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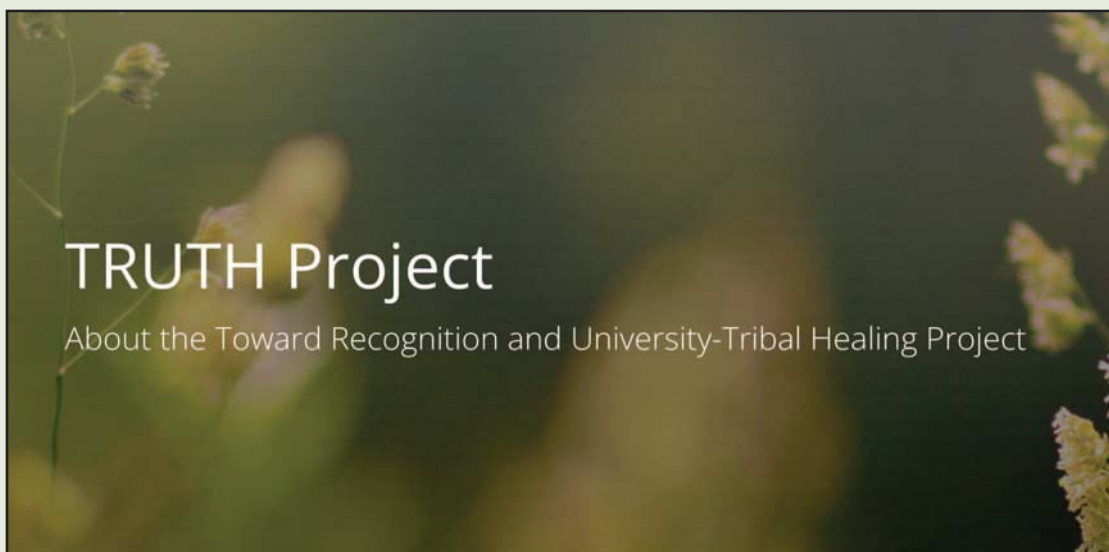
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FREE

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FREE

TRUTH report “do’s and don’ts” for University-tribal relations



The TRUTH (Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing) report says the U of MN and its Board of Regents must combine reparations, truth-telling, policy change, and “transformative justice processes” in order to heal relationships between the University and Minnesota tribes.

BY LEE EGERSTROM

TRUTH Project researchers argue a strong case that the University of Minnesota, and its Board of Regents, need to take “concrete, meaningful and measurable” steps to foster healing between the state’s lead research university and the state’s 11 tribal nations and Indigenous population.

This, they said, must combine reparations, truth-telling, policy change and what they called “transformative justice processes.” The latter includes focus on perspectives and voices of Indigenous people, recognition and respect for Indigenous sovereignty, providing resources and support for language and cultural revitalization, and access to healthcare and education.

To do so, the report offers several steps the university and its leadership should take to right the wrongs of the past and move Minnesota forward. It is essentially a checklist of “do’s and don’ts” to guide university policy.

TRUTH is short for Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing. (See the companion article on page 4 in this issue.)

A starting point, the report said, would be a Board of Regents annual review and “rematriation” of Indigenous lands. This term means more than repatriation, or returning ancestral lands; rather, it means returning to a way of life consistent with Mother Earth (nature).

It also calls for Reparations in Perpetuity. The Morrill Act of 1862 created the land grant

university system and also established a Permanent University Fund (PUF) at the institutions. These permanent funds were created by land and resources taken from Indigenous people and tribes, should now be used for “perpetual reparations.”

That means diverting PUF streams. In seeking economic justice, the report said, part of the PUF annual investment returns should be given back to Native Americans in perpetuity.

The report makes a strong case for better Indigenous representation at the university. “The Board of Regents must adopt measurable policies that remedy the lack of Indigenous representation in administration, tenure-track faculty, staff and students on all UMN campuses.”

One remedy advocated by the report would address the representation issue, at least at the student enrollment level, and for the calls for reparations and rematriation. In a category called a “commitment to education as individual and tribal self-determination,” it asks that the full cost of attendance be waived for all Indigenous people and descendants, regardless of their home states.

Another category calls for changes in curricula and in university housekeeping practices. It asks the university to enact policies that respect tribal sovereignty and culture.

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Hocky sticks feature Indigenous women artist’s designs

BY DAN NINHAM

In early March of 2023 the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women’s World Championships sent out a call looking for Indigenous artist to submit artwork for featured hockey sticks to present to their ‘Player of the Games’ at the tournament.

Shawna Grapentine presented three designs and one week later she was notified of the news. There were 81 submissions from across Canada and four female artists were chosen, she was one of them.

“I was ecstatic!” she said. “Still processing this great achievement. I am humbled and honored. Such a huge accomplishment in my career as an artist to be a face of representation for all women, indigenous and other. To have my artwork viewed on a global stage. I couldn’t be more proud.”

According to an article announcing the four indigenous women artists in the April 5, 2023 IIHF media webpage, Grapentine’s design “The Free Spirit ... is of a woman’s face with multicoloured hair flowing across the blade. The colours represent different races, challenges, strengths, and weaknesses of the female experience.”

Grapentine said, “When I sat down to design the piece that was chosen, I was thinking about the shape of the stick, the blade, and what it represents to be a female in sports and just thinking about women and their walks of life,” says Grapentine. “From race, to being a mom, to being a business owner, all these different hats and journeys that so many women experience.”

Grapentine is Cree Ojibwe from the Treaty 5 Territory of the Hollow Water First Nations in Manitoba, Canada. She grew

up along the northeastern shores of Lake Winnipeg, in the small Metis community of Manigotagan.

Grapentine graduated from Wanipigow School, Frontier School Division, located on her reserve community. Her home community was about 15 minutes from the reserve.

“I have always had strong interests for the Arts,” said Grapentine. “As a young girl I would colour, sketch, paint and doodle constantly. Our high school offered a lot of programs that centered with the Arts and I would always take part in whatever programs came my way.”

“After I graduated high school I thought my calling was in the ‘Advertising Art Program’ at Red River College in Winnipeg, MB,” she said. “I found out quickly that the program was not for me. Along with feeling lonesome and culture shock having moved from my small community to the big city, I found myself eager to find my way back home to my community. I did so and worked back at the school as an Education Assistant for four years.”

“During this time I still would paint and create artwork, I started selling artwork in local craft fairs and such back home and it gave me more confidence in pursuing my artwork dream,” she added.

Life happened, and she was married at 25 years old and welcomed their son Thomas at 27. “My husband has always been my ‘rock’ supporting my artwork and dream 110%,” she said.

“He allowed me to be a stay-at-home mom along with a starving artist for many years. I’ve been fortunate to have a strong support crew backing me, my husband, my parents, and my siblings along with the local communities back home,” she added.

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City of Minneapolis supports new IPTF community center

BY LEE EGERSTROM

The Minneapolis City Council has approved a \$1 million forgivable loan to the Indigenous Peoples Task Force to help construct a new community center in south Minneapolis, the Mikwanedun Audisookon Art and Wellness Center.

This support comes from the city's use of federal economic recovery funds. It is the third award, totaling \$3.5 million, which Mayor Jacob Frey and the city council have made in support of Clyde Bellecourt Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative (UILI) nonprofit organizations.

Late last year, the city council approved \$1 million to aid MIGIZI Communications, which is building a new facility for its education and training programs at 1845 E. Lake St.; and \$1.5 million for the Minneapolis American Indian Center's (MAIC) 32.5 million expansion and remodeling project.

This is the first major renovation since the 1530 E. Franklin Ave. center was initially constructed 47 years ago.

MIGIZI's former home was destroyed during the riots that followed the 2020 murder of George Floyd. The city's announcement said MIGIZI's construction budget is about \$8.2 million and part of an \$11 million community development project.

"I am happy to be celebrating another milestone in our investments in the Clyde Bellecourt Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative," Mayor Frey said after the council's approval on April 27. "At its heart, the purpose of the (UILI) is to ensure that our integral Minneapolis cultural institutions are supported and can continue their essential work."

Sixteen Twin Cities-based Native oriented nonprofits formed the UILI in the past to cooperate rather than just compete for various sources of financial support. The name of Clyde Bellecourt was added this past year after the prominent Native civil rights leader died in January 2022.

The legacy group has bills calling for state funds to support similar projects in the Twin Cities metro area. These bills have passed both houses of the Minnesota Legislature and differences were being resolved in a conference committee as April was coming to a close.

Frey said the Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) is a "prime example" of an important cultural institution at work in the city. This is done, he said, by "providing culturally specific health, housing and educational services to our Native American community."

The Mikwanedun Audisookon Art and Wellness Center will allow IPTF to consolidate and expand its health, wellness and education programs, the city said in its announcement. The name "Mikwanedun Aud-i-soo-kon" is Ojibwe meaning "remember our teachings."

The new building will house administrative offices, clinic space, a black box theater, meeting rooms and art workshop space, a commercial kitchen and café, and what the city said is a healing space for IPTF to deliver its services.

It will be a 12,000 square-foot, multi-service neighborhood center to be built at 2313 13th Ave. S., which is a city-owned property site.

"This project creates new opportunities for youth and families in the green economy, careers in arts and Native foods, and entrepreneurial training," the city announcement said. It also noted that IPTF, founded in 1987, provides culturally appropriate HIV education among direct services to the Native community in Minnesota; and it helps restore relationships among Native communities, and with the earth.

Fundraising for capital improvements is always a challenge for service-providing nonprofit organizations. Minneapolis showed that in its IPTF announcement.

Funding for the community center comes from New Market Tax Credits, loans, contributions from Minnesota's tribal nations, foundations, corporations and individual donors; and public fund-

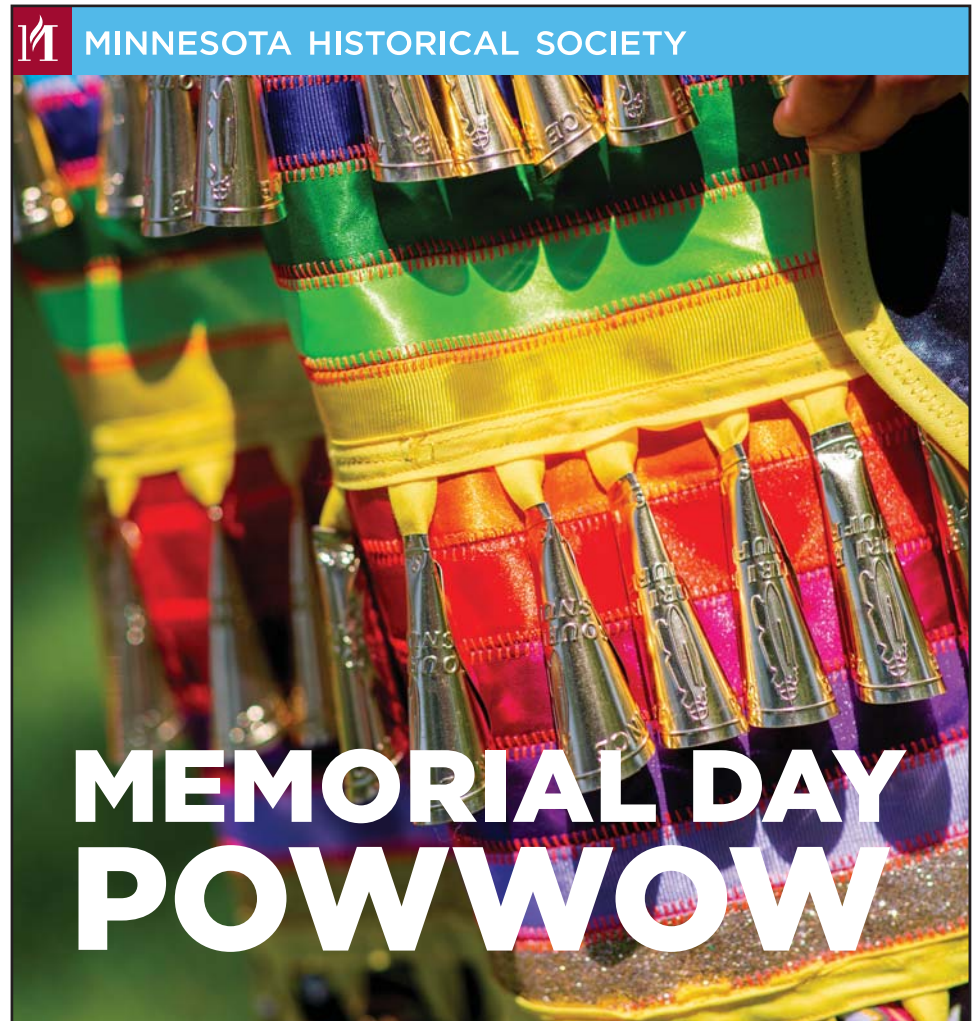
ing from State of Minnesota, Hennepin County and the city.

The tax credit program is the only source of funding that isn't always visible within communities. It is a program offered by the U.S. Department of Treasury encouraging community development and economic growth in what are generally regarded as underserved communities.

This is a tax credit program to attract private investment in these communities. Investors get tax credit against fed-

eral income taxes equal to 39 percent of their original investment claimed over seven years.

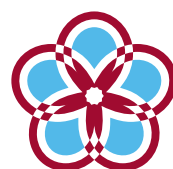
New Market Tax Credits are administered in a competitive application system operated by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI), a program at Treasury. One of its areas of assistance is a Native American CDFI Assistance Program although IPTF programs would qualify for tax credit support under several CDFI assistance categories.



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Report looks at how U of MN was built on stolen land and resources

BY LEE EGERSTROM

A research team from the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) and Minnesota's 11 Indigenous nations has laid out a thorough look at how the university was built on stolen land and resources.

It also suggests ways for Minnesota and the university to begin making amends.

The report, called the TRUTH Project (Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing), was released on April 11. (See the cover story in this issue.)

It offers guidance for how the University of Minnesota system, with its five campuses and multiple research sites, can build on inclusive experiences, its Indigenous roots, and on administrative and policy changes already underway – for both the institution and for the general public.

"This report just scratches the surface of the local history that is not taught in schools or widely known," explained Robert Larsen, president of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) and president of the Lower Sioux Indian Community.

"Only when we know better can we do better for our present and future together," he said in a statement releasing the report.

"I cannot say thank you enough to the team (that) endures the pain of researching, collecting and reporting this history for us all."

The report made headline news all across North America as the first in depth look by a major U.S. university at how it was created and used wealth from stolen Indigenous resources.

Minnesota's experience isn't alone. There are currently 75 other universities from coast to coast called land grant universities that trace their origins to the Morrill Act of 1862 that took land and resources from tribes to create the federally-supported university system.

Not totally hidden but often ignored, the so-called land grant university system was exposed in a 2020 investigatory report ("Land Grab Universities") by Robert Lee and Tristan Ahtone in High Country News magazine. There was no hiding from the past after that. The MIAC quickly called on the university in June that year to conduct its own investigation, leading to the TRUTH Project.

The land grant system was to encourage colonial settlement and "development" throughout rural areas and the then-western states and territories. To support this, it created a perpetual funding system for the land grant institutions from land and

resources taken from Native tribes. This continues through the various land, mineral and timber programs still producing revenue.

It what researchers called "a Minnesota windfall," these mining, timber harvesting, land sales, and iron royalties have totaled \$591,119,846 that went into the Permanent University Fund (PUF) at the University of Minnesota.

Without adjusting for inflation, the researchers found the university actually received \$191,875,315 from iron and taconite mineral leases between 1890 and 2020. (University scientists led efforts that developed taconite as a useful substitute for high-grade iron ore after World War II.)

Over the years, Minnesota municipalities have used PUF money for capital improvements and then repaid those funds plus interest, the report said. "This circulation of wealth did not benefit any of the Tribal Nations whose land those municipalities occupy today," it said.

The university's involvement in Minnesota wealth creation, however, goes back to its original founding.

The university's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, for instance, has noted the U.S. government paid Dakota peoples \$2,309 for land in the Treaty of 1851, which was \$0.02 cents per acre. In turn, researchers found, University of Minnesota sold that land for 251 times the original purchase price.

In what it calls "the deal and steal of the century," the researchers state: "Not even the world's most sophisticated Ponzi scheme could promise a 25,000 percent return on investment."

The report shows how Minnesota's early university Regents "committed genocide and ethnic cleansing of Indigenous peoples for financial gain, using the institutions as a shell corporation through which to launder lands and resources."

By doing so, the TRUTH team said, the university "extracted vast amounts of wealth from Tribal Nations. The institutions must account for the perpetual harms that accompany that land expropriation."

The report is more than 550 pages long. It also shows how misuse of ties with Indigenous populations has spilled over into research projections. One particularly troubling experience was revealed in medical research using Red Lake Nation people without their knowledge – a practice reminiscent of horrendous experiments conducted with Black people in some Southern states.

A large amount of Indigenous land was acquired following the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 when Dakota people were rounded up, executed at Mankato or put in a concentration camp at Fort Snelling. They were eventually sent away from their ancestral lands.

Shannon Geshick, MIAC executive director and member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, said the report "rips open" a history people just don't know.

MIAC's and Lower Sioux's Larsen put in perspective what the TRUTH team sought to achieve: "I hope people realize these stories are meant to heal, not hurt anyone, and to help more people understand the true history of how we have gotten to the point we are (at) today. The work needs to continue."

It comes out at a time when there is change underway at the university and public support for addressing Indigenous grievances are on the rise across all of North America. In Minnesota, extensive legislation for Indigenous programs is under consideration in the Legislature.

Among the latter are bills already passed in the Senate and House to provide \$8.5 million to cover tuition and fees for tribal members attending Minnesota public universities colleges. While that is not as sweeping for Indigenous students as the TRUTH report recommends, but it is clearly movement forward.

There have been returns of land and properties to tribes. There has been returns of cultural, religious and human remains holdings. Regular consultations with the tribes have become routine and ongoing. Native Americans have been elevated to high, important posts in the university system.

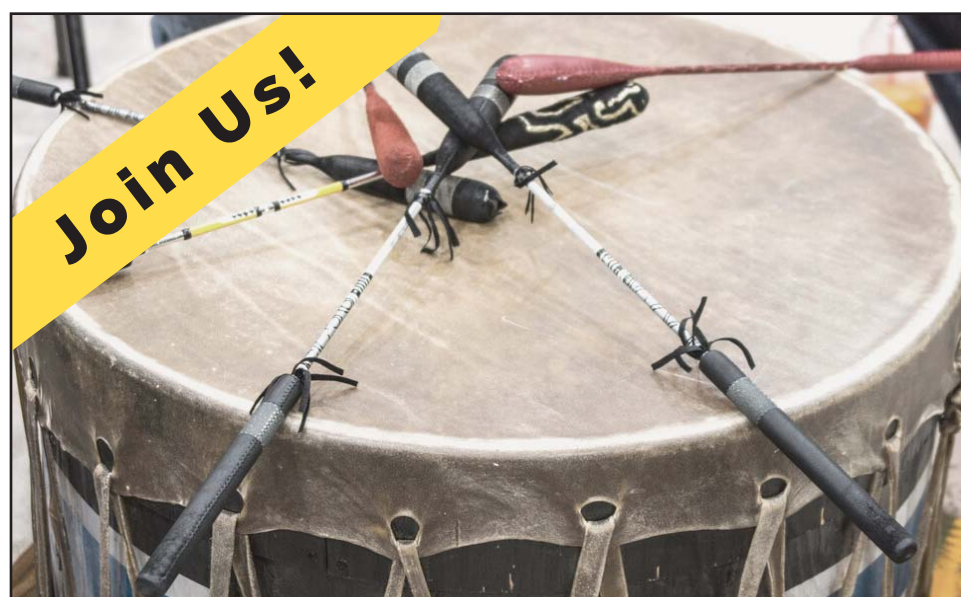
Prominent faculty have called on the Regents to continue these steps, and to keep them in mind when seeking a new president. In an opinion piece, Professor emeritus Steven Miles (medicine and bioethics) reminded all: "As the Regents hire a new president, they should ensure that the candidate understands that the university is not job one: Minnesota is."

Another powerful and articulate voice is noteworthy. Former University of Minnesota Morris student body president Dylan Young (Rosebud Sioux) stressed in a letter to the editor of the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* (April 23) the importance of finding a good successor to Gabel.

He wrote: "At such a sensitive moment, it would be a misstep for the Board of Regents to hire someone who does not have firsthand experience with the nuances of tribal sovereignty or the systemic issues facing Native students."

If Regents reject key recommendations in the TRUTH report, placing them at odds with tribal leaders, "could spell another PR disaster for the university," he warned.

Copies of the TRUTH report, along with a helpful news release and abbreviated Executive Summary, can be accessed at the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council site at <https://mn.gov/indian-affairs/truth-project>.



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Minnesota farm addresses climate change by reintroducing bison, Ojibwe horses

BY CATHY WURZER AND ALANNA ELDER/MPR

It's a waterlogged spring after a snowy winter, but the growing season is almost upon us. This is a busy time of year for farmers like David Wise, who is juggling quite a few projects, including reintroducing bison and Ojibwe horses to his farm in Northern Minnesota.

He is a descendant of the Fond du Lac Band of Superior Chippewa and the founder of Native Wise farm, which produces wild rice, maple syrup, CBD, and vegetables. David Wise joined MPR News host Cathy Wurzer to talk about all things his Minnesota farm.

He said it has always been a dream of his to bring the bison back because his great-grandfather was Chief Buffalo. When Wise was finally able to bring them back, he said it was like welcoming a relative home again.

Before they arrived, Wise did some research that found his fields had not had animals on them for many years and the soil health was not strong. With the new residents, he hopes that more native plants pop up and soil health improves.

Besides bison, Wise is also raising Ojibwe horses, which are expected to arrive on the farm next month. He is working with colleagues to bring back a breeding program as they are close to extinction.

"We're really just trying to help bring them back. It's an honor to have them here on the farm again," he said.

Wise said it is important to him that they keep the

land healthy and productive into the future. He considers himself a steward of the land, a value that was passed down to him from Ojibwe culture.

"We look at the Earth as our mother," he said.

Below is the interview transcript.

CATHY WURZER: We were talking to Paul Huttner about the water logged and cool spring after a really snowy winter. But the growing season is almost here, and it's a busy time of year for farmers like David Wise who's juggling quite a few projects, including reintroducing bison and Ojibwe horses to his farm in northern Minnesota. He's a descendant of the Fond Du Lac band of Superior Chippewa – Lake Superior Chippewa – and the founder of Native Wise Farm, which produces wild rice, maple syrup, CBD, and vegetables. Hey, David. Thanks for coming on the show.

DAVID WISE: Yeah, thank you. This is an honor to be asked to be part of your show. Happy to be here.

CATHY WURZER: It's an honor to have you. Thank you so much. So I understand the bison are experiencing their first spring on your farm. Tell me a little bit about how you decided to reintroduce them to Northern Minnesota.

DAVID WISE: Well, it's always been a dream of mine to bring the bison back. My great grandfather was Chief Buffalo, and I always wondered why we didn't have buffalo in the area. I did a little bit of research on him and the bison and found out that they were native to the area here, and so that was one of my dreams to always bring them back. And

when we finally got them, it was like welcoming a relative home again.

CATHY WURZER: Is it difficult to have prepared the land for the bison? Because they do need wide open spaces and grassland.

DAVID WISE: Well, we were lucky enough to purchase my great uncle's old ranch, and he had cattle here for years. They cleared the land back in the turn of the century. There was a lot of small farms back, then and he was able to – over time, he got pretty large acreage. And a lot of it's wetlands, but a lot of it's nice grazing land, too. We're redoing all the fencing currently. We've got a couple of paddocks built, and we've got plans to build several more so we can do rotational grazing.

CATHY WURZER: So it's already set up for grazing. I'm wondering – once the bison really establish themselves, what effect might they have on the land?

DAVID WISE: Well, we took some baseline data before they arrived, and a lot of these fields hadn't had animals on them for many years. They mostly were just hayed. And so the productivity was getting really low. The soil health wasn't that great, and so I'm hoping to see a big change.

We did collect baseline data, and then we're going to be part of a study with the Tonka Fund Project where we monitor how they affect the landscape. And we're hoping to see a lot more native plants and the soil health improve over the years.

CATHY WURZER: That'll be interesting to see what happens. I mentioned, too, that you are raising Ojibwe horses on your property. They are very interesting little horses – tough. They look like they are really fun to be around. Can you talk about that?

DAVID WISE: Yeah. They're really, really a unique animal, and they're beautiful. Like you say, they're smaller, and they're really sturdy. And they evolved in this climate, so it's a real natural fit. And we're really looking forward to working with colleagues from Canada and some other people from the United States here that want us to help bring back by having a breeding program.

They were almost gone extinct not very long ago, so we're trying to help bring them back. And it's really an honor to have them here on the farm again.

CATHY WURZER: You've got a lot going on your farm. Good for you. That's a lot. I also know that you're involved in a study of how agricultural practices affect carbon stored in the soil. What are you hoping to learn?

DAVID WISE: Well, I'd like to learn about what's the most sustainable practices for our land. Right now, I think large scale commercial agriculture is polluting a lot of the waters in our country, and I'm hoping that through the study they can determine what would be the best fit for our land here and doing the right things on the right soils is important and also being able to be low impact.

And I'm really passionate about small scale local agriculture, and so I always try to help people that are interested in that. And I also try to learn a lot about that whenever I get a chance.

CATHY WURZER: I know the farm has been in your family for a long time, and you've had some experience farming on land you leased from the Fond Du Lac band. Can you talk a little bit here about the challenges of accessing credit for farms on tribal trust land? I'm going to assume it's got to be harder for Native American farmers to get loans.

DAVID WISE: Yeah. I think probably it would be a little more of the process, but I think it's pos-

ALL MY RELATIONS ARTS PRESENTS

Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine

April 10 – June 10, 2023



Justine Gustafson, *First Portrait*, 20 x 15 inches, velveteen, felt, seed beads, 2020.

This commemorative art exhibition presents artwork by the Gustafson family: Shannon, Ryan, Justine, and Jade. The exhibition honors their son and brother, Piitwewetam (Rolling Thunder), also known as the late Jesse Gustafson who traveled to the spirit world after a car accident in 2015.

Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine is an offering from the Gustafson family to each of us. As an Anishnaabe family the act of giving is an integral part of their life. Gifts are offered out of kindness, out of love. To give is to simply offer without the expectation of receiving something in return. When we give, we are enacting a sacred law that acknowledges life. Co-curated by Jean and Leanna Marshall. Organized and circulated by the Thunder Bay Art Gallery with support from the Ontario Arts Council.



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sible. And I'd like to encourage more of that, and I'd like to see more young not only Natives but young people in the country growing their own food on the land.

I think we're lucky to have good, clean water and soil up here in the northern part of Minnesota, and I think that there's a lot of opportunity there. I think that maybe some of the policies need to change to make the land more easily accessed by people.

CATHY WURZER: What would you suggest? Have you had a chance to talk to lawmakers about this?

DAVID WISE: Well, it'd just be nice to be able to encourage the youth – also maybe give out some agricultural leases. They used to do that years ago. And I don't think they do that anymore, but I think that would be a good thing to do.

CATHY WURZER: To get them involved, yeah. As I say, you got a lot going on your farm. Do you

have specific goals or principles that guide you and your wife as you make decisions about what to do on the land?

DAVID WISE: Yeah. We've got a pretty open relationship, so we discuss things a lot, and then I do whatever she tells me to do. No, I'm just kidding.

[LAUGHTER]

But no, we actually both have a background in conservation, and so we try to make good decisions about how we keep the land healthy and productive in the future. And we hope to pass it on to our kids and create a generational thing here where we can look forward to feeding ourselves some for many more generations to come.

CATHY WURZER: Sounds like you really do consider yourself to be a steward of the land.

DAVID WISE: Yeah. I definitely grew up with that value passed down from generation. I think that's

really part of the Ojibwe culture. We look at the Earth as our mother, and I think she's talking a lot to us these days with the weather that we're seeing.

CATHY WURZER: I appreciate what you're doing up there. I appreciate your time. Thank you so very much.

DAVID WISE: Thank you. Appreciate it.

CATHY WURZER: We've been talking to David Wise of Native Wise, LLC. He's a descendent of the Fond Du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa who farms near Sawyer, Minnesota. We've been talking about farmland and climate change this week. In case you missed our other conversations – they've been really quite interesting. You can find them at mprnews.org and specifically look for Minnesota Now.

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Ojibwe woman makes history as North Dakota poet laureate

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Dakota lawmakers have appointed an Ojibwe woman as the state's poet laureate, making her the first Native American to hold this position in the state and increasing attention to her expertise on the troubled history of Native American boarding schools.

Denise Lajimodiere, a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe in Belcourt, has written several award-winning books of poetry. She's considered

a national expert on the history of Native American boarding schools and wrote an academic book called "Stringing Rosaries" in 2019 on the atrocities experienced by boarding school survivors.

"I'm honored and humbled to represent my tribe. They are and always will be my inspiration," Lajimodiere said in an interview, following a bipartisan confirmation of her two-year term as poet laureate.

Poet laureates represent the state in inaugural speeches, commencements,



Denise Lajimodiere speaks at the Minnesota Children's Book Festival in Red Wing, Minn., on Sept. 18, 2021. Lajimodiere became North Dakota's first Native American state poet laureate in the state's history on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

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poetry readings and educational events, said Kim Konikow, executive director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts, University of North Dakota, said she plans to leverage her role as poet laureate to hold workshops with Native students around the state. She wants to develop a new book that focuses on them.

Lajimodiere's appointment is impactful and inspirational because "representation counts at all levels," said Nicole Donaghy, executive director of the advocacy group North Dakota Native Vote and a Hunkpapa Lakota from the Standing Rock Nation.

The more Native Americans can see themselves in positions of honor, the better it is for our communities, Donaghy said.

"I've grown up knowing how amazing she is," said Rep. Jayme Davis, a Democrat of Rolette, who is from the same Turtle Mountain Band as Lajimodiere. "In my mind, there's nobody more deserving."

By spotlighting personal accounts of what boarding school survivors experienced, Lajimodiere's book "Stringing Rosaries" sparked discussions on how to address injustices Native people have experienced, Davis said.

From the 18th century and continuing as late as the 1960s, networks of boarding schools institutionalized the legal kidnapping, abuse, and forced cultural

assimilation of Indigenous children in North America. Much of Lajimodiere's work grapples with trauma as it was felt by Native people in the region.

"Sap seeps down a fir tree's trunk like bitter tears.... I brace against the tree and weep for the children, for the parents left behind, for my father who lived, for those who didn't," Lajimodiere wrote in a poem based on interviews with boarding school victims, published in her 2016 book "Bitter Tears."

Davis, the legislator, said Lajimodiere's writing informs ongoing work to grapple with the past like returning ancestral remains – including boarding school victims – and protecting tribal cultures going forward by codifying the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into state law.

The law, enacted in 1978, gives tribes power in foster care and adoption proceedings involving Native children. North Dakota and several other states have considered codifying it this year, as the U.S. Supreme Court considers a challenge to the federal law.

The U.S. Department of the Interior released a report last year that identified more than 400 Native American boarding schools that sought to assimilate Native children into white society. The federal study found that more than 500 students died at the boarding schools, but officials expect that figure to grow exponentially as research continues.

Vanguard Accelerator grants calling for Indigenous business women

BY LEE EGERSTROM

A unique program to help Indigenous, Black and Latina women business owners in the Twin Cities metro area grow and expand their businesses is now open for a second round of financial grants and service awards.

But if you are eligible for this business assistance program, you better hurry. Applications for the Vanguard programs are open through May 16 for this year.

Seven Twin Cities business owners received \$480,000 in loans and grants for expansion plans and training programs in a first round of awards announced in January. All recipients were women of color although none were identified as Native American.

The program, formally called the Vanguard Accelerator and Vanguard Fund, was started a year ago by the St. Paul-based Center for Economic Inclusion. It is a partnership program with two other organizations, the non-profit Founders First CDC that assists minority businesses in several parts of the U.S.; and NEOO Partners Inc., a Twin Cities-based support group that assists small and medium-sized busi-



nesses with urban planning and real estate consulting.

J.P. Morgan Chase provided a \$5 million initial grant to initially launch the programs. Other groups that include the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) also support the start of Vanguard Accelerator programs in the Twin Cities.

These programs provide both financial help through grants and forgivable loans and through training programs for women of color business owners.

Recipients must have been in business for three years, have annual sales of between \$75,000 and \$3 million, have

three or more full-time employees, and they must be engaged in what is called “B2B” (business to business) in which they provide products or services to other businesses such as retailers.

The goal is to help these businesses and their minority owners grow sales and profits, create livable-wage jobs and generational wealth for the regional economy. These business objectives are often found by researchers and economic studies to have gaping disparities for ethnic groups.

The second round of applications for Vanguard assistance is open through May 16 on the Center for Economic Inclusion website, <https://www.centerforeconomicinclusion.org/accelerator-grant-application>.

One Native business owner did start applying for a grant in the first round but didn’t finish the process, a spokesperson for the Center said. She said the Center is “pushing for better outreach” to Native and ethnic businesswomen with the second enrollment period.

Recipients of Vanguard assistance can receive help from one or more of its programs. They include:

- \$5,000 unrestricted grants to support business growth as well as full

tuition into a business accelerator program based on the company’s annual revenue.

- Forgivable loans to support growth, sustainability and job creation.
- Pre-development technical assistance including site development and redevelopment to support the company’s brick-and-mortar real estate needs.

“The goal of the accelerator program is to help support capacity for these small businesses to secure contracts with larger business organizations because that is what leads to sustainable wealth,” said Rebecca Toews, the Center’s communications director.

Tawanna Black, founder and chief executive at the Center, said her group and its partners are investing in minority women businesses to “fuel economic growth through the meaningful jobs and inclusive workplaces they can create with increased capital, connections, contracts and capacity.”

By supporting “Black and Brown” business founders, she said, the collaborating groups are helping all employers “transform the inclusivity of supply chains to benefit from the innovation” in these targeted communities.

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To do so, the report called on the Board of Regents to establish Indigenous research policies that respect sovereignty and treaty rights, and develop Indigenous curriculum requirements for all degree programs to prepare future graduates to understand those right. And, it called on the university to do a system-wide inventory of human remains and Indigenous cultural items still being held in collections or warehouses.

Two other requests provide guidance for university actions going forward.

One, called "Sites for Future Research," calls for fully funding research continuing the work of the TRUTH Project and ways for the university system to have better relations with Indigenous peoples. The other might simply be called a reminder for the university to obey the law.

That latter request, a category called "Meet Trust Obligations," reminded the university that as a federal land grant institution it should adhere to trust responsibilities spelled out in laws and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. This appears from other studies to be a problem for land grant universities all cross the country.

These recommendations are an outgrowth from TRUTH Project researchers finding seven areas where university research and practices have been harmful to Indigenous peoples and the state's anchor tribes. In one especially painful look back at university history, the researchers state that founding Board of Regents members committed genocide

and used ethnic cleansing practices against the Native population for personal gain. They used the university as a shell corporation to launder lands and resources.

Forced removal of Native people became part of this effort. The early Regents used their positions in government to pass anti-Indigenous legislation that financially benefited themselves and the university.

The researchers also expose university and regents actions in other categories, including:

- **Land expropriation:** The university benefited from multiple land grabs, including at least 186,791 acres of land Congress granted Minnesota between 1851 and 1868.

- **Wealth transfer and accumulation:** Resources, such as the minerals and timber mined and harvested from expropriated Indigenous lands, continue to gather at the university.

- **Revisionist history:** This is a national problem not unique to Minnesota. The researchers say the term "land grant" is a revisionist historical creation to cover up the theft of land, wealth and resources from Indigenous people.

- **Indigenous erasure:** This last category is focused on our university but is most likely a nationwide problem throughout the land grant system. The researchers concluded the university has "failed to adequately teach the correct history of this land, resulting in the perpetuation of a lack of knowledge of Tribal sovereignty,

Indigenous rights, and benefits of diverse environments among UMN graduates and Regents alike."

All this was researched and prepared by a large collection of Indigenous leaders, educators and researchers who jumped into the task that was largely created by *High Country News*, a Colorado-based news magazine. It showed in a 2020 report that Minnesota was among leading states in expropriating Indigenous lands and resources to support the university in its infancy. Ohio State University, the University of California system, and New York State are other out front university systems now looking at how the land grab became the land grant.

What Minnesotans of all ethnicities should know is that the TRUTH Project did pull together enormous talents and resources to produce this in depth report. It was too massive to cite all the contributions, but Minnesota's federally recognized tribes participated with university faculty, graduate research assistants of diverse Indigenous backgrounds, and others who worked with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to research, analyze and write the report.

A co-chair of a special task force created at the start of the two-year project was Tadd Johnson (Bois Forte Ojibwe), then a university professor and senior director of the university's Office of American Indian Tribal Nations Relations. He has since retired from the faculty and has been

appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Regents.

Other co-chairs included Jean O'Brien (White Earth Ojibwe), a university professor; and Christopher Pexa, (Spirit Lake Nation), an assistant professor. Native American graduate research assistants worked with tribal research fellows (TRFs) and were funded by Minnesota Transform, a higher education initiative supported by the Mellon Foundation. It works to promote decolonial and racial justice at the university, in the Twin Cities and across the state.

Others from research, tribal archival and heritage and cultural backgrounds who worked on the project reflect the Indigenous diversity in Minnesota. Among examples were An Garagiola (Bois Forte Ojibwe), Audrianna Goodwin (Red Lake Ojibwe), Angel Swann (White Earth Ojibwe), Sean Dorr (Mille Lacs Ojibwe), Benjamin Yawakie (Pueblo of Zuni, Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux, and Whitebear First Nation), Lemoine LaPointe (Sicangu Lakota), Laurie Harper (Leech Lake Ojibwe), Jaylen Strong (Bois Forte Ojibwe), and the project coordinator for the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council was Misty Blue (White Earth Ojibwe).

The TRUTH report can be found at: <https://mn.gov/indian-affairs/truth-project>.



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In November of 2016 her family moved to Rainy River, Canada. Her husbands' employment, along with looking for more opportunities for their family was the focus. Their son Thomas was priority #1 to give him more opportunity than they had, for education and sports.

She said, "Along with all the 'hats' being a mom, employment, work schedules, practices and everything in-between, I found time to keep picking away at my artwork."

"Visiting schools and communities teaching Art programs, doing my own work and developing my Art business," she said. "Covid hit and I found myself wondering 'what was next?' and how do I maintain a business without being able to visit schools and communities in-person along with craft shows. Then my online website and shopping page was developed. I also taught myself a designing program where I could reproduce my artwork on various items and products other than canvas or paper."

Last summer they made the decision to enroll their son in Warroad School at the north central tip of Minnesota. She said, "Again more opportunity for him to grow and be challenged educationally along with athletically. I was presented with the opportunity to work at Warroad School part-time in the Indian Education Department. Things rolled along rather smoothly and we found ourselves quickly



Shawna Grapentine and "The Free Spirit" hockey stick design and sticks. (Photo courtesy of Shawna Grapentine.)

submerged in everything that Warroad has to offer. The community has welcomed us with open arms, and I have met so many wonderful, hardworking people who inspire me to work harder than ever!"

She has many people to pay recognition to for her success. The Warroad School District and Indian Education Department are also supportive of her and her family.

"Warroad School, and the Indian Education Department has been a great influence," she said. "I've been able to

learn so much and it's allowing me to grow and learn about my culture here in the U.S. It's giving me the freedom to contribute and help out the best way I know how through my artwork and being a good human."

According to her bio, the name "Moon & Back Custom Arts" originated from a children's story book that Shawna shared with her son, relating to her unconditional love for him.

In a recent message to the Warroad community, Grapentine shared: "In

April of this year, I was honoured to have been chosen as one of four artists to design and create a custom hand painted stick for the IIHF Women's World Championships 2023. Being recognized on a global stage for the IIHF was truly an honor. I had the pleasure of presenting Amanda Kessel with one of my custom hockey sticks, awarding her for the 'Player of the Game' in the semi-final match against Czechia."

She added, "I wore my Warroad Warriors sweater with pride during the global presentation on national television. I wanted to shine a light on the honor and pride that the logo represents. When we visually witness images that represent our culture it allows us to continue 'to have the conversation.' Let's learn and discover the wonderful culture and communities of the Anishinaabe people! Allow the Native people to share their culture with the world, what it means and what it represents."

"I wear the Warroad Warrior logo with pride, I stand behind my family of Anishinaabe people, the community of Warroad and what it represents," said Grapentine.

See the Moon & Back Custom Arts website at: www.moonandbackcustomarts.com

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Dakhóta Omníčiye 2023

Tháwaunkič'iyapi/We Own Ourselves

Tanyán Yahípi yedo! (Welcome All)

On May 20, we will continue marking our return and asserting our continued presence on this sacred land where the rivers meet. We invite you to join us for the 4th Dakhóta Omníčiye and share community knowledge, teachings, and stories with one another. This free event will be held at Historic Fort Snelling and will include hands-on cultural workshops, artist teachings, film screening, book readings, and presentations from various members of our communities.

We are celebrating our Dakota community on this day!

MAY 20, 2023

- 8:30 Morning Prayer
- 9:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Dakota Artists, Films, and Speakers
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 Dakota Language and Knowledge
- 5:00 Keynote Speaker: Shelley Buck
- 6:00 Community Dinner

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Native representation

In late April, I made it over to The Main Cinema in Minneapolis for a screening, “Indigenous Portraits,” a selection of short documentary films as part of the 2023 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF). There was a decent audience for the program of films highlighting Native lifeways, with an emphasis on emerging artists.

The first film, “Language Keepers,” directed by Ajuawak Kapashesit, focuses on Ojibwe language activists using digital technology to preserve the language. Among those profiled in the 10-minute film is James Vukelich, whose “Ojibwe Word of the Day” videos on Instagram are seen by more than 100,000 viewers.

“Lily Gladstone: Far Out There,” directed by Brooke Pepion Swaney, profiles Gladstone (Blackfeet Nation), a film and TV actress with a rising career (“Winter in the Blood,” “Certain Women”). Her public profile likely will grow with the upcoming release of “Killers of the Flower Moon,” the Martin Scorsese film based on the David Grann book about the mysterious murders of newly-oil rich Osage tribal members in 1920s. The film also stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro. In the 14-minute documentary, Gladstone reflects on her journey and the occasional difficulty of negotiating the demands of the Hollywood film industry.

“Jonathan Thunder: Good Mythology” is brief profile of Jonathan Thunder, an Anishinaabe (Red Lake Band) artist who paints wildly imaginative, colorful scenarios with broad appeal. One large-scale work shown in the film is an animated video installation at Terminal 1 of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Director Sergio Mata’u Rapu was present for a Q&A after the film screenings and pointed out that he’s not Native; rather, he’s a Pacific Islander, from Rapa Nui (Easter Island), the most remote island in the South Pacific.

Despite its cliché title, “Walking Two Worlds” is a fascinating look at high-fashion model Quannah Chasinghorse, who was born on the Navajo Nation and raised on the reservation, Mongolia and New Mexico. At the age of six, she moved to her mother’s Han/Gwich’in village in Alaska. The 29-minute film shows traditional village life, hunting and mushing dogs, and Chasinghorse walking on the Chanel runway in Paris and participating in New York Fashion Week, when she was just 19. The slickly produced short film directed by Maia Wikler, which was screened last year at the Tribeca Film Festival,

covers Chasinghorse’s environmental activism in the face of climate crisis and energy development impacts on Native life in Alaska. (If you’re wondering about Chasinghorse’s surname, she’s Lakota on her father’s side.)

The final, longer short film on the program was “Cara Romero: Following the Light,” directed by Kaela Waldstein. Romero, a talented fine art photographer, is from the Chemehuevi people in the land now known as California. The film provides a brief sketch of the brutal colonial history of The Golden State, as it portrays Romero’s overcoming addiction and developing as an artist. I wasn’t familiar with her work, but I’m now a fan.

“I embrace photography as my tool to resist Eurocentric narratives and as a means for opening audiences’ perspectives to the fascinating diversity of living Indigenous peoples,” Romero says, in a statement on her website (cararomerophotography.com).

Romero’s early work is somewhat derivative of the photography of Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952), the famous photographer of Indian life in the American West. Then Romero’s work took a turn to illuminating the contemporary spirit of her subjects.

To “counter photography’s exploitive past,” Romero writes, “I actively collaborate with my models. Hailing from many tribal backgrounds and many geographic regions, these subjects are my friends and relatives. Together we stage photographs to tell stories that we feel (together) are important and give back to our Native community. My photographs explore our collective Native histories, and the ways in which our indigeneity expresses itself in modern times. I firmly believe Native peoples are as Indigenous today as we were prior to the advent of colonialism.”

Many people in the dominant society still cast Native people in terms of the 19th century stereotype of the “noble savage” (cf. Atlanta Braves of Major League Baseball). At Halloween every year, we’re treated to a parade of Native appropriation in tasteless costumes that basically lampoon authentic culture. And, as previously mentioned, Native lands and ceded territories are under siege by rapacious corporate interests intent on digging up precious ores (increasingly for “alternative energy” technologies) and drilling for oil and building pipelines. So, these cinematic portraits of Indigenous lives serve as a corrective to popular ignorance and indifference. The films are worth seeking out and watching.

This legislative session has been one of the most productive in years



Boozhoo! This legislative session has been one of the most productive in years, with significant bills decades in the making have made it to Governor Tim Walz's desk to be signed into law. I am especially grateful for the work of the Native Legislative Caucus – Senator Mary Kunesh, Representative Jamie Becker-Finn, Representative Heather Keeler, and Representative Alicia Kozlowski – as they continue to show up and make sure Native voices are heard in the legislature.

As we head toward the close of session at the end of May, I am so proud of what we have already accomplished this year. To date, the Governor and I, along with our partners in the legislature, have worked hard to make progress on the issues that matter most, including:

- Strengthening protections for Native American children and families, affirming the authority of all federally recognized Indian tribes to handle cases of Indian child custody and child placement proceedings, and requiring social workers to make active efforts to preserve family unity, regardless of what occurs with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).
- Providing free school breakfast and lunch for all Minnesota students at participating schools. This bill ensures that no student will have to learn on an empty stomach. As a child whose family utilized free-and-reduced price lunch, it was incredibly meaningful to join legislators, students, and advocates at Webster Elementary as Governor Walz signed this bill into law.
- Providing \$50 million in homelessness prevention and assistance through the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance program, which provides financial assistance and support services to people and households that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The law also allows for qualified households to receive more than 24 months of direct rental assistance.
- Protecting reproductive freedom through the Protect Reproductive Options (PRO) Act, which establishes that every Minnesotan has a fundamental right to make decisions about their own reproductive health, including the right to use or refuse reproductive health care, to continue a pregnancy and give birth, and to obtain an abortion.
- Restoring voting rights to 55,000 Minnesotans, the largest expansion of voting rights in Minnesota in the last half century. Governor Walz and I were joined by legislators, faith, labor, and community advocates

to celebrate the bill signing that restored voting rights for over 55,000 formerly incarcerated people in Minnesota. According to 2018 estimates, nine percent of Native Americans living in Minnesota are ineligible to vote due to felonies. This will help shrink that number drastically.

- Protecting access to gender affirming health care through an executive order signed by Governor Walz. Gender affirming health care services refers to all medical, surgical, counseling, or referral services, including telehealth services, that an individual may receive to support and affirm that individual's gender identity or gender expression.
- Banning hair discrimination through the CROWN Act, which explicitly prohibits racial discrimination based on natural hair texture and hair styles such as braids, locs, and twists.
- Providing \$5 million in emergency funding for food shelves.
- Establishing a Minnesota carbon-free electricity standard and moving Minnesota to 100 percent clean energy by 2040. The law ensures Minnesota will take steps to lower greenhouse gas emissions, combat the climate crisis, and create new clean energy jobs.

• Protecting Minnesotans from catalytic converter theft by only allowing registered scrap metal dealers to purchase catalytic converters, increasing criminal penalties for the illegal possession or sale of catalytic converters, and requiring catalytic converters to carry the vehicle identification number of the car it originated from.

Governor Walz and I have also made over 200

appointments to state boards, commissions, councils, and task forces, appointed eight judges, and hired the state's first Chief Equity Officer.

When we invest in the success of Native children, families, and communities, we are building a stronger and brighter future for all people in Minnesota. In addition to these legislative accomplishments, Governor Walz and I continue to work toward making Minnesota a state where every child thrives. Our budget proposal includes historic investments in education, child care, health and safety, and Minnesota's economic future. If passed, the One Minnesota Budget will lower costs for families, reduce childhood poverty by 25 percent, cut taxes, invest in local communities and projects, reduce gun violence, combat the opioid crisis, increase access to safe and stable housing, and more.

We also continue to work with our partners in the legislature to get critical investments across the finish line, such as cash equity bonding to support capital projects across the state, Native language revitalization grants, the American Indian Scholars Program, and expansions to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office and the Office of American Indian Health. As we draw closer to the end of the legislative session, it becomes more important than ever for the voices of all people in Minnesota to be heard at the State Capitol. I highly encourage everyone to reach out to their elected officials about the things that matter most to you, your families, and your communities.

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Villebrun named 2023 MN Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach of the Year

John Villebrun was named the 2023 Minnesota Girls Class A Basketball Assistant Coach of the Year, and the 2023 Assistant Coach of the Year for Section 7A by the Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaching Association. He is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe. He is the Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Mountain Iron-Buhl High School, the 2023 Minnesota Class A State Girls' Basketball Champions.

Villebrun started his coaching career as an assistant coach for the Orr HS girls' basketball program and coached there for five years. He was also the head girls' basketball coach at AlBrook High School for three years and the head boys' basketball coach at the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School for one season.

"I started helping out at Mountain Iron-Buhl HS when we moved to the area. I started coaching in the elementary program and eventually worked my way up to the assistant coach," added Villebrun.

Villebrun was the assistant coach for the 2023 State Class A Champions, Mountain Iron-Buhl Rangers. He has been an assistant coach there since 2019. The Rangers have been to the state tournament four of the last five years that he has been a coach.

"I feel that one of my biggest accomplishments is being able to make an impact on the athletes that I coach," said Villebrun. "To be able to help our players grow as individuals and as basketball players is something that I've always wanted to do."

Indigenous coaches not only represent themselves, their family, school and community. They also represent other indigenous people and especially when they



Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe member John Villebrun was named the 2023 Minnesota Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach of the Year at Mt. Iron Buhl High School in Mountain Iron, MN. (Photo courtesy of John Villebrun.)

compete at the state tournament and oftentimes being featured on television broadcasts.

"I am proud to be native," said Villebrun. "It is an honor to be able to represent our people as a coach in a very successful basketball program. I think about where I came from and all of the hard work that got

me to this position of being a teacher and coach. I am always aware that I represent our people and it makes me proud."

Villebrun thinks team first. He said, "I've always wanted to be a coach that my players could trust and respect. I would like to think I have earned that from every single player I've ever coached."

"Being a coach here at Mountain Iron-Buhl HS, we are not only the varsity and junior varsity teams, but we also spend a lot of time in the gym coaching elementary teams," said Villebrun. "I think as a coach it is important for the younger grades to see the varsity coaches working on all levels and being willing to help on all levels."

"Here at Mountain Iron-Buhl we have a philosophy that includes helping every student athlete in the program no matter what. We work long hours to make sure that every student that wants to play basketball at Mountain Iron-Buhl has that opportunity and has a coach that is willing to work with them. This is the foundation of our championship culture here," added Villebrun.

Coaches are inspired by those who came before them to lead the way. One of Coach Villebrun's influences is a fellow Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe member.

"One of the biggest inspirations for me as a coach was Bill King," said Villebrun. "I was fortunate enough to be a player for him as well as the opportunity to coach with him when I coached the Orr girls' basketball team. He came in a few times to practice to help us with certain aspects of the game and I learned so much from him."

"What I respected about Coach King was not only his knowledge of the game of basketball but he was always a leader for the indigenous community near Orr. He really was a trailblazer for all native coaches that followed behind him. He still comes to our games here at Mountain Iron-Buhl and I always make it a point to go over shake his hand and visit with him," added Villebrun.

Coach John Villebrun is a part of the championship culture that is continuing to be cultivated at Mountain Iron Buhl HS.

Larry Mahoney

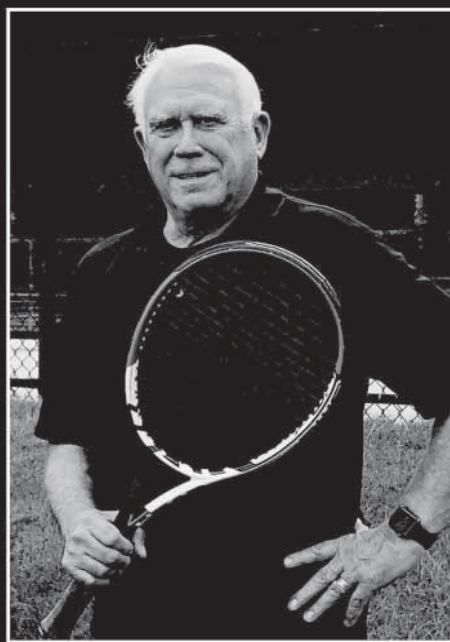
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Native American Month Calendar of Events

Thru June 10

Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine

This commemorative art exhibition presents artwork by the Gustafson family: Shannon, Ryan, Justine, and Jade. The exhibition honors their son and brother, Piitwewetam (Rolling Thunder), also known as the late Jesse Gustafson who traveled to the spirit world after a car accident in 2015. Co-Curated by Jean and Leanna Marshall. Organized and circulated by the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. <https://allmyrelationsarts.com>.

May 6

Robbinsdale Area Schools Powwow

Grand Entry 1 PM & 7 PM. Armstrong High School, 10635 36th Avenue North, Plymouth.

May 8

AIOIC Founders Day Open House & Career Fair

Celebrate American Indian Month with us. Events: program honoring AIOIC Founder Clyde Bellecourt. Shared meal, career fair, music, kids activities, raffle. 10am to 2pm. AIOIC, 1845 E Franklin Avenue, Mpls. For info, see: <https://www.aioic.org>.

May 8 - June 30

Birchbark & Cattails: Homage to Land that Creates Art

Dr. Robert Powless Cultural Center Gallery AICHO Galleries is bringing together acrylic paintings and textile

arts by contemporary artist Kent Estey, a White Earth of Ojibwe tribal member, and textile artist Ramona Morrow, a Lac Courte Oreilles tribal member and Yankton Sioux descendant in the group art exhibition "Birchbark & Cattails: An Homage to Land that Creates Art." This art exhibition celebrates the multiplicity of gifts nature gives including inspirations and mediums for art through generations. Art Exhibition Dates: May 8 - June 30, 2023. Art Reception Date: May 19 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Free. LOCATION: 212 West 2nd Street, Duluth, MN WEB-SITE LINK: aicho.org/birchbarkcattails

May 10

American Indian Day on the Hill

American Indian Day on the Hill at the Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, St. Paul, MN. Speakers: Jerry Dearly, Lt. Gov Peggy Flanagan, Robert Larsen, Sen Mary Kunesh, Commissioner of Higher Education Dennis Olson. Lunch catered by Mazopiya, Drum group, 10 am to 2pm. Vendors. FMI: Monique Nelson, monique.nelson@maifcmn.org, 612 484-1309; or Opalina Peralta, opalina.peralta@state.mn.us 218 205-4752.

May 11

IPTF Honoring Our Loved Ones Memorial Event

Help break the stigma of substance abuse. If you lost a loved one to opioids or alcohol, upload a photo to: rememberolo.org. We will be honor-

ing our lost loved ones at the State Capitol from 11am to 3pm. FMI: 612 361-5102.

May 11

Author Talk: Angeline Boulley in Conversation With Cherie Dimaline

Join us for an evening with authors Angeline Boulley and Cherie Dimaline in celebration of Boulley's new novel, "Warrior Girl Unearthed." Copies of "Warrior Girl Unearthed" and "Firekeeper's Daughter" will be available for purchase, as well as Dimaline's books, including the newly published "VenCo" and "Funeral Songs for Dying Girls." A book signing will take place after the conversation. Collaborator: Birchbark Books & Native Arts. 6:00 - 8:00pm. No registration required. There is limited space available; the event will be first come, first seated. Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. For info, call 612-543-5669 or see: [https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/ev](https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/6436df29b9037b410049163c)

May 12

White Earth Open House

White Earth Open House is in search of program and craft vendors interested in participating in the annual open house from 10:00am to 2:30pm. Come enjoy the entertainment of Midnite Express, speakers and frybread tacos. White Earth Urban Mental Health, 212 Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. FMI: Shannon Smith at 612 296-7295 or shannon.smith@whiteearth-nsn.gov.

May 12

5K Run/Walk Wanaiguni Hikurus Hajawi

12th Annual 5K run/walk at Phalen Regional Park in St. Paul. 5pm to 8pm. To register or for FMI: Vicky Ontiveros 612-426-0605.

May 12

Roots and Boots at the Shooting Star Casino

Concert featuring the band Roots and Boots at 8pm at the Shooting Star Casino at the White Earth Nation, Mahnomen, MN. Tickets: 800-453-7827.

May 13

St. Paul - Learning from Place: Bdote

Learning from Place: Bdote is an immersive experience that brings participants to sites of great significance to Dakota people in the Twin Cities. Participants will learn from Dakota community members through stories and histories that have often been left out of our state's history. This experience is open to the general public and is particularly beneficial for educators who want to include new perspectives in their history curriculum. K-12 educators will receive 5 clock hours. Learning from Place: Bdote will begin at Fort Snelling State Park (parking permit is required) and end at Indian Mounds Park in St. Paul. We will be outside the entire time. Participants need to provide their own transportation, lunch, snacks and beverages. This experience involves nearly one mile of walking,

sometimes on unpaved paths, as well as standing for periods of time. We do provide audio headsets for amplification of the tour guides and to support social distancing. Because of the nature of this program and experience, the fee is waived for indigenous participants. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm Contact Eden Bart at eden@mnhum.org before registering. For specific inquiries about accessibility, please contact Eden Bart at eden@mnhum.org or 651-772-4261.

May 13

Phillips Spring Welcoming Food Sovereignty Celebration

Join us as we celebrate spring and the beginning of the growing season! We will kick things off with the annual meeting (11 AM-Noon) followed by an opening prayer, food from Las Cuatro Milpas Food Truck and Gatherings Cafe (Yazzie the Chef), a plant giveaway, and informational tables. 1am to 3pm. At the 2800 block of 18th Avenue and Four Sisters Farm, 2839 17th Ave. S. For info, see: <https://www.nacdi.org/four-sisters-farm>.

May 13

Dakota-Style Baby Moccasin Workshop

Learn to make a pair of Dakota-style leather baby moccasins in this half-day workshop led by traditional crafting expert Carol Hernandez. Registration is required three days prior to workshop. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. Children under 18

must be accompanied by an adult. 10:00 AM - 4:00pm. \$100. Mille Lacs Band members and MNHS members save 20%. Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, 43411 Oodena Dr. Onamia, MN. For info, call 320-532-3632, or see: <https://www.mnhs.org/millelacs>.

May 13

Elders Traditional Powwow

Grand Entries 1 & 7pm. Feast at 5pm. MC: Jim Mishquat. AD: Brandon Deshampe Morrison. Host Drum: Stone Bridge Singers. Grand Portage Community Center, 75 Upper Road, Grand Portage, MN. For info, contact Brittney Anderson at 218-370-1291.

May 13 - 14

Little Earth Mother's Day Powwow

Entry begins at 1pm and 7pm on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday. We are still looking for donations to make this event possible. Donations: <https://www.classy.org/give/398180/#!/donation/checkout>. Cedar Field Park, 2500 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis. <https://www.littleearth.org>

Community calendar continued on next 2 pages.....



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SCAN TO APPLY



Native American Month Calendar of Events

May 15 WOC Affinity Circle

Looking for a space where women of color can come together and share their experiences? WOC Affinity Circle seeks to promote healing and fostering a safe space within our community. We meet virtually on a monthly basis to cover topics that impact us. Women of color include: Black, Latina, Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native,

Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, & mixed-race women. 6:30 – 7:30pm. Online event only. Registration is required, participants will receive a link to the virtual event before each session. For info, see: <https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/evnts/6429de1922222e410033a5a0>.

May 19 IHB Indian Month Celebration

The Indian Health Board's American Indian Month Celebration will include lunch (served till gone), activities, frozen yogurt truck, balloon artist, live DJ, language games, bicyled raffle, resource fair, innovative themed raffles, and more. Noon to 3:00pm. Sponsored by the staff of the Indian Health Board and Health Education. IHB, 1315 E 24th St, Mpls. For info, call Val at 612-721-9803.

May 20 Kapemni: As It Is Above; It Is Below

A storytelling motion media dance performance featuring D(L)akota and Ojibwe astronomy with immersive, interactive animation projection art, and sky and Earth soundscapes. The performance explores the D(L)akota teaching Kapemni, which translates "As it is above, it is below". Students in the Dance Program at South High School tell the story through movement that "we come from the stars" and perform their interpretation of the Kapemni concept. This project is a collaboration between Native Skywatchers and South High School's Dance Program and its All Nations Program. 3:00 pm–3:30 pm. Bell Museum, 2088 Larpeteur Avenue W, St Paul. For info, see: <https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/event/native-skywatchers-kapemni-dance-2>.

May 20 Backstage Basics and more

Erin Gustafson will teach backstage basics. Erin is a Theater Technician (Carpenter, Stage Manager, Electrician, and Painter) and Teaching Artist based in Minneapolis. Currently they are the Lead Carpenter at Park Square Theatre and the 2022-2023 Season Stage Manager at Youth Performance Company (YPC). Tuition for classes is pay-what-you-can, with the suggested price of \$150. Presented by New Native Theatre. Division of Indian Work, 1001 E Lake St, Mpls. For info, contact charli@newnativetheatre.org. For info, see: <https://newnativetheatre.org>. Other upcoming classes:

- **May 20** – Acting & Singing for Native Musical Theater
- **July 10-14** – Native Theatre Youth Camp

May 20 St. Louis Park Public Schools 1st Annual Powwow

The American Indian Parent Advisory Council and the Youth Intertribal Council of St. Louis Park Public Schools will be hosting the first annual powwow to honor the youth. Noon to 6pm. Grand entry at 1pm. Food, dancing, drumming and vendors. St. Louis Park Public School, Recreation Outdoor Center, 3700 Monterey, St. Louis Park, MN. For info, see: <https://www.slp-schools.org/utility-pages/calendar>.

May 20 Corn Husk Doll

Learn how to make a corn husk doll to take home. Corn husk dolls are made out of the outer covering of a ear of corn and are typically made during the fall. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. 11:00AM - 3:05PM. Cost: \$5 supply fee (with regular

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Host Drum: Hoka Hey | Invited Drum: Mississippi Ojibwe

Dave Larsen Memorial Men's Traditional Contest sponsored by Aza Ochoa.
Women/Youth Traditional and Jingle Contest sponsored by the Reddy,
Romero and Dominguez Family.

For more information, call 763.528.4729

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Community Calendar listings are FREE

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Native American Month Calendar of Events

site admission). Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, 43411 Oodena Dr. Onamia, MN. For info, call 320-532-3632, or see: <https://www.mnhs.org/millelacs>.

May 20 We Own Ourselves Celebration

The MHS 4th Dakota Omniciye will include hands-on cultural workshops, artist teachings, film screening, book readings, and presentations. Includes Morning Prayer, Breakfast, Dakota Artists, Films, and Speakers, Dakota Language and Knowledge, Keynote Speaker: Shelley Buck and a Community Dinner. Public event open to everyone. Special events for Native community members. All events are free for Native community members. Site admission is required for the general public. 8:30am to 6pm. MN Historical Society, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul. For info, call 651-259-3000 or see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-american-initiatives-presents-dakota-omniciye-2023-tickets-623922658467>.

May 22 - 24 Tribal Energy Equity Summit

Join us for the 2023 Tribal Energy Equity Summit with Native American tribal leaders and officials from the Federal Government, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Dept. of the Interior to establish relationships and catalyze more meaningful dia-

logue about critical energy considerations such as siting, transmission, interconnection, and the many resources available to tribes to support a just transition to clean energy. Intercontinental Riverfront Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd St. Paul. For info, email: questions@indigenous-energy.org with TEES Summit Question in the subject line.

May 24 - 25 American Indian Mental Health Conference

White Earth Mental Health is hosting the 2023 American Indian Mental Health Conference. The theme of this year's conference is BIZINDAADIWAG - Post-COVID-19: Rebuilding Connections and Holistically Addressing Mental Health. This year's 2-day, in-person conference will be taking place at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen, MN. For info, or to register, see the event page at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-american-indian-mental-health-conference-tickets-609607180487>

May 25 - 27 Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community Fundraiser/Sale

Many designer men's clothes, shoes, belts, shirts. If you would like to donate, please make your donation by May 15. The Mendota Indian community has been in Mendota since the 1700's. We will be selling Indian tacos. For more info: contact Sharon Lennartson at: mendotadakota@gmail.com.

May 26 Everclear at the Shooting Star Casino

A concert featuring the band Everclear. 8pm at the Shooting Star Casino, White Earth Nation, Mahnomen, MN. For tickets, call 1-800-453-7827.

May 26 - 28 Native American Community Clinic's Youth Warrior Camp

Memorial Weekend camp for young warriors. This camp is for young men ages 18-30. Young men will gain the experience of a variety of cultural, educational and recreational activities. Activities include canoeing, moccasin games, drumming and singing, foraging and medicine pouch making. Teachings include star storytelling, water stories, traditional food demo and a sunrise ceremony where these young men will receive cultural gifts. All meals and lodging provided. Voyageur Camp, 7000 County Rd 15, Mound, MN. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/young-warrior-camp-tickets-590295027317>.

May 26 - May 28 Veterans Memorial Powwow

Memorial Traditional Powwow will be held at the Veterans Memorial Pow Wow Grounds, Cass Lake, MN. For info, see: <https://www.llojibwe.org/powwow/schedule.html>.

May 29 Mille Lacs Memorial Day Powwow

Families and community members gather together for a special powwow to remember all the fallen warriors that have fought for this country, and honor all current Veterans. Enjoy the drumming, singing and dancing along the shores of Lake Mille Lacs for this annual event. 12:00 to 4:30pm. 43411 Oodena Dr. Onamia, MN; For info: 320-532-3632 or [mnhs.org/millelacs](https://www.mnhs.org/millelacs).

June 1 - 2 Minogin Conference

Join the Native American Community Clinic for our second annual Minogin Conference! This year, we will be focusing on food sustainability, traditional plants and medicine walk. June 1st from 9:00am to 5:00pm. June 2nd from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Intercontinental Hotel, St. Paul Riverfront, 11 East Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN. For info, see: <https://nacc-healthcare.org/new-events-1/2023/6/1/minogin-traditional-healing-conference>.

June 3 Archery Workshop

Have you ever wanted to learn to shoot a bow and arrow? Let certified archery instructors on staff at Mille Lacs Indian Museum teach you how! You don't have to have any prior experience with archery to participate. Please wear comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes. Children under 18 must be accom-

panied by an adult. 1:00 - 4:00pm. Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, 43411 Oodena Dr. Onamia, MN. For info, call 320-532-3632, or see: <https://www.mnhs.org/millelacs>.

June 3 Columbia Heights Public Schools Powwow

Columbia Heights Public Schools Annual Community traditional powwow. MC: Jerry Dearly. AD: Shawnee Hunt. Host Drum: Hoka Hey, Invited drum: Mississippi Ojibwe. Free community powwow honoring students. Indian tacos, prizes, concessions. CHHS Football Field, 1400 49th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, Noon to 6pm. For info, contact 763-528-4729.

June 16 - 18 Grand Celebration Hinckley Contest Powwow

MCs: Terry Fiddler & Josh Aytchenum. ADs: Darrel Goodwill & Percy Benjamin. Grand Entries: Friday 7pm, Saturday 1 & 7pm, Sunday 1pm. Grand Casino Hinckley, 777 Lady Luck Dr, Hinckley, MN. For info, contact Trisha Moose at 320-982-0959, or see: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=519866836895315&set=a.498338862381446>.

June 20 Springboard for the Arts

Applications are now open for the 2023-25 Rural Regenerator Fellowship which brings together rural artists, organizers, culture bear-

ers and change-makers who are committed to advancing the role of art, culture and creativity in rural development and community building. Fellows participate in two years of peer learning and exchange and receive an unrestricted \$10,000 stipend. 12 Fellows will be selected from rural communities across the Upper Midwest, including Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, and the Native Nations that serve those geographies. Learn more and apply by June 20 at <https://springboard-forthearts.org/rural-regenerator>.

June 30 (deadline) Native Food Security Survey

The Native American Agriculture Fund and FRAC have a new survey for continued research about food access, food sovereignty, and food security for Native American people that can help determine resources needed to improve access to nutritious food for tribal communities. Findings from the last survey conducted in February 2021, showed that 49 percent of American Indian and Alaska Natives experienced food insecurity during COVID-19 and one in four experienced very low food insecurity. The report on the survey findings, "Reimagining Hunger Responses in Times of Crisis," illuminates the challenges of food security in Indian Country and the Tribally-driven solutions needed. Deadline is June 30. The survey is at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NAAF2023>.

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Let's talk about dealing with your smoking habit

BY ARNE VAINIO, MD

Seattle is a beautiful city and was a great place to do my residency. I spent 3 years at the Seattle Indian Health Board and Providence Hospital and have many stories from there.

This is one of them. Harold lived alone with his dog, Albert. Albert was a big, happy, slobbery dog who loved riding in the car with Harold. He had his head out the window with any chance he had. It was clear that in his eyes Harold could do no wrong. Harold hardly ever came in to the clinic. I usually saw him when he was in the hospital for pneumonia. I had repeatedly tried to get him to quit smoking, but he never wanted to go to the classes or take the medicines.

In the 3 years I'd been at the clinic, I had admitted Harold 5 or 6 times to the hospital for pneumonia (a bacterial infection in the lungs). Two of those times he ended up on a ventilator. His pneumonia was complicated by his smoking and resultant emphysema. Emphysema is a breakdown of the air sacs in the lungs, making it hard to get oxygen. It's a chronic

condition with no cure. It's almost always caused by smoking, and preventing it is the only real solution.

In addition to this, he had lymphoma, which is a cancer of his lymph nodes (part of the immune system) about 10 years earlier. This had been treated with chemotherapy, but he never went back to make sure it was cured. But every time he got pneumonia, he became very worried about his lymphoma coming back.

I ended up doing multiple CT scans on him during his pneumonias. Except for his worsening emphysema, these always came out OK. According to the Pulmonologist (lung specialist) I referred him to, continuing to smoke put him at an extremely high risk of getting lung cancer.

About 6 months before I finished residency, he was in the hospital again for pneumonia. This time his chest x-ray showed a worrisome area in his left lung. A CT scan showed this to be likely cancerous.

He was sent to the Pulmonologist and had a bronchoscopy done. This is a procedure in which a camera on a thin tube is passed into the lungs through the mouth. A biopsy (tissue sample) was taken, and this was pos-

itive for lung cancer. He refused to consider surgery and wished to try other options.

He started chemotherapy, but became very sick from it and was unable to finish. There are many types of chemotherapy, usually combinations of medicines based on exactly which type of cancer is diagnosed.

Chemotherapy works by going after rapidly dividing cells. This means it can attack the cancer, but other cells in our bodies are rapidly dividing, including gut, bone marrow and hair. This is why chemotherapy patients can get nausea, weakened immune systems and hair loss. He was given Morphine for his cancer pain and quickly started to abuse it. He ended up in the hospital twice with overdoses of Morphine.

By this time he was getting thinner and had lost almost 85 pounds. Even the skin on his face hung down in leathery folds. Subsequently, he was started on radiation treatment. Multiple treatments of radiation are targeted to the area of cancer. This caused scarring of his esophagus (swallowing tube) and he had a very hard time swallowing. He kept losing weight, but he continued to smoke.

I didn't see him again for several months as he refused to come in for clinic visits, although he did see the cancer specialists off and on. He was admitted to the hospital again, this time for back pain. X-rays showed that his cancer had spread to his spine, and a bone scan showed it spread to scattered areas of his spine and pelvis.

His cancer was widely metastatic (spreading) and he went home with hospice care to spend his last days with Albert as there were no treatment options left. I left Seattle for Minnesota before I found out what happened to him, but his condition was terminal. I hoped one of the hospice nurses found someone to adopt Albert, but he was an old dog and totally dedicated to only Harold. If he did have to be put down, I took comfort in believing they were together again and driving with the windows down.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the USA. There are 175,000 new cases per year in the USA. There are 2 major types, small cell and non-small cell lung cancer. About 80% of new cases are non-small cell and 50% are metastatic (spreading) by the time of diagnosis. This is the most common cancer worldwide. Age 50 to 70 is the most common age and smoking is involved in 87% of cases.

According to the American Indian Community Tobacco Project – www.aictp.umn.edu – 3 out of every



5 American Indian adults smoke, and nearly 2 out of every 5 American Indian deaths are due to cigarette smoking and breathing secondhand smoke. Teens whose family members smoke are 3 times more likely to smoke themselves.

Question: So what do we do about this?

Answer: Prevention!

Anyone seeing a pattern here? We need to keep our kids from smoking, and we need to continue to get current smokers to quit. This is a very difficult problem as nicotine changes receptors in the brain so they only work when nicotine is present. This is why smokers need to have their "fix" and why people can get so crabby when they try to quit. Using patches and gum help by giving a decreasing dose of nicotine over time. There are medicines to help with cravings, there is a new medicine out that blocks the nicotine receptors in the brain. Hypnosis and acupuncture are also helpful (with no side effects). All of these should be in combination with counseling. Quitting with a partner also helps.

Smokers can ask for help to quit. Ask for help at your clinic or by calling 1-888-354-PLAN.

Again, from AICTP: We've survived too much as a people to allow ourselves to be conquered by cigarettes.

Look around. Our kids tend to do what we do. Don't let smoking be one of them.

Arne Vainio, M.D. is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be contacted at a-vainio@hotmail.com

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May 13, 11 am - 3 pm

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May 2023

The Circle: News from a Native American Perspective

<https://thecirclenews.org>



“Sometimes it snows in April”.... By Prince.

And then it snows and snows and snows.... I s’pose I forgot to make the spring offering because it was too cold out and snowing. Ya, it was me being all selfish in that I don’t go outside much except to get my ENP meal. Even then, I am hesitant to get it given my physical limits and that I don’t want to fall down and have bland food on my face when someone trips over me on the way to rob me.

Yah hah! I’m a go out in a spectacular way, of course. What that is still to be determined. I have a lot of thoughts about my demise but in none do I pass

into the ether in bed. There are many scenarios but my favorites are getting run over by a beer truck with ‘Killians’ on the side or winning a jackpot on penny slots. Can one dream, yanno?

No, I’m not talking about leaving here just yet. Some of y’all still have it coming and I will be there however it happens physically or not. One demon from the past actually requested to friend me on FakeBook and I was like, “You’ve done enough damage to me!” Of course I denied his request so there is that. I shut it down and I feel good. Social media is weird and opened an entire new way of hating on people that didn’t exist outside the playground.

Well, back in my Jurassic days I remember having some paint that I used to color the rocks outside Nettleton Elementary above Giichii Gumii (Lake Superior Duluth). I used to think, while living on top of the hill and being in the water that the entire lake was mine. It still is. Ayy!!!

My connection with Giichii Gumii is absolutely personal. If not for Her most of us would not exist here. This planet’s glaciers are melting at a pace that climate change could not have predicted.

My Gramma Rose who has often appeared in my column was tickled when anyone asked her if she was “The Famous Rose” I feel her now and always

will until we meet again in a sacred space. Rose, despite hardships, racism, and too many other ‘isms’ maintained through all of that with a sense of humor. One of her stories was that she looked into a glass of a shop and thought to herself, “My! That’s a fat little woman!”

Then she realized it was her being reflected and we always laughed together as if it was told the first time. Oh my, I miss laughing with my Gram. Bless her.

In my case I have a lot of emotional, physical and mental issues that I will not apologize for. Those were inflicted upon me and I am not playing any sort of victim card. I do celebrate all that was meant to bring me down and I’m still here. I win. Just by breathing and laughing; that is power.

On the other paw, I can’t put two of my many slippers together so I wear them mismatched and I don’t care anymore. This is from a woman who had at one point of her life at least 42 pair of shoes and boots. I used to put all of them in racks close to my bed where I could see them and fall asleep happy.

What happened??? Ugh! It was after

I moved up to Rezberry. I used to wear my fly-ass city clothes to work and out because that’s what I did. Over the past 20+ years, I’ve gone from Saks Fifth Avenue to jeans and T-shirts. Carrdhart is now the standard version of fly and I laugh. I used to snort at the brand but now? Not so much or I would have to go hunting for hides looking like Game of Thrones and stuff. No wolf hoodies at all. Firm!

During all the years of my column being published people have written to me. Yooz empathize with my being and I have no words to describe how much you mean to me. I have received gifts from people who I now embrace as family. So many to list here but I will and probably cry whilst doing so. Not that I am letting yooz go, nah-ah! Yooz are forever in my heart and I’m keeping you.

To date I’m still waiting for the dandelions to appear but I heard some song-birds outside when I let the dogs out. Yeah, that was me just because I have to unload my most heinous sins. More admissions to come!

I love yooz.

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Indian Health Board Invites You To Our

INDIAN MONTH CELEBRATION

May 19th, 2023
Noon-3:00 pm



Frozen Yogurt Truck
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Balloon Artist
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Resource Fair
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