FNA to hold rally to remember missing and murdered indigenous people

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Fairbanks, Alaska—Fairbanks Native Association will host a rally to remember missing and murdered indigenous people on Friday, Dec. 10, 12-1:30 p.m. at the JP Jones Center.

Frank Minano, Debbie Nictune, Doren Sanford, and Willis Derendoff have disappeared from the Fairbanks area in the last year. Their families will attend the rally. Local law enforcement will give updates on those cases.

“We want to help families,” said Steve Ginnis, FNA executive director. “I take this very seriously. FNA is here to help.”

Shirley Lee, FNA’s justice director, is facilitating the meeting. Lee was recently hired to run the newly formed FNA justice department.

“I’m pleased to have Shirley Lee here,” Ginnis said. “This is a passion for her and she has demonstrated this early on.”

While focusing on the four recent cases, the rally is for all missing Alaska Natives. The Alaska State Troopers missing database lists 85 local cases since 1974, and many are Alaska Natives, Lee noted.

“We are holding this rally so people don’t forget,” Lee said. “We want to keep these cases in the public eye.”

FNA encourages people who know something to contact the Alaska State Trooper anonymous text tip line. Text to 847411, then type in AKTIPS. You can either say you have information and would like a call, or send your information via text. Remember, it is anonymous.

Information about Nictune can be reported to Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or investigations@fairbanks.us.

“We know somebody out there knows something,” Ginnis said. “If you know something, say something.”

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