



Lower Sioux builds hempcrete homes



A 4-bedroom hempcrete house being built at the Lower Sioux community. The Lower Sioux Hemp and Housing Program is leading the way for Native communities to utilize hemp for sustainable, energy-efficient housing. (Photo by Ashley Satorius.)

BY MARCIE RENDON

The Lower Sioux Community in southwest Minnesota is combining a vision for sustainable housing with the environmentally sound use of hemp. While other tribes are growing recreational or medicinal plant products, the Lower Sioux Hemp and Housing Program is leading the way for Native communities to utilize hemp for sustainable, energy-efficient housing and is the first project in Minnesota to provide ‘seed-to-wall hempcrete’.

Danny Desjarlais, the Industrial Hemp Construction Project Manager said, “The Housing Program has built the first hempcrete side-by-side emergency housing shelter in Minnesota for tribal members, as well as the first four-bedroom home. We are currently putting up a 1-bedroom tiny home using prefabricated hempcrete panels. By spring of 2024 we plan to build a 3-bedroom elder unit built to conventional housing specs to do a comparative study with the non-hemp homes the tribe has built for elders.” These studies will look at things like internal temperature regulation, air quality and moisture resistance – all environmental benefits promoted within the hempcrete industry.

Desjarlais was born and raised at Lower Sioux. As a child he was introduced to construction work by his father who owned a bridge construction company. After graduating high school, Desjarlais attended the carpentry degree program at the Minnesota West

Community and Technical College where he first learned about hempcrete from tribal council member Earl Pendleton. Pendleton introduced him to the possibilities of hemp as a sustainable building option for the tribe by sending him to the US Hemp Building Summit in 2021. “Pendleton has been pushing for hemp in our community for the past 12 years or so. The Summit opened my eyes to a whole new world. I would say that was the beginning to the rest of my life. He put me in charge of all the hemp building projects for the Lower Sioux.”

Desjarlais has spent the past decade learning everything he can about hemp-how to grow it, how to harvest and process it, how to turn raw hemp into the building material called hempcrete, and how to energize workers to stick with the labor-intensive process of turning the hemp hurd into the building material hempcrete. He and his construction team, all Lower Sioux members, have learned from the best. Alex Sparrow from the UK was one of their first consultants. Desjarlais says, “He wrote the book on hempcrete.”

Pendleton then hired Jennifer Martin from Hempstone in Massachusetts to visit the rez in September of 2022. “She taught a hempcrete workshop where we started to build the concession stand for the youth to sell stuff at last season’s powwow.”

– CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 –

Native translations are being added to more road signage in USA

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

A few years back, Sage Brook Carbone was attending a powwow at the Mashantucket Western Pequot reservation in Connecticut when she noticed signs in the Pequot language.

Carbone, a citizen of the Northern Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island, thought back to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she has lived for much of her life. She never saw any street signs honoring Native Americans, nor any featuring Indigenous languages.

She submitted to city officials the idea of adding Native American translations to city street signs. Residents approved her plan and will install about 70 signs featuring the language of the Massachusetts Tribe, which English settlers encountered upon their arrival.

“What a great, universal way of teaching language,” she said of the project done in consultation with a member of the Massachusetts Tribe and other Native Americans.

“We see multiple languages written almost everywhere, but not on municipal signage,” she said. “Living on a numbered street, I thought this is a great opportunity to include Native language with these basic terms that we’re all familiar with around the city.”

Carbone has joined a growing push around the country to use Indigenous translations on signs to raise awareness about Native American communities. It also is way to revive some Native American languages, highlight a tribe’s sovereignty as well as open the door for wider debates on land rights, discrimination and Indigenous representation in the political process.

“We have a moment where there is a search for some reconciliation and justice around

Indigenous issues,” said Darren Ranco, chair of Native American Programs at the University of Maine and a citizen of the Penobscot Nation. “The signs represent that, but by no means is that the end point around these issues. My concern is that people will think that putting up signs solves the problem, when in fact, it’s the beginning point to addressing deeper histories.”

At least six states have followed suit, including Iowa, New York, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Signs along U.S. Highway 30 in Iowa include the Meskwaki Nation’s own spelling of the tribe, Meskwakiinaki, near its settlement. In upstate New York, bilingual highway signs in the languages of the Seneca, Onondaga and Tuscarora tribes border highways and their reservations.

In Wisconsin, six of the 11 federally recognized tribes in the state have installed dual language signs. Wisconsin is derived from the Menominee word Wsk hsaeh, meaning “a good place” and the word Meskouing, which means “where it lies red” in Algonquian.

“Our partnerships with Wisconsin’s Native Nations are deeper than putting up highway signs,” WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson said in a statement. “We are proud of the longstanding commitment to foster meaningful partnerships focused on our future by providing great care and consideration to our past.”

Minnesota has put up signs in English and the Dakota or Ojibwe languages on roads and highways that traverse tribal lands, while the southeast Alaska community of Haines this summer erected stop, yield, ‘Children at Play’ and street name signs in both English and Tlingit.

– CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 –



m 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

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.

SMSC boost investment in MN-made clean environment products

BY LEE EGERSTROM

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), an early “Angel investor” in a Minneapolis startup company that may make automobiles less environmentally hazardous and potentially less expensive, has increased its investment in the clean technology.

SMSC has provided \$5 million in new funding for Niron Magnetics Inc. It was started at a University of Minnesota science laboratory and is nearing production stage of the world’s first high-performance, “rare earth-free” permanent magnets to be used in computers, auto engines, various electronic devices and appliances.

That new investment in Niron Magnetics was made in October along with others that included the University of Minnesota itself and with technology investment arms for major auto manufacturers, GM Ventures and Stellantis Ventures.

In total, investors made \$33 million in additional funds available for Niron Magnetics to expand its pilot production facilities and manufacturing capacity in Minneapolis. The company doubled its employment from 30 to 60 people in the past year and said it expects to double employment again in the new, current year.

GM Ventures and Stellantis Ventures both invest in new technology companies that have environmental and potentially economic importance to their parent firms’ auto manufacturing businesses.

The GM is General Motors. Stellantis is the European-based conglomerate that includes the Abarth, Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Citroen, Dodge, DS Automobiles, Fiat, Jeep, Lancia, Maserati, Opel, Peugeot, Ram and Vauxhall global auto brands.

They join with Volvo Cars Tech Fund, which was another early investor.

SMSC’s investment in Niron, meanwhile, is anchored in the tribe’s Dakota values rather than from direct ties to the developing technology.

“We were first introduced to Niron in 2016 through the University of Minnesota where this innovative technology was being developed,” SMSC Chairman Keith Anderson said in announcing the new investment.

“We liked that the company’s mission aligned with our tribe’s values to be good stewards of the environment and to be a good neighbor by supporting Minnesota innovation and economic growth.”

That respect was returned. Niron chief executive officer Jonathan Rowntree said in a statement:

“Having the support and backing of the SMSC from the beginning has been so important to Niron Magnetics and the development of this new technology. We are grateful for the tribe’s ongoing support of what we believe will be transformational to clean energy.”

Niron is creating the first permanent magnet made from readily available and sustainable materials. What most people without engineering degrees or advanced knowledge of various other sciences wouldn’t know is that high tech machines, including electric (EV) and other modern transportation vehicles, depend on magnet component parts.

Niron is shooting for full production in 2025.

Its patented Clean Earth Magnet products are made from generally available iron and nitrogen raw materials that can be sourced globally and with environmentally sustainable processes. It is expected they will produce high performance, permanent magnetic materials at half the cost of existing products.

But cost is only one of the benefits. Current magnets are made from what are called rare-earth materials. These include elements most readers did not study in high school chemistry classes that have strong magnetic qualities and can be made permanent often by bonding with other elements.

What gives them the “rare earth” name is that they aren’t found in easily mined veins like iron or copper. Instead, they are in rare finds, recovered from massive strip mining practices that have enormous environmental consequences. That comes from ripping up the land in mining and from related leaching and toxic wastes.

Science sites on the Internet explain these elements, their properties, and their difficulties with extraction for the seriously scientifically curious. Laymen can find helpful and easily understood information from a report in Motor Trend magazine by Frank Markus, published Nov. 8, 2023, headlined New Made-in-America Magnet Could Make Cheaper, Greener EV Motors.

Markus reports that 90 percent of all rare-earth materials such as neodymium, a chemical element, come from China and demand is outstripping supplies. Niron’s Clean Earth Magnets can reduce environmental impacts by 75 percent by eliminating the shifting through tons of earth in search of rare materials to make existing permanent magnets.

Neodymium magnets were invented

in 1984 by General Motors and investment partners. They consist of neodymium, iron and boron and are the most widely used rare earth magnets at this time. In addition to automobile motors, they are essential for electronic devices such as mobile phones, microphones, loudspeaker and some musical instruments.

Depending on China for rare earth materials is also a threat for the global economy. Supply chain disputes between the U.S. and China dating back six years were major driving forces in the global inflation that only now appears to be slowing.

This also helps explain an earlier \$17.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help develop sustainable permanent magnets. That grant came from DOE’s Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP) program.

Andy Blackburn, Executive Vice President for Strategy at Niron, cited the existing supply and environmental problems as a supply crisis affecting the global economy. Permanent magnet technology was developed by U.S. and Japanese companies and research institutions, but “moved to China.”

In an interview with *The Circle*, Blackburn said no one wants “the instability” that comes from supply chain vulnerabilities. Moreover, constantly expanding demand for permanent magnetic products keeps adding to the need for Niron’s Clean Earth Magnets.

New technology keeps adding battery operated demands, he said. Large wind energy developments along shore lines, for instance, require 6,000 pounds of magnets. New cars require from 5 to 10 pounds of these magnets.

Analysts currently value the permanent magnet market at about \$50 bil-

lion globally. Blackburn said potential demand could grow to about \$150 billion annually.

This would be a big reason for Time Magazine to name Niron’s Clean Earth Magnets as one of the best inventions of 2023. Because its materials are globally sourced commodities, the Clean Earth Magnets are less vulnerable to “geopolitical tensions” that contribute to supply and price instability.

The environmental and economic stability aspects would appeal to SMSC. But so does the University of Minnesota connection.

Niron Magnetics was founded as a spinoff company from research on iron nitride conducted by Jian-Ping Wang, a Distinguished McKnight University Professor and the Robert F. Hartmann Chair of the University’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

He and his research team developed the iron nitride, he holds 65 patents and became a member of the National Academy of Inventors in 2022, and he continues to serve as chief scientific officer for Niron.

University biographical materials also note that Wang is a founder of three other companies as well.

Blackburn, originally from the Silicon Valley, likened Wang’s involvement with spinoff companies and linkages the computer and electronics industries have with nearby California academia. And, he said, what Wang and Niron are experiencing here is also similar to the University’s own close engagement with Minnesota’s Medical Alley medical device industry.

The Motor Trend magazine article is at <https://www.motortrend.com/news/gm-niron-iron-nitride-magnet-ev-motor-tech>.



dsgw
ARCHITECTURE
enriching communities

Nishu Lodge - White Shield Elder Center

When you start a project from a **Cultural perspective**, you will get a **Cultural result**.

DSGW.COM
(218) 727-2626

Minnesota: Duluth | Virginia | Lake Elmo | East Grand Forks

Heid E. Erdrich named First-Ever Poet Laureate for Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis' Arts & Cultural Affairs Department and The Loft Literary Center announced the appointment of Heid E. Erdrich as the first-ever city Poet Laureate, marking a significant milestone in the city's cultural and literary landscape.

The new arts ambassador will serve in the inaugural role for the duration of 2024, kicking off her tenure at the January 8 City Council Meeting followed by a public celebration on January 18 at the Loft.

A widely esteemed poet, author, and advocate, Erdrich brings an illustrious and influential body of work and life experience to this role. Erdrich's career encompasses a series of acclaimed poetry collections, including the National Poetry Series winner *Little Big Bully*. Erdrich is Ojibwe, enrolled at Turtle Mountain, and in addition to her own work has edited multiple collections amplifying the work of other Indigenous writers. Erdrich has received two Minnesota Book Awards, as well as fellowships and awards from the Library of Congress, National Poetry Series,

Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, The Loft Literary Center, First People's Fund, and others.

Erdrich has taught and practiced multidisciplinary art for decades, both as a professor and in community. She has visited dozens of colleges and universities, libraries, and tribal and cultural institutions as a guest speaker and teacher. Her keen interest in visual poetics and ekphrasis has led to multiple collaborations, curations, and installations around Native American art.

"Minneapolis is a city of arts and creativity – and our new Poet Laureate will help inspire our community through the power of words," Mayor Frey said. "I look forward to welcoming Heid E. Erdrich to this role – and seeing her use language to inspire and unite our community."

Erdrich shared her gratitude and excitement at the new role, "Minneapolis is a city of poetry – the home of great poets and publishers of poetry – and it is a great honor to serve as the inaugural Poet Laureate. It is especially gratifying for me as an Anishinaabe woman to acknowledge



that Indigenous people, particularly the Dakota, were the first poets of this place. In my role as Poet Laureate I will include Indigenous poets in all I do. I am grateful for the honor. Miigwech!"

As the Poet Laureate, Erdrich will champion the power of words, engaging with diverse communities across Minneapolis through readings, workshops, and initiatives that celebrate the city's cultural tapestry.

Erdrich's appointment marks a pivotal

moment in Minneapolis' cultural heritage, heralding a new era of literary engagement and artistic appreciation for generations to come.

Heid E. Erdrich has authored several poetry collections, including *Little Big Bully*, a National Poetry Series winner. Erdrich edited *New Poets of Native Nations* anthology from Graywolf Press and has received many honors, including the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry from the Library of Congress and a National Artists Fellowship from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. She regularly serves as a visiting writer and recently taught a term at Dartmouth College as a scholar of Native American Literature. Heid is Ojibwe, enrolled at Turtle Mountain.

Upcoming Schedule

- **January 8:** Heid E. Erdrich will be honored at the first City Council meeting, where she will present a new poem written specially for the occasion.

- **January 18:** A public celebration at The Loft Literary Center, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Understand Native Minnesota grants campaign

BY LEE EGERSTROM

Minnesota kindergarten through high school educators who want financial help for developing Native American content and securing materials for their classrooms have until Jan. 16 to make applications for new mini-grants through the Understand Native Minnesota campaign.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) has made \$500,000 available for the Understand Native Minnesota mini-grant program for 2024. The program makes up to \$2,000 available to educators for use in training or for classroom projects to gather and share accurate information about Native Minnesotans, past and present.

The grant program is available to all K-12 educators in Minnesota public, charter, tribal and private schools.

"You can't understand our state without understanding the important contributions of Indigenous communities, today and throughout our history," said Jo-Anne Stately, a senior vice president at Minneapolis Foundation, in announcing the mini-grant program.

"All students benefit when our schools reflect the full story of Minnesota," she said.

That was the motivation for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community when it set aside \$5 million

in 2019 to launch the Understand Native Minnesota education program. It supports research, teaching resources, professional development and educational programming for educators and within Minnesota school programs.

Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, Secretary/Treasurer at SMSC and chair of the Understand Native Minnesota effort, stressed the need for statewide understanding in the mini-grant announcement.

"If we are going to dramatically improve the position of Native people and tribal nations in the consciousness of our fellow Minnesotans, it naturally leads us to concentrate most of our efforts on the kids who will be tomorrow's citizens, workers, voters and leaders," she said.

Through its support of Understand Native Minnesota, SMSC is supporting "Native American narrative change in Minnesota's public schools," she added.

Broadly defined, the mini-grants can be used for classroom resources, materials and projects, professional development or curriculum and resource development, the announcement said.

The Minneapolis Foundation is administering the grant program. Applications are being reviewed by a committee of foundation staff members, members of the SMSC and Native education experts.

The foundation works to build strong communities and works in partnership with other groups, such as SMSC, in supporting shared goals.

The Understand Native Minnesota campaign stresses similar goals. The program explains SMSC objectives at: <https://www.understandnativemn.org>.

"The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and other tribes have made important progress in recent decades in rebuilding their communities and cultures, and, in the process, reshaping many non-Natives' perceptions of Native Americans. However, most Minnesotans still have little or no in-depth understanding of the state's tribes or Native history and culture."

To counter this perceived lack of understanding, SMSC and Native education leaders push what they call "narrative change." That means changing the public's views of people through "education, awareness raising, and constructively overcoming misunderstandings and misperceptions."

Perspective on this need comes from a study, "Restoring Our Place: An analysis of Native American resources used in Minnesota's classrooms," commissioned by SMSC in 2022. It was prepared and written by education consultant Odia Wood-Krueger, a Central Urban Métis Federation member in Saskatchewan and veteran educator in both Minnesota and in Canada.

Following that report, Understand Native Minnesota has subsequently held workshops for educators hosted at SMSC. It also launched a One-Read program in which Minnesota educators used the book *Voices from Pejuhutazizi: Dakota Stories*

and Storytellers in their classrooms.

That book was written by Upper Sioux Indian Community members Teresa Peterson and Walter "Super" LaBatte Jr., published by Minnesota Historical Society Press. SMSC purchased and donated 20,000 copies of the book for educators to use in their classrooms.

While that revives Dakota history and culture lessons, or the Native "past" in Minnesota, the Understand Native Minnesota project also addresses Minnesotans' lack of understanding of the Native "present" – such as the state's 11 federally recognized sovereign tribes.

For instance, SMSC acknowledges on its website that it is a small federally recognized tribe. But it is the largest employer in Scott County through its enterprises, is the largest philanthropic benefactor in Indian Country nationally, is one of the largest charitable givers in Minnesota, has donated more than \$350 million to organizations and causes, provided \$500 million in economic development loans to other tribes, and contributes millions more dollars to regional governments and infrastructure. That means SMSC and other tribes are not just past history. They are the here and now.

More info about the grant are available at: <https://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/stories/community-issues/mini-grants-for-k-12-educators-teaching-native-american-content>.



Calling all future educators!

BECOME A TEACHER & IGNITE CHANGE!

Have a bachelor's degree?
Want to earn while you learn?
Want assistance with tuition?

If you answered **YES** to these three questions then visit **spps.org/SUTR** to learn how you can become a licensed teacher AND earn a Master's degree in just 15 months! Additionally, \$20,000 will apply to your tuition.

Saint Paul Urban Teacher Residency (SUTR) is an innovative teacher preparation program that aims to prepare, support and retain highly qualified teachers for Saint Paul Public Schools. SUTR provides an affordable, accelerated program to earn a Minnesota teaching license and master's degree from the University of St. Thomas in just 15 months.



School of
Education



UNIVERSITY OF
St. Thomas



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Exhibit tells viewers Native Americans are still here and we matter

REVIEW BY DEBORAH LOCKE

If I told you that an exhibit was fabulous and that you should run, not walk, to see it within the next two weeks, would you do it? Why the rush? The “In Our Hands – Native Photography, 1890 To Now” is at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) until January 14, 2024. American Indians can see the exhibit free of charge so when you arrive at the desk, just self-identify. You don’t need a tribal ID.

The 12,000-square foot exhibit divided into three parts contains an amazing array of more than 150 photos and works by American Indian photographers from North America. The level of talent in those rooms is astronomical, and the hardest part of my afternoon was leaving it behind. Maybe the best way to absorb the impact of this powerful display is this: spend a couple hours reviewing everything, go downstairs and have lunch or walk outside, then return for a second visit to give full attention to your favorite works.

A woman in traditional Native American dress, including a feathered headdress and a colorful, patterned tunic, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing in a field with green grass and trees in the background.

Close the gender and racial pay gap.

New law prohibits employers from asking job applicants about past pay.

Learn more and report violations mn.gov/mdhr

Here’s a cautionary warning: As with any honest depiction of American Indian history, some works in the exhibit are hard to take. But the message that carries from room to room is simple. American Indians are still here. We matter, have always mattered, and will always matter.

At the exhibit entrance that day as visitors milled around, Mia curator Casey Riley said that work on the exhibit began in March 2020. Two councils were formed to determine the breadth and scope of the exhibit. They were: (1) a curatorial council of 14 advisors that included internationally known artists and academics based in Canada and the U.S., and (2) a community council of advisors and consultants. Both councils were composed primarily of Native people. The council members and Mia staff agreed to three themed exhibit areas: “Always Present,” “Always Leaders,” and “A World of Relations.”

A few of my favorite works include these: “matri-lineal” by Raye HeavyShield (Blackfoot) which showed life size photos of four women from four generations of HeavyShield’s family. HeavyShield’s oldest photo will resonate with many of you. It shows a woman

who may be in her mid-40s whose clothing and facial expression resembles pictures of great grandparents from your family photo albums. The strength and tenacity of American Indian women leaps from many of the exhibit’s photos.

Many depictions are timeless. Thomas Fields’ “Dancing in the Sunlight” shows a photo of women walking in a circle that could date to the early 1900s. Fields took the picture in 1999.

“Rez-Dog” by Rapheal Began (Navajo), taken in 1985, shows the photo of a starving, snarling dog that was taken at his late grandmother’s home following the butchering of sheep. The dog is dragging a sheep’s head and had been challenged by another dog for

the prize. I felt pity for the animal and rez dogs generally who live without care from humans.

Offsetting “Rez-Dog” was Zig Jackson’s (Arikara, Hidatsa and Mandan) humorous “Indian on Mission Bus” that shows an Indian in full headdress seated on a city bus with a group of passengers who appeared to pretend they didn’t know he was there. And then there was Richard Throssel’s “An Indian Girl With Dog” which showed a sweet baby with a dog in her lap, an image again resembling photos from your family albums.

Of course, it’s unlikely to view Indian art without Indian mention of power struggles, protest, land theft,

boarding schools, broken families, addiction and tragedy. Some depictions are subtle, like Erica Lord’s (Athabaskan) photo of the back of a woman with “I tan to look more native” written across her back. Or Rosalie Favell’s (Metis) “my first day of assimilation” which shows the early 1960s snapshot of a little Indian girl in a dress on her way to the first day of school. Or James Brady’s (Metis) “Anti-War and Fascism Demonstration” photo dated 1934.

Like excellence in any medium, these works will pick you up from where you were and drop you in a new place. That place is not always comfortable, not pretty, but always provoking and inspiring.



Left top: Tee Lyn Copenace. By Nadya Kwandibens (Animakee Wa Zhing First Nation).

Left middle: Blizzard conditions help the DAPL security lights illuminate the Oceti Sakowin camp at Standing Rock Reservation. By Russel Daniels (Diné and Ho-Chunk).

Left bottom: Matika Wilbur. By Henrietta Mann (Cheyenne).

This page: Marie Rexford of Kaktovik, Alaska preparing maktak for the village’s Thanksgiving Day feast. By Brian Adams (Iñupiaq).

**MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**EXHIBIT
NOW ON VIEW!**

Reframing
OUR STORIES

Through the lens of this powerful exhibit, visitors will witness the resilience and strength of Native communities within the Twin Cities and Minnesota through stories reframed by their own words, experiences, and perspectives.



mnhs.info/reframingthecircle



**MINNESOTA
HISTORY
CENTER**

345 W. KELLOGG BLVD.
ST. PAUL, MN 55102

Tammy Fairbanks at bat. Photo by Mike Zerby.
From “Urban Indians,” picture magazine,
Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, November 18, 1979.



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**

The next expert invited in was Cameron McIntosh from Americhanvre Cast Hemp from Allentown Pennsylvania. “He taught us how to spray hempcrete and helped us build the duplex, the first hemp house in Minnesota.”

The crew then traveled to Denton, Nebraska for hemp block training with Dion Lefebvre from Davita Blocks, Alberta, Canada. “We retrofitted a 100-year-old general store with hemp blocks. We also had a lime plaster training on the rez this past October, again with Jennifer Martin and Tim White from Texas healthy Homes.”

Currently, with only 500 tillable acres, the tribe can plant anywhere between 100-200 acres per year. To complete the projects they are currently building they sent Lower Sioux harvested hemp out to a processing plant, contracted for more hurd from other growers and then they went to work processing the hurd.

Hurd is the wooded core of the hemp plant’s stem that is used to create the end product. The crew mixes hemp, lime and water in a ratio of 4:1:1, hemp, lime, water respectively. Then, either by hand or with a blower, they pack the hempcrete material into the walls of the house. Once the walls are dry, they apply a layer of plaster.

The hemp home walls are at least 12-inches thick and provide enough insulation for the homes to typically self-regulate to 64 degree temperatures, leading to large savings on both heating and cooling. Desjarlais anticipates the comparative studies to show that their homes are 70% more energy efficient than conventionally built homes.

Hemcrete claims the potential to produce not only a carbon neutral future, but could be part of the remedy to actually capture the overly high levels of carbon from our atmosphere. According to Anthropocene



Danny DesJarlais with a hempcrete panel that will be used to build houses at Lower Sioux. (Photo by Ashley Satorius.)

magazine, “Hemp’s rapid growth, dense canopy, and ability to grow in nutrient-poor soils make the plant more efficient than trees at sequestering carbon. In construction, hemp is combined with a lime-based binder to create hempcrete, a carbon-negative biocomposite that can sequester over 100 kilograms of CO2 per square meter.”

Additionally, hempcrete is fire-resistant, mold resistant, and pest resistant. The air quality inside a hemp

home is of better quality than homes made with materials that contain fiberglass or other toxins typically present in conventional building materials. Hempcrete is 100% recyclable because it is made of all natural products. A hempcrete home has a projected lifetime of hundreds of years, compared to the typical home’s 50-to-100 year lifespan. Desjarlais referenced one hemp home built in 1698 that still stands in Japan today, with only paint touch-ups.

The Industrial Hemp Construction Project has experimented and successfully built homes using the cast-in-place method on the concession stand; the spray-applied method on the duplex, and they are currently undergoing the building of a tiny home using prefabricated hempcrete panels. By the end of 2024 the goal is to have a fully operating processing plant on the reservation to move tribally grown hemp through every stage, from the field to move-in-ready homes.

Desjarlais was invited to talk to the Leech Lake communities in early December about the Lower Sioux projects and how other communities can begin building with hemp. In August of 2023, he traveled to British Columbia to lead a hempcrete training with the Gitksan people.

As a visionary leader in the use of hemp to create sustainable, energy-efficient homes for tribal communities, Desjarlais and his work crew, with their accumulated knowledge learned from trainings, in-house processing of hurd, and the hands-on-building of homes, they are becoming the ‘turn-to’ folks for others interested in this environmentally friendly, sustainable housing movement.

For more information, see website: <https://lowsioux.com/departments/agriculture>.

Are any products or services below pain points FOR YOUR CURRENT OR FUTURE TRIBAL DISPENSARY?

Banking <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Are you using a cannabis friendly bank that handles all banking needs?➤ Are you using smart safes to protect cash and receive provisional credit within 24 hours?➤ Are you receiving a competitive rate for processing debit or credit cards?	Cash Flow forecast <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Have you started forecasting for 2024?➤ Any need for additional equipment?➤ Do you need to expand staff?➤ Will you need financing for expansion?
Payroll <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Are your payroll services accurate, timely, compliant, and efficient?➤ Does your service provider respect and honor the legacy of freedom, innovation, and self-reliance that is the hallmark of Tribal Sovereignty communities?	Security <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Are all areas where cash and cannabis are held monitored by surveillance cameras?➤ Are all POS transactions paired with your surveillance footage?➤ Do you have a third-party service that will send video footage of break ins to police in real time?

If so, allow Verlin to advise on key vendors and franchisors that can expedite startup with brand recognition.
Verlin Taylor, Fractional CFO • (214) 536-5361 • verlin.taylor@money-managers.com

Douglas Olerud, the mayor at the time, told the *Juneau Empire* it was healing for him after hearing for years from Tlingit elders that they were not allowed to use their language when sent to boarding schools.

"This is a great way to honor some of those people that have been working really hard to keep their traditions and keep the language alive, and hopefully they can have some small amount of healing from when they were robbed of the culture," he said.

In New Mexico, the state transportation department has been working with tribes for years to include traditional names and artwork along highway overpasses. Travelers heading north from Santa Fe pass under multiple bridges with references to Pojoaque Pueblo in the community's native language of Tewa.

There have also been local efforts in places like Bemidji, Minnesota, where Michael Meuers, a non-Native resident, started the Bemidji Ojibwe Language Project. Since 2009, more than 300 signs in English and Ojibwe have been put up across northern Minnesota, mostly on buildings, including schools. The signs can also be found in hospitals and businesses and are used broadly to spell out names of places and animals, identify things such as elevators, hospital departments, bear crossings –

"MAKWA XING" – and food within a grocery store, and include translations for welcome, thank you and other phrases.

"Maybe it's going to open up conversations so that we understand that we are all one people," said Meuers, who worked for the Red Lake Nation for 29 years and started the project after seeing signs in Hawaiian on a visit to the state.

The University of Maine put up dual language signs around its main campus. The Native American Programs, in partnership with the Penobscot Nation, also launched a website where visitors can hear the words spoken by language master Gabe Paul, a Penobscot pronunciation guide.

"For me, and for many of our tribal citizens and descendants, it is a daily reminder that we are in our homeland and we should be "at home" at the university, even though it has felt for generations like it can be an unwelcome place," Ranco said.

But not all efforts to provide dual language signs have gone well.

In New Zealand, the election of a conservative government in October has thrown into doubt efforts by transportation officials to start using road signs written in both English and the Indigenous Māori language.

Waka Kotahi, the New Zealand Transport Agency, earlier this year pro-



A dual-language sign for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin erected along Highway 47/55 in Keshena, Wis. (Photo by the Wisc. Department of Transportation.)

posed making 94 road signs bilingual to promote the revitalization of the language.

But many conservatives have been irked by the increased use of Māori words by government agencies. Thousands wrote form submissions opposing the road sign plan, saying it could confuse or distract drivers.

The effort in Cambridge has been welcomed as part of what is called the participatory budgeting process, which allows residents to propose ideas on spending part of the budget. Carbone proposed the sign project and, together

with a plan to make improvements to the African American Heritage Trail, it was approved by residents.

"I am so excited to see the final products and the initial run of these signs," Carbone said. "When people traveling around Cambridge see them, they will feel the same way. It will be just different enough to be noticeable but not different enough that it would cause a stir."

Carbone and others also hope the signs open a broader discussion of Native American concerns in the city, including representation in the city government, funding for Native American programs as well as efforts to ensure historical markers offer an accurate portrayal of Indigenous people.

When she first heard about the proposal, Sarah Burks, preservation planner at the Cambridge Historical Commission, acknowledged there were questions. Which signs would get the translations? How would translation be handled? Would this involve extensive research?

The translation on streets signs will be relatively easy for people to understand, she said, and inspire residents to "stop and think" about the Massachusetts Tribe and to "recognize the diversity of people in our community."

"It will be attention-grabbing in a good way," she said of the signs, which are expected to go up in early 2024.

Visit the Bell Museum

...Minnesota's official natural history museum, open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Travel the Minnesota landscape through our world-renowned wildlife dioramas and journey through the cosmos in the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Planetarium.

Upcoming events

Moments of Memory: Minnesota Landscapes Painted from Life

New exhibit on view January 27, 2024

Space Fest: Celebrating Our Star

February 16 – 18, 2024

Plan your visit today: z.umn.edu/visittoday

The Bell Museum waives general museum admission for Dakota and all Indigenous peoples. For more information visit bellmuseum.umn.edu/mnisota-makhoche



NAIAHF Inductee Ryan Salmon advocates for community with volleyball

By day Ryan Salmon (White Earth Ojibwe) is the Tribal Liaison for White Earth and during the night he's the Owner/Director for Minnesota Juniors Volleyball Club.

"I started to play volleyball in Laguna Beach, CA," said Salmon. "I was 10 years old and that was the only activity I could do that adults at the beach would allow."

"I immersed myself into volleyball once I got into high school, on my own. I watched pro athletes and any volleyball that I could to get better," added Salmon.

Salmon was inducted into Builder Category in the 2024 North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame (NAIAHF). He has provided youth skills clinics with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin.

He's also a former NAIA All American volleyball player at Kendall College. "I received that honor, and it was quite significant," said Salmon. "Kendall College won our conference championship and finished ranked sixth in the nation. I led the nation in digs/set for a couple of weeks during our season."



Salmon's indigenous core values defined how he practiced and competed and this also factors in how he manages his work. He said, "While I did not experience a traditional upbringing and did not fully immerse myself in our culture until 20 years ago, it was during that time that I came to recognize and embrace our Ojibwe Grandfather Teachings, aligning them with my core values."

"In embracing leadership roles, I am guided by: humility, honesty, compassion, respect, spirituality, bravery, and Mino Bimaadiziwin. Humility reminds me of the importance of listening and learning from the diverse voices within our community. Compassion: As we navigate the challenges and opportunities that come our way, I am dedicated to leading with a compassionate spirit. Recognizing the unique struggles and triumphs of each individual, I aim to create a space where everyone feels heard, valued, and supported."

"I believe that by cultivating a sense of Mino Bimaadiziwin, we can collectively strive for a life that reflects not only material well-being but also spiritual, cultural, and emotional fulfillment. Bravery is essential in our pursuit of positive change. I am committed to approaching challenges with courage, standing up for what is right, and advocating for the well-being of our community. By embracing bravery, we can navigate uncertainties and pave the way for a better future," added Salmon.

"In the summer of 1997, I was in a horrible car accident and needed surgery on my knee," said Salmon. "The doctors told me that I wouldn't be able to play competitive sports. I was devastated. Scholarship offers were taken back, and the recovery process took

longer than expected."

"I ended up making a roster spot at UNLV. After playing at UNLV for two seasons, I was offered a full athletic scholarship to attend Kendall College. I continue to set goals, knowing that there will be distractions. As long as I keep my goal in sight, I will achieve it," added Salmon.

In his NAIAHF bio, it states: "Beyond his achievements in volleyball, Salmon, alongside his wife, Nicole, holds the significant role of Directors at the Minnesota Juniors Volleyball Club. In this capacity, he leverages his extensive knowledge and experience to nurture young talent, providing aspiring athletes with the opportunities and guidance needed to reach their full potential. Through his leadership, Salmon plays a crucial role in shaping the future of volleyball in Minnesota."

Salmon's wife Nicole is a former NCAA D1 All American volleyball player at the University of Missouri. She also was an assistant coach at McNeese State University and Indiana State University and coached a few years at Hill-Murray School in Minnesota.

"Ryan is the driving success behind the business of MN Juniors," said Nicole Salmon. "He had a dream of building this program and has worked hard to make that dream a reality. Together we have built a dream through love and strength and tough times. He is so passionate about volleyball and reaching young athletes."

"Volleyball can be a great teacher for life as well. This is the passion behind MN Juniors (with) the whole athlete in life and sport, that is why he built something to be different from the rest," added Nicole Salmon.



DON'T LOSE IT!

- Keep your Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare active
- Fill out and return your renewal forms
- Watch your mail and go online NOW



mn
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage

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

editor@ajwnews.com

Return of the buffalo

When I was a boy growing up in St. Paul, we often visited Como Zoo. In the 1950s, there was the smelly main building with big cats, apes, etc., all kept in tiny cages. I vaguely recall feeling some sadness while witnessing this inhumane spectacle.

And from a young age, I was in awe of the bison roaming in their outdoor pen. They were huge mammals, with gigantic horned heads and big soulful eyes – we'd look at each other through the sturdy fence. Of course, I was unaware then of the history of the American buffalo, as far as its life being entwined with the lifeways of Native people on the Great Plains.

For those similarly enamored of the buffalo, I recommend watching the PBS series "The American Buffalo," from acclaimed documentary filmmaker Ken Burns ("Brooklyn Bridge," "The Civil War," "Baseball," "Jazz"). The four-hour series, which is divided into two parts ("Blood Memory" and "Into the Storm"), premiered last October.

The story recounted in the documentary is ultimately a tragic one. As the series website (pbs.org/kenburns/the-american-buffalo) explains, "The American Buffalo" takes viewers "on a journey through more than 10,000 years of North American history and across some of the continent's most iconic landscapes, tracing the animal's evolution, its significance to the Indigenous people and landscape of the Great Plains, its near extinction, and the efforts to bring the magnificent mammals back from the brink."

And the filmmakers add that for "thousands of generations, buffalo (species bison bison) have evolved alongside Indigenous people who relied on them for food and shelter, and, in exchange for killing them, revered the animal. The stories of Native people anchor the series, including the Kiowa, Comanche, and Cheyenne of the Southern Plains; the Lakota, Salish, Kootenai, Mandan-Hidatsa, and Blackfeet from the Northern Plains; and others."

The interviewees, members of the aforementioned Native nations, include N. Scott Momaday, the Kiowa author of the 1969 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "House Made of Dawn"; Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet of Montana and Métis), an author, environmental historian and ethnobotanist, who is a professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; George Horse Capture, Jr. (Aaniih, or Gros Ventre), who is director of Aaniih Nakoda Tours on the Fort Belknap reservation in Montana; and Marcia Pablo (Pend d'Oreille-Kootenai), tribal coordinator

with the Bureau of Land Management in Billings, Montana, and the great-granddaughter of Michel Pablo, who raised the world's largest bison herd in the early 20th century.

As the documentary notes, buffalo were plentiful on the Great Plains – perhaps, 30 million of them roamed freely early in the 19th century. The Lewis and Clark expedition, in 1805, encountered massive buffalo herds, sometimes having to halt for hours as the animals passed. By the 1850s, when the "hide hunters" had commenced slaughtering bison with their buffalo guns, the numbers had shrunk to 15 million animals. In the late 19th century, when the Smithsonian Museum sent an expedition west to gather buffalo specimens, the search went on for weeks without sighting a single buffalo.

"The American Buffalo" emphasizes that the destruction of the buffalo was part of government policy aimed at dispossessing Native people. The documentary covers the invasion of the Black Hills by gold prospectors and the northern Great Plains by hide hunters, in violation of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, which was followed by the 1876 defeat of Custer's troops at the Little Big Horn by a combined force of Lakota and Cheyenne warriors. And after years of warfare, when a Lakota band led by Chief Big Foot was camped at Wounded Knee Creek, and in the act of surrendering, they were massacred by the U.S. 7th Cavalry, Dec. 29, 1890. Destruction of the buffalo coincided with the U.S. government's repression of the Native nations.

The final chapter of "The American Buffalo" is titled "The Return," and it traces efforts to bring back bison to their ancestral lands in the West. Dozens of Indian tribes now manage buffalo herds.

As I ate breakfast and read the Dec. 30 edition of the *Star Tribune*, I came across an article at the bottom of the front page titled "Bison herd is revived on Mdewakanton Sioux land." Ten female bison are now roaming some acreage in the "southwest metro," according to the article. The initiative by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is described as an effort "to forge renewed cultural and spiritual connections between tribal members and the animals."

And my wife and I are planning a family vacation this summer, a belated celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary, somewhere in the Black Hills. We'll be sure to drive through Custer State Park and see the buffalo herd.

All Nations Rise
indigenous

You are MORE than a babysitter.

When you care for the children of family, friends, or neighbors (FFN) while they work or go to school-- you are providing critical support in helping children, families, and the community thrive.



Please join our
Indigenous FFN
Childcare
Network!

Scan QR code to register:



Indigenous FFN Childcare Member Advantages:

Educational and cultural resources
Mini-grants of up to \$1,200
Training opportunities
Assistance with becoming legally non-licensed or
licensed Networking with other unlicensed FFNs, and
more!



Contact: Doreen Lanoue, FFN Coordinator
Indigenous Visioning/All Nations Rise
218-850-4803
doreenlanoue@allnationsrise.com
<http://www.indigenousvisioning.com>

FUNDING PROVIDED BY A GRANT FROM:



Ongoing
Reading tutors
needed for AIMS

Reading Partners is a national education nonprofit that mobilizes communities to provide students with proven, individualized reading support they need to read at grade level. Community-based volunteers are trained to use our accessible curriculum while building a one-on-one relationship with their student(s). We work exclusively with students of elementary age, kindergarten through 5th grade. We are presently serving students of the American Indian Youth Enrichment program, an after-school initiative hosted between 3:30-4:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays in the American Indian Magnet School in Dayton's Bluff, Saint Paul. If you would like to be a tutor contact: kalju.maegi@reading-partners.org or lara.posner@reading-partners.org.

Ongoing
Call for Native Artists

Native American artists, performers, and culture bearers looking to exhibit, enhance, or share their artistic talents and cultural knowledge are invited to apply to the Cultural Programs offered through THE INDIAN MUSEUM OF NORTH AMERICA® at the Crazy Horse Memorial in S.D. Programs include: Artist in Residence, Gift from Mother Earth Art Show and Sale, Talking Circle Speaker Series, Living Treasures Indian Arts Cultural Exchange, and Daily Cultural Performances. For info, see: <https://crazyhorsememorial.org/the-museums/cultural-programs-opportunities> or call 605-673-4681, ext. 286.

Thru Jan 13
Aabijjwan Ukeyat
yanalleh Exhibit

Aabijjwan Ukeyat yanalleh is a collaborative exhibition from artists Karen Goulet (Ojibwe) and Monique Verdin (Houma). Karen and Monique are sisters of the same river, connected by the planetary life force known as the Misi-ziibi (Big River, Ojibwe) near the headwaters in the north and remembered as Misha sipokni (Older than Time, Chata) in the coastal territories of the southern Delta. All My Relations Arts, 1414 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. For info, see: <https://nacdi.org/events/aabijjwan-ukeyat-yanalleh-opening-reception>.

Thru Jan 14
In Our Hands: Native
Photography, 1890 to Now

Enter into the vivid worlds of Native photography, as framed by generations of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Native American photographers themselves. Presenting over 150 photographs of, by, and for Indigenous people, "In Our Hands" welcomes all to see through the lens held by Native photographers. Organized by a council of primarily Native artists, scholars, and knowledge sharers, in partnership with Mia curators, this sweeping exhibition traces the intersecting histories of photography and diverse Indigenous cultures from the Rio Grande to the Arctic Circle. These artworks celebrate the legacy of groundbreaking photographers and their influence on the medium today. General Admission \$20; Contributor Member+ Free (additional tickets \$16); Youth 17 and

under free. Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2400 Third Ave S, Minneapolis. For info, see: <https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/in-our-hands-native-photography-1890-to-now>.

Thru March '24
The Lyrical Artwork
of Jim Denomie

The Minneapolis Institute of Art will survey Jim Denomie's expansive artistic career in The Lyrical Artwork of Jim Denomie. This exhibition surveys the artist's singular vision and signature style over the second half of the artist's career, from 2007 to 2022. Jim Denomie (Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe, 1955–2022) drew inspiration from lived experiences, pop culture, Anishinaabe traditions, and American histories to tell compelling narratives that depict his experiences of being Native in America. The exhibition examines Denomie's creative process, tracing his ability to transform inspiration into monumental artworks. Free. MIA, 2400 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis. For more info, see: <https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/the-lyrical-artwork-of-jim-denomie>.

Thru Oct 2025
Reframing Our Stories

Witness the resilience and strength of Minnesota's Native communities through stories reframed by their own words, experiences, and perspectives. From a decades-old box of photographs simply labeled "Indians," came the idea for a powerful new exhibit. Inside the box were dozens of pictures of Native community members, organizations, activities, and events that are rele-

vant today. Now in the hands of Indigenous community members, those photos have new meaning. As part of the Our Home: Native Minnesota exhibit, Reframing Our Stories showcases the strength and resilience of Native people and inspires audiences to learn about the past, present, and future of these communities. Native community members get in free. Minnesota Historical Society, 345 W Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul. For info, see: <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter/activities/museum/our-home/reframing-our-stories>.

Jan 6
American Indians &
the American Dream

History Forum In-Person: American Indians & the American Dream presents Kasey Keeler. In her groundbreaking history of the urbanization and suburbanization of Native communities in Minnesota, Kasey Keeler shows how American Indians have navigated the intersection of federal Indian policy and federal housing policy to access homeownership, particularly in the suburbs. From the Homestead Act of 1862 to the housing bubble of the early 2000s and today's Wall of Forgotten Natives, Keeler offers new ways to think about histories of place and placemaking for American Indians here in Minnesota and highlights the contradictions and limits of the ever-alluring "American Dream." Keeler (Tuolumne Me-Wuk and Potawatomi) is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a joint appointment in the Department of Civil Society & Community Studies and the

American Indian & Indigenous Studies Program. She is author of American Indians and the American Dream: Policies, Place, and Property in Minnesota. She received her PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. 10am and 2pm. \$16. MHS, 345 W Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul. For info, see: <https://cart.mnhs.org/86745/86752>

Jan 7
Okizi (To Heal) Call for Artists

All My Relations Arts invites artists to participate in the group exhibition, Okizi (To Heal). All American Indian artists are welcome to apply. All works must be original and can be 2D, 3D, video, or performance. Okizi (To Heal) is a partner exhibition with the American Swedish Institute in response to their upcoming traveling exhibition, Arctic Highways: Unbound Indigenous People. A common theme of these dual exhibitions as the meeting of two Indigenous peoples is the healing impacts of cultural revitalization. While efforts were made to separate Native peoples from their spirituality, language, and cultural knowledge and traditions, Okizi (To Heal) will highlight the revitalization efforts that reconnect this generation and future generations to our language, land, and culture as a means of healing from historical and generational trauma. Deadline is Jan 7, 2024. For info, see: <https://allmyrelationsarts.org/opportunities/calls/okizi-to-heal-call-for-artists>.

Jan 8 thru Feb 26
Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe)
Language Table

Due to its popularity, we will host our free Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) Language Table virtually via Zoom on Mondays. This Ojibwe Language Table is open for anyone interested in learning and practicing the Ojibwe language together. Participants are asked to commit to an 10-week session of weekly meetings January 8 and going thru February 26. There are two sessions: Beginner session starts at 5pm, and Intermediate session starts at 6:20pm. All are welcome to attend whichever session you are interested in. All of our weekly exercises and practice is geared towards building our confidence and ability to converse together in the language. AICHO's language table facilitator is Ricky DeFoe, Fond du Lac Ojibwe tribal member and language instructor. Our language table helper is Dené Sinclair, Peguis Band Member from Manitoba, Canada and Anishinaabemowin language learner. To register, go to: <https://forms.gle/7Qo4j4xfy3j4Sj2b9>.

Jan 10
Joseph Sutherland

Come enjoy an evening of tales, teachings and more from Ogimaawab (Joseph Sutherland) as he tells Naanaboosho stories, and shares his knowledge of the Anishinaabe. Sutherland, a member Of the Nishinawbe Aski First Nation, functions as a committed Anishinaabe Language and Cultural Teacher. His dedication to cultural education plays a pivotal role in preserving and enhancing the Anishinaabe heritage substantially. Additionally, he shares insights into

GET YOUR
health **BOOST**

Protect yourself against flu and COVID.



Find vaccines near you at **vaccines.gov**



the indigenous perception of the night sky. 1pm - 2pm. Bois Forte Heritage Center, 1500 Bois Forte Rd. Tower, MN. For info, see:<https://allevents.in/nett%20lake/anishinaabe-storytelling-with-joseph-sutherland/200025944053027>.

Jan 11
Gigibaaga'adowewin - Carrying the Stickgame with us

Join the Fond du Lac Language Program and FDLTCC for baaga'adowewin (traditional stick lacrosse) Thursdays this winter from 5pm – 7pm. FDLTCC Gym time is 5pm to 8pm. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, 2101 14th St, Cloquet. For info, email taylor.warnes@fdltcc.edu or see: <https://fdltcc.edu/event/gigibaagaadowewin-carrying-the-stickgame-with-us/2024-01-11>.

Jan 12-13
13 Moons Gichi Manidoo Giizis Powwow

Join us for the annual Gichi-Manidoo Giizis Powwow, hosted by 13 Moons. Friday: 7pm – 8:30pm. Saturday: Registration 10am, Grand Entry 1pm and 7pm , 5pm Feast. MCs: Les Gibbs Ojibwemowin and Alex Bagwajinini Kmett. AD: Terry Good Sky. SA: Ricky Defoe. Host Drum: Hoka-Hey Singers. Co-host Drum: Cedar Creek Singers. Black Bear Casino Resort, 1785 Highway 210, Carlton. For info, see: <https://fdltcc.edu/event/13-moons-gichi-manidoo-giizis-pow-wow-2024>.

Jan 13
Corey Medina & Brothers with Annie Humphrey

The Cedar presents the return of blues-tinged rock and roll powerhouses, COREY MEDINA & BROTHERS. Corey Medina is a Native American Blues Artist from Shiprock, NM. He moved to Northern Minnesota in 2012 and collaborated with Incepticons Entertainment. Corey released his debut album "Old Dog Crying" in May of 2015. Annie Humphrey, an Anishinaabe singer/songwriter from the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, will also perform. This is a seated show with general admission, first-come-first-served seating. General Admission tickets are available online. Doors open at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. \$24 Advance, \$29 Day of Show. Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis. For info, see: <https://www.thecedararchive.org/listing-2/2024/1/13/corey-medina-amp-brothers-with-tbd-special-guest>.

Jan 18
Teresa Peterson and Diane Wilson

PERENNIAL CEREMONY event at Birchbark Books with Teresa Peterson and Diane Wilson. Peterson will join Birchbark Books for a discussion of her forthcoming book Perennial Ceremony: Lessons and Gifts from a Dakota Garden in conversation with Diane Wilson. In this rich collection of prose, poetry, and recipes, Peterson shares how she

found refuge from the struggle to reconcile her Christianity and Dakota spirituality, discovering solace and ceremony in communing with the earth. Perennial Ceremony brings us into this relationship, as Peterson guides us through the Dakota seasons to impart lessons from her life as a gardener, gatherer, and lover of the land. 6:30 PM to 8:30pm. Birchbark Books, 2115 W 21st St, Minneapolis. For info, see: <https://birchbarkbooks.com>.

Jan 19 (deadline)
ArtsHERE: New Grant Initiative

ArtsHERE: A New Grant Initiative from National Endowment for the Arts is now Accepting Statements of Interest. These grants range from \$65,000 to \$130,000 and support projects focused on equity, community engagement, and increasing arts access. 501(c3) organizations and federally recognized tribes just need to submit a simple statement of interest by Jan.19, 2024. ArtsHERE supports organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to equity within their practices and programming and have undertaken consistent engagement with underserved groups/communities. Grants are for specific projects that will strengthen the organization's capacity to sustain meaningful community engagement and increase arts participation for underserved groups/communities. To learn more, see: [ArtsHERE.org](https://artsHERE.org).

Jan 24
2nd Annual NWICDC College Fair

Join at our 2nd Annual College Fair from 10am to 1pm. This event will take place at NorthWest Indian Community Development Center in the Large Gathering Room. Northwest Indian Community Development Center, 1819 Bemidji Ave N, Bemidji, MN 56601-3836, United States, Bemidji. For info, see: <https://allevents.in/bemidji/north-west-indian-community-development-center-college-fair/200025881633251>.

Jan 27 - May 26
Moments of Memory Exhibit

Plein air painting is the art of capturing outdoor scenes from life. Named from the French for "open air," this form of painting from life moves artists out of the studio to study real landscapes, focusing on how light and shadow interact with things in particular places. The result is a snapshot of a moment in time, one that might be remembered, but never repeated. Bell Museum, 2088 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul. For info, see: <https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/moments-of-memory-minnesota-landscapes-painted-from-life>.

Jan 31 (deadline)
MN BIPOC Emerging Writer Award

Blue Earth Review is looking for works by BIPOC, of flash fiction,


essay, memoir, and short poetry that offer insight, and that enrich our understanding of what it means to be human. Submissions close Jan. 31. There is no submission fee. One submission per participant is allowed. Eligible participants must self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or a Person of Color (BIPOC) and have a history of producing artistic work. Winners will be paid \$1000 by our affiliated institution, Minnesota State University–Mankato. Payment will be received on or after publication of the featured magazine. For info, see: <https://blueearthreview.mnsu.edu/contests/mn-bipoc-award-guidelines>.

Feb 2-4
5th Annual Ojibwe Language Symposium

The Ojibwe Language Symposium is a family oriented, collaborative, community event where language holders and learners come together. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, 2101 14th St, Cloquet. For info, see: <https://fdltcc.edu/event/ojibwe-language-symposium-5th-annual>.

Mar 20
IHB Elders Brain Health Day

The Indian Health Board will hold a Elders' Brain Health Day. Brain health refers to your thinking, understanding, processing, and memory abilities. It also can refer to the things you do to keep your brain healthy and active, like staying physically active and following a healthy diet Held at the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, 2307 S 17th Ave, Minneapolis. For info, see: <https://www.indianhealth-board.com>.



INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
INVITES YOU TO

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 20TH, 11 AM - 2 PM

ELDER'S BRAIN HEALTH DAY

LOCATED AT EAST
PHILLIPS CULTURAL AND
COMMUNITY CENTER

Do you or someone you know need a a place to warm-up overnight?

Ramsey County warming spaces are open nightly.



Call **651-266-1050**, scan the QR code or visit ramseycounty.us/WarmingSpaces to learn more or to get help finding a warming space.



RAMSEY COUNTY

Community Calendar listings are FREE

To have your event listed, email them to:
thecirclenews@gmail.com
by the 20th of the month.



MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION

CULTIVATING CHANGE TOGETHER.

Where do you turn when you have big and small dreams about how to change the world? Your local community foundation is here to help.



Visit our website to learn more:
MINNEAPOLISFOUNDATION.ORG/TOGETHER



The 10 biggest changes to hit Minnesota in 2023

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

After winning narrow majorities in both chambers of the Legislature and securing control of the governor's office. In the five months that followed, they adopted dozens of sweeping changes that affected Minnesotans' lives in ways big and small.

Here's a look at some of the biggest policy changes that took effect this year.

1) Legalized cannabis: The Legislature approved a proposal to legalize cannabis for adults 21 and older. The law allows people to possess, use and grow cannabis, and it grants the expungement of some drug-related crimes from criminal records. Minnesota became the 23rd state to legalize marijuana for recreational use. In August 2023, it became legal for adults to grow and possess small amounts of marijuana without penalties. Fewer than half of the other states allow people to grow their own within limits.

It will be another year or so before cannabis dispensaries can set up shop around the state. A couple opened soon after the Aug. 1 authorization date because Indigenous Tribes in Minnesota are sovereign and some authorized dispensaries to open early.

2) Free school lunches: Minnesota became the fourth state in the country

to provide free breakfasts and lunches to students at participating schools after Walz signed the measure into law in March. Many, but not all students in Minnesota qualified for free and reduced-price meals ahead of the change. That program was based on household income, and if families were below a certain threshold their students could receive school meals for free or for a reduced price. Families no longer have to prove their income.

3) Reproductive, gender-affirming care rights: Minnesota lawmakers approved policies that guaranteed the right to reproductive and gender-affirming care services in the state. Lawmakers also rolled back restrictions on abortion and set in place legal protections for people traveling to Minnesota for abortions or for gender-affirming care, as well as for those who provide it.

4) New state flag: After raising concerns that Minnesota's current flag is too cluttered and insensitive to some groups because of its depiction of a Native American man riding toward the horizon, the Legislature commissioned a new flag. The new emblems are set to take effect in May unless the Legislature votes to override them.

5) Tax rebates: Lawmakers agreed to send

tax rebates to Minnesotans who made up to \$75,000 a year in 2021 (or \$150,000 as a married couple). The state sent out just under \$1 billion to more than 2 million Minnesotans. Checks spanned from \$260 for an individual to \$1,300 for a family of five. The state announced in December that the IRS plans to tax the checks, despite pushback from Minnesota leaders.

6) Clean energy push: DFL legislators approved and the governor signed into law a plan to require the state's utilities to use only carbon-free sources to generate electricity by 2040. In later provisions, lawmakers approved significant investments that supporters said could help Minnesota fight climate change and move more aggressively toward a carbon-free economy. As part of a \$2 billion environment and climate package, legislators adopted the country's toughest restrictions on PFAS and created new requirements to limit the spread of chronic wasting disease.

7) Gun restrictions: Democrats approved two bills that will make Minnesota the latest state to enact what are known as "red flag" and Extreme Risk Protection Orders designed to remove firearms from those believed to be at risk of suicide or harming others.

Beginning on Jan. 1, Minnesotans will be able to petition a court to authorize the removal of someone's firearms.

8) Felon voting rights: Beginning in June 2023, Minnesotans convicted of a felony who had served all necessary time behind bars had their right to vote restored. Under prior law, they had to serve out supervised release or probation before they could vote.

9) Free college tuition for some: Students whose families make less than \$80,000 a year became eligible for free tuition at Minnesota's public colleges and universities starting in the 2024 school year under the North Star Promise Scholarship Program. The program doesn't have an age restriction, but recipients can't have completed a bachelor's degree program. The scholarships will cover tuition and fees after other scholarships, grants, stipends and tuition waivers have been applied.

10) Driver's licenses for all: Beginning in October of last year, Minnesota began accepting applications for drivers licenses, regardless of an applicant's immigration status. About 81,000 people were estimated to become eligible for licenses, permits and state identification cards under the change.



SEEKING PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

American Indian/Alaska Native
Parenting & Health Research Study

REGISTER NOW



Eligibility

- ▶ Self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native & live in urban area
- ▶ Primary caregiver of American Indian or Alaska Native youth age 12-17

Contact Information
Phone: (612) 812-7041
Email: sadie.hart@adycenter.org

Your family could be eligible to receive up to \$200 in gift cards

ASU Global Center for Applied Health Research
Arizona State University



Don't risk a gap in your health insurance

Covered by Medical Assistance or Minnesota Care?

Call or Visit IHB's MNsure Navigators for assistance

Update your contact information to avoid losing health insurance

Indian Health Board
1315 E. 24th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55404



Channelle
Patient Navigator
612.721.9887



Isaac
Patient Navigator
612.721.9848



Again with another story, ay? Some of you may have read how my nephew Jerone and my son Steve (who were both little guys at the time, ages 7 and 4) and their Gami and I made it to Lake Winnibegosh amidst heavy July traffic to a cabin there. At every intersection or stop (or anytime we weren't in a ditch), Jerone said, "Well, we made it this far." *Spoiler!* We did make it there and back to the city, so all was well. That, my Love is how I can sum up this past year.

But back to the story: The two little boys discussed how they would push the car out of the ditch and save two feeble women who would be weeping and cheering them on at the same

time. They both grew up to be fine men who know what is expected of Indigenous men, like when they stand around and shout advice to the one who is actually fixing the vehicle so they can all pile in the car/truck to town to purchase more refreshments.

C'mon now! Yooz all understand what I mean.

The Saturday before Christmas 2023 I actually got out of my house. It's been quite awhile – so much so that I don't exactly recall when I did last go outside. I got an unexpected check from an admirer and so I was all rich for a day...well for a few hours anyway. We went to the Risky Raccoon Casino & Last Resort to eat brunch. I wasted money on myself as I could not pile up the hot dishes I wanted to eat and didn't even finish my dessert, which was caramel roll with a side of some kinda slurry wannabe ice cream. My bad.

I would have at least brought baggies with me but I did not know we would end up there. It would have been a fun game of "what the deet-dee-dadeet is this" afterwards.

Well, since my back and legs can't go too far I got a wheelchair, courtesy of the establishment I set off for my favorite slot game. NO! I'm not gonna tell yooz which one but I did spend

\$60 and cashed out \$300. So, I won. Walked outta there with my chins held high and chuckling. A rare experience.

Oh! When I first got there, a Rezberry woman said hi to me and I do not know who she is. Then I remembered that I was wearing my last out of date eyeglasses that are fixed with Duck Tape on the right side. I laughed and laughed! Tryna (not that day) be all siddity and fierce? Then I did not give a noodle, it was MY day and it was a fun one. Chii miigwetch for the gift, you know who you are. I feel so good and appreciated. *blushing* Some Bunnies love me. M'Wah!!! I love you back!

Since it is January 2024 (!!!!!!!) I have to pretend I made some New Year's resolutions. Ya. But for real I did chastise myself for not taking care of moi. Oh, I'm able to get around my wigwam but the pain is getting worse. I've already had two spinal fusions and my sciatica is on high. So, I will drag my carcass to the clinic for what I feel is inevitable surgery, again.

I know! I KNOW!!! I do have many more actions to take to better my health but I am a infamous serial procrastinator. So...next on my list is to clean my bedroom. Stop laughing. I'll just say if I did fall down in there it

would be a soft landing. I've always loved clothes, shoes and just fashion in general. Now? I have succumbed to the unspoken etiquette of the late 70's, early 1980's here in Rezberry and surrounding areas. (Read T-Shirts and jeans. Ick).

Ya, ennit? I just now deleted a rant that happened before I topped my dome piece with my purple witch hat. Ima post a photo when I can, just so you know who you are dealing with. Not a threat, no, but I still have access to the Moccasin Network should I need to go there. Bwah Hah Hah...

Ayyyyy!!! Not even. I am in the thoughtful place where I need to write it. Nothing barred yo! I have no intention of 'outing' anyone. I want to write about my childhood and now (whatever this is). So many stories have been given to me, I will share a snippet.

Our Mom's had a house party. As the eldest child there (maybe 10) I noticed that the adults peed a lot. So I Scrooge McDucked and charged the partiers .50 to use the toilet, which was at the time big money for the penny candy store!

Want more? Email or call, either way I want to know.



Trellis Mgmt.

Trellis Management offers quality, affordable living throughout the Twin Cities in convenient neighborhoods and communities including:

- Minneapolis
- Saint Paul
- Golden Valley
- Fridley
- Roseville
- Eden Prairie

- Brooklyn Center
- Hopkins
- Anoka
- Apple Valley
- Burnsville
- Mahtomedi

Outstate residents also benefit from Trellis' commitment to affordable housing in greater Minnesota Communities including:

- Hibbing
- Little Falls
- Park Rapids
- Proctor

- Sandstone
- Eveleth
- Mankato



For more information about Trellis Management's portfolio of quality, affordable apartments, and rental homes visit us at www.trellismn.org or call 612-371-0766.



Trellismn.org

Equal Housing Opportunity




USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY


PROTECT

your pre-teen



Protect your pre-teen from cancer caused by HPV including cervical cancer. Get the HPV vaccine between the ages 9 and 12. The vaccine is safe and effective.

Learn more at [HumanPapillomavirus\(HPV\)health.state.mn.us/diseases/hpv](http://HumanPapillomavirus(HPV)health.state.mn.us/diseases/hpv)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



CULTIVATING CHANGE TOGETHER.

Where do you turn when you have big and small dreams about how to change the world?

Your local community foundation is here to help.

The Minneapolis Foundation drives collective action to realize strong, vibrant communities. For more than a century, we have equipped individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits with the knowledge, tools, and resources to strengthen communities in Minnesota and beyond.

We strive to be responsive to emerging needs, centering community wisdom and perspectives in every aspect of our work and listening closely to those most affected by injustice. Through grantmaking, research, advocacy, and donor services, we fuel the work of organizations and people who are cultivating change together.



**MINNEAPOLIS
FOUNDATION**

Visit our website to learn more and explore snapshots of our work:

[MINNEAPOLISFOUNDATION.ORG/TOGETHER](https://minneapolisfoundation.org/together)

