Cherokee Phoenix editorial policy

Statement of Purpose

In an address to the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, the founding editor of the Cherokee Phoenix called for the first free press in Indian Country. He said, "There must exist a vehicle of Indian Intelligence, altogether different from those which have heretofore been employed." Those words by Elias Boudinot (born Gallegina Watie), spoken in 1826, still bear truth today.

The Cherokee Phoenix exists to inform Cherokee citizens about the political and cultural issues that weave the fabric of Cherokee society. As a part of that mission, it is important that our editorial pages provide an open forum where Cherokees can exchange ideas and concerns with their fellow citizens. The Cherokee Phoenix Editorial Board has adopted the following policies to establish this forum so that our editorial pages become a platform for Cherokee ideas, innovation and positive dialog.

- The content of submissions shall not contain personal attacks or statements denigrating another person’s character either directly or implicitly.
- The content of submissions shall not contain false or unsubstantiated claims or statements that make claims which cannot be independently verified.
- The content of submissions shall not contain political rhetoric intended to advance the political position of a candidate for Cherokee Nation office.
- The Cherokee Phoenix reserves the right to edit any submitted letter or column so that it conforms to this policy. Such changes to submissions shall be made at the discretion of the editorial staff.
- Submissions shall include the name and phone number or email address of the author so the editorial staff may confirm the author. Submissions without contact information will not be published.
- Submissions shall be received by the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication.
- Submissions shall not be published anonymously. Submissions will be attributed by author’s full name and city of residence.
- Letters from Cherokee citizens will be given preference. Letters from non-citizens will be labeled as such.
- Letters shall not exceed 350 words.
- Columns will be published at the invitation of the Executive Editor and shall not exceed 800 words. Columns submitted without invitation shall not be published without specific permission from the Executive Editor.