



DELAWARE INDIAN NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

Lēnapeí Pampil

July 2025 • Volume 48, Issue No. III

From the Desk of Chief Brad KillsCrow

Brad KillsCrow, Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians

Summer has arrived in full force and the temperatures in the last few weeks have already been unreasonably hot and humid. While the warmer weather has been a welcome change, there have been instances when higher temperatures have created an environment for severe storms that have impacted our region. Please, always be weather-aware and have a plan of action prepared in case severe weather becomes a threat to you and your loved ones. The Delaware Tribe will again host a cooling station in Forsythe Hall Monday–Friday from 1:00–5:00 P.M. If you’re seeking a place to get out of the heat, please stop by and cool off!

The 60th Annual Delaware Pow Wow was held this past Memorial Day weekend at the Fall-Leaf Family Campgrounds. I want to thank the Delaware Pow Wow committee for all their hard work that went into the organization of the Pow Wow including setup, cleanup, operating the concession stand, securing vendors, fund raising, etc. that made it a successful event. I also want to thank the Delaware Tribe’s Maintenance department for all their hard work in mowing, trimming trees, painting, etc. leading up to the Pow Wow and their continual work at the grounds. This was our groundskeeper Jason Murphy’s first year, and he did a great job communicating with us and doing whatever needed to be done so

that we would have a successful Pow Wow. Jason has maintained the grounds well since his appointment to the position, yet there is still work to be done, such as on the electric and PA systems, reseeding the arena, etc. that we are committed to doing throughout the coming year. I also want to give a shout-out to Levi Randall and the Cultural Preservation Committee for leading the cultural activities on Thursday evening, and to Tahkoken Michael-Bread for leading the Bean Dance exhibition Sunday night, which everyone really enjoyed. It was nice to share some of our culture with visiting tribes! Overall, the Pow Wow was a great success and many family reunions and celebrations were held on the grounds in a safe family environment.

In April I attended the Unami language symposium at Princeton University with Dr. Nicky Michael, River Michael, and Tahkoken Michael as representatives of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. This event builds upon the Munsee Language and History Symposia that have been held annually at Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study since 2021. Language keepers across all Lenape communities, along with local partners, gather on Lenape lands to strengthen our relationships with a particular focus on Lenape language reclamation and revitaliza-

tion. Also in attendance were representatives from the Delaware Nation (Anadarko, OK), as well as Princeton students and faculty. Sessions focused on “Lenape Belongings, Lenape Language, Lenape History”; “Lenape’ok, Gender, and Language”; and “Lenape Relationships to Land.” It was a great opportunity to build a relationship with Princeton University, and I appreciated them hosting us.

Also in April, I attended the Great Plains Land-Back Leadership Summit at the University of Kansas. This event featured tribal leaders, scholars, and expert practitioners working to advance the sovereignty of Native Nations through tribal land reclamation and stewardship projects. Some of the things discussed were actual land-back stories that demonstrate the legal, economic, political, and technical skills needed to engage in successful land reclamation projects. It also deepens our collective understanding of what this means beyond the oversimplified narrative of “buying back land.” I was able to talk and discuss how we have been actively looking for land in our homelands for repatriation of our ancestors. I talked about the many relationships we have built with our federal partners and how we have been able to get small amounts of land in the homelands for repatriation. It was a very informative discussion, and I was able to take away many ideas on future land-back projects.

At the end of April, I traveled with Cultural Education director

Jeremy Johnson to the Delaware Water Gap and Cherry Valley, Pennsylvania for another repatriation of our ancestors. We had approximately 80 ancestors and over 18,000 funerary objects that we reinterred back to the earth. There was a lot of hard work from THPO Director Martina Thomas and Jeremy Johnson to petition and get custody of our ancestral remains so we can properly reinter them. This process usually takes anywhere from 3–5 years and it’s our duty to take care of the remains of our ancestors who have made a way for all of us to be here today.

We are currently in the design and pre-construction phase of building our new 6,000-square-foot Lenape Cultural Center! I’m very excited about this project which is well overdue for our Tribe. In the new Cultural Center there will be a museum and exhibit space that will tell our story. There will also be classrooms and proper museum grade storage. We will have the ability to retrieve our artifacts, bring them back to the Tribe, and care for them properly. Currently museums are reluctant to give us our items back because we do not have the tools to properly preserve them. With temp/humidity-controlled storage we can once again reclaim our heritage. Once the final design renderings are complete, we will share those with you. I want to thank and acknowledge Annette Ketchum, Joe Baker, Rusty Creed Brown, and Jeremy Johnson who have pro-

vided valuable input on the new Lenape Cultural Center.

We are also currently in the design and pre-construction phase on the new 26,000-square-foot Gymnasium and Wellness Center. The Gymnasium will have a large indoor basketball court with a walking track above. There will also be a full kitchen near the gym. The Wellness portion will feature a weight room, showers, lockers, a classroom, and storage. We will also share those design renderings once they are available. I hope with this new gymnasium will have a place for our youth to gather and provide more tribal youth programs! Both projects are scheduled to be completed at the end of December 2026!

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your support, prayers and encouragement. The Tribe’s continued success is our success, so let us all continue the work of moving our Tribe forward together! ■



From The Desk of Assistant Chief Tonya Anna

Tonya Anna, Assistant Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians

On April 11, 2025, Archivist Anita Mathis and I took a trip to Caney, Kansas to the Caney Valley Historical Society & Museum. They gave us a tour and we sat down to visit to see how, if at all, we could assist each other. Then a week later Gina and Dale McBride, who operate the museum, came to campus in Bartlesville, took a tour of our museum, and had lunch at Title VI. While visiting it was agreed we would provide them with a DVD talking about the Delaware Tribe of Indians. They will have this on display in their museum in hopes of extending other ideas on how we can collaborate. Since we do have land in Trust for our courts Caney thought it would be nice if they had something about the Tribe. So, this is an effort to make people who visit Caney aware of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. If you have never been to Caney to visit their facility, then I highly recommend that you do. It's full of history about Caney and the surrounding areas. They also have the Sandstone Event Center that can be rented out for special occasions. The Tribal Court utilized this facility during our renovation in Caney. Check out their website at www.caneyhistorical-museum.org.



The journey to get the new version of the website up and running has been a long one. We are getting close to the final steps before the website goes live. There will be three

portions to the website: one being a public portal anyone can view, and there will be two other portals, one being the tribal portal, and the other being trust board portal to which only Delaware members will have access. Some of the new highlights will be a donation button to where anyone, public or tribal member, can donate to the Lenape Native American Foundation, which is our 501(C)(3) organization. You can designate specifically where you want that money to go (such as to education, Title VI, food pantry, etc). Otherwise, the Tribe will decide where the money could be best spent. These are just a couple samples of what the website will have to offer. Stay tuned for updates on when you can access the new website.

Teacher Appreciation Week for our Lenape Early Learning Center employees was the week of May 5th. I would like to thank the staff at LELC for their commitment, not just to the Tribe, but to the families of these precious little humans. As Darwin D. Martin stated, “A teacher’s job is to take a bunch of live wires and see that



they are well-grounded.” There have been so many updates to the building such as a full kitchen renovation and playground. They have also won the Best of Bartlesville Award for Child Care and have achieved 4- and 5-star ratings in Oklahoma. This goes to show that it takes everyone to get to a goal and be successful. Wanishi LELC for all that you do day in and day out!

I will be attending the National Indian Head Start Directors Association Management Training Conference in Bloomington, MN with some of the LELC staff. While currently sitting on the Policy Council there has been a

learning curve in how the Head Start program operates as this is all new to me. It’s exciting to be part of something new that will be available to families and their children. So much is on the agenda such as Leadership Development, Behavior Bootcamp, Indigenous Curriculum, Disability Services, and more. There will be updates in the next DIN from the conference, so stay tuned!

Did you know July is National Ice Cream Month in the United States? Yes, it is a thing, it is held on the third Sunday of July. So come July 20th, enjoy your favorite flavor, or try them all! What better way to stay cool during the summer heat! Be sun smart and drink plenty of water, eat light meals to feel cooler, limit physical activity to cooler parts of the day, and wear light colored, loose-fitting clothing. As Brian Wilson put it, “Summer means happy times and good sunshine.” ■



Volunteers Needed!

Tonya Anna

We are always looking for volunteers to assist the tribe. If there is something specific, you would like to assist with just let us know. Otherwise, we have these to choose from and if they spark an interest or you have ideas you would like to pass along email tanna@delawaretribe.org or call (918) 337-6531.

Lenapeowsi Foundation—This 501(c)3 organization has been around since 2007 and has gone by the wayside. We would like to see someone get this group back up and running. Its mission was to preserve, sustain, and perpetuate Lenape language, cul-

ture, and society. When it was actively operating, they could have up to 30 school-aged children attend weekly. They would have potluck and cultural activities in Forsythe Hall where all children were welcome regardless of tribal affiliation.

Young Lenape Leaders—A motion was made in November 2021 to establish this group. They met a few times but could not get participation from our younger membership. This group may need an event to spark some interest for the younger members to get involved so any help would be greatly appreciated. ■

The Elders Circle

Jana Roth

kikayàk òkànkwèphatuwàk

Elder Committee Activities

July 12—Lenape History Discussion with Delaware Tribal Elder Annette Ketchum.

Forsythe Hall, 12 to 3 PM. Refreshments provided. To register email delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com

July 25—FREE Family Game Night.

Forsythe Hall, 6 to 10 PM. (All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult.)

August 16—Jewelry Class in honor of Every Child Matters.

FCS Building, 1- 4 PM. To remember the children who were abused in Indian boarding schools, we will make a special piece of jewelry. This In-person class is open to ALL Delaware Tribal ELDERS 55+. To register email delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com

August 26 - Elders Committee Meeting at 1 PM in the FCS Building.

August 29—FREE Family Game Night.

Forsythe Hall, 6 to 10 PM. (All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult.)

September 23—Elders Committee Meeting at 1 PM in the FCS Building.

September 26—FREE Family Game Night.

Forsythe Hall, 6 to 10 PM. (All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult.)

October 28—Elders Committee Meeting at 1 PM in the FCS Building.

October 31—FREE Family Game Night.

Forsythe Hall, 6 to 10 PM. Wear your Halloween Costume and join us at our Last Game Night for 2025. (All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult.)

Note: The Delaware Tribe of Indians Trust Fund supplies the monies for the Elders Committee program. Funding is regulated by the Trust Document and administered by the Trust Board.

As stated in the Trust Document, Article III, Section D, Number 8, "Only registered members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, as provided in the Delaware Tribal Constitution, are eligible to receive services and programs presented in this [Program] plan." However, "FREE" classes and activities that do not use Trust Funds are open to non-tribal participants.

Sign-up sheets and announcements will be posted to the DTI Elders Facebook page or you can email delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com to register for classes and activities. For the latest information, JOIN US at our monthly Elders Committee Meetings!

All classes and activities are held at the Delaware Tribal Complex, 5100 Tuxedo Blvd., Bartlesville, OK 74006.

CALLING ALL COOKS

The Elder Committee is requesting recipes for a new cookbook we're compiling. Please submit any recipes that have been handed down in your family. All recipes will be considered. Recipes can be traditional Lenape

foods or a nontraditional family favorite.

To submit recipes, please send the recipe, your name, and any history you may have regarding the recipe to Beverly Hicks, C/O Delaware Tribe of Indians, 5100 Tuxedo Blvd, Bartlesville, OK 74006 or email delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com

Recipes must be submitted by August 30, 2025.



Delaware Tribal Artist Billie Jean Sheshey gifts the Delaware Tribe of Indians one of her own beautiful ceramic pieces, "Lenape Clans" at the 60th Annual Delaware Pow Wow. Cultural Education Director Jeremy Johnson accepted the piece on behalf of the Cultural Education Department.

Lessons from the Elders

Delaware Tribal Elder Steve Donnell, or Kakuwaise, shares his extensive knowledge of traditional plant use in this brief essay.

BY DESIGN

Upon our creation the Creator and Mother Earth gave us everything we needed to survive. As we watched other creatures, we learned the different things we could eat. The Creator gave some individuals special knowledge of herbs to use for healing. As time went by, we experimented with plants and found more foods and medicines.

One plant, the cattail, has multiple uses. The root can be dried and pounded to make flour, the new tubers can be eaten and taste like cucumbers, and the heart of the cattail, found in the center of the plant, is a sweet tender food. The seed pods, when green, can

be eaten like corn on the cob. When the seed pod is mature it produces pollen that can be used to make a flour. When completely mature, the cattail's brown pods can be used as tinder for fires or as insulation against the cold. The leaves can also be used to make baskets and mats. When sewn together, the leaves are a good water repellent for wigwams and huts. In addition, the leaves can be stripped to make cordage, and the flower stalk can be used to make basic arrow shafts. The medicine of the cattail is found in the heart of the plant, which can be used as an antiseptic to soothe burns and ward off infection. It has also been used to soothe toothaches. The ashes of the cattail leaves can be used as antiseptic or styptic for wounds.

The dandelion is another useful plant. While the whole plant is edible, the dried root can be used to make a coffee substitute, and the leaves can be eaten as greens in salad. Dandelion leaves can also be used as a pot herb, or spice. The dandelion's flower can be used in a salad or steeped to make a relaxing tea. The flower can also be used to make jelly. The root of the dandelion can be used to make a tincture for inflammation or as a tea for digestion, it's known to be a diuretic and an antioxidant. The leaves and flowers when used as an extract in tea or as an infused oil can also be helpful for inflammation.

If you're interested in learning more about the traditional uses of plants, watch for upcoming classes offered by Steve Donnell.

Hè,

If you know an Elder Delaware tribal member who would enjoy receiving greeting cards for birthdays and holidays, please complete and mail or email the following form on page 6 to delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com

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.

The Elder Committee meets monthly at 1:00 PM, the Tuesday before the Tribal Council meeting in the former Family & Children's Services (Building #5110), located at Tribal Headquarters, 5100 Tuxedo Blvd, Bartlesville, OK 74006.

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 and you will receive instructions on how to connect.

Contact Us

Senior (55+) Delaware tribal members can contact the Elder Committee by email at delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at the [dti.elderscommittee](https://www.facebook.com/dti.elderscommittee).

Elder Council Officers:

Chair—Beverly Hicks
Vice Chair—Jana Roth
Secretary—Angelia Franke
Treasurer—Mollie Martin
Sergeant-at-Arms—Steve Donnell
Tribal Liaison—Annette Ketchum
Elder-at-Large—Billie Jean Sheshey ■

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 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) 337-6510.

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**, and Spring scholarship applications 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. 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:

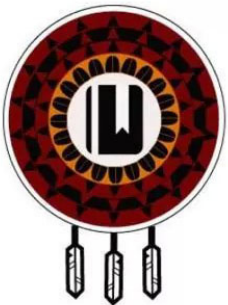
Brass Level	up to \$100
Silver Level	\$100-500
Gold Level	\$500-1,000
Wampum Level	\$1,000-5,000
Wampum Belt Level	above \$5,000

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



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

Anita Mathis, Librarian & Archives Manager

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 an interview done by Freddie Washington from 1966 on the Delaware tribal funeral rite ceremony.

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

Delaware tribal funeral rite ceremony as recalled by Freddie Washington
(age approx. 61 years, a resident of the area northeast of Copan, Okla.)

Interviewed June 11, 1966

At the death of a Delaware tribal member a committee

of three men and three women, no relation to the deceased, are selected to handle the details of the funeral and burial ceremonies. (Who selects?)

One man takes care of the clothing for the deceased, another takes care of when and where the services will be held, while the third is assigned the task of painting the face of the departed one. The three women handle the details of the feast, called the Last Supper, working as a team.

The time interval between the death and burial is determined by the arrival of distant survivors. The night before the services the deceased is kept at his home and is never allowed to be left alone. The person who is to preach the services is in attendance through the night. At midnight the preacher prays for the survivors and these prayers continue until about 10:00 A. M. Time depending on the distance from the home to the place of burial. After mid-

night, but before sun-up, the man assigned to paint the face does his task, painting the face according to the Clan to which the deceased belonged. The three men in charge arrange for the body to be removed to the burial place and may enlist the aid of others if need be.

At the cemetery the casket is placed, with the head to the east, body facing the west, in preparation for its being lowered into the ground. The survivors stand in a line, running east and west, on the south side of the grave, facing north. The preacher standing at the head facing west talks to the survivors telling them their loved one is "going home" and they should be prepared to do the same at any time. He prays for the survivors at this time. At the close of the prayer the survivors walk in a clockwise direction around the casket to the preacher and shake hands with him. After all survivors have done this all others in

attendance do the same. At this time a notch is cut with a pocketknife in the southeast corner of the casket, not the lid, in the main part, which allows the spirit to escape as it is not to be buried with the body. The casket is then lowered into its final resting place, (by whom?) and any possessions of the deceased are placed upon it (Who decides what possessions, etc.?)

The marker is put in place with its lower end resting upon the head of the casket and the grave is filled. (by whom?) The preacher then talks to the survivors again. A representative of the deceased is selected, (by whom, sex of rep.?) and three large bowls of food are given to this person. He may partake of this food, at the feast, if he so desires. After the service he takes this food home with him. The funeral services are always concluded just before or at high noon. The feast, called the Last Supper, is never commenced

until after high noon. The relatives of the deceased sit in an east-west line on the south side of the grave all others sit anywhere to partake of the Last Supper. The feast usually lasts well into the afternoon then all except the nearest (closest?) relative leave. This person stays at the grave and shortly after 4:00 P. M. builds a small fire, using four or five small twigs, on top of the grave at the head of the body. This is done for four consecutive days always shortly after 4:00 P. M. This is to allow the spirit, which remains on earth for four days after burial, to be carried in the smoke "far away" and to also cleanse the mind, body and spirit of the survivor which prepares him for his departure from earth. There is no music or singing. ■

Veterans Open Service Center

Steven Donnell

The Lenape Veterans Committee has opened a new Veterans Service Center in the Lenape Wellness Center. The Center will be run by tribal member Steven Donnell, Navy Veteran and American Legion Service Officer. We will perform VA claims filing through the American Legion. We

will provide services for all veterans, tribal and non-tribal alike. We will have emergency services for veterans in distress and their families. The Center is connected to several programs and groups within the state of Oklahoma, ranging from financial and housing, to women's and men's counseling and sobriety, along with intimate partners violence services.

Organizations we're connected with include OKDVA-Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, Tulsa Vets Center for counseling, the OK Developmental Disabilities Council, OK DHS, and Delaware Prevention Support Services (sobriety service).

The Center will be open on Tuesdays from 10–5. The Center is located at the Tribal Complex at 170 Barbara St. Bartlesville, Ok-

lahoma in the Tribal Wellness Center.

Email: 1lenapeila@gmail.com
Phone: (918) 337-6590 ext.

Steve.
Emergency phone (760) 401-2056 cell

Please come by and check out the Center and visit. Wanishi ■





Tëwènama Maehëlan
(Family Gathering)

Asuwichik
(Singing)

Kèxiti Hatikéyok
(A little gambling)

The Delaware Tribe Elder Committee

Invites you to attend our regular Monthly game night the last Friday of Each month

March 28
April 25
June 27
July 25
August 29
September 26
October 31

At Forsythe Hall
6-10 PM

Minors Must be accompanied by an adult
please bring a snack
Drinks will be provided



Please send greetings cards to:

Beverly Hicks
C/O Delaware Tribe of Indians
5100 Tuxedo Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Delaware Tribal Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

Street City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: _____

Return to: _____



Veterans Honored With South Korean Ambassador of Peace Medals

On April 26, 2025 the Lenape Veterans Center, in conjunction with the American Legion Cleo Farr Post in Salina, OK, hosted the South Korean government's Ambassador of Peace Medal presentation. This honor comes from the South Korean government to recognize the Veterans from the United States that fought during the Korean conflict to keep South Korea free from communist rule. Attending from the Lenape Vets Liason office were Leo Beneful and for the deceased, Don and Teresa Secondine.

Dignitaries in attendance included Jaeho Yi, Director of Korean War Veterans Events South Central Region; Heenam Choi, from the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Houston, TX; Commander Kim Vincent of American Legion Post 58 in Guthrie, OK; Randall Plumlee, Mayor of Salina, OK; and Kay Lee of the Korean American Association in Ft. Worth, TX. ■



5K FUN RUN/WALK
November 22, 2025

Gobble

TIL YOU Wobble
Pumpkin Spice AND EVERYTHING nice

FEE REGISTRATION:
5K-\$30
FUN RUN/WALK-\$20
INCLUDES T-SHIRT

Start at:
Delaware Tribe of Indians Complex
5100 Tuxedo Blvd.
Bartlesville, Ok. 74006
Time: 5K@9:00am
Fun Run/Walk@9:15am

***Registration Online at**
www.runsignup.com/gobbletilyouwobble

For more Information call:
918-337-6586 or email
cblackmon@delawaretribe.org

DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

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! ■

The Bartlesville Indian Women's Club invites all area Native American women to join us for an evening of learning our culture, foods, tribal rites, continued growth, and awareness of Indians. All our money making projects go to our college scholarships. We have Indian Taco dinners and Style Shows to help raise these funds!! Meeting other Indian women is fun and a sense of sisterhood is developed!

Our meetings are 6 P.M. the second Thursday of each month at 601 S. Shawnee, Bartlesville, OK, at the Neighborhood Connection Building. ■



MATT LITTLETON -Owner/Operator

Consulting
Owner's Representative
Construction Management

matt@cardinalbuildingsolutions.com
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405.762.2844

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 September 15, 2025 for the October 2025 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 Haney, Celeste Amadon, Hannah Wassenberg

Technical Editor: Joe Brown

(din@delawaretribe.org) ■

Introducing the Delaware Tribe of Indians Portal for Tribal Members' Use

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 ■

To Contact Us

Tribal Website:

www.delawaretribe.org

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

General Email:

tribe@delawaretribe.org



Upcoming Events

Tribal Council Meeting Schedule

4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. Meetings at Tribal Complex at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd in Forsythe Hall.

July 23
August 27
September 24
October 22

Committee Meeting Schedule

Elders Committee

Fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings held at 1:00 P.M. at Delaware Tribal Complex at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd.

July 22
August 26
September 23
October 28

Cultural Preservation

First Tuesday of each month. Meetings held at 5:30 P.M. at 5110 Tuxedo Blvd. in the FCS conference room.

July 1
August 5
September 2
October 7

Veterans Committee

Fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M.

July 22
August 26
September 23
October 28

Housing Committee

All meetings held from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. at either the Chelsea Boys & Girls Club or Tribal Council Chambers at the Main Tribal Campus

At Chelsea Boys & Girls Club:

July 17
September 17

At Main Campus—Tribal Council Chambers:

August 21
October 16

Tribal Court Docket Dates

Except for April, they are all set for the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 A.M., and are subject to change due to conflicting schedules or weather.

July 15
August 19
September 16
October 21

Others

War Mothers

1st Monday of every month at 6:00 P.M. in FCS Conference Room.

July 7
August 4
September 8
October 6

War Mothers’ Gourd Dance

November 1, 2025
2 P.M – 8 P.M. at Copan Student Center

Prevention Support Services

Talking Circle Every Wednesday except Tribal Council meeting night (4th Wed.) at Forsythe Hall from 6 P.M.–8 P.M.

Rose Pavluk Memorial Scholarship Applications for Fall 2025 will be accepted from July 1- September 15th ■

Delaware Tribe of Indians Housing Committee 2025 Monthly Meeting Schedule 6:00 pm—8:00 pm	
Chelsea Boys & Girls Club	Main Campus-TC Chambers
January 16	February 20
March 20	April 17
May 15	June 19 June 12
July 17	August 21
September 18	October 16
November 20	December 18
Please come share your concerns, ideas, and meet the committee. Committee Members Farrell Burks, 918-440-6967, fburks@delawaretribe.org Mickey Canavan, 918-886-3132, mcanavan@delawaretribe.org Sherri Sam-Chouteau, 918-766-3695, sschouteau@delawaretribe.org Martina Thomas, 918-883-0004, mthomas@delawaretribe.org John Tucker, 918-805-1024, jlt.bville@gmail.com <small>Updated 3.17.25</small>	

2025 Delaware Tribe Holidays

January	1	New Year’s Day (Wednesday)
January	20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February	17	Presidents’ Day
April	18	Good Friday
May	26	Memorial Day
June	19	Juneteenth (Thursday)
July	4	Independence Day (Friday)
September	1	Labor Day
October	13	Indigenous Peoples Day
November	11	Veterans Day (Tuesday)
November	27-28	Thanksgiving (Thursday-Friday)
December	24-26	Christmas (Wednesday-Friday) ■



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:

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

24 HOUR CRISIS LINE:
918-331-7349



CPR CLASS

DATE: JULY 12, 2025

TIME: 9AM-1PM

LOCATION:

5100 TUXEDO BLVD
BARTLESVILLE, OK 74006

CONTACT:

CODY BLACKMON

WELLNESS DIRECTOR/REDCROSS INSTRUCTOR

EMAIL- CBLACKMON@DELAWARETRIBE.ORG

PHONE-918-337-6586

Class Sign-Up Requirement

There are 12 spots available for this class.

In order for the class to be held, all 12 spots must be filled.

Please sign up as soon as possible to secure your spot and help ensure the class moves forward as planned.

Thank you!



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
You may also private message her on Facebook.

Yolanda Frenchman yfrenchman@gmail.com
You may also private message her on Facebook.

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

Welcome Shaun Scott, Delaware Tribe Ranch Manager!

Shaun Scott is the General Manager for the Delaware Tribe Ranch located in Sedan, Kansas. The Delaware Tribe Ranch is a 350 head cow-calf operation split into a spring and fall herd. His interest in the cattle industry began at a very young age as he worked alongside his granddad. Shaun began his cattle career while in high school after purchasing Beefmaster pairs and he has been involved with cattle ever since. After graduating high school, he went on to serve in the United States Marines Corps for 13 years. During this time, he also received his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education. While in the Marine Corps, he partnered with family to help grow his herd as well as gain more knowledge and understanding of the cattle business. This included raising replacement heifers, stockers as well as backgrounding calves. In 2007 he moved to Kansas and began putting together his angus cow-calf operation full time. He also started utilizing artificial insemination in his cow herd. In 2013 Shaun moved his cattle ranch to Sedan and continued to build his cattle program through embryo transplant with the belief in better beef through better genetics. Shaun is a board member on the Natural Resource Conservation Services Chautauqua County District and the Kansas Livestock Association Chautauqua County chairman. In 2018 Shaun received the Chautauqua County Grassland award for his efforts in grassland management. He and his wife, Tai Scott, have 4 kids: Luka, Layton, Landrie and Lincoln. ■



Lënapeí Achimëwakàn - Lenape Story

The Thunder Beings

This story about a Lenape man who visited the Thunder Beings was told by James Thompson to William Newcomb who was doing his field work among the Lenape in 1951- 1952. The research was for his dissertation which was published in 1956. Due to the length restriction for a dissertation this is a synopsis of the story.

There once was a man who said he could go and live with the thunders. The people asked him how he could go 'cause he didn't have no wings. He said he knew a way and named a day when the people could watch him. The day came, he had a big round rock, "as big as this table" (ordinary enameled kitchen table), and he built a fire on top of this rock on a bluff overlooking a creek. He heated the rock until it was almost red hot, then he pushed it over the bluff into the water. The water was heated and began to steam. The man stepped into the steam and disappeared. He later returned from the sky.—James Thompson

A more complete version was told by his daughter Nora Thompson Dean to Dr. Andrew Twaddle in 1975 as part of his research into Lenape folklore.

It is said that one day a man heated a huge rock. He had several men chopping wood for him for a

long time until he got his rock, which was near a big cliff, hot enough so he could push it off into the river. Now when this hot rock was pushed into the river it created a great amount of steam. The man jumped into the steam and it carried him up into the first heaven where the Thunder Beings were and he spent several days with them. He saw that they were huge birds with man faces, and that they would eat old bones. They'd have bone soup. These old bones didn't have any meat on them, they were old dry bones. But they would cook these bones and make a very nourishing soup.

The Thunder Beings told him that "Whenever you hear us, the sharp thunder, that's the younger Thunder Beings; and the old, rumbling thunders that's the old men." After he had spent a few days up there with the Thunder Beings on these low-hanging clouds, he jumped on one of the clouds and came back down to earth again. Then he told his story of what the Thunder Beings told him.—Nora Thompson Dean

Nora also told a more complete version in Lenape to Nicholas Shoumatoff who was also researching Lenape stories and language in 1977. He recorded it and it is found in the Lenape talking dictionary at this address: <https://www.talk-lenape.org/stories?id=62#1502> ■

Wanishi George Johnson!

Tonya Anna

A big Wanishi to George Johnson for repairing the Tribe's canoe that was gifted to us by the Stockbridge Munsee. There were cracking issues at each end of the canoe even after it was treated with Water Thompson Seal. It was brought to my attention that George loves working with wood and wanted to volunteer his time to assist. After visiting he felt confident that he could help. Low and behold, George worked his magic and was successful! Thanks again George!



Hakihèneyo – Delaware Tribe Garden Club

Alyssa Emert

Since the founding of Hakihèneyo, our mission has been to promote community engagement, empower members through meaningful activity, and preserve and celebrate the Lenape culture. We have successfully created a strong group of motivated and engaged individuals, who all work hard and love their community! We’ve planted potatoes, green beans, green onions, cucumbers, squash, cherry tomatoes, corn, and so much more.

As Hakihèneyo looks to the future, its vision is one of inclusion, sustainability, and continued growth. Plans are underway to expand the community garden, launch new educational initiatives, and collaborate with local organizations. More than anything, the continuation of Hakihèneyo is a testament to what can happen when people come together with a common goal: to cultivate beauty, nourishment, and connection. In a world that often feels fast paced and fragmented, this vibrant club reminds us that tending to the earth is one of the most meaningful ways we can grow together.

In every seed planted and every flower that blooms, the spirit of our garden club lives on, rooted deeply in tribal community and reaching ever upward toward the light. Join us by contacting Tristen Tucker at (918) 332-6260. ■



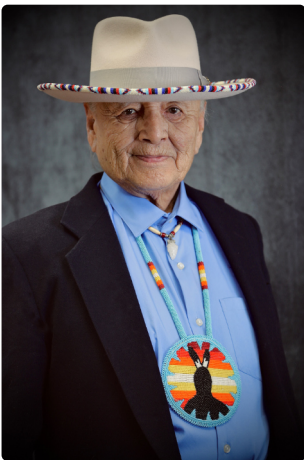
2025 Turtle Race Winners of the 60th Annual Delaware Pow Wow

Tonya Anna

The 2025 Delaware Pow Wow had another successful Turtle Race this year with 44 turtles! A big wanishi to Rosanna Mose from the Kiowa Tribe for her donation of the participation prizes for each child who attended the race. Unfortunately, the traveling trophy did not return to the race this year. It would be much appreciated if last year’s winner could return the brass turtle so we can continue this practice. Feel free to drop it off at the front desk at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd., Bartlesville, OK 74006 or mail back to the attention of Assistant Chief, Tonya Anna.

This year’s winners include 1st Place Maleighza Ratliff with Mr. Sprinkles, 2nd Place Emerson McKinney with Amarii, and 3rd Place Kylianna Perry with Spiderman. If you didn’t make it to the race this year, then plan on attending next year for an hour of excitement. A special Wanishi to the judges Aadin Taylor, Grant Johnson, JC Anna, Andrew Vass and lid operator, Alyssa Vass! ■





John Thomas Granted Honorary Doctorate from Ursinus College

We are proud to recognize John, a boarding school survivor who, despite never graduating, has devoted his life to the empowerment of Indigenous peoples and the preservation of our cultural lifeways. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ursinus College for honoring his lifelong commitment and contributions. Congratulations, Dr. Thomas, on this well-deserved recognition!

John M Thomas
Honorary Doctorate Degree
May 17, 2025
Ursinus College
Collegeville, PA ■





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 or at 918-337-6590.

Talking Circle

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Forsythe Hall
6-8pm
5100 Tuxedo Blvd.
Bartlesville, Ok. 74006
Contact Sherri Sam-Chouteau
918-766-3695 or
sschouteau@delawaretribe.org

Coffee to be served starting at 5:30 pm






LENAPE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Want to inquire about our waitlist?

Step 1. Scan QR code
Step 2. Submit information

Want more information?
Enrollment Coordinator
Lynsey Stumpff
918.214.7644
lstumpff@delawaretribe.org



SCAN HERE



Lenape Wellness & Fitness Center

Kickstart your day, stay active, and have fun in a supportive environment!!



Monday-Friday
8am-8pm

Saturday
9am-1pm



For more information contact:
Cody Blackmon
Wellness Director/Red Cross Instructor
918-337-6586
cblackmon@gmail.com



Lenape Early Learning Center



Est. 2022

Delaware Tribe of Indians

BUY NATIVE, SUPPORT LOCAL

VISIT WWW.LENAPERESERVE.COM TO SHOP ONLINE!

Beadwork, Jewelry, Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape, Apparel, Home Goods, Beauty, Regalia, and Indian Supply

Contact us at lenapereserve@delawaretribe.org





*Kyra Almendarez
Rogers State University*



*Leah Gibby
Oklahoma University*

Congratulations
to Our 2025
Graduates!



*Tyler Webster
Welch High School*



*Leah Gibby
Oklahoma University*

When In Doubt, Fish!

Tristen Tucker

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, fishing season is officially underway—and anglers are already reeling in some noteworthy catches! Whether you’re casting from a quiet lakeshore, drifting down a river, or heading out to the local tribal pond, 2025 is shaping up to be a great year for fishing enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels.

The biggest thing is the high water. With all the rain lately the lakes and rivers are in flood stage. Be very careful when venturing out. With that being said, the high water brings the big fish out! Have fun and stay safe this fishing season.

Whether you're an early riser with a tackle box full of secrets or someone just learning to tie a hook, now’s the perfect time to grab your rod, hit the water, and make some memories. And don’t forget to share your best catches—this season, they just might steal the spotlight!

Got a photo of your big catch? Send it in—we’d love to see! It might just end up in the next DIN newspaper. ■



Birth Announcement:
Freddie Wayne Wassenberg

Eric and Hannah Wassenberg are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Freddie Wayne Wassenberg.

Freddie was born on April 30, 2025, weighing 9 pounds and measuring 21 inches long.

He is welcomed home by proud big brother, Connor Joseph (2).

Freddie carries the middle name Wayne in honor of his great-grandfather, Dee Wayne Ketchum.

The moccasins pictured were lovingly handmade by his great-grandmother, Annette Ketchum.

DeAnn Ketchum Ross and Ron Ross of Texas and Leon and Janet Wassenberg of Kansas are the proud grandparents to Freddie Wayne.

This year Freddie attended his first Delaware Pow Wow where he met many of his aunts, uncles, and cousins. ■



From the Enrollment Department

Skyler Brott, Enrollment Clerk

The Enrollment Department would like to ensure that our tribal members know how to access the programs and applications that the Delaware Tribe of Indians has to offer.

If you have been to the campus, you may have noticed multiple flyers posted as well as our digitized welcome sign. We also ask our tribal members to follow our Facebook page for current events and programs available.

In this article we would like to inform our tribal members of the benefits that may be found on the Delaware Tribe of Indians website. On the website you can access all the applications for programs that are available, as well as forms to update your information, apply for a replacement card, and find the enrollment application.

We wanted to breakdown how you can find these forms and applications in the hope that it will help our tribal members navigate the website.

Firstly, the website is **delawaretribe.org**. From here you will see the Services/Programs tabs.

This will drop down to a menu that will show Enrollment, Elder Services, Community Services, and Education Services.

Under the Enrollment tab is where you will find the forms to update your information, apply for a replacement card, and find out enrollment packet.

Under the Programs/Services tab you will also find ARPA Programs. Here you can find the applications for the programs that are available at this time. At this moment we have a few programs available for our tribal members. These programs include Potable Water, Scholarship, and Counseling.

If at any time you need help finding these applications or filling out the applications, we ask you to call or email the ladies below.

Hayden Ingram: Receptionist
Email: **hingram@delawaretribe.org**
Phone: (918) 337-6590

Skyler Brott: Enrollment Clerk
Email: **sbrott@delawaretribe.org**
Phone: (918) 337-6570

Emily Haney: Enrollment Director
Email: **ehaney@delawaretribe.org**
Phone: (918) 337-6583 ■

Obituaries

Wanda L. Althouse



**May 11, 1936 –
February 6, 2021**

Wanda L. Althouse, 84, homemaker, passed away Saturday, February 6, 2021 in Miami, Oklahoma. She was born Monday, May 11, 1936 to Cyrus and Ola (Hensley) Haff in Vinita, Oklahoma. ■



Loren Ray Barker



**January 5, 1931 –
March 17, 2025**

Loren Ray Barker was born on January 5, 1931 to Herbet Sr. and Lucy Marie (Goley) Barker. He dies on March 17, 2025 at 94 years old. He is survived by his daughter, Rayna Gayle and his son, Joseph Leroy Barker along with one granddaughter and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Sue (Cron Meeh) Barker, and his three brothers; Herbert Jr., Norman, and Keith Barker.

Ray (he didn't care for his first given name) was very young dur-

ing the depression years in Oklahoma. His Dad hunted their meals, usually squirrels, and traded work for bullets. After only one year of high school, Ray joined the United States Navy in July 1950 during the Korean War. He attended boot camp in San Diego, California, then spent nine months at the Naval School of Music in Washington, D.C. He spent two years aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bon Homme Richard C.U.A. 31 in the Sea of Japan. His last tour of duty was back at the Sand Diego Naval base. He was discharged in May 1954.

Ray Barker worked in Los Angeles, California for the Department of Water and Power. He had married his high school sweetheart, who gave birth to his daughter between boot camp and discharge. His son arrived in 1956 and remained with him shortly after their divorce in 1958. (Marlene died of heart failure in 1986.)

He and Joe joined his parents' relocation, in 1965, to Poteau, Oklahoma where they opened and ran a small grocery store they named "Cottage Grocery." Ray gained employment at a coal mine, and moved to Heavener, Oklahoma (where he spent his last years alive). He continued to help his parents business. He was a repairman and a welder for seven years until the mine closed down. In that time he bought a ranch, raised, broke, and trained horses, herded cattle, and moved his parents to the ranch. He met and courted Sue in that time until she agreed to marry him on November 23, 1975.

Ray became a patrolman at Lake Wister, and Eufala Lake, OK. He chose to quit the Department of Public Safety, after an offer to relocate to Tulsa, OK, to tend to the ranch and his family. He chose to work as a bus driver and janitor at Heavener High School. He eventually bought a 10 wheeler. Within

eleven years he owned and drove three trucks until health reasons caused him to stop trucking. His wife, Sue, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in May, 2005. Ray still went to work at a local grocery store in Poteau. Sue's health continued to decline, after 11 years, he quit to care for her full time. He sold the ranch and the two of them moved to Heavener. They were married for 42 years. He was a member of Heavener First Baptist Church for over 30 years.

Ray Barker was very proud of Delaware Indian (Lenni Lenape) heritage. He lost touch with the culture and the language after his Dad dies. His Dad, Herbert Barker fought to keep their traditions alive. Ray was happy to share what he knew about his tribe and clan with anyone who would listen. He had a favorite boo; The Indians of New Jersey – Dickon among the Lenapes by M.R. Harrington that details a lot of traditional history and culture. He cherished beaded pieces that both of his parents, and grandparents made. He made/built three teepees in his lifetime along with his own beadwork and craftsmanship. He wanted people to know how important it is to educate true history to keep the culture alive, and how important it is to be kind to one another. Loren Ray Barker is featured in the Delaware Indian News (DIN) in an interview with an Elder on page 19 of the January 2024 issue.

He died happy. He was anxious to 'go home to be with the Lord,' and his wife. He carried oxygen for several years due to COPD. He had significant hip and back restrictions, however, he remained independent until the last year of his life. He insisted on doing things for himself. He even drove, the whole time. He worked hard for everything he had and everyone he loved. ■

Bobby Lee Keen



**September 18, 1958 –
September 16, 2024**

Bobby Lee Keen, 65, passed away on September 16, 2024. Born to Theodore and Luceille Keen in Nowata, Oklahoma. He graduated from El Dorado High School in 1976. Following high school, Bobby began his college education at Butler County Community College before transferring to Emporia State University. It was during his senior year at Emporia State that he married his high school sweetheart, Pammie Albright, and earned his Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education.

After graduation, Bobby and Pammie returned to El Dorado, where Bobby began working at Graves Drug Store. Soon after, he took a position with the 13th Judicial District as a court services officer. Through dedication and hard work over a 36-year career, he rose to become Chief Court Services Officer, a role he truly enjoyed and held until his passing.

In his free time, Bobby was a devoted family man to his wife, two daughters, three grandchildren, and numerous adopted kids and grandkids. His favorite job was being BobBob. He loved attending his kid's events, spending time fishing, and relaxing at the movies. Known for his laid-back

nature, Bobby was also known for being ornery and a good-humored joker who could always bring a smile to those around him.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Luceille and Marion Stewart, as well as his brothers Danny Ray Keen, James Edward Stewart, and John David Stewart. He is survived by his loving wife, Pammie Keen; his daughters, Jamie Blew (Kevin) and Amanda Keen; his brother, Harold Stewart; his sister, Donna Booth (Randy); and his cherished grandchildren, Emma, Clayton, and Kinley Blew. He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, and friends who will miss him dearly. ■



Jimmie Mac Stewart



**November 11, 1937 –
January 10, 2025**

Jimmie Mac Stewart was born on November 11, 1937, in Lenapah, Oklahoma, to Georgia (Stamps) and Turner Stewart. A longtime resident of Edmond, Oklahoma, Jim passed away on January 10, 2025.

He enjoyed a long happy life, always willing to share a laugh and unafraid of honest work. He was born and raised on a dairy farm in Nowata County and graduated from Lenapah High School in 1955. After graduation, he joined the Army, serving in Ger-

Where Did It Go?

Steven Donnell (*Ka Ku Waise*)

In the early 40s the Elders of our Tribe at the time were faced with a very difficult decision: to keep our Big House or to close it down forever. It was a decision not taken lightly. There were many underlying factors that influenced their decision. Christianity, Native American Church, the loss of many visionaries, the wars, and the U.S. Government were all influential in the decision. So, the last ceremony was held, and the Big House was no more.

Now a generation later, the consequences of that decision are starting to surface. By that I mean where have the rites of passage gone: the women's moon ceremony, the men's vision quest, the war dance, etc. With the closing of the Big House it seems that the focal point for all these ceremonies have kind of died with it. I as an elder now realize that our young people have not gotten to experience the rites of passage that our forefathers and mothers went through. I was fortunate enough to be able to do a vision quest. I didn't get the traditional whole 14 days surviving on my own with no food, water, or shelter, but

I was taught the skills to be able to do so. Instead, I got to do a more modern version, comprised of a total fast for 4 days (no food or water and little to no sleep) in a lean-to I built to get out of the elements. It was a life changing experience for me. As a Veteran I would love to be able to strike the war post like my ancestors before me to be recognized as a warrior for our people.

With this all being said, we as a people need our rites of passage. For us to make that life changing event to mark in our life's history. I have discussed these items with the Elders of our Tribe. The men and women all agree it is time to bring these ceremonies back. Our women have found a Lenape Elder that still knows the moon ceremony and has agreed to teach some of the Elder women how to perform the whole rite of passage. For the men, I will be doing the traditional teaching of the survival skills one would need to survive on to do a vision quest. With the changing of times and modern society we have to adapt and overcome a lot of obstacles and get our people where they need to be so they can experience these life changing

events. Be they old or young, it is something that can't be talked about, it has to be experienced!

I will be starting the traditional teaching along with the spiritual ways with other elders in these classes. This is going to be a journey for most people. The skills that we have to teach were a part of just growing up back in the old days. For example: how to forage, make fire, hunt, fish, make weapons in the old ways (not with modern equipment), how to make string to fish with, to make string for your bow, etc. These things were taught naturally by our families as we grew up. When the ceremonies are to take place there won't be a Big House but there will be a mesingw pole for the vision songs to be sung to and for the people to tell of their story like it was in the Big House.

I will be setting a date in July for these classes that will be advertised on the tribal website.

For all my relations let the journey begin.

Ka Ku Waise – Steven Donnell ■

Obituaries (continued)

many for two years. On February 29, 1964, he married Linda George. In 1968, Jim earned a business degree from Oklahoma City University.

Jim was proud to have served on the campaign staff for Oklahoma's first Republican governor, Henry Bellmon, and later worked to elect Governor Dewey Bartlett. His true passion, however, was his work as a general contractor and business owner. For 44 years, he owned and operated CSI Contracting, specializing in insurance restoration, and continued working until his retirement at the age of 84.

Above all, Jim's greatest pride was his family. He is survived by his children: Stacie Stewart; Jimmie Mac Stewart II and wife Michelle; Laura Reinhardt and husband Damion; and Charles Stewart and wife Amber. He was a devoted "Papa" to ten grandchildren: Jimmie Mac Stewart III, Melinda Stewart, Cael Reinhardt, Mikayla Stewart, Morgan Stew-

art, Sophia Reinhardt, Wyatt Reinhardt, Harvey Stewart, Avery Garmann-Stewart, and Calvin Stewart. He is also survived by his sister, Nancy Davis, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his daughter, Melinda (Mindy) Stewart; his parents, Georgia and Turner Stewart; and his brother, Joe Stewart.

A celebration of Jim's life was held at Matthews Funeral Home, 601 S. Kelly Ave., Edmond, OK 73003, on Thursday, January 16, at 2:00 P.M. ■



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. ■



Let's Celebrate Some Growing Up!

The Vass family would like to recognize and honor Andrew Vass on his completion of Missouri Welding Institute. Andrew attended George Stone Trade School in Pensacola during his junior and senior year of high school. Andrew graduated in May 2023. Wanting to further his skill and step out with more independence, he choose MWI in Nevada, Mo. He completed the 18-week course at the end of May. He was warmly welcomed by his family at the Anna/Falleaf camp during Pow Wow. He has now returned to Gulf Breeze, Florida.



His dog Ofi was beyond thrilled to have him back. Andrew is the great grandson of Barb (Falleaf) Wallace and grandson of Ed Anna. His parents are Emily & Robert Vass. Everyone is anxiously awaiting to see where Andrew and Ofi's adventures go from here. The Vass family invites anyone curious about attending MWI to reach out to them for encouragement or support in the enrollment process. MWI accepts veteran benefits that also cover housing for students. Emily is often in Bartlesville and is available to coordinate a tour up to MWI for any tribal member or family of a tribal member that maybe interested. She can be reached at (850) 844 6798 or Emily@reinforcingwishes.com ■

Supporting Our Community Through Culturally Rooted Care

I'd like to thank Assistant Chief Tonya Anna for her ongoing call for volunteers. Her encouragement allowed me to complete three semesters of practicum and internship toward my degree in Clinical Mental Health while offering counseling and coaching services to elders and out-of-state tribal members. My internship will conclude August 15th.

During this time, I also provided grief and mental health care in Tulsa and Woodward, and I've recently been invited to speak at a national conference in New Orleans this October to advocate for deathcare equity and suicide prevention in Native communities.

I've applied to be a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) candidate in the state of Oklahoma and plan to begin practicing this fall. Executive Coaching services are currently available nationally.

Currently, I'm partnering with Dynamic Independence in Bartlesville to offer free private coaching sessions on caregiving, grief, and end-of-life support in Washington, Craig, and Nowata counties. Updates can be found in their newsletter for events and workshops. I am honored to come align with them to support disabled children and adults. Dynamic Independence is a non profit that focuses on the inclusion and accessibility of resources for disabled individuals. Please consider reaching out to them if you or a loved one are in need of resources.

I remain committed to serving our people through culturally responsive care. You can reach me at Emily@reinforcingwishes.com or (850) 844-6798.

In community, Emily Anna Vass, MHR, MA ■



Delaware Youth Gets Full-Ride Scholarship to Summer Camp

Incoming high school senior Alyssa Vass of Gulf Breeze, Florida has received a full scholarship in the amount of \$3,300 to the Indigenous Youth Media Workshop. This workshop is being hosted by Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ for 11 days in June. This workshop is a media production boot camp that focuses on media justice, encouraging students to authentically share the stories in their community. Alyssa has an interest in photography and nonverbal story telling. She was able to use her experience with the Delaware Youth Tribal project from Pow Wow 2024 as part of her submission during the application process. The Vass family would like to specifically thank her elders, Connie Falleaf and Assistant Chief Tonya Anna, for their encouragement and support on her media projects. Alyssa is the great granddaughter of Barb (Falleaf) Wallace. Alyssa's mom, Emily Vass, would like to encourage any high school students or parents who would like to connect and learn about educational opportunities through workshops and retreats to contact her directly. Both of Alyssa's parents are excited to help encourage all tribal members to further their education and can be contacted through their business email info@reinforcingwishes.com. ■



Lenape Language Report

Jim Rementer, Director, Lenape Language Project

Notice: The Delaware Indian calendar for 2025 is available on the tribal website <https://delawaretribe.org/wp-content/uploads/Delaware-Calendar-2025.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.

Delaware Dances:

One popular social dance among the Delaware's is called Nahēnaltin, or in English, "Go-Get-'Em dance." It starts when the singers start to sing the song and the women go and stand in front of the singers and in some cases sing along with them. After about the fourth song a line of men joins in the dance and they dance up behind the woman or women of their choice. The men dance the women around by putting their hands-on the women's shoulders and at a certain point in the dance the men and the women swing around one time. The men dance them twice around the dance ground and return them to in front of the singers.



Nahēnaltin, (Go-Get-'Em Dance) at Delaware Days in September 2024.

Another popular dance among the Delawares is called the Bean Dance. It is led by a man singing and shaking a rattle usually made from a gourd and the men and women alternate in the line of dancers. The man leading the dance may just dance around in a circle or he may lead the dancers in different directions.



What's Available Online:

Stories Told in English: Some of the stories told by Lenape people were only written down in English. Some were written by people who studied with the Lenape and they only wrote down the English versions of the stories. We have been adding these to the tribal website and there are now about fifty-five of them and they can be found here:

<https://delawaretribe.org/blog/2013/06/25/lenape-stories-2/>

A Short Story:

One tale which has nothing to do with supernatural forces, and formed a small part of the folklore. The following tale told by Jim Thompson was considered hilarious by tribal members.

There once was a woman who intensely disliked her son-in-law. This worried the son-in-law and finally he decided to do something about it. He went down to the pond from which his mother-in-law was accustomed to draw water. He tied all the lily pads together so that he could make them vibrate by pulling on a string. Then he hid himself in some bushes that were nearby. Soon his mother-in-law came down to draw water. He vibrated the lily pads and disguised his voice and said: "Your son-in-law is going to die, your son-in-law is going to die."

She thought the lily pads were speaking to her. She started back to the wigwam, but her son-in-law took a short cut and beat her there. He was sitting inside when the tearful woman arrived. She started being very nice to him. She combed and brushed his clothes and softened his buckskin clothes, and was nice to him afterwards because she thought he was going to die.

Bird Songs—Have you ever been walking in the woods and heard a bird singing and you wondered what kind of bird it is? The Talking Dictionary might help. Open the dictionary and on the main page look for the place to enter a term in English. When you find that just type in: His Song and you will be taken to a number of entries that will play the songs of different birds. There are 14 different ones so far to listen to. For example here is the song of a Quail:

<https://www.talk-lenape.org/detail?id=18151>

Revived: The Lenape Word-a-Day calendars for 2025 are downloadable calendars also posted on the Tribal website with a calendar for that month. They will continue to be posted at the beginning of each month. There are sound

files for each of these words and they are in the Lenape Talking Dictionary:

<https://www.talk-lenape.org/> ■

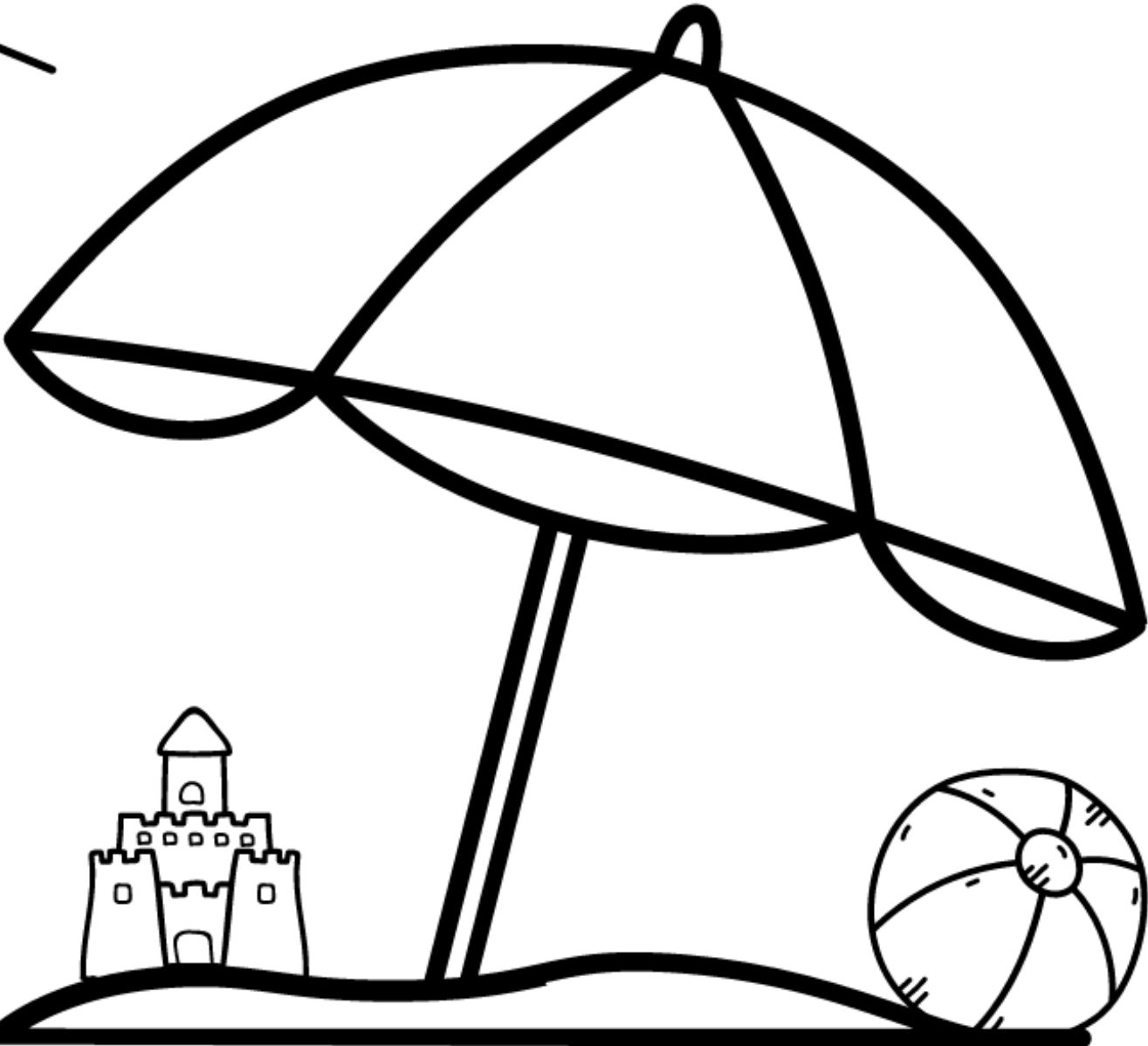
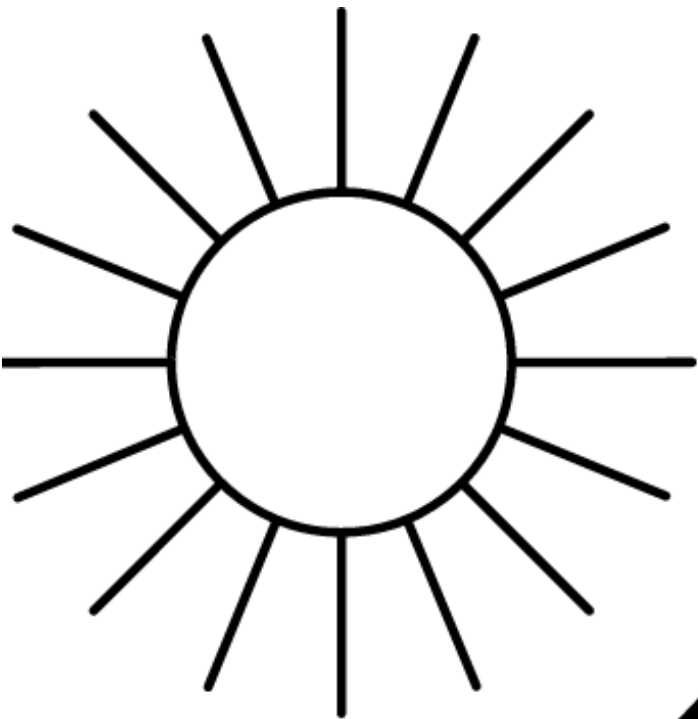


The dog asks, "What kind of animal are you?"



Lenape Youth Fun Pages

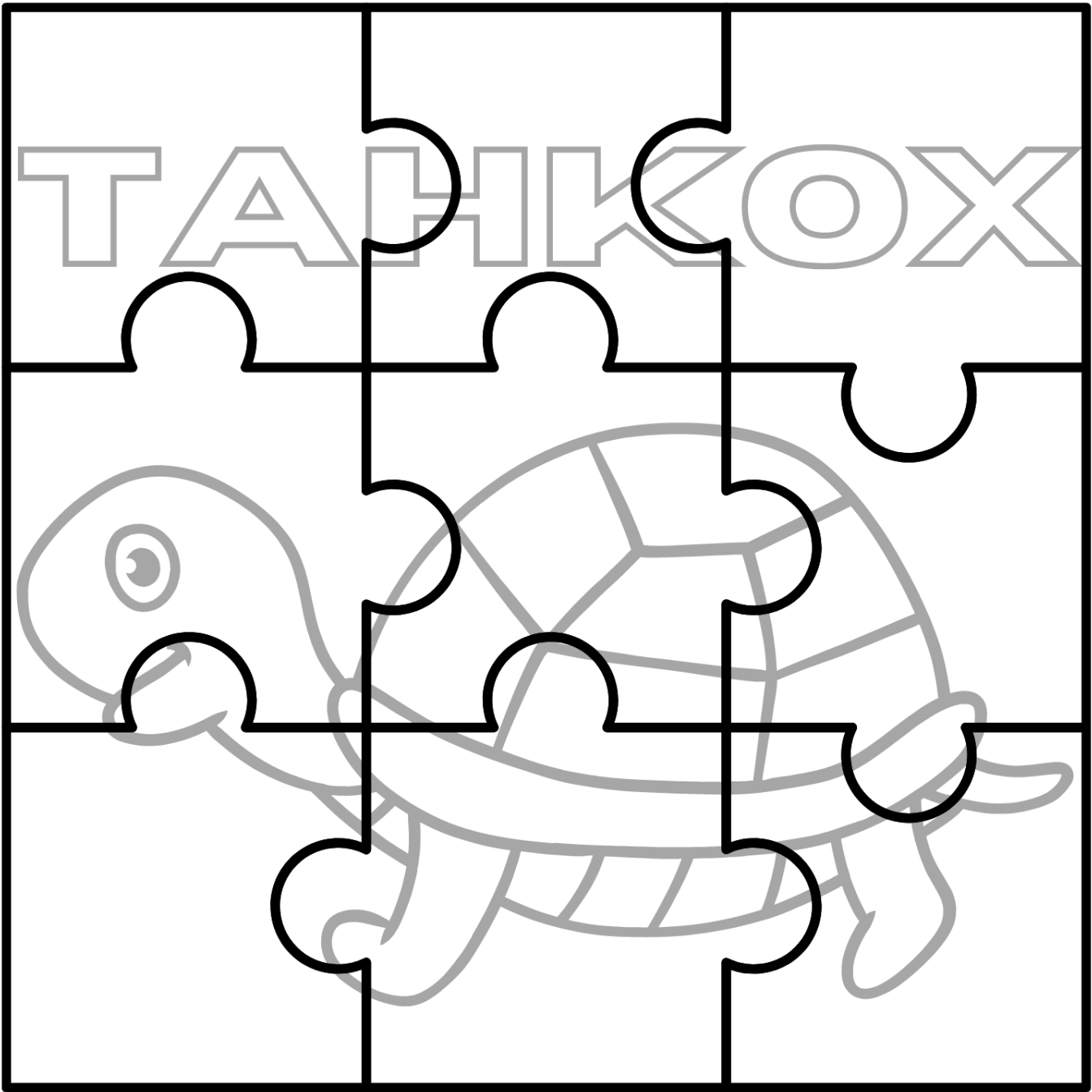
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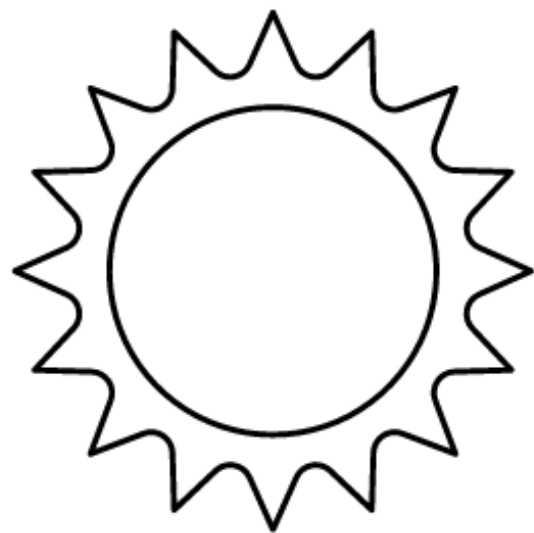


Coloring Puzzle Fun

Turtle - Tahkox

Instructions: Color in the picture, then cut around the pieces. Ask a friend or family member if they can put your puzzle back together.





We are now experiencing summer.



Yukwe ta nipënëmi hëna.





2025 Delaware Pow Wow



Photos Courtesy of Robert Vercoe





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