



LOOK FOR US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
AND AT WWW.UKB-NSN.GOV



GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

YSG GWY AWP Official News Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma March 2025

Tribal Leaders Navigate Federal Absence at NCAI Winter Session

By: Troy Littledeer | @troylittledeer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Chief Jeff Wacoche, Assistant Chief Amos Ketcher and Flint District Council Representative Frankie Still joined tribal leaders from across the United States this week at the National Congress of American Indians' Executive Council Winter Session 2025 in Washington, D.C.

The annual winter session, organized by NCAI's Executive Council — one of the organization's three primary governing bodies — allows tribal delegates to engage with members of Congress and federal officials. The meeting aims to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between tribal nations and the U.S. government.

"I think it is important to support this project so that the Keetoowah members can have a stronger voice in the policies and practices of the federal government," UKB Chief Jeff Wacoche said. "What I hope comes out of these meetings is a better understanding of all tribes across the nation, but especially of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. We have struggled to receive the rights and benefits to which we are entitled as a federally recognized tribe for nearly 79 years. It's time the government to uphold their obligations to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma"

The Executive Council Winter Session gathers representatives from NCAI's member tribes to strategize for the upcoming year. Though now a cornerstone of NCAI's operations, the meeting was not mandatory in the organization's early years. Founded in 1944, NCAI initially held council meetings irregularly until a 1955 revision to its constitution mandated the annual session. Originally scheduled flexibly after the annual fall conference, the event is now required to occur within the first quarter of each year.

Bryan Shade, UKB advisor and attorney at Lippes Mathias in Washington D.C., highlighted the session's importance, saying, "The National Congress of American Indians Executive Winter Session provides an opportunity for tribal leaders to connect with members of Congress and leadership from the executive departments that touch our relationship with the federal government. Because of its location in Washington, D.C., ECWS is an excellent opportunity to advocate for our tribal communities and access decision makers who may not be as easily available



During the federal recognition session, Chief Wacoche was asked to speak about the M-Opinion (courtesy photo).



left to right, Congresswoman Betty McCollum of Minnesota, UKB Advisor Bryan Shade, Chief Wacoche, Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota and member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Peggy Flanagan, Assistant Chief Amos Ketcher (courtesy photo).

otherwise. ECWS, especially when it is within the early days of a new federal administration, creates an opportunity for Indian Country to unite on the major issues that affect us all and make sure that the White House and both Chambers of Congress know where we stand."

NCAI was established in 1944 in response to U.S. policies of termination and assimilation that sought to dismantle tribal governments and erode Native cultures, violating treaty rights and tribal sovereignty. The organization continues to prioritize the protection of these rights and the advancement of tribal communities nationwide.

See TRIBAL LEADERS, Page 3

Judge Stops White House Funding Freeze, Tribes Worry About What's Next

By Staff Reports | @UKBMedia

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Monday, Feb. 3, a federal judge put a stop to a White House plan that would have caused a freeze on money for grants and loans. The plan came from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), but it got messy and fast. Another judge had already paused it on Jan. 28, and the OMB eventually canceled it on Jan. 29. Even so, people—especially Native American tribes—are still confused and worried.

Bryan Shade, a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, is a lawyer at Lippes Mathias in Washington, D.C. He is also an advisor to the UKB and works with multiple tribes. Shade says cutting off their money would be a big problem. "If you're running a health clinic that you contracted through the Indian Health Service and you don't get your funds, your service stops," Shade said. "You're not able to provide critical healthcare to your tribal populations, many of which are located in very remote areas with limited access or no access at all to health resources."

The trouble started when 22 states sued, and a judge paused the freeze memo on that Tuesday. By that Wednesday, the OMB said the plan was off the table. Shade thinks it was a trick.

"I think the consensus, at least on the left, is that it was a maneuver to make the court case moot," he said. "The case that was filed over the initial OMB memo is withdrawn; the government can go back on Monday and say, 'Hey, we've withdrawn this, the case is moot,' and attempt to get it withdrawn."

Even though the freeze is gone, Shade's law firm is telling tribes across the country to act fast.

"The big thing is to draw down any funds that are available," he said. "If the money is not drawn down and the drawdown system goes down, you're just kind of out of luck until that draw-down system comes back up."

The drawdown system is how tribes get federal money into their bank accounts to pay for things like healthcare and other programs.

Tribal leaders in Oklahoma spoke out about the government's actions. Tribes like the Absentee Shawnee Tribe said they're ready with backup plans, and the Ponca Tribe said they'll hold the government accountable for keeping its promises. The Native American Rights Fund also talked to tribal leaders, who are still nervous even though the memo is gone.



Bryan Shade; UKB Member, Advisor, and attorney for Lippes Mathias (Courtesy Photo).

Shade explains that tribes get money differently than others. They get cash for things like heating and cooling, but they also get funds because of old agreements called treaties and a law from 1975.

"There's the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act; that's Public Law 93-638 that creates this contracting mechanism," Shade said. "The tribes become federal actors under 638. It's not your typical block grant that would go out to a nonprofit."

This law, called "638," lets tribes use federal money to run their own programs.

"It's not Federal Financial Assistance, and that term gets thrown around a lot when politicians say we need to tighten our budget, we need to curb the deficit, or what have you," Shade added. "These are contractually due funds; they're not discretionary."

These are not grants or programs that can be cut on a whim. They are contractual obligations of the United States, and the United States should pay its bills."

Shade is telling tribes to talk to their members of Congress and explain how a funding freeze would hurt healthcare, safety, and their communities. He says this isn't about politics—it's about fairness. "There should be a recognition that this is a debt owed by the government to these tribes, and we're gonna pay our bills," he said.

The memo might be history, but tribes are still on edge, hoping the government doesn't pull something like this again.

(The Associated Press contributed to this report.)

Nearly 1,000 Indian Health Service Layoffs Reversed After Trump Order Triggers Backlash

By Staff Reports | UKB Media

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 1,000 Indian Health Service employees were let go last Friday, Feb. 14, under President Donald Trump's executive order aimed at streamlining federal agencies, according to a weekend report from Native News Online. The cuts, part of the "Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative," didn't last long—by Friday evening, the layoffs were called off, leaving college students following health policy stunned at the rapid reversal.

The initial notices went out to IHS workers, but hours later, supervisors began informing them the decision had been reversed, according to ICT. The IHS, which provides health care to Native American communities, was just one of several agencies hit by the order, which also affected the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health, as reported by this outlet's editor-in-chief on Feb. 18.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the newly elected Health and Human Services secretary, weighed in on the situation in a statement emailed to News outlets. "The Indian Health Service has always been treated as the redheaded stepchild at HHS," he said. "My

father often complained that IHS was chronically understaffed and underfunded. President Trump wants me to rectify this sad history. Indians suffer the highest level of chronic disease of any demographic. IHS will be a priority over the next four years. President Trump wants me to end the chronic disease epidemic beginning in Indian country."

Kennedy's comments might catch the eye of students interested in health disparities or Native issues, especially as he pledges to shake things up over the next four years.

The turnaround came after the National Indian Health Board, the National Council of Urban Indian Health, and the National Indian Child Welfare Association pressed the administration to spare IHS workers vital to fulfilling the government's treaty commitments to tribal nations, Native News Online reported. Advocacy from tribal organizations played a key role in halting the layoffs, a National Indian Health Board spokesperson confirmed in an email to the outlet.

As of Feb. 23, 2025, the episode has sparked campus conversations about government efficiency, tribal rights, and how fast activism can change the game—perfect fodder for late-night dance debates.



Former UKB Chief Joe Bunch met then presidential candidate Robert Kennedy Jr on Kennedy's campaign trail last summer (File Photo).



Assistant Chief
Amos Ketcher
aketcher@ukb-nsn.gov



Secretary
Caleb Grimm-Smith
csmith@ukb-nsn.gov



Treasurer
Sonja Gourd
sgourd@ukb-nsn.gov



Cooweescoowee Dist.
Clifford Wofford
918-822-1953



Delaware Dist.
Tishaleta Smith-Guevara



Flint Dist.
Frankie Still
918-507-1822



Goingsnake Dist.
Willie Christie
918-822-3803



Illinois Dist.
Janelle Adair
918-457-7067



Saline Dist.
Charles Smoke
918-457-7071



Sequoyah Dist.
Donald Adair
918-315-0970



Tahlequah Dist.
Sammy Allen
918-931-0177

By: UKB Chief Jeff Wacoche

The month of January has been a monumental one with the inauguration of a new council and a new President of the United States. We celebrated national law enforcement day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the release of Leonard Peltier.

On Jan 1st the ukb began offering purchase and referred care services contract health to our exclusive tribal membership. As of today, they have handled 39 claims. On Jan 3rd we finalized the purchase of Oklahoma station on Lake Tenkiller. On Jan 9th we attended the American Indian Chamber of Commerce chapter luncheon and met with Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols. On Jan 23rd me, Assistant Chief Ketcher and Secretary Grimm-Smith spent the day in Washington DC advocating for funding and equality for the UKB. On Jan 24th we finalized the purchase of Diamondhead Resort. On Jan 30th me, assistant chief, secretary, treasurer and deputy comptroller all attended an in-person meeting at the BIA Regional Office in Muskogee, regarding budgets and formulations. We also had the opportunity to briefly discuss issues that the tribe faces with a couple of other BIA department while there. On Jan 30th the senate confirmed a new Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum, and we await the appointment of a new assistant secretary of interior. On Jan 30th our FY22 audit was submitted and accepted by the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

On the national level we will continue to monitor the possible funding



Chief Chat

JEFF WACOCHÉ
Principal Chief
jwacoche@ukb-nsn.gov

freeze and provide updates as they come available.

On Jan 17th 2025, the Department of Interior Office of Solicitor issued memorandum m37084, we hope this will end the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma attempts as spreading misinformation about the rights and jurisdiction of the UKB. But publicly they claimed it was, “hastily, shameful and a cowardly decision by one attorney.” The fact of the matter is that one attorney is solicitor Robert Bob Anderson, who has been a professor for decades at the University of Washington and Harvard Law School. He was the Director of University of Washington Native American Law Center, co-author and editor of the leading Federal Indian Law treatise Cohen’s Handbook of Federal Indian Law. He is co-author of a leading textbook on American Indian Law.

I ask everyone to take the time to read this opinion as it explains the timeline and process of how this opinion was carefully researched and developed by a team of attorneys at the DOI solicitor’s office over the course of 2 years. It is 56 pages long with 424 footnotes, citing history, law and facts. It was developed having fully examined volumes of evidence presented by the CNO and UKB in Oklahoma. It contains strong factual bases, reasons

and analysis.

The M-Opinion confirms the following: the secretary of interior may take land in trust for the UKB which the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals had already decided federal law prohibits discrimination between two similarly situated tribes, the 1846 treaty was with the whole Cherokee people. UKB is a successor in interest to the 1846 treaty signatory. CNO is not the same entity as the 1846 treaty signatory, because it is not the whole Cherokee people. UKB has governmental jurisdiction over the reservation, along with CNO. Both tribes have exclusive jurisdiction over our trust lands and UKB can game on land held in trust. This is a win for everyone living within the 14 counties and creates significant opportunities to add additional resources to the Oklahoma Cherokee reservation for public safety, education, healthcare and economic development. This includes establishing a path for the UKB to reopen its casino.

We have yet to receive a congratulatory message from the CNO currently. Me and assistant chief have both reached out to their principal chief and deputy chief to establish a baseline of communication and continue to await a response. Until then, we will continue to carry out our business as usual and work with any and all entities that are willing to work with us the Keetoowah way. With the highest level of integrity and promoting justice and equality for everyone.

Wado and i-ne-na.

Chief Jeff Wacoche

Editorial: Arkansas Razorbacks and the Celebration of Native American Heritage

As March Madness grips the country, my thoughts turn to one particular team in the Southeastern Conference. Last November, I had the privilege of helping plan Native American Heritage Month events for the Arkansas Razorback Women’s Basketball team for the second year in a row. I invited Keetoowah Tradition Keeper Janelle Adair to join us both times. I’ve had some great conversations with Coach Lacey Goldwire, with help from Summer Wilkie and Lawrence Panther as well, to get these events ready.

In my preparations, I stumbled upon some advice that another organization gave a group for its Native American Heritage Night that really struck a chord: “Don’t talk over Native people or ignore them, especially about their own lives. They know more about being Native because they live it every day. Shutting them out is like erasing their culture.”

This season, I’ve watched the Razorbacks take this advice to heart. They didn’t just give a nod to Native American Heritage Month at one game; they welcomed our cultures, listened to us, and showed a desire to learn more, all with respect.

As the basketball season nears its end across the nation, I want everyone in Indian Country to know: The Arkansas Razorback Women’s Basketball team stands with us. They’ve transformed a simple “Heritage Night” into something extraordinary — a sincere effort to connect with Native culture.

In December, a colleague and I made a trip to Cherokee, North Carolina, to meet with the Cherokee One Feather News. We weren’t planning on seeing the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) visit with the Arkansas team, but it fit perfectly into our busy schedule. The team met the Cherokee Lady Braves and students from the New Kituwah Academy. Wa-do Coach Lacey Goldwire for welcoming us and making it an amazing experience. Another huge thank you goes to EBCI Principal Chief Michell Hicks and his team for building on the foundation laid by Janelle Adair, Summer Wilkie, Lawrence Panther, and myself last fall.

The Razorbacks’ dedication to honoring Native and Cherokee traditions is truly admirable. A heartfelt “Sgi” — which means “thank you” — to Coach Mike Neighbors and the whole team for their genuine care. They have two Native players, Carly

Keats (Mississippi Choctaw) and Kiki Smith (Comanche), who must feel a deep sense of pride seeing their heritage celebrated. It’s worth mentioning that more than half of the Arkansas Razorbacks’ roster are from overseas with more international players planning on joining the team next season. These Native American presentations are the first time many of these women have had any kind of exposure or

encounters with Native Americans or their cultures.

This editorial isn’t about wading around diversity, equity, and inclusion (D.E.I.) politics or just checking boxes on applications. It’s about amplifying voices that often go unheard. The Arkansas Razorback Women’s Basketball Program is leading by example, and Indian Country is better because of it.



L-R, Arkansas’s women’s basketball team watches students from New Kituwah Academy give presentation in Cherokee, N.C., December 2024. Photos by Troy Littledeer.



Vera Ojenuwa and Cristina Sánchez Cerqueira display their gifts from the Cherokee Lady Braves. Sánchez Cerqueira is from Granada, Spain and Ojenuwa is from Delta State, Nigeria.



Arkansas shooting guard, Carly Keats showing off her gift from the Cherokee Lady Braves in Cherokee, N.C. back in December 2024. Keats is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw.



The Arkansas Razorbacks with the Cherokee Lady Braves Basketball team in Cherokee, N.C. December 2024. Photo by Troy Littledeer.

PBR's Caden Bunch wins Tulsa

In case you missed it, Bunch went 3-for-3 to win the PBR Velocity Tour event in Tulsa.



Caden Bunch riding Black Ops on Friday as he tied in the first round. (Lani Hansen)



Caden Bunch waiting on his score after a ride, where later he went 3-for-3. (Lani Hansen)

By LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TULSA, Okla- As the Professional Bull Riders Pendleton Whiskey Velocity Tour event in Tulsa, took place in January Tahlequah's own Caden Bunch went 3-for-3 to win the event in front of his home state.

Coming in on a Friday night, he was one of the last bullriders to take the arena as he tied in the first-round riding "Black Ops" for 84.5 points.

As he returned on Saturday night, Bunch took the lead outlasting his ride on "Virg" for 83.5 points in round 2. He continued his winning streak, with the top score in the championship round defeating "Bandido" for 83 points.

Bunch came to do business and so he did, as he finished the weekend with 148 points which places him in the race for the 2025 Velocity Tour Championship.

Winning in front of his home

state crowd Bunch says, "It was fun and exciting, nothing better than close to home with your closest family and friends and an entire arena full of a hometown crowd."

Bunch who is currently ranked 55 with 8 event wins under his belt, has been in the PBR for almost 4 years. Bullriding is not an easy sport as they say it's the toughest sport on dirt, but for Bunch he has always had a passion for it since his first ride.

"My papa raised bottle calves, and I liked messing with them, so my mom took me to a local sheep riding and my actual first association was with Wyatt Rogers (PBR, Hulbert) and his parents called Rogers and Son where I won my first buckle there," Bunch said.

Bunch has come a long way in his career, for only being in the PBR for 4 years he is on the run for a spot at the PBR Velocity Tour Finals in Corpus Christie, TX in May.

Tribal Leaders



Chief Wacoche, Congressman Tom Cole's Legislative aid Sophia, Assistant Chief Ketcher, Flint District Rep Frankie Still and Tom Cole's Chief of Staff Will McPherson (courtesy photo).



Chief Wacoche and Flint District Rep Frankie Still. (courtesy photo).



There is a vacancy on the UKB Housing Committee for interested Keetoowah tribal members. Members must be able to dedicate time to meetings, trainings, and future projects of the Housing Department. Those with housing experience, such as construction, grant funding, tenancy, and policymaking are highly encouraged to join. They must also be willing to learn about housing policies and procedures, federal requirements and be an advocate for our tribal members. Housing Committee meetings are held twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:30pm. If you are interested, please email Roxana Wilden at rwilden@ukb-nsn.gov or Rich Vann at rvann@ukb-nsn.gov and they will make sure to pass on your information to the Committee members. In your email, please include your name, address, phone number and a brief description of your housing experience, if any.

Giduwa Cherokee News
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

The Giduwa Cherokee News is mailed free to Keetoowah registered voters, governments, other offices and upon request, to other citizens.

Mail subscription requests and address changes to Giduwa Cherokee News, P.O. Box 746, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, 74464. Editorial statements of the Giduwa Cherokee News, guest columns and letters to the editor reflect the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the Giduwa Cherokee News editor, staff or tribal administration of the United Keetoowah Band. All editorials and letters must be 650 words or less and will become the property of the Giduwa Cherokee News. Editorials must be signed and include an address and telephone number. Send all inquires to:

Giduwa Cherokee News
P.O. Box 746, OK 74465.

Troy Littledeer | Media Director/Editor
Lani Hansen | Media Specialist/Reporter

UKB Media is the only official Media Department of the United Keetoowah Band. It operates the Giduwa Cherokee News, the UKB Facebook page, as well as the tribe's Instagram account, @UKBMedia.

Any other publications or online pages are not an official source of news and are not endorsed by the editor, tribe or tribal administration. For advertising rates and media inquiries, including permissions to reprint stories within this publication, email media@ukb-nsn.gov.

Opinion: The Federal Government's Trust Responsibility to Native American Tribes

"In Indian Country, funding isn't just money, it's survival." – Troy Littledeer



UKB Media Director, Troy Littledeer

By Troy Littledeer | UKB Media Director

The federal government's commitment to Native American tribes is more than just a budgetary line item; it's a promise etched in treaties and centuries of hard-fought sovereignty. However, funding for tribal governments, already a fragile lifeline, faces renewed threats. This isn't just about money; it's about honoring a trust responsibility that supports health-care, education, and public safety in Indian Country. Over the past month, actions by the Trump administration

have intensified this crisis, posing urgent questions about accountability and justice.

Tribes relinquished vast tracts of land—hundreds of millions of acres—in exchange for federal support, promised through treaties. Today, this support keeps clinics operational, schools open, and roads serviceable in areas where economic opportunities are limited. Unlike states, most tribes like the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, cannot depend on taxes or industry to bridge funding gaps. This support isn't a luxury; it's essential for self-governance, enabling everything from language preservation to broadband expansion. When funding is available, tribes can navigate their own paths. When it's not, the consequences are immediate and harsh—hospitals shut down, housing projects are delayed, and law enforcement diminishes.

In the last month, the Trump administration has exacerbated this crisis. On January 20, 2025, President Trump's first day back in office, he signed executive orders that froze federal grants and loans, casting

uncertainty over "638" contracts—vital for tribes to manage their own programs under the Indian Self-Determination Act. A "638 contract" lets Native American tribes manage their own federal programs, promoting self-determination. It's key for tribal control over community services.

Although the Trump administration later withdrew the initial memo due to legal challenges, the damage persisted. Tribes faced delays in funding for essential services like health and infrastructure as agencies struggled to adapt to the changing directives. Early February brought news of hundreds of layoffs at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, reducing the workforce responsible for processing funding and supporting tribal schools. Moreover, a sweeping \$3 trillion funding freeze, although blocked by the courts, still disrupted grant timelines, leaving tribes in a chaotic policy battleground.

These actions have tangible repercussions. For instance, a South Dakota tribe's \$19.9 million environmental grant, secured in January, now faces uncertainty as reimbursement sys-

tems lag. Clinics are at risk of closing; construction projects are stalled. This isn't a new issue—Trump's first term saw similar proposed cuts to tribal programs, met with strong opposition—but the current speed and scope of these actions feel unrelenting. The administration argues it's realigning priorities, but the burden falls heaviest on communities least able to cope.

This isn't a matter of political games; it's about a debt that's due. Tribes upheld their part of the agreement, giving up land that helped build a nation. The U.S. must honor its commitment—not with temporary measures or quick fixes, but with consistent, substantial funding. While Congress and the courts have intervened to mitigate some impacts of Trump's policies, mere reactive solutions are insufficient. Legislators must recognize this funding as a measure of national integrity. The administration's recent missteps necessitate a thorough examination—tribes deserve more than uncertainty; they deserve the fulfillment of a promise.

Oklahoma Station and Diamondhead Resort under UKB Corporate Board

February Council Meeting confirms purchases of OK Station, Diamondhead Resort.

By LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla.— In the February Council Meeting, an item on the agenda was passed for UKB Corporate Board to oversee the Oklahoma Station and Diamondhead Resort.

UKB Chief Jeff Wacoche stated, "On January 3rd we finalized the purchase of Oklahoma Station on Lake Tenkiller. On January 24th we finalized the purchase of Diamondhead Resort."

The Oklahoma Station is a gas station, offering a variety of services to customers. It is located near Lake Tenkiller off Highway 82, Park Hill.

The Director of UKB Corporate Board Woody Anderson stated, "The insurance company is set for the Oklahoma Station. The manager has signed an agreement with the tribe to stay on for a year during transition and the board is working on the fuel agreement with Sinclair. We are also

hiring for all shifts."

Included in this transition for the board is Diamondhead Resort, which is located off Highway 10, Tahlequah. They offer motel rooms, cabins, bunkhouses along with RV sites and tent sites. In the past it has been voted number one on the Illinois River for floating either rafts, canoes or kayaks.

Following is the information for Diamondhead Resort:

At the resort the motel rooms are 2 full size beds with a mini fridge, A/C and heat, 1 bathroom with shower and sleeps up to 4 people for \$125 per night.

If the party needs more room, there are also 3 cabins on site. Cabin 26 has 2 full sized beds and 8 twin sized bunk beds, it includes a deck, picnic tables and grills. It sleeps 12 people for \$340 per night. Cabin A has a queen-sized bed, sleeps 2 for \$255 per night. Cabin B has a queen-sized bed and 6 twin bunk beds,

sleeps 10 for \$430 per night.

The bunkhouses each have 4 bunk rooms, with 2 full sized beds and 11 twin sized bunk beds, sleeps 15 people. Each room has a full bathroom with a shower. Each bunkhouse has a large porch with picnic table and grill. Prices vary from \$335 per night plus \$85 per night kitchen access. Bunks 22 and 24 includes a full kitchen for \$395 per night.

RV sites with electric and water only, range from sites K-R for 30 Amps, \$35 per night. Full hook ups include: 30 Amps for \$40 per night from sites C-I, 50 Amps for \$50 per night for sites A, B, and J. All these sights include 1 vehicle, additional vehicles are \$28 per night.

Primitive camping sites first come, first serve with a fee of \$28 per vehicle, per night. The electric only sites include 30 Amps hookups, with a fee of \$33 per night, includes 1 vehicle, additional vehicles are \$28.

Planning on floating? Diamondhead Resort offers two different trips for floaters. Trip A is 6-miles for \$34 per person, the drop off point is at Edmonson Access, cut off time is 2pm. Trip B is 12-miles for \$38 per person, drop off is at Peavine Hollow, cut off time is 10am, kids 10 and under are \$10 each. Floats include: 1-man kayaks, 2-man kayaks, 4-man rafts (minimum 2 people), and 6-man rafts (minimum 4 people).

All the prices listed are before taxes, deposits are required at the time of booking and there is a 7-day cancellation notice required for refund.

"We are planning a job fair for April 3 at Diamondhead Resort," Anderson said.

The job fair at Diamondhead Resort 12081 Hwy 10, Tahlequah, OK, on April 3, 2025 will take place from 10am until 4pm.



Diamondhead Resort is located near Illinois River off Highway 10, Tahlequah.



The Oklahoma Station is located near Lake Tenkiller off Highway 82, Park Hill.

2025 AMERIND Safety Poster Contest
 Deadline March 31, 2025

Attention artists! Submit your safety themed poster to the UKB Housing Department or your District Representative.

- The winner of each category will receive \$ 100 from the Housing Department.
- Winners will be sent to the regional housing association for regional voting.
- Regional winners from each category are submitted to AMERIND for national voting.
- National online voting. One winner is selected from each category.
- Winners announced at AMERIND Member Business Meeting. The national winner in each category (K-3, 4-6, 7-8) receives \$ 1,000.

Categories:
 Kindergarten - 3rd Grade
 4th Grade - 6th Grade
 7th Grade - 8th Grade

The theme can be any safety topic: fire safety, driving safety, etc.

Instructions

- Use blank 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. Clearly print on one side of paper:
 First and last name
 Grade
 Tribal Affiliation
 Phone Number
 United Keetoowah Band Housing Department
- On the blank side of paper, create your masterpiece.

UKB Celebrates Federal Opinion

By LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma celebrated a recent federal opinion affirming that the tribe shares jurisdiction over Cherokee land, a stance disputed by the larger Cherokee Nation. Both tribes expect the disagreement to head to court, with the case likely to become a federal matter that could reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

“This opinion right now reaffirms that we are who we’ve been saying we are for the last 75 years,” Wacoche said.

The United Keetoowah Band, based on its 76-acre campus in Tahlequah, has long claimed its sovereign territory extends far beyond that area. The new opinion bolsters that position, a development Chief Jeff Wacoche of the United Keetoowah Band of Oklahoma called a vindication of their identity.

While pleased with the federal opinion on Keetoowah jurisdiction, Wacoche cautioned that it is likely not the final decision. Still, the tribe is marking the moment as what they hope will be the start of a new era.

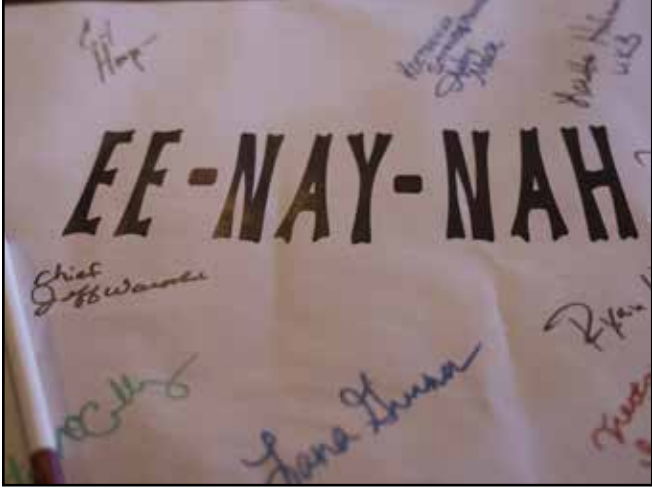
The tribe points to its recently built courthouse as evidence of its readiness to exercise this newly validated authority alongside the Cherokee Nation. Though prepared to act immediately, Keetoowah leaders are certain more litigation looms ahead.

The Cherokee Nation, however, sharply rejected the opinion. In a statement, the tribe described it as “an affront to their sovereignty, unsupported by law and history,” and said it plans to evaluate the ruling to determine its next steps.

Legal observers say the case, when it reaches court, will fall under federal jurisdiction and has the potential to escalate to the U.S. Supreme Court. For now, the United Keetoowah Band celebrates a hard-fought acknowledgment, even as both tribes prepare for a prolonged legal struggle.

The celebration brought in members of the tribe, former and current council and visiting dignitaries. Those in attendance heard addresses from, Congressional Delegate Tori Holland, Chief Jeff Wacoche, Assitant Chief Amos Ketcher, Attorney General Klint Cowan, Sequoyah District Rep Donald Adair and Cherokee singing by the Girty Family.

Of course, what is a celebration without food? The committee would like to thank Justin Philips from The Bird and Bison for catering this event.



Echota
 STRONGER TOGETHER
 Spring break event brought to you by the EBH Prevention Team
 9:30AM - 4:30PM
THURSDAY MARCH 20TH
 Scan to Get Registered!
 AGES 8 & UP
 FISHING
 HAIR BRAIDING
 CULTURAL ARTS
 STOMP DANCE
 STICKBALL & MORE!
 LOCATION:
 18263 W. Keetoowah Circle
 Tahlequah, OK 74464





Hart
Funeral Homes



We proudly offer specialized burial contracts for members of the United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.



JASON GANN
Funeral Assistant

Services We Offer:

- Traditional Burial Services
- Cremation Options
- Personalization
- Veterans Services
- Pre-Planning Arrangements

Call Now to Schedule a Tour or Consultation:
(918) 456-8823

1506 N. Grand Ave. • Tahlequah, OK 74464
(918) 456-8823 • tahlequah.hartfuneralhome.net