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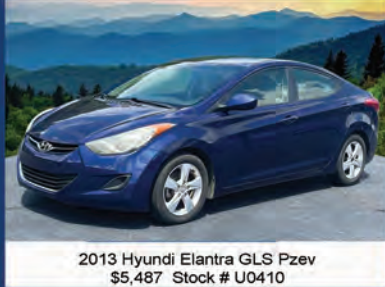


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Image of the Week:

Tsalagi Anistvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) head football coach TC Guyer leads the team into Bob Hendrix Memorial Stadium at Murphy High School for a game on the evening of Friday, Sept. 25. The Anitsvyasdi walked past fans who erupted in cheers as they passed. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



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 Letters critical of specifically named minor children will not be published.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.

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The Editorial Board of the Cherokee One Feather consists of: Brooklyn Brown Bigmeat, chairperson; Dawn Arneach, vice chairperson; Robert Jumper; Scott McKie Brings Plenty; Tina Laws, and Sheyahshe Littledave (Executive appointment).

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HEARING: From front page

Fleishmann (R-Tenn.). It passed the House in a voice vote on Feb. 5, 2025 marking the fifth Congress in a row that the legislation has passed in the House.

According to language in the bill, the 76 acres includes approximately 46 acres at the site of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, around 18.2 acres which includes the Chota Memorial and the Tanasi Memorial, and another 11.2 acres known as “support parcel”. Also included in the bill are permanent easements for the Chota Peninsula, which includes 8.5 acres, and the Chota-Tanasi Trail which has 11.4 acres.

Opening discussion on the bill during Wednesday’s hearing, Bryan Mercier, Bureau of Indian Affairs director and a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, voiced his support for the legislation, “The Department supports H.R. 226. Returning ancestral and historic lands to tribal stewardship honors the enduring legacy and sacred traditions of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Department has coordinated closely with the TVA and notes that the bill appropriately preserves TVA flowage and flood-control easements while ensuring continued public access to memorial facilities. The Department stands ready to execute the administrative trust conveyance upon enactment.”

EBCI Ugviyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks gave testimony on the bill during the hearing. “The lands we ask Congress to return are a small part of our ancestral homelands. They include Chota, once the political and cultural heart of the Chero-



The Chota site is shown in this photo.

kee people; Tanasi, which gave the State of Tennessee its name; and the birthplace of Sequoyah, who single-handedly created the Cherokee syllabary, our written language. These places are part of who we are and that connection endured through the forced removal of thousands of Cherokee people from our homelands in the 1830s where one-third of our people perished.

In 1967, the TVA began construction of the Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee River. The project would create a reservoir stretching more than 30 miles through the Little Tennessee River Valley including historic Cherokee town sites of Chota and Tanasi, and lands connected to Sequoyah’s birthplace. Our people opposed the project and warned that it would harm burial places, medicinal plants and areas, and cultural

and historical places throughout the valley. Despite those efforts, the project moved forward and, in 1979, the Tellico Dam was completed and the reservoir flooded portions of our ancestral homelands. Of course, the damage was permanent. Places our ancestors had known for generations were changed forever.”

He went on to state, “In the years that followed, the Eastern Band continued working to protect these places and maintain our connection to them. We work with the TVA. We invested in the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, which has served as an educational resource in Tennessee since 1986. We care for these historic places and continue telling their story. Since the mid-1908s, the Eastern Band has managed most of the properties included in this legislation through permanent easements granted by

the TVA.

We do not measure the importance of these places in acres. We measure it in generations. Generations fought to protect these places, and generations of our people have worked to get them back. When our children visit Chota, Tanasi, or the birthplace of Sequoyah, I personally do not want them to see places only as somewhere Cherokees used to be. I want them to understand that they are standing on Cherokee land, and there is a difference.”

Ugviyuhi Hicks concluded by stating, “This Congress cannot change what happened to our people. It cannot undo the damage, and it cannot put back what was flooded by Tellico Dam. But, this Congress can do something meaningful today. It can return these lands to our tribe. And, when these lands are returned, we will

fulfill the responsibility that comes with this land.”

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, addressed Ugvwiyuhi Hicks following his statement. “I know you are truly looking forward to getting this over the finish line.

What is this going to mean to you and to the Tribe once this is complete?...What is the significance of finally resolving this after decades of pushing to advance it?”

Ugvwiyuhi Hicks responded, “If you just think about a piece of fabric and you think about the spiritual aspect of the fabric. You think about the graves. You think about the cultural sites as you’ve heard today. And, a piece of that fabric has been missing for decades. That’s what it means to us.

We’re starting to regain, especially these areas that mean so much to our tribe. And, as a tribal member, as an elder of the tribe now, to know that we can bring this back and our children can learn from those histories - whether good or bad - and they can go celebrate the memorials of former chiefs, they can know that in perpetuity that they can protect this former capital of our people, that’s what it means to us. In comparison to touching eight states - historically the Cherokee people did - this is a drop in a bucket. But, when you think about it from the perspective of what it means to us as a people, it’s bigger than those eight states.”

Previous bills on this issue include:

- 118th Congress - H.R. 548 (Eastern Band of Cherokee His-

toric Lands Reacquisition Act). This bill was introduced by Rep. Fleischmann on Jan. 26, 2023. It passed the House in a voice vote on Feb. 6, 2023. The bill died in the Senate.

- 117th Congress – H.R. 2088 (Easter Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act). This bill was introduced by Rep. Fleischmann on March 19, 2021. It passed the House by a vote of 407-16 on Nov. 2, 2021. The bill died in the Senate.

- 116th Congress – H.R. 453 (Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act). This bill was introduced by Rep. Fleischmann on Jan. 10, 2019. It passed the House in a voice vote on Dec. 16, 2019. The bill died in the Senate.

- 115th Congress – H.R. 146 (East-

ern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act). This bill was introduced by Rep. Fleischmann on Jan. 3, 2017. It passed the House by a vote of 383-2 on April 16, 2018. The bill died in the Senate.

- 114th Congress – H.R. 3599 (Eastern Band Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act). This bill was introduced by Rep. Fleischmann on Sept. 24, 2015. A meeting was held in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs on Feb. 24, 2016, but a vote never occurred in the House.

According to H.R. 226, “No Class II or Class III gaming, as defined in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, shall be conducted on lands subject to this Act.”

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Progress is being made on the restroom facility at the new Cherokee Cultural Grounds as seen in this photo taken on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 23. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

Work is progressing nicely at Cherokee Cultural Grounds

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – Leaders of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) broke ground on the new Cherokee Cultural Grounds in Cherokee, N.C. eight months ago, and work at the site is progressing nicely. The project is being built on the site of the old Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds and will include a terraced lawn amphitheater, a retractable stage, eight pavilions, picnic areas, food truck access, walking paths, and a large greenspace area.

Rebecca Bowe, EBCI Project Management manger, told the One Feather, “The final water tie in will

be made this week. Sanitary sewer and stormwater improvements are ongoing, future coordination with Council House will be needed for the work to be completed in their parking lot. The grading activities have ramped up over the last couple weeks; we’re getting material from a closer site. The west restroom facility is coming along nicely, and we’ll be able to start the east restroom once we get the sanitary sewer and storm past the footprint of the foundations.”

At the groundbreaking ceremony in January, EBCI Secretary of Commerce Sean Ross said, “This space is about the community. Every bit of the strategy that we put together is to build something

that is directly related to attend to the needs of our people.”

He spoke to the name of the project – Cherokee Cultural Grounds – noting, “The question came up months ago, ‘what type of ceremonies are you going to do there?’ So, we thought as a group, ceremonial is very, very confining. Not everything that we do as a people here is ceremonial. But, everything that we do as EBCI members is cultural. It’s inherent in everything that we do from day to day. So, we want to celebrate that.”

The project is slated to be completed by spring/summer 2027.



Tribal jurisdiction in Prosecutorial District 43

By **BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C.— The One Feather interviewed District Attorney Ashley Hornsby for Prosecutorial District 43 (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Co.) 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 Transgender People (MMIWG2T), and the 2026-27 Law & Justice Journalism Project (LJJP) Fellowship.

In serving her district, Hornsby said her office works closely with Cherokee Indian Police Department (CIPD) and Cherokee Tribal Court. “We have a very strong working relationship with both the Cherokee Indian Police Department and the Tribal Courts. Our goal is always to work together to ensure justice. Communication is the key with both CIPD and the Tribal Prosecutor’s Office.”

State jurisdiction on the Qualla Boundary must involve non-Indian perpetrators and victim(s). Tribal jurisdiction involves either an Indian perpetrator and/or victim in Indian Country. Crimes involving a non-Indian perpetrator and victim in Indian Country do not follow under tribal jurisdiction, unless included in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which is a federal law that provides for protections for victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Those crimes not protected under VAWA involving a non-In-



Pictured fourth from left, Ashley Hornsby visits Cherokee Indian Police Department (CIPD) Oct. 1, 2025, with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation to present CIPD with awards in excellence. (BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT/One Feather photo)

dian perpetrator and victim fall to the state. Federal jurisdiction must involve an Indian perpetrator and/or victim in Indian Country, and must be a major crime, or a crime included under VAWA.

Hornsby explained specifically how her office, which is the state’s office, gets involved with cases from the Qualla Boundary. “The most populated portions of EBCI Tribal Territory in the 43rd Prosecutorial District are in Swain and Jackson Counties, and the [Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs)] and support staff assigned to those offices work on cases charged in and/or connected to the Qualla Boundary. Our ADAs in Jackson and Swain counties are available for questions from EBCI law enforcement—both CIPD and [Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE)]—24/7. There are

two primary ways that a crime occurring on the Qualla Boundary comes to our office. The first and most frequent way is when an officer initiates a charge by a warrant by going before a magistrate in the county in which the charge is being brought. All EBCI law enforcement are able to take out charges directly in State Court by warrant just as officers who are employed with agencies off Boundary. These cases all begin in District Court, although many felony cases are later indicted by the Grand Jury and then proceed in Superior Court. The other way in which a case comes to our office is when an officer makes us aware of an investigation—or the need for an investigation. We advise and assist through the course of the investigation and work closely with the officer(s) to determine

what crimes are appropriate to charge.”

Hornsby added, “My office is staffed with attorneys and support staff who have experience in and connection to the Qualla Boundary. In Swain and Jackson counties in particular, I have Assistant District Attorneys with considerable experience practicing in the Cherokee Court. Not only do we have an excellent working relationship with law enforcement in Cherokee, but we also have excellent relationships with other Tribal agencies and organizations.”

The One Feather is following several Qualla Boundary cases associated with Hornsby’s office, and we will continue to provide updates on those cases to illuminate court processes in Indian Country.

Timber Committee discusses bear hunting, air and water quality monitoring, and more

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

CHEROKEE, N.C. – The Timber Committee of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians met on Monday, Sept. 21 and discussed a variety of topics from bear hunting to air and water quality monitoring.

Mike LaVoie, EBCI Natural Resources Department director, commented on bear hunting. “We are in the middle of bear hunting season, which closes Dec. 31. We are continuing to offer a \$1,000 cash prize for a drawing if hunters are interested in submitting tooth

or whole-head samples to the department for us to better understand our local bear populations. That’s voluntary, not required by code.”

He told the Committee that the EBCI Natural Resources Department is working on a cooperative service agreement with USDA Wildlife Services. LaVoie commented, “This is an opportunity for us, which we have done in the past and hope to reinstate, where we’ve partnered with Wildlife Services to help deal with wildlife disease and wildlife nuisance issues as needed. This provides some extra capacity for us at

minimal cost to deal with things such as wild hog removals, beaver removals as necessary. We will be working with the Chief’s office to try to execute this agreement in the near future.”

Dave Rowland, EBCI Hatchery supervisor, gave an update on the operation. “We’ve been fighting the drought, and the flow, and the hot weather. It’s a critical time of year at the Hatchery right now. Hopefully, it will start cooling down here in September and October.”

He added, “We still have a series shutdown. We’ve been running about 70, 75 percent for

a couple years now and that’s due to flow. And that’s a big reason we want to get the recirculation pump because we just get one use out of our water. If we can pump it, that would really help us out with our production.

I think we need to look into purchasing another facility so we can produce more fish because we have more anglers now than we’ve ever had. And I just feel like we’re always kind of behind on our production and our goals.”

Rowland attended the North Carolina Aquaculture Association recently and gave a report. “It was really good because of a lot of local

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farmers, and a lot of them have been in the industry for a long time. Instead of going to these national things, which are nice, these are local. These are farmers that we could talk to and they have the same problems, the same kind of disease and stuff we do.”

Rainee Tetreault, EBCI Water Quality supervisor, gave a report on recreational water monitoring. “We wrapped up our last week of sampling...so, those numbers will be updated on our recreation monitoring website. And that will kind of close it out for this season until spring.”

She noted that the EBCI was hosting the National Tribal Water Council meeting during the week. “The National Tribal Water Council is an EPA partnership group with representatives from each EPA region. So, they’re going to be coming this week to see what’s going on in Cherokee and the water world. I’m very excited about it. We were selected to host based off of where our water program is. We’re one of 14 percent of tribes that have federally-approved water quality standards. So, that’s a pretty rare place to be nationally. So, we’re very proud of that and proud to show some of the projects that we’ve been working on.”

Richard Smith, an intern working in the EBCI Air Quality Program, spoke about an air quality monitoring site online (<https://www.justair.co/case-studies/ebsci>).

“I wanted to bring attention to the Just Air app. I wanted to clarify that it’s not technically an app for a mobile phone. It’s a website. The main purpose of this website is to send air quality at a local level. And, this has the advantage of being a hyper local area. So, since we have air sensors scattered throughout the Qualla

Boundary - we have about 15, at least - this website will show your local air quality index at your local area. In order to sign up for it to get information, you just need to insert your cell phone number and type in the EBCI organization and find the air sensor that’s located near your community. Subscribe to it and once it’s complete, it will send you a text message based on the local air quality to see if it’s healthy.”

Smith told the Committee they will be placing flags soon in front of buildings that will indicate air quality (Green=healthy, Yellow=moderate, and Red=Unhealthy). “We started this program as an easy way for kids and other community members to check their local air quality without looking up the website. We also want to introduce it as a guideline for children and elders to decide when it’s safe to be outside.”

Derek Tahquette, EBCI Environmental Regulatory Compliance supervisor, gave an update on underground storage tanks. “There’s two sites - one in the Big Cove community, and one in Birdtown -where we do have underground storage tanks. They’ve been out of service for a long time. They’re just kind of there and we hope to use some of that (BIA) money to start the process of looking into having those tanks removed, or filled, or something of that nature, whatever works best.

We are currently in the process of closing down the tanks at Jenkins. They have been temporarily out of service for several years now...we’ve contracted and they’re developing the plan of action to go in there and fill those tanks because of the proximity to the building, power lines, and the road...plus archaeological stuff. It

was just an easier option to just leave them in place and fill them.”

Tahquette went on to say, “We’ve got a trailer that we’re not using at the moment and we’re in the process of turning it into a hazardous materials response vehicle - whether it be petroleum or something else.”

Josh Parris, EBCI Natural Resources forestry program manager, updated the Committee on the new greenhouse site at Thomas Valley. He said the greenhouse apparatus is constructed, and they need to be put together and then have the shielding put on around the outside. They are currently working to get power and water to the site, and they have constructed a storage shed and wood-burning heater.

“Feeling good that we’re moving in the right direction with that side and we’ll be able to have things in soil and things growing with that.”

He gave an update on the Lickstone Ridge site. “There will be trees on the ground and, as we said before, materials are available to the community if they want that material that is cut. There’s a variety of different species in there ,but we are literally trying to skew toward regeneration of oak and hickory at that site. So, we have left most of the large oaks and hickories where we can find them. And there’s a few large cherries in there as well, but a lot of other material - red maple, sourwoods, birches, beeches - will be removed.”

Parris added, “This is a cross-over between horticulture and forestry. We visited, in the last week and a half, two sites for river cane. One is in the Valley River at the Mainspring property they call Welch Farm. They need to do

some management there to open up that canopy to allow for more growth of river cane. We have a bit of funding through NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and also through our interest in growing river cane to get that work going. So, we’re working with them...we also had an opportunity to visit the Southern Highlands Conservancy property that’s owned on the Cane River in Yancey County. There’s good cane there as well, too...it is a place that we could, really quickly, do some management of that cane and maybe augment that cane which is already a good artisan resource and can still be.”



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Name the Italian driver who, at age 19, won five straight Formula 1 Grands Prix during the 2026 season.
2. At the 1924 Chamonix Winter Games, American Charles Jewtraw won the first gold medal in the first Winter Olympics competing in what event?
3. Nicknamed “The Nuke,” which English teenager won the Professional Darts Corporation World Championships in 2025 and 2026?
4. Which Boston Celtics great missed all 14 of his field goal attempts and scored zero points in a 104-100 loss to the Philadelphia 76ers in January 1965?
5. Which Peruvian-born tennis player for the U.S. won the Australian Championships and the Wimbledon men’s singles titles in 1959?
6. Name the PGA Tour player who was named captain of the U.S. Team for the 2026 Presidents Cup golf tournament.
7. Lawyer Elaine Weddington Steward was hired as assistant general manager of which Major League Baseball team in 1990?

Answers

1. Kimi Antonelli.
2. The 500-meter speed skate.
3. Luke Littler.
4. Bill Russell.
5. Alex Olmedo.
6. Brandt Snedeker.
7. The Boston Red Sox.

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CCS School Board holds second August meeting

By **BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C.—The Cherokee Central Schools (CCS) Board of Education met on the evening of Aug. 17 in the Central Office Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:46 p.m. by Gahvsgi (Chairperson) Jennifer Thompson.

Members and staff present included Jennifer Thompson, chairperson and Elawodi (Yellowhill) rep.; Tara Reed-Cooper, secretary and Widagalinidisgv (Big Y) rep.; Melanie Lambert, vice chairperson and Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) rep.; Kenny Davis, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) rep.; Heather Driver, human resources director; Ashley Leonard, attorney; Diane Driver, executive administrative assistant; and Consuela Girty, superintendent.

Micah Swimmer, Aniwodihhi (Painttown) rep., had an excused absence. Michael Stamper, Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) rep., was absent.

Davis led the opening prayer. The previous meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Davis. Students from Cohort 3 of the LifeCamp Program presented to the board. Students shared that they learned cooking, budgeting, shopping, communication, presenting, and public speaking skills.

The students also provided

an update on the Elders' Parking Project. The students worked with Cherokee Middle School (CMS) Art Teacher Megan Barnes to create a mural design, which included the Seven Clans of the Cherokee, and other culturally significant art pieces.

In Good News, Girty shared an update on the 2026 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS). She said the data reflected improvements in student wellbeing including decreases in reporting feelings of sadness and hopelessness, suicidal ideation, and vaping and marijuana use.

Girty also shared that recent cultural programming has contributed to increased student understanding of Cherokee identity, and better practices for supporting students. A full day of cultural professional development is planned for Oct. 30 with sessions focused on cultural awareness and supporting students within the campus community.

CCS Finance Director Dr. Debora Foerst, and CBC Finance Director Rhonica Via, provided financial updates. Dr. Foerst shared that for the athletic budget, the target spending for the month of August was 13 percent and they were right at it with 13.7 percent. She said at the beginning of each year, insurance, supplies, and uniform payments are due, contributing to the spending. She also said that the school board's targeted budget for the month of August is 13 percent, and they were well under with 5.3 percent. Via said that the overall budget is on target. The agenda was approved with a motion by Lambert seconded by Reed-Cooper.

The consent agenda was approved with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Toineeta. The names from the consent agenda are now unredacted following the two-week period for alerting previous employers. 27-043 Mary Jane Smith is approved as a Volunteer for the Cherokee High School. 27-044 was pulled administratively. 27-045 Matthew Martens is approved as the Cherokee Central Schools Varsity Boys Soccer Assistant Coach. 27-046 Scott Lambert is approved as the Cherokee Central Schools Varsity Boys Soccer Volunteer. 27-047 Ahli-sha Stephens is approved as the Cherokee Central Schools Varsity Indoor Track & Field Head Coach. 27-048 Josiah Lossiah is approved as the Cherokee Central Schools JV Boys Basketball Head Coach. 27-049 Darius Williams is approved as the CHS Volunteer Volleyball Coach for SY 2026-2027.

In new business, the assistant principal job description was revised with a motion by Lambert seconded by Davis. The board entered closed session at 6:47 p.m. and exited closed session at 7:27 p.m.

Thompson said she was approached and asked why Cherokee Youth Football does not have a place to warm-up before their games on Saturday, and if they could use the soccer field. Toineeta asked the same question about using the soccer field for warm-ups. Girty said the soccer field is currently being used for Cherokee High School Varsity Soccer, and they do not want the field messed

up. She said she would check to see if they could use the softball and baseball field.

Reed-Cooper asked why elderly parking was not being enforced at the youth football games. Girty said CCS staff are not staffing the parking lot; Cherokee Recreation is responsible for staffing the parking lot.

Thompson asked if something could be done about standing water that puddles up where the youth football cheerleaders stand during games. Girty said the drainage does not work correctly there, and she would look into getting a squeegee to push the water off from that area.

Davis said he was asked if the school had any Promethean Boards available to donate to the community clubs. Girty said if one comes available, an email will be sent out.

Davis asked about the cost of recent construction at the school and if it was on budget. Girty said it is on budget.

Davis asked about the Cherokee language program. Girty said the goal is to get more Cherokee speakers in the classroom. Currently, Cherokee language teachers are rotating through classrooms at the elementary school. She said they want to do the same with the middle school and get more classes at the high school. She said there is a position open at the high school, and she suggested to CHS Principal Craig Barker that the position be reserved for a speaker.

Girty said they currently have 1,346 students enrolled in the school system.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

CCS School Board holds September meeting

By **BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - On the evening of Sept. 3, the Cherokee Central Schools Board of Education met in the Central Office Board Room. Chairperson Jennifer Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m.

Members and staff present included Jennifer Thompson, chairperson and Elawodi (Yellowhill) rep.; Tara Reed-Cooper, secretary

and Widagalinidigv (Big Y) rep.; Melanie Lambert, vice chairperson and Tsisqwohi (Birdtown) rep.; Kenny Davis, Kolanvyi (Big Cove) rep.; Micah Swimmer, Aniwo-dihi (Painttown) rep.; Roberta Toineeta, Wayohi (Wolftown) rep.; Heather Driver, human resources director; Consuela Girty, superintendent, Diane Driver, executive administrative assistant; Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) rep. Michael Stamper from Aniwodihhi, and Dinilawigi alternative rep. Lavita Hill from Kolanvyi.

Davis led the opening prayer. Previous meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Toineeta.

CCS Data, Testing, and Accountability Director Sebastien Brun provided an update on recent

data collected from parents to improve the school's communication with families. He said he is identifying preferred methods of communication with families and working with the communications department to ensure important messages are effectively distributed to parents and the community. Brun asked what information the board would like to receive frequent updates for, and the board responded that they would like to see student enrollment numbers reported on a quarterly basis.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director Dr. Heath Robertson provided a program update. He shared that 31 percent of CCS students earned CTE credentials, placing the school around the middle of rankings when compared with similar pathways across state schools.

Curriculum and Instruction Director Jennifer Martens provided an update. She said she welcomed two new members to her instructional staff, Nichole Efird and Jakeli Swimmer. She said the instructional team is working to bring guest speakers, lesson plans, and additional instructional resources into the classroom.

Martens said they hosted members of the Dadiwonisi Language Program from Tutiya (Snowbird) to discuss Cherokee language initiatives and identify ways to support staff in incorporating Cherokee language in the classroom.

In Good News, Girty shared that Media Coordinator Todd Odom is now announcing the CHS Varsity Volleyball players ahead of their home games in the Cherokee language, and Cultural Facilitator Catcuce Tiger is assisting with pronunciation.

She also shared that the Oc-

cupational Course of Study (OCS) Program provides valuable work experience for students, and several students are gaining experience working in a variety of places throughout the community.

The agenda was approved with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Swimmer.

The consent agenda was approved with a motion by Reed-Cooper seconded by Lambert. Names are redacted from the consent agenda to allow new employees a two-week period to alert their previous employers. 27-055 Cherokee Central Schools Exceptional Student Services contract with Soliant be approved to provide services to students for this school year 2026-27. The combined contracts exceed \$25,000.00

27-056 REDACTED is approved as the Varsity Wrestling Volunteer for this school year. 27-057 Cherokee Central Schools Exceptional Student Services contract with The Stepping Stones Group be approved to provide services to students for this school year 2026-27. The combined contracts exceed \$25,000.

The board entered closed session at 6:05 p.m. and exited at 6:46 p.m. The board decided that they would meet only one time in October, due to the 114th Annual Cherokee Indian Fair coinciding with the board meeting on Oct. 5. Instead, the board will only meet on Oct. 19 for the month of October.



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EBCI Roads Commission September meeting held

By **BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT**
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C.—The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Roads Commission monthly meeting was held on the morning of Monday, Sept. 21.

Nathaniel Trace Lambert, interim manager of the Cherokee Department of Transportation

(CDOT), provided updates:

CDOT went through the Request For Proposal (RFP) process for on-call paving. They selected their contractor. They have an on-call engineer to go over Welch Road, Big Cove Road, Meeting House and Mink Branch.

CDOT met with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and National Hazardous Materials (NHM) route registry about crosswalks beside the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

The Hornbuckle Replacement Bridge will go to contract soon.

CDOT met with EBCI Public Health and Human Services

(PHHS) to discuss new signs along Drama Road.

There is an RFP for striping. It will go to contract soon.

CDOT has been patching and replacing guardrails in communities throughout the Qualla Boundary. They are getting ready to replace culverts in Tsalagi Gadugi (Cherokee Co.) and Kolanvyi (Big Cove).

They replaced a long run of culvert at Eagles Nest.

On Adams Creek, Tribal Construction assisted with the dig out and patching.

On Bradley Branch, CDOT cleaned out culverts and did ditch line improvements.

On Fisher Branch and Boys Club Loop, CDOT reinstalled speed bumps.

On Bob Owle Road, they changed out culverts and did ditching on the road.

They are currently on the back roads scraping. Once they complete back roads, they will hit every gravel road throughout the communities before it gets cold and starts freezing.

They sent a motor grader to Tsalagi Gadugi.

The Cherokee Boys Club is still doing long arming by request.

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



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



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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. 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. A hearing was held in that Committee on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026.

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. A hearing was held in this Committee on the Senate version of this bill (Senate Bill 3859) on Sept. 23, 2026.

Senate Bill 5354 (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 both Senate Bill 4276 and H.R. 8092.

Introduced: Aug. 6, 2026 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Aug. 6, 2026. An oversight hearing entitled “Examining

Housing Needs in Native Communities” was held in that Committee on Sept. 16, 2026. A business meeting was held in that Committee on Sept. 23, 2026, and it advanced being reported favorably.

Bills we’re currently watching

Senate Bill 761 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act). This bill would establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. According to Congress.gov, “Among other duties, the Commission must investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policies – federal policies under which American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in boarding schools.” Introduced: Feb. 26, 2025 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. It was “ordered to be reported without amendment favorably” by the Committee on March 5, 2025. It was reported without amendment by Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs chairperson, on July 31, 2025. That same day, it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders (Calendar No. 139).

H.R. 2412 (Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act). This bill would establish an Office for Indigenous Affairs and an Advisory Commission for Indigenous Peoples within the Department of State. Introduced: March 27, 2025 by

Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawai’i) Action: This bill was referred to both the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 27, 2025. There are no scheduled hearings in either Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 2929. (Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe recognition bill). This bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina, a state-recognized group. Introduced: April 17, 2025 by Rep. Donald G. Davis (D-N.C.) Action: This bill was referred to 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 years 2026 and 2027.

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

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

H.R. 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 activ-

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

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

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

Senate Bill 2577 (McCarren-Walter Technical Corrections Act). This bill would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States”. This bill is identical to H.R. 4596.

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

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

House Resolution 666 (Supporting the goals of Overdose Awareness Day and strengthening efforts to combat the opioid crisis in the United States). This House resolution states in part, “The House of Representatives (1) recognizes Overdose Awareness Day (reporter’s note – it is usually Aug. 31, but a specific date is not listed in the resolution) in the United States; (2) commits to advancing the passing bipartisan policies that reduce the stigma surrounding substance use disorders and overdoses; and is dedicated to collaborating

with states, localities, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, health care providers, patients, and families to support a comprehensive system that promotes prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery from opioid use disorder.”

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

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

H.R. 5144 {Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County, Virginia Federal Recognition Act}. This bill would grant federal acknowledgement to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Virginia, a state-recognized group. Introduced: Sept. 4, 2025 by Rep. Jennifer A. Kiggans (R-Va.) Action: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 4, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 5257 (To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust). The full title of the bill states “To reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust by the United States pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934, for the benefit of an Indian Tribe that was federally recognized on the date that the land was taken into trust”. Introduced: Sept. 10, 2025 by Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) 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: Sept. 11, 2025 by Rep. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-Va.)

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: Sept. 17, 2025 by Sen. John W. Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) 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: Sept. 18, 2025 by Rep. Paul Ruiz (D-Calif.) 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: Oct. 10, 2025 by Rep. Michael A. Rulli (R-Ohio) 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: Oct. 14, 2025 by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) 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: Oct. 14, 2025 by Rep. Norma J. Torres (D-Calif.)
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: Oct. 23, 2025 by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.)
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 Koot-zaduka’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: Oct. 24, 2025 by Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.)
Action: This bill was referred to

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

H.R. 5869 (Tribal Water Infrastructure Grants Expansion Act). This bill would “amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to assistance for Indian Tribes”. According to the bill, “In addition to amounts otherwise made available under Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, there is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to make grants, in cooperation with the Director of the Indian Health Service...for (A) projects and activities eligible for assistance under 603(c) of such Act; and (B) training, technical assistance, and educational programs related to the operation and management of treatment works eligible for assistance...”
Introduced: Oct. 28, 2025 by Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.)
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 authorizes such leases.
Introduced: Nov. 4, 2025 by Rep. Harriet M. Hageman (R-Wyo.)
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: Nov. 20, 2025 by Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.)
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: Nov. 21, 2025 by Rep. Jill N. Tokuda (D-Hawai’i)
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: Nov. 20, 2025 by Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.)
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.

see **LEGISLATIVE** next page

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H.R. 7325 (Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2026). This bill would establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies “to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Policies, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American people”. If passed, an initial Commission Report would be required within four years and annual reports would be required from that point on.

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

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

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business on Feb. 5, 2026, and a mark-up session was held on Feb. 11, 2026 where it was reported favorably (24-0 vote). 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. 7490 (Tribal Warrant Fairness Act). This bill will “allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain Tribal criminal matters.”

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

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

H.R. 7627 (Tribal Conservation Priorities Inclusion Act). This bill aims “to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to include Indian Tribes in certain provisions relating to priority resource concerns”.

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

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

Senate Bill 3945 (Tribal Police Department Parity Act). This bill aims “to ensure that federal laws that enable federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply to Tribal law enforcement agencies”.

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

Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on Feb. 26, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Com-

mittee 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: March 4, 2026 by Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.)

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

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

Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Edu-

cation 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: March 26, 2026 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)
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: March 26, 2026 by Rep. Troy Downing (R-Mont.)
Action: This will was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services on March 26, 2026. A hearing was held in this Committee on Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

H.R. 8658. (Indian Health Service Emergency Claims Parity Act). This bill would “amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to modify the notification requirement for emergency contract health services for certain beneficiaries”.
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 that subcommittee on July 15, 2026, and it was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent. The bill was discharged by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Aug. 27, 2026 and placed on the Union Calendar that same day. The bill was passed in the House by a voice vote on Sept. 14, 2026. It was received in the Senate the following day.

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 in that subcommittee on June 9, 2026.

Senate Bill 4976 (Native Children’s Commission Implementation Act of 2026). This bill seeks “to improve outcomes for Native children by empowering tribal communities, strengthening families, and increasing access to critical services”. The bill would establish the Advisory Committee on Tribal Juvenile Justice which would “provide advice and recommendations to the Administrator, the Attorney General, and Con-

gress on all matters relating to juvenile justice, delinquency prevention and system improvement with respect to tribal youth”.

The bill also states, “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, shall conduct Tribal consultation and, after conducting that consultation, complete a study on the number and status of cases involving Native American missing children and youth, including the scope and context of those cases that are connected to juvenile justice system involvement, child welfare system involvement, and non-custodial parent abduction, including domestic violence, sexual assault, homicide, drug activity, stalking, and human trafficking.”
Introduced: July 14, 2026 by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on July 14, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 5132 (A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008). The full text of this legislation is not yet available. The title currently states, “A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow for dual enrollment in the supplemental nutrition assistance program and the food distribution program on Indian reservations.”
Introduced: July 23, 2026 by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.)
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on July 23, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee

for this bill as of press time.

Senate Bill 5299 (Native Language Educators in Classrooms Act). This bill seeks “to amend the Head Start Act to establish tribal certification standards for Indian Head Start programs”.
Introduced: Aug. 6, 2026 by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.)
Action: This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Aug. 6, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

H.R. 10205 (REACH Our Tribes Act). This bill would “amend the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish a budgetary Tribal Government consultation process at the Department of Agriculture”.
Introduced: Sept. 1, 2026 by Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Kan.)
Action: This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the House Committee on Financial Services on Sept. 1, 2026. There are no scheduled hearings in those Committees for this bill as of press time.

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

Groups seeking federal acknowledgement as an Indian Tribe (September 2026 update)

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

Each month, the One Feather will give an update on the various groups seeking federal acknowledgment as an Indian Tribe either through Congressional means or by going through the OFA (Office of Federal Acknowledgment) process.

Groups seeking acknowledgment through Congress

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe of North Carolina

This group, based in Hollister, N.C., has state recognition in the State of North Carolina. They are

seeking acknowledgment through House bill H.R. 2929 which was introduced by Rep. Donald G. David (D-N.C.) on April 17, 2025. 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.

Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians

This group, based in Grand Rapids, Mich., has state recognition in the State of Michigan. They are seeking acknowledgment through two Congressional bills – House bill H.R. 3255 which was introduced by Rep. Hillar

J. Scholten (D-Mich.) on May 7, 2025 and Senate Bill 2160 which was introduced by Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-Mich.) on June 25, 2025. H.R. 3255 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. Senate Bill 2160 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.

Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia

This group, based in Fredericksburg, Va., has state recognition in the State of Virginia. They are seeking acknowledgment through House bill H.R. 4750 which was introduced by Rep. Eugene Simon Vindman (D-Va.) on July 23, 2025. 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.

Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County, Virginia

This group, based in Southampton County, Va., has state recognition in the State of Virginia. They are seeking acknowledgment through House bill H.R. 5144 which was introduced by Rep. Jennifer A. Kiggans (R-Va.) on Sept. 4, 2025. 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.

Nottoway Tribe of Virginia

This group, based in Spring Grove, Va., has state recognition in the State of Virginia. They are seeking acknowledgment through House bill H.R. 5327 which was introduced by Rep. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-Va.) on Sept. 11, 2025. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Sept. 11, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Mono Lake Kootzaduka's Tribe

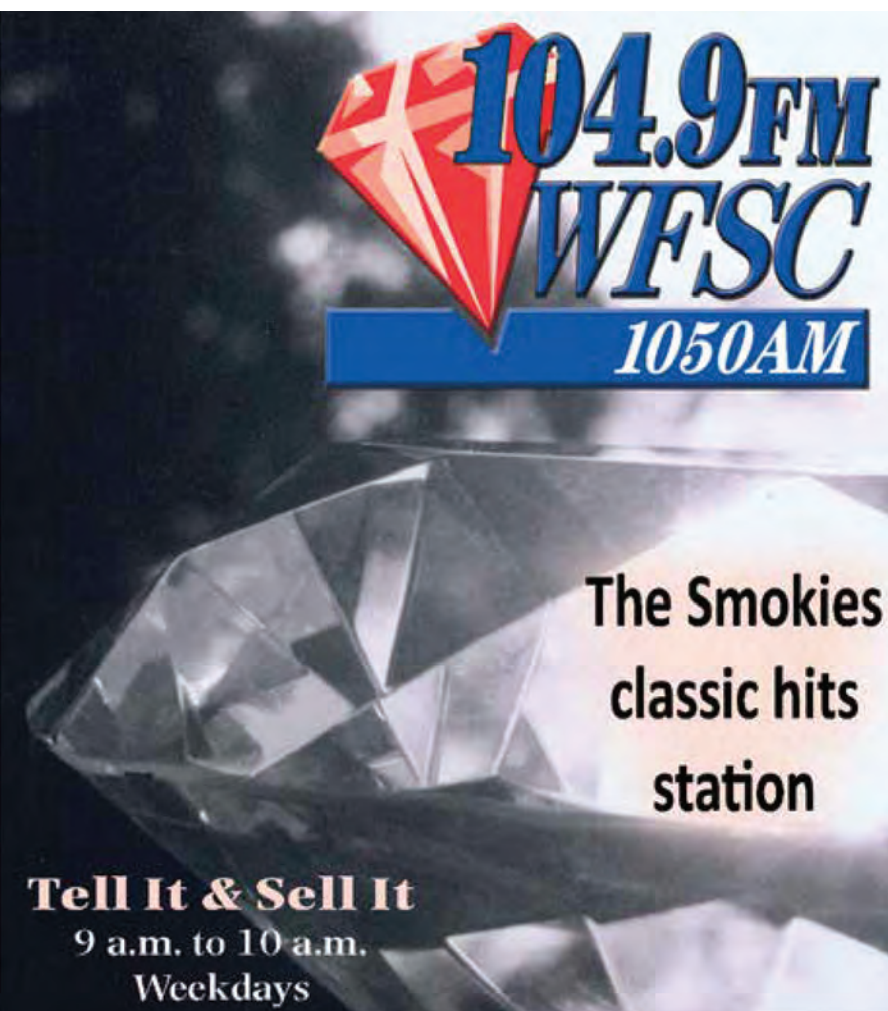
This group is based in Lee Vining, Calif. They are seeking acknowledgment through House bill H.R. 5820 which was introduced by Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Calif.) on Oct. 24, 2025. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 24, 2025. There is not a scheduled hearing in that Committee for this bill as of press time.

Groups seeking acknowledgment through OFA Process

The OFA lists the following criteria that petitioning groups must meet in order to receive federal acknowledgment:

“Under the Department’s regulations, in order to meet this standard, petitioning groups must demonstrate that they meet each of seven mandatory criteria. The petitioner must:

1. demonstrate that it has been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900;
2. show that a predominant portion of the petitioning group comprises a distinct community and has existed as a community from historical times until the present;



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3. demonstrate that it has maintained political influence or authority over its members as an autonomous entity from historical times until the present;

4. provide a copy of the group's present governing document including its membership criteria;

5. demonstrate that its membership consists of individuals who descend from the historical Indian tribe or from historical Indian tribes that combined and functioned as a single autonomous political entity and provide a current membership list;

6. show that the membership of the petitioning group is composed principally of persons who are not members of any acknowledged North American Indian tribe; and

7. demonstrate that neither the petitioner nor its members are the subject of congressional legislation that has expressly terminated or forbidden the Federal relationship.

Note: Following are some definitions, from the OFA, to better understand the terms used.

• "A Phase I Technical Assistance (TA) review is a preliminary evaluation by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA), within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to check specific mandatory criteria of a documented federal acknowledgment petition."

• "The Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) places a petition 'Awaiting Active Consideration' when it is fully documented and ready for evaluation but staff are currently occupied with a limited number of active petitions ahead of it in the queue."

Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe

This group, based in Las Cruces, N.M., has state recognition

in the State of New Mexico. They are currently awaiting petitioner response to Phase I TA Review.

Muscogee Nation of Florida

This group, based in Ponce de Leon, Fla., has state recognition in the State of Florida. They are currently awaiting active consideration.

United Houma Nation, Inc.

This group, based in Houma, La., has state recognition in the State of Louisiana. They are currently awaiting supplement.

Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees, Inc.

This group, based in Bourg, La, is an alliance of three state-recognized tribes in Louisiana including: Bayou Lafourche Band, Grand Caillou/Dulac Band, and Isle de Jean Charles Band. They are currently awaiting supplement.

Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe

This group, based in Montegut, La., has state recognition in the State of Louisiana. They are currently awaiting supplement.

Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

This group is based in Mariposa, Calif. They are currently awaiting supplement.

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Adjachemen Nation

This group is based in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. They are currently awaiting supplement.

Meherrin Tribe

This group, based in Murfreesboro, N.C., has state recognition in the State of North Carolina. They are currently awaiting supplement.

Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians

This group, based in Grand Rapids, Mich., has state recognition in the State of Michigan. They are awaiting active consideration. This group, as referenced above, is also seeking acknowledgment through two Congressional bills.

Schaghticoke Indian Tribe

This group is based in Kent, Conn. and has state recognition in the State of Connecticut. They are in a Phase II TA Review.

Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux

This group is based in Natchitoches, La. They are in a Phase I Proposed Finding.

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

This group is based in San Fernando, Calif. They are awaiting active consideration.

Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

This group is based in Las Cruces, N.M. The OFA is currently awaiting petitioner response to Phase I TA Review.

Tripanick Nansemond Family Indian Tribe

This group is based in Brandon, Miss. They are awaiting active consideration.

Salinan Tribe of Monterey

and San Luis Obispo Counties

This group is based in Atascadero, Calif. They are awaiting active consideration.

Tuskarora Nation of Moratoc Indians

This group, based in Red Springs, N.C., has state recognition in the State of North Carolina. They are awaiting active consideration.

Mattaponi Indian Tribe and Reservation

This group, based in West Point, Va., has state recognition in the State of Virginia. They are awaiting active consideration.

Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah

This group is based in Fort Duchesne, Utah. They are awaiting active consideration.

Salyersville Indian Community

This group is based in Salyersville, Ky. They are awaiting active consideration.

Gabrielino/Tongva Nation

This group is based in Industry, Calif. They are awaiting active consideration.

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista

This group is based in La Jolla, Calif. They are in the OFA Public Comment Period.

EBCI Tribal ABC Commission
(828) 788-4261

CIPD Arrest Report for Sept. 14-20, 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 the onefather.com.

Wolfe Jr., James Robert – age 52
Arrested: Sept. 14
Released: Sept. 14
Charges: Pre-Trial Release Violation

Cassano, Miyah Anari – age 28
Arrested: Sept. 15

Released: Sept. 15
Charges: Hold Until Sober

Johnson, Tony Anthony – age 67
Arrested: Sept. 15
Released: Sept. 17
Charges: Abusive Sexual Contact; Offensive Touching; Taking Indecent Liberties with Children; Assault on a Female; Contributing to the Delinquency, Undiscipline, Neglect, or Abuse of Minors

Taylor, Carol Denise – age 55
Arrested: Sept. 15
Released: Sept. 16
Charges: Probation Violation

Buchanan III, Omer Albert – age 28
Arrested: Sept. 16
Released: Sept. 17
Charges: Possession of a Con-

trolled Substance, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order of the Court, Probation Violation

Davis, Jeremiah Israel-Dementric – age 28
Arrested: Sept. 16
Released: Not released as of report date (Sept. 22)
Charges: Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Dorman, Nicholas – age 26
Arrested: Sept. 16
Released: Sept. 16
Charges: Temporary Hold

Sanchez, Tristan Israel – age 37
Arrested: Sept. 16
Released: Sept. 17
Charges: Possession of a Controlled Substance Schedules I-V, Drug Paraphernalia

Teesateskie, Davisia Zaki – age 20
Arrested: Sept. 16
Released: Sept. 17
Charges: Criminal Conspiracy, Probation Violation

Tail, Daniel Henry – age 53
Arrested: Sept. 17
Released: Sept. 18
Charges: Second Degree Trespass

Thomas, Princeton Dajon – age 34
Arrested: Sept. 17
Released: Sept. 21
Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders, Second Degree Trespass

Hughes, Kevin Matthew – age 38
Arrested: Sept. 18

Released: Not released as of report date (Sept. 22)
Charges: Probation Violation

Robinson, Denerio Rodrecus – age 42
Arrested: Sept. 18
Released: Not released as of report date (Sept. 22)
Charges: Violations of Exclusion Resolutions and Orders, Probation Revocation

Wolfe, Corbin Randall – age 26
Arrested: Sept. 18
Released: Sept. 18
Charges: Driving While Impaired

Evans, Trinity – age 34
Arrested: Sept. 19
Released: Sept. 19
Charges: Temporary Hold

George, Charles Edward – age 51
Arrested: Sept. 19
Released: Sept. 21
Charges: Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance

Screamer Jr., James Albert – age 51
Arrested: Sept. 19
Released: Not released as of report date (Sept. 22)
Charges: Public Intoxication, Probation Violation

Wolfe, Daliyah Lanae – age 28
Arrested: Sept. 19
Released: Not released as of report date (Sept. 22)
Charges: Possession Drug Paraphernalia, Tampering with Evidence

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QUALLA-WEEN

OCTOBER



CHEROKEE, NC



Legendary Fears: The Sgili (Ghost) Hunt

Guests will have the opportunity to explore **Mountainside Theatre** after dark and conduct their own paranormal investigations. Guides will be stationed throughout the theatre to share some of the unexplained things our staff members have experienced over the years. Not recommended for children under 10.

October 15-17, 22-24, 29-31, 7pm - 10pm



Legendary Fears: Spearfinger's Awakening

Something has awakened Spearfinger from her grave. Now, she has called the others from the darkness. Ancient creatures once whispered about around the fire are stirring again, summoned from the shadows to join her. This October, Cherokee's darkest legends come alive. Encounter them after dark at Oconaluftee Indian Village. Not recommended for children under 10.

October 15-17, 22-24, 29-31, 7pm - 10pm



Fear as a Teacher Exhibit

View this month long exhibit at the **Museum of the Cherokee People**. The Museum is open 9am-5pm with the last ticket sold at 4pm. Admission to the exhibition is included in a general admission ticket.

October 1 - 31



Shape Shifters

Hands on crafts and goodies for the whole family at the **Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual**.

DIY activities

Oct 30, 9am - 3pm

DIY activities & Open Air Market

Oct 31, 9am - 3pm

Costume Contest Kids - Teens - Adults

Oct 31, 11am - 1pm



Cherokee Art Heist

Follow clues around Cherokee to solve the mystery of the stolen painting. Start at the **Museum Pavilion**. Hosted by Sequoyah Fund.

October 30 & 31, 9am - 3 pm

quallaween.com





Cherokee's Nashoba Tushka (#26), Nakai Pheasant (#30), and Tsula Howlingcrane (#0) listen to their coach's instruction during a timeout.

FOOTBALL

Murphy 44 Cherokee 23

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

The Tsalagi Anitsvvasdi (Cherokee Braves) traveled to the Murphy Bulldogs on the evening of Friday, Sept. 25. FINAL SCORE: Murphy 44 Cherokee 23.

SCORING SUMMARY

By Sheena Brings Plenty
One Feather Assistant

1st Quarter

- 6:05 - MURPHY - Peyton Bain 27-yard pass to Grayson Hall. 2-point conversion good. Murphy 8 Cherokee 0.
- 3:56 - MURPHY - Blake Davis 9-yard run. PAT good. Murphy 15 Cherokee 0.
- 1:53 - MURPHY - Bain 25-yard pass to Anthony Catuto. PAT good. Murphy 22 Cherokee 0.

2nd Quarter

- 6:32 - MURPHY - Cameron Clem 14-yard run. 2-point conversion good. Murphy 30 Cherokee 0.
- 0:54 - MURPHY - Bain 38-yard pass to Hall. PAT good. Murphy 37 Cherokee 0.

3rd Quarter

- 10:13 - CHER - Kaden Cucumber interception and 51-yard run for TD. PAT good. Murphy 37 Cherokee 7.
- 8:01 - MURPHY - Hall kickoff return (yardage unavailable) for TD. PAT good. Murphy 44 Cherokee 7

4th Quarter

- 9:45 - CHER - Kingston Welch 5-yard run. 2-point conversion good. Murphy 44 Cherokee 15
- 2:15 - CHER - Welch 3-yard run. 2-point conversion good. Murphy 44 Cherokee 23

FINAL SCORE: Murphy 44 Cherokee 23

GAME STATISTICS

Statistics per Cherokee Central Schools

Note: Statistics for Murphy were not available

by press time.

PASSING: Cherokee – Jeron Martens 1 of 9, 9 yds, 2 INT

RUSHING: Cherokee – Kingston Welch 32 for 182 yds, 2 TD; Nashoba Tushka 2 for 9 yds; Noah Watty, 1 for 3 yds

RECEIVING: Cherokee – Noah Watty 1 for 9 yds

KICK RETURN: Cherokee – Kingston Welch 3 for 92 yds, long of 39; Tsula Howlingcrane 1 for 27 yds; Noah Watty 1 for 20 yds; Mack Burgess 1 for 8 yds

DEFENSIVE STATS: Cherokee – Siah Teesateskie 7 tackles; Sonny Foalima 5 tackles; Levi Trampler 4 tackles; Drallen Ledford, 4 tackles, 3 QB pressures; Tsula Howlingcrane 4 tackles; Kyitan Johnson 4 tackles, 1 QB pressure; Kaden Cucumber 4 tackles, 1 interception return for a 58-yard TD; Noah Watty 3 tackles; Zaynon Taylor 1 tackle, 1 QB pressure; McKyan Panther 1 tackle; Kodesgi Jackson 1 tackle; Nashoba Tushka 1 tackle; Nakai Pheasant 1 tackle; Waya Hernandez 1 tackle

KICKOFFS: Cherokee – Jeron Martens 3 for 129 yds, long of 58



Cherokee's Noah Watty (#2) flips Murphy's Grayson Hall.



<<

Cherokee's Jabrien Smith (#5) dives into the end zone on a 5-yard run in the second quarter.

JV FOOTBALL

Cherokee 42 Avery Co. 0

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

The JV Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) hosted the JV Avery County Vikings at Ray Kinsland Stadium in Cherokee, N.C., on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 24. Cherokee started the game with two early scoop-and-scores to set the tone. Early in the second half, the Anitsvyasdi went up 42-0 invoking the NCHSAA mercy rule (running clock).

Scoring Summary
By Sheena Brings Plenty
One Feather Assistant

1st Quarter

- 9:44 - CHER - Jakob Jackson 31-yard fumble recovery return

after Avery County fumble. PAT blocked. Cherokee 6 Avery County 0.

- 6:38 - CHER - Tristan Tisho 9-yard fumble recovery return after Avery County fumble. 2-point no good. Cherokee 12 Avery County 0.

- 3:31 - CHER - Jabrien Smith 11-yard run. 2-point conversion good. Cherokee 20 Avery County 0.

- 1:19 - CHER - Uriah Ben 46-yard punt return. 2-point conversion good. Cherokee 28 Avery County 0.

2nd Quarter

- 0:33 - CHER - Jabrien Smith 5-yard run. 2-point conversion no good. Cherokee 34 Avery County 0.

3rd Quarter

- 9:39 - CHER - Luke Rudisill 66-yard run. 2-point conversion good. Cherokee 42 Avery County 0.

FINAL SCORE: Cherokee 42
Avery County 0



Cherokee's Eli Lane runs after intercepting a ball in the fourth quarter as the JV Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) hosted the JV Avery County Vikings at Ray Kinsland Stadium in Cherokee, N.C., on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 24.



CHS wins awards at NCHSAA meeting

At the NCHSAA (North Carolina High School Athletic Association) Region 8 meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, Cherokee Central Schools Athletic Director Kelsey Jackson accepted two honors for the 2025-26 school year on behalf of Cherokee High School Athletics: the Ejection-Free Award and the Wells Fargo Conference Cup for the Smoky Mountain 1A/2A Conference. The Wells Fargo Conference Cup, formerly known as the Wachovia Cup, is a companion to the statewide Wells Fargo State Cup. This award is based on regular-season performance within conference play and recognizes the top overall interscholastic athletic program in each NCHSAA conference. This is the first time in school history that CHS has won the Cup. Consuela Girty, Cherokee Central Schools superintendent, stated, "This is a tremendous accomplishment and a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and success of our student-athletes, coaches, and supporters throughout the year." (Photo courtesy of Cherokee Central Schools)

Glow life

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5th GRADE

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SOCCER: The Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi (Cherokee Braves) played Andrews Wildcats at the Cherokee High School soccer field in Cherokee, N.C., on the rainy afternoon of Tsoine Iga (Wednesday) Duliisdi (Sept.) 23. The game ended just after the second half began, due to lightning in the area. Andrews won 5-0. Just before the half, Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi had a goalie change from Jonaton Escobar to Utsela Saunooke. Cherokee's Carter Stephens (#15 in photo) had several shots on goal, one hitting the crossbar. It was a tough game, it had just finished raining, the pitch was wet making it harder to stop and turn. Next week, the Tsalagi Anitsvyasdi take on the Highland Highlanders. (DAWN ARNEACH/One Feather photo)

Trying to sell a couch, a lamp, etc.?

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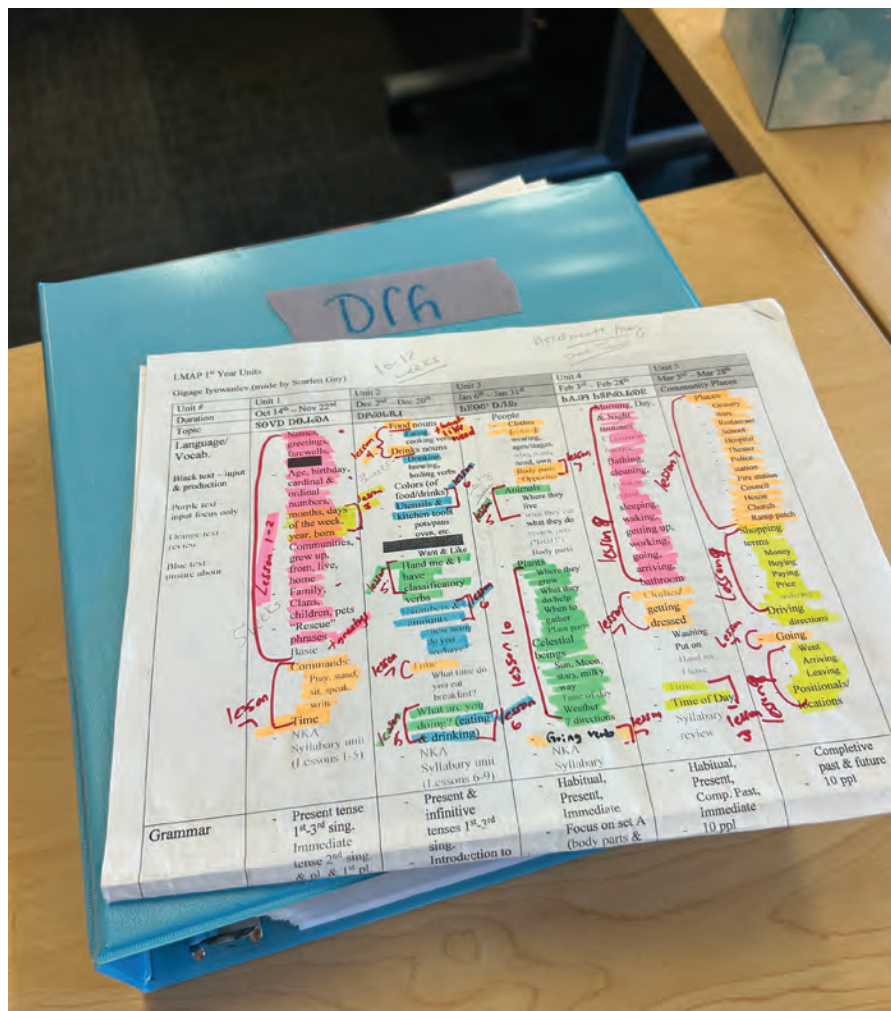
Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program shares curriculum overview

By BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT
One Feather Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. - Teachers and staff from the Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP) have been working through the summer to consolidate resources and update their curriculum. The curriculum team includes CLMAP Teacher Aaliyah “Aliyo” Swimmer, CLMAP Teacher Dylan “Dalala” Lossiah, CLMAP Teacher and Adult Language Educator Scarlett “Gigage” Guy, Curriculum Instruction Coordinator Taylor “Talutsa” Wilnoty, and Speaker Services Supervisor Brittany “Tsisgwa” Frady.

After holding a curriculum development workshop earlier this summer with language program experts from the Cherokee Nation and Awkesasne Mohawk Nation, the team is sharing a newly developed curriculum for the CLMAP first, second, and third-year program cohort. Much of the work has consisted of consolidating resources from Microsoft SharePoint folders and Kituwah Preservation Education Program (KPEP) teaching materials. Gigage said the team is working from pre-existing materials, including her and Aliyo’s lesson plans. Aliyo has combined materials from Gigage’s lesson planning and her own to create an entire first-year cohort binder.

Tsisgwa, who previously worked as a teacher at New Kituwah Academy (NKA), said a curriculum is different from a lesson



CLMAP Teacher Aaliyah “Aliyo” Swimmer’s first-year cohort binder. (BROOKLYN BROWN BIGMEAT/One Feather photo)

plan. The curriculum is a guideline for lesson planning that includes Cherokee Core Values, unit mapping, and proficiency standards.

The curriculum includes unit mapping for the first, second, and third year of the program, each with 18 units divided into 4 quarters. The third year is a teacher apprenticeship: Quarter 1 is observation in the classroom, Quarter 2 is co-teaching, Quarter 3 is solo teaching, and Quarter 4 is a capstone project.

After applying some finishing touches, the team hopes to share the curriculum publicly via an online link on the KPEP website, which they are also updating, by October. The next CLMAP cohort will operate under the curriculum. The team said they are open to feedback and critique to implement the best learning guidelines for the program.

Gigage shared some statistics from the program’s inception in 2018 to now. “To the best of my

knowledge in consultation with Aliyo and Chi Shipman, there have been a total of 33 CLMAP/(CALL) graduates since the first graduation in 2020. The first cohort was brought on in 2018 and started as a 24-32 hours per week contracted position program. In the fall/winter of 2022, Tribal Council turned the apprentice positions in the program into full-time 40 hours per week tribal employee positions. Teachers were still contract employees until early 2025.

Since 2020, there have been 6 cohorts to graduate from the 2-year program. A new cohort wasn’t allowed to be brought on in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so there was no graduating class two years later in 2022. The breakdown is as follows:

- 2020 - 3 graduates
- 2021 - 4 graduates
- 2022 - 0 graduates
- 2023 - 3 graduates
- 2024 - 7 graduates
- 2025 - 8 graduates
- 2026 - 8 two-year graduates & 1 third-year graduate.”

Of the 2026 two-year graduates, five are continuing in the third year of the program. The other three are working in the language: Dalala is a CLMAP teacher, Steven “Galagina” Long is an NKA teacher, and Gabby “Adahosgi” Thompson is the NKA media coordinator.

The One Feather will share an accessible link to the curriculum once it goes live.



<<

Cherokee Middle School Homecoming

The Cherokee Middle School Homecoming royalty was crowned during halftime of the JV Tsalagi Anitsvysdi (Cherokee Braves) vs JV Avery County Vikings football game held at Ray Kinsland Stadium on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 24. Shown, left to right, are Prince Kaizer Smith, 8th grade; Princess Mali Smith, 7th grade, escorted by Haleigh Price; Queen Misha Slee, 8th grade, escorted by her father Michael Slee; and King Huxley Blythe, 7th grade. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

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-EBCI Principal Chief Michell Hicks

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When we protect one another, ᏚᏈᏈᏈᏈᏈ.

World Premiere held for “Raising Cane: The Cherokee and Rivercane”

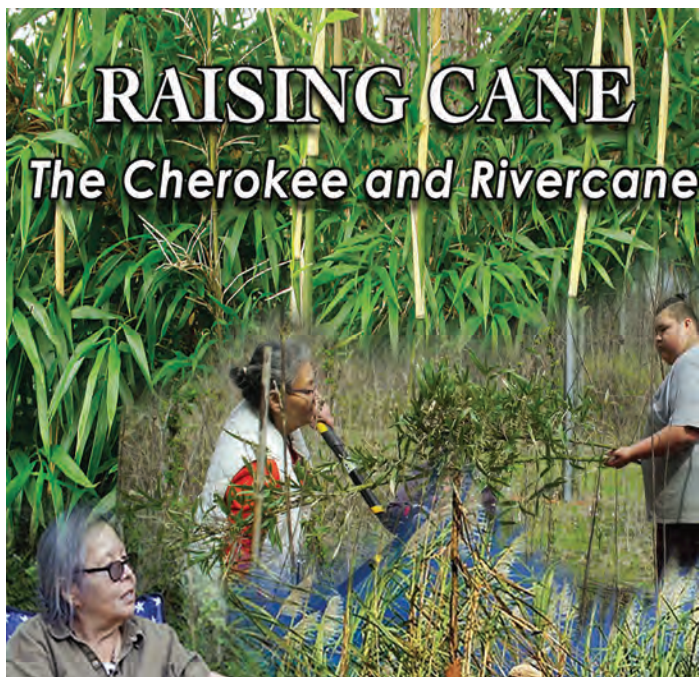
By DAWN ARNEACH

One Feather Ad Sales Coordinator

FLAT ROCK, N.C. – A world premiere of “Raising Cane: The Cherokee and Rivercane” was shown at the Thomas Auditorium Blue Ridge Community College on Saturday, Sept. 19. The movie highlights the use of rivercane by Cherokee Basket weavers/makers.

The movie highlights the need to build up cane breaks once again in the southeast and to provide a barrier between creeks/ivers and embankments that could possibly help ease flooding in different areas, as well as providing places for Cherokee artisans to collect cane as needed.

The movie had support from Community



Foundation of Henderson County, N.C.; NC Humanities; the McGrady Family Fund; Paul and Simone Shoemaker; Asset Marketing Brokers; Helen Bishop and Susan Grider; Dirk and Paige Wilms; and the supporters of the Center

for Cultural Preservation.

Center for Cultural Preservation Executive Director David Weintraub said he felt this was a good way to show the need of rivercane in the southeast while sharing the many uses of rivercane. He has worked with members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) over the years for other various projects as well.

Several EBCI tribal members were featured in the movie, sharing their knowledge of how they collect and use rivercane in their baskets, including Mary Thompson, Betty Maney, Beloved Man Davy Arch, Dylan Morgan, and Gabe Crowe.

There will be another showing at the Tryon International Film Festival at the Tryon Arts Center Pavillion in Tryon, N.C. on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 12:30 p.m. You can also order a DVD copy at <https://saveculture.org>.

An advertisement for Cherokee, NC. It features a large orange silhouette of a dog, possibly a Weimaraner, on the left. Inside the silhouette, a man and a woman are hiking on a trail. The man is wearing a red and black plaid shirt and a beanie. The woman is wearing a blue puffer jacket and a white cap. The background of the entire ad is orange with a repeating pattern of the text "CHEROKEE STRONG" in a light, semi-transparent font. On the right, the text "FIND NEW TRAILS. FIND YOUR SPIRIT." is written in large, white, bold letters. Below this, in smaller white text, it says: "In Cherokee, NC, every adventure brings you closer to what moves you—from traversing rugged backcountry trails as eagles fly overhead to discovering idyllic waterfalls. Whether it's hiking, exploring scenic overlooks, photographing wildlife, or uncovering quiet corners of the mountains, come here and leave no trace of your old self." At the bottom right, it says "Plan your visit today at VisitCherokeeNC.com". In the bottom right corner is the "VISIT Cherokee NC" logo, which includes a stylized feather graphic.



EBCI Services

This message brought to you by:

GWY ᏫᏍ ᏅᏓᏍᏓ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



EBCI Legal Assistance (828) 359-7400

Services: Protective Orders, Criminal Defense, Involuntary Commitments, Simple Wills and Power of Attorney, Elder Abuse Prevention and more



Cherokee Indian Housing Division (828) 359-6320

Services: Loan Modification and Foreclosure Prevention, Renovation Loans, Credit Counseling, Portfolio Loans, Foster Parent Renovation Loans, Down Payment Assistance



EBCI Public Health and Human Services (828) 359-6180

Services: Health care and social services like housing, health programs and supply needs, transportation, or food—Administers EBCI HELP



EBCI Higher Education Program (828) 359-6650

Services: Tuition, Housing/Meals, Supplemental Funds, Computer Funds, Graduation Bonus, Books & Materials



EBCI Office of Internal Audit and Ethics (828) 359-7030

Services: Conducting audits to assess the reliability of financial and operational information. Administering and enforcing the Code of Ethics binding on all Tribal Officials



EBCI Tribal Operations Cherokee Fire and Rescue (828) 359-6150

Services: Facilities Management, Housekeeping, Tribal EMS, Fire and Rescue, Public Safety Communications, Tribal Construction, Road Maintenance



EBCI Tribal Court Courthouse (828) 359-1068, Magistrates 359-6697

Supreme Court Opinions, Tribal Court Documents



Cherokee Indian Hospital (828) 497-9163

Services: Dentistry, Medical Equipment, Eye Care, Nutrition, Labs, Pharmacy, Radiology, Respiratory Therapy, Rehabilitation



OBITUARIES ໓໕໕໕

Doris Hill

Doris Hill, 81, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home in the early morning hours of Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026. Born on May 20, 1945, in Hickory, N.C., she was retired from Harrah's Cherokee Casino. She worked in many jobs throughout her life in housekeeping and for many years at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Oconaluftee Visitor Center.

She was preceded in her death by her parents, William Tate Powell and Katherine Powell Lockman; one brother, Larry Powell; and granddaughter, Angelique Cepeda. She leaves behind her cherished memory to her family: Jerry Sampson, her caring partner for

30 years; her sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Genia Huffman, Darren and Debby Huffman; her sister, Shelia (Chi Chi) Lail; six grandchildren, Josh, Faith, Catherine, Jami, Jesse and Zackery; 10 great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service to honor her life with our love and affection will be held in the Autumn of October, her favorite time of the year. The date and location will be announced at a later time.

Thomas Franklin Goolsby

Thomas Franklin Goolsby, 69, of Cherokee, N.C., passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, at Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva, NC.

A native of the Justice Community in Franklin County, he

was the son of the late George and Margie Goolsby, a 1975 graduate of Edward Best High School and attended Louisburg College. Tom served alongside his father, George Goolsby Sr., as a Justice Volunteer Fireman during the late 1970s and 80s. He was also a long-distance truck driver. Later in life, Tom moved to the Cherokee Community. At one point, he was a dealer at Herrah's. He also helped maintain the campground where he resided for 27 years and was affectionately known as The Mayor of Wolf Camp. Tom's favorite pastimes included singing and playing his guitar and tinkering with cars and motorcycles. He loved NASCAR. In fact, he and his tractor-trailer were in a scene in the movie Days of Thunder.

In addition to his parents, he

was predeceased by his brother, George Jr., also of the Justice Community; an infant niece, Sarah Ellen Goolsby; and granddaughter, Ashley Carpenter.

He is survived by his sisters, Jean Lord (Jerry) of DeBary, Fla., and Cindy Goolsby (Scott Hunt) of Louisburg, N.C.; and stepdaughter, Kimberly Goodwin of Roseville. He also had several nephews and nieces, grandchildren, and cousins across the state.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial contribution to your favorite charity or to the GoFund-Me set up by Thomas' family to help defray costs.

Long House Funeral Services, Cherokee, N.C., is in charge of arrangements.

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One Feather Statement on AI

The Cherokee One Feather does not use AI in any of our work products (articles, photos, graphics, etc.), and we have established a policy to never use AI in such work. We write our own articles, take our own photographs, and create our own graphics and always will.

GWY ᏥᏚᏍᏔᏅ ᏌᏚᏅᏍᏔᏅ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI

2026 Cherokee Indian Fair Anetso Schedule

Monday, Oct. 5

- Teen - Kolanvyi vs Wayohi
Arrive: 3:30 p.m. - Ball up: 4 p.m.
- Men's - Kolanvyi vs Wayohi
Arrive: 4:30 p.m. - Ball up: 5 p.m.
- Men's - Wudelign vs Tsisqwohi
Arrive: 5:30 p.m. - Ball up: 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

- Youth - Kolanvyi vs Wayohi
Arrive: 1:30 p.m. - Ball up: 2 p.m.
- Pre-Teen - Walelu vs Wayohi
Arrive: 2:30 p.m. - Ball up: 3 p.m.
- Men's - Walelu vs Wudelign
Arrive: 4:30 p.m. - Ball up: 5 p.m.
- Men's - Tsisqwohi vs Wayohi
Arrive: 5:30 p.m. - Ball up: 6 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 8

- Elder's (at old CHS site)
Arrive: 1:30 p.m. - Ball up: 2 p.m.
- Pre-Teen - Wayohi vs Kolanvyi
Arrive: 3 p.m. - Ball up: 3:30 p.m.
- Men's - Walelu vs Tsisqwohi
Arrive: 4:30 p.m. - Ball up: 5 p.m.
- Men's - Wudelign vs Kolanvyi
Arrive: 5:30 p.m. - Ball up: 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 9

- Youth - Wayohi vs Walelu
Arrive: 2 p.m. - Ball up: 2:30 p.m.
- Pre-teen - Kolanvyi vs Walelu
Arrive: 3 p.m. - Ball up: 3:30 p.m.
- Men's - Tsisqwohi vs Kolanvyi
Arrive: 4 p.m. - Ball up: 4:30 p.m.
- Men's - Walelu vs Wayohi
Arrive: 5 p.m. - Ball up: 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 10

- Youth - Kolanvyi vs Walelu
Arrive: 1 p.m. - Ball up: 1:30 p.m.
- Teen - Wayohi vs Kolanvyi
Arrive: 2 p.m. - Ball up: 2:30 p.m.
- Men's - Wudelign vs Wayohi
Arrive: 3 p.m. - Ball up: 3:30 p.m.
- Men's - Kolanvyi vs Walelu
Arrive: 4 p.m. - Ball up: 4:30 p.m.

Anetso age divisions:

Youth: Ages 6-9
Pre-Teen: Ages 10-12
Teen: Ages 13-17
Men's: Ages 18+
Elder's: Ages 50+

Games will be played at the Unity
Field unless otherwise noted.

GWY ᏥᏍᏍᏁ ᏍᏍᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER ᏍᏍᏁ ᏍᏍᏁ ᏍᏍᏁ



Swain County Democratic Party 2026 Slate Card:



US SENATE
Roy Cooper

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 11
Jamie Ager

NC SUPREME COURT
Anita Earls

NC COURT OF APPEALS SEAT 1
John A. Arrowood

NC COURT OF APPEALS SEAT 2
Tobias (Toby) Hampson

NC COURT OF APPEALS SEAT 3
Christine Marie Walczyk

NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 50
Tom Downing

NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 119
Mark Burrows

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DISTRICT 43 SEAT 02
Justin B. Greene

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DISTRICT 43 SEAT 03
William (Bill) Jones

SWAIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAIRMAN
Jeremy Shuler

SWAIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEMBER
(VOTE FOR 2)
Chris Reed
Erika Smith

SWAIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
(VOTE FOR 2)
Brandy Monteith
Dannie Shuler

SWAIN COUNTY
REGISTER OF DEEDS
Diana (Williamson) Kirkland

SWAIN COUNTY SHERIFF
David Southards

Paid for by the Swain County Democratic
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candidate's committee.

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to vote.

COMMENTARY

News media publishers are elbow-deep in replacing writers with AI

By ROBERT JUMPER

Tutiyi (Snowbird) and Clyde, N.C.

Early on, the Cherokee One Feather decided to restrict the use of Artificial Intelligence to write news articles for our community's newspaper. In fact, One Feather decided that we would not use any material that we are responsible for generating that had elements of AI in it. This was a stand that we took

on principle.

Ethically, we felt and feel an obligation to the institution of journalism to hold to the tradition of news gathering and writing by qualified, preferably local, reporters invested in the community and to provide the community with quality reporting and writing, not something that comes from a digital can. We believe that AI encourages laziness in journalism. Good writing is an art form and, in my opinion, irreplaceable in that AI prose has not yet gotten so good as to be written with human feeling when compared to an actual journalist.

So far, news sources like the Associated Press agree, explicitly prohibiting the use of generative AI to write publishable news content, a prohibition that extends to news

photography, videos, and audio (www.ap.org).

But...

Slashdot, a tech news media and social website, published the following article on Feb. 18, 2026: "Cleveland.com, the digital arm of Ohio's Plain Dealer newspaper, has removed writing from the workloads of certain reporters and handed that job to what editor Chris Quinn calls an 'AI rewrite specialist' who turns reporter-gathered material into article drafts. The reporters on these beats, covering Lorain, Lake, Geauga, and most recently Medina County, are assigned entirely to reporting, spending their time on in-person interviews and meeting sources for coffee. Editors review the AI-produced drafts and reporters get the

final say before publication. Quinn says the arrangement has effectively freed up an entire workday per week for each reporter. The newsroom adopted this model last year to expand local coverage into counties it could no longer staff with full teams, and Quinn described the setup in a February 14 letter after a college journalism student withdrew from a reporting role over the newsroom's use of AI. Quinn blamed journalism schools for the student's reaction, saying professors have repeatedly told students that AI is bad."

And this from Maryland Today in an Oct. 28, 2025, article titled "Report: AI use in newspapers is widespread, uneven and rarely disclosed." (today.umd.edu): "More than 9 percent of all news in U.S.

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INDIAN FAIR**

OCT 6-10

**CHEROKEE FALL
ROD RUN**

OCT 16-17

WNC TRUCK SHOW

OCT 24

**SCARE-O-KEE
TRICK OR TREAT EVENT**

OCT 29

QUALLA-WEEN

OCT 1-31

newspapers contains at least some text created by AI, according to new research led by University of Maryland computer scientists. The study, based on analysis using a tool developed by Pangram Labs, also found that AI use in published articles is rarely disclosed, and that usage is much higher in smaller local outlets than nationally circulated newspapers. 'As a reader, you generally don't have a way to know if the news or the opinions are coming from a human or from AI,' said Mohit Iyyer, an associate professor of computer science and the study's senior author. 'It makes it hard to trust the factuality of the content,' he said, both because generative AI chatbots frequently get facts wrong and often engage in 'hallucination,' or fabrication." Daniel Trielli, assistant professor of media and

democracy at UMD's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, called the study a fascinating look at how journalism is changing, and not for the better. 'What's most jarring is how many newsrooms are actually using this technology without saying they're using it,' said Trielli. 'What we teach students at Merrill College is that part of the deal we as journalists make with the public is we're going to be as transparent with them as we can be.'

Even the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists chimed in. Reporter Susan D'Agostino wrote on July 14, 2025 (titled "AI is polluting truth in journalism. Here's how to disrupt the misinformation feedback loop") "Misinformation is hardly a modern invention, but with AI as an amplifier, it now spreads faster, adapts smarter, and arguably hits harder

than before. This surge comes as independent journalism, the traditional counterweight to falsehood, faces economic decline, shrinking newsrooms, and eroding public trust."

Our industry has created credibility issues because we, as an industry, practice several versions and philosophies, some attempting to redefine what journalism is, resulting in many outlets representing media opinion as legitimate factual news pieces. In recent years, more of the population has distrust of media reporting than in previous decades. Stacked on top of that is government reluctance to share information with the media, and it is no wonder that we are routinely dazed and confused when it comes to who and what to believe. Then along comes AI to further complicate our challenges to find truth and transparency.

The One Feather made the conscious choice to leave AI out of our reporting and writing. We do our very best, with the access, resources, and staff available, to bring the community the very best in journalistic excellence. Our public records laws are limited in the information we can mandate under the Cherokee Code to be released to us. And while we confront ordinance language, even create legislation, to help our community have more access, we also ask our government for true transparency as the opportunity arises.

I refer to the collective "us"; not just the Cherokee One Feather, but the community of the membership of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. When government crafts law, you are likely to see the word "may" a bit more than you see the word "shall". "Shall" binds an action. It communicates that this must be done. "May" does not mandate. It

simply gives the government the option to either do it or not do it at its discretion. And while we know that there are legitimate reasons for some information to remain confidential, we have also been dealt the response of "Since we are not required to provide the information, we won't", indicating that the withholding of that information was a matter of personal preference and not a matter of public interest or protection.

I urge every tribal member to read Cherokee Code 132-Public Records. Every member of our Tribe should be familiar with the Cherokee Code. It contains all the ordinances that govern our people and our land. There is also law made by resolution that does not have a public outlet unless you know what to look for and where. Then there are the overarching federal laws that apply to us.

And in the information landscape described above, AI is being used by both good and bad actors to sway your opinions on issues, legislation, candidates, and elections. AI is only going to become more powerful as time goes by. And time is going by quickly. Even with good intentions, AI manipulation is a creature built in the image of Frankenstein's monster. It feeds off parts of information it finds on the internet, real or fantasy, to create a social beast that subtly manipulates you and me. It is truly a frightening prospect to see newspapers and other media lean so heavily into letting AI replace writers.

In the words of Dr. Frankenstein, as the lightning struck his patchwork monster, "It's alive!" While they may be saving time and money, I must wonder what we are sacrificing in the process.



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A close call

Part 2 of 8

By Lamont H. Fuchs, Ed.D.

Scripture references: Psalms 118:17-29; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Luke 15:7

Heavens Saints is a 35+ year motorcycle ministry founded by a former Hells Angel, Barry Mason. Because of a praying mother and his trials and tribulations, he became a new man when Jesus came into his Life (Mayson & Marco, 1982). As a result, he founded a motorcycle ministry, and it is this organization I joined many years ago that ordained me as a minister. Since then, I have actively served alongside other Christian biker organizations, sharing our

faith in Jesus with those who will not set foot in a church to hear His Word.

Ten years ago (at the time of this writing), I was called to another ministry named BikerDownLiftedUp. BDLU is a 501c3 – non-profit organization. The mission of BikerDownLiftedUp is dedicated to prayer, ministry, and financial support of motorcycle accident victims and their families.

After someone has survived a severe motorcycle accident, visiting them allows me to witness to the victims and sometimes to family members who have just experienced a ‘Close Call.’

I, too, have had motorcycle accidents, and though none have been as severe as the victims I visited in the hospital, each accident I endured was, no doubt, also a

‘Close Call.’

Many people we meet in our lives have had Close Calls. Have you ever said or heard others make statements like...IF only I had been...a minute earlier, or a second later, or IF we had gone left instead of right...IF it had come a half an inch closer. IF I had taken that ride or gotten on that boat. IF I had not looked that split second in that direction, or IF, IF, IF – I know we all have IF stories like that. At the end of the story, IF we have a mind to think of it, we amaze ourselves and wonder, by the grace of God, that person could have been me, or God kept me from the worst of what it could have been. IF you are not thinking and thanking God like that, you should.

Dear Lord God and Father,

with tears, I request that you inspire those who read and hear this message to repent and draw unto you before it is too late. I pray that each soul might realize how precious Your gift of Life is and how You are in control of every breath we take. Invite those who do not know You today to bring their Life to You and give You their devotion and purpose for living.

Editor's note: Lamont H Fuchs, Ed.D. is the author of "Preacher Spurs" and "Preacher Spurs 2nd Edition". Excerpts are published in the Cherokee One Feather with permission from the author. Both books are available for purchase from www.preacherspurs.com. The author's email address is author@preacherspurs.com.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

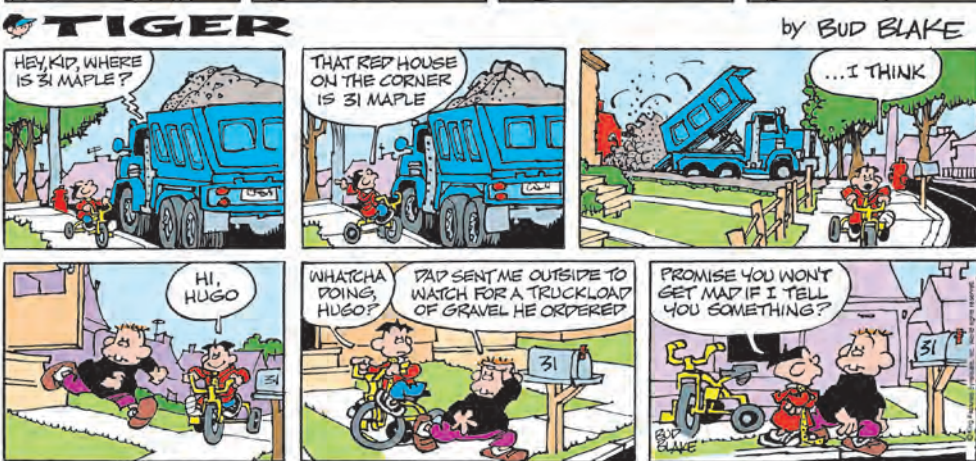
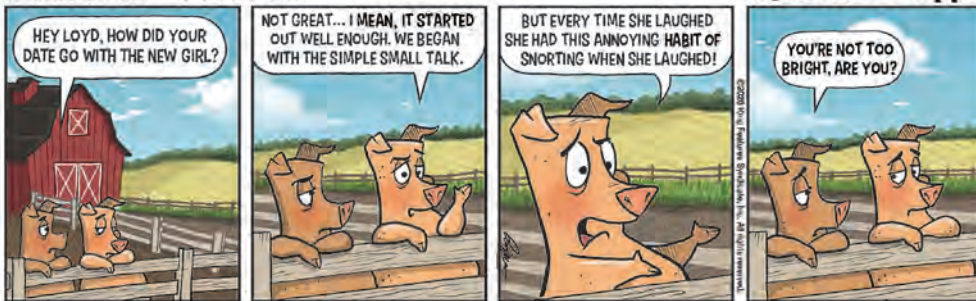


Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

— JOSHUA 23:14 —

*Detail of "The Exhortation of Joshua"
by Marc Chagall (1956)*

Amber Waves



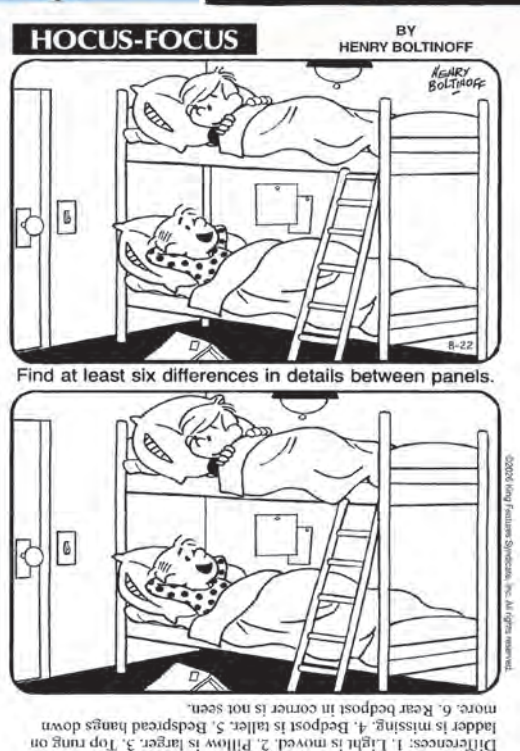
Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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by Dave T. Phipps

by BUD BLAKE

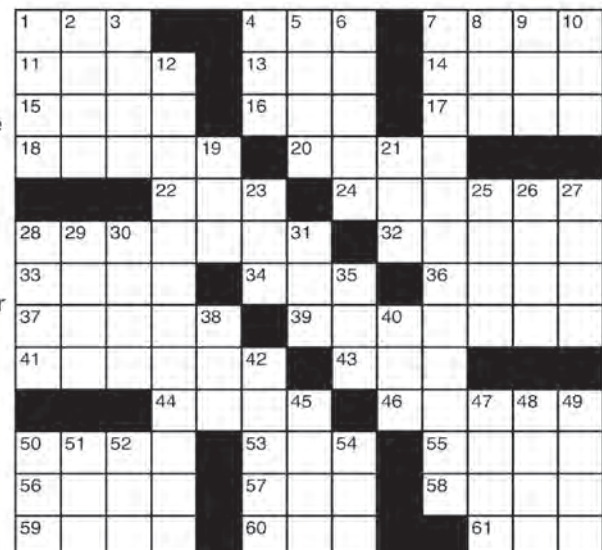
by Jeff Pickering

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Hot tub
- 4 Gore and Pacino
- 7 Poet Teasdale
- 11 Sod
- 13 Architect I.M. —
- 14 Sty cry
- 15 Play opener
- 16 Up to
- 17 — Minor (bear constellation)
- 18 Bas-relief medium
- 20 Leave out
- 22 Grass shack
- 24 Paper fastener
- 28 Mosque tower
- 32 Florida game fish
- 33 Optimist's credo
- 34 Apprehend
- 36 harmaceutical
- 37 Transmits
- 39 Baking potatoes
- 41 Orders of pancakes
- 43 "Don't Start Now" singer
- 44 Intimate
- 46 Tactics
- 50 "Star Wars" knight
- 53 Resistance unit

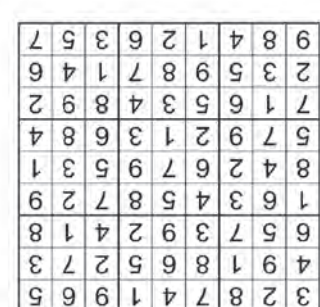


- 55 "East of Eden" twin
- 56 At the summit of
- 57 Pint-sized
- 58 Belafonte song
- 59 Orange veggies
- 60 Matching pair
- 61 Arced tennis shot
- 5 Floral rings
- 6 Sari fabrics
- 7 Light lunch order
- 8 Televisé
- 9 ICU pros
- 10 Rap sheet letters
- 12 Popular British dish
- 19 Owned by us
- 21 The "I" of TGIF
- 23 Sawbuck
- 25 Skin opening
- 26 LummoX
- 27 Heart charts (Abbr.)
- 28 Avoid
- 29 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- 30 "Peter Pan" pooch
- 31 Roofing goo
- 35 Future flower
- 38 Enjoy Vail
- 40 "How's it goin'?"
- 42 Bamboozles
- 45 Biblical pronoun
- 47 Exam format
- 48 Vacillate
- 49 Elitist
- 50 Comic Leno
- 51 JFK info
- 52 — Perignon
- 54 Bumped into

DOWN

- 1 Men-only
- 2 Brownish purple
- 3 — and crafts
- 4 Likely

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Answer
Weekly SUDOKU



Solution time: 22 mins.



1. GEOGRAPHY: Almost 90% of the world's population lives in which hemisphere?
2. AD SLOGANS: Which major retailer uses the ad slogan, "Save money. Live better"?
3. MOVIES: Which district is Katniss from in "The Hunger Games"?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What was singer Elvis Presley's favorite sandwich?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the poem "Paradise Lost"?
6. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state is the only one with its own power grid?
7. TELEVISION: Where does Fred Flintstone work on the animated series "The Flintstones"?
8. MUSIC: Which band released the hit song "Don't Stop Believin'?"
9. HISTORY: What is the Code of Hammurabi?
10. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the two-faced Roman god?

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1. Northern; 2. Walmart; 3. District 12; 4. Peanut butter, bacon and banana; 5. John Milton; 6. Texas; 7. Slate Rock and Gravel Company; 8. Journey; 9. An early written legal code; 10. Janus

Benefits/Fundraisers

Turkey Shoots at the Jesse Welch Turkey Shoot Facility in Kolanyvi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. Good food, good fun, great - Oct. 3 at 1 p.m., fundraiser for the over-40 Big Cove Indian Ball Team
- Oct. 17 at 5 p.m., Annual Jesse Welch Memorial Turkey Shoot, sponsored by family

EBCI Community Events

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.

Cherokee Warriors Mogadishu Mile, Operation Gothic Serpent Remembrance Run. Oct. 9 at 7 a.m. at the Cherokee High School Football Field 86 Elk Crossing Ln., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. 2-mile combat warrior obstacle course. Open to Veterans, Active Duty Military, National Guard and Reserve, Native American Warriors, First responders, Community Members. Registration deadline Oct. 7. Info: (828) 359-6184 or email samuball@ebci-nsn.gov

Elk in the Smokies. Oct. 9 and 17, from 12:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Oconaluftee Visitor Center 1194 Newfound Gap Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Features a naturalist ramble in the during the height of the elk rut, when these iconic ani-

mals are most active. Info: (865) 436-7318 or smokieslife.org

Sam Lambert 1st Annual Golf Tournament. Oct. 11 at 9 a.m. at the Sequoyah National Golf Club at 79 Cahon's Mt. Rd., Whittier, N.C. 28789. Join us for a day of golf, fellowship and community support while helping provide educational scholarships for the children of EBCI Veterans. Info: (828) 359-6184 or email samuball@ebci-nsn.gov

October Health Screen. Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Big Y Gym 2641 Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Theme: Breast Cancer awareness and self-screening. Also BP checks and BMI checks, Resources and Mammo scheduling. With Trudy Crowe, FNP.

Homecoming 2026. Oct. 25 starting at 10:30 a.m. at Yellowhill Baptist Church, 297 Yellowhill Rd., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Fellowship dinner following services. Preaching by Bro. Sam Steele. Various Singers. Everyone welcome.

GWY Dhwōy Jlo-ḷḷḷḷ TS **tsalagi aniwonisgi didandadisdi iga (Cherokee Speakers Memorial Day)** ceremony. Nov 24 at 10 a.m. at the Cherokee Speakers Place. Join to honor and remember the Cherokee speakers whose voices, wisdom, and dedication have helped preserve and sustain language for future generations.

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

Book signing for "Riding the Trail". Oct. 1 at 10 a.m. at the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, Tenn. Will Chavez, co-author with Traci Sorrell, of "Riding the Trail: Cherokee Remember the

Removal", will be signing books. Info: Visit the museum's website at www.sequoyahmuseum.org or contact the museum at (423) 884-6246.

Cherokee Heritage Day. Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at New Echota State Historic Site 1211 Chatsworth Hwy NE., Calhoun, Ga. 30701. Cherokee Language Repertory Choir, Cherokee Artist Demonstrations, Cherokee Vendors, Ranger Demonstrations, Food Vendors, raffle and silent auction. Info: (706) 624-1321

6th Annual Cherokee Winter Social. Jan. 30, 2027 from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Peaches Squirrel Sports and Recreation Complex 1212 Birdtown Rd., Cherokee, N.C.

CHEROKEE PET OF THE WEEK

Ganasav hia svdodagwasdi asuyagida

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Dumplin, a 6-year-old Long-haired Dachshund, lives with her humans, Sarah Hyatt-Hopkins and Wyatt Hopkins, in the Tow String Community.



Sponsored by:

CHEROKEE
ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

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

28719. MC: Catcuce Tiger. Everyone welcome. Traditional dress encouraged. All Cherokee Dance groups welcome, bring your rattles and drums. Nikki's Frybread will be set up. Info: CherokeeWinter-Social@gmail.com

Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) Meetings

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

Confirmation Hearings for Barbara Parker as an associate judge, Kirk Saunooke as an associate judge, and John D. Crowe to the TABCC (Tribal Alcoholic

Beverage Control Commission). Oct. 13 at 11 a.m.

Work Session on Res. No. 294 (Disbursement of TABCC Funding). Oct. 15 at 9 a.m.

Work Session on Ord. No. 251 (Spousal Inheritance of Possessory Holdings). Oct. 15 at 10 a.m.

Work Session on Ord. No. 212 (Public Nuisance). Oct. 15 at 11 a.m.

Work Session on Golf Board.

see **EVENTS** next page



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although practical situations continue to dominate this week, there's time for the Lamb to indulge in the fun things in life — like maybe taking a special someone out for a great evening!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This week favors relationships. Take time to renew old ones and make time to go where new friends can be found. On a more practical note, expect news about a business deal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You should be seeing some progress on a new workplace situation. Meanwhile, family matters might demand more attention, and you'll want to set aside time to deal with them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A relationship might suddenly present some challenges that you never expected. After talking things out, you might want to consider taking some time to assess what you've learned.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A disappointing response to a request might dampen the Lion's spirits. But you might want to ask what the reasoning is behind it. What you learn can be of great importance in a future undertaking.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A once-volatile situation should be settled by now, giving you a chance to refocus on a project that you've been planning for. Look for an interested party to rally to your support.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A business matter that unexpectedly turns into a personal situation could create complications. It's best to resolve the matter now before too much harm can be done.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Emotions can run high when they involve personal matters that no one really wants to talk about. But this could be a good time to create the means to a workable outcome.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A positive response to a workplace request could lead the way to other long-sought-out changes. Congratulations! A personal situation also takes a welcome turn.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Patience pays off as a once-overwhelming work situation continues to become easier to handle on a one-by-one basis. Look for positive news from a colleague.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) It might be a good idea to take more time to reassess your next move in working out a complex situation. You could benefit from a new perspective on the matter.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might want to consider making time to discuss a change of plans with everyone concerned. Be prepared to explain your actions. Also, be prepared to listen to alternatives.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a strong sense of what's right and you try to work from this foundation. Your friends and employers see you as reliable.

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Grants to address veteran homelessness

Beginning Oct. 1, the VA will give away \$1.17 billion in grants to address the problem of veteran homelessness.

Of that amount, \$855 million will go to organizations that work with the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families in the form of one-year grants. The SSVF works with low income veterans and veteran families who are either homeless or who are at risk for it. Their goal is to get veterans back into housing quickly and to prevent homelessness in the first place, working to provide permanent housing.

Of the \$1.7 billion, \$318 million will go to organizations through the Grant and Per Diem program via three-year grants. This program works to provide services and case management to help veterans stay in their current housing or to provide more appropriate housing for veterans who are elderly, frail, terminally ill or who have minor dependents.

The VA's Housing First philosophy, started in 2012, shifted away from the prior "treatment first" models that had kept too many veterans out of permanent housing. It had required sobriety first, or treatment first, or income first. Now, with the Housing First philosophy, homeless or at-risk veterans can determine for themselves which services they initially want, which lowers the barrier to getting them into actual housing and provides needed stability. Then other services can be offered — healthcare, education, employment, legal — to help maintain that permanent housing.

If you are a veteran who is either homeless or who is in danger of becoming homeless, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-424-3838. They're open 24/7. Or you can go online to www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp and start a chat there. Everything is confidential, but they will need to ask you a few questions to know which services you qualify for and how best to help you.

If you're facing eviction, don't wait, especially if you have a family. Connect with the call center as soon as you know so they can help.

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Should my mother get a new puppy?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My mom, who's in her late 70s, told me that she wants a puppy. Her independent living community allows pets, but I think that she is a little too old to train and care for a new dog. How do I convince her to give up the idea? — Janine in Ocala, Florida

DEAR JANINE: I put this question to my friend, R.A. Morean, author of "Your Last Puppy: A Practical Guide for Seniors and Their Families." Her reply:

I get this question a lot. And after interviewing nearly a hundred parents and their adult children, I am sorry to say your mother makes a good case.

There is clear, empirical evidence that having a dog or puppy actively promotes physical, mental and cognitive health, especially for those 60 and older. There is no doubt having a puppy or dog will promote longevity and quality of life.

Lean into the idea and then explore the question together. Your challenges when speaking to your mother should include a discussion of a succession plan, and clear-eyed responses to a set of questions ranging from "What is my energy level?" and "Do I have mobility issues?" to "Is there a trainer close by?"

Make your list and sit down with her and discuss. It will soon become clear to both of you if a puppy will be too much work. Then you can move on to the step: if not a puppy, then an older dog. There are many places to find older, well-trained dogs.

In the last 15 years of my mother's life, she adopted an older dog. And when Lettice passed, she adopted again. If your mother's community also offers assisted living, I would approach them now, because 75% of assisted living communities allow dogs. Some facilities are "pet friendly," which means they allow pets. Others are "pet inclusive," which means they monitor food, schedule veterinarians and groomers to visit on-site, and staff are trained to keep an eye out for both residents and their pets.

Good luck! The important thing is that you are listening to your mother.

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

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EVENTS: From page 39

Oct. 15 at 1 p.m.

Work Session on Ord. No. 252 (Establish the Committee of Aging and Disability). Oct. 15 at 2 p.m.

Work Session on Cherokee Language Program. Oct. 21 at 1 p.m.

Pow Wow Listings

33rd Annual Comanche Nation Fair Pow Wow. Oct. 2-4 in Lawton, Okla. Info: <https://www.comanchenationfair.com>

16th Annual Sacred Springs Pow Wow. Oct. 3-4 at Meadows Center in San Marcos, Texas. MC: Tim Tallchief. Host Northern Drum: Eagle Point. Host Southern Drum: Otter Trail. Info: www.sspowwow.com

32nd Annual Heart of Tataviam Pow Wow. Oct. 3-4 at William S. Hart Park in Newhall, Calif. MC: Glen Begay. Host Northern Drum: Blue Star. Host Southern Drum: Hale and Co. Info: <https://www.tataviam-nsn.us/event/32-tataviam-pw/>

Chumash Intertribal Pow Wow. Oct. 3-4 in Santa Ynez, Calif. Info: sypowwow@chumash.gov
Homelands Pow Wow. Oct. 3-4 in Lenox, Mass. Emcees: Nimunaw Shundaw Williams, Aaron Athey. Host Drum: Gii Taa'Se. Invited Drums: RezDogs, Sugar Bush. Info: <https://homelandspowwow.org>

Winona-Dakota Gathering. Oct. 3-4 at Unity Park in Winona, Minn. MC: Butch Felix. Host

Drum: Wicahpi Hoksila. Info: <https://winonadakotaunityalliance.org>

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

Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society meeting. Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Swain County Regional Business Education and Training Center at 45 East Ridge Dr. in Bryson City, N.C. Dick Sellers will present "Lufty/Smokemont: The Church, The History, The People, and The Community". Conversation and refreshments will follow the presentation. This event is free and open to the public.

Mountain Monarch Festival. Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Gorges State Park 976 Grassy Ridge Rd., Sapphire, N.C. 28774. Join in the celebration of the migration of Monarch Butterflies. Free event. Rain or shine. Info: (828) 966-9099

Monarch Butterfly Tagging & Education. Oct. 3 and 7 from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. meet at the Great Smokies Welcome Center 7929 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy.,

Townsend, Tenn. 37882. This will give participants a chance to join local conservation efforts to track the monarch butterfly population during its expected annual migration. Info: (865) 436-7318 or smokieslife.org

David Arthur Smith to present his new book, "Letters from the Qualla Boundary: William C. McCarthy's Reports as Special Agent to the Eastern Cherokees, 1875–1876". Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. at City Lights Bookstore 3 E. Jackson St Ste 1, Sylva, N.C. 28779. The letters provide a rare, first-hand account of the complex relationship between the United States government and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in western North Carolina. Serving as a federal Special Indian Agent, McCarthy was tasked with assessing living conditions, preventing unauthorized land sales to white settlers, and supporting agricultural, educational, and economic development among the Cherokee who had remained in the East after the Trail of Tears. Info: (828) 586-9499

Archaeology Day at the Chief Vann House. Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Chief Vann House 82 GA-225N, Chatsworth, Ga. 30705. Take part in Archaeology themed activities. Info: (706) 695-2598

Flag Retirement Ceremony. Oct. 10 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fairview Elementary baseball field parking lot 251 Big Orange Way, Sylva, N.C. 28779. If you would like to submit a flag for retirement, contact POC's C/MAJ Ford Perry or C/1SG Davis or C/1LT Evelin before Oct. 10. Patriotic guest speakers, live music, free hot dog

lunch. Info: fordper@student.jcpsmail.org, Davis – (828) 506-7063, evelome@student.jcpsmail.org.

2nd annual Pink Platoon 5K run/walk. Oct. 10 at 9 a.m. final registration at the Charles George VA Medical Center 1100 Tunnel Rd., Asheville, N.C. 28805. The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System in commitment to the countless people impacted by breast cancer, the event is dedicated to fostering health, solidarity and hope for the community. Participants are encouraged to show their support by wearing their brightest pink attire — tutus especially welcome. The event is family-friendly, community-focused and free of cost, welcoming participants of all ages. In addition

to the 5K, a resource fair will offer VA and community resources supporting wellness, education and awareness. Race participants can sign up for the race at: runsignup.com/Race/NC/Asheville/PinkPlatoon5K

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

Call for Entries – Quilt Show. Oct. 16 the morning of at Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center 121 Schoolhouse Rd., Robbinsville, N.C. 28771. All types of quilts and fiber arts can be on display. To win viewers choice award, quilt must be made by the person(s) entering

it. The exhibit will open as well as voting on the quilts, Saturday, Oct. 17. Rules and entry forms are available now for download from the website: StecoahValleyCenter.com/festivals. Info: (828) 479-3364.

Cherohala Skyway Festival. Oct. 24 from 10a.m. – 5 p.m. by the Charles Hall Museum 122 Bank St., Tellico Plains, Tenn. 37385. Special Josh Graves music tribute. Free admission. Hand-made items from many talented crafters and artisans. Vendors offer everything from paintings and photographs, pottery, floral arrangements, wood crafts and turnings, doll clothes, dolls, toys, jewelry, candles, soap, and decorative accessories. Lots of kids activities. Food trucks onsite. Info:

(423)253-8000

Forest Bathing Guided Walk. Oct. 30. From 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. meet at Oconaluftee Visitor Center 1194 Newfound Gap Rd Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Walk along the Kephart Prong Trail on the North Carolina side of the park near Bryson City and Cherokee, slow down and reconnect with nature this immersive experience is designed to highlight the restorative benefits of spending time in the forest. Info: (865) 436-7318 or smokieslife.org

Grandma Gatewood's Walk. Nov. 4 from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Great Smokies Welcome Center 7929 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy., Townsend, Tenn. 37882. Explores the inspiring story of the first woman to solo hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955. Info: (865) 436-7318 or smokieslife.org

Aunt Liddy Monologue. Nov. 12 from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Great Smokies Welcome Center 7929 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy., Townsend, Tenn. 37882. Introduces audiences to Lydia Kear Whaley, a midwife, healer and Civil War widow who lived in Sugarlands from 1840 to 1926. Info: (865) 436-7318 or smokieslife.org

Regal Raptors & Short-eared Owls. Nov. 30 from 1 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Cades Cove Orientation Shelter, Cades Cove Loop Rd., Townsend, Tenn. 37782. experience an evening of “owl-ology” where participants will learn about these remarkable birds of prey. Info: (865) 436-7318 or smokieslife.org

Cherokee Community Clubs

see **EVENTS** next page

Tsalagi NATURE

Brought to you through a partnership with EBCI Natural Resources



Did you know that there are over 130 species of **Goldenrod**? This perennial is a part of the Daisy family and is primarily native to North America. Goldenrod can be found in meadows, woodlands, and thickets. Goldenrod blooms from July-September and attracts bees, butterflies, beetles, and birds. One cool fact about Goldenrod is that it does not produce the wind-borne pollen that can cause allergies. Goldenrod is also a popular medicinal herb.

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 Community building, potluck at 5:30 p.m. meeting at 6 p.m. Info: Chairman (to be elected on in November). For building rental, contact Robert Stalcup (828) 736-0149

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 10, who said, "Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean"? *Herod, Peter, Thomas, John the Baptist*
3. In 1 Corinthians 11, because of "what" did Paul say women should have a "symbol of authority"? *Life, Trust, Love, Angels*
4. From Hebrews 7, which king was said to have neither mother nor father? *Solomon, David, Melchizedek, Sargon*
5. Whose four daughters were considered prophetesses? *Gad's, Philip's, Jonah's, Noah's*
6. What biblical name meant "God has helped"? *Solomon, Paul, Lazarus, Amos*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Peter, 3) Angels, 4) Melchizedek, 5) Phil-
ip (s. 6) Lazarus
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Moments in time

• On Oct. 12, 1990, South Dakota became the first state to rename Columbus Day "Native American Day," in honor of the initial inhabitants of the Americas. Two years later, the city of Berkeley, California, would be the first to call it "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

• On Oct. 13, 1925, groundbreaking stand-up comedian Lenny Bruce, whose freewheeling and profanity-laced routines on taboo topics notably attacked societal conventions and occasionally resulted in arrests, was born in Mineola, New York.

• On Oct. 14, 1892, "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" by Arthur Conan Doyle was published. The book was the first collection of Holmes stories, which had been published in magazines since 1887. Its titular detective was partly inspired by Dr. Joseph Bell, whom Conan Doyle had met at the University of Edinburgh when he studied medicine there.

• On Oct. 15, 2024, researchers announced seven new species of tree frogs in Madagascar whose high-pitched whistling calls were reminiscent of sound effects from the sci-fi series "Star Trek," prompting the monikers Kirk, Picard, Sisko, Janeway, Archer, Burnham and Pike.

• On Oct. 16, 1906, German shoemaker Wilhelm Voight, who already had a long criminal record, embarrassed the German army by impersonating an officer and leading an entire squad of soldiers to the town of Kopenik, where they helped him steal 4,000 marks from the mayor's office.

• On Oct. 17, 1974, President Gerald Ford explained to Congress that he had chosen to pardon Richard Nixon, rather than allow Congress to pursue legal action against him, claiming that a long, drawn-out trial would have further polarized the public — a decision that was condemned by many and may have helped cost Ford a victory in the presidential election of 1976.

• On Oct. 18, 1963, Félicette, a Parisian stray cat, had the honor of becoming the first (and to date the only) cat to visit outer space. The black-and-white feline's journey lasted 98 miles and a grand total of 13 minutes before her capsule safely parachuted back to Earth.

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Known as "Red Hot Poker" or "The Torch Lily," this perennial is native to Africa. It thrives in well-draining soil, needs little care and resists pests.

Red Hot Poker Each flower spike can grow 3-4 feet tall and displays brilliant yellow to orange to red petals. They are attractive to hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. Fortunately, deer don't like them!

Grow your red hot poker plants in full sun for the best blooms. They will tolerate some shade, and can benefit from it where summers are most brutal. — Brenda Weaver

Source: thespruce.com, greatgardenplants.com

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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., Sunday Evening 5 p.m., Wednesday Evening 6:30 p.m. Info: (828) 507-2271

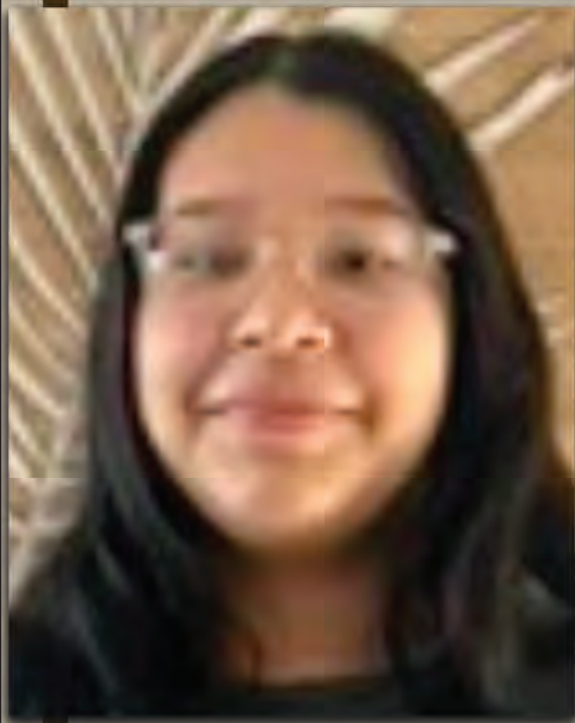
Cherokee Baptist Church. 812 Tsalagi Road. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Adult Bible Study Wednesday 6 p.m. Pastor Ric Eddings 497-2761

Cherokee Bible Church. Olivet Church Road. Sunday Service 11

see **EVENTS** next page

MISSING PERSON

GWY ᏍᎦᏍᎦ ᏅᎠᏙᏗ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER * TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



Satina Gamboa-Chipo

Tribal Affiliation: American Indian (none given)
Female Age: 17
Height: 5'5" **Weight:** 146 lbs
Hair: Brown **Eyes:** Brown

Last Known Location: Queen Creek, Ariz.

Date of Last Contact: Sept. 2, 2026

Circumstances of Disappearance: Satina left her residence on Sept. 2, 2026 and has not been seen since. No other information on her disappearance is available.

If you have seen or have information about Satina Gamboa-Chipo, contact Detective Jason Klemme, Queen Creek Police Department, (480) 358-3500.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The first documented carrots were purple, yellow and white. Orange carrots became popular in Europe in the 1500s, and many food historians believe Dutch growers promoted them to honor the Dutch royal family, the House of Orange, during a politically charged period in the Netherlands.

- When resources were scarce during World War II, some German and Austrian banks printed emergency banknotes on wood, leather and playing cards.

- Electric eels and electric rays possess enough electricity to kill a horse.

- Swimmers, surfers and fishermen sometimes wear pantyhose under or instead of swimwear because their nylon mesh prevents many types of jellyfish stingers from touching the skin.

- The \$2 bill was once considered unlucky due to its ties to gambling.

- The Latin phrase "Pecunia non olet" ("Money does not stink") derives from a urine tax levied by Roman emperors Nero and Vespasian in the first century A.D.

- Studies show women are 18% more likely to be attracted to the color blue.

- Before founding Wendy's, Dave Thomas helped struggling KFC franchises in Columbus, Ohio, turn themselves around in 1962. He was paid with 45% ownership. When he sold his share back, he used the money to open his first Wendy's.

- In early Rome, Aulus Cornelius Celsus documented his attempts at straightening teeth by applying pressure with his hands at regular intervals.

- Sean Connery was once stopped for speeding by a policeman named James Bond.

- According to NASA, autumn is "aurora season" because geomagnetic storms are about twice as frequent as the annual average during the fall.

Thought for the Day: "Everyone should have kids. They are the greatest joy in the world. But they are also terrorists. You'll realize this as soon as they are born and they start using sleep deprivation to break you." — *Ray Romano*

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EVENTS: From page 43

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. Wednes-
day Bible Study 6 p.m.

Cherokee Church of God. 21
Church of God Drive. Sunday Ser-
vice 3 p.m. Thursday Service 6:30
p.m. Pastor Marty Pressley

**Cherokee Church of the Naza-
rene.** 72 Old School Loop off Big
Cove Road. Sunday Morning Ser-
vice 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 Holi-
ness Church.** Located behind the
Wolfetown Gym. Sunday School:
10 a.m. Sunday worship: 11 a.m.,
Sunday evening worship: 5 p.m.
Wednesday night worship: 6 p.m.
Pastor Tim Melton 674-2690

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

Cherokee Wesleyan Church.
Hwy 19 across from Happy Holi-
day 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., Wednes-
day 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., Wednes-
day 6 p.m. Pastor Justin Hunt
(828) 736-1155

**Embassy Christian Center
Church of God in Christ.** 87
Vinewood Circle, Whittier, located
on the campus of Church of God
Gateway Campground and Con-
ference 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](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](mailto: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 ser-
vices 6:30 p.m. Pastor Brent Stew-
art. 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



The official motto of the Eastern Band
of Cherokee Indians is:

**“Our hearts are and
continue to be as one”**

(Ꮻ Ꮚ Ꮝ Ꮟ Ꮧ Ꮧ Ꮤ Ꮧ Ꮧ Ꮝ Ꮧ Ꮧ Ꮥ Ꮧ Ꮥ)

**This was approved by Dinilawigi
(Tribal Council) with the passage of
Res. No. 498 (2021) on June 1, 2021.**

Service 10 a.m. Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Mission. 82 Lambert Branch Road. Saturday Mass at 4:30 p.m. in English and 6 p.m. in Spanish. Pastor Fr. Victor Ameh, MSP. (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

Smoky Mountain Church of God. 3501 Hwy 441, Whittier, N.C. Pastor: Melanie Jean Garuffi (828) 556-0115

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 Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth group services are Sunday evenings only. 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

**IMMEDIATE
CARE CLINIC**



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

**75 Paint Town Rd
Cherokee, NC**

NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED, WALK-INS WELCOME!

LOCATED NEXT TO THE CASINO

CLASSIFIEDS

Buying Fresh Wild Ginseng

Starting September 1st, buying at the Old Caney Fork General Store every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Also buying at my home every day 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. Call Ricky Teem (828) 371-1802. **10/28**

Looking For

Cancer patient seeking EBCI craftspeople for functional, historically grounded Overhill Cherokee bow, cane arrows, blowgun/darts, quiver and Atasi war club, circa 1775–1792. Adrian: onemoretomorrow74@yahoo.com. **9/30**

LEGAL NOTICES

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. EST 26-066

Notice to Creditors and

Debtors of:

JERRY FRANCIS PARKER

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

ment to the appointed fiduciary(s) listed below.

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

Connie Andrews Parker

PO Box 1778

Cherokee, NC. 28719

9/30

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. EST 26-067

Notice to Creditors and

Debtors of:

CELIA ANN SMITH

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

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

Lula Jackson

PO Box 257

Cherokee, NC. 28719

9/30

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Cherokee, North Carolina

Estate File No. EST 26-073

Notice to Creditors and Debtors of:

CLARA SAUNOOKE

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

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

David Saunooke

1927 S.Gail Ln.

Anaheim, CA. 92802

10/14

BIDS, RFPs, etc.

Notice to Qualified Professionals

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Handicapped & Elderly Living

Program (H.E.L.P.) 145 Tsali Man-

or St. Cherokee N.C. 28719

Phone 828-359-6638

The Handicapped and Elderly Living Program (H.E.L.P.) is seeking qualified contractors and professionals who specialize in general residential rehabilitation and repair for residential properties. Work to be performed may include:

Removal and installation of metal or shingled roofs

Removal and installation of storm doors, doors and window

Service, removal, and installation of HVAC

JOIN OUR TEAM



WE ARE HIRING

Open Positions

- Security Lead
- Inventory Technician
- Maintenance Technician



Apply Online

www.quallallc.com/careers



More Information

828.589.8285

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



Employment Opportunities

Now Hiring for Our Spa!

Mandara Spa at Harrah's Cherokee

Hair Stylist
Nail Tech
Spa Attendants

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

Service and installation of electrical generators
 Service, removal, and installation of propane heater & tank/line sets
 Service, removal and installation of electrical
 Service, removal and installation of plumbing
 Removal and installation of kitchen cabinets
 Removal and installation of flooring
 Rough and finish carpentry
 Construction of universally acceptable ramps and decks
 Sheetrock repair
 Lawn maintenance services
 Pest control
 Locksmith

Qualified contactors and professionals will be expected to start work upon issuance of a contract. Several contractors and profes-

sionals will be selected for work. Selections will be based on qualifications. The H.E.L.P. Program reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

The work to be performed under this RFQ is subject to TERO guidelines. TERO certified vendors will be given preference. Qualification packages should include a W-9, tribal business license, proof of insurance, and any applicable licenses or certifications. Deliver sealed proposals to the H.E.L.P. Program office.

Contact Shyreece Williams, shywill1@nc-chokeee.com with questions or comments at 828-359-6638. **10/7**

DESIGN-BUILD REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

State of North Carolina Department of Transportation
 Raleigh, NC

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is requesting interested Design-Build Teams submit qualifications for an Express Design-Build Solicitation. This solicitation is for the replacement of Bridge No. 800358 in Rutherford County on SR 1144 (Jim Dobbins Road) over Grays Creek.

Interested parties should send a request, by e-mail only, to rfq_package_request@ncdot.gov for a formal package detailing the requirements for submitting a Statement of Qualifications. The following contact information must be included in the e-mail request: company name, physical address, city, state, zip code, contact person, phone number and current e-mail address. The

Statements of Qualifications must be submitted, by e-mail only, to db_soq_submittal@ncdot.gov by 3:00 p.m. on October 22, 2026.

All available Project information is on the NCDOT Alternative Delivery link of the website at connect.ncdot.gov/ under "Bidding & Letting". Project information, including each project's anticipated scope, is continually being added, so it is advisable to monitor this website for the most up to date information.

Technical questions related to the RFQ package, or other project related questions, should be sent via e-mail to altdelivery@ncdot.gov. For tracking purposes, questions will only be answered through e-mail requests. When making requests by e-mail, it is advisable to request a return receipt for your records. **9/30**



Cherokee Cinemas & More
has the following job opportunities

POSITION: Manager – Full-Time (Exempt)
GENERAL FUNCTIONS: The Manager is a full-time, salaried, exempt employee responsible for the overall operation of the movie theater. This role includes proactively leading the theater team to achieve business goals related to revenue, expense management, profitability, guest satisfaction, inventory control, and employee morale. The Manager also serves as a representative of Kituwah, LLC and is expected to act in a manner consistent with the Company's mission statement, values, and policies. The theater operates 365 days per year; therefore, the Manager is responsible for ensuring the business is open and adequately staffed each day.

POSITION: Floor Staff – Part-Time (Non-Exempt)
GENERAL FUNCTIONS: Floor Staff team members are classified based on individual theatre needs, and employees whose primary responsibility is ensuring our guests receive exceptional service. Floor Staff may be scheduled to work in the Box Office, Concession Stand, or as an Usher. Floor Staff employees must act as a representative of Cherokee Cinemas & More in a way that is consistent with our mission statement and policies. Assisting with all opening and closing duties as assigned by management

Job Descriptions and Applications can be picked up at the offices of Kituwah, LLC, 1158 Seven Clans Lane, KG3 Building, across the road from Waffle House. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Smith at 828-929-4257 or by email at kristin.smith@kituwahllc.com. Open until filled.

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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.



**CHEROKEE INDIAN
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

OPEN POSITIONS



NEW POSITIONS

Master Level Therapist – Adult Outpatient -
\$10,000 Hiring Bonus
Accounts Payable Clerk
Supply Warehouse Technician – Temporary
Phlebotomist – Part Time with Benefits
Grant Coordinator
Qualified Mental Health Professional

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mental Health Therapist - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
(Cherokee Central Schools, Child and Family –
Snowbird, Dora Reed, Family Safety, Family Inten-
sive Treatment, Medication Assisted Treatment,
Kanvwotiyi)
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor – Kanvwotiyi
Behavioral Health Consultant Supervisor
Behavioral Health RN - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus

DENTAL

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

EVS

EVS Technician – Evening Shift

EYE CLINIC

Optometrist

LABORATORY

Medical Technologist
Medical Lab Technician

MEDICAL

Psychiatrist
Physician and IM Rural Track Director

NURSING

Registered Nurse Emergency Department –Tem-
porary
RN Emergency Department –\$10,000 Hiring
Bonus
License Practical Nurse – Primary Care -\$5,000
Hiring Bonus
Clinical Care Manager – Float \$10,000 Hiring
Bonus
Clinical Care Manager - \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
RN Inpatient – Nights - PTI
Telemetry Nursing Assistant – PTI
Nurse Resident/Intern
Specialty Services Registered Nurse - \$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 - IDD
Tribal Option Care Management Extender – LTSS
Tribal Option Care Management Extender

TSALI CARE

Certified Nursing Assistant - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Licensed Practical Nurse - \$5,000 Hiring Bonus
Registered Nurse – \$10,000 Hiring Bonus
RN MDS Coordinator

CHOOSE CIHA FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026

CHEROKEEHOSPITAL.ORG/CAREERS

828.497.9163 EXT. 6343



Job Opportunities



Closing Sunday, October 04, 2026

1. Electrician Assistant/Generator Maintenance – Facility Management – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) **SAFETY SENSITIVE**
2. Housekeeper I – Housekeeping – Operations (L6 \$16.37 - \$20.47 per hour)
3. Truck Driver – Tribal Construction – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour) **SAFETY SENSITIVE**
4. Rounds Tech/Operator – Water Treatment – Operations (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
5. Supervisor – Fisheries & Wildlife Management – Operations (L16 \$68,827 - \$86,050)
6. Assistant Court Clerk (Multiple) – Tribal Court – Judicial Branch (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
7. Cook – Snowbird Senior Citizens – Snowbird/Cherokee County (L6 \$16.37 - \$20.47 per hour)
8. Recreation Aide – Snowbird/Cherokee County Recreation – Snowbird/Cherokee County (L7 \$16.61 - \$20.77 per hour)
9. Advanced Linguist Apprentice (Multiple) – Snowbird/Cherokee County Language & Culture – Snowbird/Cherokee County Services (L5 \$15.00 - \$20.28 per hour)
10. Collections Processor – Budget & Finance – Treasury (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour)
11. Manager (Housing Production) – Housing Program – Housing (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)
12. Administrative Assistant – Internal Audit (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour)

Open Until Filled

1. Social Worker (Multiple) – Family Safety – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$26.81 - \$33.52 per hour) per hour) **SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION**
2. Corrections Officer – Corrections – EBCI Law Enforcement (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) **SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITION**
3. Sergeant (Patrol) – Cherokee Indian Police Department – EBCI Law Enforcement (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour) **SAFETY SENSITIVE**
4. Teacher (Multiple) – Qualla Boundary Early Head Start – CERS (L9 \$17.27 - \$21.59 per hour)
5. Teacher – Qualla Boundary Head Start – CERS (L10 \$18.74 - \$23.43 per hour)
6. Registered Nurse – Tribal In Home Care Services – Public Health and Human Services (L15 \$29.71 - \$37.14 per hour)
7. Mental Health Therapist – Child Advocacy – Public Health and Human Services (L14 \$55,806 - \$69,763)
8. Driver (Cherokee County) – Transit – Operations (L8 \$16.94 - \$21.18 per hour) **SAFETY SENSITIVE**
9. Certified Biological Waste Water Treatment Operator – Waste Water – Operations (L11 \$20.39 - \$25.49 per hour) **SAFETY SENSITIVE**
10. Air Quality Specialist – Environmental & Natural Resources – Operations (L12 \$22.26 - \$27.83 per hour)

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



STAFF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- *Campus Dietitian*
- *Post Award Manager*
- *Grounds Worker (multiple positions)*
- *Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid*
- *Registrar*
- *Director of Campus Recreation*

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- *Assistant Professor - Construction Management*
- *Assistant Professor - Modern European History*
- *Assistant Professor - Musical Theatre*
- *Assistant Professor - Public Relations*
- *Teaching Assistant Professor - General Psychology*

VISIT JOBS.WCU.EDU FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY

An Equal Opportunity/Access/Pro Disabled & Veteran Employer.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations the application

and interview process please call 828.227.7218 or email at jobs@email.wcu.edu.

CHEROKEE BOYS CLUB VACANCIES

Snowbird Child Development

3--Snowbird Teachers—\$31,800--\$39,750 per year with benefits*

Agelink Child Development

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

Children's Home

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

4 --Residential Counselor—Full Time—\$17.00 per hour w/ benefits*

Bus & Truck Department

Seasonal Bus Drivers*
Truck Drivers*

SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS

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

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

LOOKING FOR A JOB THAT WORKS FOR YOU?

START HERE

One great team. Two great locations.
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All departments, all shifts,
the choice is yours.

Full-time, part-time, and
on-call positions available.

Apply online at
harrahscherokeejobs.com



Harrah's
CHEROKEE
CASINOS
CHEROKEE, NC • MURPHY, NC

Restrictions apply. Please see Talent Acquisition department for details. Harrah's Cherokee Casinos values diversity and inclusion and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid photo ID. Must be 21 or older to consume alcoholic beverages and must present a valid state or federal photo ID when requested. Please return to shop before you start. Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4789. An Affiliate of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, 7000 Coconino License Company, LLC.

Tsalagi Uwoduhi (Beautiful Cherokee)

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

Submit clear, high resolution photos of plants, wildlife,
or landscapes to us at

Cherokeeonefeather1966@gmail.com.

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

GWY ᏥᏍᏍᏁ ᏍᏍᏁᏍᏁ
CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER • TSALAGI SOQUO UGIDAHLI



Cherokee Central Schools
Job Openings
Apply online at
<https://phl.applitrack.com/cherokeecentral/onlineapp/> or
www.ccs-nc.org/apps/pages/human_resources for more information.

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

JV Girls Head Basketball Coach

Property and Supply Clerk

K-6 Special Education Teacher Assistant (Multiple)- Must have 48 Completed College Hours or submit ParaPathway exam for a reading/writing and mathematics.

K-6 Self-Contained Teacher Assistant - Must have 48 Completed College Hours or submit ParaPathway exam for a reading/writing and mathematics.

7-8 Special Education (Inclusion) Teacher

Cherokee Language Instructor / Teacher

Student Supervisory Support and Language Specialist

Part Time Food Service Worker

Substitute Teacher

AM Custodian

PM Custodian

GO SOLAR

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**Interested call Cherokee Solar
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*Tribal member owned and operated,
licensed company.*

"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"



**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION JACKSON COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA**

The statewide general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Voters will be asked to show photo ID when they vote. All voters will be allowed to vote with or without ID. Voters who lack ID can get one for free from their county board of elections. Find out more at ncsbe.gov/voter-id.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. The new Cullowhee Precinct Election Day voting location will be Western Carolina University Health and Human Sciences Building at 4121 Little Savannah Rd., Cullowhee. Election Day voting will cease to occur at the Cullowhee Recreation Center.

Early voting will be held at the following locations from Thursday, October 15, 2026, to Saturday, October 31, 2026:

- Skyland Service Center, 876 Skyland Dr.-Suite 1, Sylva
- Cashiers Rec Center, 355 Frank Allen Rd, Sylva
- Cullowhee Rec Center, 88 Cullowhee Mtn. Rd., Cullowhee
- Qualla Community Building, 181 Shoal Creek Church Loop Rd, Whittier
- WCU Health & Human Sciences Building, 4121 Little Savannah Rd., Cullowhee

Hours of operation are M-F 8:00am-7:30pm; and Saturdays, October 24 and 31, 8:00am-3:00pm.

Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who have requested them beginning September 4, 2026. A voter can fill out an absentee ballot request at votebyemail.ncsbe.gov, or by filling out a request form provided by the board of elections. The request must be received through the website or by the Jackson County Board of Elections by 5 p.m. October 20, 2026.

In the general election, voters will select candidates for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, N.C. General Assembly, state and local judges, district attorney, and county offices. A Statewide Referendum proposing amendments to the N.C. Constitution will also be on the ballot.

The voter registration deadline for this election is 5 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2026. Eligible individuals who are not registered by that deadline may register and vote at any early voting site during the early voting period. New registrants will be required to provide documentation of their residence.

Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites without physical assistance because of age or physical disability. Questions? Call the Jackson County Board of Elections Office at 828.586.7538 or send an email to ElectionsInfo@JacksonNC.org.

Bill Thompson, Chairman
Jackson County Board of Elections

10/7 Paid Political Notice

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION SWAIN COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA**

The statewide general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Voters will be asked to show photo ID when they vote. All voters will be allowed to vote with or without ID. Voters who lack ID can get one for free from their county board of elections. Find out more at ncsbe.gov/voter-id.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

Early voting will be held at the following locations from Thursday, October 15, 2026, through Saturday, October 31, 2026.

- Swain County Board of Elections office, 45 East Ridge Dr., Room 200, Bryson City, NC 28713
- Peaches Squirrel Sports and Recreation Complex, 1212 Birdtown Rd., Cherokee, NC 28719 Weekdays from 8:00 AM to 7:30 PM; Saturday, Oct. 24th and 31st from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who have requested them beginning September 4, 2026.

Absentee ballots must be received by the county board of elections no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2026. A voter can fill out an absentee ballot request at votebyemail.ncsbe.gov, or by filling out a request form provided by the county board of elections office. The request must be received through the website or by the Swain County Board of Elections by 5 p.m. October 20, 2026.

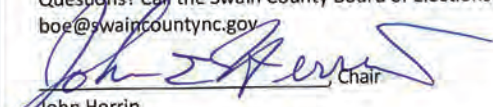
Contests on the ballot include U.S. Senate, U.S. House, N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice, N.C. Court of Appeals Judge, Superior and District Court Judge, N.C. House and Senate, and county offices: Swain County Board of Commissioners Chair, Swain County Board of Commissioners Members, Swain County Board of Education, Swain County Clerk of Superior Court, Swain County Register of Deeds, Swain County Sheriff, and Swain County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. A Statewide Referendum proposing amendments to the N.C. Constitution will also be on the ballot.

All persons who are registered to vote with the Swain County Board of Elections may vote in this election. The voter registration deadline for this election is 5 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2026. Eligible individuals who are not registered by that deadline may register and vote at any early voting site during the early voting period. Individuals registering to vote at an early voting site will be required to provide current documentation of their residence (for example, a government ID, other government document, or a paycheck, bank statement, or utility bill).

Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters.

Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites without physical assistance because of age or physical disability.

Questions? Call the Swain County Board of Elections Office at 828-488-6177, or send an email to boe@swaincountync.gov


John Herrin
Swain County Board of Elections

10/7 Paid Political Notice



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

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Timber Permits

Michelle Ruffman: (828) 359-6913

A family of four is posing for a photo in a store. On the left, a man in a grey t-shirt with the text "Another BANNER FOR THE CEILING, OR THE ROAD." and a baseball cap stands next to a large, brown, hairy Sasquatch costume. In the center, a woman in a blue and white patterned shirt and glasses stands behind a young girl in a red tank top and leopard print skirt. On the right, another woman in a green t-shirt with a "BIGFOOT" graphic and glasses stands with her hand on her hip. The background shows shelves with various items, including a yellow t-shirt and a "Visit Smokies" sign.

Phoebe Lambert, front row, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was named the Ultimate Sasquatch Hunter of 2026 after winning the “Find Carl - Visit Smokies Great Sasquatch Hunt”. The contest ran from June 1 to Sept. 1 and participants had to follow clues provided by Visit Smokies to find Carl in eight different hiding spots across the counties of Macon, Jackson, Swain, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, and Clay, as well as the Qualla Boundary. Phoebe and her family found Carl at all of his hiding spots and was the first one to find him at his final hiding spot. Phoebe’s grandmother, Dawna Paul, said, “This event was a lot of fun and got us to explore different places in Western North Carolina that we had not been to before.” Pictured, left to right, back row - Wilbur Paul, Carl, Karleigh Reeves, and Dawna Paul; front row - Phoebe Lambert. (Photo contributed)

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



Tyce Hogner, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with Navajo and Creek heritage, models during Indigenous Fashion Week in New York on Sept. 12. Hogner modeled for designer Kene' Kaya. (Photo by Valeria Vidal Plate)

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

TSALAGI UWODUHI (Beautiful Cherokee)



Cherokee Corn Beads

These Cherokee Corn Beads are growing quite well in front of the EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) Cooperative Extension Office in Cherokee, N.C. as shown in this photo taken on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 23. Also known as Job's tears, the scientific name for the plant is *Coix lacryma-jobi*. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



Panicle Hydrangea

These panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*) provide a beautiful sight as they are growing in front of the EBCI (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) Cooperative Extension Office in Cherokee, N.C. as shown in this photo taken on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 23. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)



Tsalagi Uwoduhi (Beautiful Cherokee)

This Appalachian Jewelwing, a large and rare species of the damselfly, is shown on the edge of Raven Fork in Kolanvyi (Big Cove) in Cherokee, N.C. on Sunday, Sept. 13. (Photo by Alecia Ralston)



Tsalagi Uwoduhi (Beautiful Cherokee)

Halloween decorations have begun in Aniwodihi (Painttown) in Cherokee, N.C. as shown in this spider web photographed on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 26. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photo)

Join the Atlanta Braves *October 6th and 7th* at the **CHEROKEE FESTIVAL AND PARADE**

