



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community News

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1200 Centre Pointe Curve, Mendota Heights, MN. 55151

55150 MMDC is a Tribal 501C3 Organization

Message from Sharon:

Hello everyone!

I love being your tribal chairwoman. I cannot think of anything I would rather do. It has been an honor to service my people / community all these years. Love you all.

Winter : 2023

I keep saying I'm going to retire as chair from the powwow committee. How many times have I said that over the years? LOL. Even if it is hard for me, I will continue to be the chair until I physically cannot.

The tribal council would like to say Pidamaya ye to all our members and honorary members who have kept our doors open for all these years, through and thin.

Things are looking for Mendota. We are in a good place right now. Thanks for all the hard work from the council. I'm so proud to be the tribal chair of this wonderful community. Thank you to all our members including our honorary members who help build our community.

Joe has gotten many grants for us through the years starting in 2011. For Samantha Walker, who helped us get a grant, and others were a tremendous help too. It is all about teamwork, family, and friends.

We had our first Land Community meeting on Oct 18, on zoom. In attendance, we had four professors, Senator Jim Carlson, two teachers, two Nuns, the Dickinson Historical Society, two Therapists, five churches, three grant writers, Registered Nurses and many more wonderful people trying to help us to get land and a community center. We are working on setting up a Gofundme page to help us get land. Please go to our website MendotaDakota.com often, to see things that may not be on the agenda. I'm also I'm working on getting a First Aid and CPR class started for our community. We got tuned down from the Wellspring Fund at Headwaters Foundation however Joe has applied for a \$25,000 grant from MRAC.

We should be sending our information to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment very soon. I know I have said it before, but now we are so close 99.9 done. Just waiting for a letter from our attorney.

Nicholas DeShaw has invited me to do a book signing for my newly published book "Stolen Culture, Traditions, and Heritage" at the university in Jan 2024. If I do go, I need people with me, that is scary to me. If you're interested in seeing please visit www.mendotadakota.com/book

We are in the process of organizing and digitizing a vast archive of 850,000 files accumulated over 30 years at in our community. Currently, our team consists of six dedicated individuals who have been focusing on organization, but we have yet to start digitizing. With so many files awaiting scanning, we are reaching out for assistance. If you are interested in contributing to this important and significant task, please reach out to us right away! Your support will be invaluable in preserving and making accessible decades of vital information.

Please note: we are volunteer-run and our office is open when possible. Please call for appointment. We are eager to meet with you! Pidamaya ye!

PS. We're trying to grow our social media channels, If you haven't already, please follow us on YouTube!
www.youtube.com/@MendotaDakota

Mendota's Potluck Christmas and Gift Card Party, Dec 2, 12 to 4

We are really hoping you can join us at our office for the Mendota Christmas and Gift Card Party on December 2nd from 12pm, 2023.

Gift cards collected at the party will be distributed at a later date.
This is a potluck party, so please bring a dish to share.

Please remember to RSVP with Sharon at [952-239-9969](tel:952-239-9969)

[1200 Centre Pointe Curve, Mendota Heights, MN. 55151](#)

Check the website for updates and more info.

Joseph Bester and Lon Navarre are our spiritual advisers.

We have an Inipi every second Saturday of each month. Fire starts at around 11am, we go in around 1 to 2 pm then we have a pot luck feast around 5pm. Please bring a dish to pass. Joseph and others rebuilt the Inipi the first two weekends in Oct. Pidamaya ye to everyone who has helped. More info is available on our website www.mendotadakota.com.

Our finances, from the agenda: Checking \$146,905.51, Balance \$152,832.35, Profit and Loss \$18,317.47, Interest on the \$200.000 was \$879.89 in Oct.

Please be advised: All land grant funds are designated exclusively for land-related purposes. We are unable to access those funds for anything other than land. Even though it may appear we have excess money, a significant portion is allocated for land acquisition and the development of a community center.



dog / šunka • bear / mato • horse / šunktanka • buffalo / tatanka • porcupine / pahin

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

All of our meetings will be on Zoom until further notice. Check the website for dates.
Zoom is free to download on mobile or desktop. <https://zoom.us>



STAY CONNECTED:

Make sure to like us at www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota to be the first to hear about upcoming events and news! Your opinion matters, please feel free to leave us a www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews

REMEMBER YOUR 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS:

All members of the tribe, even honorary members, are required to pay contributions.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the tribal and honorary members who pay their contributions on time or who use the automatic payment system.

These contributions are important for keeping our tribal office running. They pay for things like cultural events, education, powwows, office supplies, programs, gas, inips, community car, etc.

Please get caught up on your dues. For those of you who have not paid for a while please get caught up. You don't want to be removed when we are so close to sending in our narrative. If you have not paid in two years you could be removed.

Would you like to pay your contributions automatically? www.mendotadakota.com/ach

Need to get caught up with back payments or make a one time payment? www.mendotadakota.com/payment

"To preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations."

THANK YOU TO SOCIAL JUSTICE FRIENDS AND THE LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY!

The Social Justice Friends are helping to secure money to cover our first 3 years of rent payments on our new office! This office is a step toward our larger vision of one day building a community center on land that we can call our own. You can help: www.mendotadakota.com/pledge

FYI: We've been sending the agenda out to members, every month for 3 years! We've been doing it since covid to help keep everyone informed of what's going on in our community, as we were unable to have physical meetings.

We hope to be starting Zoom meetings again in December, 2023. We have sent letters out to our members in and out of town, however only only 6 have responded.

We will be having a meeting with the MN Historical Society on Nov 27, 2023 at the office and it may be on zoom.

We will be constructing a sign at the DuPuis House about us. This is huge, I have always wanted a sign in Mendota about our treaties. The Mendota treaty August 5, 1851, 1805 treaty. Also the James McLaughlin's 1899 "Census of Mdewakanton Sioux of Minnesota", "Halfbreed Claimants of the Sioux of the Mississippi" from the Treaty of 1837 • Any one or more of U.S. Censuses for Mendota for the years 1900 through 1930 • Any one of the 1800 - 1900 Census of Mendota. There is nothing in Mendota about the Native American living here for centuries. No mention at all of our Mendota people our existence. No mention of any Native American existence.

Language and Federal Recognition Committee are working hard to get Land and Federal Recognition. We have a wonderful Committee. Mendota is so thankful, we have all the people helping us, what an honor. Also, the Land Committee is on our website, to help us get land and a community center.

We are seeking pledges from people, even non members to help us pay rent and keep the lights on. Please let us know if you can help, or if you know someone or some business that can help.

Thank you to Eagle Eye Steve Allen for sharing your beautiful Pow wow photos with us, they are on the website.

We recently held classes on how to weave baskets and how to build a display canoe. They were very interesting and educational. Follow us on social media and check our website often to be the first to hear about other events.

In May, our attorney Brian Gilbert traveled from Chicago to meet with the council about advancements in Federal Recognition. More information is always on our website and in our agendas.

We will be honoring our ancestors in Feb 24, check the website for more info.

YOU ARE INVITED to join us at our new office for the Mendota Christmas and Gift Card Pot-luck Party from 12pm to 4pm on December 2nd 2023. Gift cards collected at the party will be distributed to those in need at a later date. Please bring a dish to share. 1200 Centre Pointe Curve, Mendota Heights, MN. 55151 PLEASE RSVP with Sharon at 952-239-9969

EXCITING NEWS: We finally moved to our new office April 23rd 2023.

Keep in mind: Our office is volunteer-run. We are open when
Possible however there may not be anyone at the office, so we urge
You to please call for appointment. We are eager to meet with you!

Pidamaya ye for understanding!

651- 452-4141 mendotadakota@gmail.com

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"To preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations."

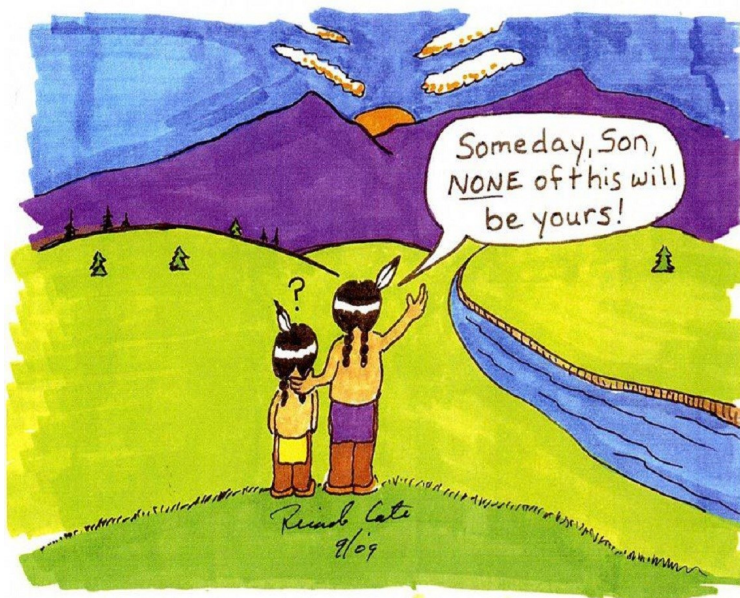
Hello everyone! I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Brad Saint George. I've been doing the newsletter and running the website for well over 15 years. My father was Greg Sumpter, he was taken from us much too soon. His brother, Jimmy Anderson RIP was my Uncle, and Sharon Lennartson is my Great Aunt. (And she really IS great!) I couldn't be happier to have been helping in some small way all of these years.

I don't often talk about myself or what I do, however Sharon suggested to me that I should, so I will. :)

About 10 years ago, I started dating a girl named Gemma who lived pretty far away, England to be precise! We fell in love and she and her father, Reggie came to visit America many times. We brought him to our pow wows and he fell in love with our tribe, the culture, the people... You may have seen him smiling from under his hat, sitting in his wheelchair watching the dancing. Reggie was a disabled veteran and hero of both the Korean and Vietnam wars from the British army. Once, he even single handedly saved a group of American POW soldiers in the jungle, something we did not even find out until after his death, because he never liked to speak of these things.

Gemma and I were recently married, and after two years of complicated immigration paperwork, she now lives with me in beautiful America. I am so happy to have her in my life. I look forward to her meeting many of you at our events and pow wows. We are all family, in one way or

another and I am glad to be a part of it all. Thanks for taking the time to read this, and the newsletter in general. If you have any anecdotes, stories, humor, art, history, photos or anything else you'd like to have us consider for the newsletter or social media, please send it to me right away! newsletter@mendotadakota.com



"To preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations."

Savory Bison Wahanpi Soup

Embark on a culinary journey with this traditional Dakota recipe. This is a modern twist on the classic Wahanpi Bison Soup. Once this was crafted with wild bison meat, prairie turnips, and blo (wild potatoes), our contemporary adaptation pays homage to the past while embracing the flavors of today.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cooked, cubed bison or beef
- 6 cups rich beef broth
- 3 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 3 medium carrots, tantalizingly cut in half
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper, a dash of magic

Instructions:

The Bison:

In a grand stockpot, bring together the cooked bison (or beef) and the symphony of beef broth. Let them dance in a flavorful waltz, creating a foundation for the culinary masterpiece.

The Roots:

Introduce the earthy allure of peeled and cubed potatoes, adding a rustic charm to the broth. The carrots join the stage, sliced in half, promising both taste and visual delight.

Worcestershire:

Drizzle in the Worcestershire sauce, a secret modern ingredient. Let the essence of this elixir weave its way through the bubbling cauldron of flavors.

Simmer:

Set the stage for a low-heat symphony, allowing the ingredients to mingle and dance for a tantalizing 45 minutes. Each note resonates with the promise of a rich, hearty soup.

Bison's Grand Entrance:

Add your choice of bison or beef to the pot during the final 15 minutes. This ensures a tender and succulent experience, preserving the integrity of the lean bison meat.

Seasoning:

Season the soup with salt and pepper to taste.

Serving:

Ladle into bowls and enjoy the flavors that pay homage to the heritage of Wahanpi.



Photo of Traditional Wahanpi Soup from delishably.com

FYI:

Native people procured sustenance from their distinct environment. Their dietary staples primarily comprised meat sources, predominantly buffalo, complemented by an array of vegetables, fruits, and other plant-based foods.

In stark contrast, the introduction of commodity foods by the U.S. government marked a significant departure from their traditional diet. Then, with the depletion of the buffalo population and reliance on commodity provisions, Natives reluctantly transitioned from a nourishing, natural, protein-rich diet to unnatural, carbohydrate-heavy foods.

Before the 1930s, diabetes was a foreign concept in Native American territories however this new, less nutritious diet triggered the onset of a diabetes epidemic that persists today. Returning to a healthier, traditional diet would offer substantial benefits and offering a potential solution to the health challenges imposed by this historic dietary shift.

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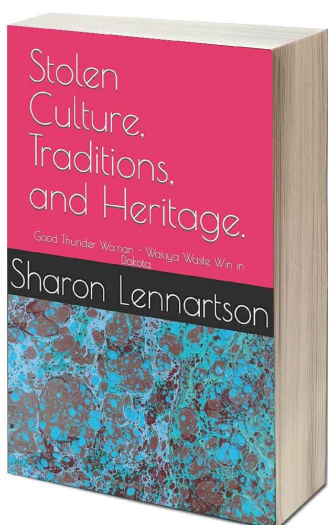


Stolen Culture, Traditions, and Heritage:

Written by Good Thunder Woman (Sharon Lennartson)

Losing everything as to who I am. This book is about a journey into my own Indigenous heritage and exploration into everything that I, and so many others have lost as a community. The truth of how colonialism and Europeanization has impacted many nations of Indigenous peoples as told through my own stories from ancestors, relatives, and myself. This has been a labor of love for my family, community, and Indigenous peoples. The hope is that you will read this story and understand from firsthand tales the generational trauma, fears, joys, and tears as a result of centuries of struggle.

www.mendotadakota.com/book



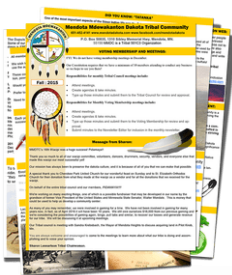
Would you like to contribute to our newsletter?

You can help by submitting stories, history, pictures, news, humor, etc.

newsletter@mendotadakota.com

You can view our current and many of our archived newsletters at

www.mendotadakota.com/newsletter



Some links you might find interesting:

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All proceeds help our tribe. We are a 501C3 organization.

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ABOUT US AND OUR GOALS

The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal community is a non-profit 501C3 organization dedicated to preserving the Dakota heritage.

In 2002, the MMDC membership participated in a comprehensive strategic planning session that resulted in the development of seven (7) long range goals striving to:

We currently have seven (7) goals:

- Obtain federal recognition.
- Maintain a tribal office in Mendota, MN.
- Acquire a land base.
- Develop self-sufficiency through in-house business.
- Promote and support the preservation of the Dakota culture, including protecting sites of cultural significance to the Dakota people.
- Teach community members and others the Dakota language.

Promote an understanding between the Mendota Community and other Native Communities, and the public.



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