

VOICE OF THE SAPONI



ISSUE 199

AUGUST 2026



Community members gather at Magazine Springs to honor the Tribe's connection to the land.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TRIBAL BUSINESS

Chief's Address 1
Tribal Administrator's Report 1
Tribal Council Updates 2
Standing Meeting Schedule 2
Committee Updates 3
Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School Open House 4
Boys & Girls Club Update 4
Job Announcement: Youth Development Professional 4
Back to School Festival & Donation Drive 4

NEWS FROM THE MEADOWS

Richardson Sworn In to Warren County Board of Health 5
Rev. Mike Mills Returns to Ecuador for Missions Trip 5
Why I Participated in the America 250 Commemoration 6
July 4th Celebration & Train Unveiling 6
Haliwa Actor Cast in Documentary Play 7
Brooke Mills Simpson Debuts in Off-Broadway Musical 7

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kmira A. Richardson Selected for Governor's School 8
High School Graduation Honors 8
Megan Richardson Receives 2026 Staff Excellence Award 8
Silver Accepted to Georgetown Pre-College Law Program 8

CELEBRATIONS & TRIBUTES

Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Memorials 9

ADVERTISEMENTS

Yatipi / Be Happy Tribal Apparel Line 10
Triangle Native American Film Festival 10
USDA Home Repair Loans & Grants 10

CONTACT & SUBMISSIONS

Digital Opt-In, Feedback, and Submissions 11

Notice of Changes to Tribal Enrollment & ID Card Fees

Effective July 1, 2026, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe has implemented updated fees for Tribal Enrollment and Identification Cards. These adjustments were approved by the Tribal Council upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee on January 19, 2026, to help offset the costs associated with secure card production, materials, and administration.

New Fee Schedule:

New Card (for new enrollees): \$20.00
Renewal/Replacement Card: \$15.00

No fee is charged when using your Credit Card for renewals or new enrollments. All requests submitted on or after July 1, 2026, will be processed at the new rates.

Questions? Contact Stephanie Reid, Enrollment Clerk, at (252) 252-586-1859 or visit the Enrollment Office during regular business hours.



Dr. Ogletree Richardson
Chief
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

CHIEF'S ADDRESS

As we continue moving forward in our commitment to keeping our Tribal Citizens informed, we remain dedicated to sharing updates on our Tribe's accomplishments, priorities, and upcoming events. Through our monthly newsletter and Tribal meetings, we strive to provide timely information, encourage participation, and ensure our citizens are aware of the programs, services, and opportunities available to them.

It is especially encouraging to see the positive impact of information shared during our Tribal meetings. A presentation by Fishing Point Healthcare at a previous meeting has resulted in many of our Tribal Citizens receiving free healthcare services in Durham, North Carolina, and Portsmouth, Virginia. During that presentation, citizens learned that the clinic provides healthcare services to members of both state-recognized and federally recognized Tribes. We are pleased that so many members of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe took advantage of this opportunity and are now benefiting from these valuable healthcare resources.

Looking ahead, we anticipate sharing important updates during the month of August regarding our partnership with AccessOn, as well as the progress of our federal recognition efforts. We remain committed to keeping you informed as these initiatives continue to move forward.

Thank you for your continued support, participation, and dedication to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe. Together, we will continue building a stronger future for our next generation.

Tribal Administrator's Report



Mesheila Lynch
Tribal Administrator
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

The Tribe received approval to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to proceed with the building extension of the Multipurpose Building. Council is reviewing several other action items, including an amended Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) plan, the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget, audit engagement, and travel expenses for federal Indian law training.

The Red Cross is formalizing an emergency shelter agreement with the Tribe. The High Tunnel project faces delays due to county water testing. Staff recruitment and hiring are active across multiple departments, and housing maintenance and renovation work continues. Tribal ID updates remain ongoing.

For more information, contact the Tribal Office at (252) 586-4017.

Updates from Tribal Council

Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Highlights



- Managed a successful Tribal Administrator transition and maintained continuity of operations.
- Completed annual Tribal Council and officer elections.
- Reduced enrollment application backlogs and improved citizenship records management and security.
- Reviewed enrollment policies and strengthened enrollment processes.
- Advanced audit preparation, procurement policies, financial controls, and oversight measures.
- Continued long-term planning for housing, community facilities, and tribal assets.
- Supported school improvement and long-term growth initiatives at Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School.
- Implemented governance reforms, strengthened policies, and reorganized funding for HSIT Boys & Girls Club operations.
- Expanded cultural programming, educational initiatives, and community heritage activities.
- Advocated for tribal interests, natural resources, and community development at local and state levels.
- Pursued new grant opportunities and funding initiatives.
- Increased support for elder services, behavioral health, nutrition programs, and infrastructure improvements.
- Enhanced Tribal communications through newsletter improvements, website planning, and community outreach.
- Expanded fundraising efforts to support Tribal priorities and programs.

Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2026–2027

The Council remains committed to strengthening governance, ensuring financial stewardship, supporting youth and elders, preserving cultural traditions, and advancing opportunities for future generations.

Standing Meetings

HSIT Committee Meetings are held at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex or on Zoom. Contact the Chairperson to confirm location and get involved.

Finance Committee—2nd Monday | 2:00 PM
Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson

Federal Recognition—1st Tuesday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Vice Chair Earl Evans

Enrollment Committee—2nd Tuesday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Angela Richardson.

Princess Committee—1st Monday | 7:00 PM
Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson

Powwow Planning Committee—Last Monday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Vice Chief Dr. Marty Richardson

Veteran's Memorial—4th Tuesday | 7:00 PM
Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson

Education Committee—1st Thursday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Angela Richardson

Election Committee—3rd Tuesday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Amelia K. Oxendine

ByLaws Committee—3rd Wednesday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Attorney Joshua Richardson

Fundraising Committee—1st Monday | 7:00 PM
Committee Chair: Tyler Richardson (*via Zoom*)

Personnel Committee—Meetings as needed.
Committee Chair: Earl Evans

Awards Committee—Meetings as needed.
Committee Chair: Karen Harley

Finance Committee—Meetings as needed.
Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson

Long Range Committee—Meetings as needed.
Committee Chair: Dr. Marty Richardson

Senior Citizens Organization—1st Tuesday | 6:00 PM
Location: Old Council House.
Committee Chair: Rev. Al Cooper

Boys & Girls Club—1st Wednesday | 6:30 PM
Location: Multi-Purpose Building
Committee Chair: Karen Harley

Committee Updates

Bylaws Committee: Reviewing internal administrative processes for upcoming cycles.

Finance Committee: The Committee reviewed tribal financial matters, including leases, contracts, budget development, and legal recommendations to protect the Tribe's interests. The committee also discussed audit preparation, program funding sustainability, employee retirement planning, telecommunications contracts, and operational improvements for future powwows.



Fundraising Committee: The Committee approved a tribal flag pre-sale fundraiser and continues expanding fundraising opportunities through Meadows Merchandise, partnerships, and community outreach efforts. Current fundraising totals have approached approximately \$6,900, and the committee is developing recommendations for allocating these funds to support tribal programs and initiatives. The committee also highlights the launch of the new "Yq̄tipi / Be Happy" Tribal apparel line, available online through Meadows Merchandise. All proceeds directly support Tribal development funds. (See page 7 for the standalone advertisement.)

Powwow Committee: Continues early planning and outreach for upcoming seasonal events and cultural gatherings.

Princess Committee: The Princess Committee will host Strong Spirits: A Haliwa-Saponi Sisters Gathering on August 15 as a fundraiser for enrolled girls and women ages 8 and older. The Committee met with Tribal Council on June 1 and is reviewing feedback on bylaws and royalty program policies. A dedicated storage space at the Old Tribal Building has been requested to organize banquet supplies. The Committee also wishes to discuss concerns regarding the 2026 Annual Pow Wow, with the goal of improving communication, coordination, and support among committees.

Public Relations Committee: The Committee approved plans for an August 2026 newsletter pilot and continues working to improve communication through citizen feedback opportunities, website enhancements, and expanded access to tribal information. The committee is also reviewing policies related to the tribal seal, photography, recording, and social media while researching a future secure citizen portal for tribal services.

Veterans Committee: The Veterans Committee requests Council approval to install permanent electricity at the Veterans Memorial. Solar lights have proven inadequate for illuminating the monument, pavers, U.S. Flag, and adjacent Community Mural.

Three quotes were obtained, ranging from \$3,800 to \$5,019. The Committee recommends PM Electric Services of Hollister at \$3,800. Planning continues for the 5th Annual Veterans Gala on November 14 at the Meadows Community Building. Engraved pavers will complete the second cutout, with a Bricklaying Ceremony planned for November 7th.

Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School Opens Its Doors for 2026–2027

contributed by Melissa Richardson, BS, MBA



The Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School is excited to welcome students and families for the 2026–2027 school year!

Join HSTS for an Open House on Thursday, August 20, 2026, from 5–7: p.m to meet dedicated teachers and staff, tour the school, and learn about the academic programs, student opportunities, and exciting initiatives planned for the new school year.

HSTS is currently accepting enrollment applications for grades K–12. Applications may be picked up from the school's front office Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. We look forward to welcoming both new and returning families to Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School!

Boys & Girls Club of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

The Boys & Girls Club of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe continues to provide a positive and enriching summer environment for youth, with 50 campers currently enrolled. The Club recently submitted its annual financial Report, reaffirming its commitment to sound management and accountability.



As the school year approaches, the After-School Program for Eastman students will be limited to 15 participants due to van capacity. A transportation grant through BGCA and Bridgestone was not approved, but staff continue to explore other options. Recruitment for a Youth Development Professional will begin soon

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Youth Development Professional



The Boys & Girls Club of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is hiring a Youth Development Professional to plan engaging programs, keep kids safe, and track progress. We're looking for someone with a high school

diploma/GED, experience with children, and the ability to motivate youth. CPR/First Aid competency, an NC driver's license, and a background check are required. Compensation is \$12.80–\$20.46/hr, 20–40 hrs/week depending on the season. **Application Deadline: 5 PM, August 17th.**

Visit haliwa-saponi.gov/job-openings or email jobs@haliwa-saponi.gov for more.

Back to School Festival August 8th | 10 AM–2PM



Join us **Saturday, August 8th, at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex** for our Back to School Festival!

Requested donations include pencils, erasers, highlighters, crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper, composition notebooks, 1-inch 3-ring binders, dividers, 2-pocket plastic folders, glue sticks, scissors, pencil boxes, tissues, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and Ziploc bags. You can drop them off at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex or the Halifax County Sheriff's Department.



This event is made possible by: the Haliwa-Saponi Education Committee, Phi Sigma Nu - Nu Alpha Chapter, Revolutionary Life Church, St. Gideon Baptist Church, Broken Chains Outreach, Arcola Fire Department, Halifax Sheriff's Office, Klassic Sweet Treats, Healthy Blue

Alfred R. Richardson Sworn In to Warren County Board of Health

contributed by Alfred Richardson

On July 14th, Alfred R. Richardson was officially sworn in as a member of the Warren County Board of Health, marking an important moment of representation for the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe.

Richardson currently serves as the only Haliwa-Saponi citizen on the Board, continuing a legacy of service and leadership within the community.

Richardson fills the seat previously held by Melissa Silver Richardson, who served with distinction before relocating out of Warren County. In acknowledging her contributions, Richardson expressed his appreciation, stating he is “grateful for Melissa’s service and hopes to represent the Tribe on the Board as well as she did.”

As he begins his tenure, Richardson emphasized both pride and responsibility in his new role. “I am proud to serve the citizens of Warren County,” he said, highlighting his commitment to promoting the health and well-being of all residents while also ensuring that the voice of the Haliwa-Saponi people is represented.

Richardson’s appointment reflects the continued involvement of Tribal members in local leadership and decision-making, strengthening the connection between the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe and the broader Warren County community.

The Tribe extends its congratulations to Alfred R. Richardson and wishes him success as he undertakes this important responsibility.

Rev. Mike Mills Returns to Ecuador for 2026 Missions Trip

contributed by Jimille Mills

Rev. Mike Mills has traveled on missions trips to Guayaquil, Ecuador, for nearly 10 years. In 2024, his son Mikey—whom he recently lost to a car accident—joined him for the first time. That trip proved monumental in Mikey's spiritual life.

This year, Rev. Mike's daughter Leah and cousin LeLeah Maher, both Haliwa-Saponi Tribal members, went in Mikey's honor. They were among 31 missionaries serving together.

The team visited poverty-stricken areas, going door to door to invite residents to a free medical clinic and share the gospel. Nearly 400 people accepted Christ, and two new churches were established.

Rev. Mike preached one evening with a

translator and presented a memorial plaque featuring Mikey's picture to pastors of two churches Mikey helped establish in 2024 and 2025. Leah and LeLeah also ministered to children in the community.

The Haliwa-Saponi Tribe and Essex Community Church were well represented in Ecuador.



Why I Chose to Participate in the America 250 Commemoration

by Alfred R. Richardson

Many have asked me why I have chosen to serve on the Halifax County America 250 Commission. As a proud member of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, I have given thoughtful consideration to my participation in the America 250 events taking place in Halifax County, North Carolina, and across the nation. For me, this decision comes down to one simple but powerful truth: it is time for us to tell our own story.



Alfred Richardson
contributing writer

For generations, the history of American Indians has too often been told by others—sometimes incomplete, sometimes misunderstood, and too often left out altogether. I have made a conscious decision to be part of America 250 so that the voice of our people, the Haliwa-Saponi, is included, heard, and respected.

Our ancestors lived on this land long before the founding of this nation, and they were present during the very moments now being commemorated. Their contributions, sacrifices, and resilience deserve recognition. Halifax County is not just a historic place in American history—it is part of our history as well.

By participating in these events, I hope to help ensure that our story is told truthfully and with pride. This is an opportunity to educate others, to honor those who came before us, and to remind everyone that American Indian history is not separate from American history—it is an essential part of it.

In the end, my involvement in America 250 is about representation and responsibility. If we do not tell our story, someone else will—and they may not tell it the way it deserves to be told.

Community Celebrates July 4th and Unveils Playground Train

The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe thanks all Tribal citizens who came out to the 4th of July Train Unveiling & Picnic. Despite the heat, it was a great day of fellowship, fun, and community.

We are proud to officially unveil the new playground train at the Multipurpose Building Playground—an addition that will bring joy to our children and families for years to come. Congratulations to the three winners of the 55-inch TVs, and thank you to the Boys & Girls



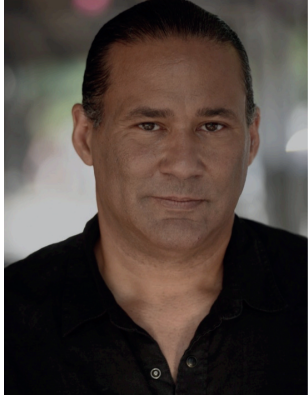
Club of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe for supporting the event with their snow cone fundraiser.

This entire event was made possible through the generosity of Mr. Tracy Story. From sponsoring the event and donating the train to providing mattresses, live Christmas trees, toys, and Easter baskets for our youth over the last couple of years, some through The Rewritten Story Foundation, his continued support is making a lasting impact across our community.

We appreciate everyone who came out and helped make the day special. Be sure to check out photos and highlights on the Haliwa-Saponi Voice Facebook page.

Haliwa Actor Cast in Documentary Play

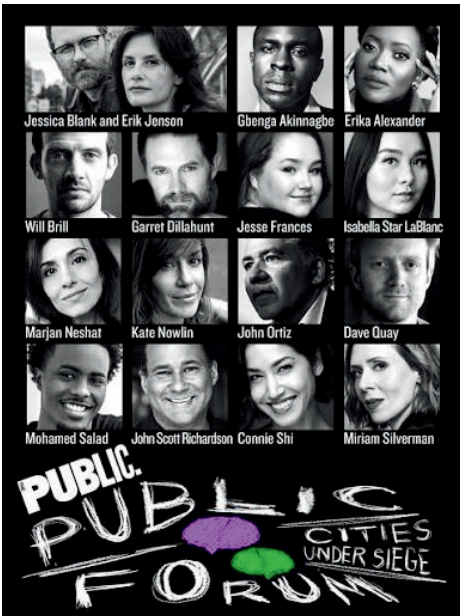
contributed by Jimille Mills



John Scott Richardson has been cast as Vinny in the documentary play *The Surge*. The production is currently in development in collaboration with The Public Theater in New York and The Guthrie Theater in Minnesota.

The play uplifts the true accounts of Minneapolis citizens confronting the surge of I.C.E activity in their communities.

The play explores the foundational influence of the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) and how its blueprint for community protection was implemented during the post-George Floyd era. It highlights community organizers working to protect citizens targeted by ICE agents and powerfully illustrates that no one is safe in the United States. The production addresses the violence and hate inflicted on people—resulting in two known deaths and many others injured.



The play is written by Erik Jenson and Jessica Blank.

We are so proud of John, one of our own Haliwa-Saponi Tribal citizens, for being a part of this documentary play.

Brooke Mills Simpson Debuts in Off-Broadway Musical

contributed by Jimille Mills

Brooke Mills Simpson (Hal Made Her Debut in Her First Principal Role in the Off-Broadway Musical *BLOOD/LOVE*, New York's new pop opera that transforms the classic vampire tale into an ultra-contemporary theatrical extravaganza.



Brooke played "Cleo" and was featured on two songs. One of the songs, "Last Drop," was the highlight of the show and was performed on the New York Living TV Show. Previews began on Friday, February 13, 2026, and Opening Night was March 3, 2026 -- a sold-out show. Originally scheduled to show through the end of March the play was extended a few more weeks due to demand. *BLOOD/LOVE* Play was held at THEATER 555 in NEW YORK, NY.

Brooke had already been selected to play this role prior to the loss of her brother, Evan "Mikey" Mills. Though this was a very difficult time for Brooke, she knew she needed to press forward to do this to make her brother proud. In honor of Mikey, several people surprised Brooke by attending the show and wearing a t-shirt featuring her brother. Among them were fellow Haliwa Saponi Tribal citizens and actors John Scott Richardson and Kimberly JaJuan, as well as other Native actors, showing their support. We are so proud of Brooke in her first principal role in a Broadway musical.



ACHIEVEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kmira A. Richardson Selected for Governor's School

A huge congratulations to Kmira A. Richardson, daughter of Robin and Pamela Silver, for being selected to attend the prestigious Governor's School in Greensboro, NC, from June to July. Selection for this elite four-week academic program requires students to hold a 3.25 or higher unweighted GPA (or a 3.5 weighted GPA) and demonstrate exceptional academic excellence. Kmira attends Warren Early College High School and will enter her senior year for the 2026-2027 school year. She is the proud granddaughter of Nathaniel and Dellie Richardson, as well as Bettie Silver and the late Robert Silver. Keep making the Tribe proud, Kmira!

High School Graduation Honors

Troya Richardson graduated with pride from the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School. She is the daughter of Troy L. Richardson and Shayna Macon.

Isis Richardson celebrated her graduation from Bunn High School. She is the daughter of Bobby L. Richardson and Shirley Richardson.

Both young ladies are the beloved grandchildren of Thomas and Mattie Richardson. The community and their cousin, Pamela R. Silver, send them congratulations and love as they embark on their next journeys!

Megan Richardson Receives 2026 Staff Excellence Award

Megan Richardson, MPH, daughter of Eugene and Sylvia Richardson, has received the prestigious 2026 Staff Excellence Award from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Ms. Richardson serves as Mentoring Director and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Leadership and Practice. She was selected for her exceptional leadership, commitment to excellence, and the lasting impact she has made on colleagues and students alike.

Colleagues and peers gathered on May 1 to celebrate this year's award recipients and honor their contributions.



London Silver Accepted to Georgetown Pre-College Law Program

London Aleana Silver has been accepted to the Georgetown University Pre-College Law Courses Summer Program. She currently attends Nash Early College in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where she holds a 4.375 GPA—the highest in the 9th grade.

London is the 14-year-old daughter of Jasmine Silver and the granddaughter of Cynthia Evans and Ricky Silver.

We are extremely proud of her and ask for your continued support and prayers as she continues to strive toward her dreams.

Birthday Shoutouts

Belated birthday wishes to...

Robin Silver	July 02
Pearlene Richardson	July 03
Destiny Brown	July 04
Glenda Evans	July 04
Shirley Richardson	July 19
<i>A special loving shout-out to Mrs. Shirley from Pamela!</i>	
Ayden Portillo	July 24
Audrey Richardson	July 25

Larry Richardson	August 03
Noah Peace	August 04
Will "Still Will" Richardson	August 04
Carissa Richardson	August 05
Bradley Richardson	August 05
Bridgette Richardson	August 06
Luke Richardson	August 06
William M. Richardson, Jr.	August 07
Roché Silver	August 10
Trula Richardson	August 10
Velma Rene Richardson	August 10
Ray Jenkins	August 11
Vonnie Burgess	August 11
Pamela R. Silver	August 12
Quenton Richardson	August 12
Cali R. Richardson	August 13
Amanda Jenkins	August 14
Deacon McConnel Silver	August 14
Tiffany Harris	August 15
Matthew S. Richardson	August 15
<i>Love you, Wisôtkal - hinqx yethathne</i>	
Nolan Lynch	August 17
Carla Richardson	August 17
Talia C. Richardson	August 18
Miloh E. Richardson	August 18
Patricia Richardson (Earlene)	August 22
William L. Richardson (D.)	August 22
D'montae Hedgepeth	August 23
Mark "Bruza" Richardson	August 23
Shawn Richardson	August 28
Stacey Richardson	August 30
Caitlyn Richardson	August 30

Anniversary Celebrations



August 9, 2026: Happy Anniversary to Alvin ("Tonto") & Brenda Richardson!

August 30, 2026: A wonderful 13th Anniversary celebration to Robin & Pamela Silver! May God continue to bless this beautiful union. Sent with love from your children: Kmira, Kamryn, and Kaidyn.

Memorials & Tributes



Always in Our Hearts: Nakia Silver
(Sept. 23, 1974 – Aug. 20, 2005)

We love and miss you dearly, "Kia." You remain forever grounded in our spirits and always in our

hearts. With love always from Mom, Malenya, Lynette, Darius, Aaron, Miyanna, D'nyah, Danyelle, and Jai'Lani.

Acknowledgment of Gratitude from Beverly S. Richardson

The family of Willie Norman Richardson wishes to express their deepest, most sincere gratitude to the entire community for the outpourings of love, prayers, and acts of kindness shown during his recent illness and his passing on June 25, 2026. Please continue to keep our family in your daily prayers. God bless you all.

Happy Heavenly Birthday to William L. Richardson (8/22-7/31)



Today is filled with memories
With happiness and tears
Of birthday celebrations we've
shared throughout the years.

And though I'll always miss you
The endless joy you brought
Warms my heart with gratitude
And fills my every thought.

Happy Birthday in Heaven.
We love and miss you
ALWAYS.

~Deanie, Darrin,
Shadonna, D'Niyah & Bria~

Wherever you are resting
I hope that you can see
How precious and uplifting
Your memory is to me.

I feel that you are with me
In everything I do...
So I'll celebrate your birthday
But I'll spend it missing you.

Buy a Shirt, Support the Tribe



The HSIT Fundraising Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the new "Yatipi / Be Happy" Tribal apparel line, available online through Meadows Merchandise. All proceeds directly support Tribal development funds. **Shop now at meadowsmerchandise.com.**

TNAS Film Festival in Raleigh



The Triangle Native American Film Festival returns August 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Rialto in Raleigh, NC. We are excited to screen *Sweet Summer Pow Wow*,

A Sacred Thread by PBS North Carolina, the animated short *Pow*, and more! Tickets are on sale now at therialto.com.

The festival is hosted by the Triangle Native American Society and produced by Trey Roberts (Haliwa-Saponi). The poster was designed by Kehiw Eagletail (Tsuut'ina Nation/Cree/Northern Paiute).

USDA Rural Development Home Repair Loans & Grants



The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is pleased to share information about the USDA Section 504 Home Repair Program, which helps Tribal members live safely and comfortably in their homes.

Assistance includes:

- Loans up to \$40,000 at a fixed 1% interest rate with up to 20 years to repay
- Grants up to \$10,000 for homeowners age 62 or older to remove health and safety hazards
- Combined assistance of up to \$50,000 for eligible applicants

Funds may be used for roofing, plumbing, electrical work, accessibility improvements, and ramps.

To qualify, you must own and live in your home, reside in an eligible rural area, and meet income requirements. For 2026 Halifax County, the very low-income limit is \$37,100 for 1–4 persons and \$49,000 for 5–8 persons.

Applications are accepted year-round at the tribal office via Tosha Silver. To learn more, visit www.rd.usda.gov/nc.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

What else would you like to see inside your Tribal newsletter? Would you like to receive the newsletter by email? Email publicrelations@haliwa-saponi.gov, call (252) 586-4017, or scan the QR code to submit an article or share your feedback.

Remember to submit your stories, articles, events, and shoutouts to publicrelations@haliwa-saponi.gov. Content submitted by the 20th of each month will be included in the next month's newsletter.



use your smartphone's
camera to

scan me

pila'huk
thank you

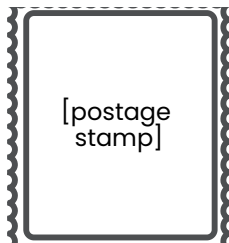
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11

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