

## KVSC News Features

These programs aired from 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

OCTOBER 2023

Oct. 2, M	<p><b>COUNTER STORIES</b></p> <p>Several acts focused on reproductive health passed into law this session. The PRO Act established a fundamental right to abortion access and reproductive care, including maternity care, family planning, and contraception, among others. The Trans Refuge and Reproductive Freedom Acts makes Minnesota a safe haven for out-of-state people seeking abortions and gender-affirming care for minors, among others. Ruth Richardson, former House Representative and current CEO of Planned Parenthood, joins <i>Counter Stories</i> to talk through these acts and how they affect communities of color, especially the health disparities when it comes to access, women's decisions on their bodies and the birthing death disparities seen in the African American and Indigenous communities.</p>
Oct. 3, Tu	<p><b>NATIVE LIGHTS</b></p> <p>This episode features recording artist and musician Reuben Kitto Stately. Reuben is from the Santee Sioux Nation, is a citizen of the Red Lake Nation, and is very passionate about the Dakota language. Reuben was a college student when the pandemic hit, shifting his entire college experience. He drew from his experience of not being able to be social, attending online school, and missing events to inspire the music he created during the height of the pandemic.</p>
Oct. 4, W	<p><b>WITH GOOD REASON</b></p> <p>Old time music is a way of communication. A way to welcome rain after a drought or shoo a cold. Many men took it on the road, but the women stayed home. Rene Rodgers and Toni Doman give With Good Reason a taste of women musicians from Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn to Cathy Fink and Amythyst Kiah.</p>
Oct. 5, Th	<p><b>UNTOLD STORIES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA</b></p> <p>This episode pays tribute to former KVSC Station Manager, teacher, and friend Jo McMullen. This past summer, Jo succumbed to her a battle with cancer, and while the radio silence of her absence is deafening, her impact upon public radio and the community was profound and still affecting the world today. In this first half of a two-part Untold Stories, Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Producer Jeff Carmack talks with community partners and some of her peers in education, journalism, and the arts.</p>
Oct. 9, M	<p><b>COUNTER STORIES</b></p> <p>This session, Minnesota joined a growing list of states enacting the CROWN Act (Creating a Respectful &amp; Open World for Natural Hair). This amendment to</p>

	<p>the Minnesota Human Rights Act protects individuals from discrimination due to their natural hair. This comes as more and more stories emerge of BIPOC athletes, especially Black athletes, having to cut their hair to participate in their chosen sports and there is persistence of the long-running concept that natural hair is “unprofessional.”</p>
Oct. 10, Tu	<p>NATIVE LIGHTS</p> <p>The show hosts chat with Adrienne Zimiga-January, a citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation who has been creating and performing in the Twin Cities theater community for over a decade. This fall, she’s making her Guthrie debut on stage in <i>For the People</i>. It’s billed as a “world premiere comedy by Native voices” with a story set in the Minneapolis Native community. In addition to her insights on the play, Adrienne talks about her passion for theater, bringing more Native stories to the stage, and making theater a place that’s welcoming for all. Adrienne is also a member of the Guthrie Theater’s Native Advisory Council, which works to help decolonize spaces and open doors for Indigenous performers and creators. She’s also the designer of “You Are On Native Land” artwork, available in the Guthrie’s Store.</p>
Oct. 11, W	<p>WITH GOOD REASON</p> <p>Since she was a child, Luz Lopes would help her mother prepare the altar for the Day of the Dead. This year, her go-to bakery shut down so she made her own pan de muerto.</p> <p>Also in this episode: It seemed like quinoa just kind of came out of nowhere, didn’t it? Well, it kind of did. Linda Seligmann tells us how she witnessed this afterthought crop become a commercial crop.</p> <p>Finally, Brad Weiss gives us insight on North Carolina’s local farming efforts to produce real, local pork.</p>
Oct. 12, Th	<p>UNTOLD STORIES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA</p> <p>In this episode of <i>Untold Stories of Central Minnesota</i>, we at KVSC continue to pay tribute to former Station Manager, teacher and friend Jo McMullen. This week’s Part 2 focuses on Jo’s true legacy: her students.</p>
Oct. 16, M	<p>COUNTER STORIES</p> <p>Cohost Anthony Galloway recently traveled to Israel and Palestine with a group of religious leaders, artists and educators. Duluth-based Indigenous artist Moira Villiard, who was among the group, joins <i>Counter Stories</i> this week. They share their experience with the complex political issues in the area, what surprised them most, and what they took away from the trip.</p>
Oct. 17, Tu	<p>NATIVE LIGHTS</p> <p>Leah and Cole speak with Ernest Briggs (White Earth Nation), who is a director, writer, producer, teacher, and actor from the Twin Cities, where he’s worked in</p>

	<p>the theater community for more than 15 years. He's the artistic director of Turtle Theater Collective, a collective of Indigenous theater artists focused on telling Native stories. Ernest recently made his Guthrie Theater debut in <i>For the People</i>, a Native comedy that's based on the Minneapolis Native community. He speaks with us about the significance of play and how it wouldn't have been possible without important collaboration with the community. From recreating movie scenes with his brother to studying acting in Los Angeles, Ernest shares his journey as an actor and storyteller. Ernest is also a member of the Guthrie Theater's Native Advisory Council, which works to help decolonize spaces and open doors for Indigenous performers and creators.</p>
Oct. 18, W	<p><b>WITH GOOD REASON</b></p> <p>Dan Runfola says the rise of AI will be a huge boon to society, similar to the industrial revolution of the 18th century.</p> <p>Also in this episode: As we enter into the age of AI, where do the humanities fit in? Rishi Jaitly recently founded the Virginia Tech Institute for Leadership and Technology, a one-of-a-kind fellowship that immerses rising leaders in the tech world in all things humanities.</p>
Oct. 19, Th	<p><b>UNTOLD STORIES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA</b></p> <p>In today's Untold Story of Central Minnesota, Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Producer Jeff Carmack talks with Kevin Lindsey from the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC). An affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the MHC celebrate and promote the humanities in all its forms in order to answer the question of what it means to be human.</p>
Oct. 23, M	<p><b>COUNTER STORIES</b></p> <p>The <i>Counter Stories</i> crew discuss what grief looks like for themselves. Having all lost loved ones fairly recently, and not having an outlet to discuss it (as it is often seen as an inappropriate topic for social conversations), the crew talk about death, memories, shared grief, and joy.</p>
Oct. 24, Tu	<p><b>NATIVE LIGHTS</b></p> <p>Running is healing, according to <i>Native Lights</i> guest Angie DeLille, who has participated in 21 marathons. During the pandemic, Angie found herself coordinating the Tribal COVID response, but always found time to run and do marathons, even if that meant virtually. <i>Native Lights</i> talk with her about how she stayed healthy and safe (especially during the pandemic) and how running kept her body and mind healthy.</p>
Oct. 25, W	<p><b>WITH GOOD REASON</b></p> <p>No matter how they served or where or when, for veterans, returning to civilian life is a big transition. Eric Hodges is researching what it was like for African American veterans in his small Virginia community to return home.</p>

	Also on this episode: Alicia DeFonzo's grandfather was a big part of her life as a kid. He was charming and jovial and the absolute best storyteller, but his stories always left out the years he spent fighting in WWII. Late in his life, Alicia finally asked her grandfather to tell those stories and their conversations gave rise to her new book, <i>The Time Left Between Us</i> .
Oct. 26, Th	<p>UNTOLD STORIES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA</p> <p>In today's Untold Story of Central Minnesota, Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Producer Jeff Carmack talks with Dr. Terry Vermillion from the SCSU Music Department. Music in all its forms helps define our lives, but where does music come from? How is it that each generation can appreciate and produce this crucial piece of our "sound environment?" It's because of teachers, but it's also more than just that as we will find out today in our discussion.</p>
Oct. 30, M	<p>COUNTER STORIES</p> <p>Beginning in 2026, Minnesota will be the 12th state in the union to offer paid family and medical leave for all Minnesotans working in the state. This means Minnesotans will be eligible for up to 20 weeks paid leave for a serious medical condition or to care for a loved one or newborn. With 75 percent of Minnesota's workforce unable to access paid leave benefits, this new change is welcomed by Minnesota's working class, but doesn't come without tribulations. Author of the bill in the Senate, Alice Mann, joins the <i>Counter Stories</i> crew to talk about the benefits and challenges of the law.</p>
Oct. 31, Tu	<p>NATIVE LIGHTS</p> <p>Leah and Cole speak with Travis Zimmerman, whose family is from the Crane Clan of Grand Portage. He is the site manager for the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. Travis also hosted <i>DeCoded: Native Veterans In Minnesota Who Helped Win World War II</i>, produced by Minnesota Native News and Ampers. Travis talks about his love for Native American history, specifically Ojibwe history and culture, and his path to the museum and trading post.</p>

## NOVEMBER 2023

Nov. 1, W	<p>WITH GOOD REASON</p> <p>There are dragons and creatives in every workplace. Dorothy Suskind diagnoses the kind of workplace culture that allows bullying.</p> <p>Also in this episode: Chris Reina says that prioritizing relationships creates better results in the workplace. This belief is at the center of his work at the Institute for Transformative Leadership.</p>
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Nov. 2, Th	<p>UNTOLD STORIES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA</p> <p>Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Producer Jeff Carmack talks with Mike Dando and Jason Woods, the organizers behind the Minnesota Hip Hop Education Summit on Friday, November 3 in the Atwood Center. In its second year, the Hip Hop Education Summit features an entire day's worth of interactive workshops, a keynote speech from esteemed DJ and producer J. Rawls, and an after party with open mic, breakdancing, and much more.</p>
Nov. 6, M	<p>COUNTER STORIES</p> <p>When the cost of child care continues to climb, families, especially low-income families, are often left with few options. When this happens, it affects many other parts of our community, including work force and mental health. This year, in order to give some relief, the legislature passed the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program, meant to help families with young children access child care and programs designed to prepare them to begin school.</p>
Nov. 7, Tu	<p>NATIVE LIGHTS</p> <p>Leah and Cole speak with Mathew Holding Eagle III, a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation – federally recognized as the Three Affiliated Tribes – in western North Dakota. Mathew started his career in construction before pivoting to journalism. He now works at MPR News as a reporter. He's covered Native communities in Minnesota for quite a bit and recently received a National Native Award from the Indigenous Journalist Association for his reporting. He speaks with Native Lights about how he found his way to doing what he does, the philosophy behind his journalistic endeavors, and much more.</p>
Nov. 8, W	<p>WITH GOOD REASON</p> <p>You have Chef James Hemings, who cooked for Thomas Jefferson, to thank for the macaroni and cheese on your plate this Thanksgiving. <i>Setting the Table's</i> Deb Freeman tells us how the French dish became so baked into American cuisine.</p> <p>Also in this episode: Across troubled waters, enslaved people carried benne seeds and grew them in a new land. Chef Amethyst Ganaway is snacking on benne wafers while thickening the Thanksgiving stew.</p>
Nov. 9, Th	<p>VETERANS' VOICES</p> <p>Britt Aamodt shares stories of Minnesotans in the Vietnam War.</p>
Nov. 13, M	<p>COUNTER STORIES</p> <p>Taking a break from the Legislative Wrap Up, the <i>Counter Stories</i> crew gathers to celebrate joys in the latest Grab Bag show. They celebrate the recent accomplishments of many Black athletes, Asian NY Fashion Week, land back, and accessibility to sports for youth.</p>

Nov. 14, Tu	<p>NATIVE LIGHTS</p> <p>Leah and Cole speak with Thomas Draskovic, a citizen of the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota who is an educator, actor, musician, artist, and activist. Thomas has worked in the Twin Cities Native community in both schools and nonprofits for over 20 years, and for the past 16 years he's been at the American Indian Magnet School in East St. Paul as the Lakota Language and Cultural Specialist. He shares with <i>Native Lights</i> how storytelling and authenticity are crucial in his approach to teaching. He also explains why his mother, a master linguist, inspires his passion for educating youth and his strength to "do something" out in the world. In addition to his work teaching, Thomas also plays guitar and sings in the band Pretendians, featured as part of a previous Native Lights episode. He talks more about the meaning behind the name and how it brings about discussion.</p>
Nov. 15, W	<p>WITH GOOD REASON</p> <p>Some of America's first maestros of European art music were enslaved and free Virginians of African descent. Violinist David McCormick shares the music of the Black violinists of Monticello from the Hemings and Scott families.</p> <p>Also in this episode: Justin Holland was a black man who was born free in 1819 in Norfolk County, Virginia. He became one of America's first classical guitarists and was respected by European Classical Guitar Masters. Ernie Jackson discusses Justin Holland and Jackson's own life as a contemporary classical guitarist of African descent.</p>
Nov. 16, Th	<p>VETERANS' VOICES</p> <p>Kevyn Burger shares the voices of Minnesotans in World War II.</p>
Nov. 17, F	<p>UNTOLD STORIES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA</p> <p>Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Producer Jeff Carmack talks with Anthony Schrock and Katy Boyer from the Central Minnesota Theater Company about Anthony's original play <i>Ebenezer's Dry-Goods &amp; Pharmaceuticals</i>. This reimagining of Charles Dickens's <i>A Christmas Carol</i> follows Mary Ebenezer as she is visited by a litany of ghosts intent upon teaching her a lesson. Unlike the classic story, this production replaces greed with addiction.</p>
Nov. 20, M	<p>COUNTER STORIES</p> <p>When recreational cannabis became legal to possess and sell (with licenses) on August 1, 2023, the Red Lake Nation was ready. Having already been growing for medicinal use, Red Lake's legal counsel, Joe Plumer, worked alongside legislators to help pass the new law with a focus on tribal provisions. Joe joins the <i>Counter Stories</i> crew to shed some light on the new law and how Red Lake and other tribes have been navigating and continue to navigate through it.</p>

Nov. 21, Tu	<p>NATIVE LIGHTS</p> <p>This episode features an interview with Sasheen Goslin, who turned her passion for her community into a career of keeping people safe. During the pandemic, Sasheen changed the tone in Duluth around COVID-19. When people didn't believe in the virus, others were dying – mostly the underserved and those without access to healthcare. The American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO), where she led the initiative, took a different approach. They integrated their traditions and belief systems, how they show love, into the public health model and changed the conversation, making a huge difference in the community at large. Now, she continues her community health journey with her enrollment into the University of Minnesota-Duluth's Masters of Tribal Administration and Governance program.</p>
Nov. 22, W	<p>WITH GOOD REASON</p> <p>Michael Carter Jr. left America looking for home in Ghana. Now, on his fifth-generation farm, he's growing farmers through what he calls Africulture.</p> <p>Also in this episode: How Virginia's maritime climate enhances its fruit, according to celebrated sommelier Lee Campell.</p>
Nov. 23, Th	<p>WITH GOOD REASON</p> <p>World-renowned naturalist Joe Hutto, subject of the Emmy winning BBC documentary <i>My Life as a Turkey</i>, discusses how he became a wild turkey mother in the hammocks of Florida.</p> <p>The following stories are also in this episode:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fourth-generation pilot Eric Walden gives a play-by-play of the ninja-like moves of the wild turkey—mid-air.</li> <li>• The once-scorned bronze-feathered turkey is making a comeback, with the help of organic, free-range farmers like Paul Kelly.</li> </ul>
Nov. 23, Th <b>12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>	<p>PEACE TALKS RADIO</p> <p>Massasoit was the leader of the Wampanoag Confederacy when English settlers landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. He and his people kept the Pilgrims from starving in the early years of their settlement, attended the first Thanksgiving, and forged a peace treaty with the English that lasted 40 years until his death. We'll talk with American Indian scholars Darius Coombs and Bob Charlesbois, who'll fill in the details of this Native American leader's attempt to make peace for his people and with the new strangers.</p> <p>Also in this episode: Native American film director Chris Eyre on his portrayal of Massasoit for the 2009 PBS television series <i>We Shall Remain</i>.</p>

Nov. 23, Th <b>4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE – GRAVY PODCAST</b></p> <p>For Thanksgiving, a Native American story... but not the one you're imagining. No Pilgrims here. In this first episode of <i>Gravy</i>, meet a tribe of Indians who are very much still in the Southeast – and whose food reflects a distinct hybrid of Southern and Native history. For the Lumbee Indians in North Carolina, the holiday meal involves cornbread, collards, and a whole lot of pork. The Lumbee food story is a portal to a hybrid Southern-Native history that's rarely glimpsed outside the tribe. The Lumbee's story is one that spans centuries, and includes new windows into periods you may think you know – like the Jim Crow era.</p>
Nov. 24, F	<p><b>VETERANS' VOICES</b></p> <p>Veteran Britt Aamodt shares stories of Minnesotans in World War II.</p>
Nov. 27, M	<p><b>COUNTER STORIES</b></p> <p>The Counter Stories crew invited back artist and designer Adrienne Benjamin to enlighten them about the Jingle Dress. Including its origin (and how it's different where you go), its meaning, and how some things are just for the community it's made for and not to be sold to outsiders (and that's ok!).</p>
Nov. 28, Tu	<p><b>NATIVE LIGHTS</b></p> <p>Megan is a Facilitator for the White Earth Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative (IPLI), a training program that guides parents to become leading advocates for children using a cultural lens. Megan is also teaching dual language classes for the first time this fall and works as an Anishinaabemowin translator and teacher. Native Lights hear how Megan found the path to her current work and how learning the language has been a gift in her life. This summer, Megan is training for her first triathlon as a way to highlight IPLI and she shares how training is going.</p>
Nov. 29, W	<p><b>WITH GOOD REASON</b></p> <p>Worldwide there are more than 35 million refugees who have fled their homes. And when other countries take in a huge influx of those refugees, there's a lot to consider. Erika Frydenlund studies how host countries can help manage a refugee surge.</p> <p>Also in this episode: In March 2023, the William &amp; Mary Law School's Immigration Clinic had their very first approval of an asylum case—a client from Afghanistan, who fled when Kabul fell. Stacy Kern-Scheerer shares what it's like navigating the complicated asylum system.</p>
Nov. 30, Th	<p><b>VETERANS' VOICES</b></p> <p>Veteran Britt Aamodt shares stories of Minnesotans in World War I.</p>



December 2023

Dec. 4, M	<p>COUNTER STORIES</p> <p>“Pretendians” is a term new to many of us. Really, it’s another term for fraud and cultural appropriation, specific to the Indigenous communities. From academia to the arts, non-Native peoples are faking their cultural background in order to gain recognition and work. Pretendians and cultural frauds cause more harm to the communities they appropriate than just taking away work opportunities.</p>
Dec. 5, Tu	<p>NATIVE LIGHTS</p> <p>This episode features Corey Medina, a blues-rock artist from Shiprock, New Mexico and member of the Áshį́į́hí clan of the Diné Nation. His band, Corey Medina &amp; Brothers, has a reputation as an on-stage powerhouse, bringing its blues-tinged rock and roll to stages across Minnesota. Corey shares his experience moving to northern Minnesota a decade ago and talks about decolonizing his writing process during the recording of the new album <i>Soak</i>. He also talks through <i>Soak</i>’s album art, which features an animal skull submerged in a colorful body of water.</p>
Dec. 6, W	<p>WITH GOOD REASON</p> <p>NIL sent shockwaves through college athletics when it was signed into law in 2021. Now student-athletes could earn money off of their name, image, and likeness. But there weren’t any guide-rails to help student-athletes navigate the new NIL landscape. Enter Kim Whitler. She co-wrote <i>Athlete Brands: How to Benefit from Your Name, Image and Likeness</i>.</p> <p>Also in this episode: In 2020, Sha’Carri Richardson was barred from representing Team USA at the Tokyo Olympics because she tested positive for marijuana. Jo Morrison says there are many other elite athletes like Richardson who’ve had their reputations tarnished for taking banned substances that have little to no evidence of enhancing performance.</p>
Dec. 7, Th	<p>UNTOLD STORIES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA</p> <p>Producer Jeff Carmack travels deep into the virtual archives and repository at St. Cloud State University with archivist Tom Steman. The Repository at St. Cloud State holds the history of academic advancement that the school and its students have created over the years, and recent metrics of the times that papers have been downloaded and accessed show that SCSU academics are having an impact all over the world.</p>
Dec. 11, M	<p>COUNTER STORIES</p> <p>“Pretendians” is a term new to many of us. Really, it’s another term for fraud and cultural appropriation, specific to the Indigenous communities. From</p>

	<p>academia to the arts, non-Native peoples are faking their cultural background in order to gain recognition and work. Pretendians and cultural frauds cause more harm to the communities they appropriate than just taking away work opportunities.</p>
Dec. 12, Tu	<p><b>NATIVE LIGHTS</b></p> <p>Leah and Cole speak with Eileen Bass. Eileen is Hunkpapa Lakota, Mvskoke Creek, and a citizen of the Sac &amp; Fox Nation of Oklahoma. She's currently an undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. In the summer of 2023, she was accepted into the Minnesota Historical Society's Native American Undergraduate Museum Fellowship program. She is also part of the Dakota Language Nest at the University's Child Development Laboratory School. Eileen speaks about her passions at the intersection of Indigenous narratives, language revitalization, tribal histories, supporting Native youth, and more.</p>
Dec. 14, Th	<p><b>WITH GOOD REASON</b></p> <p>The holiday season is about cheer, gathering with loved ones, and, of course, food. Alex DiFeliceantonio warns that ultra-processed foods—like the ones on your holiday snack table—are actually addictive. She wants food manufacturers to include processing information on their labels.</p> <p>Also in this episode: Healthy nutrition for Virginia Indian communities is about more than just the food on the table—it's also about how that food got there. Troy Wiipongwii and Zach Conrad are building software that helps Virginia Indians plan to grow their own food.</p>
Dec. 18, M	<p><b>COUNTER STORIES</b></p> <p>What started as a show about self-care during the holiday season, turned into a group therapy session with Dr. Aisha Mgeni. She reassures the crew that having needs doesn't make you needy, it makes you human. Needs can often masquerade as wants and, especially for BIPOC folks, unmasking to get to those needs is often difficult.</p>
Dec. 19, Tu	<p><b>NATIVE LIGHTS</b></p> <p>In this week's episode of Community Health Conversations, the focus is a Q&amp;A with Dr. Antony Stately. Dr. Stately answers questions about how to keep your family's health a top priority around this holidays season and how to have difficult conversations with loved ones around the topic of COVID. He also offers resources to help keep listeners safe.</p>
Dec. 20, W	<p><b>WITH GOOD REASON</b></p> <p>As we age, we come to appreciate the holiday traditions of our youth. Ricky Mullins remembers receiving treat bags at his small, backroads church. The poke bags were stuffed oranges, peanuts, cracker jacks, and sometimes even a</p>

	<p>chocolate bar. Now, he's passing the tradition along to the youth at the church that he pastors.</p> <p>Also in this episode: Mary Lou Williams was a renowned jazz pianist and composer. She brought sacred Black jazz music to Duke University's chapel every year. Gayle Murchison shares some of Williams' music.</p>
Dec. 21, Th	<p><b>DECODED: NATIVE VETERANS IN MINNESOTA WHO HELPED WIN WORLD WAR II</b></p> <p>The government that tried to destroy Indigenous culture used it as a weapon on the battlefield.</p>
Dec. 22, F	<p><b>ETHICAL PROGRAMS DISTRIBUTION – A QUESTION OF ETHICS</b></p> <p>Before wishing one another a blessed Christmas, perhaps we should first think about what this means for all living beings on the Earth. The sum of all the “un-good” thoughts and actions of the millions upon millions of people in this world are energies that encircle the Earth like dark storm clouds, discharging bolts of violence over and over again.</p>
Dec. 26, Tu	<p><b>NATIVE LIGHTS</b></p> <p>Melissa Blind is Cree from George Gordon's First Nation in Saskatchewan. She earned her Ph.D. in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. Melissa has over a decade of experience working with Indigenous communities in Indigenous health and dementia research. As the current Senior Research Associate on the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team at the University of Minnesota, Duluth campus, Melissa is focused on collaborative research to improve dementia outcomes in Indigenous and rural communities.</p>
Dec. 27, W	<p><b>COUNTER STORIES</b></p> <p>Beginning in 2026, Minnesota will be the 12th state in the union to offer paid family and medical leave for all Minnesotans working in the state. This means Minnesotans will be eligible for up to 20 weeks paid leave for a serious medical condition or to care for a loved one or newborn. With 75 percent of Minnesota's workforce unable to access paid leave benefits, this new change is welcomed by Minnesota's working class, but doesn't come without tribulations. Author of the bill in the Senate, Alice Mann, joins the Counter Stories crew to talk about the benefits and challenges of the law.</p>
Dec. 28, Th	<p><b>WITH GOOD REASON</b></p> <p>It's almost impossible to look back on family road trips without thinking of Cracker Barrel. Cracker Barrels have a distinct sense of place—like going home to your grandparents' house. But they also look exactly the same wherever you go. Meredith Gregory studies what she calls the paradox of Cracker Barrel.</p>

	Also in this episode: Two and a half years ago, Tim Baird and his family moved into a new home, a seemingly ordinary life event. But his new digs also came with 600 college students. The building is called the Creativity and Innovation District. It's on Virginia Tech's campus and has been intentionally built to foster community. He's using the CID building to study how a space becomes a place.
Dec. 29, F	<p>DECODED: NATIVE VETERANS IN MINNESOTA WHO HELPED WIN WORLD WAR II</p> <p>The government that tried to destroy Indigenous culture used it as a weapon on the battlefield.</p>