

FREE



Cherokee One Feather website

Inside:

- Police Commission discusses sovereignty in tribal courts, Pages 6-7
- U.S. Attorney Russ Ferguson explains the function of his office, Pages 8-9
- Editorial Board holds July meeting, discusses A.I. content, Page 10
- Federal legislative updates of interest to EBCI citizens, Pages 12-17
- Ward surrenders, victim impact statements read; Page 18
- Kayleigh Wolfe is driven to succeed in MMA, Pages 22-23
- Qualla Carving Club celebrates one-year anniversary, Page 24
- Mariah Hill's broad creativity, Pages 26-27 (shown in photo at right)



GWY ᏆᏍᏍᏍ ᏍᏍᏍᏍᏍ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

week of
guyegwoni (july)
22-28, 2026

Locked out

Tribal member fights for access to possessory land

By BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT
One Feather Reporter

BRYSON CITY, N.C. - Scott Welch is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) from Tsisqwohi (Birdtown). He is the possessory holder of tribal land on Cooper's Creek Road that borders the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Qualla Boundary in Swain County.

It also borders the privately owned Cooper Creek Trout Farm of Gerry Laschober, a non-enrolled person.

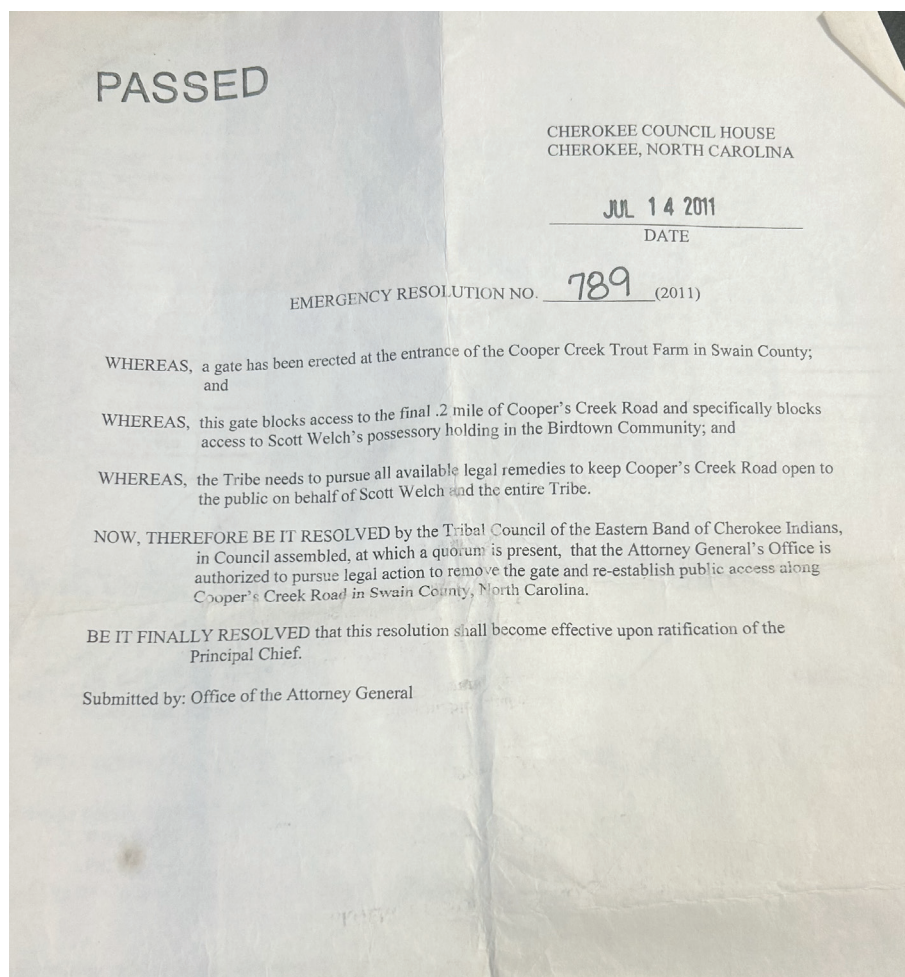
Welch said his first memories of his land on Cooper's Creek are from when his family acquired the land in 1970 when he was seven

years old. He said he used the land for decades to hunt, camp, spend time with family and friends, and find solace in the ancient mountains of his tribe.

But in the last several years, Welch has not been able to access his land. He has been barred access via a gate erected by Laschober, who argues that Cooper's Creek Road is a private road that Welch does not have access to. Welch says he cannot complete the upkeep of his property that he maintained pristinely for years. Welch maintains that State Road (SR) 1355, Cooper's Creek Road, is a public road 3.6 miles long, giving access to his property.

Welch has an official letter detailing the mileage of the road as 3.6 miles from then-North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Data Compilation Sec-

see **LAND** page 4



On July 14, 2011, Resolution No. 789 (2011) was passed unanimously in Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) dealing with a land issue. It states in part, "...the Tribe needs to pursue all available legal remedies to keep Cooper's Creek Road open to the public on behalf of Scott Welch and the entire Tribe."

Celebrating Kuwohi

Kuwohi merchandise now available at Oconaluftee Visitor Center, other Smokies visitor centers, and online at SmokiesLife.org



smokieslife®

"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

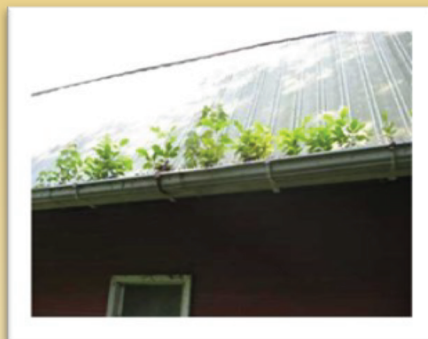
Again, with clogged gutters, water is falling in places you don't expect it to. This can lead to slippery situations where water is falling from the clogged gutters above onto a walkway, entry or driveway. Keeping gutters and downspouts clean keeps the water moving away from your home and walkways and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

6. Prevent Mold

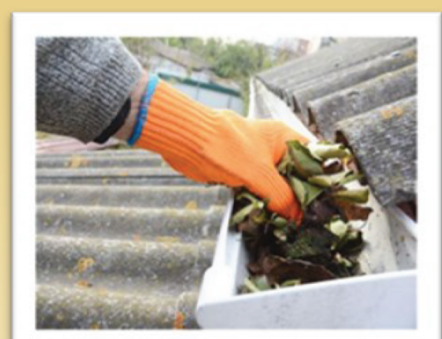
"Moisture is the enemy," Damp and wet areas are prime locations for mold growth, which damages the structural integrity of the home.

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"





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 𐌖𐏎 𐌋𐏃𐌂
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLLI

GWY FV OYLC

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

*Please email all flyers and
photos to us at:*

Cherokeeonefeather1966
@gmail.com

We can not accept either via Facebook Messenger due to the resolution of those images. Also, please do not tag us in Facebook posts as we do not receive notification of these.

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.

One Feather staff

Editor - Robert Jumper

robejump@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6482

Assistant Editor - Scott McKie Brings Plenty

scotmckie@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6263

Reporter - Brooklyn Brown Bigmeat

broobrow@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6264

Ad Sales Coordinator - Dawn Arneach

dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov, 359-6489

Subscription Clerk - Position vacant

LAND: From front page

tion Manager Hardee R. Cox dated Dec. 12, 2006.

He also has an official letter dated Jan. 23, 2009, from NCDOT Engineer J.L. Woodard stating in part, "This road segment passes through the Cooper Creek Trout Farm and terminates at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary. Our records indicate this segment of the road is public. The owner of the trout farm believes it is private. In early 2007, the Department of Transportation (NCDOT) began receiving complaints about a gate blocking the road at the southern end of the trout farm. In response to the complaints, NCDOT reviewed its records regarding the official length of the road included on the state highway system. Our records indicate that the official length is 3.60 miles from the intersection of US 19. The gate erected by the owner of the trout farm is located 3.26 miles from US 19.

The property owner has refused our requests to remove the gate, insisting that the road is private. On Sept. 9, 2008, we attempted to remove the gate, however, the property owner had blocked our access to the gate with a car...It is the position of the NCDOT that this road is a public state-maintained road. For the road to become private, it must be abandoned from the state system and be declared private. Declaring the road to be private, after abandonment from the state system requires County action."

On July 14, 2011, Resolution No. 789 (2011) was passed unanimously in Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) and later ratified by Ugviyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks.

The resolution was submitted by the Office of the Attorney General and reads as follows:

WHEREAS, a gate has been erected at the entrance of the Cooper Creek Trout Farm in Swain County; and

WHEREAS, this gate blocks access to the final .2 mile of Cooper's Creek Road and specifically blocks access to Scott Welch's possessory holding in the Birdtown Community; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe needs to pursue all available legal remedies to keep Cooper's Creek Road open to the public on behalf of Scott Welch and the entire Tribe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that the Attorney General's Office is authorized to pursue legal action to remove the gate and re-establish public access along Cooper's Creek Road in Swain County, North Carolina."

The following Dinilawigi members voted to unanimously pass the resolution: Teresa McCoy, Perry Shell, Gene Crowe, Mike Parker, David Wolfe, Alan Ensley, Jim Owle (Chairman), Diamond Brown, Adam Wachacha, Bill Taylor, Terri Henry, and Tommye Saunooke.

Since the resolution passed in 2011, no legal action has been taken by the tribe as required by resolution, and the gate remains erected.

EBCI Attorney General Michael McConnell did send an official letter to Laschober dated June 13, 2022, which reads in part, "I am writing to you because of your ownership of, or connection to, Cooper Creek Trout Farm

and Pond, located at the address referenced above. The trout farm and pond are accessed via Coopers Creek Road, which is identified as State Road 1355 (SR 1355).

I direct your attention to the enclosed letters dated 2006 and 2009. Taken together, the letters confirm that SR 1355 is a state maintained public road. It is 3.60 miles long and runs from its intersection with US 19 to the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The road also ends at or near the boundary of the Cherokee Indian Reservation. It is sometimes used by the Tribal government and Tribal members to access that part of the reservation...It is illegal under North Carolina law to obstruct it, or to inhibit the use of it by the public. Neither you or your employees have a legal foundation for blocking it with the gate, a truck, or any other means. Please tell your employees to stop blocking the road and stop intimidating members of the public (including Tribal members) who use the road. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to find solutions and avoid future conflicts about the road. Please contact me if you have any questions."

Laschober responded to McConnell in a letter dated June 17, 2022, and again asserted that the road is private, stating in part, "I would like you to see the picture of the 'STATE MAINTAINENCE ENDS' sign that has stood at the entrance of the Trout Farm for 50+ years." Laschober adds, "No recorded right of way + no maintained right of way = PRIVATE ROAD."

Welch said that state maintenance does end along the road, but the road has never been declared

abandoned and private by county action as is required by North Carolina law.

Welch says he wants the resolution from 2011 to be enforced.



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Name the legendary jockey who rode Ferdinand to victory at the 1986 Kentucky Derby and 1987 Breeders' Cup Classic.
2. The IX Cup is the championship game of which football league that began play in 2019?
3. Which businessman purchased the NFL's Miami Dolphins, and founded Major League Baseball's Florida Marlins and the NHL's Florida Panthers in the early 1990s?
4. Who edged David Malukas by 0.0233 seconds to win the 2026 Indianapolis 500 in the closest finish in race history?
5. Which team selected Tennessee Volunteers wide receiver Peerless Price in the second round of the 1999 NFL Draft?
6. Name the Dutch footballer who decided to miss the 1978 FIFA World Cup and retire from international competition after a 1977 kidnapping attempt against him and his family.
7. In 1989, who did the Associated Press name as its 1980s Athletes of the Decade?

Answers

1. Bill Shoemaker.
2. The Women's National Football Conference.
3. Wayne Huizenga.
4. Felix Rosenqvist.
5. The Buffalo Bills.
6. Johan Cruyff.
7. Wayne Gretzky and Martina Navratilova.

© 2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION



Teachers. Nurses.
Engineers. Entrepreneurs.

WCU prepares the next generation
to serve, lead and strengthen Western
North Carolina.

wcu.edu



**LIVE
WESTERN**

**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY

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**



Police Commission meeting held, commissioners discuss sovereignty in tribal courts, cost containment

By **BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 14, the Cherokee Police Commission held their monthly meeting in the Ginger Lynn Welch Poke Salad Room. Chairperson Anita Lossiah called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m. Secretary Israel Rodriguez led roll call.

Commissioners present were Rick Queen (Wayohi, Wolftown), Regina Rosario (Aniwodihhi, Painttown), Treasurer Kym Parker (At-Large), Hillary Norville (Tuttiyi, Snowbird & Tsalagi Gadugi,

Cherokee Co.), Chairperson Anita Lossiah (Elawodi, Yellowhill), Secretary Israel Rodriguez (At-Large), and Vice Chairperson Gene Tunney Crowe (Tsisqwohi, Birdtown). Joseph Buddy Johnson (Kolanyvi, Big Cove) had an excused absence. Guests in attendance were Lead Tribal Prosecutor Leo Phillips, Tribal Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) Chief Justin Wade, Cherokee Indian Police Department (CIPD) Assistant Chief of Police Josh Taylor, and One Feather Reporter Brooklyn Bigmeat.

The previous meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Crowe seconded by Rosario.

Wade provided the ALE report. Rodriguez requested that ALE provide updates on the seven businesses who sold alcohol underage in the undercover operation reported on at April's meeting. Wade said he would provide a detailed update but did communicate that some permittees had paid their fines, while other cases were pending. The ALE report was accepted with a motion by Crowe seconded by Queen.

Phillips provided a report from the Office of the Tribal Prosecutor (OTP). Phillips shared that a recent case had raised concerns over the three-year sentencing cap

imposed by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. In Indian Country, tribal courts are limited to a three-year maximum sentence per offense, and a nine-year maximum for stacked offenses. Phillips said this is limiting in administering sentences that match the severity of certain crimes, like the most recent case involving four counts of false imprisonment and child abuse in the first degree.

Rosario and Crowe expressed concern that the U.S. Attorney's Office had not pursued the case so that a harsher sentence may be imposed.

Phillips and Taylor said



EBCI TRIBAL HOUSING FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

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



Lending Services can **HELP!**

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

Call or email for more information:

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

Clayton Homes of Candler

We have experience in helping local families place homes on EBCI tribal land. Explore affordable, quality homes by scanning the QR code!





1123 Smokey Park Hwy • Candler, NC 28715
(828) 667-2529 • claytonhomesofasheville.com

that OTP and CIPD have a great working relationship with Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Scott who meets weekly with them and tries to pick up as many cases as possible, but the U.S. Attorney's Office maintains discretionary jurisdiction, and they are not required to take on cases.

Norville said her reading of the Major Crimes Act of 1885 requires major crimes in Indian Country to be tried by federal courts. Norville said the three-year maximum cap and limitations of federal jurisdiction are both issues the Police Commission should raise with Ugviyuihi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks and Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) so that lobbying efforts may be pursued.

Norville added that the EBCI would need to partner with other

federally recognized tribes to create greater impact when lobbying for expanded sovereignty in tribal courts.

Phillips stated that a positive impact that occurred from the case was the historic first-ever order of a 50(D) protective order in Cherokee Tribal Court, which provides lifetime protection for the victims. Phillips said OTP is working with CIPD Attorney Cody White to draft an ordinance that would extend the 50(D) for victims of sex offenders to include victims of domestic violence.

The report was accepted with a motion by Crowe seconded by Norville.

Taylor provided the CIPD report. Taylor said CIPD had a productive meeting with OTP and they are working well together. He

commended the OTP in their work on drafting the 50(D), and making sure an active sentence was immediately applied in the plea deal taken by Ward.

Taylor said CIPD is operating with a full staff. He said Police Chief Carla Neadeau is responsible for the recruiting and retainment that made this possible. Taylor also shouted out newly hired Victim Advocate Lori Blankenship who he said is doing a great job. He also recognized Inventory Coordinator Robert Brown who he said saves the department thousands of dollars.

Rodriguez said that Elawodi (Yellowhill) Community Club raised concerns over speeding in downtown Cherokee and Acquoni Road and requested more patrol. Taylor said he would look into providing more patrol. Rodriguez also gave a shoutout to CIPD officers Abby Swayney and Joe Eagleman for their help as he was in a recent car accident.

Taylor said CIPD has a superfluous amount of child abuse and domestic violence cases. He said healing generational trauma and utilizing behavioral and mental health resources like Analenisgi at Cherokee Indian Hospital are major steps needed to prevent these cases. Taylor said generational abuse has been normalized in families, and families need to

break the cycle of abuse.

The CIPD report was accepted with a motion by Parker seconded by Rosario.

The commission discussed the tribe's recent cost containment. Lossiah shared that the commission's travel and training budget was removed, and the supply line was reduced.

Rodriguez stated that he believed the commissioners were overpaid, receiving \$1,000 per meeting. He suggested that with cost containment, the commissioners should request that their monthly stipends be reduced. Lossiah and Crowe said that the tribe conducted their cost containment analysis and did not find an issue with the board's stipend. Norville stated that she believed their pay was a decision that should be left up to Dinilawigi, but that she would serve the board even if it was unpaid. Rosario seconded Norville's sentiment.

Taylor commended Rodriguez stating, "Mad respect. I have never heard a board member say that before from any board." Taylor said Rodriguez was a legend.

The commission entered closed session at 1:32p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 12 p.m. in the Ginger Lynn Welch Poke Salad Room.

WAYNESVILLE
NC

WINCHESTER CREEK

FARM

ESTD 2019




Winchester Creek Farm is a family-owned and operated, 20-acre farm with rolling green pastures surrounded by the majestic Smoky Mountains. We raise adorable alpacas, llamas, and a variety of miniature farm animals — horses, cows, donkeys, goats, sheep, and even pigs. We really enjoy sharing our farm and our love and knowledge of animals with others. Our farm and gift shop are conveniently located just 35 minutes from Asheville, 45 minutes from Bryson City, and 90 minutes from Gatlinburg.

Come hang out with some pretty neat animals.



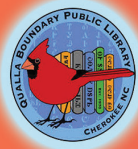
Alpaca and Mini Farm Animals, Tours
& Experiences, Gift Shop, and more!

WinchesterCreekFarm.com

GWY SOQHODJ
Tsalagi Gawonihisdi
Cherokee Language
Weekly Videos!



Watch here!

GWY TV OYUC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

U.S. Attorney Russ Ferguson explains the function of his office

By BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT
One Feather Reporter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The One Feather interviewed Russ Ferguson, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, to discuss the function of the U.S. Attorney's Office as part of an ongoing criminal justice reporting project supported by the International Women's Media Foundation's Fund for Indigenous Journalists: Reporting on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit and Transgen-

der People (MMIWG2T), and the 2026-27 Law & Justice Journalism Project (LJJP) Fellowship.

The Western District of North Carolina encompasses the Qualla Boundary as well as 32 counties across western North Carolina and has offices in Asheville and Charlotte. "So, the U.S. Attorney's Office in general, we represent the United States wherever the United States appears in court. That includes civil cases. It also includes every federal criminal prosecution and every federal appeal involving the United States. So, I have

about 100 people in the office split between Charlotte and the Asheville office, but we are all over the western part of the state all the time. I personally am in Cherokee a good bit and I've got people in my office who are in Cherokee every week almost and certainly by phone talking to the [Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)] tribal prosecutors and police really daily interacting with them," Ferguson said.

Ferguson explained why his office serves the EBCI. "We intersect with the EBCI in a number of different ways. So, 1) That's just part of my district. So, any kind of traditional federal crime like drug trafficking or firearms offenses, we're going to be there to be the prosecuting authority on those crimes. And in those crimes, we do keep in mind the EBCI. They may not have anything to do with an enrolled member, but if it's a big drug trafficker, it may still impact the Boundary. 2) By statute, we do have jurisdiction over major crimes involving enrolled members, and the enrolled member can either be the defendant or the victim of the crime."

While Ferguson's office does have jurisdiction, they are not required to pick up every case.

"The way we approach that is we obviously respect the sovereignty of the EBCI. We work very closely with tribal prosecutors on which cases are better prosecuted by the EBCI and which cases are better prosecuted by us," Ferguson said.

"So, in major crimes where we are going to get a bigger sentence or make a bigger impact or deter future crimes, we will take them with the blessing of tribal prosecutors. And in cases where tribal prosecutors will make more of an impact, we will step back and let them do it. We also work with the state a good bit. So, there may be cases where neither one of us take the case and it becomes a state case. Sometimes we will just kind of act as a liaison and coordinator and put those cases together and figure out where the best place to get a resolution for them is."

Ferguson said the tribal liaison from his office is Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Scott. "[Alex Scott] talks to EBCI tribal prosecutors every day. He has a multidisciplinary team meeting every week, which includes federal law enforcement, tribal law enforcement, our office, state prosecuting authorities, and they really focus on the child abuse, child neglect, sexual misconduct kind of cases that are obviously a huge priority for us."

The One Feather asked what goals and strategies Ferguson employs in working with the Cherokee justice system. "First of all, our number one goal always is to respect the sovereignty of the EBCI. We're always working very closely with the police, with tribal prosecutors, with the Principal Chief, and the Tribal Council. I meet with them regularly just to make sure that their goals align with ours. But our main goal is like

Call for Artists

Reflection of Inspiration
4th Annual Event

November 5-6, 2026

at Harrah's Cherokee
Casino & Resort

Reflection of Inspiration invites artists to submit work for our 4th Annual Event, **Uwadohiyvda Adaneti (Peace of Mind): For our people and our communities.**

This opportunity is open to Indigenous artists. We welcome artwork that describes the intent, cultural relevance, and focus on the theme.

We want to amplify community voices through artwork that explores healing and resilience after domestic violence and sexual assault."

- *Open to artists 18+
- *Artwork must be original and created for ROI use only
- *Artist must submit a statement of 100-200 words
- *An artist bio 50-150 words
- *Submissions must be received by August 15
- *Artwork will be reviewed by the Directors of ROI
- *Artwork will be used at the event and will feature the artist information
- *If the artist wishes to sell the artwork they will be contacted directly



This project was supported by Grant No. 18JCVW-24-GG-01466-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

it is everywhere else: It is to deter crime and to prosecute crimes so that people can feel safe and live safely wherever they are in my district,” he said.

Ferguson added that he is currently trying to find funding for a tribal prosecutor in his office. “We’re looking for funding to really swear someone in as a Special Assistant United States Attorney so that tribal prosecutors really have a say in our office and direction and ownership over cases where the federal system would have a bigger impact. So, that’s a big goal of mine that we’re working on...So, we’ll kind of see when the funding and if the funding comes through, but I’m very, very hopeful. I think we’ve got a great chance at some federal money for that just because of the ongoing and great relationship we have with the EBCI. I think we can show that it would be useful to make a big difference in the community.”

Ferguson said in working with the EBCI, he has gained knowledge about a holistic approach. “I recently was at Cherokee Hospital, and I was talking to them about mental health services because really across my district I see mental health being a huge problem in every county I serve. There are people sitting in jails who really shouldn’t be there. They should be in a mental health facility, and the EBCI has been at the forefront of mental health treatment and is just doing a fantastic job and is serving as a model across my district on that.”

He continued, “It’s just an amazing place where the EBCI has really done such a great job



Russ Ferguson, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina (USDOJ Photo)

solving a problem that is extremely difficult to solve. It’s been great for me to learn about that and kind of take it to other parts of my district and say, ‘Here’s something that’s working.’ And another thing I do across the district is I go into schools a lot, especially high schools, and meet with students to try to prevent them from entering a life of crime. This fall I’ll be going to Cherokee High School to talk to students as well.” Ferguson said serving his district involves more than prosecuting crime.

“We try to do a lot more than just show up in the courtroom. We’re trying to kind of make it a holistic approach to deterring crime, preventing crime, and then helping people rehabilitate and re-enter the community after they’ve committed crimes.”

Ferguson said he wanted to reassure the Cherokee community that his office is working diligently on Qualla Boundary cases. “We are

working on Boundary cases and EBCI cases every day. I think a lot of times there is a feeling in the community, and not just in Cherokee but everywhere, that we’re not doing anything because we haven’t filed federal charges right away. The process for a federal investigation, putting together a federal case, always takes longer than all of us want it to, but we’ve got to have a solid case at the end of the day. And of course, during that investigative period, we’re very limited in what we can say. So, in specific cases, it’s frustrating for us not to be able to go out and say, ‘We’re doing all these things to prosecute this case.’

I can tell you, Alex Scott, our tribal liaison, is consulted on major crimes day and night, weekday and weekend, all the time. I mean, usually the CIPD calls in within minutes of them beginning their investigation. We are side by side with them from the beginning. We get the FBI involved at the

beginning. We work with tribal prosecutors and police. And of course, our initial goal is to make sure everyone’s safe in the immediate aftermath of that incident, especially if it’s a violent crime. So, sometimes that means filing immediate charges in tribal court, making sure an offender is in custody or supervision or whatever the appropriate release may be. So, that’s our first goal, but then we’ve really got to work together to formally investigate the case in a way that we can get evidence together that’s admissible in federal court,” he said.

“Sometimes that’s quick. Sometimes it’s lengthy. Sometimes it takes a long time. Sometimes we have to do forensic work or electronic device work and it takes a long time. Laboratory testing, service of legal process, subpoenas. All of that takes a good bit of time. But I just want people to understand that we’re not sitting around while cases languish. We are really working on them and working with the EBCI to bring those cases to fruition. And even after charges are filed, sometimes it seems like the process is so long to get to trial, but we are constantly working on them, and we have people dedicated to them. It’s just a process in federal court wherever we are.”

The One Feather is following several cases in tribal, state, and federal court and will continue to report on the court processes and key players involved in prosecuting each case.

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

Editorial Board holds July meeting, discusses A.I. content

By **BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The Editorial Board of the Cherokee One Feather held their monthly meeting on the morning of Thursday, July 16 in the Ginger Lynn Welch Poke Salad Room. The meeting was called to order at 10:01a.m. Members present included Chairperson and Reporter Brooklyn Brown Bigmeat, Vice Chairperson and Ad Sales Coordinator Dawn Arneach, Editor Robert Jumper, Assistant Editor Scott McKie Brings Plenty. One Feather staff in attendance included Intern Ann

Toineeta and Interim Subscription Clerk Tina Laws. Guests in attendance included Public Relations Officer for the Office of the Principal Chief Sheyahshe Littledave and Intern Mahala Bird.

The Executive Appointee and Legislative Appointee board positions remain vacant.

Policy amendments regarding usage of artificial intelligence (AI) proposed by Brings Plenty were tabled to the next meeting to allow the community and tribal programs to share their opinion before the Board made a decision.

The Board approved the AI policy at a previous meeting,

which reads:

“E. Policy on Usage of AI (Artificial Intelligence)

1. The Cherokee One Feather will not use AI (artificial intelligence) in any of our work products (articles, photos, graphics, etc.)”

The proposed amendments would include:

“2. The Cherokee One Feather will not accept any flyers for dissemination that are knowingly AI-generated.”

And under the General Advertising policy:

“The following types of advertising will not be accepted...

h) Ads that are knowingly AI-generated.”

Brings Plenty and Bigmeat are in favor of approving the amendments. Jumper is opposed, and argues that rejecting AI content submitted by programs, businesses, or entities would restrict freedom of speech.

The Board voted to approve amendments to the Classified Advertising policy and Sports Coverage policy. Read the updated policies here.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. in the Ginger Lynn Welch Poke Salad Room.

New marker at Kuwohi

Kuwohi formally designated as western terminus of NC's Mountains-to-Sea Trail



Read
the
story



smokieslife®



YOUR SUMMER UPGRADE IS WAITING.



**2026 Ford Bronco Sport
Outer Banks
Stock #: V9666**

\$42,634

**2026 Ford Super Duty
F-350
STOCK #: T9724**

\$53,714

**2026 Ford Super Duty
F-250 Lariat
Stock #: T9771**

Save over \$5,700

**2026 Ford F-150
Platinum
Stock #: T9734**

Save Over \$7000



Blake Parks
General Sales Manager



Dustin Shuler
Assistant Sales Manager



Greg Jamison
Sales Consultant/ Fleet Specialist



Justin Varley
Sales Consultant



Jason Foxworth
Sales Consultant



Cody Kinney
Sales Consultant



Hollie Johnson
Finance Manager



Service Team



BODY SHOP

**ALL INSURANCE WELCOME.
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.**

CONTACT US

828-586-0900

www.AndyShawFord.com

1231 E Main St Sylva NC

**ALL MAKES, ALL MODELS,
WE SERVICE THEM ALL!**

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. It was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Small

Business and Entrepreneurship on June 24, 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. A hearing is scheduled in the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 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.

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



**SIGN UP
HERE**

“THEY SHOWED US THE WAY”

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HLP-2026](https://tinyurl.com/HLP-2026)

LEARN MORE AT:

<https://www.facebook.com/HonoringLongPerson>



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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 7, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands on June 3, 2025, and a hearing was held in that subcommittee on June 10, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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 Mas-to (D-Nev.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

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

H.R. 3956 (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Act of 2025).

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

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

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

time.

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

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
Dhysqy Tg̃oḡḡḡ 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 SGAḡḡḡ Duyugodv’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.



years 2026 and 2027.

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

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

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

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

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

rections 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.

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.

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 avail-

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

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

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

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

A Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session was held on Dec. 17, 2025, and the bill was reported and placed on the Union Calendar by the Committee on Jan. 14, 2026. This bill was passed by the House on a voice vote on March 3, 2026. It was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 2026. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this

bill as of press time.

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 poli-

cies 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 agen-

cies 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 recognized tribes to use their tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer”.
Introduced: Feb. 25, 2026 by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on Feb. 25, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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

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

Senate Bill 3994 (PRIME Meat Processing in Indian Country Act). This bill aims “to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to authorize tribal meat inspection under that Act by tribal personnel”. In the title, PRIME means “Promoting Regulatory Independence, Mastery, and Expansion”.
Introduced: Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) on March 4, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 4179 (AI/AN Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act). This bill seeks “to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require that equitable distribution of assistance include equitable distribution to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations”.
Introduced: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on March 24, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on March 24, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 8048 (AI/AN Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act). This bill seeks “to amend the Child Abuse Prevention

and Treatment Act to require that equitable distribution of assistance include equitable distribution to Indian Tribes and tribal organizations”.
Introduced: Rep. Adelita S. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) on March 24, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce on March 24, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 4276 (Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Modernization Act of 2026). This bill would simply “reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996”. It is an identical bill to H.R. 8092.
Introduced: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on March 26, 2026
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 26, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

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



Introduced: Rep. Troy Downing (R-Mont.) on March 26, 2026
Action: This 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. 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](https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/11th-District-Congressional-Rep.-Chuck-Edwards-(R-N.C.):https://edwards.house.gov/contact)

Never miss a moment!

Check the events calendar at:
theonefeather.com

Ward surrenders, victim impact statements read

By BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the morning of Monday, July 13, Dakota Ward surrendered in Cherokee Tribal Court, with Judge Barbara “Sunshine” Parker presiding, to begin his five-year sentence for four counts of false imprisonment and child abuse in the first degree. Victim impact statements were read for the record.

Mothers Marissa Bradley-Ward and Cassandra Hill shared that their children have suffered irreversible damage from the harm Ward caused and detailed the difficulty of having to watch their children suffer and try to heal. Both mothers said five years is not enough.

Bradley-Ward shared her impact statement with the One Feather:

“Your Honor and the court, my name is Marissa Bradley, and I am the mother of Nakaiya Hill. I stand before you as a parent to say that no sentence can undo the harm that has been done to my daughter.

What was taken from her can never truly be restored. Nakaiya has had to carry fear, pain, and emotional scars that no child should ever have to endure. As her mother, I have witnessed sleepless nights, a constant battle with anxiety, behavioral struggles, a lot of tears, and the struggle to feel safe again. Those are things no parent should ever have to watch.

The impact of these crimes reaches far beyond my daughter. It has also affected our family. We live with the constant reminder of

what happened.

Knowing that the defendant received only five years is incredibly difficult to accept because my daughter will carry the effects of these actions for years, perhaps even for the rest of her life. We will continue helping her heal long after the defendant has completed his punishment. My daughter deserves peace, healing, and justice. And now to you Dakota, although nothing can erase what happened, while Nakaiya works toward healing from the pain that you caused, I hope that you take the time that has been given to you to reflect, hold yourself accountable, and find healing from whoever hurt you.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.”

Ward’s relative and a relative of the victims, Maxine Stigman, will appear in Cherokee Tribal Court Sept. 28 for charges of contributing to the delinquency, undiscipline, neglect, or abuse of minors, and tampering with witnesses, in relation to the offenses for which Ward has been convicted. Robert Saunooke is Stigman’s counsel. Judge Parker asked if Stigman waived her right to conflict-free counsel, as Ward was also represented by Saunooke. Stigman answered ‘yes.’

Criminal Complaint 25CR9913 filed Sept. 15, 2025, alleges that a victim “told Stigman the abuse was occurring on numerous occasions, and Stigman did nothing to attempt to stop the abuse in her home from happening.”

Criminal Complaint 25CR9912 filed Sept. 15, 2025, alleges that Stigman “did interfere with a criminal process by telling [minor victim] what to talk about in a Forensic Interview, hindering an active police investigation into child abuse that happened in Stig-

man’s home.”

In sentencing Ward, Judge Parker said that she wished she could administer a harsher sentence, but she is limited by the three-year maximum per offense in Indian Country. She urged the gallery to contact Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) members and encourage Dinilawigi to advocate for an Act of Congress for sentence expansion in tribal courts. Judge Parker also highlighted the bravery of the victims and their families in coming forward and reiterated to Ward that he must obey the 50(D) protective order that enforces lifetime no contact.

CIPD Arrest Report for July 6-12, 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.

Charlton, Eva Lambeth – age 47
Arrested: July 7
Released: July 8
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Sequoyah, Mya Elizabeth – age 22
Arrested: July 7
Released: July 7
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Esquivel, Jaylynn Kay – age 21
Arrested: July 8
Released: July 8
Charges: Temporary Hold

Laney, William Floyd – age 65
Arrested: July 8
Released: Not released as of report

date (July 13)
Charges: Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

Welch Sr., Benny Lee – age 62
Arrested: July 9
Released: July 9
Charges: Probation Violation

Wildcatt, Wesley Jordan – age 26
Arrested: July 9
Released: July 10
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Cucumber, Saith St. Christopher – age 31
Arrested: July 10
Released: Not released as of report date (July 13)
Charges: Simple Assault, Resisting Public Officer (two counts), Possession of Firearm by Felon, Failure to Appear on Misdemeanor

George, Kellen Michael – age 26
Arrested: July 10
Released: Not released as of report date (July 13)
Charges: Public Intoxication, Pre-Trial Release Violation

Webb, Hannah Jo – age 24
Arrested: July 10
Released: July 11
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Banks, Tonya – age 46
Arrested: July 11
Released: Not released as of report date (July 13)
Charges: Public Intoxication, Probation Violation

Golburean, Vasile Vasile – age 29
Arrested: July 12
Released: Not released as of report date (July 13)
Charges: Resisting Public Officer



Thinking About Building A Home?

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW AND YOUR DREAM HOME COULD COME TRUE

BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER

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

Tribal Realty

Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913

Kaila Cucumber: (828) 359-7442

Renee Long-Cole: (828) 359-6971

Infrastructure Dept.

Denny Ensley: (828) 359-6841

Sarah Crowe: (828) 359-6121

Nekyle Lossiah: (828) 359-6839

Joel Queen: (828) 359-6844

Housing Services

Michelle Stamper: (828) 359-6904

Misty Milsaps: (828) 359-6919

Tina Larch: (828) 359-6912

Timber Permits

Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913

This Week in Native News

Compiled by ANN TOINEETA

One Feather Intern

ALASKA

U.S. Senate candidate Mary Peltola, a Yup'ik Alaskan Native, has raised a record breaking \$7 million for her campaign in the second quarter of 2026, "setting a new benchmark for second-quarter fundraising by an Alaska candidate for the U.S. Senate."

• Native News Online

COLORADO

The American Indian College Fund has launched the Reclaim Native Democracy Voting Initia-

tive, which "seeks to amplify Native student voices while encouraging civic participation in tribal, local, state, and federal elections."

• Native News Online

MARYLAND

Dr. Crystal Miller, a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, has been appointed as the new Cultural Sovereignty Director for the Association on American Indian Affairs.

• Native News Online

NEW MEXICO

An investigation by the New Mexico Department of Justice found that Gallup-McKinley County Schools disciplined Native American and Hispanic students more severely than white students.

• Source New Mexico

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released an environmental assessment that would "revoke federal protections for the Greater Chaco Landscape." The Pueblo of Acoma criticized the proposal, calling it rushed and "dismissive of Tribal consultation."

• Native News Online

UTAH

President Donald Trump has announced that "his administration will dramatically reduce the boundaries of Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments." The announcement was criticized by the Grand Staircase-Escalante Inter-Tribal Coalition and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition for ignoring the cultural significance of the monuments.

• Native News Online,
Indian Country Today

WASHINGTON D.C.

The U.S. Department of the Interior has announced the launch of an Electronic Probate System,

"a new digital platform designed to modernize the probate process for American Indian and Alaska Native families by replacing paper-based case management with a secure online system."

• Native News Online

WYOMING

After a video depicting Foundations for Nations church pastor Sarah Lucas criticizing Native American traditions and customs on the Wind River Reservation went viral, the church was told by the Northern Arapaho Business Council to leave the reservation.

• WyoFile

CANADA

Members of the Namaygoosisagagun First Nation, Whitesand First Nation, Lac des Mill Lacs First Nation, and Gakijiwanong Anishinaabe Nation are all under a mandatory evacuation notice due to wildlife fires in northern Ontario, Canada.

• APTN News

EXPERIENCE A New Kind of Dentistry



If you are looking for a compassionate, caring dentist who understands your goals, then you just found her at the practice of John Highsmith, DDS and Sylvia Jernigan, DDS.

Dr. Jernigan uses only the latest techniques and materials in the industry for efficiency, effectiveness, and precision. And she can address all of your general and cosmetic needs.

If you are looking for a new dental home, we welcome you to join ours!

JOHN HIGHSMITH, DDS
SYLVIA JERNIGAN, DDS

Cosmetic, General, Implant & Laser Dentistry

78 Nelson Street, Clyde, NC 28721

CALL TODAY

(828) 662-3737

www.DrHighsmith.com

GWY ᏫᏍᏍᏍ ᏍᏍᏍᏍᏍ

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

For ads:

Ad Sales Coordinator – Dawn Arneach,
359-6489, dawnarne@ebci-nsn.gov

For subscriptions:

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

At Clayton Homes of Waynesville,

we sincerely thank the **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians** and the Cherokee community for the trust, kindness, and support you have shown our team over the years.



18091 Great Smokey Mtn Expwy
Waynesville, NC 28786

Call 828.456.2822
ClaytonhomesOfWaynesville.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. FIND YOUR SPIRIT.



In Cherokee, NC every moment brings you closer to what moves you. New events, unforgettable experiences, and community celebrations are right around the corner. Discover what's coming up this month. Plan your visit today: VisitCherokeeNC.com



CHILDREN'S TROUT DERBY REGISTRATION DAY

JULY 31

TALKING TREES CHILDREN'S TROUT DERBY

AUGUST 1

MUSIC BY THE RIVER

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

CHEROKEE BONFIRE

SATURDAY NIGHTS

Kayleigh Wolfe is driven to succeed in MMA

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

For Kayleigh Wolfe, it is train, eat, sleep, wake-up, repeat. She is driven to succeed in the sport of MMA (mixed martial arts) and has a major fight coming up next month.

Wolfe, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will face Sam Burke in a kickboxing catchweight bout at Appalachian Sucker Punch's Showcase MMA 48 at the Simpsonville Activity Center in Simpsonville, S.C. on Saturday, Aug. 1. Tickets can be purchased for the event at:

<https://showcasemma.com/product/showcase-mma-48/>

She started with boxing and caught the MMA bug soon thereafter.

"Me and my dad took a trip to Chicago and there was an MMA gym down there. I told him that would be cool and I think I could do it. He was like, 'when we get back home, why don't you just do it?'. So, I did.

I didn't want to just do boxing. So, I started training wrestling, jiu jitsu, Muai Thai, kickboxing, and I kind of just took off. Then, after my second Tough Man fight, the American Top Team were interested in me and I was interested in them, so I just switched gyms."

Wolfe noted, "I've played basketball and I've played other sports. But, whenever I started fighting, it all came naturally.

I train twice a day. I'm in Asheville almost 12, 15 hours out of my day training. My first class I take kickboxing. Then I do jiu jitsu and then I train MMA takedowns



Kayleigh Wolfe, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is shown after winning a gold medal at the New Breed Jui Jitsu Federation event in Asheville, N.C. in June 2026. She won in the women's Gi cruiserweight division. (Photos contributed)

like double-legging somebody or single leg."

Steve Montgomery, a UFC veteran and instructor at American Top Team Asheville, is one of Wolfe's coaches. "Kayleigh is a hard-working student who stands by her word. If she says she's going to do something, she does it. She trains two times a day, five days a week and never complains. If you correct her, she smiles and asks for more advice. If I could get even 10 more students who work as hard as her, I'd have a world-famous fight team. She is also tough as nails and won't quit. Kayleigh is going to go as far as she wants in this sport with the way she's

working."

Another coach Wolfe has is Bryan Barbarena, also a former UFC fighter. "Kayleigh is a coach's dream. She asks what she needs to do and does it. She shows up for all the classes every day, comes to the extra fighter class, does all the strength and conditioning, works on diet and even listens on when to rest. She's a prime example to all in the gym of what you need to be doing to make it in fighting. Off the mat is a great person and gets along with everyone. It has been a pleasure to be able to train Kayleigh and get to know her and I'm excited to follow her journey to the top. With her focus and deter-

mination, the sky is the limit."

On her upcoming fight, Wolfe noted, "We can throw knees, we can do elbows. If I start clinching her up, I can start killing her with my knees. I do want to take her down, but I'm more of a standing fighter. If we end up on the ground, that's fine. I'll just try and do a ground-and-pound. But, this fight, I'm just going to try to kill her leg, just low-kick her every time - jab, one, two. The hooks work, but the straight punches beat every time. Because, I've done it in all my fights. We do have a huge plan, me and my coaches, for this fight.

After this, I want to fight for a title in MMA - it'll be in December. I'm fighting in Charlotte - it's called Fight For It - and that will be the start of professional fights. Right now, I'm undefeated. I've never been beaten in any of my fights and my coach loves that. And, I do jiu jitsu tournaments - they're called New Breeds - and I did one of those like a month ago. I did pretty well. I went undefeated and I did win all gold in that one."

Wolfe's training isn't just in the gym - it also involves lifestyle. "I haven't had salt or sugar in two months. It sucks but it helps me lose weight. I have to stay a certain weight every month...all I eat is sweet potatoes and steak, but no flavor or anything. I haven't had flavor in so long. I do miss that. I have to sleep like ten hours a day. I'm always recovering from injuries. I don't really talk about it much but I can't tell you how many times I've been injured. I still train when I'm injured be-

cause all of my coaches have been to the UFC. I don't complain to them."

Prior to a fight, Wolfe said she experiences nerves, but those are short-lived. "I feel like I'm going to throw up. It's scary, but a part of me feels excited. It's weird because whenever I step into the ring or the cage, whatever it is, on the mat, it goes away. It's like a before feeling, 'oh, I'm about to do this'. Then when I step in, we just go. I don't even touch gloves. We just go.

It's combat sports. I do have good sportsmanship after the fight, but when we're in the ring it's on."

When asked about her hopes and dreams for the sport, Wolfe commented, "I want to be a professional fighter...if I can go to the UFC that'd be fine. I'd love that. I really want to. I don't think it's too far-fetched of an idea. I'm going to do it. I'm striving for it.

Sometimes I doubt myself and

I think I need to stop that - just being in my head so much, over-thinking. I'm just hard on myself." Wolfe loves the sport and has the following advice for anyone thinking of trying it out. "I would tell them to make sure it's something that you really want to do because I've seen people walk into the gym and tell my coach, 'I want to be a fighter, I want to be a fighter' but then when we really step on the mat there's non-fighters and there's fighters. You can go to a gym and train, that's fine. But, if you're fighting at the intensity of, 'yeah I've got a fight next week'... when we go into a class we really would fight. We don't train and we don't drill - we throw down. I've seen people walk in there and I've seen them walk out crying because it's something they can't handle.

Either you're in or you're not. I haven't stopped training a day since I started. It's a nonstop thing for me."



Wolfe has won several Tough Man contests including the Roughest and Toughest Brawl held in March 2026.



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

PRIMARY CARE PHONE NUMBERS

***Please call your
primary care home if
you need anything or
need to cancel an
appointment.***

hAGVP (Ni hi tsa tse li)
"It belongs to you."

Eagle Clinic

Dr. Mahar:

(828)497-3476

Dr. Houser:

(828)497-3727

Quana Winstead:

(PA-C):(828)497-1991

Dr. Winchester:

(828)497-3576

Dr. Brown:

(828)497-3576

Kylee Savage (PA-C):

(828)497-9163

Seven Clans Clinic

Dr. Jones:

(828)497-3475

Trudy Crowe (FNP):

(828)497-3711

Dr. Givens:

(828)497-3552

Kelsey Two Bears

(PA-C):(828)497-3477

Lynn Scarbrough

(FNP):(828)497-3551

Kristina Teglassy

(CRNP): (828)497-3551

Kayla Parris (PA-C):

(828)497-9163

Satellite Clinics

Snowbird

Mary Postell-Jones

(FNP):(828)479-3974

**Cherokee
County Clinic**

June Hensley

(FNP)828-837-4312

DCC

William Kelley

(PA-C):(828)359-6659



EVERY APPOINTMENT MATTERS, SHOW UP FOR YOUR HEALTH

Qualla Carving Club celebrates one-year anniversary

By BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - The Qualla Carving Club is celebrating one year since its inception. Driver Blythe, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and a founder of the club, is excited to share what the club has accomplished so far, and what they anticipate for the future.

“The purpose of the Qualla Carving Club was to offer a weekly social where people who want to learn how to carve were given the opportunity. We also have served as a space for those that have wanted to work on their basket materials, beadwork, and stone carving,” Blythe said.

“The entire purpose for this club has been simple: We want there to be a place every week where aspiring artists or hobbyists can come out, without attendance pressure, and have that avenue to learn something new. We have supplied the tools and wood cut-outs, so we are always encouraging new people to come out.”

Blythe said not only has the club served as a maker space, but several of the artists in the club have produced award-winning pieces.

“Some of the major highlights have been our own club members entering their art into competitions and placing first, second, and third in competition. What makes it even sweeter is that these pieces that are placing in competition are the pieces they have worked on in the Qualla Carving Club. We also take pride in having Dewey Owle and Davy Arch, both accomplished



Corbin Wildcatt, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and a member of the Qualla Carving Club, poses with his mask at Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Day on May 30, 2026. (ANN TOINEETA/One Feather photos)

and revered woodcarvers, as instructors and ambassadors for this club.”

He added, “Through the work the last 12 months, we have seen Cherokee Fair and Kananegsi show pieces created in this club, and it’s even more exciting that they are created and worked on in the weekly club meetings. Dewey Owle took best of show last year in the woodcarving category and in his 60 plus years of carving and joining competitions, that was his first time getting Best of Show. The masks carved by Ryver Gunter and Corbin Wildcatt have been ex-

ceptionally well made, and we are sure both of these talented artists will take home some ribbons this year and in years to come.

With a great first year under their work belts, the club is ready for more. “We want to see this club grow and offer more than just woodcarving. We have managed to have blowgun dart making, mask making tutorials, and craft finishing techniques from coats to sanding.”

The club meets weekly at the Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Community Building. Follow ‘Qualla Carving Club’ on Facebook to learn more.



Driver Blythe, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and a member of the Qualla Carving Club, works on a piece at Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) Day on May 30, 2026.

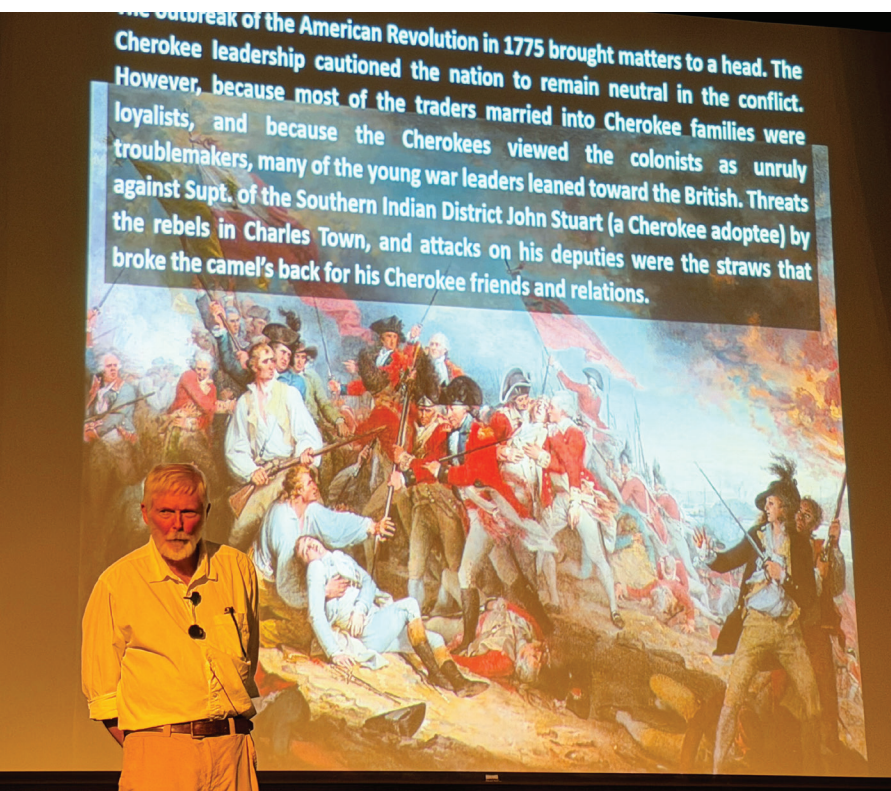


"When the Revolution Came to Hiawasee"

Dr. Brett Riggs, an Honorary Member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, presented a talk entitled "When the Revolution Came to Hiawasee" on the evening of Thursday, July 16 at the Gem Theatre in Etowah, Tenn. With a crowd of upwards of 200 people. This is part of several talks hosted by the Overhill Tennessee Association called Gems of the Past. His talk covered what the effects the American revolution had on the Hiawassee region. He shared how the Revolutionary war was longer for the Cherokee starting actually in 1775 and lasting till 1793. He shared a story of John Watts and his warriors chasing John Sevier and his soldiers for three days from Notley Town down into Coker creek.

Top Photo: Shown, left to right, are Jim Ogden, historian of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park; Robin Swayney, EBCI Tribal Liaison to the National Trail of Tears Association; Cleta Townsend, member of the Tennessee Trail of Tears Association; Dr. Brett Riggs, honorary member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and Charlie Rhodarmer, Executive Director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum.

(DAWN ARNEACH/One Feather photos)



Ride The Famous Rudicoaster!

SANTA'S LAND FUN PARK & ZOO

\$3 OFF EACH TICKET WITH THIS AD
Not Valid With any Other Offer

Celebrating 60 years, since June 1966
Cherokee, NC 828-497-9191 www.santaslandnc.com

94.1FM WBHN
CLASSIC COUNTRY

Your #1
STATION FOR CLASSIC COUNTRY

TRAD  **O**

12:30-1pm Weekdays

Scan The QR Code To Download Our Mobile App!



Mariah Hill's broad creativity extends from Fair themes to paintings

By SCOTT MCKIE B.P.

One Feather Asst. Editor

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Mariah Hill is a talented artist with an eye for color and a mind rooted in traditional Cherokee teachings. For the past two years, her entry has been selected as the theme for the annual Cherokee Indian Fair hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).

This year's theme by Hill, an EBCI tribal member from Kolanvhi (Big Cove), is "Ways Have Changed, but Our Values Remain". "I got a corn bead necklace as a

gift...I got to thinking about how a corn bead necklace a long time ago was just strung up beads and random colors that didn't really go together. And how jewelry has just come a long way. Then it got me thinking more about baskets - baskets now have colors - and just now we've modernized a lot of things. Now we have 3D printed stuff in syllabary, basket designs, and pottery...I do the hair for the fashion show. Looking at their clothes and how they've taken some of our patterns and designs and modernized them.

I was just thinking about

how we kept our culture and our designs, but it's modernized now. I just thought that was really cool."

In her submission for the 2026 Fair Theme contest, she wrote, "We strive to maintain our heritage while adapting to this modern-day society. By continuing to emphasize our resilience, sharing our community values, and preserving our traditions, we can show how we've managed to keep our identity in this changing world. We have evolved by enhancing our values, modifying our practices and integrating innovation. From arts and crafts,

clothing and events, to keeping our language, we have found ways for our culture, traditions, and Tsalagi ways to remain relevant and vibrant!"

Hill works at the EBCI Cooperative Extension Office, a program literally rooted in Cherokee agriculture. She developed last year's theme, "Connecting Our People, Plants, and Culture", through her work there.

She commented, "I work with agriculture and we're trying to educate people about food sovereignty."

Last year I went more towards



Kanunohi
Mist Park

VISIT
Cherokee
NC

**FIND YOUR SPLASH.
FIND YOUR SPIRIT.**

Dash through cool mists at the splash pad. Hike ancient trails. Or attend an outdoor drama under a starry sky. In Cherokee, NC, every adventure brings you closer to what moves you.



Plan your visit today:
[VisitCherokeeNC.com](https://www.VisitCherokeeNC.com)

how we use plants and stuff for medicine...the corn bead necklaces, we use that for jewelry. We use gourd rattles. They used those for stomp dances and ceremonies. So, I wanted to incorporate the core values with the land - we're connected...we should respect our land and be thankful for what we have."

Seeing the theme used throughout the various aspects of the Fair – from the parade to the community and exhibit hall displays – makes Hill happy.

"It's awesome, especially during the parade and I see the floats coming by and I see the theme marked on the clothes. It just makes me proud."

She added, "Everybody looks forward to the fair because that's where you'll see pretty much everybody. It brings the whole community together...it's just a fun atmosphere. It's just an exciting time for the community to come together and just enjoy everything."

When asked what advice she would give to those trying to come up with a Fair theme, Hill noted, "I guess just trying to think of something that no one has done before. Try to match up something that's personal to them and that way it'll mean more. Then, also, make it not so broad - simple to where the communities, or whoever is entering things, can understand what you're wanting to get out of it...make it clear."

For the past few years, Hill has found a passion in painting.

"It started during COVID, pretty much. We couldn't really do anything and I kind of just picked it up looking for stuff for us to do while we were stuck at home...I do like to draw and I was like, 'I want to try painting'. So, we just got



Mariah Mahan, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Kolanvvi (Big Cove), poses with one of her paintings which shows one of her favorite subjects – Bigfoot. Her entries for the theme contest for the Cherokee Indian Fair have been selected the past two years (2025 and 2026). (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

the little canvas, the small ones, and my daughter would tell me something she wanted painted and I would just paint it. It just grew from there. Then, I got to doing team logos but I would add syllabary or basket designs into them. I've been a Bigfoot fanatic for as long as I can remember and I just started doing Bigfoot with different cultural aspects, putting syllabary to that. It just got picked up."

Hill finds peace and solace

in her painting – something she sought during the COVID time period. "In that time, I also went through a mental depression and that kind of took everything away. It just took my mind off of a lot of things and the end result of my paintings would make me happy. Some paintings, I would be up until two or three o'clock in the morning. I couldn't start a painting without finishing it. I couldn't put it away because I wouldn't ever

pick it back up again.

It gave me joy to see what I'd done. But, also, when people would buy my paintings or order paintings, it made me feel even better knowing that I made someone else happy too."

This year's Cherokee Indian Fair is scheduled for Oct. 7-10 at the old Cherokee High School site in Cherokee, N.C.

EBCI PHHS and WCU Cherokee Center partner for culturally-based Native Health Certificate Program

Submitted by EBCI Public Health and Human Services

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) Public Health and Human Services (PHHS), in partnership with the Western Carolina University (WCU) Cherokee Center, has announced the Native Health Certificate Program. This culturally grounded educational program is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals who serve Native American communities.

The Native Health Certification Program is a 14-month interactive learning experience led by Dr. Lisa Lefler, Director of Native Health Studies at WCU. The program's primary goal is to strengthen culturally responsive healthcare practices while increasing participants' understanding of the unique traditions of Native American values. The program's specialized training connects contemporary healthcare practices with traditional Native American cultural.

Currently, eight (8) healthcare and human services professionals from various departments of the EBCI PHHS are enrolled in the program. Participants include Amber Welch, Tribal In-Home Care; Christina Reed, Family Safety; Jessica "Ellen" Crowe, Tsalagi Public Health; Jolena Hill, Syringe



The following people, shown left to right, are the first in a new Native Health Certificate Program, back row - Christina Reed, Amber Welch, Jessica "Ellen" Crowe; middle row - Yolanda Saunooke, Jolena Hill, Tonya Craig; and front row - Meredith Mehaffey, Robyn Wienges-Duckworth, Dr. Lisa Lefler, and Jennifer Oskins. (EBCI Public Health and Human Services photo)

Services; Meredith Mehaffey, Nurse Family Partnership; Robyn Wienges-Duckworth, Family Safety; Tonya Craig, Juvenile Services; and Yolanda Saunooke, Cherokee Choices.

The coursework explores Cherokee culture and history, issues in Native American health, and trauma informed care for Native

children. Participants are gaining valuable insight into the cultural and social factors that influence healthcare in indigenous communities.

The WCU Native Health Certificate Program is available to EBCI PHHS employees and is the result of a collaborative partnership among PHHS Workforce

Development, PHHS Performance Management, PHHS Strategic Team, and the Tribal Health Improvement Plan teams. Individuals interested in learning more about the program or future enrollment opportunities are encouraged to contact Manuel Hernandez, PHHS Training Specialist.

GWY ᏉᏍᏍᏍ ᏆᏚᏗᏍᏔᏅ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

Your Cherokee news
source since 1966

EBCI Tribal Option celebrates Five-Year Anniversary

Submitted by EBCI Tribal Option

EBCI Tribal Option will celebrate five years of caring for members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) with a free, family-centered Teddy Bear Clinic on Friday, July 31 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Welch Top Conference Room at Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority. As of today, 5,459 members are enrolled and currently being served by EBCI Tribal Option.

“This anniversary represents five years of exercising Tribal sovereignty, strengthening relationships with our members and creating a system of care that is shaped by the needs and values of

our people,” said Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer Casey Cooper. “The EBCI Tribal Option gives us the opportunity to connect members with coordinated, relationship-based care while also addressing the broader factors that influence their health and well-being. We are proud of what has been accomplished through the trust and collaboration of our Tribe, our staff, our state and federal partners, and most importantly Tribal Option Members who trust us to care for them.”

During the Teddy Bear Clinic, children will guide their teddy bears through a miniature hospital experience designed to make

healthcare visits feel more familiar and less intimidating. Children may bring a teddy bear from home, and free teddy bears will also be available while supplies last.

Each child will receive a teddy bear medical chart and take their bear through several interactive stations, including patient registration, triage, laboratory services and radiology. Participants will help check their bear’s temperature, heartbeat and blood pressure, perform a pretend lab test, and view a teddy bear X-ray!

After completing the clinic, children will graduate as official “Teddy Bear Doctor.” The experience is designed to help children learn about the roles of healthcare professionals, understand what happens during common medical visits and build confidence through hands-on activities.

Adult EBCI Tribal Option members are also encouraged to attend. Throughout the event, members can meet individually with Tribal Option care managers, ask questions about benefits and available resources, learn more about care coordination and receive a free blood pressure screening. Anniversary gifts, health education materials, giveaways and snacks will also be available while supplies last.

Held under the theme “5 Years of Caring Together,” the celebration marks five years since the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians made history in 2021 by becoming

the first Native nation in the country to launch its own Medicaid managed care entity through a state primary care case management program.

For decades, CIHA has worked to strengthen primary care and expand relationship-based, team-based services. The creation of the EBCI Tribal Option within CIHA was a natural next step in CIHA’s long-term vision to provide more comprehensive, coordinated and higher-quality care.

Through the program, members receive care management and coordinated support designed around their individual healthcare needs. The EBCI Tribal Option does not manage claims or assume financial risk. Instead, it receives a risk-adjusted, per-member monthly payment from the state to provide care management services. Through partnerships with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Cherokee Indian Hospital Foundation, the EBCI Tribal Option is also able to provide additional value-added services and resources for its members.

The Teddy Bear Clinic is a fun way to celebrate five years of the EBCI Tribal Option supporting the health and well-being of enrolled members while offering children and adults an opportunity to engage with healthcare in a welcoming, educational environment. For additional information and event updates, visit EBCI Tribal Option’s Facebook page.



*Learn more about
the EBCI Constitution
process at:*
sgadugi.org

OBITUARIES JhñfR

Brenda Crisp Reed

Brenda Crisp Reed, 82 of Cherokee, N.C., passed away after an extended illness on Sunday, July 12, 2026 surrounded by family.

Brenda was the daughter of the late Clyde and Bonnie Crisp of Bryson City.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Pam Craig, and her daughter, Tonya Craig, all of Cherokee. She is also survived by her brothers, Lewis Crisp and (Sarah); and JC Crisp, all of Bryson City.

In addition, she is survived by

her seven grandchildren, Dustin Wight, Alicia Craig Bryson, Ashley Craig, and Don Craig, all of Cherokee; and Adam Sherrill, Courtney Sherrill, and Michaela Sherrill, all of Bryson City. She is also survived by her nine great-grandchildren, Hataya Maney, Gabriella Wright, Jaycelyn Wright, Kemper Bryson, Preston Roach, Dayton Roach, Chieftain Craig, Lily Sherrill, and Brylee Sherrill.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

Long House Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

James Wayne Maney

James Wayne Maney, 84, of

Whittier, N.C., went home to his Heavenly Father Thursday, July 16, 2026. Born in Tulsa, Okla. to the late Ted and Louise Martin Maney, he had resided in the local area since 1972.

He was a kindhearted person who loved his family. He had a giving heart and connected with people very well. He also had a great love for the outdoors. He showed his love of Christ through his giving heart and kindness to others.

He was preceded in death by his niece, Terri Merritt; and nephew, Robbie Phillips.

He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Judy Maney;

sons, Matthew Maney and wife Alicia, Andrew Maney and wife Christy; step children, Chris Wiggins, Penny Cody, Jamie Wiggins; grandchildren, Alexis Huskey (Drew), Mattie Butcher (Cris), Zac Maney, Colin Maney, Carson Maney, Don Bradley; great grandson, Holden Butcher; sister, Cova Armstrong; special nieces and nephews; and his dog, Mollie.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, July 21 at Thomas Memorial Cemetery. Rev. Harley Maney officiated.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Gideons International, PO Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214. Gideons.org

CIHA Immediate Care Center 75 Painttown Rd., Cherokee, N.C. - 359-5550



(828) 497-1408

407 Wolftown Rd
Cherokee, NC. 28719

We provide individualized funeral services designed to meet the needs of each family.

- *How to Prepare
- *Grief resources
- *365 Days of Healing
- *Common Questions

Contact us with your questions,
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

www.longhousefuneralhome.com

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



July 20-July 26, 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 Stoneflys, 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

COURTESY OF TUCKASEEGEE FLY SHOP

BEST FISHING TIMES BASED ON THE LUNAR CYCLE

MONDAY,
July 20

Average
5:33 AM-7:33 AM
5:55 PM-7:55 PM

TUESDAY,
July 21

Average
6:17 AM-8:17 AM
6:39 PM-8:39 PM

WEDNESDAY,
July 22

Average
7:02 AM-9:02 AM
7:25 PM-9:25 PM

THURSDAY,
July 23

Average
7:48 AM-9:48 AM
8:13 PM-10:13 PM

FRIDAY,
July 24

Average
8:37 AM-10:37 AM
9:03 PM-11:03 PM

SATURDAY,
July 25

Average
9:28 AM-11:28 AM
9:54 PM-11:54 PM

SUNDAY,
July 26

Good
10:20 AM-12:20 PM
10:45 PM-12:45 AM

COURTESY OF WWW.SOLUNARFORECAST.COM



Call 828-586-2155 or visit www.mountainlovers.com






Your Prescription
Your Responsibility



MOUNTAIN STRONG
MOUNTAINSTRONGWNC.ORG

A Division of Mountain Projects

lockyourmeds.org/nc



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, opioid STD/Cases (Grant #1U791000037) and STD-401 (Grant #1U7909122007).

MISSING

Jessica Dawn Pablo

Enrolled with Gila River Indian Community of the
Gila River Indian Reservation

Height: 5'6" Weight: 180 lbs

Female Age: 32

Hair: Black Eyes: Brown

Date of last contact: May 9, 2025

Last Known Location: Laveen, Arizona



Circumstances of Disappearance: On 5/9/25, the reporting parties stated that Jessica Pablo ("Chicca," married name Cly) had been missing for 3-4 months. They believed she was experiencing homelessness and had been staying with a partner near Gila Crossing Blvd, though they did not know his name or exact location. Family reported it was unlike her to stop contacting them. She has tattoos including a "man in the maze" on her lower back and an unknown tattoo on her forearm.

If you have seen or have information about Jessica Pablo, contact the Gila River Police Department at (520) 562-4511.

Source: Namus.gov

GWY ȩV° OYŁC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



**The Smokies
classic hits
station**

Tell It & Sell It
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Weekdays

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Members of the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Committee for awarding me the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship for the Summer 2026 semester. Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a reminder that our community believes in the value of education and in the potential of its people.

This investment in the educational journeys of members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians aligns directly with my professional work as Superintendent

of Cherokee Central Schools and with my doctoral studies in Educational Leadership at Western Carolina University. One focus of my coursework this summer has been examining the impact that curriculum and instruction have on individual students and their educational experience. I strongly believe educational leaders have the opportunity to create learning environments that are inclusive, accessible, and meaningful for every student. This is particularly important for our Indigenous students on the Qualla Boundary, especially considering that this has not always been the reality for so many of our ancestors.

Throughout this course, I have critically examined curriculum

through the lens of educational equity, analyzed how instructional decisions influence student outcomes, and explored ways to build educator capacity so that every learner has access to high-quality instruction. I have also reflected on how Indigenous perspectives can be authentically integrated into curriculum rather than treated as an addition or afterthought. These experiences have strengthened my understanding that educational leadership is not simply about managing systems, it is about creating the conditions where every student feels seen, valued, and capable of success.

The knowledge I am gaining directly informs both my research and my professional practice.

These connections have reinforced my belief that supporting teachers ultimately strengthens the support available to students, particularly within Indigenous communities like ours. Scholarship opportunities such as the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship instill confidence in EBCI learners to pursue educational opportunities that may have once seemed beyond reach. My hope is that the encouragement I have received will allow me to encourage and mentor others, creating a cycle of support that strengthens future generations of Cherokee scholars.

Sincerely,

Consuela B. Girty
Big Cove Community



M
I
S
S
I
N
G

GWY ʘV° OʘVLC
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • Tsalagi Soquo Ugidahli



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.

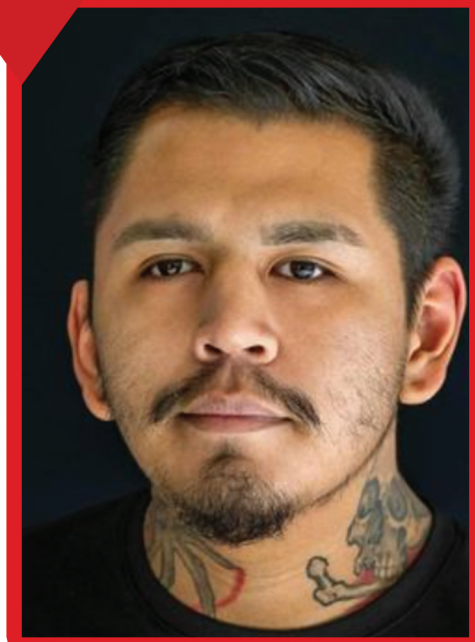
Missing since: April 8, 2025

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

EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility: Common Community Concerns



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

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



The Smell?

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



The Location? Isn’t it near some homes?

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



The Money? Will this be another Tribal Expense?

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

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



The Environmental Impacts? Will this facility pollute the River?

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

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



Recruiting & Keeping Employees?

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

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



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

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



The Noise?

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



Animal Well-Being? Will this be Humane?

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

Have more
questions
about our facility?



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

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





TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY INITIATIVES

EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility: Financial Opportunities & Savings

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

Revenue Streams:

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

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



Pay to Raise Fees

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



Processing Fees

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



Value Added Processing

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



Sales Channels of Tribally Branded Meat

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

Potential Bonus Revenue Opportunities!



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

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



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



How does this Facility help Households save Money?

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



Have more questions about our facility's financial plans?

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

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





EBCI Red Meat Processing Facility: Place & Planet Infographic



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

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



Three Phase Power

To connect the facility to electricity



Sewer Hook-Ups

So employees can wash their hands & clean the equipment



Trailer Access

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



Out of a Flood Zone

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



On Tribal Land Near the Boundary

So Tribal Members can easily access the facility

Why some locations we considered couldn't work:



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



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



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



What Tribal Regulations keep the Land & People Safe?

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



What Federal Regulations keep the Land & People Safe?

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



Animal Welfare Policies being Implemented:

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

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



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



THE GOOD STUFF

Mary Crowe advocates for her people with dedication and determination

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Mary “Missy” Crowe has always been an advocate for her people and works daily and nightly to make sure that a Cherokee voice is always heard. It’s been an honor to know her for three decades now, and to have been able to see her work and dedication is inspiring.

Crowe, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) from Elawodi (Yellowhill), serves as the Indigenous Just Transition coordinator for the Indigenous Environmental Network.

She has accomplished so much in the realm of advocacy and change for the good of the EBCI and Indian Country in general – always keeping her traditional Cherokee beliefs and lifeways at the forefront. But, for all of her work and accomplishments, she is never one to seek the limelight.

Along with Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Crowe worked tirelessly to bring about the name restoration of Kuwohi (mulberry place) - the third-highest summit east of the Mississippi River which is located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The name was restored on Sept. 18, 2024.

That effort took several years and probably thousands of hours of work. In true fashion, Crowe was quick to thank others for their efforts. The day of the name restoration, she told me for an article,



Mary “Missy” Crowe, an elder of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Elawodi (Yellowhill), has fun dancing at the Cherokee Summer Social Dance at the Yellowhill Activity Center on the hot, humid evening of July 9, 2022. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

“Thank you Creator God for the many blessings we received during this journey to restore Kuwohi. Thank God for my sister, Lavita Hill, and her husband, Chris Siewers, who went above and beyond in this effort to restore Kuwohi! There are so many to thank who have supported us along this journey, but especially want to say thank you to the Thomas Lanier Clingman family and Tom Clingman for supporting Lavita and I in our efforts.”

In 2023, Rep. Hill and Crowe were recognized for their efforts by the Tennessee General Assembly with the passage of Bill H.J. 452. That legislation, submitted by State Rep. Justin Jones (D-District 52), stated, “Ms. Crowe and Ms. Hill are testaments to the power of dedication and determination, and their laudable mission deserves to be acknowledged...”

Dedication and determination are two words, among many, that aptly describe Crowe. A thesaurus would list hundreds more, but those two fit like a glove.

Crowe has always seen the power of collaboration and embodies the idea that working together yields more fruit than working alone.

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) passed Ord. No. 158 on May 7, 2026 which approved a moratorium on data centers within the lands of the EBCI. That legislation was submitted by Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Kolanvyi Rep. Venita Wolfe, Aniwodihhi (Painttown) Rep. Shannon Swimmer, and Elawodi (Yellowhill) Rep. Shennelle Feather.

Crowe helped organize a community meeting prior to this vote to educate the public on data centers. That meeting was a collaboration between the Indige-



A sign designating the area in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park known as Kuwohi (mulberry place) was officially unveiled on the morning of Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Shown, left to right, are Kolanvyi (Big Cove) Rep. Lavita Hill, Mary “Missy” Crowe, and Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Hill and Crowe, both EBCI members, were instrumental in the name restoration effort.

nous Environmental Network, the Eastern Cherokee Organization, and the Bigwitch Indian Wisdom Initiative.

At that meeting, she noted, “At the end of the day, we all need clean water, and we all need clean air, and we all need clean and healthy food.”

Crowe is the true embodiment of someone working for the next seven generations.

Several years ago, she was featured on an episode of Six Mile Post: The Student Voice, a podcast of Georgia Highlands College. On the episode, she commented, “We have to come together on common ground. We have to understand who we are as human beings first and what our responsibility is here on this earth.”

Coming together on common ground has been her message for the three decades I’ve known her. Countless times, she has spoken in front of Dinilawigi, and she always encourages tribal unity and human

unity.

She has been an advocate on numerous issues over the years including sovereignty, tribal citizen rights, environmental stewardship, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR), and many more.

At the MMIR Walk & Vigil held in Cherokee several years ago, she commented, “We’ve got to do more...we’ve got to do more. We have to look at our fair and equal rights and protection for everybody. It starts with our inherent right...no one put us on this land but Creator. And no one should be able to take us off of this land known as the Qualla Boundary.”

With all of the important issues that she tackles, Crowe is grounded in her Cherokee culture and history. The issues would weigh most people down, but I want to point out that she is quick to laugh and smile and have fun with life.

For their efforts in the Kuwo-

hi Name Restoration, Crowe and Rep. Hill received the Dogwood Award given annually by the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office. At the time, then-N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein commented, “Lavita and Mary are working to make sure that their tribe’s history is recognized and honored. They are advocating to restore the name Kuwohi, which means Mulberry Place, from Clingman’s Dome, which was named for a Confederate general. In doing so, their efforts will help to commemorate the long history of the Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina.”

I’ll end this Good Stuff column by pointing out the last line of the quote above and highlighting the phrase “commemorate the long history”. That is what Crowe seeks – not personal glory but a continuation of the long history of the EBCI.

The Old, Old Story

Part 1 of 2

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

Scripture reference: John 3:16-21, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-11

People who have been in ministry for years think they need to do something new, fresh, and fashionable. The truth is that nothing can be preached or taught about the true Gospel Story that gets old, worn out, or out of style. God is the same today as yesterday, and though you might know the story

well and have heard it taught and preached a thousand times, there might be one person out there being called to hear it for the first time. They might even need to hear it again to take hold of their heart and spirit as they are being called in that hour, they believe. Isn't that what we do? Isn't that the very heart of every ministry? We are to fulfill our calling as ministers. We don't call people to Jesus. We don't change people. We don't save people. The Spirit of God does all of that. We are to teach (tell) and preach the Gospel to those God sends to us for the opportunity and divine appointment.

The following are three quotes from famous Christian men who inspired the writing of this Spur.

The Spirit of God is the true inspiration. Praise Him!

If the presence of God is in the church, the church will draw the world in. If the presence of God is not in the church, the world will draw the church out.

Charles Grandison Finney

The motto of all true servants of God must be, 'We preach Christ; and Him crucified.' A sermon without Christ in it is like a loaf of bread without any flour in it. No Christ in your sermon, sir? Then go home and never preach again until you have something worth preaching. Written by Charles Spurgeon

Ministers often preach about the Gospel instead of preaching the Gospel. They often preach about sinners instead of preaching

to them. Written by Charles Grandison Finney.

Tell me the Old, Old Story is a famous and well-known hymn by Katherine Hankey from 1866. She wrote the poem, but William Howard Doane set it to music.

Lord, God, and Father, let us not forget. Let us always remember who, what, and why we praise the Holy name of Jesus Christ, for You alone are worthy. Your story is eternal and gives life to those who hear it. Your story gives us faith, comfort, strength, and assurance. Without You, we are nothing, but with You, we are saved to eternal life. I need that reminder daily, and my prayer is that others need the Truth. Thank You, Lord. Amen.

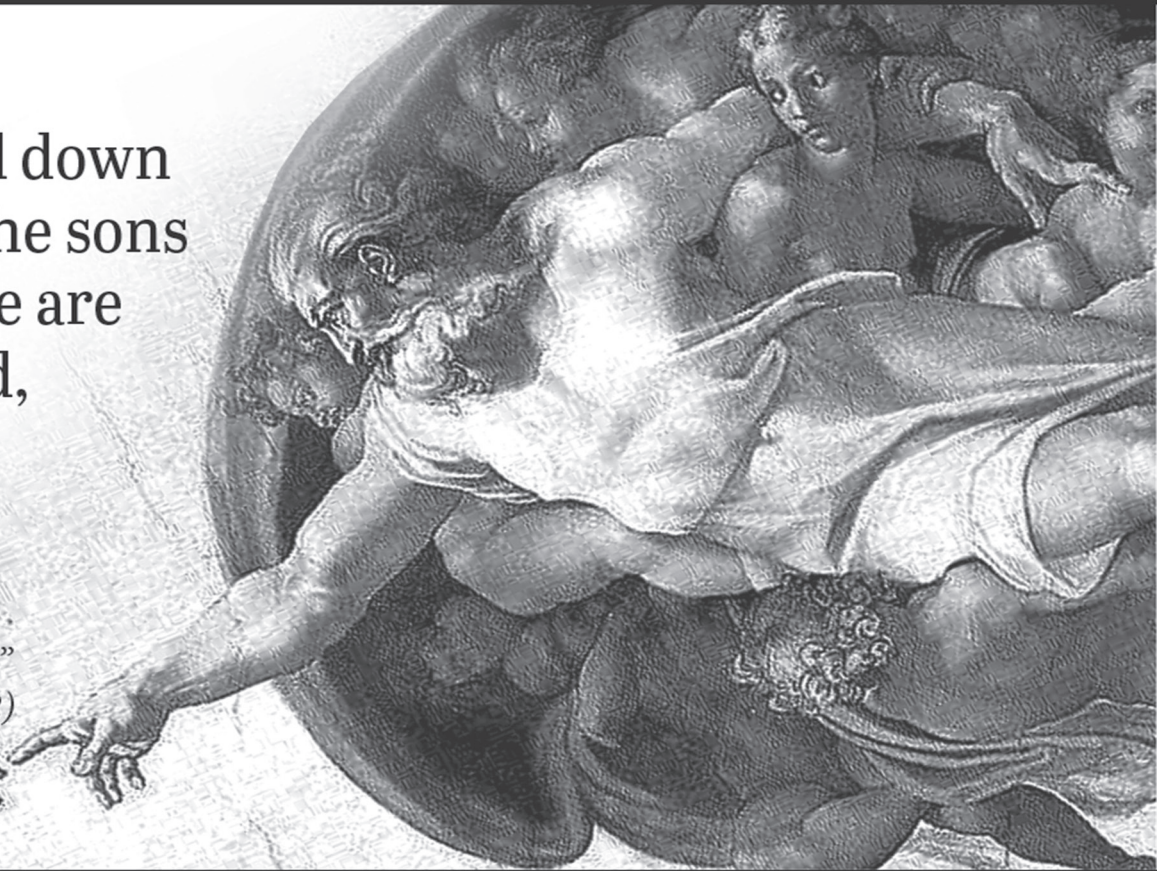


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The Lord has looked down
from heaven upon the sons
of men to see if there are
any who understand,
who seek after God.

PSALM 14:2

Detail of "Creation of Adam"
by Michelangelo (1508-1512)



Amber Waves

THESE FISH WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM. I'VE CREATED MY OWN SECRET WEAPON.



I TOOK CORN DOGS AND STUFFED THEM WITH CHUNKY PEANUT BUTTER AND SKITTLES.



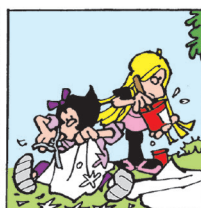
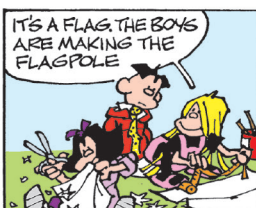
OK, FISHIES, IT'S CHOW TIME!



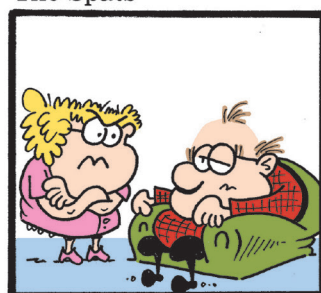
GEEZ, I THINK THERE'S MORE NUTRITIONAL VALUE IN THOSE DUMB PLASTIC LURES.



TIGER



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Collar is missing. 3. Arm is not showing. 4. Lamp is larger. 5. Window is added to house. 6. Back of chair is smaller.

by Dave T. Phipps

ACROSS

- Efron of "Parkland"
- "For — the Bell Tolls"
- Maui's — Highway
- Rock's Brian
- Continental coin
- Petri dish gel
- Scrape (out)
- Shakable paperweight
- Egypt's Anwar
- Quibble
- Composer Bartok
- Informative
- Hall & Oates ballad of 1976
- Scarce
- Galley item
- Must, casually
- Plant seeds
- Radar dot
- "Gems" found on a beach
- "Bye!"
- Poetry contest
- Vat
- Foolish
- Scott Evil actor in the Austin Powers films

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- Blue bird
- Saab model
- Nest egg
- Common verb
- Broad st.
- Wee songbird
- Lacking slack
- Wine choice
- Summer top
- Previously
- Collar
- Common
- Tonic's mixer
- Six-pack muscles
- Novelist Anita
- Poker pot starters
- "That — close one!"
- "No seats" signs
- Evergreens
- Weeps
- Robust
- Buffalo's lake
- List-ending abbr.
- Not for
- Large constrictor
- Run after K
- Summer mo.
- Telly watcher
- Slightly open
- Cathedral area
- Kept tabs on
- Cutting tool
- Chariot trailer
- Three, in Rome
- Notable time
- Vichy water

DOWN

- Dazzling duo?
- "Diana" singer
- Not single-sex
- Locale in "The Great Gatsby"
- Attila, e.g.
- Acapulco
- Cut, as a lawn

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

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

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANATOMY: How many vertebrae are in the human spine?
- U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Gateway Arch, known as the tallest arch in the world?
- TELEVISION: Which 1970s sitcom introduced a neighbor named Phyllis Lindstrom?
- HISTORY: When was the first heart transplant performed?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Cape Verde islands located?
- MOVIES: Which 1991 film featured a villain named Max Cady?
- MUSIC: When did Taylor Swift's second studio album ("Fearless") win the Country Music Association's Album of the Year award?
- SCIENCE: What is nephology?
- MEASUREMENTS: What instrument is used to measure the depth of oceans?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby deer called?

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. 33; 2. St. Louis, Missouri; 3. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"; 4. 1967; 5. Off the west coast of Africa; 6. "Cape Fear"; 7. 2009; 8. The scientific study of clouds; 9. An echo sounder or fathometer; 10. A fawn or calf

EVENT LISTINGS

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

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. – 3 p.m. at the Yellowhill Community Activity Center 1416 Acquoni Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Blueberry pancakes, BBQ after 11 a.m., and baked goods. Sponsored by NAIWA. Info: (828) 736-5285

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.)

Lands Committee. July 23 at 9 a.m.

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

Pow Wow Listings

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

SŌHĭ AD RVLTŌJ DŌWYL



Mercedes, aka Sadie, age 10, lives with her humans, Destiny Burgess and Juawon King, in Aniwodihi (Painttown).



Sponsored by:

CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

828-497-3401
1100 US 441N, Whittier, NC 28789

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 Tootosis. 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-

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You face the possibility of raising your relationship to another level. However, your partner might demand that you make promises that you're not sure you're ready for.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) As changes continue, expect things to get a little more hectic at your workplace. An unexpected travel opportunity could open up new career prospects!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Confront the person who caused your hurt feelings and demand a full explanation for their actions. You'll not only recover your self-esteem, but you'll also gain the respect of others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A personal problem in the workplace is compounded by someone's biased interference. Stand your ground, and you'll soon find allies gathering around you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You don't accept disapproval easily. But instead of hiding out in your den to lick your wounded pride, turn the criticism into a valuable lesson for future use.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A former friend who you thought you'd cut out of your life is still affecting other relationships. Counter their lies with the truth. Your friends are ready to listen.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) What appears to be an unfair situation might simply be the result of a misunderstanding. If you feel that something is out of balance, by all means, correct it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A stalled relationship won't budge until you make the first move. Your partner offers a surprising explanation about what got it mired down in the first place.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A co-worker shares some startling news, but before you use it to your advantage, make sure that it's true. Meanwhile, the weekend favors family matters.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your usual conservative approach to family situations might not work at this time. Keep an open mind about developments, and you might be pleasantly surprised.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Plans might have to be put on hold because of a family member's problems. Don't hesitate to get involved. Your help could make all the difference.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Relationships in the home and in the workplace need your careful attention during this period. Be careful not to allow misunderstandings to create problems.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a keen, insightful intellect and enjoy debating your views with others who disagree with you. You also love to solve puzzles — the harder, the better.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

The VA OIG at work

The VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) took a close look at expenditures for pharmaceuticals for one year and discovered that some of the money wasn't spent as required. Specifically, the VA spent \$11.7 billion on drugs during that year, and \$11.4 billion was spent correctly via prime vendor contracts. However, 3% (\$322.5 million) was spent outside the required contract. While it's a fraction of the whole amount, three hundred million is still three hundred million.

The purchasing rules say that employees have to document their attempts at finding the required drugs before they go straight to open market buying. Without compliance with those rules, the budget goes out the window, not to mention the potential for fraud.

The OIG had recommendations for the Veterans Health Administration and, truthfully, the VHA should have been embarrassed to have to be told those things: establish guidance for staff, do routine assessments of purchases and develop a way to keep an eye on purchases made outside the contracts.

Meanwhile the OIG has continued to go after the scammers who think they'll never get caught.

Such as the thief who impersonated a veteran for 30 years, stealing benefits, medical care and drugs. Prior convictions included stolen property, grand larceny, sale of drugs, forgery and more. When he was finally nabbed, he was staying in housing for veterans using the stolen name.

Then there is the husband and wife team who allegedly ran a drug abuse recovery program. They thought they could get away with wire fraud and excessive billing.

And how about the company that billed both Medicaid and the VA for sleep studies that had been done by unqualified personnel, studies that were never done at all, and forged referrals? This went on for four years.

Sleep studies fraud must be a big thing, because at the same time there was another case across the country that had netted the thieves in excess of \$2 million.

To report fraud, see www.vaog.gov/hotline/online-forms.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



The grim statistics on lost pets

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My cat "Grimsby" got out of my apartment through a hole in the patio screen last summer. I put flyers all over the neighborhood and posted on social media, but he never returned and was never found. I did not microchip Grimsby, and he didn't have a collar on when he escaped — since he was a completely indoor cat, I assumed he didn't need any of that. Please warn your readers that even indoor cats can escape and get lost. — Ciara J. in Lakeland, Florida

DEAR CIARA: I'm so sorry to hear that Grimsby hasn't yet been found. Thank you for your story, which illustrates why indoor cats need to wear ID at all times and why microchipping is recommended.

According to a 2012 study, about half to three-quarters of lost cats are eventually found. Lost dogs are found and returned at a much higher rate of 71% to 97%. However, a 2018 study found that cats are much less likely to be returned to their owners after going missing for more than 90 days. Many end up in shelters, where they may be euthanized.

What should you do if your cat or dog escapes?

— Act fast. Pets are recovered most often within the first week of disappearing, but only if the owners start searching immediately.

— Put up signs and notices. Social media posts and paper signs are still effective according to all studies of lost pet recovery.

— Engage your neighbors. Knock on doors, make phone calls and let everyone in the vicinity know that your pet has gone missing.

— Contact local shelters and rescues. Surprisingly, shelters have a low return-to-owner rate — unless a pet is microchipped.

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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

EVENTS: From page 41

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 Maawanjii'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: Chrstine Awonohopay (906) 201-2297

57th Annual Thunderchild First Nation Pow Wow. July 24-26 in Turtleford, Saskatchewan, Canada. Emcees: Juaquin 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. Emcees: Terry Fiddler, Reuben

Crowfeather Jr. Host Drum: Red Willow. Invited Drums: Black Lodge, Fort Peck Sioux, Smokeytown. 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, tpwvendidinfo@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, magwiconio3@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 Mc-Millan (828) 788-5410

Cherokee Cancer Support

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

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

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

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

Western N.C. and Beyond Events

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

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

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

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

Elawodi (Yellowhill) Community meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Yellowhill Activity Center at 6 p.m. Info: Chair Dakota Bone (828) 736-8092,

Dbone8312@yahoo.com, For building rental, contact Virginia Johnson (828) 788-8659

Cherokee Houses of Worship

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

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

Antioch Baptist Church.

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

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

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

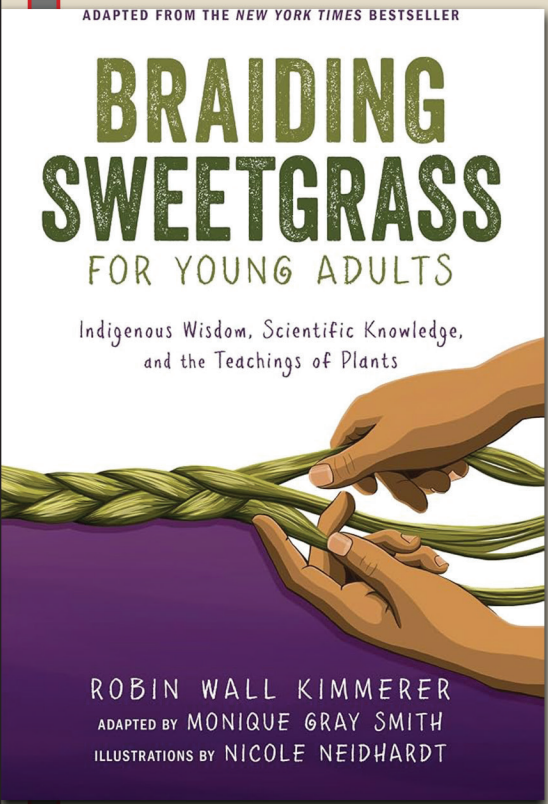
Boiling Springs Missionary Baptist Church. 960 Old Bryson City Road in the 3200 Acre Tract. (828) 538-0301

Buffalo Baptist Church. 2686 Snowbird Rd. in Robbinsville, N.C. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m., Sun-

Qualla

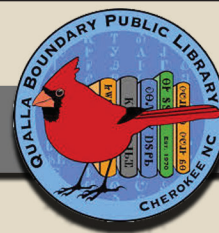
BOOK OF THE WEEK

ADAPTED FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



ROBIN WALL KIMMERER
ADAPTED BY MONIQUE GRAY SMITH
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICOLE NEIDHARDT

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



"Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults"

"Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults" is an adaptation of Robin Wall Kimmerer's "Braiding Sweetgrass" adapted by Monique Gray Smith with illustrations by Nicole Neidhardt.

This book offers a unique blend of science, storytelling, and Indigenous wisdom, making it an engaging and educational resource for young readers. It encourages ecological literacy, mindfulness, and a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of life, while providing tools for reflection and action in the face of environmental challenges.

see **EVENTS** next page

EVENTS: From page 43

day 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 Naza-

rene. 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

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Psalms (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Song of Solomon 1:15, what kind of eyes does the beloved say the Shulamite has? *Kind, Red of the demon, Doves, Blue of the sea*
3. Used as both a greeting and farewell, what's the Hebrew word for "peace"? *Shass, Simcha, Shabbat, Shalom*
4. In Matthew 6, what did Jesus say not to use when we pray? *Loud curses, Impure thoughts, Vain repetitions, Wandering shifts*
5. From Esther 1, King Ahasuerus lived in what city? *Ur, Shushan, Antioch, Tarsus*
6. Who was the first son of Moses and Zipporah? *Haggai, Gershom, Mark, Zebudah*

Shushan, 6) Gershom, 5) Shalom, 4) Vain repetitions, 3) Shalom, 2) Doves, 1) Old.

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Doves, 3) Shalom, 4) Vain repetitions, 5) Shalom, 6) Gershom.
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



Moments in time

• On **Aug. 3, 1923**, Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as the 30th president of the United States, hours after the death of President Warren G. Harding, who had died suddenly of a heart attack or stroke while on vacation in California. Coolidge's oath was administered by his father, a notary public, under the light of a kerosene lamp while he was visiting family in Vermont.

• On **Aug. 4, 1790**, the first U.S. Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to patrol American ports from Massachusetts to Georgia. The United States Coast Guard, originally known as the Revenue Marine and then the Revenue Cutter Service, was the idea of Alexander Hamilton and designed to intercept marine smugglers and collect tariffs on imported goods.

• On **Aug. 5, 1948**, American diver Sammy Lee earned a gold medal at the London Olympics two days after his friend and fellow diver Vicki Draves won hers. They were the first Asian Americans to win Olympic gold medals for the United States. Draves was also the first woman to take home gold medals in both springboard and platform diving.

• On **Aug. 6, 1890**, William Kemmler, convicted of murdering his lover, Matilda Ziegler, with an axe, became the first person to be executed by electric chair, at New York's Auburn Prison. Inventor George Westinghouse notably opined that "they would have done better with an axe."

• On **Aug. 7, 1987**, Lynne Cox, clad in just a swimsuit, entered the near-freezing waters of Little Diomed in Alaska. Two hours and 16 minutes later she had crossed the international dateline and completed the first recorded swim from the United States to the Soviet Union, ending at Big Diomed in the Bering Strait.

• On **Aug. 8, 1844**, Brigham Young was chosen to be the next leader of the Mormon Church, following the mob assassination of the church's founder, Joseph Smith, and his brother Hyrum six weeks earlier.

• On **Aug. 9, 1973**, NASA asked Skylab astronauts to share a housefly-sized piece of their filet mignon with two spiders, Anita and Arabella, on the astronauts' mission so the arachnids could maintain their experimental work on spinning webs in zero-G.

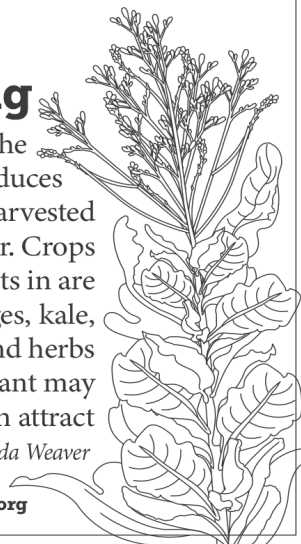
© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



Bolting

Bolting, or "going to seed," is the stage of crop plant growth that produces flowers and seeds. If the crop plant is harvested after bolting, it's likely to taste bitter. Crops well-known for bolting as summer heat sets in are lettuce, spinach, arugula, broccoli, cabbages, kale, collards, carrots, radishes, beets, turnips and herbs such as cilantro, dill and parsley. A bolted plant may not taste very good, but its flowers can attract many pollinators to your garden. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu, www.civicgardencenter.org



© 2026 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

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 Ser-

vice 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

see **EVENTS** next page

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- According to facial recognition software, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" is 83% happy, 9% disgusted, 6% fearful and 2% angry.

- The low air pressure of a twister can literally pull a person's eardrum outward.

- In 1900, motor boating was included in the Olympic Games. Only a few races were held, however, and they were eventually discontinued due to inconsistent weather and mechanical failures.

- One acre of peanuts can make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches.

- The first Europeans to discover the Great Lakes named them the "Sweet-water Seas" and believed that China bordered their shores.

- The skin of a jellyfish is so thin that the animal can breathe through it.

- Cellist Daniel Crawford composed a musical piece for the cello in which each note represents a year on NASA's record of global average temperature, from 1880-2012.

- Between 1930 and 1935, nearly 750,000 American farms were lost through bankruptcy or sheriff sales.

- A man once sued Anheuser-Busch with the claim that the company's ads misrepresented his potential attractiveness to the opposite sex, if he would just drink their beer.

- The Persian epic "Explanation of Chatrang and the Invention of Nard" tells the story of chess being introduced to the royal court by an envoy from India.

- During the 18th and 19th centuries, many British and American newspapers featured elegies for dead pets. Among them, one scholar found six for monkeys, 12 for canaries, 17 for cats and 53 for dogs.

- Egyptians used vast amounts of linen to mummify a body — in fact, the fabric on one mummy from the 11th dynasty measured 9,095 feet, enough to cover three tennis courts.

Thought for the Day: "You've got to get to the stage in life where going for it is more important than winning or losing." — Arthur Ashe

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



Did you know that there are over 3,000 species of fungi in western North Carolina? And there are many still unidentified by western scientists. Summertime can be a great time to go out and find mushrooms. Check near creeks, shaded forests, and fallen logs, especially after a rain. Remember to only touch mushrooms that you can confidently identify. Pictured here is a red chanterelle.

EVENTS: From page 45

doniabaptistcherokee.church

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

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

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe Cath-

olic 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 Parker-Reece

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

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

Yellowhill Baptist Church. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 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

PHHS Employee Spotlight



Gerard Ball,

*Program Director
EBCI Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs*

Education:

Master's degree from the University of Tennessee in Leadership Education and Communication- Masters degree from the University of Memphis in Strategic Leadership.

Years at PHHS: 1.3

Community/Town:
Elawodi (Yellowhill)



"Our warriors have always answered the call to serve - from protecting our Cherokee people to defending this nation. We owe them more than gratitude; we owe them access, opportunity, and the lifelong support they have earned."

EBCI Tribal ABC Commission
(828) 788-4261



ANALENISGI

DΘδhωY

"They are beginning"

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

Services Offered through Analenisgi:

Adult Services

Programs include:

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

IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY FOR GROUP THERAPY AND CLASSES

Recovery Services

Programs include:

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

Family & Child Services

Programs include:

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

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



Contact us:

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

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

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

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

None this week.

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 fudiciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the appointed fudiciary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION
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 fudiciary(s) listed on or before the date listed or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make im-

mediate payment to the appointed fudiciary(s) listed below.
Date to submit claims: 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION
Christina Marie Lee
101 C Bradley Drive
Cherokee, NC 28719
7/22

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

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,



Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist
Nail Tech
Lead Massage Therapist
Spa Attendants

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

JOIN OUR TEAM



WE ARE HIRING

Open Positions

- Cashier
- General Laborer (Inventory)

Apply Online
www.quallalife.com/careers

More Information
828.589.8285

All Applicants Must be 21 or older.
Tribal Hiring Preference will apply

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 Indi-

ans 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, ero-

sion 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 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

see **TRADING POST** next page

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

TRADING POST: From page 49

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

NOTICE

The EBCI Cannabis Control Board is proposing the amendment of administrative rules pursuant to Cherokee Code 17A-3 and 150-4. These amendments to Title 17A of the Cherokee Administrative Regulations are needed to address certificates of analysis required for the sale of hemp and hemp products by licensed hemp retailers. Written comments may be mailed to the

EBCI CCB at Attn: EBCI CCB, P.O. Box 549, Cherokee NC 28719 or emailed to info@ebci-ccb.org. The period for public comment is 30 days from the publication of this notice. 7/22

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00pm, on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, in the Ginger Lynn Welch Building Spicewood Room 133, 810 Acquoni Rd, Cherokee, North Carolina, and immediately thereafter opened in a closed session in accordance with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) policies and procedures for the furnishing of labor, material and equipment for the Junaluska Memorial Site Upgrades.

Mailed proposals shall be sent

to the attention of Becky Bowe at the following address: PO BOX 455, Cherokee, NC, 28719. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the bids arrive before the bid opening time of 3:00 EST.

This project will follow the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) policies and procedures as outlined in Tribal Code.

PRE-BID MEETING

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting and site walk-through will be held for interested bidders on August 6, 2026 at 2:00 pm, beginning at the project site, 1 Junaluska Memorial Drive, Robbinsville, NC 28771. Followed by a walkthrough of the site.

Complete plans, specifications and contract documents may be obtained at the office of Architect



**STAR SPANGLED
JOB FAIR**

July 23 | 1pm - 5pm

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

**Harrah's
CHEROKEE
CASINO RESORT**

Restrictions apply. Please see Talent Acquisition department for details. Harrah's Cherokee Casinos value diversity and inclusion and are Equal Opportunity Employers. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid photo ID. Must be 21 or older to enter casino floor and to gamble, and must present a valid state or federal photo ID upon request. Know When To Stop Before You Start. © Gambling Problem? call 1-800-522-4700. An Enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. © 2026, Casino License Company, LLC.

which is located at 47 Rankin Ave, Suite 141, Asheville, NC 28801.

Digital (pdf) versions of the Bid Documents may be obtained upon request of Ethan Ward (eward@mcmillanpazdansmith.com). A Newforma Info Exchange link will be provided to allow the Bidder to access and download the Bid Documents.

For purposes of coordination, primary contact for project information is: Project Architect: Ethan Ward, AIA
Title: Architect E-Mail Address: eward@mcmillanpazdansmith.com
7/29

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Water & Sewer Department, will receive sealed

bids until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at the Cherokee Water & Sewer Department, 1840 Paint Town Road, Cherokee, NC 28719 to furnish labor, materials, and equipment to repair Acquoni Rd. and Big Cove Rd. following replacement of water and sewer lines. Proposed work consists of fine grading, asphalt paving, sidewalk construction, and curb & gutter construction per NCDOT specifications. PDF plans and bidding documents may be obtained by emailing Joel Setzer, PE, at jbssetzer@jmt.com. Documents will be available no later than July 13, 2026. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., August 5, 2026, at the Cherokee Water & Sewer Department. 7/29

BIDS



Cherokee Central Schools
Job Openings

Apply online at
<https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or
www.ces-nc.org/apps/pages/human_resources_for_more_information.

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

JV Girls Head Basketball Coach
K-6 Teacher Assistant (Multiple) - Must have 48 Completed College Hours
K-6 Special Education Teacher Assistant (Multiple)- Must have 48 Completed College Hours
K-6 Self-Contained Teacher Assistant (Multiple) - Must have 48 Completed College Hours
K-6 Severe & Profound Special Education Teacher
K-6 Permanent Substitute Teacher
7-8 Special Education (Inclusion) Teacher
7-8 Language Arts Teacher
9-12 Math II Teacher
9-12 Special Education Teacher Assistant
K-12 School Psychologist

State of North Carolina,
Department of Transportation,
Raleigh, NC

The Deadline for submitting Electronic Bids on the following projects as well as the public reading will be August 18, 2026, at 2:00 pm. The public reading will be held in Contract Standards and Development Unit Conference Room (Room 156 A/B), Building B, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Century Center Complex, 1020 Birch Ridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27610. Please enter door B-2.

(C205195) CATAWBA;
(C205220) ONSLOW;
(C205205) ROBESON;
(C205202) GUILFORD;
(C204504) WATAUGA;
(C204877) RUTHERFORD;
(C205219) RUTHERFORD;
(C205070) RUTHERFORD

A bid bond or bid deposit in the amount of 5% of the bid will be required.

These contracts are subject to all appropriate Federal Laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Plans, proposal forms, and specifications may be obtained at the Raleigh Office of the Department of Transportation, Telephone # 919-707-6925.
Department of transportation, Mr. Patrick Norman, PE., Chief Engineer
7/22

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

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

SUMMARY: The Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, on

the below date, has made a determination to acquire real property in trust for EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS.

The land referred to as former KNOWLES - BENNETT property, herein and is described as: See "Exhibit A" for legal descriptions.

DATE: This determination was made on 07/16/2026.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published to comply with the requirement of 25 CFR § 151.12(d)(2)(iii) that notice be given of the decision by the authorized representative of the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land in trust.

A copy of the determination is available [at the following website: n/a AND/OR from the office identified in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION section of this notice]. Any party who wishes to seek judicial review of the Regional Director's decision must first exhaust administrative remedies. The Regional Director's decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) in accordance with the regulations in 43 C.F.R. 4.310-4.340.

If you choose to appeal this decision, your notice of appeal to the IBIA must be signed by you or your attorney and must be either postmarked and mailed (if you use mail) or delivered (if you use another means of physical delivery, such as FedEx or UPS) to the IBIA within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The

see **TRADING POST** next page

TRADING POST: From page 51

regulations do not authorize filings by facsimile/fax or by electronic means. Your notice of appeal should clearly identify the decision being appealed. You must send your original notice of appeal to the IBIA at the following address: Interior Board of Indian Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22203. You must send copies of your notice of appeal to (1) the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, MS-4141-MIB, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; (2) each interested party known to you; and (3) the Regional Director. Your notice of appeal sent to the IBIA

must include a statement certifying that you have sent copies to these officials and interested parties and should identify them by names or titles and addresses.

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

EXHIBIT A

CASE NUMBER – 62317 APPLICANT NAME – EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS Tract ID: KNOWLES – BENNETT SITE PROPERTY LAND AREA – 001 LAND AREA NAME – EASTERN CHEROKEE (QUALLA BOUND-

ARY)

LTRO – ANADARKO, OK REGION – EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE AGENCY – CHEROKEE AGENCY RESOURCES – BOTH (MINERAL AND SURFACE)

DESCRIPTION: BEGINNING on an iron pin set at the corner of Bennett (Book 441, Page 661) and being located, S 02°27'40" E 222.33' from marker M-AP58, a corner to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Thence running with the line of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians the following three calls: S 02°27'40" E 35.40' to an iron pin found, S 02°27'40" E 203.65' to marker M-BLM2010, S 02°27'40" E 380.61' to a point, said point being located, N 02°27'40" W 755.05' from marker M-57. Thence running with the line of Hart (Book 518, Page 1037), N 82°32'21" W a total distance of 290.00' to a mag nail set in the edge of Shepherds Creek Road (S.R. 1166), passing an iron pin found at 0.83' and passing an iron pin found at 240.95'. Thence running with the lines of Roberts (Book 416, Page 64) the following three calls: N 01°59' 13" W 66.48' to an iron pin set, N 27°12'24" E 141.31' to a mag nail set, S 81°13'28" W 37.84' to a point

in creek. Thence running near said creek and with the line of Laird (Book 458, Page 664) the following two calls: N 22°26'06" E 127.40' to a point, N 01°34'33" W 152.07' to a point. Thence running with the line of Lee (Book 435, Page 253) N 01°34'33" W 38.27' to a point in the creek. Thence leaving said creek and running with the line of Bennet (Book 441, Page 661) the following two calls: N 79°53'32" E 25.32' to a mag nail found in the center of Shepherds Creek Road, N 79°53'32" E 8.42' to a mag nail set on the edge of said road. Thence running with the lines of Bennett (Book 468, Page 1070) the following six calls: S 05°49'34" E 60.88' to a mag nail set, S 01°39'35" E 55.67' to a mag nail set, S 02°02'22" W 42.01' to a mag nail set, S 82°40'46" E 31.75' to an iron pin found, N 09°53'50" E 66.84' to an iron pin found, N 07°03'21" W 103.72' to an iron pin found. Thence continuing with the line of Bennett (Book 441, Page 661) the following two calls: N 79°53'32" E 77.39' to an iron pin found, N 37°22'52" E 76.91' to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 2.692 Acres, more or less.

7/22



Cherokee History & Stories

by Kathi Littlejohn

FREE - Open to the Public

Monthly Class Options

First Sunday of Every Month 3 p.m.
Wolftown Community Club Building
12 Burgess Dr. Cherokee, NC. 28719

-AND-

First Monday of Every Month 5 p.m.

Museum of the Cherokee People, Education Wing,
TJ Holland Room
589 Tsali Blvd. Cherokee, NC. 28719

Explore Cherokee History through storytelling,
discussion and shared knowledge
Everyone is welcome - come learn, listen and share

littlejohn.kathi@yahoo.com



*View thousands of One Feather
photos online at:*

Cherokeepics.com

*All are available for
purchase and can be made
into various gifts.*



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

OPEN POSITIONS



NEW POSITIONS

Behavioral Health Grant Coordinator
Billing Analyst I
Registered Nurse Emergency Department – Night Shift – Temporary
Nurse Resident/Intern
Cook Aide – Tsali Care Center

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mental Health Therapist - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
(Cherokee Central Schools, Child and Family – Snowbird, Dora Reed, Family Safety, Family Intensive Treatment, Medication Assisted Treatment, 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 Coordinator
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

CIHA FOOD & NUTRITION

Cook – Temporary
Dishwasher

MEDICAL

Psychiatrist
Physician and IM Rural Track Director

NURSING

Certified Nursing Assistant – Emergency Department - \$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
Tribal Option Care Management Extender

TSALI CARE

Certified Nursing Assistant - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Certified Nursing Assistant – Night Shift – \$5,000 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 26, 2026

1. Electrician Assistant/Generator Maintenance – Facility Management – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
2. Truck Driver/Crew Leader – Solid Waste – Operations (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
3. Rounds Tech/Operator – Water Treatment – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
4. Adult Language Educator – Kituwah Preservation & Education Program – CERS (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour)
5. Special Ops Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION 12855
6. Commercial Property Specialist – Enterprise Development – Commerce (L13 \$24.36 - \$30.46 per hour)

Open Until Filled

1. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
2. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION
3. 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. Driver – Transit – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) SAFETY SENSITIVE
9. 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



**Subscribe to the
One Feather today.
Send back the form below, or
call us at (828) 359-6262 to
pay with a card.**

Return this form with a check or money order made payable to:

Cherokee One Feather
P.O. Box 501, Cherokee, NC 28719

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The price is \$40 for the year.

GWY ʔᵛᵒ ʔᵛᵒᵒ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

THE GOOD STUFF



<<

Cruz completes Half Marathon

Ayla Cruz, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, completed the Med-al Madness Half Marathon recently in Homestead, Fla. She finished the race in 2:17.56. Cruz notes, "While I am proud of reaching the finish line, what made this race meaningful to me was the opportunity to participate as a nominated attendee representing Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA). As an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, it was especially mean-

ingful to represent both my community and a cause that is close to my heart. I hope my participation encourages others to learn more about AVDA's work or support survivors in their own communities. More information about the organization can be found at <https://www.avdaonline.org/>." (Photo contributed)

The GOOD STUFF

The One Feather wants to hear your good news and/or accomplishments. Send us your "good stuff" such as:

- * birth, engagement, and wedding announcements
- * awards or other accomplishments (both civilian and military)
- * and other areas of life such as finishing restoring an old car, building a new deck, etc.

Send your photos and info to us at:
Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com

GWY ᏊᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏌᏚᏅᏍᏔᏅ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

EBCI Public Health Vending Machine Initiative locations



Graphic by:
GWY ᏊᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏌᏚᏅᏍᏔᏅ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

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

YOUR UPGRADE JUST GOT MORE AFFORDABLE



TOGETHER LET'S DRIVE

71 CAT CREEK RD FRANKLIN, NC | 828.524.0734 | WWW.COUNTRYSIDECHEVY.COM



2026 Chevrolet Traverse RS
\$59,220 Stock# T02600



2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 ZR2
\$74,140 Stock# T02677



2026 Chevrolet Trax 1RS
\$26,055 Stock# T02775



2026 Chevrolet Tahoe LT
\$74,365 Stock# T02656

Partial Listing of over Two Million Dollars of Pre-Owned Vehicles



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



2019 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid XSE
\$30,195 Stock# P810



2022 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT Diesel
\$36,978 Stock# P793



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



2025 Chevrolet Trax 2RS
\$25,948 Stock # T02752A



2024 Chevrolet Silverado RST
\$49,867 Stock # P794B



2013 Hyundai Elantra GLS Pzev
\$5,487 Stock # U0410



2006 Dodge Dakota SLT
\$5,996 Stock # P813A



2023 Jeep Wrangler 2DR Sport 4X4
\$22,051 Stock # T02701A



2025 Ford Escape ST-Line
\$24,495 Stock # P814



2024 Mazda CX-50 2.5 Turbo Premium
\$31,689 Stock # T02711B



2024 Honda Civic Type R NA
\$Call for Price Stock # T02611B

Countryside Chevrolet in Franklin, NC, We carry a full line of Chevrolet vehicles, including trucks and SUVs, with millions of dollars in new inventory. We also offer one of the finest selections of pre-owned vehicles, all fully reconditioned and backed by a complete warranty check.

Check out our selection today

