



# Voice of the Saponi



January 2025

Issue 181

If you would like to submit an article to us, please remember they are due on the 20th of each month prior to the month. (Ex December articles are November 20th).

## Deadline

4 p.m.

You may email articles to [crrichardson@haliwa-saponi.com](mailto:crrichardson@haliwa-saponi.com) or feel free to mail them to :

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe

Attn: Newsletter Editor

PO Box 99

Hollister NC 27844



## Upcoming Dates and Meetings

January 17- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Meeting will be at the Multi-Purpose Building at 6:30.

January 20 - Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council Meeting will be at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex at 6:30.

### Committee Meetings

Finance Committee meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson.

Federal Recognition Committee meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Chief Dr. B. Ogletree Richardson.

Enrollment Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p. m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Angela Richardson.

Princess Committee meetings are held the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Ladonna E. Richardson.

Pow-Wow Planning meetings are held the 4th Monday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Vice Chief Dr. Marty Richardson.

Haliwa-Saponi Senior Citizens Organization meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p. m. at the Old Council House.

Committee Chair: Rev. Al Cooper.

Veteran's Memorial meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Jewel Bissonette.

Education Committee meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Angela Richardson.

Election Committee meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Montenia Lynch.

By-laws Review Committee meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Attorney Joshua Richardson.

Boys & Girls Club meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Open

Fundraiser Committee meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Tyler Richardson.



## **Haliwa-Saponi Tribe Brings Holiday Cheer with Annual Christmas Tree Lighting**

On the crisp evening of December 6, 2024, over 30 members of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe gathered to celebrate the holiday season at their annual Christmas tree lighting event. Held in the heart of the tribal community, the event was a heartwarming display of unity, joy, and cultural pride.

The festivities were spearheaded by Barbara Brayboy, whose leadership and dedication helped bring the evening to life. Alongside a committed team of volunteers, she organized an event that will be fondly remembered by all in attendance. Afterwards a warm greeting was offered by Tribal Chief Dr. Ogletree Richardson who recognized all present including elected officials, Tribal Council and Tribal royalty.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree. As the vibrant lights illuminated the night, the crowd erupted in applause, marking the start of the holiday season for the community.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was a spirited round of Christmas caroling. The harmonious singing, led by community members of all ages, echoed through the evening air, creating a sense of togetherness that defined the event.

The celebration wouldn't have been complete without a special appearance by Santa Claus himself. Children's faces lit up with excitement as Santa handed out toy gifts and goody bags, ensuring that every child went home with a smile. The simple yet thoughtful gesture underscored the tribe's commitment to fostering joy and giving during the holiday season.

This annual tradition continues to be a cornerstone of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe's cultural calendar, bringing members together to celebrate not just the holidays, but the strength and unity of their community. As the night came to a close, the warmth of connection lingered, promising a bright and joyful season ahead for the tribe.



## **Haliwa-Saponi Awards Banquet Saturday January 25, 2025 at 3pm**

**Tickets go on sale on January 3rd.**

**Tickets are \$20 each. Tickets will be available at tribal center beginning January 3rd. Please contact Tribal Office at 252-586-4017 to purchase your tickets.**

**Only 100 tickets will be sold, so call early to ensure your attendance.**

**Award recipients will need to purchase tickets for their guest.**

## Historical Partnership:

### A New Memorandum of Understanding Between the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe and USDA Rural Development.

This year has been a groundbreaking one for the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, filled with milestones that honor our rich heritage and pave the way for a stronger, brighter future. Among these achievements is the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe and USDA Rural Development (USDA RD). This historic agreement marks a significant step forward in building sustainable growth and opportunities for our community.

The MOU solidifies a partnership that aims to bring tailored support and resources to the tribe, advancing initiatives in housing, infrastructure, economic development, and other vital areas. It represents not only a commitment by USDA RD to address the unique needs of tribal communities but also a recognition of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe's vision for self-determination and resilience.

The success of this agreement is due in large part to the leadership of USDA North Carolina State Director Reginald Speight and the dedicated efforts of his staff, including Mrs. Shirlene Alexander, NC Area 5 Director, and Mrs. Pamela Sunshine Richardson, NC Tribal Relations Specialist. Through Director Speight's guidance and the collaborative efforts of the Rural Partners Network (RPN), access to federal programs has become more streamlined and equitable.

"This agreement signifies a shared commitment to creating pathways for opportunity and prosperity for the Haliwa-Saponi people," said Dr. Bruce Ogletree Richardson, Chief of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe. "The dedicated work of Director Speight, his team, and the Rural Partners Network underscores the power of partnership and ensures that federal resources are more accessible to tribal communities."

The signing of this MOU adds another chapter to our story of progress and unity. It is a testament to what can be achieved when partnerships are rooted in mutual respect and shared goals. As we reflect on the milestones of 2024, let us take pride in how far we have come and look forward to the opportunities this agreement will bring.

Together, we are making history—and ensuring that the legacy of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe continues to thrive for generations to come.



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO PHILLIP HARLEY, II**

**Congratulations Phillip Harley, II (son of Karen Lynch Harley and Phillip Harley) on receiving your Master's Degree in Special Education.**

**We are so very proud of you!**

**Love, Mom & Dad**

## Brooke Simpson Touring

### Internationally



Brooke has been busy with touring. For her first time she was the featured singer for the Louisville KY Orchestra conducted by Steve Hackman. She also was invited to perform her original music for a week in Belgium with Nuff Said Promotions. And most recently, she was asked to be a part of one of the first Broadway Productions in Brazil. Two of her feature songs were “Natural Woman“ and “The Wizard And I” which is featured in the Broadway Musical Wicked. More exciting news to come!

**Jimille Mills**

## Sky Lakota-Lynch has been Nominated for Best Actor



Sky Lakota-Lynch, Haliwa Saponi Native American Indian, plays Johnny Cade in the Broadway Production, The Outsiders. Sky recently share a post on his Instagram saying, “Recording Academy, thank you for seeing us! After 6 plus years of working in this music I’m honored to be a Grammy Nominee along with my incredible cast mates”

Back in June of this year, Sky was nominated for Best Actor For A Featured Role. And The Outsiders won a Tony Award. We are so proud of you Sky!!

**Jimille Mills**

## The Haliwa-Saponi Gym & Exercise Room



The Haliwa-Saponi Gym and Exercise Room family participants had a holiday social on December 13th. We had Lil smokies, turkey with gravy, bbq & slaw, deviled eggs, hush puppies, collard greens, spicy sausage dip, fruit, and chicken stir fry with rice. It all rounded out with a spice cake, pineapple cake, cherry pie and gingerbread cookies. 😊

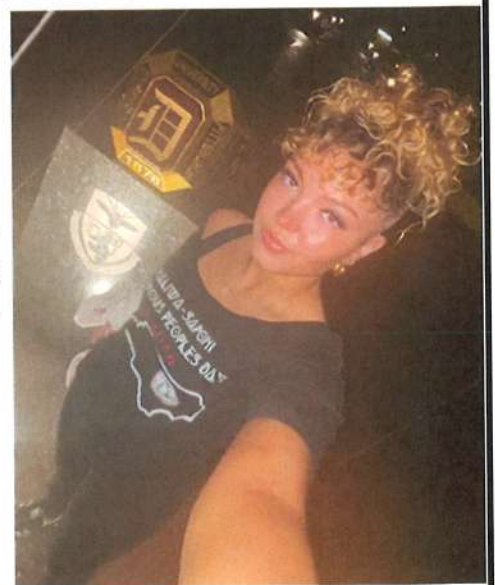
The social was attended by Gracie Richardson, whose birthday was December 12th and Carroll Cooper whose birthday was December 7th, sitting on front row. Standing is Cynthia Richardson, Lessie Lynch, Belle Spruill, Bessie Coley, Gail Richardson, James Silver, Doris Hines, Donnie Evans, and Mary Battle.



### Special Thanks to Jewel Bissonnette

Thank you to our amazing cousin, Jewel (McGee) Bissonnette, for helping us show our Haliwa-Saponi pride with these IPD shirts at our colleges, University of Maryland and Duquesne University.

Love Spencer and Cat





# 2025 HALIWA-SAPONI Winter Powwow

January 18, 2025

Doors Open 11-6 pm, Grand Entry @ Noon

Native Music \* Native Dancing \* Vendors \* Food

## Head Staff

### Head Female:

Brandy Lynn Freeman,  
Miss Haliwa-Saponi 2024-2025

### Head Male:

Mason Richardson,  
Haliwa-Saponi

MC: A. Kay Oxendine,

Haliwa-Saponi

### Host Drum:

Red Clay

## Specials:

### Long Hair Contest

*Sponsored by Senora Lynch and  
A. Kay Oxendine families*

### Switch Dance Special

*Sponsored by Vice Chief  
Dr. Marty Richardson family*

### Men's Fancy vs. Women's

#### Fancy

*Sponsored by Brian O. Lynch family*

### Jingle Dress Side Step

*Sponsored by  
Jewel McGee Bissonnette family*

### Hand Drum Contest

*A. Kay Oxendine and family*

### Two-Step Potato Special

*Ree Harris Family*

### Candy Children's Dance

*Cheyenne Daniel*

Admission:

Free 0-6

\$5 Ages 7-61

\$3 Ages 62+

**DOE SPUN BUILDING**  
**403 GIBBS ROAD, HOLLISTER,**  
**NC. 27844**



**Congratulations to Ethyn and Masyn Richardson** who performed with the Conservatory of Fine Arts, in "The Nutcracker" at the Wilson Center in Wilmington, NC. Ethyn played the lead role as the Nutcracker Prince and Masyn was a Jasmine Tea Man. We are so proud of you both.



**Love, MaMa Chanta and PaPa Pete.**



**Congratulations to Londyn Richardson** on winning her first basketball game 10-1 on Dec. 7. Londyn plays for Southwest Elementary in Jacksonville, NC. Keep up the good work, we are so proud of you.

**Love, MaMa Chanta and PaPa Pete.**



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**Happy "12" Anniversary to  
SSGT Patrick and Meagan Richardson  
on December 29th**

Two golden rules to a Happy Marriage:

1. The wife is always right.

2. When you feel she is wrong slap yourself and read rule number 1 again.





*Happy 71st Birthday to Chris Anstead on January 9th*

*We Love You,*

*Your Family Jackie, Cateshia, Kiowa, Jordan, Chloe and Leilani.*

*Happy 5th birthday to our granddaughter*

*Leilani Skye Anstead*

*Grandma and Papa Love you*



*Happy 11th Birthday to our sweet Klecy Jean Carter on January 13th*

*We Love You So Much*

*Love Mema Carol & Papa Jack*



**POSTED TWICE BECAUSE YOU ONLY TURN 16 ONCE!!!**

**BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT to Kmira A. Richardson**

**turning 16 on January 2, 2025.**

**Love mom and dad Pamela & Robin Silver!!**



**NEW BABY CONGRATS to Hannah Rogers and Ty McGee on the birth of their new baby boy, Colton Hayes McGee on December 2, 2024! And with that, congrats to (first-time) grandparent Keith McGee, and new Uncles Jesse and Alex McGee. What a handsome little warrior you've added to our family. We wish you all the very best! Love, Gr-Aunt Pam (Ray), Gr-Aunt Jewel (Mike) and Gr-Uncle Deke (Barb), along with your many cousins from MD, NC & Oklahoma. Know that Colton's heavenly Grandmom Dawn McGee, and Great-Grandparents Edith & Jesse McGee are all rejoicing together over such a precious little bundle of joy!**





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

If you would like your name or a loved one's name to be published, please email Carol Richardson [errichardson@haliwa-saponi.com](mailto:errichardson@haliwa-saponi.com), mail, or bring by the office. If you do not submit your birthday or a loved one, we cannot publish it in our newsletter. No Call Ins Accepted

January 2- Johnny Earl Richardson (D)

January 3 - Jace Richardson

January 4 - Justin T. Henderson, Alex Demery, Kinzey Lynch

January 6 - Roderick Bluesky Mills (D), Colmorene Wilson, Earlie Richardson (D)

January 8 - Melanie Pena

January 9- Keith McGee, John D. Hedgepeth (D)

January 10 - Irene Richardson, Laura Richardson

January 11- Shadonna Richardson, Timmie Richardson

January 12- Montenia Lynch

January 13 - Avis Green (D)

January 14 - Constance Brinkley

January 15 - Amy Bissonnette, Ruth Ealing

January 16 - Sheila Richardson

January 17- Deke McGee

January 20 - Bernella Delamora

January 22- Tomeka D. Carter, Taylor Moss

January 23 - Brenda F. Richardson (D)

January 24 - Charlotte Richardson

January 25 - Patrina L. Richardson

January 27- Linwood Silver (D), Timothy M. Richardson

January 28 - Dr. Joseph O. Richardson, Brian Lynch

January 29- Jasmine Brinkley

January 30- Cheyenne Elyse Silver, Chief Dr. B. Ogletree Richardson, Connie L. Hedgepeth (D) & Ronnie B. Lynch (D), Cricket Lynch



## HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO:

December 6- Londyn Richardson

December 11- Charles "Pete" Richardson

December 16- Meagan Richardson



## *Junior Miss Haliwa-Saponi 2024-*

*2025 Amilia Maria Berrun*



Greetings to all my Haliwa-Saponi People!! It appears 2024 has just slipped away from us within the blink of an eye and we are now entering a new year. Therefore, I want to take a moment to share some of the activities I've been involved in the last several months. As always, I've had the best time interacting with the people within our community as well as with other tribes.

During the month of August, I spent time welcoming students and staff of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School back from summer vacation! I took the opportunity to greet each of them with Back To School goodie bags that I sponsored and prepared in hopes of helping to start the school year out on a good note.

September was a busy month for me. On September 7, 2024, I had the pleasure of representing all of you at the Running Water Pow Wow in Fayetteville, NC. On September 13 & 14, 2024, I had a blast visiting with the Coharie during their annual pow wow. I also participated in our Community Indian Education Back to School Pow Wow on September 17, 2024. It was great! Our tribal youth did an outstanding job planning and putting on the event to share with all. Finally, during the month of September, my family and I celebrated my birthday (September 27th) as well as my Grandma Rita's birthday (September 29th) by attending the Lumbee Pow Wow at the Lumbee Tribal Cultural Center in Maxton, NC. What better way to celebrate than with my fellow Indigenous brothers, sisters, family and friends. It was one for the books!

In the month of October, I was honored to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day with fellow tribal citizens on our tribal powwow and ceremonial grounds. The Haliwa-Saponi Pow Wow committee did an awesome job putting this event together! Our people showed up and had an amazing time dancing, singing and socializing. IT'S ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE INDIGENOUS! On October 18 & 19, 2024, I attended the 52nd Annual Waccamaw Siouan Pow Wow in Buckhead, NC. It was a great weekend. The dancing, singing, vendors and overall vibe was outstanding and as always, the Waccamaw Siouan people made us feel right at home.

Of course, November was American Indian Heritage Month. While this month always seems to be hectic, it was a great one. I provided Tribal and other American Indian Heritage facts at the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School in honor of the month. Every day, a different fact was shared with all students and staff during morning announcements. On November 12th, we provided fry bread to all Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School students and staff. Big Shout Out of Thanks to Mrs. Lori Silver for assisting with this activity.

Finally, I truly enjoyed attending our tribe's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and tribal meetings on December 6th. As always, I felt a great sense of pride and honor being in the midst of my tribal people. To top everything off, I was able to participate in the 3rd Annual Hollister Christmas Parade. I was so excited to see how many people showed up to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this little bitty town of Hollister, NC.

What an amazing year we've had, and we have so many things to be thankful for. As we start the new year, let's all continue to remember the sacrifices of our elders on behalf of our people and encourage our youth to strive to live out their legacy!

I pray that each of you had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you all the Happiest New Year! May God Bless each of you!!







Haliwa-Saponi Tribe  
 P. O. Box 99  
 Hollister, N.C. 27844

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**What's Inside This Month?**

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- Page 7- Congrats to Ethyn, Masyn and Londyn Richardson & Happy Anniversaries
- Page 8- Special Birthdays & New Baby Announcement
- Page 9- Birthdays
- Page 10& 11- Junior Miss Haliwa Amilia Berrun

**HALF A PAGE IF POSSIBLE DUE  
 TO THE COST OF POSTAGE**



Place Address Label Here

*60th Annual Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe*

*"Blooming of the Dogwood" Powwow*

2025 Powwow Program Booklet  
 Ad Sales are Now Open!



All ads are due by  
 March 1, 2025.  
 However, if you place  
 your ad before  
 February 15, 2025  
 there will be \$25 off ad!

Here are the business  
 ads price list:

Full page \$750  
 Half page \$525  
 1/4 page \$325  
 1/8 page \$225  
 Business card size \$100

Here are the memorial  
 ads price list:

Full page \$300  
 Half page \$200  
 1/4 page \$150  
 1/8 page \$75



Please contact

A Kay Oxendine for all of  
 your ad needs at

252-586-4017 or by email

[aoxendine@haliwa-saponi.com](mailto:aoxendine@haliwa-saponi.com)