U.S. Treatment of Indians Inspired Hitler’s Hunger Policies

BY LEE EGSTROM

American’s resettlement plans used against Native Americans inspired Adult Hitler and the Nazi’s starvation and resettlement plans directed at Ukrainians, Russians and Slavic people in Eastern European and Central Asia.

As the United States and allies celebrate the 75th anniversary of Hitler’s collapse and the defeat of Germany in World War II, a growing body of academic research is taking closer looks at the atrocities of war and its impact on Indigenous people.

Add a new research article from University of Minnesota economists to the list. Carlisle Ford Runge, a Distinguished McNichot Professor of Applied Economics and Law; and graduate student Linnea Graham have a research viewpoint on hunger as a weapon published in the scientific journal Food Policy, an Elsevier BV academic publication.

The article is entitled “Hunger as a weapon: Hitler’s Hunger Plan, Native American resettlement and starvation in Yemen”.

It recalls how Hitler was impressed by U.S. resettlement programs that opened the “West,” as it was called, to white, European settlement and agricultural development. Key among them was the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

The Southeast tribes of Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole were the first to be dispossessed, they noted, although the Cherokee tribe is best remembered for its “Trail of Tears” forced relocation.

It also happened in Runge and Graham’s backyard in the Great Lakes region, they point out. By 1867, they write, nearly all Ojibwe in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were relocated under treaties in which the Indigenous people relinquished 98 percent of their land to live on less productive agricultural land and on thin forest soils.

They also cited research by the University of Oklahoma’s Gary Clayton Anderson showing the Ojibwe population declined by 95 percent after relocation.

Smallpox, cholera, measles and other epidemics attacked tribal people throughout the expanding American West. Starvation was a common problem. It became a policy directive carried out by government and military forces.

Homelessness on Ojibwe reservations still a problem in MN

BY LEE EGSTROM

Homelessness and near-homelessness are continuing problems at six Ojibwe reservations in northern Minnesota, and was before the coronavirus epidemic reached Minnesota causing losses of jobs and incomes and forcing people to seek inadequate housing or “double-up” with friends and relatives.

A survey by Wilder Research of residents at collaborating northern reservations conducted in 2018 found at least 2,315 people who researchers classified as homeless, or “near-homeless.”

The situation has undoubtedly gotten worse since the October survey that year, said Nicole MartinRogers, senior research manager and Minnesota Reservation Homeless Study co-director at Wilder.

With COVID-19 shutting businesses, she said, “We know people have lost homes, can’t afford rents and are doubling-up with friends and relatives.”

Researchers define homeless as people staying in a shelter, transitional housing, or in a place not intended for housing; those who face eviction and have no place to go, and those temporarily staying with others — called doubled-up — with their continued housing considered precarious.

Wilder goes further than federal definitions and calls near-homeless as people temporarily staying with others but in “relatively more stable conditions.”

Tammy Moreland (Mille Lacs Ojibwe), chair of the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness, said data from the survey helps cooperating tribes develop homelessness and housing programs. The collaborative is a joint information and research for five of the six reservations participating in the Wilder study.

She said current data are taking on additional importance as tribal governments deal with health and safety issues under threat from COVID-19.

“We have identified people who are doubled-up. We use the data when we are having discussions about COVID. If someone gets sick, it could be infecting three different families in that household,” Moreland said.

“It can often be a mom, dad, a grandmother and a cousin all put at risk.”

Tribal councils team with Wilder to identify homelessness at the reservations for the survey. The collaborative and tribal councils use the gathered data to develop housing and homeless policies either together or at an individual reservation.

Participating Ojibwe Tribal Councils include Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Bois Forte and Fond du Lac Bands. Minnesota’s four Dakota reservations and the Grand Portage Band are not part of the study.

Researchers for the 2018 study interviewed 1,200 resident identified by housing staff at the participating reservations.

Housing costs and the availability of housing are obvious problems for the reservations, Wilder’s MartinRogers (White Earth descendant) said.

The study shows there are waiting lists of more than a year to find housing on some reservations, she said. Specifically, survey respondents waiting for subsidized housing averaged 14 months on waiting lists. That compares with an average of nine months for others living in Greater Minnesota.

– CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 –

– CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 –
It is time for the 2020 Census and we need to participate now. Our children are counting on us as it helps shape the future of our communities. Census data is used for programs and grants that are important for all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Complete the census online, by phone, or by mail.  
2020CENSUS.GOV  
Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau
Landowners challenge Eminent Domain and Line 3 faces new challenges

BY WINONA LADuke

While the Enbridge Company seeks to push ahead with Line 3 in Minnesota, the future of this pipeline, Enbridge and the Dakota Access and Keystone Pipeline remain twirled in their fate with oil markets and the COVID 19 Pandemic. The world is rapidly changing.

In late May, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison joined the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Red Lake, Honor the Earth and other organizations opposing Line 3 at the Public Utilities Commission. Ellison filed a motion to overturn the Certificate of Need for Enbridge Line 3 on behalf of the Department of Commerce. The Attorney General noted that Enbridge’s failure to submit a long range oil demand forecast is a “material legal error” that can’t be fixed by other evidence in the record, Ellison said in the filing.

According to Ellison and other intervenors, the Public Utilities Commission had compounded the error by shifting their responsibility to the citizens, tribes and other parties to prove that oil demand would decrease. Usually, the responsibility of proof would be with the project proponent – that’s Enbridge.

To be clear, a “certificate of need” is required for the Enbridge pipeline. With a certificate of need the Canadian company can condemn private property for their tar sands pipeline. That’s called eminent domain and is required to be used for public purposes.

The “need for oil” has gone down pretty dramatically, as society is moving to “shelter at home” as a more long term strategy for public health. Oil consumption is down by 20% worldwide, and this past month oil production was cut internationally and oil tankers were floating off the coast of California being used as temporary storage units, with no place to unload.

In the meantime however, Enbridge continues to bring in more pipes and all of the equipment required to cross wetlands and waterways around Itasca Park, and elsewhere, and is bringing in more workers to continue “pre-construction” activities. The company has no permits to cross wetlands or waterways in Minnesota, those would need to be issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers and, if approved would not be until the Fall. There are some real questions as to why Enbridge should be able to fill our state with pipes and equipment without permits.

Enbridge lost $1.4 billion in the first quarter of 2020, the largest losses in the company’s history. Laying off 530 workers in Canada and US, including 50 in the Twin Ports, the company also reduced the oil running through the pipes. That’s to say that Enbridge, which moves 3 million barrels a day of oil across Ojibwe land in northern Minnesota is cutting pipeline capacity.

Al Monaco, CEO expects to cut oil output by 600,000 barrels a day by this summer. That’s almost the full amount that Enbridge hopes to put through Line 3 initially.

In short Enbridge expects to cut oil throughput by more than they are hoping to put through Line 3. That’s part of the challenge filed by the citizens groups, tribes and Department of Commerce in late May.

In Wisconsin, Enbridge is also facing new challenges on their proposed expansion of Line 5 through the north. Line 5 is an old line, and in 2019, the Bad River reservation filed suit in federal court asking that 13 miles of this pipeline be removed from Bad River land. On July 23, the Bad River Anishinaabe filed suit against Canadian based Enbridge Company, seeking to force removal of the Line 5 pipeline. The pipeline crosses Bad River land by 31 years running through the watershed of the Bad River and Lake Superior. Most of the easements expired in 2013, the tribe says Enbridge is trespassing, and wants the pipes out.

The complaint, filed in Federal Court explains, “Fifteen of the easements expired on June 2, 2013, as their renewal was expressly “limited as to tenure for a period not to exceed 20 (Twenty) years … ending on June 2, 2033” In those same easements, Enbridge expressly promised that the company would “remove all materials, equipment and associated installations within six months of termination, and .. restore the land to its prior condition.” Rather than doing so, or seeking the Band’s consent to a renewal of the easements prior to their expiration, Enbridge has continued to operate the pipeline as if it has an indefinite entitlement to do so. This constitutes an unlawful possession of the subject lands, and an intentional, ongoing trespass upon them.”

“No amount of compensation is worth risking Wenji-Bimaadiziyaang – an Ojibwe word that literally means ‘From where we get life’. It’s time to end the imminent threat the company is presenting to our people, our river and Gichi-Gami (Lake Superior),” Chairman Mike Wiggins said.

In response, Enbridge filed a counter-suit against Bad River arguing that the company had rights to continue moving oil through the reservation despite promising to respect the tribes’ decision. Now, Enbridge is seeking to condemn land of private landowners in Wisconsin for a new route, around the reservation.

According to a May 26 press release by the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign “Enbridge Energy has asked the state Public Service Commission (PSC) to give it eminent domain authority to take private land in Iron and Ashland counties, “The company wants to remove a 12-mile portion of its Line 5 pipeline from the Bad River Reservation and bypass the reservation with 41 miles of new pipeline after a lawsuit filed by the tribe.

Enbridge says the line transports an average 540,000 barrels a day between Superior and southwestern Ontario (Sarnia) that is eventually used to supply propane to dealers in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Midwest Environmental Advocates, Madison environmental law firm, filed a petition on in late May on behalf of five organizations with the PSC seeking a contested hearing on the matter. A group of more than 30 landowners and a property rights group filed similar requests, claiming the U.S. Constitution prohibits taking private land except for public use.

In 2015 the GOP-controlled legislature and Walker approved giving Enbridge and other out-of-state oil pipeline business the authority to condemn real estate and personal property for state-approved projects.”

Asked what advice he would give Enbridge, White Earth Tribal Chairman Michael Fairbanks suggested in an interview that the company should “Move to renewables” and clean up the old pipes. White Earth and Red Lake continue to represent the Ojibwe in the legal and administrative opposition to Line 3. Attorneys Joe Plumer and Frank Bibeau have been representing the tribes and Native organizations since 2013, in what has become a seven year battle for the water and wild rice.

In other pipeline news, the Dakota Access Pipeline Environmental Impact Statement was thrown out by federal courts earlier this Spring, with the Standing Rock Tribe and a number of organizations filing suit to close down the pipeline pending completion of an adequate environmental impact statement.

On May 20, Standing Rock asked the court to shut down the pipeline, and 36 members of Congress joined the lawsuit, filing a brief in federal court, to support the tribe.

As the summer comes to the north country, we will see how it goes. In the meantime, the battle between the Black Snake and the people who protect the water and wild rice continues.
Scientists find 117 chemicals in Grand Portage fish and lake bottom

BY LEE EGERSTROM

This is the first of a two-part series.

An extensive three-year research study of lakes in and around the Grand Portage Indian Reservation has found an abundance of pharmaceuticals, personal care products, hormones, pesticides, and other chemicals in water, lake bottoms and fish.

What threat this poses for humans and wildlife will need to be studied further. But the presence of these chemicals, even in trace amounts, was still shocking when found in some of the most remote lakes in northeastern Minnesota.

Chemicals derived from human behavior are routinely found in waters that contain effluent from wastewater treatment plants, said Jessica Deere, the lead author of a published report on the findings. She is a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Veterinary Population.

“We weren’t sure what we would find in undeveloped lakes where there aren’t homes, septic tanks or wastewater plants,” she said. “We found there isn’t a great difference between developed and undeveloped lakes.”

The findings from this study have been published in the scientific journal Science of the Total Environment.

Seth Moore, director of Biology and Environment for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and an adjunct professor with the veterinary college, said the findings were more disappointing than surprising. He has monitored pollution, such as mercury, in Lake Superior and area lakes for the past 15 years and has watched how contaminants get into fish and wildlife.

What makes the Grand Portage study so special, Moore said, is that it focused on looking for chemical contaminants that aren’t usually studied or regulated by federal, state and local environmental bodies. These chemicals are called Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) by scientists from a variety of fields, and by other health and environmental experts.

From past work, he said, the team of researchers did expect to find the presence of some CECs. “But not 117 of them, and in the water we consume and the fish that are part of our (Grand Portage) subsistence diets.”

This is the first such study to focus on water and wildlife (fish) necessary for subsistence by an Indigenous people in the United States.

The study tested water, lake sediments and fish from 28 lake sites on the reservation and on land from the 1854 Treaty that ceded tribal land to the U.S. government. The Grand Portage Band has retained hunting and fishing rights in the ceded territory.

The researchers went looking for 158 mostly unregulated CEC compounds. Sites selected for testing included undeveloped lakes that are among the most remote, pristine, in Minnesota; in lakes with some shoreline homes and cabins, and in water that is impacted by wastewater treatment plants.

CECs were found in 102 water tests, 35 fish tests on species important in Grand Portage diets and for the reservation’s recreation economy, and in 67 sediment samplings.

Online dictionaries define lake sediments as clay, silt, sand, organic debris, chemical precipitates and combinations of these. To the barefoot stroller, lake sediment is probably best known as sand, mud or muck.

Test results found at least one CEC in water, fish and sediment, signaling the linkage of contaminants through the aquatic ecosystem. Most detected chemicals were found in two and about half were present in all three tested groups.

Synthetic estrogen, antidepressants, opiates, antibiotics, stimulants and other medical compounds, plus industrial compounds used in cleaning and household materials were found.

“The ecosystem starts with sediments, the nutrients, and the water the fish live in and breathe in. There were a lot of antibacterial compounds and antifungals. When you start messing at the bottom, you find this through the whole food chain,” Moore said.

Fifteen CECs were found in all categories of lakes, including caffeine and cocaine. Among the different lake sites, 17 CEC chemicals were found in a remote, undeveloped lake; and 83 chemicals were found in a lake the scientists said is impacted by wastewater plant effluent – or discharges.

A popular insect repellent (DEET) was found throughout the testing with some of the highest concentrations found in undeveloped lake sites.

Moore and Deere said a threat to wildlife, and in this case fish, comes from the presence of hormonal chemicals such as from birth control medicines that may be interfering with fish production. Past research by others have found male fish may become sterile or become female from birth control hormones in the water.

People are consuming low levels of these same CECs, Moore said. Of concern to the Minnesota group, he said, is that the federal Environmental Protection Agency “has no regulations whatsoever on potential impact on fish, water and humans.”

Deere, who has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in related fields from Emory University in Atlanta, said she came to the University of Minnesota in part because what Moore and scientists there and at state departments of government were doing in environmental research.

The interdisciplinary team and coauthors were Mark Ferrey, of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Mark D. Jankowski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Alexander Primus, the Department of Veterinary Population at the College of Veterinary Medicine; Matteo Convertino, Hokkaido University in Japan and formerly at the University of Minnesota; Joseph Servadio, University of Minnesota School of Public Health; Nicholas B.D. Phelps, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology within the University’s College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences; M. Coreen Hamilton, with SGS AXYS Analytical Services in Sidney, British Columbia; Yvette Chennaux-Ibrahim, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Biology and Environment; and Dominic A. Travis and Tiffany M Wolf, both with the Department of Veterinary Population in the university’s veterinary college.

See part two on facing page (page 5).
Precipitation is a transport system that brings chemicals from pharmaceuticals, personal care products, commercial and industrial products and even cocaine to metropolitan Twin Cities waters and, most likely, to lakes and streams throughout Minnesota.

Snowflakes, raindrops and dust bring contaminants on undeveloped lakes in Northeastern Minnesota in and around the Grand Portage Reservation as well, and not just heavily populated metro areas. The recent research finding chemicals in Grand Portage water, fish and lake sediment further explains earlier Minnesota research on lesser known chemicals in our environment.

The compatible research results weren’t shocking but more like a confirmation, said Mark Ferrey, a lead scientist on the project at MPCA who has monitored so-called Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) for more than a decade for possible impacts on Minnesota waters and wildlife.

Of his earlier research, he said, “We expected to see some contaminants in the Twin Cities metro area and around areas where there are large (human) developments.” “That is why the research at the Grand Portage reservation in remote areas is so important,” he added.

Part One of this series cited research that found 117 CEC contaminants in lakes, fish and in lake sediments in undeveloped lakes, partially developed lakes and in lakes impacted by wastewater treatment plants in far northeastern Minnesota.

That study with the Grand Portage Band explored 28 lake sites on the reservation and in nearby ceded territory under the Chippewa’s 1854 treaty with the U.S. government. Under it, Grand Portage members have retained hunting and fishing rights in that area near the Canadian border and North Shore of Lake Superior.

That contrasts with Ferrey and colleague’s earlier study of water samplings in the Twin Cities and adjacent Anoka and Dakota counties. They also found chemical compounds in snowflakes, raindrops and dust particles in the metro area. Leaving contaminants since detected in Grand Portage water, lake bottoms and fish.

“I think we were surprised to see the presence of chemicals in developed and undeveloped waters was not significantly different,” said Tiffany M. Wolf, assistant professor of Veterinary Population Medicine at the University of Minnesota.

Her branch of the College of Veterinary Medicine studies health of entire populations of animal life. Most veterinary students and faculty work on treating ailments and injuries of individual animals.

Ferrey and others who worked on earlier CEC studies and now the Grand Portage project are conducting multidisciplinary work that points scientists to more research needed for understanding impact CECs have on wildlife, resources and human health, Wolf said.

The findings show mostly trace amounts of contaminants, Ferrey added. “We don’t want to panic people. We just don’t know enough yet on what these chemicals do.” Scientists have studied pollution from industrial plants and from agricultural runoff for years when pollutants are often easy to spot and are known to be a threat to fish, other wildlife and especially to human drinking water sources.

More limited research on lesser known, lesser regulated CECs started about 20 years ago.

Ferrey and colleagues’ 2017 published study on precipitation is entitled “Pharmaceuticals and other anthropogenic chemicals in atmospheric particulates and precipitation.”

What the later Grand Portage research helps show is that CEC particles can come down into water and wildlife “hundreds of miles away from the source,” he said.

Wastewater plants impact water with discharges, or effluent. Throughout rural America, some wastewater effluent is taken out to farm fields and injected into the ground. That might explain how some of the CECs wind up in wind-blown dust and precipitation, Ferrey said.

Metropolitan Twin Cities urban dwellers have almost annual winter experiences over recent decades when soil-impacted snow andleet smear automobile windows. The not-so-scientific nickname for the cause is “snirt,” or a combination of snow and dirt.

The early work by Ferrey and now the Grand Portage study have advanced knowledge of where CECs settle, and how they get there. Perhaps more importantly, these studies point scientists at what more needs to be studied.

The University of Minnesota’s Wolf said it is imperative interdisciplinary work from various fields of study be expanded going forward. It still isn’t known what lasting impacts the CECs are having on wildlife, such as fish from waters all over Minnesota.

Ultimately, scientists from public health, medical schools and a wider variety of environmental fields must find what impacts CECs have on human health and our own food chain.
As Bdote Learning Center completes its sixth year of operations, the school is celebrating its first eighth grade graduating class: The 8th Grade Graduating Class of 2020! This group of eight students will be moving on to high school programs in the fall with their sights set on high school graduation as the Class of 2024.

“I am amazed at the growth of our students over the years,” said Cindy Ward-Thompson, Bdote’s Director. “I think what makes me the most proud is the way that these young people have shown that they care about their community. They have developed a strong set of values and even with the challenges that this spring has presented them with – have been tested – but have served them well. They met their challenges, dove head-first into the unknown waters of distance learning, and finished the school year – strong. Bdote Strong.”

The Bdote Class of 2020 is a small but mighty group of students, who are rising to meet the exciting challenges ahead and share the passion for language and culture supported by the school and their families. This group of eight young people proudly represent seven tribal nations and communities from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North and South Dakota.

The 2019-20 school year and the spring of 2020 will be long remembered for “Safer-At-Home,” “Quarantine” and “Social Distancing,” but the Bdote Class of 2020 will reflect on their Bdote experience with memories that have strengthened them as members of the Bdote Family. This bond is one that will hold them together through the challenges of COVID-19 and their set of educational experiences that have rooted them in indigenous language and cultural knowledge. This bond is one that will hold them together through the challenges of COVID-19 and their set of educational experiences that have rooted them in indigenous language and cultural knowledge.

As they move on to the next stage of their educational journey, all of the teachers, staff and other students want this first class of graduates to know that they are proud of each and every one of them, and that they hold a special place in the heart of Bdote.

The Bdote Learning Center students graduated on June 4, 2020.

To learn more about Bdote, see: https://bdote.org
### Stay Safe MN

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<th>Setting</th>
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**Outdoor Recreation Activities and Facilities**

- Places of Worship, religious services, weddings, and funerals
  - Gatherings of 10 or less for funerals and weddings
  - Indoors and outdoors: Capacity: 6 ft of distance, max 25%
  - Indoors and outdoors: Capacity: 6 ft of distance, max 25%
  - Indoors and outdoors: Capacity: 6 ft of distance, max 25%
  - Indoors and outdoors: Capacity: 6 ft of distance, max 25%

- Campergrounds and charter boats
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance

- Large public gatherings (fairs, sporting events, large concerts)
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance

- Pools
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance
  - Open with guidance

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http://www.thecirclenews.org

The Circle: News from a Native American Perspective

June 2020
“Kill every buffalo you can,” an Army colonel told a hunter brought in to kill bison in the Dakotas. “Every buffalo dead is an Indian gone.”

Hitler and his Nazi strategists sought a land policy that would starve up to 30 million Eastern Europeans, force their deaths or removal from productive land, and open those farms to feed the German military and civilian population. While Allied forces, strong Russian resistance, and to this point inadequately studied American aid – especially from Minnesota and the Midwest – eventually foiled the German Hunger Plan, as many as 4 million to 7 million Russians and Eastern Europeans did die from hunger and starvation – a holocaust in itself.

Former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev credited food aid from abroad, sharing space and probably more common experiences than most realize. The Dakota, Lakota, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Potawatomi, Oneida alongside Somalis, Sudanese, Nigerians, the Karen from Myanmar, and various Arabs. Also count groups of people from Central and South America, Indigenous Americans from the start and now part of the Displaced Indigenous in Minnesota as well.

Runge and Graham stress thatinhuman use of food was a weapon did not end with World War II. Nor will it likely end soon.

Until the past month or two, at least, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have had an ongoing blockade preventing food and medical shipments to victims of war in neighboring Yemen. Critics around the world describe it as genocide, noting the U.S. and U.K. have mostly looked the other way.

United Nations agencies consider Yemen to be the world’s greatest humanitarian crisis at this time.

The two Minnesota economists look how that has come to be. They concluded the Nazi Hunger Plan and Native American resettlement “should cause us to look squarely at U.S. and British policy in Yemen as complicit in the perpetration of hunger as an act of war.”

A final note:

Research is their article is anchored in two courses Runge teaches and co-teaches at the University and in Graham’s graduate studies and master’s thesis.

Graham was in one of Runge’s classes. After returning from a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., Graham told Runge that she didn’t see any mentions of the Nazi Hunger Plan. “That got me thinking about the article we worked on together,” he said.

Runge co-teaches a special Grand Challenge Curriculum course, World Food Problems: Agronomics, Economics and Hunger. He also teaches a graduate course, Agricultural and Environmental Policy, which considers “the relationship between famines and armed conflict.”

--- CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 ---
Rental costs are an enormous factor. Using federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines, households should not spend more than 30 percent of income on housing. The survey found respondents had median household incomes of $300 a month, and 27 percent had no income.

Using HUD guidance, the average survey respondent shouldn’t pay more than $90 a month on rent and utilities. At that time, the fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Greater Minnesota was $576 a month.

Nearly half of the respondents reported either physical health or mental health conditions that limit their ability to find jobs, perform work or secure employment to improve household incomes.

Further, the survey found that employment rates for homeless people on reservations had not kept pace with the overall employment gains enjoyed in Greater Minnesota since the start of the economic recovery from the Great Recession, and before the COVID-19 sent economies into a free fall in March.

Surveyed respondents had only 24 percent employment in 2018, and 81 percent of them were earning wages less than $15 an hour, a benchmark of what is considered “a living wage” across America.

Just like doubling-up, these conditions not only affected the individual respondent. Children, youth and elders made up half the homeless and near-homeless on the reservations, Wilder reports. One in four respondents were parents with children, and 52 percent of these children were 6-years old or younger.

MartinRogers said survey responses help shoot down stereotype images about doubling-up and causes for homelessness that a part of the legacy from the Wall of Forgotten Natives homeless encampment in Minneapolis a year ago.

“The assumption is that doubling-up is a cultural thing because you don’t let your relatives go homeless,” she said. “This doesn’t get counted by federal surveys.”

Wilder found doubling up isn’t a desired choice, she said. Some doubling-up occurs in homes without water, without heat, “and now you have two families sharing space in insufficient housing.”

The survey found 74 percent of doubled-up respondents were living in overcrowded space, 51 percent were living in “severely overcrowded” spaces with 1.5 resident per room, and 22 percent were living in what housing experts call substandard housing, or housing without a flush toilet, electricity, central heat, a kitchen sink, or hot and cold running water.

That partly explains why 99 percent of respondents said they wanted to live in their own housing, not doubled-up with family or friends.

Beginning with partners in 1991, Wilder conducts Minnesota homeless surveys every three years to assist government leaders, nonprofit groups and organizations gather information useful for developing homeless and housing programs and policies. The 2018 Reservation Homeless Study is a subgroup of those efforts.

Wilder Research in an independent unit of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in St. Paul. It is a large nonprofit research and evaluation group working with nonprofits, foundations, and government entities to assist public decision making and improve lives.

MartinRogers has been with Wilder since 2001. It is especially satisfying to work with the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative and Native groups, she said. “My relatives. Friends.”

The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness consists of members from the Boise Forte, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake and White Earth Bands who usually meet monthly to share ideas, apply for funding, advocate for state and sometimes federal programs for the homeless. They have secured state grants under Long Term Support Services Dollars and Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program grants; they work with other Minnesota homeless groups, and they advocate for a bipartisan federal homeless program, the Tribal Access to Homeless Assistance Act, by Sens. Tiny Smith (D-Minn.), and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

The current study can be access at: https://www.wilder.org/sites/default/files/imports/2018_HomelessInMinnesota_Reservations_Summ_4-20.pdf.

Indigenous people are taught to introduce themselves with their native language. They introduce themselves by name, clan and where they are from.

Nate Howard was a part of a special era of Cass Lake-Bena Panther HS (MN) and Leech Lake Tribal College (LLTC) basketball. His teams were 86-13 during his three years on the high school varsity between 2007 and 2009. During his two years with the LLTC the team was 40-20.

“I competed for my family, my people, for the youth and my community,” said Nate Howard, who was named a Minnesota All State Honorable Mention player in 2008.

Nate went to the ‘Big Dance’ not only once but three times in his high school playing days. He played in a state championship game at the Target Center in Minneapolis and the team finished as runner-ups. The 30-2 Panthers lost two games in the 2006-07 season one being to Ellsworth HS in the Class A State Final and the other during the regular season to St. Paul Johnson HS who finished as Class AAA State Champions. Both losses were by a basket. He also played in a first round loss game.

In between his junior and senior seasons he knew he needed to improve to keep the standard moving forward. He averaged 10.5 ppg as a reserve guard in the state tournament runner-up season his junior year. As a senior, he improved his average to 23 ppg. “I’m very grateful for the coach’s who coached me,” said Nate. “I remember when I had to fight Brady Fairbanks every day in practice for two years and that tested me to the brink.”

Brady Fairbanks was one of the accomplished basketball teammates among many accomplished student-athletes during and after high school. He continued on to earn NAIA All American honors at Haskell Indian Nations University. He also was Nathan’s coach at Leech Lake Tribal College.

“I’ve known Nate Howard for over 17 years,” said Brady Fairbanks. “He has always loved the game of basketball and had a great shot. He competes at a high level and his focus during clutch times is beautiful to watch.”

“Nate and I shared some great memories in high school playing on the same team, including a 30-2 record and a second place state championship finish,” said Brady Fairbanks.

After high school, Nate served our country in the US Army. He had two tours of duty in Kuwait and Qatar.

When he returned from military service he continued his basketball playing at the local tribal college. “While playing with the Leech Lake Tribal College Lakers in 2017-18, we brought home First Place NIAC Conference Tournament,” said Nate. “I received All Conference Honorable Mention. Later on that year we were runner-up for the National AIHEC Tournament. The year after that we were runner-up in the NIAC Conference Tournament and I received All Conference. That year we also took third place in the National AIHEC Tournament.”

“Nate got everything taken care of in his life and decided to come play for me at Leech Lake Tribal College,” said Brady. “During this time, I could see Nate work hard to get in shape, but always willing to learn more. This helped catapult us to our best record ever in 2018. Every place we went, you would hear the opposing coach’s yell where he was and you couldn’t leave him open.”

“I was just like any other kid growing up on the Leech Lake Reservation, I grew up with friends and relatives playing basketball,” said Nate.

The Seven Grandfather’s Teachings guide not only Ojibwe people but others as well. “Bravery is more than being brave, and it’s confronting your obstacles,” said Nathan. “It’s about being respectful and realizing that respect will take you places.”

“I am a US Army Veteran so the plan is to stick to a routine, get your legs going and focus on your balance,” said Nate. “I love the game of basketball, and it’s a natural therapy to me.”

Nate Howard continues to aspire toward being the best he can be. This isn’t just a military slogan. It’s a lifelong thought process and behavior practice that he is moving toward every day.
The police murder of George Floyd

“There are certain conditions that exist in our society, which must be condemned as vigorously as we condemn riots. But in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard.” – Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still on our minds; but the last week of May has seen a series of epochal events in Minneapolis. I’ll turn 70 in August, and I’ve never experienced a week like this. On the evening of May 25, George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, was detained on suspicion of passing a counterfeit $20 bill, according to an initial statement from the Minneapolis Police Department.

Floyd was pulled from a van parked by Cup Foods, a convenience store on Chicago Ave. and 38th St. He was handcuffed and then moved next to a police vehicle on Chicago. A viral video taken by Darnella Frazier focused on Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who had his knee on the handcuffed man’s neck for nearly nine minutes, including about three minutes after he was unresponsive.

For two days, the video was viewed by people around the world, and anger turned to rage in Minneapolis and at least 30 other U.S. cities where protests and riots broke out. On the day after the police murder of Floyd, I saw a photo someone took from another angle that showed three cops on Floyd; in addition to Chauvin, an officer had his knees on Floyd’s back and another was holding his feet. A fourth cop stood nearby, keeping back bystanders who were pleading with Chauvin to get his knee off Chauvin’s neck, as the handcuffed repeatedly cried out, “I can’t breathe.”

In an effort to calm the mounting anger in Minneapolis, Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman charged Chauvin with murder and manslaughter, and the cop was arrested. The other three officers, accessories to the murder of Floyd, have not been charged as yet (Editor’s note: The other officers have since been charged).

Of interest to readers of The Circle, Chauvin has been involved in other fatal incidents, including the 2006 shooting death of Wayne Reyes, a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member. Following a stabbing and car chase, Reyes was shot 23 times by several Minneapolis cops.

In the aftermath of the Floyd murder, South Minneapolis went up in flames, as rioters went on a rampage of looting and arson over three nights. The destruction was centered at first around the intersection of Lake Street and Minnehaha Avenue, by the Third Precinct house (which was set on fire May 28, when the cops evacuated the station). Many nonprofits and small businesses were damaged and destroyed, including Migizi Communications, which trains Native youth in media skills. (I did a number of reports for “First Person Radio,” a program produced by Migizi, in the 1980s.) An affordable housing complex with 189 units, under construction near the looted Target on East Lake, was set ablaze on the night of May 27.

During a bicycle ride around the Southside on Saturday, May 30, I got a firsthand look at the mess that now mars our community. I saw the Lake Street post office that was looted and burned on Friday night, along with a number of other buildings in the immediate area. Going up Franklin Avenue, I talked with American Indians who had organized security for Native social service offices and businesses.

At the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe office, I talked with two women, amid the buzz of a circular saw ripping through plywood as two broken windows were boarded up. I was told that the nearby Indigeneous Peoples Task Force had sustained some damage. Up the street, Powwow Grounds coffee shop served as command central for the Native community’s response to the chaos. Donated groceries filled All My Relations Gallery; many of the local supermarkets had been looted or just boarded up, so working people will have problems finding food in the days to come.

Closer to our Powderhorn Park home, I stopped to chat with members of the Debwe Motorcycle Club from Red Lake. They were guarding the Red Lake Embassy, on Bloomington Avenue just off Lake Street.

Finally, as some 4,000 National Guard troops flooded into Minneapolis, members of the Native community secured Cedar Avenue on Saturday night, setting up roadblocks on 24th and 26th streets, creating a cordon sanitaire by Little Earth of United Tribes.

According to a WCCO-4 TV report with Mike Max, who’s usually a sports reporter but there are no pro sports now, the security team had conferred with local police who gave their approval to the street blockade, which was erected in defiance of the 8 p.m. curfew that is still in effect.

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ANISHINABE WAKIAGUN/BII GH WIIN: JOB DESCRIPTION: CASE MANAGER, Full-Time

Job Summary: Case Manager is responsible for coordinating case management, supportive services, referrals and activities for residents of Anishinabe Wakiaun and the Bi Gii Wiin program. The Case Manager will utilize a Harm Reduction/Fair Housing First model to assist long-term homeless men and women to maintain housing.

MAJOR JOB FUNCTIONS:
• Facilitate Case Management Services
• Conduit intake interviews and determine eligibility based on federal rules and regulations.
• Comply with housing tax credits as determined by property management.
• Assist residents with all paperwork to ensure benefits are not interrupted.
• Provide individual case management and prepare, maintain and make use of case records or notes.
• Establish an ongoing rapport with residents which promotes a peaceful and safe communal living space.
• Provide crisis intervention relating to disputes between residents.
• Determine appropriate responses for problem behaviors and advise program aides on procedure(s).
• And numerous other duties.

QUALIFICATIONS:
• Must be able to pass MVD check for transportation (required).
• Ability to work with people from diverse economic, cultural, racial and gender backgrounds.
• Ability to work within the philosophy and support objectives of Anishinabe Wakiagun and AICDC.
• Demonstrated written and oral communication skills.
• Intermediate computer skills.
• Must pass Minnesota Department of Human Services Background Check.
• Demonstrated written and oral communication skills.
• Ability to quickly assess a crisis and take appropriate professional action.
• Ability to work within the philosophy and support objectives of Anishinabe Wakiagun and AICDC.
• Ability to work with people from diverse economic, cultural, racial and gender backgrounds.
• Must be able to pass MVO check for transportation (required).

Job Description: Program Aide & Program Aide On-Call is responsible for ensuring an efficient and effective front desk operation which reflects a safe and welcoming environment for visitors, residents and staff.

MAJOR JOB FUNCTIONS:
• Control access to the building through front door security system in accordance with established protocol.
• Monitor security cameras and activities and initiate appropriate action as warranted.
• Report all incidents in a timely manner and document in accordance with established protocol.
• Arrange for emergency vehicles as needed.
• Monitor and remind residents of medications.
• Uniformly enforce resident rules and regulations and adhere to Anishinabe Wakiagun policies.
• Provide appropriate and creative intervention relating to disputes between residents and/or visitors.
• Establish an ongoing rapport with residents which promotes a peaceful and safe communal living space.
• Provide and treat all residents with dignity and respect.
• Report resident issues to Program Manager/Case Manager in a timely manner via incident reports.
• Report, log and call in all maintenance issues to Property Management Company.
• As appropriate contact appropriate emergency responders for building incident(s).
• Provide emergency janitorial services as needed. And other duties.

QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate or GED.
• Experience in Chemical Dependency/Residential Housing Services with Diverse Homeless Population.(preferred).
• Experience in Harm Reduction and Crisis Intervention(preferred).
• Must pass Minnesota Department of Human Services Background Check.
• Demonstrated written and oral communication skills.
• Ability to quickly assess a crisis situation and take appropriate professional action.
• Ability to work within the philosophy and support objectives of Anishinabe Wakiagun and AICDC.
• Ability to work with people from diverse economic, cultural, racial and gender backgrounds.
• As appropriate contact appropriate emergency responders for building incident(s).
• Provide emergency janitorial services as needed. And other duties.

Job Description: Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) Case Manager

Job Summary: The Case Manager is responsible for coordinating case management, supportive services, referrals and activities for clients of the SUD program. The Case Manager will utilize a Harm Reduction Housing First model to provide services to individuals with a Severe Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) who are experiencing homelessness to make and monitor referrals to support quality of life improvements, help clients find and maintain housing options that meet their individual needs/capabilities. Case managers will meet clients “where they are at”, case managers will maintain an office and will be seeking clients wherever homeless people congregate.

MAJOR JOB FUNCTIONS:
• Conduct intake interviews and determine eligibility based on program target population and criteria.
• Assist participants with all needed documents to apply for any benefits or services.
• Work with Coordinated Entry Staff in finding placement.
• Provide individual case management and prepare, maintain and make use of case records or notes.
• Establish an rapport (professional relationship) with residents which promotes a level of trust and respect.
• Provide crisis intervention relating to disputes between clients.
• Determine appropriate responses for problem behaviors/make appropriate referrals/monitor follow through.
• Uniformly enforce client rules and policies.
• Record and provide to stakeholders the needed data of program statistics.
• Schedule, remind and make transportation available for clients to and from appointments.
• Provide information/referral services to clients about recovery services and programs within the community.
• Develop, implement and maintain appropriate social and cultural activities for clients based on client interest.
• Actively participate in staff meetings and in-service training sessions.

QUALIFICATIONS:
• 3-5 years Case Management experience.
• Experience in chemical dependency/residential housing services with diverse homeless population (preferred).
• Experience in community and information referral services.
• Experience in completing paperwork for county benefits.
• Knowledge of Harm Reduction/Fair Housing First philosophy and commitment to the model.
• Experience in crisis intervention.
• Intermediate computer skills.
• Must pass Minnesota Department of Human Services Background Check.
• Demonstrated written and oral communication skills.
• Ability to quickly assess a crisis situation and take appropriate professional action.
• Ability to work with people from diverse economic, cultural, racial and gender backgrounds.
• Must be able to pass MVO check for transportation (required).

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Mpls Indians/AIM protect community and support George Floyd protests

Above: Migizi Communications, a Native youth communications organization, was destroyed during the 2nd day of protests. Volunteers provide cleanup support.

Below: Native American community members protect the Minneapolis American Indian Center from vandals and looters. (Photos by Darrell Thompson.)
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Top left: The Powwow Grounds is home-base for AIM (American Indian Movement) and community members protecting the community and gathering food and supplies for people. (Photo by Hannah Broadbent.)
Bottom left: Protests in Minneapolis demand justice for Georg Floyd. (Photo by Darrell Thompson.)
Top right: A mural dedicated to George Floyd. (AP photo.)
Bottom right: A community member stands guard on top of the All Nations Indian Church. (Photo by Lisa Skjefte.)
The Tao of Nookomis: skilled at featuring Indians you know or are

By Deborah Locke

Award-winning writer Thomas D. Peacock’s book “The Tao of Nookomis” consists of short stories that feature people you already know. The stories often sound like those you heard when you were young or read in an American Indian literature class. Each story stands on its own in style and voice and differs from the next. It’s almost as if the collection was written by a variety of writers, each presenting some aspect of history, wisdom, tradition, everyday life, kindness and mayhem. Even wolves and bears offer a perspective.

Elders play a big role throughout the stories as conveyors of wisdom and skills. This should be no surprise since Peacock himself is an elder with plenty left to teach. A member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, he’s a retired professor of education and university administrator from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He now lives near Red Cliff, Wisconsin.

For me, two characters really stand out from the stories, starting with Deacon Kingfisher who is in his mid-30s and has Down syndrome. In a story narrated by David, we learn Deacon was raised by his grandparents who died in a car crash due to a drunk driver. Following the crash, Deacon required special housing services usually reserved for elders. The Band’s tribal council went out of its way to ensure that Deacon received proper care.

Deacon’s grandparents had served as language teachers, leaving the Band without this important instruction. David is upset at this loss, commenting: “Without those two elder teachers, our community, our whole future as Native people, is in jeopardy. They were the last two people...who were fluent Ojibwe speakers. At least as far as I am concerned, without our language we are just brown white people.”

Peacock points out throughout his stories that people, being who they are, sometimes choose the wrong way to act. As an example of this, acquaintances of Deacon introduce him to beer and send him home drunk to his grandparents.

David later regrets what they did to Deacon that night and the part he played, saying that now he understands Ojibwe traditions better. One tradition is to value people who are different. David’s Ojibwe ancestors regarded the Deacons of this world as sacred beings. They have soul spirits, listened to and watched over by the Creator, maybe watched over more.

Meanwhile, the Band is left with a big problem. Who will replace the language teachers? David practices the language every night with its complex verb structures and rules. Then one day he hears Deacon speaking in Ojibwe to his dog. Deacon is fluent and at ease with the language. Will the Council allow Deacon to teach the children? Maybe the Council will agree, maybe not. I’ll leave you with that cliffhanger.

A second character from the stories who will stay with me for a while is Renee Strong, mother of Desiree Strong. We all know a Renee. She is profane, brash, and utterly devoted to her daughter who can be, well, difficult. To anyone reading this who has a child whose sole purpose in life is to do the opposite of everything she or he is told, Desiree will ring true. In fact, the story may bring to you unwelcome flashbacks.

These two characters, like others in the book, reflect Peacock’s skill in relaying reservation people you know or perhaps are. Not all make the best decisions, like Renee’s brother who died from liquor and pills. “Us Indians, we lose so many people along the way”

They also gain along the way, like David, who learns Deacon’s inestimable value.

“The Tao of Nookomis” by Thomas D. Peacock (202 pages, Black Bears and Blueberries Publishing, 2020) is available from Amazon Books for $14.95. Peacock and his wife Elizabeth Albert Peacock are co-owners of the publishing company and live in Little Sand Bay, Red Cliff, Wis., and in Duluth.

--- HILTER’S HUNGER POLICY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 ---

He has a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, both a B.A. and M.A. from Oxford University while a Rhodes Scholar, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina.

Graham, from Eagan, is a Master of Applied Economics candidate at the University and is writing a thesis on food insecurity and the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. She serves as an adjunct economics teacher at her undergraduate school, the University of St. Thomas, and worked part of the past year in Rome at the United Nations’ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Students and researchers on Native American history and culture, economists and others can easily access the Runge-Graham study from Elsevier through academic library and Internet services.

Runge directs special attention to works by University of Oklahoma historian Gary Clayton Anderson, author of numerous books of regional importance including the 2019 book Massacre in Minnesota: The Dakota War of 1862, the Most Violent Ethnic Conflict in American History; Carroll P. Kakel III, historian and lecturer at Johns Hopkins University who has written extensively on Hitler’s starvation policies in the “East” and American Indian policies in the “West;” and a comprehensive 2012 book, The Taste of War: World War II and the Battle for Food, by Cambridge University historian Lizzie Collingham.

Students can access the article in the April edition of Food Policy journal through most college and university Internet sites. Other researchers can purchase the article online from Elsevier at https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/food-policy/vol/92/suppl/C

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--- June 2020 ---

The Circle: News from a Native American Perspective

http://www.thecirclenews.org
So, I’ve had a lot of time to think. I tried to stop myself but could not. I have a personal library of books I can read right now but I don’t. I’m always scrolling and building up my anxiety level so much so I don’t remember what it’s like to be chill. For myself it’s been one devastating blow after another this past year, so there’s that, too. Thus far I’m doing okay except for the time I was buzzed and contacted a former lover. IKR? Being lonely is a thing for me now.

It’s human contact I need most. Hugs, smiles and laughter, and tears, too. A state of being that has no monetary value. There are no more “Free Hugs” signs any longer. Space between us is now an issue. See...I love you and you love me and others, too. Sad that it took a deadly pandemic to make a point of this. And then there are the 45 KKKultists that will...oh well. They can’t say they weren’t warned.

Now that the snow has finally melted I have another thing to watch. My youngest, Tom Petty [He’s all white with a nubby tail huge and could be taken for an albino Bobcat) has taken up a new hobby. One morning I went to let the Multi-Mutz outside and saw a stuffed cat inside the door in his purrsonal lair. It was a toy, jeez! I was all like, “It’s paranormal!” Since then many interesting socks, baby clothes, more stuffed animals and other sundry items have accumulated. Turns out Tom-Tom is the only one tidying up around here. I finally caught him in the act; he was pulling up tights from the basement and here I was just looking for them.

I just now rediscovered that I can make my upper lip touch my nose. #ForgottenSkills #Lookslikeafish LOL! So, get back to me with your own skills while in captivity. I’M JUST KIDDING!!! Personally, Ima make my own Playdough since I can’t be bothered to bake bread. Frozen dough is pretend bread. I’m okay with that but I don’t buy any can of bread that explodes. Issues? I have a few. Don’t get me started on my squirrel trauma!

I can feel grief and anxiety in the air. It saddens me but there is also a loving connection, that we all need each other now more than ever. This Matrix is now a different way of being and I know I’m confused too. I also feel this current virus has a spirit. I don’t know what it is but most disasters do. That’s why they name them. I think we are in the Big Pox stage at this time rather than the Smallpox. What is making me grind my teeth right now is when MSM parrots, “This virus does not know political parties etc...”, blah blah blah!!!

Okey Dokey den! Umm...let’s check current COVID-19 deaths and who died by now? Oh hay-ay! I’m not in the obits today, I’m fine. It is only ‘others’, not us (the 2% darling snicker snort chuckle). All I have for them is you can’t eat money or drink oil for life. Their collective greed and selfishness still has the power to astound me. I don’t think I’m naïve, but OMG! The demeaning, genocidal and evil of the western so-called civilization is in extra bold print now. Wake up. It is you and I, and those like us, who have been chosen to die for the sake of the God Almighty economy.

Republicans have already been brain-washed. Let them gather and ridicule those of us who wear face covering. To them I say, I’m grateful for social distancing. I’m still waiting on my Prince masks in the immortal lyrics of George Clinton, “So you can look coo”. Yah George wrote sunglasses, you get it. Respecting others is the new I LOVE YOU. I admit I have been without a mask in public. It was an extenuating circumstance so don’t judge. I almost passed out and I brush my teeth daily. Ima have to publish a new headshot. The above words have come out of my ‘thoughts of isolation’ flow. I’ll be okay, I just had to share and go bare, so to speak. Over many Moons (ay!) I have shared experiences no Indigenous person I know of has ever had, a special holiday when we had a break from hold ing up our shared universe. I pray daily for our families who are on the short list for complete annihilation.

This is where I am right now. The survivors get to write the new rules. Now is our time while the 1% is underground, killing each over the last can of Spam. I am self-contemplating my wicked ways on this day, my birthday. I will share another time the story of my Immaculate Conception.
Data from the census is used to determine where millions of dollars in funding goes for critical resources like healthcare and first responders. If we don’t count ourselves in the census, then our communities will continue to be under-represented when and where it matters most. Fill out the census to support our people and our future generations. This is our land and we count! Visit: My2020census.gov.

For more information visit www.wecountminneapolis.org