



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community News

July, 2006

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We are a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our Dakota heritage.

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DAKOTA PHRASE OF
THE MONTH

Dakota iapi (language)
lesson of the month

Çante waštēya napi ciyuza.

Pronounced: **Chantay**

Washdaya napeh chee u za

Translation: With a glad heart
I grasp your hand.

This is a traditional Dakota
Greeting.

Pilot Knob... Dream Come True!

The Pilot Knob celebration on June 1st was beautiful. Jim Anderson spoke for our community and did a great job. Mitch Walking Elk also spoke and sang a song with his hand drum. We (our community) had a drum up on the hill and members and friends of the community got to sing a few songs. The removal of

the No Trespassing sign was a moment of jubilee. Children got to carry it away and then they proceeded to stomp all over it! Yay!

If you haven't been to this beautiful piece of land, you must! If only to see the most beautiful view in the Twin Cities! This is just past Acacia Cemetery down the dirt road towards the dead end.

DAKOTA IAPI – DAKOTA LANGUAGE NEWS

We have exciting news this month. At our July 12th language class we are very excited to be welcoming Clifford Canku as our guest teacher. Clifford is a Native Speaker heard on many of our instructional CDs. His visit will provide us with an opportunity to hear and practice our Dakota! We will be having a Pot Luck dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will be inviting other Dakota Language Students to our Language Table for this special event. Even if you are not a Dakota Language student, please join us to welcome Clifford and our other guests. Bring your children and grandchildren to hear Clifford speak. There are only approximately 50 Native Dakota Speakers left in the country and this could be a once in a life time opportunity to hear the language as it was spoken by your ancestors.

Attention: Please continue sending your dues and donations

We all need to come together to make our community function smoothly. We are going month to month with our bills and payments and when people are keeping up with their dues, it helps alot. Remember we offer electronic pay now, please sign up if you can! It's a great way to make sure your payment gets in on time, and saves you the bother of writing your check and the cost of a stamp. There is a short form to fill out, and all information is confidential. If you are interested in signing up for this, please pick up a form at the office or have one mailed to you.

From the Editor

The newsletter is becoming harder and harder for me to get done, I have two busy kids and am short on time. Linda Rost and Diane Elliot are going to be helping with editing and putting the whole thing together, etc. If you are interested in writing the newsletter, or can help with articles and submissions, please call Tiffany Eggenberg at **952-226-4084** or the office at **651-452-4141**.

If anyone has any Dakota stories, native jokes, things of interest to the community, please email them to the office at **kangi42159@aol.com** and they will be considered for submission in the newsletter. Also, I could use help with recognition, I need your help remembering who to thank and who to recognize in future newsletters.



Mendota Days Nearly Here!!

Mendota Days is coming soon! July 8th from 10am to 4 pm. We are asking the community for donations of water, pop, chips, etc. We hope you can come celebrate with us! Come to the office to watch the parade, or join in the parade. Do you have regalia? Put it on and be part of the parade! Last year we didn't have many members turn out for this. This is our ancestors town, our town! Let's participate!

Make a day of it, bring your family and take a walk or bike ride near the river. Go up to St. Peter's church and visit the four oaks and pray at this special place. Go visit the Resurrection Cemetery where many of our relatives are buried, and then over to Pilot Knob, the famous treaty signing site and ancestral burial grounds

Enrollment and Recognition

Membership enrollment committee would like to get a group of people together (approximately 10) to get a lot done in a little amount of time.

If you can help, please call the office and we will set a date that works for most people.



Federal Recognition Committee would also like more volunteers. Brian Eggenberg has been digging into this and would like some help gathering information we will need. If interested, please call him at **612-386-6276**. Many of us would like to be federally recognized, if we can get together to get all the steps done, it could happen sooner than later.

One way many of you could help is to look into the family records you have to see if you have items such as baptism ceremonies, weddings, funerals, community events, obits, photos with notation of your ancestors acting as a community etc... We need proof for every decade and with a little help from our members, I think we have it covered.

I have seen guest books for funerals in my own family and will see if I can get copies of that information. Anything you have you think may help, please make a copy for the committee (we may need help organizing all this info). You may contact Brian or Tiffany Eggenberg at the above number or the office. **651-452-4141**.

Rummage Sale Planning

We may plan a rummage sale. Is there any interest? Call the office if you could help. If we had good weather, we could have it in the parking lot. We would need volunteers to make signs, taking money for sales from customers, donations of items to sell. Please do not bring donations to the office before calling. We want to make sure we are going ahead with it before we accept items. Thank you.

Vendors of Native American Crafts needed.

We would like to increase our inventory in the store. If you or someone you know makes native wares, we sell items on consignment at 70-30%. We are in the process of learning a new way to keep inventory, thanks to Joe Witmer, Renee Johnson and Sharon Lennartson. We had problems in the past, but the money is being handled in a different manner now. The 70% is automatically put aside, so it is a total separate thing from the store profits. What profits? We need inventory!

You're Invited to a Birthday Party!!

We have a very special birthday celebration in July for a very special member. *Marie Nordin is turning 94!* Please join us in celebrating this special occasion at the MMDC office. We will celebrate with a potluck meal and cake and ice cream of course.

Bring a dish to share. **Party will be on July 22.**

Please call MMDC for time. **651-452-4141.**

Community announcements

Welcome Home Pow Wow

The '06 Powwow is getting closer and closer...c'mon volunteers, fun and great fun way to put in a little community service and visit with friends and family in the process!! We would like help distributing flyers, making posters, acquiring donations for our raffle, etc.

The powwow committee is divided up into 5 small committees, buttons and poster, feast, raffle, craft booth, vendors. Call the office and let us know what you can do to help!

If you can help collect raffle items and donations to our powwow by asking local businesses to help, please come in and pick up our tax exempt form so you will be official. Also anyone who works for a corporation or company that has a donation matching program, please inquire about it, some will match your donation if it is over a certain amount.

DREAM CATCHER CLASS

Tiffany Eggenberg has volunteered to teach a class on Making Dream Catchers. If you have seen Tiffany's work, you will want to check this out! If you are interested, please call Tiffany at **952-484-1369** or leave a message for her at the office **651-452-4141**. If you could suggest a day that works best for you, Tiffany will make every effort to coordinate class days and times so that all that are interested can attend. Watch future newsletters for updates on this wonderful opportunity!

Monthly Community Meetings

Our Monthly community meeting will be changing back to Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (at least for the remainder of the summer)

The secretary position is open.

Tiffany Eggenberg is acting secretary until we have an election. If you are interested in this position, you may write a letter of intent to run. I will put names of interested parties along with a short paragraph about them in the next newsletter so everyone will know who is in the running.

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Dakota Culture Class

Culture Class with Jim Anderson, the last Wednesday of the month. Jim is a great teacher and his class is very popular. Every month he picks a topic to discuss. This class is intermingled with the Dakota Language class, fun and educational. Bring your families! Class is 6:30-8:30 pm.

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OMD Update

OMD met with Lawyers on 6-7-06. There should be an update at the next membership meeting.

Saturday Coffee Shop Needs YOU!

We are open on Saturdays and are looking for any volunteers to work in the store. You can work one 4 hour shift a month or four Saturdays a month if you have the time.

Call a family member you don't see very often and work together! It would be a great opportunity to spend time together and be doing something for your community.

There are two shifts each Saturday, we would like to see more of our members volunteering. Every little bit helps. The hours of the store are 9am to 3 pm. If you can help, please call Sharon or Tiffany at the office and we will sign you up. No experience necessary, one of us will help you figure out what needs to be done.

If you can't work a shift, how about just stopping in for a coffee and some frybread? Connie makes the best frybread! We also have pastries available, and space to sit down and visit. It's beautiful down by the river, take a walk or bike ride and stop in for a bottle of water. Just come on in!!

Other Community Information:

NATIVE AA MEETING:

MMDC is honored to host a weekly Native AA meeting. Meetings will be held every Tuesday evening call at 6:30 pm.

Talk to Us!!

Please feel welcome to call the office or come on in with suggestions, ideas, and even complaints. Just remember to keep the complaints to the point and stay with the issue at hand. We want you all involved in the community and we want you all happy.

TRIBAL COUNCIL:**Chairman**

Michael Scott 651-452-4141

Vice Chairman

Curtis LeClaire 763-205-1286

Secretary (acting)

Tiffany Eggenberg 952.484.1369

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Jim Anderson 463.753.2833

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**Constitution/Membership**

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MENDOTA DAKOTA OSPAYE

The Ospaye is a group of people, both Native and non-Native, that are not eligible for membership in the MMDC, but wish to be a part of and support the community. If you would like to become a member of the Ospaye or if you have family members, friends, neighbors or co-workers that would like to be more closely involved with the MMDC and the efforts to preserve the Dakota Culture and Language, please have them contact Linda at 612.825.1079 or Diane at 651.983.6363. You can also email them at hecetu1@yahoo.com.

'PIDAMAYAYE'

The Dakota word for "Thank You". In future issues of the newsletter we will use this section to spotlight the folks that work so hard to keep our community up and running. If you have someone that you would like to nominate, please email, snail mail or call the office (or just stop in, have a cup of coffee with us and fill out a ballot!)

Each month the Tribal Council will vote on one person to be spotlighted for their contributions to the community. You may nominate any volunteer for this recognition, they need not be Community members.

Pidamayaye to Applicant Tommy Lynch for the donation of a surge protector. Thank you to all our volunteers. Several of our members and friends handled the feast at MMDC after the Pilot Knob buckthorn removal gathering. It went great and a lot of new friendships were formed. I'd like to thank them all for their contribution in handling the food and getting tables and chairs set up in the heat, the volunteers worked hard on a very warm morning and it was wonderful to enter the office and see food and cold water waiting for us!

Culture Corner**Book Review**

There is a book titled "'Sacred Sage' How it Heals" by Silver Wolf Walks Alone. It has come to the attention of the tribal council that some people do not understand smudging or why we burn sage and pass it around at ceremonies, events, meetings, etc. [Below is a quote from this book.]

Many Native Americans and healers use sage for ceremonial and medicinal purposes. A smudging ceremony has been a sacred ritual for Native Americans and other tribal peoples for thousands of years. It is a ritual of cleansing and purification for the physical and spiritual bodies. Smudging is used to cleanse energy fields.... Sage is used by almost all tribes as a purifier for sacred items and bundles.

PIPESTONE SUNDANCE

The dates are: **July 7-16** at the Pipestone Quarries. Sundance Chief is Lawrence Henry, Roseau River First Nation. Friday and Saturday (July 7 & 8) are camp days. Sunday July 9 is opening feast, honoring, and celebrating Leon and Elsa Carneys 40th wedding anniversary. Sunday through Wednesday (9th -12th) Youth and Elders cultural gathering and exchange. Wed. July 12 is Tree Day ceremony and feast. The 13th through the 16th is gathering of the sacred Pipes Sundance.

ÇASKE ÇIKALA WAÇIPI (Little Dance in Chaska)

Save the date! Saturday, July 29, 2006 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The emcee is Wally Ripplinger, Spiritual Advisor is Darlene Jackson. Host Drum is Thunder Nation; co-host Drum is Anishinabe Academy. Ketzal Coatlicue and La Hermosatierra will also be dancing. All dancers in Regalia will receive honorarium, invited drums receive honorarium. Please no pets, drugs or alcohol. For more information: MMDC Office **651.452.4141**

ADDENDUM TO JULY 2006 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Official Members

MMDC would like to welcome the following individuals as "official members". The following have been approved by the Enrollment/Membership committee having all their documentation in their file: Chelsea Albrecht, Jeffrey Auge, Tiffany Eggenberg, Cynthia Howell, Heather Howell, Walter Kronschnable, Ann Lauer, Paul Lauer, Alan LeMay, Janice Martineau-Dunlop, Greg Strandmark, Michael Strandmark, Thomas C. Strandmark, Thomas S. Strandmark, Becky Wiggins, and Daniel Veessenmyer. Thank you all for your support toward the community and again, welcome to you all. There are about 26 applications yet that need to be reviewed.

Another Benefit Concert

August 19 is the date set for the next Mitch Walking Elk concert. This one will be different. It will be an outdoor concert at one of our members homes. Tiffany Eggenberg lives in Savage/Prior Lake and has a big yard and only a few neighbors. If you know someone that works for a portable toilet company, please contact Tiffany at home at 952-226-4084. More info to follow.

Protection of Burial Mounds

Wally Ripplinger sent out an email concerning the protection of the burial mounds in Chaske. He has been working on this for 16 years. He is asking that people email these addresses stating that you support Prairie Flowers and Prairie Grass and A Low Hedge around all the mounds in Chaske Park.

scott.anfinson@state.mn.us

Jim.jones@mniac.org

wapahasa@yahoo.com

Need Dancers

The powwow in Chaska on July 29 from 12-3 is looking for dancers in regalia. Please participate if you are able!

Request for Donations

Donations for powwow booth are needed for our Mendota powwow. Native American themed items work best, but other appropriate items in excellent shape will be accepted. Please bring your donation to the office and identify it as "raffle item". Include your name, address, phone number and approximate value of item. Thank you!