

HELLO SENIOR GAMES & SILVERARTS FAMILY!

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There is a lot to cover in this newsletter so make sure you read all of it. There are event changes, venue changes and program changes. We have SilverArts rule changes to communicate so if you are a SilverArtist, make sure you acquaint yourself with them.

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GENERAL EVENT, PROGRAM and VENUE CHANGES

Please take note of the following changes for this year's Senior Games program.

We are having some issues arranging a date for the Closing Ceremony. We will go ahead and publish the rest of the schedule now and as soon as we can arrange a Closing Ceremony date, we will publish it.

As previously noted in the January newsletter, four local SilverArts categories have been discontinued: Alcohol Ink, Colored Pencil and Art Markers. The Rugs category is also being discontinued, however, rug submissions may still be entered in the General Fiber Arts category.

We have some changes to announce regarding the Opening Day program. The Shot Put and Discus events will now be conducted as part of the Track & Field events rather than Opening Day. For those of you who are interested in participating in these events, we hope we will still see you then. In their place, we are introducing a new local event: Soccer Kick. Similar to the Football Throw event, participants will take five shots from 20 feet and five shots from 30 feet at a 4' x 6' goal. Further details and scoring will be announced later. We will be glad to receive any feedback you might have regarding this change to the Opening Day program at that time.

For many years now, we have conducted the Bowling Tournaments at the UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Harrah's. Due to some customer service issues we have

experienced with them, we have decided to change the Bowling venue to Blairsville Galaxy Bowling on Hwy 76 this year - so make sure not to go to the wrong place.

We also plan to also make some changes to the Closing Banquet program. We are going to start the proceedings at 4pm this year with some game time before the Ceremony starts at 5pm. Please come early to view the SilverArts display, have some fun with the 'Selfie' booth and get ready to join us for a few rounds of Bingo and a surprise game!

2026 GAMES SCHEDULE

The 2026 Games Schedule is available below and can be also be viewed on our website here [SG WEBSITE link](#). Make sure to save the following dates -

Early registration (\$10) period:	MONDAY, MARCH 9 through 16
Normal registration (\$15) opens:	MONDAY, MARCH 17
Visual & Heritage registration deadline:	MONDAY, APRIL 27
Literary Arts submission deadline :	MONDAY, APRIL 27
Visual Arts drop-off:	THURSDAY, MAY 7 at the MAC
Heritage Arts drop-off:	THURSDAY, MAY 7 at the CCAC
SilverArts Awards Ceremony:	FRIDAY, MAY 8 at the CCAC
Opening Day Kick-off:	SATURDAY, APRIL 18 at HAYESVILLE REC CENTER
Closing Banquet & Follies	DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED at Tri-County Community College.

The full schedule of events is attached or can be viewed on the Cherokee County Senior Games website.

SILVERARTS RULES CHANGES

Besides the SilverArts events changes above, please note that there have been some changes to the SilverArts rules by the NCSG this year.

Overall, Local Coordinators have been asked to ensure that all submissions meet the SilverArts criteria regarding the correct category selection, size of entry, kit entries and what constitutes a set among other things. This is due to the fact that in recent years, qualified local artists have shown up at the State Finals only to have their artwork refused due to these types of rules violations.

The main changes to SilverArts state sanctioned categories are highlighted below.

- Free-standing artwork must fit into an area 3' x 3' x 4' with the 4' dimension either long or high (used to be 3'W x 3'D x 5'H).
- Pottery must be thrown or hand-built; NOT created in a mold.
- Framed entries MUST be gallery wrapped and securely wired; NO serrated hooks or string. Max size 36" x 42".
- A set or group shall be no more than 3 separate pieces which should be related in concept or theme and fit within the max size areas above. Three random pieces of artwork will not be considered a set.

The following PHOTOGRAPHY post-processing adjustments ARE ALLOWED:

- Basic tonal and color adjustments
- Cropping, leveling, and vignetting
- Dust and spot removal
- Masking for local adjustments
- Removal of objects that detract from the main subject
- Sharpening and noise reduction
- Transform to straighten vertical and horizontal lines
- Lens correction
- The use of filters
- Merging photos or parts of a photo to make a composite image for HDR, panoramas, star trails, image stacking (e.g., for taking images of stars), focus stacking, light painting, sky replacement, etc.
- As always, any submitted photo must be suitable for a general audience of all ages.

Photography Category Rules

- Submitted images must be the individual work of the participant and composited images that include AI generated subject matter or subject matter that is for sale or in the public domain are not allowed.
- You can replace the sky or foreground in a photo with a different one so long as both photos were taken by you.
- This means that you CANNOT replace the sky with one that comes with a software program or is acquired through a third party.
- Or, you can add a moon, the sun, stars, people, etc. to another photo as long as everything originates from a photo you took.
- You can use generative fill in Photoshop (or similar tools) to fill in an area after identifying an object to be removed but you cannot

use generative fill with words included that describe an object (say a giraffe) or a scene (a street in a medieval town) that you want added to the photo.

LITERARY ARTS

- One (1) display ready copy must be included in the official State Finals Entry Form and SilverArts Information Form (used to be 3).

PRE-GAMES ACTIVITIES

We are looking to do at least 3 activities this Winter and Spring before the Senior Games events start although the dates are not set yet.

The first one on the list will be an Air Rifle Target Shooting event in February. In the Spring, be looking for a Beginner/Novice Pickleball tournament and a Bocce Ball learn/play. We will send out an email in the next week or two once we get the dates confirmed so be looking for that.

For those who are interested in getting in a little workout, how about playing some basketball? Some of the guys still meet every Monday morning at the Rock Gym for a shoot-around and all are welcome. We conducted our first 3 on 3 Basketball half-court tournament last year and are looking for a few more participants to round out the teams for this year.

PARTICIPANT REQUEST

We have one enthusiastic participant who wants to do a swing dance routine at the Closing Ceremony in the Performing Arts Dance category. But alas – he needs a partner. Is there a lady out there who's passion is swing and would like to partner with him? If so, reply to this email or call Terence at 727-470-7947 with your contact info and I will pass it on to him.

OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK and CONTACT INFO

Don't forget to check out our website occasionally - [Cherokee/Clay SG website](#) - as well follow us on our Facebook page - [Cherokee/Clay Facebook](#). You can find most of the information you might be looking for there as well as the current news. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at 727-470-7947.

Stay healthy, keep moving!

Terence