

# Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Monthly Newsletter February 2021

*Wi'ca'ta Wi (Moon of the Raccoon) February*– the “wica” signifies the raccoon, the one of the first animals to come out of hibernation so this month is named after the “waca”.

## **Record cold temps grip our area**



Happy Valentine's Day!

The area has just withstood a prolonged siege of sub-zero temperatures. The low temps dipped to -3° below zero on February 6th and the lows stayed in the minus range until the morning of the 20th. For five days during that period, from the 12th to the 16th it did not get to zero or above with the coldest day being Valentine's Day. The result can be seen in the picture of the Flandreau Dam. For the falls to be completely encased in a frozen cap of ice isn't unprecedented but it has not been seen for a number of years.

Flandreau set a new record cold high temperature on Valentine's Day of -13 which broke the old Valentine's Day record of -11° set back in 1936. Likewise the low of -30 was a new record for February 15th, the old record being set at -25° in 1939.

As is typical this time of year, temperatures are quickly rebounding and this week it will be possible to see highs in the 40s.



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

Attn: Marcie Walker

P.O. Box 283

Flandreau, SD 57028

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*If inaccurate or otherwise inappropriate information is brought to our attention, a reasonable effort will be made to print a correction in the next month newsletter. We reserve the right to omit submissions if it is felt that the content or subject matter is inappropriate.*

#### **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 typewritten (or computer generated) format. They can be submitted directly to Marcie Walker in hardcopy, 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*



## Seeing Signs of Spring

That wet, fresh scent of water and dirt that comes when temperatures climb above freezing and people start to trade in their heavy winter jacket for a lighter version. While there undoubtedly will be future winter days, last Friday there was just enough spring to offer some teasing.

Here's some sights in the county that show the simple steps we take to prepare for the new season.

At The Spot, Jaelynn Gaspar wiped down the shake machine and she and her mom, Jamie Gaspar, readied the kitchen for a March 1 opening. It's the earliest the family has opened the restaurant, but their goal is to serve customers earlier in the season, too.

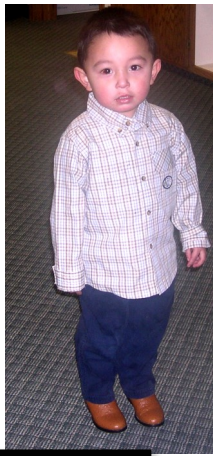
This year, Gaspar will continue with drive-up deliveries, something started last March when the first COVID-19 cases hit. She has curbside scanner for credit cards, so employees won't have to take that information over the phone. She also will offer Lent specials since The Spot has added on to the beginning of its season. Shrimp, cod and fish sandwiches will be on the menu on Fridays, Gaspar said.

Employees with the Moody County Highway Department applied crack seal to the highway next to the Royal River Casino and Hotel. The county tries to finish up the work before it gets too warm, said Superintendent Marc Blum. Each year, he schedules about 25 to 30 miles of repairs, which are repeated every five years.

The process includes blowing out the cracks and filling them with a rubberized sealant. "We're getting down to the end now," Blum said. "As soon as the water starts coming out of the cracks, it won't stick."

The employees are Kyja Flisrand, D.J. Geraets and Jesse Frey.

Mike Lacey of Lacey's Storage in Trent makes a path for water to drain into the ditch from his storage unit driveway on Friday when temperatures reached 45 degrees. Getting the water out of the driveway will help customers get to their storage units.



# MEMORY LANE

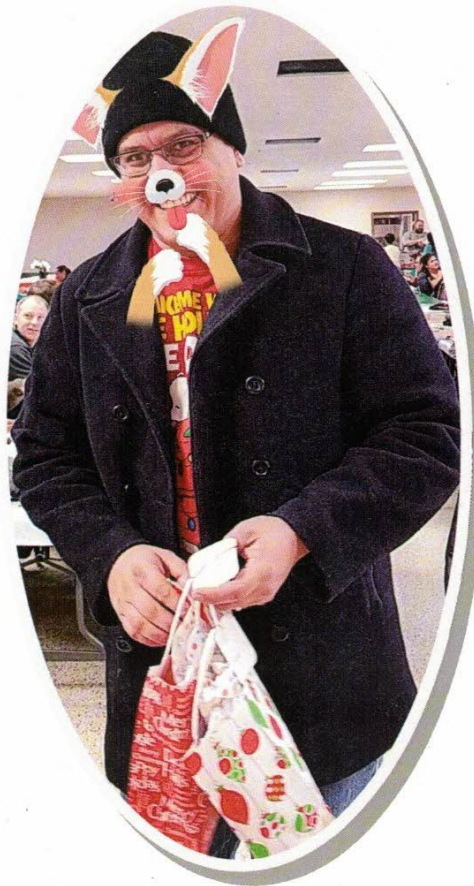
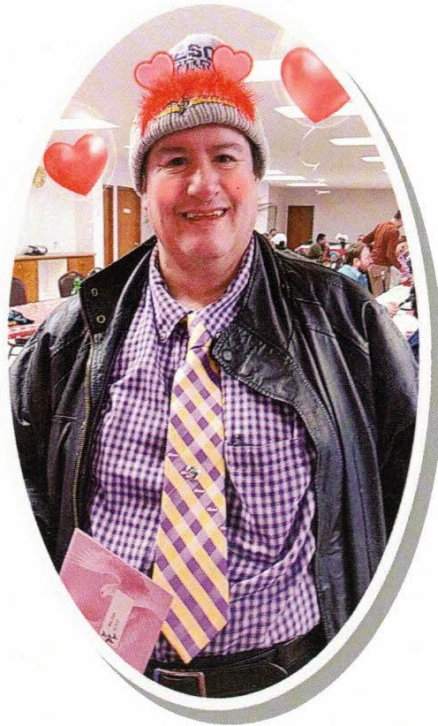
*Never forgotten!*



*Keep the memories alive!*



# January 2018 Tribal Office Xmas Party



Just gotta "LOVE" filters  
Merry Christmas & Happy  
New Year



**Attention Parents/  
Grandparents of  
Tribal Member Children:**

Please be sure your child's address is up-to-date so you are able to receive your child's minors trust statement every quarter.

Contact: Enrollment or Membership Services.





## Geoffrey Joel Peterson

March 11, 1970 - February 28, 2021



Geoffrey Joel Peterson, 50, of Flandreau, passed away on Sunday, February 28, 2021 at home. Geoffrey was born in Granite Falls, MN on March 11, 1970 to Dennis M. Peterson, Sr. and Judy C. Allen. He grew up in Aberdeen, SD and attended Aberdeen Central High School. Geoffrey then enrolled in classes at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS. He moved back to Flandreau and his son, Brenden, was born later. While in Flandreau, Geoffrey was employed as a grain bin worker, a maintenance worker for the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe; and a custodian at the Tribal Clinic. Most recently, Geoffrey found great enjoyment from delivering meals to the tribal elders and other members.

Geoffrey was an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. He enjoyed bowling and spending time with his family. He will be remembered for his happy-go-lucky personality and his ability to make people laugh and smile.

Geoffrey is survived by his son, Brenden Hahn, Sioux Falls; his mother, Judy Allen, Flandreau; and three siblings: Denise M. Peterson Hammer (Troy); Dennis "Mickey" M. Peterson, Jr.; and Corey Peterson, all of Flandreau; and many, many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Geoffrey was preceded in death by his father, his grandparents, and two nephews, Joe and Michael.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at Eastman Hall, Flandreau with burial at the First Presbyterian Cemetery, Flandreau. Visitation at Eastman Hall will begin on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 5:00 pm with a 7:00 pm prayer service each night. There will be an all-night wake service on Friday at 7:00 pm . Arrangements by Skroch Funeral Chapel, Flandreau. [www.skrochfc.com](http://www.skrochfc.com)



**STAND UP TO  
DRUG CRIME.**

**TEXT 'DRUGS' TO 82257**

**TEXT IN ILLEGAL DRUG USE  
TIPS ARE 100% ANONYMOUS.**

**PROJECT  
STANDUP**



## House rejects \$5 million sought by Noem for new state airplane

By Abby Wargo

Rapid City Journal – Feb 25, 2021 – A bill that would have allocated \$5 million for the purchase of a new state airplane intended to replace two older aircraft died Thursday on the House floor after failing to receive a two-thirds majority of the vote. The final vote count was 36 yeas and 31 nays.

The bill is a result of Gov. Kristi Noem's recommendation to the Legislature during her budget address in December for the allocation and subsequent purchase of a new state airplane. Noem argued the sale of two older airplanes and replacement with a brand new one will be safer for the state and cost less money in maintenance in the long run.

House Bill 1282 was also amended before its defeat, brought forth by Rep. John Mills, R-Volga. The amendment, 1282 C, added a section that clarified the sale and

purchase of any state-owned aircraft are subject to final review by the Joint Appropriations Committee.

"It just empowers the Joint Committee on Appropriations to be involved in the details, so when they make those decisions, the legislative body will have some review and some oversight of that. And that seems appropriate," Mills said.

Rep. David Anderson, R-Hudson, said that he didn't think the Appropriations Committee knows the "proper specs" for an airplane.

"We authorize the money — absolutely we authorize the money. But we don't really want to get into the details of which design or which color [the plane is], for that matter. I don't think this is necessary," Anderson said.

Mills argued the bill allows the Legislature to have some oversight in the purchasing process.

"I like to know the details. It's

highly unlikely that there will be any disagreement about it, but I believe that's our responsibility — to be involved and to see exactly what our government's spending money on and how are they spending it," Mills said.

Mills acknowledged that the bill leaves some unanswered questions — no one knows what value the state will get from the sale of the two planes or the specifics of what to buy. He said the state has already hired a consultant to advise which plane would best fit the state's needs.

The new airplane is not out of the realm of possibility, however, as Senate Bill 64, revising the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021, has an over \$5 million provision for the Department of Transportation for "operating expenses and general funds," which could include a new plane.



## *Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Tribal Child Care Program*

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*207 E. 2nd Ave.  
Flandreau, SD 57208*

*Phone: (605) 997-2311  
Fax: (605) 997-2267*

### **Attention all Essential Employees:**

The FSST Tribal Child Care Program will be offering free child care services to all essential employees regardless of income or Native American lineage. Essential employees are health care sector, emergency responders, sanitation workers and all other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus.

Please contact one of our state licensed family home child care providers please know spots are limited:

#### *ABC KIDZ*

Jenny Lehman 605-254-4782

#### *BABIES N TOTS*

Brittany Frias 605-366-5468

#### *LITTLE MIRACLES*

Trish Kills-A-Hundred 605-864-0256

If family home daycare won't work for you and your family please visit with us about becoming a relative childcare provider if you reside on tribal land, can pass a background check and agree to take three online courses.

Thank you stay safe

FSST Tribal Child Care Program  
207 East 2nd Avenue  
Flandreau, SD 57028  
605-997-2311



## ***ABC KIDS***

*Jenny Lehman 605-254-4782 State Licensed Family Home*

*706 South Crescent*

*Flandreau SD -57028-*

## ***New Beginnings***

*Trish Kills –A-Hundred 605-864-0256 State Licensed Family Home*

*709 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue*

*Flandreau SD -57058-*

## ***Babies n Tots***

*Britany Frias 605-366-5468 State Licensed Family Home*

*220 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue*

*Flandreau SD -57028-*

## Tribal Child Care Program Application

### Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Child Care Program

207 East Second Avenue, Flandreau, S.D. 57028 605-997-2311

**Please print your answers.** Read all instructions carefully and answer each question fully, please attach another sheet if needed. Failure to answer each question will delay receiving assistance. If you have any questions about completing this application please contact 605-997-2311. **All incomplete applications will be returned to the applicants.**

**All applicants are required to provide:** **1. Birth certificates of HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:** parents/legal guardian's & children. **2. Proof of income:** (2-most recent pay-stubs). **3. Class schedule & advisor contact information.** **4. Proof of tribal enrollment in a Federally Recognized Tribe:** of child or children needing child care or biological parents, or biological grandparents. **5. Proof of residency in Moody County:** rent/lease agreement copy and utility bill. **6. Household members.** List all members of household names (applicant/self), other parent and child/children.

#### 1. Personal Information

Name, Last	First	(MI)	DOB	Last 4 Social Security #####

Address (Street or PO Box #)	City	State	Zip	Telephone #

#### 2. Child Care Assistance

**Does your household need financial help with Child Care in order to work? Yes ( ) No ( )**

Place of work	Name of Supervisor	Telephone #	Attach Work Schedule

**Does your household need financial help with Child Care in order to go to school? Yes ( ) No ( )**

**A Copy of your school schedule must be attached**

**Place of training:** High School, College, University, Vo-Tech Institute, Skills Training Program or job training. **Contact Person:** Person who can be contacted to verify your enrollment/attendance in school or training program.

Student Name	Place of Training	Credit Hrs.	Contact Person	Telephone Number

# Joe Biden adds several Native Americans to Administration

Washington, DC – Native News Online – Jan. 26, 2021 – In his first week in office, President Joe Biden appointed three Indigenous members to his roster, including attorneys Robert Anderson (Boise Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe) and Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) to the Interior Department, and Wahleah Johns (Navajo) to head the U.S. Office of Indian Energy Programs and Policy.

The Interior Department, slated to be led by first Native American cabinet member and New Mexico Congressman Deb Haaland, announced the bids on Jan. 20, the day Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took office.

Anderson will serve as principal deputy solicitor, meaning he will advise the Interior Secretary on legal counsel for cases involving the federal government. The Chippewa Tribal member is a professor at Harvard Law School, where he has worked for over a decade. Prior to that, he taught law at University of Washington School of Law and directed its Native American Law Center. Anderson began his

career as a staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, and previously served as the Association Solicitor for Indian Affairs and Counselor to the Secretary under Interior Secretary for the Clinton Administration, Bruce Babbitt.

Bledsoe Downes was appointed as Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs. She currently serves as the executive vice president of community impact and engagement at Ho-Chunk Inc. Simultaneously, Bledsoe Downes is a professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, where she also serves as Director of the Indian Gaming and Tribal Self-Governance Programs. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, and as Interim Director of the Bureau of Indian Education.

Neither Anderson nor Bledsoe Downes could be reached for comment before press time.

Biden also tapped Navajo member Wahleah Johns to head the U.S. Office of Indian Energy Programs and Policy. As part of

her role, Wahleah will promote Indian tribal energy development and efficiency, reduce Indian tribal energy costs and strengthen Indian tribal energy infrastructure, according to the department's website.

Wahleah Johns is co-founder and director of Native Renewables, a company that brings solar energies to Native communities.

"I feel honored for my nomination to serve in the Biden-Harris administration as the Director of Indian Energy at DOE," Johns wrote on Twitter over the weekend. "As the original caretakers of this land, I believe Tribes can lead the way to solving our climate crisis and building a regenerative and clean energy future."

In another historic pick, Biden assigned Navajo Nation's Dr. Jill Jim to join the administration's COVID-19 Advisory Board.

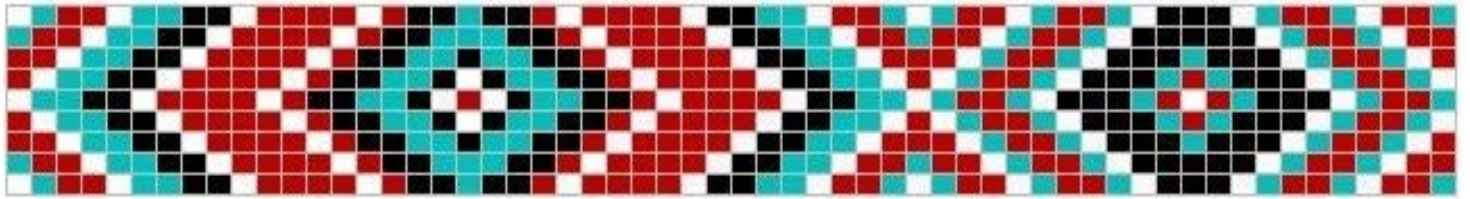
Jim serves as the executive director of the Navajo Department of Health. She holds a doctorate in Public Health, a Master's degree in Health Care Administration and a second Master's in Public Health from the University of Utah. Her

work has included: consulting for Navajo Area Indian Health Service, and epidemiology for the Utah Department of Health.

Jim was not available for comment before press time.

According to the administration's press release, more than 80 percent of first day appointees were people of color, adhering to "the Biden-Harris commitment to diversity."





# Domestic violence is not a Native American tradition.

Does your partner ever...

- Call you names or criticize you?
- Isolate you from family or friends?
- Threaten to hurt you or your children?
- Push, slap, kick or strangle you?
- Refuse to give you money for food, gas or medicine?



**STRONGHEARTS**  
Native Helpline

Get free, confidential help at  
**1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**  
open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST.

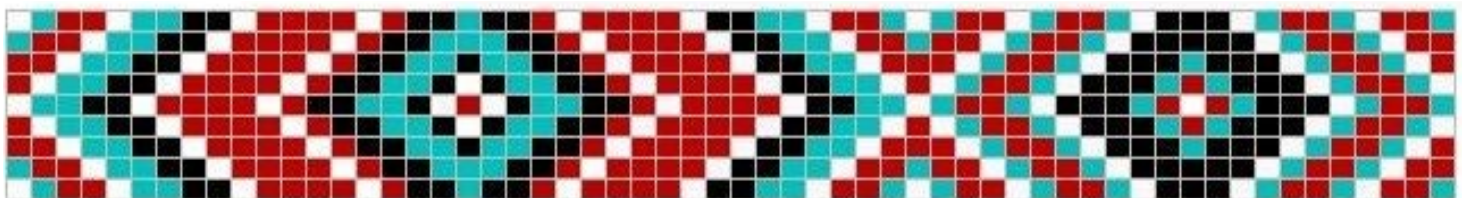
Callers after hours may connect with the National  
Domestic Violence Hotline by selecting 1.

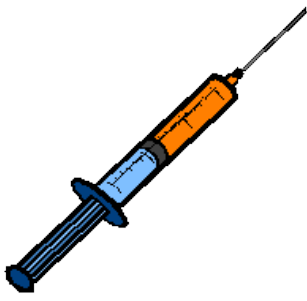
Advocates offer peer support, crisis intervention, personalized safety planning, education on domestic violence and healthy relationships, and a connection to Tribal and Native resources.

Trust. Speak. Heal. Together. | [strongheartshelpline.org](http://strongheartshelpline.org)



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## ***Indian Health Service ‘ahead of schedule’ with COVID-19 vaccination rollout***

The federal agency that provides health care to 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives is outpacing many states in its efforts to deliver [COVID-19](#) vaccines to those it serves, despite the challenges posed by reaching remote communities.

The [Indian Health Service](#) has distributed nearly 1.22 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to its 349 health care facilities located in 36 states across the country.

“This milestone was reached ahead of schedule despite severe weather making travel to health care facilities difficult across much of Indian Country and leading to shipping delays,” said Rear Admiral Michael Toedt, the chief medical officer at IHS. “Very shortly, we expect that everyone who needs a vaccine will be able to receive it.”

IHS officials offered an update Thursday about their [efforts to vaccinate Indian Country](#).

Toedt said many IHS and tribally operated healthcare facilities have begun moving into the second phase of vaccine distribution, a phase that includes teachers, child care workers, critical workers, those with underlying conditions, homeless shelter residents, incarcerated individuals, corrections workers and older adults who weren’t included in the first phase.

The most recent seven-day positivity rate for Natives is 4.5 percent, down from 5.4 percent a week earlier and below the 5.6 percent positivity rate for all of the United States.

But Natives continue to suffer from disproportionate rates of hospitalizations and death rates due to COVID-19. They are 3.6 times more likely to be hospitalized as a result of the coronavirus than white people and 2.5 times more likely to die from COVID-19.

Toedt attributed his department’s success at delivering vaccines to the work of IHS staff, tribal healthcare workers and other organizations that have worked to educate Native people about the importance of the vaccine and the low risk of adverse effects associated with it.

He said IHS has had great success calling upon local tribal healthcare providers, Native language speakers and elders to deliver public service messages about the importance and relatively safe nature of the vaccine.

“We’ve also found real strength in having our tribal partners be that voice,” he said.

Indeed, a [January 28 report by the Urban Indian Health Institute](#) found that 74 percent of Native people surveyed saw vaccination as a responsibility to their community and 75 percent were willing to receive the vaccine.

However, 25 percent of those surveyed were unwilling to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and 89 percent of those unwilling to get vaccinated had concerns about the vaccines’ potential side effects. Even 75 percent of those willing to get vaccinated had concerns about potential side effects.

In addition, 39 percent of respondents reported difficulty traveling to their clinic for an appointment.



As of today, IHS surpassed its original goal of administering 400,000 #COVID19 vaccines by the end of February. We are committed to vaccine availability for all individuals within our health system and will continue working to administer vaccines throughout #IndianCountry. Thank you to all the IHS, tribal, and urban Indian organization employees across the country who are working together to ensure the protection of our communities during the pandemic. #NativeHealth

oretta Christensen, the chief medical officer for the [Navajo Area of the IHS](#), said it has been difficult administering vaccines across the 27,000 square-mile Navajo Nation, the largest reservation in the U.S. But with the help of elected tribal leaders, local healthcare workers and community health representatives, IHS has managed to reach even the most remote Navajo communities, administering nearly 5,000 vaccines to people in or near their homes in those areas.

She said honesty and transparency in public messaging about the importance and relatively low risk associated with the vaccine has been essential. IHS has delivered nearly all of its public messages in both English and Navajo.

"Developing that trust with the people you are serving is vital," Christensen said. "We have spent a great deal of time on that relationship with our Navajo people to encourage them to be vaccinated."

IHS has even begun reaching out to Navajo tribal citizens living beyond reservation borders, encouraging them to return with their families to be vaccinated, she said.



Toedt said the challenge of getting vaccines to its healthcare facilities has been, at times, significant.

Commander Kailee Fretland, deputy lead for the IHS COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, described federal healthcare workers having to deliver vaccines by helicopter to a clinic on the floor of the Grand Canyon and enlisting the help of local Coast Guard units to help deliver vaccines to tribal communities in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Other IHS workers have had to drive across multiple states, at times traversing dangerous ice- and snow-covered highways, to get to healthcare facilities separated by hundreds of miles, she said.

And IHS isn't alone in facing enormous challenges delivering vaccines to remote Native communities.

In Alaska, tribal healthcare workers from Maniilaq, a small village in northwest Alaska, have delivered vaccines to 12 villages near the town despite the lack of roads, said [Sen. Lisa Murkowski](#) (R-Alaska), speaking Monday at an event hosted by the [National Congress of American Indians](#).

"These medical teams are flying out on small bush planes," Murkowski said in her Congressional response to the annual [State of Indian Nations](#).

"They're getting picked up by snow machines, and then they're pulled by sled to the homes of the elders, where the shots are put in the arms," said Murkowski, who serves as vice chair of the [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs](#).





## Wanda Marie Cadotte

September 04, 1937 - February 06, 2021

Wanda Marie Cadotte, 83, of Flandreau, SD passed away on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at Ava's House in Sioux Falls, SD. Wanda was born in Flandreau on September 4, 1937 to Howard L. and Catherine (Cottier) Robertson. She grew up in Flandreau, graduating from FHS in 1955. She married Gilbert "Gib" Cadotte in Pipestone, MN on December 3, 1958. Wanda worked at the Flandreau Indian School in the canteen before moving to Pierre where she would serve on the school board for the Pierre Indian Learning Center. Gib and Wanda lived in several other small towns in the Midwest, including Mobridge, SD; Ft. Yates, ND; and Pickstown, SD. Wanda truly enjoyed the kinship and community of every place they resided. When they moved back to Flandreau, Wanda worked as a cook for the Indian School, which she described as one of the most rewarding jobs she's had. Wanda loved working with the youth and the rest of the Indian School Family. Wanda was a proud member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. Several years ago, she liked to participate in Ladies Aid with the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches. She enjoyed reading, writing letters, and watching westerns. Wanda will be remembered as a selfless and compassionate woman with big love for her friends and family.

Wanda is survived by her daughter, Carol Marie Seward, Flandreau; her sons, Ben Cadotte, Tim Cadotte, and Gilbert Cadotte, Jr., all of Flandreau; 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; and her sisters, Nancy Herrick and Carol Robertson, both of Flandreau.

Wanda was preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert Cadotte, Sr. in 2009; her son, Steve Cadotte; her parents, Howard L. and Catherine Robertson; her brother, Howard J. Robertson; and her sister, Elenora Boutwell.

An all night wake service will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at the Wicoicaga Otipi Community Center in Flandreau, SD. Funeral services will follow at 10:00 am, Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at the Wicoicaga Otipi Community Center. Livestream will be available on Wanda's obituary page at [www.skrochfc.com](http://www.skrochfc.com). Masks and social distancing is encouraged. Burial will take place at the First Presbyterian Cemetery, Flandreau at a later date.



# Prairie Doc Perspectives - Just Blow with the Flow

*By Andrew Ellsworth, M.D.*

The feeling of pressure and pain in the front of the face around the eyes is all too familiar for millions of Americans. Our sinuses include four pairs of air-filled cavities above and below the eyes and behind the nose. They are helpful for humidifying the air we breathe, resonating our voices, and lightening the weight of our heads. However, the sinuses can be prone to inflammation and infection.

The mucous lining of the sinuses serves as an antimicrobial barrier to infection, and little hairs called cilia help to sweep out unwanted bacteria and viruses. Disruptions to this system commonly come from allergies and viruses. If the passageways get blocked, then bacteria can grow and flourish in the moist, warm, mucous.

Sinusitis is inflammation of the sinuses which can cause the full feeling behind the eyes, pressure, and pain. If left untreated, it can cause fevers and a systemic response from the body. Chronic sinusitis, lasting more than three months, can be caused by allergies, nasal polyps, ongoing infection, a deviated

nasal septum, pollutants, or other conditions.

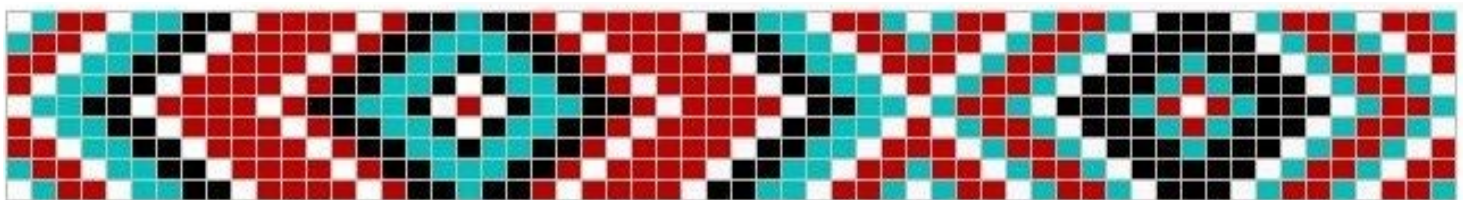
One of the keys to treatment and prevention of sinusitis is keeping the sinuses open and draining. Nasal saline, a saltwater mixture, can be used to help rinse out and open the sinuses and can be just as effective as antibiotics. If allergies are at fault, a steroid nasal spray or steroid pills can be used to decrease inflammation and swelling. A nasal steroid spray can also help treat a nasal polyp, helping to shrink the polyp to aid in the circulation of air and mucous. For some people with chronic and recurring sinusitis, surgery is their best option and can provide welcome relief.

Try this. Hold one nostril shut as you breathe in and out of the other. Now switch to the other nostril and breathe in and out. Chances are you can breathe more freely on one side compared to the other. Wait a few hours, try it again and chances are the opposite side is more open. Congestion in our nose naturally changes sides every four to six hours. If you find that one side is always blocked, then you may want to see your primary doctor or an ear, nose, and throat specialist.

Our bodies are designed for flow. The flow of air, food, blood, waste, and even mucous keeps us healthy. Next time you blow your nose, remember you are helping the natural movement of mucous, so just “blow with the flow.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Andrew Ellsworth, 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](http://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.





# RESILIENCE MEANS COMMON SENSE

**BE A TRUE  
WARRIOR**

**TAKE CARE OF  
YOUR COMMUNITY**



Be a true warrior and protect your community by getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Health Center invites anyone that is:

1. A currently registered patient
2. Is eligible for services at our facility, and
3. has been seen at our facility in the last 3 years.

If you qualify and are interested, please call our COVID-19 team at 605-997-2642.

## Help Keep Your Garbage/Recycling Haulers **SAFE** from COVID-19.

1. Maintain social distance from your hauler.
2. Carefully bag and tie all waste.
3. Keep recyclables loose.
4. Wipe down your bins,  
especially handles and lids.



**FSST**  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

1000 W. Pipestone Avenue • Flandreau • 605-573-4272

## NEW HOURS



THE  
*Hunkake*  
CAFE

Monday - Thursday | 6 AM to 2 PM  
Friday - Saturday | 6 AM to 8 PM  
Sunday | Closed

**ONLINE & PICK-UP ORDERING**

(605) 573-0938 | [www.hunkakecafe.com](http://www.hunkakecafe.com)



**For Immediate Release**



Media Contact: Mavis Harris  
(202) 632-7003

## **The NIGC welcomes Associate Commissioner Jeannie Hovland**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. February 11, 2021** – The National Indian Gaming Commission is pleased to welcome Associate Commissioner Jeannie Hovland (Flandreau Santee Sioux), appointed to a three-year term on January 17, 2021.

“I am honored by my appointment to the Commission, a wonderfully hardworking and dedicated team,” said Hovland. “I look forward to collaborating with Chairman Simermeyer and Vice-Chair Isom-Clause as the Commission continues its important role to serve and protect the integrity of Indian gaming. I will continue my commitment of respecting tribal sovereignty and I look forward to visiting with tribal leaders to learn how I can best serve them in this role.”

Hovland enjoyed a rich and varied career serving Indian Country prior to joining the NIGC. Her extensive knowledge and experience in Indian Affairs includes her 13 years serving Native American communities in South Dakota as Tribal Affairs Advisor to Senator John Thune, where she counseled Senator Thune on important legislation such as the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008. From Senator Thune’s office, Hovland joined the Department of the Interior, where she served as a Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Most recently, she served as Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans. There she oversaw a \$57 million annual operating budget to promote self-sufficiency for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. As Commissioner, Hovland administered discretionary grants to support social and economic development, Native language restoration and revitalization, and environmental regulatory enhancement. Hovland created the Social and Economic Development Strategies for Growing Organizations program, which provides funding to strengthen internal governance structures and build capacity for tribes and tribal organizations. She also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Affairs at the Administration for Children and Families, a \$58 billion operating division under the Department of Health and Human Services. While there, she provided expert and culturally appropriate advice to the Assistant Secretary on policies and strategies affecting Native Americans.

Hovland joins on the Commission Chairman E. Sequoyah Simermeyer (Coharie) and Vice-Chair Kathryn Isom-Clause (Taos Pueblo). Together, the three-member Commission will continue to implement the Agency’s priorities and principles of strengthening Indian gaming’s regulatory structure as consistent with its responsibilities under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

“I look forward to working with Associate Commissioner Hovland. Her clear commitment and dedication to strengthening tribal communities will be instrumental to her contributions at the NIGC,” said Chairman Simermeyer.

“Commissioner Hovland’s career path shows a commitment to Indian Country. I look forward to working with her in our shared mission to promote tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments,” said Vice Chair Isom-Clause.

*The National Indian Gaming Commission’s mission is to support tribal self-sufficiency and the integrity of Indian gaming through effective regulation. Together with tribes and states, the NIGC regulates more than 527 gaming establishments operated by 251 tribes across 29 states. To learn more about our role and responsibilities, visit [www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.*

# Lagging students may need summer school



Flandreau school administrators are putting together a plan to provide summer school to students who have fallen behind because of virtual learning.

The program will be offered to elementary, middle school and high school students and can include anyone who would benefit from additional help. The school board authorized Superintendent Rick Weber to hire a coordinator and start putting together the program.

High School Principal Nichole Herzog said about 20 of the 35 high school students who are learning online could benefit from additional time after school is dismissed so that they can earn their credits. Some middle school students are not ready for high school because they are so far behind, and there are virtual learners in the elementary grades who struggle.

"Summer school would allow them to get caught up," she said.

While many students have struggled, others have done well, said both Herzog and Weber.

"We have some that are super successful," Herzog said.

On Friday morning, she and the school's virtual learning team delivered doughnuts to students who are doing well working from home.

Senior Karly Grengs has studied online this year and was the first stop for the doughnut brigade. She said being able to work from home and raise her son at the same time is a great option. She also works three jobs, including some day hours that she wouldn't be able to do if she didn't have the flexibility of online learning.

"Online learning has been one of the biggest reasons as to why I'm doing so well. Having the choice as to when I can work on my schoolwork has helped in so many ways," Grengs said. "I'm thankful every day that the school gave us this option for the year."

Because of the threat of COVID-19, the Flandreau district allowed students and their families to decide whether to attend classes in person this year or learn virtually. The district also has staff that check in with students to see how they are doing and to help them understand assignments.

This is the second year that school has been disrupted by the pandemic. In March of 2020, students across the state were sent home and in-person classes were canceled. Students at the lower grades completed packets of work and participated in virtual learning, and online learning was implemented for older students. All activities were canceled, and graduation was held outdoors. At the high school level, the degree to which students are completing work varies. Some students are doing well in some subject areas but struggling in other classes. Some students, like Grengs, are doing outstanding. However, some students haven't completed anything, and the school has had to use the truancy process for those who are not engaged in their learning, Herzog said.

Details of a summer school program are being planned now and will go before the school board at its March meeting, Weber said. It hasn't been decided if the additional learning time will be voluntary or mandatory for students who struggle.

The in-person program could start the end of May or first part of June. For high school and middle school students, it might be two weeks long, for example.

Board members encouraged Weber to work with other educational groups in town, including the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's program and the Boys & Girls Club of Moody County.

Weber said he has talked many times with the tribal education staff. "This would be very similar to what they're doing. They have tutors coming in, and we would have certified staff coming in."



# Avera, Tribe increase number of people getting vaccinations

More Moody County residents are getting vaccinated against COVID-19 as the number of doses available in the county grows.

Avera Flandreau has gotten enough doses to start serving patients 65 and older, and the clinic vaccinated those 70 and older last week when it got 70 doses in.

"It's changing constantly," said Scott Hargens, Avera administrator. "If there's an opportunity for us to get extra ... we will request those."

At the clinic, individuals check in and are vaccinated in a room where they sit a distance from each other and also wait 15 minutes after the shot before they leave.

Vicki Solem, 70, is retired from the clinic and was happy to be able to get her first shot of the vaccine last week. "I've been waiting," she said.

State data shows that 636 people who live in the county have received vaccinations, as of Monday. That includes 288 people who have received both doses and 348 people who have received the first dose. That totals 924 shots.

Those numbers earn the county a 35th place ranking for number of people who have gotten shots. Comparatively, Moody County is the 27th largest in population.

But those numbers don't include hundreds of shots given at the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's clinic. Those doses come from the federal Indian Health Services and are not part of the state's total.

The tribal clinic has vaccinated 272 people, including clinic staff, elders, emergency responders and native language speakers. The clinic is accepting anyone ages 55 and older who hasn't been vaccinated and this week will add people ages 18 to 63 who have at least two underlying medical conditions.

The clinic is scheduling 100 people a week, 50 for first-time doses and 50 who are getting the booster, said Cynthia Jacobs, chief executive officer.

The clinic is calling people and trying to contact anyone of its 1,700 patients who are eligible to receive a shot from tribal health. Jacobs is encouraging anyone who needs a vaccination to call the clinic and schedule an appointment.

The shots need to be scheduled because once a vial of doses is opened, it must be used within six hours. The clinic has not had to waste any of the doses it has gotten and has plenty of vaccine available, she said.

The clinic has not yet started vaccinating all employees who qualify at the Royal River Casino but has given shots to educators and staff at Flandreau Indian School.

Among clinic staff, nearly 50 of the 65 employees have received their vaccinations so far, and some are waiting to get shots, which are not mandatory.

The tribe started vaccinating people Dec. 22, one day after receiving its first vials. This week is the ninth week of vaccinations.

The clinic has a higher number of vaccines each week.

"The way our vaccine was distributed was based on the number of active eligible patients being seen here," she said. "I feel confident that anyone who wants a vaccine will get one."

As of Monday, the number of positive cases in the county were at 612, compared with 608 a week earlier. Of those cases, 588 have recovered and 8 are still active. The county has had 16 deaths and 45 people who have required hospitalization.

An additional 1,726 tests have come back negative.

The Flandreau school reported no active cases of COVID-19 on Monday. The school has had 45 students and 24 staff members who have recovered from the virus.