



# Voice of the Saponi



January 2026

Issue 192

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 [crichardson@haliwa-saponi.com](mailto:crichardson@haliwa-saponi.com) or feel free to mail them to:

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe

Attn: Newsletter Editor

P.O. Box 99

## Upcoming Dates and Meetings

January 16- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Meeting will be at the Multi-Purpose Building at 6:30 p.m.

January 19- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council Meeting will be at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex at 6:30p.m.

### Committee Meetings

Finance Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson.

Federal Recognition Committee meetings are being held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Earl Evans.

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 on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson.

Pow-Wow Planning meetings are held on 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 first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Old Council House.

Committee Chair: Rev. Al Cooper.

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

Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson.

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

Committee Chair: Ameila K. Oxendine.

By-laws Review Committee meetings are held on 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 on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Building.

Committee Chair: Karen Harley.

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

Committee Chair: Tyler Richardson.

Personnel Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Earl Evans.

Awards Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Karen Harley.

Finance Long Range Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson.

## HOUSING DIRECTOR REPORT

**Tomahawk Meadows**-#227 replaced fridge door switch, #196 sprayed for ants and vacuumed ants up, #32 replaced toilet fill valve, #43 contacted contractor to add handrail at walkway, #101 repaired storm door handle-warranty, #60 installed new storm door handle-tenant, #225 bathroom, #32 leveled stove and replaced washer under sink on drain line.

**Tribal Office Complex**- called employees who were laid- off back to work on Friday, November 7, 2025.

**Tribal School**- Horizon Hemp on schedule to install high tunnels soon as weather permits, received 3 contractors estimates to plant grass seed-20 acres.

**Multi-Purpose Building**- closed playground on November 11, 2025.

**SNS/ Daycare**- contractor hired for roof replacement- scheduled to replace.

**Old Council House**- repaired leaking water line in basement.

**Renovations**- Medoc Mountain Rd- contractor removed trees and removed burned debris, also prepared yard for trailer to be set- Halifax County.

**Emergency Repair**- received estimates for repairs, moving forward with contract signings of (4) homes.

**Cemetery**- sold (1) cemetery plot

**TOT**- no new issues.

**Saponi Village**- no new issues.

**Rev. C. H. Richardson Building**- locksmith replaced broken door handle at right rear of building.

**Vehicles**- no new issues.

**Shopped for Christmas Bizarre**, set up & served refreshments to public from 6-8 on Friday, December 5th.

**Worked on Angel Tree Project**, collected gifts for community, delivered & gave out approximately 42 gifts to Angels whose names were anonymously given to staff, to be placed on the 2 trees, 1 for children, 1 for senior citizens, it was successful.

## Grants & Loans

The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe has partnered with USDA Rural Development to bring housing resources to the tribal community.

What does this program do?

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

Who may apply for this program?

To qualify, you must:

Be the homeowner and occupy the house.

Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere.

Have a household income that does not exceed the very low limit by county.

For grants, be age 62 or older Who can answer questions and how do I get started?

**Applications are accepted for this program at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex. For more information on how to apply, contact Toshia Silver, Housing Coordinator, phone # 252-248-3750.**



## The Haliwa-Saponi Exercise Room



The Haliwa-Saponi Exercise Room and Gym located on Capps Farm Rd inside of the Multipurpose Building, hosted their December Birthdays Luncheon.

We were very happy and blessed to be able to gather and celebrate the birthdays of Carroll Cooper (7th), Gracie Boone (12th), and Wanda Richardson (30th), all seated. Fellowship and food with laughs galore. All Community members are welcome to use the gym! M-W-F 8AM-11: Merry Christmas and

Happy New Year!

### Haliwa-Saponi Senior Princess Spreads Holiday Cheer with Homemade Cookies

By Alfred Richardson



HOLLISTER — The spirit of the season was alive and well in the Haliwa-Saponi community this Christmas, thanks to the heartfelt efforts of Haliwa-Saponi Senior Princess Judy Richardson. In the days leading up to Christmas, Richardson baked more than 400 homemade Christmas cookies, which she personally distributed to elderly and disabled members of the Haliwa-Saponi community. The sweet treats were more than just a holiday gift — they were a reminder that the community's seniors and vulnerable citizens are remembered, valued, and loved.

The baking and deliveries required long hours and significant effort, leaving Richardson understandably tired. Yet, despite her exhaustion, she described the experience as deeply rewarding. Taking time to visit with community members, share smiles, and exchange warm holiday wishes proved to be the most meaningful part of her work.

"Although I was tired, I was satisfied," Richardson shared. "Getting to spend time with our citizens meant so much to me."

True to her servant's heart, Richardson expressed only one regret — that she could not do more. Her sole comment following the deliveries was a wish that she had been able to reach even more citizens and spend additional time visiting with them.

As Senior Princess, Richardson has consistently demonstrated a commitment to service, compassion, and leadership. Her Christmas cookie outreach stands as yet another example of how one individual's dedication can brighten the season for many.

For the elderly and disabled recipients, the cookies brought not only holiday cheer but also the comfort of knowing their community continues to care for them. And for the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe as a whole, Judy Richardson's efforts serve as a powerful reminder of the true meaning of the season — giving, connection, and love for one another.

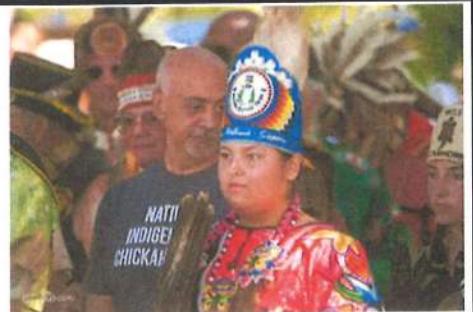
# **Amilia Maria Berrun**

## **Miss Haliwa-Saponi 2025-2026**

*Nahq:pi!: Good Day to all my beautiful Indigenous Brothers and Sisters!*

*As your tribal ambassador, I'm so excited to share all the things I've been involved in the last few months! I've been as busy as a bee and loving every single moment of serving my people!*

*On August 16, 2025, I had the privilege of attending the powwow of our sister tribe, the Nansemond Nation. As always, it was a great powwow and I certainly enjoyed interacting with our relatives. I even had the opportunity to spend a little time with Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Councilor, Rev. Michael Richardson.*



*On August 17, 2025, I attended my church's Homecoming Service, Mt. Bethel Baptist Church; where I had the pleasure of sponsoring corsages and boutonnieres for the pastor, choir, deacons and ushers. Special thanks to my grandma Rita for making this happen! Grandma you're the best!*

*During the month of September, I represented our tribe at several powwows here in North Carolina! On September 6, 2025, I traveled to Fayetteville, NC for the Running Water Powwow. What a great Powwow!*

*September 12 & 13, 2025 we had an awesome time with the Coharie Indians in Clinton, NC. Congratulations to our Coharie Sisters and Brothers on Celebrating 54 years of recognition!*

*On September 16, 2025, I participated in the Title VI Indian Education Back to School Powwow. This event was hosted collaboratively by the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School, Warren, Nash and Halifax Counties Title VI Indian Education Programs and was held at Doe Spun. We hosted a wonderful crowd and everyone had an amazing time! Special shout out of thanks to Mr. Barry Richardson for always supporting our native students by providing the facility!*

*September 19th I attended our Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Citizens meeting as well as the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council Meeting on September 22nd! It's always great to have the opportunity to learn about our tribal business and have input on our hopes, desires and interests on behalf of our people!*

Lastly, 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 "Dance of the Harvest Moon" Powwow in Pembroke, NC. What better way to celebrate than with my fellow Indigenous



## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

The month of October was great! On October 4, 2025, I attended the Meherrin Powwow in Ahoskie, NC. I had an awesome time dancing, socializing and uniting with our people! Congratulations to the Meherrin Tribe on another successful Powwow!



October 9, 2025, was extra special to me as we kicked off the Haliwa-Saponi Red Earth Culture Class! What a Night! I was able to proudly stand amongst our people in a sacred smudge ceremony and talking circle, after which we shared food and closed the night out with song and dance. My heart beamed with pride, love and honor as we had 116 proud American Indians in attendance expressing interest in our rich culture and heritage! WE ARE HALIWA-SAPONI STRONG AND UNITY IS THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS!!!

What a great time my family and I had at Dix Park Powwow on October 11, 2025. My mom, Sharon Harris Berrun, served as Co-Emcee with Uncle Sandon Jacobs from the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe! I had the opportunity to dance and socialize with friends that I hadn't seen in a while and as always the highlight of the powwow was being able to represent my people.

October 13, 2025, HAPPY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY!!! We had an awesome celebration at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex! The program included a smudging ceremony, a native clothing fashion show, singing and drumming, spoken word, tribal history and language as well as Indian Tacos and Fry Bread! We all had a blast! Special thanks to the Powwow Fundraising committee for hosting this event and bringing a sense of unity to our tribe and community!

*October 17 & 18, 2025, I had the pleasure of celebrating 53 years of State Recognition with the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, The People of the Falling Star! They hosted an outstanding Powwow and celebration in honor of this milestone and I'm certainly proud that I was able to be a part of it. Once again, my mom served as the powwow emcee and the event was definitely one to remember!*

*On October 20, 2025, Once again, I had the honor of sitting around the table with our Tribal Council during their regular business meeting. There I gave my official report and presented upcoming plans for my reign.*

I attended the Haliwa-Saponi Red Earth Culture Class on October 23, 2025, where our people learned about our Tribal Tutelo Saponi Language compliments of our Vice Chief, Dr. Marvin Richardson AKA...my Uncle Marty! We also learned about Powwow etiquette with my mom Sharon Harris Berrun and Melissa Richardson (Aunt Lissa) and Drum etiquette with Jesse Richardson (Uncle Jesse)! It was definitely another great night of culture class with 82 people in attendance!



The month of November was super exciting as we celebrated American Indian Heritage Month! I started the month off by attending my church, Mt. Bethel Baptist Church on November 2, 2025, and enjoying Rev C.H. Richardson Day. This day was set aside to honor the memory and contributions of our Haliwa-Saponi Spiritual Leader, Rev Charlie Horace Richardson. Rev Richardson lived to be 98 years old and was known by many as a "Walking Encyclopedia or History Book"! I never had the opportunity to meet Rev Richardson but the stories I've been told of him are definitely ones to treasure! I honored his memory by placing memorial bouquets on his grave. Rest on Rev Richardson.

I had the honor of participating in the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School's American Indian Heritage Month Program on November 5, 2025! It was definitely one of the best programs this school year! Big shout out to Mrs. Lori for cooking fry bread for the entire school. Mrs. Lori you're the best!

November 6, 2025 was an extremely busy day. I participated in an American Indian Heritage Month Program at Red Oak Elementary at 9:00 a.m. after which we traveled to Halifax Community College to celebrate and participate during their program at 11:00 a.m. and lastly at 2:00 p.m. I was able to attend a program sponsored by Representative Rodney Pierce in Honor of American Indian Heritage Month at the Warrenton Armory. While it was a hectic day, each program honored our people in an extraordinary way and I was certainly honored to be a part of them all! In bringing this wonderful day to an end, I attended the Haliwa-Saponi Red Earth Culture Class. It's always great to end the day dancing, singing and socializing with my Indian Brothers and Sisters!

As your tribal princess, I felt it was appropriate to do something during my reign that wouldn't just benefit our people for the moment but could benefit us in the long run. Therefore, I decided that I would sponsor several fundraisers to assist our tribe and the powwow committee with funds to be used for powwow grounds improvement! To get the ball rolling on my first fundraiser, I sponsored Fry Bread Friday; an Indian Taco and Fry Bread Plate Sale! With the support of our community, I was able to raise \$1,356.00! Thanks so much to all that participated!

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, I had the honor and privilege of attending our Tribal Veterans Gala! This was a wonderful event that all seemed to enjoy! I felt so extremely honored and blessed to be in the midst of those who served our country! Special Thanks to Co-Chair Councilor Sylvia Richardson and Jewel Bissonnette for all the hard work in planning and organizing. Hats off to each of you! It was my pleasure during this event to sponsor a full sheet cake to assist with the dessert after dinner. Additionally, in memory and honor of my Great Grandfather Pvt. Murzie Mills, WWII Veteran and Purple Heart Recipient, I gifted each veteran; Native and Non Native with a custom made lapel pendant. Thanks to all of our warriors for your service!

On the morning of November 14, 2025, I participated in an American Indian Heritage Month Program at Hollister Elementary School. They sponsored an amazing program and I really enjoyed interacting with the students there. Additionally, at 2:00 that afternoon, I traveled to Vaughan Elementary School where I danced and shared our Haliwa-Saponi heritage, culture and traditions with the students and staff. Both of these programs were incredible! Thanks so much to these school districts for taking the time to acknowledge, honor and showcase our people! At the end of the day I attended our Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Citizens meeting where I joined other fellow tribal citizens in taking care of tribal business.

Once again duty calls on November 15, 2025, as I served as Auction Item Presenter during our Fall Tribal Auction! This event was sponsored by the Haliwa-Saponi POWWOW Fundraising Committee and was a huge success! I had a great time presenting each item to those in attendance and encouraging sales. Thanks to Grandma Rita, I was able to sell Chicken & rice and strawberry shortcake as one of my fundraisers for powwow grounds improvement. There I raised \$245.00! Thanks so much for all that supported this event!

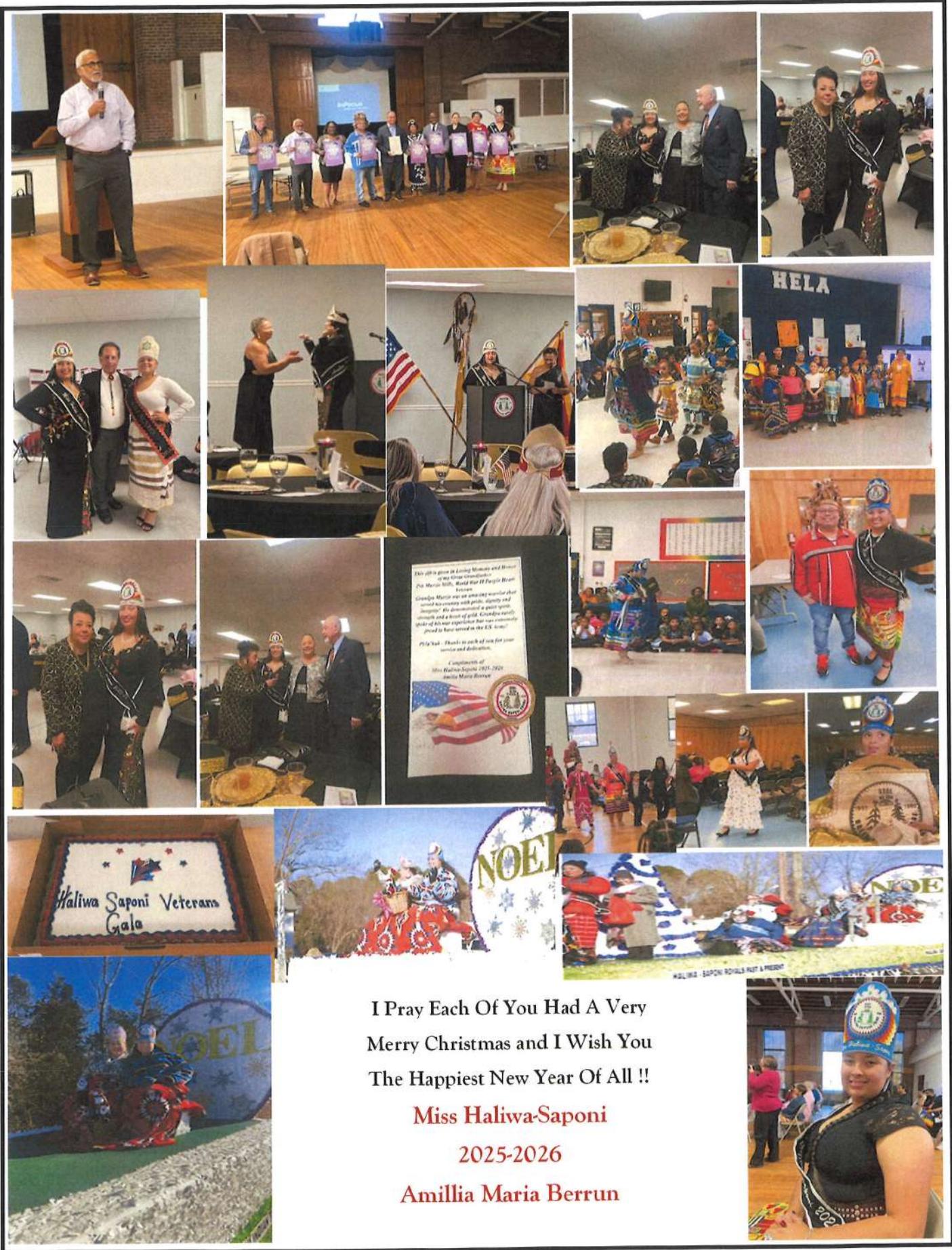
Annually, the North Carolina Museum of History in conjunction with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs as well as the tribes of NC sponsor the American Indian Heritage Celebration! This year the event was held on November 22, 2025 at the Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC All the tribes of NC gathered to celebrate the rich history and culture of our Indigenous People! I was honored to serve as the Haliwa-Saponi Dances and Presenter. It's always a great pleasure to represent my people on any platform.

To close out the month of November and American Indian Heritage Month, I participated in Littleton Academy Indian Heritage Month program. The students and staff were well educated on Haliwa-Saponi history, culture and traditions. Several of our youth represented our tribe along side of me taking the time to share and educate others about who we really are as a people! Mrs. Lori Silver participated by sharing fry bread with everyone!

December has come and the year is ending. This month is all about the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In celebrating Christmas, on December 14, 2025, I participated in the Annual Hollister Christmas Parade! This was really exciting for me as the tribe sponsored two floats honoring our Past and Present Royalty! I proudly participated along side my mom who was Miss Haliwa-Saponi 1990-1991. I was also hoping that my Grandma Rita would be able to participate as she served as Miss Haliwa-Saponi 1970-1971, however, she was unable to join us due to sickness. My mom, grandma and I made Haliwa-Saponi History by becoming the first family in our tribe to have three (3) generations of princesses. What an awesome accomplishment! I couldn't be more proud!



**Amilia Maria Berrun**  
**Miss Haliwa-Saponi 2025-2026**



## SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

### **Christopher Anstead**

01-09-2026 Wanting to wish my husband/  
my dad, grandpa and great papa a very  
special 72nd birthday we love you very much.



Jackie, Tia, Kiowa, Jordie,  
Chloe and Leilani

### **Leilani Anstead**

01-31-2026 Happy 6th birthday

Love papa and grandma  
We love you very much

### **Cateshia Silver**

Happy Birthday we love you very much  
Mom, Dad, Kiowa and Jordan Chloe and  
Leilani

### **Klecy Jean Carter**

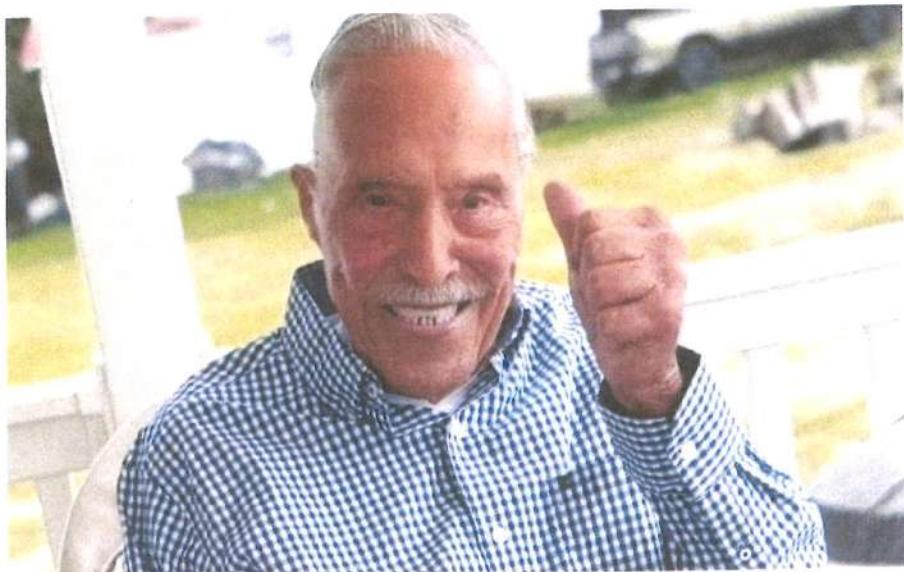
Happy Birthday on 1-13-2026.

Happy Belated Birthday to Korey James Carter on  
12-30- 2025. Love Mema & Papa.





## Happy 97th Birthday Dad



Born January 24, 1929 – a life that has spanned generations, stories, and so much love.

Dad, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, and Great-Great-Grandfather – you are the heart of our family and the living history we are blessed to still hold close.

MASAGER RICHARDSON  
(TOM)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

If you would like your name or a loved one's name to be published, please email Carol Richardson [errichardson@halifaxsaponi.com](mailto:errichardson@halifaxsaponi.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 Accepted.

January 2- Johnny Earl Richardson (D),  
January 4 Justin Henderson, Alex Demery,  
January 6- Jenner Evans Chatman, Roderick "Bluesky" Mills (D),  
January 10- Irene Richardson,, Laura Richardson, Yashone Francis,  
January 11- Shadonna Richardson, Edler Elaine Silver,  
January 12- McKenzie A. Francis,  
January 13- Klecy Jean Carter,  
January 15- Ruth Ealing,  
January 16- Sheila Richardson,  
January 20- Bernella Delamora,  
January 22- Tomeka Carter, Taylor Moss,  
January 24- Charlotte Richardson  
January 25- Patrina Richardson,  
January 27- Tomothy M. Richardson,  
January 28- Brian Lynch, Dr. Joseph O. Richardson,  
January 30- Cheyenne Elyse Silver, Chief Dr. Ogletree Richardson, Connie L. Hedgepeth (D) & Ronnie B. Lynch (D),  
Cricket Lynch,



## IN MEMORY OF'S

Happy Heavenly Birthday  
Linwood Silver  
January 27  
We love and miss you  
Love, Regina, Malenya, Lynette, Aaron, Darius & your great  
grandchildren Danyelle & Jai'lani



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 11- Happy  
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Memory Of's**

Place Address Label Here



*61st Annual Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe  
"Blooming of the Dogwood" Powwow*

2026 Powwow Program Booklet  
Ad Sales are Now Open!



**EARLY BIRD  
DISCOUNT**

All ads are due by  
March 1, 2026.  
However, if you place  
your ad before  
February 15, 2026  
there will be \$25 off ad!

Here are the business  
ads with discounts price list:

Full page	\$775
Half page	\$375
1/4 page	\$350
1/8 page	\$250

Business card size \$90

Here are the memorial  
ads price list:

Full page	\$275
Half page	\$175
1/4 page	\$125
1/8 page	\$65

Please contact  
A Kay Oxendine for all of  
your ad needs at  
252-586-4017 or by email,  
[oxendine@haliwa-saponi.gov](mailto:oxendine@haliwa-saponi.gov)

