



# Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Monthly Newsletter

May 2021

*Wozupi Wi (Moon of Planting) May - this when the dakota, lakota , nakota people start to plant their traditional foods.*

# Congratulations

## 2021 FLANDREAU FLIERS



Class Motto: "21 n done"  
Class Color: White and Gold  
Class Flower: Cactus  
Saturday, May 15, 2021 • 2 pm  
at The Flandreau High School Gym

**Back row left to right:** Austin Dexter, Payne Gilbert, Kolton Walford, Sky Fox, Brayden Saylor, Brenna Geraets, Braden Peters, Gage Gullickson, Colton Pulscher, Brady Johnson, Bradley Heinemann, James Drietz, Jose Martinez Portillo  
**Middle row left to right:** Shawn Shortman, Bradon Weber, Sam Gassman, Kevin Fernandez, Lars Dailey, Alison Rice, Kennedy Peper, Macy Kneebone, Cassidy Keith, Kyeauna Schmit, Macy Kneebone  
**Front row left to right:** Jose Trujillo Vargas, Johnny Deloera, Teiloni Hardy, Rachel Eastman, Emily Martinez Soto, Elizabeth Hursey, Whitley Olinger, Vidalia Renville, Trinity Redday. **Not pictured:** Mario Bonilla, Jairo Garcia, Karly Grengs, Karla Hernandez, Braylan Sanchez, Taryn Ukestine

# Graduates!!!!

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

or Call: 997-3891 ext. 1251

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

**NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER:**

*In preparation of this newsletter, every effort has been made to offer the most current, correct, and clearly expressed information possible. Nevertheless, inadvertent errors in information may occur. In particular but without limiting anything here, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) and its employees disclaim any responsibility for typographical errors and accuracy of the information that may be contained in the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's Newsletter. The FSST also reserves the right to make changes at any time without notice.*

*The information in this newsletter have been compiled by the FSST Newsletter staff from a variety of sources, and are subject to change without notice. The FSST makes no warranties or representations whatsoever regarding the quality, content, completeness, or adequacy of such information and data. In any situation where the official printed publications of the FSST differ from the text contained in this newsletter, the official printed documents take precedence.*

*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*



Flandreau's class of 2021 faced adversity but grew stronger before graduating Saturday in the school gym, said Senior Elizabeth Hursey. Hursey, who was chosen to speak on behalf of the class and plans to attend South Dakota State University next fall, said the senior class was special. After a classmate's death and graduating during a world-wide pandemic, they have grown as people, she said.

"High school is full of memories ... and now is the time to go out and make new ones," she said. "We must take the knowledge we have and go out and do our best. This class is ready to start fresh." Take a chance, step out of your comfort zone and be yourself, she told her class.

The Class of 2021's 39 seniors crossed the high school stage at the 2 p.m. ceremony, wearing masks, which have been a part of the school's protocol all year. Family and friends were limited to about a dozen people per student and were seated in rows spaced farther apart than normal and in the bleachers.

Former teacher Dan Hall told the class to challenge themselves in the future, even though there will be times when they fall down.

"There's going to be times when you do everything right and you still don't succeed," he said. "I hope you never give up and you'll always continue to strive for greatness, improvements and success." Teacher Elizabeth White sang "The Rose," in a long-standing ceremony in which graduates give red roses to their families or people important in their lives. At the end of the graduation, the seniors gathered in close group and tossed their mortarboards into the air, signifying the end of high school and the beginning of the future.

# Food giveaway held



Volunteers loaded cars with boxes of fresh food and milk at a Farmer's to Families Tables giveaway in the casino parking lot last week. Those helping included Flandreau officer Gabriel Frias, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal acting chief Brian Arnold, paramedic Nikki Roggenbuch and Chief Zach Weber. The food, which is available to anyone who needs it, is part of a United States Department of Agriculture program. Major Redwing, coordinator of the program that is sponsored by the tribe, said the giveaways were held in March, April and May. He has not heard whether there will be additional free food offered. "So far, this is the last one," he said. The giveaway had no requirements. "It benefits the whole community," Redwing said.

**TWO RODEOS!**  
 VOTED BEST NEW SDBA RODEO OF THE YEAR FOR 2018 AND BEST SDBA RODEO OF THE YEAR FOR 2019

JR BAREBACK & SADDLE BRONC  
 SANCTIONED HIGH PLAINS  
 WWW.LAZY3SRODEO.COM

**Flandreau RODEO DAYS**  
 SANCTIONED SDBA & MRA

**June 4 & 5, 2021**  
*Family Fun!* CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY AREA 11AM - 5PM  
 SDBA & MRA SLACK 11AM  
 MUTTON BUSTIN 5PM (SIGN UP ONLINE)  
 GRAND ENTRY 6PM | RODEO 6:30PM  
*Free Entertainment!* JUNE 4: HICKTOWN MAFIA | JUNE 5: CAMILLE RAE  
 (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

LOCATION: ACROSS FROM ROYAL RIVER CASINO

**\$10 EARLY BIRD ADMISSION**  
 PURCHASE AT ROYAL RIVER GIFT SHOP  
 OR ONLINE AT FLANDREAURODEODAYS.COM

**\$15 GATE ADMISSION**  
 FREE: KIDS 10 & UNDER

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY  
**Royal River**  
 CASINO • HOTEL

LEXY MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Tribal Elders can get into the Rodeo Free with their FSST Elder Meal Cards.

The Rodeo and Executive Committee have decided to allow all tribal members and casino employee free access to the rodeo as well as one guest.

# President Joe Biden declares May 5 “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day”



## Proclamation

Today, thousands of unsolved cases of missing and murdered Native Americans continue to cry out for justice and healing. On Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day, we remember the Indigenous people who we have lost to murder and those who remain missing and commit to working with Tribal Nations to ensure any instance of a missing or murdered person is met with swift and effective action.

Our failure to allocate the necessary resources and muster the necessary commitment to addressing and preventing this ongoing tragedy not only demeans the dignity and humanity of each person who goes missing

or is murdered, it sends pain and shockwaves across our Tribal communities. Our treaty and trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations require our best efforts, and our concern for the well-being of these fellow citizens require us to act with urgency. To this end, our Government must strengthen its support and collaboration with Tribal communities.

My Administration is fully committed to working with Tribal Nations to address the disproportionately high number of missing or murdered Indigenous people, as well as increasing coordination to investigate and resolve these cases and ensure accountability. I am further committed to addressing the underlying causes behind those numbers, including — among others — sexual violence, human trafficking, domestic violence, violent crime, systemic racism, economic disparities, and substance use and addiction. Federal partnerships to address the number of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples will be governed by the Nation-to-Nation foundation of our relationship with Tribal governments and respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. The challenges in Tribal communities are best met by solutions that are informed and shaped by Tribal leaders and Tribal governments.

Tribes across the United States have long worked to provide solutions for their communities. In April, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian

Reservation, the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Montana, and the FBI announced the Nation’s first Tribal Community Response Plan, part of a Department of Justice pilot project to address emergent missing person cases in their community. When someone goes missing, it is often an urgent and time-sensitive situation. The Tribal community response plan lays out a blueprint for how Tribal law enforcement; local, State, and Federal law enforcement; and community members can respond when someone goes missing from a Tribal community — resolving important issues of jurisdictional overlap and gaps in order to respond swiftly and effectively. Other Tribes and Native villages such as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Oklahoma, Native Village of Unalakleet in Alaska, and the Bay Mills Indian Community in Michigan, are working with Federal partners on their own community response plans.

My Administration has made a priority of helping to solve the issues surrounding Native Americans who go missing and those who are murdered across the United States — including high rates of Native women and girls, including transgender women and girls. We recognize there is a level of mistrust of the United States Government in many Native communities, stemming from a long history of broken promises, oppression, and trauma. That is why we are pursuing ways to build trust in our Government and the systems designed to provide support to families in need. We must bridge the gap for families in crisis, provide necessary support services, and support opportunities for healing through holistic community-driven approaches.

I am committed to building on the successes of the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) by supporting the passage of the VAWA Reauthorization of 2021. Among other protections, this bill reaffirms inherent Tribal authority to prosecute certain non-Indian offenders — extending protections from domestic violence and dating violence to Native American victims of sexual violence, stalking, trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse, and assault against law enforcement or justice personnel when crimes are committed on Tribal territory. Additionally, through the American Rescue Plan we provided an additional \$35 million in grants for Tribes to provide temporary housing, assistance, and supportive services to victims of domestic and dating violence, as well as supplemental funding for the StrongHearts Native Helpline, and additional funding for services for sexual assault survivors.



My Administration has also committed to effectively implement the requirements of Savanna’s Act and the Not Invisible Act, legislation focused on combating the issues surrounding missing or murdered Indigenous persons. The Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives continues to convene the Department of Justice, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Health and Human Services, to address the issues from a combined public health–public safety partnership. Furthering the efforts of the task force, the White House Council on Native American Affairs will bring together all relevant Federal agencies to work with Tribal Nations on exploring additional ways to enhance prevention efforts and improve access to safety and justice.

Furthermore, informed by Tribal input, the Department of the Interior recently established the Missing & Murdered Unit (MMU) within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services to provide leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The MMU will help bring the weight of the Federal Government to bear when investigating these cases and marshal law enforcement resources across Federal agencies and throughout Indian country.

Our commitment to addressing these issues and to strengthening these critical partnerships is unwavering. For too long, there has been too much sorrow and worry. United by our mutual investment in healthy, safe communities, we will work together to achieve lasting progress.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2021, as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day. I call on all Americans and ask all levels of government to support Tribal governments and Tribal communities’ efforts to increase awareness of the issue of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives through appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

Signed/ Joseph R. Biden Jr., President.



**President Joe Biden declares May 5 “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day.”**

# MMIR Walk held on Lake Traverse Reservation

Sisseton, SD – May 5, 2021 – In solidarity with others across the country and internationally, the local community turned out to remember Sisseton-Wahpeton Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

Chief Arvol Looking Horse provided prayers, and walkers met at the site of the old IHS hospital in downtown

Sisseton and walked to Memorial Park.

Principal organizer of the event was Waynette Renville.

Here are photo highlights by John Heminger Photography.



**Prairie Doc® Perspectives -**

# Dear Moms, I See You

*By Jill Kruse, D.O.*

This has been an exhausting year for moms. Last spring, we had no idea we would still be dealing with this pandemic a year later. It presented difficult decisions, such as in-person school or remote learning, how to work from home while caring for children, or how to pay the bills without work, when to let children visit their grandparents, what to do for birthdays and holidays. Regardless of the decision made, it seemed someone somewhere was judging our choice. But I want you to know, I see you every day doing the best you can.

To all the new moms, I see you when the OB floor was empty of

friends and family to celebrate the new life you brought into the world. If you were COVID positive, I see you with your beaming smile behind a mask as you hold your new baby.

Mothers of toddlers, I see you trying to keep little fingers out of mouths as you teach them to wash their hands. I see you attempting to be professional on a Zoom meeting with toddlers giggling and playing in the background.

I see you moms of elementary and middle school children as you took on the role of teacher to keep your kids learning during the shutdown. I see you search for answers to big questions from your

children about when things will be "normal" again.

Mothers with high school children, I see you consoling your Juniors and Seniors who missed out on sports seasons, proms and graduation ceremonies that were altered, cut short, or cancelled. I see you advertising prom dresses for

sale captioned "only worn once for pictures."

I see you moms of college age children, yes, they are still your babies, as they prepare to leave the nest for school or a job. This new world experience will not be the same as you remember, yet I see you helping to make the most of it.

Grandmothers, I see you, too! You have two sets of babies to think about, your adult children and your grandchildren. I see you longing for their visits and hugs. And I see you when your family could not be with you in the hospital or nursing home.

Moms, I see you for the force of



Dr. Kruse).

\*\*\*\*\*

Jill Kruse, D.O. 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.







## Thursday May 6th

Throughout our history, Americans of many religions and belief systems have turned to prayer for strength, hope, and guidance. Prayer has nourished countless souls and powered moral movements – including essential fights against racial injustice, child labor, and infringement on the rights of disabled Americans. Prayer is also a daily practice for many, whether it is to ask for help or strength, or to give thanks over blessings bestowed.

The First Amendment to our Constitution protects the rights of free speech and religious liberty, including the right of all Americans to pray. These freedoms have helped us to create and sustain a Nation of remarkable religious vitality and diversity across the generations.

Today, we remember and celebrate the role that the healing balm of prayer can play in our lives and in the life of our Nation. As we continue to confront the crises and challenges of our time – from a deadly pandemic, to the loss of lives and livelihoods in its wake, to a reckoning on racial justice, to the existential threat of climate change – Americans of faith can call upon the power of prayer to provide hope and uplift us for the work ahead. As the late Congressman John Lewis once said, “Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society. Why? Because human beings are the most dynamic link to the divine on this planet.”

On this National Day of Prayer, we unite with purpose and resolve, and recommit ourselves to the core freedoms that helped define and guide our Nation from its earliest days. We celebrate our incredible good fortune that, as Americans, we can exercise our convictions freely – no matter our faith or beliefs. Let us find in our prayers, however they are delivered, the determination to overcome adversity, rise above our differences, and come together as one Nation to meet this moment in history.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on the President to issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a “National Day of Prayer.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2021, as a National Day of Prayer. I invite the citizens of our Nation to give thanks, in accordance with their own faiths and consciences, for our many freedoms and blessings, and I join all people of faith in prayers for spiritual guidance, mercy, and protection.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

# National Prayer Day

National Prayer Day! Judy Jones said the prayer for our Tribal Council!

Our eldest tribal member Beverly Wakeman. ❤️

