



Photo by Sage Thompson

White Earth and Minnesota state officials gather for a photo after signing an MOU at the State Capital.

White Earth Nation and Minnesota DNR mark historic step forward in Natural Resources Stewardship

White Earth Nation recently announced the signing of a historic memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that formally strengthens and elevates the two governments' collaborative stewardship of natural resources within the White Earth State Forest.

The MOU was signed during a ceremony at the Minnesota State Capitol alongside Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. The agreement establishes a clear, government-to-government framework for how White Earth Nation and the DNR will work together on land, water, fish, wildlife, forestry, and other vital resources on state-owned, DNR-managed

lands within the forest.

"This agreement is historic for White Earth Nation," said Michael Fairbanks, Chairman of White Earth Nation. "For generations, our people have stewarded these lands and waters. This MOU affirms that when the State and White Earth work together in a true partnership, we are stronger, our ecosystems are healthier, and decisions are better for future generations. It creates a lasting framework that respects our sovereignty, our cultural responsibilities, and our role as caretakers of our homelands."

See MOU Page 8

Meet candidates running in the March 31 Primary Election

The White Earth RBC certified 17 candidates to run for Secretary-Treasurer, District 1 Representative and District 2 Representative in the upcoming Primary Election scheduled for **Tuesday, March 31**.

The purpose of the Primary Election is to determine two candidates from these positions to move on to the General Election on **Tuesday, June 9**, unless a candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes counted for that position in the Primary Election in which case that candidate will be the winning candidate.

The White Earth RBC certifies that the following list of candidates is accurate. The order of how the candidates will be placed on the ballot was determined by a drawing held Feb. 18 at an open public meeting at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. It was also broadcast live on White Earth Nation YouTube. The names of the following candidates reflects the order they appear on the ballot:

Secretary-Treasurer

Jacob McArthur, Justin Keezer, Michael "Mike" LaRoque (incumbent), Rock E. Keezer Sr., Mykee Brown, Jim LaFriniere

District 1 Representative

Andy "Jack" Auginaush, Henry G. Fox (incumbent), Fawn Roy

District 2 Representative

Bonita Brown, Leonard Louis Wadena, Patty (Patleen) Straub, Sheri Kay Snetsinger, Joe Bush, Alrick "Son" Accobee, Tyler Coleman, Tyler Anderson

All candidates were given the opportunity to submit an article and photo for this issue. Not all candidates submitted. To read what they have to say turn to **pages 20-27**.

If you have election questions you can contact the White Earth Election Board at 218-936-5622, toll free at 1-866-211-9154 or via email at electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov. The election office is located behind Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen.

***The election results **will not** be available in time for the April 1 Anishinaabeg Today. You can view the results on the website at www.whiteearth.com or the White Earth Facebook page. The election returns will be streamed live on White Earth YouTube on March 31 starting at 8 p.m.

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Will you be my Valentine!

This Elder group met recently at the Giizhigianin building in Mahanomen for a Valentines party.

A special thank you to Courtney Bunker, Marilyn Goodwin, Susie Coleman and all that visited and, or brought food.

Submitted photo

Anishinaabeg Today

The *Anishinaabeg Today* (AT) is the official publication of White Earth Nation and is published once a month. Editorials and articles appearing in the AT are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion, attitude or philosophy of the AT staff or the White Earth Nation Reservation Business Committee.

The submission of articles and photos is encouraged, however, they are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious, and libelous content. Submission does not guarantee publication. The Editor reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters. **Deadlines are strictly enforced!** Deadline dates are printed below in each issue.

The AT is distributed at no charge to all postal patrons living on White Earth Reservation and by mail to White Earth Nation members (who request the newspaper) living within the United States or at military installations overseas. One paper per household. The cost of a newspaper subscription is \$12 per year for non-members (including descendants) living off the reservation. **Current and past issues of the AT can be read online for free at www.whiteearth.com.**

For more information call 218-935-3569, email: today@whiteearth-nsn.gov, fax: 833-607-0776, or write to:

Anishinaabeg Today
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591

Memberships

- ◆ Indigenous Journalist Association
- ◆ Minnesota Newspaper Association

WER Business Committee

Michael Fairbanks
Chairman

Michael LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer

Henry George Fox
District 1 Representative

Eugene Sommers
District 2 Representative

Laura Lee Erickson
District 3 Representative

Editor

Gary W. Padrta

Future Issues *

Deadline	Issue Date
March 25	April 1
April 29	May 6
May 28	June 3
June 24	July 1
July 29	August 5

* Deadline and issue dates subject to change

A Swan Flies Home

By Winona LaDuke

As the swans return to Round Lake. Waabiziiwag giiwewag. I am comforted by the return of Ziigwan, spring, in a cycle which remains constant in a political and social world which shifts and lists violently. I think of Mike Swan, Waase Makwa of the Maang Dodaem-Loon Clan, known as the Mayor of Pine Point, a culture keeper, educator and patriot of the Anishinaabeg.

Mike passed to the Spirit world after a lengthy battle with cancer on Feb. 10. He did many things in his life of 70 winters, and I only know a few. To be honest, my times with Mike were short, but his stories were epic. But as I stood and danced for him at his Midewiwin funeral, I saw many young and old, and realized that even in his passing he brought us together. One person can make a difference. Mike is a shining example of that.

In the summertime, swans dominate the northern lakes like Shell Lake, Round Lake and lakes near the Tamarac Wildlife Refuge. A flock of a hundred or more swans may grace these waters. It's a beautiful sight.

Minwenzhaa, long ago, there were flocks of birds which darkened the skies, passenger pigeons, geese, and swans in abundance, fish in every lake, and of course buffalo. By the time the state of Minnesota came into being, things were not going so great.

The last recorded trumpeter swan nesting pair in Minnesota was in 1884-85. Hunted for food and feathers, the swans were skinned and sold to Europe where the skin and down were used to put powder on women's faces. By 1935 there were only a 69 trumpeter swans left in the lower 48 states. That was a tragedy. Really -- all for some powder on faces!

In 1977, things began to change. Carroll Henderson worked with DNR Non-Game species. His goal was to establish 30 breeding pairs in Minnesota. In 1984, DNR staff flew to Alaska and returned to Minnesota with 50 swan eggs.

Mike Swan from the White Earth Biology Department and the Tamarac Refuge staff joined the DNR to release the newly adult swans into the reservation and the refuge. The non-game program continued collecting 50 swan eggs annually from refuges and zoos. These were all released on the White Earth Reservation and within the Tamarac Refuge. By 2000, there were 670 breeding pairs of swans in Minnesota. By 2015 there were 1,700, and in 2022, the DNR estimated 51,860 swans were here in the state. That's a

comeback.

Waabiziiwag giiwewag, the swans return home. This work to restore some of the original dignity of this land and waters is the work of many people and agencies, and it is often not acknowledged. But these swans wanted to come home. That's how things change. Miigwech, Mike Swan, not only for this but for these other things you did.

Chi Dewe'igan Giwe

And then there is the return of the drum, the ceremonial big drum which today sounds in the village of Pine Point. There were once 13 traditional drums on the White Earth reservation, I am told, as part of a religion born of our relationship with our "most honored enemies," the Dakota. The drum was about peace, healing and wellbeing.

The drum, which belonged to the old ones in Pine Point, was taken, much like the others, by anthropologists, Christian zealots, and more. One drum was found in the rafters of the St. Columba Church, outside of White Earth.

But the Pine Point drum was found at Beloit College in Wisconsin. Researchers from the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) found it initially, and the Anishinaabe were told it was a pow wow drum and had been purchased legally. For those who know the difference between ceremonial drums and pow wow drums, this was literally clear on the face of the drum.

It took some years, but it was Mike Swan who went to collect the drum from Beloit College, bringing the grandfather home in the back of a van. He told me that he could hear that drum all the way home.

It was about 20 years later in 2025, when that drum sounded for the first time in Pine Point village, during a rebirth of the healing ceremony, with the songs and a way to remember and restore relationships. The drum that returned with Mike Swan.

As he joins his ancestors dancing in Waawaate, those Northern Lights, I am sure that Mike Swan changed the course of history on the lakes, in tribal politics and now in the Spirit world. I want to raise my hands to him and express miigwechiwenim for his work on earth.



Mike Swan



Ken Sullivan retires from White Earth Maintenance

Ken "Bone" Sullivan recently retired from the White Earth Maintenance Department.

Honoring him with a blanket are District 3 Representative Laura Lee Erickson and Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque.

Photo by Gary W. Padrta

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation

First-Time Homebuyer Education Class

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
 Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Location: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building
 15542 State 371 NW, Cass Lake, MN



Course Topics

- Budgeting for a Home
- Obtaining a Mortgage with MCT
- What to look for in an Existing Home
- Procedures for New Construction
- Fee Land/Lease Land
- Working with a Real Estate Agent
- Closing your Loan
- Maintaining your Home
- Avoiding Delinquency

First-time Homebuyer Education is a requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation for qualified buyers.

No childcare is provided so please make other arrangements.

Please reserve your spot in this class with Michael Northbird at (218) 335-8582, extension 150 or mnorthbird@mnchippewatribe.org

Fish house removal deadline draws near

The White Earth Conservation Law Enforcement Officers would like to remind all Tribal members that unoccupied fish houses and shelters must be removed from the ice by Monday, March 16 by 11:59 p.m.

Failure to comply with this regulation is a violation of the White Earth Conservation Code and may result in the fish house/shelter being confiscated or destroyed and the owner being cited into White Earth Tribal Court. Remember the importance of ice safety and be careful when on the ice.

GETTING A TRIBAL ID OR RENEWAL

If you don't have your old Tribal ID, you **MUST** first go to Enrollments for a CDIB.

To change your address on a Tribal ID you **MUST** have something in your name showing your new address.

White Earth DMV Licensing

You can reach the Anishinaabeg Today at today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks



Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag Niminwendam Waabaminaan!

Onaabani-Giizis
 Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadi-zookaanag.

Weweni-sago-na
 Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is already March the Crusted Snow Moon.
 Everyone Be Safe and Stay Safe,

Time is sure flying by this year; I hope everyone is doing great.

Long ago, beside a frozen ziibing, river, an old man sat alone in his wiigiwaam, lodge. He was called Biboon, Winter. His breath had covered Aki, the earth, in goon, deep snow. For many moons he had ruled the land. The ishkode, fire, before him had burned low, and his bones felt the weight of many winters.

As giizis, the sun, began to climb higher each day, there came a presence at his doorway. A young man stepped inside, light in his walk. His cheeks were bright, his eyes shining. Around his head he wore wiingashk, sweetgrass, braided with care. In his hands he carried waabigwanan, flowers, fragrant and new.

Biboon looked up and gave a slow nod. "Aaniin, ningoozis, my son. You bring warmth with you. Sit beside me. Let us speak as relatives. Tell me where your footsteps have carried you."

They filled an opwaagan, pipe, and the smoke rose softly, curling upward like a prayer.

Biboon spoke first. "Niin, I am Biboon. With my breath I still nibi, water. I bind the zaaga'iganan, the lakes, in ice. When I lift my white hair, the snow falls and the goon- snow, covers the hills. The bineshinyag, birds, travel south. The makwa, bear, sleeps. Even the smallest awesiinyag, the animals, grow quiet. I bring rest so that aki may sleep and gather strength."

The young man listened with respect and then answered. "Niin, I am Ziiigwan, Spring. When I breathe upon the earth, the snow softens and becomes nibi again. The ziibing runs free. Waabigwanan, flowers rise from the soil. The mitigoog, trees, feel sap moving in their veins. I call the bineshiinyag birds home, and they return with song. I bring niibin summer mino-bimaadiziwin, the good summer life, back to the people and to the land."

As they spoke, the air inside the wiigiwaam grew warmer. The giizis shone brighter through the doorway. Outside, the snow began to sink into the earth. Biboon's shoulders bent low. His voice grew softer. He understood this moment. The circle does not break; it turns.

Ziiigwan stepped out into the light. A gentle rain began to fall. The ziiibi cracked and flowed again, laughing over stones. A robin landed nearby, then another bird joined, filling the air with bright song.

Biboon did not resist. He lowered himself to the earth, and his white hair melted into nibi that slipped beneath last year's leaves. His last breath was cool and quiet. Then he was gone.

Ziiigwan stood tall in the golden light. Across aki, green shoots pushed upward. Soon children would run through the grass, gathering the first waabigwanan, their laughter rising into the warm air.

This is the teaching. Biboon goes, Ziiigwan comes. Life returns. The circle of bimaadiziwin, life, continues, and we give thanks. It won't be long until we are tapping the maple trees and boiling sap again!

We have an update from our Department of Public Safety this month. Protecting our Nation requires dedication, and our Public Safety Department works tirelessly to keep us safe.

The White Earth Police Department (WEPD) is the primary law enforcement agency for the White Earth Reservation, providing full-service policing and 24/7 public safety coverage to the community. The department is staffed by 23 sworn officers who deliver frontline service across all districts of the reservation.

WEPD also operates a fully staffed dispatch center with six professional dispatchers, ensuring continuous emergency communications and rapid coordination of police response. This center functions around the clock and serves as the critical link between community members and officers in the field.

Officers consistently demonstrate professionalism, cultural awareness, and dedication to the people they serve. WEPD has earned a reputation as one of the most capable and respected agencies in the region—an organization that attracts and retains high-quality officers because of its supportive culture, teamwork, and pride in mission.

- WEPD is available 24/7
- Emergencies: Call 911
- Non-emergencies or to request an officer: Call the WEPD dispatch line at 218-983-3281
- Community members may also visit the department during business hours for assistance, information, or support.

Miigwech White Earth Public Safety for all you do for our reservation communities.

Chi-miigwech bizindawiyeg miinawaa anooj ninda-gikinoo'amaadiwin,

Baamaapii wiingezin.

Miigwech bizindawiyeg.

Gigawaabaminim naagaj.

Thank you for listening and continuing to learn together,
 Take it easy.
 See you all later.

Chairman Michael Fairbanks

The White Earth Primary Election is March 31 - polls will be open from 8 a.m to 8 p.m.

News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

Boozhoo White Earth Nation,

I would like to share updates on several projects and actions the Tribal Council has been working on since the beginning of the year. Council continues to meet regularly with program directors and department staff to review budgets, address community concerns, and coordinate services for members across the reservation and in urban areas.

Economic development and enterprise operations remain active. White Earth Enterprises, including gaming operations, healthcare services, and Waabigwan Mashkiki, continue daily operations and support tribal programs and services. The Nation's cannabis operations and related business activities are providing new revenue opportunities and employment for members while helping strengthen long-term planning for the Nation.

The Tribal Council has also continued work on land and infrastructure planning. Recent land purchases near Moorhead are part of long-range planning that may support housing, education, and business development in the future. Council and staff are working through planning and development steps to determine the best use of those properties.

Housing and elder services remain an important focus. New Elder Tiny Homes have been completed in several White Earth communities, allowing elders to remain close to family and community supports. Council continues to work with housing staff to identify additional housing needs and future development opportunities.

Transportation and community infrastructure projects are also moving forward. Construction of a new public transit facility in Waubun will improve coordination of transportation services for members across the reservation. Expanded child care and family service programming is also underway to improve access for working families.

Natural resource and cultural programs continue to be supported as well. The White Earth bison herd



continues to grow, and natural resource staff are actively involved in stewardship planning and treaty-related work in surrounding areas. Cultural programming and seasonal activities are also continuing throughout the community.

In addition, departments across the Nation have continued hosting community events, wellness activities, and behavioral health gatherings that bring members together and support overall well-being.

As always, much of the work of tribal government happens through daily coordination between departments, employees, and leadership. I appreciate the staff across all programs who carry out services for our members every day.

If members have questions or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to Tribal Council or attend meetings when possible. Your input helps guide priorities and improve services.

Miigwech,

Michael (Mike) LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer
White Earth Nation

Transit building on schedule to open this summer

The new White Earth Public Transit Facility is currently under construction and is located in Waubun along Pleasant Avenue/Hwy113, south of Waubun High School.

This building will house all of White Earth Public Transit operations, which includes administrative offices, dispatch center, passenger waiting area, bus storage, maintenance, and bus-wash bay.

Construction is set to be completed in mid/late summer. This will be the first fully functional operations transit facility on the White Earth Reservation. This will welcome customers to be able to park at the site and catch a bus to their destination for only a \$2 bus

fare. The building will also feature an indoor transfer area where customers can transfer indoors out of the elements of mother nature's wind, snow, ice, and heat, thus also giving clients a sense of ease if they need to use an ADA lift to access the buses or for any customer that might need just a little more time during the boarding process.

This project has been a vision of Transit for roughly 10 years and will soon be open. White Earth Public Transit is a public service and is available for anyone of all ages to ride.

To schedule a ride with White Earth Public Transit, call the dispatch center at 218-983-3283.



Photo by Laura Lee Erickson

The new White Earth Transit building in Waubun is scheduled to be operational in mid/late summer.

Call for Bids – 2 Beaded Crowns

The White Earth Powwow Committee is seeking bids with design for two (2) beaded crowns (one each for a Sr. Princess crown and a Jr. Princess crown) for the upcoming 158th White Earth Annual Treaty Day Celebration & Pow Wow on June 12th-14th, 2026.

All bid and designs must include contact information for the artist and **are due by March 31, 2026**. Please include pictures of previous crowns you have made and drawings of the proposed crowns. Within the designs, please include the following:

**158th White Earth Sr Princess
158th White Earth Jr Princess**

Bids with designs should be emailed to Christopher Vanwert Jr at Christopher.Vanwert@whiteearth-nsn.gov. Crowns must be completed and delivered to the White Earth Powwow Committee by close of business on June 6, 2026 to receive full payment.

Additional information will be provided to the artist following the bidding process. Miigwech!

 **LIVINGWORKS ASIST**

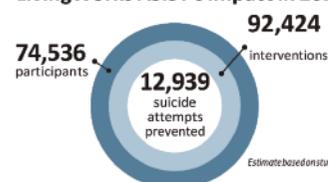
Learn the skills to provide a suicide first-aid intervention

LivingWorks ASIST is a 2-day interactive workshop that will provide you with the skills to intervene with someone who has thoughts of suicide.

You will learn to:

- Develop a safety plan to keep someone safe-for-now and connect them with further help
- Talk openly about personal and community attitudes and suicide
- Build confidence and capacity in providing suicide first-aid

LivingWorks ASIST's impact in 2022



People making a difference with LivingWorks ASIST

Over 25 years of research support the use of LivingWorks ASIST in the following settings:



Upcoming ASIST Training

Date: March 10-11, 2026
Location: Shooting Star Casino
Hosted by: White Earth Mental Health

Cost: Free
Register: 218-935-3925 or martha.allen@whiteearth-nsn.gov

***Light breakfast and lunch included**

***Participants are required to attend both full days to receive a certificate of completion.**

Learn more about LivingWorks ASIST: livingworks.net/training/livingworks-asist

IN NEED OF SEPTIC PUMPING

If you need your sewer system pumped call the White Earth Water and Sewer Department at 218-935-6276.

Tribal Enrolled Elder (55 years of age or older) - \$25

Tribal Enrolled Member (54 years or younger) - \$80

White Earth Business - \$115

Non-enrollee (any age) - \$185

Businesses - \$225

(You must reside on the White Earth Reservation)

News From District 2 Rep. Eugene Sommers

Boozhoo Anishinaabe,

White Earth State Forest MOU

On Feb. 3, the White Earth Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Minnesota regarding the management of the White Earth State Forest. The signing took place at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul.

The agreement allows the Tribe to formally collaborate with State agencies on forest management while establishing a pathway toward the long-term goal of returning the land to Tribal ownership and stewardship. The MOU represents a meaningful step forward in honoring Tribal sovereignty and advancing land back initiatives within ancestral territories.

Minnesota Office of Higher Education Consultation

On Feb. 13, the Reservation Business Committee (RBC) met with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education for consultation on tribal education priorities. Discussion included the American Indian Scholars Waiver, with updates on the program and ongoing efforts with the Minnesota State system, funding allocation reductions impacting Tribal students, updates from the Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership, development of 2026 legislative priorities, review of new statewide higher education attainment goals following the conclusion of the 2015–2025 goal period, and discussion of the White Earth Tribal and Community College audit.

NCAI in Washington, D.C.

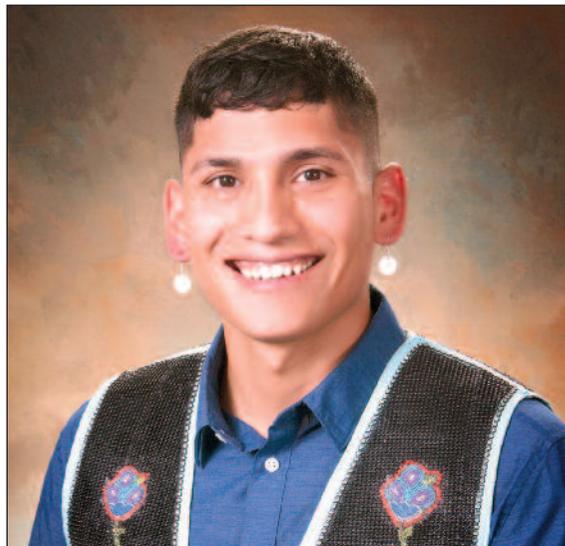
White Earth participated in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) sessions in Washington, D.C., engaging in federal advocacy and agency consultations.

Congressional Meetings

Meetings were held with the offices of Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar, and Betty McCollum. Discussions focused on infrastructure funding, environmental protections, and concerns related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations in Minneapolis.

Boundary Waters Protection

The office of Tina Smith shared that they are opposing legislation that would open mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Protection of the



Boundary Waters is important to the Tribe, as any contamination or pollution would directly impact wild rice harvesting and limit cultural access to these pristine waters and lands.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation

White Earth met with Josh Coursey, Senior Advisor to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During the meeting, positive updates were shared regarding the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge MOU and ongoing collaboration between Federal and Tribal agencies.

A federal report expected in late May or early June will assess the National Wildlife Refuge System and National Fish Hatchery System to identify sites that may no longer align with federal missions. Tribal leaders view this as a timely opportunity for Tribes to assume management authority over local refuges and hatcheries, strengthening stewardship responsibilities and advancing Tribal self-governance.

Contacts

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Christopher Vanwert Jr.

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THE COLON CONNECTION “A PATH TO PREVENTION”

March is **Colorectal Cancer Awareness** month.

Did you know that **COLORECTAL CANCER** affects **WOMEN AND MEN** of all ages? Did you know the rate of colon cancer in those **YOUNGER than 50** is rising? Did you know that **EARLY SCREENING** for Colorectal Cancer can save your life?



FIND OUT MORE

with White Earth Public Health



Take a tour of our giant inflatable colon, learn about colon health and screenings, and join the “Colon Connection”.

- Thursday March 5 @ White Earth RBC from 9a to 3p
- Thursday March 12 @ Rice Lake Community Center from 10a to 2p
- Thursday March 19 @ NayTahWaush Complex from 9a to 3p
- Thursday March 26 @ Mahnomen Tribal College

COLON CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

Freezer getting empty?

B & T Meats has some cost-saving options!

Meat Bundles – starting at \$75 and customized to your needs.

Locally sourced Half and Whole Hogs cut to your specifications. Price is \$2.60 per **hanging weight**. The average hanging weight of a whole hog is 200 lbs. This is a good deal for those who like pork chops, ribs and roast. You can also select the options for bacon, sausage and ham.

Locally sourced Quarter, Half and Whole Beef - cut to your specifications. Give us a call to get an estimated cost.

Our store hours are Monday – Friday 9 am to 6:30 pm and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm

Phone: 218-473-2822

Follow us on Facebook (search Benson + Turner Foods, Inc.) and on our Website www.btmeats.com for our weekly specials.

We accept cash, debit and credit cards, and EBT payments.



Valleyview Commons

Valleyview Commons in Mahnomen has immediate openings for 1 bedroom units for persons 62 and older or with a verified disability.

Rent is based on 30% of your adjusted monthly income calculated per HUD guidelines up to a contract rent of \$615 and includes water, sewer and garbage.

Tenant is responsible for electric and heat.

For more information contact DW Jones Management. 218-547-3307 or apply at www.dwjonesmanagement.com



CREATING BETTER LIVING
Equal Housing Opportunity

TTY:711



Ninandagikandan Niinadib

Mental Health Awareness Conference

MAY 27TH, 2026

@THE SHOOTING STAR CASINO

More information to come...

SAVE
the
DATE



News From District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

Greetings relatives and community members. Together, we continue to uplift our youth and work toward a brighter future for all members of our tribe.

2-3 Tribal leaders and staff traveled to the Minnesota State Capitol for the signing of the White Earth State Forest Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This important agreement formalizes the collaborative relationship between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the White Earth Nation. The White Earth State Forest is a public land area managed by the state of Minnesota and its title is held by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This means that the DNR owns and oversees the management of the land on behalf of the state and its residents. While the DNR holds the legal title, the White Earth Nation have inherent rights, cultural ties and traditional connections to these lands. The recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizes a collaborative relationship, allowing the tribe to work alongside the DNR to ensure that the management of the forest respects tribal sovereignty, cultural practices and environmental stewardship.

2-4 During our visit to the White Earth Urban Office located at the Clifton building in Minneapolis, we had the opportunity to tour the ongoing construction site. The renovation and expansion project is actively progressing and the updates will improve the facility. The improvements include the addition of new office spaces, several conference rooms to better serve community needs and a new elevator designed to improve accessibility for everyone. This project is an investment in our community's infrastructure aimed at creating a more functional environment. The construction is scheduled for completion in June 2026.

Mark your calendar for the White Earth Urban Community Council Powwow on May 16.

2-13 White Earth staff and leaders recently met and engaged in consultations with Commissioner Dennis Olson Jr. from the Office of Higher Education. These discussions focused on exploring opportunities for collaboration, American Indian Scholars waiver, funding allocation reductions, addressing educational priorities and strengthening pathways for higher education within the community.

2-23 Carol Thompson, WE Boys/Girls Club CEO, and I traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's National Advocacy. Our mission was to advocate for funding and support for key initiatives including the Healthy Food Summer Meals Act, Youth Workforce Readiness Act, Career Pathways, Youth Mentoring initiatives. During our visit we met with staff members from Senator Amy Klobuchar's office, Senator Tina Smith's office, Representative Pete Stauber, Representative Michelle Fischbach and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. These discussions were an important opportunity to highlight the needs of our youth and advocate for policies that will benefit our community. We connected with Boys and Girls Club staff from across the United States including representatives from over 250 tribal clubs. These connections allowed us to strengthen our network and reaffirm our commitment to empowering youth in tribal communities nationwide.

We also witnessed the signing of the new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) titled "Partnering for Impact: BGCA Native Services & the Bureau of Indian Education" a formal partnership agreement between the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) Native Services team and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). This MOA is designed to foster collaboration aimed at supporting Native youth through culturally relevant programs, resources and services.



It emphasizes joint efforts to improve educational outcomes, provide positive youth development opportunities, and strengthen community engagement within Native communities.

Project Updates

New White Earth Transit Building in Waubun

Construction continues on the new White Earth Transit Building with the project now approximately 40% complete! Once finished this new transit hub will support buses in the Tribe's transit fleet and provide space for transit employees. Located across the Waubun High School along Pleasant Ave/Hwy 113, the facility will include: Bus wash bay, mechanic bay, bus storage, indoor transfer and waiting area, administrative offices, dispatch area. This project is a major step forward in strengthening transportation services for the Reservation. The building is expected to be completed in late fall 2026.

Callaway Boys and Girls Club Building

We want to provide an update regarding Callaway. The previous Callaway Boys and Girls Club building was demolished due to mold issues that made it unsafe for continued use. This created a barrier for having space for Boys and Girls Club. This last year we created a team to identify a plan, solutions and pursue funding opportunities for a replacement facility. Although we applied for grant funding and were not selected, we remained committed to finding a path forward.

We are proud and excited to announce that the Tribe is moving forward with plans for a new building for our youth and community. This new facility will serve as a multi-purpose space and will include: a Boys and Girls Club area, offices for staff, mental health service office space, a kitchen and half of a gymnasium. This project represents a major investment in our children, families and future generations. It reflects our commitment to providing safe spaces, supportive services and opportunities for growth, wellness and community connection. We look forward to sharing more details as the project progresses.

Our Reservation has lost a truly great man. A respected spiritual advisor, former Natural Resources Director, dedicated member of the Pine Point Community Council, teacher- his leadership and guidance touched so many lives. He gave so much to our people and our land and his presence will be deeply missed, leaving behind a legacy that will not be forgotten. May his teachings, wisdom and spirit live on through all of us. Happy hunting on the other side Swanny.

Please feel free to reach out if you would like to schedule a meeting or discuss anything. I welcome the opportunity to connect and collaborate. #TogetherWeCanBuildABrighterTomorrow.

Miigwech

Reminder from White Earth Natural Resources

Remove all waste from the ice and keep in mind it's illegal to leave litter on the ice. Minnesota's "Keep It Clean" law — which makes it illegal to place garbage and waste on or under the ice of Minnesota's lakes and rivers — was signed into law in May 2023.

Examples of covered waste include garbage, cigarette filters, litter, fireworks debris, dead animals, sewage, and other waste left outside your shelter, vehicle, or container on the ice.

Valley View Manor

Valley View Manor in Ada has 1 bedroom units for rent.

Rent is based on 30% of your adjusted monthly income calculated per HUD guidelines up to a contract rent of \$750 and includes: Water, Sewer, Garbage and Heat.

For more information contact DW Jones Management. 218-547-3307 or apply at www.dwjonesmanagement.com



CREATING BETTER LIVING
Equal Housing Opportunity

TTY711



2026 WHITE EARTH ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

The 2026 White Earth Energy Assistance Program will be accepting applications first part of September 2025, please call for an application at that time. You can also pick one up at the office in Waubun or watch and they will be on the White Earth web page. For those of you that have applied last heating season, you will receive an application in the mail in September 2025.

Please keep in mind to fill out your application clearly and completely, with all necessary documentation, this will make for a faster process. Homeowners, please call if you are having furnace problems, we may be able to help you. Please remember to change your filters once a month for adequate maintenance.

Always keep in mind to check your tanks, running out will adhere to more problems. Summer prices are at low this time of year, call your company to set up payment plans or arrangements if suitable.

Any questions on the program or need to fax any information, please call the number or fax below. Hope everyone had a great summer!

No funds available until around first week in November 2025

Physical address: 3303 US Hwy 59, Waubun, MN 56589

Mailing address: PO Box 418, White Earth, MN 56591

Phone#: 218/473-2711 Fax#: 218/473-2719 Toll Free#: 1-866-885-7656
Visit us at www.whiteearth.com Energy Assistance Program

WHITE EARTH URBAN OFFICE

The White Earth Urban Office is located at 1730 Clifton Place, Suite 100, in Minneapolis. Their phone number is 612-813-1590 and the office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

White Earth Tribal and Community College - Community Extension supports the community

By Diane McArthur and Tammy Bellanger
WETCC Community Extension

White Earth Tribal and Community College, Community Extension (WETCC-CE) staff, would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our White Earth Reservation partners who assist us in providing community food security-based education.

Grants received through USDA (NIFA) provide our department with the majority of program funding to support workshops, camps, and other educational offerings. Where possible, community knowledge speakers are brought in to teach and share their gifts.

The generous support of our community partners enables us to expand what we do in many wonderful ways. Some of these partners include White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health (WENTPH), White Earth Natural Resources Department (WENRD) and White Earth Ag-Food Sovereignty Initiative (WENRD-AG), the White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP), and the Waubun School Forest (WSF).

WETCC-CE is in the process of completing new projects and updates around our department. We are in the final stages of a building remodel, with new paint, flooring, and a renovated kitchen, which helps to support our programming in a positive way with expanded counter space, updated appliances, and a better workflow design.

Need a place to garden? The WETCC-CE family garden beds have been fully rebuilt, bringing structure, durability, and new life to this space. Weather-resistant lumber, improved soil blends, and irrigation give the garden a strong foundation for many growing seasons to come. The increased bed height reduces strain during planting, weeding, and harvesting. This renewed growing space will support a diverse mix of vegetables, herbs, and pollinator plants. We encourage families and individuals to contact us this spring to sign-up to reserve their free raised bed garden spots. (Seeds, plant starts, and education are provided.)

Among the many construction projects on campus is the addition of a deep-winter greenhouse, with insulated glazing, solar heat capture, and temperature regulation. The structure makes it possible to extend the growing season in spring and fall. The greenhouse will be a space to support student learning, to grow garden plant starts in spring, and an opportunity to grow some greens throughout the winter months.

A new root cellar has also been added to safely store harvests for use in those months when we are unable to grow food in our climate. In spring 2026,



The WETCC-CE family garden beds have been fully rebuilt, bringing structure, durability, and new life to this space.



Photos by Diane McArthur

The WETCC-CE in Mahnomen recently renovated their kitchen.

this above ground unit will be covered with earth to provide ideal conditions for potatoes, squash, carrots, onions, and other staples. Donated local ecotype prairie seed will be planted on top to secure the soil and provide natural beauty. Inside the root cellar, proper ventilation, shelving, and moisture control will extend food shelf life without relying on electricity. In combination with the deep-winter greenhouse, this cellar reduces reliance on grocery-store supply chains and supports a more resilient, local, and sustainable way of being.

WETCC, CE received an American Indian Food Sovereignty (AIFS) grant in July 2025 from the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). With this grant we've created a two-year program: "Planting the seeds of Resiliency: Growing Food Sovereignty through Community Seed Keeping." This funding will enable WETCC-CE and our community program partners WENTPH, WENRD-AG, and WELRP to dive deeper into educating the community about the importance and "how to" of saving your own seeds.

In this cohort, our goal is for participants to gain the skills needed to grow plants/food and to harvest, process, and properly store the seeds for future planting. Community Extension and partnering programs have been meeting monthly with the participants to strengthen these skills. We use a variety of educational teaching methods, such as hands-on, face-to-face, short videos, and provide written materials, as well as learning from participants who share their knowledge and experience with the group.

If you have challenges when it comes to growing, preparing, preserving, and cooking or you are interested in building access to food/seed security and want to reserve raised bed gardening spots and/or to join our Seed Keepers cohort, stop by at our WETCC, Community Extension building next to the main college at 2250 College Rd., Mahnomen from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m, email us at extension@wetcc.edu, or contact us at 218-935-0417.

Join the fun! Follow us on the WETCC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wetcc/>, check out the WETCC-CE webpage at <https://www.wetcc.edu/extension/>, listen to KKWE Nijii Radio at 89.9FM, and look for information in the Anishinaabeg Today newspaper on our Seed Distributions, Seasonal Camps (winter camp, sugar bush, berry camp, wild rice camp) and other Community Extension programming events.

The WETCC-CE staff and project partners look forward to offering these learning opportunities for and with our community.

White Earth Council of Elders

By Lucille M. Silk, Chairwoman
White Earth Nation Council of Elders

As in January, last month has proved to be similar with travel warnings and closing of schools, businesses, and health clinics. It was a time again to check on Elders that live independently by a telephone call or a home visit. Many were in need of shoveling, such as entry ways, sidewalks and checking fuel tanks to make sure they have adequate heat during those cold times. The programs that provide this type of service are very much appreciated by our Elders. Remember that ice is an enemy to us Elders, as we become more fragile as shut-ins when it is so cold out.

The nominations for Secretary and a representative for Districts 1, 2, and 3 are still open through March 13, until 4:30 p.m. These four positions are for the Elder Council of which we feel will provide more input so that there is more transparency. Thus far, we have two nominations for District 3 and one for the Secretary. Please consider adding your name to either of the positions, and all will be voted on Monday, March 23 from 1-5 p.m. at the Shooting Star Casino. Winners will be announced at the April 7 WEEOE meeting in White Earth after the Elder Nutrition lunch, and they will take their seats. We want to thank all Elders that come out to vote as we encourage your cooperation. Please call either Joan Thompson at 218-204-0852 or Sam Crowell at 218-252-9390 to get your name on the ballot.

All requirements for the Wisdom Step Conference has been closed for 2025. Those that have completed the needed items will be registered for the annual conference that will be held at June 16 -18 at the Black Bear Casino. We will be making double occupancy rooms and travel arrangements as the time nears and will notify all. We encourage any Elders that are not currently members to begin working on this years walk and health cards which will need to be turned in by Dec. 31 for next years conference.

Please know the staff at White Earth, Naytahwaush, and Pine Point Clinics have been trained on what health needs are to be recorded. As for the walk cards you can use a pedometer or your cell phone has an app, or look for an organized walk to consider. We want to congratulate all the folks that have met the criteria and are gaining a better perspective about their health. If you have any questions, just give me a call at 218-204-0112.

We set up a candidate forum for Saturday, April 18 from 1-4 p.m. at Shooting Star Casino for White Earth candidates moving on to the General Election. Please come out and visit with the candidates - ask questions and listen to what they have to say.

As we look and hope for Spring to be just around the corner, we will be planning some events for Elders and will try to get the information out through the Elder Nutrition sites and moccasin trail. We were not able to go to the last TEC meeting as the cold scared out even the ones that always seem to go. We hope to get a group to attend the next meeting as we learn dates and place.

We did not get enough time to gather the various organizations to do a Valentine Party at our Elder sites, so have decided to have an Easter program. Dates and times will be announced.

Remember the first meeting of this full Board will be held in April as previously announced. We encourage you as Elders to attend and provide your ideas.

You are valuable just because you exist. Not because of what you do or what you have done, but simply because you are.

Lucille M. Silk



Photo by Jeffrey Burnette

White Earth Nation Chairman Michael Fairbanks signs an MOU along with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Looking on is Minnesota Department Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen.

MOU from Front Page

While White Earth Nation and the DNR have long coordinated on conservation and land management, the new agreement formally documents that relationship and elevates cooperation through consistent communication, information-sharing, and joint planning in alignment with Tribal, state, and federal law.

White Earth Nation views the MOU as a milestone in strengthening its government-to-government relationship with Minnesota and advancing natural resource practices that honor Anishinaabe knowledge, protect culturally significant areas, and ensure sustainable management across the forest landscape.

Areas of Collaboration

The agreement identifies expanded coordination in areas including:

- Fisheries and aquatic invasive species prevention
- Forestry and land management
- Water resources and wildlife
- Wild rice protection and stewardship
- Aquatic and wildlife management areas
- Land sales, exchanges, and acquisitions prior to initiation
- Hunting seasons and wildlife health, including chronic wasting disease prevention
- Wildfire response and emergency communication



tion

The MOU also supports cooperative forest management planning and reinforces shared efforts to protect ecosystems, culturally important species, and public lands throughout the White Earth State Forest.

While the agreement strengthens ongoing collaboration, it does not address White Earth Nation's separate request regarding the transfer of state lands.

White Earth Nation considers this partnership a forward-looking step that reflects respect, cooperation, and a shared commitment to responsible stewardship—demonstrating what is possible when sovereign governments come together for the benefit of the land, the people, and future generations.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and White Earth Chairman Michael Fairbanks congratulate each other after signing an MOU that formally strengthens and elevates the two governments' collaborative stewardship of natural resources within the White Earth State Forest.



Photos by Sage Thompson

5th Annual
**HEALTH & WELLNESS
 ROUND DANCE**
 MARCH, 7TH 2026
 SHOOTING STAR CASINO, EVENT CENTER
 MAHNOMEN, MN
 Dinner | 4:30 PM | Hand Drum Contest | 5:30 PM | Round Dance to follow
 DOOR PRIZES | DANCE SPECIALS | 3 MAN SINGING
 SPECIAL | FASHION SPECIALS | AND MORE...
 Emcee - Dave Northbird
 Stickman - Anthony Buckanaga
 Whipmen - Craig Bower & Jeremy Clark
 Invited Singers - Hokie Clairmont, Dayton
 Jones, Courtney Hayes, Frank Stech, James
 Cloud III, Keith Caldwell
 PURE DYNAMITE SOUNDS
 LIMITED VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE, CONTACT JEDEDIAH
 DESJARLAIT SR - 218-570-9836
 SPONSORED BY: WHITE EARTH BEHAVIORAL
 HEALTH & MAHNOMEN TRIBAL COMMUNITY
 COUNCIL
 MTCC
 Mahnomen Tribal Community Council
 WHITE EARTH
 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**HOPE
 for Mahnomen**
 Mahnomen High School Gymnasium
April 14-15
 Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30 PM
A Reason to hope. A time to heal.

Tom Shanklin, Guest Speaker
 Mayor Curt Uran, Host
 Katie Baker, Music

For all young people, for all adults, for all elders.
Free Community Gathering
 Brought to you by area churches, community leaders, and organizations.
 For more info, call (218) 261-0916

Your job search ends here
www.whiteearth.com

**2026 DRAWING FOR LEECH, MINNOW AND TURTLE HARVEST
WITHIN THE TAMARAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**



PLACE: Twin Lakes Fire Hall Naytahwaush
DATE: Thursday, March 19, 2026
TIME: Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 5:55 p.m.
LEECH ZONES: Four zones to harvest leeches and turtles drawn.
MINNOW ZONES: One zone to harvest minnows drawn.

- A VALID "TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION CARD" IS REQUIRED AT THE DOOR.
- A CURRENT "NATURAL RESOURCES HARVEST PERMIT" IS REQUIRED AT THE DOOR.
- A CURRENT "LEECHING PERMIT" IS REQUIRED AT THE DOOR.
- TRIBAL MEMBERS MUST BE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD.
- Doors close @ 5:55 p.m.
 - (ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 6 PM) DON'T BE LATE!
- THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT 6:15.
- Zone winners will need to meet with White Earth Natural Resources Staff after the drawing.
- Please call Natural Resources with any questions:
 218.936.3934 or 218.935.2488

The Colon Connection

WETPH sharing awareness information through events

By Lindsey Adams, RN, PHN
 White Earth Public Health

Boozhoo! March is the time to share "Colorectal Cancer Awareness." Did you know that Colorectal Cancer is highly preventable and treatable when detected early? It starts as a collection of abnormal tissue growth that occurs inside the colon or rectum, often referred to as a "polyp."

If a polyp remains, over-time, changes occur that can lead to cancer. "Over-time" is the key phrase of preventing Colorectal Cancer, you have time to catch it early or prevent it all together. Through diligence, caring for our body and frequent screenings (colonoscopy, at-home stool tests like Cologuard, and other tests recommended by a medical provider), You have the ability to stop Colorectal Cancer.

Starting at 45 years of age, most people are eligible for their first colonoscopy; a procedure where under light sedation the provider is able to visualize the inside of your colon and rectum. From there it is important to identify any risk factors you may have for Colorectal Cancer and make a plan with your doctor on how frequently and what screenings would be beneficial for your health. Besides early screening and detection, here are a few ways you can decrease your risk of Colorectal Cancer.

- Eat well- pack your diet with lots of fruits, vegetables and plant based foods Limit your intake of highly processed meats like hot dogs, ham, bacon and sausage.

- Get up and move – increasing your physical activity can reduce your risk of developing Colorectal Cancer by as much as 30%. 30 to 60 minutes of vigorous physical activity per day is the gold-en standard.

- Avoid alcohol and cigarettes – White Earth Nation has many resources available to support you and your family members. Reach out to IHS, White Earth Tobacco Program, or your local WESA office. Watch for more information on hypnotist Pam M. to be joining us in early April for therapeutic cessation sessions.

- Know your family health history - family history of Colorectal Cancer makes you "at-risk" for the disease. If you have a family history of it, you need to be screened by age 40 or 10 years before the earliest age of family member diagnosis.

Find out more and make a "Colon Connection" by visiting White Earth Public Health as they travel to various communities throughout the month of March with the "walk-through colon." We hope to see you soon!

Thursday, March 5

RBC Cafeteria / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m

Thursday, March 12

Rice Lake Community Center / 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, March 19

Naytahwaush Sports Complex / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, March 26

Mahnomen Tribal College / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PATTY

Patleen
STRAUB



BOOZHOO, I HAVE BEEN A LIFE LONG RESIDENT OF DISTRICT II. I AM DEDICATED TO THE WHITE EARTH NATIONS CONTINUED GROWTH AND PROGRESS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY UPLIFTING AND NURTURING OUR ANISHINABE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE. I PLEDGE TO BE THE STRONG VOICE OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS TO FOSTER POSITIVE GROWTH .

Qualifications :

- Years of experience working in finance books
- Leadership skills
- Active Listener
- Solution based problem solving
- Strong Anishinabe values rooted in tradition
- Years of experience working on constitution reform delegation

What will I do?

- Anishinabe language and culture will be a priority
- District II community center advocacy
- Address annual district funding priorities
- Create a cannabis distribution plan
- Create white earth economic development
- Advocate for affordable child care solutions
- Create planning teams for our assets such as land purchases, acquisitions, and economic investments that include long term planning

IF ELECTED AS YOUR DISTRICT II REPRESENTATIVE, I AM COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN COMMUNICATION. I BELIEVE THAT SHARING INFORMATION, AND GATHERING COMMUNITY INPUT IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS IN THESE POSITIONS.

2026 DISTRICT II REPRESENTATIVE

**CALL ME FOR A VISIT!
 218-204-1164**

**VOTE TUESDAY
 MARCH 31ST**





Sue Trnka
WEII Community Services Coordinator
218-844-7029



Jodi Lunde
WEII Community Services Coordinator
218-844-7057

DO YOU WANT TO:

- \$ CREATE A HOUSEHOLD BUDGET?
- \$ GET STARTED WITH SAVINGS?
- \$ PLAN FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP?
- \$ FIX YOUR CREDIT?
- \$ LEARN NEW FINANCIAL HABITS?

We can help!

Financial wellness counseling is a service provided by White Earth Investment Initiative and made possible by support from Minnesota Housing, Minnesota Homeownership Center and the Oweesta Corporation. White Earth Investment Initiative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Call to schedule your appointment in Ogema or Detroit Lakes today!

White Earth Reservation Enrolled Elder Lawn Mowing Program

DATE APPLYING: _____

Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____
Permanent residency is required.

Telephone # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email address: _____

Birthdate: _____ Spouse's Birthdate: _____

Enrollment # _____ Spouse's Enrollment # _____
Attach a colored copy.

Do you own the home? Yes _____ No _____ if not, name your landlord? _____

Do you live in a Housing home? _____, as they plow for their own Residents/Units.

Which district do you reside in: District I _____ District II _____ District III _____

Detailed directions to your residence (**only for new applicants**): _____

***Lawn mowing will be done every two weeks; **area needs to be cleared of debris.**

***Dogs **must be tied up, fenced in, or housed** during service.

***Weed trimming, bagging of grass & mowing ditches **will not be provided.**

***Mowing service **will end after Labor Day weekend.**

White Earth Water & Sewer Department
P.O. Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591
Phone: 218-935-6411
Fax: 888-228-3650
Email address: Lisa.Donovan-Larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov or Burnham.tibbettsiii@whiteearth-nsn.gov

WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council

ELECTION NOTICE

WEUCC has two positions open. **Chairman and Treasurer**

If you are interested on being on the council, complete this form **by March 31st** and return to:

WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council
1308 East Franklin Ave Suite 206
Minneapolis, MN 55404

OR weurbancommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Enrolled Tribal Members that live in Hennepin, Anoka, Ramsey, Washington, Wright, Carver, Scott or Dakota counties are eligible. Must be at that address for at least 30 days to run.

Forms will be accepted until March 31st, 2026.

A list of candidates running for the positions will be posted on our WEUCC Business page and listed in the May paper. The election will be June 9th and they will be seated in July 2026

PLEASE attend our April and May monthly meetings to show your interest in the council.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ MN Zip Code _____ County _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ (Text? Y or N)

Email _____

Please tell us what you know about the council activities: _____

Why would you like to be a council member? _____

What strengths and skills do you have that would make you a great addition to the council? _____

White Earth Food Shelf March 2026 Delivery Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
Closed	Callaway	Rice Lake	NTW	Closed
	10am-12noon	10am-12noon	10am-12noon	
	Nijji Radio	ENP Site	Sports Complex	
9	10	11	12	13
Closed	Elbow Lake	Pine Point	Closed	Closed
	10am-12noon	10am-12noon		
	ENP Site	ENP Site		
16	17	18	19	20
Closed	White Earth	Ogema	Closed	Closed
	10am-12noon	10am-12noon		
	ENP Site	M&W Gas Station		
23	24	25	26	27
Closed	Waubun	Mahnomen	Mahnomen	Closed
	10am-12noon	10am-12noon	Mahnomen	
	Community Center	College parking lot	Homeless	
			Shelter	

Applications are available at Community Centers, ENP sites and Naytahwaush Complex
Hours are subject to change due to weather and holidays
Feel free to contact the White Earth Food Shelf at 218-935-6313 or 218-935-6314
Please note you may go to any of our stops to pick up a food box, you don't have to reside in that area
White Earth Food Shelf Hours / 6 am-3 pm Monday-Friday

RE-ELECT MICHAEL "MIKE" LAROQUE

White Earth Secretary Treasurer



Protecting Tribal Resources

- Careful financial Management
- Transparency in Tribal Spending
- Accountability in government

Serving All Members

- Support on and off reservation
- Improved member communication
- Tribal ID & enrollment outreach

Planning for the Future

- Strong budgets
- Sustainable programs
- Opportunities for youth

Working Together

- Tribal Council collaboration
- Gathering member feedback
- Resource distribution for members

Leadership - Team Player - Fiscal Responsibility

GAA-WAABAABIGANIKAAG

**PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 31, 2026**

**GENERAL ELECTION
JUNE 9, 2026**

*"I am honored to serve the White Earth Nation.
I ask for your support so we can continue strengthening our
Nation together."*

-Michael "Mike" LaRoque (218) 888-2435

Vote early at the Mahnomen election board office
Follow updates on the Secretary Treasurer Mike LaRoque Facebook Page

Paid for by Secretary Treasurer Michael (Mike) LaRoque Campaign

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH®

Shop for March bargains while supplies last!

 <p>SAVE OVER 50% 4.99 Green Thumb® Zinc Pistol Grip Hose Nozzle L 637 506</p>	 <p>SAVE OVER 45% 7.99 Green Thumb® Impulse Sprinkler with Metal Spike L 561 833</p>	 <p>SAVE OVER 45% 11.99 Green Thumb® 44 in. Round-Point Dirt Shovel T 248 297</p>	 <p>SAVE OVER 45% 9.99 Zenith Self-Enclosing Quad Chair with Velcro T 138 333</p>
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True Value.

 <p>SAVE OVER 35% 2.69 Bar Keepers Friend® 26 oz. Soft Cleanser W 740 086</p>	 <p>SAVE OVER 35% 3.49 Simple Green® 24 oz. All-Purpose Cleaner W 599 944</p>	 <p>SAVE OVER 35% 7.29 sashco® 10.5 oz. Through the Roof! Clear Elastomeric Roof Sealant P 742 999</p>	 <p>41.49 SALE PRICE -10.00 INSTANT REBATE* 31.49 FINAL PRICE Scotts® 5,000 sq. ft. Turf Builder® Halte® Crabgrass Preventer with Lawn Food L 161 991 *Limit 2 per offer.</p>
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©2026 TV Hardware Distribution, LLC
Consumer responsible for taxes. While supplies last. Products, product availability, pricing and savings may vary by store. See your local store for details.
Prices good through March 31, 2026. TV-BM-1678560-148 March 2025 BOM Bargain Shuffer TX7 version

Stop by the Mahnomen True Value store and see Ryan and Paige or give them a call at 218-935-5148.



SHOOTING STAR CASINOS

MAHNOMEN ♦ BAGLEY
STARCASINO.COM ♦ 800.453.STAR



CHANCE TO WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$60,000 CASH!

Sundays in March

Follow the rainbow to Shooting Star for hourly cash drawings on Sundays and the grand prize pot on March 29.

CONCERTS

- Hinder | Mar 6
- BlackHawk | Mar 20
- Carly Pearce | Apr 3
- 38 Special | Apr 17
- Gary Allan | May 1
- Kansas | May 15



Home Stretch

Homebuyer Education Class



Attend **ONE** all-day session to receive a Homebuyer Education certificate

March 11
April 22
May 20
June 24
July 22

All classes are 9am to 5pm at
Shooting Star Casino Mahnomen MN

White Earth Investment Initiative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Register online at weii.website or call 218-844-7057

You can reach the AT at today@whiteearth-nsn.gov



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2026 Election Calendar

March 31: Primary Election
(Polling place open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.)

April 1: General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results. (Prior to 8 p.m.)

April 2: General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.

April 6: Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5 p.m.)

April 6 Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary.

April 7: 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).

April 13: Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed. (If allowed on 11th or 12th if earlier request)

April 17: Deadline for Decision on Contest

April 20: 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision. (Or within 3 days of decision on Contest)

April 22: Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals. (At least 2 days prior to the hearing date)

April 27: Last Day for Hearing on Appeal. (Hearing within 7 days of appeal)

May 7: Last Day for Decision on Appeal. (10 days from hearing on appeal).

May 8: Notice of General Election (or earlier if no appeal)

May 8: TEC provides ballots for General Election (or earlier if no appeal)

June 9: General Election
(Polling Place open from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.)



SHOOTING STAR

NOW HIRING

We're looking for talented and energetic people to join the Shooting Star team! Find the perfect position for you in gaming, hospitality, facilities and more!

FIVE STAR REASONS TO APPLY

- Paid time off
- Retirement plan
- New living wage salary plan
- Free parking and meal discounts
- Medical, dental, vision, life and disability insurance

Apply now at StarCasino.com/employment

Derek Blakely

White Earth Tribal and Community College Student Spotlight

White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) proudly honor a student each month who exemplifies academic excellence, resilience, and personal growth. Students are nominated each month by staff who recognize the unique and exceptional qualities within our student body.

WETCC's February Student Spotlight was awarded to Derek Blakely. Derek's path to WETCC started during a challenging time when he made some poor decisions. One day he faced a choice; either change alone or seek help. Choosing WETCC brought him a positive support circle and daily immersion in Anishinaabe language, culture, and the Seven Teachings. He plans to practice one teaching each day until it becomes part of mino-bimaadiziwin-the good life.

Derek's greatest obstacle was continuing to live in yesterday. Embracing the present moment has brought him happiness, stronger community ties, and a deeper connection to Mother Earth. His happiest moments now come at bedtime after a productive day.

The meaning of success has deepened for Derek. A day is successful when he wakes up and completes every required task. Regarding education, his advice is to tackle assignments promptly to stay ahead and to not let homework catch up to him.

As a forensic-endorsed certified peer recovery specialist, Derek serves nationally and works statewide in corrections, recovery, health problems, and nonprofits. He has built a strong Minnesota support network and continues developing a culturally based forensic-endorsed curriculum for correctional facilities.

Derek is not only an active member of WETCC, but also his community. Currently Derek is the Vice President of the White Earth Tribal and Community College Student Senate, allowing his voice to shape the campus.

Community outreach is a personal passion of Derek's. He volunteers in high schools to share cul-



Submitted photo

Derek Blakely with Minnesota Senator Tina Smith.

tural teachings. Derek takes immense pride in his community, "I love supporting classmates and friends, sharing knowledge, and representing Native pride. My proudest moments happen when my community encourages me, fueling my resolve."

Derek feels that WETCC is preparing him professionally while grounding him in cultural values and advancing his life significantly. Derek has well planned goals for his future. After graduation, he plans to attend North Dakota State University for pre-law and criminal justice to bolster his peer support career. He dreams of representing our people on Capital Hill, joining the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and shaping policies that uplift Native communities for seven generations. Derek is a testament of community resilience and power.

WE member elected to Mahnomen County Board



Photo by Richard Hanks

Robert Durant, right, with White Earth Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque after the Feb. 24 ceremony.

On Feb. 24, Robert Durant joined the Mahnomen County Board, representing District 1, the City of Mahnomen.

Brenda Lundon, auditor-treasurer administered the Oath of Office at the Mahnomen County Board meeting. Durant won the recent special general election held in Mahnomen County to fill the position vacated by Darwin Schoenborn.

Results were released by the Mahnomen County Auditor's Office from the Special General Election held on Feb. 10, for the vacant Mahnomen County Board District 1 Seat.

There were 105 total voters for this election out of a possible 601 registered voters. Robert Durant received 46 votes, Brian Ose received 40 votes, and there were 19 write-in votes for Julie Hanson. - Courtesy of the Mahnomen Pioneer.



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Income Limit	AGI must be under \$67,000	AGI must be under \$89,000
Tax Years Allowed	2020 to 2025	2025 only
What Can Be Filed?	Federal, state, and MN property tax returns	Federal, state, and MN property tax returns
Get Started Today!	Call 218-396-1002 or visit weii.website to schedule an appointment. Must bring photo ID and Social Security card to appointment	Scan from your phone; complete on phone, PC, or tablet 

**Questions?
Call us today!
218.396.1002**



White Earth Investment Initiative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Service made available through a grant provided by the State of Minnesota.

Special Events

- **Diabetes Bingo**
 March 4th—Naytahwaush
 March 11th—White Earth Cong.
 March 25th—Rice Lake

White Earth Elder Nutrition Program Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige “White Earth Elder Eating Good” Onaabani-giizis (Hard Crust Moon)- March

Elderly Nutrition Program Information
 *Daily Menu includes 1% milk, and provides 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) set by USDA guidelines, with health conscious and cultural consideration to overall well-being.

*Menu is subject to change depending on product availability and/or schedule changes

Guest Meals \$6
 Elders Suggested Donation \$4

Questions or comments please contact :

White Earth ENP Site (218) 983-3744
 Site Supervisor ~ Jeanie Rogers

Elbow Lake ENP Site (218) 734-2315
 Site Controller ~ Cheryl Rindahl

Pine Point ENP Site (218) 573-2210
 Site Controller ~ Thor Smith

Naytahwaush ENP Site (218) 935-5554
 Site Supervisor ~ Sherry Halberg

Rice Lake ENP Site (218) 694-2795
 Site Supervisor~ Russell Boswell

Tanya Heinonen– ENP Manager
 (218) 983-3286
 Tanya.Heinonen@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Mac Hotdish Green Beans Breadstick Tropical Fruit	3 Tacos w/Fixings Spanish Rice Mexican Corn Donut Holes	4 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	5 Chicken Cordon Bleu Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries Baked Beans Peaches	6 Beef Stew Side Salad Wheat Roll Apricots
9 Chili Cornbread Side Salad Apple Crisp	10 Baked Ham Scalloped Potatoes Brussel Sprouts Croissant Roll Berry Parfait	11 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	12 Turkey Tetrazzini Mixed Veggie Wheat Roll Pineapple	13 Swedish Meatballs Over Egg Noodles Peas Wheat Bread Orange Cookie Salad
16 Sub Style Sandwich w/ Fixings Tuna Mac Salad Fresh Veggie w/Dip Orange	17 Boiled Dinner w/Ham Dinner Roll Cucumbers w/ Dip Pistachio Fruit Salad	18 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	19 Brunch For Lunch	20 Baked Fish Rice Pilaf Capri Blend Veggie French Roll Fresh Fruit
23 Country Fried Steak Mash. Potato w/ Gravy Country Blend Veggie Wheat Bread Strawberries	24 Ribs Mac N Cheese Carrott Coins Hawaiian Roll Plums	25 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	26 Birthday Lunch Spaghetti w/ Meat sauce Italian Blend Veggie Texas Toast Cake w/Fruit	27 Chef Salad Artisan Roll Banana Granola Bar
30 Wild Rice Hotdish Corn Dinner Roll Applesauce	31 Pork Tenderloin Mashed Potatoes Cheesy Broccoli Wheat Roll Pears			

White Earth Food Distribution March Store Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30

Office Hours M-F 8-4:30 / 218-935-2233

March 2026 Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education & Health Screenings w/Shirley: March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd.

Mar 6th: Naytahwaush & Bagley

Mar 13th: Mahnomen & Waubun

Mar 20th: White Earth

Mar 27th: Detroit Lakes & Ponsford

Mar 31st: Store closed for inventory

No Store hours on Fridays

Notify us ASAP if you will not be home on your scheduled route.

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER TO ENSURE WE ARE OPEN.

White Earth WIC

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dates and times are subject to change	*WIC follows RBC schedule for closings*					
1	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	
8	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:30	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:30	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	
15	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	Bagley ECPE 10:00-3:00	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	
22	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:30	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:30	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	
29	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00				

Please call 218-204-0399 or 218-401-4247 to contact our department.

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WETPH awarded National Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board

White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health Department recently announced it has been awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), becoming the ninth Tribe in the nation and the first in Minnesota to achieve this distinction.

Established in 2007, PHAB is the nonprofit organization that administers the national accreditation program, which aims to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation.

“Achieving PHAB accreditation is a proud moment for the White Earth Nation. It reflects our commitment to accountability, continuous improvement, and honoring our responsibility to care for our relatives. Our community can trust that we are providing strong, culturally rooted Tribal public health services today and for future generations,” said Lindsy Darco, Health Director, White Earth Health Division.

The accreditation process required extensive documentation, performance measurement, and demonstration of foundational public health capabilities aligned with national standards.

“This recognition reflects years of systems development, quality improvement, and collaboration. It represents the shared dedication of our Tribal Public Health team, Tribal leadership, and community partners, who worked with care and commitment to ensure our policies, performance measures, and partnerships meet national standards while remaining firmly grounded in our Anishinaabe culture, values, and responsibility to our people,” said Cyndy Rastedt, Tribal Public Health Coordinator and Accreditation Coordinator.

The national accreditation program, which receives support from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC), sets standards against which governmental public health departments continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. Standards emphasize Foundational Capabilities and align with the 10 Essential Public Health Services. More than 80 percent of the U.S. population is now served by a health department that has undergone PHAB’s rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets a set of quality standards and measures.

“National accreditation through PHAB has benefits that extend far beyond the health department itself,” said PHAB President and CEO Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MD, MPH, FACEP. “The accreditation process helps health departments identify key areas for improvement, ensuring they provide the highest level of service to their communities. With this accomplishment, communities served by accredited health departments can trust that their department is strong, capable, and committed to protecting and promoting public health.”

Often called the backbone of the public health system, public health departments are on the front lines of communities’ efforts to protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury. White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health promotes healthy behaviors and works to prevent disease and injury across the lifespan. The department advances chronic disease prevention, supports family and child wellness, strengthens immunization and communicable disease response, expands access to health and Indigenous foods, and connects community members to vital health and social services — all grounded in the values and priorities of the White Earth Nation.

Serving the White Earth Nation and its commu-

See Accreditation Page 29



Submitted photo

White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health has been awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board, becoming the ninth Tribe in the nation and the first in Minnesota to achieve this distinction.

Mr. Tooth visits Pine Point



Submitted photo

Cedar recently visited with Mr. Tooth at Pine Point Head Start. Mr. Tooth visited Head Start Home Base and the Head Start Center and let the kids brush his tooth and sing the Toothbrushing Song. Each child received a new toothbrush.

Celebrating graduation



Photo by Lori Thompson

Frank Boyd recently graduated from the Tribal Probation Program. Pictured with Frank is Jennifer Steuber (DOC), and Kenneth Bradford (White Earth Assistant Tribal Probation). The program establishes partnerships between state and tribal agencies to help clients with the process of re-entry and rehabilitation.

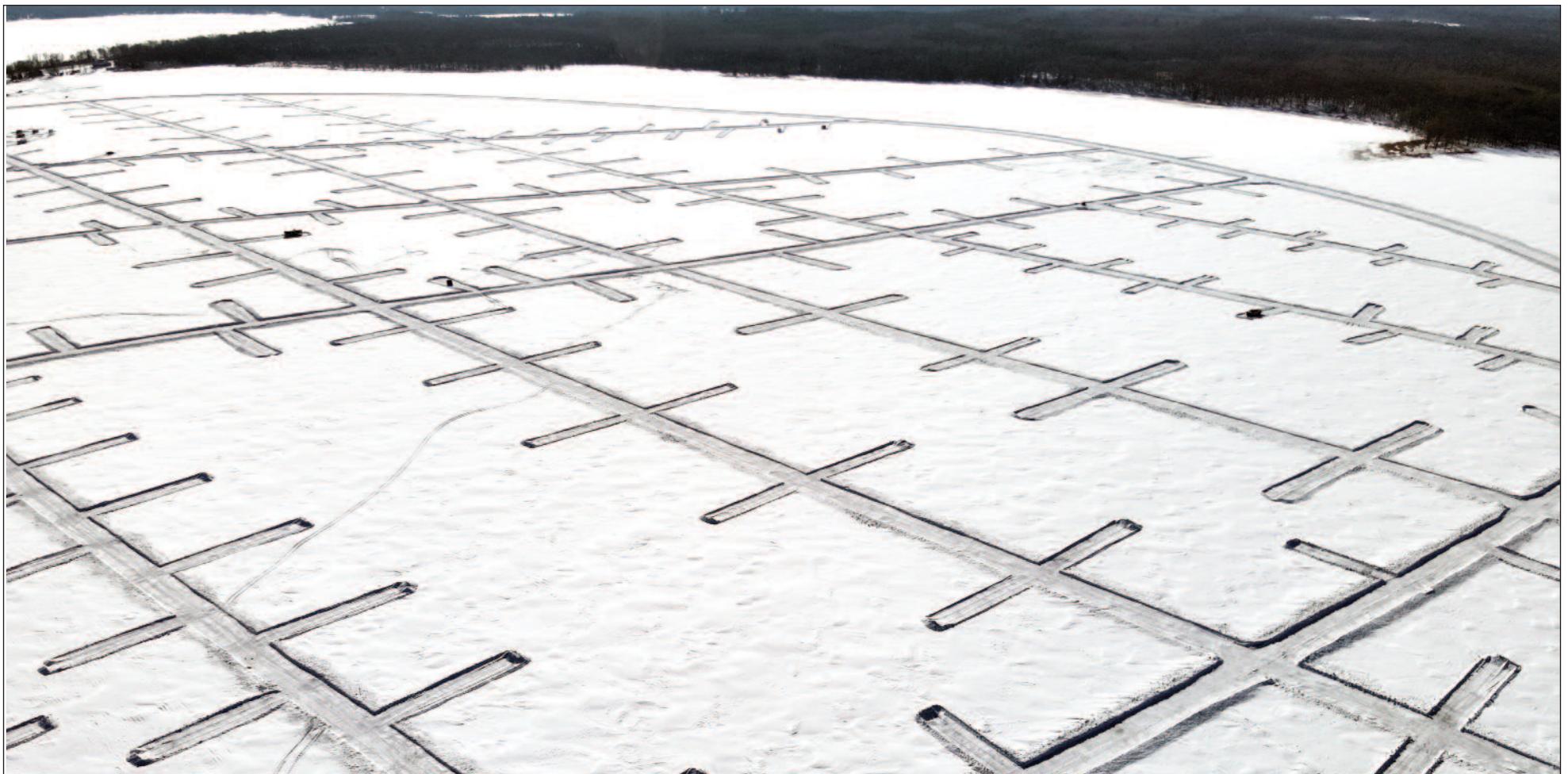


Photo courtesy of White Earth Natural Resources

Natural Resources staff plowed 17 miles of roads across the lake, repairing multiple plows along the way to keep everything moving smoothly.

Gone Fishin’

Annual WEN Fishing Derby draws anglers to North Twin Lake

By **Jessica Johnson**
White Earth Natural Resources

The 6th Annual White Earth Nation Fishing Derby brought 1,183 anglers (495 youth) to North Twin Lake on Feb. 7 for a full day of community, fishing, and the kind of northern Minnesota weather that would have been pretty nice if it weren’t for the wind.

Anglers stayed comfortable in their ice houses and shelters, while a major improvement this year—a heated fish weighing tent—made the process quicker and far more comfortable than previous years when long lines formed outside in the cold. Meanwhile, Natural Resources staff plowed 17 miles of roads across the lake, repairing multiple plows along the way to keep everything moving smoothly.

Catches of the Day

Adult Division:

- Walleye – 8.8 lbs
- Northern Pike – 6.5 lbs
- Bass – 5.3 lbs
- Crappie – 1.7 lbs
- Sunfish/Perch – 0.6 lb

Youth Division:

- Walleye – 6.1 lbs
- Northern Pike – 3.8 lbs
- Bass – 3.9 lbs
- Crappie – 1.3 lbs
- Sunfish/Perch – 0.8 lb

The youth division once again showed how important it is to share traditions with our younger generations. The derby gives kids a chance to learn outdoor skills, understand how to fish for recreation

and subsistence, and build confidence in a hands on way that connects them to the land.

Why the Derby Uses North Twin Lake

The overall goal of the White Earth Fishing Derby is to provide a safe, fun, outdoor, and educational experience for families and community members. Based on years of planning, evaluation, and on the ground experience, the derby continues to be held at North Twin Lake because it offers the safest and most reliable conditions for an event of this size.

Key reasons include:

1. Safe and Efficient Access

North Twin offers two access points, reducing traffic congestion and allowing safer entry and exit for both participants and emergency responders.

2. Reliable Cellular Service

The recently built Naytahwaush cellular tower provides strong coverage in the area, ensuring reliable communication in case of emergencies—something not all lakes can offer.

3. Consistent Ice Conditions

North Twin Lake is relatively shallow and typically maintains consistent ice conditions throughout the winter. While no ice is ever 100 percent safe, North Twin Lake is less prone to ice heaves and variable ice thickness than other nearby lakes.

4. Close Proximity to Emergency Services

North Twin is minutes from the Naytahwaush Ambulance Service and the Twin Lakes Volunteer Fire Department, allowing for rapid response if needed. Alternative locations would require longer response times, increasing the potential for delays

[See Derby Page 27](#)



Photos by Sage Thompson

Fish are weighed at the 6th Annual White Earth Nation Fishing Derby held Feb. 7 at North Twin Lake.



More than 1,180 anglers (495 youth) attended the annual event. The largest fish caught was a 8.8 pound walleye.

Meet the Candidates for White Earth Secretary-Treasurer

Michael "Mike" LaRoque (Incumbent) ←

Boozhoo White Earth Nation,

Four years ago, I ran for Secretary-Treasurer because I believed our Nation needed steady and consistent governance. My goal was not simply to hold an office, but to help ensure our government worked together, followed our budgets, and kept its focus where it belongs, on our people.



Before serving on Tribal Council, I spent many years working in public safety for White Earth, including as Chief of Police and Public Safety Director. That work teaches you accountability. When people rely on you, you show up, you stay calm, and you make care-

ful decisions that protect the community as a whole. I have tried to bring that same steady approach to this office.

Over the past four years, our Tribal Council has worked collaboratively and respectfully. We meet regularly, conduct business professionally, and make decisions through discussion and consensus. Stable government may not always be loud, but it is effective. When leadership is able to work together, progress happens and the Nation can move forward.

Because we followed our budgets and managed resources carefully, our Nation was able to return benefits directly to our membership. This past holiday season, every enrolled adult tribal member received a \$300 distribution. We also increased elder stipends connected to our enterprises, including our casino and restaurants. These actions matter because the success of our Nation should be felt in the homes of our members, especially our elders who carried our community forward for generations.

During this term, we also strengthened the foundation for the future. By responsibly operating our business enterprises, including gaming, healthcare services, and the cannabis industry. White Earth has built the infrastructure needed for long-term prosperity. Strong enterprises allow us to support tribal programs, maintain services, and improve quality of life across the reservation and for our urban members.

Good governance is not complicated, but it requires discipline. It means respecting the Nation's resources, planning for the future, and making decisions that consider the next generation, not just the next meeting. When government is stable, programs can grow, employees can focus on their work, and families can depend on consistent services.

I first ran for this position because I believed I could

help provide that stability. Today my priorities remain the same: protecting the Nation's financial health, supporting our elders, and ensuring our children inherit a strong and self-sustaining White Earth Nation.

We have built momentum together. My hope is to continue serving with the same steady commitment and to keep moving forward in a way that honors our people and our responsibilities to future generations.

Serving White Earth is a responsibility I take seriously because this Nation is not just a government, it is our community and our relatives. I think often about our elders who protected what we have today, and about the children who will inherit what we leave behind. The decisions we make now shape daily life for families across our reservation and for members living away from home. I will continue to approach this office with care, respect, and a steady commitment to doing what is best for the people of White Earth Nation.

Miigwech for allowing me to serve.

Secretary Treasurer
Michael (Mike) LaRoque
218-888-2435

About Me

Boozhoo, I am Jacob "Giniw" McArthur. It is an honor to be a candidate for Secretary Treasurer of the White Earth Ojibwe Nation. I am a lifelong resident of the Naytahwaush community, where I was raised by my mother, Darla Kier, and my aunt and uncle, LaVerne and Dennis Hisgun Sr. I am a dedicated father of two, Jacob and Hazel, and I am an avid outdoors enthusiast and photographer.



Education

I graduated from Waubun High School and subsequently continued my education at the White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC), obtaining an Associate of Arts degree in 2020. In 2021, I

earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Bemidji State University. During this period, I gained a deep understanding of the importance of higher education and its broader implications for the future of our Tribal Nation.

Work and Leadership Experience

My work experience began at the Shooting Star Casino, after which I joined White Earth Nation, where I was employed for 16 years from September 2007 to August 2023. During my tenure, I gained experience in tribal housing, human services, RBC IT, WETCC IT, and served most recently as Economic Development Director from September 2022 to August 2023. I then transitioned to the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC), where I hold a dual appointment as Director of the University EDA Center and Associate Director of the Veden Center for Rural Development. In this leadership role, I drive economic and workforce development in the state's northwest region by building partnerships and innovative programs for students,

entrepreneurs, businesses, rural communities, and tribal nations.

In addition to my professional background, I possess extensive experience serving on tribal, regional, state, and national boards. For the past three years, I have held the position of Vice-Chair for the White Earth Tribal Utility Commission, and I've also represented White Earth Nation on the State Department of Commerce's Tribal Advisory Council on Energy. My previous board experience includes membership on the WETCC Board of Trustees, West Central Initiative Board of Directors, White Earth Enterprises and Waabigwan boards, and many other appointments.

I have served as a Student Ambassador for the American Indian College Fund, and I've also had the distinction of being a member of the Native Governance Center's Native Nation Rebuilders Cohort 12. These were both formative and invaluable multi-year experiences that have helped shape me into the leader I am today.

My Platform and Priorities

My platform is rooted in a commitment to honest financial stewardship, open communication with our people, and bold investments in our Nation's future. I stand for trust, transparency, and tribal prosperity. I will ensure that every dollar is accounted for, that tribal members have clear access to financial information, and that we prioritize budgets that support business growth and job creation, education and youth program development, housing, healthcare, renewable energy, sustainable food systems, cultural revitalization and land reclamation. By embracing both accountability and opportunity, I will work to strengthen our economy, exert our tribal sovereignty, and create a more secure and prosperous future for all generations of White Earth.

I humbly ask for your support in the election on March 31st. If you would like any additional information on my

experience and qualifications, or have any questions for me on where I stand on the topics and issues of the day, please reach out to me using any of the following channels:

(218) 401-0945

Find me on: LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram

Miigwech,

Jacob McArthur

→ Jacob McArthur

2026 White Earth Tribal Election

Candidate Forums

ALL CANDIDATES

• March 8th @ 1:00-5:00 White Earth Community Center

SECRETARY-TREASURER CANDIDATES

• March 14th @ 1:00-5:00 Pine Point Community Center

Virtual Options added to each meeting
Zoom Username: 894 6349 0792
Zoom Passcode: 202812
YouTube Live: White Earth Candidate Forum
Facebook Live: White Earth Band Members Press

• March 15th VIRTUAL OPTION ONLY VIA ZOOM
District I 12:00-2:00 District II 2:30-4:30 Secretary-Treasurer 5:00-7:00

Questions/Comments: Ask Mykee Brown via social media or 218-902-1197

Meet the Candidates for White Earth Secretary-Treasurer

Jim LaFriniere ←

Boozhoo,

I am James LaFriniere, and I would like to introduce myself as a candidate for the office of secretary-treasurer. I spent my youth growing up in District One, on the south end of Lower Rice Lake, and was the youngest member of the James and Gloria LaFriniere family.

I have lived near Upper Rice Lake since 1999, where my wife (Toni) and I began and grew our family. I am the proud father of 3 children (Levi, Laela, and Devin), a 4-year-old granddaughter, and I have had the privilege of participating in the lives of many other children through foster and respite care. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, fishing, hunting, ricing, and hobby farming.



I achieved my GED in 1995 and studied architectural drafting and design at Northland Community and Technical College from 1996 to 1997. In 1997, I began my career, working at my family-owned sawmill and forestry business, eventually becoming a co-owner and Vice President in 2010. Throughout my tenure at Hillside Lumber, my duties have included day-to-day operation of the business and participation on the board of directors. My experience as a voting member of this business provides me with valuable insight into sound financial practices.

If elected, I intend to use this experience to positively impact my fellow tribal members through financial accountability and transparency. I would like to foster a positive working relationship with our state and federal officials to ensure our tribe is well-funded and its members are cared for.

As a member of the White Earth Tribal Council, I aim

to support our elders and create opportunities for our youth. My focus is on fostering hope and shared purpose, strengthening our community's future together by using elders to educate our youth about cultural practices that have been lost over time, such as rice gathering and processing, hunting, and language.

I have many thoughts on improvements that would benefit the tribal members individually and ultimately the tribe as a whole. I have outlined some of my priority ideas.

Indian Child Welfare

Creating a department with strong oversight, led by a tribal council-selected committee, can drastically improve our Indian Child Welfare services and reputation, ensuring high standards and better outcomes for our children.

Cannabis

I believe our tribal members could benefit from selective retail licensure, which would allow them to compete in this market. The existing cultivation facility has growth potential through increased production and sales to state cannabis retailers.

Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse

Generational and historic trauma to indigenous communities continues to affect the health of our people. I feel this is an area where we should work with other entities, local tribes, and state and federal officials to build a facility that provides local tribes with a location to offer members a broad range of services.

Housing and Land Recovery

With an ever-growing community, housing is an issue. The housing department needs support to increase housing opportunities. Initiatives for additions, single-family homes, and tiny homes have been underway, but could use more support. The tribal government could explore additional initiatives to purchase homes within and around the reservation to increase opportunities for members to

become permanent homeowners.

Supporting continued efforts to purchase reservation lands will help secure our future, expand opportunities for members, and strengthen our community's connection to our land and traditions.

Please share my vision and support me by voting for me in the upcoming primary election on March 31st.

Miigwetch,
Jim

VOTE NOW

OPEN!

WHERE: SSC RV PARK BUILDING
(BEHIND THE SHOOTING STAR CASINO)

WHEN: MONDAY – FRIDAY
8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

PRIMARY ELECTION: MARCH 31, 2026

ANY QUESTIONS CALL 218-936-5622
OR TOLL FREE 866-211-9254

WHITE EARTH ELECTION BOARD OFFICE - MAHNOMEN

Let's better White Earth Nation Reservation for our future generations, one step at a time.

Aaniin Boozhoo Makwa Midewiiaanikwe Indigoo Mykee Indizhinikaaz Makwa Indoodem Gaawaabaabiganikaag Indoonjibaa dash Netaawaash Indaa



Greetings! The spirits know me by Makwamidewiiaanikwe. I am called Mykee Brown. My clan is bear clan. I am from White Earth and I live in Naytahwaush.

Whenever I speak Ojibwemowin, I like to try to translate it as best as possible. We have language barriers, but it is still important that we attempt to speak our language. I know how hard it is to learn, but I did pick up so much of the basics and began to be able to understand some sentences.

I am a Secretary-Treasurer Candidate because I believe I have a thorough vision and the skills necessary to best serve our people. I am levelheaded, respect everyone's opinions and suggestions when it comes to making decisions for our people. The power belongs to the people, and

I want to exemplify how this whole thing is supposed to be done by allowing all members to use their voice, be heard and listened to and represented in a peaceful, respectable, persuasive way to best achieve the balanced goals of all of us. I am experienced in bringing diverse voices to big decision-making tables. I would enjoy improving these outreach/input strategies. I believe in causing no harm, and I definitely don't put up with any. I fight hard for what we really want and deserve, for everyone, to restore balance.

The first moral I hold myself to as a candidate, is that anyone elected to this position is not above of any more importance to the rest of our membership and descendants; we are to be working FOR OUR PEOPLE. The people are at the top, and our elected officials are a common point of contact for everyone and need to represent all our people unbiasedly. I am here to protect our rights and speak up for all membership. I am here to hold accountability, respectfully. I believe the characteristics that make me, me, are gifts that I hold to complete the tasks this type of work requires. My emotional intelligence, calm demeanor, and self-awareness will help support the focus of getting our important work done, fairly.

My work and education experience that pertains to this position includes, some college towards an AA Degree, including Business Administration, Ojibwemowin and Law

Court Advocacy certification attempts, I am an Indigenous Parent Leadership Alumni, Constitution Reform District II Delegate, various different boards, I have employment experience and training in multiple different job types on our reservation, I have work experiences in many different areas.

Detailed and strategic work comes along with each goal and task. The best way for me to explain my plans of action is in writing. I will work on some examples to put out a better explanation on the way I think and utilize these for my campaign outreach. I chose to campaign specifically through newspaper articles (see February issue,) door to door/hand to hand/mouth to mouth strategies officially and to limit use of social media, due to utilizing it for more personal reasons and not having all members connected to my social media. However, for friends I do have connections to on there, I will be using it a little bit, on a personal level of what's on my mind during this election process and for last minute outreach or requests for suggestions. So, add "Mykee Brown" on Facebook and "mykee.b" on Snapchat if you want to be friends.

It's all love,

→ Mykee Brown

Mykee Brown
Secretary-Treasurer Candidate 2026

Meet the Candidates for White Earth Secretary-Treasurer

Justin Keezer ←

My name is Justin Keezer. I am running for Secretary-Treasurer of the White Earth Nation because our people deserve transparent representation, responsible financial stewardship, and decisions rooted in Anishinaabe values.



I am 49 years old and grew up in Nay-Tah-Waush. I am happily married to my wife Renee, and between us we have 7 children, with 4 being White Earth enrollees. I attended high school in Mahnomon, and after graduating, went on to fight Wildland fire with the White Earth BIA and Minnesota DNR as an Engine Boss and National Registered EMT.

After fighting fire, I went back to school and received a Green Energy Manufacturing diploma with the hopes of working in the wind turbine or solar panel field, but there was little opportunity in that field on the reservation. I then worked with various non-profits like Indigenous Environmental Network as a grass-roots organizer. I helped coordinate and organize numerous events for environmental and social justice issues. I recently co-founded a non-profit that is focused on education of Treaty Rights and Food Sovereignty.

I returned to school in 2020 and worked on receiving my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management and Entrepreneurship. I am 2 classes away from receiving my Master's degree in

Business Management at Bemidji State University and will graduate in May of 2026. As a student these past few years, I have sat on the SAFAC (Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee) for a year, President of the Council of Indian Students for 2 years, and I am currently the President of BSU's American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL) chapter.

Last year, we won the National Business Plan Competition for a Wild Rice Processing Facility in White Earth. I have been the recipient of other recognitions including the Community Leadership Award in 2022 from the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University.

The Priorities I am focused on include:

1. Financial Stewardship & Transparency
 - Clear, regular reporting to the community
 - User-friendly financial summaries
 - Strong oversight of tribal funds
 - Protecting the Band's financial future for the next Seven Generations
2. Fair & Accessible Services
 - Faster response times
 - Consistent eligibility processes
 - Respectful treatment for all members
 - Accountability across departments
3. Supporting Families, Elders & Youth
 - Advocate for elder services and support
 - Stronger youth programs and leadership development
 - Investments in education, childcare, health, and safety

4. Strengthening Economic Opportunity
 - Support for White Earth entrepreneurs and artists
 - Practical workforce pathways
 - Creating opportunities for young families to thrive
 - Business Development and Job creation
5. Leadership Rooted in Anishinaabe Values
 - Honor, respect, humility, and integrity
 - Community decisions guided by teachings
 - Healing, unity, and nation-building
 - Making our Language and Culture Programs a priority

I am running because:

- Our people deserve open, honest communication
- We need financial reporting that everyone can understand
- Services should be delivered with fairness and respect
- White Earth deserves strong, steady leadership that brings people together
- I am committed to working alongside our community, our elders, and our future generations, not above them.

I bring experience in finance, budgeting, community engagement, and program accountability and a deep commitment to serving with honesty and respect.

I believe in a representative that listens, that reports openly, and that puts the well-being of our families, elders, and youth first.

Together, we can build a stronger, more transparent, and thriving White Earth Nation.

Meet the Candidates for White Earth District I Rep.

→ Henry G. Fox (Incumbent)

Boozhoo, as the tribal election approaches, I, Henry Fox, the current District 1 Representative, am seeking reelection with a continued commitment to serving our community and strengthening the future of our tribe.



Building on my time in office, I want to highlight the work I have accomplished while continuing to move forward with a vision focused on accountability, service, and community well-being. During my candidacy and throughout my time in office, I have made it a priority to help community members in any way I can. I have worked to remain accessible and responsive, connecting directly with individuals and

families to ensure their needs are heard and addressed. I believe in taking a hands-on approach and stepping in to find solutions whenever possible, because leadership means being present and involved.

One of my key accomplishments during my first term was working with Dynamic Homes to successfully place and fill 10 elder tiny homes within our community. This effort provided safe and comfortable housing for our elders, ensuring they have a secure place to live while staying con-

nected to the community. I believe housing remains a critical need, and I am committed to continuing efforts that support stable and accessible living options. I have also been actively involved in the Elder Homeowner Repair Program. Through this program, I have helped many elders improve the condition of their homes by addressing necessary repairs and ensuring safer living environments. Supporting our elders in maintaining their independence and quality of life is something I take great pride in. In addition, I have worked to help many families repair or replace furnaces so they could stay warm during the winter months.

I continue to stress the importance of investing in both our youth and our elders. I support expanding programs that create opportunities for young people while maintaining strong support systems for elders. Our youth are our future, and our elders are the foundation of our culture and knowledge. Strengthening both is essential to preserving our identity and building a stronger future.

In addition to my role as District 1 Representative, I have served on the 1855 Treaty Board as Vice-Chair since 2023 and on the Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center Advisory Board since 2022. I am honored to represent our people in these roles and to advocate for their needs, rights, and well-being.

Economic development remains an important part of

my platform. I support responsible growth that creates job opportunities while respecting our tribal values and land. By encouraging local entrepreneurship and building strong partnerships, I aim to help create a more sustainable and self-sufficient economy.

Transparency and communication are central to how I lead. I am committed to keeping community members informed and involved in decision-making. I believe leadership should always be accountable and reflective of the people it serves, and I will continue to prioritize open communication.

I also recognize the importance of addressing social challenges within our community. I support initiatives focused on mental health, substance abuse prevention, and family wellness, and I believe building strong support systems is essential to our overall well-being.

I am honored by the trust community members have placed in me and will continue working hard to serve District 1. As election day approaches, I encourage all eligible voters to participate. With proven experience and dedication, I am seeking reelection to continue the work we have started and help build a stronger future for our community.

Miigwech

The White Earth Nation Primary Election is Tuesday, March 31 - polls will be open from 8 a.m to 8 p.m.

Meet the Candidates for White Earth District I Rep.

Andy "Jack" Auginaush

BOOZHOO Everyone, My name is Andy Jack Auginaush. I am from Lower Rice Lake on the White Earth Reservation. My parents are Raymond Auginaush Sr. and Karen Auginaush. I am a father of my two children, I am the youngest of my 3 siblings and I'm running for District 1 to bring real communication, accountability, and every-day support for families, elders, youth, and working members.



Advocating for Rights, Transparency & Accountability

- Upholding the MCT Constitution and protecting Article 12 and Article 13 member rights
- Defending members' rights to access information and transparent decision-making
- Advocating for public agendas, meaningful participation, and open monthly RBC meetings
- Speaking out against unconstitutional amendments that weaken member voice
- Standing up for members when voices are challenged at RBC
- Supporting strong checks and balances in tribal government
- Advocating for our working class and all our members to attend our RBC meetings and to exercise their article 13 rights freedom of speech without retaliation of losing their job
- I support amending the employee policy and getting rid of the "At Will Policy"

Transportation & Access

- Advocating for a tribal driver's license support and advocacy program
- Helping members overcome licensing and transportation

- Expanding transportation options for work, school, medical care, and off-shift workers
- Reservation UBER drivers
- Supporting transit drivers so services remain reliable pushing for 24/7 transit routes for swing shift and night shift workers

Advocating for Community, Culture & Opportunity

- Protecting treaty rights to hunt, fish, gather, and rice
- Supporting member-driven input on hunting, fishing, and gathering Regulations
- Strengthening Ojibwemowin language and cultural curriculum in our schools
- Respect and support for elders, youth, veterans, and working families
- Advocate for a monthly percap for our elders for a start
- Implement a community-based support program to ensure our elders have access to traditional foods such as deer meat, fish, and wild rice or other natural resources.

Wild Rice Advocacy

- Advocating for fair treatment and pricing for member wild rice harvesters
- Protecting wild rice as a cultural, economic, and treaty-protected resource
- Supporting stronger markets that benefit ricing families and future generations
- In 2019 I spoke on behalf of our people and sparked the market on our rice for a better price

Economic & Community Support

- Fair access for members to tribal economic opportunities, including membership to join our cannabis industry (weekly Better discounts for our members at our cannabis dispensaries)
- Expanded use of our community center for District 1 resources
- Support for members returning from treatment or

incarceration

- Expanded childcare options and youth substance-abuse prevention
- Supporting community gardens and access to traditional and medicinal plants

Open Door Commitment/ Open Door Policy

Representation does not end after election day or after 4:30 P.M. If you have a concern, need help, or have an emergency, I will listen and do my best to Help or connect you with the right Resources."

- I've held over 100 support groups in our District 1 Community volunteering my time to help our people
- I've helped establish two reservation PRESS pages focused on governmental affairs to help raise awareness, encourage accountability and ensure our members have a voice at a RBC level and a TEC level. One page serve our White Earth Reservation and the other serves our Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.
- I also have pending constitutional challenges of our memberships article 12 rights and article 13 rights for oversight to uphold our members constitutional rights
- Together, we can build a better future for the next generation"

I respectfully ask for your vote on:
PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 31ST, 2026
GENERAL JUNE 9TH, 2026

Please feel free to reach me at:
Phone: (218) 368-2055
Email: Auginaush4@Gmail.com
Facebook: Jack Andy Auginaush

Fawn Roy

Aaniin, my name is Fawn Roy. I was raised in Roy Lake in a small house built by my great-grandfather. Later on I moved with my family to Pine Bend. As a mother I made my home in Rice Lake. I am honored to raise my children in this district and to be a part of such a strong community.



I'm a student at Northwest Technical College, I previously attended White Earth Tribal and Community College and graduated from the Indigenous Parenting Leadership Program. I have been a part of the MCT Constitution Reform Delegation since 2024. I am currently a member of the Circle of Life Academy School Board. I spent several years working in the chemical dependency field. I have always had a passion to help our people and our home.

I have seen the challenges our communities face and would dedicate myself to helping solve those issues. One of our larger crises in our community is the chemical dependency epidemic. I want to help our people heal. Creating

more opportunities in each of the communities while also making sure all the programs are running at peak potential so our people can get all of the services that are needed.

It is also important to create more housing for our elders; single living individuals and families. I would like to create more subsidized housing options and home ownership options. By helping each other, creating strong community bonds and bringing our culture and traditions back to our people we will find mino-bimaadiziwin. I believe that the members' voices are the ones that matter most and I want to hear from every single one. I strive to have more community involvement.

I would like to implement more community education and activities that can help our families learn more about our government, teachings and skills. We need more for our people to do to keep them busy and especially our Youth. I believe a cultural youth group for our next generations would be beneficial for them and our community. Giving the youth opportunities to grow in many different ways while also giving back to their communities. I would also advocate for childcare to be made available for the district as it is a need I have heard from our people.

With the cost of food rising I also think it is important

we find ways for our people to become food sovereign, from community gardening, guided food foraging and first food cooking classes. Pathways like that not only help us become more independent but also give our communities more to do, develop new skills and create strong community relationships. Together we can face all of these crises.

Our natural resources and rights will always be a top priority. Our members should always be the voices behind any vote to be made. Our council should be for the members, the businesses should be for the members. I would like to see full transparency for every program and every decision that is to be made. Implementing consultations with our communities to ensure that there is open dialogue between our members and our representatives. Whether it is a new business investment or logging contracts, our members deserve to have input and sit at those tables.

I want to hear from our members about the needs they have or see, what their opinions are, how we can continue to grow each of our communities throughout the district so that our families can thrive here at home, please feel free to reach out to me!

Phone: (218) 902-0993
Email: Fawnmarieroy@gmail.com

Meet the Candidates for White Earth District II Rep.

Alrick "Son" Accobee

Boozhoo,

My name is Alrick Accobee; most of you know me as Son. My parents are Rick and Kitty (Londo) Accobee of Naytahwaush. I am a proud father of four children and one grandson. I am a life-long resident of White Earth Reservation and I currently reside in Naytahwaush.



For the past 16 years, I have been employed at Naytahwaush Community Charter School where I have taken on various roles including classroom para, building operations manager, boiler operator, redirect room supervisor, and currently, Indian Education Coordinator. This experience has given me knowledge into the daily challenges our families face. Outside of work,

I am passionate about the outdoors and enjoy sharing our cultural traditions with younger generations. I hope to create more opportunities for our youth and elders to connect with our heritage.

I am running for District II because I believe our community deserves consistent, accountable, and strong representation at the RBC level. It is key to have someone who is dedicated to listening to the concerns of our members and advocating for their needs.

If elected as your District II Representative, I'd like to address:

1.) Monthly meetings - I would like to have monthly informational meetings with District II members to inform them on upcoming projects. Members can voice their concerns at these meetings and I can bring these concerns to the RBC. With smaller meetings in the communities, members may feel more comfortable sharing concerns.

2.) Tribal expenditures - Members should be informed of any big expenditures BEFORE they are spent; they shouldn't have to find out from media outlets. Our elected officials should be taking the time to inform members as these decisions affect everyone.

3.) Casino employment - Our members often get overlooked for promotions. I would like to address this issue. Let's show our employees that we believe in them and we trust that they can get the job done.

4.) Housing - We need to come up with a plan to renovate the boarded-up houses in every community. Vacant homes do not benefit our homeless population or families in need of housing.

5.) Natural Resources - I would like to establish a program using natural resources to supply traditional foods for our members during funerals, pow wows, naming ceremonies and other cultural events.

6.) Native preference - The issue of native preference should not be up for debate; it should be standard practice across our reservation. After discussions with community members, it has become increasingly concerning to hear that our native-owned businesses are often overlooked for

tribal job opportunities, sometimes not even allowed to submit bids. This must come to an end.

7.) Communication - I will vote against entering Executive Session for Tribal Business, except in cases concerning Personnel or Enrollment matters. In my opinion, Tribal Business should be conducted openly in front of our members, as this represents true transparency.

8.) Elders - Every election cycle we hear about the elders, however, once elected, they often become overlooked. It would be great to have a dedicated community center for elders in all communities on the reservation.

9.) Youth - We must collaborate to create programs for all youth, recognizing their interests in activities like basketball, softball, baseball, hunting and fishing. It is essential to offer a variety of options that resonate with them, as they represent our future.

Please keep in mind that these are only topics for discussion. I welcome any additional ideas and conversations.

I look forward to your support in the upcoming election!

Miigwech!!

Alrick "Son" Accobee
District II Representative Candidate
218-204-0517
alrickaccobee2@gmail.com

Patty (Patleen) Straub

Boozhoo White Earth Members: My name is Patty (Patleen) Straub and I am a 2026 candidate for the White Earth District II Representative position.

My views, platforms and accomplishments as District II Representative are:

- Representing District II with integrity, transparency, open communication, sharing information and taking forth decisions and suggestions to the White Earth RBC level.



- My top priority for our district is a much-needed Naytahwaush District II Community Center/Facility, I will assist in exploring funding options and solutions to begin this project.

- Working with our community councils to listen to their concerns, ideas and to embrace their suggestions.

- Include our Ojibwe culture, culture, and heritage in design and program planning for our communities.

- Seek input from district II members and councils on developing an annual budget based on priorities, with consideration of our elders, children, adult need(s).

- I will advocate for our district in funding and budget discussion and will propose that our priorities and needs are considered.

- Create safe neighborhood for our children and families.

My views, platforms and accomplishments as White Earth RBC Representative are:

- To understand and abide by 1-65 White Earth RBC Ordinance.

- I will advocate for transparency to our members.

- We need to celebrate our White Earth Reservation; program progress(es), tribal developments, tribal improvements and expansions on an annual basis with our members.

- I will be an advocate and promote exercising our sovereignty and rights.

- Explore and seek solutions for tribal member homeowner funding options.

- I am a proponent of a four (4) day work week for White Earth Tribal Employees.

- I would endorse and advocate for White Earth tribal member career advancement to an organizational higher administrative/managerial position.

- I am available to use my financial knowledge and experience in working on WE RBC in regards to financial/budget situations.

- Assist with the creation of an annual White Earth Cannabis distribution plan.

- Suggest forming a knowledgeable Economic Development Planning team that will guide and inform the WERBC in land purchase, purchasing property/assets, long term planning for future acquisitions and economic investments.

- Natural Resources-clean water protection, mineral rights, logging and timber inspection/scrutiny.

- I promote renewable energy (solar, wind, biomass).

- I will encourage the White Earth Tribal and Community College to pursue special skills and specialized training in these areas; Home construction/carpentry,

plumbing, electrical, healthcare, medical coding and billing, medical administrative and support.

- I am an advocate for sharing and maintaining a White Earth Reservation Committee/Board listing and will recommend that member(s) serve on no more than two (2) White Earth committees or boards.

- I would like to seek solutions for affordable Child Care.

I am a life long resident of White Earth District II, my parents were Julia and Wilfred Kier. I attended Elementary school in Naytahwaush, high school in Mahnommen and Chilocco, Oklahoma.

After high school I attended Moorhead State University, my course of study was Sociology which is uncomplete—due to a family tragedy. However, I have a 2-year Associates degree from MSU.

My career was in education; I worked for Circle of Life Academy – Bureau of Indian Education tribal school in White Earth my entire career. I began my career as Accountant/Bookkeeper and was promoted/career advanced to Financial/Business Manager.

During my career, I have had numerous trainings in the education/school field such as, school safety, financial/accounting trainings (BIE & White Earth RBC Finance), and human resources to name a few.

I am a past Blandin Foundation Community Leadership Program alumnus, I have served on many committees such as credit union, health benefits, housing board of directors, and education/school subcommittees. Since 2018 I serve as a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/White Earth Constitution Reform delegate.

Meet the Candidates for White Earth District II Rep.

Tyler Anderson ←

Serving as a District Representative is not simply about holding office; it is about honoring our responsibilities to the people, the land, and future generations. I believe our community thrives when we center decisions on respect for our elders, investment in our youth, and responsible economic development. If entrusted with this role, I will strengthen these three pillars, so District 2 continues to grow in a way that reflects our values and traditions.



Elderly care must remain at the heart of our priorities. Our elders are the knowledge keepers, language speakers, and cultural guides who have carried our community through hardship and change. They deserve to age with dignity, safety, and access to needed services. Too often, elders face limited transportation, gaps in healthcare, and

social isolation. As a representative, I will advocate for better long-term care options, such as a nursing home, expanded in-home support, better coordination with healthcare providers, and reliable transportation so elders can attend appointments and community events.

Beyond physical health, we must address emotional and cultural well-being. Creating more opportunities for elders to gather, teach, and connect will strengthen our district. Intergenerational programs—where elders share language, crafts, stories, and traditional knowledge with youth—can preserve our identity while building respect.

By prioritizing wellness programs, social activities, and culturally grounded initiatives, we reinforce that caring for elders is a sacred responsibility.

Equally important is our commitment to youth development. Our young people are not only tomorrow's leaders but contributors today. They need safe, structured opportunities to grow academically, socially, and culturally. Expanding after-school programs, youth sports, cultural camps, and leadership workshops can provide positive outlets and build confidence. When youth feel supported and connected, they are more likely to succeed and stay engaged in the community.

Education and career preparation must also be central. I will work to increase access to scholarships, mentorships, and internships within tribal enterprises and local businesses. Providing hands-on training and exposure to career pathways empowers young people to envision futures where they contribute meaningfully while staying connected to their roots. Integrating cultural teachings into youth programming ensures progress does not come at the expense of identity.

Economic development ties together our efforts in elder care and youth investment. Without a strong, sustainable economy, even well-intentioned programs cannot endure. District 2 must explore diverse opportunities that create jobs, strengthen businesses, and promote self-sufficiency. Supporting tribally owned enterprises, encouraging small business growth, and pursuing responsible partnerships can expand opportunity while keeping decision-making here, within our community. Keeping our workforce

employed here keeps money here. That's what keeps our small businesses open and food on our tables.

Workforce development programs are essential to this vision. By offering job training, certification programs, and entrepreneurship support, we equip young adults and working families with tools for success. Infrastructure improvements—such as broadband expansion and improved transportation—can attract new ventures and expand access to remote employment and health care. Growth must be thoughtful and sustainable, respecting our land and honoring tribal sovereignty.

I am committed to leadership rooted in listening, transparency, and accountability. The best solutions come from community voices—elders sharing wisdom, parents expressing concerns, youth offering ideas, and business owners identifying opportunities. By fostering open communication and collaboration, we can craft policies that reflect shared priorities.

By strengthening elder care, expanding youth opportunities, and advancing responsible economic development, we can build a future that honors our past while embracing progress. Together, we can create a district where elders are respected, youth are empowered, and families thrive through opportunity and unity.

Miigwech

Tyler Anderson
Candidate for White Earth District II

→ Tyler Coleman

Boozhoo friends and relatives,

My name is Tyler Coleman, and I am running for District II Representative for the White Earth Nation because I believe our people deserve leadership that is present, accountable, and willing to put in the work every single day. This campaign is not about titles. It is about service, responsibility, and making sure our tribal members feel heard, respected, and supported.



I am running to represent all of District II. Every family, every elder, every young person, and every household matters. Leadership should not show up only during election time. It should be consistent. It should answer

phone calls, return messages, attend meetings, and be visible in the community. Our people deserve someone who listens first, speaks honestly, and follows through on commitments.

Education must remain a priority. When we support our children early, we prevent bigger challenges later. Addressing truancy, working closely with families, and building strong partnerships with schools can help keep our youth on the right path. Our young adults also need guidance as they move into college, vocational programs, or the workforce. Clear communication, mentorship, and better coordination of available resources can help them succeed and build stable futures.

Mental health, addiction, and homelessness continue to

impact families across District II. Too many of our relatives struggle in silence or do not know where to turn. Mental health must be treated with the same urgency as physical health. I support expanding access to counseling, culturally relevant services, recovery support, and practical housing solutions. We need prevention efforts, but we also need accountability and structure. Compassion and responsibility must work together to truly help people move forward.

Food sovereignty is another important focus. Strengthening local food systems, supporting traditional harvesting and growing practices, and ensuring families have reliable access to healthy food close to home strengthens our entire community. When families can feed themselves and rely on local producers, we build independence, pride, and long term stability for future generations while honoring our traditions.

Our elders carry knowledge, language, history, and wisdom that guide us. They deserve respect, quality care, and a strong voice in decisions that affect our Nation. Supporting elders also means supporting caregivers and families. When we protect and honor our elders, we protect who we are as Anishinaabe people and preserve our cultural strength for those who follow.

Community centers and councils play a critical role in daily life. These spaces host meals, celebrations, funerals, youth programs, and important meetings. They bring people together and strengthen relationships. I support ensuring community councils have the authority, resources, and backing they need to manage these spaces effectively and respond to local priorities with confidence and transparency.

Economic opportunity is essential to long term stability. I believe tribal members should have the first opportunity to bid on projects that pertain to their company, trade, or skill whenever possible. We should prioritize small and large Native owned businesses before looking outside our community. Keeping contracts and dollars within our Nation supports families, builds experience, and creates lasting economic growth for District II.

If elected, I will stay engaged, communicate regularly, and remain accessible. I will attend meetings, provide updates, and make decisions based on what is best for our people. I respectfully ask for your support, your ideas, and your vote. Together, we can move District II forward with steady leadership and real commitment. I look forward to your support. Miigwech.

WE General Election Board

White Earth Election Office
777 SE Casino Drive, Mahnomen, MN 56557

electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov
218-936-5622 or 1-866-211-9154

Hours: Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Absentee Ballot
PO Box 99, Mahnomen, MN 56557

Meet the Candidates for White Earth District II Rep.

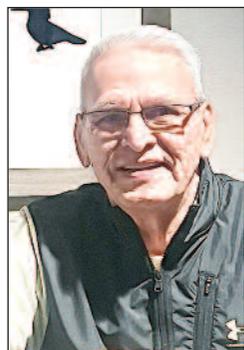
Leonard Louis Wadena ←

Aaniin Boozhoo,

I am running for District 2 Representative and ask for your vote in the March 31 Primary election.

My parents are Leonard "Coyote" and Sylvia Wadena. I have 2 grown daughters and 3 grandchildren.

I am currently working at the White Earth RBC Human Resources office as a Resource Generalist II. Prior to this I worked at White Earth Housing Authority as Resident Service Manager. I currently sit on the Housing Board as chairman. I'm also a small business owner on the reservation as Wadena Arrangements LLC, which is a successful business. I will help and encourage members to open more small business on reservation.



As a candidate, I will uphold Public Law 280. This law was established in 1953 to protect American Indians, as many are aware a member won his case protecting his rights. This law must be protected for members given Treaty Rights instead of being charged with injustices. I will do everything within our rights to protect this law and Members.

Constitution

I will work on protecting our Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution and any revisions will be brought to the

members as a referendum vote. There is talk about breaking away from our constitution and this decision would take members votes to change. We should be careful as to why to break away from MCT. As members of MCT, it protects us with the strength of six tribes.

Housing

I will work with the Council to uphold and strengthen the housing Authority program. We have tax credit homes that are eligible to be conveyed to the renter as home ownership which will in turn give the homeowner equity by signing over these homes to the renter. I will request the council to use the Tax Credit funds to update and remodel the old original community council center in Naytahwaush and bring the building up to date.

Daycare

Daycare and after-hours' daycare for our families that do not work from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. I will work on making this offer in District 2.

Cost of Living Increases

I will ask the council that all staff at RBC and Casino's receive a cost-of-living increase on an annual basis. We have not had one of these in 10 years and we need to be competitive with off-reservation positions and the rise of inflation.

Elders

Elders need assistants for resources. I will do every-

thing in my power to give help to our elders and youth of their health and wellbeing.

Human Resources

Programs that require high school diplomas and driver licenses for open positions. I will make a motion with the council to lower these standards providing grants used would allow this. We have members who would benefit from being hired for employment and this would break the barrier from employment and give people the experience of doing jobs required for full time employment along with removing driver license requirements when not needed. We do have many talented members and need to remove these barriers.

Minneapolis Urban Office

I will bring to the council the idea of having the same programs on and off reservation. We have people that can benefit from some programs not offered in our urban office. The council has already made some changes, but I believe more can be done and not just stating this and Urban office gets forgotten about.

I will be open to hearing our members' needs, concerns and wants. You can contact me at 218-401-2488

Thank you for taking the time to consider me as a candidate for the position of District 2 Representative. Mino-giizhigad.

→ Sheri Kay Snetsinger

Boozhoo,

My name is Sheri Snetsinger but you know me as Sheri Kay, your local & social media go-to for resources. I was born & raised on the reservation in District 2. I'm the middle child of four. My parents are Susie Snetsinger & Joe LaGarde. My grandparents are Rose (Ziegler) & Allie Snetsinger and Mary (Parker) & Benjamin LaGarde. My aunts and uncles are veterans, grassroots activists, volunteers, dedicated workers & my role models who taught me kindness, equality & how to roll up my sleeves to put in the work. I'm the auntie to many amazing youngsters.



My cousins are inspiring artists, teachers, coaches, firefighters, scholars, hard workers & incredible parents. My family is found throughout our reservation and urban communities. Some have lived unsheltered or struggled through addiction. All my life my family has inspired me to step up as a volunteer & to serve in our communities for our people.

I'm grateful I found my niche in tribal Human Service because serving our people through life's adventures is a reward. Moving a family into their stable home, celebrating a new employment opportunity or a graduation means that together we're building better communities for our families.

I enjoyed volunteering in our communities. I currently serve as a member of Mahnomen County's Salvation Army, the White Earth Nation Boys & Girls Club Board, the Naytahwaush Charter School's Full-Service Team, a Program & Community Advisory Committee and on the

Northwest Minnesota Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Committee. I'm an elected Twin Lakes Township Supervisor. I served on the Rising Sun Community Council & am currently on the Naytahwaush Community Council because of my active dedication to our communities. Both councils provided me mentorship under amazing community leaders.

This past year on NCC, we partnered with businesses, tribal programs, our charter school, organizations, and volunteers to create 20+ cultural activities, community supports and safety events. On NCC, I advocated on the Tribal, county, and state level for our families. Our volunteer councils duties include taking time away from our families & employment to budget, fundraise, shop, set-up, host, break-down & assess how we can do better because at the end of the day, our community councils are working to provide a safe & healthy community for our people.

I'm entering my third year as 1 of 14 lived-experienced Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) Implementation Consultants advocating for housing, health & racial justice for Minnesotans experiencing homelessness & housing instability alongside my fellow consultants, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, 14 of our Mn Commissioners, their staff and the Metropolitan Council. I've presented before the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), at the 2024 Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) conference, and at the 2025 MCH conference in partnership with the state Murdered & Missing Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) office.

Our votes elect leaders who make decisions on every aspect of our lives including our language protection, heritage, healthcare, land, housing, economy, education, transportation, environment or our most vulnerable members. Voting is how we bring resources back Home to protect our

people, tribal sovereignty, land, niibi, air, two-legged, four-legged, swimmers, flyers, crawlers, & plant lives. Our votes should reflect our knowledge of those leaders' experience and their advocacy for all aspects of our lives.

I will respectfully serve the voices & values of District 2 and the White Earth Band with not only my heart but with honesty, dedication and moral courage. While building strong relationships alongside our community, Tribal, state and federal leaders, I will strive to create safer, healthier communities throughout our reservation and in our urban communities.

Miigwech!

2026 WHITE EARTH PRIMARY ELECTION

EARLY VOTING

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8 AM-4:30 PM

ADDITIONAL HOURS

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 (8 AM-4 PM)

LOCATION

WHITE EARTH ELECTION BOARD

SHOOTING STAR CASINO RV PARK

218-936-5622

Meet the Candidates for White Earth District II Rep.

Bonita Brown

Boozhoo - Aaniin, Bonita Brown indizhinikaaz.. Makwaa Indoodem, Gaa-waabaabiganikaag indoonjibaa, Netaawaash indaa, niishtana ashi-niizh



Hello, my name is Bonita Brown.. I am from the White Earth Reservation, I live in Naytahwaush, I am 22 years old.

I am the daughter of Ann Marie (Wadena) Brown and Michael Neil (Mike) Brown. My grandparents are Bonita Faye (Bonnie) Londo and Darrell Eugene (Chip) Wadena, Bernadette (Bernie) Brown and Francis (Bill) Brown.

I am young and have been employed through Circle of Life Home Health, Ayabi Homecare, the Shooting Star Casino, and the White Earth Reservation Business Committee. In between The Naytahwaush and The Waubun Boys & Girls Club for a short while, I gained good experiences with our youth and our elders.

I have been around long enough to recognize the changes we need to make and the things we need to prioritize for our people now and our next generations to come.

Seeing what I have seen and going through the life that I have is what inspired me to run for District II Representative. I believe I would represent and help well.

My dream is to get our people to take better care of our elders, youth, and just overall each other. I want to make sure that our people can always provide for our own and each other, for generations and generations to come. I believe the way to succeed is to become more in tune with our culture, language, our traditional ways and our land.

My biggest goal is for us all to use our natural resources more and to also reallocate our resources and money to invest back into our people more. I want to prioritize our people's Mental Health, Sobriety and Healing. We need to be more of a close-knit Community/Reservation so that our people can thrive, like really THRIVE in this world. We need to come together to help heal and care for each other, our people are sacred, our people are powerful, we are indigenous aho, We need to treat each other good and Carry ourselves better and Take care of our land to represent being who we are meant to be.

I love our people and I love our Rez

I wish to represent District II for equality for every single member of our tribe. I wish and want to ensure that every single voice is heard. I hope that one day we have big

gardens in every community, and wild rice to last, and enough buffalos to keep going for generations. I hope we have more businesses/jobs that we can use our land/natural resources through, and every single member is able to have a part/job in keeping our Rez together.

I want us to be more sovereign, so that we don't have to rely on the federal government or anyone off of our rez for food, water, heat, electricity, survival, to live like how we have for generations and generations before us. Our goals and priorities need to be held to higher standards for every single one of us so that we can protect our elders, our youth, each other, our land, our generations now & generations to come. I believe that if we come together as a people, that we can get this done and pass down as much as we possibly can.

Culture. Language. Knowledge. Resources. Healing. Stability.

Feel free to contact me with any Questions, Concerns or Input at 218-401-2062

Miigwetch for Reading!

Bonita Brown
District II Representative Candidate

Derby from Page 19

during emergencies

5. Space for Everyone

North Twin Lake offers excellent fishing opportunities because its shallow depth and accessible structure allow anglers to spread out across the entire lake rather than crowding into a few high pressure spots. Natural Resources staff have plowed 17 miles of roads and numerous slips, giving participants plenty of space to fish comfortably and safely. This distribution helps prevent flooding or ice breakage caused by too much weight in one area while also ensuring that families and youth can enjoy a successful day on the ice.

6. High Success Rate for All Anglers

This event is family oriented, and North Twin's abundant fish population gives beginners and youth anglers a fair chance at success. The derby also awards \$10 kids' cash for up to 500 kids to receive for their first catch, encouraging more youth participation each year.

7. Sustainable Fishing Impact

North Twin Lake has a strong and healthy population of 15-19 inch Northern Pike, making it an ideal choice for a family and youth focused derby. Because the event runs only from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., most fish caught are from this abundant size class, which means the harvest has no negative impact on the lake's long term fishery. This approach allows children and families to enjoy a successful day on the ice while keeping the fish population sustainable for future years.

Community Thanks

A special thank you goes to the Naytahwaush Community Council for serving a delicious meal. Their chili was so good that people are still talking about it.

Finally, a deep appreciation to the entire derby planning team. Planning for the derby begins each November, and by the time January arrives, preparations fully take over the office. Staff dedicate many hours to organizing logistics, mapping the lake, preparing equipment, coordinating volunteers, lining up prizes, and handling the dozens of details required to host an event of this size.

On derby day, countless staff and volunteers work outdoors from morning until evening- setting up stations, assisting anglers, and keeping the event safe, welcoming, and well organized. Their dedication, teamwork, and commitment are what allow the derby to grow and improve every year.

We look forward to seeing you at the 7th Annual Derby next year.

Annual Heart Health and MMIWR Event



Photo by Gary W. Padrta

The annual Heart Health and MMIWR Event was held Feb. 12 at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center in Mahanomen. The event was open to the community and attendees could visit information and vendor booths, listen to informational speakers, view a memorial wall, get a guided tour through a giant inflatable heart, and visit a photo booth. Community members were also treated to a light meal and refreshments. The event was sponsored by White Earth Tribal Public Health.

(Sample)

White Earth Absentee Ballot Request Form

Please send an Absentee Ballot for the upcoming White Earth election set for the 31st day of March, 2026

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

District 1 _____ District 2 _____ District 3 _____

FIRST TIME VOTERS; you may select a District.

If you choose not to select a District, you will receive a ballot to vote for only the at-large position.

* Once your district is declared you cannot change your District until you move back to the new district 30 days prior to the election, until then you will only be allowed to vote in the District you select. The Enrollment Office has an Address Request Form you will need to fill out. The boundaries are listed as follows:

District 1: North of State Highway 200

District 2: From State Highway 200 to State Highway 113

District 3: South of State Highway 113

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

*Absentee voters in the Primary Election will automatically be mailed a ballot for the General Election held on June 9, 2026.

Send submissions to:

White Earth Election Board
PO Box 99
Mahnomen, MN 56557

Contact:

electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov
218-936-5622
Toll free: 866-211-9154

PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

A Primary Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Tribal Council will be held on **March 31, 2026** to fill the following positions:

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER - 4 Year Term

Michael "Mike" LaRoque (incumbent), Mykee Brown, Justin Keezer, Rock E. Keezer Sr., Jim Lafriniere, Jacob McArthur

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT I COMMITTEEPERSON - 4 Year Term

Henry G. Fox (incumbent), Andy "Jack" Auginaush, Fawn Roy

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT II COMMITTEEPERSON - 4 Year Term

Alrick "Son" Accobee, Tyler Anderson, Bonita Brown, Joe Bush, Tyler Coleman, Sheri Kay Snetsinger, Patty "Patleen" Straub, Leonard Louis Wadena

White Earth General Election Board

Shooting Star Casino RV Office, 777 SE Casino Drive, Mahnomen, MN 56557
Phone: 218-936-5622 / Toll Free: 866-211-9154 / email: electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING

PO Box 99, Mahnomen, MN 56557
Absentee Request cards may be sent to: electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov

POLLING PLACES:

DISTRICT I:

Bejou - Community Center, Main Street
Pine Bend - Church Parking Lot, 320th Avenue
Rice Lake - Community Center (Rice Lake Village) County Road 35

DISTRICT II:

Mahnomen - Tribal College, 2250 College Road
Naytahwaush - Fire Hall, County Road 4
Waubun - Community Center, 1004 Central Avenue

DISTRICT III:

Callaway - Community Center, Highway 59
Ogema - VFW Hall, Main Street East
White Earth - Community Center, Martin Drive
Elbow Lake - Elderly Nutrition Center, (Elbow Lake Village)
Pine Point - Community Center (old school)

MARBLE, MN

Marble City Hall (Community Center)
302 Alice Avenue

MINNEAPOLIS

American Indian Center
1530 East Franklin Avenue

CASS LAKE, MN

White Earth Family Office
220 2nd Street NW

POLLS OPEN: 8 a.m. / POLLS CLOSE: 8 p.m.

White Earth Election Board

218-936-5622 / Toll-free: 866-211-9154

Email: electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Or by mail at:

White Earth Election Board
PO Box 99, Mahnomen, MN 56557

The Election Board is located behind the Shooting Star Casino in the old RV Park building.

Election Board Hours

Monday-Friday:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Voting eligibly for White Earth Primary Election

1.6(A) Judging Qualifications

Each Band governing body will be the sole judge of the constitutional qualifications of its voters and may, by official action, delegate this responsibility to its General Reservation Election Board.

1.6 (B) Eligibility to Vote: Generally

Eligible voters are enrolled members of the Tribe, 18 years of age or over. All Eligible voters shall vote by secret ballot. To be eligible to cast a ballot a voter must meet all constitutional requirements. In addition, to be eligible to cast a vote for Committeeperson, a voter must have resided within that district for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the election, unless the voter casts an absentee ballot as permitted by this Ordinance.

1.6 (C) Eligibility to Vote: Absentee

Whenever, due to absence from the reservation, illness or physical disability, an eligible voter is not able to vote at the

polls and notifies the General Election Board consistent with this Ordinance, he/she will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot in the manner and under the procedures as provided by Section 2.2(B). To cast an absentee ballot for Committeeperson, an eligible voter must have resided within that district for a period of at least thirty (30) days as his/her last reservation residence. In the event an eligible voter has never resided on the reservation of his/her enrollment, he/she must declare in his/her request which district has been selected in which to cast the ballot for Committeeperson. If an eligible voter does not and has not previously designated a district, that eligible voter may cast an absentee ballot that includes only the at-large positions up for election. Once a voter has resided in or declared a district, the voter may not thereafter change his/her district for absentee voting purposes without actually residing within a different district on his/her reservation of enrollment for at least thirty (30) consecutive days immediately preceding the election.

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Dreyton R. Lafriniere, DOB: 01/31/2001**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **CO2025-00050**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **March 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** an Initial Hearing on the conservation citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: February 6, 2026

WE BAND OF OJIBWE TRIBAL COURT

In the Matter of **Optima Property Management vs. Debra Steele**

Summons to Appear

Court File No. **H2026-00003**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on February 6, 2026, a Housing Complaint was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court. A hearing on the complaint is scheduled for March 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. You are asked to contact Court Administration at 218-935-3525 to receive a copy of the housing complaint. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and enter an order against you, and/or you may be found in contempt of Court.

Dated: February 23, 2026

WE BAND OF OJIBWE TRIBAL COURT

In the Matter of **Optima Property Management vs. Brenda Hill**

Summons to Appear

Court File No. **H2026-00002**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on February 6, 2026, a Housing Complaint was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court. A hearing on the complaint is scheduled for March 19, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. and will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. You are asked to contact Court Administration at 218-935-3525 to receive a copy of the housing complaint. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and enter an order against you, and/or you may be found in contempt of Court.

Dated: February 23, 2026

AT Readers

Please let us know if you recently moved, or have moved in the past few years so we can cancel your old address. Also let us know if your address or your name needs to be corrected.

Email: today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Accreditation from Page 18

nity members, the Tribal Public Health Department works collaboratively with Tribal leadership, Elders, families, and Tribal and community partners to improve health outcomes, strengthen cultural protective factors, and build a healthier future for the next seven generations.

About White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health

The mission of White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health is to promote wiikwazom—wellness, prevent gibichichige—disease, and protect ganawendan—health in a way that honors our Anishinaabe culture. We work to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people of the White Earth Nation through culturally grounded public health practice, prevention, education, and part-

nership. Learn more at <http://www.wen-tribalpublichealth.com>.

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Vital Records/Health Statistics accreditation is funded, in part, by the National Center for Health Statistics. The development of national public health department accreditation has involved and is supported by public health leaders and practitioners from the national, state, local, Tribal, and territorial levels.

Measles Cases Rising in the U.S. – What You Need to Know!

There's been a big increase in measles cases across the country, including right here in Minnesota.

Quick Facts:

- Over 900 measles cases in the U.S. so far in 2026
- Most cases are in people who were **not vaccinated**
- Measles spreads easily through the air — just **being near someone who is sick** can be enough!

In North Dakota (Fargo):

- 7 cases have been confirmed as of February 18

Protect Yourself & Others:

- The measles vaccine is **safe and very effective**
- 2 doses = **97% protection**
- Make sure you and your kids are up to date — especially before traveling!

Watch for symptoms: fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash

If you think someone might have measles, **call your doctor or clinic right away.**

Let's keep our communities safe — **vaccinate, stay alert, and spread the word (not the virus)!**

Resources
 Fact Sheets, Reporting Guidance, and Posters:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/>
 White Earth Tribal Health 218-983-3286

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION

HYBRID ONLINE & IN-PERSON CLINICALS

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) TRAINING

APRIL 13 - JUNE 30, 2026

ORIENTATION: APRIL 13TH 11:30AM - 1:00PM
 CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION CLASSROOM
 HYBRID COURSE: ONLINE AND IN PERSON

Application Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FY2627>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces concepts of:

- basic human needs
- health/wellness continuum
- basic nursing skills needed to work as a Nursing Assistant in long term care
- Upon successful completion of classroom studies, the student will participate in supervised clinical experience in a long term care facility.

This class meets the objectives of the Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) and Minnesota Department of Health Requirements as detailed for educating the nursing assistant.

MUST TAKE ACCUPLACER EXAM TO DETERMINE READINESS

COST ASSISTANCE

Pathways to Prosperity Grant Requirements

Must be 18 years and older and not enrolled in K-12, and one or more of the following to qualify for eligibility:

- Individuals lacking stable housing
- Individuals with a criminal record
- Individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent
- Individuals with dental fees
- Individuals who have been unemployed for 26 or more of the past 52 weeks
- Individuals with limited English or math proficiency
- Individuals at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline

bridget.guiza@wetcc.edu | delayna.heisler@wetcc.edu | 2250 College Rd
 218-935-0417 ext. 8327 | 218-935-0417 | Mahnomon, MN 56557
 wetcc.edu/customized-ed

White Earth INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Calendar
Shooting Star Event Center Site / Mahnomon

January-February-March-April 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30
OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED
February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6
OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED
February 9	February 10	February 11	February 12	February 13
OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED
February 16	February 17	February 18	February 19	February 20
SITE CLOSED	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27
DROP OFF ONLY 12-4pm	SITE CLOSED	DROP OFF ONLY 12-4pm	SITE CLOSED	SITE CLOSED
March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6
OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED
March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12	March 13
OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	SITE CLOSED
March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20
OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	SITE CLOSED
March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27
OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	SITE CLOSED
March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2	April 3
OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	SITE CLOSED	OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED
April 6	April 7	April 8	LAST DAY APRIL 8	
OPEN 11am-7pm	SITE CLOSED	OPEN 11am-7pm		

To make an appointment, visit weii.website or call 218-396-1002 after January 20
For assistance after April 8, call Sue at 218.844.7029 or Jodi at 218.844.7057

SAFE DISPOSAL OF E-CIGARETTES & VAPES



Did You Know? E-cigarettes and vapes contain nicotine and lithium batteries. This makes them hazardous waste.



WHY IT MATTERS

Throwing vapes in the trash or plastic recycling can:



Cause fires



Release toxic chemicals



Harm workers, first responders, and the environment.



WHAT TO DO

Take e-cigarettes to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site.

How to find one:



Contact your local waste service



Or simply Google



SAFE STORAGE AT HOME

Until drop-off, store vapes safely:



Use a closed metal container



Examples: clean soup can or coffee can. 🔥 This helps prevent fires.



You can also ask Elderly Nutrition cooks to save an empty metal can for you.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the past year, Becker County HHW collected over 500 pounds of vapes.

We can do better—every vape disposed of safely makes a difference.



WHITE EARTH DROP OFF PROCESS

Pick up at White Earth Tribal Public Health



Get a metal can

Pick one up at White Earth Public Health (outside near the raised garden beds, north end of the Tribal Health building) —or use a clean metal can from home



Place empty vapes inside

Store e-cigarettes and vapes in the metal can with the lid closed.



Bring vapes to the White Earth Transfer Station



Empty into the collection can

Dump vapes into the large metal container on site.



They'll be hauled to Becker County for proper disposal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: 218-935-3234



Obituaries

David Anthony Magee

David Magee, 53, of Naytahwaush, died unexpectedly on Feb. 6.

David Anthony Magee was born in Dallas, Texas, the son of Danny and Jean (LaGarde) Magee. His youth was spent in Minneapolis, where he graduated from South High.



Following high school, Dave entered the workforce and worked as a security guard for concerts. He was able to attend and hear many big-name artists like Diana Ross and Prince. David later worked in construction while living in the Twin Cities area before moving up north to the White Earth Reservation to make his home. He worked as a bartender, blackjack dealer, wildland firefighter and most recently as a counselor at Men's Acute Care for the White Earth Nation until his health declined.

As a hard worker, David's work didn't go unnoticed and he was often recognized for his efforts. He was very giving and was willing to help anyone in need. He had a great personality and sense of humor which allowed people to gravitate towards him.

David liked to tell stories and there seldom was an empty seat at this blackjack table. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his mother, Jean Magee of Bemidji, Minn.; sister, Michelle Magee also of Bemidji; nephews and niece: Chad Williams, LaShon Williams and Waleya LaGarde; son, Nicholas Stone; uncle and aunt, Joe (Susie) LaGarde; and longtime companion, Rose Bellanger.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; dad, Danny; and his only daughter, KayLa Magee.

All-night wake services began Feb. 12 and continued until the time of a Traditional funeral held Feb. 13, both at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Michael "Mike" A. Swan

Michael "Mike" Swan, Waaswaa Muckwa "Shining Bear," 70, of Ponsford, died on Feb. 9 at his home under the loving care of his family and HIA Hospice.

Michael A. Swan was born Aug. 2, 1955, in White Earth, the son of Maynard and Cleo (Armstrong) Swan. His youth was spent growing up in the Pine Point area.



After graduating with the Class of 1973, Mike entered the workforce. He worked for five years at Northwest Bell before attending college at the University of MN-Duluth. In 1984, Mike earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources. Over the next several years, he worked for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for five years, then specifically for the White Earth Nation for five years, followed by the Pollution Control Agency for another five years. He eventually worked his way up to the Director of the Department of Natural Resources for the White Earth Reservation, retiring in 2013. After retiring, Mike continued with his teaching abilities and worked at Detroit Lakes High School teaching Indian Education to the students for five years.

Mike met his soul mate, Audrey Paquette, and the two were bonded in spirit as one on Oct. 20, 2001, with a traditional Ojibwe wedding and then united in marriage on April 20, 2002, with a church wedding. They made their home together in Pine Point and enjoyed many good years together. Audrey passed in 2013 and Mike has continued to live in Pine Point.

In his younger years, he spent his time fishing and hunting, then it was traveling and endless hours golfing. Mike will be remembered for his great sense of humor and willingness to help anyone. As a pillar of the community, he kept busy giving back with his time and talents. Mike was active with the Pine Point Community Council for 25 years, the Pine Point School Board for 12 years, Carsonville Fire Department for 17 years, Gaming Commission for eight years and several years of helping with the Boys and Girls Club in addition to being a spiritual advisor and helping many families with funerals since the 1990s. His loss will be felt throughout the community and by all those who knew and loved him.

Michael is survived by his children: Tricia Jones, Derek Greenfeather Jr. and Nevaeh Jones; granddaughter, Aiyannah Greenfeather; sisters: Patricia (Warren) Strom, Vicki Swan and Beverly Swan; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, sister, Doreen Seelye; brother, Donald Armstrong; and his mentor, Joe Bush.

All-night wake services began Feb. 12 and continued until a Traditional service on Feb. 14, both held at the Pine Point School.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Gary John Gilman

Gary Gilman, 93, of Mahnomen, passed away on Feb. 7 at the Mahnomen Health Center Nursing Home, surrounded by loved ones.

Gary John Gilman was born on Sept. 18, 1932, in Ponsford, to John Wesley and Ruby Ann (Doucette) Gilman. As a young boy he spent several years in San Francisco, where he attended Catholic school. He later returned to Elbow Lake, where he was raised by his mother, aunt Opal and grandparents where he spent many years with cousins. He graduated with the Waubun High School Class of 1950.



Following graduation, Gary enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1st Mar. Div. 2nd BN. and served during the Korean War until his honorable discharge in 1953. For his service, he received several medals, including a Purple Heart and a Korean Service Medal.

After returning home, Gary married the love of his life, Margie Hendrickson on April 29, 1954, in Reno, Nev. They made their home in San Mateo, Calif., where they welcomed their first child, Bruce. The family later returned to Minnesota, where their daughter Sue was born. The family eventually moved to a farm in Braham, Minn., where they created many special memories including the birth of their third child, Michelle, and enjoyed raising Arabian horses. In the late 1970s, Gary drove semi-truck and helped set up missile sites in the midwest.

Throughout much of his working life, Gary was a professional semi-truck driver. From his time in the military through his retirement, he drove for several companies, including Consolidated Freightways and Baxter Medical. His work allowed him to travel widely and see much of the country. After retiring in 1994, Gary and Margie moved to Twin Valley, Minn., where he took great pride in growing a large garden. In their later years, they made their home in Bejou and Mahnomen, where they built many lasting friendships and stayed active in their community.

Gary was a man of many interests who embraced life with enthusiasm. In his younger years, he enjoyed hunting ducks, geese, and deer, and spending time on the lake fishing. A talented woodworker, he created treasured pieces for his family, from small keepsakes to sturdy benches. Gary loved playing cards, was part of a traveling card club for years, and never passed up a good game of bingo. He also bred and trained Springer Spaniels and remained proud and active in local VFW posts and at the church. A free spirit at heart, Gary was always thinking of others and was quick to lend a hand. Above all, Gary dearly loved his family and was incredibly proud of them. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Gary is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Margie Gilman; children: Bruce (Theresa) Gilman, Sue (Lonnie) Lattimore, and Michelle Redenti; grandchildren: Bruce Gilman Jr., Renelle (Tyler) Perkins, Josh (Maranda) Gilman, Scott Ferguson, Justin (James) Lattimore, Heather Lattimore, Kalynn Redenti, and Korina Redenti; great-grandchildren: Isabell Gilman, Hudson Gilman, Darian (Jules) Gilman, Delana Gilman, Destiny Gilman, Evelyn James, Eric Perkins, Abel Perkins, Jason (Jen) Ferguson, Samantha Kopeikin, and Juaking Sandoval; and many great-great grandchildren.

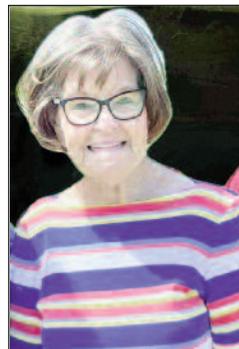
Gary was preceded in death by his parents, John and Ruby Gilman; parents-in-law, Clara and Louis Hendrickson; aunt, Opal Voit; and many beloved extended family.

Funeral services were held Feb. 11 at First Lutheran Church in Mahnomen.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Donna L. Rogers



Donna L. Rogers, 95 years young, passed away peacefully on Feb. 22 at her home in Apache Junction, Ariz., under the care of family and Azorna Hospice.

Memorial services will be held May 3 at 2 p.m. at Wild Rice Lutheran Church, rural Twin Valley, Minn.

A Time of Gathering will take place one hour prior at the church.

Interment: Wild Rice Cemetery.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Please update your mailing address!

Please update your address with the Anishinaabeg Today. Let us know if you moved so we can cancel your old address. Email: today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Obituaries

Patricia "Pat" Sue (Antell) Carson

Patricia "Pat" Sue (Antell) Carson, 81, of Naytahwaush, passed away on Feb. 14 at her home in Naytahwaush.

Patricia was born on Feb. 26, 1944, in White Earth, the daughter of William Antell and Julia Beupre. Much of her childhood was spent growing up in the Naytahwaush area, but as a young woman, she moved to the Twin Cities. Even as a child, Pat carried the spirit of a peacemaker. When she and her sisters were young, she often had to sleep between Yvonne and Wanda to keep them from fighting in bed, a role she seemed destined to carry throughout her life.



Pat was blessed with six children: Thomas "JJ," Patricia, Arlene Jean, Georgia, Demitrios, and Maryann, which later led to numerous grandchildren.

After spending time in St. Paul, Minn., she met Hank in the late 1980s, and together they moved back to the reservation. They shared many good years before his passing. Pat furthered her education at White Earth Tribal and Community College and worked as an advocate for the White Earth Nation.

Always willing to help, Pat cooked meals for many, cared for her aging father, and was a voice for people when they could not be one for themselves. She was a listening ear whose door was always open to family and friends in need. Pat was proud of her sobriety and felt deeply connected to her roots and Native American traditions. She could skin a deer faster than most men. Throughout her life—and the many trials and tribulations she endured—Pat remained steadfast and resilient, even becoming a breast cancer survivor.

In her spare time, she enjoyed reading, working on crossword puzzles, gardening, and never turned down an opportunity for a road trip to the casino. She will be dearly missed by many.

Pat is survived by her children: Thomas "JJ," Patricia, Arlene Jean, Georgia, Demitrios, and Maryann; a host of grandchildren; close nephews, Chris and David; and several other beloved family members. She is also survived by her younger siblings on her mother's side: Jean, Robert "Mutt," Cinder, and Susie.

She was preceded in death by her parents; longtime companion, Hank; and sisters, Nancy, Yvonne, and Wanda.

May her spirit travel gently along the Spirit Road, guided by the ancestors and welcomed with open arms. May the Creator hold her close, and may her memory continue to live on in the songs, stories, and traditions of her people.

A funeral service was held Feb. 19 at the Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahanomen.

Interment: Free Gospel Alliance Cemetery in Naytahwaush (in spring).

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahanomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Terence "Tux" Lee Turner

Terence "Tux" Turner, 61, of Naytahwaush, passed away on Feb. 20 at Essentia Health in Fargo, N.D.

Terence Lee Turner, known by all as Tux, was born on Oct. 10, 1964, to Thomas "Barney" and Lucille (Bellanger) Turner. He was raised in Naytahwaush, where he attended school and built lifelong friendships within the community he proudly called home. Tux worked for many years as a custodian at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex. He took pride in his work and in being a steady, familiar presence to so many who passed through its doors.

Family meant everything to Tux. He cherished being an uncle and loved spending time with his nieces and nephews. He gave each of them their own special nickname and babysat whenever he could. Above all, Terence was most proud of being a father to his daughter, Haley. She was his greatest joy and the light of his life. Tux had a wonderful sense of humor and made friends with everyone he met. Known for his smile and quick wit, he had a way of making others laugh and feel at ease.

Born with a lucky streak, Tux enjoyed playing cards, visiting the casino, and gambling. He also truly loved the outdoors. He spent many hours driving his four-wheeler, hunting, ice fishing, and leeching. Those simple, quiet moments brought him great happiness.

Tux is survived by his daughter, Haley Turner Degroat; sister, Pat Turner; brother, Bruce Turner Sr.; sister-in-law, Carol Turner; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Michael Turner; sister, Lynette Straub; nephews, Aaron and Michael Jr.; great nephew, Michael III; and many aunts, uncles, and extended family members.

Funeral services were held Feb. 25 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex.

Interment: St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery (in spring).

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahanomen

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Patricia M. McClellan

We remember Patricia M. McClellan, known to many as Pat or Mrs. Mac, born on June 15, 1944 in Indianapolis, Ind., and passed away on Feb. 17 at the age of 81. Today, we celebrate her life and the love she so generously shared. Patricia was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and an active member of St. Mary Catholic Church, where her faith was a guiding force in her life.

Patricia was a woman of many talents. She had an illustrious career as a school teacher, influencing countless young lives in schools across Indiana and Illinois, and even after retirement in 2008, she continued guiding children toward a greater appreciation of Native American culture and history. Patricia was also a creative soul - a funny and spirited author, who penned three children's books and a novel. Her love for writing extended into her service as the former President of the Lions Club, where she regularly contributed to the monthly newsletter and was awarded the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.



Patricia was a loving mother to her children: Mary (Mic), Mark, and Marty (Mandy). She was a cherished grandmother to Reagan (Roman), Liam (Brooke), Michael, Molly, Mitchell, Amelia, and Sadie. Patricia's husband, Jim McClellan, has been her steadfast partner since their marriage on June 21, 1968. Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, Cleve and Rose Goodwin.

Patricia's legacy lives on in the stories she wrote, the lessons she taught, and most importantly, in the hearts of those who loved her. May her life be a testament to the power of love, faith, and creativity.

We invite you to share your memories of Patricia and upload photos to the memorial page, so we can all remember and celebrate the remarkable woman that she was.

A Memorial Mass was held Saturday, Feb. 28 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Durand, Ill., with Rev. Dennis Vargas officiating. Cremation Rites to be Accorded.

Arrangements: McCorkle Funeral Home - Durand Chapel.

Online: www.mccorklefuneralhome.com

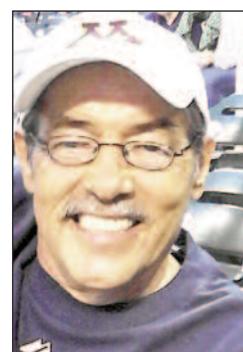
In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to: St. Mary Catholic Church, 606 West Main Street, Durand, IL 61024

Thomas Jerome St. Clair

Thomas Jerome St. Clair, 73, of Minneapolis, and proud member of the White Earth Nation, passed away on Jan. 6.

Tom was a loving son, brother and professional Uncle to his beloved nieces and nephews. He was born and raised in south Minneapolis.

He worked at Graybar Electric. His health started to deteriorate in his 60s forcing him to be mainly home bound.



Before his illness, his favorite place to be was up north. Especially fishing on White Earth, Nett, and Strawberry Lake. He loved company. Simple conversations. He would casually tell you an adventure or experience from his past.

He was funny and had the best laugh.

He loved watching the Minnesota Twins, Vikings, wrestling and old time movies and westerns.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Aloysius (Kip) and Dolores (Shorty) St.Clair; siblings, Terry, Linda, Doug, and Michelle St.Clair.

He is survived by siblings: Richard St.Clair, Pat (Cy) Benjamin, Mike (Val) St.Clair, and Tricia (Ludy) Mayer.

Nephews, Duane (Lina), Christopher (Michelle), Chad (Katie), Ryan (Renee), Raymond, Joe (Malia) and Derek; nieces: Christine (Keith), Missy, Jessica, and Lisa (Jesse); great nephews: Rory, Darius, Blaine, Jon, Terry, Trenton, Gavin, Parker, and Hunter; great nieces: Jasmine, Aliyah, Mallory, Sophia, Isabelle, Vivian and Margeaux; great-great niece, Zaquaria; and many cousins and friends.

He will be missed but never forgotten. May he rest in peace.

A Celebration of Life was held Jan. 17 at the American Indian Center in Minneapolis.

877-410-8550
**anonymous crime and
elder abuse tip line**

Obituaries

William “Bill” Oshkinowe Sr.

William “Bill” Oshkinowe Sr., 83, of Waubun, passed away on Feb. 20 at Essentia Health–St. Mary’s Hospital in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

William Gene Oshkinowe was born on July 25, 1942, in White Earth, to George and Jennie (King) Oshkinowe. He was one of 10 children. The family made their home near White Earth Lake on property they affectionately called “Oshkinowe Lake.” Bill attended the Maple Grove schoolhouse for several years before entering the workforce.



Bill began his working years in International Falls, Minn., where he farmed and found enjoyment in the wood-cutting industry. He later went on to work for Wheeler Consolidated Inc., where he dedicated over 35 years of service before retiring in 1996.

Throughout his life, Bill lived for a time in the Twin Cities before returning to northern Minnesota in the early 1980s. He was blessed with four children: Paula, Billee, William II, and Cory. Family was important to Bill, and he cherished time spent with his children and grandchildren.

Bill was proud to hold a single-engine private pilot’s certificate. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, cutting firewood, and spending time outdoors. A talented mechanic, he took pride in fixing vehicles and solving problems. Despite his age, Bill was comfortable with technology and enjoyed learning new skills. He was also proud to have traveled to all 48 contiguous United States. Bill was very practical and had great sense of humor and loved making his family laugh.

Bill is survived by his children: Paula (Abdullah) Al-Mohammedawi, Billee (Michael) Wenschlag, and William (Karen) Oshkinowe II; grandchildren: Ashley, Rachel, Bryce, Megan, Matthew, Olivia, Selena, Billy, Xavier, Nevaeh, Austin, and Allen; 11 great-grandchildren; special nephew, Armando Delacruz; and many beloved family members.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; son, Cory Lee Jackson; grandsons, David Scott Wenschlag and William Oshkinowe III; siblings: Francis, Fern, Jenny Mae, Florence, Margaret, Lawrence, Ervin, George, and Maurice; and many extended family.

An all-night wake was held on Feb. 25 at the White Earth Community Center. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Feb. 26 at St. Benedict’s Catholic Church in White Earth. Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahanomen. Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Linda Mae Howard

Linda Howard, 77, of Mahanomen, died on Feb. 1 at the Mahanomen Health Center Nursing Home.

Linda Mae Howard was born June 19, 1948, in Grand Rapids, Minn., the daughter of James Howard and Jessie Hamner. She graduated from Greenway High School with the Class of 1967.



Following graduation, Linda moved to Minneapolis and began working as a housekeeper. While in the Twin Cities, Linda met Lyle Thompson and the couple moved back to the White Earth Reservation. They made their home in Ponsford and were blessed with one son, Neil. Lyle passed away in 2008 and Linda remained living on the reservation. She later spent several years with long-time companion, Jim Bush, in Naytahwaush, before her declining health forced her to move into the nursing home.

Over the years, Linda enjoyed visiting with family and friends, playing cards and Bingo. She also spent her time putting together puzzles, reading and partaking in the many activities at the nursing home.

Linda is survived by her son, Neil Howard of Mahanomen; brother, James Howard Jr. of Palm Desert, Calif.; sisters: Judith (Russell) Grandstrand of Stephen, Minn., Rosalyn (Lloyd) Schueller of St. Cloud, Minn., and Dolly Clune of Grand Rapids; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; companion, Lyle Thompson; step-son, Kenny Thompson; step-daughter, Laura Thompson; sisters, Lucille Rock and Bonnie Mrozek.

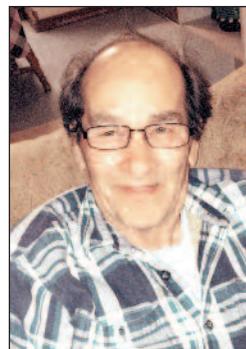
Blessed be the memory of Linda Mae Howard. A memorial service was held Feb. 25 at the Mahanomen Health Center Nursing Home. Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahanomen. Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Harry James Hvezda

Harry James Hvezda, 72, of Rice Lake, died on Feb. 23 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Harry James Hvezda, born on July 13, 1953, to Leslie and Veronica (Cloud) Hvezda, was a man whose laughter, generosity, and love for family touched an entire community.

Harry had a deep love for the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, leeching, and riding—activities that connected him not only to nature but to his heritage and community. He also loved sports, playing both softball and basketball, where his competitive spirit and sense of humor always shined through.



He was known as a huge jokester, his laughter was contagious, and Harry was rarely without a smile or a punchline. He had a nickname for everyone he met and was a gifted storyteller, captivating friends and family with tales that were often as funny as they were unforgettable.

Above all else, Harry was a family man. He loved his grandchildren deeply—so much so that they could get him to do just about anything. His home was always open. If someone needed a place to stay, Harry welcomed them. If someone was hungry, he fed them. The village children were frequent visitors, stopping by for snacks, popsicles, and juice, always greeted with warmth and generosity.

Harry was deeply loved by his community, and his presence will be greatly missed. Though our hearts are heavy, we find comfort in knowing he is finally reunited with the love of his life, Ramona Stevens.

A huge thank you goes out to the community for all of the support and love they shared with Harry’s family and kids.

Harry is survived by his children: Ryan (Liz) Stevens, Jeremy Neeland, Melissa Stevens, Harry (LaRae) Stevens, April Hvezda, and Leslie (William) Hvezda; 14 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; special niece, Lavina; siblings: Karen, Delmer, Chuck, Leah, Mark, Nolan, and Judy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by the love of his life, Ramona Stevens; parents, Leslie and Veronica (Cloud) Hvezda; brother, Harlan; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held March 2 at the Rice Lake Community Center. Interment: St. Philips Episcopal Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley, Minn. Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

Rebecca from Page 36

was clearly a Native American. The man said yes, but never the inner circle, and that he had always been on the outside looking in. The man explained to his counselor that the powwow consisted of many circles. The inner circle was the drum and its singers, then came the circle of dancers. Next came the spectators, followed by the circle of people walking and the vendors.

Beyond that was the parking, and those who may be gathered smoking, drinking or in my day, break dancing. Those who may have been there but respecting the rules and not really participating in the powwow. The man explained that is where he belonged in that outer circle. The sponsor told the man to get ready because the next weekend they were going to the powwow and would be enjoying from the spectator circle.

True to his word, the sponsor showed up at the man’s house that following Saturday. The man was anxious and scared at the same time because he knew that people were going to look at him and know that he did not belong. As they entered the building, the man did not notice anyone looking at him in a questioning manner. The two men stopped by a vendor for a drink and a snack, and still no unfriendly looks. Finally came the sound of the drums, Grand entry. As the dancers came flowing in one by one, and in their own category,

the man’s heart became full of love. He watched the Honor Guard lead the dancers in, followed by the men, the women, the teen categories, followed by the tiny tots. The joy of the powwow was felt by most. The belonging that the man felt was indescribable. He was not on the outside looking in, nor was he on the inside looking out. The man was part of; He was where he belonged. At that moment the man felt utter freedom.

This story was told by a man who suffered from alcoholism like me, and longed to fit in and belong. He stated that it was a new beginning for him and that it had changed his life. He also noted that this happened 30+ years earlier, and that he was now a substance abuse counselor and a sponsor to many.

I read this story with fervor: I felt that I was reading the exact way I felt the week before and the exact way that I was feeling when I danced with complete abandon. My time at that powwow was in 2014 and it was the day that I “joined the dance.” The day I set myself free.

Aho Mii’iw

Feel free to visit us at:
www.facebook.com/WhiteEarthNation

Diabetic Bingo

All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.

March 4 th , Wednesday	Naytahwaush
March 11 th , Wednesday	White Earth
March 25 th , Wednesday	Rice Lake

Bingo in Naytahwaush is at the Sports Complex, E.N.P. dining hall after the 11:30 elder meal.
Bingo in White Earth is at the Congregate Housing, Dining Hall after the 11:30 elder meal.
Bingo in Rice Lake is at the Rice Lake Community Center after the 11:30 elder meal.

April 1 st , Wednesday	Pine Point
April 8 th , Wednesday	Elbow Lake
April 21 st , Tuesday	Mahnomen – Senior Meals

Bingo in Pine Point is on the west side of the School in the E.N.P. Dining Hall after the 11:30 elder meal.
Bingo in Elbow Lake Village at the E.N.P. building after the 11:30 elder meal.
Bingo at the Mahnomen County Service Center after the 11:30 Senior meals (About Noon)

May 5 th , Tuesday	Naytahwaush
May 13 th , Wednesday	White Earth
May 27 th , Wednesday	Rice Lake

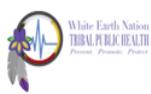
Bingo in Naytahwaush is at the Sports Complex, E.N.P. dining hall after the 11:30 elder meal.
Bingo in White Earth is at the Congregate Housing, Dining Hall after the 11:30 elder meal.
Bingo in Rice Lake is at the Rice Lake Community Center after the 11:30 elder meal.

Schedule is subject to change without notice. If the RBC or the E.N.P. site is closed, Bingo will be rebooked to another date, if possible.

Other Public Health Events that are coming up in February are...
Dr. Ung (foot Doctor) Clinic
March 16th at the White Earth Tribal Health Building
March 17th & 18th Shooting Star Casino Event Center
To make an appointment call (218) 255-2204 or email public.health@whiteearth-nsn.gov
For additional information please check the Anishinaabeg Today or Facebook for detailed information.

Updated 2/24/26

"Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't want to press your luck."
- IRISH PROVERB




WHITE EARTH HUMAN SERVICES
MAADAADIIZH WORKFORCE CENTER
3081 WORKFORCE RD
P.O. BOX 69
NAYTAHWAUSH, MN 56566
PHONE: (218) 936-2444 FAX: (218) 935-0480

CALL FOR TERO COMMISSIONERS

White Earth's TERO Commission is vested with the general authority to implement the policy of Indian preference in employment and contracting on the White Earth Reservation, as established by the White Earth Reservation Tribal Council by ordinance in 1984.

Commissioners are needed at this time to:

- Establish and implement rules and regulations governing all activities and procedures of the commission.
- Meet with TERO staff at least quarterly for the purpose of securing updates relative to the operation of the TERO program.
- Hold and conduct informal hearings, including issuing notices thereof, subpoena witnesses and documents in accordance with the hearing procedures set forth in the ordinance, supplementary ordinances, rules, regulations, and/or guidelines promulgated by the commission.
- Impose sanctions and grant relief as authorized and prescribed by Chapter 12 of the ordinance and any and all supplementary ordinances.

Knowledge and experience needed in the following areas:

- Federal laws, regulations and statutes pertaining to Indian Preference policy, Indian Self Determination Act, WE TERO Ordinance, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Act, Affirmative Action policy, Buy Indian Act, MAP-21 Indian Reservation Roads policy, and construction on territorial jurisdictions of the White Earth Reservation.

Must be willing to:

- Adhere to the confidentiality policies of White Earth RBC
- Attend quarterly meetings with TERO staff
- Commit to serving for two years
- Hold and conduct hearings when needed
- Attend training and meetings as needed

Other requirements

- Must be an enrolled member of White Earth Reservation.

If you are interested in serving as a TERO Commissioner, please send your resume to:
Maadaadizi Workforce Center
ATTN: TERO Office
PO Box 69, Naytahwaush MN 56566



INJURED? CALL JOE.

Personal Injury, Work Comp., Wrongful Death, Car Accidents, Medical Malpractice, Construction Accidents, Slip & Falls, and Dog Bites



218-736-5673

Attention New Homeowners & Existing Homeowners

If you are in need of a Well & Sewer system for your house/trailer home, you can contact the White Earth Water & Sewer Department

Requirements to qualify for the grants are:

- White Earth Tribal enrolled member
- Reside on the White Earth Reservation
- Proof of the Land in which you own, Fee land (Land Deed/ Warranty Deed or Tribal Trust Land (Tribal Trust agreement)
- Proof of home ownership
- Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- Must have electricity, heat source and interior plumbing to the home

Contact us at 218-935-6276

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Sugarbush Township, County of Becker, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday on March 17, 2026, and if inclement weather also postpones the election and meeting on the third Tuesday, they shall be held within 30 days following the third Tuesday in March.

The Election Poll hours will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at which time the voters will elect:

Supervisor position

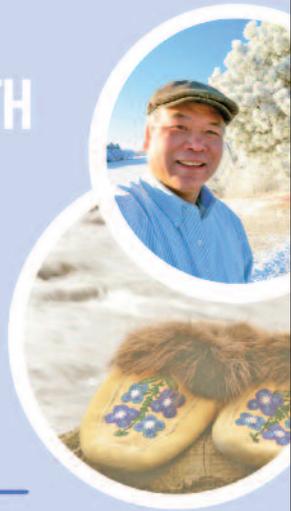
The Board of Canvass will meet on March 17, 2026, at 8:10 p.m. to certify the official election results. The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location: **Sugar Bush Town Hall**

Deb Chilton,
Town Clerk, Town of Sugar Bush

TWO CONVENIENT WAYS TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

PODIATRY SERVICES WITH DR. UNG



Serving White Earth monthly and the surrounding communities of Pine Point, Naytahwaush, Rice Lake, and Mahnomen on a rotating basis.

01 CALL:
218-255-2204

02 EMAIL:
public.health@whiteearth-nsn.gov



WINTER PRUNING Community Learning Opportunity



<p>Wednesday March 25, 2026 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Naytahwaush Firehall 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pinepoint Community Center</p>	<p>Thursday March 26, 2026 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM White Earth Community Center 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Callaway Tree Orchard</p>
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Meet at the sites listed and please dress for the weather.

WETCC Community Extension

Gain hands-on experience and learn basic winter pruning principles for apple trees, and other fruit trees.

Call or Email with any questions: Maria Fatz 218-936-8349 extension@wetcc.edu




PLANTING SEEDS OF RESILIENCE Monthly Gathering

GIGITIGAADAAMIN MASHKAW'WIZIIMINAM



MONDAY
MARCH 23RD
2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

WETCC
Drum Hall
2250 College Road
Mahnomen, MN

Open to New Participants

Seed cohort monthly meetings are ongoing. We invite new participants to join the group who are interested in learning about seed keeping and plant knowledge.

If you or someone you know is curious about seeds, gardening or growing food you are welcome to attend and learn more.

For more info, call or email Maria Fatz: 218-936-8349 maria.fatz@wetcc.edu




Eagle View Township

will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Elbow Lake Community Center located at 39944 N Elbow Lake Drive.

Howah Ads

Happy **14th** Birthday
Jordan

Love Mom, Dad & Azalea

March 22nd



H-Bday JB
Grams Superhero



Happy **13th** Belated Birthday
Kade
February 24



Happy Birthday
Grandpa!
We Love You!



White Earth T.E.R.O.

PREPARE NOW FOR TRAININGS & CAREERS

Must have the following:
18+ years of age
Driver license
GED - Diploma
Reliable Transportation

Our staff can assist with achieving these goals.
If you need help with GED - Contact Amy, Kathy, Marcus & Esther
If you need help with Driver License - Contact Diane & Laurie
218-935-2444

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Heavy Equipment

TESTING
FEBRUARY - MAY
*locations vary by date

CLASS
APRIL - MAY
MONDAY - FRIDAY
TRAINING IS LOCATED IN HINCKLEY

Carpentry

JUNE- JULY
MONDAY - FRIDAY
TRAINING IS LOCATED IN BEMIDJI

Cement Masons 633
MAY- AUGUST
MONDAY- FRIDAY
TRAINING IS LOCATED IN NEW BRIGHTON

Contact regarding trainings

Kimberly StClair 218-935-6268 & Liz Andersen 218-935-3699

A message from White Earth Natural Resources Wildlife Department

During the 2025 Tribal deer season 135 deer heads from areas across the reservation were submitted for CWD testing. Of the 135 samples that were tested there were zero CWD detections.

White Earth Natural Resources would like to say miigwech to all who participated. Incentives will be arriving soon, those who participated will be notified by WENR on how to receive them.

Sugar Bush Township Residents

Notice of Township Filing

Notice is Hereby Given to the residents of Sugar Bush Township that the annual filing for election of officers opens Dec 19, 2025, and continues through January 13, 2026. The following positions are to be filled at the election on March 10, 2025

SUPERVISOR / 3-YEAR TERM

If you wish to file for candidacy, please file with the township clerk at her Residence in the evenings or by appointment. If you would like to make an appointment or need further information call 651-302-1479. The clerk's office is (33724 County Road, 143 Ogema, MN 56569) and will be open for filing starting January 2, 2026, from 1 until 5 pm.

Deb Chilton, Clerk
Sugar Bush Township

Noyahwah Community Council & Fosston Theater invite you to
SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, MARCH 14th, 2026

NCC is asking for your suggestions for Free March movies your family would like to see at the Fosston Theater! Follow us on Facebook because your feedback & participation matters!

INTERESTED IN BOOKING YOUR OWN MOVIE NIGHT? CALL OR EMAIL KEVIN AT: FOSSTONTHEATRE@GMAIL.COM or CALL 218-230-9594! Tell him, NCC sent you.

NEED MORE ENERGY?

JOIN STAR FITNESS CENTER TODAY!

Located in the Manitok Mall, Mahanomen

Email Jackie.Haugo@whiteearth-nsn.gov or call 218-401-2421 to fill out an application. Keycards cost \$10. Shooting Star employees can have their badge activated for free.

UPDATED KEY CARD HOURS:

- Adults (18 & older) have 24 hour keycard access 7 days a week.
- Minors (age 15-17) have keycard access 6 a.m.-10:00 p.m. 7 days a week



White Earth Nation
TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Prevent, Promote, Protect



Lawn Mowing Provider(s) White Earth Tribal Elders Program District III & On-Call position opening

- Must be an enrolled Tribal member or descendant (18 years or older)
- Provide your own lawn mower (rider)
- Must complete an application
- A current Driver's license & insurance.
- You must have your own transportation to & from each site.
- Knowledge of area highways & roads in District
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check & drug screening
- Must be able to communicate with the elders
- Must sign a contract & liability form upon hire
- \$50.00 per lawn, with guidelines to follow upon hire

Deadline: Until filled

Contact: Lisa or Buck at W&S Department 218-935-6411

Email addresses: Lisa.donovan-larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov or Burnham.tibbetsIII@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Hands-On ADA Concrete Training

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEN: June 22-26, 2025 (tentative)
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

WHERE: Maadaadizi Workforce Center
3081 Workforce Rd, Mahanomen, MN 56557

The Hands-on concrete training is free and teaches skills to construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant concrete ramps and sidewalks. Participants will gain specialized knowledge and experience to maximize employment opportunities.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- Small group of trainees. All equipment and supplies provided.
- Hands-on training. Half in the class room, half in the field.
- Skill can lead to working anywhere in Minnesota.
- Visit MnDOT Headquarters and learn about careers

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
People interested in working in concrete and construction industry. No prior experience necessary.

TO REGISTER CONTACT:
Kim StClair
kim.stclair@whiteearth-nsn.gov
218-935-6268

For Sale by Owner – 4.53 Acre Buildable Lot in Ogema. PIN 52.0030.000

Nearly 5-acre residential-zoned lot just off Highway 59 in Ogema. Prime location near the school and next to a high-traffic commercial area. This raw land is in the heart of the city. Its topography is flat with limited trees and has direct access to the road. It's a rare opportunity to build at least one single-family home in a growing community.

Enjoy small-town living with easy access to nearby amenities—or consider it as an investment opportunity to bring more housing to the area. No known hookups or improvements on-site. Contact the City of Ogema for zoning, use, and specific questions. Buyer to complete their own due diligence.

Sale price for buildable 4.53 acre lot is \$15,000. Message Bobbi with questions at 763-257-4353 or Eischeid20@gmail.com. I'm selling this privately for family without an agent. All buyers and their agents are welcome to inquire. No seller financing.

Mahnomen King and Queen



Photo by Angie Pazdernik

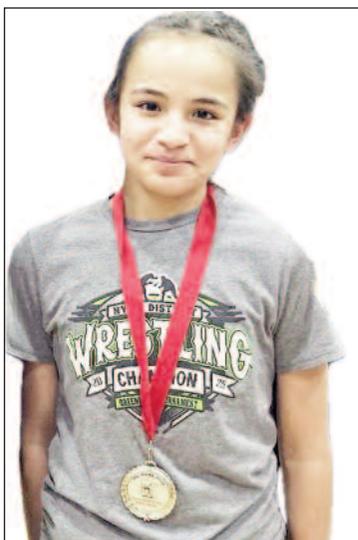
James Jackson and Violet Kochmann were named the King and Queen of Hearts during a recent Valentines party at the Mahnomen Health Nursing Home.

WE 4-H Cultural Winter Camp



Submitted photo

The 10th Annual White Earth 4-H Cultural Winter Camp was recently held at the Rediscovery Center on White Earth Lake. Almost 70 people attended the two-day Camp. **Above:** Youth work on crafts. The Camp also featured fishing, language, storytelling, games and food.



Wrestler places in state tourney

White Earth member Joei Eaglefeather, a 7th grader at Waubun High School recently fought her way to 2nd Place runner up in the 88-pound weight class at the MNGWL State Tournament at Champlin Park (Minn.) High School.

Her mother is Lisa Bray and her grandfather is Mike Bray.

Submitted photo

Balance of life and walking the Red Road

Boozhoo, I am Rebecca and I want to thank you for this opportunity to share my story. I have shared my story many times and am willing to speak at another time, but for now, I am going to make a short version.

On March 10, 2013, I admitted that my life was out of control and I was in the state of psychosis. I was a 47-year-old who had made many wrong choices in life. With another failing marriage, estranged from my family and friends, a job that was being neglected, I was suffering from alcoholism and substance abuse. I knew the only way that I could save myself was to surrender and run away to treatment, (running away is another story). Once in treatment, I avidly learned about my condition and was seeking knowledge to find out if I could ever snap out of this person that I no longer recognized.

Creator and sobriety brought me through a lot of ups and downs. Since then. A divorce, the death of my mother and many family members, but most importantly, Creator taught me about the balance of life and the great rewards/gifts of walking the Red Road.

I am a grateful 60-year-old elder, who was fortunate enough to maintain a clean and sober life since 2013. Meaning, I have continually and rigorously refrained myself from ANY mind-altering drug. This year marks 13 years of sobriety. I made a promise to Creator that if he helped me with this journey, I would pay it forward. I am happy to say that I live this promise with a grateful heart.

Here is something I wrote, it is about my first year of discovery/recovery.

The Day I Joined The Dance

A year into my recovery was when I "joined the dance." I have been to many powwows, but this time I wasn't going to care who was watching, I was going to dance. I was ready to not give a damn and finally try to free myself of the constant worry of what others thought of me, or trying to be what I thought others wanted me to be.

I remember getting to the powwow and watching others dressed in their beautiful regalia, getting ready for the powwow to start. The announcer called out that it was time to start the Grand Entry. Everyone rose to their feet and the drumming started. What a beautiful sight to see, my heart started pumping, and I knew today was the day that I would dance and be set free.

Directly following the Grand Entry, was an inter-tribal song, a time where everyone can participate in the dancing. I gathered all of my energy and decided



Photo by Shannon Eck

that it did not matter what others thought of me, I would truly enjoy myself. I was surprised when I started dancing, I was surrounded by others who were enjoying themselves. The longer I danced, the less I noticed people who were sitting in the bleachers, I was free from the constant worry of others. I lifted my feet and danced to the constant beat of the drum. Before I knew it, the singing stopped. The announcer said the next song was an inter-tribal song as well. I continued to dance, this time I did not even notice the dancers around me, I did it! I was actually free, part of, and belonging to something greater than myself. I enjoyed my whole day at the powwow. I had accomplished what I had set out to do, I joined the dance.

I was going to college at MSUM during this time of my life, and I was experiencing a lot of firsts in my life. First year of sobriety, first time living alone, and truly just finding out who I was and what my interests were. One of my significant college courses was Alcohol and Substance Abuse. One week after the powwow, I was given a handout, a reading assignment about a man in AA.

The man suffered from alcoholism most of his life and said that he had tried treatment more than 10 times before something clicked. One day his sponsor asked the man if he ever went to a powwow, being he

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COLA students play basketball with WE employees



Photo by Sage Thompson

The Circle of Life Academy Warriors and a team of White Earth employees challenged each other to a basketball game on Feb. 28 on COLA's home court. After a back and forth game, COLA came out on top by a score of 61-58.