

November 2026

Native American Heritage Month

WAKPA IPAKSAN NEWSLETTER

Ta'he Ca'psun Wi (November)-the moon when deer and other animal with antlers begin to shed them during winter moon.

Moody County Enterprise

More than words

Learning a new language can be challenging, especially as we get older. But when that language is part of your own history, your family's history or that of the community you call home, learning it can mean so much more than simply finding the right words. Sometimes, the lessons are as much about understanding one another as they are about learning a language.

That's part of what Dusty Beaulieu and the Dakota Language team from the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe hope to accomplish through a class that has returned to Flandreau High School after several years.

This past week, that meant setting up a tipi on the school's front lawn and taking class outside for the afternoon.

The class, offered through a partnership between the district and tribe, has 17 students in grades 10 through 12 enrolled this fall. Both Native and non-Native students are participating, each bringing their own reasons for wanting to learn.

Some hope to speak Dakota with family members. Others want to better understand their friends and neighbors in a district where Native American students make up approximately 39 percent of enrollment this year.

The return of the class follows a survey conducted last year by Elaine Stephens that found considerable interest among students in bringing Dakota language instruction back to the high school.

"That is what drove us to examine our class schedule to see if we could make it fit, which thankfully it did," Superintendent Quinton Cermak said.

Cermak praised the partnership and the opportunities students are getting to learn in new ways.

"Mr. Beaulieu is doing a fantastic job with those students, immersing them in both Dakota language and culture," he said.



Beaulieu said he asked students on the first day of school why they had chosen the class and why it mattered to them. Some wanted to be able to speak with a parent or grandparent in Dakota. Others hoped to carry on family traditions. Non-Native students wanted to better understand their friends and the community around them.

"Just understanding people, respecting people," Beaulieu said.

He's found the class to be a breath of fresh air. Students are eager to learn, and participation, conversation and curiosity are central to his teaching.

Rather than relying heavily on technology, Beaulieu has students write out words and phrases, practice speaking with one another and ask questions. Making mistakes is part of the process, he tells them. What's important is making the effort.

“It’s been really exciting. I look forward to it. My favorite part of the day is to go to the school and hang out with the kids and just teach them what little I know,” Beaulieu said.

For Flandreau High School seniors Zaeda Ross and Rylee Allen, the opportunity is particularly meaningful.

Ross, the daughter of Nick and Ashley Ross, said she enrolled because she wants to learn more about her culture, particularly the language.

“Not a lot of people really speak our language now, and I think it’s important to learn that main attribute of ourselves, because it’s going extinct. You know, 50 years from now, you don’t know,” Ross said.

Along with learning the language, students are exploring Dakota customs, traditions and teachings, including how language is used during different seasons.

“Learning the language, you know, some of the teachings, you know, what we can say during certain seasons and whatnot, you know, and what it means to be here. It’s pretty cool,” Ross said.

Allen, who had also advocated before the school board for the return of Dakota language instruction, sees an opportunity for students to better understand one another.

She appreciates that students can learn directly from those who know the language and traditions, rather than relying solely on what they might read in textbooks.

“I feel like the more people learn about indigenous ways, the more they realize that we’re not different from anybody else. We have a different way of doing things,” Allen said.

Students are already taking what they’ve learned home to share with siblings, parents and other family members, she said. For some, the class also offers a connection to their ancestry and traditions that they might not otherwise have at home.

“It’s at the end of the day, it’s something that we all look forward to,” Allen said.

For Beaulieu, the class is part of a larger effort underway in Dakota communities to ensure the language continues to be spoken and passed on.

“I don’t want to say preservation, because preservation is just putting it in a jar, putting it on a shelf, and letting it sit there, where we’re continuing, we’re keeping it alive, we’re keeping in motion,” he said.

He acknowledges that fluency is a long-term goal. He doesn’t expect students to master Dakota in one semester or even one school year.

Instead, he hopes they’ll leave with a stronger sense of identity, an understanding of their neighbors and a foundation they can continue building upon.

For Native students, he said, learning the language can deepen their understanding of customs and traditions that remain part of their lives. But much of what he hopes to teach is universal.

That includes simple lessons in respecting elders, helping neighbors, greeting one another and being a positive example for younger generations.

He encourages students to put down their phones, look people in the eye and have conversations. He also reminds them that younger children are watching and learning from the examples they set.



More than words



His hope is that students leave with more than a few Dakota words and phrases — with a stronger sense of who they are, where they come from and how they can contribute to their community.
And sometimes, the best way to encourage that learning is to make it fun.
Which brings things back to the tipi on the school lawn.
After spending most of the day indoors, students had an opportunity to gather outside, participate in activities, share food and experience a different setting for their lessons.
Why a tipi?
For Beaulieu, the better question was, why not?
It wasn't about making the afternoon more complicated.
It was about making it memorable.
And perhaps giving students another reason to look forward to learning a language that Beaulieu and others hope will continue to be spoken for generations to come.

Attention Membership..We are temporarily at new locations until our New Tribal Administration building is done.

Tribal Office is located at on the north side of Tribal Maintenance Shop or some might know it as the old Flandreau Motors building across the street from Family dollar.
In this building you will find Finance, Human Resources, Fleet & Roads, Natural Resources, THPO, Maintenance Assistant, Front desk receptionist, Membership Services/Enrollment and Administrative Officer

Tribal Council, Executive Assistant, Legal, Social Services, FSST Police department and IT are in the trailers at the RV park across the street from RRC.
*Signage has been ordered and will be put up as soon as it arrives.

Moody County Enterprise

Flandreau council deadlocks on future of 911 services



Flandreau City Council members debated the future of local 911 services at length this past week. While no one appears to support remaining with Moody County beyond 2027, the council is divided over moving now or allowing another year to coordinate a possible countywide transition. Watertown remains the city's most likely option and would require a two-year contract. Officials have been assured the change would be relatively "seamless" for local callers and emergency responders.

By the time this issue reaches you, the Flandreau City Council may finally have decided where the city's 911 calls will go next year. (Special meeting was held Monday, September 28)

Council members were scheduled to meet in special session at noon Monday, shortly after this issue went to press, following a 3-3 deadlock this past week.

The motion, made by Alderman Tim Yeaton and seconded by Alderman Mark Ekern, was to accept Moody County's revised 2027 dispatch agreement for $52,483.88. Ekern, Bill Nibbelink and Yeaton voted in favor of staying with the county. Curt Ahlers, Brad Bjerke and Mike Fargen voted against the agreement.

Mayor Dan Sutton could not break the tie because state law prohibits a mayor from casting the deciding vote on a proposal to expend or appropriate money. The council then voted 5-1 to table the agreement until the special meeting, with Bjerke opposed.

Time is critical. The city must notify Moody County by Oct. 2 as both begin finalizing budgets for the coming year. The South Dakota 911 Coordination Board meets Oct. 1 and would determine whether Flandreau's share of state 911 surcharge revenue follows the city if it moves its calls to Watertown.

What the state board cannot do is prevent the move.

The discussion has been building for months as rising costs, 911 service and staffing concerns, as well as longstanding frustrations about how the county divides dispatch expenses brought the city and county to the table. Moody County maintains its funding formula is fair and similar to those used elsewhere. City officials argue Flandreau is being asked to shoulder too much of the county's costs.

The county originally sought $71,560.72 from Flandreau. The city countered with just under $30,000 before commissioners lowered their request to $52,483.88.

City officials also argue a move would not be about money alone. Watertown offers services Moody County currently does not, including dispatchers trained to provide medical instructions before responders arrive and technology allowing them to receive live video during some emergency calls.

"It's not just about money, it's about quality services for the money that we're paying," Sutton said.

Those favoring Watertown argue that if consolidation is likely coming anyway, Flandreau shouldn't delay the move. Moody County — a reminder, was identified in a recent statewide study as one of the 911 centers most likely to consolidate because of rising costs, staffing challenges and changing requirements.

County officials do not necessarily oppose consolidation, but believe more time and research are needed to determine the best partner — or whether Moody County might eventually become the center other agencies consolidate into.

Yeaton and Ekern said moving may eventually make sense, but they favor staying through 2027 to allow broader discussions involving the city, county and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

Bjerke argued those conversations have already gone on for years.

"I don't think waiting a year will do anything more than burn more lights in a room," he said this past Monday night.

The entirety of the conversation can be viewed on the City of Flandreau's webpage as all its public meetings are recorded for public view. Flandreau's departure could leave a major hole in Moody County's 911 budget if approved.

Royal River CASINO • HOTEL

NATIVE NATIONS CANNABIS

FLANDREAU FIS INDIANS

Update
Moody County Enterprise

Flandreau City votes to stay with Moody County dispatch for 2027



Flandreau will stay with Moody County dispatch for another year, giving local officials and emergency responders more time to work toward a coordinated plan for what comes next.

The City Council voted 4-2 at a Sept. 28 special meeting to approve a $52,483.88 dispatch agreement with Moody County for 2027.

Alderman Curt Ahlers changed his vote from the previous meeting, breaking a deadlock that had left the city's next step uncertain.

Ahlers joined Mark Ekern, Bill Nibbelink and Tim Yeaton in supporting the agreement. Brad Bjerke and Mike Fargen voted against it.

The same proposal failed on a 3-3 vote Sept. 21. Mayor Dan Sutton could not break the tie because the decision involved spending city funds, something state law does not allow for.

The vote settles who will provide Flandreau's dispatch services for the coming year, but leaves the broader question open: whether the city, county and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe can agree on a shared approach to emergency communications beyond 2027.

County Commission Chairman Jerry Doyle welcomed the city's decision, saying he hopes the additional year leads to an agreement that keeps dispatch local.

"I think it's a good thing, but I hope it gets figured out next year so that 911 will stays with the county," he said.

Doyle believes keeping the service local, if possible, would preserve local control and dispatchers' knowledge of the area. He will retire from the commission and be replaced in January, however, leaving those discussions to his successor and other local officials.

For months, we've followed along as city officials have weighed continuing with Moody County against moving to Watertown's regional 911 center. The discussion has centered on costs, staffing, technology and how any change would affect the law enforcement officers, firefighters and ambulance crews who depend on dispatch to coordinate their response.

At the root of it is a bill that continues to rise each year for the city despite what it says are concerns with the level of service provided and what the city should be shouldering regardless. City officials have questioned the county's formula for dividing dispatch expenses. Supporters of a move to Watertown or any combined dispatch center have pointed to potential savings and service improvements.

Moody County has been identified as one of the state's top likely candidates for a 911 center operations merger.

Others meanwhile have urged the city to allow more time for all local agencies to consider a transition together.

Bjerke said conversations with constituents continued to raise the same concern: If Flandreau expects to leave eventually, why spend more than $50,000 compared to an annual fee of $8,000 with Watertown to stay another year? He continues to question whether that would be a responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

Police Chief Zach Weber cautioned, however, that leaving would not immediately eliminate that entire expense. The city still does not have a complete estimate of transition costs, and additional or unforeseen expenses could be involved.

Weber added that the county would need to approve Flandreau's continued use of the shared communications channel.

Bjerke countered that most initial expenses would be recovered quickly. City Administrator Cohl Turnquist added that some costs would likely be eligible for reimbursement from the state.

Ekern weighed in and agreed the city needs to account for challenges it may not yet recognize, making caution important before committing to a change.

"I think regardless of what decision you folks make today, I've been very impressed with the level of thought and conversation that has gone into this issue…I think you all have learned a ton and made some very great points, so regardless of what you do today, you've all done an excellent job of moving the conversation forward, gathering information, and ultimately whatever decision you make today, there is a strong path forward and we'll get through it together," said city administrator Cohl Turnquist.

Yeaton again moved to accept the county's revised agreement, with Ekern seconding the motion. The plan is to try and bring all parties together early next year to continue the conversation about what is best overall to improve local 911 services and if that's keeping it local or moving to another regional center.

Moody County Enterprise

Rain slows final stretch of Flandreau utility project



Puddles line a dirt street awaiting pavement as recent rains continue to slow the final stretch of Flandreau's utility improvement project. Asphalt paving, once scheduled to begin Sept. 29, could be pushed into mid-October.

"I wish I had more to report, but it's been pretty soggy since I last sat here and visited with you," Shane Waterman of IMEG Engineering told the Flandreau City Council this past week.

The city's multiyear utility improvement project is nearing its final stretch, but recent heavy rains have made it difficult for crews to finish curb and gutter work and restore the streets.

According to the National Weather Service, Flandreau had received 8.38 inches of rain this month as of Monday morning, compared with a normal September total of 2.86 inches. So far, it is the city's fourth-wettest September on record.

The ground has remained wet even when rain isn't falling. An earlier storm that dropped about 4 inches of rain carried dirt and debris through town and caused trouble for nearby homes and businesses. More recent storms have not caused the same damage, Waterman said, but they have kept crews from making much progress.

H&W Contracting has completed the utility work. Claflin Excavating has been finishing preliminary grading and preparing areas for concrete, while Clark Drew has begun concrete work where conditions allow.

The curb and gutter machine is in town, Waterman said, but crews had completed only about half a block as of last week. A fair amount of concrete remains to be poured.

Asphalt paving had been scheduled to begin Sept. 29, but Waterman said that date is no longer realistic. Paving could be pushed into mid-October.

For residents navigating muddy, soft streets, drier weather and an end to the construction zone can't come soon enough. It's been a tough month — but city officials hope the disruption will be a small price to pay for utility upgrades that should last generations.

The next public construction update is scheduled for noon Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the City Office.



Due to ongoing construction, demolition, and renovation activities at the Tribal Community Center several programs and services have relocated to ensure continued operations, services and provide appropriate workspaces.

The Education Department and Dakota Language Program have been moved from the Tribal Community Center to the temporary Tribal Operations/Administration building, located in the old Flandreau Motors building at 1001 W. Pipestone Ave. This location will serve as the permanent office space and workstations for these individuals and programs.

Additionally, the GED Program, Dakota Language Program's Craft Night and Workshops will also be utilizing the Healthy Start/Tribal Childcare Program location at 207 East 2nd Ave. until further notice for activities, etc.

An informational flyer will be distributed with additional details, including specific information about how these programs will continue to operate across the two locations.

Again, please look for the informational flyer for further updates and details that will be forthcoming from the Edcation Department and Dakota Language Program. Lastly, we appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we work through these construction projects.

Thank you,

Charles Jones, MBA
Administrative Officer
p. 605-997-3891 x1217
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe

Indigenous Peoples' Day vs. Native American Heritage Month

While both observances center around Native communities, they serve different purposes and take place at different times of the year.

Indigenous Peoples' Day:

- Observed in October, often as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day
- Focuses on recognizing the resilience of Native communities
- Acknowledges the impacts of colonization and historical injustice
- Emphasizes Tribal sovereignty and the continued presence of Native nations

Native American Heritage Month:

- Observed throughout November as a month-long recognition
- Focuses on education, cultural awareness, and celebration
- Highlights a "living library" of Native traditions, including languages, stories, and art
- Encourages deeper engagement with Native communities and support for cultural preservation

Together, these observances provide meaningful opportunities to learn, reflect, and better understand Native communities today.

National Native American Heritage Month: Key Facts

- **When:** Observed throughout the entire month of November each year.
- **Heritage Day:** The Friday following Thanksgiving is officially recognized as Native American Heritage Day.
- **Who it honors:** More than 574 federally recognized tribes across the United States.
- Who signed it into law: President George H.W. Bush signed the joint resolution in 1990, establishing November as the first National American Indian Heritage Month.
- **Why November:** Historically aligned with the end of the harvest season, a traditional time for tribal communities to gather, give thanks, and share resources.
- Early advocate: Reverend Red Fox James (Blackfoot) traveled over 4,000 miles on horseback in 1914–1915 to petition for a national day of recognition.

History and Origins: Why November?

November was chosen in part because it aligns with the conclusion of the harvest season, a time that has long held cultural importance for many Native communities. Traditionally, this period is associated with gathering, sharing food, giving thanks, and strengthening community bonds.

This seasonal connection reinforces that National Native American Heritage Month is not only about recognition, but also about honoring traditions that continue to shape Native life today.

For Communities

For many Native communities, National Native American Heritage Month serves as a meaningful opportunity to reclaim narratives that have long been overlooked or misrepresented. It creates space to center Native voices, honor lived experiences, and share stories that reflect both history and present-day realities.

This includes raising awareness around ongoing challenges such as poverty, land rights, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). These issues are not separate from cultural identity; they are deeply connected to the well-being of communities and the protection of Native life.

For The Public

or the broader public, National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to deepen understanding and move beyond simplified or outdated views of Native communities. It encourages learning about Tribal Sovereignty, the inherent right of Native nations to govern themselves, make decisions for their people, and maintain their cultural and political systems.

It is also a time to recognize that Native communities are not a single, uniform group. Each nation has its own history, language, and identity. Moving beyond homogeneous stereotypes allows for a more accurate and respectful understanding of Native life today.

By engaging with this month thoughtfully, individuals can become better allies, supporting Native communities through awareness, respect, and informed action.

NOVEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/1 Kristi Bietz
11/1 Brandon Ramlo
11/2 Rosalie Nelson
11/2 Avery Rederth
11/3 David Allen
11/3 Faya Fisherman
11/3 Corey Peterson
11/3 Saige Red Bear
11/4 Stacy Flute
11/4 Randy Nelson
11/6 Jazalynn Kampeska
11/6 Keona Matthews
11/6 Laura Rederth
11/7 Jeanette Allen
11/7 Maria De Luna
11/7 Kristi Harr
11/7 Zitkada Labatte-Beane
11/8 Marlena Roy
11/8 Vera Van Hofwegen
11/9 Raymond Allen
11/9 Yvette Labatte-Beane
11/10 Brittany Corcoran
11/10 Michelle Corcoran
11/10 Natalie Morris
11/10 Mary Wakeman
11/13 Cynthia Woolston
11/14 Brooklin Westerman
11/15 Autumn Bosin
11/15 Raymond Redwing
11/16 Allison Conner
11/16 Olivia Dudley
11/17 Derek Anderson
11/17 Mahpiya Weston
11/18 Joseph Davis
11/18 Jesse Simon
11/19 Diana Dean
11/19 Bluebelle Lovejoy
11/19 Llewellyn Sherman
11/20 Jonathan Schrader Sr
11/20 Anukasan Thomas
11/22 Rick Sorenson
11/24 Josette Peltier
11/24 Diego Serrano
11/25 David Taylor
11/26 Elaine Stephens
11/27 Loren Beane
11/27 Ronald Gilbert
11/27 John Graham Jr
11/27 Rocky Shopbell
11/28 Tamera Miyasato
11/28 Nicoles Ross
11/29 Wesley Hansen
11/30 Jaime Bird
11/30 Warren Lovejoy



Thirty years in, Breadbasket still there when neighbors need it



From left, Barb Shea, Dianne Staggs, Joan Severtson, Audrey DeMariaas and Debby Bullis are part of the volunteer team at The Breadbasket in Flandreau. The food pantry serves about 75 families each month and will celebrate its 30th anniversary with an open house Oct. 7.



If you've been in town during one of the tribal or other food giveaways, you've likely seen the line of cars. The need for food assistance in and around Moody County is hard to miss. What's easier to see past are the people quietly trying to stretch a paycheck through another week.

As the Breadbasket prepares to mark 30 years in Flandreau, its team is inviting the community inside. It's a chance to see what the local food pantry offers, meet the people who keep it running and better understand how many neighbors rely on it.

For founder Judy Jones, the work began with a time in her own life when she herself needed help.

Jones was a single mother raising two young children. She was working, but after paying rent and child care, she had little left for groceries. Her parents could have helped, she said, but she was reluctant to ask. A coworker told her about the Red Cross, which gave her a grocery voucher that helped bridge the gap.

Jones knew other families were facing the same choices. Thirty years ago, food collected through a Boy Scout drive helped her get the Breadbasket started. Donations and community support helped it grow.

"I am not surprised that there is this kind of need, because so many people are invisible to the community at large," Jones said.

The pantry now helps about 75 families a month, said manager and bookkeeper Becky Fricke, who has been there now the past seven years. That number has been rising, she said, and it doesn't tell the whole story: Some households have many more people to feed than others.

The Breadbasket runs almost entirely on community giving and donations, Fricke said. Food drives and donated groceries matter, but financial gifts can often go further because the pantry can order food from Feeding South Dakota at reduced prices.

The people giving their time are just as essential. Volunteers stock shelves, help families and return month after month. Fricke said plainly: "We could not do this without our volunteers."

"It's a wonderful place to volunteer," Barb Shea said. "I really enjoy the work, because I see so many people that I know, and I visit with them, and it … really warms my heart to give them food."

Assistant manager Debby Bullis sees how much that help matters near the end of a month.

"A lot of people wouldn't make it through the month without us," she said.

Jones recently worked a shift at the pantry and met people whose circumstances broke her heart. They were local residents, she said, but their struggles might never be apparent to someone passing them on the street.

"We need to be here for these people that nobody sees," Jones said.

Thirty years after she needed a little help herself, Jones hopes the Breadbasket remains a place people can turn to — and one the community continues to stand behind.

The Breadbasket is celebrating its 30th anniversary with an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 202 E. Second Ave. in Flandreau. All are welcome to stop in for a tour, refreshments and a chance to learn more about the pantry and the people who keep it going.



Audrey DeMariaas and Debby Bullis choose items recently for a client of the Moody County Breadbasket food pantry.



Wellness Walks Have a New Name

Wellness Walks are now **Pte Caŋkú Omani Sápi**, which translates to “Buffalo Trail Walkers” in Dakota Language. This is an open group available to all Tribal Health Center Patients, join anytime!



TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

The group will meet every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am in the Tribal Health Center Community Room.

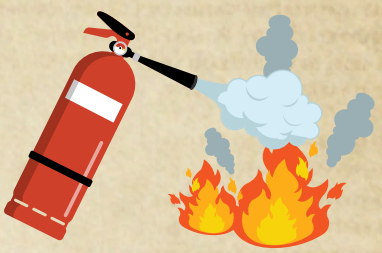
When the weather is not cooperating, we will utilize our partnership with the Warehouse! All IHS eligible patients are encouraged to join this SDPI sponsored program!

Looking back

2015 Fire Safty







2015 Clinic Health Fair







2015 Tribal Dinner













2015 Fall Fling







World Diabetes Day



World Diabetes Day is observed annually on November 14th marking the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, co-discoverer of insulin.

Join us on Wednesday, November 18th, for a special event celebrating "World Diabetes Day!" This is a wonderful opportunity to emphasize the significance of diabetes prevention and management. The Dakota Language Team will be hosting a game of Čiŋtó (Bingo), where you have the chance to win ingredients, recipes, and tools essential for preparing healthy, diabetic-friendly holiday side dishes!

All IHS eligible patients are invited to attend! Event sponsored by SDPI.

Save the Date

TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

Community Room
Wednesday, November 18th
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Moody County Enterprise



Years of water damage seals fate of 1913 downtown building

Was once City Hall, then Fire Hall

The east side of Flandreau's former city/fire hall remains exposed after an adjacent building was demolished earlier this year. While unsightly, engineers say the visible hole itself is not a structural concern as there is a secondary wall on the interior. The condition of the rest of the building, however, is concerning after years of moisture leaking inside.

The city of Flandreau is moving toward demolition of its former fire hall at 217 E. Second Ave. after a tour of the downtown building confirmed what officials have discussed for months: Years of water damage have left the structure significantly deteriorated and likely beyond saving.

The building sits immediately east of the Crystal Theatre and next to another deteriorated structure the city removed through an abatement process earlier this year. That demolition left one side of the former fire hall exposed, adding to concerns about both its condition and appearance.

Council members Mike Fargen and Mark Ekern recently toured the building with City Administrator Cohl Turnquist and city staff to better determine whether it could reasonably be repaired, sold or returned to use. What they found was extensive deterioration caused largely by years of water infiltration. Although the city reportedly spent about $20,000 on a membrane roof within the past five to 10 years, considerable damage had already occurred inside the building.

Council members previously discussed whether the property could be sold to someone willing to shore it up and invest in its restoration. But with other vacant storefronts already available downtown — several of which also need considerable work — the council questioned whether the city should add another aging and costly building to that inventory.

Instead, the city will begin gathering quotes for demolition and removal.
Taking down the structure will require added care because it shares a wall with the former jail portion of the Crystal Theatre building. The buildings appear to have mostly separate plumbing, but officials said the common wall will need to be protected or replaced to preserve the theater building's structural integrity.

One option would be to remove the fire hall side of the existing wall and construct a new framed wall that could be insulated and finished with siding or metal. Council members said the final result should be both structurally sound and visually appropriate for the downtown area.

Before demolition can occur, the city must also complete required asbestos and hazardous-material inspections. Grant assistance may be available to cover some of those costs, although the state review process could take several weeks.

The council unanimously authorized Turnquist to solicit demolition quotes and bring them back for consideration. If the estimated cost exceeds the state's $125,000 bid threshold, the city would need to pursue a formal competitive bidding process.

The expense was initially being considered for the 2027 budget, but officials said the building's condition may warrant acting sooner. The cost would likely require the city to draw from reserves regardless of whether the work occurs this year or next.

SDPI at Grace Moore Senior Center

Our Special Diabetes Program for Indian/SDPI Wellness Team will be available at the Grace Moore Senior Center every ***second Wednesday*** of each month!



612 S. Center St., Flandreau, SD 57028

Patrons of the Grace Moore Senior Center

Discover valuable insights on preventing or managing diabetes and embracing a healthy lifestyle with our dedicated SDPI Wellness Team, all while enjoying lunch at Grace Moore! Our team will be present to provide support and personalized guidance tailored to your needs. Engage in informative sessions, ask questions, and connect with others who share similar experiences.

Sessions will begin at 11:00AM and include:

- Health and Nutritional Education
- Health Screenings
- Healthy Recipes



Any sessions that fall on a holiday or closure will be moved to the next business day.

TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

City seeks fire hall demolition bids as barriers go up next door

Moody County Enterprise

As officials in Flandreau seek bids to demolish an old downtown fire hall, neighboring property owner Jeff Weigel has put up barriers restricting entry to his adjoining lot.

The city-owned building at 217 E. Second Ave., immediately east of the Crystal Theatre, has deteriorated after years of water infiltration. City staff and council members who recently toured the former fire hall and city hall reported significant concerns about its condition and whether it could be saved.

The City Council voted unanimously Sept. 21 to authorize City Administrator Cohl Turnquist to obtain demolition quotes and arrange required inspections. Officials also are addressing utilities that may be shared with the Crystal Theatre.

Weigel's neighboring building at 221 E. Second Ave. was demolished earlier this year following a lengthy dispute over its condition. The city pursued removal over safety concerns related to water and structural damage. Weigel disputed that assessment, maintaining the building could be repaired.

That demolition exposed the east wall of the old fire hall. Engineers have said a visible hole in that wall is not itself a structural concern, but the building's overall deterioration from long-term moisture remains a problem.

With barriers now in place on Weigel's property, access to the adjoining lot is restricted as the city prepares for another demolition on the block.



Barriers restrict entry to Jeff Weigel's downtown Flandreau property, where the city demolished his building earlier this year over safety concerns. The city is now seeking bids to demolish the neighboring building it owns at 217 E. Second Ave.

Moody County Enterprise

Raise money, earn win at annual Dig Pink Night



Flandreau Volleyball team members raised over $1000 on Tuesday, October 6 at the annual Dig Pink Night to raise funds for the American Cancer Society and raise awareness about Breast Cancer. Members are front, from left, Nora Hamilton, Lily Arnold, Charley Henderson, Jaila Eng and Elaina Bushkofsky. Back, Tenley LeBrun, Eliette Kontz, Rhegan Sheppard, Rylah Otto, Ady Krull, Harper Pearson and FSST Tribal Member Tricia Roy.

The Flier volleyball team did more than win a match Tuesday, October 6; they raised approximately $1000 for the American Cancer Society and brought about awareness for cancer during the annual Dig Pink Night.

Flandreau hosted Beresford and took the match in five sets. The teams traded sets with the Fliers winning the first and third sets 25-20, and 25-14, while dropping the second and fourth sets, 16-25 19-25 before roaring back to handily win the fifth set 15-6.

NOVEMBER 2026

Diabetes Awareness
Native American Heritage Month

WICOZANI GATHERING

November 3 - Winter Preparedness

On the Menu - *Chaffle Sandwiches (National Sandwich Day)*

November 10 - Food Safety

On the Menu - *Pecan Pie Energy Balls*

November 17 - Menu Planning

On the Menu - *Roasted Red Pepper & Walnut Dip with Raw Veggies & Pita*

November 24 - What to do with Holiday Leftovers

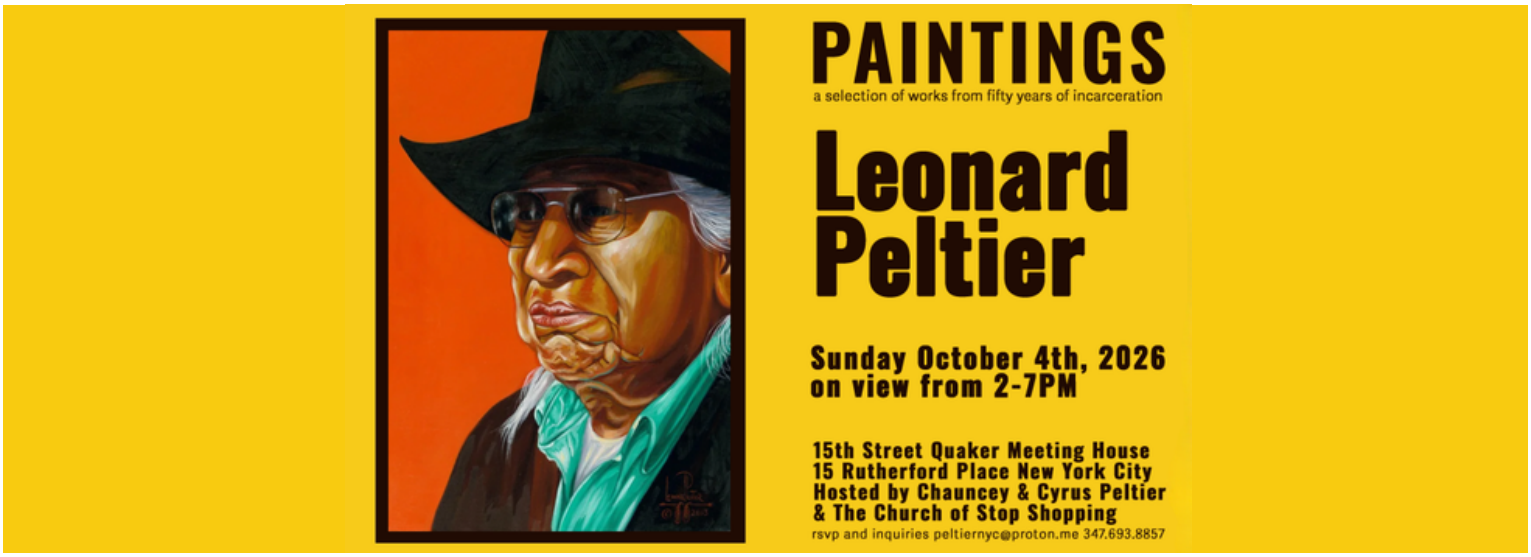
On the Menu - *Sugar-Free Pumpkin Pie*

TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

Community Room Every Tuesday

9:00 to 10:30am - Health Screenings
10:30 - 11:30am - Discussion / Menu

Leonard Peltier's Artwork to Be Featured at New York City Exhibition



After spending nearly 50 years in federal prisons, Leonard Peltier has returned home to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota. Now, his artwork will return to New York City, where longtime supporters and Native advocates will gather to celebrate his life, work and legacy on Sunday, October 4, 2026.

Peltier, an Indigenous activist and elder associated with the American Indian Movement (AIM), was released from federal prison on Feb. 18, 2025, after President Joe Biden commuted his sentence to home confinement. Peltier had spent nearly five decades behind bars following his conviction in connection with the 1975 shooting deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

During his years in prison, Peltier began painting. His artwork became an important means of expression, reflecting his life, his experiences and his connection to his people.

A selection of Peltier's paintings will be displayed beginning on October 4 at the Fifteenth Street Friends Meeting House in New York City. The works are being transported from North Dakota by Peltier's son and grandson.

The gathering will begin at 2 p.m. with greetings and song, followed by an opportunity for attendees to view Peltier's artwork and spend time with members of his family, longtime New York supporters and Native friends.
Peltier has been invited to attend the event. However, travel restrictions imposed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons remain in place.

If the U.S. Bureau of Prisons grants him a furlough, Peltier intends to travel to New York. If he is unable to attend in person, organizers say he will participate remotely through a movie-size Zoom screen used by the Friends for Sunday meditation at the historic Quaker meeting house.

Peltier's family members are expected to attend regardless of whether he is able to make the trip.
The event is hosted by the Church of Stop Shopping and the Ad Hoc Indigenous Affairs and the Arts committees of the 15th Street Quaker Meeting House.

Organizers described the gathering as an opportunity to honor Peltier not only through his artwork but also through the relationships he has built with supporters and advocates over decades.

"We are honored to spend time with the artwork, longtime New York advocates and Native friends, and in some way, the person of our teacher and friend, Leonard Peltier," organizers said.
Artwork by Peltier will be available for purchase at the event.

For Peltier, whose decades-long imprisonment became a symbol of the American Indian Movement and a rallying point for supporters who maintained his innocence, the exhibition offers another opportunity for his story to be told through his own creative work.

After decades away from his home and community, his paintings now provide a different window into the life of an Indigenous elder whose story has resonated far beyond Indian Country.

November Wellness Challenge:



This month, we will focus on mindfulness, emotional wellness, community support, appreciation, and health routines that can serve as a personal foundation. ***Rooted in Gratitude*** is a challenge designed to help you recognize the elements that positively influence your overall well-being and transform them into daily habits that keep you grounded!



Take a moment each day to jot down an experience—whether it's something you saw, did, or heard—that made you feel empowered, healthy, or brought joy to yourself or someone else. At the end of the month, review those 30 reflections and prioritize incorporating them into your life more frequently.

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Newsletter is a monthly publication email digital photos or other original files to

marcie.walker@fsst-nsn.gov

Deadline for submission of material is 5 work days before the 1st of each month.

NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER:

In preparation of this newsletter, every effort has been made to offer the most current, correct,and clearly expressed information possiable. Nevertheless, inadvertent errors in information may occur.

In particular but without limiting anything here,

FSST and it's employees disclaim any responsibility for typographical errors and accuracy of the information that may be contained in the FSST newsletter. FSST also reserves the right to make changes at anytime 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 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 the newsletter must be received 5 working days before the 1st of each month. We cannot guarantee inclusion of any submissions after the date in that month's newsletter. Submissions must be made in typewritten or computer generated format. The can be submitted directly to Marcie Walker or via email at **marcie.walker@fsst-nsn.or**g

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.

Feeling anxious about Childcare costs?

We can help!

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Childcare Program is currently accepting applications to our **Childcare Subsidy Program.**

Program Eligibility Requirements:

- **Must reside in Moody County, or a neighboring county.** *Adjacent border.*
- **Child, Parent OR Grandparent must be an enrolled member of ANY federally recognized Tribe.**

If you are unsure or need help acquiring documentation, we may be able to help!

If your family meets these initial criteria, stop in or scan the QR code for an application. Then come see us!

The FSST Childcare Program is currently partnered with the following quality providers:

Local Participating Providers:

- Babies & Tots Daycare (605) 366-5468
- Bethany Thielsen Family Daycare (605) 864-1100
- ECE Clubhouse of Moody County (605) 531-2011

Neighboring County Participating Providers:

- ECE Clubhouse of Brookings County (605) 692-3333
- The Sandlot Daycare in Dell Rapids (605) 428-5533
- Scarbrough Center at STI in Sioux Falls (605) 367-8444

If you are a licensed provider interested in becoming one of our partnered providers, please call us at (605) 997-2311to learn more.

Membership Services & Enrollment

Hours

M-Thursday 8:00-5:00pm

Friday 8:00-4:30



WE'VE RELOCATED

THE FSST EDUCATION & DAKOTA LANGUAGE PROGRAM HAVE RELOCATED WHILE RENOVATIONS ARE BEING MADE TO THE BUILDING!

FIND US AT



THE OLD FLANDREAU MOTORS BUILDING

1001 W. PIPESTONE AVE | ENTER ON NORTH SIDE

Education office | Karen Lakes
605-573-4199 ext.1199

Dakota Language office | Dusty Beaulieu, Avery Jones, Devin Drapeau | 605-573-4196 ext.1169

Stop in for questions or to visit about education or language



HEALTHY START BUILDING
207 EAST 2ND AVE. | 605-997-2311

Craft work space | Maria Patterson, Victoria Olson Marilyn Allen

G.E.D & Tutoring Appointments
Future Workshops
Craft night
Language Classes

Please be mindful and respectful as each building is a shared space

Both departments will work between both buildings. If possible, contact us and we will let you know where we are!

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time!

Beautiful

Duane “Hepi” Ross, in his retirement, has found a new passion in the intricate world of diamond painting. This craft, also known as diamond art, involves placing tiny resin "diamonds" onto a canvas to create a shimmering, mosaic-like picture. For Duane, this meticulous and creative process offers a sense of tranquility. Duane has many art pieces but his latest masterpiece, crafted with patience and precision, is a testament to his newfound hobby. The finished artwork of him and wife Janet not only sparkles with vibrant colors but also reflects Duane's journey into exploring new hobbies during his retirement, bringing art and joy into his life.



Housing Basketball Courts Get an Upgrade!

Upgrades to the two basketball courts located in the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's Housing Cluster were funded in collaboration with the Tribal Health Center's SDPI program, BIA Water Resiliency Grant and a grant from the SD Community Foundation.





Pictured Left to Right: Ashley Schumacher, HAF/Admin Assistant; Leslie Arnold, SDPI Coordinator; Kaelob Storms, Community Health Educator; Leah Fyten, FSST Housing Director.
Not pictured: Elizabeth Wakeman, Brownfield Coordinator/BIA Liaison.

TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

Basketball is a fun way to stay in shape! These enhancements not only promote physical activity but also foster a sense of community and togetherness. Sports of any kind encourage people to come together, enjoy friendly competition, and strengthen connections within the community.

"We are so appreciative of the funding and the courts look great!"
Leah Fyten, FSST Housing Director



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

More news from October

BUFFALO MEAT DONATION

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's donation of 100 pounds of buffalo meat to the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield is a meaningful gesture that underscores the importance of cultural sharing and community support.

This contribution, facilitated by SDSP Culture Liaison Brian Foley, was set to enrich the celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day at the prison. Buffalo meat, a traditional staple among many Indigenous communities, carries significant cultural symbolism and nutritional value.

Preparing a meal with this meat on such a significant day offered an opportunity for cultural education and appreciation, fostering a deeper understanding of Indigenous heritage among the prison community.

This act of kindness not only provided sustenance but also builds bridges of respect and learning.



ENROLLMENT NUMBERS SHOW DIFFERENT TRENDS FOR FLANDREAU, COLMAN-EGAN

Two Moody County school districts are heading in different directions when it comes to student enrollment, but leaders in both are optimistic about the years ahead.

Final enrollment numbers submitted to the state in recent weeks show Flandreau Public Schools down approximately 25 students from a year ago, while Colman-Egan gained 17 students, continuing a pattern of steady growth over the past several years.

Those numbers might not seem all that significant, but for smaller school districts, even a handful of students can make a difference.

Enrollment impacts everything from state funding and district budgets to staffing, classroom sizes and what additional space or resources might be needed down the road. And ultimately, those decisions can impact you — the local taxpayer, too.

While student numbers may change throughout the year as families move, students transfer or choose other educational options, the official fall count gives districts a pretty good picture of what they're working with for the year ahead.

In Flandreau, Superintendent Quinton Cermak reported 652 students on the final Friday in September, the date the state uses for its official enrollment count — that's down approximately 25 students from the same time last year.

Current enrollment includes 256 elementary students, 199 middle school students, 171 high school students and another 26 students at the Pleasant Valley Colony school.

Cermak said several factors appear to be contributing to the decline, including smaller incoming kindergarten classes and families moving out of the district.

While some families choose to homeschool or open enroll elsewhere, he said there is no particular pattern suggesting students are leaving at certain grade levels or for specific reasons.

If anything, he said, students who open enroll elsewhere often do so before kindergarten because older siblings already attend a neighboring district.

Families generally do not share their reasons for leaving, he said, adding there are also reasons for optimism.

Cermak said birth rate data for Moody County shows an increase over the past five years, which could translate into larger incoming classes in the future.

"We still have a positive outlook on our enrollment numbers in the coming years," he said.

Across the county, Colman-Egan Superintendent Scott Hemmer is already experiencing that trend.

The district reported 349 students this fall, an increase of 17 from last year and nearly 50 more students than five years ago.

Hemmer said more than half of this year's increase can be attributed to the difference between the incoming kindergarten class and last year's graduating seniors. This year's kindergarten class has 10 more students than the senior class that graduated in the spring.

Several families also moved into the district, while relatively few moved away.

While an increase of nearly 50 students over five years might seem substantial for a smaller district, Hemmer said it represents an average annual growth rate of just over 3%.

That continued growth was among the considerations behind the district's recent school expansion, which has provided additional classroom space and flexibility.

"When we did the addition it allowed us the ability to split all grades in K-6 and we are currently splitting three of those grades full time and two of the grades for certain subjects," Hemmer said.

The district still has room to divide additional elementary grades into smaller classroom groups if enrollment continues to increase.

Looking ahead, Hemmer expects Colman-Egan to continue growing, although likely at a slower pace than it has over the past five years.

Much of that growth, he believes, will depend on new home construction and families moving into the district.

"I see most of the future growth coming from new construction in the district and the rate at which that happens will be the biggest determinator of our future enrollment," Hemmer said.

NOVEMBER

DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
2	3 Wicozani Gathering 9-11:30am	4	5 Seasons of Wellness 10 - 11am	6
9	10 Wicozani Gathering 9-11:30am	11 Closed	12 SDPI @ GM Seasons of Wellness 10 - 11am	13
16	17 Wicozani Gathering 9-11:30am	18 World Diabetes Awareness Event 1pm - 4pm	19 Seasons of Wellness 10 - 11am	20
23 / 30	24 Wicozani Gathering 9-11:30am	25	26 Closed	27 Closed

*Wellness Walks is now **Pte Caŋkú Omani Sápi**, meaning "Buffalo Trail Walkers" in Dakota Language. Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am!*

November 18th, 2026

World Diabetes Event - 1pm to 4pm

Holiday Closures:

November 11th - Veterans Day
November 26th - Thanksgiving
November 27th - Native American Heritage

All programs and events made possible by Special Diabetes Program for Indians / SDPI

Every Tuesday - Wicozani Gathering 9-11:30am

Every Thursday - Seasons of Wellness 10-11am

SDPI @ Grace Moore Senior Center

Every **SECOND WEDNESDAY** our SDPI team will be present at the Grace Moore Senior Center with health education, screenings and more!

(Closures that occur on the SECOND WEDNESDAY will be pushed to the following business day.)

612 S Center St, Flandreau, SD

TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

All SDPI Programs and Events will take place in the Tribal Health Center Community Room, unless otherwise noted.

Call for Submissions:

SHARE YOUR NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS IN OUR MONTHLY TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

Dear Tribal Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As I prepare for our editions of the Tribal newsletter that comes out 1st of the month. I invite you to contribute and share your stories, news articles, and photos with our Tribal community. Whether you have exciting updates, recent accomplishments, or special events to highlight, I would love to include them in our publication.

Additionally, if you or a family member have upcoming birthdays or milestones, please let me know so we can celebrate these joyous occasions together!

Please send your submissions, along with any current or new photos, 5 days prior to 1st of the month to Marcie Walker at marcie.walker@fsst-nsn.gov or drop off submissions to Membership Services Office. Your contributions helps strengthen our connections and celebrate our Tribal community.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,

Marcie Walker

Membership Services

Seasons of Wellness Program Guide

NOVEMBER 2026
HARVESTING WELLNESS

Gratitude & Gathering
Food-related Wellness

NOV 5	**Family Meals and Connection** **GARDEN / FOOD ACTIVITY** Prepare and label freezer smoothie packs from fresh fruit. **KIDS TRACK** Build a smoothie pack, design a freezer label, and take balloon breaths.	**BALANCED MEALS OR SNACKS** Freeze fresh fruit in labeled packs, then add liquid and blend. **STRESS MANAGEMENT** Pause, take three slow breaths, and use one connection question. **TAKE-HOME PRACTICE** Prepare one frozen fruit smoothie pack and use Pause, Breathe, Connect before blending or tasting.
NOV 12	**Healthy Holiday Strategies** **GARDEN / FOOD ACTIVITY** Make fruit jam and match the recipe to safe storage. **KIDS TRACK** Mash fruit, observe jam changes, make a label, and move.	**BALANCED MEALS OR SNACKS** Make fruit jam and pair a small amount with grain or protein. **MOVEMENT OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** Try a 10-minute walk, dance, chair movement, or stretch. **TAKE-HOME PRACTICE** Make or use fruit jam as part of a balanced snack and complete one 10-minute movement action.
NOV 19	**Gratitude Kindness and Community** **GARDEN / FOOD ACTIVITY** Make a flexible homemade soup or soup base. **KIDS TRACK** Design a soup and make gratitude leaves and thank-you notes.	**BALANCED MEALS OR SNACKS** Build homemade soup with produce, protein, and grain additions. **COMMUNITY/FAMILY** Practice Notice-Savor-Thank-Act as an optional grounding routine. **TAKE-HOME PRACTICE** Make one homemade soup and complete one stress-management or kindness action.

November 26th we will be closed for the Thanskgiving Holiday

TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

SEASONS OF WELLNESS

Classes take place every Thursday from 10 - 11AM in our Community Room. This is a SDPI sponsored program.

WANIYETU HEYAKE

WAH-KNEE-YEH-TOO HEH-YAH-KAY

"Winter Clothes"



WAPOŠTAŊ
WAH-POH-SH-TAHN



TAHU OČOSYE
TAH-HOO
OH-CHO-SEE-YEH



NAPINKPA
NAH-PEENK-PAH



AKAŊUŊPI
AH-KAHN-OON-PEE



WANIYETU UŊZOĞE
WAH-KNEE-YEH-TOO
OON-ZOH-GEH



CAŊHAŊPA
CAHN-HAN-PAH



FSST Education Dept.

HIGHER ED COMMITTEE

2 positions to be filled | Deadline Nov. 4th

FSST EDUCATION

Requirements

- FSST MEMBER
- Attended college or Vocational school
- Aware of student needs
- What students need to be responsible for

Sign-up sheet avaliable at Flandreau Motors location

Must be able to meet AT LEAST once a month or as needed to review higher ed. applications and other educational issues.

- If interested -

Contact Karen Lakes at 605-573-4199 ext. 1199
or
Karen.Lakes@fsst-nsn.gov

November 2026 Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Chicken Tenders O'Brien Potato's Cucumber Salad Peanut Butter Sheet Cake	3 Wild Rice Casserole Flavorful Green Beans Oriental Slaw Fresh Fruit	4 Hot Beef Mashed Potato/gravy Mixed Veggies 7 Layer Salad Choc. Chip Cake	5 Swiss Steak over Noodles Cali Blend Veggies Honey Apple Salad Cookies	6 Broccoli & Cheese Soup Roast Beef Sandwich Creamy Coleslaw Chips Blueberry Pie
9 Polish Sausage Parslied Potato's Buttered Green Beans Tasty Tossed Salad Peaches	10 Porcupine Meatballs Scalloped Potato's Corn & Celery Saute Festive Tossed Salad Frosted Lemon Gelatin	11 	12 Soft Shell Taco Green Chili Rice Fiesta Style Corn Tres Leches Cake	13 Chicken Noodle Soup Egg Salad Sandwich Spinach Maple Salad Carrot Cake
16 Orange Chicken Fried Rice Egg Rolls Oriental Cole Slaw Cream Puff Dessert	17 Hominy Soup Corn Bread Straight A Salad Chips Pie	18 Applesauce Glazed Pork Chops Garlic Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Festive Tossed Salad Oreo Delight Dessert	19 Sub Sandwich Mac. Salad Chips Fruity Pebble Cake	20 Meal served in Eastman Hall 
23 Fish Sandwich Hashbrown Casserole Buttered Corn Royal Salad Rice Krispy Bar	24 Lasagna Ceaser Salad Onion Cheese Bread Jello Cup	25 	26 	27
30 Waffles Scrambled Eggs Sausage/bacon Fruit				

Grace Moore Senior Citizens Center 997-2924 **Menu subject to change without notice.*