Cherokee One Feather Poll of the Week Results

Based on the first six months in office, what grade would you give to Principal Chief Lambert and Vice Chief Sneed (Executive Office)?

A	57%
B	20%
C	12%
D	2%
F	9%

Question of the week now up on theonefeather.com:
Would you be in favor of alcohol sales in Cherokee restaurants and special events?

Cherokee One Feather Poll of the Week Results

Based on the first six months in office, what grade would you give to the Tribal Council?

A	13%
B	14%
C	31%
D	25%
F	17%

Question of the week now up on theonefeather.com:
Would you be in favor of alcohol sales in Cherokee restaurants and special events?

Poll Responses

Note: The following comments were made on the Cherokee One Feather Facebook page and website to our weekly poll question:
This week, we asked two questions: Based on the first six months in office, what grade (A,B,C,D, F) would you give to Principal Chief Lambert and Vice Chief Sneed? Based on the first six months in office, what grade would you give to Tribal Council?

Chris McCoy: I don't envy anyone who is in a leadership role here. It is daunting service work that seems to never get the full merit or respect it deserves. Some of that is their own doing, and some is the culture of this nation.

Our current administration will be attempting new ideas, using new people, in a time when the ebb and flow of the Tribe's voting population leans toward that. We face giant issues such as drug use, apathy, unemployment, and a real lack of economic stability. Our poor culture, even our modern culture, is slipping away and we are as unhealthy as we have ever been as a people. The good news, we have thinkers, workers, and strong willed and easily motivated people when they are empowered... Right now there is a lot of underlying energy spent on trying to establish positions of power and authority. I understand the need for checks and balances as seen from the Chief's own words as he has uncovered misuse of funds from forensic audits. The Tribal Council seems to want to put their hands on protecting the Tribe's resources, which is in fact their duty as listed in the Charter. The argument is valid on both sides.

I would give the leadership solid C's for now. This is a grade for both, as they have yet to establish a good working relationship and there are still many areas of our nation to address. A teacher has a grade book, and can see the answers that the children are giving. This test has no clear answers, the grade can only be given by the electorate vote every couple years. What I would encourage, is for people to start looking, and reading, and asking their leadership to provide more answers. Then they can cast a grade.

For what it is worth, I have enjoyed visiting community clubs and seeing what some leaders are actively doing in their communities. Some give tremendous amounts of energy and time to make sure that people are involved and understand the importance of their roles as leaders. The Chief has visited many events, and always gives thourough updates on his doings, the Vice as well. I can see brighter days on the horizon, but they need to work together, with us, so that we can all see it.

Angel McKinney: #1: A We give him this because we think he is doing what needed to be done alone time ago. He is doing all he can to stand up for the people. We have seen him get out there and push for what he thinks is right and is showing that just because he is Chief that doesn't mean he will just sit back and watch. He gets out there and is showing people this free ride is over, and we hope that he will keep doing so. And, we hope that when a member comes to him that he will help with all his power. #2:C We gave Council this because there is a lot that needs to be fixed with them. They need to look past themselves and see the bigger picture that is out there.

Lillie Seagle: Chief gets an A, Council gets a D

Tim Rattler: A+...if the thieves get their come-uppance...embezzlement is a crime, right?

Douglas McCoy: There is a reason politics exists to begin with, because people within a group disagree. There would be no need for a leader if we all could lead ourselves in an objective manner, so reality is very subjective. For one would have to know what perfect ideal exists which would give us a perfect government, that is what Plato tried to do. It just simply does not exist and could never come from within the realm of human politics at that. So, we end up with subjective opinion in truth, except one opinion must win at the end of the day because that is what leadership is. We are forced to make decisions, and most of the time we don't have all of the info to account for the random variables of nature. It's a hard job. I guess, at best, we can rate their seriousness towards the burden they carry. For that, I believe it's a mixed bag on Council... the Chiefs are perhaps the hardest to judge. Honestly, it will take more time than six months.

Kimlyn Sneed Lambert: (On Principal Chief Lambert and Vice Chief Sneed) - I think they are going a great job.

More Poll Responses

William Ledford: The Principal and Vice Chief's job is to represent the EBCN to the best of their abilities. They are the faces of our government. That means stating and clarifying the Tribe's position to other heads of state, ensuring that the Tribe's finances are in order, babysitting the group of me-first Council members and clearing out the waste and deadwood. If he steps on toes, ruffles feathers or hurts feelings, too bad. I give them a B+ because it's early, but all indications point to an A.

(Tribal Council) C-...maybe we need an entry level prep class for new Council members. Ethics and maturity would be stressed along with an open-door policy. We also need a recall policy if we don't already have one so we can undo voter mistakes.

Ann Sneed: I believe Chief Lambert and Vice Chief Sneed are serving in leadership positions that strive to serve all tribal members. They have a difficult job ahead because they are the voice of tribal members who have not had a voice for the last 12 years.

(Tribal Council) I have been watching Tribal Council meetings on LiveStream. It is puzzling to me that all of the Council members have been elected by their community members. Most seem reluctant to speak up for the people who elected them. Ms. McCoy is exceptional for her knowledge of issues and willingness to speak up. One newly-elected Council member seems determined to undermine the Principal Chief on every issue. The community he represents is being done a disservice by his lack of knowledge and disrespect. Only a minority of the Council seem to be concerned abou tthe overall welfare of the membership.

MOTHER: Editorial by Robert Jumper *from page 23*

fice that come with being a mother. Know that you are raising the future and that your efforts are not in vain. Know that while you and your children will make mistakes that those choices do not necessarily make good or bad children. They are just a part of the nature of life's ebb and flow.

And, for all of us who have or have had the care and protection of a mother, please do not take it or them for granted. Realize that your mother could have chosen to be anything else in the world she wanted to be, but she chose you. When you are young, much maintenance is required and mother gives up her time to nurture you. As you depend on her less, she will eventually need to depend on you more. Don't turn away from that responsibility. Don't try to substitute money or things for what she will really need and want, which is time with you. Make every day of the year Mother's Day for your mom.

And, if you are one of us who have finally seen the days of life without mother, I hope that you have fond memories of her. I hope that you gave that time back that she gave you so early in your life. In my opinion, there are few gifts on earth greater than that of your mother.

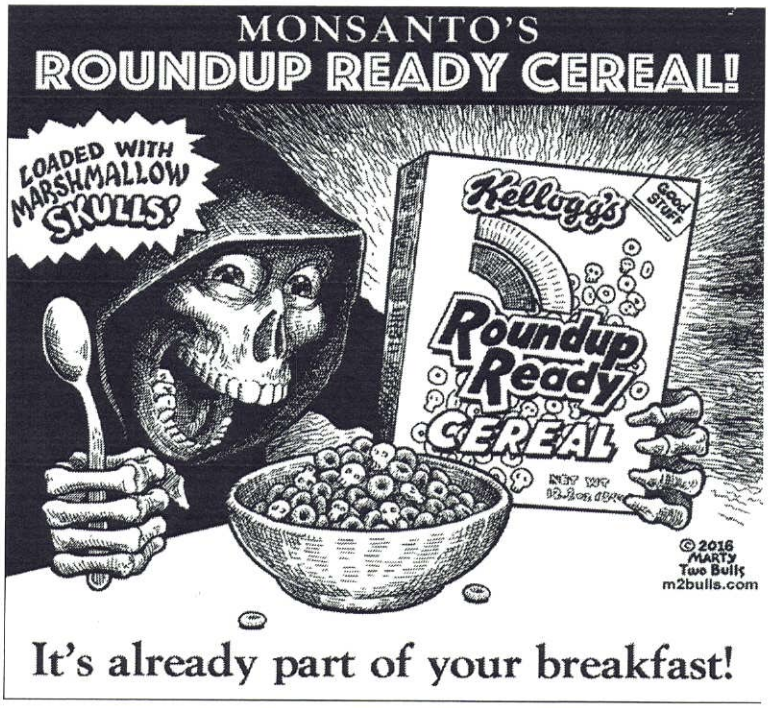
COMMENTARY

Government transparency and other news issues

Observations and random thoughts - Volume 8

WILLIAM LEDFORD

A few items are in the news these days. One item, the now infamous HB2, the bill passed and signed into law by North Carolina effectively allowing legal discrimination against gay and transgender individuals, which dominates national and world headlines. The effects are already being felt in the tourism industry as the Asheville Citizen reports the cancelations of several group functions. Unless the State can endure the possible loss of thousands of jobs and many millions of dollars in lost revenue, this law is doomed to fail and ultimately be repealed. Stay tuned. Another item, making waves in Western NC and followed in Indian Country, is the specter and spectacle of the Tribal financial audit initiated by the Principal Chief. It seems guaranteed to find some dark, shady dealings. I love a transparent government, especially one that is forced to become transparent. Better wear clean underwear.

One final comment on the NC law. On the outside it is designed to force people to use bathrooms based upon their gender at birth. Delving deeper into the wording reveals that the State now has the power to compel all counties, towns

see **GOVERNMENT** *page 29*