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Sylvia Richardson

Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe
39021 Hwy 561 · P.O. Box 99
Hollister, North Carolina 27844
Phone: (252) 586-4017 · Fax: (252) 586-1047
www.haliwa-saponi.gov



John Nash
Tribal Administrator

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Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe stands with Faith Hedgepeth's family

HOLLISTER, N.C. | The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe continues to honor the life and memory of Faith Hedgepeth and stand with her family as the criminal case concerning her egregious assault and murder approaches trial.

Faith was a citizen of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, a cherished daughter of our Tribal Nation and a promising student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was 19 when her life was taken in September 2012. Her wrongful death created a profound loss that continues to be felt by her family, friends and the entire Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Nation.

Since September 2012, Faith's loved ones and the Haliwa-Saponi people have carried the pain of her absence while hoping and praying for truth, justice, accountability and healing. The coming weeks will be especially difficult for those of us who knew and loved Faith.

The trial is currently scheduled to begin with jury selection Monday, Sept. 28, 2026, in Durham County. Court schedules remain subject to change.

Because this is an active criminal proceeding, the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Government will not comment on specific evidence, witnesses, legal arguments, pretrial rulings or questions that must be determined by the legal process.

Our focus remains on Faith.

Faith should be remembered not solely for the heinous circumstances of the assault and murder that ended her life, but for the life she lived, the dreams she carried, the people she loved and the promise she represented.

Her life and the loss experienced by her family and Tribal Nation remind us that cases involving Indigenous victims must receive sustained attention, appropriate resources and a thorough pursuit of justice.

We ask the public, news media and social media users to approach the proceedings with sensitivity, respect the privacy and dignity of Faith's family, and refrain from circulating rumors, graphic material, personal attacks or unverified claims.

“Faith Hedgepeth was a citizen of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe and remains a beloved daughter of our Tribal Nation. Her loss has been carried not only by her family, but by all our people. As a sovereign Tribal Nation, we have a responsibility to stand with Faith’s family, protect the dignity of her memory and ensure that her identity as a Haliwa-Saponi woman is never overlooked. We continue to pray for truth, justice, healing and a measure of peace for all of us to remember Faith’s legacy.”

Media Contact

Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

(252) 586-4017

publicrelations@haliwa-saponi.gov

www.haliwa-saponi.gov

facebook.com/HaliwaSaponiIndianTribe

All media inquiries concerning the Tribe’s official position should be directed to the Public Relations Committee.

About the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is a sovereign indigenous nation, headquartered in Hollister, North Carolina, and serves as an active advocate for the well-being and prosperity of its citizens. Dedicated to protecting the interests, identity, and cultural heritage of the Haliwa-Saponi people, the Tribe works to advance its community by securing vital educational, health, economic development, housing, cultural, and social programs. The Tribe actively seeks partnerships with local, state, and federal governments and other entities to address critical community needs and find solutions that improve public health, infrastructure, and long-term stability for the entire region.