

Dallas powwow competition



Photo | Theresa Velazquez
 Clockwise from left: The AT&T Discovery District media wall shows a young child dressed in regalia sitting on the lawn with dancers nearby; Competitors enter the lawn alongside their tribal members to begin the powwow; Indigenous person joins others in circle dance with members of different tribes; A tribe sings and plays the drum as the competitors perform.

By Theresa Velazquez
 Editor-in-Chief

Dallas College North Lake Campus took a group of students to the 3rd Annual ICAE Native American Heritage Month Powwow celebration at the AT&T Discovery District in downtown Dallas on Nov. 11.

Various Native American tribes and families with Indigenous roots across the United States traveled to Dallas to celebrate their heritage.

They held a friendly dance competition between tribal members and individuals dressed with their regalia.

The regalia worn represent their tribe's history, culture as well as their unique personalities.

The event was free and opened to the public.

Students from various different backgrounds had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture and traditions of Indigenous people.

During the powwow dance contest, numerous tribes danced on the lawn while drummers provided the music.

Many indigenous people brought food to snack on because the event was held from morning to evening.

In addition, people were able to enjoy the various food from restaurants located inside the Exchange Hall — AT&T's public cafeteria.

There were also vendors in attendance selling tribal accessories, handmade jewelry, clothing, shoes and other items.



Cherokee hero added to Mattel Barbie collection

By Heather Sherrill
 Layout Editor

Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation and the first woman elected as chief of a major Native tribe, is being turned into a Mattel Barbie doll for their Inspiring Women series.

Mankiller's doll was released Nov. 24.

Mankiller spent most of her life fighting for the rights of American Indians. She was born on Nov. 18, 1945, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the capital of the Cherokee Nation. The surname "Mankiller," *Asgaya-dihi* in the Cherokee language, refers to a traditional Cherokee military rank, like a captain or major.

While this inspiring woman is becoming a Barbie Doll, Mattel has not been known for its accuracy in creating authentic Native dolls.

Mattel has created many Indigenous dolls since 1981; however, they were created using derogatory slurs and stereotypes harmful to the Indigenous people.

The first Native Barbie was Eskimo Barbie, and she was released in 1981 as part of the Dolls of the World International Series. However, Eskimo is a derogatory slur for the Inuit people who reside in Alaska and the Arctic regions.

The next Native doll that came out was the First Edition Native American Barbie released in 1993, over a decade later. She was part of the Dolls of the World collection and was dressed in a white "buckskin" top and skirt with white fringe and adorned with long black hair and tanned-ish skin. She was supposed to represent a lot

of Native American tribes in one but that is hard to do since each tribe is different.

The second, third and fourth editions came out in the '90s and were horrible representations. Mattel described their outfits as 'costumes' and they still called the Indigenous dolls as Indians.

These dolls are on display in old JCPenney catalogs right next to the Colonial and Pilgrim Barbie Dolls that described them as the essence of the "new world" whereas the Native Dolls are described as colorful contemporary and an updated version of a "tribal princess" costume.

Regalia is referred to as costumes and most dolls are labeled Native American, tribal princesses, or identified based on country instead of individual Nations.

In an interview with news program *Mic Dispatch*, Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn, a Native activist and artist from the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota said, one way Americans can help Native people is by respecting and not appropriating their culture.

"It is not OK to dress as a Native person or in traditional Native wear if you are not Native," Finn said. "When we dress up in our traditional wear it is a sign of honor. Everything has a story and the colors all have meanings."

It wasn't until the 2000s when Native Barbie 'Northwest Coast Native American' doll came out that Mattel started to appropriately honor Indigenous people.

Mattel even added the correct information regarding the dolls heritage on the back of the box.

However, when it came down to creating Mankiller's



Photo | Mattel

doll, Mattel took their time. They worked closely with Mankiller's husband, Charlie Soap, and friend Kristina Kiehl, producer of the documentary, "Cherokee Word for Water," and the Cherokee Nation.

They were able to sculpt a genuine reflection of Mankiller's face and completely modeled her Native ware from a photo Soap took in 2005 featuring her in a turquoise ribbon dress and carrying a woven basket.

"I am deeply honored that Mattel is recognizing Wilma with the Wilma Mankiller doll," Soap said in a statement. "Wilma inspired me and many others to make the world a better place."

As her community development partner for over 30 years, we shared a passion for empowering Indian communities and educating future generations.

The Wilma Mankiller Barbie doll is an incredible tribute to Wilma that will share her legacy with even more people."



Photo | Heather Sherrill

Freshly made frybread topped with beans, lettuce, tomatoes and cheese.

Indigenous strength in a delicious treat

By Heather Sherrill
 Layout Editor

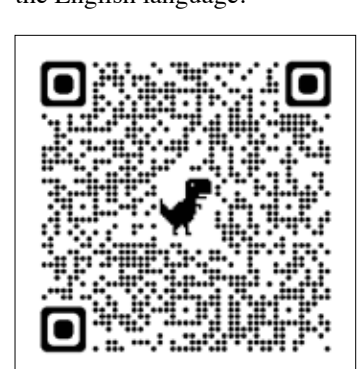
Frybread is a huge symbol for the Indigenous people for multiple reasons. It is a small crispy circle of pillowy deep-fried dough that represents the good, the bad and the ugly. It is love, celebration, community, survival, colonialism, oppression and tragedy all wrapped into a delicious treat.

It is said that frybread originated 160 years ago during the Long Walk to Bosque redondo, a 300-mile journey that forced over 8,570 Navajo (Diné) into internment camps.

They traveled from north-eastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico to Bosque Redondo in eastern New Mexico. About 200 Diné died from cold and starvation on this journey and more died after they arrived at the camp.

This was an Indian removal effort of the U.S. government

in 1863 and 1864. They wanted the Diné to embrace American cultural values like farming, Christianity, individualism, and the English language.



Scan for recipe

To prevent the displaced Native Americans from starving, the U.S. government provided a small set of staple food items, which included the ingredients with which to create a simple quick bread which was cooked in a pan of hot lard over coals and became known as frybread.

According to Smithsonian Magazine, for many Native

Americans, "frybread links generation with generation and also connects the present to the painful narrative of Native American history."

The original recipe only has four ingredients: flour, sugar, salt and lard that was given to the Navajo by the United States government because the land they were forced on could not easily support their traditional staples of vegetables and beans.

However, there are many different ways to make it now. Frybread was originally made for Navajo Tacos or as a breakfast item with cinnamon or honey covered on top.

The following found by scanning the QR code is the way I was taught to make them.

Once finished, top it off with beans, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes and enjoy your Navajo Taco or if you want to use the frybread for dessert add your favorite toppings with some honey.