

THE ECHOTA CHEROKEE TRIBE OF ALABAMA

Newsletter



JUNE 1, 2025

From Chief Massey

I hope this newsletter finds all in good health.

We are steadily moving forward and meeting tribal goals one step at a time. I would like to thank everyone who has helped the tribe move forward. We are progressing steadily, and this would not be possible without the diligence, hard work and commitment to our citizens.

Due to the dedicated workers and volunteers in the gift shop/museum and office organizing and compiling files, donations and incoming correspondence are being processed efficiently and effectively.

The governing body and myself worked diligently to revise and update the tribal bylaws. We will now begin reviewing the clan bylaws to see what may need to be updated.

The festival committee has been working on the itinerary and the vendors for our 2025 festival. If you are interested in volunteering or donating items for the individual raffles that occurred daily please contact Gary Parnell or Jean Chandler.

Grants have been applied for and researched for upgrades and possible projects on our tribal property and for assistance for our citizens. The results will be announced and shared as they become available.

Please remember to pay your tribal assessments. This can be done by mail with a check or a money order or you can choose to do the online payment through our website. These assessments that you pay on a yearly basis can be used as a tax writeoff on your income tax due to the fact that we are a 501(c)(3). Also, if you would like to make a donation to the tribe you may do that in the same fashion.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months.

Blessings,

Nancy Massey
Principal Chief

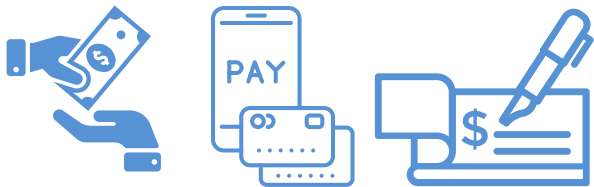
Info

GIFT SHOP HOURS



Gift Shop Hours
Saturday
10 am - 2 pm

We accept cash,
credit/debit cards and
checks.



Tribal Office Hours
Monday - Tuesday
7 am - 3 pm
Wednesday
9 am - 11 am

please

Check our Calendar of Events for office closures
& special openings.



Citizens



Ella Castleberry earned a rating of “Superior” at the Alabama Bandmaster’s Association State Solo Festival. As a 6th grade student she performed a very difficult lyrical piece entitled “In The Bleak Midwinter.” We are very proud of her continued musical success! Congratulations, Ella!!!



Congratulations to Miranda Self who retired from teaching this year after teaching elementary school for 27 years.



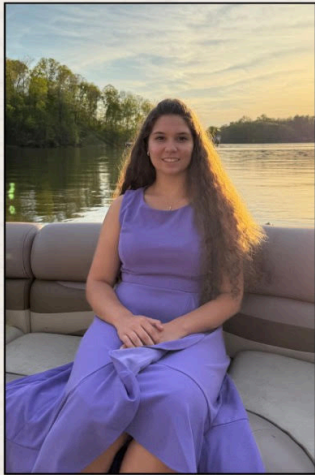
Austin Gerthoffer graduated from Hazel Green High School, class of 2025. He will be attending and playing football at Mt. St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the fall.



Austin & Matthew Gerthoffer Sr.

Citizens

Congratulations to MaryEllen Self who graduated from Good Hope High School.



2025 Graduate

Please join us for the graduation of

MARYELLEN SELF

Saturday May 17, 2025 @ 2pm

Tom Drake Coliseum at Wallace State

801 College Dr NW Hanceville, AL 35077

Citizens

Congratulations to Logan Self who graduated from The University of Alabama in Huntsville with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.



FROM THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

**LOGAN JACOB
SELF**

Join us on May 5, 2025 at 10 AM.

**Graduation to be held at The Von Braun Center
700 Monroe St SW Huntsville, AL 35801**

News

Echota FB Page & Instagram

The GB has approved for the tribe to have an official public FB page and Instagram. Below you will find the links to both. These are public pages and do not replace our private FB Group. The tribe asks that you follow each and like them.



FB page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573230796930>



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/officiallechotacherokee/>

New By-Laws

The Governing Body updated and approved the new by-laws which govern our tribe. The by-laws were sent in an email to all tribal citizens who are on our email list. We also included them in our private Facebook group in the files area. If you did not receive the by-laws, please email the tribe to receive a copy.



News



**ECHOTA CHEROKEE
TRIBE OF ALABAMA**

GOVERNING BODY MEETING



Saturday, June 21, 2025



10:30 AM - TILL



Tribal Grounds

Bring a sack lunch for fellowship after the meeting.



256-734-7337



www.echotacherokee.org

Education



AMERICAN INDIAN
COLLEGE FUND

EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

8333 Greenwood Blvd
Denver, CO 80221
www.collegefund.org

The tribe contacted the American Indian College Fund to make sure our tribal citizens can apply for scholarships and we were informed that our tribe is listed with them and our citizens can apply!!!



Click the links below to see the opportunity for your college student.

media.websitecdn.net
College Opportunity PDF

collegehorizons.org
Website



Education

2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ALABAMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Once you complete the application below, download and email it, along with all attachments, to Indianaffairs@ache.edu.

READ CAREFULLY - Criteria for Applying:

1. Must attach a copy of Tribal Roll Card.
2. Must be signed by Tribal Official as designated by the Tribal Chief.
3. Must be enrolled in a state or federally recognized Indian tribe for three (3) years and meet your tribe's internal qualifications. (Some tribes have additional requirements. Please contact your tribal official to make sure you know them).
4. Must live and attend school in Alabama, unless subject is not taught in Alabama or the program student is wanting to participate in has no open slots, i.e. Nursing, Medical, Veterinary, and Pharmacy (other to be evaluated by the Executive Director's office).
5. Must enclose a letter of acceptance from the school you will attend (**new students only**), or a transcript (**return students**) with name of the University or school on the transcript showing you were enrolled the last semester before this application.
6. Any applicant who receives an incomplete, failure, or is placed on academic probation or suspension may not receive an AIAC scholarship in the next calendar year.
7. If you are a member of a federally recognized tribe, you must have a letter from your tribal office stating that you have not received a tribal scholarship.
8. If your application comes to this office and is incomplete or illegible, it will be mailed back to you and will not be receipted as received until it is complete and returned to this office.

Apply Here



Clan News



MINUTES OF THE WOLF CLAN 16 MAY 2025

The May meeting of the Wolf Clan, Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, was held on 16 May 2025, at Alabaster Church of God.

Chief Wayne Yates was unable to attend. Vice-chief Helen Trimm began the meeting.

Lunch was served, and then Vice-chief Trimm called the business meeting to order. Old business was discussed. Ron Howard talked with the Clan about our support of the Tigers for Tomorrow organization. For several years Wolf Clan has supported Freya, a captive wolf who lives on this organization's site. Freya died and we decided at the March meeting to support Freya's sister. Unfortunately, the sister wolf also died. Ron said that we are now supporting a black wolf named Rose.

Vice-chief Trimm turned the meeting over to Mr. Stanley Trimm.

New business was introduced. Nela Glass-Godwin announced that she is resigning from the state Inter-Tribal Council due to recurring scheduling conflicts. She asked the citizens to consider someone else who might be interested in representing our Tribe.

Nancy Massey, Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama Principal Chief, talked about the Grants Committee and mentioned some of the proposed projects.

There was discussion about the upcoming Tribal election next April. Mrs. Massey said that Bobby Borden has serious health issues and does not plan to run again for the position of Vice-chief.

Several citizens noted that the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission's (AIAC) webpage is extremely dated and needs corrections. This should be mentioned to Sharon Keith, our Tribe's representative on the AIAC.

There being no further business, Mrs. Glass-Godwin moved to adjourn. Mrs. Guthrie seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

CITIZENS IN ATTENDANCE

Stanley and Helen Trimm
Wayne and Ellen Rasco
Nancy Massey
Ron Howard (non-citizen)
Eddy Bonner
Ronnie Callahan (guest, Bird Clan)
Cindy Guthrie
Lenela Glass-Godwin

Respectfully submitted by Lenela Glass-Godwin, Recording Clerk

Free Event

Pow Wow

ECHOTA CHEROKEE TRIBE



28th Annual Festival
September 27 – 28, 2025
Grand Entry at 12 p.m.

Gates open at 9:00 a.m.

Close at 5:00 p.m.



Echota Cherokee Tribal Complex

630 County Road 1281, Falkville, AL 35622

Take the Lacon Exit 318 off I-65: turn South onto US 31, immediately turn right past the hotel on County Rd 1281, the Tribal Complex will be about a mile on the left.

From Cullman on US 31 N: turn left onto County Rd 1282, turn right onto County Rd 1281, the Tribal Complex will be about a mile on the right.

Additional information call: 256-734-7334 or email: theechotacherokeetribalofal@gmail.com

Pow Wow Director
Gary Parnell

Arena Director
Vic Ball

Drum Team
White Horse

Master of Ceremonies
Faron Weeks

Head Man
TBD

Head Lady
TBD



Storytellers

Demonstrations
&
Craft Booths

Food Vendors

Children's Games

Dancing during
the day

Admission: Children 0 – 6 Free General admission: 15 – 64 \$5.00

Children 7 – 14 / Seniors 65+ / Military \$3.00

ALABAMA NATIVE PRIDE! Please honor and respect our tribal land. Keep the grounds clean. NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR FIREARMS ALLOWED. SMOKING IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY. Service animals only.

Pow Wow



Mattanock 1001 Pembroke Lane, Suffolk, VA. 23434

From Godwin Boulevard, turn onto Pembroke Lane at
Oakland Elementary School.

August 16, 2025: (10 am - 6 pm)

August 17, 2025: (10 am - 5 pm)

Grand Entry at 12 noon both days

**FREE
PARKING
AND
ADMISSION**

HEAD STAFF

MC: Clark Stewart (Chickahominy)

AD: Maurice Proctor (Piscataway)

Head Male: Ryan Dial (Lumbee)

Head Female: Idalis Dial (Coharie)

Host Drum: Red Clay

Guest Drums: War Paint & Stoney Creek

All are welcome at this free,
family-friendly event featuring
Native American dancing,
singing, arts and crafts,
educational exhibits, displays,
and foods!

**OVER \$5000 IN
DANCE SPECIALS!**

For more information

(757) 255-9317 or Powwow@Nansemond.gov

Animals/Pets are strictly prohibited. Service Animals are permitted per ADA guidelines.

No smoking, drugs, or alcohol are permitted on the powwow grounds.

Pow Wow

WILCO POW WOW



Photograph by
Claudia Richardson

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
September 27-28, 2025

James E. Ward Agricultural Center
914 Tennessee Blvd • Lebanon, TN 37087
(Use Tennessee Blvd. Entrance)

Middle Tennessee Pow Wow, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3)
chartered in the State of Tennessee.

 Like us on
Facebook

Pow Wow

Indigenous Peoples Celebration

Standing Peachtree Native American Festival

October 11th & 12th, 2025

2757 East Point St

East Point, Ga. 30344

Grand Entry 12:00 pm Sat-Sun
competition 1st-2nd-3rd

Host Drum- Silver Ridge/Dance Troupe

Headman—Keith Sharphead

Guest Drum- Battle Horse

Headlady—Mandy C Delgadillo

AD- Donnie Ross

MC- Ray Silva

Head Veteran—Paul Wilson

ALL SCHOOL'S WELCOME

All Drums & Dancers Welcome

Native American Arts & Crafts—Living History- Traditional Dances

Fry bread/Indian Taco—Roasted Corn— Hamburgers/Hotdogs

Bring your Chair, Bring your Family and Enjoy the Day

Special Performances : Lowery Begay — Hoops & Flute

Host Hotel—Country Inn & Suites

Silver Ridge Dance Troupe—Eagle Dance

1365 Hardin Ave, East Point, Ga.

Specials all day with Traditional Dances/Music

(470) 704 - 3188



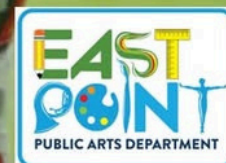
Vendors information—Monika Ponton Arrington

Georgia Indigenous Diversity Consulting

(770) 574-4706 or (770) 402-8288

indigenous.diversity.info@gmail.com

monika@gidc.info



Opportunity

SRTAG upholds and supports the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of Native American art. Artists from both Official State Recognized Tribes and Federally Recognized Tribes are welcome to apply for this exclusive art show, which is limited to 25 participants. To comply with the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, all applicants must provide a photo of their tribal ID to confirm their eligibility. Alternatively, applicants may submit a letter from the tribe they represent on official letterhead, stating that they are artisans for the tribe. Please note that applying to this show does not guarantee acceptance into the Building a Bridge Art Exhibition.

APPLY HERE: <https://srtag.org/building-a-bridge-art-show-application/>



APPLY NOW!!!

BUILDING A BRIDGE ART EXHIBIT

Bringing State and Federal Tribal Artists Together.
SRTAG upholds and supports the Indian Arts and Craft Act of 1990.



Apply Here

 Application Deadline June 30	 Acceptance Letter August 1	
 Work Due By Sept. 20	 Show Dates October 1 - January 25	 Reception on October 15

All Artists In the Show Receive A \$100 Stipend



DONALD & CAROL Kress PAVILION
& EGG HARBOR LIBRARY
Read. Create. Celebrate. It happens here.



Onelida Nation Arts Program



PUBLIC ARTS INITIATIVE
EGG HARBOR WISCONSIN

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.

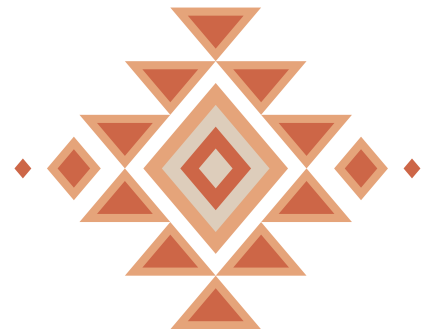
Market Your Arts and Crafts as "Native American or Indian Made"

"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:

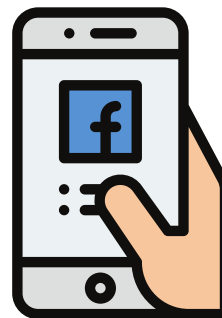
What type of meeting

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

Head Leadership

Principal Chief	Nancy Massey
Vice-Chief	Bobby Borden
Parliamentarian	Lenela Glass-Godwin
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

WE ARE Echota

Echota Leadership, cont.

Clan Representatives

Bird Clan	Martha Gann
Blue Clan	Vick Ball
Deer Clan	Gary Parnell
Long Hair Clan	Sharon Keith
Paint Clan	Neil Boyd
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open
Wolf Clan	Eddy Bonner
At-Large	Shawn Borden



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The tribe is now posting tribal events, meetings, cleanup 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

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.

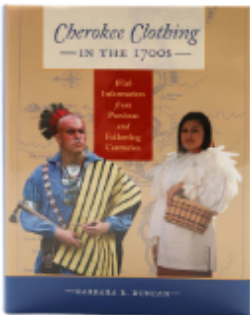
Not Able to See the Online Newsletter?

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 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.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

At the February meeting of the Governing Body, Clan Representatives decided to begin charging for newsletter ads. This will be an annual fee that advertisers will pay to continue to have their ad appear in tribe's newsletter.

Here is the fee schedule:

Business card size: Free

¼ page: \$50

½ page: \$75

Full page: \$125

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

Ads will be half-price for the remainder of this year but will be full price starting in January 2026.

Business Section

SRTAG represents, supports, and advocates for official state-recognized tribal artists. We provide opportunities, funding, and resources to help artists grow, promote their work, and succeed in their creative endeavors. Through grants, educational programs, and events, we strive to uplift and empower our artists while preserving and celebrating Indigenous artistry. SRTAG also works to build a bridge between federal and state-recognized tribal artists, fostering collaboration and community by creating shared opportunities and providing financial support to help all Native artists thrive together.

Crafts,
Painting
Drawing

And More



MORE INFORMATION

P.O. Box 8272
Green Bay WI 54302

+123-456-7890

srttribalartistsguild@gmail.com

www.srtag.org

 www.srtag.org

SRTAG State Recognized Tribal Artists Guild



JOIN TODAY!!!



CONTACT

Feel free to contact Weeya with any questions you may have or discuss a project you may wish for her to assist you with.

557 Ruth St., Green Bay WI

920.213.4418

www.weeyacalif.com

weeyacalif@gmail.com



ABOUT

Weeya Calif is a versatile artist specializing in both traditional and digital art. Her work is deeply rooted in her Indigenous heritage, reflecting the rich stories and traditions of her people. As a commissioned artist, she collaborates with tribes, businesses, and organizations to create meaningful artwork that represents Native culture. Her pieces have been showcased in galleries and art markets, earning a permanent place in the art world. Beyond creating, Weeya is passionate about mentoring and educating others, helping emerging artists develop their skills and navigate the art industry.

WEEYA CALIF ARTIST & EDUCATOR

weeyacalif@gmail.com

Business Section



Business Section

