



**NEWS FROM  
A NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
PERSPECTIVE**  
**40 YEARS OF SERVING THE  
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

WWW.THECIRCLENEWS.ORG  
THECIRCLENEWS@GMAIL.COM

Like us on Facebook!  
Facebook.com/TheCircleNews

Follow Us on Twitter  
@TheCircleNews

**FREE**

Line 3 drilling under more than 20 river crossings sees more protests



page 3

6 tribes sue Wisconsin to try and stop November wolf hunt



page 4

Community youth decorate Mpls street with art and plants

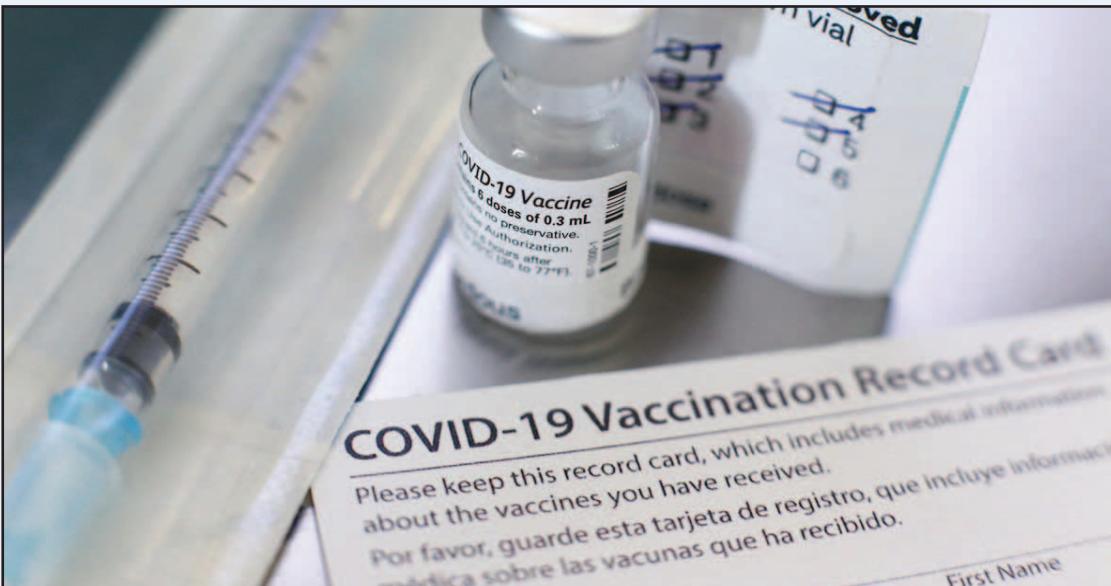


page 12

OCTOBER 2021 • VOLUME 42, ISSUE 10

**FREE**

## New Minnesota greeting: “Are you vaccinated?”



Theaters, bars, restaurants, businesses, and most Minnesota colleges and universities are requiring proof of vaccinations from employees, the public and students.

BY LEE EGERSTROM

**B**usinesses and entertainment venues throughout Minnesota are quickly imposing requirements on patrons and customers to show proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. The state is now following suit.

If you want to work in-person jobs with state agencies, or with state agencies to work with the general public, you are now required to show proof of vaccinations. If you don't, you will be required to have negative COVID-19 tests at least once a week.

This comes close to being the so-called “immunization passport” that many health experts say is necessary for life and business to return to normal. But it is politically controversial among those who still think the global pandemic is a hoax and others that think a state-ordered vaccination mandate exceeds state authority.

The new state policy went into effect on Sept. 8. At the same time businesses and other public gathering places struggled with ways to keep employees and the public they serve safe from the virus and it's more contagious and deadly delta variant. These companies and service providers were imposing their own vaccination mandates.

Theaters, bars, restaurants, various other businesses reopening to the public, and most Minnesota colleges and universities began requiring proof of vaccinations from employees, the public and students.

It is no easy task trying to function in the COVID-19 environment, said Mary LaGarde,

executive director of the Minneapolis American Indian Center. Everything the center does, and how it works with groups and people, has to be weighed against the risks, she said.

The center's Gatherings Café did reopen to the public in the past year but has had to close again, she said. That is because the café has difficulty finding people to work.

With food service positions, close personal contact among people is inevitable. The hospitality industries across the entire nation are having trouble finding and keeping employees.

Mandates, proof of vaccinations, and general public health measures are certain to spread and impact other organizations, including those in the Native communities, which provide services and interaction among the public.

While the state agencies, businesses and organizations with a face to the public wrestled with vaccine mandates in September, widely published and broadcast news events chronicled the struggle with the pandemic. Here are some:

Minnesota has now surpassed 700,000 confirmed coronavirus cases. While that represents about 12 percent of Minnesota's population, University of Minnesota infectious disease experts estimate as many as 30 percent may have become infected. That includes projected numbers of people who haven't sought medical treatment or had only mild, undiagnosed symptoms.

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 —

## Dry conditions boost MN's wild rice crop, but climate change leaves future uncertain

BY YASMINE ASKARI/MINNPOST

**F**or years, Nancy Schultdt has taken part in the time-honored tradition of harvesting wild rice in northern Minnesota. And while this year's historic drought has actually helped in yielding a good crop of wild rice according to many experts, accessing the wild rice this year has proven difficult in some regions.

For the Anishinaabe across northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, wild rice is a sacred food and harvesting the rice is a tradition spanning generations. Year after year, members of the tribe will navigate the shallow water beds with a long pole in a canoe, using ricing sticks, or “knockers” as they are sometimes called, to strike the grains into the boat. But with water levels below a foot in some water beds, some of the wild rice simply could not be harvested.

“My husband and I almost got stuck,” Schultdt said of her unprecedented ricing experience this year.

In fact the water levels were so low this year, Schultdt says her husband had to hop out of the canoe and push.

“It's definitely the lowest [water levels] we've seen in recent years,” said Darren Vogt, the resource management division director for the 1854 Treaty Authority, an inter-tribal natural resource program. And while he stressed that low water is good for wild rice, water levels below a certain threshold can make harvesting difficult.

“We did hear a lot of that this year, where some locations had the rice crop that was good, but getting access there during harvest time was difficult.” Vogt said.

For both Schultdt and Vogt, it isn't the drought that is worrisome – wild rice thrives in shallow waters of one to three feet. It is the increasing inten-

sity of droughts and flooding, hallmarks of climate change, that they, along with other experts, worry will affect the state's wild rice beds. Schultdt, who serves as the water projects coordinator for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, has been monitoring the water quality standards for the tribe for twenty years, said in recent years she has seen more extreme droughts and flooding than in the past.

“The changing storm patterns and climate change are definitely probably the biggest concern for wild rice,” Vogt said. “What are the changing seasons, water level, storms, temperature going to do for wild rice?”

### Shrinking habitat

Wild rice habitat has already shrunk to a small fraction of its natural range – the water beds where the plant grows are only found along the edges of the Great Lakes. With climate change Vogt says scientists are trying to determine if the range of where wild rice grows can change as well.

Over the past century, there has already been a documented decline in the crop in both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

“We've definitely lost wild rice over time between development and changes in lakes, damming recreation, and changes in water quality. All these things have, you know, shrunk the success of wild rice across the state,” Vogt said.

Gene-Hua Crystal Ng, a hydrologist with the University of Minnesota's Department of Earth and Environmental Science, estimates over the past century, there has probably been a loss of a third of wild rice strands.

And while some of the reasons for the decline of the wild rice beds are obvious, Ng said, some are not so obvious.



# mn MINNESOTA SENIOR LINKAGE LINE

## We Are Aging

Support services | Housing options | Long-term care planning  
Medicare & prescription assistance | Caregiver support

If you have trouble paying for your Medicare, you may be able to get help.

Call Minnesota's Senior LinkAge Line® to find out more.

**800-333-2433**

[mn.gov/senior-linkage-line](http://mn.gov/senior-linkage-line)

The Senior LinkAge Line is a free, statewide service of the Minnesota Board on Aging in partnership with Minnesota's area agencies on aging. The Senior LinkAge Line helps older Minnesotans and caregivers find answers and connect to the services and support they need.

# Line 3 drilling under more than 20 river crossings sees more protests

PHOTOS/TEXT BY CHRIS TRINH/  
ENVIRONMENTAL INDIGENOUS NETWORK

**E**nbridge, a Canadian multinational company, is constructing its Line 3 oil pipeline across Anishinaabe land in northern Minnesota to carry tar sands from Alberta, Canada to Superior, WI. An indigenous-led movement has been ongoing for years, with protests ramping up this past summer as drilling under 20 river crossings began.

Camp Migizi, Namewag, Welcome Water Protectors Center, Shell Camp, Manoomin Camp and Red Lake Treaty Camp are among the resistance camps that formed along the pipeline route in Minnesota in order to provide a home base for water protectors fighting the pipeline.

Water protectors lock down to construction equipment, form peaceful blockades to raise awareness about violation of indigenous sovereignty, destruction of nature, and that the MN DNR granted Enbridge permits to pump 5 billion gallons of water during a historic drought.

Over 800 protestors have been arrested while trying to stop the pipeline. For this type of climate activism, more than 80 of these arrestees are being charged with felony theft, and could face years in prison.

*Update: Enbridge has just announced that construction on the line is complete and the oil will start flowing in the next 48 hours as of September 30th. Organizers say everything will shift to advocacy (getting the Biden administration to revoke the permit for Line 3) and preparation for the People vs Fossil Fuels week of action in DC on October 11-15, starting with Indigenous Peoples' Day on the 11th. <https://peoplevsfossilfuels.org/>*

**Top:** Mille Lacs elder Tania Aubid (center) participates in a Camp Migizi-organized blockade of Enbridge's Gowan Pump Station near Floodwood, MN. August 20, 2021.

**2nd lower on left:** Red Lake Nation members and allies protest Enbridge's Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline on the Middle River in Northern Minnesota, a tributary of the Red Lake River and protected under 1863 Indigenous Treaty Rights. July 19, 2021.

**3rd lower on left:** 5. Young leaders Quiiroi (left) and Sonny (right) participate in a ceremony and direct action at Red Lake Treaty Camp, August 3, 2021. Both have red hand prints over their faces, a symbol of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement. Many camps of Enbridge workers have increased sex trafficking/missing persons cases in Minnesota.

**Left bottom:** Two people lock together on top of a pipe at an Enbridge construction site near Cloquet, MN. August 23, 2021.

**Right middle:** Water protectors Gabe and Rainbow during a peaceful blockade at Red Lake Treaty Camp, July 23, 2021. Police arrested leaders and arrested those participating in a peaceful blockade.

**Right bottom:** Indigenous protestors face off with the police at Red Lake Treaty Camp, August 3, 2021, located by an Enbridge drill site on the Red Lake River. Under the 1863 Old Crossing Treaty, the Red Lake Nation has treaty rights to the land alongside waterways that are tributaries of Red Lake.



# 6 tribes sue Wisconsin to try to stop November wolf hunt

STEVEN KARNOWSKI / AP

**S**ix Native American tribes sued the state of Wisconsin in September to try to stop its planned gray wolf hunt in November, asserting that the hunt violates their treaty rights and endangers an animal they consider sacred.

The Chippewa tribes say treaties give them rights to half of the wolf quota in territory they ceded to the United States in the mid-1800s. But rather than hunt wolves, the tribes want to protect them.

The tribal lawsuit comes three weeks after a coalition of wildlife advocacy groups sued to stop Wisconsin's wolf hunt this fall and void a state law mandating annual hunts, arguing that the statutes don't give wildlife managers any leeway to consider population estimates.

Hunters blew past their limit during a court-ordered hunt in February. The state Department of Natural Resources set the quota at 119 but hunters killed 218 wolves in just four days, forcing an early end to the season.

Conservationists then deluged the DNR with requests to cancel this fall's hunt out of concerns it could devastate the wolf population. DNR biologists recommended setting the fall quota at 130. But the agency's board last month set the kill limit at 300 animals. Assuming the tribes claim their half but don't hunt, the working quota for state-licensed hunters likely would be 150 wolves. The lawsuit alleges the board's decision to set the quota at 300 was a deliberate move to nullify the tribes' share and was not based on science.

The DNR's latest estimates put Wisconsin's wolf population at roughly 1,000. Opponents say hunters probably killed at least a quarter of the population



This May 2020 photo provided by the Voyageurs Wolf Project shows Wolf V092 during efforts to fit a GPS-collar, just south of Voyageurs National Park, Minn. (Photo by Tom Gable/Voyageurs Wolf Project via AP.)

if poaching is included.

"In our treaty rights, we're supposed to share with the state 50-50 in our resources and we're feeling that we're not getting our due diligence because of the slaughter of wolves in February," John Johnson Sr., president of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, said in a statement announcing the lawsuit.

The Ojibwe word for "wolf" is Ma'iingan, and the Indigenous people of the Great Lakes region often call themselves Anishinaabe. The wolf holds a sacred place in their creation story.

"To the Anishinaabe, the Ma'iingan are our brothers. The legends and stories tell us as brothers we walk hand in hand together. What happens to the Ma'iingan happens to humanity," Marvin Defoe, an official and elder with Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, said in the statement.

The six tribes are being represented by Earthjustice, which is one of several groups that are also suing the federal government over the Trump administration's decision last November to lift Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves across most of the U.S. and return management authority to the states.

Gray wolves in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan are considered part of the western Great Lakes population, which is managed separately from wolves in

western states. The Biden administration in September said federal protections may need to be restored for western wolves because Republican-backed state laws have made it much easier to kill the animals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's initial determination that western wolves could again be imperiled launched a yearlong biological review.

Dozens of tribes asked the Biden administration one day earlier to immediately enact emergency protections for gray wolves across the country, saying states have become too aggressive in hunting them. They asked Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to act quickly on an emergency petition they filed in May to relist the wolf as endangered or threatened.

**THE CIRCLE** is a 501(c)3 non-profit newspaper and is governed by a board of directors from the American Indian community.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

MELISSA BUFFALO

### VICE-CHAIR

JOY PERSALL

### TREASURER

SHIRLEY SNEVE

### SECRETARY

JANE STEFFEN

### BOARD MEMBERS

ROBERT LARSEN

NOAH MIWA

### MANAGING EDITOR

CAT WHIPPLE

The Circle is dedicated to presenting news from a Native American perspective, while granting an equal opportunity to community voices.

The Circle is published monthly by The Circle Corporation, PO Box 7506, 3045 Bloomington Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Editorials and articles are the sole responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion, attitude, or philosophy of

The Circle. The Circle does not endorse any product or service accepted as advertising, and reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters. The Circle encourages the submission of Letters to the Editor, which must include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for language and length.

NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PUBLISHER.

Member of Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota Newspaper Association. Circulation: 10,000

**THE CIRCLE ADVISORY BOARD:** DAVID BICE, BRENDAN CHILD, KELLY DRUMMER, HEID ERDRICH, JIM LENFESTEY

612-722-3686 • [www.thecirclenews.org](http://www.thecirclenews.org) • [thecirclenews@gmail.com](mailto:thecirclenews@gmail.com)

## We are helping to build Indigenous Nations

MHA Nation Cultural Interpretive Center  
Mandan Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
New Town, North Dakota



Duluth  
Twin Cities  
Virginia  
(651) 784-7924  
[dsgw.com](http://dsgw.com)



# Ready

to go to the playground again



# Ready

to try quitting commercial tobacco

**quit**  
**partner**™

Free help to  
quit your way



Free emails &  
text messages



Free patches,  
gum or lozenges\*



Free coaching  
over the phone

If you're ready to start parts of your routine again, it might be the right time to quit other parts of it, like smoking or vaping. At Quit Partner, whenever you're ready, we're here with free help to quit your way, including patches or gum, coaching and more.

1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)  
[QuitPartnerMN.com](http://QuitPartnerMN.com)

\*18+

"Wild rice is very sensitive, so we're trying to understand all the various environmental factors that interact with each other," Ng said. "Sometimes it's obvious, sometimes it's because they drained a wetland right next to a wild rice lake. Other cases, it's mining where there's the whole sulfate issue. But there's actually some where it just kind of has us stumped."

Ng is part of an interdisciplinary project with other scientists from the University of Minnesota who are working in collaboration with tribes on understanding the environmental factors that affect wild rice.

In August, the team received a grant from the United States Geological Survey to examine climate change impacts on wild rice.

Many of the tribes have done their own climate change assessments, examining both the direct impacts while also posing questions, and have identified wild rice as one of the more vulnerable species up north.

"It's stumped the tribes as to why wild rice is now declining there and climate change is definitely one of the questions," Ng said. "We know that wild rice is really high sensitivity to water levels. So that's definitely one question. It's also very sensitive to temperatures."

Wild rice is both sensitive to winter temperatures as well as summer and needs a hard freeze to activate the seeds for germination the next year, a concern for wild rice experts.

"In Minnesota, when you look at the global climate model, you actually see that some of the highest increases in temperature predicted for winter months," Ng said.



Members of the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe Tribe shown harvesting rice on Mud Lake, located on the Leech River. (Photo by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.)

As for the significance of the strands themselves, Ng said working with tribes' wild rice experts has taught her to think beyond the life cycle of the wild rice, which is a federally protected crop.

"It's the cultural aspect that we need to think

about. Even though there was a decent crop of wild rice, people actually couldn't get out to it, because they need to get in their canoes in order to harvest the wild rice. So if it's too shallow, you can't actually rice."

## NORTHLAND VISIONS NATIVE AMERICAN ART & GIFTS



NATIVE ARTWORK • JEWELRY • WILD RICE • BLANKETS • BEADWORK • ORIGINAL ART • MOCCASINS • BEADS  
• LEATHER • QUILLWORK • DREAM CATCHERS • CANDLES • BOOKS • GIFTS • & MUCH MORE

MILLER TEXTILE BLDG • 861 East Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN • 612-872-0390 • M-F 9-5:30PM Sat 9-5PM • [WWW.NORTHLANDVISIONS.COM](http://WWW.NORTHLANDVISIONS.COM)

# Personal support helps you get the most from your Medicare and Medicaid benefits

## One person dedicated to you and your health

If you're 65+, get Medicare and Medical Assistance services from one easy Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) plan. You get a personal care coordinator who helps you at every step.

- Set health goals and make a care plan together
- Get support, equipment and services to be healthy and safe
- Connect with your care team and community resources

## Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO)

- \$0 monthly premium
- Medical, dental, prescription drug benefits
- Long-term care
- Home and community-based services
- Extra benefits



HealthPartners® MSHO (HMO SNP) is Minnesota's first and only MSHO plan with 5 out of 5 stars for 2021.

## Sign up today or learn more

Contact our MSHO experts to switch plans or enroll in MSHO for the first time. We're ready to answer questions or help you enroll.

Call **952-883-5050** or **877-713-8215** (TTY 711)

Email **MSHOsales@healthpartners.com**

Visit **healthpartners.com/MSHOPlan**



HealthPartners is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and the Minnesota Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees. Enrollment in HealthPartners depends on contract renewal. Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system. Available in 12 Minnesota counties.

21-1112081-1152063 (8/21) © 2021 HealthPartners

H2422\_001679 Accepted 07/31/2021

Minnesota has now surpassed 700,000 confirmed coronavirus cases. While that represents about 12 percent of Minnesota's population, University of Minnesota infectious disease experts estimate as many as 30 percent may have become infected. That includes projected numbers of people who haven't sought medical treatment or had only mild, undiagnosed symptoms.

The latter can be carriers, or spreaders, even though they have stayed out of hospitals or been treated at health clinics.

Hospitals and clinics also report staffing problems. In some instances, healthcare workers are scared to expose themselves to the infected in fear of bringing the virus home to their families.

Across North America, hospitals are also under stress because children are now filling emergency and hospital rooms by getting sick from the delta coronavirus variant. This has federal health officials considering vaccines for younger people, under age 12, to ward off the rapidly spreading virus.

Stillwater and other Minnesota school districts are having problems finding school bus drivers to transport unvaccinated students to their schools, prompting family members or friends to drive the students.

Resistance to mandates and health precautions also appear to be rising. People have become hostile at school board

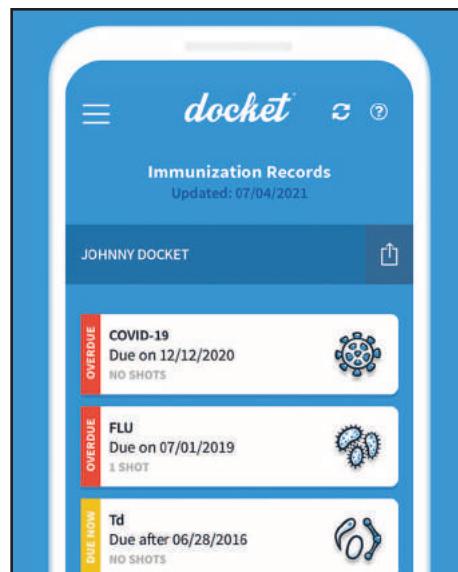
meetings where masking policies have been discussed. It spills over to other public places and work places as well.

Opposition to mandates even come from sectors the mandates seek to protect. Two cases in point are law suits brought by a University of Minnesota Duluth student trying to block a vaccine mandate for students imposed at University sites and campuses, and by 180 Minnesota-based health care workers opposing vaccine mandates.

The latter case, while a distinct minority of health care workers, argues the mandates violate religious freedoms and both state and federal law. A federal mandate requires vaccinations for workers at facilities receiving Medicare and Medicaid benefits and payments, and at companies that employ 100 or more people.

Against this pushback, the new state policy and subsequent help from the Minnesota Department of Health should lay groundwork for what may truly be a return to normal down the road.

In its new Policy #1446, employees, interns and volunteers who work in-person with the public need proof of full vaccinations or take COVID tests at least weekly. "The state is strongly encouraging contractors and vendors, and their subcontractors, to implement similar protocols as it relates to their employees accessing state facilities to



perform contractual services," the announcement said.

This applies to indoor settings with regular in-person contact and outdoors where there is substantial or regular in-person contact with state employees or with the public.

It doesn't apply to outdoor construction, building and grounds services, maintenance contracts and for contract work indoors in unoccupied spaces.

The Department of Health announcement told contractors with the state that the new policy encourages but doesn't require that their staffs be vaccinated.

"If your staff who work in a covered project setting are not fully vaccinated

against COVID-19, however, they are subject to mandatory testing," the statement said. "Those who are subject to mandatory testing will not be permitted to access state worksites in covered project settings to perform work under your contract if they refuse testing."

To help the general public and especially families show proof of immunization records, the state has provided an online app (<https://docket.care/>) that shows personal immunization records. This, in effect, becomes a handy "passport" to enter places requiring proof of vaccinations.

Health Department officials said this app was developed because proof required by employers and organizations have tripled public requests for vaccination cards and records this year.

Kris Ehresmann, state infections disease director, told media the app will be useful to access immunization history and remind families when children may be due for vaccines.

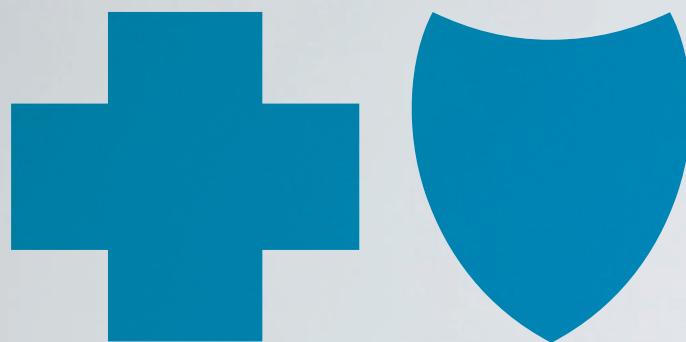
"This is vital to making sure people are protected from preventable diseases," she said.

The state's new online app for showing vaccinations histories can be accessed at <https://docket.care>.

A good, if temporary, roundup of places requiring vaccinations can be found at <https://mspmag.com/arts-and-culture/general-interest/a-list-of-places-requiring-vaccinations-or-negative-tests>.

## GREAT COVERAGE. EXCELLENT BENEFITS.

#1 choice for Medicare in Minnesota<sup>1</sup> with access  
to 96 percent of doctors and hospitals<sup>2</sup>



MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7 — CONTACT US TODAY

Call  
a Medicare advisor at  
**1-844-274-6428/TTY 711**

Compare  
plan options at  
[bluecrossmn.com/medicareanswer](http://bluecrossmn.com/medicareanswer)

Schedule  
an appointment at  
[bluecrossmn.com/centers](http://bluecrossmn.com/centers)

<sup>1</sup>Based on enrollment data from CMS May 2021, NAIC December 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Internal Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota data, 2021.

Blue Cross offers PPO, Cost and PDP plans with Medicare contracts. Enrollment in these Blue Cross plans depends on contract renewal. Plans are available to residents of the service area.

S5743\_082521P02\_C Y0138\_082521P01\_C

Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota and Blue Plus® are nonprofit independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



**ATTENTION VOTERS:**

**POLICE REFORM &  
MPLS GOVERNMENT**

**ARE ON THE BALLOT.**

**VOTE NO ON QUESTION 2**

**Question 2 asks voters to eliminate  
the police department and replace it with a Department of  
Public Safety for which there is NO PLAN.**

**IF IT PASSES, QUESTION 2 MEANS:**

- ✗ FEWER COPS ON THE STREET**
- ✗ CHIEF ARRADONDO'S POSITION IS ELIMINATED**
- ✗ THE DYSFUNCTIONAL CITY COUNCIL HAS 30 DAYS  
TO COME UP WITH A PLAN FOR POLICING**

**VOTE YES ON QUESTION 1**

**Question 1 asks voters to fix our government structure to bring it  
in line with every other major city, including St. Paul.**

**IF IT PASSES, QUESTION 1 MEANS**

- ✓ BETTER CHECKS & BALANCES BETWEEN THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL**
- ✓ MORE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT**
- ✓ LESS POLITICAL INFLUENCE & INFIGHTING**

**LEARN MORE AT [ALLOFMLS.ORG](http://allofmpls.org)**

This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by AllofMpls, 310 S. 4th Ave. #9100, Minneapolis, MN 55415.  
It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.

## Isabelle Morin: Senior Soccer Player Achieving at Bemidji State U

**I**sabelle Morin is a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa and her alma mater was Bemidji High School, Bemidji, MN. She is a senior soccer player for Bemidji State University.

Isabelle has been keeping busy with her studies and also works at the American Indian Resource Center (AIRC) as a student front desk worker. Side jobs also include working at KD Floral in downtown Bemidji as their social media content creator.

"Isabelle Morin is an exceptional student who has the determination and dedication to not only excel academically but also athletically with her commitment to the Bemidji State Women's Soccer team," said Chrissy Downwind, Executive Director, American Indian Resource Center, Bemidji State University. "Isabelle has played with the team since a freshman, she has been able to balance her academics with her sports."

It was only a few years ago that Isabelle was featured in this YouTube video as one of the athletes signing her letter of intent to play for the BSU Beavers soccer team: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8ViEiajJsU>

While at Bemidji HS, Isabelle earned All-Lakes to Prairie Conference honors in 2017 after scoring 16 goals and recording 10 assists. She led the Lumberjacks to a 2017 Section 8A title and trip to the Minnesota State Tournament by scoring a game-winning, overtime goal to clinch a berth into the State Tournament, according to her BSU Soccer profile page.

"It's been four years since I've coached Isabelle, but she's the type of player that leaves very unforgettable memories for her coaches, teammates, and opponents," said Logan Larson, BHS head girls' soccer coach. "One



Isabelle Morin is a senior soccer player for Bemidji State University. (Photo courtesy of BSU Photo Services.)

of the strongest memories I have of Isabelle is her overtime sudden-death goal against East Grand Forks, granting us the title of Section Champion."

"My personally favorite memory is when she scored three goals in a single game against Moorhead, leading us to victory in a 5-4 win," added Logan.

"Isabelle has always been the type of player who draws out opponents' hate," said Logan. "She's fearless. She can't be shaken. She's physical. She's composed under pressure. She rises to the occasion, and has many times single-handedly altered the outcome of the game. She is by definition an impact player. Her tactical awareness and questions she posed to me have pushed me to become a better coach."

She is in her final season of women's university soccer. She will also be graduating in the fall with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing Communication degree with minors in Design and Mass Communication. "This year is really exciting because we are actually getting to have a full regular season for soccer and it has been amazing thus far. It's really been a 'you don't appreciate what you have until it's gone' moment for me and my whole team."

Morin is a two-time Fall NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence award winner. She had a 4.0 GPA in high school and has extended that into the university level.

"The last year and a half with COVID-19 and everything were really hard and I am very grateful to have had my team alongside me to get through it together," said Isabelle.

The Beavers are undefeated in five games so far this season. "I am really excited to see what's in store for us," added Isabelle.

"Isabelle Morin has been a great teammate both on and off the field throughout her time in our program," said James Stone, head women's soccer coach at Bemidji State University. "She is an incredibly hard working player who will put her well-being on the line for our team."

"I remember her drawing a foul her freshmen year that gave us a free kick to win our first game and crashing into a goal keeper injuring herself in the process later that season. She's a fearless player that gives her all. It's no different in the classroom where Izzy is a straight A student. She will be successful wherever she lands and we feel blessed to have had her in our program," added James.

"I owe a lot of my successes and growth in life to my parents, Eleanor and Craig Morin, and siblings Whittney, Sophia, Gabe, and Isaac Morin," said Isabelle. "They have all been a major support system for me, they're always at my home games and most of the away games too."

"It means the world to me to have them in the stands," said Isabelle. "I got really lucky with them."

# VOTE YES



## City Question 1 Executive Mayor- Legislative Council



Seeking a Minneapolis that is  
just, safe, and well managed.

[charter4changempls.org](http://charter4changempls.org)

Prepared and paid for by Charter for Change

### NATIVE AMERICAN COLLEGE FAIR

CAREER & COLLEGE PLANNING  
FOR OUR FUTURE

Website Launch  
October 8, 2021

[Visit Facebook.com/NativeAmericanCollegeFair For Updates](https://www.facebook.com/NativeAmericanCollegeFair)

### New Native Theatre Is Hiring!

New Native Theatre (NNT) creates authentic and transformative plays and events through the lens of the Native American experience, and is seeking an experienced Administrative and Finance Manager. Our mission and priorities focus on playwrights, community access, and a passion for Native arts. For more information about NNT, please visit [www.newnativetheatre.org](http://www.newnativetheatre.org).

The Administrative and Finance Manager administers accounting, grant management, and budgeting; implements business practices to ensure an exemplary culture of professional artists and priorities of NNT. The position reports to the Artistic Director and Board of Directors. NNT is committed to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility and welcomes candidates who are from diverse backgrounds with experience advocating for underrepresented communities. All qualified applicants will be considered. \$30/hour.

Send inquiries, Resumes and Cover Letter to: Beverly Bushyhead [Beverly.Bushyhead@gmail.com](mailto:Beverly.Bushyhead@gmail.com) or Joy Persall [JPersall@gmail.com](mailto:JPersall@gmail.com).

## Working for Generations

Our future is shaped by the decisions we make today. That's why we've invested \$50 million to serve the needs of Native American, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native communities, from housing affordability and financial health to scholarships and small business support.

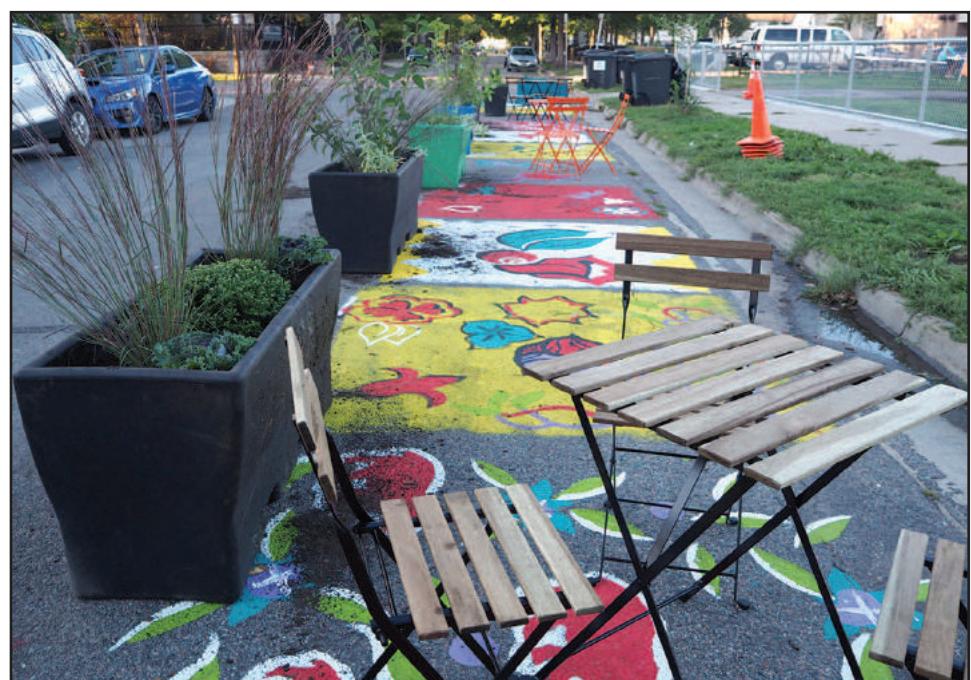
For over 60 years, we've been providing capital and financial services to Native communities and businesses and we'll continue to work together to make better tomorrows for generations to come.

Find out more at  
[wellsfargo.com/nativecommunities](http://wellsfargo.com/nativecommunities)

©2021 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.



# Community youth decorate Minneapolis street with art and plants



**O**n September 21, Little Earth Housing, the Native Youth Arts Collective, and the City of Minneapolis hosted a planting event and street beautification project for Cedar Field Park and 18th Avenue South in south Minneapolis. Youth had been working hard to paint the street.

The community outreach event was in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Works and the Little Earth Residents Association. Plants were donated by Mother Earth gardens and Hennepin County. All artwork was completed and designed by the Native Youth Arts Collective.

**DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN WORK**



**We're here to help!**

Call us to get connected to resources for:

- COVID-19 testing,
- vaccines,
- housing
- food,
- mental health, and more.



Twin Cities American Indian COVID-19 Resource Hotline  
**651-304-9986**  
 Monday-Friday 8am–5pm

Left top: Planning Consultants help Little Earth youth plant greenery.  
 Right top: Youth gather dirt to fill in around plantings, donated by Mother Earth gardens.  
 Right midde: Little Earth youth and staff finish the final planter, donated by the city of Mpls.  
 Right bottom: The final product: a seating area for the community to enjoy along 18th Street, with artwork from the Native Youth Arts Collective. (Photos by Minneapolis Public Works.)

## POLITICAL MATTERS: Native Issues in the Halls of Government – by Mordecai Specktor

editor@ajnews.com

### Missing white woman syndrome

In September, I tried to avoid new coverage about the disappearance of Gabby Petito, a 22-year-old white woman who went missing during a cross-country trip with her boyfriend. Mainstream news went all in on the story, so it wasn't easy trying to ignore the press reports.

Sadly, a Wyoming coroner confirmed, on Sept. 21, that human remains found two days earlier in the Bridger-Teton National Forest were those of Petito. The county coroner declared her death to be a homicide.

The national press fixation on the Petito case has spurred many to speak out on the disproportionate coverage, specifically in the face of scant coverage of murdered and missing Native women and girls.

In Wyoming where Petito's remains were found, numerous cases of missing and murdered Native women have gone unsolved.

In Riverton, Wyoming, Tianna Wagon, 24, followed press coverage of the Petito case. In Jan. 2019, one of her sisters, Jocelyn Watt, 30, was murdered at her home in Riverton along with a companion, according to NBC News.

"A year later, another sister, Jade Wagon, 23, was reported missing and later found dead on the Wind River Reservation. Jocelyn Watts' killing remains unsolved, and Jade Wagon's death was ruled accidental, but the family has lingering questions about what happened," NBC News reported on Sept. 24.

"The Petito case has highlighted the disparity in police resources and media attention often focused on missing white women compared to missing people of color and generated calls for law enforcement to treat all cases similarly."

Regarding her sisters' disappearances, Tianna Wagon told NBC: "The cases weren't highlighted as much as Gabby's."

The TV news report also noted that "Jade Wagon was among the 710 Indigenous people reported missing in Wyoming in the past decade, according to a report this year by the University of Wyoming. It found that 85 percent of the missing were minors, 57 percent are women and girls, and Indigenous people were about 100 percent more likely to still be missing after 30 days than white people."

In September, Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland, a member of Laguna Pueblo, commented on the Petito case during a press conference. She said that Native American family members

put up posters of their missing daughters on fences and buildings in the hope of locating them. Haaland has seen the posters that remind her of her own sisters and relatives.

"I see my mother. I see my aunties or my nieces or even my own child," said Haaland, according to an AP report. "So I feel that every woman and every person who is in this victimized place deserves attention and deserves to be cared about."

The AP report mentioned that Haaland, as a New Mexico congresswoman, advocated for a bill signed into law last year to address "the crisis of missing, murdered and trafficked Indigenous women. The law, known as Savanna's Act, is intended to help law enforcement track, solve and prevent crimes against Native American, especially women and girls.

"The law is named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a member of the Spirit Lake tribe who was abducted and killed in 2017 near Fargo, North Dakota. Greywind, 22, was pregnant, and her unborn baby was cut from her body. Her remains were found in the Red River."

On a related issue, my wife, who works as a special education aide at South High School in Minneapolis, mentioned that students had walked out of school on a Friday in late September for a demonstration in memory of Native children who died in residential schools and in support of boarding school survivors.

Hundreds of people marched through South Minneapolis to raise awareness of the traumatic legacy of the boarding schools. According to a report on Native News Online, the march was organized by the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center and sponsored by the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Tiwahe Foundation, Ain Dah Yung, the Lower Phalen Creek Project, and other Native organizations in the Twin Cities.

"Today we came together in community to honor and remember our people who experienced a strategic and intentional genocidal policy known as boarding schools," Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center Executive Director Marisa Cumings told Native News Online.

"Many of us carry the trauma and pain in ourselves and family lines. We stand today as survivors. We stand here today in solidarity and strength to honor those who survived and those who never made it home and lost their lives at these violent government and religious institutions."

G  
E  
T  
S  
C  
R  
E  
E  
N  
E  
D

Be there to honor traditions with the ones you love.



Sage Cancer Programs support breast and cervical cancer screening and navigation services for Minnesota women.

Call now to schedule your mammogram and Pap. You may be eligible to get \$20!



1-888-643-2584 promo TC1



NORTHWESTERN HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Turn your passion for whole-person health into a thriving career

Acupuncture • Chinese Medicine  
Chiropractic • Massage Therapy  
Medical Laboratory Sciences  
Radiologic Sciences

[nwhealth.edu/circle-dd](http://nwhealth.edu/circle-dd)

# Nail biting thriller “Fire Keeper’s Daughter” keeps you on edge

REVIEW BY DEBORAH LOCKE

**A** few weeks back an affable Dakota guy in Birchbark Books in Minneapolis said that “Firekeeper’s Daughter” by Angeline Boulley (Ojibwe) was a good book.

One test for a good book is the way it gnaws at you even after you put it down. If you stop reading and immediately calculate when and for how long before you can return to it, you’re reading a good book.

“Firekeeper’s Daughter” is an action-packed thriller that takes place in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan. The protagonist, Daunis Fontaine, 18, is the daughter of an Ojibwe father and white French Canadian mother. She’s about to start college and with a gift for science, has a bright future. The joy Daunis should feel as she embarks on the next chapter of life is dimmed by the mysterious death of her Uncle David, a high school teacher, whose death is ruled a meth overdose.

Those who knew David well question this conclusion at the same time Daunis, a former high school hockey star, gets swept up in a FBI investigation to learn the source of an dangerous strain of meth that was produced on the reservation.

Consequently, Daunis lives a double life. She’s the caretaking daughter and granddaughter who attends community college, and she’s the FBI confidential informant whose purpose is to rid her community of criminals. She knows which plants growing on the reservation have medicinal use. Her job is to discover what additive from

which mushroom fungus created a deadly drug. Her quest expands broadly from an early mushroom search in the woods to a complex web of interactions and an unexpected ending.

Nicely woven into this intense drama are cultural references: for example, the “Little People.” According to the story, these are small people who live in the forest who warn native people of danger. Also, Boulley uses a lot of Ojibwe language, and it feels right. Sometimes a non-English word on a page stops the reader flat. That never happens here because the context is so clear.

Another strength: Boulley uses her characters to give voice to opinions about the pros and cons of tribal casinos, tribal council politics, and “traditional” Indians. One character names her dog “Tribal Council” so she can yell the words when the dog misbehaves. As for “traditional” Indians? Daunis reflects on “cultural leaders who make a big show about being capital ‘T’ Traditional. They’re quick to judge others, but hostile and turn mean when anyone points out their own shortcomings.”

Maybe my favorite part of this book – aside from its fast moving plot and memorable characters – is the way it shores up girls and young women. From the first chapter, Daunis is surrounded by strong female relatives who guide and protect her. But there’s value in strong, supportive male relatives, too. Daunis says: “Auntie told me once that a girl needs at least one grown man in her life who sees her worth as inherent. Values her just as she is, not dependent upon her appear-

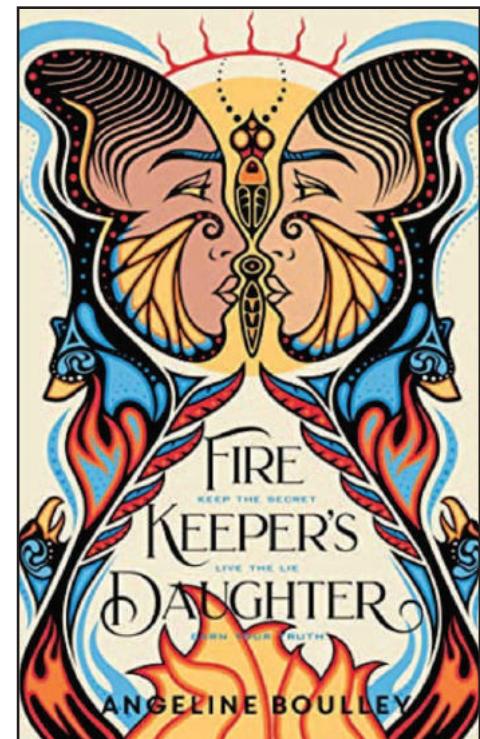
ance or accomplishments.”

Those words seem aimed at a young reader, and the book is in the “young adult” category. However, Boulley doesn’t flinch from controversy and complexity. Her characters discuss the impact of per capita payments on tribal members, describe how useless DNA ancestry tests are, and even explain deep theorem. There’s plenty here to think about, and that shouldn’t be limited to kids age 14 and up.

Boulley comes by clarity and teaching instinct naturally. A native of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, she’s a former Director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education. In an online Q&A, she wrote that she worked in Indian education on local, statewide and national levels.

Here’s another tidbit: Amazon reports that the book was a New York Times bestseller, and will be adapted by Netflix for TV with President Barrack Obama and Michelle Obama’s production company.

You could wait to stream “Fire Keeper’s Daughter,” or find your way to Birchbark Books and buy the book. It’s a fast read about hockey and boyfriends and lipstick and opinionated aunties – until you get to the thoughtful, tragic parts that require



reflection. The page count seems prohibitive, but time compresses while reading this book. If you like a multi-layered who-dun-it appropriate for older teens and adults of all ages, this is for you.

“Fire Keeper’s Daughter” 2021, is published by Henry Holt and Company (488 pages; \$18.99).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Thank you to the community,

Another name to be added to the never-ending list of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Nada M. Fronk (Leech Lake enrollee), daughter of Monte Fronk (Red Lake enrollee), and granddaughter of Bonnie Wallace (Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe).

Nada Fronk was murdered on May 26, 2021, at the age of 24. She was missing and trafficked during much of her youth. After being rescued, she found the resilience to earn her high school diploma and was making a life for herself before it tragically ended in her murder.

On behalf of Nada’s entire family, nuclear, extended and adoptive, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who so generously contributed to the GoFundME page. Our friend, Dr. Antony Stately, Director of the Native American Clinic in Minneapolis, immediately reached out to me, asking how he could help, which is always an awkward question at such a horrific time.

He said, “You’ll need money”, and took immediate action. With grace, humility, respect and love, he was able to raise enough money (almost \$4000) to help with funeral expenses, which



included a beautiful headstone.

It was amazing to learn of our contributors, most we knew but many were strangers as well. Know too that we cherish every card and letter received. Words are powers and healing.

A special thank you to the Augburg University community for your contributions, ongoing prayers and support. We are also extremely grateful to the Indigenous Kinship Collective and the Urban Coyote. Miigwetch to all.

– Bonnie Wallace

### We are hiring an Executive Director!

Alliance Housing Inc. is looking for its next Executive Director (ED) to lead it into the future. The ED leads, coordinates and carries out a wide variety of functions.

The ED provides leadership, management and oversight of Alliance real estate development, property management operations, staff and contracted expertise, fundraising, communications and finances and aligns organizational resources to accomplish the organizational mission and strategic plan.

For job description, email  
[info@alliancehousinginc.org](mailto:info@alliancehousinginc.org)

The Circle is once again being delivered to your favorite drop off sites.



Find out where to pick up a copy on our website at:

<https://thecirclenews.org/circle-drop-off-sites>

### FOR RENT

Find your new home with At Home Apartments.  
Call 651-224-1234 or visit [AtHomeApts.com](http://AtHomeApts.com) for an apartment or town home. Equal Housing Opportunity.

**Advertise online with The Circle**

FULL WIDTH BANNERS: TOP OF PAGE, \$250 PER MONTH (1800 W X 150 H PIXELS)

TOWERS: DOWN THE SIDE OF PAGE, \$150 PER MONTH (160 W X 550 H PIXELS)

CUBES: DOWN SIDE OF PAGE, \$75 PER MONTH (160 W X 120 H PIXELS)

Call 612-722-3686 for details or see: [www.thecirclenews.org](http://www.thecirclenews.org)



So in order to cope with this mad world we live in now I am getting therapy to stave off my certain and eventual little white statement coat. It's all the rage, yanno? I have already been fitted for one. Having a therapist is keeping me as grounded as I am capable of, right now. Yah, that sounds dire but it's my lifeline. Pretty sure my family, friends and complete strangers are glad I don't dump on them so much anymore.

This, all the while I am safe, comfortable, well fed and warm. I have my fur-baby entourage who are very loving, and cause me alarm as well. But I digress.

Globally (Really! Think about that!) our worlds have been turned out and upside down because of the pandemic, which is an invisible enemy. The Rezberry Business Committee has proved their care for us, and no deaths from Covid have happened here.

I'm grateful to them all for being so vigilant in protecting our tribal member's health and well-being. K'den. Yah, also for the stimmy we got. Being all paranoid now I stocked up on essentials and then bought a few pretty things for myself.

The bestest was I'm getting a new bed to rest my poor, old, 90-year old, Styrofoam bones upon! I also got new bedding, satin sheets, comforter and body pillow, all black. Now that I'm

thinking about it, I may also purchase a mini-fridge next to my bed as a night stand. Hello!!!

Now don't no one be hating! I deserve my comfort in my waning years of peace, at least the peace I can scratch and claw for. There's always something. \*Jaws music theme\* Still, every day I pray and give thanks to the Creator for all my gifts and security and those I love.

It is an honor to know so many Indigenous people, some that I've known for decades now, who are still fighting the good fight. Marching for good trouble. On September 24 this year they marched in Minneapolis, (that I still feel is my hometown) wearing orange shirts to honor our stolen and murdered children. Dang, I wish I could march too, but shuffling is my best right now. Bless you all for showing up and demanding justice, whatever form it takes, to bring them home.

I honor all of yooz with deep gratitude from my spirit. The children know.

We have all suffered centuries deep from European colonialism and genocide. That is my statement. The word "Resilience" does not even begin to describe our collective Indigenous experience up till now. I include all of the Indigenous people and cultures of this little blue, amazing tiny rock we live with. For us, not 'on', with. Pachamama

is not putting up with any more abuse and desecration of her gifts and it shows.

Why else is there global climate change and warming? I check the weather every day even though I don't go outside, and I read and see the effects of catastrophes that didn't have to happen at all. Yah. And who's dying? People who are not white in countries that have been pillaged and broken by colonialism. All for what?! Temporary perceived wealth and power, looking out for their own profits and pleasure.

Hey! I have studied the cult members of the American Mythos for many years now that money makes you a better human than all we little peons. If all the billionaires want to shoot off to space, let them. G'wan den. We don't need their ilk here where actual people live and hopefully, can thrive again.

I will start a GOFUNDME for the pathetic, frivolous, empty-headed so-called celebrities for a ticket to ride. Begone! And never return. We will have new protocols in place should they try to come back here.

For Halloween, my fave white people's holiday, I wanna go out. For real though! Gonna have to come up with a costume, oh, I dunno...maybe go as a Karen? I have a wig and an attitude when I have to use it.

Kitty Kisses!

Apparently, I am a very interesting person. Especially when I go to the kitchen and stand there wondering why I went in there in the first place. My doggo stalkers show up every time and threaten me with big ole starving puppy eyes, and the cats make it clear in yowls that they need treats and say they have PETA on speed-dial. Yah.

Then I gather the treats so I can safely leave the kitchen without being mauled, never mind what I needed in there. After their booty is dispensed I have a minute to process what I needed? It'll come to me, soon, or in my dreams.

I know it's fall now but I still want popsicles.



## Gordon Construction of Mahnomen, Inc.

Gordon Construction of Mahnomen, Inc. is a Native American owned construction business located on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota.

Established in 1983, Gordon Construction of Mahnomen, Inc. has grown from a small excavating construction company to a successful general contractor.

Gordon Construction is a full service construction company with extensive experience in the following market sectors:

- Oil and Gas
- Education
- Healthcare
- Gaming
- Government
- Municipal
- Airports
- Retail/Office
- Cultural
- Hotel/Hospitality
- Residential
- Recreation
- Roads
- Sewer/Water
- Flood Mitigation
- Land Clearing

959 North Main St. Mahnomen MN, 56557  
218-935-2191 • <https://www.gcmahnomen.com>

**SPEAK YOUR TRUTH**  
**VOTE**

**PLEDGE TO VOTE. MAKE YOUR PLAN TODAY.**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

<i>Ballan qaad inaad codeyso. Samee qorshe.</i>	<i>Promete votar y hoy mismo haz un plan para cumplir tu promesa de voto.</i>	<i>Cog lus los pov npav xaiv tsa. Npaj ua.</i>
---	---	--

**LEARN MORE AT [MNVotes.org](https://MNVotes.org) OR [LWVMpls.org](https://LWVMpls.org)**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
MINNEAPOLIS



STAY SAFE MN

# COVID-19 VACCINE BASICS

## COVID-19 vaccines are safe and work.

A vaccine is designed to prevent diseases. COVID-19 vaccines tell your body how to recognize and fight the COVID-19 virus. The COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccines are very good at protecting you from COVID-19 disease. If you do get sick with COVID-19 after being vaccinated, it is less likely that you will get very sick or have to go to the hospital.

**The COVID-19 vaccines were carefully tested in a diverse group before being authorized for emergency use.**

Tens of thousands of Black, Latinx, American Indian, and Asian people participated in the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccine studies. We know that these communities, along with our disability and LGBTQ+ communities, are often excluded from the benefits of medicine but experience ongoing and historical racism, medical trauma, and abuse. These factors worsen the impact of COVID-19 for these communities and emphasize the importance that the vaccine works and is safe for all. That is why medical researchers continue to monitor the vaccines for safety even after they are used in the general population.

### Why should you get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- **Protect yourself** from COVID-19.
- **Support your community.** Help keep businesses, schools, and other places open.
- **Vaccine is FREE** for everyone. Insurance and immigration status does not matter.
- **Helps us put an end to the pandemic.**

### Who can get the vaccine



### THE VACCINE DOES NOT HAVE



- Preservatives
- Pork products or gelatin
- Egg
- COVID-19 live virus

All Minnesotans in the authorized age groups are **eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine.** This includes people with medical conditions, who have had COVID-19, and those of different ages, races, and ethnicities. People who are pregnant and people with weak immune systems should get vaccinated. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

For tips on making an appointment, see [Ways to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine \(\[www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/findvax.pdf\]\(http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/findvax.pdf\)\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/findvax.pdf).