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Indian country responds to inauguration of President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris
Sixth in a series: SWO 2020 Winter General Council reports, including Annual State of Education report
Community Health Education COVID-19 newsletter
Reminder: Deadline Friday noon



Change service requested
Sota Iya Ye Yapi, P.O. Box 5, Wilmot, SD 57279
Contents - Time-Dated News/Do Not Delay
Mailed at Ortonville, MN, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021

Publication of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe of the Lake Traverse Reservation since 1968



Vol. 52 January - Wi Tehi Wi - "Moon of Hard Times" - Anpetu Iyamni, Jan. 27, 2021 No. 4

Tribal Secretary Thompson updates Oyate on re-opening admin building, travel ban

Agency Village, SD - Jan. 19, 2021 - SWO Tribal Secretary Myrna Thompson updated the Oyate on the re-opening of Tribal offices today on the SWO COVID-19 Facebook page. Here is the transcript:

Good afternoon, mitakuyapi, my name is Myrna Thompson, the Tribal Secretary of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and I just wanted to give you some quick updates regarding the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate administrative offices.

The Sisseton-Wahpeton employees have been recalled back to work beginning today. They reported back to work with the exception of the employees that

are unemployment status. Those employees will be recalled at a later date, and also with the exception of those in quarantine or an isolation due to COVID-19 - they will follow the pandemic policy in that case.

To ensure the safety of the general public and the employees, when you enter the Tribal Administrative Building, it's open to the public from nine o'clock in the morning to 4:00 p.m., And that's due to the screening that takes place of all the employees in the morning.

So if you choose to come into the admin building during those hours, you will be screened at the front entrance, that East entrance, and masks will be

mandated to be worn throughout the building.

If you do need to contact an office for an appointment, let security know and they will call back to our offices and let us know that you're there.

We have amended the travel ban and I will just quickly read it...

The business travel ban put into effect on March 16th, 2020, remains in effect, except for necessary travel within the tri-state area, which is North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

Travel requests submitted must be for business critical purposes only. Requests will be reviewed by your

supervisory executive and approved on a case by case basis.

When traveling, please continue to practice social distancing and wear a mask.

That concludes the update.

Just stay safe out there and wear your mask and maintain your social distancing of six feet or more.

Thank you, mitakuyapi.

The video is available here: https://fb.watch/37TtbdnBsV/



By Mimi Larsen Features Writer

Sisseton, SD - Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021 - A good idea catches on like fire, and the idea of the Lighted Tipis inspired more than 60 people to help sponsor the event, inspired 58 community members to volunteer to make it a reality, and welcomed more than 600 people to visit during the two weeks the tipis stood sentinel in SWO Memorial Park.

Members of the community came together among the beautiful, lighted tipis for many reasons: to honor those who've died and those currently struggling; to give and to receive counsel; to offer encouragement; and above all, to pray.

On all counts, it was very successful, and a concept likely to catch fire across many tribes, across many states and territories.

The idea for the lighted tipis started in Billings, Montana, home for Alana Little Bird, who directs the Piya Canku Relapse Prevention program and has been a member of the SWO community for a decade.

Winter days are dark, regardless, but with the added shadow of Covid-19 hovering over everything, the tribal nations of Montana decided to offer hope, light, and warmth through the symbol of the lighted tipis to help lighten the darkness. Their tipis were set up from Dec. 19 to the end of the year.

Inspired by what was happening back home, Alana wanted to bring the same message, in the same way, to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, and she did.

"I couldn't go home (due to pandemic restrictions), to travel back and

Alana Little Bird, Piya Canku Director, thanking everyone for the support for the lighted tipis. John Heminger Photography/



be with relatives," said Alana, when talking about the lighted tipis in Montana.

"One way or another, we are all grieving a loss."

Grief needs an outlet, a means of expression, and the lighted tipis could be a way to do that, Alana believed.

"We had a really good turnout," she said.

Oyate brought more than 100 painted memorial stones (with names of loved ones for whom they mourned) and more than 100 prayer ties.

They came to pray, to talk, to grieve, or simply to soak up fellowship at the fire.

When Alana's idea germinated, she had no idea how big it would grow.

"I didn't really think about it," she said.

"I thought about it for a week, and got a team together the second week. The third week, we took it to the (Tribal) Council."

"I thought it would be simple, a breeze," Alana

added.

"Then it went over my head!" Doubts crept in.

"Last week, on the third day, I actually got scared," said Alana.

"So many people were asking me what to do. I'd never directed so many people, and I realized the responsibility, and how big a job this was. I thought maybe I couldn't do it, but having so many good people behind you, who are proud of you, really encouraged me, and that energized me to just go on to the next day."

"I learned a lot of lessons," she added.

"One was to stay in the day, not to think about tomorrow, or I'd get overwhelmed."

What amazed and humbled Alana was how many people stepped up to make her idea a reality.

People offered tipis, firewood and time.

They organized and supplied security.

Firekeepers kept the flames burning 24 hours a day,

regardless of weather, including a blizzard.

Sponsors offered supplies for the tipi set-up, snacks and gift bags for the volunteers.

Dancers and singers stepped up for today's ceremony in front of a Keloland television camera crew. Miss Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Blossom Tiomanipi and Miss Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Veterans Day Princess Talia Robertson gave interviews with Keloland News. This was their first moment representing the Oyate since the shutdown began last March.

They spoke about how the pandemic has effected them and their community.

You can watch the interviews on Keloland News this Monday, January 25, 2021.

SWO Tribal Chairman Delbert Hopkins Jr. offered prayers, hope and encouragement.

Lighted tipis Continued on Page 18



SWO Tribal Chairman Delbert Hopkins Jr. speaking at the park Thursday. John Heminger Photography.



John Heminger Photography

Fifth in a series -

SWO 2020 Winter General Council reports

Due to the rising COVID-19 cases and to keep Oyate safe and healthy, the Tribal Executives excluded the public from attending SWO's 2020 Winter General Council, held Thursday and Friday, December 17-18. Program managers presented their annual reports at the podium in Council chambers; KXSW was there to televise on Venture Channel 390, broadcast on FM 89.9, and provide a live feed on the SWO Tribal Council YouTube Channel (where archives are available).

General Council booklets were available throughout the week at Tribal headquarters and at Dakota Crossing. Additional copies are available at Tribal headquarters.

This article, sixth in the series, begins coverage of programs under the office of SWO Tribal Secretary.

Elderly Affairs Annual Report

Bonnie Thompson: Program Manager Staff:

- Fern Backer LPN
Sharon Hopkins Data Entry Clerk
Barbara Mail Adm. Assistant/EAP
Donna James Home-Health Care Worker
Marva Redthunder Home-Health Care Worker

Program Summary & Responsibilities:

- *COVID-19 safety practices:
*Wearing our mask daily

- *Washing our hands or using gloves
*Keeping our doors locked
FY2020 Accomplishments of Goals & Objectives:
1 We have (had) an elderly board. Measureable result: Monthly mtgs. discussed all issues that were brought up from their districts. Any elderly abused cases were turned over to the protection board.
2 We also (had) an elderly protection board. Measureable result: This team is selected by one LPN, one police officer, elderly program, elderly affairs 3 or 4 members from the board.
Looking Ahead: FY2021 Goals & Objectives
Assisted Living Center. Projected measureable result: Elders will be more comfortable with their own

- center....
Unmet Needs: Our main problem is elder abuse and some are not being reported, there are some that should have protective payee. Recommendation: Need someone that they can trust and come with them to the board mtg.
Advisory board:
Tribal Council Ex-Offici- Winfield Rondell
Big Coulee Lisa Jackson
Buffalo Lake Louie Johnson
Enemy Swim Cheryl Owen

Winter 2020 general council Continued on Page 6



Report to Oyate Veterans from SWO Veterans Service Officer Geri Opsal



***ATTENTION VETERANS OF THE SWO:**
Please contact our office via email, phone call or text. We are trying to get an accurate count of how many elderly Veterans we have living on the SWO, so if your 55 and older please contact via email GeriO@swo-nsn.gov, cell or text 268-0502 and I'll make sure you're on the roster. PARENTS: If your child is a SWO member and joined the Armed Forces in the past year please notify us, we keep a roster of all of our SWO members serving active duty.

***OFFICE OPEN:** The office is open full time; Gabe and I am happy to be back full time. This past year with the pandemic it was hit and miss, we had a lot of life changes this past year, we lost a lot of our loved ones to the pandemic and other illnesses. But we are determined to get back on track and resume all normal activities while following the Covid guidelines. We will be back full force, full time and are here to help you. We missed you all.

***Covid vaccine:** Please remember to get your Covid vaccine when offered, also the VAMC will be offering the vaccine, if you need a ride up call the office if you need a ride after they call you to notify you when your eligibility comes up.

***UVA Meeting:** Monday, January 25, 2021 @ TVSO office in the post office building, Suite 121.

***ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT:** There will be an ice fishing tournament flyer coming out for ALL anglers - everyone will be welcome, don't have to be a Veteran but it's called "Tri Lakes Ice Fishing Tournament" and the date is for Saturday, February 13th, 2021. Keep tuned to the Sota and mark your calendars. What I like about it is that you can donate an honorary donation in the name of your loved one that passed on and at the end of the tournament as they read off the prizes they will read the name of your loved one. Gabe Fischer is helping with this tournament and he can be contacted at 419-1007, he will have it on his FB page as well as in the Sota paper soon!

***Again, please pray for our Veterans that are ill or fighting some sort of battle at this time. We have so many that are having health issues that need our prayers. And stay safe, stay at home unless it's for groceries or medical. Protect your family and friends from others.**

***VETERAN/ELDERLY EMERGENCY CONTACTS**
*Kit Fox Society: Duane "Doc" Wanna 1-605-237-2168
*American Legion Post #314: Clayton Ellingson 1-605-924-1266
*Desert Era Veterans: Jesse Chanku 1-605-956-0197
*Gabe Fischer 1-605-419-1007
*Geri Opsal 268-0502

NDN Collective responds to inauguration of President Joe Biden

Nationwide – Jan. 20, 2021 – Today, NDN Collective released the following statement in response to the swearing-in of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States:

"Today, we celebrate the collective work of our people and movements who have organized, built power and helped deliver one of the most important elections in history" said Nick Tilsen, President and CEO of NDN Collective. "Today also marks the beginning of a new fight. We must work hard to hold the Biden-Harris Administration accountable and ensure that Indigenous rights are at the forefront. We call for a new policy era between the United States and Indigenous Nations. An era built on free prior and informed consent. An era of repair and racial reckoning, for us as Indigenous people, this means Landback. The returning of Indigenous lands back into Indigenous hands and tearing down the system of white supremacy that made it possible to steal our lands in the first place. Liberation of our people and our lands isn't fought in 4 year terms but we will use this moment in history to catalyze our movement forward."

"As we celebrate today and welcome the Biden-Harris Administration, we honor all of the organizers on the ground who worked tirelessly to make this happen," said Korina Barry, Managing Director of NDN Action. "It has been a long and very harmful

four years for Indigenous people and our Black and POC relatives. There is much work to do ahead as we fight to dismantle white supremacy and uproot systems of oppression. We hope the Biden-Harris Administration listens to and works closely with Indigenous people and Tribal Nations in this fight for justice. There is no justice without us."

"Indigenous peoples have long been ready to engage with presidential and congressional leadership that is committed to true inclusion of all peoples, expertise, wisdom, and practices that uphold the future for all – not just for a privileged few," said Nikki Pieratos, NDN Fund Managing Director. "Indigenous wisdom and experience begets better for all peoples across the spectrum of policy areas. We're enthused, and encourage our nation's leadership to continue leaning into this wisdom. NDN Collective promises to continue Indigenousizing places and spaces."

"The Biden-Harris administration is the result of the collective movement of Indigenous people and all allies who believe in Climate Justice, Indigenous and Racial Justice," said Gaby Strong, Managing Director, NDN Foundation. "We're vigilant and we're organized and we'll continue to work with our people for Indigenous self-determination and prosperity that is just and equitable for all people and the planet."

"Two weeks ago, we watched as domestic terrorists attempted a coup on the sacred order of the democracy we hold dear," said Michelle Fox, Managing Director of NDN Partners. "In order to move forward, we must continue dismantling white supremacy throughout all levels of government, business, social, and legal institutions. Today's inauguration represents a renewed hope shaped by years of work in communities of color and throughout Indian country of this painful, yet necessary process. We cannot sit idle, but as we felt on 9/11 we must now focus on becoming fully engaged in the installation of progressive policies to ensure that the bloodshed on 1/6 was not in vain."

NDN Collective organized Sko Vote Den Virtual Intertribal, which aimed to drive voter engagement amongst Native people. NDN Collective also executed impactful social media campaigns and messaging to inform and encourage indigenous people to participate in the 2020 presidential election.

NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building, and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms.

the toxic results of tar sands mining in Northern Alberta. We cherish their leadership and direction through this decades-long fight to stop the expansion of the Tar Sands. It was because of their struggle and our efforts to uplift the Indigenous Rights violations associated with tar sands development, we were able to demonstrate the power of Indigenous resistance and organizing.

"The KXL pipeline would have only deepened our mutual addiction to dirty oil and enable the ongoing expansion of the tar sands at the expense of our communities; as well as at the expense of advancing clean energy," said Melina Laboucan-

Massimo, Indigenous Climate Action Director of Just Transition.

Within the context of the Environmental Justice movement, it has always been a challenge for folks to understand the strategic value of an Indigenous Rights framework when it comes to protecting land and water. As Keystone XL became a marquee struggle in the United States, it was our belief that allies could not talk about this fight without addressing the impacts on Indigenous Rights.

"This is a victory and hopefully this is the end of it. We have been fighting KXL ever since we heard about it. It was not only about treaty rights violations, it was also about dirty oil. It was about being in solidarity with the Dene and Cree people in Canada. The State department did not consult with us, they never paid attention to us. Maybe, now they will. Indigenous Peoples have always stood up for Mother Earth and we will never give up that fight," said Rodney Bordeaux, President for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

The Keystone XL campaign provided tangible examples of

how Indigenous Peoples not only maintain the moral authority to protect their territories but the legal right to deny consent to toxic projects.

"For over a decade, Indigenous peoples and our allies have prayed, cried, and demonstrated to stop this evil zombie pipeline. We look forward to hearing President Biden take further action by stopping DAPL and line 3. Nothing less than stopping these attacks by guaranteeing free, prior and informed consent and establishing a climate test will we consider to call this a complete victory.

However, today is a great day. And I thank all that helped us get here." said Joye Braun, Cheyenne River Lakota, Community Organizer with Indigenous Environmental Network

Extraction and pollution have poisoned Indigenous lands and bodies for long enough. Our votes were a mandate for Joe Biden to take bold action. Strengthening tribal sovereignty and our treaties must be built on a foundation of Free, Informed Prior Consent and stopping KXL, Line 3 and DAPL is a great start to that process.

"Once again our prayers were answered by our ancestors. It is a good victory, but we can't forget how many times the government tried reviving the KXL pipeline.

We are Oceti Sakowin and we have the power to make things better for the people," said Angeline Cheek, Tate Ska Washte Win, Indigenous Justice Organizer, ACLU/Kokipasin Grassroots Group. "Through prayer there is unity and strength. Thank you to our spiritual leaders, elders, youth, communities, Grassroots organizers, supporters and allies. Mitakuye Oyasin."

Established in 1990, the Indigenous Environmental Network is an international environmental justice nonprofit that works with tribal grassroots organizations to build the capacity of Indigenous communities. I EN's activities include empowering Indigenous communities and tribal governments to develop mechanisms to protect our sacred sites, land, water, air, natural resources, the health of both our people and all living things, and to build economically sustainable communities.

Rounds statement on Inauguration of President Biden

Washington, DC – Jan. 20, 2021 – U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) made the following statement on the Inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris:

"The peaceful transfer of power that the American people witnessed today on the steps of

the U.S. Capitol is fundamental to our republic and the future of our great nation. I wish President Biden and Vice President Harris the best as they assume the tremendous responsibility entrusted to them.

"I know we will not agree on every issue, and I'm ready to stand as loyal opposition when we

disagree on issues of principle. But we all want to leave this nation better than we found it. I do look forward to working with the new administration on ways we can move our country forward, leaving more opportunities for the next generation."

Gov. Noem introduces legislation on DEX

Pierre, SD – Jan. 21, 2021 – Today, Governor Kristi Noem announced that she will introduce two pieces of legislation.

Governor Noem is introducing legislation that will authorize the Department of Agriculture – and future Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) – to contract for construction of the Dakota Events Complex (DEX).

"In South Dakota, we see challenges as an opportunity to grow, to build for the future," said Governor Kristi Noem. "The new DEX will be a state-of-the-art facility which will attract regional and national events to Huron. I'm

excited for DANR to get to work on this project and to complete the DEX by the 2022 State Fair."

Additionally, Governor Noem is introducing legislation to protect charitable organizations from having their donor information doxed.

Also introduces legislation to protect charitable organizations

"South Dakotans should be free to give to charity without having their personal information released against their will," continued Governor Noem.

"I am committed to fighting for the privacy rights of all South Dakotans, especially those who generously give of their own treasures to support charitable organizations."

Blessed are the Peacemakers

By U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)
January 22, 2021

Emotions have been running high across our great country. Both sides, all sides need to take a breath. A member of my staff showed me a Facebook squabble taking place within their family - a perfect microcosm of America. A bunch of expletives that can't be stated here hurled back and forth between family members. I wondered if they would have talked to each other like that face-to-face? Probably not.

Social media has impaired our inhibition to the point that that emotion has gotten the best of me, too. I've been aggravated with how President Trump lashed out at the end of his term and by the attacks on good people like Vice President Mike Pence. I've even said some things in the heat of the moment that I would've rephrased or withheld altogether.

But at the end of the day, the facts remain. Under no circumstances did Vice President Pence or the Congress have unilateral constitutional authority to "flip" the election. Furthermore, neither of the two objections raised on January 6 provided a single thread of new evidence. And yet, there we were defending the Constitution in the wake of nonstop attacks and false claims. The real

our differences may be stark, we're all Americans. We gain nothing trying to silence or belittle others for their sincerely-held beliefs. If we truly want to make progress on the important issues before us, we must rid ourselves of the "us vs. them" mentality and tone down inflammatory rhetoric and name calling that sows division. Instead, we must listen, contemplate, attempt to understand, persuade, debate, negotiate and ultimately cooperate.

We're all exhausted by the emotional battle within us, between us and before us. I must admit that emotion has gotten the best of me, too. I've been aggravated with how President Trump lashed out at the end of his term and by the attacks on good people like Vice President Mike Pence. I've even said some things in the heat of the moment that I would've rephrased or withheld altogether.

But at the end of the day, the facts remain. Under no circumstances did Vice President Pence or the Congress have unilateral constitutional authority to "flip" the election. Furthermore, neither of the two objections raised on January 6 provided a single thread of new evidence. And yet, there we were defending the Constitution in the wake of nonstop attacks and false claims. The real

irony here is the vast majority of President Trump's supporters strongly support the Constitution; and yet, many bought into the idea of upending the Constitution because we, myself included, didn't like the results of the election. I can't help but anguish over the idea that the violence we witnessed on that fateful day boiled down to roughly 200 disputed votes in Maricopa County, Arizona, which would not have been nearly enough votes to change the outcome of the election. This is supported by decisions in more than 60 court cases as well as a review by the Department of Justice, President Trump's own Attorney General and by various state officials after conducting audits.

President Trump's legacy should be that of tax cuts, Supreme Court picks, deregulation, pro-life measures, national security and so many other great policies that unfortunately I fear will be outweighed by his own behavior in the waning days of his term. And, while I understand many of my fellow South Dakotans won't see it that way - that's my opinion. Ultimately though, history - not I - will be the judge.

The question now is: where

Rounds: Peacemakers Continued on Page 5



SOTA IYA YE YADI

Editorials

Sota guest editorial -

Message of the Power of Love: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 18, 2021

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Pastor Sam Collier gave this introduction to Dr. Bernice King's message on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, delivered at the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia: "... Coretta Scott King, created the King Center here on Auburn Avenue to ensure that the principles of Kingian Nonviolence and the steps of Kingian Nonviolence would make it to the next generation. One of the things I'm excited about today is that we have a leader in our midst that makes sure that the legacy lives on. She is a prophetic voice in this generation, and in a second, she will bring us the call to commemoration. The daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Reverend Dr. Bernice A. King, the CEO of the King Center."



Well, good morning, everybody. And as I always do, I want to say, this is the day that the Lord has made. We ought to rejoice and be glad in it. As the CEO of The King Center, and the daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, it is my honor to welcome you virtually and via network TV from around the world to The King Center, beloved community commemorative service. I'm so delighted to have my father's sister, Christine King Farris, Dr. Christine King Farris, with us today with her family. As well as my father's brother's wife, Naomi King, who are with us today in the service at Ebenezer. Our world has dramatically changed since we were together last January. Who knew last year, this time, that we would be where we are today? Almost a year ago, we were swept up into a worldwide pandemic that revealed the fault lines in our world health and economic systems that caused unprecedented losses.

And since that time, we were also forced to come face to face with our nation's racist reality, as a result of being still long enough to witness the depth of the hate and disdain for Black lives, as reflected in the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others, which created an uprising of protest, the likes of which the world has never seen before. And if that were not enough, we faced the most contentious, challenging, and costly elections of our time, which threatened to disenfranchise millions of voters. And on top of all this, those who could not accept the outcome of the no-fraud-found election were incited by the head of this nation to lay siege to the Capital of these United States, by engaging in acts of terror, insurrection, and sedition, to seek to stop the democratic process for certifying our presidential election. Who could have ever imagined that an insurrection on American democracy would have been incited and organized via Tweets and other social media platforms, and we would be able to watch it in real time? That hours-long attack was part Revolutionary War part, British War and parts Civil War.

No doubt, as a result of all these things, this has been a year of extremes in our world. We've experienced extremes in our stock markets, extremes and how we educate young people, extremes and sicknesses and hospitalizations, extremes in unemployment and underemployment, extreme distancing, where many have not been able to see loved ones in person in almost a year, or stepped foot in each other's houses, including gathering in the houses of worship. Extreme militarism, with our policing. Extreme anger, extreme protest, extreme hate, extreme rioting, extreme loss of life and loss of businesses, and even extreme loss of civility.

The resurgent culture of divisiveness hate racism, nationalism, and violence has reached a critical stage in our global society, and at this point, the United States is certainly the poster child for it. This King holiday has not only come at a time of great peril and physical violence, though. It has also come during a time of violence in our speech, what we say and how we say it. It is frankly out of control and we are causing too much harm to one another. There's a serious need right now for some introspection and examination into our social climate, not just in our country, but in other nations throughout the world. Humanity beckons us all across the globe with a sense of urgency to shift in this hour to save the very soul of our world.

Fifty-four years ago, amidst a smoldering racial climate, a large-scale and costly war, a fledgling war on poverty, my father published his book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* For him, it was not a mere attempt to pose a rhetorical question, but a serious quest to elicit a soul-searching response, which could lead to a radical shift in the culture and climate of the world. He knew that if we did not shift our focus and our priorities, we would be headed toward a world of sheer chaos, where we would destroy ourselves in the misuse of our own instruments, or descend into a spiral of self-destruction. In fact, his words are as relevant now as they were when he said them more than 50 years ago, when he said, "We are faced with the fact that tomorrow is today, we are confronted with the fierce urgency of now in this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. We still have a choice today," he went on to say, "Nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. This may well be mankind's last chance to choose between chaos or community."

As we commemorate the King holiday, I can hear his voice still reverberating through the annals of time that this may be our last chance to make the shift away from being power-centered, to becoming more people-centered, and from being utterly self-centered to becoming more others-centered. I can hear him reminding us of the necessity of shifting from a reign of chaos toward a more just, humane, equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world, which for him was the beloved community. This is why our theme for this King holiday observance, the urgency of creating the beloved community, is so apropos. For my father, the beloved community is a place of true respect, true love, justice, and equity. It is an inclusive, achievable society in which problems and conflicts exist, but are resolved non-violently, and without bitterness. In the beloved community, caring and compassion drive our political policies that support the worldwide elimination of poverty and hunger, and all forms of bigotry and violence. Our policies practices, and then language are infused with unconditional love. In essence, the beloved community requires us to be others-centered, to love our neighbor as ourself, and to truly care for one another. The beloved community truly reflects who we can be when we are more people- versus power-centered. While power can serve humanity, humane purposes, power in and of itself is extremely dangerous.

We are witnesses of what happens when nations of the world do not harness their drive for power. In 2021, we are playing host to what my father called, the triple evils. He talked about it in '67. Racism, poverty, and war or militarism. He understood that the interrelatedness of militarism, racism, and poverty are threats to our survival as a world. And he knew that we needed a revolution of values to overcome. He said, "Then we, as a nation, we must undergo a radical revolution of our values. We must rapidly begin a shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society." He went on to say that when machines and computers, and I want to add social media, and profit motives, and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism and materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered. Looking at the world today, you would think we had no values. No value for life, no value for others, no value for peace, no value for safety, and no value for equity, justice, nor democracy. Our world is in desperate need right now of a cataclysmic shift to not only preserve our civilization, but to save the very soul of our humanity.

We have an opportunity to turn the tide of these current inhumane and unjust world conditions, and create this more just, humane, equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world for all of God's children. Yes, there are many who will continue to endorse and even employ violence as their answer to social change, but in the words of my mama, she said, "Somebody has to cut off the chain of violence, otherwise, we will continue in the direction of a descending spiral that will lead us to self-destruction and a state of uncivilization." So, on this King holiday, it's not too late for us to shift from chaos to community. It's not too late for us to shift from being power-driven.

"Now, how can we do this?" You might ask. Well, I'm glad you asked. My father reminded us that power without love is reckless and abusive. That love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power, he said, at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best," he went on to say, "is love, correcting everything that stands against love." The urgency of creating the beloved community ultimately means that we must shift from being power-centered to becoming love-centered. So, I invite you to join The King Center as we launch our Be Love campaign, for when we are love-centered rather than power-centered, we will no longer debate over the blithely use of a slogan, but institute policies and practices in every arena that reflect that Black lives do indeed matter, from the streets to the C-suites. When we are love-centered, we will respect and value others perspectives and cultures by searching out ways to co-exist without violating the dignity of another. When we are love-centered, we will work together to determine a fair way to distribute wealth and resources with the intent to eliminate worldwide poverty so that people are able to obtain food and clothing and shelter and clean water.

Being love-centered means we will seek nonviolent ways to resolve conflicts, even between nations, instead of resorting to gun violence or militarism. Being love-centered means speaking truth to power without insults and name-calling. Being love-centered equips us to challenge and change unjust systems without demeaning and destroying people who would perpetuate those systems.

So, my brothers and my sisters, as we embrace this urgency of creating the beloved community now is the time

to be love, for, as my father said, "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." Love means understanding, redemptive, goodwill toward all which seeks nothing in return. It's the unconditional love of God that flows in and through the human heart, so be love by implementing the demands of justice to eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline that has so many Black children entrapped. Be love by correcting voting policies that seek to suppress the votes of millions of Black and Brown people. Be love and implement the demands of justice by transforming a society that is disproportionately violent toward Black lives, including Black transgender lives, and indigenous lives. Be love and correct false narratives and economic policies that continue to divide and pit poor and working-class Black and white people against each other. Be love and implement the demands of justice, where systems and structures are deconstructed and lead the way of living in community that reimagines just, humane, equitable, and sustainable policies, practices, and behaviors.

Be love. And that's the word of God says, "Love your enemies. Bless them that curse you. Do good to them who hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and abuse you." Be love and do justice, and love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. While this may be our last chance, if we choose to be love, in the words of my father, "We will speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join in the words of that old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are all free at last!'"

(Editor's note: It is refreshing to hear a voice of reason, of inclusion as opposed to exclusion, about the power of love, in the cacophony of hostility raging across this land.)

Sota guest editorial - The Hill We Climb



By Amanda Gorman
Youth Poet Laureate

Americans and the world,
When day comes we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade? The loss we carry asea we must wade. We've braved the belly of the beast. We've learned that quiet isn't always peace. In the norms and notions of what just is isn't always justice. And yet, the dawn is ours before we knew it. Somehow we do it. Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished. We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president only to find herself reciting for one.

And yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect. We are striving to forge our union with purpose. To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters, and conditions of man. And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true. That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped. That even as we tired, we tried that will forever be tied together victorious. Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and no one shall make them afraid. If we're to live up to her own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made. That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb if only we dare. It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit. It's the past we step into and how we repair it. We've seen a forest that would shatter our nation rather than share it. Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy. This effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated. In this truth, in this faith we trust for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us. This is the era of just redemption. We feared it at its inception. We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour, but within it, we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves so while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe? Now we assert, how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be a country that is bruised, but whole, benevolent, but bold, fierce, and free. We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation. Our blunders become their burdens. But one thing is certain, if we merge mercy with might and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better than one we were left with. Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one. We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west. We will rise from the wind-swept north-east where our forefathers first realized revolution. We will rise from the Lake Rim cities of the midwestern states. We will rise from the sun-baked south. We will rebuild, reconcile and recover in every known nook of our nation, in every corner called our country our people diverse and beautiful will emerge battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.

SOTA IYA YE YADI

On and Off the Rez

Brief commentaries from the Sota editor

Thursday, January 21st, was the final day for the sacred fire and lighting of seven tipis at SWO Memorial Park, Sisseton, SD.

It has been awesome to see the support from so many people and organizations for Alana Little Bird and Piya Canku Relapse Prevention, and the big grassroots "team" that made this event happen!

Please read the article on page one, by features writer Mimi Larsen, about how the lighted tipis and prayers have helped in the mourning and healing of our Oyate during the pandemic.

And please, keep praying for all still being impacted by the loss of loved ones.

Also, please pray for your Tribal leaders as they confront ongoing complex matters not only running multi-million dollar tribal operations but managing the Oyate through a viral pandemic, with outside political and economic crises going on.

The online Sota has moved from the editor's Earth and Sky domain to its own website:

<http://www.sota-swo.com>

Here you will find PDFs of current editions and archives going back 20 years.

Earlier issues – the Sota has been published since 1968 – are available upon request from:

*SWO Tribal Archives (THPO).

*Sisseton Wahpeton College Library.

*SD State Historical Society-State Newspaper Archives, Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre, SD.

To access the current week's edition in PDF, click on the link at the top of the news (text) page.

Our coverage of SWO 2020 winter general council continues this week, with programs under the office of the Tribal Secretary.

Please read highlights of the annual program reports in these articles.

For those who missed the livestream, archived video is available on the SWO Tribal Council YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1mRvcuhDYluAzEU10wDsJA>

For more complete coverage, we recommend readers watch the video.

We welcome back the report to akicita from our Veterans Service Officer Geri Opsal.

Please watch for more information about the ice fishing contest being planned for Saturday, February

On and off the Reservation
Continued on Page 4

Rose my friend if you've received Christ too let us keep each other in prayer. And pray for those who still don't yet know Christ for their are many out there; In fact, to warn them of their demise is what we are told to do, Someday in heaven someone may walk up and thank me and you.

Proverbs 24 11/12 2nd Corinthians 5 20/21 1st Thessalonians 5/14

Now we will not receive salvation simply by repeating a prayer, And in the Scriptures you will not find the sinners prayer anywhere; The Scriptures below will show more clearly what a sinner must do, Even so, it's not what we do, it's what Jesus did for me and you.

My name starts with an [R], she'd said, when I'd pretended not to know, Rosie? I teased, Robyn!

like the bird, she replied, so long ago; And Rose, "Keep talking, you sound just like your mom" you may have heard me say, It caused me to miss your mom and I still miss all of you today. With godly love and compassion Harry-o.

You'll never walk alone.
When you walk through a storm hold your head up high,
And don't be afraid of the dark;
At the end of the storm is a golden sky,
And the sweet silver sound of a lark.
Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain,
Though your dreams be tossed and blown,
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart,
And you'll never walk alone, you'll never walk alone.
Isaiah 9/2 John 6/37, 6/65. Acts 17 30/31 Romans 6 1st Corinthians 15 1/4 2nd Corinthians 5 15/17 Ephesians 2 8/9 Colossians 1/27 1st John 1 7/10

Legislative news from Pierre

District 1 Rep Tamara St. John (R) Legislative Update #1

January 17, 2021

Week one of South Dakota's 96th legislative session opened on January 12, 2021. I'm honored to be back in Pierre representing you in the South Dakota House of Representatives. This session, I will again be serving on the House Judiciary, Health and Human Services and the State-Tribal Relations committees. The first week was full of routine orientation such as swearing in the legislatures and holding our first committee hearings. We also heard the annual State of the State address from the Governor, State of the Judiciary from the Chief Justice and the State of the Tribes from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman.

Governor Noem's third State of the State address included a message emphasizing, "strong families and strong communities." She noted that with the challenges we all faced in 2020, keeping the state open for business has allowed South Dakota with economic growth that other states haven't seen. A few examples of this include exciting announcements from Amazon and CJ Foods and Swans. Amazon plans to build a new \$200 million distribution center and CJ Foods and Swans announced they're going to build a \$500 million facility both located in Sioux Falls. 3M, which has played a critical role in the N95 mask production during the COVID-19 pandemic, also announced an expansion in Aberdeen. These large-scale announcements and expansions will continue to create more jobs for South Dakotans for years ahead. The Governor also announced that our state is leading the nation in distributing COVID-19 vaccines and highlighted the work of our healthcare workers. Last week she announced the creation of the needs-based Premier Scholarship. Noem is asking the legislature to match the \$50 million gift with a one-time appropriation. South Dakota was long overdue to have a needs-based scholarship for those seeking higher education. This commitment of philanthropic and state dollars will provide those kids, who otherwise may not have the financial ability, with the opportunity to pursue degrees in higher education. In her closing remarks the Governor highlighted our nation's heroes, military and veterans. She honored Sisseton

Wahpeton Oyate Veteran Service Officer Geri Opsal for being named the 2020 South Dakota Veterans Affairs Outreach Partner of the Year. Congratulations and recognition well deserved, Geri!

The State of the Judiciary welcomed Steven Jensen, the newly inducted Chief Justice of South Dakota's Supreme Court. In his first address to the legislature he noted ongoing issues related to COVID-19 and the South Dakota Unified Judicial System's work to find innovative solutions in this tough time. Videoconferencing and extra safety protocols have allowed our courts to continue to conduct court business during the pandemic. Chief Justice Jensen noted the need for security in South Dakota's court houses and asked the legislature to appropriate funds for a full-time



SWO Tribal Chairman Hopkins at Pierre to offer prayer. Photo by Tamara St. John.



Dis. 1 Rep. Tamara St. John with Senator Michael Rohl. Photo by Tamara St. John.



SWO VSO Geri Opsal is recognized at the SD Capitol. Photo by Tamara St. John.

court security coordinator for 2022.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Chairman Delbert Hopkins Jr. gave the prayer for the annual State of the Tribes Address. His message was full of unity and collaboration which carried over in the message from Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Mike Faith. "There is much work to be done and we need to work together for the common good," Chairman Faith said as he closed his remarks about moving forward and together building a better future for tomorrow.

I would like to thank Chairman Hopkins and SWO Law Enforcement Officer Woody Hawkins for accompanying me throughout the day and participating in both the meetings and events following the address. I'm looking forward to working this upcoming session with our new District 1 legislators Representative

Jennifer Keintz and Senator Michael Rohl, and will be sharing further updates as the session gets underway.

Representative Tamara St. John 605-268-0920
TamararaforSD@gmail.com
Tamara.StJohn@SDLegislature.gov

District 1 Rep Tamara St. John (R) Legislative Update #2

Mergers & Marijuana & Money, Oh My!
January 22, 2021

The 2021 South Dakota legislative session has faced unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. Although there are some familiar faces amongst the lobbyists, advocates and

others that work on important issues for South Dakota, many people are choosing not to attend as they normally would. On Tuesday, the legislature announced that as a part of the South Dakota Legislature's COVID-19 protocols, testifiers may appear by audio or video through Microsoft Teams.

There are 30 legislative committees with 21 of them meeting regularly. The remaining committees convene only at the discretion of the committee chair. During the first week, committee meetings are filled with updates from the previous legislative session. We're also provided with briefings on the work of various state agencies and departments. To stay engaged on legislation, track a bill's progress, or to hear the audio of a legislative hearing, make sure to visit the legislature's website at SDLegislature.gov.

During this second week of session,

we've started to address some of the larger issues that we'll see during session. This includes the governor's attempt to merge two state departments, how to address legal recreational and medicinal marijuana, and the spending of a large amount of one-time dollars.

Earlier this week, Gov. Noem issued an executive order to merge the South Dakota Department of Agriculture with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The executive order will create the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The governor believes this will be efficient and help streamline the state's oversight of the agriculture industry since both are viewed as regulatory for the most part. The South Dakota Farm Bureau supports the move while other conservation organizations oppose the merger saying, "that it can

negatively impact the protection of natural resources which includes water, soil and oil." South Dakota Farmers Union and Dakota Rural Action have come out in opposition. Some feel that this merger would eliminate the checks and balances that are created by having separate departments and could also increase excessive workload if it's all under one roof. Those opposed are hoping that the legislature will consider a resolution against the merger. To date, my constituents in District 1 have overwhelmingly opposed the merging of these two state departments.

In the 2020 election, South Dakota voters supported the legalization of marijuana. The sale, possession and use of recreational and medicinal marijuana are set to become legal in South Dakota on July 1, 2021. The courts will be deciding the constitutionality of whether Amendment A drafters followed the correct process in putting recreational marijuana on the ballot. Given the limited days of session, we won't know the outcome of the court case until after session concludes. Until we know whether recreational marijuana will be law it's difficult to know how to deal with any efforts to change our current legal or licensing system. However, the medicinal marijuana component will be moving forward regardless. A group of lawmakers have formed what they are calling the "Cannabis Caucus" to address marijuana issues this session. It is clear that discussions on preparing for legalization and regulation of marijuana - both medicinal and recreational - have only just begun.

The third issue that will be a much larger discussion than in previous years, is the unprecedented amount of one-time funds that South Dakota has to spend. This is due to our overall conservative approach to the state budget, the state's handling of COVID-19 and the federal support dollars related to the pandemic. We are hearing numerous ideas and proposals for how to best spend these one-time

dollars. There is support for a large amount going to infrastructure such as more broadband deployment in rural communities - which I'm supportive of. The governor is also pushing for a new \$12 million livestock complex and rodeo arena at the state fairgrounds in Huron. Some of the proposals I'll be advocating for include additional support for our long-term care and community providers, teachers and support for our state employees.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to have a conversation feel free to email or call me.

Rep. Tamara St. John
605-268-0920
Tamara.StJohn@sdlegislature.gov

Dis. 1 Rep. Jennifer Keintz (D) Legislative Update #2



January 20, 2021

The legislature is still ramping up, with no bills coming before committees at the time of this update.

We continue to receive detailed overviews from several departments and entities in those committee meetings, including Dept. of Education, Dept. of Health and Dept. of Human Services, Associated School Boards of South

Dakota, and superintendents from around the state.

Some interesting facts came out of those presentations. Consider these facts from the Dept. of Health: In November 2020, there were twice as many deaths in South Dakota compared to the year before. You'll recall that November was the pinnacle (we hope) of COVID-19 here. COVID-19 was the number one cause of death among Native Americans in South Dakota in 2020. It was third among the non-native population. Even if you've had COVID-19 and/or been vaccinated, it's still essential to be cautious and mindful. If not for yourself, then for those around you.

Much of the conversation in committees has focused on how entities have adapted to COVID-19 over the past year. We all know the tremendous work done by our educators and health care workers and we can't thank you enough. There has also been great work from various departments and groups working behind the scenes to keep our state moving.

I've also enjoyed meeting new people, and running into a couple of familiar faces from District 1, at legislative social events. I hope to see more constituents here in Pierre throughout the session!

Did you know you can keep up with all the legislative activity online? You can watch and listen to committees and each day's floor sessions, get copies of bills and follow their path through the legislature. Visit sdlegislature.gov for more information.

Please reach out to me with your concerns and questions. The best ways to reach me are by text or call at 605-590-1083 or email at jennifer.keintz@sdlegislature.gov. If you're on social media, you can find me on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you prefer to listen rather than read, my legislative updates are also available as a podcast. Search for my name wherever you get your podcasts.

Rounds: Peacemaker Continued from Page 2

do we go from here? Personally, I intend to continue in my defense of the Constitution, limited government and a strong national defense. I intend to work with the Democrat-controlled White House, Senate and House on ag policy, transportation and defense, to name a few, because those things shouldn't be partisan in nature. However, I know we'll have our disagreements. Like many of you, I worry about our constitutional rights such as the right to bear arms, religious freedoms and property rights. I will fight to defend the Constitution and protect these rights which so many of us feel strongly about.

As it pertains to election security and integrity, I believe citizens need their faith in the electoral process restored. There are states whose questionable actions cast doubt on our electoral process. Do we have evidence of widespread voter fraud? No. However, to regain confidence in our elections and provide

additional transparency into what really happened during the 2020 general election, we have introduced legislation which establishes a bipartisan advisory committee to make recommendations to state legislatures with improvements to the security, integrity and administration of federal elections. Specifically, the bill would study multiple areas, including election practices adopted in response to COVID-19, practices regarding mail in ballots, absentee ballots, practices that would have allowed improper fraudulent voter registration and how technology played a role in the voting process. The Constitution mandates

that the states, not the federal government, manage elections. For those of us interested in defending the Constitution and states' rights, we need to be cautious as we navigate these questions. We do not want the federal government, and specifically Congress, running states' elections.

Democrats have spoken about unity during this inaugural week. I'm hopeful that a point of unity will be prioritizing the importance of credibility in the election process and I intend to have conversations with my colleagues to persuade them to consider this.

In the meantime, blessed are the peacemakers as we work to reset.

Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í Faith)

There is no paradise more wondrous for any soul than to be exposed to God's Manifestation in His Day, to hear His verses and believe in them, to attain His presence, which is naught but the presence of God, to sail upon the sea of the heavenly kingdom of His good-pleasure, and to partake of the choice fruits of the paradise of His divine Oneness.

For more information call 605-419-2169, or go to www.bahai.us

SOTA SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

I would like to subscribe to the Sota Iya Ye Yapi.

Enclosed is \$_____ for ____ year(s).

(Annual subscription rate is \$46 for enrolled members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate living in South Dakota and in Minnesota and North Dakota counties on and adjoining the Lake Traverse Reservation; \$40 for enrolled members incarcerated and/or elderly on fixed incomes; \$56 for all others living in the United States; and \$96 for first class subscribers.)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail this subscription form (or a photocopy) to:

Sota Iya Ye Yapi

P.O. Box 5

Wilmot, SD 57279



Research Office

Siyo Peters, Research Specialist

Scope of Work

The Tribal Research Office administers and enforces the Chapter 77 - Research Codes, which were approved by Tribal Council on July 14, 2015. (The Research Codes are available on the SWO website under the 'Research Office' page at <https://www.swonsn.gov/departments/departments-of-education/researchoffice/research/>.)

Local Research Review Board

The SWO Local Research Review Board (LRRB), a specific and formal authorization body, provides protection of the SWO tribal individuals and resources through the duties of reviewing and approving all research protocols. The LRRB is comprised of five (5) to eight (8) members of varying backgrounds. Each member was recruited to serve on the LRRB because of their expertise in given areas, while following the federal regulations for membership as well. In 2019, the SWO LRRB was registered with the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) and assigned a number for the overall registration (IRG0010276). Each IRB receives a distinct identification number with SWO IRB receiving IRB00012207 (IRB #1).

The LRRB members provide each research protocol a comprehensive, balanced and thoughtful review, utilizing their education and experience, while assuring the projects are culturally competent. The LRRB meets once a month, however, they spend numerous hours outside the meeting time reviewing projects, forms, and policies in preparation for the scheduled meeting. The Research Specialist coordinates the LRRB, works with each researcher/research team, and monitors all research conducted within the exterior boundaries of the Lake Traverse Reservation.

LRRB members

Dawn Eagle
Dr. Sherry Johnson
Francis Arpan
Heather Larsen
Jeremy Red Eagle
Leah Fytten
Sara DeCoteau
Siyo Peters

Successes

- Research Office worked remotely from March to June, during COVID-19 shut down. Research projects, in general, came to a halt while the world of research strategized responses to current projects.
- The TED congratulated Heather Larsen on accepting an opportunity to continue serving the education community in a new capacity, while she continues involvement in the SWO LRRB as an important member of the board.
- The new Research Specialist was hired August, 2020 and obtained both CITI Human Research: IRB Members and Administrators, and the Revised Common Rule certifications (Under Indian Health Service [DHHS] Research Program requirements) September, 2020.
- In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic COVID-19 mitigating criteria content has been added to researcher applications and research office checklists.
- Axiom Education - Mentor IRB Full System was approved for a 5 year agreement from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025.
- LRRB meetings are held via WebEx in response to COVID-19.
- Two new members joined the LRRB and are currently working on their CITI courses.
- Webpages continue to be updated as new content becomes available.
- The Research Specialist attended COVID task force meetings.
- Begun enforcing approved office fees.
- Attends regular tribal IRB online meetings.

Focuses

- Explore networking with the United Nations as a sovereign nation, in regards to nation to nation research policy and procedures.
- Establish opportunity for community to benefit from research that can assist in continued environmental responsibility efforts.
- Research Specialist will continue development of tribal research code per implementation of expedited, limited, and exempt reviews and processes.
- Continue development of a tribal research data center by networking with tribes to learn best practices for establishing and running a tribal data center.
- Continue working with NIH on funding opportunities.

Tribal Research Office

PO Box 509
Agency Village, SD 57262
Phone: (605) 698-3911
Email: Siyo@swonsn.gov



Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Grant

Denise Red Horse, Program Director

Alexis Wilson, Outreach Specialist

Mission Statement

The Mission of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation is to help eligible Native Americans with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence and integration into the community and the competitive labor work force.

Purpose

It is the purpose of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oiyate Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (SWO TVR) program to work collaboratively with a network of partners to:

- Educate and promote disability awareness.
- Collaborate with employers to provide employment for Native American's with disabilities.
- Provide individualized vocational rehabilitation and supportive services to assist eligible individuals with disabilities to get and keep jobs compatible with their skills and abilities.

Goal

Create a Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Program for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oiyate to serve 25-50 consumers yearly or 125-250 over the 5 years project period.

Successes

- Hired the Program Director, Denise Red Horse on February 14, 2020. Start date February 24, 2020. Outreach Specialist, Alexis Wilson hired.
- A SWO TVR policy created and approved by Tribal Council on April 24, 2020. Mission statement developed.
- Ordered office supplies and equipment. Office space organized to start to receive consumers. Laptops for consumer use in the office ordered as well to help consumers search websites for jobs in accordance with IPE.
- Created documents for consumers and staff to utilize during the application, intake, IPE, case management notes, referral form, etc. for the program.
- Developed program evaluation, case manager review, and orientation for new staff.
- Reviewed grant application to determine the statistical data needed to meet goals.

- Created a plan for advertising the program to the public - radio, newspaper, Facebook. Continued advertising in the newspaper and applications were mailed to interested consumers.
- Introduction to South Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation program for future collaboration initiated. Started work on a memorandum of agreement with the South Dakota State Vocational Rehabilitation Program.
- Collaboration with other Tribal Voc Rehab Directors to discuss processes and policies they utilize in their programs.
- Advisory committee will be the Adult Services Task Force. This committee has people with disabilities as members which is a plus. The committee is comprised of members representing the State, regional, and local levels to assist the program in reaching the goals and reaching consumers.
- Office staff have provided applications to potential consumers, when not able to come into the office to get an application, staff have either mailed the application or hand delivered to the home.
- Have accepted 6 eligible consumers into the program. Awaiting on medical records on another consumer to determine eligibility. Combination of behavioral and physical disabilities. Will accept more as applications are completed and as the COVID limited access is lifted due to Tribal closures.
- Ongoing collaboration with South Dakota State VR services. Future meetings planned for staff.

- Initiation of introduction to special education programs at Sisseton Public and Tiospa Zina Tribal schools.
- A volunteer from Tiospa Zina's special education program has started to work in TVR office for 45 minutes on Monday and Tuesday. Office work is assigned which consists of filing, creating binders for paperwork, and shredding.
- IT acquisition of five laptop computers for consumer's use. Some will be loaned out with a loan agreement in place for those attending school and do not have a laptop. Others will be utilized for office use. Staff will assist consumers in creating resumes and performing job searches.
- Started working on Staff Development with AIWRTTAC (American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center) and Northwestern Indian College to obtain training and guidance on first year of program.

Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused -

- An inability to have public access to the program. Unable to accept consumers due to safety concerns and the Tribal Voc Rehab office being closed to the public off and on since March.
- The need to telework from home. During telework, created program forms and did webinars regarding the program on the AIWRTTAC (American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center) webpage.
- A difficulty in hiring qualified personnel for the Outreach Specialist position.
- The need to use safe distancing through technology to meet with consumers. Utilizing Zoom and WebEx for staff. Some potential consumers do not have access to internet or computers.
- An inability to meet program goals.

Focuses

- Increase public knowledge of the program. Referral forms sent out to Tribal entities with an explanation of the program.
- Start to mail out applications based upon referrals and as public knowledge increases about the program.
- Increase the number of consumers to have each case manager with at least 25 consumers.
- Hold community events to provide the public with knowledge of the program.
- Set up meetings with special education departments from the local schools to increase knowledge of the program. Eventually will be collaborating at IEPs with students and staff. Education return on investment created for the program to use to assist consumer to meet goals.
- Find and collaborate with specialists for cognitive and functional assessments of consumers if/when needed.
- Develop a pre-employment training program.
- Develop a SWO Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation website for consumer use and to reach more consumers or parents/guardians. Have the ability to download program forms for convenience and after hours.

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Grant

PO Box 509
Agency Village, SD 57262
Phone: (605) 698-3911



Wiyukcan ka Ecuipi (WE) Project

Supervisor: Dr. Sherry Johnson, Education Director

Report by: Joshua Max, Administrative Support Specialist

Scope of Work

To teach, develop and reinforce protective factors and resiliency skills through leadership experiences, mentoring programs, and the pairing of children with at least one significant caring adult in specific group settings. In doing so, the Wiyukcan ka Ecuipi grant focuses on fostering the six areas that include: Academics, College and Career Readiness, Culture, Behavior and Suicide, School Readiness, and Research.

The Tribal Education Department was awarded the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) grant in 2016. This was a four (4) year grant from the United States Department of Education and this was the last year. The grant focused on:

- Developing learning academies through partnerships with the: Tribal Education Department (TED), Tiospa Zina Tribal School (TZTS), Enemy Swim Day School (ESDS), Sisseton-Wahpeton Oiyate Head Start Program (SWO HS), and Sisseton Wahpeton College to ensure all students are College and Career Ready.
- Developing wrap-around programs the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oiyate Tribal Education entities will sustain. The program taught, reinforced, and instilled protective factors.

Staff

The WE staff devoted 70% of their time on school sites: Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Enemy Swim Day School and SWO Head Start.

Name	Title	Area of Focus
Dr. Sherry Johnson	Education Director	Oversees Grant's S.M.A.R.T. Goals and Objectives
Joshua Max	Administrative Support Specialist	Planning, Budget, Trainings
Cheyenne Ironheart	Student Support Specialist	Behavior, Suicide Prevention, On-site Mentor
Alexis Wilson/Erin Kiyukanpi	Academic Technology Specialist	Academics, Technology, On-site Mentor
Winona Nicolai/Shania DuMarce	Early Childhood Specialist	School Readiness, On-site Mentor
Mali Souksavath/Nicole Pratt	College and Career Specialist	College and Career Readiness, On-site Mentor
Savannah Poman/Leslie Heminger	Cultural and Language Specialist	Culture and Language, On-site Mentor

Successful Supports

Area	Events
Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Professional Development for teachers Staff in school 70% of time to help with supports and services Provide daily on-site consultation to help improve academic, literacy, etc. Provide learning booths at schools and community events Classroom supports and home delivery of learning packets One-on-one mentoring sessions Provides academic supports for schools to use: Chromebooks, academic curriculum, Rocket Books, and other academic technologies Provides technology assistance/support to students
College and Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College visits College/Career Pathways Portfolios for High School students FAFSA Night for parents and students ASVAB preparation ACT preparation NCRS certificate Assist Seniors with scholarship applications Gear Up assistance College care packs Student goals and plans for transition into next level of school Help administer SDMyLife
School Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts with Engaged Learning to provide Literacy support Secotek's Step curriculum was purchased and supported Home readiness packets delivered for students Learning booths at community events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Head Start staff with Professional and Educational Development Provide support for teachers and families Support Early Childhood classrooms for Reading readiness Supplies supplemental reading materials for parent and child engagement
Behavior and Suicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentors for groups in school Monthly collaboration with other programs/individuals who promote suicide awareness in the community Daily one-on-one efforts in schools to help maintain positive behavior techniques during school hours Suicide Prevention Outreach Mentors Provides suicide prevention and educational supports to schools to maintain well-mannered behavior Contributor in Research Project Running Club
Culture and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural activities - Ribbon Skirts, Drum stick making, Storytelling, and more Assist in developing Tribal School Cultural and Language Learning and Standards Culture and curriculum development Language support in the school classrooms Cultural presentations and booths at language events Support student Dakota Language Bowis Assists the Tribal Schools with Drum Groups Provided Native American Day activities for youth Provides Dakota Language and Culture Support at the Dakota Oyate Challenge Dakotah Language lesson planning Home activities delivered to support goals Collaboration with programs for youth gatherings
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Research Project never got off the ground. Students and parents did not sign up and the approved Research Protocols did not work out.

Additionally, the Wiyukcan ka Ecuipi project worked on the project goals, shown below, for the schools and after school activities until the shutdown in March due to the Pandemic. When it became apparent that COVID was here to stay for a while, the staff reorganized how they could meet their goals. The staff prepared activities and other events that could be delivered and done at home while using safe distancing measures. Staff posted via Facebook demonstrations and COVID educational activities in a bag included:

Academic STEM activities using wire bending	Virtual Art Competition
Aerodynamic design kits	Virtual Poetry submissions
Crystal growing kits	Tie Dye shirt activity
Reading Clubs	Community Heroes letter writing activity
Early Childhood learning activities	Exploding Lunch Bag
Book printing opportunity	Elephant Toothpaste
Coloring Book-submissions for printing	Culture kits
Career Coloring books	Ribbon Skirt making kits
Running Club	Beading kits

Future Planning

- Support of the initiatives that have been started and promote continuity
- Closure of Grant and reporting requirements
- Find additional funding for College and Career initiatives and Kindergarten Readiness

Wiyukcan ka Ecuipi

PO Box 509
Agency Village, SD 57262



Tribal Education Department Director Statement

The main concern is maintaining safety and getting through this year! We hope for the vaccine distribution and the well-being of all. The staff and the schools did the best that they could do with the circumstances that they had to deal with. The learning curve was high concerning virtual applications and programs for all of us. Most projects and goals for programs were provided some kind of hold harmless to mitigate the problems encountered. The high stake testing was waived for the schools across the nation.

Wocekiya (prayer) is the word for this year.



December 2020

(To be continued in next week's Sota with programs under the office of the SWO Tribal Secretary.)

Watch for continuing highlights of program reports published in the General Council booklet, in future articles in this series.

For those who missed the livestream, archived video is available on the SWO Tribal Council YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1mRvcuhDYluAzEU10wDsJA>

Readers are reminded that the Winter General Council is set aside for Tribal program annual reports; June General Council is for financial reports.



Flexibility and innovation in Healthcare

By: Governor Kristi Noem

January 22, 2020

We've learned all kinds of lessons over the past year due to COVID-19. Folks rediscovered the beauty of the outdoors. Hopefully, our kids learned the importance of washing their hands. And we all learned the importance of flexibility and adaptability.

America has made incredible advances in healthcare over this past year. We saw all kinds of innovation because we gave medical professionals the flexibility to do their job. And this year, my administration is bringing forward a number of initiatives to make South Dakota's healthcare system more innovative, flexible, and affordable.

Let me start by saying that

we have excellent healthcare here in South Dakota. Our three major health systems – Avera, Monument, and Sanford – have all done tremendous work, especially in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year as we dealt with the virus, I instituted several executive orders to increase flexibility for South Dakota's healthcare providers. And now, we're going to make those changes permanent.

Last year, we suspended restrictions on telehealth so that folks could see a doctor without having to go into the doctor's office. We saw folks utilize these tech services more than 70,000 times in South Dakota's Medicaid program alone. Along the way, we

realized just how powerful of a tool telehealth can be for innovation in healthcare. In 2021, we're going to build on these advancements and ensure that telehealth innovation is here to stay.

Additionally, we allowed for recognition of out-of-state medical licenses for people moving to South Dakota. We've seen lots of folks move here in recent months, and more are coming. By recognizing their out-of-state licenses, we can immediately hire these folks to work in South Dakota healthcare, where we always have workforce needs.

In both telehealth and license recognition, we know that these flexibilities work. We haven't heard any major complaints or concerns as to their implementation over

these last several months. So we are going to make those executive orders permanent, and this past week I introduced legislation to do just that.

We are going to continue to strengthen South Dakota healthcare by welcoming these successes,

building on them, and leaving flexibility for even more innovation into the future.

And I have more proposals coming soon to continue to improve South Dakota healthcare. For example, we know that healthcare can be expensive, and South

Dakotans deserve to be able to see those costs up-front so that they know what they're paying for. In the coming weeks, my team will be introducing a bill to guarantee price transparency for South Dakotans who need to pay for healthcare.

I've talked many times about

Covid-19 in South Dakota.

Positive cases per: 100,000 people

American Indian -16,907

Black / African American-12,355

Hispanic / Latino-10,338

White-10,045

Asian-9,943

Deaths per 100,000 people

American Indian-281

White-172

Asian-120

Hispanic / Latino-51

Black / African American-41*

THIS PANDEMIC IS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

**WEAR A MASK,
WASH YOUR HANDS &
WATCH YOUR DISTANCE.**

[HTTPS://COVIDTRACKING.COM/DATA/STATE/SOUTH-DAKOTA](https://covidtracking.com/data/state/south-dakota)



focusing on challenges as an opportunity to innovate and adapt. Our healthcare providers faced unprecedented difficulties this past

year. And they proved, time and time again, that they were up to the challenge. In 2021 and into the future, we should continue to build

on what we learned this past year. Let's continue to give our excellent medical professionals the flexibility to thrive.

In the last 250 years, our society has moved in meaningful ways toward equal participation. Slavery is illegal. Women can own property. People of different races can marry. We still face the consequences of generations of discrimination, but most of us find we have opportunities our grandparents did not.

The LGBTQ+ community is the most recent to demand an end to discrimination. Awareness is increasing, but many people still have little information, or have misinformation, about the diversity of human sexuality and sexual identity.

Three years ago, a high school friend shocked me when she revealed that she was, in fact, a trans woman. I wonder how many other people I've met and cherished have felt compelled to hide something so important. We know that suicide attempts in the LGBTQ+ community are higher than in the general population, particularly for young people who are bullied in their communities or rejected at home. LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to be victimized by violent crimes.

I often think of the saying "a rising tide lifts all boats." It reminds me that working to improve my neighbor's wellbeing makes my own more secure. This is especially true for the neighbors who don't look like me, who don't pray like me, who don't vote like me, who don't love like me. If their rights are threatened, it is only a matter of time before mine are, as well.



We can all look back in our family trees and find someone who faced discrimination for their race, religion, or class. And of course, we all have mothers and grandmothers! Let's remember those struggles and extend compassion. We are more alike than we are different.

Debra Johnston, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South

Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

COVID high-risk Individuals have more treatment options

Bismarck, ND Jan. 13, 2021 – The state of North Dakota and the North Dakota Medical Association (NDMA) are working together to encourage individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and are at high risk for serious complications to reach out to their health care providers as soon as possible to discuss new treatment options, including whether monoclonal antibodies may be right for them.

In late November, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization for monoclonal antibodies.

Dr. Joshua Ranum, vice president of NDMA and a member of its physician advisory group, said the new medications bamlanivimab and casirivimab/imdevimab are designed to reduce the risk of hospitalization and severe illness in high-risk individuals who test positive for COVID-19.

"I have seen firsthand how COVID-19 has devastated families. People are anxious when they test positive - especially if they are high-risk. They wonder if they will end up in the hospital," Ranum said. "They should talk to their health care providers about this new treatment option in the fight against COVID-19."

Ranum has prescribed the outpatient infusion (I-V) treatment to appropriate patients at West River Health Services in Hettinger, N.D. He said the medications are safe and effective and explained that they can boost the body's natural disease fighting abilities if given in the early stages of illness.

"They work by targeting the spike protein in the coronavirus molecule to neutralize it," Ranum said. "This reduces the amount of active virus in a patient's body and gives a patient's immune system time to build antibodies against the virus and continue the fight. Research has shown that of those who have received the treatment, only three percent required hospitalization."

Ranum said the earlier these medications are administered after a positive test, the better, but stressed

these medications are not appropriate for individuals who are already hospitalized or need increased supplemental oxygen.

Commenting on the need to increase awareness and access to the medications, Gov. Burgum noted that as part of North Dakota's efforts to save lives, contact tracers will be encouraging high-risk individuals with COVID-19 to talk to their health care providers about treatment. The state has also begun distributing these medications by courier to the 36 critical access hospitals in North Dakota and the six major referral hospitals in Grand Forks, Fargo, Bismarck and Minot.

"Along with vaccines and rapid testing, effective therapeutics are part of our three-pronged attack on COVID-19 and can save lives if administered at the right time," Burgum said. "This battle is far from over, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we've got the tools to get us there."

Who is eligible for the treatment?

The treatment is appropriate for individuals age 65 and older who test positive for COVID-19, are not hospitalized and are not receiving extra oxygen, as well as for individuals age 55 and older who test positive and also have heart disease, high blood pressure or certain lung conditions.

Individuals age 12 and older who have additional risk factors, including obesity, kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and weak immune systems may also benefit from the treatment.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has a chart online showing who may benefit from monoclonal antibody treatment.

Individuals should always discuss their medical treatment options with their health care providers.

Questions about nearest infusion center location? Individuals with questions about the nearest infusion center location are encouraged to contact NDDoH's COVID-19 hotline at 866-207-2880, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Are encouraged to talk to their health care providers ASAP

Prairie Doc Perspectives -

We Are More Alike Than Different

By Debra Johnston, M.D.

America is grappling with a difficult legacy. Our society was built by the blood and sweat of slaves, on land previously occupied by Native Americans. When we won independence, only white male property owners were fully enfranchised. Enslaved peoples were not fully counted under the constitution. Married women had no legal identity. Immigrants, particularly from Ireland, southern

Europe, and Asia faced open hostility. Catholic Churches were vandalized. Nearly 1000 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany were turned away in Miami harbor. Japanese Americans were forced from their homes and into internment camps.

We have a proud heritage of noble ideals, but we have often failed to live up to them. We have emphasized our differences, not to celebrate the rich tapestry of life they create, but to divide ourselves into "us" and "them."



Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program



The Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation is a program that provides individualized vocational rehabilitation and supportive services to assist eligible individuals with disabilities to get and keep jobs compatible with their skills and abilities. To be eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation services from the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) you must:

- ✓ Be an individual with a disability, i.e. an individual who has a physical or mental impairment which constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment
 - ✓ Be Tribally enrolled from SWO or another Tribe;
 - ✓ Be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in achieving an employment outcome; and
- Require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

Please call for an appointment. Due to Covid-19 we are performing phone intakes. If you want to visit the office, please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Located in the Administration Building
Yellow Quadrant
Room 204 (between Elderly Affairs and IT)

Contact Denise Red Horse
Phone: 605-698-8437
Cell: 605-419-1303
Email: deniser@swo-nsn.gov

Alexis Wilson
Phone: 605-698-8216
Cell: 605-419-1027
Email: awilson@swo-nsn.gov

Or

Fax: 605-742-0410

2-7tc

From SWO EMS - Seeking nominations to honor exemplary response to COVID-19

Agency Village, SD – Jan. 14, 2021 – In an effort to highlight the amazing work that tribal partners are doing, we are looking for nominations of tribal programs or individuals who exemplify passion for their community or have had success in responding to COVID-19.

Applications are available online:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/form/34e26d76dd494347b2df163566347661>



"Good Relatives" Nomination Form

In an effort to highlight the amazing work that tribal partners are doing, we are looking for nominations of tribal programs or individual who exemplify passion for their community or have had success in responding to COVID-19.

DPE Classes

(Developing Productive Employees)

February 2nd & 3rd, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(Please be there approximately 10 min prior to start time.)

At Dakota Magic Casino (Training Room)

Due to social distancing recommendations
Class size will be limited to 12 participants

For further information contact
Heather @ (701)634-3000 ext. 2426

*Note: You do not need to sign up but with the class limit of 12, you can call Heather or the HR departments and reserve a spot

*Note: The \$50 incentive will not be issued to participants until after they obtain employment with DNGE

Please join us...virtually that is!

February Parent Meeting

Benefits of Reading

[February 10th]
[at 10 A.M.]
[KXSW Radio Station –Tom Wilson]

Dear parents, grandparents and caregivers,

Please join ECIP's virtual parent meeting. We will discuss many benefits of reading to your child, give you tips AND more videos of our staff reading! Yay

See you on Facebook! Stay safe, stay warm!

[EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION PROGRAM]

ECIP

Diaper Distribution
11am–3pm
Tribal Building
Rotunda

SOTA IYA YE YAPI Education

TZTS online classes, onsite return options



Agency Village, SD – Jan. 22, 2021 – Starting Monday, February 8, 2021 TZTS families will have two options:
 1) Remain online.
 2) Attend Onsite Monday-Friday.
 Masks will still be required.
 Buses will transport all students, which includes students within the 10 mile radius.
 Please contact Superintendent, Gabe Kampeska and/or your child's principal for more information.
 Detailed information will be mailed out to families next week.
 (Notice: ESDS moved back into the classroom on January 19.)

Wambdi boys team dominating the court

Agency Village, SD – Jan. 22, 2021 – The Tiospa Zina Wambdi boys basketball team is well into what could be a repeat of last year's outstanding run all the way to the state A championships.
 Of course, what should have been a milestone in the Wambdi athletic legacy was stolen when the COVID-19 pandemic struck.
 Fans are hoping there will be no repeat of the 2020 shutdown of

games.
 The Wambdi boys outplayed Hamlin 60-55 today, adding another win to the season record – 6-2.
 The girls team did not fare as well, with 21-55 as the final score.
 Earlier this week, Tuesday, January 19, the Wambdi boys downed a previously undefeated Mobridge-Pollock team.
 Final score was 61-56.

Leading the boards for the Wambdi were: Jasiah Redbear, 13; Courage Brown, 12; and Devin Long Drow with eight.
 The Wambdi girls contest ended 47-64.
 Omariya Bernard put the most points on the board for TZ, with 24; Maria Gallardo added 7; Maili Marks six.



Jasiah Redbear, 33, goes up on the boards for the Wambdi. John Heminger Photography.

"Jaia a beast!" John Heminger Photography.



Wambdi boys team at the Hamlin game. John Heminger Photography.



Wambdi girls team. John Heminger Photography.

Civic Education for the next Generation

By: Governor Kristi Noem
 January 15, 2020
 Across America these last several months, we have witnessed a very troubling situation where violent actors are trying to do an end-run around public discourse. This is done to intimidate and silence voices. These folks want to short-cut public debate through fear. They want to make people scared. This is un-American. And it certainly has no place in South Dakota.
 Whether on the left or the right, political violence is not the answer. Our political process, though contentious at times, works because we resolve issues through discussion and rigorous debate. Sometimes, political debate will include peaceful protests. Assembly is a tool, enshrined in the Constitution, to help drive a point home. Every American has a right to protest peacefully. That right ends where violence begins.
 We saw a similar situation play out on Capitol Hill a few days ago. We were all appalled by it. Frankly, it was horrible to watch. Today, we have an opportunity to address the root cause of this problem: we must reform young Americans' civic education.
 Students should be taught our nation's history and all that makes America unique. They should see first-hand the importance of civic engagement. And they should have robust discussions in the classroom so they can develop critical thinking

change in the lives of young South Dakotans. Together, my administration will work to support them and ensure that they are getting the very best materials to achieve that goal.
 Our young people need more experience engaging with elected officials and practicing the art of debate. It is also our responsibility to show them how government works.
 I have tasked my administration with creating instructional materials and classroom resources on America's founding, our nation's history, and the state's history. We must also do a better job giving teachers preparational materials on these three subjects.
 Through all of this, our common mission and key objective needs to be explaining why the United States of America is the most unique nation in the history of the world. With this knowledge as a foundational building block, every South Dakotan can then chart their own path in the future and pursue their own American Dream.
 We all know that good education starts in the home. It starts with strong families. We have decades of research to show that families are the most critical influence on a child's success in the classroom. COVID-19 underscored just how involved parents need to be in their children's day-to-day education. It's our duty to find innovative solutions that empower parents to set their children up for success.
 Coupled with the tremendous work that South Dakota teachers are doing, I believe we can make immediate and long-lasting

change in the lives of young South Dakotans. Together, my administration will work to support them and ensure that they are getting the very best materials to achieve that goal.

Citizenship, Community Service scholarships available

Venture Communications Cooperative, a Highmore based telecommunications provider, announces the availability of 12--\$500 Citizenship and Community Service Scholarships to High School Seniors.

The local telecommunications company will be awarding scholarships throughout the serving areas operated by Venture Communications. "We hope that the scholarships will assist the students in achieving their higher

education goals", says Venture Communications General Manager Randy Houdek.
 Judging of the applications will be based on local community involvement and citizenship with credit also being given for academics and leadership skills. Only students whose parents or guardians are an active subscriber of Venture Communications are eligible for the scholarship program. "The scholarship program takes a high priority with the Venture Communications Board of Directors," says Houdek.
 This is the twenty-third year for the scholarship program. The scholarship application deadline is March 5, 2021. Applications are available online at venturecomm.



Tiospa Zina Wambdi 2020-21 Multiple Activities Schedule (as of 01-22-2021)

Activity	Time	Versus	Location	Location Detail	Dismiss	Leave	Return
MONDAY, JAN 25, 2021							
Boys Basketball Tutoring	10:00am-12:00pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
BBB (Varsity/JV/C) Practice	1:30pm-3:30pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
Basketball: Boys JH Game	4:30pm	Waubay	Tiospa Zina Tribal School				
Basketball: Girls JV-Varsity Game	6:00pm	Sisseton	Tiospa Zina Tribal School				
TUESDAY, JAN 26, 2021							
Boys Basketball Tutoring	10:00am-12:00pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
Boys Basketball Tutoring	1:00pm-2:45pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
JH BBB Practice	1:30pm-3:30pm		High School Cafeteria				
BBB (Varsity/JV/C) Practice	3:00pm-5:00pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
Basketball: Girls JV-Varsity Game	6:00pm	Clark/Willow Lake	Clark-Willow Lake High School		3:30pm	12:00am	
WEDNESDAY, JAN 27, 2021							
Boys Basketball Tutoring	10:00am-12:00pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
JH BBB Practice	1:30pm-3:30pm		High School Cafeteria				
BBB (Varsity/JV/C) Practice	1:30pm-3:30pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
GBB (Varsity/JV/C) Practice	4:00pm-6:00pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
THURSDAY, JAN 28, 2021							
JH BBB Practice	1:30pm-3:30pm		High School Cafeteria				
Basketball: Girls JV-Varsity Double Header	4:00pm	Miller	Miller, SD			10:00am	
Basketball: Boys JV-Varsity Double Header	5:00pm	Miller	Miller, SD			11:00am	
FRIDAY, JAN 29, 2021							
BBB (Varsity/JV/C) Practice	1:30pm-3:30pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
JH BBB Practice	1:30pm-3:30pm		High School Cafeteria				
GBB (Varsity/JV/C) Practice	4:00pm-6:00pm		Tiospa Zina Gymnasium				
SATURDAY, JAN 30, 2021							
Basketball: Boys JV-Varsity Classic	TBD	TBA, TBA	Madison, SD				
Basketball: Girls JV-Varsity Game	3:00pm	Marty Indian	Marty				

**Native Connection
Crisis Line**
605-419-1036
 Help for Loved Ones, Friends, & Yourself

Enemy Swim Day School activity highlights

Submitted by Mark Mindt, ESDS Principal



Starting the Day with pride.



Another healthy lunch with our friends at ESDS.

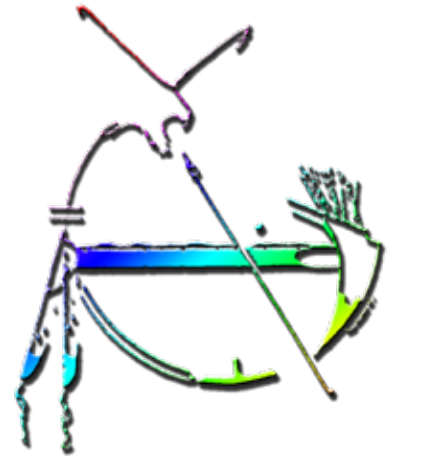


2nd grade is all lined up for recess.



Enjoying the fresh air and back to school.

ESDS 3rd Grade is ready to learn!



Visit the Sota online www.sota-swo.com

net/why-venture/scholarships. For more information contact the local high school counselor's office or

Venture Communications at 852-2224.

and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Through its various programs and initiatives, FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth. Venture Communications is proud of this effort to promote higher education in rural America.

Scholarship guidelines may be obtained by visiting www.frs.org or by contacting your local high school counselor. All applications will need to be submitted online. The student will need to choose Venture Communications as your NTCA member sponsor. Completed applications and all materials must be submitted to the FRS website by March 5, 2021.

Foundation for Rural Service to award scholarships

The Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) will be awarding numerous scholarships in the year 2021, at least one in each National Telephone Cooperative Association region.

Venture Communications Cooperative, as your local communications service provider, is pleased to participate in this scholarship program. Should a student from Venture's service area be selected to receive one of the national scholarships (\$2000 each) Venture Communications will make a \$500 matching contribution to

the scholarship. Preference will be given to individuals expressing an interest to return to work in a rural area following graduation.

Students may also be eligible for the Staurulakis Family Scholarships, TMS Scholarships, Everett Kneece Scholarship, Roger Alan Cox Memorial Scholarships, Good Neighbor Scholarship and the Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain

NOTICE OF VACANCY ON TITLE VI PARENT BOARD SISSETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54-2

The following Title VI parent board position will become vacant due to the expiration and vacancy of the present terms of office of the following position:

One; (4) Four-year term

Applications are available in the office of the Business Manager located at 516 8th Ave. W, Sisseton, SD 57262 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CDST, and must be filed in the office of the Business Manager not later than February 5, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

4-tc

To SWO JOM students and guardians of the following schools: Browns Valley, Sisseton, Waubay and Wilmot.

The 2019-2020 SWOJOM 1st Semester grade incentive is as follows:

- Deadline to turn in report card is **February 5th, 2021 @ 4:30 pm.**
- K-12 **Semester** report cards only- **not** quarter or midterm report cards.
- Due to the current CoVid-19 pandemic, Please Email JaimieA@swo-nsn.gov, Fax (605) 742-0140, if those options are not available to you, you can also take a (good) picture with your phone and email or send to me on Facebook (Jaimie Anderson-Renville)
- If you absolutely do not have access to any of the above options, there will be a **JOM Grades** box in the front of the Admin Building by security desk. It will be checked daily at 4:15 pm. Please bring a copy of the original, as there is not a printer in this area. We are trying to limit our contact with the public and materials.
- Please provide a current phone number in case of questions on each report card, and change of address if different from what's on the report card.
- Questions regarding SWOJOM **1st Semester** incentives (605)-698-8299 (Jaimie) or (605)-698-8298 (Dr. Johnson)
- Incentives distributed on **February 18th & 19th, 9 am-4 pm** in the rotunda @the Tribal Admin Building. (Will have signs posted)
 - With current **Social Distancing guidelines** to keep the public and our employees, safe, we ask that you please:
 - Wear a mask
 - Stay 6 Feet apart
 - Do not come if you are sick
 - **No Children, parents or guardians only**

1. Grades K-12 incentive: Semester grades- need a copy of the semester report card, needs to be submitted to SWOJOM program for SWOJOM enrolled student.

(To get a copy of your K-12 students report card call the school and request a copy or log into infinite campus parent portal to print a copy of semester report card only accepted.)

2. Elementary incentive: Grades Kindergarten through 5th will receive a 2nd semester passing gift card. Will not be given if failing one or more classes, below 65%.

3. Attendance incentive: Grades K-12: **WE WILL NOT BE DOING ATTENDANCE THIS 20-21 SCHOOL YEAR**

4. Honor Roll incentive: A honor roll= \$25 B honor roll= \$15

5. 2020 High School Graduate/Diploma Incentive: \$400 need a copy of signed Diploma

** In-Office hours for Jaimie & Dr. Johnson will be every day **Please make sure to come on distribution days, we cannot mail the gift cards but are able to mail checks. These days will be the only time to distribute. If you wish for someone to pick up your student's incentive, please let us know the name of person you are giving consent to pick up. **Pidamaya!-JOM Staff**

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate does it again


FREE INTERNET



There is money available through the CARES funding to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate to pay for internet access for your student(s) to continue school online who are enrolled at Browns Valley, Enemy Swim Day School, Rosholt, Sisseton, Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Waubay, Wilmot, Summit.

Please thoroughly complete the 2021 application that is available at the schools, or at the SWO Admin Building.

Please provide the following information to qualify:

- **Student's Name, Grade & School Attending**
- **Guardian**
- **Physical Address & Mailing address if different**
- **Your Contact number**
- **Your address as shown on the internet bill**
- **Internet Account Number (must provide)***

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS will not be processed
Contact Lisa Forcier @ 605-698-8255 or LisaF@swo-nsn.gov

*New internet customers made need additional paperwork

Sota Iya Ye Yapi Trading Post

SCHULZ INSURANCE
Our Family Insuring Your Family

612 Veterans Ave. - P.O. Box 167 - Sisseton, SD 57262
24 N. Broadway - P.O. Box 1194 - Watertown, SD 57201

605.698.3130
800.423.3906
Fax 605.698-7603

605.886.1525
877.886.1525
Fax 605.886.1922

Auto ~ Farm ~ Home ~ Commercial ~ Life ~ Medicare Supplement
Long Term Nursing Care ~ Health & Group Health

Monuments & Markers
Sunburst Memorials

Ed H. & Alvina Lamers
Phone: (605) 694-2788
Email: edhiamers@hotmail.com
12673 Valley Road
Browns Valley, MN 56219

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate is seeking to fill the following position(s):

Custodian Assistant, Tribal Administration Building
Paralegal, Legal Department
JOM Classroom Aide/Tutor, JOM
Closing Date: February 5, 2021 @ 12:00PM (Noon)

Teacher Aide, Head Start
Teacher, Head Start
Teacher Aide, Enemy Swim Head Start
Nurse Care Connector, Health Administration
Project Director, TREE
Public Defender, Public Defender's Office
In-House Attorney, Tribal Executive Committee
Manager, 1-29 Hotel
Positions Open Until Filled
Application can be emailed to ArnoldW@SWO-NSN.GOV or DeniseH@SWO-NSN.GOV. Contact can also be at Arnold Williams 698-8238 or Denise Hill 698-8251 with questions. (Tribal preference will apply).

\$1,500 Signing Bonus - Open until filled
All Tiospa Zina Tribal School new employees are required to complete mandatory background checks.
Please contact Jennifer Williams, Human Resources Director by email at jwilliams@tzts.us for more information.
Tiospa Zina Tribal School
PO Box 719
#2 Tiospa Zina Dr.
Agency Village, SD 57262
Phone: (605) 698-3953 Ext. 208
Fax: (605) 698-7686
http://www.tzts.us

Tiospa Zina Tribal School Job Openings

*Special Education Teacher - \$3,000 Signing Bonus - Open until filled
*High School Science Teacher -

2021-22 6-8th Middle School Science & Social Studies/k-8 Interventionist

Wac'ang'a is a non profit organization for victims and their children of domestic violence and sexual assault. Wac'ang'a provides emergency shelter and direct services. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic abuse call our 24 hour crisis line at 605-698-4129. Open and closed support group meetings are available and confidential.

Wac'ang'a Inc.
417 Veterans Ave. Sisseton

SWO Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Rhonda Kampeka, Coordinator
P.O. Box 509 - Agency Village, SD
605-698-2022

SERVICES:
*VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE IN TRIBAL COURT.
*HELP YOU PREPARE PAPERWORK FOR PETITION FOR RESTRAINING/PROTECTION ORDERS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
*HELP YOU PREPARE PAPERWORK FOR PETITIONING FOR CUSTODY ALONG WITH YOUR RESTRAINING/PROTECTION ORDER.
*WILL ASSIST IN TRANSPORTING TO COUNSELING, COURT APPOINTMENTS.
*WILL ASSIST IN PREPARING PAPERWORK FOR SD VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
*WILL ASSIST JUVENILES IF THEY ARE VICTIMS OF BULLYING, ETC IN TRIBAL COURT.
*WILL ASSIST ELDERLY VICTIMS OF ABUSE ACCORDING TO ELDERLY PROTECTION CODE.
*WILL HELP YOU FIND A SHELTER ELSEWHERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO STAY HERE ON THE RESERVATION
If I cannot help you I will do my best to find the assistance you need.

The Early Childhood Intervention Program

Parents of children, birth to 5 years of age and Expectant mothers residing in the Lake Traverse Reservation area are invited to learn more about the Early Childhood Intervention Program's services and meet the program staff.

The Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP) serves children birth to 5 years of age.

Services provided:

1. Developmental screenings of children registered
2. Referral of children in need of services by the occupational, physical and speech therapists, as well as early childhood special education professionals to appropriate agencies
3. Home visits by Tracking and Intervention/Family Liaison Paraprofessionals
4. Monthly Parent trainings

Please call 605-698-4400, ext. 8366 or visit our office at the SWO Tribal Headquarters Bldg., Agency Village. Check our website at www.swoecip.com to find out current parent trainings or ECIP activities and post your comments or questions.

WACANGA

A non-profit corporation located near Agency Village, SD

Services available to victims of domestic violence & sexual assault

*Legal, Medical and Personal Advocacy
*Shelter
*Transportation to Court & Emergency Services
*24-Hour Crisis Line
*Information and Referrals
Call:
(605) 698-4129 or toll-free
1-888-200-4492
All services are free and available to anyone.

Browns Valley School
... is seeking full-time 6th-8th Middle School Science & Social Studies/k-8 Interventionist teacher beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The position requires a Minnesota teaching license. Application forms may be requested from the district office, 320-695-2103 or downloaded from www.brownsvalley.k12.mn.us.

Send cover letter, three letters of recommendation, resume, copy of transcripts and current Minnesota teaching license to:
Denise Pikarski, Principal
Browns Valley School
Box N, 118 Church Street
Browns Valley, MN 56219
dpikarski@brownsvalley.k12.mn.us

Dakota Magic Casino Job Openings

Hotel Department:
Room/Laundry Attendant (6 Full-Time) Day
Housekeeping Department:
Attendant (20 Full-Time)

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Food Distribution Program

OPEN Closed/DELIVERY -Elderly
OPEN Closed/Holiday
OPEN

1st thru 4th 8th
9th thru 11th 15th
16th thru 18th

Closed Fridays of each week.

18th is the LAST DAY to PICK UP!!!

Calendar may change due to the weather and/or the Covid-19 Pandemic

Hours of Distribution
9:30AM-11:30AM
12:30PM-2:30PM

SWO-FDP
PO Box 509
Agency Village, SD 57262
(605) 698-3762

SWST Fuel Inc.

- Propane • Bulk Fuel • Diesel
- Furnaces • Air Conditioner
- Sales • Installation • Service • Inspection
- HVAC Certified Technicians
- Filter Replacement
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Hours of Operation: 8-4:30 Mon.-Fri.

2202 SD Hwy 10, Sisseton SD 57262
Phone: 605-698-3521 • Fax: 605-698-3019
For all your heating and cooling needs!
Like us on facebook/swst fuel

CHOOSE THE WAY YOU WANT TO PAY.

Visa prepaid gift cards, Visa CheckCard or Visa credit card. Decotah Bank has the right Visa card for you.

DACOTAH BANK
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321 Veterans Avenue | (605) 698-3978
dacotahbank.com

Services for Homeless

Wacinyan Tipi (House of Hope) is located at Agency Village, SD (previous Tribal administration building). Services are available 24 hours/7 days a week for SWO Tribal members and their families. The shelter provides an alcohol and drug free temporary housing; individual/family rooms may stay up to 90 days or a night unit at a first come/first serve basis.

All individuals will need to complete a Wacinyan Tipi application and SWO Sex Offenders form.

If you would like additional information or check on the availability of space, you may contact a staff member at 605-698-2020.

Graveyard
Smoke/Gift shop Department:
Clerk (Full-Time) Day
Supervisor (Full-Time) Swing Support Services Department:
Laborer (3 Full-Time) where needed
Surveillance Department:
Observer (6 Full-Time) Graveyard
Table Games Department:
Dealer (3 Full-Time) No experience required, will train
Closing Date: January 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
Starting Wage: D.O.E.
High School Diploma or GED required for most positions. Two identifications documents required upon hire.
If interested please submit application to Human Resources Department, 16849 102nd Street SE Hankinson ND 58041.
For complete Job Description contact James Neconish 701-634-3000 ext. 2582
Indian Preference will apply / EEO (Please Provide Tribal Enrollment).
Must be licensable by the SWO

Custom Stone Creations
WILMOT, SD

COMPARE our prices and SAVE!

Starting at \$649

Contact me Today! Chad Ballhagen
800.630.1788
www.CustomStoneCreationsWilmot.com

WANT TO BUY DISABLED AUTOMOBILES & OTHER RECYCLABLE VEHICLES

Robert 698-4812
Ryan 268-4130
~ALSO CALL FOR~
USED PARTS & TIRES

Need Embroidery & Screen Printing? STITCH n SCREEN "IT" UP
By LD Enterprises LLC
Larry & Deb Halbert (owners)
-TERO Certified-
Shop: (605) 694-2848
Cell: (605) 237-3124
email: ldenterprises@prtel.com

Tri State Building Center

All Your Building Needs From Start to Finish!

1520 SD Hwy 10
Sisseton, SD
(605) 698-3421

Dakota Magic Casino Job Openings

The Golf Course Department Is Now Accepting Applications For
Position: Superintendent (Full-Time)
Job Description: The Superintendent is an integral member of the property's management team and oversees the maintenance and agronomic practices of the golf course and adjacent grounds, including the clubhouse landscaping.
Closing Date: Until filled
Starting Wage: D. O. E.
Associates Degree in a field related to agronomy or turf grass management
5 years turf grass management experience.
Ability to pursue GCSAA membership.
Knowledge of budgeting and inventory control.
If interested please submit application to
Human Resources Department
16849 102nd Street SE
Hankinson ND 58041
For complete Job Description contact James Neconish @ 701-634-3000 ext. 2582
Indian Preference will apply / EEO (Please Provide Tribal Enrollment)
Must be licensable by SWO Gaming Commission.

of building maintenance, general maintenance, property maintenance, equipment maintenance with special emphasis on plumbing, air conditioning, electrical, and C-Store fuel pumps. Must have a High School Diploma or GED; be very dependable; have a valid state driver's license; and must be at least 21 years old. Will be exposed to noise & tobacco smoke.
Opening Date: Monday, January 25, 2021
Closing Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
Indian Preference will apply / EEO
Contact the Human Resources Department for complete job descriptions at 1-800-658-4717 Ex. 1652.
Two forms of ID are REQUIRED upon hire.
If interested please fill out an application and submit to: Dakota Sioux Casino & Hotel, Human Resources Department, 16415 Sioux Conifer Road, Watertown, SD 57201.

Dakota Sioux Casino & Hotel Job Openings

Dakota Sioux Casino & Hotel is seeking to fill the following position(s):
Facilities/Maintenance Department:
*Maintenance Worker (1) full-time, available for any & all shifts including graveyard, weekends & holidays; able to follow verbal & written instructions; have organizational & motivational skills; customer service skills; have knowledge of safety requirements and knowledge to operate necessary equipment; mechanical & carpentry skills; be physically able to move throughout the facilities & surrounding grounds; have the physical ability to lift heavy objects 50+ pounds; have at least 2 years' experience with all aspects

Dakota Connection Casino JOB OPENINGS

Slot Department:
Slot Technician (1) full-time, rotating shifts, day, swing, graveyard, weekends & holidays, and the ability to work flexible hours. Excellent customer service skills with both external and internal customers. Math skills are essential, mechanical skills, and the physical ability to lift heavy objects. Knowledge of other gaming related equipment. Will be exposed to noise and tobacco smoke. Appropriate dress code. Must be at least 21 years old, and have a High School Diploma or GED, must be able to obtain a Key Gaming License from the SWO Gaming Commission.
Sales & Marketing Department:
Reel Deal Club Attendant (1) full-time, day, swing, includes weekends & holidays. Previous

Sota Iya Ye Yapi Word of A Great Trading Post Ads Deal!

Minimum charge (20 words or less) \$3
Additional, each word add \$1.5

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Job Openings

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate is seeking to fill the following position(s):

Custodian Assistant, Tribal Administration Building
Paralegal, Legal Department
JOM Classroom Aide/Tutor, JOM

Closing Date: February 5, 2021 @ 12:00PM (Noon)

Teacher Aide, Head Start
Teacher, Head Start
Teacher Aide, Enemy Swim Head Start
Nurse Care Connector, Health Administration
Project Director, TREE
Public Defender, Public Defender's Office
In-House Attorney, Tribal Executive Committee
Manager, I-29 Hotel

Positions Open Until Filled

Application can be emailed to ArnoldW@SWO-NSN.GOV or DeniseH@SWO-NSN.GOV.
GOV. Contact can also be at Arnold Williams 698-8238 or Denise Hill 698-8251
with questions.
(Tribal preference will apply).

experience is preferred. Must have good customer service skills, will answer all incoming phone calls direct them to the appropriate personnel, and enroll new customers into the reel deal club. Must be at least 21 years old, High School Diploma or GED, and must be able to obtain a Key Gaming License.

Restaurant Department:
Dishwasher (1) full-time, rotating shifts, day, swing, includes weekends & holidays. Experience in Food Service, food handling safety, and sanitation. Mobility throughout the facility. Able to lift 20-50 lbs. occasionally. Good health, able to stand and walk for long periods of time. Frequent bending, stooping and twisting. Appropriate dress code. Ability to obtain a "Food Handlers" certification. Must be at least 18 years old.

C-Store Department:
Clerk/Cashier (2) full-time, rotating shifts, day, swing,

includes weekends & holidays. Excellent customer service skills; math skills essential; ability to operate necessary equipment; physical ability to lift moderate amounts of weight; previous experience working with money preferred; strong organizational skills managing various functions; dependable & available to work any & all shifts. Must be at least 21 years old & have a High School diploma or GED.

Facilities/Maintenance Department:
Porter (2) full-time, day, swing, graveyard, includes weekends & holidays. Good customer service skills; ability to operate necessary equipment and the physical ability to lift heavy objects up to 50 lbs. or more. Have physical mobility throughout facility & surrounding grounds; dependable & available to work all shifts. Must be at least 18 years old.

Opening date: Monday, January 25, 2021

Closing date: Friday, January 29, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.

Indian preference will apply/EEO Employer
Apply with Human Resources Department, call or write for job description.
Submit application and credentials to:
Human Resources Department
Dakota Connection Casino
46102 SD Hwy 10
Sisseton, SD 57262
(605) 698-4273



BIG COULEE DISTRICT MEMBERS

Big Coulee District Officers
Norma Perko, Chairwoman: 605-467-3482
Lynn Halbert, Vice-Chairwoman/Acting Treasurer: 605-268-3035
Billy Kohl, Secretary: 605-268-3136 or bigcouleesecretary@gmail.com
Lydia "Susie" Rivera, Councilwoman: 605-698-8277

Big Coulee | Siceca Iyakaptapi Youth Board Contact Information



Siceca Iyakaptapi
[BigCoulee YouthBoard]



Brandi: 605.268.1715
Leslie: 605.268.0286
Sheila: 605.237.8535
Winona: 510.432.7640



siceca.iyakaptapi@gmail.com



<http://www.swo-nsn.gov/government/seven-districts/big-coulee-district/>



**Sisseton-Wahpeton
Federal Credit Union**
45665 Veterans Memorial Drive – P.O. Box 627
Agency Village, SD 57262
Phone: (605) 698-3462
Fax: (605) 698-3907
www.sisseton-wahpetonfcu.com

From the National Weather Service -

Northeast SD Weather Forecast

Jan. 25-29, 2021

Monday: Partly sunny, with highs mainly in the middle teens. East wind between 9 and 12 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with lows around 1. Northeast wind between 9 and 12 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, with highs near 11. Northeast wind around 9 mph.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with lows near 2. East northeast wind between 8 and 10 mph.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with highs mainly in the upper teens. East wind between 10 and 17 mph.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with lows around 7. Breezy.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with highs mainly in the upper 20s.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with lows mainly in the upper teens.
Friday: Mostly cloudy, with highs mostly in the lower 30s.



KXSW livestreaming Tribal Council meetings to YouTube channel



KXSW-Radio is livestreaming Tribal Council meetings to YouTube.

Here is a link to the channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1mRvcuhDYluAzEU10wDsJA>

Subscribe and watch live or watch archives later.

OLD AGENCY DISTRICT MEMBERS

Old Agency District the following seats are being advertised for the next election. 2021 Executive, Board, Commission and Committee Positions:

Chairman
Vice-Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Sergeant of Arms
OAD Election Board-1 (2-year)
OAD Pow-Wow-(2 positions)
SWO EPA
SWO Fish & Wildlife
SWO Human Service Board
SWO Reservation Planning
SWO College Board
SWO Elderly Advisory Board
SWO Personnel
SWO Pow-Wow
TZTS

Deadline to submit your application: February 15, 2021 at 4:00 pm

OAD Election Board Members:
Laura Heminger – 605-268-0345
Kathy Adams – 605-268-0399
David Barse – 605-467-9123

District Executive Officers
JESSE LARSEN, CHAIRMAN (605) 924-1857
JERMAINE EASTMAN, VICE-CHAIRWOMAN (605) 927-9122

FRANCES CHANKU, SECRETARY (605) 956-0343
DANI TWO STARS, TREASURER (605) 419-1109

District Center 698-7747
Hours of operation: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. weekdays.
Doors open at 9:00 a.m. each day.

DISTRICT NOTICES

More District Notices
On Next Page

HEIPA DISTRICT MEMBERS

District Election

Heipa District Councilman Brandon Gypsy Wanna called for a District Election to elect a District Chairperson, District Vice-Chairperson, District Secretary and a District Treasurer. Deadline to file will be on January 29, 2021 at 4:30 pm. Applications can be picked up at Heipa District Center.

In accordance with the SWO Revised Constitution and By - Laws of the Lake Traverse Reservation, Article IV - District Organization; Section 3, Heipa Councilman Brandon Gypsy Wanna called for a District Election to elect for the Heipa District; (1) a Chairperson, (2) a Vice-Chairperson, (3) a Secretary, (4) a Treasurer.

Applications can be picked up at the District Center, deadline to file intent will be on January 29, 2021 at 4:30 PM.
Submitted by Heipa Election Board.

Lake Traverse District Election

The Lake Traverse District Election Board will accept letters of intent for District Executive positions and all open board and committee positions. The deadline to submit letters of intent will be Tuesday, January 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Letters of intent must be in writing with date of birth, current address and social security number for background checks. Letters of intent may be hand delivered to the district center or faxed. The fax number for the Lake Traverse District is 605-694-2876.

District Executive positions:

1. Chairman
2. Vice-Chairman
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

LAKE TRAVERSE DISTRICT MEMBERS

Boards and committees (List subject to change)

1. Tax Commission
2. Pow wow Committee
3. Fish and Wildlife
4. Human Service Board
5. Sisseton-Wahpeton College Board
6. Office of Environmental Protection (OEP)
7. Reservation Planning Commission
8. Tiospa Zina Tribal School Board
9. Personnel Committee
10. Judicial Committee
11. TERO Board
12. Police Commission
13. THPO

14. Housing Board
15. Elderly Board
16. Constitution Revision
17. District Election Board
18. Gaming Board

The Lake Traverse District election will be held on Saturday February 20th, 2021 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. with counting of the District Executive position ballots and swearing in of the new executives to follow immediately after polls close. Counting of the ballots for boards and committees will be held the following day February 21st, 2021 at 1 p.m. Due to the Corona virus pandemic, the counting of the boards and committee ballots will be available online at Facebook Live. More information on the Facebook Live feed will be available at a later date once it has been set up.

The Big Coulee District Councilwoman has declared the BCD Executive positions vacant and called for an election of district executives. Letters of Intent for the offices of District Chairman, District Vice-Chairman, District Treasurer and District Secretary will be due at 6PM on Monday, February 8, 2021. Letters of Intent can be turned into the BCD Secretary or dropped in the drop box in the entryway of the BCD center. Names of the candidates will be posted at the BCD Center and in the Sota Iya Ye Yapi. BCD Executive Election will be on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 from 7AM-7PM at the BCD Center. There will be a special meeting starting at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 to conduct the results of the election.

BIG COULEE DISTRICT MEMBERS

There will be a regular meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 1PM at the district center. Social distancing and masks will be required for attendance. If you do not wear a mask, you will be asked to leave. Safety for all our district members in attendance is a must. There will be no meal served.

The following positions are vacant and will be voted off the floor at the meeting on January 31, 2021. You will need to write a Letter of Intent and will be due at 1PM on Sunday, January 31, 2021. Letters of Intent can be turned into the BCD Secretary or

dropped in the drop box in the entryway of the BCD center.

1. Gaming Board – must be able to pass a PMO Gaming License.
2. Judicial Board – must be able to qualify under SWO Judicial Code 21-04-04 The Judicial Committee members must have the following minimum qualifications to serve on the Committee: 1. An associates degree or two (2) year degree from an accredited college or university; 2. Familiarity with Acts of Congress and US Supreme Court decisions dealing with Indian Tribes and individual Indians, and the Tribe's own codes of law.
3. Police Commission

2021 DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Any Enemy Swim District members interested in running for District Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and/or Secretary must submit a letter of intent form along with an application and a \$50 non-refundable fee for each executive position. Any ESD members interested in running for a Board, Committee and/or Commission must submit a letter of intent form by the deadline. Applications and forms will be available at the Enemy Swim District Center.

Boards, Committees and Commissions up for elections:

- SWO:
College Board
Constitution Revision Committee

ENEMY SWIM DISTRICT MEMBERS

- Cultural Preservation Board (THPO)
- Elderly Advisory Board
- Housing Board
- Human Service Board
- Judicial Committee
- Natural Resources Commission (Game, Fish & Wildlife)
- Office of Environmental Protection (OEP)
- Personnel Committee
- Police Commission
- Pow-wow Committee
- Reservation Planning Commission (RPC)
- Tax Commission
- Tiospa Zina Tribal School Board

Tribal Employment Rights Office Commission (TERO)

Youth Board

ESD:

Election Board

Deadline to submit: Friday, January 29th, 2021 at 3pm. Applications and letter of intent form are available at the Enemy Swim District Center.

Elections will be held Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 from 7am-7pm at the Enemy Swim District Center. Social Distancing and masks will be required.

Enemy Swim District Center

P.O. Box 15

Waubay, SD 57273

P: (605) 947-4319

F: (605) 947-4873

Election will be February 23rd, 2021 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Long Hollow District Center.

Letters of Intent must be submitted to Jennifer Dumarce at the Long Hollow District Center by 4:30pm on Monday, January 25th, 2021 - Fax # 605-698-7779. Candidates who have filed letters of intent will be advertised for three weeks in the Sota and posted at the Long Hollow District Center.

The following positions will be voted on:

- Long Hollow District Chairman
- Long Hollow District Vice-Chairman
- Long Hollow District Secretary
- Long Hollow District Treasurer

For District Executive positions above you must not have any delinquent debt to District

\$30.00 Filing Fee if running for Long Hollow District Executives ONLY

LONG HOLLOW DISTRICT MEMBERS

Long Hollow District Election

- SGT at Arms
- Personnel Committee
- Judicial Committee (Requires minimum 2 year degree)
- Constitution Revision
- Human Service Board
- Natural Resources
- OEP (Office of Environmental Protection)
- Police Commission
- Reserve Planning Commissioner
- SWO College Board
- SWO Housing Board
- SWO Elderly Board
- SWO Pow Wow Committee
- SWO Tax Commission
- Tiospa Zina Tribal School Board
- Tribal Historical Preservation
- Youth Board (4)

Election Board (4)

Long Hollow District Elderly Chairman

Long Hollow District Elderly Vice-Chairman

Long Hollow Elderly Secretary

Long Hollow Elderly Board Treasurer

Long Hollow District Pow Wow Committee (4)

Long Hollow District Coordinator

SWO Reservation Election Board (Cannot sit on any other board & committee)

*Subject to random drug tests.

Any questions regarding this election feel free to contact: Mary Barse- 605-268-1588

Izola Flying Horse- 605-419-2665

Janell Cook- 612-570-0165

Rose Gaikowski- 605-491-0217

January District Meeting

Long Hollow District meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, 2021 at 10:00 am. Masks will be available for meeting and social distancing will be practiced as well as following CDC guidelines and protocols.

District Election

This is a list of who is all running for Buffalo Lake District positions. Elections will be on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

SWO Police Commission

1. Sherry Johnson - No Run Off

SWO Reservation Planning Commission

1. Billy Canku

2. Sherry Johnson

3. Lorraine Rousseau

Sisseton Wahpeton College

1. Lorraine Rousseau - Incumbent

2. Arnold White Jr

District Secretary

1. Leah Fool Bear

2. Sherry Johnson

3. Rhonda Sederberg

4. Heather Williams

District Chairman

1. Kenneth (Dicky)Johnson Sr.- Incumbent

2. Arnold White Jr

BUFFALO LAKE DISTRICT MEMBERS

District Vice-Chairman

1. Billy Canku - No Run Off

District Treasurer

1. Kayline LaBelle - No Run Off

SWO Constitution Revision Committee

1. Shaun Eastman - No Run Off

District Election Board

1. Jessica Cloud- Incumbent

2. Darla King- Incumbent

3. Cassandra Mason- Incumbent

4. Elizabeth (Betsy Ann) Hosie

5. Heather Williams

Human Services Board

1. Cynthia Starr - No Run Off

District Economic Development Board

1. Ronald Brant - Incumbent

2. Arnold White Jr - Incumbent

3. Sara Lincoln

4. Cynthia Starr

5. Heather Williams

SWO Pow Wow Committee

1. Ronald Brant- Incumbent

2. Kenneth (Dicky) Johnson Sr.

3. Arnold White Jr.

SWO Tax Commission

1. Sara Lincoln

2. Heather Williams

SWO Hiring Committee

1. Sara Lincoln- Incumbent

2. Cynthia Starr

SWO Tribal Historic Preservation

1. Cynthia Starr - No Run Off

SWO Environmental Protection Committee

No One Running

SWO Natural Resources Committee

No One Running

January District Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 31st, at 1:00 p.m.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE ADULT DETENTION CENTER

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate requests proposals for Project Management services for the construction of a 25-Bed Medium Security Tribal Adult Detention Facility on tribally owned trust property located northeast of the tribal administration building in Agency Village, SD. This RFP is for administrative

support services; coordination and monitoring oversight of the planning, design, and construction process in accordance with the POR and/or the construction contract. Experience in reviewing work to ensure compliance with Interior Construction Standards and regulations for operation under a Tribal 638 Contract is an important factor in awarding the contract.

Please submit proposals to Lennie Bernard-Peters SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

February 5, 2021 4:00 P.M. NOTIFICATION OF PRE-SELECTION AND INTERVIEWS: February 10, 2021

FINAL CONTRACT NOTICES: February 12, 2021

To request a complete RFP SCOPE OF WORK please contact:

Lennie Bernard-Peters lenniebp@swo-nsn.gov Procurement Department Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate PO BOX 509 Agency Village, SD 57262 605-698-8302

*All interested parties acknowledge that any Agreement executed and performed within the Tribe's exclusive jurisdiction is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tribal Court of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation. All interested parties acknowledge that they must comply with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Ordinances: TERO Chapter 59 Requirements, Wage Rates & Compliance Plan; Business License Ordinance Chapter 53 and Tax Ordinance Chapter 67; and Chapter 75 Sex Offender Registration.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority is presently seeking Architect and Engineering firms for the

purpose of providing these professional services for work to assist with developing the plans, specifications and engineer's estimate for the streets, water and sewer infrastructure, sitework and construction engineering during construction for various projects under the Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority's mandated 10-Year Housing Plan.

The scope of work includes and may not be limited to:

1. Entering into a 5-year Services Agreement contract that is renewable annually and items of work will be submitted as work orders for approval
2. Initial Survey, preliminary design and preliminary site layouts
3. Any possible soil or geotechnical testing that may be required
4. Project development and site meetings

5. Final Plans, Specifications and Engineer's Estimates (PS&E)
6. Completion of any Archeological & Environmental documents
7. Rights-of-Way plats and documents for official recording
8. Construction Engineering Services and Testing during project duration
9. Other work as tasked or requested by SWHA

Please submit the following with your proposal to the Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority by February 12, 2021 by 3:00 pm.

1. History and background of company
2. Resume and experience of all staff to be involved with each project
3. Name and resume of other professional services, architects, engineers, surveyors that you will work with during this duration of

projects
4. List of projects, description and pictures completed in the past
5. List of specific housing projects and pictures completed in the past
6. Example copy of long-term services agreement contract
7. Example copy of work order/ask order to provide services for
8. Copy of SWO Tribal Business License and Liability Insurance Coverage

If you have any questions please contact David Spider, Contract Specialist at (605) 228-9561 or at dspider@venturecomm.net. All items may be mailed or dropped off with:
David Spider, Contract Specialist
Sisseton-Wahpeton Housing Authority
605 Lydia Goodsell St.
Sisseton, SD 57262

Copies of the plans and specifications are on file at SWO Tribal Headquarters, Planning Department and can be picked up in the SWO Procurement office, attention Lennie Bernard-Peters, P.O. Box 509, Agency Village, SD 57279, or through email lennieBP@swo-nsn.gov; Builders Exchanges listed in the Instruction to Bidders; and at the office of HKG Architects, Inc., AIA, 524 S. Arch St., P.O. Box 55, Aberdeen, South Dakota. Copies of the plans and specifications are on a digital file on the website of HKG Architects at hkgarchitects.com
Bid security is not required, TERO laws and Indian Preference wage rates do apply.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities therein.

By order of Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Council
Agency Village, South Dakota

SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE
IN TRIBAL COURT LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
CASE NO: D-20-723-522 et seq
IN THE MATTER OF:
R.H., II, W.H., T.H., W.H., W.H., M.H., Minors,
And concerning:
TRILBY LAWRENSON,
Petitioner and,
ROLAND HEMINGER,
JOBETTE CADOTTE,
SUNNY MARIE HEAD,
Parents,
NOTICE OF HEARING
TO: ROLAND HEMINGER,
JOBETTE CADOTTE,
SUNNY MARIE HEAD
Take notice that a hearing will be held at the above named Court, Agency Village, outside the city of Sisseton, County of Roberts, South Dakota, on

the of 1st day of FEBRUARY, 2021 at the hour of 10:00 A.M or as soon thereafter as possible.
You are required to be at the hearing. Upon request, the Clerk will provide you with a copy of the
Petition describing the matter.
Dated this 4th day of January 2021
BY ORDER OF THE COURT:
/s/ Gina Ruggieri
TRIBAL COURT JUDGE
ATTEST: Eileen Pfeiffer, Clerk of Courts

SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE
IN TRIBAL COURT LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
Sisseton Wahpeton Office of Child Support Enforcement Agency

vs.
VARIOUS DEFENDANTS AS SHOWN BELOW
ORDER OF PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF HEARING
It has been established that the SWOCSE and the Court cannot locate or serve the following Defendant in the following cases:
GARRETT WHITE Multiple cases Scheduled for January 26th, 2021 @ 10 a.m.
KYLE WOLFE Multiple cases Scheduled for January 27th, 2021 @ 9 a.m.
BODEAN ROBERTS Multiple cases Scheduled for January 27th, 2021 @ 10 a.m.
Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that Notice by Publication is hereby provided herein on the various HEARINGS FOR CHILD

From SWO EMS - Emergency contact numbers

Agency Village, SD - Jan. 14, 2021 - Here are current emergency phone numbers:

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- **SWOLE DISPATCH 605-698-7661**
- **SWO EMERG MGMT 605-742-0919**
- **SWST TRANSIT 605-698-7511**
- **I-29 MOTEL 605-698-4314**
- **SWO FUEL INC 605-698-3521**
- **TRIBAL ROADS 605-698-4153**

IF YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER DIAL 911

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE ADULT DETENTION CENTER

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate requests proposals for Project Management services for the construction of a 25-Bed Medium Security Tribal Adult Detention Facility on tribally owned trust property located northeast of the tribal administration building in Agency Village, SD. This RFP is for administrative support services; coordination and monitoring oversight of the planning, design, and construction process in accordance with the POR and/or the construction contract. Experience in reviewing work to ensure compliance with Interior Construction Standards and regulations for operation under a Tribal 638 Contract is an important factor in awarding the contract.

Please submit proposals to Lennie Bernard-Peters
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 5, 2021 4:00 P.M.
NOTIFICATION OF PRE-SELECTION AND INTERVIEWS: February 10, 2021

FINAL CONTRACT NOTICES: February 12, 2021
To request a complete RFP SCOPE OF WORK please contact:

Lennie Bernard-Peters
lenniebp@swo-nsn.gov
Procurement Department
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
PO BOX 509
Agency Village, SD 57262
605-698-8302

*All interested parties acknowledge that any Agreement executed and performed within the Tribe's exclusive jurisdiction is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tribal Court of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation. All interested parties acknowledge that they must comply with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Ordinances: TERO Chapter 59 Requirements, Wage Rates & Compliance Plan; Business License Ordinance Chapter 53 and Tax Ordinance Chapter 67; and Chapter 75 Sex Offender Registration.

SUPPORT and that a hearing will be held on the dates and times as shown, to occur at the Tribal Court, SWO Admin Building, Old Agency, South Dakota.

ALL ABOVE DEFENDANTS ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE AND ARE ORDERED TO ATTEND THE HEARINGS AND THAT FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST.

Upon request, the SWOCSE Clerk will provide you with a copy of the pleadings/filings describing the matter.
Dated this 15th day of December 2020.

BY THE ORDER OF THE COURT:
ATTEST:
/s/ Gina Ruggieri, Presiding Judge
/s/Melinda Carlson, SWOCSE Clerk of Court

SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE
IN TRIBAL COURT LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
CASE NO: D-20-631-430
IN THE MATTER OF THE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE OF:
SCARLETT WANNA LOHNES, Plaintiff,
VS.
MATTHEW LOHNES, Defendant.

NOTICE OF HEARING
TO: MATTHEW LOHNES
Take notice that a hearing will be held at the above named Court, Agency Village, outside the city of Sisseton, County of Roberts, South Dakota, on the

of 25th day of February, 2021 at the hour of 11:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as possible.
You are required to be at the hearing. Upon request, the Clerk will provide you with a copy of the
Petition describing the matter.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2021.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT:
/s/Gina Ruggieri, TRIBAL COURT JUDGE
ATTEST: Eileen Pfeiffer, Clerk of Courts

4-3tc



Job Openings

The Golf Course Department Is Now Accepting Applications For

Position: Superintendent (Full-Time)

Job Description: The Superintendent is an integral member of the property's management team and oversees the maintenance and agronomic practices of the golf course and adjacent grounds, including the clubhouse landscaping.

Closing Date: Until filled
Starting Wage: D. O. E.

Associates Degree in a field related to agronomy or turf grass management
5 years turf grass management experience.
Ability to pursue GCSAA membership.
Knowledge of budgeting and inventory control.

If interested please submit application to
Human Resources Department
16849 102nd Street SE Hankinson ND 58041
For complete Job Description contact James Neconish @ 701-634-3000 ext. 2582
Indian Preference will apply / EEO
(Please Provide Tribal Enrollment)
Must be licensable by SWO Gaming Commission



Job Openings

- Hotel Department**
Room/Laundry Attendant (6 Full-Time) Day
- Housekeeping Department**
Attendant (20 Full-Time) Graveyard
- Smoke/Gift shop Department**
Clerk (Full-Time) Day
Supervisor (Full-Time) Swing
- Support Services Department**
Laborer (3 Full-Time) where needed
- Surveillance Department**
Observer (6 Full-Time) Graveyard
- Table Games Department**
Dealer (3 Full-Time) No experience required, will train

Closing Date: January 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
Starting Wage: D.O.E.
High School Diploma or GED required for most positions
Two identifications documents required upon hire

If interested please submit application to
Human Resources Department
16849 102nd Street SE Hankinson ND 58041
For complete Job Description contact James Neconish @ 701-634-3000 ext. 2582
Indian Preference will apply / EEO
(Please Provide Tribal Enrollment)
Must be licensable by the SWO Gaming Commission

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Council, 12554 BIA Highway 711, Agency Village, South Dakota, 57262 until 12:00 p.m., C.T., January 28, 2021 for material and labor required for the IT/First Responders Remodeling of the BIA Building, Agency Village, South Dakota.

Bid Packages for materials only, labor only and materials & labor shall be considered.

Construction Documents and Specifications will be available to contractors on January 14th, 2021. The existing BIA Building will be open for a prospective bidders to walk-through January 19 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope with the name, address of the bidder and bid package clearly identified on the envelope, to the SWO Procurement Office. Faxed bids will not be accepted.

Copies of the plans and specifications are on file at SWO Tribal Headquarters, Planning Department and can be picked up in the SWO Procurement office, attention Lennie Bernard-Peters, P.O. Box 509, Agency Village, SD 57279, or through email lennieBP@swo-nsn.gov; Builders Exchanges listed in the Instruction to Bidders; and at the office of HKG Architects, Inc., AIA, 524 S. Arch St., P.O. Box 55, Aberdeen, South Dakota. Copies of the plans and specifications are on a digital file on the website of HKG Architects at hkgarchitects.com

Bid security is not required, TERO laws and Indian Preference wage rates do apply.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities therein.

By order of Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Council
Agency Village, South Dakota

2-3tc

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority is presently seeking Architect and Engineering firms for the purpose of providing these professional services for work to assist with developing the plans, specifications and engineer's estimate for the streets, water and sewer infrastructure, sitework and construction engineering during construction for various projects under the Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority's mandated 10-Year Housing Plan.

The scope of work includes and may not be limited to:

1. Entering into a 5-year Services Agreement contract that is renewable annually and items of work will be submitted as work orders for approval
2. Initial Survey, preliminary design and preliminary site layouts
3. Any possible soil or geotechnical testing that may be required
4. Project development and site meetings
5. Final Plans, Specifications and Engineer's Estimates (PS&E)
6. Completion of any Archeological & Environmental documents
7. Rights-of-Way plats and documents for official recording
8. Construction Engineering Services and Testing during project duration
9. Other work as tasked or requested by SWHA

Please submit the following with your proposal to the Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority by February 12, 2021 by 3:00 pm.

1. History and background of company
2. Resume and experience of all staff to be involved with each project
3. Name and resume of other professional services, architects, engineers, surveyors that you will work with during this duration of projects
4. List of projects, description and pictures completed in the past
5. List of specific housing projects and pictures completed in the past
6. Example copy of long-term services agreement contract
7. Example copy of work order/ask order to provide services for
8. Copy of SWO Tribal Business License and Liability Insurance Coverage

If you have any questions please contact David Spider, Contract Specialist at (605) 228-9561 or at dspider@venturecomm.net. All items may be mailed or dropped off with:

David Spider, Contract Specialist
Sisseton-Wahpeton Housing Authority
605 Lydia Goodsell St.
Sisseton, SD 57262

4-3tc

4-2tc



Firekeeper Dave Cloud Jr. John Heminger Photography.



Singers around the drum at Thursday's final ceremony. John Heminger Photography.



Miss SWO Blossom Tiomanipi, and Miss S-W Veterans Princess Talia Robertson. John Heminger Photography.



Stylized image of SWO Memorial Park. John Heminger Photography.

Lighted tipis
Continued from Page 1

He prayed for those who were mourning the loss of loved ones. And he talked about the need to remain vigilant, to continue wearing a mask and social distancing. The SWO Youth Center collaborated with Toys for Tots to have a toy and jacket giveaway for Oyate children this afternoon. "It was a big learning experience," said Alana. "At first, I was trying to think who in the community I could bring together." More and more people kept offering to help. "Some people I didn't even know wanted to help. It was really amazing." The 14-day event, which began on Monday, Jan. 11 and ends this week, was not without adversity, mostly from the harsh winter weather.

Putting up seven tipis was not an easy task, especially for those, like Alana, who had never done so before. "I haven't fallen so much as I have out here," she said, while at the park on Thursday, commiserating with others who have sore muscles, knees and backs. "And then two tipis went down during the blizzard," which hit on days four and five. But the firekeepers built a shelter to keep the fire burning faithfully the entire time. Prayer was a big part of the event, directed specifically to various groups each day. For instance, on Monday, it was for all the men, Tuesday for women, Wednesday for the frontline workers, and Thursday for the youth. "Every day ... prayers were lifted up for something," said Alana. "It was beautiful, and it made me really happy to

be a part of it. I think the Creator directed this path." "I was really excited to have Keloland come," said Alana. "We wanted to let South Dakota know this wasn't just for us. We prayed for everybody." "The (pandemic) isn't affecting just Natives, but whites, people at all levels. It makes you come back to the fact we're all humans." "People are struggling," she added. "Some lost their jobs, some are homeless." "We lost people; some elders are getting sick. We need to stay hopeful. We'll get out of this." "We wanted to uplift people, bring happiness and hope," she said. And they did. Alana's compassion for others stems from her own experiences. She has been on the journey of sobriety for five

years, and a big part of the lighted tipi event was to offer a listening ear to anyone wanting help with that same journey. She has spent the last three years creating and building Piya Canku (Healing Road) with others to help anyone wanting to pursue addiction recovery and avoid relapse. "I think this is my purpose," said Alana, "to help bring awareness of healing if you're willing to be patient and believe in your higher power and focus on why you're doing what you're doing." Alana and her large crew of volunteers will be assessing the way things went and perhaps making plans for this to become an annual event. Other tribes have called to ask about the lighted tipis. The idea is catching fire.

The Case of the Haunted Moccasins

The blizzard arrived and with time to spare, I decided to search the internet for unusual and weird items. In my search I found a pair of old Indian style moccasins. The intricate floral design of orange, green and white on the front and side floral pattern of purple, pink, white and green caught my eye. The boot style with heavy lace was attractive also. So, I decided to purchase the item. Little did I know what would come along with those moccasins. That old saying "Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies" holds true. The wasicu seller offered little if no history on the moccasins. But as soon as he showed them to me, I felt this other-worldly presence. And this guy seemed desperate to get rid of the moccasins.

I waited until I returned home to examine them. First, I noticed that the shoes were not symmetrical - the right side was flatter than the left. And it appeared the Native person who owned them before had a handicap; for when I stood the moccasins up on the floor, the left one kept leaning outward. Then things got strange that night. I placed the moccasins with other artifacts, shut off the light and left the room. Soon after, I heard a crying sound followed by thumps on the floor. I went to the darkened room and the moccasins were gone from the counter top, where I'd left them, and were standing by themselves by the door. That night in my dreams and for two nights following, the man I sensed had been the original owner of the moccasins visited.

He was an elder, homeless, and from the early 1900s era. He used a cane and walked with a severe limp. The moccasins have a life of their own. My first thought was the Hiawatha Insane Asylum for Crazy Indians in Canton, SD and how the tribal members ran away. Could these haunted moccasins be from one of the inmates there? Or perhaps some other lost soul searching for his moccasins. Betty Anne Owen, Sioux Falls SD.

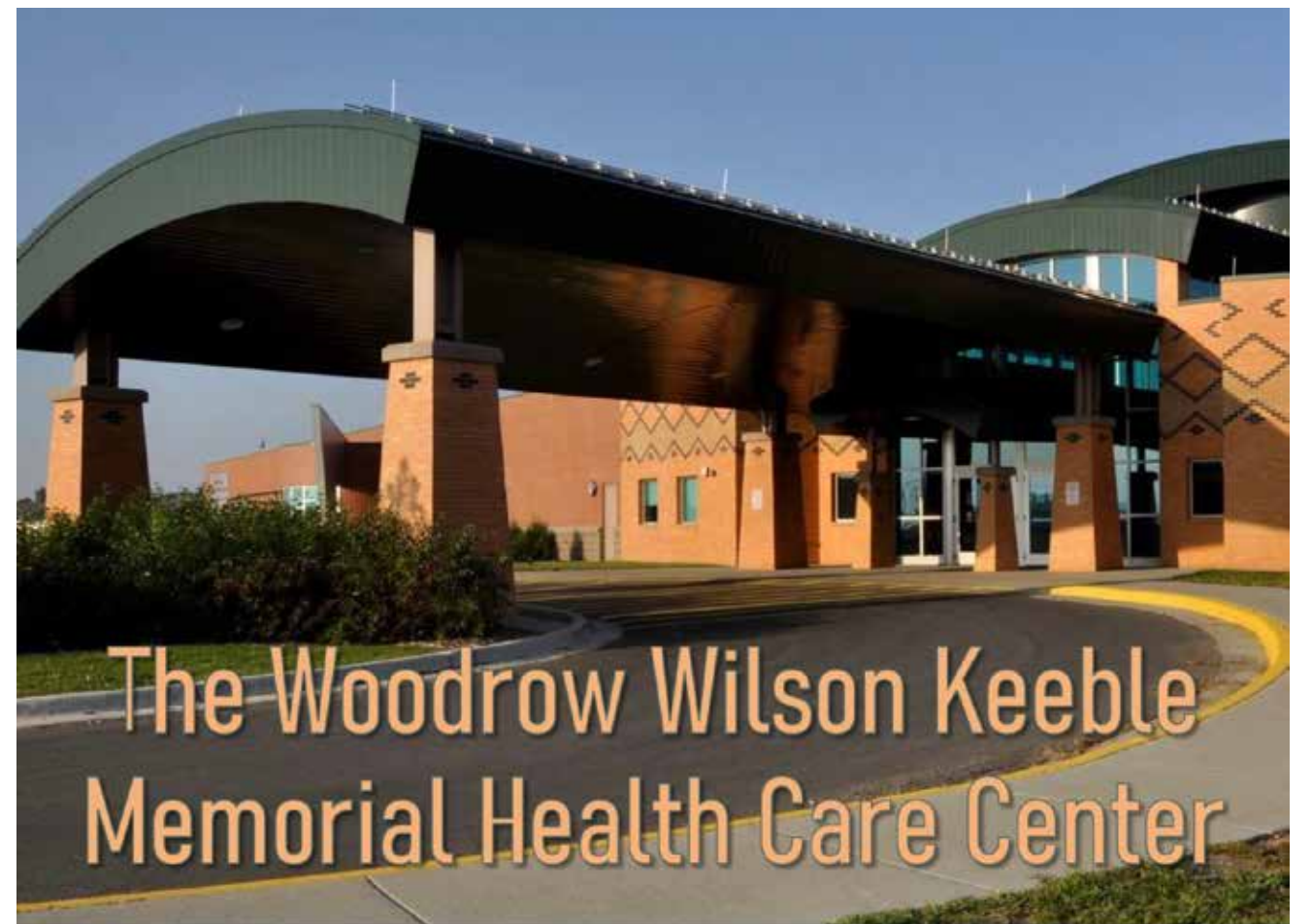


THANK YOU FROM MISS SISSETON 2021 SNOW QUEEN



As many of you may or may not know, I was blessed with the chance to attend the State Snow Queen Competition from January 7 to January 9, 2021. I want to start by saying a BIG THANK YOU to the Friends and Neighbors Club for giving me the opportunity to represent Sisseton. I'd also like to thank all that donated to my basket. The basket was supposed to represent me and my community, and I think we did a phenomenal job of that! It turned out really nice. Seeing everybody so eager to help me really warmed my heart. It means more to me than any of you will ever know. I would like next to recognize the people and business that donated. Again, thank you so much for everything, everyone; I hope I have made you all proud.

Doubletree Gallery	Tribal Chairman Delbert Hopkins Jr.
Stillsons Oil Co.	Jesse and Terri Larsen
Teals Market	Sharon Nerison
Paula and Arvol L.-Sungwakan	Ella Robertson
Samantha Pomani	Eric Wanna
Rolonda Quinn	
Siyo Peters	
Dr. Sherry Johnson	With Appreciation,
Tribal Education Dept.	Gianna Wolfe



PIYA CANKU RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS

- Monday @ noon
 - Wednesday at 7pm
 - Saturday at 7pm
- Every week

Monday's Meeting ID- 880 0424 6088 pw- 658353
Wednesday's Meeting ID- 881 3027 6184 pw- 745099
Saturday's Meeting ID- 828 3606 9757 pw- 847205



Contact information
Alana LittleBird-605-419-1775 or Ronnie Skjonsberg 605-268-1191

Drive up COVID-19 Testing

Monday-Thursday
9am-12pm
THE WEST PARKING LOT

- No appointment needed
- No symptoms
- Must be IHS eligible