



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᓂᓴᓄᓴᓴᓴ ᓵᓵᓵᓵᓵ

Ermineskin Newsletter June 2, 2022

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Opâskahopîsim Nîso Akimaw Anohc

ᓂᓴᓄᓴᓴᓴ ᓵᓵᓵᓵᓵ ᓵᓵᓵᓵᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓵᓴ ᓵᓴᓴᓴ ᓵᓴᓴᓴ

Nayoskan Detox Treatment Center Opens



During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Maskwacis Health Services brought in ATCO trailers to isolate people and help contain the Coronavirus. The trailers were primarily used to care for the homeless from the surrounding areas, that had no where to isolate. The trailers are fully equipped to provide food and shelter, and are also set up with medical support. Once the trailers were no longer needed, the Counselling and Support Services manager Peyasu Wuttunee had a brilliant idea. Wuttunee decided that the trailers would be a great opportunity to open up a detox and treatment centre.

Upon approval of Wuttunee’s proposal, the renovations began to add a common area and a fitness room to help those battling addictions and on the road to recovery. The Nayoskan Detox and Treatment Centre will provide 12 beds and a 60 day program with a Cree cultural approach specializing in opioid addictions. Following the 10-day detox program and 50 days of treatment and counsel-

ling, clients will continue to receive support after leaving the centre.

In a recent interview with Wetaskiwin Times, Wuttunee stated that “This is a nine-month pilot project, and if it’s successful we will apply to Indigenous Services Canada to expand it. The demand is huge.” On June 1st at 10 am the ribboning was held, and shortly after that the Nayoskan staff began taking in clients. (continued on next page).

The first of each month will be for client intake. “We’ve got a great staffed team and it’s the whole community — all Four Nations, everyone working together that will make this successful,” said Wuttunee.



Randy Littlechild - CEO MHS & Peyasu Wuttunee - Manager MCSS



Maskwacis Ambulance Team

Tyler Retzlaff, Craig O'Callaghan (AHS Deployment Manager) & Jackson Heraid



Peyasu Wattunee (Manager MCSS)



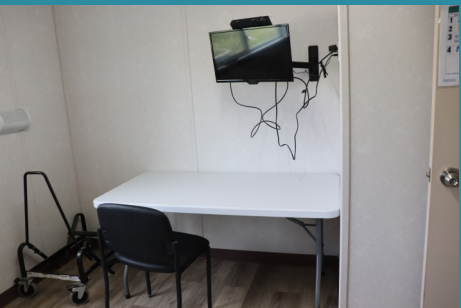
Photo credit: Tara Cutarm

Marilyn Rowan (Mental Health Support Worker)



Nayoskan Treatment Center Team

Danny Buffalo (Security), David Headman (Supervisor) & Tyson Yellowbird (Supervisor)



Louise Omeasoo (Samson Councillor)

Opioid- and Stimulant-related Harms in Canada Published (March 2022)

Retrieved from: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/substance-related-harms/opioids-stimulants/>

There is evidence the COVID-19 pandemic is contributing to the already deadly and ongoing national public health overdose crisis. This crisis is having a tragic impact on people who use substances, their families, and communities across Canada. People who use substances, such as opioids, cocaine, and methamphetamine, are experiencing a number of increased risks, with several jurisdictions reporting higher rates of fatal overdoses and other harms.

There was a total of 26,690 apparent opioid toxicity deaths between January 2016 and September 2021

- During the first year of the pandemic, there was a 95% increase in apparent opioid toxicity deaths (April 2020 – March 2021, 7,224 deaths), compared to the year before (April 2019 – March 2020, 3,711 deaths). Since then, deaths have remained high.
- A total of 5,368 apparent opioid toxicity deaths occurred so far in 2021 (January – September). This is approximately 20 deaths per day. For a similar timeframe in the years prior to the pandemic, there were between 7 (in 2016) and 12 (in 2018) deaths per day.
- A number of factors may have contributed to a worsening of the overdose crisis over the course of the pandemic, including the increasingly toxic drug supply, increased feelings of isolation, stress and anxiety, and changes in the availability or accessibility of services for people who use drugs.

Majority of deaths occurred in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario; increases observed in other regions

- Several jurisdictions have observed record-breaking numbers and rates in relation to the wider impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- So far in 2021 (January – September), 88% of all accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths occurred in British Columbia, Alberta, or Ontario.
- Elevated rates have also been observed in other areas, including Yukon and Saskatchewan.

Most apparent opioid toxicity deaths among young- to middle-aged males

- Males accounted for the majority of accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths (74%) so far in 2021 (January – September).
- For males and for females, the majority of accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths were among individuals aged 20 to 59 years.

Toxicity of supply continues to be a major driver of the crisis

- Of all accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths so far in 2021 (January – September), 86% involved fentanyl.

Of all accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths so far in 2021 (January – September), 82% involved opioids that were only non-pharmaceutical

Data on the polysubstance nature of the overdose crisis

- Available information from six provinces and territories indicates the number of apparent stimulant toxicity deaths in 2021 so far (January – September) was high. Almost all (98%) of those deaths were accidental.
- More than half (58%) of accidental apparent opioid toxicity deaths so far in 2021 (January – September) also involved a stimulant, reflecting the polysubstance nature of this crisis.
- Of the accidental apparent stimulant toxicity deaths so far in 2021 (January – September), 63% involved cocaine, while 53% involved methamphetamines.
- Of the accidental apparent stimulant toxicity deaths so far in 2021 (January – September), 86% involved an opioid.

If you or someone you know struggles with Alcohol or drug addictions, call the Maskwacis Health Services At (780) 585 - 3830 and speak to one of the addiction counsellors

Violet Soosay Brings Her Aunty Shirley Ann Soosay Home



Shirley Ann Soosay



Bikers escorted the hearse from Wetaskiwin to the Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre in Maskwacis

The DNA Doe Project was founded in 2017 as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with a simple humanitarian mission: to identify John and Jane Does using genetic genealogy.

DNA Doe Project is an all-volunteer organization with over 60 experienced genetic genealogists giving their time and passion to the cause. In addition, they raise funds to cover the expensive lab costs involved in extracting and sequencing DNA from remains whenever an agency is unable to afford them. For this they are deeply appreciative of their generous donors who have supported their organization and helped bring about their more than two dozen success stories.

On Friday May 27th, Violet Soosay brought her aunty Shirley Ann Soosay back home to her community of Samson Cree Nation. Violet Soosay last saw her aunt in 1977 at a family funeral. She remembers her as caring, supportive and a free spirit. Shirley Ann Soosay was close with her mother and had maintained regular contact with her, whether it was through Christmas cards or letters, and the last correspondence came in 1979. Violet's grandmother new something had happened to Shirley, and was heartbroken. The family made trips to go look for Shirley but could not find her. In 1991 Violet's grandmother passed on, and Violet made a promise to her... that she would bring Shirley Ann Soosay home.

In early 2020, Violet came across an artist's rendering of the Jane Doe on a Facebook post from the DNA Doe Project. She believed the woman was her aunt. Sometime during 2018, the Kern County Sheriff-Coroner Division contacted the DNA Doe Project hoping to determine the identity of its Jane Doe. Violet got in touch with the DNA Doe project and submitted a

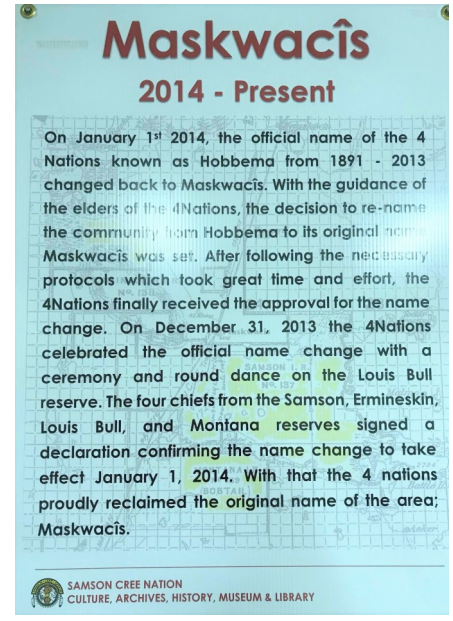
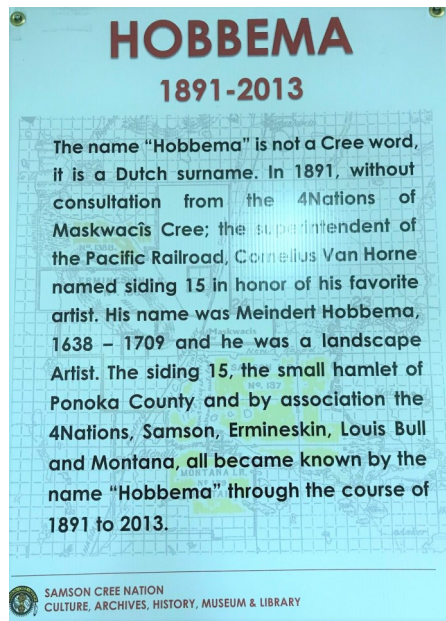
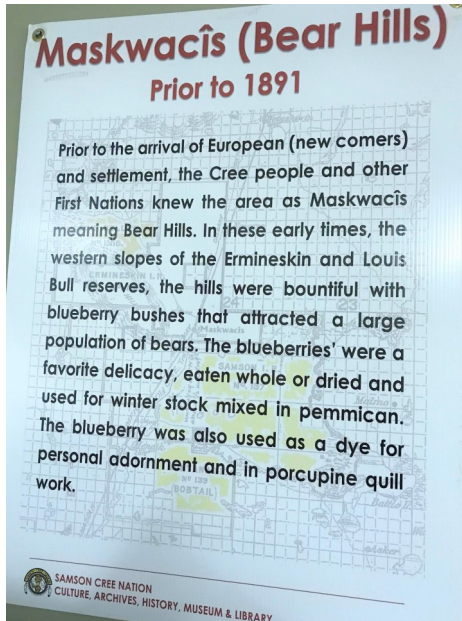
DNA sample. It was processed and compared to the DNA they had from the remains, the two were a familiar match.

Shirley Ann Soosay's remains had been buried in a California cemetery in 1980 under the name Kern County Jane Doe. Her body was found in an almond orchard near Bakersfield, California, in July 1980. She had been sexually assaulted and stabbed. Wilson Chouest was convicted of killing the Jane Doe (Shirley Ann), along with another unidentified woman in 2018.

Last spring after the remains were identified, Violet Soosay has worked with the county coroner's office and the California cemetery to transport the body back to Alberta. It took over a year to bring the remains home, as result of the Covid-19 pandemic. After 43 years of searching, Violet Soosay finally got to bring her aunty Shirley Ann home.

Watch the document of *Shirley Ann Soosay* on A&E Cold Case Files - Missing and Murdered (Season 2 Episode 26)

June is Indigenous History Month



June is National Indigenous History Month. It is an opportunity to honour the diversity of Indigenous Peoples, listen and learn more about them and their stories, traditions and cultures. It is also a time to recognize the strength and resiliency of Indigenous Peoples and explore how we can all move forward together on the shared path of reconciliation.

I recently visited the Samson Cree Nation Museum & Archives to learn about the Treaty #6 territory, in which I am working on. Brian Lightning provided a guided tour of the exhibit. I learned about the past Chiefs of the four nations, and where the name Hobbema came from and when it was changed to Maskwacîs.

Ways you can learn and recognize Indigenous peoples:

- Read books by Indigenous authors
- Attend Indigenous events, or volunteer at one
- Support Indigenous businesses and local artist
- Learn about the Indigenous territory you are living on
- Visit museums or galleries and learn about Indigenous peoples craftsmanship

Congratulations Shayla Raine

Shayla Raine is the author of the book *The Way Creator Sees You*. This beautiful Nehiyaw is from Louis Bull Cree Nation in Maskwacîs, and is currently studying Human Kinetics at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

The Way Creator Sees You is Raine's first published book, and it was released independently this month. The book is intended to inspire Indigenous children who may be struggling with their identity, and to help them to embrace who they are, says Raine.

The poetry book features a Plains Cree boy who faces adversity at school and finds himself struggling to accept his Indigenous features. His Kokom brings him on a lyrical adventure to help him find appreciation for his heritage. You can purchase a copy of Shayla's book at Indigo Book Stores or online at www.amazon.ca



O



Malcolm Roan

I



Fran Saulteaux & Jenelle Lightning

L



Fran Saulteaux

E



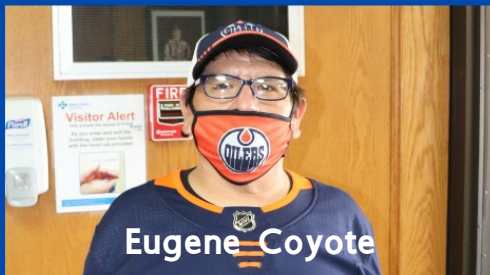
Roxanne Morin & Fran

R



Faith Whitebear

S



Eugene Coyote

W
O
R
K
S
P
L
E
A
S
E



Employment Skills Staff



Technical Services Staff



Ermineskin Cree Nation Staff



Assisted Living Staff



Human Services Staff



CREE CORNER

POSTERS IN PLAINS CREE

Colors / Ēsināhkwahk



black / kâskitewāw



white / wāpiskāw



brown / wātokinākwan



gray / pihkowāstewnākwan



yellow / osawinakwan



purple / nîpamāyātan



red / mihkwāw



green / āskihtakwāw



orange / osāwāw



blue / sîpihkwāw

Copyright © 2007 Native Publications Inc. All rights reserved.





Kanawemahwasowin Kamik had a Free Yard Sale on March 26th, at the KKI parking lot. There was something for everyone, from baby furniture to household items. The weather was beautiful for the event. There was hotdogs and pop available for everyone who attended. Thank you KKI staff for your donations and generosity.



Ermineskin Cree Nation 2022-2023
HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

WHO CAN APPLY

Ermineskin Band Members:
 Full Time High School Students for the years of 2021-2022.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE SPLIT INTO 2 GROUPS

GROUP 1
 Start: June 21st
 End: July 21st

GROUP 2
 Start: July 19th
 End: August 18th

Application Requirements:
 -2021-2022 Report Cards
 -Must Have a letter stating you're a student who is a full time for the year of 2021-2022
 -Incomplete applications will automatically be screened out if application does not have Report Card & Letter of being a full-time student
 -Must Have SIN #
 -Must Have Reliable Transportation

24 SPOTS AVAILABLE MUST BE GENDER BALANCED

WE encourage all students to get vaccinated against COVID-19

Application Deadline:
 June 17, 2022.

Contact: Coordinator/ Assistant : Millie Mackinaw at millie@ermineskin.ca or call workplace @ 780-585-4006

Applications available online or ECN Band Office and P&R Building

WORK DAYS REQUIRED: MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS
TIME FRAME: 8:30AM-4:30PM

PURPOSE OF WORK EXPERIENCE
 INAC Summer student work placement program goal is to support activities and training that will assist students in acquiring the essential skills that will help them gain employment, function well in the workplace, and learn about job and career options.

Created By: Millie Mackinaw



ANNUAL SPRING MAINTENANCE CHECK LIST

- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide and replace if older than ten years
- Check electrical outlets for fire hazard
- Change air filter and clean vents
- Clean lint trapped in the dryer and check the outside vent for buildup
- Check the roof for any potential damages
- Clean leaves and debris from gutters
- Inspect yard for wet spots and install drainage
- Check your deck for wear and re-stain if needed

Upcoming Events/Classifieds

Driving to Success

CLASS 7 TRAINING

HOSTED BY MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

JUNE 6TH-10TH, 2022

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have access to internet and zoom
- Must attend online classes everyday
- Must have valid government identification (Birth Certificate/ Indian Status and Proof of Residency)
- Must not have any fines
- Must be 18 years of age

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

JUNE 3RD, 2022

To register contact:
 faith@maskwacisemployment.ca
 780-585-4450
 780-360-4423 (Text)



A workshop designed to help you begin healing your life in a simple easy and effective way. The tools you will learn in this program will help you reach a deeper connection with your cultural roots in a healthy healing manner.

"Bridging the Gap"

between

Cultural Identity
 and mental and emotional healing.

Facilitated by Lindsay Nepoose
 Certified Workshop facilitator and Licensed coach

June 13, 14, 15 2022

Time: 9:00am - 3:30 each day

Location: The NEST classroom @the Ermineskin Mall
 15 Spots available

To register, please call Ermineskin NEST @780-585-0191

This workshop will benefit you if:
 *you have tried everything to get your life back on track but cycles keep repeating.
 *you are ready and willing to commit to true change and growth
 *You know you have past issues holding you back but you don't know where to start.

SAGE BEAUTY CLASSIC LASH TRAINING



JUNE 16 & 17TH 2022
 930AM-430PM



LOCATION: SAGE BEAUTY, WETASKIWIN MALL 3725 56 STREET

4 SPOTS AVAILABLE

CONTACT: ERMINESKIN NEST 780-585-0191 FOR MORE INFORMATION

**EACH STUDENT WILL RECIEVE A CLASSIC LASH STARTER KIT!

WWW.SAGEBEAUTY.ONLINE

NHS & PESP

along with Delmar College Red Deer will be hosting a Level One Make-Up course.



DELMAR COLLEGE RED DEER

First Group: 4 seats available (July 5th-August 2nd, 2022)

Second Group: 4 Seats available. (July 7th-August 4th, 2022)

Registration can be filled out at NHS Office.

5 week program - every tuesday. from 9am- 5pm.

Students will learn:

- Infection control/Sanitization.
- Business/Etiquette and best practices.
- Introduction to skin.

basic/natural makeup, natural glam- makeup & Bridal Makeup.

Date: July 5th-August 2nd. 2022

Time: 9am-5pm.
 Delmar College. Red Deer, AB
 Call NHS office to Register.
 (780)585-3835

Instructor:
 Indigenous MUA
 Garin Adekat.

#adekarbeauty

ERMINESKIN COMMUNITY WELLNESS & ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES PRESENTS

FATHER'S DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022

Location: Dorchester Ranch Golf Course

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2022

All Father's Welcome

To Register Please Contact:
 Community Wellness (780)585-3741
 Tyrone Ermineskin (780)312-4712
 Ron Ermineskin (780)360-6009

\$175 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON
 *INCLUDES: KP'S, LONG PUTT, MEAL & CART
 FIRST 144 REGISTERED & PAID

9:30 AM SHOTGUN START
 CASH PRIZES FOR A, B, C
 50/50 DRAWS

MASKWACIS COMMUNITIES
Dog and Cat Wellness Clinic
 at the Samson Hockey Arena (aka Four Nations Arena)
June 17, 18, 19, 2022

FOR MASKWACIS MEMBERS ONLY

First Come/First Served - Bring your dog/cat with you

Friday, June 17
 Registration: 11am - 6pm

Saturday, June 18
 Registration: 10am - 3pm

Sunday, June 19

No Pre-Registration Or Appointment Necessary

Sorry, we CANNOT provide vaccine ONLY

Your animal will be:

- Spayed or neutered
- Tattooed
- Vaccinated and treated for parasites (worms and fleas)
- Your pet will spend a minimum of 1 night in our care

Questions:

- Call or Text (403) 837-7442
- If you need to borrow a crate, on the day of the clinic come into the Samson Arena to borrow a crate to bring in your pet.

This clinic is being brought to you by:

INDIGENOUS HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINING

6 Week Training Course Starting June 20th!

*Valid Drivers License and Drug & Alcohol Testing Required

Contact:

Maskwacis Employment Center: registration@treaty6springbankjobfair.ca
 Community Futures Treaty Seven: <https://aboriginalfutures.com/heo-checklist>
 Rupertsland Institute: 1-888-480-6384

SUMMER STUDENT TOP-UP PROGRAM 2022-2023

WORK HOURS REQUIRED FOR TOP-UPS
63 HOURS BI-WEEKLY
8:30AM TO 4:30PM

Start Date: Post-Sec students will start May 9th
 High School students will start June 21st

End Date: Post-Sec & High School students will end employment AUGUST 18th, 2022.

***ATTENTION* WHO CAN APPLY?**

- ONLY ERMINESKIN BAND MEMBERS
- POST SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THAT WORK OFF RESERVE

Applications available online or ECN Band Office and P&R Building

Spots Available:
 2 spots - Post-Secondary
 2 spots - High School

Deadline to Apply: June 17th, 2022

Top-Up Requirements:

- Must Have Own email to submit pay stubs
- All Top-Up Students Must Have SIN #
- All applicants must submit Report Cards or Transcripts for the year of 2021-2022
- Incomplete applications will automatically be screened out

Contact: Coordinator/
 Assistant : Millie Mackinaw
 at millie@ermineskin.ca or call workplace @ 780-585-4006

Create By: Millie Mackinaw

ERMINESKIN NEWSLETTER
 NEXT ISSUE: JUNE 16, 2022

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
 JUNE 13, 2022

ECN I.T & Communications
 PO Box 219
 Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0

(780) 585-3741 trishia@ermineskin.ca ext #266

2022 FOUR NATIONS
EXHIBITION GAME
JUNE 4TH, 2022

TEAM INDIGENOUS ALBERTA VS CANADA SUMMER GAMES TEAM ALBERTA

LOCATION: FOUR NATIONS ARENA
TIME: 2:00PM

LIVE POWWOW PERFORMANCE
SPECIAL GUEST CHIEF WILTON LITTLECHILD

#STOPVIOLENCE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

June 8th & 9th, 2022

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Konwatsitsa: Wi M Meloche



Location: Maskwa Park, Ermineskin First Nation

Women & Men's Conference

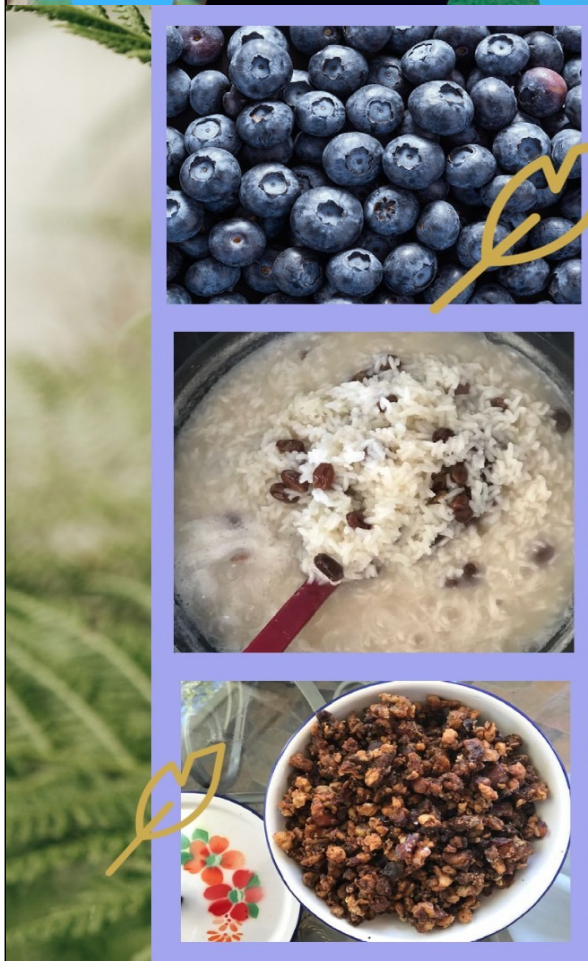
Continental breakfast & lunch will be provided daily!

Call SCW for more information: (780) 585-3634



Theme:
Awareness in Action

In collaboration with:
 Ermineskin Women's Shelter, Ermineskin Brighter Futures, Maskwacis Victim Service & Samson Community Wellness.



ERMINESKIN ANNUAL CEMETERY FEAST

at
June 5th Ermineskin
12:00 noon Cemetery

In the event of rain, Feast will be moved to the N.O.K Building.
 All safety protocols to be followed.
 We encourage attendees to bring their own lawn chairs