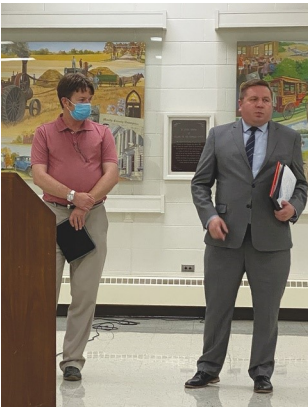


# Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Monthly Newsletter June - July 2020

## Flandreau gets grant to demolish Crescent Street bridge Tribe will apply for money to replace it



City Attorney Corey Bruning, left, and the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Attorney Seth Pearman explain an agreement between the two governments that will allow the city to tear down the Crescent Street bridge and the tribe to find money to construct a new bridge. The two presented the plan to city council mem-

The state has awarded the city of Flandreau \$301,320 to remove the Crescent Street bridge that crosses the Big Sioux River and has been closed for years. The city received the grant Thursday after a state hearing. Approval was unanimous, said Jeff Pederson, Flandreau city administrator.

"I'm just pleased we were able to put together a competitive application and represent the will of the city council," he said.

The bridge's future at first caused a division between those in favor of demolishing it and installing a pedestrian bridge and others who wanted to fix the original bridge, built in 1935. The cost to fix the bridge was estimated at \$2.5 million, compared to about \$3.2 million to replace the structure with another vehicle bridge. City leaders said because fixing the bridge was so close in cost to replacing it, the state would never award a grant to fix it.

The failed bridge also represented a divide between cultures in the community because it connected the town with the Flandreau Indian School, which no longer has direct access downtown. Before it became in disrepair, it was used extensively by employees and students at the school, linking them to the rest of the community.

At the city council meeting earlier last week, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe and the city shared a legal agreement, called a memorandum of understanding, in which once the bridge is removed, the project will be turned over to the tribe. Tribal members say they can apply for other money that could allow them to build a new bridge, money that would be unavailable to the city.

The tribe prefers a vehicle bridge instead of the city's first idea for a pedestrian bridge because the tribe is in charge of health care for the students while they are at the school. The bridge is the closest link to the tribal clinic.

"It's important for the tribe and tribal council that a bridge remain there," said Seth Pearman, tribal attorney. "I do think it's a better investment to tear this bridge down and completely construct a new bridge." If the tribe is unable to secure funding within five years to build the bridge, it reverts back to the city, according to the draft of the legal document.

The bridge is one of seven in South Dakota to get a demolition grant through the state, which requires matching funds of about \$60,000 from the city, roughly 18 percent of the cost. The Crescent Street bridge also is the largest and most expensive to remove among those who received the federal money that is passed through the state for the projects. The state Department of Transportation will coordinate the bids and plans.

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Newsletter is a monthly publication by the

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

Digital photos or sending other original files is encouraged.

Deadline for submission of material is

5 work days before the 15th of each month

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe

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#### **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION**

##### **GUIDELINES:**

*All information submitted for newsletter must be received 5 (five) working days before the 15 of each month. We cannot guarantee inclusion of any submissions after that date in that month's newsletter. Submissions must be made in type-written (or computer generated) format. They can be submitted directly to Marcie Walker in hard-copy, on disk or via email at:*

[marcie.walker@fsst.org](mailto:marcie.walker@fsst.org)

*The FSST reserves the right to edit submission for content and clarity when appropriate. Additionally, submissions not of a time sensitive nature may be delayed for next month newsletter*

The state's intent is to have the project under contract for removal within the next year.

While several comments from the public favored the agreement between the city and the tribe, resident Emily Firman Pieper, who has opposed demolishing the bridge, said the plan has no guarantee that it will work, and the community could be left with a big hole if funding isn't found. She also testified against the grant during the state hearing.

Adrienne Brant James, who is helping Pieper raise money for the bridge and the waterfront along the river, said the agreement between the city and tribe is the best opportunity because it will allow the community to access money that is not government controlled. "There's a lot more opportunity for funds here beyond what the tribe can do," she said. "I don't see a lot of potential pitfalls here. The money has to be raised, that's it."

The two groups working together bring energy to the project, and it is symbolic, she said. "It will do a world of good for this community."

Tribal employee Elizabeth Wakeman said that while it will be a difficult project, she is confident it will get done.

"I am very thankful that the city and the tribe are working on this," she said.

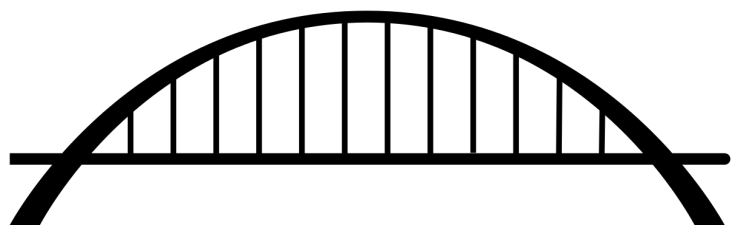
Alderman Jason Unger said the first idea for a pedestrian bridge was good but not the best idea. Instead, the tribe has quickly come up with a very viable option, even though there is some risk, he said. It will require mutual support from both governments.

"It was a really ambitious plan that has a really good shot at success," Unger said.

"I don't know a time when the city has been requested to support the tribe. We don't do it very often," he said. "I'm really encouraged by this."

Mayor Dan Sutton said he met with tribal President Tony Reider and the two talked about working together on other projects in the future, too. The demolition grant will save both the city and the tribe money, and the issue has gone beyond discussing what to do with the bridge.

"We're passed that now. We're working with the tribe. We're listening to the public," he said. "Hopefully this is just the beginning of many great partnerships we can have moving forward."



# South Dakota's future remains bright

*By Governor Kristi Noem*

July 24, 2020

Since my time in Congress, I've had a good relationship with President Trump and his administration. We worked on tax reform together, he helped bring back fireworks to Mount Rushmore earlier this month, and he and his team have been instrumental in helping us secure the supplies we have needed to battle COVID-19.

In many ways, it's fair to say that South Dakota has developed a unique relationship with the Trump administration. Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to continue to develop our common bond with a visit to Washington D.C. On Wednesday, I sat down with Vice President Pence, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, as well as senior officials at the Department of Treasury and the Department of Justice.

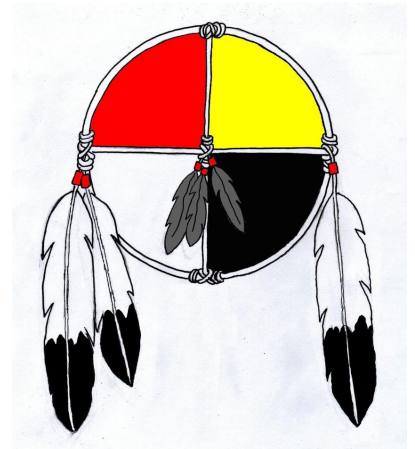
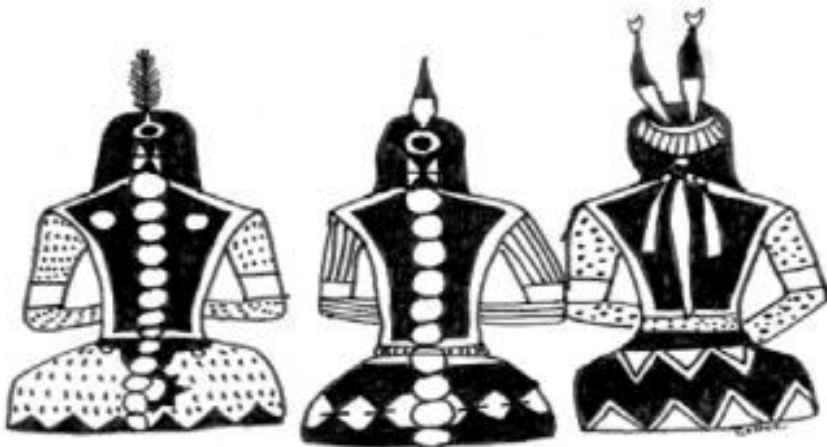
Our conversations included the shared lessons that we have learned from our unique approaches to the virus, what the outlook is for further development of treatment as well as a potential vaccine in the coming months, how best we can tackle the rebuilding that will need to take place as we look overcome the challenges that COVID has left in its wake, among many other things.

This last point about rebuilding is one that we are all especially zeroed in on at this point. Even before COVID hit, I got up every day looking for ways to improve our state so it can be stronger today and for the next generation. And now in the wake of this global pandemic, whether it's education or business growth and development or finding more ways to protect our most vulnerable, the challenges in front of us are real, and yet also very feasible. The reason I continue to be

very optimistic about our future is because of our people – the finest in the nation.

Though there is still some unknown about where this year will take us, I firmly believe that our state is in the best position of any in the country. We will continue to provide all the information we have about our situation as quickly as possible to you all. Then, we will continue to trust the people of this great state to take that information and make the best decisions for themselves, their families, and – in turn – their communities. Though we're not out of the woods yet, I wholeheartedly believe our future is very bright.

As always, for all the latest information about COVID-19 in South Dakota, please visit [COVID.SD.Gov](https://www.southdakota.gov/covid-19).



# Power agreement credits tribe with solar power projects



The Flandreau City Council has approved an agreement to allow a solar power benefit to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

The council approved the solar interconnection and power purchase agreement with the tribe and Missouri River Energy Services for small renewable power generation. Missouri River Energy is the wholesale provider of power to Flandreau.

Under the agreement, the power supplier will purchase any power generated by the tribe's 10 small solar projects in Flandreau and the city will give the tribe billing credit at the rate of 3.14 cents per kilowatt hour. City Administrator Jeff Pederson said the project is innovative and exciting. It will mean that while the city will give up some revenue, it also will need to buy less power at a higher rate.

Lacy Neuenfeldt, a lawyer for the tribe, said the tribe is starting out with small steps by installing the solar power for ten location, including the new clinic and community center but not the Royal River Casino. "We'll see how this goes," she told council members at the June 15 meeting. There is a plan for an 11th site.

The tribe started installing the solar equipment last year. Alderman Jason Unger said the project has been on the radar as something that could be developed, and it is a

great opportunity to partner with the tribe. "Any loss is an overall gain," he said of the possibility of the city generating fewer dollars because of the project. In other business,

- An engineering company has been able to do an analysis of the river for the possible Flandreau dam conversion project, Pederson said. Results should be back in three or four months, indicating what the alternatives are, he said. "If we do do something, that's a big project," he said. A project could cost hundreds of thousands, maybe up to a million dollars, he said.
- The city will talk about how it will reopen use of the William J. Janklow Community Center to large events, such as wedding receptions. The city wants CDC guidelines to be followed by anyone renting the space. "I think it's a stretch to simply rely on folks to simply take care of that themselves," he said. The city council will have its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. July 6 at the community center so that council members and the public are able to social distance.
- The council approved the final pay request for \$149,317 to Dakota Directional LLC for phase four of the electric improvements project for the city. "This essentially completes the project," Pederson said. "It's the end of a multi-year project that's going to serve this community for decades into the future." Mayor Mark Bonrud said the project makes service safer and more economical for Flandreau. "This was long overdue."
- The city will pursue CARES grant money for \$20,000 for use at the airport. The money is part of the grants available because of loss of income during the COVID-19 pandemic. One expense that the money might cover would be a dedicated mower for the airport, Pederson said.

# ***Hello from the FSST Tribal Child Care Program***

Vicki Anderson FSST Tribal Child Care Program Director and Assistant Amber Allen are working closely with our local state licensed child care providers in our community to help ensure quality subsidized childcare for low-income native families since before the COVID 19 worldwide pandemic by providing various training programs and encouraging our providers to receive their Child Development Associates (CDA), while providing our providers with quality improvement items for their businesses such as child sensory development materials to help engage the child's mind and curiosity.

After the COVID 19 outbreak in March we shifted our priority toward COVID 19 prevention by providing information from the Administration for Children and Families as well as the current guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for Child Care Programs that remain open during the COVID 19 outbreak. Many additional considerations were taken to help ensure the safety of all children in our daycares such as, mandatory screening of child's temp upon arrival, staggering parent drop-off pick-up procedures while appointing one parent/caregiver retrieve child while other parents wait while keeping their distance to help avoid possible COVID 19 spread. Along with various other modified daycare procedures we purchased bulk hand soaps, and diapering products for our child care providers to help their respective programs and parents dealing with lack of items due to the panic buying that swept across the country leaving many shelves bare or with limited supply. We have provided each of our child care providers with a wall mounted Purell dispensers/refills along with various types of face masks, and scrubs to also assist in the prevention of COVID 19, while taking precautions to help ensure the safety of our child care providers and their families. Another additional precaution we have taken is to have each of our providers homes deep cleaned/furnace and duct cleaning through Intek of Sioux Falls, currently two of our providers have had their homes serviced through Intek the other is in process of being scheduled. We will also be hosting a training on August 15<sup>th</sup> from the Family Resource Network on *BIG Body Play* a Preschool focused active play, and a training on *Listen up! Helping Children Develop Listening Skills* providing training for all our state licensed providers.

We would like our community to know that we take the safety of our Child Care Providers homes and the safety of all children enrolled in our daycares very seriously and will continue to provide any help and assistance to our providers and families during these uncertain times. Although we are confident that we will weather the COVID 19 pandemic by continuing to promote common sense health practices and clear communication with our families as well as with the State of South Dakota Department of Social Services and local public health department.

If you feel are interested in receiving quality child care at lowered cost to native families the eligibility requirements are physical residence in Moody County, tribal enrollment in **any Federally Recognized Tribe** of child(ren) needing child care or biological parent enrollment or biological grandparents enrollment.



If your family meets this initial criteria the FSST Tribal Child Care Program needs; birth certificates of household members, proof of income, class schedule or employer's information of hours to be worked, proof of residence (example utility bill) and proof of Federally Recognized Tribal Enrollment.

After all eligibility requirements are met then the FSST Tribal Child Care Program will determine your co-pay monthly amount for child care.

Your co-pay may be \$0.00 depending upon your household income and size of your family.

If you have any questions or difficulty obtaining documents such as tribal enrollment documentation, please visit the FSST Tribal Child Care Program and we will gladly assist you.

Ineligible for tribal child care please contact the SD Department of Social Services (605) 997-2447 and they will gladly assist you or apply online at <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/apply.aspx>. All of our providers work closely with the State of SD and their child care subsidy program as well.

We just wanted to inform our community that precautions have and will continue to be taken to further ensure the safety of all our children while families make the informed decision of whether or not to enroll child (ren) in daycares during the pandemic.

*Thank you for the opportunity to assist you, Amber Allen FSST Tribal Child Care.*



# MEET OUR NEW CHILD CARE PROVIDERS....



Hello from all of us at New Beginnings Daycare, we are located at 709 West 3rd Ave. We started our daycare on April 27th, Monday. We are currently full. With the Covid 19 situation we are allowed by the state to add on 2 additional school age children. Our main purpose is to enjoy each child for who they are and to hopefully help each child be ready for school when the time arises. Also to offer consistency, tons of love, security, wonderful friendships, memories and a safe environment. To help ensure the consistency of quality care our New Beginnings daycare I am currently taking Child Development Associate (CDA) classes a nationally recognized credential in Early Childhood Development as well as other trainings pertaining to childcare.

We have 3 of us here at the daycare to make sure each child has special quality time with the caregivers. I couldn't be more proud of what we offer to our children. Without, the help of several people this venture never would of taken place. Mary Rydell who has 34 years of daycare experience and Collette Kills-A-Hundred has 3 and ½ yrs of daycare experience. They both bring so much to offer our children.

Without the wonderful support and consistency that Vicki Anderson and Amber Allen help bring every day is so helpful and we couldn't be more appreciative. They are helping build a stronger, safer community. The State of SD and staff have been there since the first day I made the call with the dream to start the daycare for the children in Flandreau in my home. My sons Jeremy, Tyler and their families, my daughter Collette son-in-law Willie who kept the support beyond belief to help me reach the day I was able to open the doors. Without each person and organization we would not be here today. The families that followed us to continue the service to their children means more than people will ever realize. We will always be so grateful to everyone that has supported us in anyway. Because at the end of the day it is about our children in the community. Each child in this community has the right to have wonderful caregivers and I believe Flandreau has that to offer from all of the daycares here in Flandreau.

**We are open Monday thru Friday, 7:30am – 5:15pm. Ph: 605-864-0256.**

Trish Kills-A-Hundred  
State Licensed Daycare Provider





Brittany Frias has over 10 years in experience working with children. She has done countless outreach programs working with children and families across the state of South Dakota. She has worked locally on community boards such as the Flandreau Santee Parent Committee and the Flandreau Indian Education Committee. She has been in the community over 5 years and has been a daycare provider going on 3 years. Brittany enjoys her career in being able to help and serve the community with providing care. When she lived in Sioux Falls, she worked as a Lead Teacher for Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and worked in the YES child-care program. Brittany is currently working on her Child Development Associate (CDA), a nationally recognized credential in Early Childhood Development. She holds certifications in Newborn Care and Sleep Training and many other certificates required by state licensing. With her passion for quality care and her adoration of all children, Brittany has dreamed of opening her own daycare for many years. She is so excited to bring her experience, compassion and enthusiasm to the Flandreau community. Brittany is conveniently located in town and has current openings

**Monday-Friday, 6:30 am to 5:30 pm time slot. Weekend care is available if requested.**

**605-366-5468 /emailed: [babiesandtots18@gmail.com](mailto:babiesandtots18@gmail.com).**

Brittany is licensed by the State of South Dakota/Tribally Authorized through the FSST Tribal Child Care Program.







Hi! My name is Jenny Lehman, I'm from the Philippines. Happily married with 3 beautiful daughters. Lichieh is 5yo, Lily 3yo & Luna is 2yo. We have been resident in Flandreau for over a year. Due to shortage of daycare provider in our town, I decided to open my home for this family that needs a state certified provider, I am grateful and enjoying of what I do as daycare provider. Taking care of little one's so their parents can go to work, at the same time spending time with my kids at comfort of my home.

Before moving in USA in 2016. I worked in Taiwan for 3 years as Home Health Aide. I also worked as a nursing assistant at Madison Regional Health System for almost 2 years. I'm currently working part-time at Avera Flandreau Hospital after my daycare hours, also PRN CNA in Riverview Healthcare Community on some weekends.

I finished my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in Philippines, I love working in Healthcare settings too.

I am dedicated to provide a clean, safe, & fun child care service to our community, with the help of continuous training & education for a better quality services. Currently enrolled in Child Development Associate (CDA) classes a nationally recognized credential in Early Childhood Development. I have openings for fulltime of ages 1yo above.

Jenny Lehman

State Certified Family Daycare/Tribally Authorized Through FSST Child Care Program

ABCKIDZ DAYCARE

706 South Crescent Street

Flandreau, SD 57028

605.254.4782

HOURS: M-Fri 6:30AM-5:00PM



# School re-entry is crucial

*By Rep. Dusty Johnson*

Washington, DC – July 10, 2020 – August is just around the corner – can you believe it? It is almost hard to process. For more than five months, most of the country has had their K-12 aged kids at home, full-time. Five months.

That's five months without face-to-face interaction with teachers and fellow students. Five months without in-classroom learning. Five months without access to many of the special learning programs our students desperately need. Our country still has a ways to go – we are still getting COVID-19 under control. Our actions need to continue to be data driven, but if there is a way for America to safely get kids and teachers back in the classroom in August, we absolutely should. It needs to be one of our nation's top priorities.

With three young children of my own, I have seen the effects school closures place on our youth

firsthand. It's an unfortunate reality, but it is the reality – working parents cannot dedicate the time necessary to ensure our children are given a learning experience the classroom normally would provide. It's too soon to fully quantify the setbacks this generation of youth will face for being out of the classroom, but we do know that on top of an education, our system provides a safe environment many children do not have at home, reliable nutrition, and fundamental social and emotional skills that will be utilized forever. State and local governments should do everything in their power to avoid prolonging irreversible impacts on an entire generation of students.

School closures also place a disproportionate impact on children in low-income homes. The American Academy of Pediatrics, an organization dedicated to the health of all children, raised a strong point in their recent guidance for school re-entry: "Policy

makers should acknowledge that COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk." We are facing a tough reality – we must balance the health and safety risks COVID-19 presents to teachers and communities, while also acknowledging the potential long-term damage children face by being kept out of the classroom.

It's not lost on me – I know this is a tough situation and every state is unique. South Dakota's school reopenings will look differently than New York's. That is why it is so important local governments and individual schools remain in control of reopening decisions, but I urge localities to consider the long-term impact our students will face if we keep schools closed into the fall. This can't be a one-size-fits-all approach, but our goals should be the same: reopen our schools safely and expediently for the benefit of children across the nation.



# Half-time pep talk

*By U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds  
(R-S.D.)*

Washington, DC – July 9, 2020 – The year 2020 is only half written, but already it's one for the history books. Everyone, whether 8 or 78, will remember this year as one unlike any other. While it is very common to set resolutions and goals on New Year's Day, this year is unique enough to deserve a half-time review, and possibly even a little pep talk.

Farmers probably always subconsciously perform a half-time transition in July. You put away the planter and fertilizer while you tune up the combines. The old, outdated saying, "knee-high by the 4th of July" means farmers are starting to anticipate harvest. While farming always has an element of uncertainty that is beyond our control, 2020 has delivered previously unexperienced

obstacles due to COVID-19. These include processing and ethanol plant shutdowns and shortages in supply chains. Despite these uncertainties, our farmers and ranchers continue to be innovative and adapt to a tough year.

Our kids, mid-summer, are usually beginning to consider the transition back to school after a summer packed with sports and recreation. This year has been different, however, as our kids haven't had the same rigorous summer recreation activities. They also have been away from their classrooms for an extended period of time, instead of the normal short summer.

This week, I met virtually with superintendents from schools all across the state. Their message was consistent: we need to safely and efficiently get our kids back

in school this fall. What August and September will look like still remains to be seen. One thing that is certain is that those decisions will be made by those who know their students and teachers best: local school board members and administrators. What works best in Sioux Falls might not be what's best in Rapid City, and what works in Spearfish might not work in Sisseton. The people who know their communities best will make the best decision for their communities.

This time of year, our main street businesses are usually holding their summer crazy days, clearing out inventory to make room for a new season. Prior to the March outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, our economy was soaring. Jobs were being created, unemployment was at record lows and wages were rising. But when businesses needed to isolate for health safety due to the virus, our



# Mount Rushmore fireworks and ignorant politicians

Native Sun News – July 3, 2020 – Several months ago a few students from Oglala Lakota College, Rapid City Campus, were discussing the statues of the presidents lining the streets of Rapid.

Native Sun News Today editorial suggested they form an investigative group of students, get the names of all the statues, and then do some deep research on every one of them. What was their attitude and treatment of Native Americans? African Americans? Hispanics? Etc. etc.

After you have completed your research put all of your new knowledge into an essay. We are sure that nearly every President standing on every street corner in the City has done some terrible things to Native Americans and others. Think of all the laws that were passed at the end of the 1800s stripping millions of acres of land from the Indigenous people, including the Black Hills.

We think this would be a worth project for any college class in America, but we believe the students at OLC are much better equipped to view it through the eyes of the oppressed. We ask the students at OLC to seriously consider this as a class project and we will gladly print the results of their study.

## *Fourth of July*

Most Natives do not celebrate the 4th of July. It was not a day of “independence” to us, but a day when America claimed everything that was ours.

Donald Trump and his suck-up daughter Kristi Noem will use the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore to publicize their political ambitions. When it was suggested to Noem that there may be protests by Natives during Trump’s visit she haughtily replied, “Not on my watch.”

Keep in mind this is the same Governor who authorized a study of the hydroxychloroquine medicine by subjecting 2,000 of her constituents to testing of the drug because Daddy Trump said he was taking the drug and it works against Covid-19 virus. The Food and Drug Administration just released its own study saying not only does it NOT work, it can cause serious health problems.

What is even more startling about this blatant act of political support to Trump by Noem was the fact that a respected medical organization, Sanford Health, allowed itself to lead this farce. How much were they paid to sell their souls to the 2 devils?

But the most blatant act of ignorance occurred when Noem sought the help of Trump and this State’s Republican Senators in an effort to remove checkpoints on the Indian reservations set up by tribes trying to stop and prevent the spread of a deadly pandemic. It is obvious that she and her cohorts had absolutely no knowledge of tribal history and how pandemics of TB, smallpox, and other diseases had decimated the Indian nations over the years.

And it is obvious that not one of them has ever read the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.



**American Indian protesters blocked a South Dakota highway to demonstrate President Trump’s visit to their homeland. Photo from NDN Collective video.**

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# Skateboard Park now open



A part of Duncan Park is now open to those who wish to develop their skateboarding abilities. Ramps were donated by Bruce Allen and placed on concrete paid for by the City of Flandreau. Rules are posted at the park and should be followed by all who use it.



# KeySolutions

Employee Assistance Program



**Summer 2020**



## The Men in Our Lives: Their Mental Health Dilemmas

Most of us have important men in our lives; fathers, brothers, husbands, sons, partners, uncles, nephews and friends. Good mental health for every man is an important topic and one that is frequently overlooked. According to Mental Health

America, over 6 million men suffer with depression, often undiagnosed or treated. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reported in 2018 that men died by suicide 3.56 times more often than women. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports approximately 62,000 men die in alcohol related incidents annually in comparison to approximately 26,000 women. These statistics are alarming and indicate there are many aspects to consider when discussing men and their mental health.

For many men, there is a resistance to talk about how they feel. Talking about depression is difficult and can become a silent struggle. It is important to note that depression is not a sign of weakness. Depression does not selectively choose its target. It can happen to anyone. There may be factors contributing to depression for men. These may include genetic factors/family history, financial issues, work stress, loss and grief or illness. Men can hide some of their feelings and it might be seen in anger, irritability, detaching or working too much.

Men may turn to alcohol or drug use to ease some of the pain they feel. Using alcohol or drugs can numb emotions, therefore creating a false sense of security and resolve. In time, more abuse of alcohol or drugs can happen creating a spiraling descent for some men. This spiraling descent can lead to suicidal thoughts, a plan or even an attempt. Feelings of helplessness or hopelessness combined with feelings of isolation can be warning signs that might lead to suicidal thoughts or plans.

Encouragement, support and compassion are keys to better understanding men and the issues they experience. Being open and ready to listen, to be understanding, and not reply or judge, can go a long way in helping men open up about their struggles. Support and letting go of animosity in order to enhance communication is another way to help. Compassion at all levels is most important and creates a solid and secure place in which to open up. Having family support, good friends and people who understand will make a powerful difference.

If you are a man, or if you care about a man in your life, please call us at KeySolutions if it is time for a change. We are here to support you in a non-judgmental environment. It's okay to talk about it.

*"Every man has his secret sorrows which the world knows not; and often times we call a man cold, when he is only sad." – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Newsletter written by Beth Hall, EAP Counselor at KeySolutions Employee Assistance Program – 2020

**Call us at 605.334.5850 or 888.450.7844**

## 2020 FHS graduates see outdoor ceremony, parade through town



There likely will be a footnote in the Flandreau High School history books when it comes to the Class of 2020. They're the class that left school in March, two months before graduation, not knowing that the school would close for the rest of the year and they would complete their last quarter through online learning. They're the first class since the school was built and the Class of 1969 graduated, to not walk across the stage in the high school gym and be handed their diplomas. They're the class that got their own parade around town in caps and gowns after the outdoor ceremony. "We face tomorrow to create a new story for ourselves," said Grace Johanson, class president and senior speaker at graduation. The class may not have thought high school would end the way they did, nor would they have imagined graduating without a handshake from Superintendent Rick Weber, she said.

"That dream may have been altered, but that end goal is the same. We're graduating," Johanson said. The future is the next chapter and is guaranteed to include struggles. "Climb the mountain, take the risk and live life to the fullest because life moves fast," she said. "As we stand here with the future in our hands, limitless possibilities and an open road ready to lead us into our future, I wish success to all of you. "Remember to always strive to be better than the person you were yesterday and live life with a joyous heart, a positive mind and no fear of the future."

With a pushy wind, combined with a few raindrops on Saturday afternoon, the 31 members of the graduating class walked a processional of sorts around the grassy square in front of the high school, to a recording of "Pomp and Circumstance." As Principal Nichole Herzog called their names, each graduate crossed the stage set up on the west side of the green and picked up their own diplomas off a table.

The non-contact ceremony was part of the precautions taken to keep people spatially apart during a world pandemic caused by the coronavirus. The graduates sat in cars with their families during the ceremony, which also was broadcast over short-wave radio and livestreamed on the district's website.

Instead of clapping for each graduate, guests honked their car horns as a message of congratulations.

In keeping with a Fliers' tradition, graduates presented their parents with a rose and hugged as a family, while vocal teacher Lori Kneebone sang, "The Rose."

Social studies teacher Travis Ahrens told the class that each of them has a choice to have a good attitude, even in times of uncertainty and struggles

"Your class certainly can make an argument that there have been many things out of your control," he said. The students were born around 9-11, have never known a world without armed conflicts, graduated during a pandemic, will live during economic hard times caused by the virus and missed the opportunities to finish competing in athletics and being together for the end of their school year. But in a world full of challenges, the members of the class have been resilient, he said.

"Your class has succeeded despite adversity," he said.

In the future, nothing is certain, either, but everyone has the opportunity to make the best of it. "Take the opportunity to change your attitude if it needs changing," he said.

Remember, as members of the Class of 2020, they have succeeded, Ahrens said.

"All of you will forever hold a special place in our hearts and our minds because of the special situation you have overcome."



*The*  
Future  
*is*  
Yours

2020



REMEMBER TO FILL OUT YOUR CENSUS



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REMEMBER TO FILL OUT YOUR CENSUS



# Maureen Gina Williams

September 29, 1959 – July 11, 2020

Maureen Gina Williams, age 60, of Flandreau, South Dakota Journeyed to the Spirit World on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

She was born on September 29, 1959 in Flandreau, South Dakota the daughter of Maynard & Darlene (Bernard) Herrick.

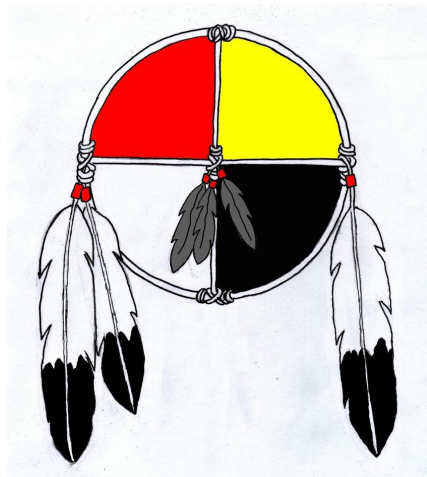
Maureen was an Executive Council Member of The Flandreau Sioux Tribe.

Survived by a son: Carlton Williams; daughters: Samantha Williams and Cyndi Lee Williams; eight grandchildren; a brother: Maynard Herrick Jr.; other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services for Maureen Gina Williams will be held on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. at Eastman Hall in Flandreau, South Dakota. Joe Circle Bear and Tom Allen will officiate. Drum Group will be “Wakpa Ipaksan” singers.

An all night wake will be held on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 P.M. at Eastman Hall in Flandreau South Dakota.

Casket Bearers will be Troy Kitto, Donny Schuyler, Brad Corcoran, Joe BiggLeggings, Wesley Hensly, Stephen Nelson, Carlton Williams and Paul Corcoran.





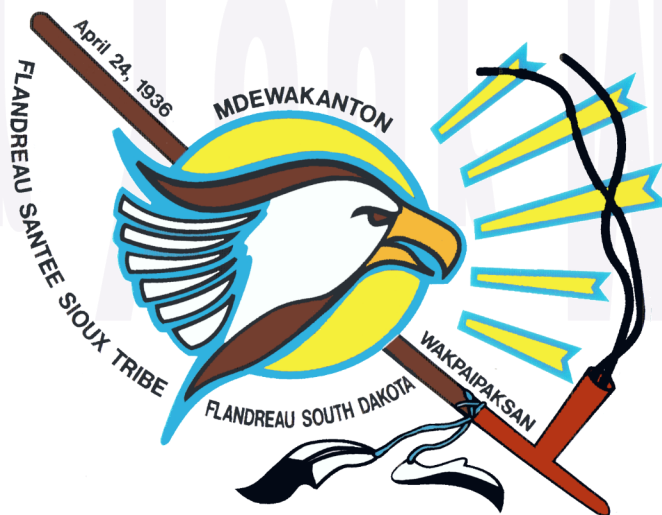
**Stay  
Safe**



**STAY STRONG**



**Wear Your Mask**





# METH CHANGES EVERYTHING

Think of the things that are important to you. Use meth and chances are, they'll all be gone. That's because using meth just once can lead to addiction. And it's an addiction that will completely take over your life. You'll lie. You'll cheat. You'll steal. You'll become someone you're not. Do yourself a favor and stay away from it.

## Knowing the signs of meth abuse might help you save someone's life.

Certain behavioral and physical changes are common among meth users. Signs of meth abuse include:

- Hyperactivity
- Drastic weight loss
- Dilated pupils
- Talkativeness
- Increased distractibility
- Tooth decay and loss of teeth
- Aggression
- Irritability
- Agitation
- Grandiose behavior
- Twitchiness
- Loss of interest in normal activities, such as food, water, sex, and sleep
- Getting "sketched out," or becoming agitated, nervous, moody, irritable, paranoid, and/or aggressive.
- Jumpy eyes
- Scratching, itching, or picking at skin
- Financial difficulties
- Not meeting financial obligations
- Absenteeism or tardiness at school or work
- Noticeable changes in behavior
- Cravings
- Social and interpersonal problems
- Impulsive behaviors
- Memory loss
- Bizarre and erratic behavior
- Repetitive behavior patterns that can last for hours, also called "tweaking" or "geeking."
- Sleep deprivation, resulting in hallucinations, delusions, extreme paranoia, or violence

