As the holiday season draws near and 2016 comes to a close; I would like to extend to everyone the warmest seasons greetings and best wishes for the new year.

I would like to congratulate this years’s elected tribal leadership. It is a tremendous responsibility as a leader to take care of the needs of your tribal citizens. It is my hope that we can find meaningful ways to work together.

I invite all of our tribal leaders and tribal council members to attend our State Tribal Relations Events on January 25th and 26th, 2017. We will be partnering with the SD Department of Game, Fish, & Parks to discuss a variety of subjects including; education, management, partnerships, and MOU’s.

Please join me in welcoming our new Policy Analyst Gena Heinert!

Feel free to contact our Department with any questions or concerns!

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations
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Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3415
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Find us on FACEBOOK
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Society of American Indian Government Employees presents award to SD Guardsman

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) presented their Military Meritorious Service Award to a South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier, June 9, during the 13th Annual SAIGE National Training Conference in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

Master Sgt. James Dean Bad Wound, of Rapid City, received the Military Meritorious Service Award, which honors military members and Department of Defense civilian employees who have supported the DoD mission, overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective Military Service or other DoD Component.

Bad Wound, who recently retired from the SDARNG’s Joint Force Headquarters, has served on the SDARNG Diversity Council for the past 10 years, spearheading many projects assisting in relationships with the SDNG and Native American communities in South Dakota.

Most recently, Bad Wound served as chairman of the Native American Heritage Month - Oceti Sakowin Code Talker Celebration Subcommittee of the SDNG Diversity Council.

The subcommittee developed the idea of honoring Native American veterans by focusing on the code talker legacy, which was largely unknown in South Dakota, the National Guard and even the nine tribes located within the boundaries of the state.

“He led the committee as it formed, created and put on four ceremonies honoring code talker veterans from the nine Native American tribes located in South Dakota,” said 1st Lt. Carstin Jerzak, SDNG state equal employment manager. “He devoted his personal time and many hours to ensuring the celebrations depicted the history of the code talker legacy and honored veterans.”

The honoring ceremonies, included a traveling exhibit featuring bronze replicas of the gold Congressional Medallions presented to each tribe in honor of the veterans from the tribe that served as code talkers during World War I and World War II.

Additionally, the ceremonies featured guest speakers from the SDNG who spoke on the code talker legacy and tribal affiliation, and family members of code talker veterans who spoke of their family member and their legacy.

In addition to Bad Wound, the SDNG also nominated Chief Warrant Officer 4 William White and Master Sgt. Edith Clemmons for the SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award.

White and Clemmons, who worked alongside Bad Wound on the Code Talker Celebration Subcommittee, were both finalists for the award.

“These three individuals worked countless hours to personally ensure the veterans, tribes and code talker legacy was honored in a manner that was respectful and highlighted the duty, honor and selfless service of the code talker legacy, heritage and language,” said Jerzak. “Their dedication to their heritage and families was evident in the respectful manner they displayed towards all personnel whom attended and they are to be commended for bringing forth awareness of this heroic and important part of heritage, not just for Native American people, but for all Americans.”

In total, six service members and civilians received the award, and three represented the National Guard from South Dakota, Connecticut and Oklahoma.

“It has been an honor to serve in the South Dakota National Guard for the past 29 years,” said Bad Wound, who retired on April 30. “I have had many proud moments. The South Dakota National Guard helped me succeed in being able to serve my country and my family.

“I look forward to assisting Native American youth in joining the South Dakota National Guard and furthering their education.”

SAIGE is a national non-profit organization advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native people in the government workforce by providing them the necessary tools in their efforts to reach their full potential.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil
The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management has developed children’s books to educate children on disaster preparedness.

“Tornado Alert Don’t Get Hurt! Be Prepared” and “Prepare for a Winter Storm in Time and you will be Fine!” are intended for second graders but other grades have also enjoyed the books.

The Office of Emergency Management is in the process of developing a flood preparedness book which will be ready by mid-January.

The main narrator of the books is Tommy the Turtle who is now a mascot for the Office of Emergency Management.

Tommy and a helper from our office are available to come visit your school to promote disaster preparedness to your children.

Please call Cari Leidholt at 605-773-8138 or email cari.leidholt@state.sd.us to arrange a visit.

Share Your News!

Email: Kathy.Aplan@state.sd.us

Or Contact us at the SD Department of Tribal Relations

605-773-3415
South Dakota Departments of Game, Fish and Parks and Tribal Relations have begun reaching out to Tribal Colleges to make them aware of Internships in various Departments within the State of South Dakota. Recently visits were held with staff members of Oglala Lakota College and Sinte Gleska University to enlighten them on the various opportunities that are available to the students. These opportunities can provide students with excellent pre-professional work experiences that prepare them for more permanent positions in the workforce. At Game, Fish and Parks students enter a work environment with a passion for the outdoors and a common goal to make South Dakota’s recreational opportunities the best in the Nation. Both Departments will continue to reach out to the other tribal Colleges in the State and will participate in the various “Career Day” programs the Colleges plan on conducting this winter and next spring.

Devils Tower, WY – America’s National Park Service sites contain some of the purest night skies in the world. As darkness falls on Devils Tower, a different kind of light illuminates the night sky. That light, which comes from objects in deep space transforms the night from a place of darkness into a place of wonder. To celebrate and share the beauty of our night skies, Devils Tower National Monument will host a series of star parties in December. Telescopes will be provided although you may bring your own. All programs will be free of charge and may be canceled due to inclement weather. For more information, call the visitor center at 307-467-5283 ex. 635.

December 11 – Planet Watch – View Venus, the second planet from the Sun; Mars, the fourth planet from the Sun and the second-smallest planet in the Solar System; and Mercury the smallest and innermost planet in the Solar System at its maximum elongation. Meet at Joyner Ridge at 5:30 p.m.

December 14 – Geminids Meteor Shower, king of all meteor showers provides 120 meteors per hour in multiple colors! This is one of the best opportunities for younger viewers who might not stay up late. Expect delightfully dark skies as the crescent moon sets early. The meteors are radiant and travel 22 miles per second near the constellation Gemini and are typically one of the best and most reliable of the annual meteor showers. Meet at the amphitheater across from the picnic area at 7:00 p.m.

To learn more about Devils Tower National Monument, visit www.nps.gov/deto or www.facebook.com/Devils-Tower-National-Monument-Official-NPS-Site or twitter.com@DevilsTowerNM or Instagram at #devilstowernps
“A part of something much greater than myself, which the future generations will benefit from,” said Alan Jealous, one of two borrowers in the Rural Development 523 Self-help program, who closed on his home loan today. Jealous, as well as another borrower, Rose Mathis, are now prepared to enter the construction phase of their homeowner journey in the coming days. Jealous and Mathis are the first two participants in the Self-help program at the Thunder Valley neighborhood to close their loans and move on to the actual construction phase.

Jealous said he felt that becoming a first-time homebuyer was “a bit intimidating”, but was grateful to the staff at Thunder Valley, and others, who took time to help him navigate through the process. Assistance from these individuals made his home loan process “much easier to understand.” Jealous also stated, “It is a feeling I have never experienced. It’s exciting to be a part of building my own home.” He is excited to encourage others who may consider following in his footsteps.

Thunder Valley is a Lakotan grassroots Community Development Corporation (CDC) whose mission is to build a local community in order to stimulate change on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. One of the catalysts for change is the promotion of home ownership, in general, and the utilization of Rural Development’s 523 Self-help program, specifically.

The 523 Self-help program is designed to help families achieve their dream of home ownership through “sweat equity” in which families work together to assist one another in home construction. A Construction Supervisor will work alongside the families to instruct the families in safe and correct construction practices. Ultimately, working as a team provides the benefit of making homes more affordable. Families will rely on the Thunder Valley Mutual Self-help construction team for assistance, expertise, and guidance as they progress through construction toward fully realizing their dream of home ownership.

For additional information on our programs or to set up an appointment, please contact the Rapid City USDA Rural Development office at (605) 342-0301 extension 4. USDA Rural Development has eight other offices in the state that assist rural communities. Office locations include a state office in Huron, along with area offices in Aberdeen, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Yankton.

The Rural Development Section 502 Direct Program assists low- and very-low-income applicants obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant’s repayment ability. Payment assistance helps borrowers finance their homes with interest rates as low as 1%. Borrowers could potentially pay approximately $600 a month for a house payment which, in many cases, is less than a monthly rent payment.

For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/results](http://www.usda.gov/results).

Alan Jealous, Thunder Valley homebuyer, and Lance Lockwood, USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Loan Specialist.

Anne Eagle Bull, Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation Self-help Coordinator, and Rose Mathis, Thunder Valley homebuyer.
HABITAT PAYS: KNOWING YOUR OPTIONS

Joint Column By: Secretary of Agriculture Mike Jaspers and Secretary of Game, Fish and Parks Kelly Hepler

Our natural resources, the soil we grow our food in, the water we drink and the air we breathe are some of our most valuable resources. As South Dakota’s producers finish harvest and begin planning for next year, we encourage producers to consider the many conservation programs available to them that can increase soil health, protect water quality and provide habitat for wildlife, all while helping to improve their financial bottom line.

Over the past few years, there’s been a steady decrease in the prices producers receive for the products they grow and raise. At the same time, there has been little to no decrease in the cost of production. To maintain a positive bottom line, it is important that South Dakota’s farmers and ranchers use every tool available to get the most value from their operations.

In some cases, where landowners are spending more to farm certain acres than what they can earn from the crop, looking at alternative uses for those acres may be the next step. Turning land into habitat can improve soil health and increase land values. Plus, a wide variety of financial incentives are available to landowners.

The landscape across the state is as diverse as South Dakota’s farms and ranches. No one approach or program will fit every operation nor will it achieve all of an individual producer’s goals. Just like the landscape, diverse programs are available to producers from state and federal governments and private entities that can provide financial resources and technical assistance to implement conservation practices. Additionally, there are advisors across the state who work one-on-one with producers to connect them with programs that fit their operational goals.

To make it easier to learn about which programs would work best for an operation, the South Dakota departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks have partnered over the past year to develop and maintain the Habitat Pays website at habitat.sd.gov. This website serves as a one-stop-shop for finding state, federal and non-governmental programs that provide cost-share or technical assistance to producers. The website includes contact information for a variety of habitat advisors who meet with landowners, learn the goals they have for their operation and advise them about options available to meet those goals. It also features landowner video testimonials of how they are working in concert with their local advisor to enhance habitat on their property. We are proud to showcase a handful of these producers and the work they are doing. These farm and ranch families share their stories and offer insight into how these programs and advisors have been beneficial for their operations.

We know that the new year is an important time for producers to make decisions about what their operation will look like for the next year. As you look ahead to 2017, we encourage you to utilize habitat.sd.gov and consider how the available programs may fit into your plan.

GFP Mission: The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state’s parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship and safely connecting people with the outdoors.

South Dakota Department of Agriculture Mission: The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota Agriculture for today and tomorrow.
### Reservation Schools Participate in Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Four reservation high schools are among the 25 schools randomly selected to participate in the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The survey is administered by the South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistic, which is working in cooperation with the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board, tribal health directors, superintendents, and principals of the schools.

The YRBS surveys students in grades 9 through 12 to assess priority health-risk behaviors, including (1) behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence; (2) tobacco use; (3) alcohol and other drug use; (4) sexual behaviors that could contribute to HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies; (5) unhealthy dietary behaviors; and (6) physical inactivity.

The YRBS has become the primary source of information on the most important health risk behaviors of high school students in this country and is increasingly used by leading educators, public health officials, the media, and others to advocate for and improve school health policies and programs. South Dakota is the only state to have secured weighted data every year since the inception of the YRBS in 1991 and this is made possible through the continued support of the YRBS by participating schools. To view results of the South Dakota 2015 YRBS, click on the following link to the 2015 YRBS Summary Report:


For additional information about the administration of the South Dakota YRBS, contact Michelle Hoffman, YRBS Coordinator, via email at michelle.hoffman@state.sd.us or 605-773-3365.

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### Rural Development Program Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Application Deadline(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Energy for America (REAP)</td>
<td>Applications accepted year round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program (formerly known as the Biorefinery Assistance Program)</td>
<td>2017 application deadlines are unknown at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Industry Loan Guarantees</td>
<td>Applications accepted year round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Business Development Grant (formerly known as RBEG &amp; RBOG)</td>
<td>Applications being accepted for 2017 funding. 03/31/2017 Native American Set-Aside - applications due from applicants to field offices; and 4/28/2017 Non Set-Aside – applications due from applicants to field offices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program</td>
<td>Quarterly deadlines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediary Relending Program</td>
<td>Quarterly deadlines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program</td>
<td>Quarterly deadlines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Added Producer Grant</td>
<td>2017 application deadlines are unknown at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Socially Disadvantaged Grant</td>
<td>2017 application deadlines are unknown at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Cooperative Development Grant</td>
<td>2017 application deadlines are unknown at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Community Development Initiative</td>
<td>2017 NOFA is expected to be issued next spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Environmental Programs</td>
<td>On-going application cycles; can apply anytime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Facilities Loan and Grant Programs</td>
<td>On-going application cycles; can apply anytime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Housing Programs... 502 Very-Low and Low Direct Loans; 504 Loans and Grants; and 502 Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH) Loan Program</td>
<td>On-going application cycles; can apply anytime.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Danny J. Garceau (Anishinabe) Shares Native American Culture and Heritage with USDA

USDA staff in South Dakota had the pleasure and honor to hear Mr. Danny J. Garceau, along with his grandson, Logan Rantanen “Misajidamoo”, speak about their Native American cultural and share traditional song, drum and flute music with all present. The family's presentation coincided with Native American Heritage Month.

Mr. Garceau shared knowledge of his heritage to include historical facts on Native Americans and their history, their traditions, proper etiquette when addressing Native Americans and the significance of the Eagle amongst the Native American Culture.

Mr. Garceau is an Anishinabe, along with several of his ancestors which include members of several tribes of the Lake Superior Chippewa. He serves as the Vice Chair of the Society of American Indian Government employees (SAIGE). In addition, he is an active member of several other organizations which promote and preserve Native American Culture and Military history. He has 30 years of active duty service with the United States Army and Michigan Army National Guard. He graduated from the University of Phoenix, Vincennes University, Northern Michigan University, and graduated with honors from the Unites States Army Sergeant Major Academy.

Mr. Garceau lives in the homeland of his ancestors on the southern shores of Lake Superior with his wife Diane, and grandson Misajidamoo (Nish/Logan). Logan goes everywhere with his grandpa and is learning quickly about his ancestry. Someday, he too will be able to pass along these teachings to future generations.

South Dakota Rural Housing Specialist Kenneth J. Lynch of the Loon Clan with a Bear Totem and respected Tribal member of the Red Cliff Band of Chippewa Indians from Red Cliff, Wisconsin organized the month’s activities. Throughout the month of November Ken shares traditional stories and Native American artwork to enhance the Native American History and Culture experience along with teaching and preserving the Native American Culture for all future generations.

Answers to the November Quiz:

1. Seven Council Fires
2. Mdewakanton - Dwellers by the Sacred Lake, Wahpekute - Shooters Among the Leaves, Siistonwan/Sisseton - People of the Marsh, Wahpetonwan - Dwellers Among the Leaves, Ihanktown/Lower Yanktonai - People of the End, Ihanktowana/Upper Yanktoni - People of the Little End, Tetonwan - People on the Plains.
3. Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota
4. Hunkpapa - Camps at the Horn (Standing Rock & Wood Mountain, Canada), Sicangu/Brule' - Burnt Thigh (Rosebud & Lower Brule), Itazipo/Sans Arc - Without Bows (Cheyenne River), Sihasapa - Blackfeet (Cheyenne River & Standing Rock), Ogala - Scatters His Own (Finn Ridge), Oohenumpa - Two Kettles (Cheyenne River), Mniconjou Planters by the River (Cheyenne River)
6. Yankton Sioux Tribe
7. Fry Bread
8. CRST, CCST, LBST, SWO, SRST, YST - Chairman, FSST, OST, & RST - President
9. Itazipo/Sans Arc - Without Bows (Cheyenne River), Sihasapa - Blackfeet (Cheyenne River & Standing Rock), Oohenumpa - Two Kettles (Cheyenne River), Mniconjou Planters by the River (Cheyenne River)
I started work for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture in October 2005. At that time, I was hired in to develop and grow our dairy industry which in turn would create rural economic development. We have grown from 80,000 dairy cows in 2005 to 115,000 dairy cows today, and continue to grow.

I assisted in encouraging Bel Brands USA (the Laughing Cow, Baby bel) cheese to build a $135 million-dollar plant in Brookings. Currently they are producing 1.75 million baby bel cheese rounds per day. My role continues to evolve as I am now also involved with swine and livestock development.

In 2012 I was asked by our secretary of agriculture about working with all nine of the Indian reservations to encourage ag development. Within the reservations, outstanding land and natural resources opportunities abound. A few of the projects that have been discussed are:

- Organic production, crops, livestock, vegetable gardening
- Grass fed beef and buffalo production
- Grass and range management to increase beneficial native grasses.
- Development of meat lockers to do custom butchering
- Create opportunities for job growth and placement
- Work with the local universities and colleges
- New crop development for bio-fuels and by products for livestock feeds
- Educational training and opportunities

I have an established working relationship with South Dakota State University and President Barry Dunn, the SDSU Cooperative Extension Service, Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown and Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture is made up of five divisions:

- **Wildland Fire** division does work to prevent forest fires and assists in fighting fires across the state and the country when needed.
- **State Fair** division plans and hosts the annual State Fair in Huron. It also maintains the State Fair Park and hosts rodeos, races and other events year round.
- **Resource Conservation and Forestry** division works closely with county conservation districts to provide resources to producers and communities across the state in caring for the trees we have and planting new ones.
- **Ag Services** division is largely our regulatory arm, ensuring that products producers buy are what they say they are, protecting the environment and ensuring workers from pesticide applicators to milk haulers have the knowledge and skill they need. Ag Services also works to identify and register “sensitive sites” such as organic fields, vineyards and commercial bee hives to help pesticide applicators know areas to avoid when spraying. Great resource for weed and pest identification and treatments.
Social Security Webinar for Tribal Communities

At Social Security, we understand the vital importance of reaching out to members of tribal communities to ensure they are fully aware of all the benefits that they could be eligible to receive. We recently produced a webinar designed specifically to cover topics of interest to those in tribal communities, including:

- How to Obtain a Social Security Card;
- How to Earn Social Security Work Credits;
- Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income Benefits
- Appeal Rights If Denied Benefits;
- Where to Find an Estimate of Your Retirement Benefit; and
- Survivor Benefits Payable in the Case of Death.

We posted the webinar at the following link: http://ssa.yorkcast.com/webcast/Play/db227c1ae8af405fb5b3b475a0a88be51d.

We ask that you widely share the webinar link with others in the community, especially benefit coordinators who assist members of your tribe in applying for Social Security benefits.

Please feel free to share any concerns and provide helpful feedback to us at SSA.Tribal.Communications@ssa.gov. We also invite you to visit our website at www.ssa.gov/people/ajan/ to access important information pertinent to members of the tribal community.

Also, please feel free to contact Tyler Bowling, Social Security Public Affairs Special for South Dakota, at tyler.bowling@ssa.gov.

• Ag Development works to promote all aspects of agriculture across the state and offers finance programs for producers and agribusiness.

I will be attending the 2016 Intertribal Agriculture Council meeting in Las Vegas Dec. 5-8. If you may be attending, please reach out to me by calling or texting my cell phone, 605-280-4837.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or through Tribal Relations to talk about growing agriculture within your community. There are opportunities for employment and skill development.

Sincerely,

David Skaggs, Ag Development Representative
SD Department of Agriculture
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Pierre, SD 57501
Office: 605-773-5436
Cell: 605-280-4837