

THE ECHOTA CHEROKEE TRIBE OF ALABAMA

Newsletter



APRIL 1, 2026

Siyo,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and high spirits.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has worked so diligently to move us successfully through 2026. We are now entering the sixth month of a twelve-month year, and time continues to move forward as our tribe and people progress together.

This year, we have already made several important improvements to our tribal property. These include the addition of a split unit and insulation in the meeting house, as well as updated plumbing work. A secure safe has also been purchased and installed in the file room to protect valuable items and important documents.

Looking ahead, we will be working on improvements to the driveway prior to the September festival. We are also preparing for the installation of boundary markers for our land.

If you are interested in joining the grounds committee, please contact Vice Principal Chief Vic Ball. The lawnmower has been serviced and is ready for use as we continue maintaining the grounds. The walking trails will also need attention, including possible repairs to the overlook at the waterfall. Anyone willing to contribute time and effort to these projects is encouraged to reach out to Vice Principal Chief Ball.

We are truly fortunate to have such a beautiful campus, and I am grateful for the dedication and care our people continue to show in maintaining it. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service to you.

Blessings,

Chief Nancy Massey



GB Meeting



**ECHOTA CHEROKEE
TRIBE**

GOVERNING BODY MEETING



Saturday, June 20, 2026



GB starts at 10:30 - Lunch at 12.



Tribal Grounds

You and your family are invited to attend the Governing Body (GB) Meeting. Please bring a covered dish for the lunch break.



256-734-7337



www.echotacherokee.org

The Tribe is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Echota Cherokee GB Meeting

Time: Jun 20, 2026 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83874731152?
pwd=ZHHTjelGxlaekY7hpkx0MPiWe7c3b7.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83874731152?pwd=ZHHTjelGxlaekY7hpkx0MPiWe7c3b7.1)

Meeting ID: 838 7473 1152

Passcode: 994621

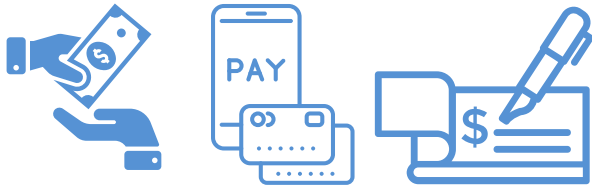
Info

GIFT SHOP HOURS



Gift Shop Hours
Saturday
10 am - 3 pm

**We accept cash,
credit/debit cards, and
checks.**



Office HOURS

Tribal Office Hours
**Office hours will be changing with
the new office manager. In the
meantime, please check the
tribe's calendar for updated days
and times.**

[Calendar - Click Here](#)

**Always check the tribe's calendar
to see updated days and times.**



Office Notice

Dear Citizens -

Thank you all for your patience, support, and understanding during this time of transition for the tribe. We truly appreciate each and every one of you!

As many of you know, the tribe is currently in the process of hiring a new Office Manager, with the goal of having the position filled by July 1, 2026 – or hopefully even sooner. Weeya Calif will be helping answer emails and assisting digitally wherever possible to help keep things moving along.

During this transition period:

- Enrollment applications may still be requested, but they will not be processed until the new Office Manager is in place.
- Tribal ID cards (paper/plastic) will also be temporarily paused, and the online application option has been turned off for now.
- Assessment payments can still be made online or through the mail as usual.

We are excited for the future and look forward to continuing to serve our tribal community with new improvements and support along the way. Thank you again for standing with us as we move through this transition together.

Wado / Thank you!



Citizens

Remembering Sara “Jean” Davis (1927–2025)

The Echota community honors the life and memory of Sara “Jean” Davis, a proud tribal citizen whose life was defined by service, perseverance, family, and a spirit of adventure. Jean lived nearly 98 remarkable years.

Born in Heard County, Georgia, in 1927, Jean was the youngest of five children born to Troy Shelnett and Ora Prince. Raised on a farm, she learned the value of hard work at an early age, helping care for livestock, tend gardens, and support her family. Life was not always easy, but those early years helped shape the strong, independent woman she would become.

At only 17 years old, she left home to attend nursing school in Savannah, Georgia, graduating as a Registered Nurse in 1947. Her dedication to caring for others led her to a distinguished career in healthcare that would span nearly five decades.

Jean proudly served her country in the United States Army, caring for wounded soldiers during the Korean War. She later volunteered in Puerto Rico, continuing her service to others through military medicine. Never one to stop learning, Jean pursued additional training to become a nurse anesthetist, graduating in 1958 and devoting 37 years to the profession before retiring in 1995.

In 1957, Jean married Benjamin E. Davis Jr., a Navy Chief Petty Officer, and together they raised a family while building a life filled with hard work, love, and adventure. She visited all 50 states and traveled to 26 countries, always eager to learn, explore, and connect with others.

Jean was also deeply proud of her Cherokee heritage and became a citizen of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama in 1991. She valued her connection to the tribe and carried pride in her ancestry throughout her life.

Even in her later years, Jean remained active and engaged. She enjoyed music, theater, piano, family gatherings, and community activities. Her love of life and positive spirit inspired those around her.

Jean passed away in 2025, leaving behind cherished memories for her family, friends, and tribal community. Her life serves as a reminder of the power of service, resilience, and lifelong curiosity. She will be remembered not only for her accomplishments, but for the kindness, strength, and joy she shared with others.

Though she will be deeply missed, Jean’s memory and legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her.



Citizens

NEW BOOK RELEASE: THE SHOE BOX BY FRANCES OLIVIA BUSH

A HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS GOES OUT TO FRANCES OLIVIA BUSH ON THE PUBLICATION OF HER VERY FIRST BOOK, THE SHOE BOX: A STORY OF THE HUBBARDS OF KINLOCK, ALABAMA.

Frances recently shared exciting news with the community – her book has quickly become an Amazon Top New Release in the Native American category, a remarkable accomplishment for a first-time author.

In *The Shoe Box*, Frances explores her Indigenous ancestry and the difficult realities surrounding the attempted erasure of Indigenous identity and classification. Through family history, oral traditions, and personal reflection, the book traces stories that have endured despite generations of silence, displacement, and historical misclassification.

The memoir also delves into the long-standing history and tensions between the Hubbard and Brooks families, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the people, relationships, and struggles that helped shape her family story.

Importantly, Frances also acknowledges the contributions and presence of the Echota Cherokee Tribe in her book, recognizing the significance of community, heritage, and cultural identity in preserving Indigenous histories.

According to Frances, this work is deeply personal and rooted in reclaiming stories that were nearly lost:

“I talk about my Indigenous ancestry and the attempts for that classification to be erased.”

The Shoe Box invites readers into a journey of remembrance, resilience, and reconnection – showing how family stories, photographs, and ancestral knowledge can help reclaim identity across generations.

We extend our congratulations to Frances Olivia Bush on this achievement and wish her continued success as an author. Wado for sharing your story and helping preserve Indigenous voices and histories for future generations.



[Purchase the Book Here!](#)



Citizens

Raffle



Tribal citizen Patsy Cagile has generously donated a beautiful handmade quilt (84" x 98") to the tribal gift shop to be raffled during our September 2026 Festival. This stunning quilt, handcrafted with care and dedication, is a wonderful example of the generosity and talent within our tribal community. Raffle tickets are available for \$5.00 each, with proceeds supporting the gift shop. To purchase tickets, please provide your name, address, phone number, email address, and the number of tickets you wish to purchase to the tribal office for the gift shop. You do not need to be present at the festival to win.

A heartfelt thank you to Patsy Cagile for this meaningful contribution and for helping make this year's festival even more special!

An Invitation

Osiyo,

I hope this message finds you well. Over the past year, I have had the honor of serving on the Huntsville America 250 Committee as their Indigenous representative, working to ensure that the tribes of Alabama and the broader Indigenous community are meaningfully included in the city's commemorative events of America's 250th birthday.

I am reaching out to gauge interest in participating in a major televised parade taking place on July 4th in Huntsville, Alabama. This event will be attended both in person and virtually, providing a unique opportunity to share and honor the Indigenous history of Alabama, as well as highlight the presence and contributions of Indigenous people today.

The parade will present a historical narrative of the United States and will include two Indigenous groups walking:

- The first group will carry a banner reading “We Were Here” and will represent the 1700s era. Participants in this group must wear historically accurate and authentic clothing from that period.
- The second group will carry a banner reading “We Are Still Here” and will represent present-day Indigenous communities. Participants may wear ribbon shirts, ribbon skirts, or other appropriate contemporary attire.

For those who may not wish to walk in the parade, there will also be opportunities to participate through cultural demonstrations and an info table at a nearby booth/encampment in Big Spring Park.

If you are interested in participating in any capacity, please reach out to me directly. Your presence and participation would be greatly valued as we work to ensure our communities are represented with honor and authenticity.

Wado

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Seth C. Penn

Eagle Point District Representative

Seth.Penn@ctneal.org

News

The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama

2026 Festival

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27

Grand Entry at 12 p.m.

Close at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC IS INVITED

Pow Wow Director

Vic Ball

Arena Director

Terry Light

Master of Ceremonies

Farron Weeks



Head Man

Cadric laird

Head Lady

Dana Jackson

Drum Team

White Horse

Dancers in Regalia - FREE

Admission: Children 0 - 6 Free

Children 7 - 14/Seniors 65+/Military \$3

General Admission: 15 - 64 \$5

630 County Rd. 1281, Falkville, AL 35622

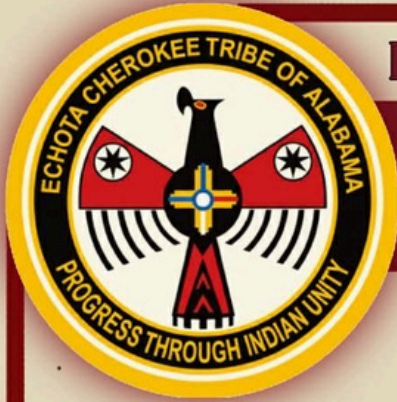
Come enjoy storytellers, demonstrations, craft
booths, food vendors, children's games and
dancing!!!

www.echotacherokee.org

Honoring the Harvest Moon



News



REDSTONE CHAPTER

**3RD ANNUAL
UNEGADA RUN**

OCTOBER 17, 2026



RAFFLES

FOOD

50/50

PRETTIEST BIKE

(PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN UPON
RETURNING TO HWY 67 ROADHOUSE)

HWY 67 ROADHOUSE
BAR & GRILL - PRICEVILLE, AL

REGISTRATION: 11 AM

KSU: 1 PM

\$20 PER RIDER

\$10 PER PASSANGER

(CARS WELCOME)



**LIVE MUSIC BY:
JOHN COCHRAN**

FOOD AT THE TRIBAL GOUNDS:

-WALKING TACO BAR-

\$10

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT:
ECHOTA CHEROKEE
TRIBE OF ALABAMA**

POC FOR REDSTONE CHAPTER:

RETRO @ 256-476-1146

EMAIL: RR_REDSTONE1312@GMAIL.COM

WWW.REDRUMMC.COM

**SPONSORED BY:
REDSTONE
CHAPTER**



Clan News



BIRD CLAN NEWS

Bird Clan Meeting – May 2, 2026

The Bird Clan held its May meeting at the Hamilton Recreation Center in Hamilton, Alabama, with nine (9) members and four (4) guests in attendance. Brent Brown offered the prayer prior to the fellowship meal.

Following the meal, Chief Jean Chandler officially turned the meeting over to the newly elected Chief, Kenny Hatcher. Chief Hatcher called for the reading of the previous meeting minutes and opened the floor for old business. Several members asked about the status of the log cabin refurbishment, progress on the medical grant, and updates regarding federal recognition efforts.

The grant committee continues searching for grant opportunities to support preservation work on the log cabin. The medical grant process still requires additional surveys before moving forward, and work toward federal recognition remains ongoing.

Martha Gann informed members that during the April Governing Body meeting, Vic Ball was approved as the new Tribal Vice-Chief, replacing Bobby Borden.

Chief Hatcher shared that he has been in contact with an organization called Compedia Global Health, which works with individuals experiencing mental illness, autism, ADHD, and related conditions. He hopes to establish a partnership that would allow tribal members access to confidential online support programs. Compedia is affiliated with several universities and international medical facilities, and the organization hopes to launch these services within the next couple of months.

Chief Hatcher also announced that several speakers and programs have already been arranged for upcoming meetings. He encouraged members to reach out to inactive tribal members and invite them to return to clan and tribal meetings.

Almon Gann requested prayers for Kenneth and Margaret Ward, as both are currently experiencing health difficulties.

Jean Chandler shared that the Festival Committee is planning another workday at the tribal grounds, tentatively scheduled for either May 30 or June 6. Brent Brown stated that June 6 would work better.

Members were reminded that Bird Clan members receive text reminders during the week of scheduled clan meetings to encourage participation and involvement in clan and tribal activities. If anyone has not been contacted, it is likely due to missing contact information.

New Bird Clan Officers

- Chief: Kenny Hatcher – 334-349-0187
- Vice Chief: Jana Gann-Brownfield
- Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa Shuman
- Council Representative: Jean Chandler – 205-712-2868

Next Meeting

The next Bird Clan meeting will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the Hamilton Recreation Center. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried until the next meeting.

Clan News



BLUE CLAN NEWS

On May 8th and 9th, 2026, the annual festival at Oakville Indian Mounds celebrated its 37th year of bringing people together for a multicultural event honoring history, heritage, and community. The Blue Clan proudly hosted an educational booth to help educate the public about Native American heritage, and we were excited to see a wonderful turnout this year.

Several clan members shared their knowledge and talents throughout the festival. Brenda Laird created an educational storyboard showcasing how Native American clothing has evolved through the years. She also demonstrated the traditional process of making leggings adorned with deer hooves. Lydia Walker displayed her beautiful beadwork, while Cadric Laird demonstrated the art of flint knapping, offering visitors a closer look at traditional craftsmanship

Emmett and Amanda Turner shared examples of items Native Americans would have used in daily life, explaining how many tools and objects were traditionally made using materials found in nature. Their display gave visitors a greater appreciation for the resourcefulness and ingenuity of Indigenous communities.

We are also proud to say that Echota had a strong presence at this year's festival. Cadric Laird served as Headman, and Dona Jackson served as Headlady. Maria Daws shared stories with festival attendees and helped school children create clay animals, providing a fun and educational hands-on experience.

One of the drums featured during the festival was White Horse, adding to the cultural richness and spirit of the event. We were also honored to meet an Echota citizen and author, Frances Olivia Bush, also known as "Dancing Moon."

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who stopped by our booth to say hello, spend time with us, and support the sharing of Native culture and history. Your presence helped make this year's festival truly special.

Clan News



BLUE CLAN NEWS, CONT.

On May 16th, the Blue Clan held its monthly meeting at the museum at Oakville Indian Mounds. Our guest speaker was Robert Davis of Wallace State, who gave an informative presentation on Native American genealogy and shared valuable resources for researching ancestors through historical records.

At the conclusion of the meeting, James Swann presented Mr. Davis with a handmade flute as a token of appreciation for sharing his knowledge.

The Blue Clan's next meeting will be held on July 11th at Oakville. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m., with finger foods and fellowship to follow. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Clan News



DEER CLAN NEWS

Date: May 3, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Chief Foy Southard

- Chief Foy shared that several citizens had requested moving Deer Clan meetings from Sundays to Saturdays. Cheryl Whitlow made a motion to keep the meetings on Sundays. The motion was seconded and carried, confirming that Deer Clan meetings will continue to be held on Sundays at 1:00 PM CT, preceded by a potluck lunch.
- Amanda Turner, Chief of the Blue Clan, spoke about the upcoming Festival at Oakville on May 8–9. The event will feature dancing, storytelling, drumming, and informational tents. Friday, May 8, will focus on activities for children, as schools throughout Lawrence County will be attending. Volunteers were encouraged to arrive at 8:00 AM to assist with preparations.
- Shawn Borden addressed the clan regarding the October 2026 Motorcycle Ride hosted by the Native American-based Redrum Motorcycle Club. The charity event will include a motorcycle ride on Saturday followed by a taco bar at the Echota Tribal Grounds. Raffles will be held to raise funds for donations to the tribe, and raffle donations will be accepted prior to the event. Shawn shared that the event raised \$1,000 for Echota in 2025, and organizers hope to make the 2026 event even larger.
- Donna Robinson provided an update from the April Governing Body meeting:
 - Weeya was approved to pursue a folk-art grant opportunity.
 - Chief Nancy requested that anyone able to document ancestry connected to one of the original rolls come forward, as this information is needed for the tribe's ongoing federal recognition efforts.

Chief Foy noted that volunteers are needed for the Echota Festival (Pow Wow) scheduled for the end of September. Chief Foy bestowed Wayne Smith with the title of Deer Clan Director of Special Projects. Wayne Smith provided an overview of the Sock Program, which operates through donations and requires a minimum of \$800 annually. The program supports the Hartselle Veterans Program, Falkville's Carpenter's Cabinet, and Birmingham's Lovelady Center. Chief Foy requested feedback from clan members regarding future programs and presentations they would like to see at upcoming meetings. The Festival Committee is planning another workday in late May or early June. Additional details will be shared once finalized. A template was reviewed for clan citizens wishing to submit topics or complaints to the Governing Body. Requests may be delivered in person, emailed, or texted to Donna and must be submitted no later than three weeks prior to the meeting in order to be added to the agenda, which is finalized two weeks before the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and carried.

Next Meeting

The next Deer Clan meeting will be held on Sunday, July 12, 2026, at 1:00 PM CT, following a potluck lunch.

Clan News



LONG HAIR CLAN NEWS

The Echota Long Hair Clan gathered on May 16, 2026, for their monthly meeting, bringing together thirteen clan members and two guests for an afternoon of fellowship, updates, and planning for the future. Donations were collected during the meeting and presented to Sharon Keith.

The gathering provided an opportunity to reconnect after an extended period without regular clan meetings. Members were welcomed with introductions and discussions focused on helping everyone get reacquainted, including updates on current tribal and clan leadership roles.

Sharon Keith shared updates from recent Governing Body meetings, helping members stay informed on important tribal matters and ongoing developments. Chief Brian Castleberry also announced an upcoming workday on the tribal grounds scheduled for June 6th, encouraging members to participate and support community efforts.

A major focus of the meeting centered on planning for future clan gatherings and discussing ways to strengthen participation and improve meetings moving forward. Members shared ideas and looked ahead to building stronger connections within the Long Hair Clan.

The next Long Hair Clan meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 11th at 10:00 AM. Members are encouraged to attend and continue helping shape the future of the clan community.

Clan News



PAINT CLAN NEWS

The Paint Clan recently held a well-attended meeting with nine participants present, including three potential new members from Jackson County. The gathering provided a welcoming opportunity for community connection and discussion.

A key topic of the meeting was the upcoming elections, with members engaging in conversation about participation and the importance of civic involvement within the clan.

In addition to the meeting discussions, a seed swap was held, adding a meaningful and hands-on element to the gathering. Chief Hughes shared several small seedlings, taking time to explain what each plant was, how to care for them, and the various traditional and practical uses they offer. Members appreciated the knowledge-sharing and guidance provided.

Following the meeting, attendees had the opportunity to spend time speaking with the potential new members, continuing conversations and building connections within the group. The meeting concluded on a positive and engaging note, strengthening both community ties and shared knowledge.

Pow Wow

The Santee Indian Tribe

13th Annual POW WOW 2026

Saturday September 19th

Gates open at 9am Grand Entry at 12pm

Santee Indian Organization 432 Bayview St, Holly Hill, SC 29059

Dancers, Drummers, Food &

Entertainment

**No pets/ Service
Animals only**

**Arts & Craft
Vendor spaces
available**

**More information
coming soon.**

**No Alcohol
or Drugs**

**No Firearms
No Coolers**

**Vendors contact Sondra Yocum (Secretary)
803-496-6581 sondra.yocum@yahoo.com**

PUBLIC EVENT ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

If you show an UP TO DATE Santee tribal card you will receive a \$2 Discount at the gate

**SANTEE TRIBE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY OR
THEFT/DAMAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY DURING THE POW WOW.**

Pow Wow

NOTTOWAY INDIAN TRIBE OF VIRGINIA

POW WOW

SEPT. 19-20, 2026



Chief Lynette
Lewis Allston



10 AM **12 PM SAT | 1 PM SUN**
Gates Open **Grand Entry**

- Intertribal & Expo Dancing
- Educational Exhibits
- Community Services Info
- Storytelling
- Native American Cooking
- Vendors & Crafts

Master of Ceremonies

Rick Kelly

Head Dancers

Adrienne Harmon

Mike Harmon

Drums

Red Clay Yapatoko

Guest Drums Welcome

Arena Director

Michael Nephew



Tickets

★ *Purchased at the Gate

Generation Admission \$10

Seniors (65+) & Youths (11-18) \$5

Children (under 11) Free

No Pets – Service Animals Welcome

Sponsored by:

Virginia Nottoway Indian Circle & Square Foundation

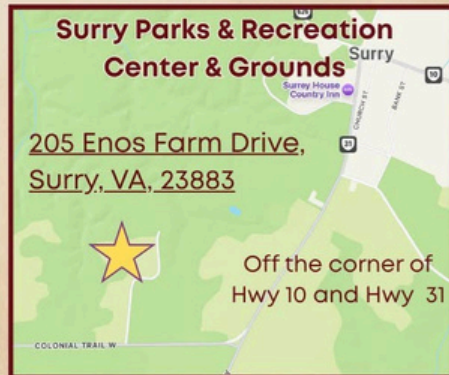
Surry County Parks and Recreation

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS



Surry Parks & Recreation Center & Grounds

205 Enos Farm Drive,
Surry, VA, 23883



Off the corner of
Hwy 10 and Hwy 31

(757) 276-6033

NottowayVA@aol.com

www.nottowayindians.org

Save the Date: Next Powwow Sept. 18-19, 2027

Pow Wow



WASSAMASAW ANNUAL POWWOW

» **OCTOBER 10TH, 2026**
OLD SANTEE CANAL PARK

UP TO \$5,000
IN CONTEST PRIZES

ADMISSION

- » 5 & UNDER – FREE
- » 6–64 YEARS – \$10
- » 65 & OVER – FREE
- » WITH WASSAMASAW ID – \$8

EVENT TIMES

- 🕒 GATES OPEN: 10 AM – 5 PM
- ★ GRAND ENTRY: 12 PM

LOCATION

- 📍 OLD SANTEE CANAL PARK
900 STONEY LANDING RD
MONCKS CORNER, SC 29461

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE

NO OUTSIDE COOLERS OR DRINKS

CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.wassamasawtribe.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:
Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians

@officialwassamasaw

Join us to
DANCE ♦ SING ♦ CELEBRATE
CULTURE

40+ VENDORS

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO EXPERIENCE AND LEARN ABOUT OUR TRIBE AND NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

BECOME A VENDOR OR SPONSOR!
✉ WASSAMASAW@HOTMAIL.COM

Pow Wow

Spirit of the Veteran & Warrior

POW WOW

Intertribal Pow Wow

Sponsored by The Winds of Wolves Farm and Refuge

November 14-15, 2026 • Rhea County Fairgrounds - Harold Robbins Ln, Evensville, TN

Gates Open Saturday 10am - 7pm; Sunday 10am - 6pm

Admission \$7, Children under 10 FREE

Our Veterans, Police, Firefighters, EMTs and Teachers **FREE** with ID

PUBLIC WELCOME

Native American
Dancing and Drumming

Specialty Dances

Luck of the Draw

Native American Craft
Vendors and Food

Native Flute Players
and Storytellers

Trade Blanket



**All
Drums &
Dancers
Welcome**

Host Drum: Medicine Scout

MC: Joey Pierce

Keeper of the Circle: Michael Veal

Head Man Dancer: Shaun Hedgecoth

Head Woman Dancer: Erika "Nikki" Koellein

Head Veteran: James Morgan, US Marine Veteran

Pow Wow Ambassador: Summer-Rayne Rattler

Grand Entry: Sat. 12pm • Sun. 12pm

**Live
Auction**

We gratefully acknowledge the Cherokee Removal Museum for their support.

Host Hotel: Best Western • 7835 Rhea Co Hwy, Dayton TN 37321 • 423-775-6560

More Information: "Tyishka" at 423-716-8316

Vendor Contact: Richard "Two Wolves" DeArk at 423-503-1407 • NoahBuiltDeArk@yahoo.com

Facebook Page: Spirit of the Veteran and Warrior, Dayton TN

*This is a Community Cultural Event • NO Firearms, Drugs, or Alcohol Allowed
Please Refrain from Religious and Political Discussions*

Pow Wow

13TH ANNUAL

THE SUMTER TRIBE OF CHERAW INDIANS

POW W O W

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

ADMISSION

5 YEARS & UNDER-FREE
6-64 YEARS- \$5.00
65 + FREE

GATES OPEN

10AM-5PM

GRAND ENTRY

12PM SHARP

DRUMMERS
BAD BOYZ

LUCK OF THE DRAW DANCE!

\$5 ENTRY -REGALIA REQUIRED

NATIVE VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS

CELEBRATE~GATHER~
DANCE~DANCE~



LOCATION

122 NORTH WASHINGTON ST
SUMTER MUSEUM, SUMTER SC

THIS IS A PET & ALCOHOL FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT
NO OUTSIDE COOLERS OR DRINKS



SUMTER TRIBE OF
CHERAW INDIANS



SUMTERTRIBE OF
CHERAWNATIVES

Pow Wow

**THE LOWER MUSKOGEE
CULTURAL CREEK TRIBE INTERTRIBAL
DAYS**

OCTOBER 16 - 18TH 2026

**54TH ANNUAL
POW WOW
DANCE COMPETITION
CASH PRIZES**

IT'S "POW WOW" TIME
DRUMS, FLUTE, DANCING,
SINGING, VENDORS,
ARTS, CRAFTS, FOOD,
LIVING HISTORY VILLAGE
MORE...

FRIDAY
GRAND ENTRY 7:00 PM

SATURDAY
GOSPEL SING 10:30 AM
GRAND ENTRY 1:00 PM
GRAND ENTRY 7:00 PM

SUNDAY
GRAND ENTRY 1:00 PM

\$5.00 PER VEHICLE **EVERYONE WELCOME** **STAY ALL DAY**
NO ALCOHOL **NO DRUGS**

VENDOR APPLICATIONS CONTACT: CHARLOTTE PILLING
charleypilling@icloud.com

TAMA TRIBAL TOWN
CHEIF MARIAN "VONNIE" MCCORMICK
107 TALL PINE DRIVE WHIGHAM GEORGIA 38897
229-762-3165

Scholarship Guidelines

ECHOTA CHEROKEE TRIBE OF ALABAMA SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES AND RULES

It has been brought to our attention that there haven't been any scholarship rules and guidelines posted recently regarding qualifications for receiving the AIAC scholarships through the Echota Cherokee Tribe. Many interested parties have expressed concerns about this in recent weeks.

Below are the qualifications for obtaining scholarships through the Echota Cherokee Tribe. These have been in effect for many years.

I. You must have been enrolled as a member of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama for at least the last three (3) years. This is to ensure that people are not applying to a tribe for the sole purpose of getting a scholarship and do not intend to be active members.

II. You or your parent/s must have paid your annual assessment fees for the past three (3) years to be considered an 'active member' of the Tribe. Therefore, if these have not been paid you are not considered an 'active member' and not eligible for the scholarship.

III. You must attend a minimum of three (3) tribal events during each year leading up to the scholarship deadline. These include your Clan meetings (one held each quarter), State Tribal meetings (held in April and October), the Tribal Christmas party (usually first Saturday in December), or the Annual Tribal Festival (held the last Saturday and Sunday in September). Volunteer work during the annual festival is always encouraged.

You can check out meeting dates on the Echota Cherokee Tribe of AL website calendar.

The AIAC scholarship deadline is usually March 31 of each year, so it is necessary to have mailed your application to the tribal office by March 1. All applications must come to the tribal office first so they can be verified prior to being submitted to AIAC in Montgomery.

Only those applications mailed or delivered to the office will be accepted.

Office Items

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

Pay online here:

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

Pay through mail:

The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama

P.O. Box 479
Falkville, AL 35622



NEWSLETTER QUESTION?

If you have any comment, questions, or concerns regarding the newsletter or if you would like something put in the newsletter, please email our Tech Administrator, Weeya Calif. You can email her at:

echotawebmaster@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.

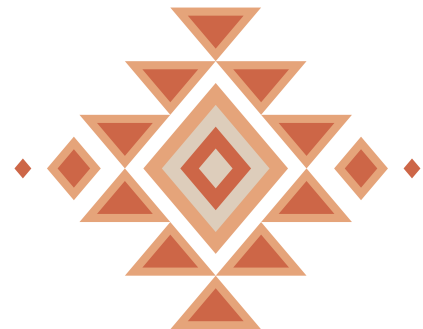
Market Your Arts and Crafts as "Native American or Indian Made"

"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.



Office Items

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>



When does the newsletter come out?

The newsletter is published on our website & emailed to our citizens:

June 1
August 1
October 1
December 1
February 1
April 1

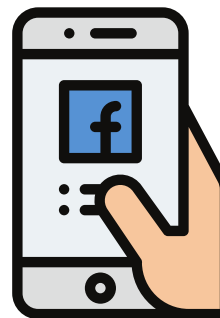
Echota Council House Reservation



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.



**JOIN
NOW**

If you have a Facebook account and would like to join the tribe's private FB group, please email our tech admin to request to join.

EMAIL: ECHOTAWEBMASTER@GMAIL.COM



Echota Leadership

Echota Leadership, cont.

Head Leadership

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Principal Chief | Nancy Massey |
| Vice Chief | Vic Ball |
| Parliamentarian | Lenela Glass-Godwin |
| Recording Secretary | Lenela Glass-Godwin |

Clan Chiefs

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Bird Clan | Kenny Hatcher |
| Blue Clan | Amanda Turner |
| Deer Clan | Foy Southard |
| Long Hair Clan | Brian Castleberry |
| Paint Clan | Neil Boyd |
| Wild Potato Clan | Position Open |
| Wolf Clan | Stanley Trimm |

Clan Representatives

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Bird Clan | Jean Chandler |
| Blue Clan | James Swann, Jr. |
| Deer Clan | Donna Robinson |
| Long Hair Clan | Sharon Keith |
| Paint Clan | Reginald Hughes |
| Wild Potato Clan | Position Open |
| Wolf Clan | Cindy Guthrie |
| At-Large | Shawn Borden |



STAFF

Office Manager: Weeya Calif (Interim)

Office Assistant: Ms. Jean Chandler

Technology Administrator and Social Media Specialist: Weeya Calif

theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com

WE ARE
Echota

Reminder



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.

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 regular 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.motcp.org/products/cherokee-clothin-web-pb-9351>

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://echotacherokee.org/enrollment-574582.html>

Cherokee Roots Books:

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



Business Section



NEWSLETTER ADS

Items will appear in our bi-monthly newsletter and on our business page on our website.

Fees:

Business card size: Free

¼ page: \$50

½ page: \$75

Full page: \$125

If you are a business owner and wish to place an ad in the Tribal newsletter, please submit your check based on your ad size to Weeya Calif at the Tribal Office. Fees may be paid online or in person.

Business Section

Sweet to the Soul
Pure LOCAL HONEY

Wadulisi Hives
Tim Guyse
256-454-7625
Courtland, AL


Renegade Creations
Owner: Foy Southard
(256) 278 - 6073
1819 Oakwood AVE NE
Huntsville, AL 35811
wayaonoga54@gmail.com
Hand Made Native
American Arts &
Crafts


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debra@marmac.us
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256-309-9035
Your Vision - Our Team - Great Projects


**Bear Womans
Crafts**
Linda Maagohema Bomes
Native American Beadwork & Craft Artist
901-245-9407 | Cherokee/Choctaw
lcbomes@gmail.com | Echota Roll # 36634



Deana Jones
REALTOR®
direct: 205.529.8673
deanajonesrealtor@gmail.com

Body Harmony Massage
Kimberly Siegel AL LMT #5586

relax
256-507-0460 Find me online!
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Cullman, AL 35055 www.facebook.com/BodyHarmonyCullman

Business Section



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 FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
 8-5 MON-FRI 8-2 SAT
 327 E. PIKE RD FALKVILLE, AL 35622

256-784-9505



Lydia Walker
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334-656-4607
 lydiagwalker@gmail.com

NEW: BABY'S FIRST RIBBON SKIRT

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 Tribal Artists Guild
 www.srtag.org
 srtribalartistsguild@gmail.com


*"If you are enrolled in an official state recognized tribe,
 join our guild."*

Weeya Calif
 ARTIST, EDUCATOR & STORYTELLER


920.213.4418
 weeyacalif@gmail.com
 www.weeyacalif.com



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Owner: Ricky Tolbert
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