Cherokee Museum gets roof

Project official thinks it could open next year

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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WALHALLA — The future Cherokee Museum has a new roof thanks to a $5,000 grant recently released by the Mountain Lakes Region of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor.

To receive the grant, officials with the Cherokee Bear Clan undertaking the project had to come up with a match.

Luther Lyle, chairman of the Oconee Arts and Historical Commission and a member of the Bear Clan, said Wednesday that the match came by way of a generous donation from Keowee Key resident Tom Brelsford.



Lyle

"He has an interest in Native American culture," Lyle said. "He made the donation in memory of his wife, Cathy."

Lyle said the Bear Clan had to show the Mountain Lakes Region it had the match to get the grant.

The grant and match were used to put a roof and the parapets on the building once owned by the School District of Oconee County.

School officials donated the building to the Oconee County Heritage Center (OHC), which in turn presented the Cherokee Bear Clan with a 20-year lease on the property.

OHC and the Bear Clan signed a contract last year stipulating that the museum must open within five years.

Lyle said the group is about $470 shy of matching another grant for $17,500 from the state National Heritage Corridor. He said the grant has already been approved.

Once released, Lyle said the money would go to putting up exterior doors, windows, partition doors and dry wall.

Lyle is encouraged with the amount of work done, mostly by volunteers, since the project began in January.

"We could be open at this time next year," Lyle said.

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