



# DELAWARE INDIAN NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

Lēnapeí Pampil

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## From the Desk of Chief Brad KillsCrow

*Brad KillsCrow, Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians*

**H**appy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. 2023 was a very prosperous and exciting year for our Tribe. Some of the highlights:

The Tribe completed six housing units on the tribal complex campus and moved Delaware Elders into those units. We increased the number of Delawares served through the food pantry to over 650 families. We also partnered with the Northeastern Oklahoma Food Bank to secure quality food at a lower cost to the Tribe. The planting of a three-acre orchard at the tribal complex is underway and the fruit from the orchard will be given to tribal members through our food pantry. Following the renovation of Forsythe Hall and the kitchen, the number of elders receiving lunches through the Title IV program doubled. The Delaware Veterans Memorial was completed and dedicated in the spring. This was the first year the Tribe owned the Delaware Pow Wow grounds and transition of the ownership of the grounds and the operation of the Pow Wow went smoothly. There were several much-needed remodeling projects completed at the complex as well as infrastructure updates.

For the coming year we are focusing on the following projects:

- Construction of a gym and wellness center on the Tribal Complex
- Expansion of the Lenape Early Learning Center to include an indoor play facility.
- The installation of a community garden

During the past few months, I have also been working on several important issues that directly affect our Tribe. These include the welfare of Delaware children as outlined in the Indian Child Welfare Act and challenging groups on the east coast claiming to be Delaware and seeking state/federal recognition. In November, The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) convened for its annual meeting to discuss important issues facing Native peoples throughout the United States. NCAI was formed in 1944 and its membership is comprised primarily of Indian nations and tribes that have been formally

recognized by the federal government. However, the NCAI voting membership also includes 24 groups that are not federally recognized and claim the status of “state-recognized.” Why is this a problem for the Delaware Tribe? There are approximately 80 groups out east in our homelands that claim to be Lenape. These state groups are speaking on our behalf, taking land on our behalf and most importantly the theft of our culture. State-recognition clearly violates the U.S. Constitution and federal law, as the power to regulate Indian affairs is vested solely in the federal government. These fraudulent groups have also had economic impacts on federally recognized tribes. The federal government provides financial support for federally recognized tribes through a multitude of programs, including health care, government contracts and grants. The fraudulent groups have succeeded in securing some of these federal funds, which diverts these valuable resources away from not only the Delaware Tribe, but other bona fide Indian nations. At the NCAI meeting in November, an amendment to the NCAI constitution was put forward to remove the 24 state-recognized groups who have full NCAI membership status. I was asked to speak on behalf of the Delaware Tribe and address our concerns during the debate portion. I laid out why this is a problem for our Tribe and the challenges we face dealing with these fraudulent groups. In the end, the amendments failed with only 44% of the membership voting “yes.” However, about 60% of the tribes located in the lower 48 states favored ending the voting status of the state-recognized groups. The positive outcome was the fact that these state groups were exposed to all tribal nations at NCAI. I felt many tribes don’t deal with this issue like we do and didn’t understand the impact it has on all of us. Under my administration the Delaware Tribe will continue to fight against the fraudulent state groups claiming Lenape in our homelands.

In December I had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC to attend the White House Tribal Nations Summit hosted by the Biden-Harris administration. President Biden affirmed his support for tribal sovereignty and self-determination. President Biden signed an executive order

to reform federal funding and support for tribal nations. The executive order requires federal agencies to ensure funding for tribes is accessible and equitable. The new order will seek the implementation of a one stop shop where tribes can find and access grants and a simpler way to report on funds that tribes receive.

In closing, I’m proud of the accomplishments the Tribe has made this far. There is still work to be done and I’m confident we will continue to work hard to make our Tribe as successful as possible!

Wanishi,  
Brad KillsCrow ▪



## From The Desk of Assistant Chief Tonya Anna

*Tonya Anna, Assistant Chief*

On October 9, 2023 I was asked to attend the 7th Indigenous Peoples' Day in Philadelphia at Shackamaxon (Penn Treaty) Park. Shackamaxon means a place where chiefs meet.



The park sits along the Delaware River which made a beautiful backdrop for this event. This was the first to have all five recognized Lenape tribes in attendance. To read about the event and view it online, visit: <https://ipdphilly.org/recap2023/> It was a day filled with celebrating Indigenous culture, history, music, artwork

and Indigenous concerns. One of my goals was to get more people involved who live outside of our local area. Little did I know that there would be a few tribal members at IPD Philly. My first introduction was to Sonya who happens to be a tribal member who is a local there and was assisting with the event. Since our visit she has reached out for assistance to help combat one of the fake tribes in her area. Wanishi to Sonya for taking on such an endeavor to help combat these groups. Later in the day her father, John, asked me how he could get involved with the Tribe since he lives in Virginia. To my surprise John attended General Council this year, visited the ranch, and got to see the Tribal Headquarters. From my understanding, he also got to visit some classmates while in town. So if you are interested in volun-

teering please do not hesitate to contact me at [tanna@delaware-tribe.org](mailto:tanna@delaware-tribe.org) or call my office (918) 337-6531. After returning home I received an email from the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 in Philadelphia. Their Bob Hamilton asked that I present the same speech to his employees to help them better understand native culture specifically to the Lenape since they are located in and near our homelands.

The 80th Annual Convention and Marketplace for National Congress of American Indians was held in New Orleans from November 12-17, 2023. Our main goal was to vote against the State Recognized tribes and their ability to vote at NCAI. Although it didn't pass, the situation was very educational to see and hear from

other tribes who were in attendance.

In October the Tribal Council passed a motion to be a Copper Sponsor at The Red Feather Gala in Oklahoma City. This gave us a table for eight at the event on November 4, 2023 which also happened to be the day of General Council. Since Council could not attend we decided to invite elders from the Oklahoma City area to attend and take their spouse or significant other. Oklahoma City Indian Clinic holds this event each year during Native American Heritage Month. \$150,000 was raised to help provide 30 pairs of hearing aids for patients in need. Approximately 600 supporters contributed to OKCIC's mission. The event included a silent and live auction, live entertainment, photo booth and even karaoke.

For more information about the event and to see the photo gallery, please visit <http://www.red-feathergala.com>.

Outreach to tribal members has been one my goals and excited to see a few members stepping up and wanting to get involved. Another big Wanishi to Cray who reached out to see how he can get involved with the tribe. There are committees who meet monthly and with today's technology we have the capacity to do Zoom or Teams meetings. So as we bring in the New Year, remember this quote by Dorothy Height "Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient."

Wanishi  
Tonya Anna ■



## The Elders Circle

*Jana Roth*

*kikayàk* (elders)  
*òkànkwèphatuwàk* (group in a circle)

Wëli Newiyal!  
(Happy New Year!)

Welcome to The Elders Circle, a new forum of the Elders Committee for sharing information with our fellow tribal members.

If you are a senior citizen (55+) and a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, we invite you to join our monthly meetings at Tribal Headquarters or on Zoom.

### Elders Committee Meetings

The Elders Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 1:00 P.M. in the Family & Children's Services building, located at Tribal Headquarters, 5100 Tuxedo Blvd, Bartlesville, OK.

If you can't make it in person, please join us on Zoom! To attend the meeting by Zoom, email your request to [delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com](mailto:delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com) and you will receive instructions on how to connect.

### Elder Committee Activities

#### Donations

We appreciate donations to the Elder Committee. Donations ben-

efit our elder community by providing opportunities to participate in activities as well as providing programs that help our elders. In January, be on the lookout to purchase raffle tickets to win a beautiful comforter set donated by Delaware Elder Beverly Chafin. In addition, Sondra Boone donated \$500 for the elder community and Billie Jean Sheshey, another Delaware Elder, donated 48 sets of hat and gloves to distribute to Delaware Elders at the Christmas party.

Wanishi ta (thank you very much) to everyone who donated!

#### Raffle

In January, don't forget to buy raffle tickets to win this beautiful king size comforter set (*pictured to the right*)! Tickets can be pur-

chased by contacting Elder Committee members or by emailing the Elder Committee at [delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com](mailto:delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com)

#### Trips

In December we explored the Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserves' Wonderland of Lights followed by a trip to Braums.

Interested in joining us on the next trip? Then join the Elders Committee! If you're 55+ and a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, you're eligible to attend our Elders Committee.

#### Contact Us

Senior (55+) Delaware tribal members can contact our committee by email at [delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com](mailto:delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com) or fol-

low us on Facebook at [dtielder-committee](https://www.facebook.com/dtielder-committee).

We look forward to growing our elder community! Join us at our 2024 monthly meetings on Tuesdays: January 2, February 6, March 5, and April 9 at 1:00 P.M.

#### Elders Committee Officers:

Chair Beverly Hicks  
Vice Chair Kay Anderson  
Secretary Connie Falleaf  
Treasurer Susan Cade ■





## The University of Kansas Honors Delaware Tribe of Indians KU Alumni

*Bruce Martin, Tribal Council Member*

On 11-5-2023 two members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians were honored at the Lied Center on the University of Kansas campus. The University of Kansas Alumni Coach John McLendon, 1933-1936, and Basketball Captain Dee Ketchum, who attended KU in 1958-1961.



*John McLendon*

*From kuathletics.com*

The community event kicked off the McLendon Classic that will conclude when McLendon's first head coaching position, North Carolina Central, will play at Kansas in men's basketball Monday November 6th at 7:00 pm to kick off the 2023-24 season. Sunday's community event started with a screening of

Fast Break: The Legendary John McLendon, an approximately hour-long feature on the path McLendon took to become one of the most revered coaches in basketball history. An afro-indigenous who was born in Hiawatha, Kansas and member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, McLendon was the first African-American-Indigenous to graduate KU with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1936. While McLendon was at KU, he studied the intricacies of basketball from his mentor, and the inventor of the game, Dr. James Naismith.

A pioneer for the integration of college basketball and the architect behind the fast break and pressure defense, McLendon is a two-time inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1978 as a contributor, and again in 2016 as the first African-American-Indigenous coach. McLendon began his head coaching career at what is now known as North Carolina Central, from 1941-1952. His time at NCCU launched an illustrious coaching and activism career for McLendon as his trailblazing efforts led him to become the first African-American-Indigenous coach

to win a national tournament in 1954 at Tennessee State, the first African-American-Indigenous head coach at a predominantly white university, and the first African-American-Indigenous to coach the USA Men's Olympic team in 1968.

Chief Dee Ketchum is a graduate of Bartlesville High School in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he was all-conference in football, all-state in basketball, and Captain of the state championship golf team. Chief Ketchum attended the University of Kansas (K.U.), played basketball there for four years, three years as a starter and was co-captain of a Big-Eight champion team in his senior year. He has a bachelor's degree in education, a minor in Language Arts, and a master's degree in psychology and counseling from K.U. Chief Ketchum has spent 11 years as an educator and coach and 27 years as a business man.

On 11/6/2023 at halftime of the KU Basketball regular season home opener against North Carolina Central, The KU athletic department

recognized the Family of John McLendon, and Chief Dee Ketchum showing a short video of KU Basketball Captain Dee Ketchum. The following was announced during the honoring of the Delaware Tribe of Indians' Chief Ketchum:

Jayhawk fans – please turn your attention to the video board as we recognize former KU basketball star, Dee Ketchum. Ketchum was a four-year starter for KU basketball in the late 1950s and passed away on March 26, 2023 at the age of 84. Following Ketchum's basketball and coaching career, Ketchum served his Lenape people for 20 years on the Delaware Tribe of Indians Council before serving as Chief in 1998. McLendon shares Lenape roots with Chief Ketchum, and the legacy of the Delaware Tribe continues to shine bright here in Lawrence, Kansas. Joining us on center court is Chief of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Brad Kills Crow, Council Members Bruce Martin and Lindsey Harris, and tribal citizens from KU Lori Hasselman and Victoria Secondine. Please give a warm welcome to Manny King as he guides us through a native dancing experience featuring

young people from the Lawrence community!

Following, was a Native American Dance performance by a group of dancers from the Lawrence Community.

The KU athletic department will continue to honor these two Delaware and KU alumni each year holding the McLendon Classic, each year with Kansas University playing North Carolina Central University, in honor of John McLendon, and recognizing Chief Ketchum and Delaware Tribal members. ■

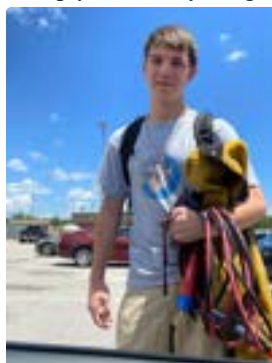


*Dee Ketchum*

## A Message from Tribal Member Andrew Vass

I would like to take the time and thank Ms. Skyler Brott for her helping my family and I with the ARPA Work Training Aid Assistance. I recently received my work training aid assistance and am very thankful. I was listed as a part time adult student at George Stone Technical School in Pensacola, Florida from August 2021 until October 2023. I graduated high school in May 2023 from Liberty University Online Academy. I have completed my welding program and am now eligible to work as a welder. I will be continuing my advanced welding training but have not chosen where. I'm going to look at Missouri Welding Institute in November 2023 and Pittsburgh Technical College in Pennsylvania in the Spring of 2024. Welding is a family talent and I am proud to have finished this schooling. I hope other

young people will consider trade school and know the tribe can help you reach your goals. ■



*Andrew Vass, 19  
(great-grandson of Barb Wallace)*

## Delaware Artisans Making Tribal Clothes

We have two Delaware tribal members who are available to provide Delaware regalia for our members. If interested, please reach out to either of them for pricing.

Erica Magee: (918) 902-7750 [erica.magee33@gmail.com](mailto:erica.magee33@gmail.com)  
You may also private message her on Facebook.

Yolanda Frenchman [yfrenchman@gmail.com](mailto:yfrenchman@gmail.com)  
You may also private message her on Facebook.

Photos of their work can be found on our Facebook page ■

# A Message From Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape CEO Leslie Jerden

Leslie Jerden

Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape is our textile and supply retail business. If you haven't yet discovered the brand, find us online at [tetontradecloth.com](http://tetontradecloth.com) or in many of our wholesale partner shops, including the Lenape Reserve, located at the Bartlesville Tribal campus.

Teton is well loved for quality trade cloth, including our 10-band wool, sold by the yard and available in 24 colors. This is by far our best seller and comes with our trademark selvedge (striping), featuring 100% wool in a tightly woven 20oz. weight and heirloom quality.

Closely following as a second favorite is our 100% cotton printed poplin fabric. This cotton comes in 58" width and is sold by the yard or bolt. Teton was among the first to offer various Native artist-printed fabric for the sewers and regalia makers with which to create their own designs. While many services now offer on-demand cotton and fabric printing, few compare to the artistic details and precise placements that Teton continues to produce.

All of our cotton trade cloth,

bandanas, satin scarves, shoes, and woolen blankets feature the name and affiliated tribe of Native artist who created the designs, providing a true platform across many Tribes and Nations that highlights Native artistry. Uplifting Native artists and their work is at the heart of what Teton strives to accomplish.

Each year we add new artists and designs that keep our offerings fresh and evolving. Some artists we meet at events and markets, and others submit their designs directly to us for review and collaboration. Painters, weavers, beaders, tattoo artists, and graphic designers are just some of the primary artists we can collaborate with to turn their ideas into fabric designed for regalia and clothing.

Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape artists are featured on our artists page with a bio and photo of their choice, along with links back to their own business or shop in order to support these artists and their continued development and success. Our contracts with artists are annual and we do not ask to own the artwork in perpetuity, a common requirement of other brands who collaborate with Native artists. Instead, we agree to use the design for a year, and each year is renewed by contract with design fees paid at production of various products. We ask artists to review the product mock ups and approve of the design placements and products before production. At production we pay the design fees and for each recurring



re-order and re-print thereafter. Once a product is printed we retain ownership of the products, but we never ask for ownership of the design, as many designs are pieces of cultural significance or family heirloom. As Native Americans ourselves, we respect the art and the artist's significance that lends to it. While uncommon, we believe this is a better business practice among our own people and across Indian Country that prioritizes respect for our Native American arts and people.

Looking ahead, plan to see the "Lenape Floral" Honor Blanket presented! The Lenape Shakhukwian cotton fabric was inspired by some of the oldest floral beadwork as photographed on a coat. "Shakhukwian" translates to "my coat" in Lenape. We used the same patterns for an Honor Blanket that will be available in Red or Navy. Honor Blankets are standard queen size and 100% soft combed wool with edges that are specialty bound not to fray. Soft and warm to the skin and perfect

for snuggling; you're going to want one!

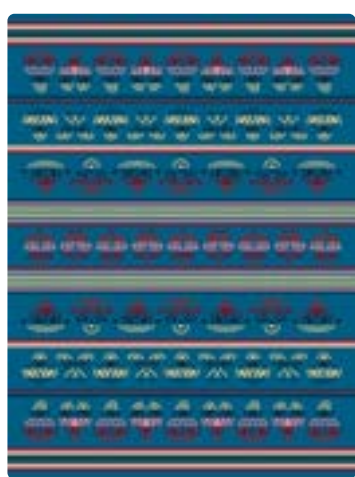
On the loom now at American Woolen is our newest m lange wool. M lange yarn is produced by weaving a mixture of raw and dyed fibers together to create a unique two-tone color effect and an abstract textured pattern. Earlier this year we ran a sample specialty grey m lange wool as a test run, which quickly sold out. We will soon have red, blue and purple m lange wool available as Made in America products within American Woolen. Teton serape blankets or wool "saddle blankets," as some may call them, are also moving to USA-based production within American Woolen. While production of many items are limited within the United States due to manufacturing facilities and capabilities, where there is opportunity to produce in the USA, we are moving to do so. Monarchs, Indian Corn, and Sequins are all new patterns for cotton fabrics set to release this spring! Valentine's Day will feature select patterns in all monochrome pinks and a special bonus gift with each purchase.

While we would love for you to make a purchase from our Tribally owned business, there are also zero cost ways to support us. Like and share our pages on social media and stay engaged by giving posts a like. This helps us grow our audience and helps us with brand recognition. You can find us on Facebook and on Instagram for easy access to share! To-

gether we can make a small gesture that creates a larger collective impact on our business. Your support is important to us!

Nuwatu welet a!  
Leslie Jerden (Tahkokenatae)  
CEO Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape

Facebook: Teton Trade Cloth  
Instagram: Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape  
Website: [tetontradecloth.com](http://tetontradecloth.com)  
Email: [tetontradecloth@gmail.com](mailto:tetontradecloth@gmail.com)





# Trust Board Community Services and Education Committees

## Community Services Programs

If you have questions, please contact the Tribal Office at (918) 337-6510.

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. **As of FY2024, Only one (1) Community Service Application is allowed per tribal member, per calendar year, with the exception of Elder Prescription, which can be applied for monthly.** 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 assis-

tance 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) 337-6510.

**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.

You can download the applications directly from our web site [www.delaware-tribe.org](http://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**



# Meet the Delaware Tribe Ranch Board of Directors!

Celeste Amadon

The Delaware Tribe Ranch LLC is proud to introduce its board of directors, a trio of dedicated individuals who bring an incredibly valuable depth and breadth of ranching-specific subject matter expertise to the governance and oversight of the Ranch. Between them, these ranchers bring over a hundred years of direct cattle ranching experience as well as legacy knowledge from many generations of ranchers to the task of recruiting and appointing ranch management and staff and deliberating over key ranch operational decisions. Together, these veteran ranchers are responsible for leading the Ranch such that it contributes to securing food sovereignty for Delaware Tribal Members while being initially self-sustaining and ultimately revenue-generating to provide a monetary contribution to the treasury of the Tribe that will assist with services provided to the people.

## Tanayia Hubler – Chairperson of the Board



Tanayia Hubler brings legal expertise as well as some serious ranching bona fides. Hubler, a Delaware Tribe member, grew up on her family’s ranch in Dewey, Oklahoma and has continued the ranching tradition with her husband. After graduating from Oklahoma State University and earning a law degree from the University of Oklahoma, she pursued a career in law, and she currently balances service as Assistant District Attorney of Nowata County with her own private practice. Tanayia also dedicates time to working with youth in her church. She sees service as board chair as a unique opportunity to leverage her heritage, knowledge set, and skills to secure food sovereignty and bring prosperity to the Delaware Tribe by making the Tribal Ranch a success.

## Dale Goode – Board Member



Fourth-generation rancher Dale Goode hails from Sedan, Kansas and brings a lifetime of family ranching experience to the job. Alongside his wife and two sons, Dale runs the ranch he grew up on as a diversified operation, including a cow herd, hair sheep, grass-fed beef, and custom grazing over thousands of acres. His time on the boards of the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association and the Farm Service Agency gives him broad visibility into the industry, making his insight invaluable to our board and Ranch management team.

## Jim Perrier – Board Member



Jim Perrier’s story is one of resilience and dedication. A member of the Osage Nation and a fourth-generation rancher, he has spent his life on a ranch between Hominy and Skiatook. Taking the reins of his family’s 4,000-acre ranch upon graduation from high school, Jim expanded its operations by leasing even more land. His 20-year tenure with Genter Drummond’s family ranch further honed his ranching skills. Jim’s expertise and commitment was recognized through his appointment to the Osage Nation Ranch board from 2016 to 2019, including a year as Chairman. His enduring passion for ranching makes him a vital asset to the board.



Purchased with federal funds allocated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delaware Tribe Ranch is taking shape. It is now home to a herd of nearly two hundred cattle after a recent acquisition. A brand-new main house (or Lodge) is under construction at the heart of the ranch. It’s envisioned as a multipurpose income-generating venue suitable for executive retreats, hunting expeditions, training sessions, and even as a picturesque wedding location. The ranch also features unique bunkhouses integrated into the barns. These spaces offer additional accommodations for youth programs, educational purposes, and extra housing for ranch workers. They are also designed to provide additional guest capacity for events at the Lodge.

The combined expertise of Hubler, Goode, and Perrier creates powerful synergy for the Delaware Tribe Ranch. In appointing them, the Tribal Council has selected a group with the blend of legal acumen, extensive ranching experience, and a deep understanding of Tribal heritage to lead the Tribe’s ranch towards a successful future that respects tradition and embraces sustainable practices. These initial board members were seated in May and have been strategically appointed with varying term lengths to ensure a systematic rotation off the board, allowing for the gradual recruitment of new advisors. Their leadership symbolizes not just the management of a ranch, but the cultivation of a legacy for the Delaware Tribe and beyond.





# 2024 Tax Tips

Kendall Reith, CFO

Happy New Year! As 2023 closes, we look forward to what the new year holds and to setting new goals. It is also a time to plan for filing 2023 tax returns! I hope the below information will assist you and your family when filing your tax returns this year.

Deadlines to keep in mind:

Type Of Form	Last Day to File
Form W-2, W3, 1099 NEC, 1099-MISC	January 31, 2024
Fourth quarter estimated payments due for the tax year 2023	January 16, 2024
Form 1065 (for Partnerships)	March 15, 2024
Form 1120S (for S-corporations)	March 15, 2024
Form 1040 (for Individuals)	April 15, 2024
Form 1041 (for Trusts and Estates- Calendar Year)	April 15, 2024
Form 1120 (for C-Corporations)	April 15, 2024
Form 990 (for Tax-Exempt Organizations- Calendar Year)	May 15, 2024

If you need to file an extension, see the due dates on the chart to the right.

Type of Form	Due Date for filing
Form 1065 (Partnership) Extension	September 16, 2024
Form 1120S (S-corporations) Extension	September 16, 2024
Form 1120 (C-corporation) Extension	October 15, 2024
Form 1040 (Individuals) Extension	October 15, 2024

## Other key changes:

The maximum Earned Income Tax Credit amount is \$7,430 for qualifying children of 3 or more.

The standard deduction for married couples filing jointly for tax year 2023 rises to \$27,700 up \$1,800 from the prior year. For single taxpayers and married individuals filing separately, the standard deduction rises to \$13,850 for 2023 (up \$900), and for heads of households, the standard deduction will be \$20,800 for tax year 2023, up \$1,400 from the amount for tax year 2022.

**OH NO!** What if you file your 2023 tax return and unexpectedly owe more tax than you anticipated? Let's plan for 2024 tax returns! The IRS has provided a step by step calculator (link below) for your use in estimating your federal income tax withholding. See how your refund, take-home pay or tax due are affected by withholding amount and from there you will be able to adjust your W4 form with your employer accordingly.

<https://irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator>

Wanishi! Cheers to 2024! ■

# Delaware Tribe Float Wins 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Dewey Christmas Parade

Time to Celebrate, our Christmas float got 2nd place in the Dewey Parade!!!

Big Shout-out to EVERYONE that helped decorate, planned, bought candy, donated anything, showed up etc...

We appreciate every one of you for your hard work and dedication to the Tribe! ■



## 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](mailto: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 March 15, 2023 for the April 2024 issue. Submissions may be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the tribal office or emailed to [din@delawaretribe.org](mailto: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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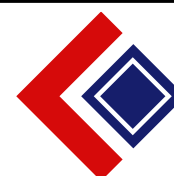
The mission of the *DIN* is to serve, empower and inform the Lenape people, while adhering to the policy of unbiased reporting in an ethical and professional manner.

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# Obituaries

## Homer Scott Jr.



August 24, 1950 –  
December 6, 2023

Homer Edward Scott Jr., 73, of Dewey, died Wednesday in Bartlesville.

Homer was born the son of Homer Edward Scott Sr. and Evelyn Mae (Jackson) Thomas on August 24, 1950, in Claremore, Oklahoma. He was raised in and around Tyro and Caney, Kansas. Homer didn't quite finish his education before enlisting in the United States Navy, serving during the Vietnam War. Although he didn't talk much about his service, Homer did say that the Mediterranean Sea was very beautiful. Once honorably discharged he completed his high school education and went on to further his education at college. Most of his working life centered around ranch work, most recently with the Delaware Tribe, working cattle and building fences.

From a young age, Homer found a passion for rodeo. He was a bull rider, and he mentored his son and grandson as they took up the family sport. He kept up with the local rodeo circuit, and he enjoyed both attending and participating.

He was kind and generous with his time. Homer's volunteer work included arranging for burials at the Delaware Cemetery, serving as a member of the Delaware Color Guard, and very actively

supporting the ministries of his home church, the Dewey Church of Christ. Just last week after being discharged from the hospital, he exhibited Christ-like behavior when he went out to deliver Thanksgiving food baskets to six families that he knew needed some love.

Homer found time to visit Branson often - he loved the town known as the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World" and Silver Dollar City. He found his calling where he could help others while spending time at Silver Dollar City by becoming a citizen and running the Royal Tea Party a.k.a. the spinning teacup ride at the Grand Exposition. His sister Carol remembers visiting and before she saw Homer, hearing his voice calling out to the riders and having fun. Homer even hired the Silver Dollar City Homestead Pickers to come and play at the Scott family Fourth of July party, a real treat for everyone. Most of all Homer loved everyone, and they felt loved and will dearly miss him.

Homer is survived by his children, Heather Scott, Homer (Billie) Scott III, and Sami Jo Scott; stepmother Caroline Scott; siblings Kay Anderson, Bill (Sandy) Scott, Tom (Linda) Scott, Janice (David) Finney, Dale Scott, and Carol (Chip) Weaver; stepbrother Bob Thiele; and grandchildren, Dalton, Samantha, James, Maddy, Layne, Clinton, Kaitlyn, Tanaya and David Jr. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Gina Cook, stepbrother Tom Thiele and stepsister Jan Voris.

Homer's family will receive friends on Tuesday, from 6-8 P.M. at the Davis Family Funeral Home – Dewey Chapel, (918) 534-3030, 113 S. Osage (Hwy. 75), Dewey. A traditional Native American Wake will follow through the night and up to 8 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Funeral services were held at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, at the Dewey Church of Christ. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home—Dewey Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com). ■



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](mailto: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](mailto:enrollment@delawaretribe.org). The Community Services Committee has a burial assistance program if you need help. ■

**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](mailto:din@delawaretribe.org) for consideration.

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

## Delaware Tribal Members Honored at the 15th annual AARP Oklahoma Native American Elder Honors



Bonnie Jo Griffith accepting on behalf of Rick Barnes



Rick Barnes



Evelyn Kay Anderson



# Veterans Committee Report

Kenny Brown, Chairman

Looking back at the year 2023, the Veterans Committee and auxiliary organizations including the Delaware War Mothers, the Lenape Veterans Color Guard, and the Lenape Gourd Dance Society have had a great year!

The Delaware Tribe of Indians Veterans Memorial was dedicated on May 25 with a beautiful ceremony, with several veterans organizations present. A Gold Star Family was present for the honoring of Sergeant Christopher Gailey from Ochelata, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan.

The Delaware Pow Wow was May 26 – 28 at the Fred Fall-Leaf Memorial Dance Ground, the first year the Dance ground is tribally owned. The Lenape Veterans Color Guard and Delaware War Mothers performed a beautiful honoring for both our fallen Warriors and those still living.

On July 7 the Lenape Veterans Color Guard was honored to be asked to open the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Bartlesville V.A. Clinic and to raise “Old Glory” for the first time over the facility.

The Delaware War Mothers had their first meeting since the COVID-19 outbreak and made plans for a War Mothers/Veterans Gourd Dance, which was held July 21.

The War Mothers and Veterans welcomed Trey Johnson home from the Navy with a Gourd Dance November 4.

The Veterans and War Mothers were invited to the Mohican Veterans Pow Wow on the Stockbridge/Munsee Reservation in Wisconsin from August 11 – 13. They rolled out the “Red Carpet” for us and told us how good it is our separate communities are getting together.

The Lenape Veterans Color Guard was honored to present the colors for the Eastern Shawnee Tribal Pow Wow on September 16 – 17.

The Veterans Committee gave a donation to the Bartlesville Blue Star Mothers, and alongside the Delaware War Mothers helped them pack 100 care boxes for our Oklahoma troops deployed to Africa.

The Lenape Gourd Dance Society was proud to participate in the Gourd Dance hosted by the Delaware Pow Wow Committee and the

Cultural Preservation Committee at Delaware Days. It was a good time, and I hope it becomes a tradition.

Dewey Western Heritage Days Parade organizers asked the Color Guard to lead and open the parade on October 14.

On Veterans Day (November 11), our veterans were spread out taking part in American Legion and VFW events and parades. The Wyandotte, Miami, and Peoria Nations hosted a Gourd Dance honoring veterans and gave us a personal invite, it was a good time.

The Delaware War Mothers supported the troops with a float in the Bartlesville Veterans Day Parade.

The Lenape Veterans Color Guard is always proud and honored to present the colors at our General Council meetings each year.

We are looking forward to 2024, when we will be adding some red bud trees at the memorial. I plan on looking into adding lights to light up the entire Veterans Memorial.

Our Color Guard has added new members recently, and hope to get more.

The Lenape Gourd Society will induct several new members at the Delaware Pow Wow on Memorial Day weekend.

May 2024 be a blessed and prosperous year for the Delaware Tribe of Indians! ■



## To Contact Us

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

**Tribal Web Site:**  
[www.delawaretribe.org](http://www.delawaretribe.org)

**General Email:**  
[tribe@delawaretribe.org](mailto:tribe@delawaretribe.org)

## 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](http://www.delawaretribe.org) ■

## Announcement: Name Change for Enrollment Director, Emily Brown

To esteemed tribal members and readers of the Delaware Indian News: The Editorial Committee is delighted to announce an important update regarding our valued colleague and friend, Emily Brown, who has served as the Enrollment Director for the Delaware Tribe of Indians since 2019 and who also serves with distinction on this newspaper’s Editorial Committee. Emily celebrated her marriage to Buck Haney this past December. Given this joyful news, Emily will now be known by her new name, Emily Haney. We wholeheartedly support Emily in this new chapter of her life and wish her and her family all the happiness in the world. Please note, along with her name change, Emily’s official contact information has been updated. Her new email address ([ehaney@delawaretribe.org](mailto:ehaney@delawaretribe.org)) is now in use for all professional communications. We appreciate your cooperation in updating your records and directing future correspondence to Emily Haney. ■

## Lenape Language Report

Jim Rementer, Director,  
Lenape Language Project

Notice: The Delaware Indian calendar for 2024 is now available on the tribal website <https://delaware-tribe.org/> or at this address: <https://delawaretribe.org/blog/2023/12/01/download-a-2024-lenape-calendar/>

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.



Jacob Parks, Delaware Artist, about 1930

**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/> and it 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/>.

## What’s New – Going to the Moon



In the TV news recently they said that in the year 2024 America will once again send people to or around the moon. It might be of interest to readers of the Delaware Indian News to know that according to tribal legend there were two Lenape men who went to the moon many centuries ago. In the Lenape language the Sun and Moon have the same name, Kishux, and they are considered as Elder Brothers. There are also some special names for the Moon if you need to let people know you are talking about him exclusively. The two men had a purpose for going there and what follows is the basic story telling the reason. There are several variants of this story that had them going to the sun, or first to the sun who sent them to the moon.

### Tùkwsí Kishux òk Kitahikàn

#### Full Moon and Ocean

Here is a brief version of the story:

There was a monster that lived in a lake and he was killing Lenape children. Two young men said that they knew a way to kill the monster and they would have to go to the sun to get some of his ashes to put in the lake. (A version of this story can be heard in the Lenape Talking Dictionary at this address: <https://www.talk-lenape.org/stories?id=41>.

The two men found some sunbeams and they climbed on them to get to the sun. In one version of the story they got ashes from him and in another version the sun told them to go to the moon because his ashes would cause the Earth to burn up.

So they went to the moon and got some ashes and returned to Earth and threw them in the Lake and the water began to boil and the monster was killed. But before he died he told them, “You have killed me for nothing because there are many of my children in other large bodies of water.”

(In the tale told by Willie Longbone in 1939 a young woman gave birth to a male child that was half fish and she threw it into a lake. It grew large and began to kill children so two young men went to the sun for fire but the sun refused them saying the heat would burn the whole Earth. He told them to go to the ‘night sun’ (the moon) who gave them some ashes. They threw the ashes into the lake where the monster lived and the lake boiled and the monster was killed.)

Lenape names for the Sun and Moon and their phases:  
**The Sun**

*Kishux*: Sun; Moon; Month  
*wipèkw / wipèko*: Sunbeam / Sunbeams  
*Wsike*: Sunset; The Sun is setting  
*Winkpèkw*: The Sun is drawing water (What the sunbeams do)  
*Kwtai Kishux*: Eclipse (Sun or Moon)


#### The Moon

*Kishux*: Sun; Moon; month  
*Piskewëni kishux*: Moon  
*Nipahàm*: Moon (an older word)  
*Nipaii kishux*: Moon (an older word)  
*Mësètchèsu kishux*: Full Moon  
*Tùkwsí kishux*: Full Moon  
*Wëski kishux*: New Moon  
*Òxehëmu*: Moonlight





# Graduation STOLES



WINTER GRADUATES CAN REQUEST A STOLE FOR COMMENCEMENT TOO!

Please email graduate's name, birthday, mailing address, graduation date, college or high school's name, and if graduating college please add degree and major. Plus, share a picture wearing your stole to be featured in the upcoming issue of Delaware Indian News!

\*NO DEADLINE TO SUBMIT\* BUT ALLOW TIME FOR MAILING OF THE STOLE  
EMAIL INFO TO: [EBROWN@DELAWARETRIBE.ORG](mailto:EBROWN@DELAWARETRIBE.ORG)  
"STOLES AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST"



## 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

Ads can be vertical or horizontal Color add \$15

To order, please contact  
The administrative assistant to Chief KillsCrow at  
[din@delawaretribe.org](mailto:din@delawaretribe.org) or at 918-337-6590.

# DELAWARE TRIBE HOUSING COMMITTEE OPEN MEETINGS

## Held 3rd Thursday each month 6:00 pm

### WE INVITE YOU TO COME SHARE YOUR IDEAS, CONCERNS, AND MEET THE COMMITTEE

Current Committee Members:

Farrell Burks, Chair  
Mickey Canavan, Vice-Chair  
John Tucker, Treasurer  
Martina Thomas, Secretary  
Sherri Chouteau, Member

### 2024 SCHEDULE

**CHELSEA  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
119 Ash St, Chelsea, OK

January 18  
March 21  
May 16  
July 18  
September 19  
November 21

**BARTLESVILLE  
MAIN CAMPUS**  
5100 Tuxedo Blvd  
Bartlesville, OK

February 15  
April 18  
June 20  
August 15  
October 17  
December 19

## 2023 A Banner Year for Lenape Early Learning Center

*Gina Berry, Assistant Director*

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, we spend a lot of time reflecting on the year that was and dreaming of the year to come. As a new program, being only two years old, we have had a unique perspective when it comes to designing our program in a way that would be something that the Delaware Tribe of Indians could see and proclaim with pride, "That's ours! Look at that!" When I think back to when I came on board with the tribe in 2021, a specific day comes to mind. Several members of our support staff team along with tribal leadership had been meeting all morning discussing various stages of planning and what we hoped to accomplish. It was at lunch that day, that we found ourselves in conversation with Chief Kills Crow about his vision for the center. He gave us some sound advice that we have carried with us the past two years. He said, and I'm loosely quoting him here, "Let's serve our people—I mean really, truly serve them." There is something so simple in that message, but I know I have referred to it many times over the past couple of years.



So that is what we've tried to do, as often as we can, as far as we can, with whatever we can, and people are starting to take notice. Lenape Early Learning Center was voted 2nd Best Child Care in Bartlesville this year, being narrowly passed by Tri-County Tech's Learning Lab, a teaching childcare center- if you have to take second place that's not a bad place to land. We currently serve 38 families and 51 children, with 84% of our students being Native, 34% Delaware children and 80% of them using childcare subsidies.

How have we served them throughout the year:

We held a week-long celebration of reading and Dr Seuss' birthday! Each day we hosted a mystery guest



reader to read with the kids along with a coordinating activity.

Each family went home with a wellness kit to help with those pesky wintertime illnesses. Kits included a thermometer, illness supplies, cleaning supplies, and a first aid kit.

During Week of the Young Child, we hosted a family picnic! Each child invited their family to come and celebrate with them. We were able to bless each family with a brand-new high-quality car seat! Professional Car Seat Installation Technicians were available to make sure we got those seats installed correctly.

During Teacher Appreciation Week we hosted a whole slew of events to celebrate our amazing staff! There were flowers, gifts, food, and treats all week! The entire tribal complex took part in celebrating LELC staff!



We co-hosted a health fair with our friends in Title VI-Smokey the Bear, the Tooth Fairy, and several other key figures were in attendance. We had such a good time learning about all the services available and using healthy habits!

We participated in Tribe-wide Trick or Treating on Halloween and hosted a pumpkin patch for all of our families.

Each family at the center received a whole basket of goodies for Thanksgiving to cook a turkey dinner for the entire family. The basket included recipes and the teachers wrote notes to each child describing why they were thank-

ful for that child. Our goal was to promote engagement and learning at home, while providing some support during a stressful time.

Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the center! Each child had time to visit with them and left with 3 gifts and a book!

We hosted family engagement activities for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparent's Day.

Dental supplies and learning materials are sent home throughout the year to encourage healthy habits.

Each child receives annual hearing and vision screenings at no cost to the family. We can now do those screenings in-house with the purchase of new screening equipment!

Developmental screenings happen at least twice per year for each child.

As you can see, we've had a very busy year! In addition to our program success, we've had three teachers complete their Child Development Associate (CDA), two complete Associate level degrees, and we currently have six (!!) teachers working to finish degree plans!

Life is good at LELC, we're learning and growing! We are very much looking forward to another year of serving our people- the best way we know how... really, truly serving them.

Wanishi for a wonderful year! ■







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**INTRODUCING:**  
**DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS**  
**PORTAL**

The portal provides you the opportunity to:

- Submit a request to update your information
- \*Please note name change/info updates will require you to upload supporting documentation & State ID/Driver License
- Update your household members
- Update family relationships
- Add emergency contact information
- Add your income
- Print applications for programs that are available

To get started on your portal please click the following:  
<https://delawarecommunityportal.powerappsportals.us>

Actions you cannot complete through the portal:  
Any application that requires certified documents  
and/or notarized paperwork i.e. new  
enrollment or new tribal ID card

**\*\*You will be required to use your tribal ID number (contact enrollment if you do not have this number)\*\***

If you have any issues with login/process or questions  
please email [enrollment@delawaretribe.org](mailto:enrollment@delawaretribe.org)



## Reflections on a Year of Remarkable Construction Achievements

Matt Littleton



The Delaware Tribe of Indians' infrastructure and physical presence in Bartlesville and on the new Delaware Tribe Ranch in Kansas saw great progress in 2023. The year started with the completion of the roof replacement for the Lenape Early Learning Center. The new standing seam metal roof will protect the building and keep it dry for many years. Also completed in January was the Elder duplex project. The duplexes provide a space for Tribal Elders and serve as a template for potential future housing projects. Each duplex is approximately 1,500 square feet and features two bedrooms, a combined living room/dining room, a dedicated kitchen space, a bathroom with a walk-in shower, and a saferoom in the garage. After working with city zoning officials, Tribal leadership installed a new pylon sign at the main entry to share community news on a scrolling message board. Future plans for the property call for a similar sign at the intersection of Madison and Ohio.

The Bartlesville main campus also received an update! The needed remodel includes new flooring and renovated restrooms in the main building and Forsythe Hall. Kitchen upgrades included replacing existing flooring with a safer non-slip epoxy floor system, adding sinks, and updating the layout to better accommodate staff. The damaged cabinets in the employee break-room kitchen were removed and a new layout was implemented to better employ the space.

Up at the Delaware Tribe Ranch, this year saw the completion of two barns. The close to 9,000

square feet of new barn space provides the cattle operation a dry place to work and grow. Within the barns there are corrals and chutes to enable best practice care for Ranch livestock. Both barns include built-out living quarters; the North Barn and the south bunkhouse are each able to accommodate twelve resident staff or guests. The bunkhouses each have a kitchen area, two full bathrooms, and living space.

The Ranch's "north house"—a three-bedroom, two-bath house with a kitchen, living space, and a tornado shelter in its two-car garage—is located on a great spot near the north barn and bunkhouse. It's also completed and looking great.

Over the last twelve months, the Tribe worked alongside Native Strategies, a Civil Engineering firm, to further the development of our 78-acre campus in Bartlesville. This project consisted of design for the widening of Madison to the east of the property as well as connecting Ohio Street. The City of Bartlesville will oversee the construction on Madison, which will allow the Tribe to focus on construction projects on campus. The Tribe also worked closely with the City to update the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the Tribal property here. The next step is getting the civil engineering plan complete and re-platting the property. Approval of an updated PUD by the city council and planning commission will pave the way for many future Tribal construction projects that are part of the master plan for our ultimate use of the campus. That means more housing, office space, maintenance buildings,



[delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/procurement-notices/](https://delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/procurement-notices/). This practice has attracted more bidders on projects and fostered greater competition on pricing and design.

Reflecting on the inspiring infrastructure progress in 2023, the Delaware Tribe of Indians is poised for another year of expansion in 2024, continuing its journey of development and growth. ■



childcare centers, greenhouses, and recreation facilities.

Other 2023 projects included the establishment of an orchard near the new Veterans Memorial, additional lighting along Barbara Street, and a kitchen renovation initiated in December.

This year the Tribe launched a new, more transparent process in which all procurement notices are posted on the Tribal website at [https://](https://delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/procurement-notices/)

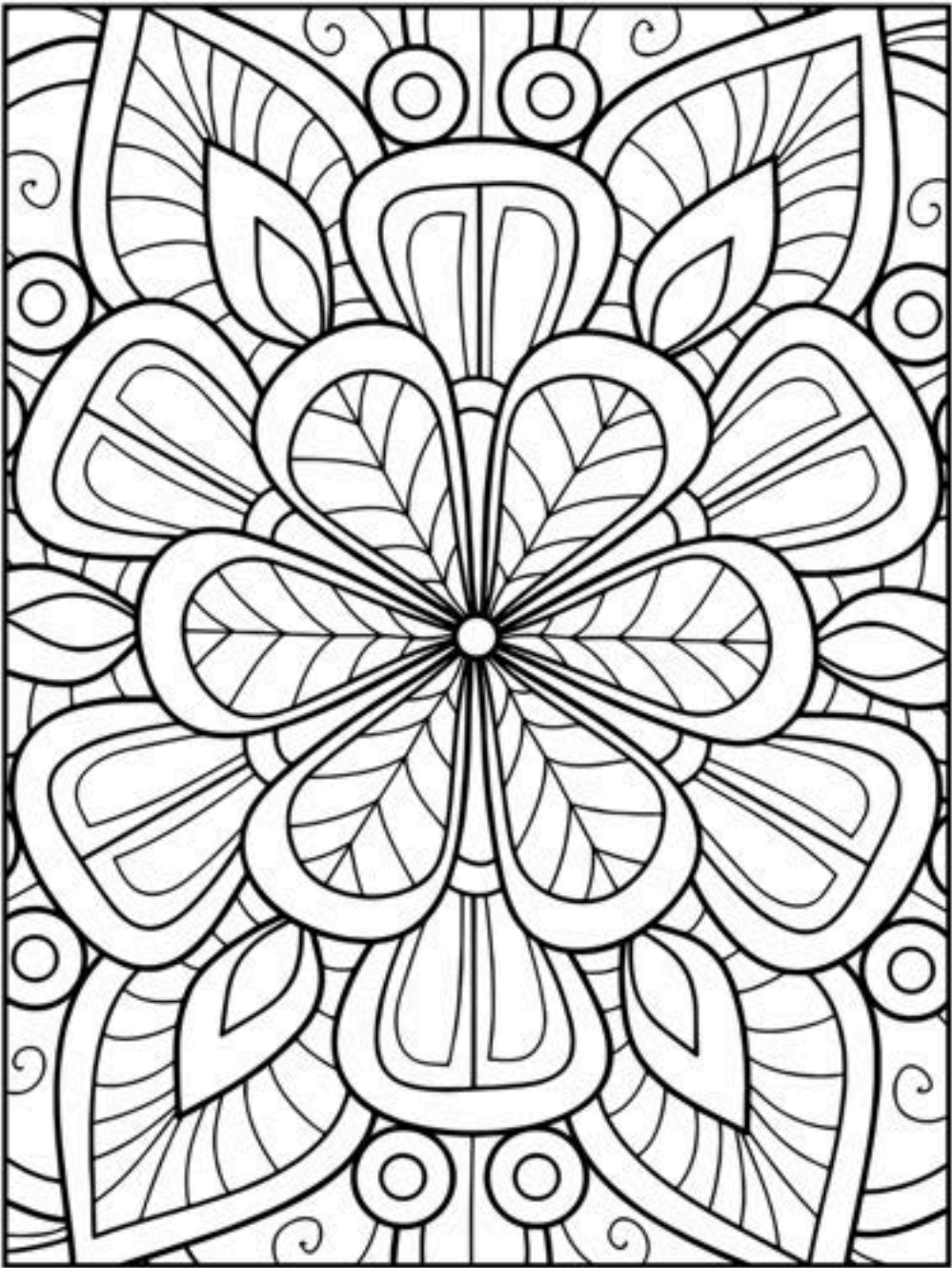




Lenape Youth Fun Pages



# Mandala Coloring





# SPRING MAZE PUZZLE

Help the bee find the way to the flower.



# 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 folklore out of our archives. I hope you enjoy reading these! Please come check out all of what we have to offer to our Tribal Members in the Cultural Education Center Archives, Library, and Lenape Reserve Supply & Gift Store. Wanishi.

## Recipe: Sulus See'-Kon (A Delaware Indian Dish)

Sauté 2 or 3 pounds of ground beef in a stew pan until all the red has turned. It is preferable that this be chile-ground or coarsely ground beef or small chunks. In earlier days this was usually buffalo or venison.

After the meat has all cooked to a brown, stirring frequently, pour in water to cover the meat well, to about an inch over it. Salt and pepper it then let it cook slowly for about 20 minutes while you make some little flour and water finger dumplings by

putting about 3/4 to 1 cup of flour in a small bowl and dripping cold water in this and mix with a fork making little lumps of dough. Drop these little dumplings in the boiling beef with your fingers breaking them up smaller if necessary. Stir the little dumplings into the beef and cook slowly for about 8 to 10 minutes until the little finger dumplings are done. Stir frequently to keep from sticking. If a more gravy-like soup is desired pour in a little flour and water thin paste to thicken the broth.

Serve this with some hot Indian fry bread and a salad and finish the menu with a dessert of wild grape dumplings or berry cobbler and you will see a circle of happy Indians and/or pale-faces around your table.

Sincerely,  
Mary Townsend Crow  
Delaware ■

# Even More Delaware Indian Recipes

## Bread made with Masa Harina Flour

In a large bowl add 1 1/2 cups Masa Harina flour. Add enough hot water to make a thick paste. Add one can Red Kidney beans which have been rinsed. Stir lightly and pour into a hot baking dish with some shortening. It will be stiff and make only about 1 inch thick. Cook until slightly brown (light)

## Indian Hominy

Hominy Use 1 large granite dish pan. Fill about 3/4 full of water. Sift about 3 qts. of wood ashes and add to water. Bring to boil and then add 3 qts. of corn. (Old corn from a bin will not scald) Boil and stir until hulls come off grains. Then rinse until the water runs clear. About 8 to 9 times and rub as you do this. Hang out to dry. Cook about 2 qts. at a time for 4 or 5 hrs. Add fresh pork the last hr. and cook until tender. Add salt.

## Wild Grape Dumplings

1 qt. grape juice (wild grapes if available) 4 cup sugar  
Heat to boiling and add dumplings  
2 cups flour  
4 teaspoons baking powder ½ teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon sugar 3/4 cup milk ¼- 1/3 cup butter.  
Mix dry ingredients, sift twice. Work in butter with pastry mixer, fork or finger tips, and add milk gradually. Roll out on floured board and cut in strips, then in squares. Drop in boiling grape juice mixture. Cover and steam until tender.

## Indian Corn Bread

6 ears of green corn (roasting ears) 1 tsp. salt 4 Tbs. bacon fryings  
Grate com from cob, using coarse grater. Add salt and half of bacon grease, mix well. Pour into pan, greased with remaining fryings and bake for 25 minutes in hot oven. ■

# Tribal Member Gianna Barone-Goodtraveler Tackles Food Sovereignty for Delaware Tribe

Gianna Barone-Goodtraveler

Hè! My name is Gianna Barone-Goodtraveler and I am a Willey & Newcomb descendant. In October, I had the opportunity to present my Tribal Food Sovereignty Program proposal to the Tribal Council, which has led to a community assessment! I feel strongly about the notion that true Tribal Sovereignty must include food sovereignty and I am eager to come together to reestablish our Lenape foodways while enhancing our access to healthy, nutrient-dense food. I am also seeking to incorporate our traditional

foods, medicines, ancestral knowledge and teachings into this as well.

The first step in my proposed plan is to undertake a community assessment so we can see exactly where community stands regarding our access to food and medicines as well as information about our general well-being and eating habits. The data we collect will then allow me to move ahead while knowing exactly what community’s strengths are and where our opportunities for improvement are.

The assessment will be available through a link provided on the Tribe’s

Facebook page and website. Physical copies will also be made available to those who cannot access the link. We ask that only Tribal adults aged 18 and older take the assessment and only one time per person. If you need assistance on any part of the assessment, please do not hesitate to reach out! All responses are equally important and are imperative to the process.

Additionally, this assessment is for all Tribal citizens regardless of location. Whether you live in Bartlesville or Antarctica, you are Lenape and you input matters! All I ask is that you clarify your location between being local or at-large.

I plan to work with the Tribe so that my proposal can be accessed and reviewed by any tribal citizen who wishes to do so. I am also looking into meeting with various Tribal committees/boards so I can answer any questions and take notes of any feedback, information, or ideas you may have. I want this to be as tailored for community as it possibly can.

I am so appreciative for your cooperation with this assessment and look forward to the ways in which we can nourish our roots.

Wanishi,  
Gianna ■



## Elder Interview with Loren Ray Barker



### What are some of your fondest memories from your childhood?

Some of the memories weren't very fond... (*jokingly*). That 'ol "Fanny", dad's hunting dog, she would not let anybody on the place (this was in Oklahoma) unless we had protection. The postman couldn't come up to the house. She was a good squirrel dog. When I got old enough I went hunting with my dad. Now if he did any work for anybody, he didn't ask for any money. They usually didn't have it anyway. He would ask for bullets for his .22 rifle so that he could go out and shoot a squirrel, shoot a rabbit, and that's how we got our meat throughout the years. When I got old enough to walk with him, I would walk about fifty-sixty feet in front of him, and that little squirrel would come around that tree and watch me as I walked past that tree and exposed himself to dad and his rifle, and my dad was a crack shot. We did [hunt] some when we moved to California, but it was pretty crowded back there then, so we

had to be careful where we went hunting.

I remember Dad, back in Oklahoma again, someone gave us a chicken, eating the neck of that chicken, and when he got through there wasn't a piece of meat left on that chicken neck. Now I can remember looking at him doing that and I thought he must've really liked that chicken neck, well I found out years and years later that that was the only dinner he had to eat that night. We used to make taffy. Homemade Taffy. It was a lot of fun growing up.

During the depression years, when dad could find the seeds, we planted a garden. This was all 1931 up through '36...and then it started getting better.

Back then, them days, we used to have porches halfway around the house. If all the work was done that day we'd all fellowship at somebody's house. Now I don't know if y'all remember a firefly, but they'd come out in the summertime, early spring, and we took some jars and poked some holes in the lid, and catch them fireflies. That was our flashlight, we'd go around, lighting up. I had more fun doing that.

When I got old enough I got my first job. I was thirteen years old, my first paying job. I had a newspaper route, and I learned then how people try to cheat 'ya, and it was very beneficial. I enjoyed delivering the paper. My youngest brother, he'd go around on his bike and follow me around, and if I missed the porch he'd go off and grab it and put it on the porch for me. It was called the Evening Star News.

My folks spent about a week with the Navajos on one vacation and we spent about another week or two down on an Indian

rez. It was a Navajo reservation school, Indian school, and they let us go to the school and camp at the creek.

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

I don't know that I can name any particular one. Our fellowships together, knowing our old traditional ways. How we survived with the bow and arrows, and then we got the rifle... Coming down through the history.... To me, anything pertaining to the Tribe is very, very important. You can't miss any of it. I don't care where you go. Out in California, I was in my 30's then, wherever I went, I didn't think I looked that much... well they called me "chief" all the time. I really appreciated that. That reminded them, us Indians were here first. Athletes made comments about Indians, cuz they're honest and they're not afraid to say what they feel. They do it in a peaceful way and that's the Indian tradition. When I was in California we were the Federated Tribe of Indians. I remember they were Chickasaw, Powhatan, Apache, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Delawares, it didn't make any difference. We were united and we had powwows, this was in Los Angeles.



They let us have this large field, it wasn't very big, we'd play stick ball, I really enjoyed that. Teepees that they had, we'd set them up out there. And believe it or not, when we were out there, Nobody Bothered Us, the white man left us alone. Nowadays they'll try to destroy it, tear it up. I am proud. I wish my dad could see how the tribe has advanced now. All through the years he kept talking about the Indians and Delawares, hoping they'd get squared away. So I would say, to know all of it. My dad and I used to work together on the language. I don't know much, I know some words. I could probably make one sentence out in the Lenni Lenape language. When he passed away I fell away from it. My Dad talked all his life about the traditions in his family growing up. How they shot a deer and shared it with the neighbors. He had seven brothers, he was eight. He laid a lot of those traditions out on me then, just how important it is. I wish I could speak the language, but who would I speak it with? I'm by myself down here. If I said anything to anybody they'd think I'm nuts. So you need to know the language, the pow wows, the dances, how to put up a teepee. I built two teepees through the years and you'd be surprised that people didn't know what it was, the purpose of it; You cook in it, sleep in it, you lived in it. That's part of our tradition. That's all I can tell ya'. Just don't forget any of it.

### What advice would you like to give our youth?

When you get together and have traditions—they stopped it—now you can speak your language but at one time we

couldn't. They tried to kill it, but that's the government. They never could unless they lined us up and killed us all, but that don't work either. There's a lot of tribes out here that are really hurting, hungry. Help the Indian. There's a lot of 'em. I try to donate to them, I can't do much, but they need help.

Be honest. Always be honest whatever you do, hold to that tradition. You're brave? Hold up to it. Somebody contradicts you? Don't go back at 'em. Show some pride. Indians always had that courtesy. Somebody comes, a white man, I don't care who it is, and wants to tell their opinion on something, let them have their say. If you disagree, discuss it with them, but don't get mad at them. Stay cool, no matter what. That's hard to do sometimes nowadays the way things are, but be honest. And most of all acknowledge your Lord, let him have the last word. ■





**DELaware TRIBE  
FAMILY &  
CHILDREN  
SERVICES**

**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
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**24 HOUR CRISIS LINE:**  
**918-331-7349**

## Chief Justice Charles Tripp Recently Recognized for Lifetime of Judicial Excellence

Celeste Amadon

Amid a momentous year for the native legal community, the Delaware Indian News is proud to spotlight the esteemed achievements of the Honorable Charles H. Tripp, JD, a distinguished member of the Cherokee Nation and a venerated figure in the realm of Native American law and governance.

2023 has been a banner year for Chief Justice Tripp, punctuated by the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA). This prestigious honor celebrates his enduring dedication to strengthening and advocating for tribal justice systems nationwide. Chief Justice Tripp was also bestowed with the title of Tribal Court Judge of the Year by the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association. This award reflects his profound impact on the welfare and legal rights of Native American children within tribal jurisdictions.

As a founding partner of Legal Advocates in Indian Country, LLP, and Indian Collaborative Consultants, LLC, Chief Justice Tripp has dedicated his career to serving native communities and addressing pivotal tribal and sovereignty issues. His work offers legal support and advocacy for Native Americans across various states.

Chief Justice Tripp serves as Chief Justice of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, and his other current roles include Chief Justice of the Kaw Nation; District Judge for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees and Pawnee Nation; Judge Pro Tempore for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; Appellate Justice for the Ute Tribe of Indians and the Makah Tribe; and a posting on the Court of Indian Appeals Miami Agency. His legal expertise also extends to representing tribal entities in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Washington.

The Delaware Indian News community rejoices in these well-deserved recognitions and applauds Chief Justice Charles H. Tripp for his steadfast commitment to justice, tribal sovereignty, and the empowerment of Native American communities. His legacy stands as a beacon of leadership and service, inspiring future generations in the field of tribal law and advocacy. ■



## Inaugural Delaware Indian News Self-guided Movie and Book Club: Killers of the Flower Moon.

Celeste Amadon

The Delaware Indian News warmly invites our readership community to join in our new self-guided movie and book club. Club recommendations are for recently released or published movies, television series, and books that resonate with Indigenous experiences. Club selection postings include a list of discussion topics and/or links to articles about the work to facilitate your thinking and engaging discussions about our stories, their portrayal, and the power of narrative in shaping understanding and awareness.

### 2024 Selection #1

Our first club selection is Killers of the Flower Moon. The film, nominated for several Golden Globe awards and a strong contender for Academy Awards, is an adaptation of the best selling non-fiction book Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann, which is also strongly recommended. It tells the tragic story of the 1920s murders of Osage Nation members in Oklahoma. This film was directed by the legendary Martin Scorsese and features an A-list cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone, Robert De Niro, and Jesse Plemons. It was filmed in Oklahoma.

### Streaming Availability

Killers of the Flower Moon is available on Apple TV+ and other streaming platforms, making it accessible for our community members to view before the discussion. The novel is available on Amazon.com and the Audible audiobook version makes excellent driving entertainment.

Check out [delawaretribe.org](https://delawaretribe.org) for a full list of suggested discussion questions and more details. ■



### Upcoming Events

#### 2024 Holiday Closure Schedule

January 1 New Year's Day  
January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
February 19 President's Day  
March 29 Good Friday  
May 27 Memorial Day  
June 19 Juneteenth (Wed)  
July 4 Independence Day (Thursday)  
Sept 2 Labor Day  
Oct 14 Indigenous Peoples Day  
Nov 11 Veteran's Day  
Nov 28 Thanksgiving  
Nov 29 Thanksgiving  
Dec 23 Christmas (Mon)  
Dec 24 Christmas (Tues)  
Dec 25 Christmas (Wed)

#### Tribal Council Meeting Schedule

January 24  
February 28  
March 27  
April 24

All Tribal Council Meetings will begin at 6:00 P.M.

#### Committee Meeting Schedule

##### Elders and Cultural Preservation Committees

February 6  
March 5  
April 2

Elders Committee Meetings will take place at 1 P.M., Cultural Preservation Committee Meetings at 5:30 P.M.

##### Veterans Committee

January 23  
February 27  
March 26  
April 23

All meetings will take place at 6:00 P.M.

#### Community Events

Art Market March 23  
Battle of the Breads April 20

#### Job Fairs

Keep on the lookout for information on the website or Facebook about Job Fairs hosted by the Tribe on the Bartlesville campus and in Chelsea.

#### Court Docket Dates

February 13  
March 12  
April 9 ■

## Delaware Tribe Launches Potable Water Assistance Program for Tribal Members Experiencing Emergency

Celeste Amadon

The Delaware Tribe of Indians has launched its Potable Water Assistance Program, an incremental step towards ensuring the health and well-being of tribal members. Funded by a portion of a large grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the program is a part of the Tribe's comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact and Tribal member general health concerns.

Nearly half of the households in Native American communities face challenges accessing clean drinking water. The Tribe has allocated \$35,000 to initiate this program to assist Delaware tribal members who have received a disconnection notice and/or requires payment in order to be reinstated.. Accessing and affording potable water is a fundamental need for those impacted and therefore an important issue for our community to address.

### Eligibility and Assistance Details:

Applicants for assistance must be enrolled members of the Delaware Indian Tribe as of December 31, 2023 water bills in question must be in the enrolled member's name.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are depleted. Required documents include a completed application form, Tribal Membership Verification, and an itemized bill of costs to be covered in Tribal member's name. The program offers up to \$350 in assistance per eligible applicant (must be 18 or over). This assistance will be distributed directly to vendors through the Tribe's Accounting Department.

For more information or to apply, inquiries should be directed to Emily Haney at [ehaney@delawaretribe.org](mailto:ehaney@delawaretribe.org) or Skyler Brott at [sbrott@delawaretribe.org](mailto:sbrott@delawaretribe.org). The Tribal Council encourages all eligible members to avail themselves of this opportunity to ensure their families' access to safe drinking water. ■

LENAPE JANUARY 2024 WORDS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Wēli Newiyal Happy New Year	a should	ni I; me	ki you	nta I go	kta you go	e he goes
mpa I came	kpa you came	pè he came	num I came from	kum you came from	um he came from	na that (anim)
nē that (inan)	wa this (anim)	yu this (inan)	nàn that one (anim)	nēn that one (inan)	wàn that one (anim)	yun that one (inan)
mah! take it	mah past tense	xu future tense; will	ku no; not	ksi please	yuh! okay	xix? really?
xash eight	kun ice	ti tea	mpi water	ENIKWSI KISHUX GROUND SQUIRREL MONTH		anim = alive inan = not alive



# A Beacon of Hope and Heritage: The Boys and Girls Club of Chelsea Celebrates Years of Impact

Lindsey Harris, CEO, Boys and Girls Club of Chelsea

Warm greetings from the Boys and Girls Club of Chelsea! It's a privilege to update the Delaware community on our club's dynamic progress. This year marks a significant milestone in our history, and I'm thrilled to revisit our roots and share our current endeavors.

## Our Founding Story: A Union of Vision and Community

Founded in early 1994, the Boys and Girls Club of Chelsea emerged from a collaboration between Chelsea's local leaders, the Delaware Tribe of Indians' Housing Authority, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Our doors opened on June 9, 1994 in the Longfellow Intermediate School gymnasium, marking us as the first Native Boys and Girls Club in Oklahoma and the third in the United States. Today, we stand proud as the longest-running club of our kind in the nation.

## Expanding Horizons: Growth and Diversity

Our club has grown significantly, now operating in Chelsea and Vinita, and is home to over 750 registered members. Annually, we reach out to more than 500 local youth ages 5-18, operating to complement school hours (11 A.M. - 6 P.M.) and extending service in the summer (7 A.M. - 6 P.M.), with a high rate of daily participation. A substantial portion of the youth we serve (about 61%) belong to various Native tribes, including the Delaware, Cherokee, Creek, Peoria, Wyandotte, Shawnee, Choctaw,

and Chickasaw, with a strong representation from the Cherokee (74%) and Delaware (7%) youth. Our staff, 92% of whom are Native, bring diverse tribal perspectives, enriching our programs and connection with the community.

## Cultivating Culture and Health: Unique Programs for Native Youth

We're dedicated to offering unique and culturally relevant programs. One such initiative is our Diabetes Prevention Program, a year-long effort in collaboration with Indian Health Services and the National Congress of American Indians. Additionally, we immerse our youth in our cultural heritage through programs like community gardening, where we cultivate traditional plants and vegetables, and storytelling sessions led by tribal Elders. We're always seeking Elders to share their wisdom and experiences, and we invite interested individuals to join us in this enriching journey by calling (918) 789-3232.

## Holistic Development: Educational and Leadership Programs

Our commitment extends beyond cultural enrichment to encompass holistic youth development. We offer diverse programs focusing on science, technology, reading, math, arts, and culture. Our environment fosters learning free from bullying, drugs, and stress. Key programs like Power Hour, SMART Leaders, Project Learn, and Triple Play

Healthy Habits empower our youth to make informed, healthy life choices. These initiatives are supported through federal, state, and local grants, and the generous backing of the Delaware Tribe and Cherokee Nation.

## National Representation: A Voice for Native Youth

I am honored to serve my fourth term on the National Native Advisory Committee, representing the Delaware Tribe and advocating for best practices in Boys and Girls Clubs across Indian Country and America. This platform allows us to bring greater visibility and support to our programs and the unique needs of Native youth.

## An Open Invitation: Witness Our Growth and Impact

We invite our tribal members to visit our newly renovated facilities in Chelsea and Vinita. As the sole club in Rogers County and a pioneering institution in Oklahoma and the U.S., we continue to lead transformative efforts in our community. A heartfelt Wanishi to the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Cherokee Nation, Indian Women's Pocahontas Club, and all our supporters for their unwavering commitment to our club and the children we serve.

Together, we're not just shaping futures; we're nurturing a legacy. Great futures indeed start here, at the Boys and Girls Club of Chelsea. ■

# Empowering Education: The Delaware Tribe's Scholarship Program Aids Students in Higher Learning

Celeste Amadon

In a move towards education and empowerment, the Delaware Tribe has launched a new Scholarship Program aimed at supporting Tribal members in their pursuit of higher education. This initiative is a response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on addressing the educational needs of our community.

The Delaware Tribe received a substantial \$3.4 million from the Bureau of Indian Affairs as part of the COVID-19 recovery effort. Recognizing the critical role of education in community development, a portion of these funds, totaling \$100,000, has been allocated to the Scholarship Program. This program is specifically designed to help Delaware Tribal citizens afford college or university education, an area where there has been a notable gap. In 2020, only 22% of Native Americans aged 18-24 were enrolled in college, compared to 40% of their non-Native counterparts, primarily due to financial constraints.

The Scholarship Program is open to all enrolled members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians attending accredited institutions as of January 2, 2024. Full-time students are eligible for scholarships up to \$1,000, while part-time students can receive \$500. Recipients may use their scholarships to help defray a range of educational expenses, includ-

ing tuition, room and board, textbooks, and transportation. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the allocated funds are fully utilized.

To apply, members must submit a completed Scholarship Program Application, along with Tribal Membership Verification, proof of enrollment in an accredited institution, and their most current official transcript reflecting a 2.0 GPA or greater. The Tribe's Finance Department will oversee the distribution of funds, which will go either to the institution directly or to the student, depending on their current grant or scholarship arrangements.

The Delaware Tribe's Enrollment Department will review applications, ensuring that all eligibility criteria are met, and provide timely responses to applicants. For questions or further information please contact Emily or Skyler at [enrollment@delawaretribe.org](mailto:enrollment@delawaretribe.org)

The Delaware Tribe encourages eligible students of all ages to seize this opportunity to gather support in furthering their education. With the Scholarship Program, the Tribe reaffirms its dedication to nurturing the dreams and aspirations of the Delaware Indian Tribe's members.

And as a reminder, the Delaware Tribe of Indians offers several other forms of assistance through the ARPA Program, for more information see <https://delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/arpa-programs/> ■



# Tristen Tucker Spearheads Environmental Progress for the Delaware Tribe

Celeste Amadon

The Delaware Tribe is delighted to announce the hiring of Tristen Tucker as the Tribe's new Environmental Program Director. Tucker's dynamic blend of professional expertise, cultural commitment, and community-focused approach makes him an ideal leader to steer our community towards a greener and more sustainable future. Tristen brings a fresh perspective and a committed approach to our Tribe's environmental initiatives, which he sees translating directly to the health of the Delaware people. His leadership signals a promising future for the Delaware Tribe in environmental stewardship and food sovereignty. His first goal is to make our tribal headquarters a model of environmental friendliness. He has planned initiatives such as establishing pollinator gardens and planting trees around the campus. These are not just aesthetic enhancements but are in fact crucial steps towards our community's ecological balance and health. These efforts symbolize a deep commitment to creating a sustainable and healthy environment for our community. Native people have always had a connection to the land and to the stewardship of resources and the Tribe's environmental program aims to reinforce this cultural priority.

A graduate of Rogers State University with a degree in Environmental Conservation, Tristen has been deeply immersed in the cultural activities of the Tribe. He plays an active role on the Cultural Preservation Committee, and is involved with the Lenape language revitalization effort, including teaching traditional songs and dances. His service on the Pow Wow Committee and his involvement in significant tribal events, such as last year's poignant repatriation and reburial of Ancestors' remains, underscores his dedication to our heritage.

Tristen extends an invitation to all Tribal members to engage with him on this crucial mission. He

emphasizes that sustainability is a team sport and encourages everyone to reach out with ideas, inquiries, or any input that can contribute to the Tribe's environmental goals. So please consider stopping by our new Environmental Program Director's office so he can get to know you, or email him at [ttucker@delawaretribe.org](mailto:ttucker@delawaretribe.org). ■



# Celebrating Our Elders: Year-end Update on the Delaware Title VI Nutrition Program

Archie Elvington, Title VI Program Director

Our Title VI Elder Nutrition Program continues to provide a joyful opportunity for engagement for our Elders. As we close the final chapter of 2023, it's impressive to note that a total of 4363 Elders (including 807 from the Delaware Tribe) actively participated in this important program this year! The popularity of its events are evident from the ramping average attendance figures, with our Title VI lunches averaging 1454 participants per month. The program is managed by a team of professionals dedicated to leveraging federal funding to ensure that each event is not just an occasion but a memorable experience for the venerable members of the Tribe the program serves.

The past months have been a whirlwind of activity and celebration. In addition to our daily lunch on weekdays, October saw our Elders enjoying a Halloween party, November was marked by a special Thanksgiving meal, and this month brought the joy of Christmas shopping and a festive Christmas party. These celebrations foster a sense of community and belonging among our Elders.

Looking forward, the program promises to continue its streak of engaging events. The first quarter of 2024 is already packed with plans for a Valentine's lunch and several new trips, and other exciting events will be announced soon.

At the heart of this program's success is a dedicated team of staff. Trudy Kerby, the Title VI Director, leads the program with passion and vision. Archie Elvington, the program's Assistant Director and DIN liaison, brings

experience and enthusiasm. Tammy Cunnigham, the Kitchen Manager/Caregiver Coordinator, ensures that every meal is not only nutritious but also a treat, and Kim Osborn, the Kitchen Assistant/Salad Bar Prepper/Front End Assembler, adds the final touches that make each event special. The Title VI Elder Nutrition Program stands as a testament to the strength and vitality of our community. It is a reminder that our Elders are not just a part of our history but active, cherished members of our present. ■





