



DELAWARE INDIAN NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

Lënapeí Pampil

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From the Desk of Chief Brad KillsCrow

Brad KillsCrow, Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians

Hè, kulamalsi hàch!

As we begin to prepare for yet another winter, we are mindful of our Ancestors who made this way of life for all of us through the forced removal from our homelands and four subsequent forced removals until we were settled here in Oklahoma. We are guided by our Ancestors' spirits to continue our existence on this sacred earth. Unfortunately, there are undocumented non-federally-recognized groups claiming to be Lenape and attempting to speak for us in our homelands, and some are receiving funding in the name of the Lenape that should be going to our Tribe. This issue is becoming more and more of a problem as these groups are getting support from uneducated individuals in Pennsylvania. Our Cultural Education Director Jeremy Johnson has been leading the charge on combating these fake groups. Mr. Johnson was recently presented with a Proclamation from Pennsylvania State Representative Joe Webster for his work on increasing the presence of the Delaware Tribe in our Homelands and educating others on how we are harmed by the actions of these other groups. Tribal Council Secretary Bruce Martin has been sending letters to the Pennsylvania Representatives announcing our stance against the fake tribes seeking state recognition in Pennsylvania. We are currently working with the Delaware Nation to combat this effort together.

On September 18, 2023 I met with the Eastern Food Bank of Oklahoma to sign an agreement between them and the Delaware Tribe. This will enable the Delaware Tribe to purchase food for our food pantry at a significantly discounted rate, and thus will help us to sustain the food pantry for years to come for the benefit all of our tribal members. If you have not had the opportunity to utilize our food pantry, please come visit and take part!

This year's Health Fair was a huge success! A big shout-out to Title IV Director Trudy Kerby and LELC Director Monica Fisher for organizing the event. There were over 30 vendors in attendance with valuable information for our children and elders.

The Delaware Tribe is in the process of securing our funding from the Cherokee Nation to build a gymnasium on campus here in Bartlesville. The gym will have several classrooms, a wellness center with weights, and exercise equipment. This will also provide a much-needed indoor space for dances, funerals, and other community events.

In closing, I want to thank all of our Lenape veterans for their service to our country in honor of Veterans Day. We acknowledge your sacrifices and service and we will forever be grateful to you! ■



From The Desk of Assistant Chief Tonya Anna

Tonya Anna, Assistant Chief

Tahkokēn means Fall or Autumn in Lenape. Thank goodness for cooler weather and start thinking about harvest and preparing for Winter. Veterans Day is just around the corner, so I would like to take this opportunity and thank all veterans for their service. Every veteran has their own story with some being told with tears in their eyes. As civilians we do not know what they go through during active duty or what their family/friends go through during their deployment. I would like to encourage everyone to reach out not only to the veterans but the families. These individuals are left behind to ponder about their loved one and hoping they are safe. Again, Wanishi to our veterans and their families!

The Inauguration & Swearing In Ceremony for the Cherokee Nation was held August 14, 2023 in Tahlequah, OK. It was an honor to sit among some of the most dignified leaders across the state of Oklahoma. We were treated with respect and got to enjoy lunch before departing. Not only were we invited to the Inauguration but also to the Cherokee Holiday Legislative Breakfast that was held on September 2, 2023.

I am looking forward to attending the Bartlesville Chamber’s Women in Business Lunch for their September meeting alongside the Tribe’s Executive Assistant Dana Murrell. The intent is to ensure that this would be beneficial to our female employees and send various women each month to represent the Delaware Tribe of Indians. This

would give opportunities for networking and some professional development in which I am a big supporter.

Representatives from the five Delaware tribes have been asked to speak on Indigenous People’s Day in Philadelphia, PA. I will represent and speak on our history, culture, and language. Along with that I will also touch base on our accomplishments and activities that we continue to work on to make our tribe successful.

The National Indian Education Association Convention and Trade Show will be held in Albuquerque, NM, October 18-21, 2023. If you have a soon to be high school student or college student in your family please check out this organization or visit niea.org for information pertaining to education.

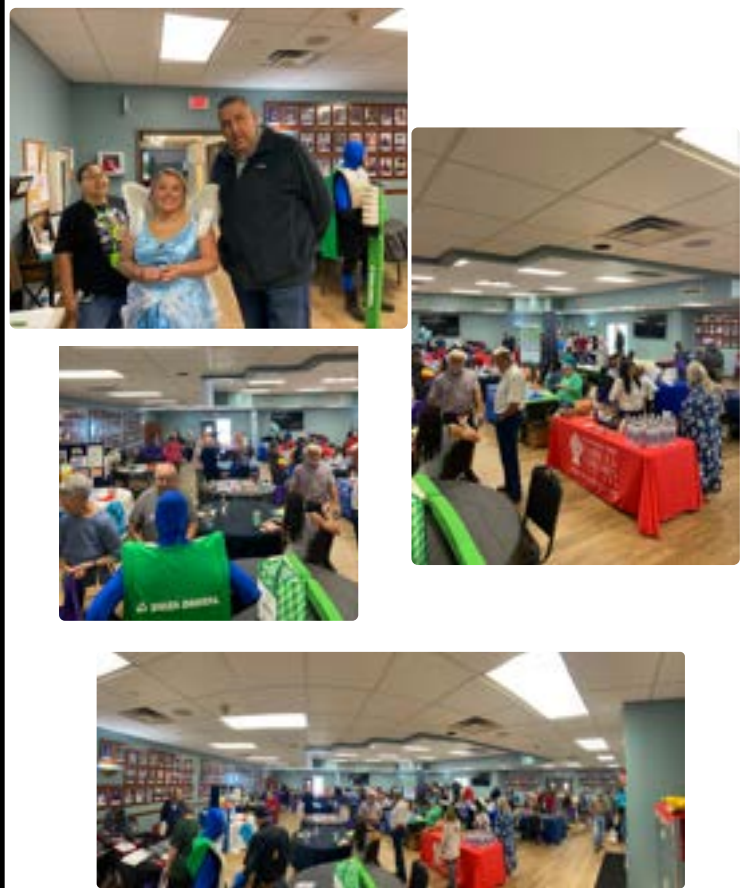
I plan on ending the year with attending the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in November. This will be my first experience with NCAI and I’m anxious to report back to you in our next DIN.

So as the year winds down and we prepare for winter, remember to take time for yourself. The holidays will be here before we know it and is usually chaotic for most of us. We can’t take care of others if we don’t take care of ourselves.

Wanishi ■



This Year’s Lenape Health Fair Was A Great Success!



My Flag

Shawn Skeel, Army & Navy Veteran

She has stars from above
To remind me of God’s presence and divine love
She has a field of beautiful blue
to remind me what is true
She has Stripes of brilliant white
That remind me never surrender
To the enemy I will stand and fight
She has stripes of deep red
They remind me of the blood that every soldier
Has or was willing to shed

When I look at her I remember all the lives we
have lost
When we raised our hands
We all knew the possibility of the cost

When I see her waving in the breeze
It makes me want to fall down upon my knees
To thank God for all those today
Who Are Standing tall in harm’s way

Through it all we have a dream
You can see it in every soldier’s eye it gleams
It beats deep within a soldier’s heart
Even if we are far apart
never knowing the horrors that we see
Far from loved ones, far from family
Giving our all so that you can be

Safe at home and living free
whether it be flying high
way up yonder in the sky
or in the jungle knee deep in mud
at times afraid and covered in blood
or fighting sun, and wind and sand
we stand firm ready to take a stand
or sailing sometimes rough and raging seas
my friends I ask you hear my plea
remember their courage and their sacrifice
remember it all has a price
whether it be here or in distant lands
the son of God and the common man

Remember Christ and the soldier to
think about all they’ve been through
For total strangers we know it is true
No greater love than to lay our lives down for you
remember the reason for this day
and don’t forget to stop and to say
Thank you God, thank you soldier for never giving up, for staying true
for fighting for me and each one of you.

So next time you look and see old Glory wave
remember she moves because of the breath of the brave. ■

Delaware Indian Recipes

These recipes come from the cookbook *Lenape Indian Cooking* (conveniently available on lenapereserve.com). This cookbook was originally written by Nora Thompson Dean starting in the late 1970s and has been revised and added to over the years by Jim Rementer. Enjoy this look at a few traditional Lenape recipes!

Pumpkin Recipes

Lenape Way To Cook A Squash Or Pumpkin

Squash or Pumpkin: 1 large (ca. 12 lb.)
Grease: 2 cups
Sugar: about 3 cups

Cut the Pumpkin into squares, about 6 x 6 inches.

Put the Grease in a large pot, preferably cast iron with a heavy lid. Put the Pumpkin squares into the pot with the inside of them downward.

Sprinkle them with some Sugar, then another layer of squares, then more Sugar, etc. [Originally maple syrup might have been used to sweeten.]

Cover the pot. Cook until done (about 3 hrs. for this size). Do not stir. Use a very low flame. Keep covered. After about an hour, start testing for doneness with a fork.

When a fork goes through the skin side of the pumpkin easily, it is done.

Compare Touching Leaves' instructions above with the following account written by the Moravian missionary John Heckewelder about the Lenape way of cooking a pumpkin in the 1700s:

They also prepare a variety of dishes from the pumpkin, the squash, and the green French or kidney beans; they are very particular in their choice of pumpkins and squashes, and in their manner of cooking them, The women say that the less water is put to them, the better dish they make, and that it would be still better if they were stewed without any water, merely in the steam of the sap which they cook them with large leaves of the pumpkin vine, or other leaves of the larger kind. (Heckewelder, p. 194)

Kaxeyaya (Dried Pumpkin)

Cut around the pumpkin in rings, and make each ring about 1 inch thick. String these on a pole or rope. Hang in the hot sun until dry and wrinkled. This takes one or two days depending on the sun and temperature. This way pumpkin will store all winter. To serve, boil and sweeten to taste, or bake and moisten with sugar water.

Salapon (Frybread)

Flour: 3-1/2 cups
Water: lukewarm
Baking Powder: 3 heaping teaspoons
Salt: ½ teaspoon
Grease: enough for deep frying
More Flour

Mix the first three ingredients with enough water until like pancake batter. Let stand a few minutes while heating enough grease for deep-fat frying.

In a large bread mixing pan have more flour. After making a depression in the flour, pour into it some of the mix, and knead it. Knead until about like biscuit dough.

Make round cakes, about 5 inches in diameter and ¾ inch thick.

Use a "tester" (a small piece of dough) to test the heat of the Grease. When hot enough, the dough will first sink, then immediately rise. When the grease is hot enough, the bread can be fried.

Turn it and remove with a spoon or tongs. Never pierce the bread with a fork.

Place in a large cook pot or paper bag which has several paper towels in the bottom to absorb any excess grease.

Serve. ■

Introducing the Delaware Tribe's New Executive Director of Tribal Operations

Shana Robedeaux, Executive Director of Tribal Operations

Hello to all. Just six short months ago, I stepped into the role of Assistant Tribal Operations Manager for the Delaware Tribe. However, things moved swiftly after I arrived, and I'm humbled to now serve as your Executive Director of Tribal Operations.

Since joining the Delaware team, I've been on a steep learning curve. I bring a background in tribal governance—two decades with the Osage Nation in roles helping to run Tribal childcare and ultimately serving as Clerk of Congress—to this challenge. I also bring experience in public and private sector business and a lifetime of attending to a growing family's needs—my adult children have made me a grandmother of four! My life experience has made me resilient and taught me to seek clarity in adversity. Resilience and faith, coupled with support and encouragement from key members of our Tribe's diligent workforce, were pivotal for my rapid onboarding and assumption of responsibility here. Leadership transitions can be challenging times and I am grateful for the warmth and kindness I've received from so many of the Tribal members I've met.

I'm also excited to be well on my way to getting to know the members we serve. The operations that I oversee, and in particular the Tribe's programmatic offerings

exist for you. Whether it's a critical service or a cultural program, our efforts are aimed at better serving our members. The welfare of every tribal member, near or far, is our *raison d'être*; you and your needs are what inspire us to move forward. Chief KillsCrow emphasized the power of teamwork when I arrived and I took his message to heart. Behind everything we do every day, week, and



month stands the Delaware Tribe's wonderful group of proud, dedicated, and skilled employees, with an incredible cadre of committed volunteers at our side ready to do what it takes to right by our members. We care for you and keep your interests in mind as we carry out the Tribe's operations.

In future articles, I'll address the progress of specific Tribal programs. For now, I want to encourage open communication and ask for your feedback. Please communicate with your elected officials or feel invited to channel your ideas and concerns through me. Your insights are invaluable in fostering understanding within our Tribe. Engage with us: write in to the DIN, attend Council meetings, or share a meal with Tribal administration and our Elders at our Title VI luncheons, to name just a few avenues available to you. I am committed to heightening transparency in our operations and ensuring you remain informed and heard. After all, we share a vision: to lift up the Delaware Tribe of Indians. My door and my email inbox (srobedeaux@delawaretribe.org) are always open for your thoughts on how to do that!

As the seasons change, we're reminded of the cycles of growth and transition. With a new fiscal year on the horizon, it's a time of reflection and renewal, and for setting the stage for shared successes.

In unity and hope, wanishi! ■

From the Desk of Grant Writer Manon Taylor

Manon Taylor, Grant Writer

Exploring the Oklahoma State University Extension Office—Washington County

Our very own Title VI Elder Nutrition Program, directed by Trudy Kerby, partnered with OSU Extension of Washington County to come to the meal site and provide informational classes to anyone who wants to come participate. These classes are held every other week from noon to 1:00 P.M. in Forsythe Hall.

OSU offers many classes within the following topics: Plants and Animals; Youth, Family, Health, and Home; Business and Community; Environment and Natural Resources. You can explore thousands of OSU Extension publications, videos, and other information organized by topic at this website: <https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/>. OSU Extension has offices in each of the 77 counties in Oklahoma. Washington County offers 4-H, Agriculture, Families and Consumers, Horticulture, and Master Gardener services. They also provide information on grants available to farmers, ranchers, and other related occupations. You can visit the website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages for additional information. I recently took a Barn Quilt painting class at Osage County office, and it was very interesting. All supplies were provided for a nominal fee, and instruction and the history of how barn quilting started were also presented. Check the website for upcoming classes and take your family and friends!

Extension offices have many resources available, and most are free. **Research**—At the Stillwater campus and experiment stations throughout the state, faculty members conduct research on agriculture, natural resources, rural economies, and social issues to address the needs of Oklahomans.

Instruction—Oklahoma State uses this research to continually improve the quality and content of its undergraduate and graduate academic programs. **Extension**—Through the county educators, specialists and publications they bring this research to you to promote wellness, leadership, and economic development for all Oklahomans. According to their website, they bring value to everyone in our State (see stats below)!

Impact on Oklahoma

Our 2020 Extension programs helped residents solve problems, serve as community leaders, and manage resources wisely.

600,000+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our volunteers provide education and service to their communities through a wide variety of Extension programs.

128,600 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Oklahoma 4-H helps youth in our state achieve their full potential. We help our youth learn the life skills they need to be the leaders of tomorrow.

1,358,000 FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS

Working locally and statewide to build and maintain vibrant communities, families, leaders, and businesses.

On the grant side, I would like to see the Delaware Tribe apply for the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) Grant when the application becomes available. This would be beneficial in several ways of helping native youth become leaders. Below is the article provided by OSU Extension that gives information about what tribes currently have the grant.

OSU Extension awarded funding to add Native American educator roles

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Media Contact: Gail Ellis | Editorial Communications Coordinator | 405-744-9152 | gail.ellis@okstate.edu

The northeast district of Oklahoma State University Extension has received two Native American Agriculture Fund grants to support new and ongoing partnerships with multiple Native American tribes and nations in Oklahoma.

NAAF provides funding to eligible organizations for business assistance, agricultural education, technical support and advocacy services to support Native farmers and ranchers. Nancy Johnson,

director of OSU Extension in the northeast district, said OSU Extension received similar grants from the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program in the past, but this most recent award is the first distributed by NAAF.

The two grants, one allotted to the Muscogee Nation and another designated for a group of nine tribes in the northeast part of the state, will provide approximately \$335,000 over the next four years for agricultural projects tied to the preservation of Native American culture.

Objectives outlined for the Muscogee Nation grant by Johnson and co-principal investigator Leslie Lewis include establishing a new OSU Extension educator position to help relaunch an archery club, introduce anti-bullying and health curricula and train youth in meat judging. Native Farmers and Ranchers programming will explore pecan grafting as well as beef and small animal production and management.

Other portions of funding for the Muscogee Nation will support community development with training in resume writing, job skills and soft skills, along with education on the dangers of substance abuse and social media safety. Tribe members will learn about county and tribal government, the benefits of growing their own food, food distribution and how to ensure a healthy diet.

“Some of the training opportunities will be intertwined with their native language, and we hope to incorporate elders into the process of cultural preservation through customs such as basket weaving,” Johnson said.

The Muscogee Nation has about 87,000 members in Oklahoma; the nation covers Okmulgee, McIntosh, Okfuskee,

Hughes, Creek, Tulsa and Wagoner counties along with portions of Mayes, Rogers and Seminole counties. Johnson said the NAAF grant was written in collaboration with the College of the Muscogee Nation, and the new educator will be housed on its campus when hired.

The goal of the nine-tribes grant, co-authored by Kathy Enyart, is to fund an educator to build upon resources already in place, including free water testing and childcare training.

“The Eastern Shawnee Tribe has an outdoor classroom it’s going to let us use, and the Quapaw Nation could potentially let us use its meat processing plant for meat judging,” Johnson said.

The nine tribes of the Inter-Tribal Council are the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Miami Tribe, Modoc Nation, Ottawa Tribe, Peoria Tribe, Quapaw Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, Shawnee Tribe and Wyandotte Nation, all located in Ottawa County.

In addition to the latest round of funding through NAAF, Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program grants currently support projects involving community gardening in Pawnee County and an OSU Extension educator position and full-time program assistant in Osage County.

“We’ll collaborate with 12 different tribes in this grant cycle, and that’s pretty substantial,” Johnson said. “Our county educators connected and partnered with these tribes to lay the groundwork before we applied for this latest grant, and that has been successful.”

If you would like any more information, please feel free to contact the Tribal Offices at 918-337-6590 or any local OSU Extension Office – Washington County 918-534-2216. ■

Community Services and Education

Community Services Programs

If you have questions, please contact the Tribal Office at (918) 337-6590.

Community Service Applications for the following programs are being accepted, while funding is available. Applicants must be an enrolled tribal member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Tribal members are only allowed to apply for two applications per calendar year. Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Community Services Committee.

Burial Program: Assistance up to \$750.00 for the burial assistance for Delaware Tribal members. The family may apply for the funds to be used for expenses that are most beneficial to the family (i.e., funeral services, family meals, wake, grave markers, etc.) Documentation required to establish membership and proof of death. Application must be submitted within one year from date of death.

Elder Prescriptions: Prescription medication assistance

to Delaware Elders age 60 and over for Pharmacy and related costs. Elders may receive assistance up to \$75.00 per month. Funds may be disbursed to vendors or reimburse applicants with proper documents and receipts.

Medical Assistance: Assistance up to \$300 for medical bills, including but not limited to out of pocket medical expenses, medical equipment (purchase or rental), Home health care, pharmacy, etc. Payment for services will be made to provider or Tribal member if paid receipts

are included with other required documentation.

Emergency Assistance & Emergency Travel Assistance: Provides emergency assistance up to \$400 or emergency travel assistance up to \$200. Funds are to be used for emergency situations as requested by Tribal member. Applicants must utilize other community resources if available.

Rental or Mortgage Assistance: Assistance up to \$400.00. Eviction notice and/or other documentation must be submitted with the application. Tribal

member's name must be on the rental lease contract or mortgage bill.

Dental Assistance: Assistance up to \$300.00. Provides assistance for dental services including tooth repair, fillings, dentures or emergency services. Routine dental exams and cleanings are not covered.

Optical Assistance: Assistance up to \$200 for optical services to Delaware Tribal Members. Funds may be used for services, including glasses, exams or related. ■

Education Committee Assistance/Programs

Take advantage of these programs; they are here for you! If you have any questions, please contact the Tribal Office at (918) 337-6590.

Trust Fund Higher Education School Scholarship: Delaware Tribal members attending college, for a degree, are eligible to apply. Currently, full-time students may apply for \$400 per semester for up to eight semesters and part-time students may apply for \$200 per semester up to 16 semesters. Semesters do not have to be consecutive. Applicants must submit all required documentation, including official transcripts and enrollment verification from the college or university. Students must maintain a 2.7 GPA (grade point average) in the last semester attended (high school, college, etc.). Award is made directly to student to insure that it does not interfere with their financial aid package from the institution. Scholarships will not be awarded for the summer semester. Scholarships are subject to funding availability. Please mail or hand in your completed applications to the tribal offices at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd., Bartlesville, OK 74006

Fall scholarship applications will be accepted from **July 1 through September 15**, Spring from **December 1 through February 15**.

Driver's Education: This assistance may be used to help defray the cost of attending Driver's Education classes through an accredited training facility for up to \$200.

Extra-Curricular Activity: This assistance is for students involved in school sponsored extra-curricular programs (for items required but not provided by the school). Students may be reimbursed up to \$100.

Education Assistance: This assistance is for a \$50 gift card for students Pre-K thru 5th and 6th thru 12th to assist with items required for classes but not provided by the school i.e. school supplies, graduation expenses, etc. Gift cards are available on a first-come first-served basis while supplies last.

You can download the applications directly from our web site www.delaware-tribe.org. Just go the Services/Programs tab, and then scroll down to Educational Assistance. ■

Donations for Education Scholarships and to the Tribe Gratefully Accepted

We invite tribal members and others to contribute to a special fund for educational scholarships as well as donations to the Tribe's various programs.

For Educational or scholarship donations make your check payable to the Delaware Tribe Trust Board on the memo line write education assistance or scholarship fund

For general donations, other than education, please make your check payable to the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Examples for the memo line could be Food Pantry; Lenape Early Learning Center; Title VI or just specify it as a general donation.

Donors are recognized at five levels:

Brass Level	up to \$100
Silver Level	\$100-500
Gold Level	\$500-1,000
Wampum Level	\$1,000-5,000
Wampum Belt Level	above \$5,000

Send donations to

Delaware Tribe of Indians
ATTN: Trust Board Education Committee (For education donations)

OR

ATTN: Donations (For all other donations)
5100 Tuxedo Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006-2746



Delaware Tribe Food Pantry Announces New Partnerships and Services

Celeste Amadon

In an exciting new update from Sonny Fixico, the manager of the Delaware Tribe Food Pantry, several innovations are in the works to better serve the tribal community.

"Let Us Eat Together" T-Shirts for Sale

The food pantry is now selling red Wipuntitam, "Let us eat together," T-shirts featuring the Delaware Tribal Seal. These shirts are available in sizes ranging from S-3XL and are priced at \$15 each. To order shirts, email sfixico@delawaretribe.org with the size you'd like and your planned pick up time.

You can pay with a check or money order made payable to the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Please write "Food Pantry T-shirt" on the memo line. You can also inquire

by email about having shirts shipped to you.

Upgrading Infrastructure

Efforts are underway to acquire a refrigerated box truck, which promises to make operations at the Food Pantry significantly more efficient. "It should really help our backs here with the loading and unloading to use a dolly and, hopefully, a pallet jack with a lift gate," says Fixico. In addition, plans are in motion to start delivering food to Elders within the Delaware Tribe.

Partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

The Delaware Tribe Food Pantry has officially partnered with the Food Bank of Eastern

Oklahoma and is currently in the onboarding phase of this new venture. The collaboration aims to utilize the larger organization's "Service Insights Meal Connect" app, which will automate the monthly reporting required by the partnership agreement. "We will need each household to re-register/update their household, so we will either send an email or call tribal members to request that they do so," Fixico said. He explained that re-registering at home will help members avoid having to wait in line to do so before shopping at the pantry.

A Multitude of Benefits

Fixico believes that the Food Bank partnership will offer the Tribe a multitude of benefits. "They have a warehouse that we will be able to order from that has

a freezer, cooler, and a lot of racks for dry products," he notes. Pricing will be cost + weight. While some staples like eggs, milk, water, and bread may remain the same, other items may now be sourced through the more economical Always Save brand, so don't panic if things look a little different on your next visit.

The partnership also opens the door to cooking classes led by Food Bank representatives. Additionally, a color-coded system (Green, Yellow, Red) will help guide members on the Fixico value of different food items. Fixico reiterated that the food pantry will remain exclusive to Delaware Tribal members and that eligibility is not based on income.

Currently, the supplies to put together a great taco or pasta night are among the most popular

offerings, as are salsa, frozen pizza, and to-bake biscuits.

A Note of Thanks

Fixico extended his heartfelt thanks to the Food Pantry staff, volunteers, especially Beverly Hicks, and the Delaware Tribal Council for their continued support and dedication. "They are all great at what they do, and we could not do this without them," he says.

This is an exciting time for the Delaware Tribe Food Pantry as they take innovative steps to better serve this community. Keep an eye out for further updates, and don't forget to re-register if you're a tribal member using the pantry's services. ■

Delaware Tribe's Title VI Elder Nutrition Program Continues to Expand and Flourish

Celeste Amadon

Over the past several months, the Delaware Tribe's Title VI Elder Nutrition Program has been bustling with activity, focusing on the well-being and fellowship of Tribal Elders. The program is directed at Native Americans 55 and older, so our "Elder" clients include healthy and vital tribal members who want to use our services to help them stay in great shape as well as those struggling with nutrition, health, or fitness. Managed by a dedicated team led by Elder Services Director Trudy Kerby and Assistant Elder Services Director Archie Elvington (who provides regular updates to the DIN), the program has continued to grow and now offers more comprehensive services to the community.

Lunches are provided Monday through Friday in Forsythe Hall at the Delaware Community Center, located at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd. Native American Elders and their spouses aged 55 and older can enjoy these meals free of charge. For guests and tribal staff, a nominal fee of \$6 is charged for access to what many consider the best salad bar in town with its popular watermelon. Attending provides both a meal and the opportunity to commune with the Tribe's most precious resource: its Elders. The DIN is

told that charismatic and entertaining regulars include Carmen Ketcher (Delaware) and Liz Nelson (Potawatomi). Then there are a cadre of great volunteers, such as Odene Kirk and Elaine Thompson, who guests will find doing everything from refilling salt and pepper shakers and setting up dishware to sweeping and wiping down counters after lunch.

Assistant Elder Services Director Elvington's latest report to DIN discussed the program's impressive impact thus far: the program is currently serving an average of 1,575 Elder meals per month with a daily average of 52.5 meals.

The Elder Nutrition Program also offers a plethora of activities for Elders. Chair exercises, which provide a safe way to build and maintain muscle and fitness, are scheduled three times a week. Elders can gather for Bingo every Thursday after lunch for companionship, fun, and a chance to win prizes. Over the last quarter, the community enjoyed basket weaving and healthy living classes, as well as 50/50 pot activities and a silent auction event.

The Elders recently took a trip to the Tulsa State Fair. The program put on a Health Fair and will host a Hal-

loween costume party and contest, a Thanksgiving Day lunch, and a Christmas party for Elders over the course of the holiday season.

The program staff, including Cook and Kitchen Assistant Tammy Cunningham and Kitchen Assistant and Salad Bar Prepper Kim Osbourn, is committed to the expansion of Elder Nutrition Services to take care of all of our treasured Elders' needs.

For more information about the monthly menu and activities, calendars are available both in the dining hall and online at <https://delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/elders-services/>. ■

Delaware Tribe Partners with Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape for Delaware Blanket Design Contest

The Delaware Tribe of Indians is partnering with our LLC, Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape, to have a Delaware blanket produced. Any tribal member who wishes may enter a design. The design should be reflective of our Tribe and culture. After a design has been selected the blankets will be woven and become available for purchase through Lenape Reserve. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2023. The winning entry will be announced at the monthly Tribal Council Meeting on December 27, 2023. The tribal member whose design is chosen will be awarded \$250 and the blanket will be advertised with the designer's name. One entry per email. Each entry should include your name, address, and Tribal Enrollment Number. Please email your artwork to bgriffith@delawaretribe.org no later than 5:00 pm CST, December 1, 2023. ■



Job Opportunities at American Woolen Company, Inc. In Stafford Springs, CT Available Now!

Established in 1899, The American Woolen Company has been an integral part of the New England textile history. As the worsted and woolen fabric leader at the turn of the 20th century, the American Woolen Company is dedicated to reintroducing American craftsmanship to premium textile manufacturing. The American Woolen Company is located in Stafford Springs, CT and is one of the last operating wool mills in America. The Delaware Tribe has been fortunate to work with Jacob Long, president of the American Woolen Company, to purchase an interest in the company. The Delaware Tribe is excited to incorporate this stake in the company as an investment in our Lenape people. Opportunities for employment at the mill are available to our tribal members who are interested in learning this trade. Open positions include Weaving Operator, Finishing Operator, and Customer Care Representative. Benefits include health, dental and vision insurance; 401(k) with 100% match up to 3%; and more. For more information see americanwoolen.com or email kreith@delawaretribe.org for full listings and applications. ■

Delaware Indian News

The *Delaware Indian News* is the official publication of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. It is published quarterly by the Delaware Tribe of Indians and is mailed free to members. Subscriptions to non-tribal members are available at \$20 per year. To order a subscription, contact (918) 337-6590 or din@delawaretribe.org.

We invite contributions, but reserve the right to limit printing based upon available space. The deadline for articles, letters, ads and calendar of events is December 15, 2023 for the January 2024 issue. Submissions may be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the tribal office or emailed to din@delawaretribe.org. Paid advertisements are available; for rates, please contact the editor.

Editorials, guest columns, and reader's letters reflect the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *DIN*, its staff, or the tribal government. Editorials that are

intended to be published in the *DIN* must concern tribal issues and should not be statements of general political beliefs. They must be signed by the author and include the author's address. The *DIN* does not guarantee publication upon submission of comments.

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The mission of the *DIN* is to serve, empower and inform the Lenape people, while adhering to the policy of unbiased reporting in an ethical and professional manner.

Editorial Board:

Dana Murrell, Tonya Anna, Emily Brown, Celeste Amadon

Technical Editor: Joe Brown

(din@delawaretribe.org) ■



Reinforcing Wishes

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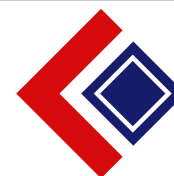
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Obituaries

Laura Mae Maddux



**October 8, 1934 –
June 20, 2023**

Laura, classy and proud with a melodious soul...

Laura, a remarkable woman whose love for music and creative pursuits touched the hearts of many, passed away peacefully on June 20, 2023. She will be remembered as a cherished wife, mother, grandmother (Nanny), great grandmother, aunt, sister, and friend, leaving behind a legacy of joy, warmth, and inspiration.

Born on October 8, 1934, in Nowata, Oklahoma she grew up with 4 sisters – a country girl who was her Daddy's shadow sharing many (and sometimes not-so-safe) adventures with him. During her adult years, she doted on her parents until their passing.

She married Tom Maddux on October 18, 1952, who cherished and adored her. They celebrated 70 years of marriage in October 2022. As a testament to their love and devotion to each other that was exhibited daily, their 3 daughters have been married a total of 130 years!

Laura's passion for music bloomed at an early age. She found solace and delight in playing the piano, a talent she nurtured and honed throughout her life. Though she never learned to read sheet music, her

innate gift allowed her to play effortlessly by ear, captivating everyone fortunate enough to hear her melodic creations. Her fingertips danced across the keys, painting vibrant pictures with every note.

Beyond her musical talents, Laura had an artistic flair that extended into various domains. Cake decorating was her canvas, where she transformed simple cakes into edible works of art. Her friends and family marveled at her intricate designs and the way she effortlessly turned desserts into masterpieces. Whether it was for a child, a co-worker's birthday or other momentous celebration, Laura's cakes became an integral part of cherished memories.

Sewing was another skill where Laura's creativity thrived. She expertly stitched together fabrics for her three daughters and for herself, breathing life into her imaginative visions. The garments she created reflected her passion for perfection and attention to detail. Each piece she created carried a part of her heart.

Laura possessed a remarkable skill in canning sweet pickles that she learned from her mother-in-law. She embraced the art of preservation and relished in the joy of sharing her homemade jars with friends and loved ones. Her enthusiasm for the process and the satisfaction of seeing others enjoy her creations brought her immeasurable happiness.

Cooking, particularly baking, was yet another domain where Laura's talents shone brightly. The tantalizing aromas that wafted from her kitchen were a testament to her culinary prowess. From lemon or chocolate meringue pies with double-high meringue, to her German Chocolate cake with extra pecans and frosting, and chocolate fudge and perfect divinity candies at Christmas, Laura's

culinary creations were enjoyed by all fortunate enough to savor them.

Laura's professional life found her content and fulfilled in the office, where her organizational skills and attention to detail were put to excellent use. She approached her work with diligence and dedication, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues. Her contributions were invaluable, and her colleagues will remember her as an indispensable member of the team.

In Laura's absence, her family and friends are left with treasured memories of her melodious piano playing, extraordinary artistic endeavors, and mouthwatering culinary delights. Her warm smile, loving heart, and unwavering support will be deeply missed by all whose lives she touched.

Laura is survived by her beloved family, including her beloved husband of 70 years Tom Maddux; her children Debra Tate (Richard), Melissa Marple (Chris), and Lori Pearman (John); grandchildren Matthew and Chelsea Tate, Jeremy Tate, Ashli and Nick Coffman, Brian and Jen Marple, Jonathan Pearman, and Jared Pearman; great grandchildren Lexi Tate, Brielle Tate, Kennady Tate, Natalie Tate, Cooper Coffman, Averil Coffman, Elsie Marple, Quinn Marple; sister Wanda King; and nieces and nephews and other family members and friends that will forever miss her.

She is now reunited with her parents Glenn and Delphia Brannan; sisters Dixie Standeford, Arlene Yelton, and Carrol Walker. ■



Charles Taylor



**September 8, 1952 –
September 3, 2023**

Charles Taylor, age 70 of Tulsa OK passed away on September 3, 2023. He worked closely with the Delaware Tribe Cultural Center staff from 2019–2022 to design and build the current History Museum. He also co-curated and installed the exhibits in the museum. He was a skilled craftsman in many different applications from construction to beadwork. Charles was a genuine & forthright man; a beloved friend to many area native people. He was a good man and he will be missed. ■



To Contact Us

Bartlesville Tribal Offices:
5100 Tuxedo Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 337-6590

Office Hours:
8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. M-F

Caney Office:
601 High Street
Caney, KS 67333
(620) 879-2189

Tribal Web Site:
www.delawaretribe.org

General Email:
tribe@delawaretribe.org



If one of your relatives or close friends has passed, please send us an obituary. We will run it in the next *Delaware Indian News*. Obituaries can be sent to din@delawaretribe.org or to the Tribal Offices.

Please also pass along any birth or death announcements to the Enrollment Office at enrollment@delawaretribe.org. The Community Services Committee has a burial assistance program if you need help. ■

Delaware Indian Scholarship Fund Recipient Profile: J. Shea Ferguson

Celeste Amadon

The Delaware Indian News is proud to highlight recipients of grants from the Tribe's scholarship fund. Please write to the DIN if you have interest in being featured.

J. Shea Ferguson, who now holds the impressive credentials of Clinical Fellowship - Speech Language Pathology (CF-SLP), recently graduated from Louisiana State University with both bachelor's and master's degrees in Communication Disorders and Science. Currently employed as a speech language pathologist, she works with seniors at a skilled nursing facility, treating cognitive-linguistic deficits as well as swallowing disorders. Ferguson is passionate about her work and plans to return to her hometown of Bartlesville, Oklahoma to serve her community, while also considering long-term settlement options for her family.

Ferguson learned about available scholarship funds from the Delaware Tribe through family members and contacts on the Tribal Council. To finance her undergraduate studies, she relied on government-subsidized loans and family assistance. A non-traditional student, she chose to attend college in her mid-30s, with her husband making sacrifices to support her educational journey. During graduate school, she received a scholarship based on academic merit and tribal affiliation and worked as a graduate assistant to cover additional costs. "Attending school is incredibly expensive," Ferguson notes, adding that funds from the Delaware Tribal Scholarship significantly eased the burden of book and supply expenses. "Without every bit of help, I wouldn't have made it. I'm the first gener-

ation in my family to receive not just a college degree, but also a graduate degree!" She appreciates her opportunity to obtain higher education—despite all the financial challenges to doing so—and sees her achievement as significant beyond herself. "My education is something that nobody can ever take away for me. And, I know that because I have a degree my children are likely to earn one too. Higher education is so important for furthering families and for the generations ahead." ■



A beaming new graduate—Delaware Tribal member J. Shea Ferguson on the big day.

Update From the Enrollment Department

Emily Brown, Enrollment Director

Hello from the Enrollment Department! We have been busy processing enrollment applications, updating information, and collaborating with other departments within the Tribe. For the year 2023 we have already enrolled 224 new members!! We have also been working on a community engagement portal that will allow Tribal members the ability to update their information at their fingertips. This portal will be available to members around the first of the year. The portal will be linked

to our new enrollment database, due to that it will be important for those that choose to use this new tool to reach out to enrollment@delawaretribe.org to update your email address. Please provide us with your name and date of birth in your update email request. We will also be available at the General Council meeting in November for you to complete your update information request form.

Wanishi! ■



DELAWARE WAR MOTHERS & LENAPE GOURD DANCE SOCIETY

GOURD DANCE

NOVEMBER 4th

2PM - 8PM

JOIN US

Saturday, Nov. 4th-
in The Toby Moreland Student Center,
as we welcome home Veteran, Trey
Johnson & crown our new Delaware
War Mothers Princess!

SCHEDULE:

2 PM - 8 PM

2:30 PM
Princess Crowning

5 PM - 6 PM
Supper Break

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT:

Katie Maynor (918) 397-0313

HEAD STAFF:

Head Man: Trey Johnson
Head Lady: Quay Hosey
Head Singer: Doug Donnell
M.C.: Jimmie Johnson
Arena Director: Tristan Tucker

Outgoing Princess: Marian Johnson

Incoming Princess: Olivia Boyd

CONCESSIONS
WILL BE OPEN!

Toby Moreland Student Center
at Copan Public Schools
527 Hornet Ln, Copan, OK 74022

DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

LENAPE

Delaware Indian News
Media Kit

Full Page-----11.5 x 11.5 = \$300
Half page-----11.5 x 5.75 = \$150
Quarterpage-----5.75 x 5.75 = \$75
Eighthpage-----5.75 x 2.875 = \$40
Business card-----2.0 x 3.5 = \$35

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PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2023

Miss Kennedy Ford, daughter of Taylor & Whitney Ford, was crowned 2023 National American Miss Arizona Princess Queen at the state pageant held at the beautiful Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Scottsdale Arizona. She received her Official State Crown, Banner and Trophy.

She also received a special invitation to compete at the National Pageant held during Thanksgiving Week in Orlando, Florida. At the pageant she was honored with awards for 1st Runner Up for Best Resume, and 1st Runner Up in Casual Wear Modeling. Kennedy is 5 years old and this was her first pageant.

The National American Miss Pageants are dedicated to celebrating America's greatness and encouraging its future leaders. Each year, the National American Miss Pageants awards 1.5 Million dollars in cash, scholarships, and prizes to recognize and assist the development of young women nationwide.

National American Miss is dedicated to developing the success of young women across our nation with a program that is designed to be age-appropriate and family-oriented. Pageants are held in each state for girls ages four to twenty-four in six different age divisions. *Makeup is not allowed on contestants 12 and under.*

The National American Miss Pageants are for "Today's Girl" and "Tomorrow's Leaders." The pageant program is based on inner beauty, as well as poise, presentation, and offers an "All American Spirit" of fun for family and friends. Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence, learning new skills, learning good attitudes about competition, and setting and achieving personal goals. The pageant seeks to recognize the accomplishments of each girl while encouraging her to set goals for the future!

Miss Kennedy Ford's activities include swimming, gymnastics, reading, tap and ballet dance. She volunteers in her community, attends Sunday school, and recently started Kindergarten.

Her sponsors for the pageant were her grandparents: Kala Ketchum, Kevin Thomas, Steven and Dixeen Ford, The Glitter Mama Pageant Coaching by Andrea Lewis, and Gerald Bohulano.

Kennedy is the great-granddaughter of Chief Dee and Annette Ketchum, and granddaughter of Kala Ketchum.

NEWSPAPER: FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PARENT.

WHITNEY FORD
925-348-1445
whitney.irene@gmail.com



October 14, 2023

Annetta Rose
(Schwenker)
Bienroth

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY

100th
Birthday!

3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 7 great great grandchildren

Celebrating at
Zion Lutheran Church,
1200 N Duncan St.
Pampa, TX 79065

Be Happy, be Awesome, May peace be upon you.

Elder Interview with Tee Palomares

What are some of your fondest memories from your childhood?

Catching snakes in my grandparents' garden. On one of my weekend visits to my grandparents home, my grandfather would let me borrow his metal lunch box for my treasure hunts. The weekend came and went so fast and come Sunday evening my grandfather came looking for his lunch box to fill it for the next day's work lunch and when he opened his box he jumped sky high and then he laughed, shut the box and told me that when I come by next weekend, I will be in charge of all the snakes in the garden. I learned many things from my grandparents and life lessons that would carry me through some of the darkest times in my adult life when I was food insecure. They

taught me to can food like tomatoes, green beans, hot banana peppers, chow chow, and pickles and how to store turnips, radishes, and beets properly in the cellar. My family and I were food insecure when I was young and we hardly ever ate meat but we had plenty of vegetables and grains that we were very grateful for. Mother Earth's gifts provided us with the nutrition we needed but it took a little effort from us to ensure our blessings.

What part of our culture or traditions do you hold important?

I feel that our language is a vital part of who we are and even if you have nobody to speak it with you can still study it to read and write with. My granddaughter and I practice our Southern Unami

language together and sometimes she corrects me when I get it wrong. I smile and think to myself that as an elder, I have taught my grandchild to appreciate and respect our native language. I have taught her to pray (patama) to our creator (Kishelēmükònk) each night before bed and to always give thanks for our food that Mother Earth blesses us with. I am happy that our tribal chief and council thought it important to build a food pantry with fresh foods for our people because processed foods are harmful and as a mother to a type-1 diabetic and as a food insecure person in my childhood and adult life, I know the importance of proper traditional foods and how they can heal our bodies and to avoid foods that are taboo (kwēlake). I would like to see more traditional foods being offered for our people and possibly grown in a food pantry

community garden. What a community receives, a community should also give back. Its our native way that we will all help one another (wichēntihēnāch).

What advice would you like to give our youth?

Don't get in too much of a rush to grow up. Take the time needed to complete your education. In your spare time, take up a hobby. Whether it's a sport, a craft, reading or volunteering, keep your mind and body busy so you stay connected with your family and community. Make sure you do your part to stay connected with the elder community too as they (kikayāk) can surprise you and be just as fun to be around as your friends.

This is a photo of my granddaughter and me with our little

crafty eco-friendly Christmas tree that we made ourselves. We have used it for many years. Making memories with my grandchildren is the best thing in life that the gift of our creator (Kishelēmükònk) has given. ■



Youth Interview with Alyssa Vass

Hi, my name is Alyssa Vass. I'm the great-niece of the assistant chief, Tonya. I'm 16 years old and grew up a Navy kid. I have only been to a few powwows. It's important for me to go to powwows with my mom whenever we can. We live in Florida so we go to the Poarch Creek and Muskogee events often. We come back now to Oklahoma more since my dad retired from the Navy. I was born in Oklahoma City when he was stationed at Tinker Air Force Base. I like dancing with my family at the Powwow. I am learning to bead and cook.

I play beach volleyball and I travel to play. I met some Native Athletes from Tulsa this summer at a tournament in Alabama. I think being an athlete and eating properly is important.

What cultural practices or experiences taught to you are most meaningful?

The experience taught to me that is most meaningful is going to different powwows that are closer to me, and connecting with other Native youth. The practices that are the most meaningful are beading and its background. We also go to Atmore, AL a lot for their events and powwows because we can't be in Oklahoma all the time.

What are your biggest goals for Lenape Youth going forward?

The goals for the Lenape Youth going forward are to have a healthy social group or to help the elders, so the all-most elders do



not have help because they have too much on their plate. We need to help the elders because they are the only ones left who can tell us about the past, and I feel knowing our background is important so we can tell our kids one day.

What is your advice to our young Delaware members?

One big piece of advice to our young Delaware members is to not date. Just focus on schoolwork, sports, family, and friends. The most important thing is to focus on yourself and take good care of yourself and your family. You don't need someone to hold you back on the things that you love. I have seen people my age who are dating. They don't even know what they want to do with their lives. Until you know yourself well, don't start dating. Please do not date young. And remember you are special. I am told my great-grandfather said once "Your mind is the most powerful thing that you have". I bet I lot of people told you "If you put your mind to it, you can do anything." And you can, I thought I wouldn't write an article one day and look at me doing it at the age of 16 so

believe me you can do it. So spend your time and focus on your likes. ■

Have Suggestions for the Lenape Youth Fun Pages? Let Us Know!

Do you want to share ideas for the Lenape Youth Pages?

Submit your ideas to din@delawaretribe.org for consideration.

Thank you for helping to improve something for our children! ■



Lenape Youth Fun Pages

Halloween
Maze Challenge

Can you help the ghost get to the haunted house?
You have 5 minutes to find the correct path





AUTUMN WORDSEARCH

See if you can find all the words in this puzzle



H	K	U	B	M	N	S	Z	D	W	Y	O	Z	H
Y	A	X	I	T	H	X	Q	P	M	O	D	G	C
M	W	R	C	H	I	L	L	Y	H	R	J	Z	L
Q	R	W	V	X	F	R	O	Z	O	A	R	P	Q
L	V	Z	A	E	L	A	H	Z	C	N	U	O	Z
N	Y	W	N	Q	S	O	B	L	T	G	S	G	L
O	F	D	J	Y	M	T	R	O	O	E	T	P	A
A	F	J	D	U	O	I	E	J	B	A	L	I	U
J	A	N	F	A	L	L	E	H	E	R	I	A	T
D	H	O	G	F	E	H	Z	T	R	T	N	B	U
Y	R	O	H	V	X	J	Y	Z	L	H	G	B	M
M	A	U	F	L	E	A	V	E	S	Y	G	B	N
Y	C	R	I	S	P	Q	L	X	D	B	H	U	G
I	R	D	M	M	K	L	C	O	Z	Y	F	I	N

- AUTUMN
- COZY
- FALL
- OCTOBER
- BREEZY
- CRISP
- HARVEST
- ORANGE
- CHILLY
- EARTHY
- LEAVES
- RUSTLING



CHRISTMAS COLORING



Rusty Creed Brown, Tribal Council Member and Treasurer: An Action-Oriented Leader for the Delaware Tribe

Celeste Amadon

Rusty Creed Brown's trial-by-fire journey as a Tribal Council member for the Delaware Tribe of Indians embodies his visionary leadership. In his first term on the Council, Brown helped translate a windfall of federal COVID response and stimulus funds into unprecedented services for Tribal members including the launch of a long-needed food pantry. He is now going into the last year of his first term on the Council and serves as its Treasurer, so Brown is currently engaged in the complex annual task of preparing the Tribal budget. And he already has his shoulder to the wheel on the next step in the establishment of Tribal food sovereignty: passing a Tribal Council resolution to plant an orchard at the Bartlesville campus.

Early Life and Background

Brown grew up attending local Tribal events and activities. He attended university in Alaska and Tulsa, studying Geoscience and Law. He has spent his career either working for Native nations or working with Native peoples and communities. When he was working in Alaska, he began to gain vital insights into food security issues as global warming and receding ice meant ever shorter whale and seal hunting seasons for the Native peoples he assisted. Before stepping into his current role on the Tribal Council, he served as a Tribal Judge and sat on the Trust Board. Public service has been a common thread

throughout his career, shaping his perspective on leadership.

Managing Unprecedented Financial Opportunity

Shortly after Brown joined the Tribal Council, the Tribe came upon a pivotal moment. Historically the Tribe's operations had been funded from the proceeds of the Tribe's Trust Fund of ~\$3M, but during the the COVID-19 pandemic the Tribe found itself the recipient of an unprecedented windfall of more than \$56M from federal legislation such as the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds presented Tribal leadership with the opportunity for extraordinary community investment, though much of this funding had a looming use-it-or-lose-it deadline of 2024 for allocation and 2026 for expenditure. Given the tight deadlines, Tribal leadership was burdened with the hefty responsibility of making impactful yet responsible decisions. "We had to act both quickly and wisely," Brown said. "The decisions we make will influence generations to come."

"We were asking ourselves, if we spend money on a given project today, how long is the benefit going to last? Are generations that come after us going to continue to see the value in what we set up for them?" He and his colleagues on the Council focused on creating sustainable projects that will not just benefit today's Tribal members, but also future generations. Brown thinks

about investments that will help the Tribe continue to thrive, to keep the Lenape culture alive, to keep revitalizing its language—all things that are important to being a functioning Native Nation.

A Food Pantry is Born from Observing a Community's Need

One such sustainable project is the Delaware Tribe of Indians Food Pantry (Tèxtakàn). When he initially campaigned for Tribal Council, Brown wanted to create a food pantry because he had firsthand knowledge of the community's struggles even before holding office. He and others had made discreet, modest gifts to tribal members for immediate needs like groceries. He knew that members of the community were going hungry, though no one would have ever guessed they were struggling. "I wasn't sure how we were going to fund it, only that it was imperative that we get going—even if it was with five cans of food that I solicited from neighbors and made available in a cardboard box. We needed to start." Brown understood the immediacy of food insecurity within the Tribe and felt a call to deploy the best practices he had observed and learned over his career. Federal funds turned the dream into the reality of a 3,000-square-foot facility complete with walk-in coolers and freezers. The community's need for such a project has been proven by lines out the door at times since its opening a year ago. The Food

Pantry also represents a long-term investment into the health and strength of the Tribe's children, who Brown hopes will grow to be healthier, thriving adult members. Brown said that "many members had brought the idea of a food pantry forward before; I'm fortunate enough to have been sitting at the table when we could make it a reality."

A Step Towards Food Sovereignty

Brown's ambitions don't stop at the Food Pantry. This year, he helped steer the Council toward the passage of the Orchard Resolution. A designated area behind the Veterans' Memorial will soon bloom with fruit trees, berry bushes, and beehives. In collaboration with the Delaware Ranch in Kansas (which will contribute some of its beef to the Food Pantry), the aim is to establish a completely Tribe-controlled food supply. "This is about the Delaware people providing for its own people."

Investing in the Future Through Housing

The Council has also allocated significant funds towards Tribal members' home mortgages and home repairs. These aren't just immediate needs; they're long-term investments aimed at addressing the lack of generational wealth in Native communities. "By helping families secure homes, we're creating a stable foundation for the next generation."

Leadership Grounded in Humility and Action

Brown's leadership philosophy is inspired by Maya Angelou's words: "Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better." He urges the avoidance of analysis paralysis. "Being afraid of making a mistake shouldn't stop us from making decisions. We act, we learn, and we adjust. Progress is essential."

As the Delaware Tribe navigates through a period of both opportunity and challenge, its Tribal Council members are working to establish a path of sustainable development that will benefit the Tribe for generations to come. Look for profiles on Councilmember Rusty Brown's colleagues in future issues of the DIN. ■



Lenape Language Report

Jim Rementer, Director,
Lenape Language Project

What's New—Delaware men singing traditional Social Dance songs. The singers pictured are Dee Ketchum, James Coffey, Doug Donnell, John Sumpter, and Curtis Zunigha. This photo of is from an event held in 1994. The photo is copied from a videotape taken by Jim Rementer.



Shopping Words

If you are a shopping with a friend or family and you want to comment on something you or the other person is looking at but you want to do it privately you can use

Lenape words. With these words you can express your feelings where a clerk or others around you will not understand. There are three categories, one being to speak about something that is good and the one is to speak about things that are not good, and a few short sentences.

Good

shiki
it is pretty
wēlēt
it is good
wēlinakòt
it looks good
apuwawtu
it is inexpensive
wanishi
thank you

Not Good

xahinakòt
it is ugly
mahchikwi
it is no good
ahowtu
it is too expensive
òskee
it is too thin
punitu
leave it alone

Other

kèxa hàch?
How much is it?
kèku hàch ktite?
What do you think?
mili moni
give me some money.

Notice: The Delaware Indian calendar for 2023 is now available on the tribal website <https://delawaretribe.org/> or at this address: <https://delawaretribe.org/wp-content/uploads/Delaware-Calendar-2023.pdf>.

You can download your copy and print all the pages at once or print one month at a time as needed. For a wall calendar we suggest using 8.5 x 14 inch (legal size) paper.

Revived: The Lenape Word-a-Day calendar is a monthly calendar of Lenape names for different things. The downloadable calendar is also posted on the Tribal website <https://delawaretribe.org/> with a calendar and they will continue to be posted at the beginning of each month. There are sound files for each of these words which are in the Lenape Talking Dictionary: <https://www.talk-lenape.org/>. ■

From the Desk of Tribal Domicile Commissioner Allan Barnes

Allan Barnes, Tribal Domicile Commissioner

Hè (Hello)! By the time you read this October issue we hope the nulēmēlānte (hot) kichi nipën (Summer) is giving way to tahkokēn (Fall).

Agent Summit 2023 was uplifting, as we reunited with our great friends and made new acquaintances. We are always so proud of the great support from our Chief, Brad KillsCrow, including his attendance at this event.

I first want to start by telling you about the trip to our Delaware Tribe Ranch that I and Becky Bridendolph, our reinsurance coordinator, took in mid-June. Sedan, Kansas is about 25 miles from our office in Caney, Kansas. What a diverse and fantastic 4,000 acres! The Tribe is actively

operating The Delaware Tribe Ranch as a cattle ranch under the supervision of tribal members Tom and Homer Scott, brothers and longtime active members of our Tribe. Both brothers are career cattlemen. Tom gave us a three-hour tour, during which he pointed out the abundant opportunities this land provides and discussed the Tribe's plans for the ranch. We could have spent all day on ATVs. Chief KillsCrow has spoken of all the additional uses the tribe has for this property such as having the facilities for tribal activities.

Our administration has many projects and undertakings. Projects such as Elder Housing, the Lenape Early Learning Cen-

ter, and our Food Pantry are just a few of many we have going on at any given time. We also have endeavors underway to help address social issues like ICWA, the Indian Child Welfare Act. The Domicile is always happy to serve. Our Tribe is doing many good things for the betterment of our people. I've been to the food pantry as a Delaware tribal member and have been impressed with the many families utilizing this wonderful support from the Tribe. All Delaware tribal members that can visit the Food Pantry will benefit from this program. The operation is well staffed and helpful. I was certainly surprised by the number of families using this service.

Now, we look forward to the 2023 F&I Reinsurance and Product Conference in November. I want to acknowledge this great event and the many years we have participated. In fact, our group continues to grow because of the valuable information we learn about this industry from this event. This learning conference gives all participants time to catch up and discuss current business concerns. I'm sure most of our Insurance Managers are aware that our Domicile is experiencing significant growth, and appreciate all of the behind-the-scenes effort associated with that growth. I keep seeing comments like "Amazing!" "Fantastic!" "Great!" when our insurance managers thank Elaine and Rhonda (of Tribal Support Services) for their spectacular work and incredible response time. I'm not exaggerat-

ing. Our Reinsurance Coordinator/Assistant Registrar Designee Becky Bridendolph perfectly provides their backup support here in our Caney, Kansas office. In fact, at the time of writing this article Becky and our Tribal Support Services team have traveled to an Agents conference in Nashville TN. We try to attend events that we are specifically invited to. The Delaware Tribe's Tribal Domicile continues to grow and develop more business opportunities.

So, we will continue the kind of timely response that we have established in this industry. As always, go to tribaldomicile.com for more information. I hope you have had a great kichi nipën, (Summer).

The Lenape Reserve can be found at lenapereserve.com.

Wanishi ■

Stories Of Our Past—The Remarkable History Of The Delaware Tribe Of Indians

Anita Mathis, Librarian & Archives Director

Here in the Archives, we have many wonderful pictures, documents, and objects of our Ancestors—from the past to the present.

In this article I have taken some of our folk lore out of our archives. Hope you enjoy reading these, please come check out what all we have to offer to our Tribal Members in the Cultural Education Center Archives, Library, and Lenape Reserve Gift shop. Wanishi.

Lenape Stories

When Squirrels Were Huge

It is said that long ago the squirrel was huge, and he walked all over the place, in the valleys, in the woods, and the big forests. He looked for creatures that he could eat. He would eat just anything, animals, even snakes.

Suddenly one evening he saw a two-legged creature running along. So, he ran after that two-legged creature, and finally he caught that person, and when he snatched him

up, he began to tear him to pieces. Finally, he ate that person all up except for the person's hand which the giant squirrel was carrying in his hand.

While he was still busy chewing, all at once this person, an enormous person, was standing nearby. That person had a very white light shining and shimmering all around him, and when he said anything, he roared like thunder and the earth shook and the trees fell. He was the Creator.

The Creator said to the squirrel, "Now, truly you have done a very terrible deed. You have killed my child. Now, from this time on it is you who will be little, and your children and your great grandchildren will be eaten, and the shameful thing you did will always be seen (by a mark) under your forearm." Oh, the squirrel was scared, and he trembled with fear. He wanted to hide the man's hand, and he placed it under his upper arm. This story must be true because for a long time I have cut up and cooked many squirrels, and I have seen the hand under the squirrel's upper arm. We always cut that piece out before cooking the squirrel.

Nora Thompson Dean, 1975 ■

Cultural Education Department—Resources and a Story

Jeremy Johnson, Director of Cultural Education

The Delaware Tribe Cultural Education Department has had a busy few months. We've had classes on weaving baskets with our Elders in Title VI, blouse making, moccasin making, ansipëlaon (hair ornament) making, as well as social and stomp dance practices. Keep your eye out for all upcoming classes and events. You can easily keep up with us by following our Facebook page by searching Delaware Tribe Cultural Education Department.

An additional resource for Delaware Culture and Language can be found at www.delawaretribe.org/culture-and-language. There you can find hundreds of resources for clothing, history, stories, and language.

One story found on the page, which we are sharing here, highlights the importance the Delaware people put on our canine friends.

The Boy Who Had Dog Power

James C. Webber, Dewey, Oklahoma

There's a story about a boy and a dog left alone in a village—where the tribe had left them during a war with other tribes. It was in the days when roving bands moved from one location to another. Sometimes these bands would leave people behind who were not able to go along for some reason or another. It happened in this case that the boy's parents had died, leaving him a sole survivor and only about fourteen or fifteen years of age.

He awoke one frosty fall morning with nothing to eat. For that matter, very often an elderly person who was feeble and sometimes sick and unable to go would be left in case of quick removal. So this boy was left, and he went

about the desolate village grounds and managed to pick up old bread and some bones left by the fleeing villagers.

So he came to one spot. He heard the cries of a little pup. So he listened, he located a little, poor, bony, flea-bitten puppy. He was glad, overcome with joy. So he took charge of him, fed and cared for his little pup. So, he kept on hunting, caring for him, feeding the little dog.

By the fall, his dog had gotten to be a big dog and was a great aid to him in providing food for both. So now the boy was studying about how to find the band who had left him homeless. So one day the dog spoke to him. The dog told him, "Master, you've been kind to me and reared me to be able to help you. So now I make friends with you. We will be pals for a lifetime." The dog told him, "You're thinking about going to your people, so I'm going to help you." They set out, the boy and his dog.

So the dog conferred power on him to turn into a dog, and gave him power to have the animals' instinct to know their home. These two pals would travel together. At night they would locate game—deer, buffalo, and other game. So wherever this boy went, the dog went along. By this time, they had caught up with the boy's tribe.

So successful was the boy in killing plenty of game that the other young men began to guess about how he had gotten his skill. So, finally, he brought in so much game that the other young men began to envy him. And a good hunter those days was always in demand. He became popular with the women. More and more he was closely watched. So the younger set began to plan to beat him somehow. He oftentimes counseled with his dog friend. In

every occasion the dog friend would bear him out in his struggles against his enemies.

So, he had so many offers to marry some of the most prominent girls in the country, that they planned every way to get the best of him. So at last the other young men caught his pal the dog and killed him. So at once he began to fall down on his hunting skill. So, he went down in pity and despair. The dog was his witisa—his friend.

That ends my story. ■

Check Out the Tribal Web Site

Have you visited our Tribe's web site recently? Additional material that we were unable to include in the DIN can often be found there.

Go to: www.delawaretribe.org ■



**SERVICES:**

- Sexual Assault advocacy
- Domestic Violence advocacy
- Protective orders
- Safety planning
- Domestic violence education
- Referral services
- Court preparation support
- Temporary housing assistance
- Child welfare
- Child support services

LOCATIONS:

5110 Tuxedo Blvd
Bartlesville, OK
74006
Phone:
918-337-6510

601 High St
Caney, KS
67333
Phone:
620-879-2189

24 HOUR CRISIS LINE:
918-331-7349

Testimony From a Grateful Client of Delaware Tribe of Indians Family & Children Services

July 10, 2023—Anonymous Client who has graduated the Transitional Housing Program

My time working with the tribe was amazing. My advocate Brittany was there from the day I walked in the door and still is. She made sure I had what I needed and so did my kids from housing to food even Christmas presents and baby stuff. Any resource I needed she made sure I had access to, even taking me places herself or taking time out to bring me things I needed. She put me in touch with a wonderful therapist and wider support system, allowed us to be safe and my child to be born healthy. To me the most important thing is that she listened and was there no matter what. In these situations you feel like no one listens to you. Every time I was scared, every time I was down, every time I was happy, every time I felt silly or crazy being upset or angry or scared, and even when I messed up and said things I shouldn't and needed someone to tell me that, she was there for all of it. I expected her to say that I was too much or my issues were silly or I was crazy but she didn't ... she GUIDED me and supported me. And even now when I feel scared, she's there; when I have to see him in court, she's there. The Tribe gave me and my kids a chance at a life we wouldn't have had otherwise ... The system does not help women in my situation to live their lives and raise their kids safely. The courts simply do the bare minimum, but Brittany and the women she works with go above and beyond to help us rebuild our lives. I learned so much about myself and others and what I am capable of, and that I can do anything I want in my life, I just have to find the resources to do it. They listened and protected us when no one else did, my children are with me and safe. I am safe and the baby I was pregnant with is happy and healthy. We have a good life free from abuse now and that is thanks to the Tribe and Brittany and the ladies she works with (like Cindy and Lori). I and my family will be forever grateful. I do not believe me and my kids would have ended up healthy, safe, and happy with a stable life if they had not come into our lives, and my lawyer and everyone there is still making sure my kids are safe and well-adjusted by seeing the divorce through. There are no words for the difference they made in our lives. ■



Toni Mahlo with her Rising Star Award

(Right) Toni Mahlo and Lori Rose with Judge David Avrham Voluck of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and Daniel Goombi, Director of the Kansas Tribal Coalition



(Left) Group Photo of all participants

Tribal Employees Receive Training From Univeristy of Wisconsin Law School

In January of 2023, Toni Mahlo and Lori Rose applied for the National Tribal Trial College to obtain a certificate to practice law in tribal court and offer legal advocacy to victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. It was a very competitive process of applying; they were up against hundreds of applicants. The application process entailed submitting a resume, creative writing, and the blessing with his letter of recommendation from Tribal Judge Tripp, along with approval from the Tribal Operations Manager.

In February of 2023, Toni and Lori received notice they had been accepted and would begin their legal advocacy journey. They would begin online classroom instruction for 20 weeks, which included one week of in-person at the University of Wisconsin Law School. In the 20 weeks of online instruction, they learned three years of law school in six months. While working their 8-5 Monday-Friday positions here at the Delaware Tribe of Indians, they worked hard to complete their homework. Both ladies maintained an A average and have been invited back to at-

tend the 2024 Advanced Class in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy.

Toni and Lori graduated on July 21, 2023. Toni Mahlo received the Rising Star Award for her great efforts in coming out of her shell. She received one of the two awards from the National Tribal Trial College. They both said it was a great experience and look forward to continuing their legal advocacy journey. ■

From Oklahoma to New York Fashion Week: The Inspiring Journey of a Lenape Fashion Designer

Celeste Amadon

In a world where mainstream fashion often sidelines indigenous culture, one Lenape designer is sewing her way into the limelight while making her community proud. Meet Luana Strike-Axe Murphy, the versatile and multi-talented Native American fashion designer behind Native Springflower Creations. Luana is a proud member of multiple tribes, including Lenape, Ponca, Oglala, Otoe, Ioway, and San Poil Colville, and she is making history by representing her heritage on the runway.



(L-R): Marlene White, Madeline Gray Goodfox, Tiana Tate'Luta Long, Luana Strike-Axe Murphy, Brionna Badoni, Melissa Guerrero, Bridgette Jameson

A Life-Long Passion

The 47-year-old designer is a mother of five children, ranging from 3 to 25 years old. She holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Graphic Design from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and is completing her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership with a focus in Business from Rogers State University. DIN readers will recognize Strike-Axe Murphy from her service as the Director of Lenape Reserve, the tribal gift shop and supply store.

Strike-Axe Murphy's journey into fashion started when she was a teenager, initially making traditional Indian clothes for herself. As the years passed, she began creating not only for herself but also for family and friends. Her venture into contemporary Native fashion, jewelry, and accessories started around 2010. At that point she quickly gained recognition through selling her creations at various events like pop-up art markets and powwows.

A Rise to Exhibiting at the Nation's Ultimate Fashion Event

In 2022, Strike-Axe Murphy took a significant step forward by participating in the 1st Annual Teton Fashion Summit at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, where she was recognized as an emerging fashion designer. She was accepted again in 2023, cementing her reputation in the Native American fashion world. Earlier this year, she applied to RISE New York Fashion Week (NYFW) for the SS24 season "on a whim" and was accepted. As the only Native American among the 13 designers chosen, she showcased her one-of-a-kind Native Contemporary designs using two of her own fabrics and collaborated with another graphic designer on a Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape fabric. Amplifying the family and community aspects of her endeavor: among the 12 models in the all-Indigenous line-up helping Strike-Axe Murphy make her mark at The Wallace Hall in Upper Manhattan were her husband, Jason Strike-Axe Murphy, and her daughter, Tiana Tate'Luta Long.



(L-R): Oliver Littlecook Jr., Xavier Toehay, Christian Rangel, Zechariah Rice, Jason Strike-Axe Murphy

More Than Just Fashion

This event wasn't just a career milestone; it was a deeply personal achievement. As a Delaware tribal member, showcasing her designs in Manhattan held poignant significance. The Big Apple was originally part of the homeland of the Delaware people (Lënapehòkink) before they were forcibly removed. "This was a big deal for me," Strike-Axe Murphy said, highlighting the emotional and historical weight of her participation.



Bottom Row (L-R): Marlene White, Madeline Gray Goodfox, Melissa Guerrero, Christian Rangel, Tiana Tate'Luta Long, Luana Strike-Axe Murphy, Jason Strike-Axe Murphy.

Top Row (L-R): Xavier Toehay, Brionna Badoni, Oliver Littlecook Jr. Bridgette Jameson, Zechariah Rice

Currently, Strike-Axe Murphy is collaborating with another Native fashion designer and has an upcoming fashion show in Tulsa, Oklahoma in October. In addition, she accepts commissioned work for Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape as well as custom apparel work. She is taking her foray into the apparel industry at her own pace and enjoys supporting other designers and working behind the scenes at other fashion showcases.

If all of this catches your interest, you can find Native Springflower Creations on Facebook and Instagram. Her journey serves as an inspiration for not just the Delaware Tribe but for all indigenous communities striving to make their mark in a world that often overlooks them. ■

