

# Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Monthly Newsletter

## October 2021



*Canwapa Ka'Kan Wi - October— The moon when the leaves are shaken off the trees by cold winds*

## Gov. Noem asks Department of Education to delay social studies standards debate



NDN Collective leads a demonstration through the streets of Pierre after the final draft of the state's proposed social studies standards left out multiple specific references to the Oceti Sakowin on Monday, September 13, 2021. *Erin Bormett / Argus Leader*

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem announced Monday that she has instructed the Department of Education to delay changes to the state's social studies standards up to one year to allow for more public input.

Noem's move follows recent calls for her resignation made by the South Dakota Education Equity Coalition during an education rally in Pierre last Monday, and recent venue changes to the first hearing on the standards planned for Aberdeen next month after the DOE reported it's seen nearly 600 public comments on the standards already.

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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*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*

The Department of Education changed the working group's recommendations to the social studies standards significantly, but it is clear to me that there needs to be more public input to bring greater balance and emphasis on our nation's true and honest history," Noem said in a news release. "Following public feedback from several constituencies, it is clear there is more work to be done to get this right."

The DOE announced it was moving the first hearing to a larger venue a month later, likely to accommodate for more public comments, considering the nearly 600 submitted online and the more than 200 marchers who showed up in Pierre last week.

It's unclear when and where future hearings will be set up in the next year's time.

An Argus Leader review of the comments show the majority are in opposition to the proposed standards, in which the DOE removed more than a dozen explicit references to education on the Oceti Sakowin, initially included in an early draft proposed by a workgroup tasked with retooling the standards.

We will be delaying further formal action on the draft social study standards to allow more opportunity for public input, increased legislative engagement, and additional voices to be heard in this discussion," Noem said in a statement. "Our focus remains the same: ensuring that South Dakota students learn a true and honest account of American and South Dakota history."



Candi Brings Plenty holds eagle feathers and a bundle of sage as they participate in a demonstration through the streets of Pierre after the final draft of the state's proposed social studies standards left out multiple specific references to the Oceti Sakowin on Monday, September 13, 2021

# Sioux Falls not 'open for business' with medical marijuana: Aug. 2 letters to editor

Argus Leader letters to the editor

Published 2:22 p.m. CT July 31, 2021

## Sioux Falls not 'open for business' with medical marijuana

The voters overwhelmingly endorsed medical marijuana statewide and across party lines. The mayor and the city administration were tasked with creating, and responded with, zoning rules so strict that there are only two places likely to qualify in the whole city on the Minnehaha County side. One is behind the airport and the other is by the wastewater treatment plant. Isn't that a hilarious response?

No thought given to ADA or accessibility, or creating economic growth for our local small businesses and startups. With this lack of leadership, most likely the only players to survive these childish and churlish games will be the big companies from out of state who can file the lawsuits and wait it out. Much is going to be spent by the city on legal fees from fighting the lawsuits filed by industry and special interest groups, only to have to allow it in the end, because it is the state law now. Do they really think this is what the people wanted! This is not "Open for Business" by any definition.

-- *Rose Grant, Sioux Falls*



A flowering marijuana plant at the Native Nations Cannabis facilities on the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe reservation. *Cory Myers / Argus Leader*

## Number of cannabis licenses approved

Flandreau will be able to have three cannabis dispensaries once medical marijuana is allowed in South Dakota.

The city council unanimously approved the number and set license fees at \$10,000 for an initial fee and \$10,000 for a renewal under an ordinance passed Sept. 20. Alderman Brad Bjerke was not in attendance. Mayor Dan Sutton said the number is the same as the number of liquor licenses and the fee is in the middle. The suggested fee to start was \$5,000.

“This is going to be an ever evolving and ever moving discussion going forward,” he said.

In other business,

## Pride flag allowed to remain

A group of parents wants a pride flag removed from a Flandreau middle school room, saying it interferes with education.

The group brought their concerns to the Flandreau School Board Sept. 13 but faced opposition from others who support a teacher’s right to display the flag. In the end, no decision was made because the issue was not a formal agenda item.

The flag also is allowed under federal law, said Superintendent Rick Weber.

“We respectfully attend this meeting tonight with concerns that teachers’ personal biases and opinions are infiltrating our children’s educations,” said Angela Klein, a spokesperson for a group of dozens of parents. “We are aware of what is being exposed to our children in the classroom, and do not want these distractions to interfere with their education.”

She said students have been silenced about their opinions, while all students should have the right to respectfully state their opinions without reprimand.

She asked who will decide in the future what is appropriate to have in classrooms and said only items directly related to the curriculum should be allowed.

“We strongly urge you to consider these students that are being distracted from obtaining education they are entitled to, or those that may be feeling uncomfortable, or even harassed, by being made aware of their teachers’ personal belief systems that may or may not align with their own,” Klein said.

Others spoke in favor of making the atmosphere welcoming and safe for all, including gender diverse children.

Parent Kevin Burshiem supported the right to have the flag in school.

“We have to focus on a sense of belonging and a sense of safety at school,” he said. As a school counselor at Flandreau Indian School, “I had to advocate for all students, not a small group of students, not for a majority of students, but for all students.”



# Sioux Tribe Opens First Legal Marijuana Business In South Dakota

*Despite voter approval, legal cannabis is on pause in South Dakota—everywhere except for a tiny town located on an Indian reservation, where the Flandreau Santee Sioux will open the state's first legal cannabis business.*

Last fall, South Dakota became the first state in the US to legalize adult-use marijuana at the same time as medical cannabis when voters approved a pair of ballot measures. Little has gone to plan since then.

A lawsuit backed by the state's Republican Gov. Kristi Noem may scuttle recreational cannabis, and bureaucratic and legislative roadblocks may delay the state's medical-marijuana program from selling its first gram until mid-2022.

But starting July 1, anyone with a medical cannabis recommendation—from any state—will be able to walk into an old police station in Flandreau, a town of about 2,200 people forty minutes north of Sioux Falls, and buy legal marijuana at the Native Nations cannabis dispensary, owned and operated by the Flandreau Santee Sioux tribe.

The tribe is capitalizing on increased acceptance of cannabis as well as their legal rights as a sovereign nation to become the first legal cannabis business in South Dakota, said Seth Pearman, the tribe's attorney general, in an interview on Wednesday.

Under an Obama-era Department of Justice memorandum, federally recognized Indian tribes with cannabis businesses that obeyed state law and kept weed out of the hands of criminals and minors were not priorities for prosecution. The Flandreau Santee first tried to open up a cannabis business in 2015, but chose to close up business—and burn its first crop—under pressure from law enforcement.

That meant waiting until South Dakota caught up to other states legalizing cannabis. After that happened last November, the Flandreau Santee pushed forward with writing and passing its own cannabis regulations that apply within the boundaries of its reservation.

Though the state won't issue medical marijuana cards until November and though dispensaries won't open until next year, the state's medical-marijuana law still takes effect July 1.

In sum, all this means anyone buying cannabis on the reservation under the Flandreau Santee's own cannabis laws—which are consistent with state law, while also being independent, in an arrangement called a compact—won't risk prosecution once leaving the reservation, Pearman said.

"That individual will have legal protection under the law," Pearman said.

The tribe will issue medical-cannabis cards to anyone with a qualifying condition, but the tribe will also recognize anyone with a medical cannabis recommendation from another state.

And if the state Supreme Court dismisses the complaint brought by Noem and state law enforcement officials against Amendment A, the dispensary will also sell cannabis products to anyone 21 and over.

The state's first cannabis business—a long but doable drive from nearby big cities without legal marijuana like Minneapolis—is already employing 15 people and could generate as much as \$1 million in revenue a month, tribal officials told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

The Flandreau Santee already have a casino on their reservation, but cannabis "could get as big as gaming and be as viable of a revenue source," Pearman said. "It will also provide jobs and economic opportunities, and fund programs [on the reservation, like housing, roads, and schools] where there have been deficiencies for decades."

There's still a possibility that Noem or other authorities in South Dakota law enforcement could decide to take action. That would be vastly unpopular—and it would also violate the reservation's federally protected status as a sovereign nation, potentially triggering a legal battle.

For now, that seems unlikely.

"We're all good for July 1," Pearman said. "I haven't had any communication otherwise."



## Gov. Noem asks Department of Education to delay social studies standards debate

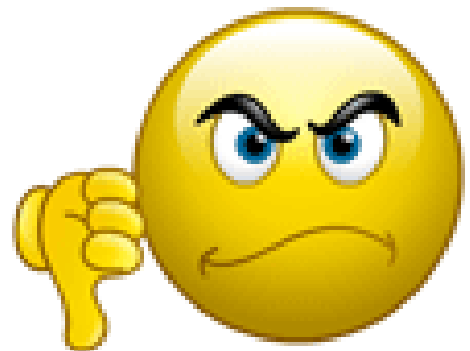
Meanwhile, Candi Brings Plenty, a member of the SDEEC and indigenous justice organizer with the ACLU of South Dakota, said the groups will persist in seeking Noem's resignation.

"She knows she's in for battle," Brings Plenty said. "She has awakened a sleeping giant. We have finally been counted to a sufficient standard this past census and now she sees the numbers. We will vote her out."

Noem intends to ask the South Dakota legislature to pass legislation codifying Executive Order 2021-11, which she signed in late July and prohibits any curriculum requiring or encouraging students to take positions against one another on the basis of race, sex or the historical activity of members of a student's race or sex.

That executive order also prevents schools from "politicizing education" by prohibiting curriculum requiring students to protest or lobby during or after school.

Noem also plans to ban critical race theory and action civics as the basis for instruction in South Dakota schools. Education leaders have said CRT is mostly taught in higher education, but also isn't the basis for instruction in the state's six public universities.



## Construction begins on cannabis grow facility in Colman



The South Dakota Cannabis Company is under construction now in Colman. Footings were poured recently. The building is located directly south of The Dollar General Store and east of the storage units and Colman Building Center.

g a medical marijuana grow facility in the industrial park on the east edge of Colman.

South Dakota Cannabis Company is under construction with an expected completion of mid-October. The company is owned by five investors who were friends at Dakota State University.

The grow facility will be 12,000 square feet in a 100 by 120-foot building. It will include a lab so the company can extract cannabis for a variety of products. It will have 84 grow lights.

South Dakota Cannabis will be a wholesale provider of products and won't have a dispensary on site, said Logan Denning, one of the owners.

"We will sell to the dispensaries. We'll bring our product to them," he said.

The company will need a state permit before it can start growing any cannabis. Those are not available yet.

Denning said the company hopes to have product first available in February or March.

The group had wanted to invest in a business together and believe in medical marijuana, he said.

"That's what we believe in. That's our goal is to help people," he said. "We view it as a perfect opportunity to get into something together and something we could do to help our areas."

Colman seemed liked a good location to start the project, he said.

The group is relying on a consultant and the latest technology to make the business successful.

The company will create seven jobs to start and will hire temporary workers as needed to help with the plants.

"Hopefully, we can bring some more jobs into town," Denning said. Denning, who lives in Corsica, is in the transportation business. The others work in retail and oil companies.

The only other grow facility in the county is the one operated in Flandreau by the Santee Sioux Tribe.



# County Commission adopts cannabis dispensaries policy



The Moody County Commission adopted its policy for medical cannabis dispensaries but hasn't settled on a license fee.

The commission voted to allow three dispensaries that must be 1,000 feet from churches, residents, parks, libraries and schools. They can be open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except on federal holidays.

The county has about five commercial-zoned areas where placement of a dispensary may be possible, including the Interstate 29 exit at Colman.

With licensing, the county commissioners first talked about a \$50,000 fee but last week said perhaps that is too high and considered some lower numbers without deciding on a final amount. One possibility discussed was \$10,000 for the initial license and \$5,000 for the annual renewal.

The higher number originally discussed is justified because of costs for patrolling the establishments. But it might also be too high, said chairwoman Carla Bruning. "I know we can justify it," she said.

Brookings County is looking at a fee of \$5,000, while Minnehaha County is looking at much more.

More drivers are showing up in court with tickets for being impaired, said State's Attorney Paul Lewis. "We are seeing substantial issues. We're seeing that driver very much impaired," he said. "We do carry the social costs."

Lewis also said the licensing requirements should prevent anyone convicted of felony distribution of drugs within the last 10 years from operating.

The commission will have a hearing on Sept. 21 and a second reading to approve its policy on Oct. 5.

## ***TRIBAL MEMBERS***

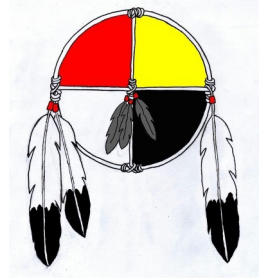
WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE TRIBAL INFO via TXT

**TEXTFSST (no space) to 24251**

FILL OUT ALL INFO...NAME & EMAIL



## Konrad L. Roy



September 19, 1988 - September 23, 2021

Konrad Lance Roy, 33, of Flandreau, SD passed away Thursday, September 23, 2021 at the Avera Flandreau Hospital. Konrad Lance Roy was born in Flandreau SD to the late Josh A. Roy and Raone M. Strutz (Littlewolf) on September 19, 1988. He resided and went to Flandreau Public Schools until he was 16. He went to Boxelder Job Corps Center in Nemo, SD where he obtained his GED within his first 2 weeks there. He also took culinary classes. In 2006 he went to United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, ND, with his sister Sylvia, studying Business Management. He stayed in Bismarck for several years where he had many, many friends. He was passionate about cooking for others, working as head cook at Hooters and worked his way up to become head pastry cook at Golden Corral. In December 2009, he had his first child, Maya M. Rivera who resides in ND. In 2010 he moved back to Flandreau where he lived the rest of his life.

He was the best bartender the Royal River Casinos ever had and he made many friends over the years. In June 2016 he had his only son Kaine E. Roy whom he loves more than anyone. He was very proud of his son and would want everyone to look out for him like he would've. Konrad was a sports fanatic and loved talking, betting and watching sports. He loved playing cribbage, poker, pinnacle and dominoes. He was in dart leagues with his brother Darren and Uncle Miles on Mondays then softball with his family on Sundays. Konrad was such a happy person, a big teddy bear as he's been described as. Konrad was very generous and would give the shirt off his back if anyone needed it. He had no enemies and was great at making new friends. Konrad loved Kobe Bryant, the LA Lakers, the MN Vikings and MN Twins.

Konrad leaves behind his children, Maya and Kaine; companion Coral He Crow; mother Raone Strutz; Brothers Darren Roy (Flandreau SD) Daniel Folstrom (Naytahwaush MN); Sisters Sylvia Roy (Flandreau SD) Melena Folstrom (Flandreau SD) and Leslie Wadena (Naytahwaush MN). Maternal Grandma Linda Littlewolf (Naytahwaush MN). Many cousins, nephews, nieces and friends. He was preceded in death with his Dad, Josh Roy; Uncles Miles Roy, Michael (Arnold) Roy, Theodore (Teddy Bear) Roy, and Isaac (Casey) Littlewolf; Aunts Teresa Littlewolf and Jenny Fyten; Cousins Michael A. Roy, Scotty Anderson Jr., Teddy Taylor, Toby Taylor, Kenneth Burshiem and his Paternal Grandparents Gerald (Jerry) and Patricia Roy.

Services will be 11:00 am Thursday, September 30, 2021 at the Wicoicaga Otipi Community Center, Flandreau, with burial in First Presbyterian Cemetery, Flandreau. Visitation will begin 5:00 pm Tuesday at the center with an all-night wake service beginning at 7:00 pm both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

### **wo Day Wake Service**

Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
7:00 PM

*Wicaicago Otipi Community Center*  
503 W. Broad Ave.  
Flandreau, South Dakota 57028

### **Funeral Service**

Thursday, September 30, 2021  
11:00 AM

*Wicaicago Otipi Community Center*  
503 W. Broad Ave.  
Flandreau, South Dakota 57028



## Valerie Jean Oas

September 28, 1961 –September 21, 2021

Valerie Jean Oas, “Val” age 59 of Maple Plain passed away surrounded by family on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. She was born September 28, 1961 to Pete and Joyce (Schliinz) Allen in Watertown, Minnesota.

Val was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. She was a proud and passionate native woman. Her biggest passion in life were her children and grandchildren. Val’s love for her family was complete. She was united in marriage to Dana Oas on April 25, 1981, celebrating 40 years of marriage, teaching their children what it means to have endless love and patience.

Val was preceded in death by her father Pete Allen. She is survived by her husband Dana; children Nicole (Cass) Carlson, Angela (Derek) Henson, Danielle (John) Oas-Shea, Keith (Anna) Oas; grandchildren Chante, Blake and fiancé Taylor, Jarrod, William, Andrew, Jacob, Caleb, Madonna, Lucas, Tanner; great grandchild Ryker; mother Joyce Allen; siblings Robert (Rosy) Allen, Randy (Debbie Gjerstad) Allen; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Memorial Service will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at Christ Lutheran Church in Maple Plain. A gathering of family and friends will be Thursday from 4-7 PM prior to the service at the church. Private inurnment at a later date in Lewis Cemetery, Maple Plain.





*You're Invited!*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

*Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe*  
TRIBAL DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT  
GIFTS WILL BE PROVIDED TO FSST MEMBERS

*Royal Room*

5PM - DOORS OPEN & APPETIZERS

5:15PM - FSST YOUTH DRUM GROUP

5:45PM - WELCOME BY FSST TRIBAL PRESIDENT TONY REIDER

5:50PM - PRAYER BY MATO OHODA MANI (DUSTIN BEAULIEU)

6PM - DINNER

7PM - ENTERTAINMENT BY CONWAY KOOTENAY