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Christine Mallory, Editor

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News in Indian Country: Native American Heritage Month

by Kitty Mayo

November was named Native American Heritage month by presidential declaration in 1990. Sometimes it can be hard for those of us who are not Native Americans to know the best way to acknowledge this. Though you don't see it often, there are big news stories happening in Indian Country (right here in the northland). Here are some happenings of late that can get us all thinking about the ancestors of our Indigenous neighbors, who lived here before our ancestors arrived on the continent.

Grand Portage artist George Morrison will be honored by postage stamp. George Morrison was born in Chippewa City in 1919, and died in Grand Marais in 2000. A world famous painter and sculptor, Morrison was a member of the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Morrison's art is displayed at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.

From an interview on WTIP with Morrison's son, Briand Morrison:

The special Postal Service stamp series celebrates American culture and history, with a representation of Briand's father's work from 1949 to 1995.

During his WTIP interview, Briand said that he was grateful

for the chance for his father's work to increase awareness of Native American art. George Morrison is considered to be the founder of Native modernism art. Briand added that his father was an informal stamp collector, and would have been pleased with the honor. The stamps in his honor will showcase five of his abstract landscapes.

First tribal liaison to be hired at Superior National Forest.

Juan Martinez has been hired as the first full-time liaison to the Superior National Forest. Martinez, who grew up in Taos, New Mexico and has worked in wild-life and forest management during his career, moved to the Finland area with his family. He now serves as the direct contact between the Superior National Forest and Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte bands, and the 1854 Treaty Authority office. In his role he will help the Forest Service better understand the values and opinions of the Indigenous communities he serves.

Minnesota Has Two National Native American Monuments.

Did you know there are two National Monuments recognizing the deep history of North America's Indigenous peoples in Minnesota? One of them is right here in the northland near Grand Portage, and is operated in collaboration with

the Grand Portage Band.

Grand Portage National Monument. Established to preserve the Anishinabe (Ojibwe) history and culture of the area, along with fur trade history, the Heritage Center and trails are open all year, and the neighboring reconstructed trading post is open during the warm season.

Pipestone National Monument.

At the other end of the state this monument commemorates a site that is sacred to many Indigenous peoples. Established three-quarters of a century ago, the site protects access to the pipestone quarries for tribes.

Owamni Restaurant by Sean Sherman and Dana Thompson opened in Minneapolis this summer.

Along the banks of the Mississippi river the restaurant is at a location held sacred by Indigenous people, overlooking St. Anthony Falls whose original Dakota name is Owámniyomni. The restaurant is the first full-service Indigenous restaurant in Minneapolis.

MnDOT puts up signs recognizing treaty boundaries for the first time.

Twelve new highway signs have gone up in northeastern Minnesota marking the 1854 treaty boundaries set between the U.S. government and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior

Chippewa, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa this month.

The delineation of boundaries through signage of the 1854 Treaty area have been requested by tribal members for years. The first sign was placed by MnDOT on November 1st on Highway 61 near the entrance to Grand Portage State Park. Eleven more signs are to be placed in other locations in coming weeks, including near Sturgeon Lake along Interstate 35.

From an interview on WTIP: "It is something that was long overdue," said Grand Portage Chairman Robert Deschampe. "When people enter the 1854 Treaty area, they will know where they are and, hopefully, educate themselves about treaties."

The new signs designate the importance of the state recognizing tribal sovereignty and rights of Anishinaabe tribal nations in the ceded territory. In 1854 the Bois Forte, Grand Portage, and Fond du Lac bands ceded 5.5 million acres of land to the U.S. government. The treaty gave the right to the tribes to continue to hunt, fish, and gather on the ceded territory.

Thanksgiving Inspires Thankfulness and Generosity

By Kitty Mayo

Most of us have a cornucopia of things to give thanks for just about every day, but given our naturally human response to the stress of life, we can fall into a routine of contending with demands and problems as they arise and lose our appreciative attitude. It is good to have a day set aside to refocus on gratitude.

Thanksgiving is also a time when, having gotten in touch with the many things we have to be grateful for, we think of sharing with others. In Lake County there is no lack of worthy non-profit organizations that would happily welcome your volunteer time, or monetary donation.

If you are interested in helping people get better access to food, want to help out winter sport aficionados, care most about clean water, or have a soft heart for helping our elders: there is an agency waiting to hear from you.

To begin finding legitimate or-

ganizations that could use your help, one reliable source is the Two Harbors Area Fund. An affiliate of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, the THAF web page lists a dozen different funds that are designated for issues ranging from buying books, to economic development.

The Silver Bay Charitable Fund is also part of the DSACF, and has a history of giving grants to support arts organizations, dental care for kids, and much more.

Even though the big "Give to the Max" fundraiser run by Give MN every year has just concluded for 2021, there is no reason to hold back if you missed out. Also a very legitimate organization, Give MN (www.giveMN.org) is a great place to go to seek out nonprofits in your community. Enter your town in the search option at their website, and you will be able to review a good variety of nonprofits seeking contributions.

Covid Update & Lake View Earns Excellence in Patient Experience

By Kitty Mayo

Cases and hospitalizations remain very high throughout the state, with pressure for regular and ICU beds at a high demand level and few options for transfer to higher levels of care. Lake View continues to assess all of their services on a daily basis to balance resources needed in their emergency room.

Given the continued demand on local health care because of unvaccinated people becoming seriously ill, Greg Ruberg, CEO/president at Lake View, says that they are holding their own despite the many challenges presented by this Covid-19 surge.

Covid Update

Two federal Medical Response Teams have been sent to Minnesota this week at the request of Gov. Tim Walz. Sent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Defense, each team has about 24 military medical personnel and are expected to provide relief at

hospitals in Minneapolis and St. Cloud. Walz made the request as Minnesota was leading the country in the number of per-capita Covid-19 infections.

According to a report on November 22nd on MPR breakthrough cases (positive test for the virus after being fully vaccinated) make up only 2 percent of Minnesotans who are fully vaccinated, and less than 1 percent of those breakthrough cases result in hospitalizations or death.

Waning immunity in the vaccinated is contributing to more breakthrough cases, currently about 40 percent of positive cases in the state are breakthrough cases.

Booster shots of Covid-19 vaccine now open to all adults.

With the approval of the FDA and CDC, those over the age of 50 are urged to get a booster shot,

Covid Update Continued on Page