



# DELAWARE INDIAN NEWS

## THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

Lënapeí Pampil

January 2026 • Volume 49, Issue No. I

### From the Desk of Chief Brad KillsCrow

*Brad KillsCrow, Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians*

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As we navigate through this winter weather the Tribe is continuing to push forward. During our December meeting the Tribal Council passed a resolution objecting to allowing the Lumbee group in North Carolina to obtain full federal recognition. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA), has put in place a rigorous process through which all 574 other tribes have made their claim. The Lumbee group bypassed this step and lobbied Congress directly for federal recognition. The legislation was included in the National Defense Authorization Act and Congress approved the act, giving the Lumbee group full federal recognition. Allowing a group full federal recognition that does not meet the OFA's definition of a Native American tribe only dilutes the already minimal federal dollars that tribes receive from the federal government. It is important that we continue to fight the fraudulent groups and those that can't prove their ancestry or history. Unfortunately, as I have said in the past, there are several Lenape groups in our homelands that are claiming Lenape identity. The precedent that has been set by Congress by approving the Lumbee's only opens the doors for these fraudulent groups to do the same thing and bypass the OFA process and lobby Congress for their own full federal recognition. We have opposed and will continue to oppose the fake Lenape groups in our homelands.

The food pantry has just received a \$2,000.00 donation from Humana! I appreciate our Food Pantry staff for all their countless hours of work providing food for any Lenape in need. The Tribal Council and Food Pantry worked together to temporarily increase the amount of food they receive from the pantry for those that are receiving SNAP benefits and for federal workers that were affected by the shutdown. The beef that is provided for the pantry is from our ranch. Feeding our people has become

a priority and something we are committed to doing. If you know of any tribal members in need, please refer them to our food pantry!

The Enrollment Department heard a need, and now our tribal cards include a Veteran status for all our veterans. The eligibility requirements are: Be an enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians; Complete a Veterans Replacement Card Request Form; Provide documentation demonstrating proof of military service and honorable or general discharge. The following forms are acceptable: DD214, DD215, National Guard form NGB-22, Veteran health identification card, or state issued Driver's License with veteran designation.

The Cedar Tree Foundation has awarded the Delaware Tribe \$240,000.00 for scholarships for our Lenape students. The application is open to all students and will begin on January 1, 2026. The scholarships are \$1,400.00 for full-time students and \$500.00 for part-time students. I hope all of our students are able to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Gymnasium and Cultural Center are officially under construction. (You can check out architectural renders of the new buildings on page 23 of this issue of the DIN). If you happen to come to our campus, please excuse our mess. All tribal offices will continue to remain open, and we expect minimal disruption to our daily tribal operations. We ask that all visitors to campus and employees stay out of all construction zones, which are clearly marked and fenced off, for safety and liability purposes. In the case of any disruptions to our daily operations, seen or unforeseen, we will keep everyone informed.

On October 16th Councilman Rusty Brown, Councilwoman Lindsey Harris, and I traveled to Houma, LA to witness the Keel Laying ceremony on the new USNS Lenni Lenape. It was an honor to witness the ceremony where the ship's sponsor, Susan Cade, had her initials for-

ever engraved into the ship. We are extremely excited to see this ship when it is completed and ready for service.

On December 17th Councilwoman Lindsey Harris and I traveled to Lawrence, KS as we joined the Ketchum family during the halftime of a University of Kansas basketball game, as the University honored the late Dee Ketchum with a replica jersey and acknowledgment. Dee played for KU and played with Wilt Chamberlain during his time on the team. It was an honor to witness this with the family and friends of our late Chief Dee Ketchum.

I want to remind all our members that we are a mindful of our Ancestors who made this way of life for all of us, persevering through our forced removal from our homelands and the subsequent four other forced removals until we settled here in Oklahoma. We are guided by our Ancestors' spirit to continue our existence and perseverance on this sacred earth. Resiliency is in our blood, passed down by our Ancestors. ■



## From The Desk of Assistant Chief Tonya Anna

Tonya Anna, Assistant Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Tribal Nations was held in Newark, Ohio. I flew in a day early to attend the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Consultations in Columbus, Ohio. NAGPRA is a 1990 federal law set up to ensure honorable treatment of Native American ancestors and artifacts, making sure they are returned to their communities for proper care and ceremony. Before attending I knew very little about how ancestral remains and artifacts were dealt with, and little did I know how much I would learn in just a few days.



Fairmont Mound

Monday afternoon was a consultation with Stephanie Kline, NAGPRA Coordinator, Ohio History Connection. We spent the afternoon with a group of about fifteen from various tribes in a warehouse that held ancestors, artifacts, documents, cleaning stations, and boxes of items that have yet to be gone through. We were presented with a binder of spreadsheets with different collections throughout Ohio and maps of known burial areas.

Tuesday was filled with introductions from various people, such as: Dave Snyder, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; David Slatzer, Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Transportation; Megan Wood, Executive Director & CEO, Ohio History Connection; Stacia Kuceyeski, Chief Public Impact Officer, Ohio History

Connection; and Jason Watkins, Tribal Liaison, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). There were 43 in-person attendees and eight online participants. A little bit of history was given about a few sites, and considering Ohio has about 1,000 mounds, I strongly encourage you to stop and visit some of these earthworks if you are ever in the area. Probably the most upsetting for me was the Octagon Earthwork that had a country club golf course built on it. This brings me to the following acknowledgment that was read at the conference, and I wanted to share what was presented by the Ohio History Connection.



Dawes Arboretum

### A Historical Acknowledgment From the Executive Director of the Ohio History Connection

—Megan Wood, October 2025

*We have not generally had a land acknowledgment as part of our practice at the Ohio History Connection because this has never been emphasized by our partners at federally recognized tribes as a priority- the priority is to do the work.*

*I'd like to acknowledge that decades before we entered negotiations with Mound-builders Country Club, there were many individuals who pushed and fought us on the inappropriate nature of a golf course on a sacred site. I'd like to say my thanks to those of you here who have*

*worked for decades to ensure that this change happened.*

*I'd like to acknowledge that our organization was founded in 1885 and looted the grave sites of thousands of ancestors, and it has taken us too much time to begin repatriation, and we are solemn and serious about our commitment in doing the work and moving forward as guided by consultation.*

*I'd like to acknowledge that prior to the early 2000s, we managed our American Indian sites and told the histories with no consultation with tribes.*

*I'd like to acknowledge that we are committed to learning more and moving from a model of ownership and expert voices to a model of stewardship, sharing, and serving as a platform.*

*I acknowledge that I and we have made mistakes in the past, that I will continue to stumble, but endeavor to learn and turn the page on each new day, while remembering the days before.*

*Thank you all again for giving us your most precious resource, your time. I can assure you that every time we gather, much is learned and we change, and relationships that are built to create that better future.*



Kay in front of the Longaberger building which is now vacant.

Wednesday was a cold and windy day spent traveling to various sites which included Fairmont Mound, Dawes Arboretum,

Flint Ridge State Memorial, Great Circle Earthworks, and ended at Octagon Earthworks. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the last two days of such a wonderful experience, but I encourage you to ask Councilwoman Kay Anderson about her experience and the Longaberger Basket building. My takeaway from this conference is Ohio and a couple of the surrounding states are trying to do what is right by the Native Americans who left a footprint within their state. My heart was broken to see golf cart paths going over these mounds but brought some comfort knowing ODOT and the Ohio History Connection are trying to do the

right thing and listened to all our suggestions and remarks. I am looking forward to going back and seeing what changes have been made to Octagon Earthworks. Wanishi to the Ohio Tribal Nations Conference and those who participated.

If you haven't downloaded the Lenape Calendar from our website, you may want to consider doing so for the new year. The calendar is compiled by Jim Rementer yearly so don't miss out! The calendar can be found at <https://delawaretribe.org/wp-content/uploads/Delaware-Calendar-2026.pdf>

Our Senior Companion program is still looking for volunteers—seniors helping seniors. This program is for those over 55 to assist others in their area who may need help. Volunteers receive a small tax-free stipend for helping with everyday chores or simply visiting for a few hours. You will also receive mileage reimbursement, gain a sense of purpose, and make new friends. For more information, call Jenny Allen at (918) 244-5907 or Tonya Anna, Assistant Chief, at (918) 337-6531.

"There are so many seniors that have no one. Just going and seeing them makes them feel good.

It's the best feeling in the world."

At General Council, one of our Delaware artists suggested that all artists could give back to the tribe by donating a piece of art for next year's auction/raffle. The idea is that the Tribe has supported you with a unique certification to help you succeed with your talents. This spirit of giving back applies to everyone in our community. We offer help with housing, child-care, the food pantry, and more, and I would love to see people give back in any way they can—whether that's writing an article for the DIN, making a small donation, volunteering, or simply visiting YOUR campus here in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

The in Lenape means "it is cold," and I hope everyone is staying warm on these cold winter days and nights. Now that the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season is behind us, it's time to move forward into 2026. So, as you maneuver your way remember many of us carry generational trauma and that curse can be broken. Whether you need counseling or a substance abuse program, our Tribe is here to assist you and your family. Just reach out. Wishing everyone a fabulous 2026!

Wanishi,  
Tonya Anna, Assistant Chief ■



Great Circle Earthworks

## The Elders Circle

Jana Roth

(kikayàk òkàñkwèphatuwàk)

Happy New Year!

The Elder Committee has big plans for 2026! We will be offering several elder enrichment classes, including a sewing class for beginners, a women's blouse-making class, a men's ribbon shirt-making class, a moccasin-making class, and several other fun classes and activities. We'll also be introducing a community circle where we'll meet to finish unfinished projects. We hope that you can join us and bring your unfinished project as we get together to share our knowledge, and visit. Plus, we're excited to continue our Game Nights starting on Friday, January 30. Family Game Nights will be held on the last Friday of each month, it's free and everyone is welcome.

I'm sorry to announce that Steve Donnell has decided to step down from his position as an officer in our Elder Committee. Steve has been a valued member of our Elder Committee team as he served as our Sergeant-at-Arms for several years. He's been an integral part of our Family Game Nights and we're thankful that he has agreed to continue helping us put on this fun activity with his crafting skills and traditional knowledge. If you are a Delaware Tribe of Indians member, over the age of fifty-five, please consider running for this open position. We plan to elect a new officer at our January 27 meeting.

Our monthly Elder Committee Meetings will be held in the evenings at 5:30 PM starting on January 27. Please join us and help plan to make 2026 our best year ever! And be on the lookout for more information on upcoming activity dates and times by following the Elder Facebook page (email [delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com](mailto:delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com)) or look for our flyers posted around Tribal headquarters. Let's build a strong elder Lenape community!

### Elder Committee Activities

#### January 27 — Elders Committee Meeting

5:30 PM in Building 5110 (the former Family & Children's Services building).

#### January 30 — Family Game Night

6:00–10:00 PM in Building 5110 (the former Family & Children's Services building.)

Everyone is welcome, but minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck.

#### January 31 — Sewing for Beginners

12:00 PM–4:00 PM in Building 5110 (the former Family & Children's Services building).

In this class you will learn how to thread a needle, how to wind a bobbin, as well as

some basic stitches you will need to know before signing up for our regalia classes.

Email Beverly Hicks at [delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com](mailto:delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com) to sign up for this class.

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 to [delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com](mailto:delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com)

To continue receiving greeting cards, please update your information by emailing Beverly Hicks at [delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com](mailto:delawareeldercouncil2023@gmail.com) or call or text Mollie Martin at 918-440-5468.

### Contact Us

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

Follow us on Facebook at dtieldercommittee.

### Elder Council Officers:

**Chair** Beverly Hicks

**Vice Chair** Jana Roth

**Secretary** Angelia Franke

**Treasurer** Mollie Martin

**Sergeant-at-Arms** Vacant

**Tribal Liaison** Annette Ketchum

**Elder-at-Large** Billie Jean Sheshey ■



Please send greetings cards to:

Delaware Tribal Member's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Street      City      State      Zip Code

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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, and Burial Assistance.

**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.) Payment will be made as designated by the immediate family.

**Emergency Assistance:** Emergency assistance to Delaware tribal members. Funds are to be used for emergency situations. Funds

are allocated up to \$400 and will be disbursed as determined by the Community Service Committee on a case-by-case basis. This includes medical and emergency travel.

**Elders Program, Prescription Medication Assistance:** Prescription medication assistance to Delaware elders age 55 and over for pharmacy and related cost. Funds may be disbursed to vendors or to Elders on a monthly basis not to exceed \$75 per month.

**Rental or Mortgage Assistance:** Provides emergency

rental/mortgage assistance to Delaware Tribal Members on a one time basis per year. The amount of assistance that can be approved is limited to \$400. Approval of application must be obtained prior to service payment. Payments are made to the vendor or provider of services. Eviction notice, lease agreement or mortgage statement must be submitted with the application. The Tribal Member's name must be on the rental/lease contract or mortgage statement.

**Dental Assistance:** Provides assistance for dental services up to \$300. Services may include

tooth repair, dental fillings, dentures. Routine dental exams and cleaning are not covered. Payment will be made to the vendor and not the tribal member, unless for reimbursement.

**Optical Assistance:** Provides assistance for optical services to Delaware Tribal Members. Funds may be used for services, including glasses, physician's visit or related costs. Funds are allocated up to \$200 and will be disbursed as determined by the Community Service Committee on a case-by-case basis. ■

## 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 are eligible for up to \$3,200.00 in scholarship funding. Full-time students may apply for \$400 per semester for up to eight semesters. Semesters do not have to be consecutive. Part-time students will receive \$200 per semester up to 16 semesters.

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](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:

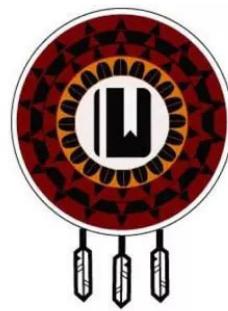
Brass Level	up to \$100
Silver Level	\$100-500
Gold Level	\$500-1,000
Wampum Level	\$1,000-5,000
Wampum Belt Level	above \$5,000

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 ■



## United Indian Nations of Oklahoma

Tonya Anna

The Delaware Tribe of Indians has been a member of the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma (UINO) for several years. I have received a few inquiries about UINO and thought it would be a good idea to inform our members about its activities. As stated on their website “The purpose of UINO is to create an organization of Tribal Nations and Tribal People to come together, work together, become more informed on issues of importance to Tribal Nations and Tribal People, and act to protect and enhance the sovereignty Tribal Nations based in Oklahoma.”

Founded in 1983 in Oklahoma, the current Executive Committee comprises Margo Gray (Osage), Ben Barnes (Shawnee), Bruce Pratt (Pawnee), David Hill (Muscogee), and Norman Hilderbrand (Wyandotte). Meetings are held at various locations throughout Oklahoma on a quarterly basis. I recall that one of my first meetings was in June 2022, where boarding schools were discussed. A panel honoring the boarding school attendees and survivors kept everyone’s attention. I recall how emotional and surreal the room got when a few survivors spoke about their ex-



perience. This led to a discussion about advocating for truth and accountability. For more information, check out <https://nibsda.elevator.umn.edu> and <https://boardingschoolhealing.org>.

Some other meetings consisted of hearing from many candidates from all over Oklahoma who were up for election. It was very interesting not only to hear from the candidates, but the ones who failed to show spoke volumes. It was a time to hear about what they supported and if they were an ally to the Native voters. UINO has a tribal registration tour known as “Warrior Up to Vote” in hopes of seeing native voters turnout and letting their voice be

heard. If you aren’t registered to vote, please keep an eye out where you can get registered at a location near you.

Some other subjects include healthcare, education, legislative updates, gaming, economic growth, and so much more. The latest involvement is opposing federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. I am sure you have seen this in the news, and if not, I suggest you research it. There are many state-recognized tribes throughout the United States that can’t provide the genealogically verifiable information. So, if these topics might pique your interest, you may want to consider becoming a member and start attending these meetings with UINO. Keep in mind, there is power in numbers. ■



## Op Ed: The Delaware Tribe Trust Board

Annette Ketchum

Approximately 60 years ago the Delaware Tribe of Indians (DTI) was told by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) it must register all its membership (citizens) so as to receive the judgments funds awarded by courts for lands in Indiana and Ohio, two dockets. Then, in early 1970s checks were sent to citizens over the age of 18. These monies were 90% of the dockets because the tribal council had polled the citizens and it was voted upon to lay aside in BIA Indian Trust 10% of the funds for the future use by Delaware members for education, health and culture.

Then, in 1978 as things were changing among Indian Tribes, the federal government formed a Federal Recognized Tribes’ List. The DTI was on the list. The following year Delaware Tribe was omitted. It also was terminated by BIA and placed under Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. (CNO). It was disbelieved by the Tribal Council; however it was true and suddenly federal funding stopped. Leadership formally questioned the BIA regarding the Tribe’s money in trust. The feds gave the Delaware Tribe a grant to free up trust funds for its use. The funds were used to hire an attorney. The Trust Document was created as a legal entity whereby use of trust funds could be received.

In 1990 the Tribe started using the annual interest money earned from the Trust to fund Education, Commu-

nity Service, Culture Preservation, and Economic Development. The Trust Board began seeking gaming development companies to get gaming started in various states in Lenape homeland. However, these actions exceeded the Trust Board powers and its clandestine efforts were fruitless because DTI was not federally recognized. The Chief of a Tribe, in the eyes of the BIA, trumped the Trust Board. It was messy.

Then, in 1996 the BIA restored DTI to its federally recognized status. The CNO sued the Bureau immediately. Delaware Tribe continued to utilize trust money for the legal fight since Federal Recognition was in effect during the years from 1996-02 in spite of the lawsuit. The Tribe had a new headquarters on Virginia Avenue, 43,000 square feet. It had purchased 80 acres (present property), built a Community Center, a Child Care facility, had federal grants, a large staff, an accelerated cultural program and activities, a proud Elder Council, and building projects on-going. In August, 2002, DTI won the federal lawsuit.

Unfortunately, the administration changed in November 2002, and with the new Chief, soon the CNO was provoked to appealing the judgment by the BIA and the case went to the 10th Circuit Court in Colorado. The Delaware lost the case. The leaders sold the Virginia Avenue build-

ing and moved to the present campus, crowding into inadequate space. All grant programs were taken away except Child Care remained, but under the CNO and the Housing Authority moved back to Chelsea under CNO. It was such a bleak time without Federal Recognition again. The feds never wanted to see the CNO and DTI in court again and when it was agreed that they would work together (under an MOU that was signed, but never voted on by Delaware citizens), in 2009 Federal Recognition was restored.

This is a very brief summary, however, most all Delaware citizens, who went through the 30 years of an off-again, on-again federal recognition saga, believe that the Trust Board is an entity that was put in place because of the tribe’s lack of Federal Recognition and it no longer serves a purpose and the Tribal Council and Account Department can perform all trust accounting and investment just as all Federally Recognized Tribes. The termination of the Trust Board is something the Board and the citizens can easily bring about peacefully through a vote. ■

## Steven Sibley, a Delaware Tribal Member and Veteran You Should Know

*Steven Sibley, Co-Publisher, Oklahoma Veterans News Magazine*

My name is Steven Sibley, and in May 2025 I became co-publisher of Oklahoma Veterans News Magazine (OVNM) in partnership with Metro Publishing of Mustang, Oklahoma. As a reader of Delaware Indian News, you may be wondering who I am—and how I am connected to the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the military.

My story began on August 1, 1956, at 6:00 a.m. at St. John's Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I was the first of five children born to Ron and Nancy Sibley. My mother was a descendant of Chief Charles Journey cake of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Growing up, our annual family gatherings were filled with Native American songs my grandmother taught us, along with oral traditions about Chief Journey cake—a respected chief, statesman, diplomat, and preacher.

As a teenager in the 1970s, I remember receiving my Delaware membership card along with a distribution check of more than \$1,000. At the time, it was more money than I had ever had in the

bank—and a meaningful reminder of my heritage.

After graduating from high school in 1974, I entered the U.S. Air Force at the age of 17. Oklahoma quickly disappeared in my rearview mirror. Four years later, in 1978, I was newly married, discharged from active duty, and headed to college in Springfield, Missouri.

Nine years and five children later, the need for steady income and benefits led me back into uniform. In 1987, I joined the Air Force Reserve in Tucson, Arizona. After 11 years in the Reserve, I transitioned to the Army Reserve—often joking I was tired of the great food and lodging. While the Army wasn't as comfortable, it provided far greater opportunities for leadership and responsibility. I ultimately served 21 years in the Army Reserve.

My service included two years of active duty from 2003 to 2004, followed by 10 years as an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) soldier from 2007 to 2017. During my AGR tour, I had the privilege of mentoring reserve soldiers and

helping them understand and access the benefits they had earned.

In 2012, as I prepared for my final assignment before retirement, I chose to return to Oklahoma and was transferred to Oklahoma City. In 2013, I met Christina, who was raised in southeast Kansas like my mother. We got married in 2015. Then, after a one-year extension, I retired on September 30, 2017, at the age of 61, closing out a 36-year military career.

Even in retirement, my desire to serve veterans never faded. Christina and I started a business in 2017 and became licensed Medicare brokers. I focused on helping veterans navigate VA Disability, the VA Healthcare System, and Medicare, while Christina assists the broader senior community, and has supported Delaware Elders who use the Title VI program. Through that work, I met Steve Eldridge of Metro Publishing. We began advertising in Senior News and Living (SNL), a well-established monthly publication serving Oklahoma's senior population.

Over time, I partnered with Steve to help market and sell advertising for SNL, while expanding its coverage of veteran-focused stories. That success ultimately led to the launch of Oklahoma Veterans News Magazine in May 2025—Oklahoma's first statewide magazine dedicated exclusively to veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

We distribute monthly to over 700 locations throughout Oklahoma where veterans and military members meet, eat, shop, work out, reside, take classes, and get care. We are at the American Legion, the VFW, the VA hospital and clinics, active-duty bases, grocery stores, and gyms. Plus, we direct mail to subscribers throughout Oklahoma.

OVNM provides information on benefits and resources, shares stories that matter to the military community, and offers a platform for veteran-friendly and veteran-owned businesses. Yes—we even feature Beetle Bailey cartoons.

In November 2025, OVNM received a Governor's Commendation from Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, recognizing the magazine for launching Oklahoma's

first statewide veterans' publication and highlighting the state's military legacy.

I am both proud and humbled to serve as a veteran, a native Oklahoman, and a Native American member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Cherokee Nation. There is no greater honor than continuing to serve our active-duty members, veterans, and their families through this magazine.

Oklahoma Veterans News Magazine depends entirely on advertiser support to produce and distribute each issue. If you are a veteran-friendly organization, a patriotic business, or a veteran-owned company, we invite you to support our mission by advertising with OVNM.

For more information, please contact me at [steven.t.sibley.vet@gmail.com](mailto:steven.t.sibley.vet@gmail.com). ■



## Veterans Committee Report

*Kenny Brown, Chairman*

As we begin a new year, may 2026 be a productive and prosperous year for the Lenape People!

The Veterans Committee wants to get information about any Lenape man or woman going into the service of our nation. The Veterans want to thank, encourage, and honor that warrior.

Ideally, we would like to honor them at the Copan Pow wow during the Gourd Dance, but we can find another time if necessary. You can get the info to me at [kennybrown27@yahoo.com](mailto:kennybrown27@yahoo.com) or by mail to P.O. Box 488, Catoosa, OK 74015.

We Veterans greatly appreciate all that the Delaware War Mothers do, not only for Lenape Veterans but for all who serve. The War Mothers have added picture frames to the Veterans Wall of Honor. If you have a Lenape Veteran you would like to honor, send their name, branch, rank, and year or era served along with a copy of the picture you would like to be used. (Note, the picture becomes property of the Tribe.) Send info to the tribe, attention Delaware War Mothers.

The Veterans Committee is searching for a business that does on site etching so more Veterans can be honored at our Memorial.

The Veterans Committee wishes everyone a very happy and wonderful New Year! ■



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

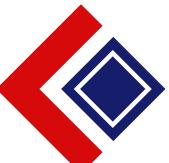
Do you want to share ideas for the Lenape Youth Pages?

Submit your ideas to [din@delawaretribe.org](mailto:din@delawaretribe.org) for consideration.

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

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. ■



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BUILDING SOLUTIONS

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[matt@cardinalbuildingsolutions.com](mailto:matt@cardinalbuildingsolutions.com)  
[cardinalbuildingsolutions.com](http://cardinalbuildingsolutions.com)  
**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](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, 2026 for the April 2026 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.

Published January 2026. Reprint permission is granted with credit to the *Delaware Indian News*, unless otherwise noted.

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, Hannah Wassenberg, Celeste Amadon, Stephanie Rainwater, Lori Hasselman

Technical Editor: Joe Brown  
[din@delawaretribe.org](mailto: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 visit the following link:  
<https://delawarecommunityportal.powerappspartals.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) ■

## To Contact Us

### Bartlesville Tribal Offices:

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

### Office Hours:

8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. M-F

### Caney Office:

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

Tribal Website:  
[www.delawaretribe.org](http://www.delawaretribe.org)

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



## Upcoming Events

### Tribal Council Meeting Schedule

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

January 28  
February 25  
March 25  
April 22

### Committee Meeting Schedule

#### Elders Committee

Fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings held at 5:30 P.M. at Delaware Tribal Complex at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd. ■

January 27  
February 24  
March 24  
April 21

#### Cultural Preservation

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

January 6  
February 3  
March 3  
April 7

#### Veterans Committee

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

January 27  
February 24  
March 24  
April 21

### 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.

January 20  
February 17  
March 17

## Others

### War Mothers

Fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M. in FCS Conference Room.

January 27  
February 24  
March 24  
April 28

### Prevention Support Services

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



## 2026 Delaware Tribe Holidays

New Year's Day (Thursday)	January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 19, 2026
President's Day	February 16, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Pow wow	May 22, 2026
Memorial Day	May 25, 2026
Juneteenth (Friday)	June 19, 2026
Independence Day (Friday)	July 3, 2026
Labor Day	September 7, 2026
Indigenous Peoples Day	October 12, 2026
Veterans Day (Wednesday)	November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving	November 26-27, 2026
Christmas (Thursday & Friday)	December 24 & 25
New Years Eve (Thursday)	December 31, 2026 ■

## 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 ■

**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

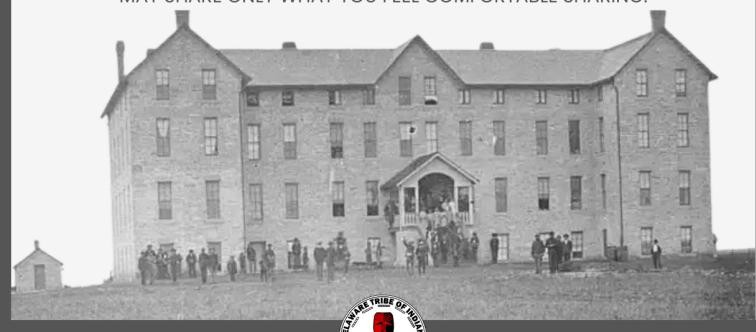
**24 HOUR CRISIS LINE:**  
**918-331-7349**

DTI CULTURAL EDUCATION DEPT.  
IS SEEKING

# BOARDING SCHOOL SURVIVORS & DESCENDANTS

IF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY WERE IMPACTED BY THE INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL SYSTEM, WE RESPECTFULLY INVITE YOU TO SHARE YOUR STORY BY COMPLETING A CONFIDENTIAL JOTFORM.

YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL HELP GUIDE CULTURALLY GROUNDED PROGRAMMING, REMEMBRANCE EFFORTS, AND SURVIVOR-CENTERED INITIATIVES WITHIN THE DTI CULTURAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY, AND YOU MAY SHARE ONLY WHAT YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING.



## Employment Opportunity

### Teacher Assistant

**Department:** Child Development

**Employment Status:** Regular

**Bartlesville, OK**

**Immediate Supervisor:** LELC Director General

#### Description

The Assistant Teacher supports the Early Head Start classroom by helping to create a caring and safe environment for young children and assisting in activities to improve the overall care and quality of education. S/he must be able to communicate, listen and work well with others in a team environment. Assisting the staff in implementing a quality educational program and in developing positive relationships with the children and their parents, the Assistant Teacher observes and documents children's interest and progress, and relays that information back to parents and staff. Assistant Teachers are responsible for implementing developmentally appropriate activities based on children's interests and needs under the direction of the EHS Teacher and the LELC Director.

#### Required Qualifications

- Minimum requirement of a High-School Diploma/ GED
- Must obtain a minimum of a CDA within 18 months of hire
- Minimum of 20 hours training required annually
- Must have completed COVID-19 vaccination or willing to complete vaccination series within 45 days of hire.
- Meet and maintain all state and licensing requirements, accreditation criteria, and LELC policies
- Have no felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions for offenses relating to children or violence, and satisfactorily complete the required background check and drug testing
- Requires a high level of personal integrity and ethics
- Requires a high level of problem solving, organization skills, and must be a self-starter
- Requires good interpersonal, communication, and teamwork skills
- Requires a high level of confidentiality and flexibility.
- Ability to pass a criminal background check and drug screening
- Ability to actively engage children in play, which will require sitting, standing, bending, and minimal lifting of at least 40 pounds.
- Ability to actively engage children outdoors in various weather conditions

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Assists with the implementation of developmentally appropriate curriculum focusing on meeting the needs of the individual child, and of small and large groups of children.
- Actively engage in activities; manage cleanliness, order, and availability of classroom materials.
- Maintain frequent communications with parents through informal discussions and progress reports via Life Cubby.
- Assists Teachers with developmental summaries of children based on observation and interaction.
- Substitutes in the classroom as needed to ensure continuity of care for young children.
- Serves as a role model for best practice in the classroom through behavior modeling
- Maintains a safe classroom through adherence to EHS, OKDHS, NAEYC, QRS, CACFP, Caring for Our Children, and other safety standards.
- Maintains adherence to state and Head Start Performance standards for "teacher-to-child" ratios for their age group.
- Maintain personal professional development plan and Professional Development Ladder (PDL) to ensure continuous quality improvement as well as meeting OKDHS and EHS standards.
- Maintain client, employee, and agency confidentiality
- Represent the Tribe and LELC in a positive way to promote unity and be a positive role model for families, co-workers, and children
- Be willing to gain more knowledge, experience, and training in the field of Early Childhood Development by attending virtual and in person trainings
- Other duties as assigned by the LELC Director.

#### Indian Preference Policy

In accordance with the Indian Preference Act of 1934, (Title 25, USC, Section 47), Indian Preference will be observed in hiring.

#### TO APPLY

Fill out application with resume attached and turn in to the Human Resources Department by walk-in, email, or regular mail. Contact Human Resources at [jobs@delawaretribe.org](mailto:jobs@delawaretribe.org) or use the address below.

Human Resources Department  
5100 Tuxedo Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006 ■

## Food Pantry Volunteer Finds Self Satisfaction

*Tonya Anna*

Bob Nunnallee, a Nowata tribal member, has volunteered once a week at the Tèxtakan food pantry for the past two years. His daughter, Angela Franke, told him about the pantry, and he decided to get involved. Bob wanted to spend his time helping others and thought volunteering would be a good way to do that. He says he enjoys meeting new people and appreciates working with the pantry staff: Sonny Fixico, Melissa Radford, and Xavier Littlesun. For Bob, the most rewarding part of volunteering is meeting people and making sure their needs are met. When he works in the freezer section, he tries to greet everyone with a kind word and remembers their names for the next week. Bob is a retired school-teacher who coached football, basketball, and golf. He also likes to golf and garden. His mother was Delaware from the Childers family, and his father was Cherokee from the Nunnallee family. Bob is married to Marilee (Garfoli) and has two children: Angela, a retired middle school math teacher, and Todd, a captain with Frontier Airlines. Wanishi, Bob, for everything you do for the Tribe! ■



*Bob with Tribal Member Mary Lou Burdett*

## An Update From the Tribal Domicile

*Elaine Higginbotham, Director of Operations at Tribal Support Services*

Allan Barnes and Rhonda Pinkerton recently represented The Tribal Domicile at the Annual F&I Reinsurance and Product Conference in Tempe, Arizona. They discussed how the Domicile funds are benefiting us—from the Cultural Education department, Historic Preservation Office, and Tribal Court to supporting the local communities through events and donations.

The next networking event for The Tribal Domicile, Agent Summit, will take place in April in Las Vegas. ■



## AARP Recognizes Beverly Chafin at 17th Annual AARP Native American Elders Honor

Ms. Beverly Chafin, a citizen of the Delaware Tribe, has dedicated her life to public service, tribal leadership, and community advocacy. She attended Chilocco Indian School and later served two terms as a Tribal Judge for the Delaware Tribe, in addition to her work on the housing committee. Her professional career included 14 years with Indian Health Service in North Dakota and Oklahoma and 19 years with Baker Hughes in Tulsa, Oklahoma before retiring. A devoted volunteer, Ms. Chafin has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Rogers County, assisted graduating seniors for a decade at Riverside Indian School and spent 10 years as a missionary on the Oglala Sioux Reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Recognized as a respected elder, she continues to embody her Lenape heritage and commitment to service, inspiring future generations to walk in the good path of their ancestors.

For more information on this program, please visit <https://states.aarp.org/oklahoma/2025-aarp-oklahoma-native-american-elders-honors-celebration-recognizes-49-native-american-elders> ■



## Dee Ketchum Honored at Haskell v. KU Basketball Game

*Lori Hassellman*

The University of Kansas athletics honored former KU Men's basketball player, Dee Ketchum at the recent Haskell v. KU women's basketball game at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, KS. The game was streamed live on ESPN and was part of the "785 Night" community event bringing together fans, friends, and family from both institutions. The event was a collaborative effort organized by both KU and Haskell athletics.

A replica of the KU basketball jersey worn by Dee Ketchum was presented to the tribe and the family of Ketchum in his honor. Accepting the jersey at half-time was Annette Ketchum, wife of Dee Ketchum; their children, Kala Ketchum and DeAnn Ketchum Ross; and granddaughter Hannah Wassenburg and her husband Eric; along with their two boys, great grandchildren of Dee Ketchum.



"Presenting the Tribal Council of the Delaware Tribe of Indians with a replica jersey honoring the late, great Kansas Men's Basketball player and former Chief of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Dee Ketchum, and having his family with us truly embodied the purpose of our 785 Night initiative. This moment allowed us to honor the Native American heritage

that unites everyone who lives under the 785 area code and beyond," said Chris Hughes, Assistant Director, Organizational Engagement, KU Athletics.

Joining the Ketchum family at center court was Chief Brad Kills Crow and tribal council secretary, Lindsay Harris. "It truly was an honor to be able to represent the Delaware Tribe at the University of Kansas and to share in their continued support for Indigenous nations across America, said Harris. "It was also a privilege to be part of the honoring and presentation of our late great Chief of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Dee Ketchum's KU basketball jersey. We will proudly display his jersey in our brand-new Delaware Tribal gymnasium and wellness center. A huge Wanishi to KU for continuing to foster such strong indigenous partnerships!"

Dee Ketchum was recruited by the University of Kansas in 1957 on a full basketball scholarship. He was a starting player all four years and served as co-captain his senior year. Ketchum was also on the KU golf team. While excelling in athletics at KU, Ketchum earned a bachelor's degree in education and master's in educational counseling and psychology. Dee served on Tribal Council for 20 years and as Chief from 1998–2002. ■





## 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

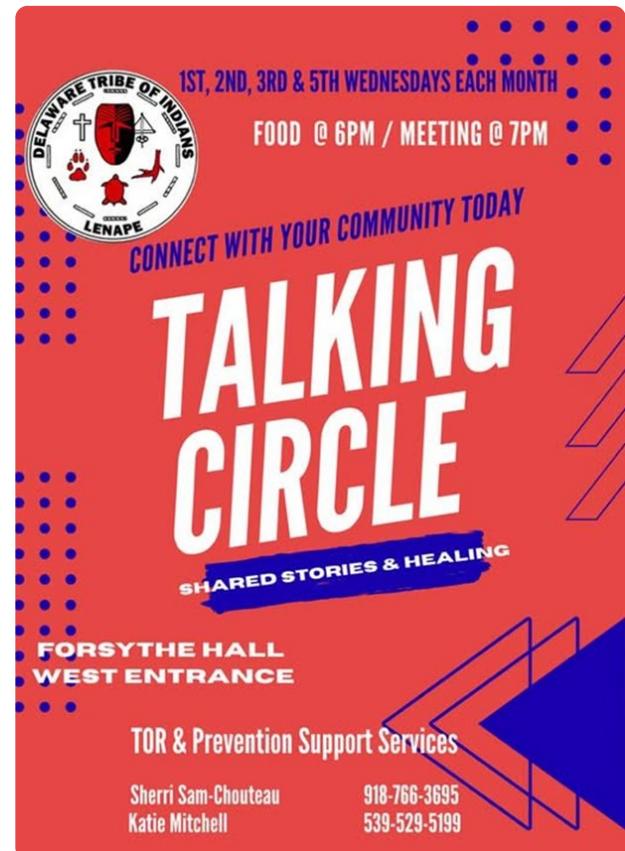
Eighthpage-----5.75 x 2.875 = \$40

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.



## 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

### Game Night



Delaware Elder Committee  
invites everyone to attend  
Game Night and Potluck It  
will be the last Friday of  
each month,except May,  
through November. They will  
be held at the 5110 building  
in Bartlesville (former FCS)  
starting at 6 pm Beginning  
in January. Come and have  
lots of fun and laughter  
while building community.  
Drinks will be provided.





## 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 RESERVE

SUPPLY & GIFT

Est. 2022

## Delaware Tribe of Indians

## BUY NATIVE, SUPPORT LOCAL

VISIT [WWW.LENAPERESERVE.COM](http://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](mailto:lenapereserve@delawaretribe.org)



## Lenape Center Hosts Tribal Elders at Columbia University Teachers College in New York City.

*Curtis Zunigha*

In late June of this year Lenape Center ([www.lenape.center](http://www.lenape.center)) hosted tribal elders Paula Pechonick, Mike Pace, Connie Falleaf, and Curtis Zunigha at Columbia University Teachers College in NYC. The group was interviewed by the college media department in the school's Digital Futures Lab for continuing development of the Lenape curriculum being used in NYC schools from grades K-12. The curriculum is a Lenape Center initiative led by Executive Director Joe Baker, also a Delaware Tribe elder, and facilitated by Dr. Rachel Talbert, a Post-Doctorate Fellow in the school's Teaching Department.

The curriculum includes a Lenape perspective of history, culture, and the arts as told by authentic representatives of the Delaware Tribe. It seeks to combat the intentional erasure of the Lenape/Delaware people in the NYC area over the past 400 years. The trip also included a visit to Inwood Hill Park where a monument stands stating the infamous "Purchase of Manhattan" occurred on that spot. The elders in the group all agreed that the purchase was a myth and part of an effort by Dutch colonizers to defraud the Lenape of their land.

The trip also included a visit to the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design where the exhibit Welcome To Territory, curated by Joe Baker, displayed amazing turkey feather capes that he constructed.

More curriculum development is planned for 2026. ■



*Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design*

(Above left) Tribal Elders Paula Pechonick, Mike Pace, Connie Falleaf, and Curtis Zunigha take part in an online lecture on Lenape/Delaware treaties by Professor Nick Robinson of Pace University in NYC.

## An Update from the Delaware Tribe Title VI Nutrition Program

*Archie Elvington, Director, Delaware Tribe Title VI Nutrition Program*

Through the months of September, October, and November the Delaware Tribe Title VI program has served 3669 meals, with 597 of those going to Delaware Elders and 2964 to Elders of other tribes. We've also held some very fun events, such as: a picnic in September, a Halloween themed Elder Health Fair in October alongside an Elder Halloween Party, a Thanksgiving meal where elders were allowed to remain seated as their food trays were brought to them by other department staff who volunteered their time to assist in providing for all our elders, Elder

Christmas shopping where we will take Elders to a mall where they bought gifts for their families, a pajama party day where elders doing the holiday green tickets called, gathered, and listened live on radio for called numbers, and our Elder Christmas Party where our elders played a dirty Santa game after their meal. The Title VI staff is comprised of the Title VI Director Trudy Kerby, Assistant Director Archie Elvington, and Kitchen Staff Worker Kim Osbourn. ■

## Lenape Curriculum Project

The Lenape Curriculum Project is a collaboration between Lenape Center ([www.lenape.center](http://www.lenape.center)) and Columbia University Teachers College in New York City. Dr. Rachel Talbert is a Post-Doctorate Fellow for Curriculum Development and is directing the project. She has recently donated five books from the project to the Delaware Tribe Library to provide scholarly perspectives on teaching and learning about Indian people. These books can be used as research materials by staff and scholars at the Tribal Complex.

4. Manifest Manners. Narratives On Post Indian Survivance

5. "To Remain An Indian" Lessons in Democracy From a Century of Native American Education ■



1. For Indigenous Eyes Only - A Decolonization Handbook

2. Unsettling Settler-Colonial Education: The Transformational Indigenous Praxis Model

3. Indigenous Children's Survivance in Public Schools



## Delaware Recipes

**Xaskwini Kshitay (Corn Soup)**  
by Elgia Bryan

2lbs. Dried corn  
5 lbs. Beef or pork  
8 cups water or more

### Directions:

Trim fat off meat and cut in cubes. Combine all ingredients in a large pot. Simmer until meat and corn are done. Note: If you are not familiar with the Dried Corn you can look online for Cope's Dried Sweet Corn ■



## Delawares-At-Large Encourage Others to Visit and Volunteer

David Creed

Hello, my name is David Creed. I recently visited the tribal complex this summer for the first time along with my twin sons, Kevin and Michael. We're relating this experience in hope that other Delawares-at-large will be encouraged to do the same.

For years I wanted to take the boys to Bartlesville, but there were always school exams or baseball tournaments that kept us away. In recent years, this mind-set began to change as my brother, Brian, and I researched our Delaware heritage.

Our grandmother, Gertrude Longbone, was an orphan who attended Chilocco Indian School in the 1920s. Documents we found at the National Archive in Fort Worth told stories that we had not heard, as when she ran away from Chilocco in 1922 and hid with an aunt in Dewey. Others verified family lore that Gertrude and her brothers were swindled out of

money by their government guardian. The documents were a difficult read but provided a glimpse into why Gertrude left Oklahoma.

When I noticed Assistant Chief Tonya Anna's call for volunteers in the Delaware Indian News, I knew this would be the best way to introduce my family to the tribe. Ms. Anna was very responsive to my inquiry with several volunteering ideas. Since Kevin and Michael regularly volunteer for the Food Bank here in Houston, Texas, we decided to do the same for the tribe. I reached out to Mr. Sonny Fixico and arranged to volunteer for a couple of days.

Upon arriving at the tribal complex, we first visited the museum. We appreciated the audio feature which allowed us to listen to and repeat the Lenape word for many of the artifacts. Kevin and Michael enjoyed reading about the pow wow and the cultural sig-

nificance of the dances. We were later told that the museum was designed for visitors to walk counterclockwise, the same direction as Delaware dances.

The boys were eager after a long trip to visit the Lenape Wellness & Fitness Center to lift weights, so we stopped by and registered. They had a good workout and were excited to hear about construction for a new Cultural Center and Gymnasium.

The highlight of the trip was the Delaware Tribe Food Pantry. I was a little nervous about being

considered an outsider, but Sonny and his team made us feel like family! We first helped distributing food boxes for children in the Bartlesville area. Afterwards, we bagged fruits and vegetables and stocked the shelves before the pantry was opened to tribal members. We were impressed with the number of people who went in and out throughout the day and the efficiency of the pantry staff to handle the load.

Volunteering at the pantry provided an opportunity to meet many Delaware. One person we



met was Mr. Curtis Zunigha, who has a lot of knowledge about Delaware history and culture, and was generous to share it with us. Kevin and Michael were particularly interested in the discussion about the forced removal of the Lenape people from Lenapehoking and the origin of Wall Street. On our last day Mr. Zunigha showed us the tribal owned Teton Trade Cloth storefront in downtown Bartlesville. The wool blankets caught our eyes and we bought a couple as gifts. We were unfamiliar with some items and learned they were for powwow regalia.

I want to encourage all tribal members who live far and near to make the trip to Bartlesville to visit the tribal complex. It is well worth the investment, especially if you have children. I can see that Kevin and Michael have renewed pride in their Lenape heritage and want to learn more. And don't forget to volunteer! ■

## Delaware Tribe of Indians Mission Statement

At their December 20, 2025 meeting, the Delaware Tribe of Indians Tribal Council passed a new mission statement, and it reads as follows:

The mission of the Delaware Tribe of Indians is to honor our Lenape ancestors by strengthening our sovereignty, preserving our culture, and promoting the well-being of our citizens. Through responsible governance, sustainable economic development, and compassionate community services, we work to protect our heritage, support our families, and ensure a strong and healthy future for generations to come. ■



## Cultural Education Department Seeks Participants for Indian Boarding Schools Survey

Giana Barone

The Delaware Tribe of Indians Cultural Education Department is inviting Delaware citizens and Delaware descendants to participate in a survey related to the Indian Boarding School system.

This form is intended for Delaware individuals and families who were impacted by Indian Boarding Schools. Participation is voluntary, and most questions are optional. You may share only what you feel comfortable sharing.

Information shared will help guide culturally grounded programming, remembrance efforts, and survivor-centered initiatives. In keeping with Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles, all information will remain under the care and stewardship of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and will not be shared publicly without appropriate consent.

If you or your family were impacted and would like to participate, please use the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/260054767506156>

Thank you for your time, trust, and willingness to support this important work. ■

## Classifieds

**D**o you have something that needs to be sold and out of your way? The Editorial Committee would like to offer a Classified Ads section to our members, free of charge for 2026. The deadlines for submissions for each issue of the paper as follows:

March 15, 2026

June 15, 2026

September 15, 2026

December 15, 2026



### 20 Ton Overhead Feed Bin

Price: \$3000.00

Notes: Used 20 ton overhead feed bin that has some holes in the top and sides, needs repairs (leaks water). For more information, please contact Delaware Tribe Ranch Manager, Shaun Scott at (806) 433-2297



### Petrified Wood

Notes: 53" wide x 31" deep x 1 1/8" thick with one side polished and the other side not polished. Call Charletta Fair at (918) 961-0153 ■

## From the Enrollment Department

*Skyler Brott, Enrollment Clerk*

**T**he 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](http://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](mailto:hingram@delawaretribe.org)

Phone: (918) 337-6590

Skyler Brott: Enrollment Clerk

Email: [sbrott@delawaretribe.org](mailto:sbrott@delawaretribe.org)

Phone: (918) 337-6570

Emily Haney: Enrollment Director

Email: [ehaney@delawaretribe.org](mailto:ehaney@delawaretribe.org)

Phone: (918) 337-6583 ■

## Obituaries

### Harland Earl Armstrong



October 3, 1944 —  
March 23, 2025

Harland Earl Armstrong, age 80, passed away on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Oxley Park Health and Rehabilitation in Lyons, Georgia, under the care of Affinis Hospice.

He was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on October 3, 1944, to Harold Paul Armstrong and Thelma Fern Armstrong (Hutson).

Harland graduated from Maumee High School in Toledo, Ohio, with the Class of 1964. He later attended Arizona University. Throughout his youth, Harland lived in various states as his father worked as a pipe fitter/welder. Trained by his father, Harland proudly followed in his footsteps and became a well-known pipe fitter himself. His career took him across the United States, but he ultimately fell in love with the state of Texas, where he and his wife made their home.

Harland enjoyed fishing, camping, woodworking, yardwork, photography, and spending time with his family and his beloved and faithful dog, Gracie. He was also a proud member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians of Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harold Paul Armstrong; his mother, Thelma Fern Armstrong; his infant son, Harland Armstrong

Jr.; and his brother, Paul Wayne Armstrong.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Janet Armstrong of Lyons; his daughter, Barbara Hutchison (Kevin) of Ailey, Georgia, and their children, Michaela and Kevin Hutchison; his daughter, Kristie Addison (Joseph) of Dearing, Georgia, and their daughters, Sarah Grace Addison and Izzie Nicole Addison; and his sister, Barbara Grabowski (Tony) of North Fort Myers, Florida. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and held a special place in his heart for Todd and John Sirovatka.

A memorial service was held on Friday, May 2, 2025 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Oxley Park Health and Rehabilitation.

Low Country Cremation & Burial is serving the Armstrong family. ■



### Robert Eckstein



February 26, 1966 —  
December 2, 2025

Robert C. "Rob" Eckstein, 59, of Elkhart, Indiana, formerly of Ohio, passed away unexpectedly at Elkhart General Hospital on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

Rob was born on February 26, 1966, in Wooster, OH to Richard "Chris" & Constance "Connie"

(Falleaf) Eckstein.

On February 22, 2013, Rob married the love of his life, Dana L. Canfield. She survives along with two sons, Roman Eckstein of Elkhart and Blake "Xander" Canfield of Portland, OR and a daughter, Madison Canfield, also of Portland, OR. Also surviving is his sister, Tara DeVore of Munroe Falls, OH, nieces Morgan (Kyle) Trainer of Green, OH, Mariah (Ben) McKinney of Stow, OH, Madison (Curtis) Black of Kent, OH, his mother, Connie Falleaf of Bartlesville, OK and his father, Chris Eckstein of Wooster, OH.

Rob received his Bachelor of Arts in History and his Executive MBA in International Business from The Ohio State University. He is also a veteran of the United States Army as Air Defense Team Chief, stationed with the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss Texas, and served in the Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm in the early 90s.

Rob was a Business Unit Director at Patrick Industries, Inc. and

cared deeply for his team members. During his passionate career in manufacturing, which began in Osceola, IN, he spent 6 years in Shanghai, China before returning to Elkhart.

Rob loved his life, his family, career and those around him. He lived large and loved fiercely. He will be missed by so many.

Memorial services for Rob were held at the Hartzler-Gutermuth-Inman Funeral Home on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 2:00 where visitation was held beginning at 12:00. The Rev. Richard Kallenberg officiated.

Memorial contributions in memory of Rob may be made out to St John's Episcopal Church Food Pantry, address 226 W Lexington Ave, Elkhart, IN 46516. Please in the memo line of the check, simply write "in memory of Rob Eckstein". He loved supporting the food pantry's efforts to reach out to our community members in need through immediate and tangible ways.

Another way to honor Rob is to donate in his memory to an organization he loved, Tunnel to Towers Foundation, that provides mortgage free and adaptive housing to veterans and first responders and their families, by visiting their website at [t2t.org](http://t2t.org). ■

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



## NOTICE OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE VOTE

Motion made by Mollie Martin, Elder Committee Treasurer, on December 9, 2025.

Seconded by Beverly Hicks, Elder Committee Chair

Angelia Franke – Yes

Steve Donnell – Yes

Annette Ketchum – Yes

Billy Jean Sheshey – Yes (by poll vote December 12, 2025)

Jana Roth - Abstain

The Elder Committee is posting a lack of confidence vote for Trust Board Chair Farrell Burks and Trust Board Treasurer Michelle Holley on the following grounds:

1. Enforcement of unwritten, arbitrary, and punitive policies and procedures without prior written notification given before implementation.
2. The targeting of committees and committee members in a capricious manner.
3. The seating of four appointed Trust Board members (Elaine Clinton, Michelle Holley, Jana Roth, and Gretchen Williams) on January 7, 2025, without a quorum of four Trust Board members as required in Article I, Section F, No. 6 of the Trust Document.
4. Failure to submit required documentation, specifically minutes and reports to the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as failure to make records available to all members of the Trust Board and all tribal members, and as required by the Trust Document Article I, Section F, No. 9.
5. Failure to allocate carryover funds that were not expended by a funded program, to the next fiscal year, in addition to the new years budget as required by Article III, Section D, No. 8.
6. Failure of the Trust Board to seat a board member to an open seat, in a timely manner, as required by the Trust Document Article IV, Section A, No. 10. The Trust Board has had a vacancy since May 2025 due to the resignation of Trust Board Secretary Tara Madden. Furthermore, no secretary has been selected since May 2025.
7. Failure to uphold Article I, Section F, No. 11 of the Trust Document, which states, “The members of the Trust Board consist of those persons elected ...in a duly called election”. Currently, only two of the seven Trust Board members have been elected, which clearly violates the spirit of the Trust Document.

The Trust Document, Article V - Removal from Office, states that “Any member of the Trust Board shall be subject to removal from office for willful neglect of duty, [or] corruption in office”.

The Elder Committee contends that Trust Board Chairperson Farrell Burks and Trust Board Treasurer Michelle Holley should be removed from the Trust Board due to failure to comply with Trust Document requirements and calls for a referendum as detailed in Article V, Section C of the Trust Document.

## Lenape Language Report

Jim Rementer, Director, Lenape Language Project

**Lenape Talking Dictionary**—There are over 400 new Lenape words and sentence sound files said by Lucy Blalock added to the dictionary recently.



**Map:** This map shows the forced migration of the Lenape after leaving their eastern homeland. Each cabin shows places they stopped as they were told that would be their homeland from that time on, or until the government wanted it.

**Lenape Calendar for 2025:** The downloadable Delaware calendar for 2025 is available on the tribal website.

<https://delawaretribe.org/wp-content/uploads/Delaware-Calendar-2025.pdf>

There is also a word-a-day calendar posted each month.

**Lenape Stories**—At the present time we have 56 stories that had only been written in English. They can be found by going to the following address or using the following link:

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

These stories can be found on the tribal website by going to the Culture and Lenape section and once there scroll down to find the photo of this fine gentleman and click there to open a list of the Lenape stories.



Michael Pace, Lenape storyteller

### A Lenape Story:

#### The Weather Forecast

By Dee Ketchum

One cold, blustery fall day the chief of the Delaware Tribe told a tribal member, "I think we're going to have a bad winter." Naturally, the man told others what the chief had said, and the word got around that the chief could foretell the weather. As winter approached a group of Delawares went to the chief and asked if it was going

to be a bad winter. By this time he had forgotten his earlier prediction and was wondering why they thought he would know.

He said, "I'll tell you tomorrow." After they left, the chief called the man at the local weather bureau and asked him if it would be a bad winter. The weatherman said, "Oh, yes." A couple of weeks later more Delawares went to the chief and asked if it was really going to be a bad winter. Again he said, "I'll tell you tomorrow,"

After they left, he called the man at the weather bureau and asked him. The weatherman said, "Oh, it really will be bad." Several more weeks went by and even more Delawares went to the chief and asked if it was truly going to be a bad winter, and they got the usual reply, "I'll tell you tomorrow."

Once again he called the man at the weather bureau and asked him. The weatherman said, "Oh, it is going to be the worst in years!" By now the chief was curious, and he asked the weatherman, "How exactly do you know this?" The weatherman said, "Well, I've been watching these Delaware Indians. They have ways of knowing these things, and they've been chopping wood like crazy for weeks!" ■

## Tribe Receives Trademark for Tribal Seal

We are thrilled to announce our seal has been officially registered as a trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This registration provides our brand with enhanced legal protection and reinforces our exclusive rights to use our seal in connection with our tribe.

If anyone needs to use the tribal seal you will need to get permission from Tribal Council by filling out the application form at the following link and submitting to Dana Murrell at [dmurrell@delawaretribe.org](mailto:dmurrell@delawaretribe.org).

[Delaware-Tribal-Seal-Application-for-Use-09-2024.pdf](https://delawaretribe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Delaware-Tribal-Seal-Application-for-Use-09-2024.pdf)



## 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 [tonya@delawaretribe.org](mailto:tonya@delawaretribe.org) or call (918) 337-6531.

**Lenapeowi 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, culture, 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. ■

# Lenape Youth Fun Pages



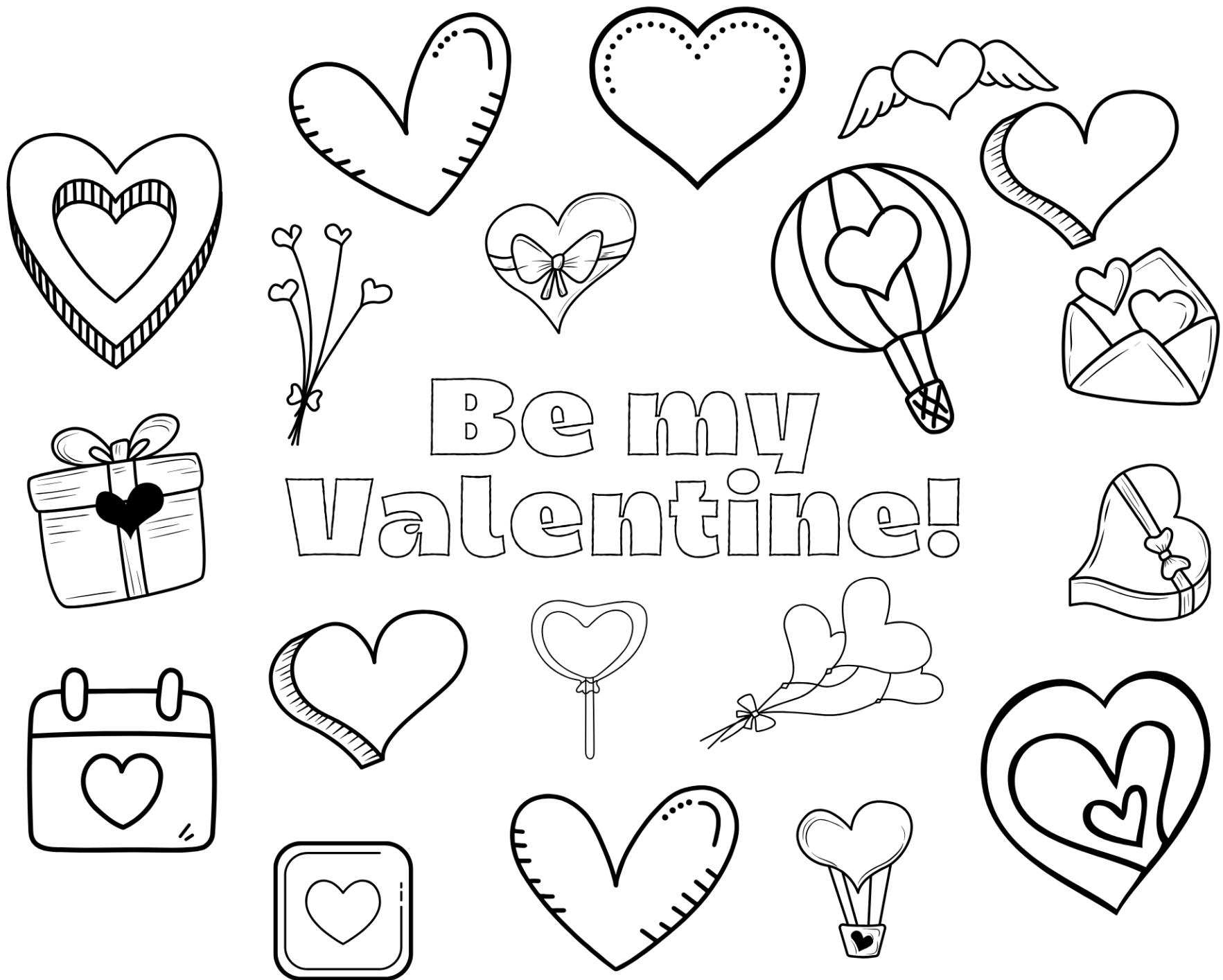
## We Want To Hear From You!

If you'd like to be featured on the Delaware Tribe of Indians' Facebook page, cut out this page, fill in your answers, and send it to:

Delaware Tribe of Indians  
5100 Tuxedo Blvd.  
Bartlesville OK 74006

OR

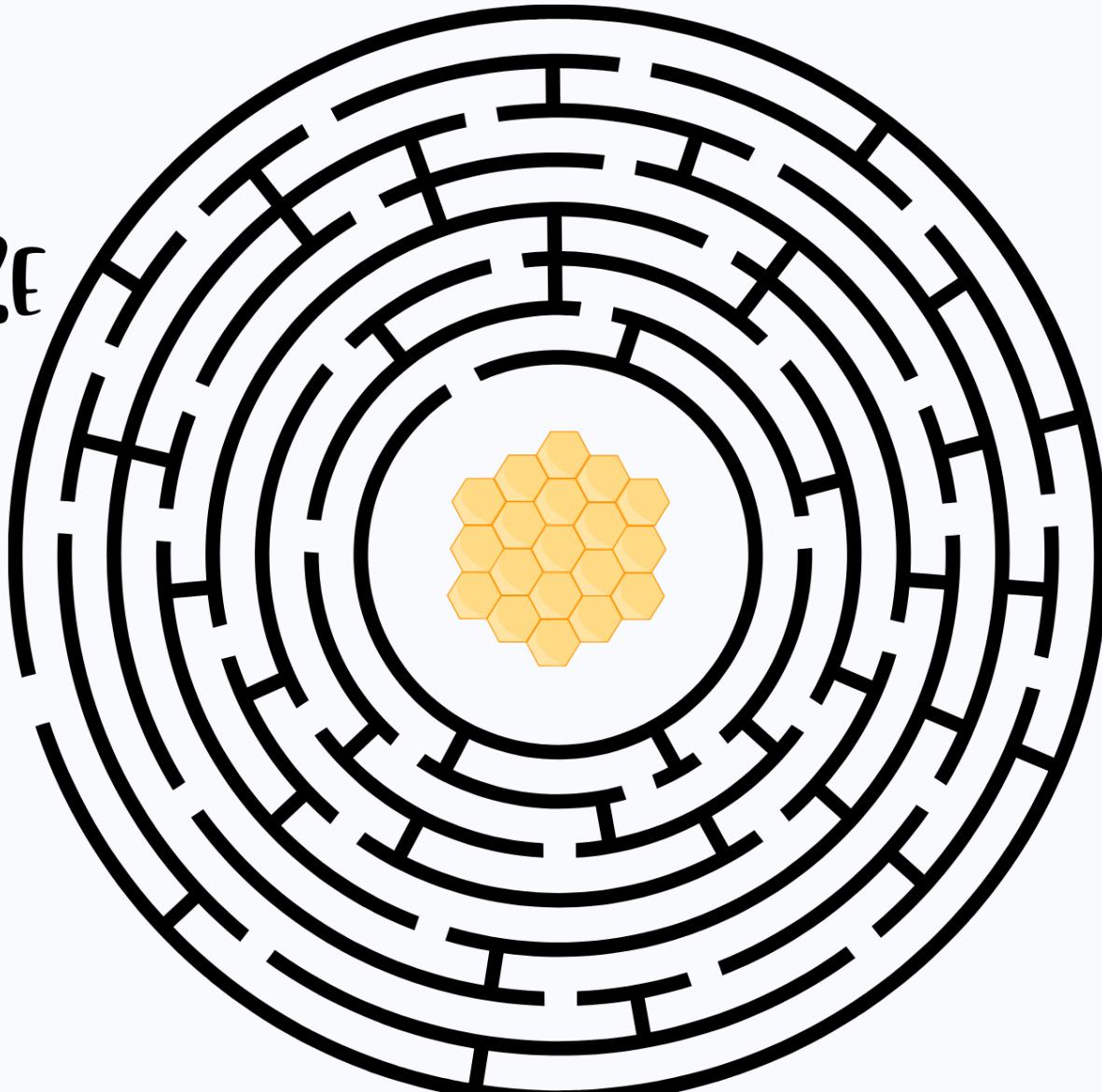
Scan your answers and send an email to [DIN@delawaretribe.org](mailto:DIN@delawaretribe.org)



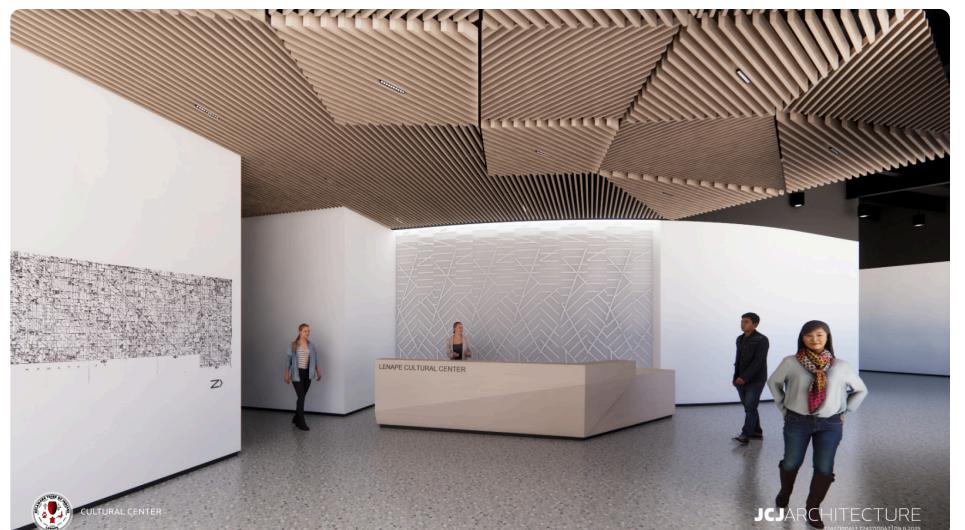


## SPRING MAZE

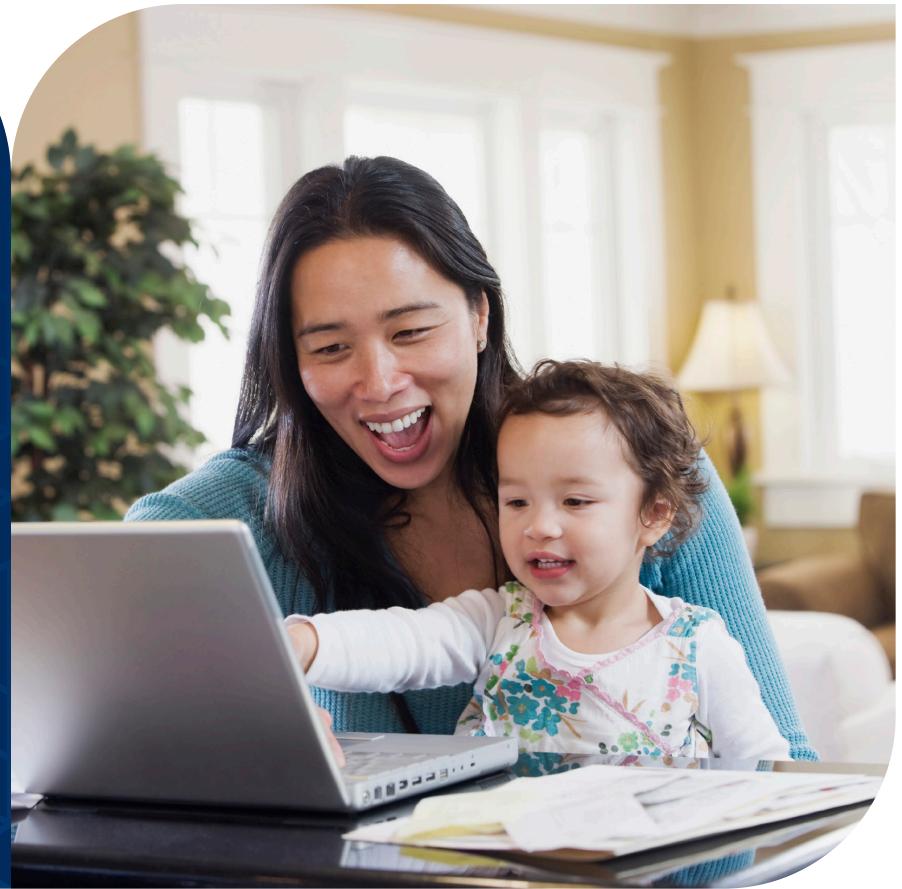
Help Busy Bee to  
reach his Honey.



## A First Look at Renderings of Our New Cultural Center and Gymnasium



*We believe*  
in helping  
you achieve  
your goals.



All communities deserve a financial partner who cares. That's why we are here to help you plan and reach your goals, every step of the way. Whether your financial journey is just beginning, you are planning for retirement, or anywhere in between, we are here to support you with the financial tools and expertise you need to succeed.

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