouds. The pictures were 1,000 times as clear as anything previously viewed through telescopes on Earth.

• On **Aug. 1, 1782**, Caroline Herschel discovered a comet after viewing it through a telescope — the first such discovery credited to a woman. Her brother, astronomer William Herschel, had discovered Uranus the year before. The first professional female astronomer, she would go on to discover seven more comets in 11 years.

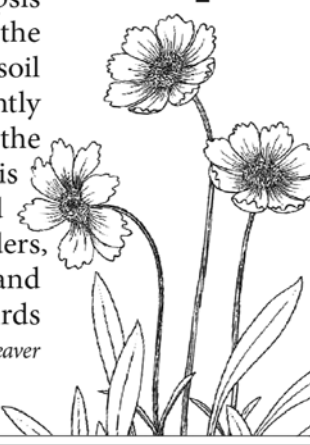
• On **Aug. 2, 1992**, Jackie Joyner-Kersey became the first woman ever to win two consecutive Olympic gold medals in the heptathlon.

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Also known as “tickseed” or “pot-of-gold,” coreopsis is easy to grow. Sprinkle the seeds over a prepared area of soil in a very sunny location, and cover lightly with soil. Keep this area watered until the seeds germinate in about 3 weeks. This plant tolerates heat, humidity, and drought. It is well suited to beds, borders, and containers. Not only do bees and butterflies love its nectar, but also birds like goldfinches love its seeds. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: linnet.geog.ubc.ca, www.gardeningknowhow.com, almanac.com



Coreopsis

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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. Pastor Brandon Harrell (828) 777-4923

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. (828) 538-0301

Buffalo Baptist Church.

2686

see **EVENTS** next page

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The "Escape from Alcatraz Marathon," created in 1980, is an annual event designed to show that it is indeed possible to survive an escape from Alcatraz, and includes a 1.5-mile swim to San Francisco, an 18-mile bike ride and an 8-mile run.

- In the seventh century B.C., the North African Berbers played a soccer-like game as a fertility rite.

- Iceland had a cat reality show called — wait for it — "Keeping Up With the Kattarsians," in which four lucky kittens lived together in a furnished house and were filmed around the clock.

- Minority children make up 65% of all non-family abductions.

- Some police forces purposely assign at least one woman to their SWAT teams so their male counterparts will have a "den mother" to counteract some of the men's more violent tendencies.

- The first arrest resulting from an emergency call occurred on July 8, 1937, at 4:20 a.m., when the wife of John Stanley Beard dialed 999 to report a burglar, Thomas Duffy, outside her home in England.

- It is illegal to ride an ugly horse in Wilbur, Washington.

- Of the roughly 300 million tons of plastic produced each year, half consists of single-use items.

- In France, citizens are automatically registered to vote when they turn 18 years old.

- Over the course of several decades, African American blues musician Daryl Davis made a point of befriending KKK members and questioning them about their beliefs. As of 2017, 200 of those Klansmen had given up their robes as a result.

- People who worked at soda fountains were called soda jerks due to the classic jerking motion they used to pump soda water.

Thought for the Day: "It takes a moment to tell someone you love them, but it takes a lifetime to prove it." — *Erich Fromm*

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Qualla

BOOK OF THE WEEK

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



"This book gave me nightmares!"
—B.L. STINE, New York Times bestselling author of the Goosebumps series

"The Legend of Skeleton Man"

Author Joseph Bruchac

"The Legend of Skeleton Man" is a spine-tingling middle grade collection by Nulhegan Abenaki citizen, Joseph Bruchac. It brings together "Skeleton Man" and "The Return of Skeleton Man" - two chilling, modern classics. It's a fun way to keep your child entertained and engaged.

Molly's father grew up on the Mohawk Reserve of Akwesasne, where he learned the best scary stories. One of her favorites was the legend of Skeleton Man, a gruesome tale about a man with a deadly, insatiable hunger. But ever since her parents mysteriously vanished, those spooky tales have started to feel all too real.

And things go from bad to worse for Molly when a stranger shows up one day and claims to be her great-uncle. A ghostly thin man she's never seen before. A man who reminds her an awful lot of the Skeleton Man. But he couldn't possibly be the same person from her father's tale. . . could he? It's up to Molly to uncover the truth about this fearsome figure and rescue her parents before it's too late.

EVENTS: From page 51

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

Cherokee Baptist Church.

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

Cherokee Bible Church.

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

Cherokee Church of Christ.

2350 Old Mission Road and Hwy. 19. Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.

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

Cherokee Church of God.

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

Cherokee Church of the Nazarene.

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

Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness Church.

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

Cherokee United Methodist Church.

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

Cherokee Wesleyan Church.

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

Christian Acts Church at the

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

Echota Baptist Church.

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

Ela Baptist Church.

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

Embassy Christian Center

Church of God in Christ. 87 Vinewood Circle, Whittier, located

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

PHHS Employee Spotlight



Kristie Watkins,
*Tribal In-Home Care Services
Chronic Disease Management
RN case manager*

Education:

ASN from Southwestern Community College 2001, BSN from Western Carolina University 2011, Nationally Certified Case Manager 2010

Years at PHHS: 13

Community/Town:

Tsisqwohi (Birdtown)

"Always choose to shine."

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

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

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

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

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Mission. 82 Lambert Branch Road. Saturday Mass at 4:30 p.m. in English and 6 p.m. in Spanish.

Pastor Fr. Victor Ameh, MSP. (828) 373-0068, or 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 6 p.m., Wednesday evening service 7 p.m., third Saturday singing 7 p.m. Pastor Ernie Cable

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 Park-

er-Reece

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

Wrights Creek Baptist Church. Wrights Creek Rd. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 p.m. Visitors welcome. Pastor David Birch

Yellowhill Baptist Church. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 5 p.m. Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m. Pastor Foreman Bradley 506-0123 or 736-4872

**Event listings are
FREE of charge.**

Send your flyers/info to Dawn at dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov or to Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE

CARE

CLINIC



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

**75 Paint Town Rd
Cherokee, NC**

NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED, WALK-INS WELCOME!

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Rent

Two bedrooms, two baths, with a living room/kitchen combo. \$1,150 a month for a one-year lease. 1270-B Shoal Creek Rd. Whittier, NC. 28789. The first month's rent, last month's rent, and a security deposit. There is also a non-refundable pet deposit of \$500 per pet if applicable. Info: (470)602-9693. 7/29

For Rent

One bedroom, one bathroom, with a loft, and a washer/dryer combo. Features full-sized appli-

ances (including a dishwasher) and a living room with high ceilings and an electric fireplace. \$1,150 a month for a one-year lease. 1159 Shoal Creek Rd. Whittier, NC. 28789. The first month's rent, last month's rent, and a security deposit. There is also a non-refundable pet deposit of \$500 per pet if applicable. Info: (470)602-9693. 7/29

EMPLOYMENT

Now Hiring Cleaners

1 Stop Cabin Group is hiring an experienced cleaner to our team! We have a total of 7 properties in Cherokee that we need you to service! Must pay attention to detail and be a self motivated person. Please reach out via call/text/email

865-719-5415
1stopcabin2025@gmail.com 7/15

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-051

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

CHARLOTTE GEORGE

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

Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS
FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-

TION

Fiduciary 1

Daniel Crowe

1316 Newbury Dr.

Norman, OK 73071

Fiduciary 2

Nathaniel Crowe

PO. Box 1101

Cherokee NC 28719

7/22

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
Estate File No. 26-053

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

DUSTIN THOMAS SMITH

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

Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS
FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-

TION

Christina Marie Lee

101 C Bradley Drive

Cherokee, NC 28719

7/22

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OR PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE

INDIANS

CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

CV 25-004

Benjamin Sierra v. Mattie Brady
and John Ray Bigmeat

Person to be served: JOHN RAY

BIGMEAT

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action filed in the Cherokee Trib-



Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist
Nail Tech
Lead Massage Therapist
Spa Attendants

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



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purchase and can be made
into various gifts.

al Court. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff entered into a contract for the purchase of a mobile home from John Ray Bigmeat and paid money for the purchase. John Ray Bigmeat did not convey the home to the Plaintiff after the purchase and Plaintiff seeks rescission of the purchase and return of funds in the amount of \$90,000.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within 40 days after June 24, 2026 exclusive of such date, which date so stated shall be the date of the first publication of notice, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This 24th day of June, 2026
Singleton Schreiber LLP
Robert O. Saunooke, Esq.

State Bar number 62100
PO Box 309
Cherokee, NC 28719
ndnlawyer@hotmail.com
Attorney for Benjamin Sierra
7/15

Notice of Intent to Repatriate

The National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution plans to repatriate the following to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Warren K. Moorehead collected human remains of a minimum of 30 individuals from the Willis Farm site, Christian County, Kentucky in 1903 and exchanged or gifted them to the Smithsonian in 1910 and 1927. The individuals sent to the Smithsonian all date to the Tinsley Hill phase (ca. 1300-1500 AD). Beginning around 1450

AD, large parts of the Cumberland River Basin, including Willis Farm, were depopulated with residents moving to live with other neighboring groups. These groups include Creek, Cherokee, Dhegiha Siouan, and Shawnee. Given this broader dispersal into neighboring groups, the human remains from the Willis Farm site have been found to be culturally affiliated with the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Cherokee Nation, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Kaw Nation, Kialegee Tribal Town, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Quapaw Nation, Shawnee Tribe, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Seminole Tribe of Florida, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, The Osage Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town of Oklahoma, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

For more information, please contact Matthew Sanger (646-670-6644) by July 31, 2026, Repatriation Office, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, NMNH, MRC 138, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012. 7/29

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the project entitled BURGESS-OOCUMMA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY will be received by EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS at 10:00 AM local time on TUESDAY AUGUST 11th, 2026 at their office located at 810 ACQUONIRD. CHEROKEE, NC 28719 and then publicly opened and read

aloud.

THE PROJECT GENERALLY CONSISTS OF Mass grading, erosion control, fine grading, paving roadways, retaining wall, commitment shelter, maintenance building, columbarium and other appurtenances.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Civil Design Concepts (CDC) 84 Coxe Ave. Suite 260
Asheville, NC 28801

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the Engineer, Civil Design Concepts, P.A. located at 84 Coxe, Suite 260, Asheville, NC 28801.

Bidders and other interested parties should note that prequalification of equipment manufacturers by the Engineer prior to the bid opening may be required for this project. Equipment prequalification requirements, if any, are described in the Contract Documents.

Bidders are to follow all requirements of the Buy American, Build American Act provisions including the Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR- 52.225-9 FAR-52.225-11) as applicable. If a waiver of this requirement is desired based on an allowable exception outlined in FAR 25.202, it must be preapproved via equipment prequalification requirements, as described in the instructions to bidders.

A certified check or cashiers check payable to the Owner, or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by a corporate surety licensed under the laws of North Carolina to execute such bonds in the amount equal to five percent of the total of the bid shall be submitted with

see **TRADING POST** next page

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Make a difference supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). **No experience needed – paid training provided.**

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TRADING POST: From page 55

each bid.

Attention is called to the fact that the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS (Owner) reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals and to waive any informalities.

The successful bidder shall be required to furnish separate, 100 percent Performance and Payment Bonds in compliance with North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-129 and of Article 3 of Chapter 44A. The Performance Bond shall be in full force and effect for one (1) year after the date of final

acceptance of the project by the Owner.

The bid deposit shall be retained by the Owner if the successful bidder fails to execute the contract or fails to provide the required bonds, as stated above, within ten (10) days after award of the contract.

Each bidder must be appropriately licensed as a Contractor in the State of North Carolina as provided in General Statutes Chapter 87. Each bidder must have a North Carolina Contractor's License. Each bidder shall make positive efforts to use small and minority owned business enterprises on this project.

Owner reserves the right to award a contract to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder.

The OWNER may make such

investigations as he deems necessary to determine the ability of the BIDDER to perform the WORK, and the BIDDER shall furnish to the OWNER all such information and data for this purpose as the OWNER may request. The OWNER reserves the right to reject any BID if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such BIDDER fails to satisfy the OWNER that such BIDDER is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the WORK contemplated therein.

A conditional or qualified BID will not be accepted.

All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the contract throughout. Each BIDDER is responsible for

inspecting the site and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS. The failure or omission of any BIDDER to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any BIDDER from any obligation in respect to his BID.

A Pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM local time on WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2026, at the Project Site at Jarret Blythe Homestead Drive, Cherokee NC 28719.

The ENGINEER is Civil Design Concepts, P.A. His address is 84 Coxe Ave. Suite 260, Asheville, NC 28801. 7/22

**STAR SPANGLED
JOB FAIR**

July 23 | 1pm - 5pm

**Located in the Employment
Office on the second floor**

**Harrah's
CHEROKEE
CASINO RESORT**

© 2026 Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort. All rights reserved. Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Admission is for 18 years of age or older and from a valid photo ID. Must be 21 or older to enter casino floor and to gamble, and must possess a valid state or federal photo ID upon request. Please return to the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort. Call 1-800-622-4750. An Enterprise of the Southern Band of Cherokee Indians. © 2026. Southern Band of Cherokee Indians, LLC.



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

OPEN POSITIONS



NEW POSITIONS

Tribal Option Care Management Extender
Dishwasher (CIHA)
Helpdesk Support Specialist

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,
Kanvwotiyi)
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwotiyi
Targeted Case Manager – MAT, Adult Outpatient
Services, Family Safety
Residential Technician - Female - Part Time without
Benefits
Behavioral Health Training and Development Coor-
dinator
Behavioral Health Consultant I

DENTAL

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

EYE CLINIC

Optometrist

FOOD & NUTRITION

Cook – Temporary

MEDICAL

Psychiatrist
Physician and IM Rural Track Director

NURSING

Certified Nursing Assistant – Emergency De-
partment - \$3,000 Hiring Bonus
License Practical Nurse – Primary Care
-\$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse ED – PTI – Night Shift
RN Inpatient – Nights - PTI
Specialty Services Registered Nurse - \$10,000
Hiring Bonus
Clinical Care Manager – Float \$10,000 Hiring
Bonus
RN Inpatient – Dayshift – PTI
C.N.A Medical Clerk FT - \$3,000 Hiring Bonus
C.N.A Medical Clerk PTI
Telemetry Nursing Assistant – PTI
License Practical Nurse – TJCC - \$5,000
Hiring Bonus
Clinical Care Manager - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus

NUTRITION

Clinical Dietitian
Clinical Dietitian - Temporary

Radiology

Radiology Technologist I

TRIBAL OPTION

Tribal Option Medical Social Worker

TSALI CARE

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

CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS

828.497.9163 EXT. 6343



Job Opportunities



Closing Sunday, July 19, 2026

1. Electrician Assistant/Generator Maintenance – Facility Management – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
2. Utility Worker (Sanitation) (Multiple) – Solid Waste – Operations (L7 \$16.61 - \$20.77 per hour)
3. Truck Driver/Crew Leader – Solid Waste – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
4. Housekeeper II – Housekeeping – Operations (L7 \$16.61 - \$20.77 per hour)
5. Developmental Specialist – Qualla Boundary EHS/HS – Public Health & Human Services (11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
6. Stock Clerk – Tribal Food Distribution – Public Health & Human Services (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
7. Child Advocate Coordinator – Child Advocacy – Public Health & Human Services (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
8. Advocate – Domestic Violence – Public Health & Human Services (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
9. Land Records Specialist – Realty Services – Office of the Attorney General (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
10. Grants Analyst – Budget & Finance – Treasury (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)

Open Until Filled

1. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
2. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. Sergeant (Patrol) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
4. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
5. Teacher – Qualla Boundary Head Start – CERS (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
6. Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)
7. Mental Health Therapist – Child Advocacy – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)
8. Certified Biological Waste Water Treatment Operator – Waste Water – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
9. Driver – Transit – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
10. Field Technician – Water & Sewer – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)

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

CHEROKEE BOYS CLUB VACANCIES

Administration

- 1 Grants Coordinator—\$47,700--\$53,000 per year with benefits

Snowbird Child Development

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

Children's Home

- 2 Residential Counselor—Part Time—\$17.00 per hour w/out benefits*

Service Department

- 1 Technician—\$21,200--\$29,150 per year with Benefits

Bus & Truck Department

Seasonal Bus Drivers*
 Truck Drivers*

SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS

Contact: For more information, please contact Charlene Wolfe at 828-359-5516.

Cherokee Boys Club P.O. Box 507 Cherokee, NC. 28719

EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS Show Up for Your Health

Need to cancel your appointment?

Please call your Primary Care Team 24 hours in advance.

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

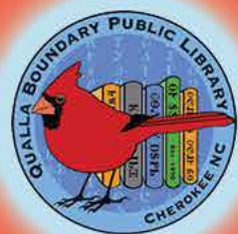


CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

GWY ᏌᏍᏏᏁᏍᏔ Tsalagi Gawonihisdi Cherokee Language *Weekly Videos!*



Watch
here!



GWY ᏌᏍᏏᏁᏍᏔ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

September 10, 2026
3PM - 7PM
Oconaluftee Island



FROM DARKNESS INTO HOPE

ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS AND
SUICIDE PREVENTION EVENT

Vendors & Volunteers Needed



Volunteer
Sign-up Form



Vendor
Sign-up Form





<<

Powerlifting medal

Nathaniel Solis, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Kolanvyi (Big Cove), competed in the USPA Tested Patriot Showdown powerlifting competition in Elizabethton, Tenn. on Saturday, June 27. He competed in the 75kg junior age group 10-12 deadlift only event. Solis set a personal best of 143lbs on his deadlift and had a first place finish. (Photo by Damian Solis)



<<

Softball All-Star

Hartlee Jackson, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Tutiya (Snowbird), was selected for the Blue Ridge Mountains Little League 8U softball All-Star team. The team secured a victory in the 2026 North Carolina District 5 Little League 8U Softball Championship on Saturday, June 27 at Parker Meadow Fields in Franklin, N.C. The team will go on to represent District 5 in the TOSC Tournament at the state level. (Photo courtesy of Taryn McCoy)



<<

Missoula Marathon

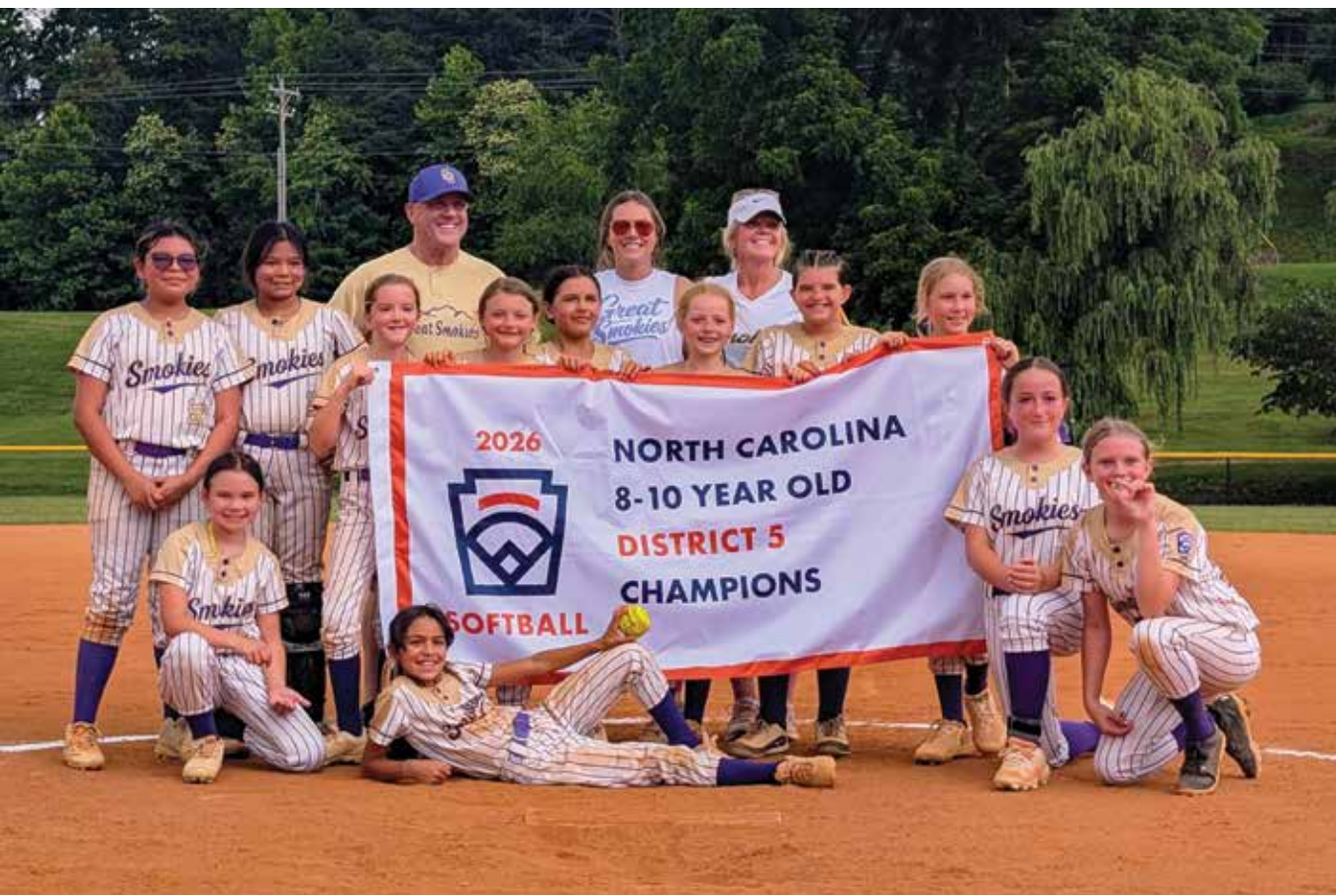
Katelynn Ledford McCoy, left, and Kallup McCoy II, married couple who are both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, earned Boston Marathon qualifying times at the Missoula, Mont. Marathon on Sunday, June 28. Kallup, who celebrated his 40th birthday at the race, raced in the Masters Division for the first time. He finished 27th overall and captured first place in the Masters 40-44 age group with a finishing time of 2:52. Katelynn also delivered a standout performance, cross-

ing the finish line in 3:25. Her time marked an impressive 18-minute personal best. (Photo contributed)



NKA Perfect Attendance

The following had perfect attendance at New Kituwah Academy Early Childhood for the month of June: EΘ - Donna Morgan, ᵒᵒᵒ - Blakelyn Wachacha, and ᵁᵁᵁ - Tamara Sampson. (Photo courtesy of New Kituwah Academy Early Childhood)



<<

Softball Champions

The Great Smokies All Stars 10U softball team won the NC District 5 Championship recently. The team includes players from the Qualla Boundary as well as Jackson and Swain counties. They are shown, left to right, back row - Coach David Maney, Head Coach Kayla Beutell, Coach Sabrena Davis; middle row - Olivia Sampson, Zendiah Bradley, Adalyn Davis, Frankie Smith, Azora Driver, Rhyann Brooks, Emerson Finch, Jaelyn Maney; front row - Carter Smith, Alessandra Ramirez, Braileigh Franks, and Penny Herren. (Photo courtesy of Adrienne Ramirez)



<<

Team EBCI competes at NATTYs

Team EBCI, representing the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, competed in the Native American Junior Nationals (NATTYs) on the weekend of June 26-28 in Mesa, Ariz. They made it to the final four of the platinum bracket battling through as the #19 seed in the Boys Indigenous Stars 5th-6th grade division. This division had a total of 54 teams. The team is shown, left to right, including Carter Maney, Andre Williams, Uweluga Swimmer, Sean Snee, Ryker Zimmerman, Junior Smith, and Axe Milholen. The team is coached by Tyler Williams and Mike Snee. (Photo courtesy of Brianna Lambert)



Perfect attendance for June

The following staff at Early Head Start in the Dora Reed Center had perfect attendance for the month of June. They are shown, left to right, back row - Keisha Smathers, Mia Henson; front row - Stephanie Toineeta, Kelly Coper, and Annette Thomas. (Photo courtesy of Emily Behm)



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Camp Watia CIT

Fenix Taylor is the first member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) to participate in the YMCA Camp Watia Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program. Camp Watia is an overnight YMCA camp in the Great Smoky Mountains that focuses on youth development, leadership, character building, and outdoor education. Taylor has attended Camp Watia for seven years and completed the camp's two-week Leader-in-Training (LIT) Program last year, which serves as the prerequisite leadership course for admission into the CIT program.

The three-week CIT program is the final step in Camp Watia's leadership development pathway for youth interested in becoming future camp counselors. Through hands-on experiences assisting counselors, mentoring younger campers and participating in camp operations, CIT participants are entrusted with greater levels of responsibility while developing leadership and problem-solving skills. The program helps prepare young adults for future counselor roles while fostering personal growth, confidence, and a strong sense of responsibility. (Photo courtesy of YMCA Camp Watia)



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.

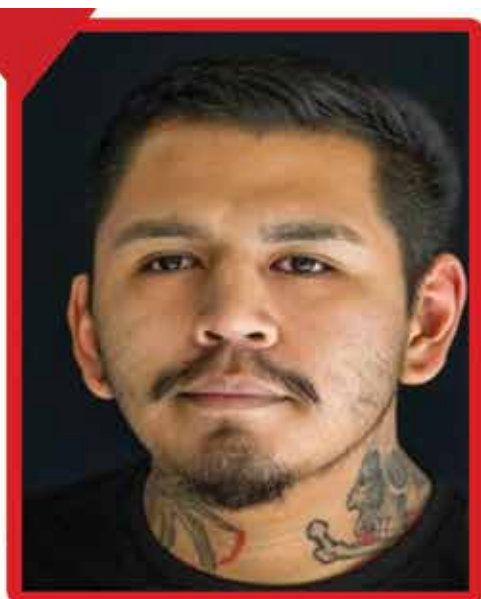
Missing since: April 8, 2025

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

TSALAGI UWODUHI

(Beautiful Cherokee)



White-tailed Deer

This white-tailed deer was spotted near the Oconaluftee River and Whitewater Landing in Cherokee, N.C. on Monday, June 29. (Photo by Alecia Ralston)



Having lunch

This awi equa (elk) was spotted having a salad in front of the Cherokee Crossing Shopping Center in Cherokee, N.C. on Sunday, July 5. (Photo by Claudette Stephens)



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HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities,
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Supported by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Grant #5U49CE000601 (PI: David W. Evans, PI: David W. Evans).

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\$26,055 Stock# T02775



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\$36,978 Stock# P793



2021 Chevrolet Equinox Premier
\$18,268 Stock# P805



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\$25,948 Stock # T02752A



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\$5,487 Stock # U0410



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\$22,051 Stock # T02701A



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2024 Honda Civic Type R NA
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