



Belcourt Students Excel In OKC

Turtle Mountain Middle School, High School students compete in National Advancing Indigenous Science & Engineering Fair in Oklahoma City



TMMS students that attended the National Science Fair in Oklahoma City (Random Order) — Bella Azure, Masey Desjarlais, Reese Desjarlais, Russell Halvorson, Tate Laducer, Piper Zaste, Sahrya Malaterre, Wes Hamley, Ayvah Azure, LaRee Martin, Paislee Marion, Damian Brunelle, Sophia Azure, Jayla LaVallie



TMCHS students: Jaelee Patton, Ranger Blue, Jeremiah Longie, Summer Crissler (Not pictured Gracie Harviell (virtual))

By Dave DeCoteau Jr.
TM Times News Staff

BELCOURT — The 2026 National Advancing Indigenous Science & Engineering Fair (NAISEF) was held in Oklahoma City, OK, on April 10–11, 2026, at the Oklahoma State Fair Park, a student-focused event organized by AIS-ES, which included research presentations, STEM activities, and networking opportunities for Indigenous students from across the country.

Among those students competing in the 2026 national science fair were students from Turtle Mountain Middle School and Turtle Mountain Community High School, a group filled with an abundance of excellence representing the Turtle Mountain Community School system.

Turtle Mountain Community High School's Research students who competed in NAISEF included Drako Charette, Ranger Blue, Gracie Harviell (virtual), Summer Crissler, Jaelee Patton,

and Jeremiah Longie. Advisors were Stacie Laducer Blue and Jason Laducer.

Jeremiah Longie (sophomore) has worked on an independent research study for his own interest. He is comparing the characteristics of the 2025 ND Tornado data to the national averages.

Mrs. Laducer-Blue reported on the following results from OKC.

Gracie Harviell (sophomore) competed virtually for the AIS-ES NAISEF. Her project was titled, Foundations for Discovering Beneficial Compounds in Raspberries: A Year One Study.

The following students competed at the AIS-ES NAISEF in Oklahoma City, OK in person.

Drako Charette (junior), with his project title, "Is it Reel or is it Digital? A Study of Sound Quality." Drako placed 1st in the national science fair. Congratulations, Drako!

Ranger Blue (junior), with his project title, "The Weight of Winning: A study of Chassis Mass."

Summer Crissler (sophomore), with her project title, "Heads-

Up". Jaelee Patton (freshman), with her project title, "The Bell-to-Bell Policy: A Survey-Based Study of Student Impact." Jaelee placed 1st at this year's national science fair. Great job, Jaelee!

Aside from competing at this year's national science fair, Mrs. Laducer-Blue said the OKC students spent downtime exploring the OKC Zoo, Bricktown Canal Tour-History of OK, attending an OKC Comets game at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, and on their last day in OKC they enjoyed Six Flags.

"TMCHS students did a wonderful job representing their school and community," said Mrs. Laducer-Blue. "They exemplified the Anishinaabe Seven Teachings. Jason Laducer and I are very proud of their work, presentations, and the overall awesomeness that they displayed."

Turtle Mountain Middle School had a total of 13 students who competed at NAISEF with 10 of the students placing at the national event.

Jayla LaVallie, Chemistry, was

awarded Outstanding Showing in Chemistry in the Junior Division. Congratulations, Jayla!

Masey Desjarlais, Biochemistry, placed 1st. Congratulations, Masey!

LaRee Martin, Computer Science, placed 1st. Congrats, LaRee!

Sophia Azure, Medicine/Health, took 1st place. Congrats, Sophia!

Second place winners included: Russell Halvorson, Earth Science; Wes Hamley, Chemistry; Ayvah Azure, Computer/Technology; and Paislee Marion, Biochemistry. Congratulations to all who place runner-up!

Third place finishers were Reese Desjarlais, Medicine

Health; Tate Laducer, Engineering; and Jayla LaVallie, Chemistry. Congrats to all whom placed 3rd.

Other participants from TMMS included Bella Azure, Behavioral Health; Sahrya Malaterre, Material Science; and Damian Brunelle, Earth Science. Congrats to all participants for your brilliance and outstanding efforts!

"TMMS GT students placed 10 students at the National Science Fair in Oklahoma City! Jayla LaVallie received a special award for Outstanding Showing in Chemistry- Junior Division! We are so very proud of our students' amazing performance," said Michelle Trotter, TMMS GT Teacher. "We are so proud of

our students! Your hard work, creativity, and dedication truly paid off. Thank you for representing our school with excellence.

"A big thank you to our amazing staff who supported, guided, and encouraged our students every step of the way. Your time and commitment make opportunities like this possible."

Turtle Mountain students who competed in the 2026 National Advancing Indigenous Science & Engineering Fair represented the Turtle Mountain Community School system very well. Their efforts did not go unnoticed, and their work was presented with the highest of standards.

Great job, TMCS students!

'Reading on the Frontier' book club meets May 2 at Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center

WILLISTON, N.D. — "Reading on the Frontier," a history-based book club, will meet Saturday, May 2, 1-2 p.m., at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center near Williston. The program is recommended for adults and older teens, and no prior historical knowledge is required.

This session will feature "The Pathfinder" by James Fenimore Cooper. Published in 1840, this book explores the sensitive side of a frontiersman. The story follows a group traveling deep in the wilderness near Lake Ontario as they encounter hostile forces, shifting loyalties, and complexities of romantic entanglements.

Books were highly prized at Fort Buford. Members of the 6th Infantry famously fought — and ultimately lost — the right to take their post library with them when reassigned, underscoring the importance of reading on the frontier.

This event is part of the ND250 commemoration celebrating our country's 250th birthday.

Fort Buford State Historic Site and the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center are managed by the State Historical Society of North

Dakota. The Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and closed Sunday-Monday. Fort Buford is closed for the season. Summer hours begin May 1, with both locations open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

through Sept. 30. For more information, contact Outreach Coordinator Nicholas Kusnierek, shsbuford@nd.gov or 701.572.9034. All times listed are Central time. Find information about upcoming programs of the State Historical Society at history.nd.gov/events.

Hwy 5 East, PO Box 440 • Belcourt, ND 58316 • Phone: 701-477-6471 • Fax: 701-477-6470

"Ensuring Excellence in Education and Respect for the Local Culture" | "Home of the Braves"

TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Belcourt School District
Turtle Mountain Community Schools
Notice to Parents and Community

What: Notice of Public Hearing-TVI
When: Tuesday—April 28, 2026
Time: 4:30 PM
Where: Derrick Dixon Event Center Cafeteria

FACT: Rolette County has the 4th highest rate of Hepatitis C per capita in N.D.
The test is free! Hep C is almost always curable.

Public Health
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.
 Rolette County
 Public Health District
 www.rcphd.com
 701-477-5646

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
 P. O. Box 900 - Belcourt, ND 58316

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Environmental Brownfields Program is requesting sealed bids for the following:

Trade in:

- 2023 Hyundai Santa Fe.
- 38,422 mi,
- white 4dr

ONE (1) 2025 or newer crew cab truck

- Ford, Chevy or Dodge
- Basic requirements:
- Drive train: four -wheel drive
- Tow package
- Interior:
- Transmission: automatic
- Engine: 5.3L v-8, 6.2L v-8, or 6.6L v-8

Please contact the TMBCI Environmental Brownfields Program-Coordinator, Philip Lenoir at (701) 477-8339

Bidder is required to include 3% TERO fee to bids of \$10,000 or more. Must specify 3% TERO fee.

All sealed bids should be addressed and mailed to:
(Please clearly mark envelope as BID)
Allan Malaterre
Turtle Mountain Property/supply Department
PO box 900 Belcourt ND, 58316
Contact No: 701-477-2635

No faxed bids will be accepted.

All tribal and TERO regulations will be applicable, and must be concurred with.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Closing Date all bids must be received on or before the close of business at 4:30 pm, April 30, 2026.