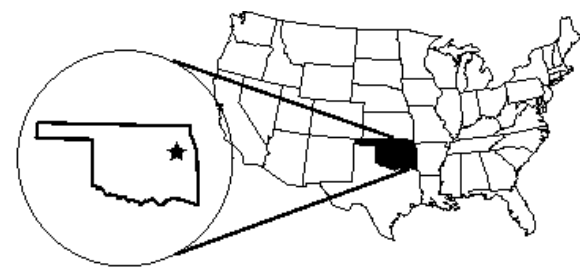




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# GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

YSG GWY AWP Official News Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma September 2024



Front row: IHS's Lindsay King, UKB Chief Bunch, Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche. Back Row: UKB Secretary Joyce Hawk, Treasurer Sonja Gourd, Lippe Mathis' and UKB member and advisor Bryan Shade, UKB Councilor Pete Kingfisher, UKB Councilor Charles Smoke, UKB Attorney General Klint Cowan. Photo by Lani Hansen/UKB Media.

## 2024 UKB Tribal election candidates

### STAFF REPORTS

TAHLEQUAH, OK., – The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma's Election Board named twenty-three Keetoowah members as official candidates for chief, assistant chief and district council representatives' positions.

Here is the list of official candidates released by the UKB Election Board:

<b>CHIEF</b> Roxana Wilden Jeffery Wacoche Archie Buzzard	<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF</b> Ernestine Berry Jamie Thompson Amos Ketcher
<b>SECRETARY</b> Susan Adair Caleb Grimmatt Joyce Hawk	<b>TREASURER</b> Sonja Gourd
<b>GOINGSNAKE</b> Willie Christie Sharon Benoit Elmer Panther	<b>DELAWARE</b> Tishaleta Guevara
<b>FLINT</b> Frankie Still	<b>SALINE</b> Charles Smoke John Mouse
<b>COOWEESCOOWEE</b> Clifford Wofford Jeannie Tidwell	<b>TAHLEQUAH</b> Sammy Allen Teresa Hair
<b>ILLINOIS</b> Janelle Adair	<b>SEQUOYAH</b> Donald Adair

## UKB assumes Purchased and Referred Care (Contract Health) Program from IHS under historic 638 Agreement.

### PRESS RELEASE

Tahlequah, Okla. (08/26/2024), — The Indian Health Service (IHS) has reached a historic agreement with the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma (UKB) that the UKB will use to establish the UKB Tribal Health System.

The 638 Agreement, as it is called, was signed by Chief Joe Bunch and IHS Area Self-Determination Director Lindsay King on Monday. It will add the Purchased and Referred Care (PRC) Program, better known as Contract Health, to the tribe's Self-Determination contract and annual funding agreement.

"I've said for decades, our Keetoowah people have largely been wrongly denied access to the provision of federal healthcare benefits at a level available to members of other federally recognized tribes," UKB Chief Joe Bunch said. "Today's agreement sets the path to deliver health care to our tribal members. Our executive officers and our tribal council are extremely thankful to our federal partners who have had a hand in correcting this historical wrong.

The UKB Tribal Council appropriated \$2.6 million to renovate the tribes' wellness center into clinical space and to help jumpstart the program.

"I couldn't be happier. I thank the Lord for his blessing. Thank you again to all involved, especially IHS Director Roselyn Tso, Oklahoma City Area Director, Rear Admiral Travis Watts, Area Self-Determination Director Lindsay King, IHS CFO Jillian Curtis, Lippes Mathias lead and UKB member Bryan Shade, and Jeff Nelson, MCT Law firm," Chief Bunch said.

"We thank our federal partners for coming to the table in good faith. It is a tremendous day for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians."

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma has nearly 14,000 members. Their tribal capital is in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.



UKB Chief Joe Bunch signs IHS Agreement. Photo by Lani Hansen/UKB Media



The UKB Election Board is housed at the Echota House on Highway 10 in Tahlequah. Photo by Troy Littledeer

See ELECTION, Page 2

## UKB presents Guardians of the Culture

The 74th Annual Keetoowah Celebration will be held October 5th.

### LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla- The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians will celebrate its 74th Annual Keetoowah Celebration, held on the first weekend of October.

The Keetoowah Celebration is an event to honor the day on October 3, 1950, when the UKB officially voted to have its constitution and by-laws ratified. This year's theme is, Guardians of the Culture.

"This theme recognizes the history of the Keetoowah people who reluctantly moved west, leaving behind their beloved, ancient homelands, enduring many hardships to preserve their traditional way of life.," Celebration Coordinator Michelle Downing said.

This event brings together many people from all generations. The UKB Celebration has a full list of activities and events planned out for this year, including some newer ones.

As always in the previous years for pre-celebration, the annual golf tournament will begin on Thursday October 3rd, with the seniors and 2-man scramble. On Friday October 4th, the golf tournament continues with the 4-man scramble.

In addition to Friday's activities, there will be the chili supper at 7 p.m. followed by the stomp dance at 9 p.m.

See CULTURE, Page 2



United Keetoowah Band Chief Joe Bunch, "State of the Nation" address in 2023. Archive Photos



Miss Keetoowah and Jr. Miss Keetoowah at the annual car show. Archive Photos



**Assistant Chief**  
Jeff Wacoche  
jwacoche@ukb-nsn.gov



**Secretary**  
Joyce Fourkiller  
jfourkiller@ukb-nsn.gov



**Treasurer**  
Sonja Gourd  
sgourd@ukb-nsn.gov



**Canadian Dist.**  
Eddie Sacks  
918-822-1957



**Cooweescoowee Dist.**  
Clifford Wofford  
918-822-1953



**Flint Dist.**  
Frankie Still  
918-507-1822



**Goingsnake Dist.**  
Willie Christie  
918-822-3803



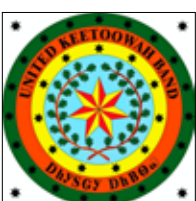
**Illinois Dist.**  
Peggy Girty  
918-457-7067



**Saline Dist.**  
Charles Smoke  
918-457-7071



**Sequoyah Dist.**  
Junior Catron  
918-315-0970



**Tahlequah Dist.**  
Terry "Pete" Kingfisher  
918-822-5703

**By: UKB Chief Joe Bunch**  
September 18, 2024

Si yo, ni ga da

It is now week three of high school football; how is your favorite team doing? I'd like to encourage you to be sure to watch the roads early in the morning and midafternoon as kids are back to getting on and off the buses again.

I had the opportunity to watch a grade school football game the other evening, 8-man football is fast and furious. If the ball gets just outside the ends, it's off to the races and was good to see everyone there.

This past month I signed three lease agreements with the Self-Governance Office, Department of Interior and signed a HISTORICAL 638-Self-determination contract for IHS Purchased and Referred Care funding. This will provide purchased and referred care to our tribal members, and plans are under way to develop a general clinic for UKB tribal members. We will be renovating the UKB Wellness Center for a clinic. I want to say thank you to our council for allowing us to receive this first-time program funding.

At the last council meeting, the council approved the purchase of Oklahoma Station, home of the famous juicy pig sandwich, and service station. Oklahoma Station is located on Lake Tenkiller just by the bridge on Highway 82. The purchase is a game changer for the tribe, not only with service products, gas and sandwich-



# Chief's Corner

**JOE BUNCH**  
Principal Chief  
jbunch@ukb-nsn.gov

es, two other businesses within the store, and a revenue stream that we have never had going into the future. This purchase will benefit our tribe. Again, I have to say thank you, Council, for this purchase and the fortitude to realize this is a monumental game changer.

We held a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce and the Henry Lee Doublehead Child Care Center, a grand reopening. The Henry Lee Doublehead was recently voted Tahlequah's best daycare this year and marks its sixth win. Thank you, Henry Lee staff, for your accomplishment.

I also want to send my thank yous to Marvin, Michelle, Archie, Treasurer, Assistant Chief, and others behind the scenes. Thank you, QuaPaw producers and the Muskogee Creek producers, for your quality products. Our first test food distribution was a huge success; this was to work the logistics, and we are preparing for our second distribution. I look forward to our second distribution. Please view our website and Facebook page for the next distribution or contact your councilor as well. Our goal is to produce food fast and smoothly. We have had our first distribution of supplemental food to tribal members; we are preparing to

distribute to another allotment soon. If you don't get the food at first, we will eventually get to you. The intent of the grant is to benefit the local farmers and producers; the result is to give the products to our tribal members. We have a 400-mile radius to purchase locally grown food, so tribal members, if you are a farmer, contact us; we may be able to purchase from you. For questions, please call 918-822-5382 and speak to Marvin Jones. He will answer questions. The plan is to develop the capacity to offer a full-blown food distribution program in our reservation.

Our Keetoowah Celebration time is around the corner. It's happening on October 5. This year marks our 74th anniversary of the ratification of our constitution and bylaws. This year's theme is "Guardians of the Culture." There will be a lot of activities and my favorite hog meat and potatoes. Be sure to watch for the celebration details as they become available on our website and Facebook. We truly have a lot to celebrate.

Our tribal election is in full swing, so be sure to watch and listen intently as candidates elaborate plans for our future. We are accomplishing our goals, making an impact on the services to our tribal members. The future of our tribe is progressively developing, and services to tribal members are developing as well. Let's be very proud of our Council.

Wa do, do da go hv i

Chief Joe Bunch

## ELECTION

They also must have been an exclusive member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma for six months prior to the election; have been a resident of or affiliated with a particular district for at least six months prior to the election. All eligible voters must be listed in the official voter list for the district in which the voter seeks to vote.

The official polling places for the UKB Election are:

- Canadian District – ICTC 2403 N. 41st St E, Muskogee, Oklahoma,

74403

- Cooweescoowee District – Emmanuel Baptist Church, 828 E. Muskogee Ave., Claremore, Oklahoma, 74017

- Delaware District – Jay Senior Citizen Center, 816 S. Main, Jay, Oklahoma, 74346

- Flint District – Stilwell Community Bldg, 320 N. 6th St., Stilwell, Oklahoma, 74960

- Goingsnake District – Maryetta Public School, 47089 E. 810 Rdm Stilwell, Oklahoma 74960

- Goingsnake District – Goingsnake Community Bldg, 282 South Hwy 10, Kansas, Oklahoma, 74347

- Illinois District – Illinois District Community Bldg, 513 Avalan Drive, Vian, Oklahoma, 74962

- Saline District – VFW Bldg, 401 W. Ferry, Salina, Oklahoma, 74365

- Sequoyah District – Sallisaw Nutrition Center, 115 West Redwood, Sallisaw, Oklahoma, 74955

- Tahlequah District – Speedway, 15882 South Hwy 62, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, 74464

## CULTURE

All regular festivities will begin on Saturday October 5th at the Celebration grounds. This year the schedule has the kid's fishing derby, stickball tournament, traditional games, volleyball, cornhole, horseshoes, arts and crafts vendors, tradition keepers and entertainment.

UKB Chief Joe Bunch will make his state of the nation address at 11:10 a.m. following his remarks will be Assistant Chief. A traditional meal will be provided as it has been in the previous years.

The annual car show will also be happening, and this year a motorcycle show has been added. If you are not too full from the traditional meal, from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. hang around to play bingo.

The United Keetoowah Band invites all to come celebrate, on October 5, 2024.

For more information, email [mdowning@ukb.nsn.gov](mailto:mdowning@ukb.nsn.gov).



The annual cornhole tournament returns for this year at the celebration. Archive Photos



Last year, stickball was popular and will return this year for celebration. Archive Photos

## UKB Housing Opens New Warehouse



UKB Housing Director Roxana Wilden, UKB Housing's Gil Hooper, and UKB Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche in new warehouse

**By: Troy Littledeer**

TAHLEQUAH, Okla., — United Keetoowah Band Housing Department celebrated the opening of their new 7,500 square foot warehouse on the campus of the main UKB tribal complex last month. The main purpose of the warehouse is to house all UKB Housing Department's supplies, equipment, tools, etc. in one warehouse.

The funds for the project came from ICDBG-AR-PA Funding.

"Thank you to Former Director Nancy McCause and Former Assistant Director Charles Deason for getting this project started and thinking of the future needs of the Housing Department," UKB Housing Director Roxana Wilden said. "And to Maska, Army Corps of Engineers, Housing staff and all those involved in the completion of this project. It certainly takes the effort of all those involved to make this, and other projects succeed for the UKB."

UKB Chief Joe Bunch, Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche, Treasurer Sonja Gourd, and Secretary Joyce Hawk were on hand to help celebrate this achievement.

# UKB Celebrates New Tribal Courthouse

UKB ICW and Tribal Courthouse maintain new buildings; HLDCDC joins Chamber

LANI HANSEN

TAHLEQUAH, Okla- It has been a historic time for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, having ribbon cuttings for three of the tribe's departments. Two of the departments celebrated grand openings, while one recently joined the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce.

The UKB Indian Child Welfare hosted a ceremonial ribbon cutting of its new building on the main UKB Campus.

The UKB Indian Child Welfare Department is responsible for taking care of our youngest tribal members, whether it is custody cases or providing children and parents with supplies or a safe place to go during troubling times. The department also voices support for the National Indian Child Welfare Act and receives updates on court cases surrounding the law. The ICW Department is directed by Rolanda Aimerson.

A plaque which is seen as you walk through the doors of the new building states, "Dedicated to the Resilience and Future of our Keetoowah and Indigenous Children in the Indian Child Welfare system. May this building stand as a beacon of Hope, Safety, and Opportunity for every child who walks through its doors."

The UKB Tribal Courts, also celebrated a monumental event of its grand opening of the new tribal courthouse. This has been a long time coming for the tribe and court system, to better serve our people.

It operates under a Constitution that was adopted and ratified by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians on October 3, 1950. The Tribal Court was created by the United Keetoowah Band to exercise its authority as a sovereign and to meet the needs of its members.

Petitioners may come to the Tribal Court to request legal remedies or redress grievanc-

es. The Tribal Court protects the interests of justice and equity while promoting the welfare and sovereignty of our Tribe and its citizens. The District Court hears civil, criminal, and juvenile matters, while the Supreme Court hears cases of appeals and other matters as may be conferred by statute. The UKB Tribal Court meets every third Friday of each month beginning at 11 a.m.

The tribal courthouse will house the UKB Council, UKB Tribal Court Judges and UKB Tribal Court Personnel.

The new courthouse sets west of the wellness center on the UKB main campus.

In addition to these grand openings, the UKB Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center has joined the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce. The tribe came together to celebrate the ribbon cutting and a tour of the center.

The tribal court plans to conduct its first session in the new courthouse in October.



Tribal Court Clerk Kristie Bradley cuts the ribbon on for the new Tribal Courthouse. She was joined by UKB Tribal Officers and Tribal Court Personnel. (Photo, Lani Hansen)



ICW Director Rolanda Aimerson cuts the ribbon for the new ICW building. She was joined by Janelle Adair, Councilman Pete Kingfisher, Treasurer Sonja Gourd and Secretary Joyce Hawk (Photo, Lani Hansen)



HLDCDC staff was joined by UKB Officers and employees to celebrate their membership to Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce. (Photo, Lani Hansen)

## Echota Behavioral Health hosts annual suicide prevention walk in Tahlequah

The 'Out of the Darkness' Walk gives participants an opportunity to raise funds to go towards suicide prevention research.

Troy Littledeer

TAHLEQUAH, OK., — Echota Behavioral Health organized the annual 'Out of the Darkness' Walk to raise awareness and support those affected by suicide on September 14. Attendees also used the evening to pay tribute and honor those in our communities that have been lost to suicide.

This event is part of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's national movement and took place at Norris Park in Tahlequah.

Elwood Pipestem-Ott of Native Connections was a speaker at the event.

He also shared his personal testimony of losing his son to suicide with the attendees. Pipestem-Ott called the walk, "A beautiful and powerful event."

"There were a lot of smiles, sharing of stories, and laughter," Pipestem-Ott said. "If we can continue to come together like this, we can and will make a difference

**"If we can continue to come together like this, we can and will make a difference in a positive way. Working together, we can make a difference in the communities."**

in a positive way. Working together, we can make a difference in the communities."

The walks, which are held in hundreds of communities across the country, are the core of the Out of the Darkness movement, which began in 2004, according to the foundation. The events give people the courage to open up about their own connections to the cause and a platform to create a culture that's smarter about mental health.

In 2022, 49,476 Americans died by suicide with an estimated 1.6M suicide attempts. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States.

Additional facts about suicide in the United States

The age-adjusted suicide rate

– Elwood Pipestem-Ott

in 2022 was 14.21 per 100,000 individuals.

- In 2022, men died by suicide 3.85 times more than women.
- White males accounted for 68.46% of suicide deaths in 2022.
- In 2022, firearms accounted for 54.64% of all suicide deaths.
- 94% of adults surveyed in the U.S. think suicide can be prevented.

Although the overall suicide rate in the U.S. has increased in recent years, specific communities and identities experience disproportionate risks. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native youth ages 8 to 24, and American Indian and Alaska Native youth aged 10-24 have the highest rate of suicide of all demo-

graphic groups.

"Our main purpose for the Out of the Darkness Walk is to break the silence and the stigma of suicide," Echota Behavioral Health's Arlow Jumper said. "What we are trying to accomplish at Echota Behavioral Health is to present an opportunity for the community to connect, for some to heal and ultimately to create hope. And furthermore, to let people know that whatever our connection is in this cause that we are here to help fight the battle nobody can see. That you are not alone."

These stats were major reasons why the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma were one of the sponsors of the walk.

*If you or someone you know is dealing with suicidal thoughts, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 or text "Hopeline" to the National Crisis Text Line at 741-741. Contact 988 plus 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line.*



Echota Behavioral Health hosted the annual Out of Darkness Walk at Norris Park in Tahlequah on September 14.



Elwood Pipestem-Ott of Native Connections shares his personal experience of losing a loved one to suicide with attendees.

# Kuwohi Name Restored as BGN Approves Application

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

KUWOHI – The name of the third-highest summit east of the Mississippi River has been restored to its original name. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) approved an application on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024 that restores the name of Clingman’s Dome, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), to its original Cherokee name, Kuwohi (mulberry place).

Lavita Hill and Mary “Missy” Crowe, both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), started this effort in 2022 and received widespread support for the initiative.

On Wednesday, Crowe told the One Feather, “Thank you Creator God for the many blessings we received during this journey to restore Kuwohi. Thank God for my sister, Lavita Hill, and her husband, Chris Siewers, who went above and beyond in this effort to restore Kuwohi! There are so many to thank who have support-



Mary “Missy” Crowe and Lavita Hill, both members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), who started the effort in 2022 to restore the name of Kuwohi, are shown at the mountain on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

ed us along this journey, but especially want to say thank you to the Thomas Lanier Clingman family and Tim Clingman for supporting Lavita and I in our efforts.”

Hill told the paper, “My mind is all over the place right now. I am still in a little bit of shock. But I feel like this is an incredible

victory for our people. What started as a fun idea transpired into reclaiming our native language on a significant mountain within the park. Before my first visit to Kuwohi to meet with a reporter I was nervous, but my sister said our ancestors are with you. And that gave me the motivation and

determination to do the work. Many thanks to our Creator God, for this blessing to our people! EBCI, this is for each of you. I now know more Cherokee history than before this journey began and I want to thank our ancestors for their ingenuity and commitment to preserving our culture and keeping us here in the mountains.

Thank you, Missy Crowe, for all that you do and the way you honor our people and the Earth. You are a light! Thank you to the Clingman family for their support. Thanks to everyone for your words of inspiration when they were needed. And mostly, thanks for my husband, Chris Siewers, for believing in me enough to encourage, sometimes push, me to do the work, and more importantly, for working alongside me throughout each step of this journey. Lastly, this is for Aura, Aia, and Raven – thank you to my kids for believing in me and giving me a reason to go do the challenging things. Sgi to the U.S. BGN! GvGeYu EBCI.”

See KUWOHI, Page 6



**UKB 74th Celebration MOTORCYCLE SHOW**

All makes, models, foreign, domestic, and year.

Trophies for “Best Street” and “Best of Show”.

Plenty of Free Parking!!

Venue At :  
UKB Celebration Grounds  
18300 W Keetoowah Circle  
Tahlequah, OK 74464  
Date & Time :  
October 5th, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.  
For More Information  
Call (918) 797-0730  
Elaina Belmonte  
Registration Fee \$10



**UKB CELEBRATION Children's Activities**

- cultural activities and crafts
- bounce houses
- treats & snacks & lemonade
- carnival games
- dance floor/karaoke
- face painting
- hair braiding
- pony rides, petting zoo, barrel train rides

saturday, oct 5, 2024  
10 am to 4 pm

18771 w keetoowah circle  
tahlequah, ok 74464  
ukb office of childcare

**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.

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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 inquiries to:

Giduwa Cherokee News  
P.O. Box 746,  
OK 74465.  
MANAGING EDITOR REPORTER  
Troy Littledeer  
SENIOR REPORTER - Lani Hansen

The Giduwa Cherokee News is the only official publication of the United Keetoowah Band. It operates a Giduwa Cherokee News Facebook page, as well as the tribe's YouTube and Instagram accounts. 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.

12858.030

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF OKLAHOMA

THE UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA, A FEDERAL CORPORATION ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE OKLAHOMA INDIAN WELFARE ACT OF JUNE 26, 1936 (49 STAT. 1967) a/k/a UKB FEDERAL CORPORATION

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSEPH POTTS, an individual, and JOHN COLLINS, an individual,

Defendants.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF OKLAHOMA TO:  
JOHN COLLINS, ANY UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plaintiff, The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, a federal corporation established under Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967) a/k/a UKB Federal Corporation (“Plaintiff”), has filed a lawsuit against you alleging causes of action for breach of contract and declaratory judgment. Plaintiff is seeking monetary damages against you in the amount of \$316,846.00, plus prejudgment and post-judgment interest, costs and attorneys’ fees, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

You must answer the Petition on or before the 18 day of October, 2024 or said Petition will be taken as true and judgment shall be rendered accordingly against you as set forth above.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

Wanda S. Maguire  
Court Clerk, United Keetoowah Band of Oklahoma

Prepared By:  
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# Tradition Keepers Showcased at Keetoowah Celebration

By Marilyn Craig, Museum Marketing Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – Keetoowah families, clans, tribal members, employees, and community members will come together as “Guardians of the Culture” on October 5, 2024, for the 74th Annual Keetoowah Celebration.

The John Hair Cultural Center and Museum will be open and providing an arrowhead hunt. Keetoowah celebrations shirts, caps and many handmade leather and beaded items will be available for purchase at the Keetoowah museum gift shop. There is a big selection of ribbon skirts of all sizes, as well as walking sticks, canes, stickball sticks and balls, and flutes made from five different kinds of wood.

The Keetoowah Tradition Keepers will be doing demonstrations and assisting with free make and take crafts from 10 am to 2 pm at the shed located near the pavilion. Make and Take crafts by the TKs will include cornhusk dolls, beadwork, and painting. There will also be coloring sheets in the language, a language ring toss game (rubbers), marbles demonstration, and a traditional lifeways presentation at the ceremonial grounds.

Playing the leading role as Guardians of the Culture are the UKB Tradition Keepers. This group is made up of a diverse and talented group of artisans, speakers, and leaders. Beginning in 2005, the John Hair Cultural Center and Museum has awarded the prestigious title of tradition keeper to outstanding Keetoowah members whose talent ranges from soapstone carvers to basket weavers, traditional dressmakers, painters, leather workers and beaders. There is no shortage of cultural and creative talent for the Keetoowah. Many tribal members are preserving the culture, making their art into something that can be shared and passed down to future generations.

UKB Tradition Keepers are chosen from among a group of outstanding artists, artisans, linguists, historians, and other traditional culture keepers. The tradition keepers not only practice their arts and crafts, but also share their knowledge through teaching others.

Below is a full list of tribal members who

## KEETOOWAH



### GUARDIANS OF THE CULTURE

*Keetoowah – Guardians of the Culture, drawn by 2024 Tradition Keeper Roger Loftis, is available on prints and t-shirts in the Keetoowah Museum gift shop.*

have been awarded this honor:

- 2005 - Cindy Hair, Basket Maker
- 2006 -Marie Proctor, Basket Maker
- 2006 - Danny McCarter, Blowgun Making
- 2007 - Nellie Hunt, Public Service
- 2007 - Mack Vann, Bow Maker
- 2008 - Russell VanBuskirk, Wood/Antler Carving
- 2010 - Sammy Still, Traditional Marble Maker
- 2011 - Leona Bendabout, Clothing Maker
- 2011 - Albert Shade, Bow Maker
- 2012 - Joan Foreman, Beadwork
- 2012 - Jim Buckhorn, Bow Maker
- 2013 - Dorothy Ice, Weaver
- 2013 - Issac Goodrich, Traditional Art
- 2014 - Elizabeth Wolfe, Beadwork
- 2014 - Sequoyah Guess, Storytelling
- 2015 - Della Wolfe, Cherokee Language
- 2015- Kenneth Foster, Foods/Traditional Arts
- 2016 - Matt Girty, Stone Carving
- 2016 - Ernestine Berry, History

- 2017 - Carrie Grayson, Crafts
- 2017 - Sharon Proctor, Basket Maker
- 2018 - Clara Proctor, Cherokee Language
- 2018 - Richard Shade, Bow Maker
- 2019 - Lila Killer, Traditional Apparel/Design
- 2019 - Marcella Foreman, Beadwork/Basketry
- 2020 - Janelle Adair, Storytelling
- 2020- Ronny Livers - Cherokee Language
- 2021 - Tanisa Foreman, Baskets/Beadwork
- 2021 - Sharon Benoit, Clothing
- 2022 - Char Wolfe, Traditional Arts
- 2022- Michelle Downing, Turtle Shackles/Rattles
- 2023- John Chewey, Cherokee Language
- 2023- Lena Deere, Traditional Apparel
- 2024-Betty Holcomb, Domestic Arts
- 2024- Roger Loftis-Painting

This year’s Tradition Keepers include Betty Holcomb, Tahlequah District for Domestic Arts. Betty is a quiltmaker and she loves to can and cook. Holcomb has taught the museum’s canning series for the past two years. She also teaches quilting classes. She is a seasoned cook who always has a booth at the Keetoowah Celebration to sell her pies and cakes. Betty is the matriarch of a large family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and she provides jellies and jams for her family year-round. She has cooked many things, but she is hired by the museum frequently to cook traditional meals of hog meat, beans, potatoes, frybread, and grape dumplings.

John Loftis, Delaware District, will be honored for his skill in painting. His work features paintings of Keetoowah lifeways - women making Kanuchi and cornmeal, men teaching their sons to shoot a bow and arrow and hunting skills.

Loftis has been painting all his life and he was mostly self-taught, being inspired by an art teacher. Prints of five of Loftis’ paintings are available for purchase in the Keetoowah museum gift shop. For more information, call 918-871-2866.

UKB 74th Celebration

# CAR SHOW

★ Celebration Grounds ★

**\$25**  
Registration fee

● CHIEF'S CHOICE ● PRINCESS' CHOICE ● BEST OF SHOW

Original Cars and Trucks 1900-1959 1960-1973 1974-1999 2000-Present	Modified Cars and Trucks 1900-1959 1960-1973 1974-1999 2000-Present
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Best Rez Car (Must be able to drive onto and off lot)

Registration Opens 8 a.m. - Noon  
Awards Start at 3p.m.

For More Information  
Call Elaina Belmonte  
(918) 797-0730

18300 W Keetoowah Circle, Tahlequah, OK 74464

74th Annual Keetoowah Celebration

## Guardians of the Culture

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### TRADITION KEEPERS EXHIBIT

#### FEATURING

John Chewey	Lena Deere	Marcella Foreman
Tanisa Foreman	Carrie Grayson	Cindy Hair
Ronnie Livers	Sammy Still	Charlotte Wolfe

Play old time games, win prizes, make & take cornhusk dolls, bead a bracelet, or create a painting on a mini canvas. Free crayons and coloring sheets for saying a color in the Cherokee language. Complete an arts & culture survey and receive a Celebration souvenir. Visit the Stomp Grounds for ceremonial presentations and listen to stories told by Tradition Keeper Janelle Adair as emcee on the main stage.

October 5, 2024 Tahlequah, Oklahoma

All activities are free and sponsored by the following:

# KUWOHI



## Kuwohi (mulberry place)

Following the announcement on Wednesday, GSMNP Superintendent Cassius Cash said in a statement, “The Great Smoky National Park team was proud to support this effort to officially restore the mountain and to recognize its importance to the Cherokee People. The Cherokee People have had strong connections to Kuwohi and the surrounding area, long before the land became a national park. The National Park Service looks forward to continuing to work with the Cherokee People to share their story and preserve this landscape together.”

GSMNP officials noted that more than 650,000 people visit Kuwohi annually. Information from the park states, “Clingmans Dome has always been known as Kuwohi to the Cherokee People. The mountain became known as

Clingmans Dome following an 1859 survey by geographer Arnold Guyot, named for Thomas Lanier Clingman who was a lawyer, U.S. Representative and Senator from North Carolina, and Confederate Brigadier General.”

The Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) of the EBCI passed Res. No. 72 (2024) unanimously during its regular session on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024 that approved the submittal of an application on behalf of the Tribe to restore the name.

The application to BGN was filed by Hill and Crowe on behalf of Ugywiyuhi (Principal Chief) Michell Hicks and Dinilawigi on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.

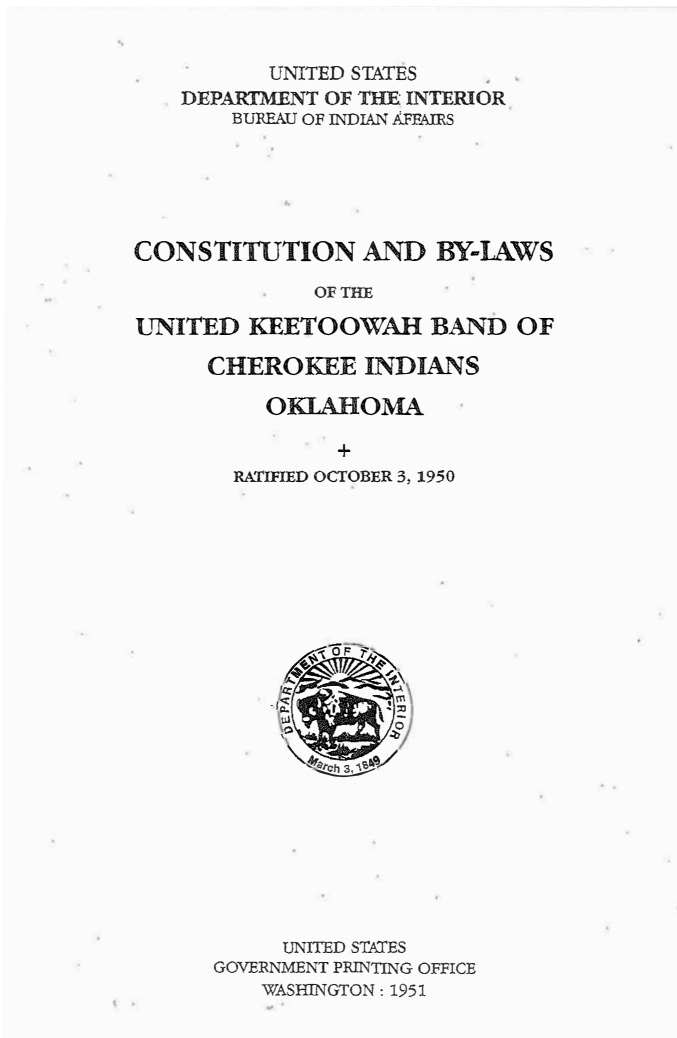
Res. No. 72 speaks to the support for the name restoration regionally stating, “...community support for the restoration of the Kuwohi name has been overwhelming, including formal support from multiple local governments, including the counties of: Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Graham, Clay, and Cherokee, and the towns of Asheville, Andrews, Murphy, Hayesville, Fontana Dam, Lake Santeetlah, Robbinsville, Canton, Clyde, Maggie Valley, Waynesville, Dillsboro, Sylva, Webster, the Village of Forrest Hills, Franklin, Highlands, and Bryson City in western North Carolina, and the counties of Knox and Cambel in eastern Tennessee.”

In 2023, Hill and Crowe were recognized for their efforts by the Tennessee General

Assembly with the passage of Bill H.J. 452. That legislation, submitted by State Rep. Justin Jones (D-District 52), stated, “Ms. Crowe and Ms. Hill are testaments to the power of dedication and determination, and their laudable mission deserves to be acknowledged; now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate concurring, that we honor and commend Mary Crowe and Lavita Hill on their efforts to restore the traditional Cherokee name of ‘Kuwohi’ to Clingman’s Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.”

That legislation passed 92-0 in the Tennessee House of Representatives on March 20, 2023, and it passed 31-0 in the Tennessee Senate on March 30, 2023. Gov. Lee signed it on April 11, 2023.

Dinilawigi passed legislation on July 14, 2022 which officially lent support from the EBCI for the name restoration effort. That legislation, submitted by Crowe and Hill, describes the area, “Kuwohi or ‘mulberry place’, is the highest point in our area and has significance to us as Cherokee as it was visited by medicine people who prayed and sought guidance from the Creator regarding important matters facing our people, and then returned to our towns to give guidance and advice.”



2

Article IV—Membership of Band

**Section 1.** The membership of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma shall consist of:

All persons whose names appear on the list of members identified by a resolution dated April 19, 1949, and certified by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes Agency on November 16, 1949; Provided, that within five (5) years after the approval of this Constitution and Bylaws, such roll may be corrected by the Council of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

**Sec. 2.** The governing body of the Band shall have power to prescribe rules and regulations governing future membership.

Article V—Governing Body

**Section 1.** The supreme governing body of the Band shall be the Council of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

**Sec. 2.** The Council shall consist of nine (9) members, male or female, twenty-one (21) years of age or over, elected to represent the nine (9) districts of the Old Cherokee Nation, and four (4) officers, elected at large, as provided in Article VI.

**Sec. 3.** The term of office of members of the Council, other than the officers of the Band, shall be for a period of two years, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

**Sec. 4.** No councilman shall be eligible to hold any other elective office in the Band during his tenure as a member of the Council.

**Sec. 5.** The Council shall have power to appoint subordinate personnel, committees and representatives, to transact business, and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Band in all matters on which the Band is empowered to act now or may be empowered to act upon in the future. The Council shall also have the power to delegate such powers to individuals or subordinate groups consistent with law, and under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Council.

Article VI—Officers

The officers of the Band shall be a chief, assistant chief, a secretary and a treasurer. The officers shall serve for a period of four (4) years, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The officers shall be elected at large by the eligible voters of the Band and the Council shall provide by resolution for a method of selecting candidates for the aforesaid offices.

3

Article VII—Elections

**Section 1.** The first regular election of officers and members of the Council shall be held on the first Monday in the month following the approval of this Constitution, and regular elections shall be held thereafter on the first Monday of the same month, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Council.

**Sec. 2.** All members of the Band, twenty-one (21) years of age and over, shall be eligible to vote in any election, provided that in elections for representation on the Council only qualified electors, residing in, or affiliated with, the district to be represented shall be eligible to vote for the member to represent such district.

**Sec. 3.** Any member of the Band, 21 years of age or over, living outside of the territory known as the Old Cherokee Nation, in Oklahoma, shall have the right to vote in any district with which he may choose to affiliate by notifying the Council in writing of his choice, but no voter shall be permitted to vote in more than one district.

**Sec. 4.** The Council shall have the power to call and conduct special elections whenever necessary.

Article VIII—Vacancies

In the case of death, removal from office, or other disability amounting to incapacity, vacancies in any elective office may be filled by the Council for the unexpired term at any special or regular meeting.

Article IX—Impeachment

The Council shall prescribe rules and regulations for the investigation of complaints of misconduct in office and for removal of any member of the Council or of any officer, provided that the accused shall be given a hearing and that a two-thirds vote of the Council shall be necessary to remove any person from office.

Article X—Provisional Organization

The present constitutional committee, consisting of Daniel Hummingbird, Chairman, Ben Birdchopper, Jim Pickup, J.B. Sixkiller, Jack Wolfe and John Ketcher, shall have the power to appoint officers and members of a council, known as the Provisional Council, who shall serve until the first election provided for in Article VII, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. This Provisional Council shall have power to prescribe regulations for the conduct of the first election provided for in Article VII.

## UKB 74TH CELEBRATION

# VOLLEYBALL

## TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 5TH, 2024

STARTS AT 10:00 A.M.

## UKB CELEBRATION

### GROUNDS

Registration forms and rules are available online [ukb-nsn.gov/celebration2024](http://ukb-nsn.gov/celebration2024)

**1st and 2nd Place T-Shirts**

1st Place Wins Half of the Pot

\$65

Per Team

For more information call

Sabrina Washington (918) 316-8717

Keith Washington (918) 525-8265

UKB 74TH Annual Celebration

# CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

BRING YOUR OWN TEAM!

## 100% PAYOUT

1st-3rd PLACE

## DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

Feel free to bring your own chairs and canopy!

Questions? Call Archie Vance (918) 871-1562

Article XI—Bill of Rights

**Section 1.** All members of the Band shall enjoy without hindrance freedom of worship, conscience, speech, press, assembly and association.

**Sec. 2.** This Constitution shall not in any way be construed to impair, abridge or otherwise jeopardize the rights and privileges of the members of this Band as citizens of the State of Oklahoma or of the United States.

**Sec. 3.** The individual vested property rights of any member of the Band shall not be impaired, abridged or otherwise affected by the provisions of this Constitution and By-laws without the consent of such individual member.

Article XII—Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution and attached By-laws may be proposed by a majority vote of the Council or by a petition of thirty (30) percent of the eligible voters of the Band filed with the Secretary of the Interior. Such amendments, if approved by the Secretary, shall be submitted by him to a referendum vote of the eligible voters of the Band, and shall be effective if approved by a majority vote in an election in which at least thirty (30) percent of the eligible voters cast their ballots.

BY-LAWS OF THE KEETOOWAH BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA

Article I—Duties of Officers

**Section 1. Chief.**—The chief shall preside at all meetings of the Council and of the membership. He shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council and shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of chairman. He shall have a right to vote at Council meetings only in the case of a tie.

**Sec. 2. Assistant Chief.**—In the absence of the chief, the assistant chief shall perform the duties of that office. In case of vacancy, the assistant chief shall succeed at once to the office of the chief until such office may be regularly filled.

**Sec. 3. Secretary.**—The secretary shall perform his duties in pursuance to instructions of the Council. He shall keep an accurate account of all proceedings and official records of the Council and membership meetings. He shall be responsible for the prompt and efficient handling of all correspondence pertaining to the business of the Council. All official records of the secretary shall be open to inspection by the members of the Council, in the presence of the

**Sec. 3.** All meetings of the Council shall be held at the headquarters of the organization, or at any other place within the Old Cherokee Nation as may be designated from time to time by the Council.

**Sec. 4.** Band membership meetings may be called by the chief at his discretion, and shall be called by him upon the written request of seven (7) members of the Council, for the purpose of receiving reports and transacting any other business that may be referred to it by the Council, provided that at least ten (10) days' notice as to the time and place of the meeting and the purpose for which it is called is given to the membership of the Band.

**Sec. 5.** All meetings of the Council and of the Band shall be conducted under rules of procedure prescribed by the Council.

Article IV—Quorum

Seven (7) members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any meeting.

Article V—Adoption

This Constitution and By-laws upon approval by the Secretary of the Interior shall be effective when ratified by a majority of the eligible voters of the Band, voting in an election called by the Secretary of the Interior under rules and regulations prescribed by him pursuant to Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), provided that at least thirty (30) percent of the eligible voters cast their ballots in such election.

I, William E. Warne, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted me by the Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), do hereby approve the attached Constitution and Bylaws of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

All officers and employees of the Interior Department are ordered to abide by the provisions of the said Constitution and By-laws.

Approval recommended: May 8, 1950.

D.S. Myer,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

William E. Warne,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Washington, D.C., May 8, 1950.

secretary. He shall keep a correct list of all members of the Council and of the Band membership, shall authenticate all accounts or orders of the Council and, in the absence of the chief and assistant chief shall call meetings to order until a chairman pro tem is elected. He shall render a written report at the annual council meeting and, at the expiration of his term of office, the records and all papers in his possession shall be delivered to his successor.

**Sec. 4. Treasurer.**—The treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds in possession of the Council from any source. He shall keep an accurate record of all such funds and shall disburse the same in accordance with the vote of the Council. He shall render a written report at the annual Council meeting and at such times that he is requested to do so by the Council. He shall keep all Band moneys entrusted to his care in a special account. At any time that such account shall amount to more than Fifty dollars (\$50.00), he shall file a bond satisfactory to the Council. The premium for such bond shall be paid for by the Band. At the expiration of his term of office, the records and all papers and funds in his possession shall be duly accounted for and delivered to his successor.

Article II—Qualifications of Officers and Council Members

**Section 1.** Any person elected or appointed to the offices of chief and assistant chief shall be not less than thirty-five years of age, a resident of the Old Cherokee Nation and a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

**Sec. 2.** Any person elected or appointed to the offices of secretary and treasurer shall be not less than twenty-one years of age, a resident of the Old Cherokee Nation and a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

**Sec. 3.** Any person elected or appointed to membership on the Council shall be not less than twenty-one years of age, a resident of the district he represents and a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

**Sec. 4.** Any person holding an elective office who removes from the territory or territories prescribed in this article shall automatically forfeit the office.

Article III—Meetings

**Section 1.** Regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the first Monday in September of each year unless otherwise provided by resolution of the Council.

**Sec. 2.** Special meetings of the Council may be called by the chief at his discretion and shall be called by him upon the written request of seven (7) members of the Council.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to an order approved May 8, 1950, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, the attached Constitution and By-laws was submitted for ratification to the members of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and was on October 3, 1950, duly ratified by a vote of 1,414 for, and 1 against, in an election in which at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, pursuant to Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), and pursuant to the Act of August 10, 1946 (60 Stat. 976).

Jim Pickup,

Chief, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Oklahoma.

White Runabout,

Secretary, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Oklahoma.

W. O. ROBERTS,

Area Director, Muskogee Area Office.

○

74th Annual Keetoowah Celebration

Guardians of the Culture

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October 5,  
2024  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Phone Number:  
918-871-2800

UKB 74th Annual Celebration

**KIDS FISHING DERBY**

**OCTOBER 5  
8 AM-10 AM**

**DOOR PRIZES**

Free fishing poles to the first 50 kids, 5-17 years old!

**CELEBRATION GROUNDS  
FRONT POND**

18300 W Keetoowah Circle  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

For more information, call Rich Vann  
918-871-2840




# 74TH UKB CELEBRATION

## PRE-CELEBRATION

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
OCTOBER 3-4, 2024  
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
CHEROKEE SPRINGS GOLF CLUB

**DIGNITARY DINNER**  
OCTOBER 4, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
BY INVITATION ONLY

**CHILI SUPPER**  
OCTOBER 4, 2024  
7 P.M.  
STOMP GROUNDS

**STOMP DANCE**  
OCTOBER 4, 2024  
9 P.M.  
STOMP GROUNDS

## SATURDAY, OCT 5

### CELEBRATION GROUNDS

8:00 A.M.  
**CAR SHOW**  
**KIDS FISHING DERBY**

9:00 A.M.  
**STICKBALL TOURNAMENT**

10:00 A.M.  
**ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**  
**HORSESHOE PITCH**  
**RECREATIONAL STICKBALL GAME**  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
**CHUNKY**  
**CORNSTALK SHOOT**

11:10 A.M.  
**CHIEF'S ADDRESS**

11:25 A.M.  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF ADDRESS**

12:00 P.M.  
**TRADITIONAL MEAL**

2:00 P.M.  
**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**

2:30-4:30 P.M.  
**BINGO**

## FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL  
[MDOWNING@UKB-NSN.GOV](mailto:MDOWNING@UKB-NSN.GOV)

### *UKB Tribal Enrollment*

18300 W. Keetoowah Circle Tahlequah, OK 74464 Open Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As with other federally recognized tribes, the United Keetoowah Band has its unique process to determine membership. Visit [ukb-nsn.gov/membership](http://ukb-nsn.gov/membership) for Enrollment documents and a brief FAQ section of the most common questions about UKB membership. Find forms for Membership Applications, CDIB Instructions, Update Your Information and UKB Relinquishment.

For additional questions, or if you are a member who has lost your enrollment card, call the UKB Enrollment Office Registrar Amanda Stopp at 918-871-2797. Questions concerning history, cultural practices, clothing, language or ceremonies are better suited for our John Hair Cultural Center and Museum. Visit [ukb-nsn.gov/john-hair-cultural-center-museum](http://ukb-nsn.gov/john-hair-cultural-center-museum) or call 918-871-2866.