

MOUNTAINS

WORD FROM THE SMOKIES

Wildlife biologist for Eastern Band of Cherokee shares indigenous knowledge



Frances Figart
Columnist
Citizen Times

The supervisory fisheries and wildlife biologist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is Caleb Hickman. But Hickman is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, one of two other federally recognized Cherokee tribes.

"We share a common ancestry here in the mountains," Hickman said. "Ironically, I now live in the county named after the man that instituted the forced removal of my ancestors and the ethnic cleansing of many tribes by initiating the Indian Removal Act. That's Andrew Jackson. So, in a way, I've come full circle on their behalf."

Despite that unfortunate history, Hickman says he feels at home here in the Great Smoky Mountains, where he coordinates management and research projects for the protection of tribal resources that include game and non-game fish and wildlife species. He helps to choose priority species and their habitats to manage based on cultural, economic, and federal protective needs.

"We don't have a large crew of biologists like Great Smoky Mountains National Park," he said, "but we do have a lot of federal processes and we live in a biodiversity-rich place."

Hickman and his crew focus on myriad aspects of biology and work with a variety of species, including the Smokies' iconic black bears. In collaboration with the local hunting community, Hickman is currently deploying a 'bear hair snare' and camera-trapping project.

"This project requires us to evaluate pictures and collect DNA from hair off of a barbed wire in a baited area to determine more information about the population and its interactions with people," he said. "We have received data from hunters for a variety of species. With their help we are able to figure out a lot of demographic information and distributions."

When it comes to managing large wildlife, elk top this list. Some of the largest groups of reintroduced elk live in and along the Qualla Boundary, often crossing roads and creating a potential safety hazard. Elk-human interactions typically rise during the holidays when tourism traffic picks up.

"We hope to find coexistence with elk



Caleb Hickman holds a black rat snake captured and measured for census work. Image courtesy of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. ASHEVILLE

and people so that both are safe and can be productive," Hickman says. "People need to be able to view elk safely and get to work on time, while the elk need to find places to rest, eat, and find mates."

Just as they value bear and elk, the Cherokee place great cultural significance on water. Walking into the pure water of a Smoky Mountain spring or stream can be considered a cleansing. In his fisheries work Hickman is helping lead efforts to restore native species that have declined or may have even been wiped out in certain areas. He recently published a paper on the curious fate of the EBCI's stocked fish.

"We found that almost all of the trout we stocked do not just decompose but are rather eaten," he said. "We believe they are eaten by otters but right now we want to confirm this. The answer can lead to other important questions associated with otter densities and impacts to other species as well as a subject called 'nutrient subsidies' that nobody is really assessing."

Recently Hickman's work has been

See FIGART, Page 4A



Caleb Hickman releases the federally endangered Carolina northern flying squirrel as part of a nest box survey. IMAGE COURTESY OF EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

Police: Suspect found in Colorado after Asheville shooting

Joel Burgess

Asheville Citizen Times

USA TODAY NETWORK

An Asheville man who police say climbed into a drive-thru window to attack a worker, shot a man multiple times and fled from a police traffic stop has been apprehended in Colorado.

U.S. Marshals have arrested Ron Markece Logan, 28, charging him with multiple assaults and other crimes, according to a Dec. 3 release from the Asheville Police Department. Logan had been described as armed and dangerous, with police saying anyone encountering him should use extreme caution.

The charges Logan is facing are:

- Attempted first degree murder.
- Assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill and inflicting serious injury.
- Assault with a deadly weapon on a government official.
- Speeding to elude arrest.
- Simple assault.
- Injury to real property.
- Felony probation violation.
- Assault by pointing a gun.

On the night of Nov. 6, police say Logan partially climbed into the drive-thru window of a McDonald's at 950 Patton Ave. and brandished a gun at an em-

ployee. The worker stabbed Logan in the chest with a pocket knife, resulting in a non-life threatening injury. Officers said the employee acted in self defense.

Later, in the early morning of Nov. 11, police say Logan shot a 31-year-old man "numerous times" on Granada Street in the West Asheville neighborhood of Pisgah View. Officers provided medical care for the victim who was in critical condition that day. On Dec. 3 APD spokeswoman Christina Hallingse said the man survived and is recovering from the gunshot wounds.

Nine days later on Nov. 20, police say they attempted to stop and arrest Logan

on Haywood Road in West Asheville, but he fled from the traffic stop in "an extremely erratic and reckless manner."

At one point, he used his car against officers, resulting in the charge of assault with a deadly weapon on a government official, Hallingse said.

Joel Burgess has lived in WNC for more than 20 years, covering politics, government and other news. He's written award-winning stories on topics ranging from gerrymandering to police use of force. Please help support this type of journalism with a subscription to the Citizen Times.

Citizen Times

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Customer service

To view important information online related to your subscription, visit aboutyoursubscription.citizen-times.com. You can also manage your subscription at account.citizen-times.com. Contact the Citizen Times for questions or to report issues via email at citizen-times@gannett.com or 1-800-672-2472.

Operating hours are:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. for technical support only

Sunday & holidays: 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Full access subscriptions

Subscribe and save today by visiting citizen-times.com/subscribe. Subscriptions below are billed per month and include access to citizen-times.com, tablet and smartphone apps, and the e-Edition, a digital replica of the print edition.

■ Delivery of the Monday through Sunday print editions: \$68.00*

■ Delivery of the Friday through Sunday print editions: \$39.00*

■ Delivery of the Sunday and Wednesday print editions: \$32.00*

■ Delivery of the Sunday print editions: \$25.00*

*Plus applicable taxes

Corrections and clarifications

Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Email us at accuracy@ashevill.gannett.com to report a mistake or call 828-232-5829. Describe the error, where you saw it, the date, page number, or the URL.

Contact us

Customer Service 1-800-672-2472
News Director Jewell Walston | 828-232-5829
Advertising 828-252-5611

Obituaries 828-232-5966

Postal information

Citizen Times, USPS #236-000, ISSN #0336-0000, is published Monday through Sunday at 14 O. Henry Ave., Asheville, NC 28802. Periodicals postage paid at Asheville, NC 28802.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 62670, San Angelo, TX 76906.

COVID

Continued from Page 1A

N.C. Nurses Association. "I think the bed capacity situation is getting tight-er."

Taylor added that a lack of hospital staffing, not just beds and ventilators, has him concerned.

"Hospitals may have the capacity to take on more folks, they just don't have the staff to be able to take care of the patients," he said.

When vaccines arrive

The state estimates it will receive around 85,000 Pfizer vaccine doses in its initial shipment later this month. These doses, health officials said, will go to hospitals which will then distribute them to staff who face the highest potential exposure to COVID-19. These specific vaccines need to be kept at Arctic-level cold temperatures and NCDHHS reports they will be delivered in adequately cold packaging along with multiple days of dry ice.

By January, Cohen said she hopes non-health care workers with multiple chronic conditions will have access to the vaccine. However, most people will most likely have to wait months to be vaccinated.

Cohen took time at a Dec. 3 briefing to highlight the safety of incoming vaccines.

She mentioned that more than 70,000 people participated in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine trials - including many individuals from historically marginalized populations.

Approving vaccines, she said, is the responsibility of career scientists, not political appointees, at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Cohen also added that the vaccines do not contain any COVID-19 virus but instead merely trick the body into thinking it has the



Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, adjusts her face covering after a press briefing on the COVID-19 virus at the Emergency Operations Center on June 8 in Raleigh, N.C. ROBERT WILLETT/AP

virus so antibodies are created to ward off the virus in the future.

"Although vaccines were developed quickly over the course of this year, corners were not cut," she said.

So far, North Carolina has enrolled more than 300 vaccine providers, including every county health department and almost every hospital according to State Health Director Elizabeth Tilson. Tilson told the USA Today Network the state hopes to enroll thousands more, including rural health centers and free clinics.

Brian Gordon is a statewide reporter with the USA Today Network in North Carolina. Reach him at bgordon@gannett.com or on Twitter @briansa-muel92.

him."

"I think the change is actually going to come from out of the community rather than looking at APD to do it. I think it should be starting here."

"What I hope comes out of this is that people have a change of heart."

"There's been an uptick in violence. Even kids being at home because of virtual learning. There is less to do, or

they're not showing up at all."

STATE BRIEFS

North Carolina school custodian accused of peeping by camera

TAYLORSVILLE — A North Carolina school custodian has been accused of peeping by placing a camera in a staff bathroom, a sheriff's office said.

The Alexander County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that deputies were called to Wittenburg Elementary School on Tuesday after a camera was found under a sink in the staff bathroom and was discovered on the floor by a staff member. The sheriff's office said the school where the camera was found and another school where Chil-ders was said to have worked were searched and no other cameras were found.

Michael Justin Childers, 32, of Tay-lorsville was charged with one felony count of peeping, according to the news release.

Fork named next chief of staff for N.C. Senate leader Berger

RALEIGH — North Carolina Senate leader Phil Berger's next chief of staff will be his top legal adviser for the past two years.

The Republican announced on Friday that Brian Fork will succeed Andrew Tripp, who is leaving to become general counsel for the University of North Carolina System.

Fork went to Davidson College and the UNC School of Law. He was in private practice before joining Berger's team in 2018.

The succession is similar to what's happened in the House, where Speaker Tim Moore announced last month his chief of staff's departure for a post within the university system. Bart Goodson was replaced by Neal Inman, who was Moore's general counsel.

Associated Press

Figart

Continued from Page 2A

much sought after by the media. Last year he was featured on a PBS series about road ecology, and this fall a crew from National Geographic filmed him for a show coming out in 2021. There have been several stories in the EBCI newspaper, The Cherokee Phoenix, and in the newsletter Cherokee One Feath-er. One research project was mentioned in the October issue of Garden & Gun. Most recently American Rivers quoted him saying:

"Historically, biologists manage systems as something we can control, en-forcing our will based on needs. But the native perspective is that we're part of

the system. We don't need to command change. You don't manage the system the same way if you see that you're a part of it."

Hickman says at times it's difficult to balance the needs of people and the needs of organisms. "But the people are Cherokee, and I care a great deal for the Cherokee culture and their economic independence," he said. "I also value the cultural ties to the ecosystem, and I want others to value it too."

Frances Figart is the editor of Smokies Life magazine and the Creative Services Director for the 34,000-member Great Smoky Mountains Association, an educational nonprofit partner of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Learn more at smokiesinformation.org and reach the author at frances@gsmassoc.org.

Shooting

Continued from Page 1A

mentor to Mcalpin worked with him at Asheville Middle a few years ago and said the two had stayed close.

"We stayed really close. Ever since he left middle school, I stayed really close to

him."

"I think the change is actually going to come from out of the community rather than looking at APD to do it. I think it should be starting here."

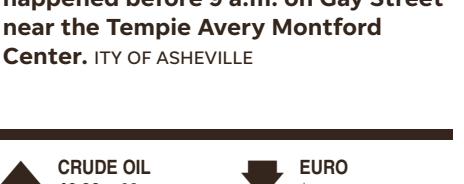
"What I hope comes out of this is that people have a change of heart."

"There's been an uptick in violence. Even kids being at home because of virtual learning. There is less to do, or

they're not showing up at all."

This developing story will be updated.

Joel Burgess has lived in WNC for more than 20 years, covering politics, government and other news. He's written award-winning stories on topics ranging from gerrymandering to police use of force. Please help support this type of journalism with a subscription to the Citizen Times.


A Nov. 30 shooting of a 17-year-old happened before 9 a.m. on Gay Street near the Temple Avery Montford Center. ITY OF ASHEVILLE

Stock listings

Continued from Page 1A

mentor to Mcalpin worked with him at Asheville Middle a few years ago and said the two had stayed close.

"We stayed really close. Ever since he left middle school, I stayed really close to

Local interest

Closing prices for Friday, December 4, 2020

DOW	30,218.26 +248.74	NYSE	14,417.33 +200.14	NASDAQ	12,464.23 +87.05	S&P 500	3,699.12 +32.40	WILSHIRE 5000	38,703.00 +397.49	GOLD	1835.90 -.90	CRUDE OIL	46.26 +.62	EURO	\$1.2137 -.0006				
- A -																			
ABB Ltd	.78	2709 +.18	BBilVarq	.276	5.21 +.33	CorbusPhm	.142 +.09			EthanAl	.84	15	1707	19.09 +.28	NorflkSo	3.76	25	8754	240.19 +3.04
ACI	.14	8.45 +.12	BcoBrad	.068	5.09 +.05	CnstrnStr	.340 +11.49 +.10			FCtIBa	1.88f	30	542	6035.55 +30.17	RoyalBk g	3.92e		6663	82.30 +.09
AES Corp	.57	2107 +.09	BcoSanSa	.21e	3.40 +.19	Corning	.88 +37.95 +.83			GenElec	.04		1344589	10.88 +.28	SPX Cp	57		2555	+5.57 +.01
AFLAC	1.22	4629 +.60	BdNMyM	.124	40.65 +.53	Corsair n	.52 +38.65 +.44			HomeDp	6.00	27	72917	263.99 +.45	SimonProp	8.40	13	52209	93.91 +.428
AGNC Inv	14.44	15.54 +.13	Bardley	.15	8.05 +.15	Corteza	.52 +38.65 +.44			HomeTrBc	.32f	7	454	18.96 +.72	Tegna	.28	9	11799	14.74 +.38
AMC Ent	.35	.51 +.02	Barnes	.64	49.51 +.23	Cosco Ltd	.266 +19.64 +.26			HonwillIntl	.372f	24	29301	212.68 +.46	ThermoFis	.88f	59	14395	474.62 +.258
AMCI Ac	.33	13.55 +.142	BartellLab	.95	23.50 +.22	Cosco	.280 +37.33 +.62			Hubbell	.392f	24	3083	161.50 +.525	TorDBk	3.16	9	14923	55.47 +.05
Ayro rs	.68	.66 +.14	BauschHill	.19	10.61 +.67	Coty	.50 +34.34 +.02			ITW	4.56f	37	13364	205.13 +.68	TruistFn	1.80	12	48428	48.23 +.82
AbbottLab	1.44	10739 +.37	BectDok	.316	242.76 +.25	CoscoPIE	.072 +37.33 +.62			IngleMsK h	.66	16	1370	37.68 +.14	US Bancrp	1.68	11	66036	45.37 +.40
AbbVie	5.20f	10728 +.254	BedBath	.58	16.90 +.17	CrownCte	.48 +16.30 +.34			InglesMsK h	.66				US Bancrp	1.68		1344	+3.34 +.00
Acci g	.30	.65 +.03	BerkHa A	.34	37.000 +.01	CrowdStr	.1676 +26.00 +.02			Itw	4.56f	37	13364	205.13 +.68	Target	2.72	173.0	26.00 +.29	+6.1 +.00
AccoBrids	26	8.51 +.39	BerkMr n	.21	23.15 +.33	CrowdStr	.1676 +26.00 +.02			Iw	.18				TdHolding	.175		24.29 +.24	+.00 +.00
Activision	.41f	80.88 +2.00	BestBuy	.22	105.57 +.97	Cury	.188 +.12			Itw	.18				Tx	.66	63.63	7.24 +.03	+.00 +.00
Acuity	.32	122.95 +.247	Beth	.20	2.76 +.06	Cury	.188 +.12			Itw	.18				Tx	.16	10.27	1.09 +.02	+.00 +.00
AdamsPh	.06	.48 +.01	BeyondMt	.14	13.62 +.57	Deyn	.176 +26.00 +.02			Itw	.18				Tx	.19e	18.83 +.140	1.40 +.00	+.00 +.00
AdamTh	.32	122.95 +.247	Bid	.20	2.76 +.06	Deyn	.176 +26.00 +.02			Itw	.18				Tx	.20	22.76 +.24	2.48 +.00	+.00 +.00
AlbertsonsCo	20e	1712 +.12	BigD	.12	10.61 +.54	Deyn	.176 +26.00 +.02			Itw	.18				Tx	.21	23.86 +.24	2.48 +.00	+.00 +.00
AlbertWrt	.108	.108 +.00	Birds	.20	26.72 +.34	Deyn	.176 +26.00 +.02			Itw	.18				Tx	.22	24.86 +.24	2.48 +.00	+.00 +.00
AllegEc	.610	81.81 +.04	BirkR	.14	35.30 +.33	Deyn	.176 +26.00 +.02			Itw	.18				Tx	.			