



April 1, 2024

**From Chief Massey**

On my last visit to our tribal property, as I stood on the deck and looked out at our beautiful facility, I could hear the water running over the waterfall. I could see the beautiful blooms amongst the trees. The greenery sprouting all around and I heard the birds singing with the hawks leading the choir. What a wonderful blessing we have here in our complex. The hard work of our founding citizens has paid off for us and our generations to come. To find this property and to have the wherewithal to purchase this land. Pride swells within my heart for my people. A group of like-minded individuals who want to celebrate our heritage, heart and love with our children and others.

PVC Bobby Borden and I met with 3 gentlemen today to discuss the Boy Scouts of America joining us in projects and programs to share our heritage and offer the use of our property. I believe it will be a great endeavor for us all. We will be comparing schedules and project applications in the near future. I hope that as a People those that have skills and talents will be willing to share by doing programs to teach our heritage through stories and project applications, such as flint knapping, sewing, beadwork, doll making and leatherwork.

The trails need repair, the outside of the buildings could use a good cleaning and the porches. A good scrubbing wouldn't hurt them either but all in all this facility is grand. I want to remind you "You are Cherokee, you are an Echota. Be proud, be bold and be kind to each other. Walk with your head up high and your heart full with the knowledge that our people, our heritage is Cherokee. Never take for granted the sacrifice that has been made for us, for our children and for our grandchildren. To have a facility to gather in, a place we can call ours.

Wado,

Nancy Massey  
Principal Chief

**From the Office Manager Dr. Shawn Castleberry**

Since January, we have enrolled 32 adults and 25 minors for a total of 57 new citizens. There have also been a large number of New Citizen Applications sent out as well.

Emmett Turner, Blue clan member and At Large Representative, and Wayne Smith, Deer clan Chief, put in some time taking care of making sure that the Tribal meeting house has quality internet connection. This will assist us with having much better Zoom meeting with tribal members and also allow us the means to utilize various technologies to improve presentations during our meetings and gatherings.

Please be sure to check the calendar on our website for hours of operation. The Tribal office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:45 am until 12:45 in the afternoon. There may be some instances where the office may not be open. Please check the calendar for those dates.

**Meeting Announcements:**

On April 27th, there will be a Governing Body meeting at 10:30 am. There will be a lunch break at 12 noon with a State Meeting to resume at 12:45 pm. You are encouraged to bring a bag lunch for yourself and family or a covered dish. The meetings will take place in the council house.

If you have any questions, please contact the tribe.

We encourage you to check our calendar on our website to see any upcoming meetings or events.

You can do this by clicking on this link:  
<https://echotacherokee.org/calendar.html>

We also encourage you to send your clan events to our email address and we will put them on the calendar.

## Blue Clan

On Saturday March 9 2024. Oakville Indian Mounds had its first ever Feather Fest. The Feather Fest is to educate people about different birds that we have in Alabama. It is also to show that every bird is very important to our world.

Many different groups were asked to come and be a part of this. Some of the groups were Camp McDowell Raptor program and Auburn University Raptor program.

Blue Clan was also asked to do an education booth on how important bird feathers are to Native American people. Maria Daws was on hand telling stories. Wayne Smith was asked to come set his booth and sell his bird houses. Donna Robinson was there with her lemonade stand. Also on hand were Echota citizens James Swan , Vicki Ball, Terry Light, Brenda Laird and Angel Bean. We were represented well.

The Feather Fest was such a great success the Alabama State Parks has picked it up as an annual event. It will be at a different state park each year and will be back at Oakville in 4 years.

Oakville has also invited all Echota citizens to come to the powwow on May 10th and 11th. All dancers are welcome.



## Deer Clan

The Deer Clan held their bimonthly meeting at the Council House on March 10 th . We began with the pledge and a prayer offered by Mr. Don McAnally. Before our meal, Chief Wayne Smith told us how the Kingfisher received his bill as a gift from the Little People.

After dinner, Butch Walker delivered a presentation about Chief Doublehead. Chief Doublehead was a Cherokee Chief that controlled the Tennessee Valley region of North Alabama. He was a fierce warrior and leader during the late 1700s until his assassination in 1807.

Butch presented an interesting overview of the controversial Doublehead. He has also written a book on the topic, "Doublehead: Last Chickamauga Cherokee Chief ", along with 16 other books about the history of North Alabama.

This was followed by a chilling tale of the Eagles Revenge told by StoryTeller Harrison. Mrs. Cheryl Whitlow taught us a few more Cherokee words and discussed a Cherokee language program that she is putting together.

Some members of the Boaz Genealogy society were on hand to invite everyone to their meetings at the Boaz Library. They take place each month on the third Tuesday at 6:30pm and the last Saturday at 10:30am.

Chief Nancy told about a drive to get an official Echota Cherokee license plate. If we get 1000 people to sign up showing interest, Alabama will produce personalized tags that contain our seal. You will be able to get one for an additional \$50 when you renew your car tag. Part of that money would go to the tribe.

Chief Wayne invited everyone back to the next gathering on May 5 th and called the meeting to a close.





## Bird Clan News

The Bird Clan meeting was at 12 noon on March 2, 2024. There were 14 present.

We had a wonderful time of fellowship and good food!!! Jean Chandler announced that the State Meeting is April 27, 2024 and talked about the Upcoming Festival Meeting and said it would be best to bring lunch.

The clan put in their nomination for Head Man and Head Woman, Ronnie Berryhill and Jana Gann. We talked about possibly having a Junior Head Man and Woman to give the young people a chance to learn and participate in the Pow Wow.

Jean told the clan the Gift Shop hours and that they were hoping to have it opening in April. We discussed the upcoming Pow Wow/ getting new ideas, possibly having a Trade Blanket Saturday after the festival. Our next meeting is May 4th at 12 noon at Beville College.



### Letter from Echota Citizen, Cory Edwards - Musician

Siyol!

I hope this email finds you well. My song with Lil Wayne, '**Echota Yoda**,' has surpassed **1.7 million streams on Spotify** and has been submitted to the **Native American Music Awards** for **potential nomination**.

Additionally, I'm currently collaborating with **Sten Joddi**, a renowned rapper from the **Muscogee Nation**, on a brand new tribal hit!

Several prominent Native American musicians, including Sten Joddi, Joey Stylez, Mack Sickz, and Matt Mac, have reached out to congratulate me on my recent success via Instagram.

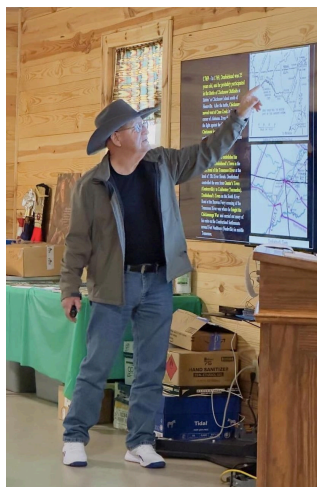
It has been so much fun and such a learning experience, however I am now **facng potential throat cancer**. I have had an X-ray to test the walls of my throat and am getting a scope done in several weeks.

**Asking the tribe to please pray for me during this time.**

## Butch Walker Presents

March 10th, Mr. Butch Walker came to the tribal grounds and did a wonderful presentation on Doublehead for the Echota Cherokee Deer Clan. Many were in attendance. It was a great presentation. If you would like to know more about Doublehead, please reach out to Butch Walker. He has written many books regarding the Cherokee and more.

### **Excerpt from Butch Walker's Book:**



"Chief John Watts called for warriors to gather into the largest Cherokee war party in history. Robert Bengé was one of the first among them to volunteer. Also joining were Shawnees from Running Water in southern Tennessee and a large group of Creeks (700) enlisted by Chief Doublehead. As the war

party moved north, Nettle Carrier and Doublehead's brother, Pumpkin Boy went ahead to scout. The scouts approached the blockhouse at Ish's Station which was commanded by John Sevier. The two were spotted by sentries and Pumpkin Boy was shot and killed. Doublehead became enraged and wanted blood...During the raid, members of the Cavet Family were promised safe passage and surrendered to Robert Bengé, who negotiated a promised freedom for the family. Even though Bengé was his nephew, Doublehead refused to recognize the agreement that had been negotiated...Soon as they had surrendered, Doublehead killed everyone. The Bench wept because he had given his word and felt that his honor had been betrayed by his uncle Doublehead. The relationship between The Bench and Doublehead would never be the same. Probably in a state of rage over the recent death of his beloved brother Pumpkin Boy, Doublehead refused to allow any white people at Cavett's Station escape death." **Excerpt found in *Doublehead: Last Chickamauga Cherokee Chief and is available at Warrior Mountains Trading Post or Amazon. Doublehead lived at Doublehead's Town in Lawrence County, Alabama during the Chickamauga War; read about his life at the Muscle Shoals in North Alabama.***

Bow & Arrow Culture Club, inc. proudly presents the  
**51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CITY OF ROSES**

**Grand Entries:**  
 Friday: 7pm  
 Saturday: 1pm & 7pm  
 Sunday: 1pm

**Retire colors:**  
 Friday & Saturday 10pm  
 Sunday 6pm

**Friday evening 6/14**  
 coronation of the next  
 "Miss Indian Northwest"  
 \*2024!  
 celebrating  
 Native women in  
 leadership since 1969

**DELTA PARK**

**POW WOW**  
 June 14th-16th 2024 Portland OR

**FIRST 10 REGISTERED "VISITING" DRUMS GUARANTEED DRUM-PAY. REGISTER ON SITE 6/14 AT 6PM**  
**DRUMMERS BRING YOUR CHAIRS**  
**INVITED VENDORS ONLY. NO ONSITE REGISTRATION.**  
**CAMPING: REGISTRATION OPENS FRIDAY, 6/14 AT 9AM (21 + WITH VALID ID REQUIRED TO REGISTER)**

\*Competition dancing \*exhibition dancing \*Arts & craft vendors  
 \*Free Family celebration open to the public \* Fry bread and other food

**DELTA PARK**  
 10737 N UNION COURT PORTLAND, OR  
 97217 I-5 EXIT 307

**NO alcohol or illegal drugs allowed. strictly enforced. NO dogs or pet's allowed. Please plan ahead.**  
 Bow & Arrow Culture Club is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

For our at-large citizens who live out west.



**Pow Wow**

**STICK GAME TOURNAMENT**

**LEGENDS CASINO + HOTEL**

**May 17-19 2024**

**STATE FAIR PARK**  
 1301 S FAIR AVE  
 Yakima WASHINGTON

**OVER \$150,000 IN CASH PRIZES**

**Pow Wow GRAND ENTRY**  
 FRIDAY 7PM | SATURDAY 1PM & 7PM | SUNDAY 1PM

**HEAD STAFF**  
 Master of Ceremony: Dave Madera and Keveon Kingbird  
 Arena Director: Audrey Olney and Lonny Street  
 Female Head Judge: Acosia Red Elk  
 Male Head Judge: Russell McCloud  
 Drum Judge: Opie Day

**JR ADULT 18-34 | SR ADULT 35-59 | GOLDEN AGE 60+**  
 1st: **\$1,000**  
 Women: Fancy, Jingle, Northern Traditional, Southern Traditional, Plateau  
 Men: Fancy, Grass, Northern Traditional, Southern Straight, Round Bustle, Chicken

**TEEN 13-17 | JUNIORS 7-12**  
 1st: **\$500** 1st: **\$300**  
 Girls: Fancy, Jingle, Traditional  
 Boys: Fancy, Grass, Traditional

**TOP 4 PLACES PAY**  
 for each category, full list of payouts available on website

**DRUMMING CONTEST** 1st: **\$15,000** + sweatshirts  
**DANCE SPECIALS** TBA

**CONTACTS**  
 509.731.6179 *John Caspard*  
 509.985.9174 *John Moses Jr.*

**Stick Game TOURNAMENT**  
 ADULTS \$150 | 3 MAN \$50 | KIDS FREE

**FRIDAY**  
 2pm-5pm: 3 Man Registration  
 3pm: Open Games  
 6pm: 3 Man Tournament

**SATURDAY**  
 9am-1pm: Adult Registration 1st-3pm: Adult Tournament double elimination

**SUNDAY**  
 9am-11am: Kids Registration 17 and under  
 12pm: Kids Tournament double elimination  
 1pm: Traditional Games

**3 MAN PRIZE: \$3,000** winning team takes all

**ADULT PRIZES** 1st: **\$25,000** + hand drums  
 2nd: **\$14,000** + sweatshirts  
 3rd: **\$7,700** + duffel bags  
 4th: **\$6,000** + t-shirts

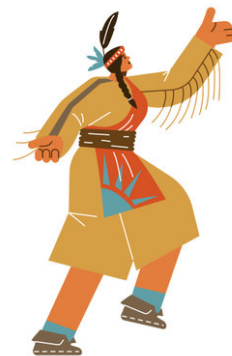
**KIDS PRIZES** 1st: **\$1,700** + hand drums  
 2nd: **\$1,200** + sweatshirts  
 3rd: **\$800** + duffel bags  
 4th: **\$600** + t-shirts

**CONTACTS**  
 509.949.5974 *Tanya Gonzalez*  
 509.480.6642 *Melvin Garcia*

**FOR MORE DETAILS: LEGENDSCASINO.COM**  
 LEGENDS HOTEL: available April 8th- 509.865.5244 | LOCAL HOTELS: chamber.yakima.org | CAMPING: available on-site May 16th  
 VENDORS: limited space - 509.865.8800 ext. 5267 | EVENT PARKING: \$5 daily on-site

This is a Yakama Nation Legends Casino Hotel event located at the State Fair Park in Yakima, Washington  
 Hotel, vendor, and camping is based on availability. Alcohol, drugs, or weapons are not allowed. Luggage, bags, and purses of any kind are subject to search at any time. Personal chairs are not allowed in the Sundome. Stick Game Tournament will be an outdoor event. Children should not be left unattended, no drop off. Valid photo ID required for all participant prize payouts, guardians of children 17 and under must be present. Not responsible for personal accidents, theft or short funded travelers. State Fair Park, Central WA Fair Association and Legends Casino Hotel management reserves all rights.

For our at-large citizens who live out west.





ANNUAL  
Vicky "Spitsfire" Garland  
MEMORIAL  
**POW WOW**

**April 27-28, 2024**

**Giles County Agri Park  
2014 Elkton Pike  
Pulaski, Tennessee**

Lots of  
Native  
Vendors

**MC  
BERT COX**

Fry Bread  
Indian Taco!!

**Head Man  
David NightHawk McDaris  
Head Lady  
Debi WindDancer McDaris**

Kids  
Candy  
Dance!

**Drum  
Ammons Rattler  
Rattler Ridge Singers**

Dancing!

Security &  
First Aid  
onsite

**CONTACT INFO FOR VENDORS DANCERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC**  
Phone: 931-478-0315  
Email: gcptrailoftears@gmail.com  
Webpage: gcptrailoftears.com  
Face book: Giles County Tennessee Trail of Tears

**BRING YOUR LAWN  
CHAIRS OR  
BLANKETS TO SIT ON**

Admission  
\$5  
Parking is free

**Intertribal dancing (no competition dancing so everyone  
can dance) Wear your regalia!  
LUCK OF THE DRAW EVERY HOUR  
1 big cash luck of the draw will be included each day- Will  
you be the lucky draw!??**



SOUTHEASTERN MVSKOKE NATION  
CREEK FRIEND'S FESTIVAL



**October 12, 2024 - 10-5pm**  
242 County Road 2254 • Troy, Alabama 36079

**Come Join the Fun!**  
( Admission \$5 - children under 12 free )



Stomp Dancing • Native Dancers • Nik Romine - Echota Cherokee (female)  
Seth Penn - Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama (Male Dancer) • Ax Throwing  
Blow Guns • Nature Trail Walk with Arrowhead dig • Story Telling  
Music - David Wiley • Country Music Wood Flute Music • Hang around for a stick ball game  
Food Vendors • Native American Artisans (jewelry, bone carving, wood work,  
shell carving & stick weaving) Promotional Items (tshirts, caps)

southeasternmvskokenation.org  
{ EVENT COMMITTEE }

Chief Michelle Gilmore 334-657-6696 • Tina Schonour 850-293-2470 • Racheal Smithy 205-688-0741



**CHEROKEE OF GEORGIA  
Annual SPRING POWWOW  
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY  
APRIL 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH, 2024**

Children's Activities, Demonstrations,  
Flute Players, Storytellers, Cultural  
Displays, and Traders with Arts, Crafts,  
Supplies, and items for every budget

**Nahui Ollin Aztec Fire Dancers  
Demonstrations & Dances Each Day**

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY: Guided Tours**  
Schools, Home School, Scouts, Clubs, Civic Groups  
Box Lunches & Bus Parking Available  
Call for Details: 912-552-0305 (Dee Dee)

**FREE Admission and FREE Parking**  
**FREE Tent Camping (Primitive)**  
Limited RV Hookups Available - **Come Early!**  
Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner available at Cookhouse  
CHILI FRY BREAD HOT DOGS  
FRENCH FRIES SOFT DRINKS  
COFFEE ICED TEA LEMONADE

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**  
This schedule is an estimate. We run on "Indian Time"  
Traders open each day until end of dancing

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY**  
9am (Thursday)..... Flag Raising  
10am ..... Activities & Guided Tours begin  
1pm to 5pm ..... Social Dancing & Cultural Activities  
7pm (Friday) ..... GRAND ENTRY & Intertribal Dancing  
After Dancing (Friday) ..... Trade Blanket

**SATURDAY**  
10am to 5pm ..... Social Dancing & Cultural Activities  
1pm ..... Afternoon GRAND ENTRY  
4:30pm ..... Flag Folding Ceremony  
7pm until ..... Evening GRAND ENTRY  
Veterans & Memorial Songs, Intertribal Dancing  
After Dancing ..... Moonlight Auction

**VENDOR & ON-SITE CAMPING CONTACT:**  
Tribal Mother Crystal Rain (Dee Dee) 912-552-0305

**HEAD STAFF**

DRUMS: Falcon Singers & Medicine Horse  
MC ..... Fred Glennon  
ARENA DIRECTOR ..... Gary Hayes  
HEAD MAN ..... Tye Bell  
HEAD LADY ..... Taelar Bell  
HEAD VETERAN ..... Corky Rudd

**INTERTRIBAL + LOTS OF DANCING**  
(No Competition Dancing)

**Bring the Whole Family,  
Chairs or Blankets to sit on, and  
Spend the Day!**

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Grounds  
110 Cherokee Way, St George GA 31562



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

EMAIL: cherokeeofga@gmail.com  
FACEBOOK: Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Grounds  
HOTEL: Message us on Facebook for Details  
RV PARKS: Okfeenokee Pastimes 912-496-4472  
Traders Hill Campground (Tammy) 912-390-9288

Our Tribal Grounds and Permanent Facilities are Handicap Accessible  
**NO PETS DUE TO INSURANCE RESTRICTIONS - NO FIREARMS, ALCOHOL, OR DRUGS PERMITTED**  
Cherokee of Georgia is a state recognized tribe with nonprofit status



### Happy Birthday!!!

The tribe would like to wish a belated birthday (March 17th) and a welcome to the tribe to Landon Rhett Borden. He is one of our youngest members at the age of 3 years old.

A very Happy Birthday from his grandmother Janet Griffin.



### Our Condolences

The tribe wishes to extend our sincere condolences to the family of Merle Chavers. She was a member of the Longhair Clan and made her transition on November 28, 2023.



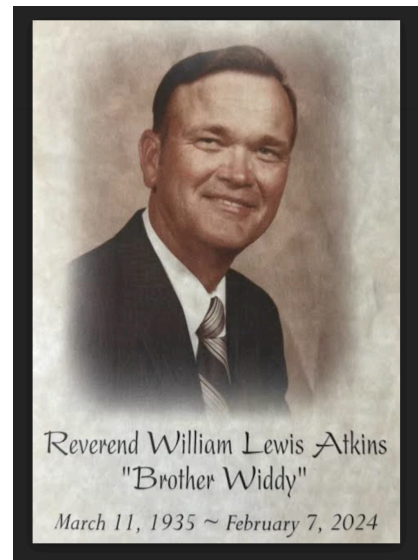
---

**Happy April 5th Birthday  
To My Wife and Our Mother Weeya Calif  
Love - Rick, Misha, Kirsten & Cayden**



---

**The tribe sends our condolences to  
Reverend Atkin's family and friends.**





## Our Condolences

The tribe wishes to extend our sincere condolences to our citizen James Swann and his family with the passing of his father.

### Obituary for James Albert Swann Sr.

This past Palm Sunday March 24, 2024, Rev. James Swann Sr., age 77, was called home to be with the Lord. He had recently been struggling with complications of congestive heart failure among other health concerns and his body was tired. We were not ready for him to leave us, but he was ready to meet the Lord and we look forward to the day that we see him again in heaven. "So, we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. "2 Corinthians 5: 6-8

James will always be loved and greatly missed by his surviving family members especially his wife of more than 55 years, Lillian M. Swann and his children James (Michelle) Swann, Jr, Missy Swann (John Hummel), David (Elizabeth) Swann and Matthew Swann, his grandchildren Lisa Keely Farmer, Kristian Swann, Cameron Hummel, Gage Swann, Mac England, Tyler Thompson, Nathaniel Swann, Kierian Swann, Kiera Swann, Brian Gorff, Branden Swann, and multiple great grandchildren.

He was the fifth of eleven children, born on November 16, 1946, to Dewey Lee (Dude) Swann and Dorothy Alene (Quick) Swann at their home in Cullman County Alabama. He is preceded in death by his parents Dude and Dorothy, brothers Melvin Swann and Joe Swann, and sisters Patricia Cook, Brenda Johnson, Barbara Ann Vanzandt and Virginia Brock. Surviving siblings include brothers Lewis Swann and John Swann and sisters Linda Goff and Glenda Sue Standridge.

James and Lillian were married on October 22, 1968, when he was 22 and she was 19. They grew up together and built their lives around their family. They were blessed with a large family of four children who blessed them further with their children and great grandchildren. They lived in Alabama most of their lives together but also in Jacksonville Florida for several years and Phoenix Arizona for a few years before returning to Cullman in the late 1990s. James pastored or held leadership positions in several small churches in North Alabama and Florida and loved being in the house of the Lord. When he wasn't outdoors, you would often find him quietly reading his Bible and in the last couple years he would cheerfully tell you that he read through his Bible from cover to cover more than 15 times and always found something new to share with someone. He read the Bible to his children

when they were young, and they especially loved it when he read the story about Balaam and his donkey. He was opinionated and firm in his convictions. He was very social and loved a good fifth Sunday meeting or a night watch service or a church homecoming, especially if there was a lot of good food, good preaching and good gospel singing. He liked to have fun and had an acute sense of humor. He was quick to laugh and loved it when others joined in the fun. He could be a bit of a prankster and you knew he was up to something when he raised one eyebrow and gave a sly grin. He loved to fish or hunt with his brothers, cousins, sons, friends and especially with his grandkids and they loved fishing with him. You would often find him with a line in the water somewhere with one or several grandkids or great grandkids in tow to catch some fish. He liked to garden and grow his own vegetables to eat and share with his family. Most recently James got a lot of joy in having his great grandsons Matthew and Michael live with them. They brought immense happiness to his later years, and he said that they kept him young.

Please join family and friends in celebrating James Swann's ultimate promotion at the viewing on Thursday March 28, 2024, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, funeral service on Friday morning March 29, 2024, at 11:00 am at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, 255 County Road 1435, Cullman, AL 35058, and burial following the service at New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church, 1335 County Road 38 Hanceville, AL 35077.



James Albert Swann Sr.

## New At-Large Representative

The tribe has an Official At-Large Facebook page for all at-large citizens. If you would like to be a part of the At-Large Facebook page, please email At-Large Rep Emmett Turner to be added.

If you are an at-large citizen and have any comments, questions or concerns, please direct them through an email to Emmett and he will do his best to answer or address these things. You can contact him through email at: [beardog100@outlook.com](mailto:beardog100@outlook.com).

## Remember our Ancestors



**Remember our ancestors who were not allowed to wear their hair long. Wearing our hair long is a way to honor what was taken from our ancestors. We heal our trauma by caring for our hair.  
—Nita Colburn**

## Interesting Facts about the Cherokee

Sequoyah was a Cherokee man who served in the U.S. Army in the [Creek War](#), and was also an accomplished silversmith and painter.

As a silversmith, Sequoyah interacted with many European Americans. He was especially impressed by their writing, believing that the ability to record and transmit knowledge held a considerable amount of power.

By 1809, Sequoyah began attempting to create a system of writing for the Cherokee language.

He started by trying to create a pictograph system, wherein every word in the language had a character or symbol. But he ultimately found it to be impractical.

Eventually he isolated 85 distinct syllables in Cherokee speech, and assigned each one a symbol. For reference on how to shape the different letters, he used a printed Bible.

Sequoyah's 6-year-old daughter, Ayokeh, helped complete his work and was the first to learn the new syllabary.

They were both charged with witchcraft and brought to trial, wherein they were separated and asked to exchange messages in order to see if their new Cherokee syllabary actually worked.

After proving it did, the warriors presiding over the trial deemed Sequoyah's syllabary legitimate.

## How to say Sequoyah?

<https://www.howtopronounce.com/sequoyah>





### Thank You For Your Service

On 1 October 2021, Brennon Smith, Jr. was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He entered active service on October 3, 2004, and with almost 20 years of active and reserve time, he now serves as an Engagement Lead and Subject Matter Expert for Business and Technology with Marine Innovation Unit, an elite and highly selective unit comprised of private and government sector industry experts working at the bleeding edge of technological innovation and business process.

LtCol Smith also has served with Marine Corps Individual Reserve Support Activity (MCIRSA), 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, Marine Forces Pacific, US Africa Command, Marine Forces Europe/Africa, HQBn Marine Forces Reserve, Training Wing 9, and MATSG-21.

He resides in Apison, TN with his wife and two children. Brennon Jr. and his father (Brennon Smith, Sr.), also a tribal member, own and operate [JBrennon Construction, Inc.](#), a small commercial/industrial construction firm operating primarily in the Southeast.

**ATTENTION!!!**  
 RENE HAYNES CASTING  
 SEEKING INDIGENOUS HOST FOR EDUCATIONAL YouTube SERIES  
 NATIVE AMERICAN MEN & WOMEN  
 AGES 25 to 45 TO HOST CRASH COURSE SERIES ON NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Must be charismatic and confident with range to tell a silly joke, be playful with the audience, and cover serious disturbing subject matter with sincerity and poise.

Dynamic individuals who are engaging and passionate about sharing Native History and personal stories. On camera experience is a plus.

**TO SUBMIT:**  
 Please email ALL of the following information by April 15th to: [rosie@rhcasting.com](mailto:rosie@rhcasting.com)

1. Full Name
2. Photo
3. Email & Phone number
4. Location (city & state where you reside)
5. Tribal affiliation (optional)

AUCTION MATERIAL WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL

CRASH COURSE  
 Rene Haynes Casting  
**SEEKING: INDIGENOUS HOST FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES**  
 MEN & WOMEN AGES 25-45 SOUGHT TO HOST EDUCATIONAL YOUTUBE SERIES CRASH COURSE

THE SERIES WILL COVER DIVERSE TRADITIONAL BELIEFS, SOCIAL STRUCTURES, AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, EXPLORED THROUGH ORAL HISTORIES, ARTWORK, ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS, AND MORE.

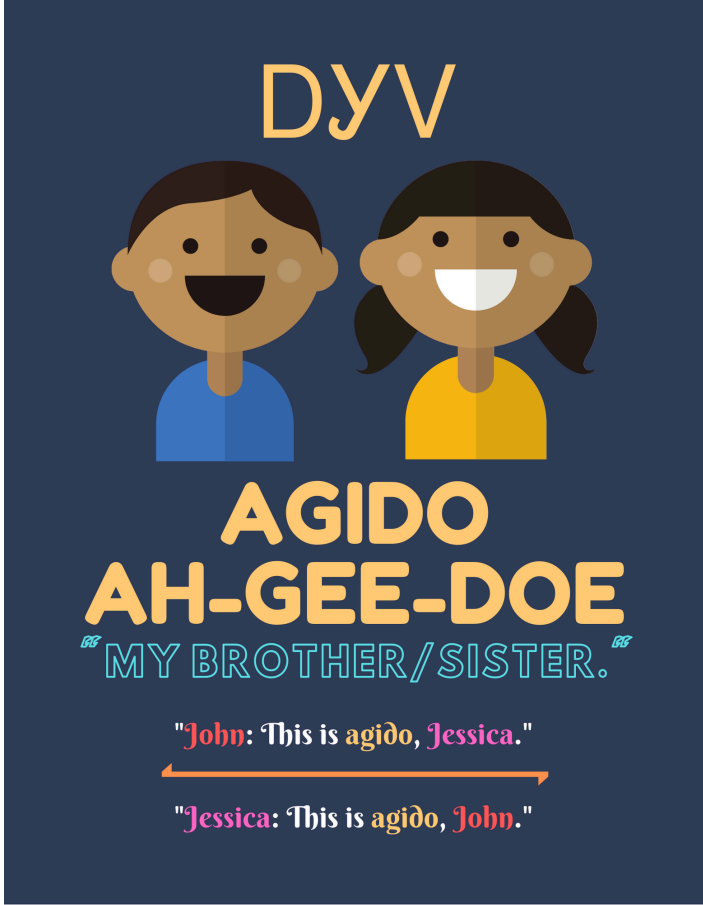
Looking for dynamic educators who are enthusiastic, engaging, and passionate about sharing their native history and personal stories. Must be curious and inspire curiosity.

Must be charismatic and confident, with range to tell a silly joke, be playful with the audience, and cover serious or disturbing subject matter with sincerity and poise.

**To Submit:**  
 Please send the following information by 4/15/24 to [rosie@rhcasting.com](mailto:rosie@rhcasting.com)

1. Subject line: CC HOST
2. Full name
3. Height
4. Photo of your face & full body shot
5. Phone Number
6. Location/ City & State
7. Tribal affiliation (optional)

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS APRIL, 15TH 2024



**Assessment Reminders:**

Citizens who are married where both husband and wife are citizens - \$45 for the family (includes minor children)

Citizens who are single parents with children - \$45 for the family (includes minor children)

Citizens who are 18 and older - \$45 each

We are getting questions of when is someone to pay their assessments. If you did not pay for 2023, we ask that you go ahead and pay the assessment. Then mark your calendar or set up a reminder of when you pay it next year. You can also refer to your canceled check if you paid with a check. The tribe will not be sending out reminders. Our other suggestion is to always pay it the same month every year. This way it is easier to remember.

We are also asked how much back pay do I owe? We ask that you begin paying your assessments to become active in the tribe. We are not asking that you pay all your back owed assessments. Please pass this along to anyone you know who may have this concern.

Also we are receiving emails of individuals who do not realize they should be paying an annual assessment. To be an active citizen and to have a vote in any election, you need to pay your annual assessment of \$45. You can do so by paying online or sending in a check/money order to the tribe.

Pay online here:

<https://echotacherokee.org/assessments.html>

Pay through mail:

**The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama**  
 P.O. Box 479  
 Falkville, AL 35622



## How to Make A Ribbon Skirt Tutorials:

Written Instructions with a tutorial video.

<https://www.galtmuseum.com/articles/ribbon-skirt-tutorial>

Beginners tutorial video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeLVBdJs0hw>

Written Instructions:

<https://www.strongwagner.com/2021/12/04/ribbon-skirt-tutorial/>

### What is the meaning behind ribbon skirts?

For Indigenous peoples, the Ribbon Skirt represents our own personal reclamation. It represents reclaiming identity, and wearing that identity proudly. It has become armour. It is a cultural protection against assimilation and degradation. It is a reminder of our roles in our community as women and as members.



## Face Paint

The Cherokee word for paint is wodi.

Red Paint – wodige'i wodi

Yellow Paint – dalonige'i wodi

Black Paint – gvnige'i wodi



For more information:

<https://weeyacalif.com/face-paint/>



<https://savingthecircle.com/indigenouswomen/>

Saving The Circle is a nonprofit our citizen David H. Carnes works with. They are doing a series of short films on Native women in history. The first of the series will be filmed this April in Virginia. David will be directing the film.

This organization continues to work on planning theatrical performances of Indigenous women throughout history ranging from the 1500s to the present. The monologues will be performed by Indigenous women. This is a great opportunity to learn how each woman influenced the next and those who came after them.

Please take a moment to visit the website at the link above.

## B.I.S.O.N.

### Bama Indigenous Student Organization Network

Kaytie Colbert, a citizen of our tribe, is the president of B.I.S.O.N. at the University of Alabama. Kaytie would like to invite all of our citizens to the Spring events coming up.

Beading Class 4/4/24

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Mortar Board Room

Katarina Lowell

Basket Weaving Lesson 4/12/24

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Mortar Board Room

Mrs. Laretta Weaver

If you have any questions, feel free to contact B.I.S.O.N. at [bison0865@gmail.com](mailto:bison0865@gmail.com)



## Artists Guild for State Recognized Tribes

Three of our citizens are on the board for the State Recognized Tribal Artists Guild. They would like to personally invite any of our artists in the tribe to be a part of SRTAG. You can apply at this web address:

<https://srtag.org/memberships/>

### As an artist member you will receive:

- Newsletter Access
- Attend Zoom Meetings
- Access to Facebook Private Group
- Name in Art Directory, Website and Annual Booklet
- Access to SRTAG portal for logos, signage to use for your business.
- Grant opportunities from SRTAG and other opportunities.
- Online educational classes.
- A vote in SRTAG Artists decisions

### We also offer supporter memberships for businesses with various benefits such as:

- Newsletter Access
- Name on our supporter page w/website link to your business page.
- Name in our newsletter
- Full page ad in our Annual Booklet.
- Full page ad in our online directory.

Please take a moment and visit our website. We thank you.





## Do You Own A Business?

Being a citizen of our tribe, you can qualify for a small business loan and more.

For information on 8(a) Business Development Program and Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) certification, visit the [Small Business Administration](#) website.

Also, visit the [Alabama SBA Office](#) website.

[Native American Business Directory](#)

[Businesses Disclaimer](#)

[Native American Entrepreneurs Course](#)

Then, call the [Business Development Staff](#) at (205) 290 -7101 in the SBA Regional Office in Birmingham.

Apply to become a vendor with the state: [Alabama Department of Finance-Purchasing Division](#)

[Alabama American Indian Success Story](#)

For information concerning the Alabama Department of Transportation's [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) program](#) call 1-800-247-3618 or 334-242-6534

[Minority Business Development Agency Interactive Web Portal](#)

[Alabama Small Business Development Consortium Network](#)

[South Regions Minority Business Council](#)

## Health Care for Children

Did You Know that Free Health Care Coverage May Be Available For Your Children?

The ALL Kids-Children's Health Insurance Program provides comprehensive health care coverage to children and teens under 19 whose families meet certain eligibility requirements. All Native American children and teens that are eligible for and enrolled in ALL Kids receive coverage at no cost.

Using the Blue Cross Blue Shield preferred provider network, ALL Kids provides for regular check-ups, sick child doctor visits, dental and vision care, prescription coverage, hospitalization and many more benefits.

For general information about ALL Kids, click here to visit our website where applications in English and Spanish can be downloaded and printed out. Applications can also be picked up at your local county health department. For more information about the program, answers to enrollment questions or to request an application, you may also call the ALL Kids toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-KIDS (5437).

Click links below for more information:

Information on the [ALL Kids program](#)

[Health Survey of Alabama Indians](#)

[ADPH Minority Health Quarterly Newsletter](#)

[Kid One - Home/Kids One Application](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Indian Health Service](#)

[The Indian Health Service Fact Sheets](#)

## Echota Cherokee Tribe Council House Reservation



Because of meetings overlapping from different entities in the tribe, the Chief and Vice Chief are setting an expectation that anyone wishing to use the tribal council house for anything will need to reserve the space. The expectation is that our citizens will visit our calendar on our website to see if the date they wish to use the facilities is available. They will then be required to email the tribe to have that date reserved. The facilities cannot be used without going through this process. Those following the reservation process have priority.

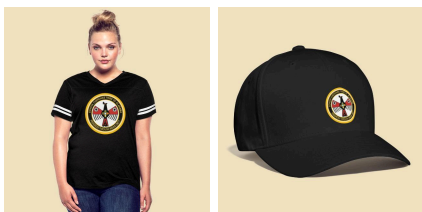
To make a calendar reservation, include the following information in the email:

- What type of meeting
- Contact Person
- Date of meeting
- Time of meeting
- Description of what will occur at the meeting.

## The Echota Print Shop

The tribe now has a print shop. The Governing Body has given Weeya Calif permission to create items to sell for the tribe. All profits from the sale of these items will go directly to the tribe. We have just a few designs and hope to have more in the near future. Please visit the link to see one of a kind items. If this link does not work for you, go to our website, click on Citizens Only and scroll down to the Echota Print Shop. Click that link.

<https://echotacherokee.org/printshop.html>



## All Techy with Weeya!!!

Osiyo everyone. I thought it might be fun to share with you the technical side of what goes on behind the scenes of our website and Facebook group.

Here are some stats for you. (July 1, 2023 - Present)

### Website:

- 7,650 visitors to our website
- 12,811 page views
- 1.6 average pages visited per visitor
- Top 2 pages visited are the index (front page) of our website and our News page.

### Facebook: We Are Echota Cherokee

We currently have 226 citizens in our official FB page called - We Are Echota Cherokee. We would love to have all our citizens there. Because it is a secret group, you will need to be invited to the group. To get an invitation, please email me at [echotawebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:echotawebmaster@gmail.com) and once citizenship is verified, we will invite you to the group.

One of our goals is to make sure our citizens are up to date on any news, events, celebrations, etc. If you have something you think would be of interest to the citizens of our tribe, please email me the information and I will make sure to post it on our website News page and on our FB page. We would love to brag on our citizens!!! Just email me the information at the email above and we will make it happen.



Weeya Calif  
Technology Administrator



## Things to Remember:

### **The Official FB Page of the Echota - We Are Echota Cherokee**

Our tribe has a private group page on Facebook that is for our citizens only. If you are interested in joining this group, you can email the webmaster, Weeya Calif. Weeya will need to verify you are a citizen of the tribe. You may be asked to provide a picture of your tribal ID as proof of citizenship. Once verified, you will be sent a link to join The Citizens Page. Please send your request to [echotawebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:echotawebmaster@gmail.com).

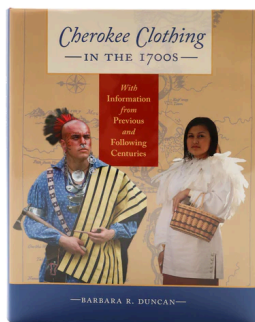
### **Not Able to See the Online Newsletter?**

Dear Citizens, if you know of an elder or other citizen who is unable to go online to read the newsletter or have it sent to them in email, we ask that you let your Clan Rep know so that they can print a copy and get it to those individuals or if you have a printer, please consider printing a copy and giving it to your elders or citizens who do not have technology. You might even want to call them and read the newsletter to them. We apologize for the inconvenience, but the tribe cannot, at this time, send out the newsletter via snail mail.

### **Use Your Enrollment Number**

Notice to all citizens. It is very important when paying your fees, sending emails, calling the office or handling any tribal business that you include your tribal enrollment number. We can still help you but you will need to eventually know your number. If you do not know your tribal enrollment number, you will be asked to apply for a new tribal ID card and pay the fee to process the card. It is important that you keep up with your card and your number. We are currently developing a database with everyone's information but this will take time.

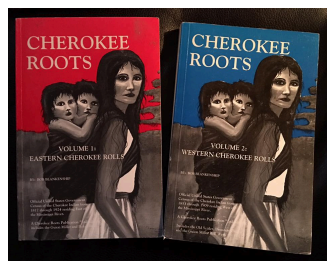
### **Great Resource for Cherokee Clothing:**



Cherokee Clothing in the 1700s  
Museum of the Cherokee Indian Store  
<https://museumstore.mci.org/products/cherokee-clothing-in-the-1700s>

This is a well documented resource of what the Cherokee traditionally wore before and after the 1700s. If you are looking to wear traditional Cherokee regalia, this book is a great resource and has instructions as well.

### **Great Genealogy Resource Books for Cherokee Ancestry:**



Website with genealogy resources:  
<https://www.weeyacalif.com/genealogy.html#/>

Cherokee Roots Books:  
<https://www.amazon.com/Cherokee-Roots-Set-Volumes-Eastern/dp/096337740X>

## Echota Business Page:

If you have a business card with your business information or a website address of your business that you would like to share, please sign up [here](#).

Let's shop with our citizens!!!



**Weeya Michelle Calif**

Artist, Educator & Storyteller

Website: [www.weeyacalif.com](http://www.weeyacalif.com)

Email: [weeyacalif@gmail.com](mailto:weeyacalif@gmail.com)

Native American artist who works with traditional art and digital art. She designs logos, flyers, paintings and more. She is also available to teach online classes and in person classes.

She currently works with the Oneida Nation Arts Program and the Woodland Indian Art, Inc., organizations teaching art to Native youth and adults.



**Native American  
Aztec/Cherokee Creations**

We Focus our Creations on our ancestors of the Aztec Mayans Toltecs and Cherokee. Hand Made Traditional Items. Leather bags, Necklaces, Dreamcatchers, Drums, Earrings, Medicine Bags, and much more.

Email: [awarren2006@yahoo.com](mailto:awarren2006@yahoo.com)

Website: <https://native-american-aztec-creations.business.site/>

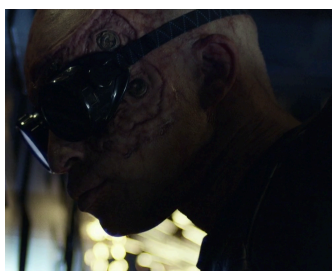
Phone: 719-248-3131



**Ron Warren**

Native American Flute Player

Ron offers online (Zoom) lessons in Native Flute playing, music theory and songwriting (discount for Echota Cherokee tribal members). Live Stream performances and workshops are also available. Visit the website, [www.ronwarrenmusic.com](http://www.ronwarrenmusic.com), for more information.



**"Lil Cory"**

Cory Edwards

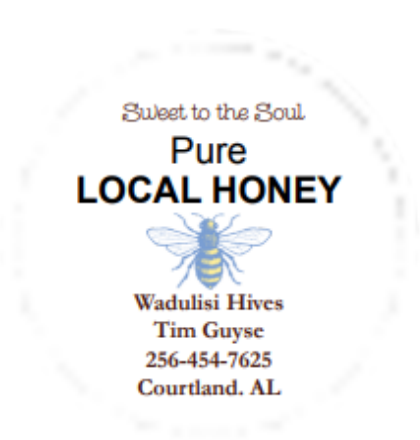
Actor | Musician | Music Producer

Film/TV/Voice:

Talent Manager: Alison McMahon  
[alison@vaentertainment.ca](mailto:alison@vaentertainment.ca)

Twitter: [@lilcorymuzik](https://twitter.com/lilcorymuzik)

Instagram: [@lilcorymusic](https://www.instagram.com/lilcorymusic)



**Pure raw honey from North  
Alabama.**

**The Offices of Michael D. Freels**



Tax & Immigration Consultant.  
General office work.

Phone: 479-856-5557

Email: [mdfreels@yahoo.com](mailto:mdfreels@yahoo.com)





**Southern Cherokee Jewelry Co.**

Stop by my pop up shop to share a smile and say hi. Handcrafted jewelry and craft items available as well as jewelry repair.

We offer friendly service, reasonable prices and quality workmanship.

You receive southern service with a tribal flare.

Contact: Nancy Massey  
[L2massey@yahoo.com](mailto:L2massey@yahoo.com)



**MARMAC**  
REAL ESTATE

256-566-5590  
 debra@marmac.us

**DEBRA SHERRILL**  
 REALTOR®



Renegade Creations  
 Owner: Foy Southard  
 (256) 278 - 6073  
 1819 Oakwood AVE NE  
 Huntsville, AL 35811  
 wayaoncga54@gmail.com  
 Hand Made Native  
 American Arts & Crafts

**Renegade Creations**  
 Owner: Foy Southard  
 256-278-6073  
[wayaoncga54@gmail.com](mailto:wayaoncga54@gmail.com)  
 Handmade Native  
 American Arts & Crafts

**Native Needle Shop  
 By: Candace West**

Etsy shop [@NativeNeedleShop](#)  
 Textile art, jewelry and beadwork.

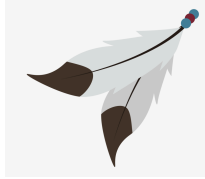


shutterstock.com · 134384900

**FREEEEEE!!!!**



**FREEEEEE!!!!**



## The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama

### Head Leadership

Principal Chief	Nancy Massey
Vice Chief	Bobby Bolden
Parliamentarian	Position Open
Recording Secretary	Lenela Glass-Godwin

### Clan Chiefs

Bird Clan	Jean Chandler
Blue Clan	James Swann, Jr.
Deer Clan	Wayne Smith
Long Hair Clan	Tommy Keith
Paint Clan	Reginald Hughes
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open
Wolf Clan	Wayne Yates

### Clan Representatives

Bird Clan	Martha Gann
Blue Clan	Vick Ball
Deer Clan	Gary Parnell
Long Hair Clan	Sharon Keith
Paint Clan	William Gaskin
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open
Wolf Clan	Eddy Bonner
At - Large	Emmett Turner



Did you know that you can now pay your fees online? Just visit our tribe's website. Click on the Citizens Only tab and choose Assessment Fees.

<https://echotacherokee.org/assessment-fees.html>



### Calendar of Events

The tribe is now posting tribal events, meetings, clean up days and more on our calendar which is on our website. If any citizen or clan has important dates they would like us to post on the website's calendar, please forward that information via email to:

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



### [How to Make and Wear a Cherokee Turban](#)





We are excited to share with the tribe that we will be sending out the newsletter every two months via email and posting it on the website. This will help save our tribe a lot of money. However, for our citizens who wish to receive the Smoke Signals, it will be sent out by Ms. Charlotte H. quarterly.

**Dates to remember:**

Deadlines to submit items to go into the newsletter will be the 20th of the previous month. For example, the next Newsletter will go out on February 1st. All items citizens want posted in the newsletter need to be submitted to the tribe's email by January 20th.

Deadline to Submit	Newsletter Posted
January 20th	February 1st
March 20th	April 1st
May 20th	June 1st
July 20th	August 1st
September 20th	October 1st
November 20th	December 1st

If you have items you would like included in the newsletter, please send it to:  
[theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com](mailto:theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com)

## Your Native American Rights As Echota Cherokee Citizens

### Worship in the Manner of Your Ancestors

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Public Law No. 95-341, 92 Stat. 469 (August 11, 1978)

These rights include, but are not limited to, access to sacred sites, freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rights and use and possession of objects considered sacred. The act required policies of all governmental agencies to eliminate interference with the free exercise of native religion.

### Market Your Arts and Crafts as "Native American or Indian Made"

"The Indian Arts and Crafts Act (Act) of 1990 (P.L. 101-644) is a truth-in-advertising law that prohibits misrepresentation in the marketing of Indian arts and crafts products within the United States. It is illegal to offer or display for sale, or sell any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian or Indian tribe or Indian arts and crafts organization, resident within the United States.

Under the Act, an Indian is defined as a member of any federally or officially state recognized tribe of the United States, or an individual certified as an Indian artisan by an Indian tribe." -- [U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Art & Crafts Board](#)

### The U. S. Census Bureau defines a native American as follows:

American Indian and Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.