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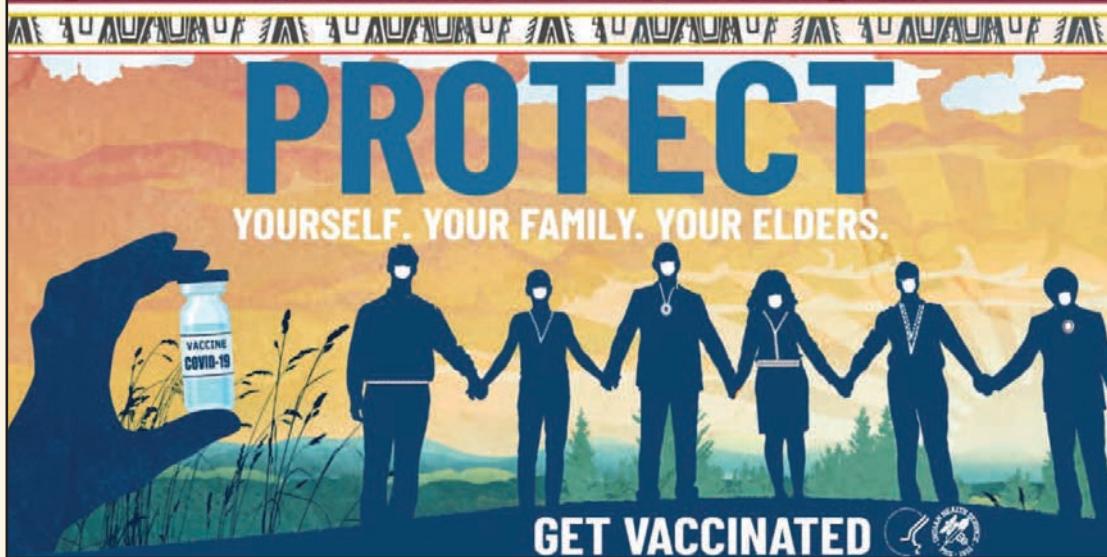
FREE

MAY 2021 • VOLUME 42, ISSUE 5

FREE

COVID-19 still infecting Native Minnesotans

LET'S REACH COMMUNITY IMMUNITY!



A Covid-19 vaccine poster from the Indian Health Board. Minnesota's tribal nations are ahead of the general public in getting members vaccinated, but estimated 78 percent of Minnesota's Native population lives off reservations and tribal lands. (Courtesy of IHS.)

BY LEE EGERSTROM

Minnesotans were told they can return to more “normal” activity as April came to an end although, it appears, the new “normal” also means a cautious lifestyle in the months ahead.

Readers can get swamped by COVID-19 news and statistics that change daily. At month's end, however, Minnesota data kept by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) do show state numbers improving for Natives and other communities in the state.

Using U.S. Census Bureau numbers that may underestimate Minnesota's Native population, given that many Indigenous people have multiple ethnic and racial identities, health reports suggest Native impacts from the global coronavirus pandemic is close to the norm for all Minnesota groups.

In monthly data released April 30, MDH researchers used the Census estimate that American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) represent about 1 percent of Minnesota's total population. They currently account for 1 percent of all COVID-19 cases in Minnesota, 2 percent of hospitalizations, 2 percent of the more serious Intensive Care Unit (ICU) hospitalization, and 1 percent of Minnesota's 7,144 cumulative deaths from the virus.

Actual numbers may be higher since Native Minnesotans are known to be found across dif-

ferent ethnic and racial lines.

A category for people identified as multiracial and non-Hispanic account for 2 percent of Minnesota's population. MDH researchers said they also accounted for 2 percent of all Minnesota diagnosed cases, 3 percent of hospitalizations and ICU hospitalizations, and 1 percent of total deaths.

These numbers included 16 additional Minnesota deaths and 1,877 new cases of the virus tallied that day. This is a statistic, not a source of comfort for the sickened or their loved ones.

What is positive about the data is that it represents a statistical improvement, a measure that we are making progress after another wave of COVID-19 infections in early April. The threat to health, however, is still with us.

In First World countries where COVID-19 testing is widespread, the World Health Organization (WHO) said testing samples should have less than 5 percent positive rates before states, provinces and countries reopen their economies from virus safety precautions.

The month-end data for Minnesota showed the positive rate had fallen below that benchmark, to 4.57 percent.

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Mpls community organizations helped keep peace during Chauvin trial

BY LEE EGERSTROM

With Minneapolis on pins and needles during the recent Derek Chauvin murder trial, the city reached out to seven community organizations to help keep the peace and lessen tensions.

The Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI), in the heart of the Native community in the Phillips Neighborhood, was one of them. The nearby Corcoran Neighborhood Organization and T.O.U.C.H. Outreach was another, and the We Push for Peace group, which has extensive operations within Phillips and the Cedar-Riverside area of Minneapolis as well, was also a patrol partner.

In announcing the plan, the city said it had awarded about \$1 million to the seven groups in contracts that will run through the rest of the year. Each organization had submitted budget proposals for up to \$175,000 to provide patrols and offer outreach assistance for the city.

George Floyd, a Black man, died while in police custody on May 25 last year. His death, while under a knee of former police officer Chauvin, was captured on bystander video and shown around the world.

It triggered civil rights activity throughout the United States and in some parts of Europe as well. It also caused unrest in Minneapolis and St. Paul, resulting in looting, fires and damage to property.

A jury on April 20 found Chauvin guilty of second degree and third degree murder, and of a lesser manslaughter charge as well. These verdicts were well received by

most groups in Minnesota and especially by the ethnic communities. A feared reaction like the damage that followed Floyd's death a year ago didn't happen.

“Although the trial of former Officer Chauvin may have concluded, the trauma it evoked in our communities continues to have an impact,” said Sasha Cotton, director of the city's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP).

She said creating community patrols with cultural and community organizations was important for OVP to work with the city's diverse communities.

“We understand that tension in the city was and remains high,” Cotton said in a statement for *The Circle*.

“One of the best ways to address tension, stress and trauma is to ensure that people are getting resources and information from within their own cultural and geographic communities, which was one of the major focus areas of our community patrols.”

The Chauvin trial is far from the end of the trauma that began with the death of Floyd a year ago.

Sentencing for Chauvin is set for June. Legal experts anticipate the verdicts will be appealed. And a trial for three other former Minneapolis police officers who were with Chauvin when Floyd was murdered is set to begin in August.

All can be flashpoints and lead to more civil unrest.

“Keep in mind, we have shootings all too often and other acts of violence in our communities,” said Trahern Pollard, founder and chief executive of the We Push for Peace groups that was started in 2004.

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The Water Protector Spring is coming

BY WINONA LADUKE

Are you going to shoot us for a Canadian pipeline company? Or put another way, if this pipeline is such a good idea, why are there so many cops up north?

The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* just revealed that Enbridge has laid out \$750,000 to northern police forces, not counting an undisclosed number of private security forces. That includes non lethal weapons like batons, tear gas and riot gear. Beltrami county, for instance, took \$183,000 or so, and they don't even have a new Line 3 pipeline corridor.

It seems that Governor Walz decided to approve this pipeline because it would create jobs and economic prosperity in the north, and that Enbridge proposed this pipeline would be a safe one. The problem is that is not true.

Enbridge promised that 50% of the jobs would be from Minnesota, but the *Star Tribune* reports, "...at the end of December ...just 33% of the 4,664 workers building the replacement for Enbridge's current Line 3 were Minnesota residents...Minnesota workers provided only 28% of the labor for the project. Many of those jobs have been in logging and in security...." At the end, Enbridge will be providing 23 jobs over the long term, according to the company. (There are an exceptional amount of local jobs, however, for Native people from Fond du Lac, or perhaps working for Gordon Construction.) A lot of jobs are also in security, and those are what are called "conflict jobs" – sort of like "Blood Diamond jobs", which pit people against people.

Remember that we just witnessed the Derek Chauvin Trial and the death of Daunte Wilson. Up north, 250 people have been arrested thus far, most of them charged with trespassing and many of them subjected to unnecessary strip searches and held in jails in the north. With a bottomless pile of money, sheriff's are signing up to follow water protectors. In a time of budget cuts and COVID, Enbridge has "incentivized" surveillance and incarceration of water protectors. Experts in policing question the arrangement. Kevin Karpiak, an Eastern Michigan University professor, said the public safety account raises questions about the broader role and authority of law enforcement, and "who the police work for, and whose interests they represent, or whose interests they claim to represent .."

Tax returns to Canada

Canadian Enbridge will receive over \$55 million back from Minnesota counties in property taxes, according to the Minnesota Tax court. Two of those counties – Red Lake and Clearwater –



Contractors work on the Line 3 replacement project outside of Oliver near Superior. (Photo by Elizabeth McMahon/WPRR.)

have been ardent supporters of Enbridge, and now refunds due to Enbridge exceed their annual tax levies. For larger counties, refunds – "in the best-case scenario" – could still lead to tax increases, service cuts or depleted reserves, Matt Hilgart of the Minnesota Counties Association said, calling it a "tsunami" of the worst possible decision.

Enbridge successfully argued that their pipelines had an accelerated depreciation. "I just don't know where we will get the money to do it," said Bob Schmitz, Red Lake County Auditor. "You can only get so much milk out of a cow." Enbridge suggests that the new line will provide \$35 million in property taxes annually to the counties, but it's not clear if this true, particularly if the company is allowed to accelerate the depreciation for the pipeline, as it has done in the Tax Case.

Blowing Off Governments

In Michigan, the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac is sixty years old and no longer anchored. The Line 5 pipe was put in before the Clean Water Act or Clean Air Act. In November of last year, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered the pipeline to cease operating by May 12, 2021.

On January 13, 2021, Enbridge rejected Michigan's order saying, "that the State lacks the authority to terminate or revoke" the easement, a move that it says would wrongfully displace the role of the federal pipeline administrator. Estimates indicate a spill in Michigan could cost \$400 billion to clean, if it is possible at all.

Wisconsin also has Enbridge pipes, and a history of spills. Enbridge did not report a spill for 15 months in 2019. In March 2021, Wisconsin officials found that Enbridge had under reported a spill at 1 gallon of petroleum while it was actually over 1200 gallons, which leaked from the Enbridge pipe. Jefferson County residents are questioning why Enbridge Energy took 21 days to repair a leaking underground pipeline that

spilled more than 1,200 gallons of petroleum near Fort Atkinson, contaminating soil and groundwater, and did not report the spill to regulators for more than 15 months.

Enbridge is running a huge campaign, touting "reconciliation" with tribes, yet the company is suing the Bad River tribe, trying to force the tribe to accept the 13 mile pipe through the reservation, despite the tribe ordering the company to remove the aging Line 5.

End Game

Enbridge is moving as quickly as they can. On March 23, the Minnesota Court of Appeals heard the case of the White Earth Anishinaabe, Red Lake Nation, Department of Commerce, and other groups challenge the certificate of need and route permit. In June, the court will render a decision. That may stop the pipeline, and it may not. We will see, and certainly, there are thousands of people hoping that the Minnesota Court of Appeals will stop Enbridge's expansion into the north. Two other major pipelines got cancelled in the past few

months: the Jordan Cove Pipeline (another Canadian pipeline project, heading for the Oregon Coast and Chinese exports) and the Keystone XL Pipeline. No pipeline projects can prove that they could protect the environment, or meet a climate test, let alone benefit the people.

What we know is that before the court decision will come, Enbridge will return, after a hiatus due to road restrictions, and they will be moving as quickly as possible. In the meantime, investments into the tar sands have been plummeting, and Enbridge is hoping to blow life into the industry – literally the dirtiest and most expensive oil on the market. In a time of climate crisis, this is about Canadian oil and Canadian profits. We will see how the Home Team does. The Court Decision is due at the end of June.

On April 1, the company sent home about 3000 workers due to road restrictions. Although the company has told the media the pipeline is almost 50% completed, on the ground reports indicate less than 35% of the pipe is in. Those workers and the company will return with a vengeance. The courts have not done well for pipeline companies. The company would like to get the pipeline in before the court overturns the permits, as in in the Dakota Access Pipeline and Standing rock.

For Enbridge, there is not one river. There are twenty two rivers which Enbridge must cross. As the company takes a pause from destruction let's remember our waters, our prayers and our generations ahead. The Water Protector Spring is coming, and most Minnesotans don't think that Water Protectors should be shot for a Canadian pipeline company.

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COVID-19: “Great Outdoors” may be calling, but don’t throw caution to the winds

BY LEE EGERSTROM

The message came down in late April from the White House, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state capitols all across the nation that vaccinated people can begin going outdoors without masks.

This is a step toward what was considered pre-coronavirus normalcy. But medical experts and a leading Native health educator warn that this is no time to let down our guard against the COVID-19 virus.

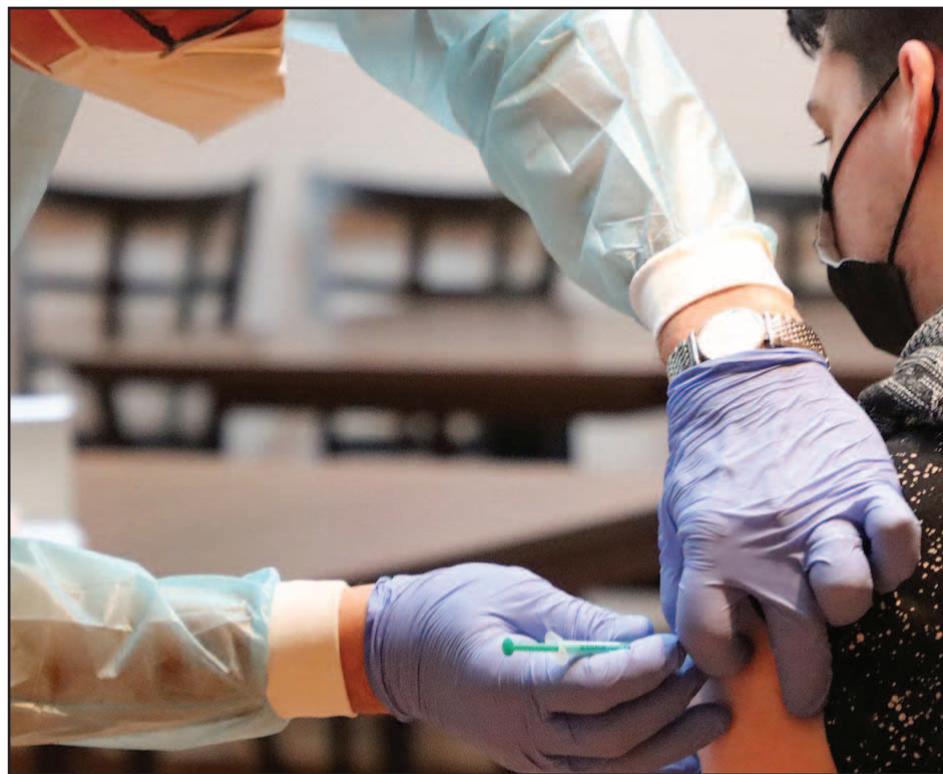
“We have the variants,” said Dr. Mary Owen at the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) and its Center of American Indian and Minority Health. “We still don’t know what they will do to us.”

Even though vaccination rates are steadily increasing in Minnesota and elsewhere, and rates of new infections are decreasing, variant forms of the COVID-19 virus are on the rise. These are more contagious and are often more severe than the virus strain identified with the outbreak that hit in March 2020.

What troubles Dr. Owen and officials at the Minnesota Department of Health is that younger people are becoming infected at higher rates now than when COVID-19 first arrived.

After a year in which public gatherings were discouraged, restaurants and bars and other businesses were shut down or had limited access, restrictions are being eased. Young people may be more inclined to go back to socializing with friends, without caution, than the general public even though nice weather temps all to break from COVID hibernation.

Masks are still required in indoor settings and are still encouraged where peo-



ple are close together outdoors. If you don’t know the people around you, and if they have been vaccinated, masking up and keep safe social distances are still lines of defense.

On April 29, the Minnesota Department of Health said more than 2.5 Minnesotans had at least one dose of a vaccine for the virus. The number of state residents that have completed their vaccines was approaching 1.9 million.

That is hailed as progress in Minnesota. But the state has 5.7 million residents. As of April 27, that means 56.8 percent of Minnesotans have had one shot, and 42.1 percent are fully vaccinated.

“We have a long way to go before we reach herd immunity,” Owen said.

There probably isn’t a difference between Native young people’s vulner-

ability to the virus than for other population groups in the state, she said. At the same time, studies by medical researchers have shown that Native Americans and Alaskan Natives (AIAN), and other people of color, have been more harshly impacted by the virus than the general public.

That is a consequence of inequality in health care, stretched over time, Owen said.

People with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, lung and heart problems, are hit harder than healthier people. Native Americans have long had such health condition problems and many do not have easy access to health care.

Owen serves as director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH) at the University of Minnesota Medical School’s Duluth campus. She also has the position of assistant professor for the Department of Family Medicine and BioBehavioral Health.

Off campus, Owen continues to provide clinical care at the Center of American Indian Resources in Duluth. Elsewhere, she is president of the Association of American Indian Physicians professional organization.

A member of the Tlingit nation in Alaska, Owen is a graduate of the University’s program. She returned to her tribal community at Juneau to practice medicine before circling back to the UMD campus in 2014.

The medical program at UMD is among the largest educational sites, along with the University of Oklahoma, in preparing AIAN students to become physicians and for other medical careers.

At the Center’s website, Owen described her director’s job as developing and managing programs to increase AIAN student enrollments for these careers and to do outreach work with local and national Native leaders to keep the Minnesota Medical School focused on AIAN health care and education needs.

She also works on developing an AIAN track for students interested in providing healthcare for AIAN communities and developing research efforts on AIAN health disparities.

Owen told The Circle that she is proud of tribal leaders in Minnesota who have actively encouraged Native Minnesotans to get vaccinated. They led by example, she said, by getting their shots in front of reporters and television cameras. And, she added, tribal leaders were quick in enforcing Minnesota Health Department (MDH) and federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and recommendations for keeping people safe.

There are now sufficient supplies of all three vaccines to combat COVID-19 or at least reduce the severity of an infection. Progress is being made in vaccinating people. But there are signs that demand for getting vaccinated is slowing down.

After a year of constant COVID news, Owen said, there might be a reaction to COVID overload.

On a dashboard tracking COVID-19 infections and actions updated daily by MDH, the downward slide in vaccinations was noticeable in the last week of April.

It showed 71,184 vaccinations were given on April 21, 74,626 on April 22, 62,102 on April 23, and 33,802 on April 24. Since then, the number of people getting vaccinated on April 25 dropped to 12,393, 34,005 on April 26 and 29,538 on April 27.

This comes after Minnesota officials have opened up vaccinations for most people ages 16 and older after starting the program with limited distribution for elders and people with jobs forcing them to be in contact with people who may be infected or carriers of the virus.

With more people now eligible to get vaccinated, numbers of people availing themselves to this protection should not be dropping.

Information on vaccines and their availability can be found online at <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/data/index.jsp>.

Additional COVID-19 information: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>.

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'Our hearts are heavy': COVID-19 deaths of tribal elders leave a void

BY DAN GUNDERSON/MPR

Anton Treuer calls himself an Ojibwe language warrior. He's been working to preserve and share the language for two decades. He spends a lot of time learning from elders, and over the past year COVID-19 has claimed many.

"It's been hard. We've simply had a lot of deaths," said Treuer, whose work takes him to tribal communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Ontario.

"And throughout those communities, the COVID deaths have been profound," he said. "We identified 25 fluent [Ojibwe] speakers in Mille Lacs, and about half a dozen of them died this year, most from COVID."

Fifteen years ago, 145 members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe were fluent in the language. As those numbers have dwindled, the impact of each loss compounds.

That's why the numbers of elders lost to the pandemic at Mille Lacs has been devastating to Baabiitaw Boyd.

"I don't think any of us were ready for what COVID had for us," she said. "We're stunned. Our hearts are heavy."

Boyd has worked for about 15 years to preserve language and culture among



Steve Premo (center) works with Ojibwe elder Carol Nickaboine, along with Madeline Treuer (left) and son Seth Premo (right) in the preservation of the Ojibwe language. In the process, the elders tell traditional stories in the context of their own lives, while the story is captured in both the Ojibwe language and in English. (Courtesy of Red Circle Agency.)

the people of the Mille Lacs Band, where she is the tribal government's commissioner of administration.

Some of the elders lost to COVID-19 carried generations of knowledge about language and culture. Boyd believes transferring that knowledge to future generations is critical to the very survival of the Ojibwe people.

"I think there's a tendency among people who are not from a marginalized lan-

guage community to think that the main value of a language is just that it's like another pretty bird singing in the forest," said Treuer.

And that can make it easy to minimize the loss of language and culture, he said. But losing a single fluent speaker of a rare language can threaten the social and cultural fabric of a community, said Treuer – and it leaves the world a poorer place.

"Embedded in Indigenous languages are unique worldviews that can and should pollinate the garden we're all trying to harvest from, and help lead us in new and different directions," he said. "That's a gift we have for the world."

Boyd says she knew, as the pandemic loomed, that COVID-19 was a significant threat because of health disparities that already existed among Native people – disparities that put many at higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness.

While privacy concerns limit the information available about COVID-19 deaths in tribal communities, Minnesota Department of Health data shows that more than 5,000 American Indians have tested positive for COVID-19 in Minnesota – and more than 90 people have died from complications of the disease.

At times the losses, Boyd said, have felt overwhelming.

"We're resilient, we're staying strong, we have our cultural teachings that we rely on to process that grief. And we're showing up for one another, to the best of our ability. But the effect is that we're all very, very sad," said Boyd. "And at the same time, we feel a tremendous amount of pressure to collect information so that we have the intergenerational transmission of knowledge."

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The knowledge carried by elders isn't just about learning a language. The stories they carry are important to understanding culture and spirituality.

"Every family has a story about their family, their place in the band, and a lot of stories have nuances to the culture, that when they're gone, they're gone," said Steve Premo, an artist from Mille Lacs who has illustrated many Ojibwe language books. "You can't get them back again, the stories that they take with them. It's so hard to think about all the knowledge that they take with them."

The threat of COVID-19 to elders served as a turning point for Boyd, who has been studying under those elders for 15 years. To protect them, and keep them isolated, she and two other younger members of the Mille Lacs Band took on new roles during the pandemic, leading funerals and other spiritual ceremonies.

"It's terrifying to be responsible for somebody's spiritual well-being, when you're not really even sure if you're well enough, or practiced enough," said Boyd. She expected to some day to take on that role, but not while her teachers were still alive.

"I don't even have the right word for the sadness, and the overwhelming feelings that came with that," she recalled.

In some communities, such ceremonies have always been led by the remaining first language speakers. During that pandemic, that was no longer possible.

"We've had an unbelievable number of funerals this year," said Treuer, who has conducted funerals in tribal communities across the region. "And we've also seen a new generation of young, emerging language- and culture-keepers step up. And I think COVID provided an inflection point that catalyzed their growth and development."

Treuer himself has had to adjust his language research to protect elders. And he's lost research subjects who he calls dear friends.

"It's been rearranging everybody's world in a lot of different ways. But yes, I've felt this as a personal loss," he said. "And I've also felt this as a community stress."

Treuer thinks often about his longtime mentor and friend, Red Lake spiritual leader Eugene Stillday, who died of COVID-19 last year at 89, and called him by his Native name, Waagosh.

"I'm sure, he would be saying, 'Well, Waagosh, get up and get out there and get something done and keep going, you know, I'm counting on you,'" said Treuer.

Boyd, too, thinks about what those elders who are gone would want – and she knows they would expect resilience in the face of tragedy.

"It's a loss, and we suffer that loss together when we lose a fluent speaker," she said. "But we focus on what we have, and we try to stay in a place of gratitude about that."



Baabittaw Boyd has worked for about 15 years to preserve language and culture among the people of the Mille Lacs Band.

Boyd and Treuer say while many tribes have made great progress in preserving cultural knowledge and language, much work remains.

"It's best to classify the Ojibwe revitalization efforts as emerging," said Treuer. "As much progress as we've made, we're not full circle yet, with a thriving and growing base of speakers that will continue to scale up and grow without major interventions."

There are expanding efforts to create language immersion schools in many tribal communities, but those initiatives are limited by a shortage of trained teachers.

"Our goal is to move revitalization to a place where people will effortlessly be able to speak and understand Ojibwe and read it, and live from an authentic place with Ojibwe," said Boyd.

In addition to the expanded role for this younger generation of leaders, the pandemic brought changes that might have a long-term impact on language and culture preservation. For Treuer, it's helped incorporate technology in new and beneficial ways.

"Some of the elders who are a little skeptical about, you know, 'I don't know, if we should be using a computer to do a storytelling thing,' they were like, 'Hook it up, let's go, I want to talk to some people,'" he recalled.

"And I think that helped us forge and strengthen community at a time when we were being physically separated from one another."

Treuer has finished two language books during the pandemic, and remote work continued among many people working to create an Ojibwe Rosetta Stone language course. He said he thinks technology can help break down barriers of space and time for teaching Native language and culture to a new generation.

"We can be ancient and modern, all at the same time," he said. "And I feel like, you know, the stresses and tests we've had with COVID have catalyzed our efforts."



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With similar progress reported across the nation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidelines in late April for going about activities outdoors. Masks are no longer required outdoors unless in confined areas with others who may not be vaccinated or may be spreaders of the virus.

Athletic events are returning to more "normal" activity, often with limited seating capacity. Other groups are planning events that will also require cautious social distancing. At the same time, a MDH spokesman said on April 30 that a "common sense" approach to more activity outdoors is this: "If you can breathe other people's air, wear a mask. Keep a safe distance."

State health officials are still worried about more infectious variant strains that are widespread in Minnesota, such as the so-called "UK variant." The three vaccines now available in Minnesota are known to limit the severity of the virus if one does become infected even after receiving the vaccine.

More than 2.5 million Minnesotans had received at least one dose of vaccine by the end of April, and 1.9 million had completed the one-dose (Johnson & Johnson) or two-dose (Pfizer or Moderna) forms of the vaccination. That represents 57 percent

of the state's eligible population.

The state has expanded sites for getting vaccinations, including locations at the Mall of America and State Fairgrounds in the Twin Cities metro area to reach high school students before spring-time proms and graduations.

A state health spokesman said Minnesota's tribal nations are ahead of the general public in getting members vaccinated. At the same time, however, and estimated 78 percent of Minnesota's Native population lives off reservations and tribal lands.

In short, as April gives way to May, numbers are looking up in Minnesota even as the threat lingers. One day's good news is often challenged by seemingly conflicting events the next day.

Elders, and especially those living in long-term care facilities, have been the most likely to have severe bouts with the virus and lose their lives. This group is now highly vaccinated. At the same time, a first grade student at Marshall, in southwestern Minnesota, died of the virus on April 25. The new variant strain of the virus is hitting younger people.

Minnesota still experiences turmoil that brings people out of homes and onto the streets. Minnesota news media reported April 30 that 22

COVID-19 cases have now been traced to protests in Brooklyn Center following the police shooting of Daunte Wright on April 11.

This outbreak followed a week on nightly protests in the Minneapolis suburb. Of the 22 cases linked to the civil unrest, 11 involved demonstrators and 11 involved law enforcement personnel.

Kris Ehresmann, director of infectious disease control for MDH, said anyone who may have been infected at the protests should get tested, self-quarantine and watch for possible symptoms.

Other ongoing problems associated with COVID-19 will also likely linger in Minnesota and impact the Native communities.

In early April, the Minnesota Hospital Association reported many of its healthcare facilities were struggling financially in 2018-2019 before the pandemic high.

On a more positive note, Gov. Tim Walz announced on April 15 that Minnesota had received \$135 million in federal relief funds to support child care through support for child care providers and low-income families financially harmed by the pandemic.

And at month's end, the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank issued a report (cited below) that

determined nursing homes were in financial trouble before the pandemic hit in the Upper Midwest. Tu-Uyen Tran, a senior writer for the Fed, said costs for providing nursing home care keep rising and will have increased substantially with the pandemic. Nursing home beds are disappearing as many such homes providing housing and care for elders are failing.

In Minnesota, he wrote, the median daily rate of a shared room at a nursing home was \$363 compared to a \$33 median hourly cost for a home health aide who may work a few hours each day.

COVID fighting progress notwithstanding, impacts from the coronavirus crisis will be long lasting.

Information on the COVID-19 situation in Minnesota can be found at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html> and <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/covid-weekly17.pdf>.

The Minneapolis Fed report on nursing homes can be found at <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/article/2021/pandemic-renews-fear-of-nursing-home-closures-in-ninth-district>.

After School at MIGIZI



MIGIZI is ending the school year with a strong finish to a tough year through their learning lab and after-school activities. **MIGIZI's Learning Lab** is from 10:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Thursday weekly at their new temporary space at 2610 E 32nd St in Minneapolis. They invite **all middle school and high school students** to enjoy a space with snacks, academic advisors, and all technological needs to allow oneself to succeed academically.



MIGIZI's after-school program is specifically for all **8th to 12th graders** who need to unwind from the long day of school with free engaging activities such as bowling, disc golfing, t-shirt making, and mural making.

"**After School at MIGIZI**" is set from 3:00pm to 5:45pm and will always start at their temporary space at 2610 E 32nd St, Minneapolis.



MIGIZI is also recruiting incoming 9th graders (8th graders who graduated in 2020-2021 school year) for their summer Hi Prep program that invites students to gain valuable skills and knowledge, and earn credit during the summer before entering high school. Hi Prep gives students a strong foundational understanding of what to expect in high school while engaging in learning in the community and having fun.

For more information on any of these programs or to see what else MIGIZI is offering, please see: migizi.org/forparticipants

"We need to mediate problems for victims' families; de-escalate problems in the community."

Pollard said his group and the other six organizations are "boots on the ground" service providers.

"We were on the ground before the trial. We will always be there," he said.

Other organizations in the community patrols include A Mother's Love, Center for Multicultural Mediation, C.E.O. (Change Equals Opportunity), and Restoration Inc. NACDI officials were not available for comment at the time of this writing.

Pollard, however, said the partnering groups have mediation assistance for their communities, have job training arrangements, and help provide information for people to access programs and find help for various needs.

Not everything that impacts communities within Minneapolis draws attention like the Chauvin trial. But Pollard said families and communities need help even when hurtful events do not make the news.

There is always something causing pain, he said. A lot of it has to do with unequal access to livable, sustainable jobs, he said. That has been made worse for poor, marginalized people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

People in general and especially young people need information about opportunities and where to get training, he said. To avoid problems common in many communities, "we need career training, not job training," he said.

Communities face all sorts of violence and crimes where opportunities are scarce, he said. As a result, service and neighborhood groups need to be sources of information for finding opportunities for individuals as well as communities.

OVP's Cotton said her office is maintaining its relationships with the community patrol organizations, and not only for sensational events like the recent trial.



Top: CeCe Connery and her daughter Olivia watch the verdict together on a phone in Minneapolis. (Photo by Brandon Bell/Getty Images.)



Right: Derek Chauvin reacts to the guilty verdict in the death of George Floyd.

Patrols will be used to respond to critical incidences within their communities of expertise, she said. They may be needed to assist communities in preparing for upcoming trials such as officer involved shootings. And, she said, they may be used to support community understanding of COVID-19 resources as well.

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Lexus Eagle Chasing comes up big for the Uof MN-Morris Cougars

Lexus Eagle Chasing was a 5-8, junior guard on the University of Minnesota-Morris basketball team this past season. She is enrolled with the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe.

Lexus was named to the First-Team UMAC (Upper Midwest Athletic Conference) All-Conference, finishing second overall in points per game with 17.3. She was also selected to the UMAC All-Defensive Team leading the UMAC in steals averaging 2.7 steals per game. Out of 10 games she reached double figures nine times, with four of those times being in the 20's. She was also named Heartland Orthopedics Cougar Athlete of the Week.

"EC" is Lexus' nickname at UMM. "In EC's first two seasons with us, we had seniors both seasons who were really our leaders and who we counted on in big spots," said Tim Grove, head women's basketball coach at the University of Minnesota-Morris.

"Coming into this past season, I told her that she is now our best player and that she was the one who needed to come up big in those big moments for us. I challenged her to play her best against the top teams in our league, knowing she would be at the top of their scouting reports and she did just that," said Grove.



Lexus Eagle Chasing was named to the First-Team UMAC (Upper Midwest Athletic Conference) All-Conference, finishing second overall in points per game with 17.3. She was also selected to the UMAC All-Defensive Team leading the UMAC in steals averaging 2.7 steals per game. (Photo by Nora Lund.)

"EC has consistently shown the drive and willingness to work on her game and to improve her individual skills," said Grove. "I have challenged her again

to continue to improve as a player, and I have no doubt she will. Big things are still ahead of her here at the University of Minnesota Morris!"

"My parents have also been a positive influence on me as an athlete for my entire life," said Lexus. "They're my biggest supporters and number one fans. They give me great advice on what I need to work on to better myself."

James Eagle Chasing, Lexus' dad, said of his daughter: "As a family, we would walk or run this mile long trail. She always stayed in the front and if anybody got close to her, she would start to run so no one could pass her. As she grew older, we all started to realize that her ability and talent was the gifted type. She naturally was better at sports than most girls her age."

Lexus believed she would get the opportunity to play varsity as an underclass player. The time didn't happen as she wanted and chose to transfer. The change was for the better.

"Lexus changed schools after her sophomore year, thinking she would have a better chance of being a starter in basketball," said James. "Unfortunately, she had a substitute role during her junior year. She knew that time was running out to show people what she could really do as a basketball player, which made her practice even more. As a sen-

ior, her coach allowed her to start and all her hard work came to light."

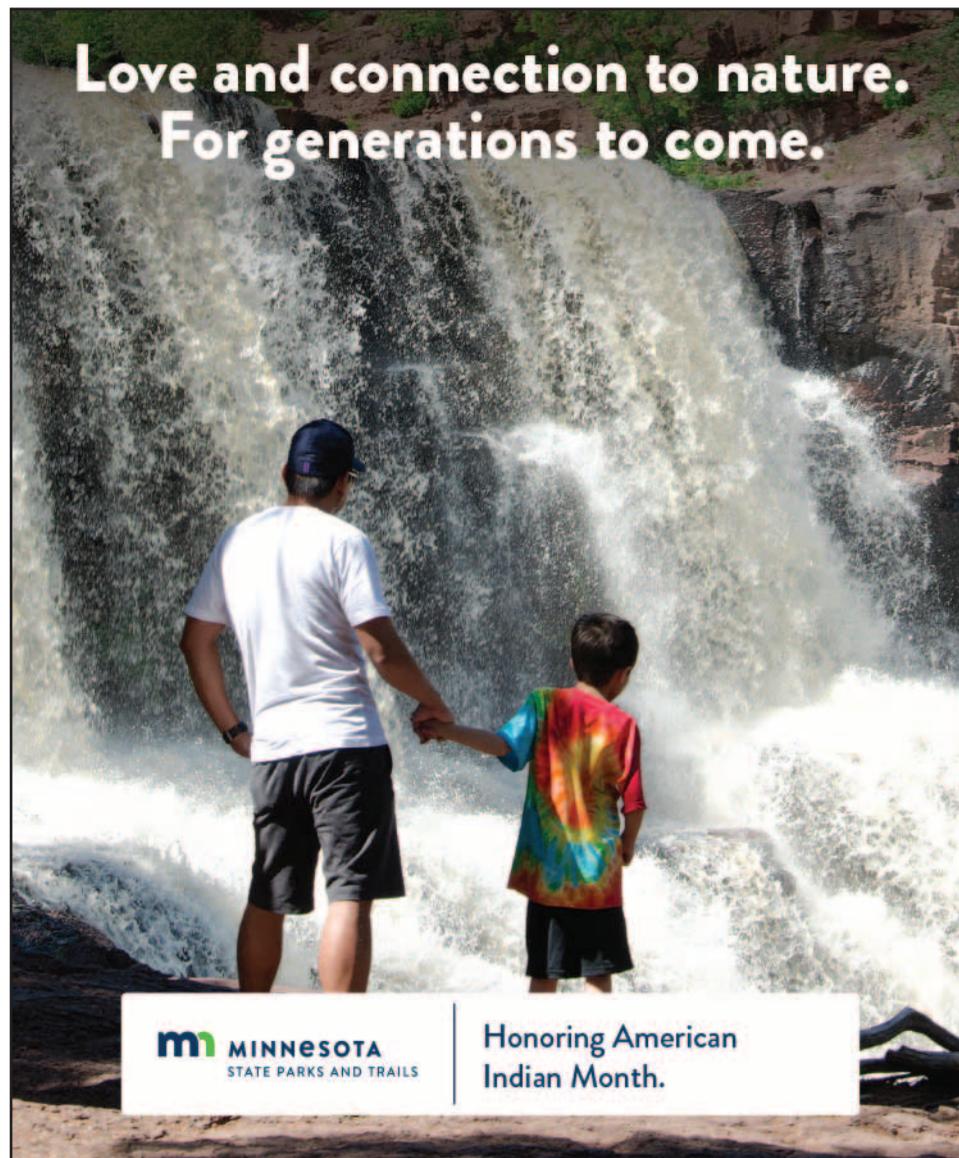
"Since Lexus started playing sports, we noticed she began to accumulate fans," said mom Lourdes Parker. "It started with softball. Parents would come up to us and praise her. They praised her on her speed and how good she was."

"Not only has basketball showcased her talent and competitiveness but it has showcased her other qualities," said Lourdes. "She has displayed compassion for her team and other teams. Her drive, and determination is seen on and off the court. She once spent the entire summer focused on her three pointers and would shoot 300 3-pointers a day."

"I'm currently taking this spring season off because I injured my right elbow during practice," said Lexus. "I am taking the time needed to heal so I don't further injury myself."

"This off-season I am going to improve all areas of my game," said Lexus. "I plan on getting in the gym every day and I'm fortunate enough to be able to play for two more years. I'm staying in Morris most of the summer so I will be able to get in the gym as much as possible."

"My goals for next season are to lead my team to a championship title," said Lexus.



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Chauvin guilty of murder, manslaughter in George Floyd's killing

BY JON COLLINS, RIHAM FESHIR,
BRANDT WILLIAMS & MATT SEPIC/MPR

A Hennepin County jury on April 20th found ex-Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of murder and manslaughter in the killing of George Floyd.

In one of the most consequential verdicts in Minnesota history, Chauvin was convicted on all counts, including second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in Floyd's killing last May.

Chauvin was led away in handcuffs after the verdicts were read. Sentencing is expected in about eight weeks.

Chauvin was one of several officers called to a south Minneapolis street corner May 25 on a report of a man allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 to buy cigarettes at a local store. He arrived to find other officers struggling to arrest Floyd and get him in a squad car as Floyd pleaded that he was claustrophobic.

The encounter turned fatal as officers pulled Floyd to the ground to subdue him during the arrest.

Bystander video captured Chauvin with his knee pressed against Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes as the man lay pinned to the street, handcuffed and face down, pleading that he couldn't breathe while people shouted from the curb that Floyd was dying.

Weeks of trial testimony revolved around a basic question: Who or what was responsible for Floyd's death? The defense pointed to Floyd's health conditions and the drugs in his system. The prosecution put the blame on Chauvin's actions and his knee on Floyd's neck.

Chauvin and three other officers were fired over the incident. The other officers have been charged with aiding and abetting. They're expected to go on trial this summer.

The presumptive sentence for second-degree murder in the state of Minnesota is 12 years. It's the same for third-degree murder. The presumptive sentence for second-degree manslaughter is four years.

With each count, though, prosecutors have asked Judge Peter Cahill to consider aggravating factors when sentencing Chauvin.

Gov. Tim Walz called the verdicts "an important step forward for justice in Minnesota. The trial is over, but our work has only begun."

Minnesota must work to rebuild confidence between police and communities of color. "Too many Black people have lost – and continue to lose – their lives at the hands of law enforcement in our state," he added in an apparent reference to the recent killing of Daunte Wright by a Brooklyn Center officer.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, whose office oversaw Chauvin's

prosecution, called the convictions "accountability, which is the first step towards justice."

He praised the Floyd family for showing "grace and class and courage" saying they've "had to relive again and again the worst day of their lives, when they lost their brother, their father, their friend." The family in March settled a wrongful death lawsuit with the city for \$27 million.

"America, let's frame this moment as a moment where we finally are getting close to living up to our Declaration of Independence, that we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equally," Floyd family attorney Ben Crump said following the verdict.

"That means all of us," he added. "That means Black people. That means Hispanic people, that means Native people. That means Asian people. That means all of us, America."

Tensions remained high in the Twin Cities and across the country during the trial and the jury's deliberations.

Floyd's killing sparked worldwide outrage when the video of the police subduing him went viral on social media, driving peaceful mass demonstrations that sometimes spasmed into violence.

The image of a white police officer who appeared indifferent to the suffering of a Black man under his knee begging for mercy made race an inescapable part of the story.

Philonise Floyd, George's brother, could be seen praying in court, according to the media pool reporter. "I was just praying they would find him guilty," he said later. "As an African American, we usually never get justice."

Attorney and longtime civil rights activist Nekima Levy Armstrong told MPR News that Chauvin's convictions should be celebrated. "It is a moment that allows us to breathe and feel like we stood right by George Floyd."

State and local leaders appealed for calm prior to the verdict, deploying National Guard troops and bringing state troopers from Nebraska and Ohio to supplement an already historically large law enforcement presence.

He betrayed the badge

In closing arguments, prosecutors painted the ex-officer as a cop who disregarded his training, his department's use of force rules and Floyd's suffering. "What the defendant did was not policing. What the defendant did was an assault," prosecutor Steve Schleicher told jurors. "He betrayed the badge."

Hennepin County Medical Examiner Andrew Baker ruled Floyd's death a homicide last year, saying Floyd went into cardiopulmonary arrest as then-officer Chauvin kept his knee pressed on the neck of the prone, handcuffed man.

– CHAUVIN TRIAL CONTINUED ON PG 14 –



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Powwow story for children will dance into your heart

BY DEBORAH LOCKE

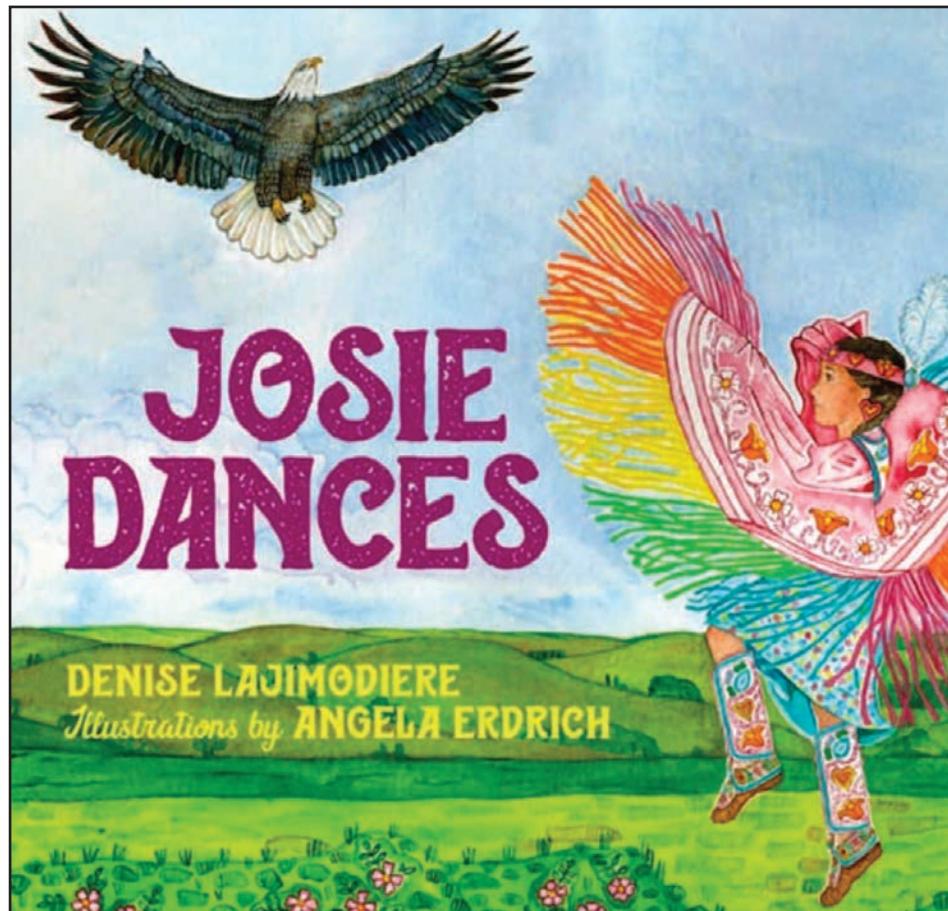
The young Ojibwe girl, Josie, wants more than anything to dance for the first time at the summer powwow. This sweet picture book, "Josie Dances," explains the way Josie's aunty, grandmother and mother create her powwow outfit while Josie practices the shawl dance.

Persistence and belief pay off. That summer day, Josie steps into the dance arena and is broadly welcomed by her people. She swirls and almost seems to fly, a new and graceful participant at the powwow under the proud gaze of the family that loves her.

I have a great fondness for beautifully illustrated children's books. Some of the pictures from books in recent years are so striking that they could stand alone as a framed wall hanging. This is one of those books.

Also, I have a fondness for good story telling that teaches American Indian culture and history with its emphasis on strong families, respect for all, caring and preserving natural resources, and the handing down of tradition.

"Josie Dances" hits those marks for excellence as a story that has played out countless times in American Indian



families. For those readers who remember their first dance outfit and first powwow arena, expect a triggering of sweet memories.

The book is a good general introduction to powwows for children, showing them that hand-crafted clothes require diligence and work, that when families work toward a common goal, good things happen and that the best parts of Ojibwe culture remain meaningful and even fun. When Josie's Indian name is spoken from the dance arena, people line up to shake her hand. Her

grandmother whispers: "Listen to the drum, the heartbeat of Aki (Mother Earth). You are dancing for the ancestors and all the people that you see."

The story has a ring of truth because author Denise Lajimodiere (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) based the book on her own daughter's first powwow dance.

Artist Angela Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) is a pediatrician and started painting with watercolors in high school. Her illustrations are rich with detail, familiarity and nuance. Take a look at that arena director and you'll agree that he looks exactly right, from his boots to his beaded vest to his hat. The illustration of Josie about to tuck into an Indian taco will nudge your appetite. In one stunning depiction, Grandma Greatwalker sleeps beneath her star quilt, and we see the objects of her dreams – a family of winged and four-legged creatures who will help Grandma determine Josie's Indian name.

If you don't have a child to read this book with, borrow one. Go see your niece or your cousin or the neighbor. Ask the kids to put down their phones and prepare to be dazzled. Let them hear and see and imagine how Josie learns to dance.

"Josie Dances" by Denise Lajimodiere and Angela Erdrich is published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. It will be available in May, 2021 and is ideal for children age 3-7.

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- Represent and promote the regional SBDC regional office.

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- Other responsibilities as assigned by management.

QUALIFICATIONS

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Story of Ho Chunk Congresswoman inspires and entertains

BY DEBORAH LOCKE

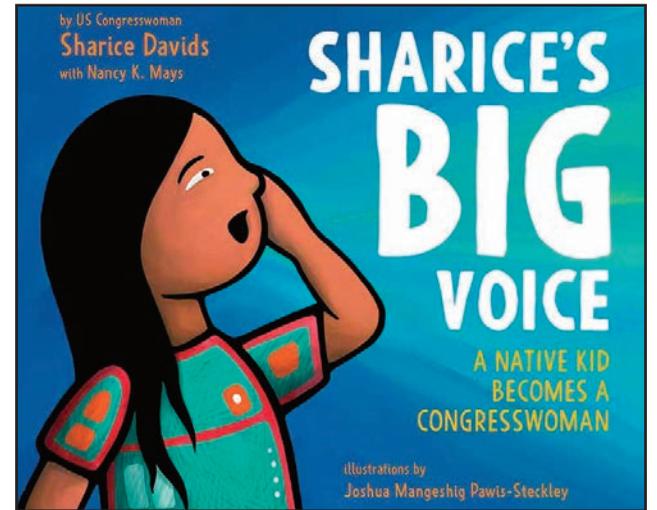
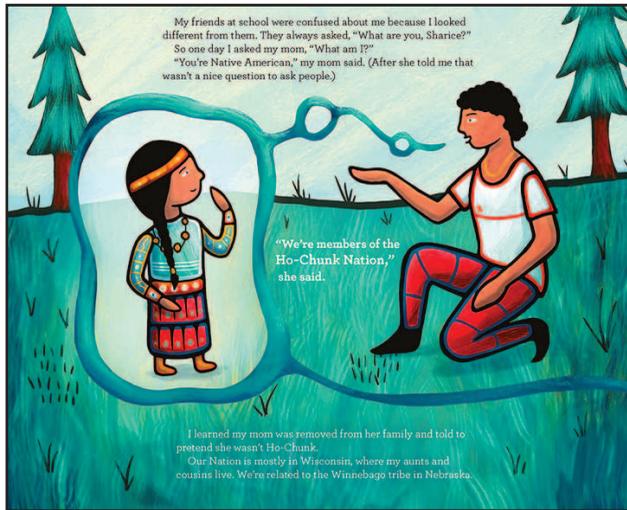
While still a little girl, Sharice Davids (Ho Chunk) raced through the house doing high kicks and air punches, just like Bruce Lee, her hero. She even wore a black belt. Later in college, she trained to be a pro-mixed martial arts fighter.

As an adult, Sharice took her competitive spirit to a place where not many American Indians ever find a place: the United States Congress. The chatty and bright daughter of a single mother showed all the doubters a thing or two by setting goals and not letting defeat discourage her. In 2019, she was sworn in as U.S. Representative from Kansas's 3rd congressional district.

"Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman" (Harper Publishing) is a charming and inspiring picture book with a story to entertain readers of all ages and genders. It's pretty rare when an individual is presented so artfully in a children's book that they impress the heck out of an adult reader. But that's what happened. I forgot I was reading a book aimed at a second grader and sat up a little straighter, intrigued by the adventures and life choices of this admirable woman.

That's the thing about really good children's books: they contain the same elements of a well-written book for adults. Truth. Engaging characters. A story arc. A few life lessons. Well-written words. Add this to the mix: joy. You can't help but feel at least uplifted after reading about Sharice Davids' unflinching desire to help people improve their lives. She is the essence of a public servant, and Kansas is lucky to have her in Congress. So are we.

The story opens with a brief description of election night followed by Davids' childhood years. She is a naturally outgoing little girl with a gift for gab that gets her



into trouble because she talks all the time. She talks so much that a teacher made her go into the hall to finish her work because it was the only place where she couldn't talk. So the little girl talked with everyone who walked by. "I discovered that the best way to learn about people is to listen to them," she wrote. Her mother was a 20-year U.S. Army member who rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class. The two moved often, to Germany, Kansas and Missouri. The outgoing little girl made friends wherever she went.

The story shows the way hard work pays off as Davids works multiple jobs to pay college tuition, learns martial arts, participates in martial arts fights, and ultimately ends up at Cornell University Law School. After a stint in a big law firm, she directed community and economic development at South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation. That led to a job with the Obama administration which led to a decision to run for Congress. The naysayers lined up to shake their heads and doubt. Didn't matter. On election

night Davids won by a wide margin, walked into a ballroom and joined her mom on a stage where they lifted their arms.

The book includes a profile of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, and a description of the Ho-Chunk warrior tradition. It is nicely illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley.

Overall, it leaves you with hope that a small slip of a woman can pack a powerful punch if necessary, and walk ahead into a room where few American Indians have entered. It makes you think that more women can do this, and it makes you know that more woman should do this.

"Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman" was written by Sharice Davids with Nancy K. Mays. It was illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley, and will be available in June, 2021. It is published by HarpersChildren, and lists for \$17.99.




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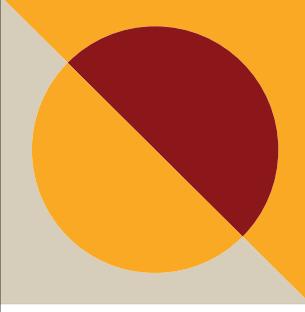
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Defense attorney Eric Nelson worked to sow doubt in the jurors' minds as he recounted Chauvin's actions and Floyd's health problems, including compromised arteries and an enlarged heart, and the drugs in his system.

He suggested that Chauvin's concern about the tensions with bystanders watching Floyd's arrest distracted Chauvin and kept him from rendering CPR as Floyd lost consciousness. Prosecutors pushed back, noting that despite their panic at what was happening to Floyd, the half dozen or so bystanders, including several teens and a 9-year-old girl, obeyed police commands not to interfere.

Prosecutor Jerry Blackwell emphasized that Chauvin and the officers were in complete control of the situation. "He had the bullets, the guns, the Mace that he threatened bystanders with," Blackwell told jurors. "He had the backup. He had the badge - all of it."

The defense also urged jurors not to focus on the nine-plus minutes that Chauvin's knee was on Floyd's neck but to think about the prior 17 minutes as officers struggled to get Floyd to comply with orders and get in the back of the squad car as Floyd resisted, saying he was claustrophobic.

"Human behavior is unpredictable, and nobody knows it better than a police officer," Nelson told jurors.



Screengrab of Court TV retakers and visitors hold space at George Floyd Square, after closing arguments in Derek Chauvin's murder trial. (Nicole Neri for MPR News.)

Blue wall falls

Nelson argued over and over again that Chauvin was just doing his job to subdue a suspect within the bounds of Minneapolis police policy and training. But that argument took repeated hits during the trial from a line of officers, including Chauvin's bosses.

Minneapolis Police Department trainers said they've never trained the knee-on-neck technique. The head of the homicide unit testified the use of force officers used on Floyd was "totally unnecessary." Lt. Richard Zimmerman told jurors that after reviewing the body camera footage of the fatal encounter with Floyd, he concluded the officers went too far.

"Pulling him down to the ground, face

down, and putting your knee on the neck for that amount of time - it's just uncalled for," Zimmerman said. "I saw no reason why the officers felt they were in danger, if that's what they felt, and that's what they would have to feel to be able to use that kind of force."

Chief Medaria Arradondo testified that once Floyd stopped resisting and then stopped responding, "to continue to apply that level of force to a person, proned out, handcuffed behind their back, that in no way shape or form is anything that is by policy. It's not part of our training, and it is certainly not part of our ethics or values."

These were extraordinary moments. Police often rally around fellow officers accused of killing people on the job. The reluctance of officers to speak out against another officer is often called the "blue wall of silence."

Not this time. Chauvin declined to testify in his own defense, but he did leave a clue to his mindset at the scene. Prosecutors played footage during the trial from Chauvin's body camera showing a man at the scene criticizing the officer afterward for the way he restrained Floyd.

"That's one person's opinion," Chauvin can be heard responding to the man on the video. "We gotta put force, gotta control this guy because he's a sizable guy. Looks like he's probably on something."

They were the only remarks heard during the trial from an officer in an MPD uniform justifying the level of force used against Floyd.

Following the convictions, experts expressed hope that good officers in Minneapolis and around the country would feel emboldened to call out the bad acts of fellow officers.

"We hope that this is an inflection point. This is something that is different in that police will be held accountable more readily going into the future," said Mark Osler, professor at the University of St. Thomas.

To have high-ranking officials step out say Chauvin's knee maneuver "wasn't consistent with training, and it was a crime. That's something that we haven't seen in the past and hopefully that we will see in the future going forward."

Before Chauvin, only one police officer in Minnesota history had been convicted

for killing someone on duty, and it was a Black man who fatally shot a white woman.

Mohamed Noor was found guilty in 2019 of murder and manslaughter in the killing of 911 caller Justine Ruszczyk in Minneapolis. He was sentenced to 12 1/2 years.

Two other law enforcement officers were found not guilty in on-duty killings.

There is a man being killed

Between the officer body cameras, witness videos and footage from municipal and security cameras at Chicago Avenue and 38th Street, Floyd's killing was perhaps the most documented killing by a police officer in history.

Video of Floyd pleading with officers and his awful stillness after losing consciousness were broadcast to a live audience around the world at points during the trial.

For the people who stood on the curb that day outside Cup Foods, however, reliving the agony of those minutes was at times unbearable. Several broke down in tears testifying during the trial. They spoke of feeling angry and powerless as they watched Chauvin press his knee into Floyd's neck.

Off-duty Minneapolis firefighter Genevieve Hansen repeatedly urged the officers to let her provide medical attention to Floyd after coming upon the scene in south Minneapolis as she walked home.

She told the court she felt helpless because "there is a man being killed" and in other circumstances in her job, "I would've been able to provide medical attention to the best of my abilities, and this human was denied that right."

Darnella Frazier, whose video of Chauvin pressing his knee into Floyd's neck sparked worldwide outrage when it went viral online, spoke of Floyd's obvious terror.

"I heard George Floyd say, 'I can't breathe, please get off of me. I can't breathe.' He cried for his mom. He was in pain, and it was like he knew it was over for him," she told the court. "He was terrified, he was suffering. This was a cry for help."

Another teen who took video told the court that she felt like she'd failed Floyd because she couldn't intervene. "I felt like there wasn't anything I could as a bystander."

Donald Williams, one of the most vocal of the bystanders who admonished Chauvin last May, became emotional on the stand, wiping away tears as he heard his voice when the prosecution played audio of the 911 call. "He just pretty much just killed this guy that wasn't resisting arrest," he says on the audio, referring to "officer 987," Chauvin's badge number.

Another bystander also fell to tears as he testified how he tried to de-escalate the confrontation with Chauvin and the officers as he begged Floyd to get in the squad car.

Charles McMillian, 61, can be heard on video recorded by other bystanders telling Floyd to get in the car and that he "can't win" as Floyd pleads the officers not to put him in the back of the squad because he's claustrophobic.

Floyd responds: "I'm not trying to win."

COVID-19 vaccines were tested across communities and continue to be tested for safety.



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daily racist hate and still walk proud. See now? Collectively WE have made it this far and no matter the blood trauma and resilience it can still cause spiritual exhaustion.

I'm tired of telling pink people they suck in maple-sugary terms.

I feel like I am gently patting some pinks on their back for not being as racist as they used to be. That's not far enough to say we made it. Last year did wake a lot of pinks up and they marched in solidarity with us. Now own it.

This rabbit hole is deep. I want to cuss, jump up and down with smoke coming out of my ears to make my point clear: as a nation, vile and racist as it is, we cannot continue the violent cycle that has been set since the first European immigrants showed up on Turtle Island's eastern shores. Immigrants who were allegedly seeking religious freedom, which included genocide upon the Indigenous people of this land. The entire "founding of" myth of the United States is ludicrous at best and soul-wrenchingly tragic at the same time.

At this juncture I must call upon Little Ricey who has very strong opinions about poop people and things. She grew up in a loving home and was first exposed to hate in a kindergarten room full of toys and pasty-skinned children.

After she stopped crying that her unfeeling mother left her in such an abhorrent place she played with the other kids, not getting that she was brown and at first, they did not either.

Little Ricey was puzzled when in 1st grade she no longer had the same friends, if any at all, so she kept to herself but wondered why? Well, while being indoctrinated in 2nd grade the class watched a b/w movie in which savage, heathen Red Indians took out some pink land-grabbers and squatters. Little Ricey, as the sole Indian kid in the room saw her classmates literally turn around in their chairs to openly gape and glare at her. It was a social death sentence.

She did have a few friends who invited her over to play, but usually only once after the parents saw her golden brown skin and dark eyes. Little Ricey was a good child even if unconsciously accepting of her demeaned role in society because she, at the time, did not know of the powerful ancestors who made it possible for her to be here at all. That is, until she wasn't.

Then she went to powwows where most of the people looked like family. Little Ricey even went into the circle, careful to dance to the drum's beat. She belonged. Later in her education she learned the true and factual history of

Turtle Island and at the time cried and began to understand it as such. It really hurt and she was shaken to the core. Little Ricey did become older and walked around with a silent shriek at the attempted annihilation or her own people, the ones who sacrificed everything and themselves so their descendants would still live upon our sacred Mother and dance to ancient songs.

That is power. Power beyond our scope of comprehension, but it is there.

I feel them, my ancestral forebears a lot more now as I am, or feel really alone. It is a comfort to me that they are here to help me when I need it and they always, always come through. Am I special? Yes, we all are and when the time comes call upon your guides, angels, spirits, whomever you pray to. Do it with your soul. It's really all you have, ennit?

It is my friend Mark Anthony Rolo's death day on the 30th of this month. I loved him. I fought with Mark and traded barbs but he saw me, one of the few who have. Mark is the one who got me first published in The Circle. He made me laugh and yell, so yes, I do miss him. I feel his love and affection for his pupil.

See you next lifetime.

"Well...we made it this far", said my nephew, Jerone at intervals heading out of the Cities. He was seven years old and we were on the way to a cabin vacay on Lake Winnibigosh in northern Minnesota and the car did not break down while getting there. Clearly not a lot of confidence about his Gami's pony, a brown Volvo. For the record it got us all home too, but that's not my point.

"Well... we made it this far" is my mantra for 2021 while still pondering how I personally made it this far, what with all the traumatic and physical danger I've been in throughout my life. I now include all BIPOC who experience

Call for Artists

The City of Minneapolis Art in Public Program announces a call for artists to create artwork for Water Works

The intent to apply form is due June 2, 4 pm

The artwork will celebrate the histories, languages and vibrant cultures of Indigenous and Dakota people and honor the two nearby sacred Dakota sites—Owámníyomni (St. Anthony Falls) and Wanagi Wita (Spirit Island)



TO LEARN MORE

Contact Ann.Godfrey@minneapolismn.gov for:

- A copy of the **Call for Artists/Request for Qualifications**.
- A link to an **optional online informational meeting** on Thursday, May 13th, 4 pm.
- **Questions**.



For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats contact Ann.Godfrey@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Artists seeking technical and support putting their application together, contact Ann.Godfrey@minneapolismn.gov.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Itasca Economic Development Corporation



PROJECT MANAGER

This position is responsible for overseeing the successful completion of projects and can work in a wide variety of fields, such as the entrepreneur ecosystem of our area, business retention and expansion, and program development. They will generally be responsible for the creation, organization, execution and completion of specific projects.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

- Create long and short-term plans.
- Delegate tasks on projects to team members.
- Identify and manage risks/liabilities.
- Assist in the definition of project scope.
- Make effective decisions when presented with multiple options.
- Communicate with team or board to keep the project aligned with goals.
- Perform quality control on the project.
- Adjust schedules and targets on projects.
- Motivate people to complete tasks on time.
- Provide clear and concise reporting.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date reporting on grants and funding sources.
- Conduct informational meetings for communities and businesses.
- Work directly with IEDC president.
- Outreach into rural Itasca County.
- Provide support to Blandin Footprint Communities.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Proven leadership skills.
- Cost and risk management skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to make important decisions under pressure.
- High level of organization and problem-solving skills.
- B.A. or B.S. degree encouraged, but relevant experience accepted.
- Experience in leading project teams.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Competitive salary range dependent on candidate's experience.
- Full benefits package.

Send cover letter and resume to Office Administrator, Teri Heikkila at theikkila@itascadv.org by April 30th, 2021.

For questions, call our office at (218)-326-9411.



COVID-19 Vaccines and Pregnancy



People who are pregnant can get the COVID-19 vaccine

- We know that pregnant people are at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease compared to non-pregnant people.
- Based on how the COVID-19 vaccines work in the body, medical researchers do not think that the vaccines are a risk for people who are pregnant. But, we do not have much data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant people.



- If you are pregnant, you can choose to get vaccinated for COVID-19.
- You may want to talk with your health care provider to help you decide whether to get vaccinated, but it is not required.



People who want to have a baby one day can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

- If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.
- We do not have any data to say that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta.
- There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any COVID-19 vaccine.

mn MINNESOTA

mn.gov/vaccine

Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000 | 625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.

04/29/2021