

A Native American Story How the Racoon Got His Coat

Many years ago, Raccoon looked different than he does today. He used to be all silver, smooth from nose to the tip of his tail. This is the story of how all that changed.

Raccoon was heading home after a night of hunting when he passed Raven's home in the forest. Raccoon noticed that Raven was just inside the house, and as he passed he caught a glimpse of five beautiful silver rings – rings that Raven had stolen and stashed away for safekeeping. Raccoon instantly wanted the rings, and was determined to get them.

Later that night, after it grew dark, Raccoon put his plan into motion. He put on a mask to hide his face, and lit a torch to carry under his chin. You can imagine how scary he looked! He snuck quietly up to Raven's home, and started to make eerie sounds at the windows. "Ooooh! Ohohohooooh!" he cried.

Raccoon thought that Raven would be scared and run away, but instead, Raven ran straight out to meet the intruder. Raccoon had to change his plan, and so he led Raven into the woods with his spooky sounds, then creeped back to the house while Raven was searching the woods.

Raccoon opened Raven's trunk and found the five rings, even more beautiful than he had thought! He was ready to run off with them when he realized he couldn't carry all five rings and the torch. Suddenly, he caught a glimpse of his tail and an idea came together – he slid all five rings onto his tail, and made off into the night.

The next day, Raven realized his trunk had been moved. When he opened it, he knew that he had been tricked – that one of the forest animals had taken his beautiful rings. Raven went to each of them – Bear, Owl, Eagle, Chipmunk – but none seemed to know anything about the missing rings. Finally, Raven visited Raccoon.

"Hellooo, Raccoon," said Raven. Raccoon met him gruffly. "I was sleeping, Raven," he said, "What do you want?" "Someone has taken five silver rings from me," Raven said. "Do you know anything about that?""No, I don't. May I go back to sleep now?" Raccoon retorted.

"Are you sure?" Raven asked."I'm certain. And I'm tired. Why don't you leave me be?" Raccoon said. Raven apologized and thanked Raccoon, but when Raccoon turned to go back to bed, Raven saw five dark rings of tarnish on his tail. "Ah hah!" Raven said. "It was you!"

Raccoon apologized and admitted what he had done, but Raven didn't think that was enough. "From now on," Raven said, "you will bear the marks of what you have done. Your face will show the mask with which you hid yourself, your hands will be blackened by the soot from your torch, and your tail will always be tarnished by what you stole." And so it was.

Raccoon never stole from Raven again, but he's never really stopped his thieving ways. He still comes to us in the night, looking for things he can take, wearing his bandit's mask.







Christian Martyr

The Cathoic Church celebrates St. Valentine's Day to honor the martyrdom of two men named Valentine who were executed by Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd Century. One ledgend says that Valentine wrote a note to Julia, the daughter of his jailer, on the night before his execution, signing it "Love, from your Valentine.

Pagan Festival

Possible replacement for the pagan festival of Lupercalia, which was celebrated on February 15th. **Lupercalia was a fertility festival that involved sacrificing a goat and a dog, then slapping women and crop fields with the goat's hide.**

Medieval Romance

The 14th and 15th Centuries saw the rise of courtly love, which may have contributed to Valenti8ne's Day becoming associated with romantic love. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer's The Parlement of Fooules, written in 1375, describes a gathering of birds choosing their mates on St. Valentine's Day.

Cupid

The Roman reinterpretation of the Greek God of Love, Eros, led to the association of Cupid with Valentine's Day. Victorians began dipicting Cupid on Valentine's Day Cards, a tradition that continues today.

Ester A. Howland

<mark>In the 1840's Ester A. Howland mass-produced</mark> Valentine's Day cards in Worcester, Massachsetts. She <mark>is known as the "Mother of the American Valentin.</mark>





Please join us in wishing your fellow members, near and far, a very Happy Birthday during the month of February.

02/01 Jason Flute 02/01 Destiny Nelson 02/01 Dennis Peterson 02/02 Lamuel Armstrong 02/02 Thomas Penny 02/03 Diane Austin 02/003 Chaska Barse 02/03 Jennifer Fawkes 02/03 Clyde Hasvold 02/03 James Ross 02/04 Michaela Corcoran 02/04 Ashely Janovec 02/05 Justin Cadotte 02/05 Kiloni Eastman 02/05 Jophn Graham Sr. 02/06 Leah Mackintosh 02/06 Damon Taylor 02/06 Daniel Taylor 02/06 Joseph Yankton 02/07 Tyce Flute 02/09 Arleen Fierro 02/09 Andrew Weston 02/10 Sheila Buhr 02/10 Robert Van Dam Jr. 02/10 Diane Van Dam

02/10 James Weston 02/10 Rebecca Weston 02/10 Sarah Weston 02/11 Saphfire Blue 02/11 Addison Fisherman 02/12 Della Cole 02/12 Jacob Patterson 02/12 Louis Payer Jr., 02/12 Clover Sheely 02/12 Guno Yankton 02/13 Russell Faulk 02/13 Rudolph Lovejoy 02/14 Jessi Davis 02/14 Francis Eastman 02/14 Sonya Jones 02/14 River Ladeaux 02/14 Donalda Montonya 02/14 Darrion Williams 02/14 Dakota Yellow Cloud Jr. 02/15 Bryson Fleury 02/15 Michael Wakeman 02/16 Betty Taylor 02/16 Cynthia Weston 02/17 Christina Weston 02/18 Roberta Cavender

02/18 Ashely Flute 02/18 Randy Wade 02/19 Ana De Luna 02/19 Akisa Jones 02/20 Betty Armstrong 02/23 Damien Burkhart 02/23 Marissa Ross 02/24 Isiah Fisherman 02/25 Luciano Cavender 02/25 Jesse Hansen 02/25 Robert Hansen 02/26 Cheyenne Allen 02/26 John Fleury 02/26 Carol Johnson 02/26 Gerald Roy 02/27 Maria Patterson 02/28 Dylan Peters 02/28 Kenneth Weston



Flourless Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:

4 Eggs 8 oz of Ghirardelli Chocolate Chips 1/4 Cup of Butter Powdered Sugar for Dusting



Method:

Preheat oven to 325 F. Grease and line an 8" round cake pan with parchment paper. In a mixer, whip eggs on high speed until double in size. Approximately 5 minutes.

In a medium bowl set over a double boiler, melt the chocolate and butter stiring occassionally until smooth.

Fold 1/3 of the egg mix into the chocolate until a few streaks remain. Fold remaining egg mixter into the chocolate in two separate additions.

Pour Batter into prepared pans. Bake in a hot water bath, until edges are slightly risen, the cake is set and the center temperature of the cake is 140 degrees F. Cool and refrigerate over night.

Garnish with powdered sugar, berries and sauce.





02/01 Dennise Peterson 02/26 Nicholas Schuchhardt 02/27 Maria Patterson 02/28 Kenneth Weston





Please join us in wishing our

employees a very

Happy Birthday this month!

FSST Tribal Elders Invited!

CASINO · HOTEL

oual

ROYAL ROOM

Tuesday February 4th

CASH ONLY! DOORS OPEN AT 10AM FOR FSST TRIBAL ELDERS GENERAL PUBLIC AT 11AM



MUST TAKE ITEMS AT TIME OF PURCHASE NO HOLDS, MUST HAUL OWN ITEMS ALL SALES FINAL

First Presbyterian Church

Worship Services Every Sunday

10 am to 11 am

Recovery

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

(800) 662 HELP (4357)

N

Donated Prizes!

Domini

Delicous food Deserts Oriths Benefitting the First Presbyterian Church!

happ gvalentines day

Friday, February 14th Doors Open at 5 p.m. / Games at 6 p.m.

Eastman Hall 612 South Center, Flandreau, SD 57028



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2025 - Wakpa Ipaksan

We are happy to inform you that we have received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$19,949,725.00. This grant is awarded to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe from the Community Change Grant and has been earmarked for the completion of several community projects.

The most anticipated is the completion of the Cresent Street Bridge. FSST Environmental Advancement Project will serve the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) in Flandreau, South Dakota. It will create a zero-emission transportation corridor to replace the Cresent Street Bridge damaged in 2022. Preliminary plans include a spot for fishing off the west side of the bridge, a two-lane road, and a biking and walking path on the east side.

This corridor will provide clean transportation options and other infrastructure improvements, including ADA-accessible mobility options. A bike path, with electric bikes available to rent, is planned to begin near our headquarters, crossing through the city, across the new bridge, north to FIS and out to highway 13, turning north to the Wacipi Grounds. Collaboration with the City is ongoing to integrate our new bike path with one currently being planned by the city.

Additionally, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe will partner with the Native Sun Community Power Development to support investments in green infrastructure, including roof retrofits and upgrades, new solar capacity, building weatherization, and the construction of multiple resilience hubs to support tribal operations in cases of emergency.

Pidamayaye do



FINALE GIVEAWAY FEBRUARY 22 AT 10PM WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$15,000 CASH



Visit our website for more information!





EARN ENTRIES DEC. 30, 2024 - JAN. 31, 2025

PLAY WITH YOUR ROYAL REWARDS CARD TO EARN 1 DRAWING TICKET FOR EVERY 50 POINTS ON SLOTS! GRAND PRIZE PRIVATE PARTY FOR 10 + \$500 FOOD & BEVERAGE CREDIT TO WATCH THE BIG GAME AT THE LOUNGE ON FEB. 9, 2025.



Royal River Casino & Hotel reserves all rights to cancel or modify this program at anytime. See Players Club for promotional rules and details. Must be 21. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-781-HELP,

607 S. VETERANS ST. FLANDREAU, SD

1.877.912.LUCK ROYALRIVERCASINO.COM King Range National Conservation Area
Shelter Cove Arts & Recreation Foundation
Friends of the Lost Coast
Present

Spring 2025 Artist in Residence 4/21 to 5/19

A unique opportunity for an artist to experience a month's stay on California's remote Lost Coast, connecting with the local community and creating artwork that reflects the appreciation and awareness of public lands on California's Lost Coast.

For Program Details and Application:

www.sheltercoveartsrecreation.com www.blm.gov/get-involved/artist-in-residence

Application Deadline:

Friday 3/7/25 Submit to the BLM King Range NCA Sandy Miles (707) 986-5415 smiles@blm.gov















Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

Sponsored by Dakota Language Program

Wicoicaga Otipi Community Center 503 W. Broad Ave | Flandreau, Sd

> Sunday, February, 23 2025 9:00 am Westside of the building

> > Contact: Dusty - 605.864.8887 Devin - 605.864.0420



What to Expect

Please wear shoes and clothes you don't mind getting messy

Feel free to bring your own knife

Expect to be hands on!

All Tools and Supplies will be supplied

Bring a positive attititude and a willingness to help

Everyone who participates will receive some meat!





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2025 - Flandreau, SD

Last year a vote was taken to ban South Dakota's Governor Kristi Noem from our territories at the request of our people. We met face to face with the governor and discussed not only the issues at hand but focused on how we can work together to resolve issues of mutual concern.

The Governor issued an apology to us for the misunderstanding, which was exacerbated by misinformation. Over the past several months, we have been made aware of many circumstances relating to the comments made by the Governor; only to find out that these issues are real and pose a grave threat to the stability of our Nations and the health and well-being of all our people.

Since our first meeting, the Governor has shown us that she is committed to protecting the people of South Dakota including the citizens of the nine Tribal Nations, who share mutual borders with the state. Our partnership with the City of Flandreau and the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains are grateful for her support in the development of the Early Childhood Learning Center. The Governor's commitment to have a cooperative working relationship between all levels of Law Enforcement is evident in her efforts to bring a 13-week Police Officer Training Program to the state, which has successfully graduated nine Native American Law Enforcement Officers. It is for these reasons that we hereby dissolve the order of banishment.

Lastly, we whole heartedly welcome her nomination and eventual appointment as the Secretary for Homeland Security and wish her much success in her future endeavors.

Executive Grant of Clemency

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR. President of the United States of America

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

I HEREBY COMMUTE the remainder of the total sentence of imprisonment imposed upon LEONARD PELTIER, Reg. No. 89637-132, to be served in its entirety on home confinement, to take effect on February 18, 2025. I leave intact all other components of the sentence.

I HEREBY DESIGNATE, direct, and empower the Pardon Attorney, as my representative, to deliver to the Bureau of Prisons a certified copy of the signed warrant as evidence of my action in order to carry into effect the terms of these grants of elemency, and to deliver a certified copy of the signed warrant to each person to whom I have granted elemency as evidence of my action.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the seal of the Department of Justice to be affixed.



Done at the City of Washington this 19th day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five and of the Independence of the United States the Two Hundred and Forty-Ninth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR. President



The **FSST Solar Energy Department** is proud to announce the launch of the Solar For All Project, a collaborative partnership between the EPA and Indigenized Energy. Funded through a \$135 million EPA grant shared among 14 tribes across the Great Plains, this groundbreaking initiative will provide PV (Photovoltaic) solar array systems to eligible tribal members in Moody County. The project aims to reduce energy costs, enhance sustainability, and foster a cleaner, greener future. Applications are now open to be part of this monumental effort!





How To Apply:

Visit our Office: Fill out an application form at the FSST Solar Department office.



Monte Lovejoy Solar Program Director

605.573.4237 Ext: 1236

monte.lovejoy@fsst.org

FSST Solar Energy Department

701 W. Broad Ave

Flandreau, SD 57028

Lilly Torres

Solar Project Manager





lilia.torres@fsst-nsn.gov









Sint Maarten

Our Nation has an opportunity to purchase the Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, Casino & Spa located on the Island of St. Maarten which is a part of an archilpelogo owned by the Netherlands. The island is shared with the country of France and is divided by a political boundary that residents and guest can freely pass and visit.

Friendship Treaty

The Friendship Treaty with Sint Maarten and the Netherlands, which is also called the Dutch-American Friendship Treaty or DAFT, allows U.S. Citizens to easily obtain residency in St. Maarten without needing a separate work permit, essentially giving them the same rights as Dutch Nationals living on the island. This being a bi-lateral agreement between the United States and the Netherlands. Under this treaty our membership can live, work and retire in St. Maarten with or without this purchase.





All Inclusive Resort

The 420 Room Resort is located minutes from the airport overlooking the Maho Bay. Planes fly directly overhead while on-lookers and beach goers capture some amazing photos of planes landing just yards from the beach.

One of the many attractive features of the resort is it being an all inclusive vacation. This feature allows guests access to a wide variety of ammenities located across the 10 acre resort. The wrist band not only gives you access to your room but to all the dining establishments throughout the resort; including the Lounges, Bars and Swim Up Bars. All the food, sun and drinks you can possibly enjoy.

Guests of the 9th and 10th floor have exclusive access to the roof top lounges as well as a 24 Hour Snack Bar filled with sandwiches, pastries, sweets, fruits and beverages.







Adult Only Resort

The Azul Restaurant located on the point of the resort, hangs over the cliff and offers guests magnificent views of the bay while they dine.

Guests must have a special wrist band to access this part of the resort. The hotel rooms are enormous and come with their own kitchen.





Rooms on the bottom level enjoy their own lazy river, where they can rest and swim under tropical foliage. A lazy river surrounds the bottom level of the hotel and flows into a man made lagoon, where beach goers can bare it all if they choose.

A convention center is located in the Adult Only Resort Hotel where meetings, conventions and special occasions take place. A newly remodeled work out facility has just been completed and is shared by all guests.

MEMBER BENEFITS

If this purchase is made a reality, it is the vision of the president to make available accomodations for our membership to use year round. Members would need to obtain a U.S. Passport in order to access the island and the resort. When we arrive, our lodging, food and beverages would be included with our stay; our only cost would be our airfare.















Casino Royale & Retail Mall

Casino Royale is located directly across from the Resort and is included in the purchase price of the property. It features 300 Gaming devices as well as 21 Table Games comprised of Blackjack, Roulette & Crap Tables and has a live poker room. The atmosphere is quite similar to our first casino, small and intimate. The Top Level of the Casino features a high end Asian Fusion restaurant and a lounge that overlooks the street below.

During the day, locals dominate the scene and by night, the guests of the surrounding resorts line the streets in elegant attire. The property also owns the retail mall that starts from the east side of the resort and continues several blocks north, on both sides of the street.

High end restaurants, jewelry stores, lounges, karaoke bars, burger joints, and gift shops adorn the street on both sides. The property also owns several buildings that are leased to a wide variety of tenants, one being a strip club, that seems from the road, to be a hoppin' place almost anytme of the day.

The Resort, Casino & Shopping Mall all are powered by a solar farm just blocks from the resort. The solar farm provides enough energy to power the properties for up to 8 hours per day, which proved quite useful during the last hurricane 7 years ago. While the island itself struggled to return power to its residents, the resort was able to continue it's operation due to the solar farm.



On the last day of our trip, we were given an update as to where the Marijuana initiative, developed by Native Nations, was in the parlimentary process by Mr. Brian Hall. Mr. Hall is the legal mind behind natvigating our legistlation through the parlimentary approval process. Currently there are no marijuana laws on the island, which has caught the government's attention as an additional source of revenue to supplement their tourism dollars, which is their only source of income.

Mr. Hall stated that there are two more parlimentary committee's that must approve our marijuana initiative; once approved and signed into law, we will be granted a 10 year exclusive license to develop, cultivate, sell and distribute marijuana on the island. This, in itself, is a monumental opportunity, that when this initiative becomes law on the island, it will be a game changer for our nation.



Coupled with the opportunity of purchasing the resort and the possiblity of combining the two business ventures, we could see the end of depending on Federal Assistance in the near future. The opportunities for our membership from home ownership on the island to retirement, employment and enteprenuerial ventures are endless.

As with any possibility it is easy to be blinded by the sunlight dancing off the waves but the necessary questions must be asked and answered; mitigating as much risk to the membership as possible. If we can pull it off financially and it provides a good return on our investment, I'm all in.

Lastly, it may be time to introduce the Indian Taco to the Island's Cuisine. Any takers?



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Town Hall Meeting

Last Wednesday of the Month

> Community Center

Lite Dinner & Snacks 5:30 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting 6 p.m.



Save the dates!

February 1st

General Council Meeting

February 14th

Valentíne's BINGO—Eastman Hall

February 23rd

Wanase—Buffalo Harvest

February 26th

Community Townhall

The Wowapi Newsletter is a monthly publication by the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

SUBMISSION GUIDLINES:

- 25th of each month
- Must be Typewritten or Computer Generated Format
- Acceptable Formats: Hard Copy or Email

SUBMIT:

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Attn: Francis Wakeman III P.O. Box 283 Flandreau, SD 57028 (605) 997-3891 ext.1238 francis.wakeman@fsst-nsn.gov

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 from time to time. A reasonable effort to correct information will be made in the next publication.

The information in this newsletter have been complied from a variety of sources and are subject to change without notice. Where discrepancies exist between this publication and official document(s); the official document(s) shall prevail.

The FSST makes no warranties or representations whatsoever regarding the quality, content, completeness, or adequacy of such information or data.

The FSST reserves the right, to refuse the publication of information where the subject matter is deemed inaccurate or inappropriate.

FEBRUARY 2025 MENU	Friday	Chicken Noodle 7 Soup Turkey Sandwich Straight A Salad Chips Grapes	Breaded Chicken Breast 4 Mashed potato/gravy Silverglade Salad Brussel Sprout Bake Strawberry Lasagne	Chicken Enchilada 21 Soup Ham & Cheese Sandwich Spinach Salad Choc. Poke Cake	closed 28
	Thursday	Wild Rice Casserole 6 Chuckwagon Corn Creamy Coleslaw Donuts	Beef Stroganoff 13 Over noodles Mixed Veggies Nutty Apple Salad Lemon meringue pie	Hot dogs Potato Salad Bake Beans Chips Frosted Banana Bar	Zucchini Garden Chowden Zucchini Garden Chowden Zucchier Salad on Croissant Cookies
	Wednesday	Hot Beef 5 Green Beans Celery & Carrots Stix With Ranch dressing Pears in Lime Jello	Baked Ham w/sauce 12 Red Potato Bake Green Bean Casserole Festive Tossed Salad Heaven On Earth Cake	Beef Stew 19 Fry Bread Broccoli & Califlower Salad Rhubarb Dessert	Italian Beef Sand. 26 Cheddar Ranch Potato Corn & Celery Saute Butterscotch Pudding
	Tuesday	Minestrone Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Cucumber Salad Lemon Bread	Orange Chicke 11 Fried Rice Eggroll Oriental Slaw Cinnabon Coffee Cake	Sloppy Joes Potato Wedges Kris Mac Salad Fruit Cocktail Cake	Polish Sausage 25 w/saurkraut Mac & Cheese Tossed Salad Lemon Squares
ΗH	Monday	Goulash Glazed Carrots Caesar Salad Rice Krispy Bar	Beef & Bean Burrito 10 Green Chile Rice Red Bean Toss Candied Applesauce	CLOSED	Biscuits w/sausage 24 Gravy Scrambled Eggs Yogurt Fruit Cup