

ANISHINAABEG TODAY



A Monthly Chronicle of the White Earth Nation

Vol. 30 No. 12

White Earth, Minn.

today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

GAAWAABAABIGANIKAAG
NEW YEAR'S SOBRIETY
POWWOW
NAYTAHWAUSH SPORTS COMPLEX

DECEMBER 31st - Grand Entry 1 pm & 7pm
Feast at 5pm

JANUARY 1st - Grand Entry 1 pm
Lunch will be provided

Moccasin Games Tournament
 ** SPECIALS **
 Veteran's Special
 Women's Jingle Dress - Men's Grassdance
 Women's Traditional - Men's Traditional
 Teens & Juniors Open Contest
 Spot Dances - Hand Drum
 Royalty Contest

Vendor Contact: Brian 218-902-0336 & Lew 218-261-1599
 Shooting Star Hotel 218-935-2711 BLOCK New Year's Powwow
 Sponsored by White Earth RBC & Behavioral Health
 Not responsible for accidents, injuries or short funded travelers



Photo by Heather LaFriniere

Moving On graduates from left are Nicole Jackson, Sam Beaulieu, and Ashley Hanson.

Moving On: A program for at-risk women

Moving on is an intervention program specifically for at risk women who are involved or are at high risk of being involved with the criminal justice system. The goal of the program is to assist women in mobilizing and developing personal and social resources to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior.

Moving on not only focuses on reducing criminal behavior but also increasing the health and well-being of women, their families, and the community.

Moving On is a 26-week program that is made up of six modules; Orientation, Motivation to Change, Listening & Being Heard, Building Healthy Relationships, Expressing Emotions, Making

Connections & Staying Healthy, Ending: Graduation and Program Debriefing. The group meets once a week on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. in Mahnomen.

On Nov. 12, a graduation was held for the first session of Moving On. Three wonderful women completed the program and had a great time doing taking part! They felt the program helped them change their mindset, enabled them to make better choices and gave them goals for the future.

The next session of Moving On will start Jan. 13. For more information or to register for the program please contact Heather LaFriniere at 218-935-3530 or heather.lafriniere@whiteearth-nsn.gov.

White Earth RBC Holiday Closures

For up-to-date RBC holiday closures and times please check the White Earth Facebook page or the website at www.whiteearth.com

RBC honors Child Support

Tribal leaders recently hosted a lunch for the White Earth Child Support staff at the Shooting Star Casino.

Child Support received this year's MFSR Outstanding Program Award. This honor celebrates their exceptional leadership, innovation and dedication to promoting public awareness and improving child support services.

Great job team!

Submitted photo



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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

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- ◆ Indigenous Journalist Association
- ◆ Minnesota Newspaper Association

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Gary W. Padrta

Future Issues *

Deadline	Issue Date
December 31	January 7
January 28	February 4
February 25	March 4
March 25	April 1
April 29	May 6

* Deadline and issue dates subject to change



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Civil War

Co. G, 9th Minn. Infantry - formed at the old Crow Wing Agency under Capt. Chas. H. Beaulieu.

White Earth Nation extends appreciation to Veterans

By Budd Parker

White Earth Community Veteran

We wish to honor and express our eternal gratitude to all veterans - past and present - who came to our nation's defense in times of war and to those who always stood ready and vigilant in times of peace. Taking oaths to protect and defend our constitution and country from all enemies - both foreign and domestic - for nearly 250 years.

Because of these millions of men and women in uniform, as well as a loyal and informed citizenry, we still live in a free society. Miigwetch to each and every one of you vets. We in this community want to extend our tremendous gratitude and appreciation to each of you.

To each of the friends and relatives who desired that our veterans be remembered, that looked for and sent in photographs, know that your thoughtfulness and efforts to do this greatly honors the memory of these men and women. Our community is incredibly indebted and grateful to you for this. Thank You!

Should anyone have photos they



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Minnesota Governor Samuel VanSant with eight of the White Earth Civil War veterans and some of the Agency staff during the June 14, 1903 Celebrations. Back row from left are Peter Parker, Darwin S. Hall (White Earth Agent), W. Egan (agency staff), John Hanks, George Johnson, James E. VanWert, Myla S. Converse (Deputy U.S. Marshall and veteran), and Joseph Perrault (non-veteran - chief of the White Earth Agency Indian Police Force). Front row from left are Thomas Swan, Joseph Charette [Critt], Minnesota Governor Samuel R. VanSant, Frank P. Roy, and Capt. Charles H. Beaulieu.

would like to share of veterans from our past, please send an email to: faircox@arvig.net or whiteearthhistory@gmail.com.

See **Veterans Page 8**

Spanish-American War



Joseph Hole-in-the-day Woodbury
U.S. Army, Son of Chief Hole-in-the-day and his wife Ellen



Paul Belcour
Son of Eustache and Isabelle Bellecourt



"Bullsnake" John Razor
Son of Frank & Anna Razor



Louis Dakota
Son of Isaac and Sarah Dakota



Arthur E. Quinlan
Son of Joseph H. and Elvina Quinlan

World War I through pre-World War II



James B. Warren
Son of Alfred and Sadie Warren



Samuel Jones
Son of James and Lucy Jones



"Blubs" Albert Giard
Son of Pete and Maggie Giard



Thomas Monchamp - Son of "O.J." Onésime & Lucy Monchamp



George R. Shambow
Son of John and Lois Shambow

SMART MOVES

Growing strong together- through healthy habits, family connection, and culture.

WHAT IS SMART MOVES?

Smart Moves is a fun, family-based program that helps children and their caregivers build lifelong habits around healthy eating, moving more, and supporting one another together – rooted in strength, tradition and wellness

- Free for families
- Designed for youth (ages 7-18)
- Includes light snacks, activities, and prizes
- Led by trusted staff from White Earth Tribal Health Division

A new session is beginning soon!

To learn more and sign up, call Katie at 218-401-3050. Space is limited – reserve your spot today!



Let's grow stronger together – with smart moves and deep roots.

News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag Niminwendam Waabaminaan!

Manidoo-Giizisoons!

Gii-wiisiniiminaanan gikinoo'amaagewinan manidoo-waadiziiwinan gaa-minwendamaang ezhi-aandizooke.

Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadi-zookaanag.

Weweni-sago-na

Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is already December- Little Moon!

We feasted the spirits- it is the beginning of storytelling season. Mother Earth is blanketed by goon, snow.

Everyone Be Safe.

In the deep quiet of Manidoo Giizisoons, December, when the snow settles like a blanket across the old paths, our elders say when Mama Aki Mother Earth gets blanketed by goon-snow and everything slows down we have a feast for the Adizookaan so we can ask permission to begin telling Nanaboozhoo and Creation stories.

“Biboon ogii-ani-naanaagadawendam” — “Winter teaches us to reflect.”

Long ago, there was a teenager named Waaseya, whose heart felt heavy from the mistakes and hardships of the passing year. As the Manidoo-Giizisoons our final moon of the year and biboon, winter approached, Waaseya walked into the forest, searching for a way to let go of everything that had built up and to seek guidance for a healthier year to come.

The forest was silent except for the soft groan of the trees. Waaseya sat beneath a tall pine with closed eyes. After a long stillness, a gentle voice in the wind:

“Do not carry yesterday’s burdens into today.”

Waaseya looked around, but there was no one there only the old Zhingwaak Pine tree standing boldly above. Its branches shook softly, releasing small showers of goon, snow. In that moment, Waaseya understood the Zhingwaak was giving a teaching.

Just as the Zhingwaak the pine sheds its old needles to make room for new growth, so too must we release what no longer serves us.

“Maajitaa gidaa-izhichigeyan” — “Begin your new actions.”

Waaseya took a deep breath and spoke aloud the things they wished to let go—fear, anger, regret, pain of bullies and the sorrow which accumulated. With each word, the cold air carried the weight away. When Waaseya finally stood up and hollered the last of it loudly OUT with a heart feeling free now, as though biboon winter noodin, wind had nabbed it and swept it away clean.

As Waaseya walked home beneath the moonlight, Waaseya heard one last whisper from the forest:

“Omaa giga-zaaga'igoyaan” — “Here, you are loved.”

Waaseya shed a happy tear leaving back to the village. When arriving Waaseya shared what had happened and learned - that ManidooGiizisoons December is not just an ending, but a sacred pause. It is the moment between breaths when we choose what we will carry forward, and what we will leave behind.

And so for the coming year, we remember:



“Gii-izhaadaa mino-bimaadiziwin 2026” — “Let us walk toward a good life in 2026.”

The story teaches us that renewal is not a single moment, but a choice made again and again. Just like Zhingwaak giikinoo'amaage the teaching pine tree, always releasing what holds it back, always growing, always reaching for the light pushing forward.

Here’s an update from our White Earth Nation’s Workforce/Human Resource Divisions.

For the past six months, the White Earth Reservation Human Resource Department directors and assistant directors have met monthly to collaborate, strategize, share resources, and to engage new ideas to enhance the overall employment experience.

This monthly collaboration and goal setting ensures that we are maintaining fairness and consistency, streamlining policy and procedures, enhancing employee benefits, and increase efficiencies in our internal processes.

One goal was to analyze the employment data set from each entity separately and collectively. The demographic data allows us to see where we can increase employee satisfaction, increase growth and training opportunities and remain competitive with wages in northern and greater Minnesota.

The data is being shared so our people can see that we focus on Native Preference in hiring. It also shows our age demographics and our years of service. Keep in mind that the WERBC has been open for over 50 years, while other entities have opened at different times with Waabigwan within the past few years.

We are proud that our employees are the ones who truly make the difference. From each individual employee’s contribution, the White Earth Nation continues to be successful and progressive. We strive to promote and focus on sustainability efforts that our 7 generations will benefit from. This level of commitment ensures the best possible service and care is delivered and provided for all people our White Earth Nation serves.

Our overall workforce can be summarized as follows:

- Total Employees: 2,145
- Enrolled Members: 977 (45.55%)
- Descendants: 264 (12.31%)
- MCT (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe): 71 (3.31%)
- Other Native American Tribes: 167 (7.79%)
- Non-Native: 666 (31.05%)

The largest employers are the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (WERBC): 1,213

See Chairman Page 25



Are you that person that has a lot of heart for children and looking to start a home business?

See what child care licensing has to offer YOU!

White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program who works to support child care providers with the process of licensing their home or a child safe facility while building their own personal business ownership through resources available for the following:

- ❖ START-UP GRANTS FOR CHILDREN’S EQUIPMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE
- ❖ CHILD DEVELOPMENT/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL TRAININGS
- ❖ POLICY PROCEDURE & CONTRACT DEVELOPMENT
- ❖ ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS
- ❖ BUSINESS PLANNING & ADVERTISEMENT
- ❖ HEALTH & SAFETY TRAININGS
- ❖ CHILDREN’S PLAY-SCAPES
- and much more.



Just CALL and WE WILL COME TO YOU FOR A VISIT to HELP ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

Contact Child Care Licensing Kim L. at (218) 935-6272 or email

Kim.Lage@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Tribal Child Care Licensing for the White Earth Reservation

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

News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

Boozhoo White Earth Nation,

As the year ends, I'm sharing key updates that benefit Tribal members both on and off the reservation. This December update also covers major 2025 achievements that show our commitment to transparency, financial stability, and community well-being.

Confidential Financial Data Request Procedure

In November, the Tribal Council passed a new Financial Data Request Procedure that allows White Earth Tribal members to request confidential financial information in a secure and respectful manner.

For years, many members have asked for greater insight into our financial standing. I believe in transparency, accountability, and empowering our members with information. This new process ensures that members can access sensitive information while still protecting financial materials and private business information.

Holiday Support for Every Adult Tribal Member: \$300 Disbursement Approved

I am excited to announce that during the November Tribal Council meeting, I placed a \$300 Holiday Disbursement for all adult White Earth Tribal members on the agenda — and it passed unanimously.

Our Tribe is in a solid financial position. Because of strong oversight across all divisions, departments, and enterprises, we can provide direct support to our people when it matters most. I supported this disbursement because the holiday season creates financial pressure for families due to travel, food, gifts, and related obligations.

Official instructions for the application process are being published on the White Earth website and Facebook page.

Elder Financial Support

Supporting Elders remains one of my highest priorities.

In 2025, Elders will receive the following financial supports when requested:

- \$100 Holiday Gift (yearly)
- \$50 Casino Credit (monthly)
- \$25 Food Coupon (monthly)

These benefits help ensure our elders can meet their basic needs, participate in community activities,



and maintain social connections.

Supporting Urban Tribal Members

This year, I supported transportation assistance for urban Tribal members to attend local events. I am committed to promoting accessible participation for our off-reservation membership.

Investing in Our Off-Reservation Communities

Supporting our urban and off-reservation Tribal members remains a key focus for me. This year, I advocated for transportation assistance to help urban Tribal members attend local events, ensuring accessible participation for those living off reservation.

Additionally, every year I contribute to each of the three off-reservation community councils, providing support for their cultural events, youth programming, and community gatherings. These efforts help strengthen relationships and keep our members connected to the Nation, regardless of where they reside.

Season's Message

I want to thank the membership for entrusting me as your Secretary-Treasurer. Enjoy a restful holiday, and I look forward to continuing our Nation's progress in 2026.

Miigwech,
Secretary-Treasurer
Mike LaRoque
White Earth Nation

WE welcomes Minnesota Education Commissioner



Photo by Gary W. Padrta

The White Earth RBC and supporting staff recently welcomed Minnesota Education Commissioner Willie Jett (center) for a government-to-government meeting at the White Earth RBC building. The two sides shared future goals and concerns for Native students.

White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health

Invites you to stop by for a free wellness check - no appointment needed!

Nurse on Site clinic services include:

- ✓ Vital signs checks
- ✓ Blood sugar & cholesterol checks
- ✓ Abi (ankle-brachial index) appointment scheduling
- ✓ Podiatry appointment scheduling
- ✓ Health information on topic of the month-seasonal food sample

Winter Hours: 10 am-12:30pm	Winter Topics:								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Rice Lake ENP Site</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Pine Point ENP Site</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dec 10th</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dec 11th</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Jan 21st</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Jan 22nd</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Feb 18th</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Feb 19th</td> </tr> </table>	Rice Lake ENP Site	Pine Point ENP Site	Dec 10 th	Dec 11 th	Jan 21 st	Jan 22 nd	Feb 18 th	Feb 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December: Holidays and Loneliness • January: Winter Safety • February: Heart Health
Rice Lake ENP Site	Pine Point ENP Site								
Dec 10 th	Dec 11 th								
Jan 21 st	Jan 22 nd								
Feb 18 th	Feb 19 th								

Contact Us: 218-401-3173

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MMDC is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.

Bam'idizowigamig Creator's Place

Honoring Culture - Serving Community

- In Partnership with Maadaadizi Workforce Center and White Earth Enterprises -

Bam'idizowigamig Creator's Place is a nonprofit studio and on-the-job training workplace located in the White Earth tribal village of Pine Point in Northern Minnesota.

BCP's mission is to create meaningful employment and skill-building opportunities for adults through creative, culturally grounded paid work.

What We Make:

- Outdoor Products - Picnic tables, sheds, planters, benches, chicken coops, playhouses, and doghouses - all handcrafted with care.
- Cultural & Creative Products - Ojibwe children's books, authentic beadwork, moccasins, paintings, and more - original creations celebrating Anishinaabe language and art.
- Memorial Products - Custom granite burial stones and handmade wood cremation urns, designed with respect and affordability.

Why It Matters

Jobs and training are now available in a remote community where employment opportunities are scarce. Every purchase supports local artists and craftspeople while preserving Ojibwe culture for future generations.

Address: 48513 Pow Wow Highway, Ponsford, MN 56575 E-mail: creatorsplacepinepoint@gmail.com

Phone: 218-699-3811 Website: <https://www.creatorsplace.org>

Amikwiish – A Beavers Lodge

White Earth Head Start Dual Language / Immersion Classroom

By Bryce King-Hanks Sr.
White Earth Head Start

Boozhoo Indinawemaagonidog, Gizhiibayaash Indigoo, Migizi Nindoodem, Gaawaabaabiganikaag Nindoonjibaa Indaa.

I wanted to start by introducing myself in our language, my name is Bryce King-Hanks Sr., I am 35 winters old, and I am the father to a wonderful nine-year-old boy, Bryce King-Hanks Jr. I am from the White Earth Reservation. So, I've recently taken the position with the White Earth Head Start as the Dual Language Classroom Teacher. I have been asked to give a little background on myself and the newest classroom we have created here.

My mother and father are Kaye Marie Hanks and David Joseph King. I was born in southside Minneapolis, but I was raised here on the White Earth Reservation, I attended the Circle of Life school in White Earth until fourth grade, I spent the rest of my schooling at Waubun High School where I graduated in 2010.

Since I was 10 years old, I have been actively involved in the Ojibwe language and culture, I always referred to my adoptive father Michael Dahl and my grandmother Mary Jo King as key figures in my life that had helped me succeed and pushed me to be a better person.

Growing up I never knew what I wanted to do in life, in 2019 my auntie Susie Ballot asked me to try applying at the Circle of Life Academy in White Earth as a cultural teacher. From there my experience grew as an educator and I found my passion in life; I was teaching kids from my reservation what it meant to be Ojibwe and I loved it. I spent five years at COLA, and I loved every second of it. Now I am working to help revitalize our language starting with our little ones.

Amikwiish - A Beavers Lodge – referring to the place where little beavers begin learning together from their parents where they are protected from outside dangers.

A dual language immersion classroom is an educational setting where students are taught in two languages. This involves using one language for part of the day and the other language for the remaining part. The two languages of instruction will be in Ojibwe

and English. Ojibwemowin-focused time will involve no use of English except if there is a safety concern or special circumstance.

Children can benefit from learning Ojibwe by connecting them to the ancestral language of the Ojibwe people. Children who are part of a dual language classroom have been shown to enhance cognitive skills such as problem solving and critical thinking.

Learning skills and content through activities and application with Ojibwe language as the medium of instruction will provide hands-on contextual learning. This will engage learner interest and support their comprehension of the language and association of language with the skills and content they are learning. When learning in a first language, focus is explicitly based on the content.

Dual language immersion focuses on language acquisition with skill development as the medium for language learning. This form of tandem learning may give the illusion that the child is developing skills and content acquisition slower than first language peers, however their learning is comparative with single-language learning children overall, and they often academically surpass their peers by the end of the program.

Amikwiish is based at the White Earth Head Start building, we are currently looking for children ages three to five to enroll, please stop by and apply if interested. These are just some of the steps being taken for immersion on the White Earth Reservation for early childhood. It is my hope that this will continue to grow. Miigwech Bizindawiyeg

The classroom operates 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, based on the White Earth Head Start calendar from Sept. 2, 2025, through July 29, 2026. Transportation and/or Wrap around services are provided per White Earth Head Start policies and procedures.

Contact information

Bryce King-Hanks:
Bryce.King-Hanks@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Enrollment information

Mary Tenorio: 218-935-6258
Mary.Farley@whiteearth-nsn.gov

On Rez enrolled Elders eligible for free garbage service

To qualify for free garbage service through the Tribal trash payment program there is an application process. Application forms should be filled out and returned to White Earth Sanitation along with a copy of your enrollment card. To qualify you must be at least 55 years old, an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation, and live within the reservation boundaries.

We will be servicing you on a weekly basis for most customers but due to certain routes, we might only be able to stop every other week. We will determine which route you will be assigned to when we set up your service. This varies based on physical address.

Your service is limited to up to three 30-gallon garbage cans or bags. These must be set out at the end of your driveway. The garbage men lift your cans manually so please do not use the 50-gallon drums with no handles. Also, we will only be able to service your primary residence for free through the tribal payment program. If you have more than one property you will have to pay for an extra service out of pocket. Dumpster services do not qualify through the tribal payment program. We will continue to bill individuals

separately for the dumpster service. Transfer station dumping is not free. This is only for curbside services on the routes.

Most holidays are worked so if your day falls on a holiday the routes will run. If there is a change in your day of service, we will notify the customers through the Mahnomen paper, on the radio, or through our Facebook page. If there are only a few people we need to contact, we will do it by letter or a note on your cans.

Due to inclement weather and road conditions during the winter months, some roads are not suitable for our trucks to come down. If this happens, we will not be able to pick up your trash until the following week or at the next scheduled stop. We do apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We must have a special tow truck come out to handle the garbage truck if it gets stuck and it is very expensive.

If you have any questions about your service, you can call or email our office, and we will be glad to help. The office number is 218-935-3234. The email address is sanitation@weenterprise.com.

Save the Date

6th Annual White Earth Nation Ice Fish'n Derby

February 7, 2026 / Strawberry Lake

JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY OF FISHING, PRIZES, FOOD, AND FUN ON THE ICE!

More details coming soon
Stay tuned for registration information and updates

FAST TRACK

OPEN HOUSE

2:00 – 6:00 PM
DECEMBER 2, 9, & 11

NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS, NEW YOU

2026 is the perfect time to start or resume your college journey! Stop by during our open house and complete all of your enrollment steps in one visit.

WETCC Offers:

- ✓ AA & Certificate Programs
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- ✓ Cultural & Elder Waivers

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218-935-0417

WETCC.edu/apply

APPLY NOW

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

News From District 2 Rep. Eugene Sommers

Boozhoo Anishinaabe,

This month Federal and State actions brought significant challenges that directly impact our services, our schools, and our sovereignty. From education policy to federal funding and consultation standards, White Earth continues to advocate, engage.

Federal Government Reopens

After 41 days of shutdown, Congress advanced a short-term Continuing Resolution to reopen the Federal Government and extend FY2025 funding levels through Jan. 30, 2026.

- For Tribal Nations this means stability for essential programs.

- Child nutrition programs continue without interruption, ensuring our schools and students receive needed support.

- Mandatory programs remain fully funded, including SNAP, WIC, Tribal TANF, and childcare services.

- Tribes will receive reimbursement for any costs incurred during the shutdown, including backpay for staff who were affected.

- Critical services regain stability, including BIE schools, Tribal colleges, health programs, and youth-focused initiatives such as Head Start and childcare.

Minnesota Department of Education Consultation

The RBC met with MDE to strengthen statewide support for Native students in K-12 and early childhood education. Topics included cultural curriculum, data accuracy, and Native student outcomes across Minnesota.

Federal Education Actions

Recent Congressional hearings focused heavily on the future of education and access for Native and rural students:

- "From Classroom to Career" Hearing (Nov. 19): Discussions centered on expanding Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathways—important for our youth entering trades, carpentry, and workforce development programs.

- "Future of College" Hearing (Nov. 18): Lawmakers examined affordability, innovation, and technology in higher education. These conversations will influence access for Native and first-generation students.

- Head Start: Pacific jurisdiction grants were stabilized. Although not specific to Tribes, it signals continued federal commitment to early childhood learning programs nationwide.

Legislation Affecting Tribal Education:

- H.R. 5328 – Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act. Would secure year-ahead funding for the Bureau of Indian Education to prevent future shutdown disruptions.

- H.R. 4085 – Haskell Indian Nations University Improvement Act. Proposes establishing Haskell as a federally chartered institution—reinforcing treaty-based trust responsibilities for Tribal higher education.

Supporting America's Children and Families Act

Federal agencies are conducting consultations on updates to Title IV-B, which directly affect:

- ICWA implementation
 - Tribal child welfare agencies
 - Court Improvement Programs
 - Remote hearing systems
 - Prevention efforts and family support services
- White Earth Nation is monitoring these sessions.

OMB Deregulatory Guidance

The Office of Management and Budget released new deregulatory guidance that weakens Tribal consultation requirements, allowing federal agencies



more flexibility to bypass Tribal input.

This change poses risks across:

- Education
- Land and environmental regulation
- Economic development
- Tribal sovereignty and decision-making authority

HOWAH Cultural and Wellness Challenge

White Earth RBC employees recently participated in the annual HOWAH Cultural and Wellness Challenge, a wellness-focused event promoting healthy habits and cultural connection. Employees who weighed in and either maintained their weight, lost weight, or were within a healthy BMI range received a \$100 incentive. The event also included community vendors, wellness resources, and healthy activities that supported overall well-being.

Gaming Commission Meeting

On Nov. 20, the White Earth Gaming Commission convened to review regulatory, compliance, and operational updates. These discussions help ensure the continued integrity, transparency, and accountability of our Tribal gaming enterprises.

Contacts

Eugene Sommers

Email: Eugene.Sommers@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Office Phone: 218-935-6250

Christopher Vanwert Jr.

Email: Christopher.Vanwert@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Cell Phone: 218-850-2533

**WHITE EARTH ELDERS
CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Hosted by White Earth ENP
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025
10 am – 2 pm
Lunch will be served at 11:30 am
Shooting Star Event Center, Mahnomen
Elders, ages 55+ & their spouse/caregiver

**LET'S ENJOY CHRISTMAS TIME WITH GOOD FRIENDS,
GREAT FOOD, GAMES, & HOLIDAY CHEER!**

Come dressed for the Ugly Sweater Contest!
1st 2nd, and 3rd place prizes

For questions, contact:
Tanya Heinonen 218-983-3286
Tanya.Heinonen@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Transportation routes & bus times coming soon...

Tribal offices closed for holidays

White Earth RBC offices will be **closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day**. Offices will also be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1 for **New Years Day**.

Modified services will still be available.

White Earth Nation
TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Winter Safety Tips

- Wear several thin layers instead of one thick layer.
- Always cover hands, ears, and the back of the neck.
- Choose boots with good traction.
- Keep an extra blanket in the car or near the door for emergencies.
- Use ice melt or sand on walkways.
- Wear boots with non-slip soles.
- Walk slowly and take shorter steps.
- Use railings whenever possible.

**WHITE EARTH HOUSING
PRESENTS**

Basic Budgeting 101

Date: Wednesday, December 11th, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: Shooting Star Casino

Learn Simple, Real-Life Ways to Manage Your Money!

- ✓ Plan & track your spending
- ✓ Set achievable savings goals
- ✓ Discover easy tips to stretch your paycheck

Special Perks

- Free: (W.E.H.A. Tenants only)
- ⚠ **Limited Seats: Only 20 available!**
- 📄 Take-home budgeting worksheets included

Reserve Your Spot Today!
Contact: Geri – 218-401-5536

News From District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

Aaniin friends and relatives. I hope this message finds you in good health as we approach the end of November and prepare to welcome the month of December. With the holiday season approaching, it is a time for us to come together in gratitude and love. As the weather gets colder, I encourage everyone to continue to look out for one another and help support those in need.

11-4 Tribal leaders hosted a lunch for White Earth Child Support staff. White Earth Nation Child Support received this year's MFSR Outstanding Program Award. This honor celebrates their exceptional leadership, innovation and dedication to promoting public awareness and improving child support services. Great job team!

11-11 To all our veterans and service members, Thank You for your service. We are grateful for your commitment and the sacrifices you have made to protect our communities and ensure a better future for generations to come.

11-13 We attended the Detroit Lakes Public School Powwow, it was great to see so many schools and students, teachers, parents gathered together. During the first intertribal the young people made their way down the stairs to join the circle. From a distance, they looked like a long line of determined little ants, all eager to dance. It made my heart happy and smile. We all felt the absence of Mike Swan but we understand and support his need to rest and take care of himself. We must listen to our bodies when it is time to slow down. We look forward to seeing him return when he's ready. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves, met new friends and learned about our Anishinaabe culture that continues to grow in our communities.

The Tribe hosted a supper for the Mahnomen/Waubum Thunderbird football team before they traveled to U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. We joined the players and coaches as they shared a meal and laughter, preparing themselves for the challenge ahead. I want to acknowledge the time, the dedication and the work the Thunderbird football team all put in this season. Congratulations on your incredible season, be proud of your accomplishments!

11-25 Tribal leaders and staff joined consultation with Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Brooke Cunningham and her team. The meeting focused on several key topics including data modernization efforts and the importance of data sovereignty to ensure tribal control over their information. The discussion also covered the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and ongoing legislative proposals that may impact tribal communities. This discussions highlight the collaborative efforts to improve data systems, uphold tribal sovereignty and advocate for policies that support the needs and rights of tribal nations.

11-26 The monthly regular RBC meeting was held at the Shooting Star Casino. During the meeting, leaders approved a one-time safety and health assistance benefit for all adult enrolled members of the White Earth Nation. The benefit provides financial assistance of \$300 to members aimed at supporting their safety and well-being during these challenging times. The application and process will be out soon.

Elder and Vulnerable Adult Program

We are dedicated to supporting our community's elders and vulnerable adults through our Elder and Vulnerable Adult Program. If you have concerns about an elder or vulnerable adult or if you know someone who may need assistance, please do not



hesitate to reach out. Our team is here to help ensure the safety and well-being of those who may need extra support.

Our elder advocates are available to assist with a variety of essential services including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, bill payments, medication pickups and assistance with completing applications for various services. We can also help with submitting these applications to the appropriate agencies or organizations.

Lynn Tibbetts is our dedicated social worker specializing in placement and case management. She works to find suitable living arrangements for individuals who are no longer able to remain in their homes whether in nursing facilities or other appropriate placements. Lynn coordinates visits between families and their loved ones in care, manages guardianship payments and oversees all aspects of case management for guardianship cases.

If you or someone you know needs assistance or has concerns about an elder or vulnerable adult, please contact us. We are committed to providing support and connecting individuals to the services they need to live safely.

Terri Wichern, White Earth
218-935-3857 or 218-401-5072

Lynn Tibbetts, Naytahwaush
218-935-3794 or 218-401-0527

Lisa Knutson, Rice Lake
218-935-3795 or 218-308-3772

Monica Perrault, Naytahwaush
218-935-3795 or 218-261-1208

Felicia Bellanger, White Earth
218-935-3856 or 218-401-0423

If anyone would like to reach out, visit or discuss any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to listen and offer support in any way we can. Remember supporting one another is essential as we navigate these challenging times together.

Miigwech

Contact information:

Laura Lee Erickson
Office: 218-935-6238
Cell: 218-401-1153
laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Facebook: VOTE LAURA LEE

Assistant for District 3

Tiffany Swiers
Office: 218-935-6235
Cell: 218-997-9124

tiffany.swiers@whiteearth-nsn.gov

White Earth Council of Elders

By **Tim Rindahl, Chairman**

White Earth Nation Council of Elders

Boozhoo,

Just a reminder - the Elders Christmas Party is Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the Shooting Star Casino and Event Center. This event is put on by the ENP staff and these guys go out of their way to make sure that we have fun and enjoy our day. So, remember when you visit for lunch or have lunch delivered say "thank you" for all they do to make sure we get a fantastic meal and a place to put puzzles together, play games and visit with each other while enjoying our lunch.

Tanya Heinonen is the new ENP program manager, and her vision is to make everybody happy, shouldn't be that hard right? Lol.

She has reached out to get some ideas on what her program can do to better serve us. Her contact information is tanya.heinonen@whiteearth-nsn.gov and phone number is 218-936-0474. I believe that this is a good fit for us and them.

There has been a lot of talk about the new by-laws and voting that was going to take place. I believe that there is a lot of things that need addressing - both the by-laws and how the voting process will go, plus legal should take a look at the by-laws before being passed by just a couple of people. I believe that any major topics need to be put in the paper so that all elders can address these issues, not just a handful. According to the by-laws that they want to put in place you have to be an active member to do any voting and to make any motions being brought forth.

I think that would exclude a lot of our members and I still believe that when you become an elder you should be included in all that takes place. I do not believe that you should have to do a background check to become a member or have to fill out any paperwork to become a member. You can read the by-laws on the Elders of White Earth Facebook page, this is not an elder council page, it is a Facebook page for elders - all elders.

Our last meeting of the year was on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex.

With all the holidays coming up remember to check on family and friends to make sure they are ready for winter.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party and hear your thoughts on what you would like to see the elders council do in the future. Remember that your voice should be heard.

May everyone have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Tim Rindahl (Chairman) 218-261-0182

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



Veterans from Page 2

World War I through pre-World War II



Frederick C. Broker
Son of Ignatius & Charlotte Broker



Frank F. Smith
Son of Chas. and Fannie Smith



"Ted" Aloysius Dunnell
U.S. Army, Son of Joe and Maggie Dunnell



James McDougall
Son of Peter C. and Susan McDougall



Frank L. Rice
Son of Fred and Betsy Rice

World War I through pre-World War II



George J. Johnson
Son of George & Emma Johnson



Andrew Fisher
Son of Joe and Martha Neskegum



"Frank" Francis W. LeQuier
Son of Simon & Margaret LeQuier



Louis Bruno LaQuier
Son of Bruno & Catherine LaQuier



Tom Moulton - Son of Charles and Josephine Moulton

WWI through pre-WWII



Harry Black
Son of Mrs. Silas Soldier



Lyman W. Umbreit
Son of Frank and Sophie Umbreit



"Him-Him" Dwight E. Richardson
Son of Brian & Dorothy Richardson



"Cuff" Richard L. Smith
Son of Samuel and Mary Smith



Bennie J. Brown
Son of Lloyd & Maggie Brown

World War II



March 20, 1941 – Detroit Lakes, Minn. (Courtesy of Detroit Lakes Tribune)
Standing from left are Robert "Waub" Jackson, Hubert "Red" Williams, Lawrence "Butts" Parker, George "Mic" McDonald, Lloyd "Rev." Brown, Paul "Toady" Bellcourt, Mitchell "Mitch" Vizenor, and Raymond "Neige" Clark.
Kneeling from left are Alvin Brunette, Earl J. "Skip" Brunette, Virgil Drake, Vernon Brunette, Eugene "Gene" Clark, Howard "Mouse" Anywaush, and Benjamin "Bennie" Bellanger.
(No records have been located indicating Lawrence "Butts" Parker ever actually entered military service.)

World War II



"Bill" William B. Norcross
Son of George & Josephine Norcross



Andrew F. Stone
Son of John & "Gussie" Augusta Stone



Floyd H. Sweet
Son of Geo. A. and Eva Sweet



Morrell J. Taylor
Son of Louise Taylor & Homer Farr



"Tuh-bah" Edward L. Jackson
Son of Louis and Mary Jackson



"Shkin" Francis Warren
Son of Edward L. & Annie Warren



"Mouse" Howard P. Anywaush
Son of Wm & Elizabeth Anywaush

Korea Era



"Johnny" Laurence Smith
Son of Woogie Watchetaker George & Marjorie (Cajune) Smith



"Snoose" Raymond Warren
Son of "Humbug" John and Isabel Warren



"Sarge" Richard K. Cox
Son of Lawrence & Marion Cox



Edmund Peter Jackson
Son of Frank and Hazel Jackson

Korea Era



"Billy Whiz" William J. Brown
Son of John & Susan Brown



"Joe" Nicholas Belland
Son of Nicholas & Carrie Belland



"Chimook" John Brown (aka John Ostrum) - Son of Bernard Brown & Mary R. Basswood



"Daydodge" Aaron Bevins Jr.
Son of Aaron & Mary (Bigbear) Bevins



Dewise DuWayne Roy (aka Duane Roy and Dewis Roy) Son of Anton & Annie (Yellowhead) Roy



Summery E. DeGroat
Son of Lyle & Elvera DeGroat

Should anyone have photos they would like to share of veterans from our past, please send an email to:
faircox@arvig.net or
whiteearthhistory@gmail.com

Photos of Joseph Woodbury, Summery DeGroat, Edmund Jackson, and DuWayne Roy are courtesy of the Becker County Historical Museum.

Post Korea Era Through Vietnam Era



Lawrence A. Bevins Jr.
Son of Lawrence and Constance Bevins



"Oxie" Kenneth E. Jackson (Navy)
Son of Franklin Warren and Elizabeth Oshkinowe



"Bob" Robert P. Fairbanks
Son of Thomas & Marie Fairbanks



Joseph E. Smith
Son of "Cuff" Richard and Marjorie Smith

Thanks to everyone involved in Food Drives

The White Earth Food Shelf would like to thank everyone involved in the recent Food Drives.

We collected a lot of food from Kelsey Buelow and the staff at all three IHS Clinics.

We also collected a lot of food from Boozhi Brew in Waubun. These guys rock - be sure and stop in to support their business. They collected a lot of food and personal hygiene products, plus a cash donation that went into our funds that really helped with some stuff that we were unable to acquire. So a Great Big Thank You to Jessica and the Boozhi Brew and team.

Then there was Michael Neusser who put together a fantastic team from the RBC HOWAH challenge. They collected a lot of food and cash donations. Thank you to all who were involved.

I'm truly blessed with the outreach of so many kind-hearted people out there that are full of compassion and truly care for the people. I have the best job in the world, being surrounded by the community I live in. I learn something new every day.

Miigwech,
Tim Rindahl
White Earth Food Shelf Manager



**WHITE EARTH NATION
FITNESS CENTERS**

Mahnomen | White Earth | Naytahwaush | Rice Lake | Pine Point
218-401-2421 OR 218-401-3079

Join us for an Evening of Family Fun

Now Showing Dr. Suess'
HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS
with Jim Carrey

DECEMBER 11, 2025 AT 5:00PM | SHOOTING STAR CASINO

- Dinner served at 5:15 PM
- Cooking Demonstration for Parents
- Ornament making for the kids
- Photobooth with Santa

Registration from: 4:30-5:00PM
Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate
You MUST register for the event, call 218-401-0550.

WE CARE
White Earth Nation TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Creator: Disney | Credit: DISNEY
Copyright: © 2024 Disney Enterprises Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Health Motivational Therapy Sessions

December 18, 2025 | White Earth Tribal Health
26246 Crane Road, White Earth MN 56591

Join us for two **free** motivational therapy sessions with Pam Matchie to strengthen your health and wellness.

You can attend as many sessions as you like. The following sessions will be offered:

- Anxiety and relaxation: 3:30pm-4:30pm
- Junk food and sugar avoidance: 5:30-6:30pm

Bring a blanket or a yoga mat to lie on if you would like to lie on the floor for better relaxation/ otherwise you can sit at the table.

REMINDER: Doors will close after the sessions start to get the best benefit with no distractions.

Please be on time. You will not be let in after doors close.

We'll be holding gift basket drawings at both sessions!

Register for each session at: 218-401-3174 or 218-401-3120

Community Experiences

"My cravings for sugar and sweets have dropped to almost nothing. It makes it easier to choose healthy food and I notice a difference in how my clothes fit."

"I learned tools to use when I get anxious or nervous. When my brain starts to focus too much on things, I think about my breathing, the waterfall and other images we learned. It works."

White Earth Nation TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Healthy Together

WE Constitution Reform Delegate Report - December 2025

By **Patty Straub**

District II
White Earth Constitution Reform Delegate

Boozhoo MCT/White Earth Members:

As a part of the MCT Constitution Reform Delegate Group, the White Earth delegates would like to update our constituents on one important issue we have been discussing and share this information on the following topic:

MCT Secretarial Election - Future Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) action may be conducted to amend Article XII-Amendment of MCT Revised Constitution. The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) has proposed the Secretary of the Interior be removed from his/her role overseeing the constitutional amendment process in Article XII of the MCT Constitution, which most view as a paternalistic holdover from 1936. If this change is made, the TEC will eventually need to vote on a new oversight process that will replace the Secretary of the Interior's authority over MCT Constitutional amendments.

- ◆ The Secretarial Election is a federal election, and will be conducted entirely through mailout ballots.

- ◆ A Secretarial Election must be conducted within ninety (90) days of receipt of a request to amend an existing constitution.

- ◆ The MCT membership will have the opportunity to vote on this constitution amendment.

“MCT Revised Constitution Article XII – Amendment”

Section 1. This constitution may be revoked by Act of Congress or amended or revoked by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Tribe voting at an

election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior if at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote. No amendment shall be effective until approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call an election when requested by two-thirds of the Tribal Executive Committee.

Advantages of Removing the Secretarial Election Requirement:

- o MCT Tribal Self-governance and Self Determination.

- o Secretarial Election flexibility – to be determined by our members and the ability to make change to our MCT Constitution by our timelines.

Disadvantages of Removing the Secretarial Election Requirement:

- o Cost of Secretarial Elections (for subsequent constitutional amendments).

Additional information to share:

- MCT Constitution Reform Convention monthly meetings are hosted January-November by each MCT Reservation, they are scheduled for the 3rd Friday of each month.

- In December the TEC will be meeting, our members are welcome to attend. A meeting date and location have not been scheduled but this information will be shared once we are notified.

- White Earth will be hosting the MCT Constitution Reform Convention meeting on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026 at the Shooting Star Event Center from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., please attend if you are able.

- The White Earth CR Delegate group would like to thank our White Earth Council of Elders for their input and participation at the monthly MCT CR Convention meeting(s), Miigwech for attending!

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

TBCP

Workshops in December

Save the date

- NayTahWash Workforce 12-04**
- NayTahWash Complex 12-08**
- Rice Lake Community Center 12-10**
- Pine Point Circle Center 12-11**
- WE Congregate Housing 12-12**
- White Earth RTC Cafe' 12-17**

2:30pm - 4:30pm

Windows 11 Essentials Beginner Course

Get signed up for a drawing for \$100 Gift card

NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL LAND LESSEES, ASSIGNEES, AND ANY OR ALL OTHERS UTILIZING TRIBAL LANDS

The White Earth Land Office will be conducting periodic inspections of all sites, assignments, leases and contracts for any compliance issues on Tribal Land.

Please call to update your contact information with our office as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding compliance inspections or need to update your information, you may contact the White Earth Land Office at 218-983-4650.



WE WANT YOU!

Greeters, Tax Preparers & Quality Reviewers needed for our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. No experience required - we train you! Call us for more information!

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

VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Make a difference in your community!

Volunteer with us!

218.844.7057 Jodi
218.844.7029 Sue

White Earth

INVESTMENT INITIATIVE



ENTREPRENEUR Workshop

This interactive workshop for aspiring entrepreneurs will give you the tools, strategies, and confidence to start and grow your own business.

LUNCH PROVIDED TO PRE-REGISTERED ATTENDEES

- 📅 **Friday, Dec. 19**
10 AM-2 PM
- 📍 **WETCC**
2250 College Rd
Mahnomens, MN
- 💰 **\$20**
Pay at the door.



HOW TO START
A BUSINESS

MARKETING
STRATEGIES

NETWORKING
OPPORTUNITIES

Register by **DEC 12** via email:
carlene.hisgun@wetcc.edu

Sponsored by:



The New Year's Sobriety Powwow is Jan. 1 at the NTW Complex

23rd Annual Wild Rice Round-Up

"Lose your Winter Blues"

Feb 13-15, 2026
Shooting Star Hotel & Event Center



Contact Information:
Pam A. 612.250.1171
Email: pamrosasp@hotmail.com
Dan P. 218.401.0585
Email: drgrain@arvig.net

Website: www.wildriceroundup.com

Pre-Registration fee: \$45.00
Banquet fee: \$15.00
Total: \$60.00
Pre-Registration deadline is Jan 31, 2026

On-site Registration is \$55.00 with Banquet (as available) \$15.00 for a total of \$70.00.

AGENDA

Friday, Feb 13, 2026	
3:00pm	Registration opens.
4-6:45pm	Hospitality Room – SSC Event Center Waubun room, light refreshments
7:00pm	AA Speaker: Will M., Sioux City, Iowa
9:00pm	Memorial Talking Circle: Stephen M.
9:00pm	Al-Anon Meeting: Vickie
9:00pm	Wellness Talking Circle: Frank G.
Saturday, Feb 14, 2026	
6:30am	Morning Meditation/Stretches: Kevin M.
7:30am	BREAKFAST (on your own)
9:00am	Sponsorship Workshop: John "JD", MN
11:00am	AA Speaker: Doug H., Edina, MN
12:00pm	LUNCH (on your own)
1:00pm	Workshop: What is Co-Dependency?
3:00pm	Al-Anon Speaker: Nancy H., Edina MN
5:30pm	Banquet
7:00pm	AA Speaker: John "JD", Big Lake, MN
9:00pm	Music Night hosted by Dan P & Danny B Bring your acoustic instruments and join in!
9:00pm	Board & card games in separate room
Sunday, Feb 15, 2026	
10:00am	AA Speaker: Frank G., Duluth, MN
11:15am	Raffle, closing ceremony and goodbyes

For Hotel Reservations, call:
Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomen, MN
1.800.453.7827 by Jan 31, 2026
Ask for **Block #19567** \$85.00 plus tax.

[Use back side for other registrations →](#)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email _____ Phone# _____
Home Group _____

AA Al-Anon Alateen Other Banquet Total enclosed \$ _____

Mail PRE-REGISTRATION FORM by Jan 31, 2026, to: Wild Rice Round-Up, PO Box 203, Mahnomen, MN 56557
Your cancelled check is your receipt.

White Earth Reservation – Enrolled Adult Members Safety & Health Assistance Payment – Amount \$300

To provide the Safety & Health Assistance Payment to White Earth Reservation adult (18 years old+) enrolled members living in the United States, your assistance is needed. Please complete all sections of this form and return it by the deadline listed below. If information is not legible or left blank, the application will be considered incomplete and void and will not be processed. The information you provide will be kept confidential and will be used to verify eligibility and to identify services and events from which you may benefit.

The Safety & Health Assistance Payment ("Safety and Wellness Payment") is provided by the White Earth Tribal Nation under its sovereign authority to promote the general welfare of its members. The payment is made to support essential safety, health, and wellness needs, is not compensation for services, and is provided pursuant to the Tribal Nation's welfare-promoting program for its adult members.

I understand that the information I am providing on this form is for registration and eligibility purposes. The information will be used by the White Earth Reservation Business Committee and the White Earth Nation Government (for example, and including without limitation, the Finance Division) to create statistical reports and may be used by service providers to help identify other services from which I may benefit. This information will not be released to anyone other than the above-mentioned parties in a way that will identify me as an individual unless I sign a separate consent for that purpose. I understand that I do not have to sign for release of information but will still receive services for which I am eligible.

Residency (Check One)

_____ On Reservation _____ Off Reservation

Applicant Information (All fields are required)

Name (First, Middle, Last): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Enrollment Number: _____

Copy of Valid Tribal or State ID (attach copy): _____

Applicant Certification

By signing below, I certify that:

- I am an adult (18 years or older) enrolled member of the White Earth Nation currently living in the United States.
- The information I have provided is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in denial or recovery of benefits.
- I understand that this Safety & Health Assistance Payment is a one-time payment, and that I may submit only one application for myself.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submission Instructions - Must select only one submission method

Mail or email your completed application and copy of ID to:

Mail to:

White Earth Enrollments
Attn: Safety & Health Assistance Payment
PO Box 506
White Earth, MN 56591

Email (for completed applications):

Enrollments25@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Online App:

<https://werbcforms.com/Forms/SafetyandHealthAssistanceApp>

Deadline for Submission

Deadline for Submission: **December 31, 2025**

Applications must be received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2025.

Applications received or postmarked after this date will not be eligible for the Safety & Health Assistance Payment.

Mashkiki Maamiginan teaches health & science



Photo by Gary W. Padra

The Center of American Indian and Minority Health, University of Minnesota Medical School and the Medica Foundation hosted Mashkiki Maamiginan on Nov. 14 at the White Earth Tribal and Community College in Mahnomen. This event was for Native students in grades 7-12 that are interested in a health or science related career. This day featured guests speakers, breakout sessions, a career expo, and lunch. **Above:** Wildlife epidemiologist, Tiffany Wolf, DVM, instructs Lillian Annette (Waubun School student) how to remove the lymph nodes from a deer head. The lymph nodes will be sent to a lab and tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

White Earth Tribal and Community College Student Spotlight: Matthew “Matty” Bowstring Jr.

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

This month’s Student Spotlight shines on Matthew “Matty” Bowstring Jr.

Matty began his full-time journey at WETCC in Fall 2023 and is on track to graduate with his Associate of Arts degree in May. In Fall 2024, he earned a spot on the President’s List with a perfect 4.0 GPA. “I worked extremely hard that semester and seeing my name on that list felt like proof my dedication paid off,” Matty shares. “It reminded me I’m capable of big things when I commit myself.”

His happiest moments? The birth of his five children. “Each time, it felt like the world shifted in the best way,” he says. Holding his babies gave him purpose, strength, and a deeper understanding of why he works so hard.

Matty’s road to success hasn’t been easy. His greatest challenge—and triumph—was overcoming addiction. “I’ve been sober for over four years now, and that journey reshaped my life,” he shares. When he first came to White Earth, he was homeless and struggling, but determined to change. “It took strength, honesty, and hard

work, but I rebuilt my life from the ground up,” Matty says. That determination led him to WETCC and a future focused on helping others.

His secret to success? Routine. “Staying busy in a productive way and staying on top of homework is everything,” he explains. His definition of success: “Not giving up, even when life gives you reasons to. Resilience IS success.”

Matty plans to continue his education at Bemidji State University, working toward a bachelor’s in social work with a minor in addictions. “WETCC has been the backbone of my success,” he says. “They helped me realize my strengths and build a foundation for serving my community.”



White Earth Food Shelf December 2025 Delivery Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
Closed	Closed	Callaway	Rice Lake	Closed
		10am-2pm	10am-2pm	
		Nijji Radio	ENP	
Closed	Closed			Closed
8	9	10	11	12
Closed	Elbow Lake	Pine Point	NTW	Closed
	10am-2pm	10am-2pm	10am-2pm	
	ENP Site	ENP Site	Sports Complex	
Closed				Closed
15	16	17	18	19
Closed	White Earth	Ogema	Waubun	Closed
	10am-2pm	10am-2pm	10am-2pm	
	ENP Site	M&W Gas Station	Community Center	
Closed				Closed
22	23	24	25	26
Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
			Christmas	
Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
29	30	31		
Closed	Mahnomen	Closed		
	10am-2pm			
	College parking lot			
Closed		Closed		

applications are available at Community Centers, ENP Sites and Naytahwaush Sports Complex
 Hours are subject to change due to weather and closure's for Holiday's
 please feel free to contact the White Earth Food Shelf at 218-935-6313 or 218-935-6314
 PLEASE TAKE A PICTURE SAVE A TREE
 Please note that you may go to any of our stops to pick up a food box you don't have to reside in that area

Annual Men’s Night Out held at Shooting Star



Photo by Gary W. Padra

Men’s Night Out was held Nov. 6 at Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. The guest speaker was Dr. Kham Ung, a Podiatry specialist, who spoke about diabetes and the effects it can have on feet and legs. Attendees received a “man bag” with accessories and were treated to a Mexican buffet. The evening ended with door prize drawings. White Earth Tribal Public Health sponsored the annual event.

Stop CWD in Its Tracks - Submit a Deer Head Today

CWD Head Drop off Information

What's This About?
 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease affecting deer and elk. It spreads silently and threatens the health of our wildlife.

How You Can Help!
 If you harvest a deer, bring the head (with 4 inches of neck attached & antlers removed) to a designated drop-off site. We'll test it for CWD—free of charge.

- An incentive will be provided to participants who submit eligible samples.

Why It Matters
 Testing helps us track and contain the disease, protecting the future of deer hunting and wildlife health in our area.

Tag

Bag

Freeze

Your participation makes a difference. Every head submitted helps us detect and respond to CWD early. Together, we can keep our deer population strong and healthy for generations to come.

Only deer harvested on the WE Reservation will be accepted.

Locations

WE Natural Resources Fisheries
 41044 South Ice Cracking Rd.
 Ponsford, MN 56575
 Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

WE RTC Building
 35500 Eagle View Rd,
 Ogema, MN 56569
 Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

WE Natural Resources Building
 102 3rd St. NE
 Mahnomen, MN 56557
 Any one needing assistance - Building will be open Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

For more information, Contact
 Jason.Clark@whiteearth-nsn.gov
 218-935-3654

FREE FINANCIAL WELLNESS COUNSELING

DO YOU:

- WANT HELP SETTING FINANCIAL GOALS?
- NEED HELP IMPROVING YOUR CREDIT?
- WANT TO CREATE A HOUSEHOLD BUDGET?
- DREAM OF OWNING YOUR OWN HOME?

Financial wellness counseling and homebuyer education are services provided by White Earth Investment Initiative and made possible by support from the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Housing, Minnesota Homeownership Center, and the Oweesta Corporation. White Earth Investment Initiative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Call Jodi at 218.844.7057 to schedule your appointment today!

White Earth
INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

SHOOTING STAR CASINOS

MAHNOMEN + BAGLEY
STARCASINO.COM + 800.453.STAR

Christmas EXPRESS GIVEAWAY

CHANCE TO WIN CASH OR A NEW TRUCK!

December 7, 14, 21 & 25

It's holly. It's jolly. It's a new pickup grand prize that could be yours on Christmas Day. Earn entries now.

White Earth
INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Home Stretch Homebuyer Education Class

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

December 17
January 21
February 18
March 11
April 8

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

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

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

CONCERTS

Don McLean | Dec 12
The Frontmen | Dec 19
Phil Vassar | Jan 10
Craig Morgan | Jan 30
Tommy James & The Shondells | Feb 6
Joe Nichols | Feb 20

Proudly owned and successfully operated by the White Earth Nation.
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Photo by Sam Weber / WDAY News

Moorhead State unveiled “Gauntlet” on Nov. 18, a sculpture by White Earth member Dennis Williams honoring Native American roots and the challenges students face in their journey.

WE member’s sculpture honoring Native American roots added to MSUM permanent art collection

By Ryan McNamara
Inforum

MOORHEAD — Minnesota State University Moorhead unveiled a new addition to its permanent art collection in the Memorial Union, honoring Native American roots, on Nov. 18.

Dennis Williams created the sculpture “Gauntlet.”

The White Earth Nation member says the piece honors the “gauntlet” of life.

Williams faced family and educational adversity growing up and believes the sculpture brings that journey to life.

“It just pretty much is that gauntlet that you all students have to go through, because we’re tested every day to be, you know, become professionals in what we’re going to do and gain that knowledge,” Williams said.

Williams says he wants to instill confidence in other students with his experience

NTW Community Charter School students visit stadium



Submitted photo

Naytahwaush Community Charter School 5th and 6th graders attended a field trip through the SKOL Vikings Voyage. This unique educational experience, in collaboration with the Minnesota Vikings Foundation and the Science Museum of Minnesota, demonstrates how football combines athletic ability, dedication, passion with extensive science, technology, engineering, and math. Students were invited to a stadium tour, learned with hands-on science activities, and even had playtime on the Vikings field. There were 39 members of the Naytahwaush school community that attended. SKOL!

Thompson tracks down buck



Submitted photo

White Earth member Sage Thompson proudly shows off an 8-point buck she recently shot during deer hunting season.

Urban Thanksgiving gathering



Photos by Laura Loken

The White Earth Urban Community Council held a Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 15 at the MCT building in Minneapolis. They served turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, rolls, and assorted desserts. **Top:** Community members gather for a meal. **Bottom:** Secretary-Treasurer Micheal LaRoque thanks everyone for a successful event.

Highlights of the White Earth Nation Veterans Pow Wow



Photos by Gary W. Padrta

More than 250 dancers and 20 drums attended the annual White Earth Nation Veterans Powwow held Nov. 8-9 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen.



Tips to help keep pets comfortable as possible throughout the cold months

Submitted by Awakaan Bimaaji

Winter is fast approaching, and there are many outdoor pets and stray animals who will be facing frigid temperatures soon. Of course we hope that when snow flies they will have a warm spot in a house, garage or barn but sometimes that isn't in the cards. Here are some tips to help keep pets as comfortable as possible through the cold months.

Shelter

Solid walls, wind proof, raised off the ground if possible. Some pets are okay with a door flap and some aren't - door flaps are preferable to help keep heat in but you want to make sure your pet will use it. If they seem unsure, you can work with them by tossing high-value treats inside and praise gently when they go inside. Feeding them inside their shelter can be helpful as well once they feel brave to build a positive association. Please use bedding that is not blankets - blankets freeze. Straw stays dry and warm.

Water

Ice and snow might seem like they do the trick, but in reality it is not enough and lowers their body temperature. If you are curious, take a glass of snow and let it melt inside - a full glass of snow equals very little water. Heated water bowls are fairly cheap and can save lives. Check water twice a day to make sure there are no malfunctions in your heated bowl or to clear ice in a regular bowl

or small bucket.

Food

Cold temperatures burn calories very quickly. Bump up food portions so pets can keep their body heat stable. Aim for higher protein formulas for active dogs if possible. Don't be afraid to supplement their diet with pet-safe meal add-ons, such as peanut butter (check ingredients for xylitol or birch sugar - if these are listed, do not use as they are toxic), eggs, cooked plain oatmeal, lean boneless unseasoned meats, plain canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling), sweet potatoes, yogurt, cottage cheese or broth.

Paws


Snow, ice and salt can do damage to paw pads - if possible, use pet-safe ice melt and routinely check your pet's paw pads for cracks, scrapes or other abrasions. You can use products like Musher's Secret or Bag Balm on them to help keep their feet healthy.

Please remember that are tough as our Rez dogs and cats are, they are no match for our subzero temperatures - if you can, please bring them inside when the weather becomes harsh. We hope these tips help - if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us!


Awakaan Bimaaji
218-401-4662
www.awakaanbimaaji.org

THE GREATEST GIFT
YOU CAN GIVE YOURSELF
IS A GOOD

Education



CLASSES BEGIN JAN 12, 2026



**WHITE EARTH TRIBAL
& COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
GAAWAABAABIGANIKAAG GABEGIKENDAASOWIGAMIG
WETCC.edu



Invest in their
cheer this year.

*Buckaroo accounts valid only for kids 16 and under. Parent/guardian must be on account with child. Limit of one bonus per new customer. Promotion valid to new buckaroo customers. \$10 minimum balance to obtain bonus. \$25 bonus will be deposited at account opening. Any bonus in excess of \$10 may be reported to the IRS as interest. Annual Percentage Yield is 0.15% if balance is \$0.01-\$999.99 and 0.20% if balance is \$1000 or greater. Rates are subject to change. Offer valid now through 12/31/2025. Fees could reduce earnings.

This December, kids get an **extra \$25***
when they open a Buckaroo Savings account.



**DEERWOOD
BANK**
deerwoodbank.com

Boys & Girls Clubs of White Earth receive donation



Photo by Sage Thompson

Margaret Stevens, daughter of the late Ernie Stevens of the National Indian Gaming Association, recently presented a \$1,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Clubs of White Earth. From left are Trista Ayers - Assistant Director of Education, Dana Goodwin-Williams - Director of Education, Micheal Fairbanks - Chairman, Margaret Stevens, and Michael LaRoque - Secretary/Treasurer.

Cold weather tips from Water and Sewer

- The most likely spot for water lines to freeze is where it enters the house/building. Make sure warmer air can reach pipes where water enters the house/building. If you have heat tape wrapped around your pipes make sure it is plugged in.

- Check around your home for areas where water supply lines are in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in these areas. Common locations include: basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets.

- Determine where your water shut-off valve is in your house and learn how to use it. For most homes the shut-off valve is located near the water meter at the point where the water line comes into your home, which usually in your basement. If a pipe freezes and breaks it will be important to know where the shut-off valve is located.

- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures,

you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.

- Do not plow or drive over the area where your water and sewer lines are buried. Doing so pushes the frost further into the ground, increasing the risk of freeze up.

- Make sure the roof vent is not covered with snow or blocked. Snow build up over the vent will cause the sewer drain to slow down. This prevents the warmer air in the sewer system from venting up the house and keeping the line above from freezing.

- Make sure any sewer cleanouts or risers (white pipes in the yard) are capped so none of the cold air can enter the sewer system causing a freeze up.

Please contact the White Earth Water and Sewer department in the event of your water or sewer freezing at 218-983-3202. The community water systems will monitor water temperature to prevent community freeze ups.

WHITE EARTH NATION URBAN OFFICE NEWSLETTER-MINNEAPOLIS

Please scan QR code with your phone
December 2025



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)

Valleyview Commons

Valleyview Commons in Mahanomen 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

TTY711



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

Priority water and wastewater operations for the White Earth Tribe. ©2025 White Earth Reservation



You can reach the *Anishinaabeg Today* at 218-935-3569 or email today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

DECEMBER 2025

Cultural Calendar

Manidoo giizisoons

White Earth Cultural Activities

Monthly Schedule



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		BOC PP AFF 2 5-7pm	NTW IOP 1-3 Drum-Ogema sch 3:30-5pm	NTW Wesa 10-12 Circle Back 4-6 Drum-Waubun sch 3:30-5pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	OMC 9:30-4 Tobacco, Youth Sweat, Sewing, Talking Circle	WE Mat 10-12 NTW Moms 10-12 Elders 10am	Drum-Ogema sch 3:30-5pm	WE Wesa Sweat 10-12 Acute Care 1-3 Drum-Waubun sch 3:30-5pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	OMC 9:30-4 Tobacco, Women's Sweat, Sewing, Talking Circle	MAH IOP 10-12 BOC PP AFF 3 5-7pm	NTW IOP 1-3 Drum-Ogema sch 3:30-5pm	NTW Wesa 10-12 Circle Back 4-6 Glimikwenimin 5-7pm Drum-Waubun sch 3:30-5pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	OMC 9:30-4 Tobacco, Sweat staff, Sewing Talking Circle.	WE Mat 10-12 NTW Moms 10-12		MERRY CHRISTMAS!		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	OMC 9:30-4 Tobacco, Sewing, Talking Circle	All-day AFT Tmg. @ SSC 9-3 MAH IOP 10-12 BOC PP AFF 4 5-7pm		Happy New Year!		

**WHITE EARTH TRIBAL
ENROLLED ELDERS SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM
2025-2026**

DATE APPLYING: _____

Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____
Permanent residency is required.

Telephone # _____ Cell # _____ E-mail _____

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): _____

Estimated length of your driveway (only for new applicants): _____

***** Snowplowing will be done only when snowfall accumulation exceeds 4" inches or more.**
***** Snow shoveling of driveway or sidewalk will not be done.**

White Earth Water & Sewer Department
P.O. Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591
Phone #: 218-983-3202
Fax #: 888-228-3650
E-mail address: Lisa.Donovan-Larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov or Burnham.tibbettsiii@whiteearth-nsn.gov



West Central Initiative is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to distribute PROMISE Act Grants in west central Minnesota.

PROMISE ACT GRANTS

Eligible businesses and nonprofits can apply for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to cover expenses such as payroll, rent, and more.

This program was created by the Minnesota Legislature to support businesses and nonprofits that face ongoing economic challenges.

APPLY BY JANUARY 15, 2026
Scan or visit wcif.org to learn more and apply



Youth have a voice on Native Advocacy Day



The Boys and Girls Clubs of White Earth sponsored a Native Advocacy Day event on Nov. 6 at the Shooting Star Casino.

Teenagers 13 and up learned how to advocate for themselves and ask elected leaders questions.

Top: Carol Thompson, White Earth B&G Club director facilitates the event.

Left: B&G Club member Justuz Swiers asks Mahnommen County Commissioner (District 3) Larry Olson a question.

Photos by Gary W. Padrta

December 12 is deadline for Elder Gift Card

NOTICE

White Earth Reservation Enrolled Elders (55 and Older)

In order to provide information and possible services to White Earth Reservation enrolled elders (age 55 & up) living in the United States your assistance is needed. Please complete the following data form and return it. **If information is not legible or left blank the application would be considered incomplete and void.** The information you provide will be kept confidential and will be used to identify services and events from which you may benefit. (Example: Elder Christmas Cards).

I understand that the information I am providing on this form is for registration purposes. The information will be used by the White Earth Tribal Council to create statistical reports and may be used by service providers to help identify other services from which I may benefit. This information will not be released to anyone other than the above-mentioned parties in a way that will identify me as an individual unless I sign a separate consent for that purpose. I understand that I do not have to sign for release of information but will still receive services for which I am eligible.

Please Check One:

On Reservation Off Reservation

White Earth Reservation Elder Data Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date Of Birth: _____

Tribal ID #: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to:

White Earth Tribal Health
 Attn: Elder Gift Card
 PO Box 496
 White Earth, MN 56591

Email: Nicole.kent@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Elder Gift Card Application: A new application will be required annually, please complete the form and return it to the address listed by the **deadline of Dec. 12.**

Circle of Life Academy honors Veterans



Photo by Gary W. Padra

The Circle of Life Academy invited community Veterans for lunch on Nov. 13 at the school. In addition to a nice meal, the Veterans were honored with several songs by COLA students.

TRIBAL PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE



Small Loans for Small Businesses

This program supports businesses whose owners have limited financial resources and promotes economic development

Eligible borrowers: Businesses located on the White Earth Reservation and businesses owned / controlled by Native Americans in MN

Interest Rate: 5.25-6.5%, based upon underwriting and program design

Eligible uses of funds:

- Start-up costs
- Working capital
- Equipment
- Inventory
- Purchase, construction or renovation of real estate (must be majority owner-occupied)



Other requirements apply. Funds are federally sourced and subject to availability.

Contact White Earth Investment Initiative:



218-902-2069

www.weii.website

This institution is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.

The Small Business Credit Initiative program is operated under the funding requirements of the US Dept of the Treasury. White Earth Investment Initiative is the SSBCI Contracted Entity for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.



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!

Special Events

- **WECOE MTG**
December 2nd- Naytahwaush
Diabetes Bingo
December 3rd- Pine Point
December 10th- Elbow Lake
December 18th- Mahnomen
Senior Meals
Elders Xmas Party- December 9

Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige
“White Earth Elder Eating Good”
White Earth Elder Wellness Program
Manidoo-Giizisoons (Little Spirit Moon)- December

Elderly Nutrition Program Information
*Daily Menu 1% or lactose-free milk, and provides 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) with health conscious consideration to overall well-being.
*Menu is subject to change depending on product availability and/or schedule changes.
Elders Suggested Donation \$4
Guest Meals \$6
Questions or comments please contact :
White Earth ENP Site (218) 983-3744
Site Supervisor ~ Jeanie Rogers
Pine Point ENP Site (218) 573-2210
Site Controller ~ Zac Adams
Elbow Lake ENP Site (218) 734-2315
Site Controller ~ Cheryl Rindahl
Naytahwaush ENP Site (218) 935-5554
Site Supervisor ~ Sherry Halberg
Rice Lake ENP Site (218) 694-2795
Site Supervisor ~ Russell Boswell
Tanya Heinonen- Program Manager
(218) 983-3286
Tanya.Heinonen@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 Tomato tortellini soup Wheat crackers Side Salad Berry yogurt parfait	2 Porcupine Meatballs Baked Potato Brussell Sprouts Wheat Roll Jello Salad w/Fruit	3 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	4 Tuna salad sandwich w/ lettuce & tomato Broccoli cheese soup Wheat crackers Grapes	5 Chicken Alfredo Texas Toast Steamed Broccoli Pineapple
8 Pulled Pork Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries Coleslaw Tropical Fruit	9 Closed for Elder Christmas Party 10-2 @ Shooting Star Event Center	10 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	11 BBQ Ribs Mac N Cheese Green Beans Hawaiian Roll Apple Slices	12 Lemon Pepper Fish Country Blend Veggie Wild Rice Pilaf Dinner Roll Apricots
15 Chili Frybread Side Salad Melons Cookie	16 Beef stroganoff Egg noodles Wheat roll Steamed carrots Cinnamon pears	17 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	18 Birthday Lunch Pork Roast Mashed potatoes Corn Cranberry WR Bread Straw. Cheesecake	19 Brunch For Lunch Chefs Choice
22 Wild rice hotdish Glazed Carrots Wheat bread Mandarin oranges	23 Chicken Pot Pie Beets Breadstick mangos	24 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! CLOSED	26 CLOSED
29 Chicken sandwich w/lettuce & tomato Baked Chips Baked Beans Banana	30 Chef Salad w/fixins Artisan Roll Fresh Berry Mix	31 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread		

White Earth Food Distribution December Store Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30

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

December Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education and Health Screenings w/Shirley: December 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Dec 8: Mahnomen, Waubun and Biimaad

Dec 12: Naytahwaush and Bagley

Dec 19: Detroit Lakes, Ponsford and White Earth

Dec 25: Closed for Christmas holiday

Dec 31: 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 December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	2 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	3 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	4 Pine Point Community Building 9:30-3:00	5 White Earth Health Center 8:15-12:00	6
7	8 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	9 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	10 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	11 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	12 White Earth Health Center 8:15-12:00	13
14	15 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	16 Bagley Elementary School 10:00-3:00	17 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	18 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	19 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	20
21	22 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	23 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27
28	29 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	30 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	31 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00			
WIC follows RBC Schedule for closings		*Locations and times are subject to change*		This institution is an equal opportunity provider.		

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





Food resources are available. Apply now.

Hennepin County continues to process WIC and SNAP applications. If you already participate in food assistance programs, you can continue shopping with your benefits.



Apply for assistance and find food resources at:
hennepin.us/food-help

Obituaries

Peter “Pete” James Martin Jr.

Peter “Pete” James Martin Jr., 88, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 29 in Lakewood, Colo. Born on July 21, 1937, in White Earth, Pete lived a full, independent, self-directed life rooted in service, family, with a deep connection to his heritage and native people. Peter is a proud citizen of the White Earth Ojibwe Nation, Pembina Band.



The close-knit community of White Earth shaped Pete’s early years. He began his education at White Earth Elementary and graduated from Wahpeton High School, N.D. His pursuit of knowledge led him to the North Dakota School of Science Wahpeton and later to New Mexico University, where he laid the foundation for a distinguished career in civil engineering, public service, the protection of tribal sovereignty, and tribal economic development.

When Pete lived in Wahpeton, he played baseball with a Wahpeton traveling baseball team when small, rural towns all had baseball teams that played against each other during the summer months. Pete honed his skills as a catcher and first baseman during this time and played baseball or softball throughout his 20s and 30s in some capacity. Peter loved baseball!

As a civil engineer, Pete played a pivotal role in the establishment of Lake Oahe—an achievement that marked the beginning of a long and impactful career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), under the U.S. Department of the Interior. His work took him across several key locations including Aberdeen, S.D.; Albuquerque Indian School; Santa Fe Indian School (now known as the Institute of American Indian Arts); Denver, Colo., as the Director of ITEC, a BIA branch dedicated to the economic and infrastructure development in Indian Country, then finally to the Muskogee Area Office where he retired. Pete returned to Denver in the late 1980s to live surrounded by his family.

Throughout his tenure with the BIA, Pete was deeply involved in initiatives that supported tribal sovereignty and tribal economic development. He contributed significantly to programs under the Indian Financing Act of 1970, which expanded revolving funds for tribal economic projects through ITEC Economic Development. His dedication to Indian Country was unwavering and left a notable legacy within Native communities.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Pete was a devoted father, grandfather, and sibling who cherished time spent with his family. He is lovingly remembered by his children: Susan Johnson, Michael Martin (Kristi Peltier), and Dianne Demko; grandchildren: Michael Johnson (Kara), Nick Johnson (Julie), Jessie McKerley (Matt), Himalaya Johnson, Ben Demko, Michelle McPeek (Luke), Jacque Demko (Dan), and Shannon Peltier; great-grandchildren Margaret (Maggie) Johnson, Nick Johnson, Emmett McKerley, Mila McKerley, Ethan Loh, Christian Peltier; siblings: Jeanette Munson, Dick Martin (Dolores), Bonnie Walz, and Elaine Salinas (Al); many Martin and Youngbird nieces and nephews; and his beloved chihuahua companion, Lucky.

Peter is preceded in death by his parents James B. Martin and Dorothy Mae Rogers Martin; maternal grandmother Agnes Rogers; paternal grandparents; siblings Karen Brant and Gary Martin.

Pete’s passions were as vibrant as his stories—he had an extraordinary memory and a gift for storytelling that brought laughter and history to life at every gathering. He found joy in golfing and fishing (especially when walleye with wild rice was on the menu), watching old movies and all kinds of sports—from little league baseball to major league football—with special loyalty to the Colorado Rockies and Denver Broncos. He loved country western music and had an enduring appreciation for trees—particularly pine and birch—and for spending time with those he held dear. Peter had an enthusiastic sense of humor, finding joy and humor in daily life. He enjoyed laughing and joking with friends, family, and casual acquaintances on topical events and situations.

His heart remained forever tied to White Earth Ojibwe Nation and Indian Country at large. He held deep affection for both the Youngbird and Martin families as well as every family dog that crossed his path.

A memorial service for Peter Martin will be held in Colorado in 2026.

May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him, and may his legacy continue through the lives he touched so deeply.

Please update your address!

Update your address with White Earth Enrollments even if you updated your address with White Earth Licensing (IDs), White Earth Election Board, or the *Anishinaabeg Today*.

Call White Earth Enrollments at 218-935-6247

Let the newspaper know if you recently moved so we can cancel your old address.
Many papers are still being sent to old addresses!

Call the *Anishinaabeg Today* at 218-935-3569 or email today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Laniyah Rain Fox

Laniyah Rain Fox went to heaven on Nov. 3 and she will live in our hearts forever. How very softly you tiptoed in my world. Almost silently, only for a moment your footsteps have left upon my heart.



Laniyah is survived by her parents, Chauncey Oothoudt and Tanisha Fox; siblings: Zeria, Tazyrie, and Azriel; grandparents: Alfred and Evette Fox, and Juanita Oothoudt; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her uncle, Ray Fox; niece, Marley Reed; great-grandma and grandpa, Bernadine and Ray Fox, and Pauline Heitala.

Services were held Nov. 7 at the Rice Lake Community Center. A wake was held Nov. 6.

Interment: Samuel Memorial Episcopal Cemetery in Naytahwaush.

Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley, Minn.

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

Gordon Warren

Gordon Warren, 44, of Minneapolis, died Oct. 5 at Hennepin Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Gordon Warren, the son of Elizabeth “Betty” Warren, was born Sept. 18, 1981. He grew up in the Minneapolis area before returning to the White Earth Indian Reservation. Gordon had a special relationship with his mom, Betty, and would make many trips up north to spend time with her. Often staying for longer periods of time with her before returning back to Minneapolis.



As a young man, he was blessed with two children, Jaden and Dion Warren. Gordon enjoyed spending time with his friends, family and especially with his sons when he was able. Whether watching TV together, taking walks along the lake or fishing together, he treasured his time spent with them. Gordon always lived life to the fullest and never missed an opportunity to be the life of the party. He will be remembered by his friends and family for his quick wit and sense of adventure.

Gordon is survived by his sons, Jaden Warren of Bemidji, Minn., and Dion Warren of St. Cloud, Minn.; sister, Mary Jane Warren; brother, Wayne Quinn; and other extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Warren; brothers, John E. Warren and Anthony Warren; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

All-night wake services were held Nov. 17 and continue until the time of the service on Nov. 18, both at the White Earth Community Center.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.
Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Robert E. Powell

Robert E. Powell passed away peacefully in Longview, Wash., on Oct. 28 at the age of 93.

He was born on April 3, 1932 to Ortis and Bertha (Ketchum) Powell in Onalaska, Wash., and grew up with his brother Richard. At age two, the family moved to Longview where he played football and basketball at R.A. Long and graduated in 1951. That same year he married his high school sweetheart, Phyllis Morehouse. They shared nearly 74 years of marriage.



In 1953, Bob started as a lube man at Mason Motors. Through hard work, he became service manager and a stock holder of what would later become Columbia Ford. He spent most of his years as service manager at Columbia Ford before retiring in 2003.

Bob was a proud member of the White Earth Tribe Nation. He belonged to Longview Elks and Longview Pioneer Lions during his life.

Bob enjoyed hunting and fishing and took his sons on many successful hunting trips. Bob’s family meant the world to him. His greatest joy came from spending time with his family especially watching his grandkids and great grandkids participate in activities.

Bob was predeceased by his parents and brother Richard. He is survived by his wife Phyllis; sons: Craig (Linda), David, (Tracy), and Tracy (Jennifer); grandchildren: Michael, Jeffrey, Lacy and Anthony; three great-grandchildren; three bonus grandchildren; and six bonus great-grandchildren.

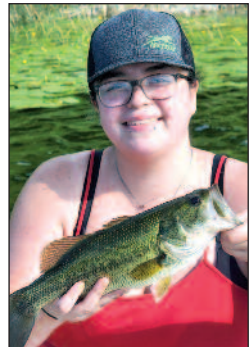
A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Obituaries

Shelby Rae Johnson

Shelby Johnson, 23, of Mahanomen, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 6 at the Mahanomen Health Center, following medical complications.

Shelby Rae Johnson born on Jan. 9, 2002, in Detroit Lakes, Minn., blessed to Janean (Jason) Hamilton and James (Patti) Johnson. She was lovingly raised in Mahanomen surrounded by her parents and siblings: Danyellie, Andrew, Mason, Lilly, Piper, and Owynn. Shelby was everyone's little sister—and a big sister when you needed one. When you were at your lowest, Shelby would lift you up, dust you off, and probably convince you to shotgun a Twisted Tea, so long as it wasn't the peach flavored ones. Raspberry was her favorite, so you'd best save that one for her.



Outspoken, witty, and fiercely loyal, Shelby was never afraid to stand up for what she believed in or for the people she loved. If you ever thought you could win an argument with her, think again. Shelby loved a challenge and her quick wit could persuade anyone to see things her way. Whether it was tubing down the river, kayaking, or fishing, she had a way of convincing you that her plans were the best ones—because they usually were. Shelby loved spending time with her family and friends. She was always up for a night of hanging out, playing cards, or joining in on karaoke, even if she refused to sing herself. Her legendary Call of Duty skills made her the go-to teammate, carrying everyone through matches until she disappeared mid-game to eat supper somewhere else leaving her friends to face defeat without her.

Shelby worked primarily in food service throughout the Mahanomen area. She began her career at A&W in Detroit Lakes, later working in the deli at EZ-1 Stop in Waubun, and Cenex in Mahanomen where she advanced to supervisor and manager. Shelby then was hired as Deli Supervisor at the Shooting Star Casino. Most recently, Shelby was employed at Waabigwan Mashkiki in Mahanomen. Those who worked alongside Shelby knew her as a hardworking, dependable, and natural leader. She

brought laughter to every shift, steadiness in times of chaos, and a contagious positive energy that lifted everyone around her. If she walked into work with a Redbull in hand, you knew it was going to be a good day.

Shelby loved fishing, especially for bass. Although she preferred when someone else took the fish off the hook, cleaned it, and cooked it, she was always proud of her catch. Every fish she reeled in was a "big bass," at least until it surfaced. Her fur babies were truly her pride and joy. She often said that dogs are your reflection and cats represent your soul. Her beloved pets Xena, Willow, Neeko, and Mouse each carried a piece of her spirit: Xena, her beauty and grace; Willow, her persuasive charm; Neeko, her sassy side; and Mouse, her fierce and fiery determination.

Shelby will be remembered for her humor, generosity, and firecracker spirit. She had a heart that always thought of others before herself, a mind that loved a good debate, and a soul that shined with energy and compassion. She made an impression on everyone she met, leaving behind laughter, memories, and love that will last a lifetime. As the Call of Duty clans would say: "Boots on the Ground, Stay Frosty." Rest in peace, Shelby. Forever 23.

Shelby is survived by her parents: James (Patti) Johnson of Waubun and Janean (Jason) Hamilton of Mahanomen; siblings: Danyellie (Vicki) Johnson, Andrew (Kyamae) Johnson, Mason Hamilton, Lilliana Lamb, Piper Johnson, and Owynn Lamb; best friend and platonic soulmate, Skyla "Pookie" St. Clair; grandparents: Frank (Connie) Johnson, Becky (Russ) Kertscher, and Janet Lamb; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her great-grandma, Zelda Conklin; grandparents: Norma Jo Johnson, Gary Kappedal and Maxwell Lamb; aunt, Liz Johnson; dog, Hennessy Rose; and several cousins.

Visitation and prayer service was held Nov. 13 and funeral services were held Nov. 14, both at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Waubun.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahanomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Julius Michael Hanks

Julius Hanks, the infant son of Lisa Bray and Trevor Hanks, died suddenly on Nov. 16 at Essentia Health St. Mary's in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Julius Michael Hanks was born Jan. 7 at Essentia Hospital in Fargo, N.D., shortly after his twin sister, Bitsie. The twins made their debut early at only 23 weeks gestation with Julius weighing 1 lb. 6 oz. and Bitsie at 1 lb .04 oz. They made their home in the NICU until June when they were finally welcomed home by their siblings. Although small, Julius was a fighter. He was strong and loud, growing by leaps and bounds and becoming more vocal every day. His weight was on the steady increase which gave him the cutest chubby cheeks and earned him the



nickname of "Big Man"! He also wasn't shy when it came to being heard, especially when he wanted someone to hold him.

It was easy to see Julius was spoiled by his older siblings, as they would cater to his every need. He loved them all but was extra partial and always looking for his big sis-

ter, Miley. Julius was such a happy baby, always smiling and laughing. He had just started to really move about trying to crawl and following mom from room to room in his walker. Although Julius was only here for such a short time, the amount of love and joy he brought to his family was insurmountable. He will live on in the hearts of many.

Julius leaves behind his twin sister, Bitsie; parents, Lisa and Trevor; brothers: Tayshaun Bray, Cody Eagle Feather, and Trevor Hanks Jr.; sisters: Kennedy Bray, Miley Bray, Joei Eagle Feather, Brinleigh Hanks and Brooklynn Hanks; great grandparents, Joe and Joan Safar; grandpa, Mike Bray; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was greeted with open arms by his great grandma, Rose Weaver; grandmas, Bitsie Bray and Tammy Safar; grandpa, Julius "Rat" Hanks; aunts, Judy "Sis" Libby and Teresa Dakota; and cousin, Asia Bevins.

Blessed be the memory of Julius Michael Hanks.

A funeral service was held Nov. 20 at St. Columba Episcopal Church in White Earth.

Interment: Bethel Cemetery in White Earth.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahanomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Naytahwaush Community Council
invites you to
Santa Day
In Our Village
3 pm - 6 pm
Saturday, December 20th
Naytahwaush Sports Complex Gym
Holiday Photos - Music - Reindeer Games
Craft Decorating - North Pole Snacks

White Earth Tribal Traffic Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of **Tressa Mae Retz**, DOB: **02/09/2003**

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **T2025-00174**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on January 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. an Initial Hearing on the traffic 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: November 4, 2025

White Earth Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of:

Harley Warren

TP2025-00002

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on May 23, 2025 a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parent. A continued admit or deny hearing will commence on December 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the White Earth Tribal Courtroom located at 35500 Eagleview Rd., Ogema, MN.

The telephone number is (218) 935-3512. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding, or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning the protection of your child.

Dated: November 12, 2025
Court Administrator

You can reach the AT at 218-935-3569


Howah Ads

Happy Birthday
Terrance Burnette Jr
I love you - Shana
December 27th


Happy **45th** B'day
Brandon
Love Mom & family
Dec. 5th



Happy **6th** Birthday
Thaddeus
Dec. 15th



Happy **15th** Birthday Son
Love Mom & Dad
December 20th



Happy Belated Birthday
Joe Jr.
Love, Your Family
Nov. 14th

Happy Birthday
Joe Sr.
Love, Terri, Joe, Melanie, and all your grandbabies
Dec. 18th

Happy Birthday
Melanie
Love, Ben, Eevi, Ella, Emani, Mom, Dad, your brother, and family
Dec. 29th

NCCS Full Service Community Schools Team, NCC and Naytahwaush Headstart presents:

YOUTH RIBBON HOODIE WORKSHOP

Come join us for a fun, hands-on workshop where you'll learn to craft something unique and totally handmade by you!

DECEMBER 9TH, 2025
Starts at 4pm to 7pm, @ NCCS cafeteria
Follow up date to finish project if more time needed - December 10th

- Basic Materials, provided
- Your Own Finished Piece
- Guided Class, with help from our Team

For Naytahwaush Youth, grades 5-12. Please call 218-935-5025 to reserve your spot. A light meal will be provided.



MN Wild make history with Ojibwe-language television broadcast in celebration of Native American Heritage Day

By Sarah McLellan
The Minnesota Star Tribune

When the Wild's home in St. Paul officially went from Xcel Energy Center to Grand Casino Arena back in September, owner Craig Leipold spoke about how excited he was for this new partnership.

Melissa "Baabiitaw" Boyd knew how that bond could be reflected beyond the name on the outside of the building and at center ice.

"I couldn't help myself," said Boyd, who is on the board for the Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network and a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. "At the same time as [Leipold] was talking, I put my hand straight in the air."

She suggested Ojibwe-language commentary for the games, and that idea came to life Friday (Nov. 28) with the first-of-its-kind broadcast during the host Wild's 3-2 shootout victory over the Colorado Avalanche.

"We're thrilled," Boyd said.

In celebration of Native American Heritage Day, which former goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury previously commemorated with a custom mask, the Wild

broadcast was streamed on the FanDuel Sports Network website and app and produced by the network in conjunction with Grand Casino, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network.

A Minnesota-based nonprofit, Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network works to strengthen and expand Anishinaabe language revitalization by bringing organizations together to advocate and advance language preservation, re-normalization and daily use.

Its focus is to create long-term, systemic change and learning across generations, and three generations were featured on the broadcast that had plenty to highlight in the Wild's seventh consecutive victory: Kirill Kaprizov scored twice to eclipse 200 goals, Matt Boldy delivered his eighth career shootout winner and the Wild defeated the first-place Avalanche to end their Central Division rival's 10-game win streak.

"Once in a lifetime," Boyd said, "but now it's going to be our new norm, right? We're going to demand that it happens with all other professional sports, and I'm sure that there are other nations in the country that would like to do that."

Chairman from Page 3

employees and Shooting Star Casinos (SSC): 647 employees.

The Leadership Workforce summary yields 214 positions (included in totals above)

Enrolled Members: 106 (49.53%)

Descendants: 28 (13.08%)

MCT: 4 (1.87%)

Other Native American Tribes: 16 (7.48%)

Non-Native: 60 (28.04%)

Key Takeaways:

- Nearly half of all employees are enrolled White Earth Members.

- Native Workforce overall (all categories combined): - 69%.

- Leadership roles have a slightly higher enrolled-member representation (49.53%) compared to the general workforce (45.55%).

- We have a workforce made up primarily of combined ages between 20-50 years of age at (80.9%).

- 23.2% of our workforce has at least 10 years of service with (57%) of our workforce with 0-5 years of service.

Key Insights:

- White Earth Nation has successfully maintained a strong tribal workforce.

- Representation from other tribes is healthy and contributes to diversity.

- We have an overall diverse employee population who possess a depth of skill and work experiences, education and backgrounds that promote the overall visions and goals of each individual tribal entity.

- Nearly 70% of employees are Native American (all categories combined) which is significantly above state and national averages.

- We are proud of all of our employees' contributions that help us all live mino-bimaadiziwin (The Good Life).

As we wrap up the year, I want to take a moment to thank everyone across our Gaawaabaabiganikaag Ishkoning, White Earth Tribal Nation for the hard work, patience, and steady commitment that carried us through 2025.

This has been a year of actually the greatest real progress—strengthening our programs, supporting our families, and taking important steps to protect our language, our homelands, and the well-being of our people. None of this happened on its own; it came from our tribal Elders, Membership, Council, staff, and our community leaders who showed up day after day with good hearts and a clear purpose.

I'm grateful for all we've accomplished together and hopeful for the path ahead. Gichi-Miigwech for your trust, your support, and your continued dedication to our Gaawaabaabiganikaag Ishkoning, White Earth Nation.

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



WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council

Save the Date

WEUCC 3rd Annual Pow Wow

May 16th, 2026

Diabetic Bingo

All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.

December 3 rd Wednesday	Pine Point
December 10 th Wednesday	Elbow Lake
December 18 th Thursday	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)

January 7 th , Wednesday	Naytahwaush
January 21 st , Wednesday	White Earth
January 28 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.

February 4 th , Wednesday	Pine Point
February 17 th , Tuesday	Elbow Lake
February 25 th , Wednesday	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)


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 December are...
Dr. Ung (foot Doctor) Clinic
 December 15th in the White Earth Health Building
 December 16th and 17th at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center
 For additional information please check the Anishinaabeg Today or Facebook for detailed information.



MAHNOMEN TRIBAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOTE

2 OPEN POSITIONS



To nominate someone for the ballot, contact Desiree Linden (701-429-7445) or Josh Zornes (218-261-0345). Nominees must live in the Mahnomen Service Area and approve to be on the ballot.
 Voting: Dec. 20 at the MTCC Toy Bingo Event, Shooting Star Casino Event Center, starting at 1 PM.
 Only Mahnomen Service Area members may vote.



INJURED? CALL JOE.

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



218-736-5673

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation

First-Time Homebuyer Education Class

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025
 Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 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.

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

Childcare is NOT provided so please make other arrangements.



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION

in partnership with
AKSTERDAM UNIVERSITY

CANNABIS CERTIFICATION TRAININGS

LIVE AND ON DEMAND PROGRAMS

ORIENTATION: 12-1:30 PM, JANUARY 8, 2026
 ONLINE AND CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION CLASSROOM
 CLASSES START JANUARY 22

SEATS ARE LIMITED
 APPLY ONLINE:
<https://tinyurl.com/4pbxku5z>

<p>PROGRAM DETAILS</p> <p>These programs prepare students for jobs in cannabis dispensaries or other licensed cannabis businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horticulture Mastery, Manager, and Worker Certifications Start January 22 Business Startup, Financing, and Licensing Certification Starts February 4 Retail Management and Buttefending Certifications Start February 18 Cannabis Business Management Certification Starts March 4 Cannabis Breeding w/ James Loud Starts April 28 	<p>COST ASSISTANCE</p> <p>CanTrain Grant Requirements</p> <p>Must be 21 years or older and one or more of the following to qualify for cost assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual of color Individual lacking stable housing Individuals with a criminal record Individual without a high school diploma or GED Individual with disabilities Individual who have been unemployed for 26 or more of the past 52 weeks Individual with limited English or math proficiency Individual at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline
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bridget.guiza@wetcc.edu c.robinson@wetcc.edu 2250 College Rd
 218-935-0417 ext. 8327 218-935-0417 ext. 8326 Mahnomen, MN 56557
 www.WETCC.edu

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from South Twin Lake!



PRICE REDUCED to APPRAISED VALUE!

29972 293rd St, Waubun – South Twin Lake

Start the new year lakeside! This 4 bed, 2.75 bath, well-maintained home is now priced at appraised value! Enjoy a spacious layout, open floor plan that's perfect for entertaining, larger master suite with walk-in closet, 3 fireplaces—one on each level—adding warmth and charm throughout the home, insulated garage and a newer deck overlooking the lake, offering the perfect spot to relax and take in all the activities lake life has to offer!



Amber Neffinger



Call for Details: 701-799-4104

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

ELDER WINTERIZATION 2025-2026


To Apply:

- Fill out the application/release form to update your address and phone number at your ENP sites/delivery drivers or RBC front desk or fax to 218-935-0480.
 - Call 218-936-2444 Workforce Center Front Desk,
 - Darrel Bellanger, Day Labor Supervisor 218-935-3702
- Must reside with the White Earth Reservation Boundaries.
- Must be an enrolled Tribal elder, or disabled, and Own your home.
- Not live in White Earth Housing properties/residences.

Supplies provided

- Inside or outside plastic for windows
- Weatherstripping for doors
- Outside Plastic will be installed by Day Laborers

- Day Labor workers can not enter homes, or accept money or gifts.
- Shoveling of roofs/walkways depending upon snow fall amounts



NEED MORE ENERGY? JOIN STAR FITNESS CENTER TODAY!

Located in the Maniotok Mall, Mahnomen

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

Thank You

Wow! The Nicholas Buck Cancer Benefit on Nov. 22 in Mahnomen was an awesome success. So many family members, friends and community members showed for the event to donate and share their support. Thank you! Nicholas Buck was even feeling well enough to make it later in the day. He thanks you with all his heart.

Thank you to our fry bread cooks: Linda Buckanaga and Melissa Wakonabo. Some of the best I ever had.

Thank you to Joseph Burnside, Nate Jensen, Hannah Buck, Sherry Hahn, Patti Vizenor, Pauline Vizenor, Jana Buck, Bette Toso, Brook Buck of Waxed by Brooklynn, Sherry Vizenor-Sawicky, and Daniel Buck for donating and/or preparing food.

Thank you to the people and businesses who donated to raffle prizes: Patti Vizenor, Mahnomen Fire Department, Mike Buckanaga, Kurt Lepping, Brian Buck and Buck's Wild Things, Kathy and Du Vizenor, Kristi Sauvageau and family, Nate McArthur and the Village Store, Don and Connie Thumforde and Magic Mirror, Shawn Moore and The Garage and Kings Corner, Matt Gordon and Gordon Construction, Emma Jean King and the King Sisters, Auto Value, Gourmet Meats in Dilworth, Dana Trickey, Ryan Ennen and True Value, Linda Buckanaga, Lean To Tavern, Leighton Media of Detroit Lakes, Chapter Athletic Studio of Fargo, Redrum Motorcycle Club, Tina Jurina, Wanita Bray, Ray Bisek, and Bev Robbins Family.

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket, sold a ticket, ate a meal with us, visited with us, shared a post, donated money or said a prayer.

I know I missed thanking someone, so I apologize now. You are all appreciated.

THANK YOU!
Melissa Buck and Patti Vizenor

Calvary Cemetery Fundraiser
Toy BINGO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
2:00PM
DOORS OPEN AT 1:30PM
WHITE EARTH COMMUNITY CENTER

50/50 RAFFLE & RAFFLE FOR X-MAS DINNER

\$20 PER PERSON
-20 regular games
-3 specials - 1/2 take
-Blackout - winner takes all

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE CALVARY CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND
18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PLAY
NO YOUTH UNDER 18 ALLOWED
Snacks & Refreshments Available For Sale!

MTCC
Mahnomen Tribal Community Council

TOY BINGO

DECEMBER 20TH, 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 12:30
BINGO STARTS AT 1PM!

Shooting Star Casino Event Center
\$20.00 TO PLAY
20 REGULAR GAMES = TOYS
4 SPECIAL GAMES = 1/2 TAKE \$\$
BLACK OUT- WINNER TAKE ALL
\$1 RAFFLES FOR MANY BIG PRIZES

Raffle Prizes Include:
APPLE AIR PODS X2
NINJA SLUSHI MAKER X2
XBOX SERIES S
NINJA CRISPI
TV + KARAOKE/SPEAKER

18 YEARS OR OLDER!
NO YOUTH UNDER 18 ALLOWED!

Naytahwaush Community Council

Santa's TOY BINGO

20 Regular Games = TOYS!
5 Special Games = Prizes Valued at over \$100!
BLACK OUT GAME = WINNER TAKES ALL!

Saturday, December 6th
Naytahwaush Sports Complex Gym

Doors Open @ Noon
BINGO begins @ 12:30 pm
BINGO Pack includes:
20 Games & Dobber
18 Years or Older!
No Youth under 18

BINGO Packs \$20

"Save The Date"
Return to First Medicines Annual Gathering
July 28 & 29, 2026
Shooting Star Casino & Hotel

Presented by:
First Medicines Inter-Generational Council of
The Indigenous Peoples Task Force

****REQUEST FOR BIDS****

2026 POWWOW ROYALTY CROWNS /MEDALLIONS
FOR: WAUBUN-OGEMA-WHITE EARTH SCHOOLS ANNUAL POWWOW

The Waubun-Ogema-White Earth School is seeking bids to provide Beaded Crowns (2)/ Beaded Medallions (2) for our 2026 Royalty.

Bid must include the following items:
BEADED CROWN FOR JR. PRINCESS (GRADES PK-6)
BEADED CROWN FOR SR. PRINCESS (GRADES 7-12)
BEADED MEDALLION FOR JR. BRAVE (GRADES PK-6)
BEADED MEDALLION FOR SR. BRAVE (GRADES 7-12)

***ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM, FRIDAY, December 12, 2026**

BIDS CAN BE SUBMITTED VIA MAIL OR HAND DELIVERED TO:
PATTI DEGROAT, INDIAN ED DIRECTOR
WAUBUN HIGH SCHOOL
1013 3RD STREET, PO BOX 98
WAUBUN, MN 56589

***ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:**
1) ARTIST CONTACT INFORMATION AND BID AMOUNT PER ITEM. CLEARLY SEPARATE MATERIAL COSTS AND LABOR.
2) AN EXAMPLE/DRAWING OF WHAT THE CROWNS AND MEDALLIONS WILL LOOK LIKE UPON COMPLETION WITH A COLOR SCHEME DEFINED USING THE THUNDERBIRD LOGO/COLORS

****SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE EXPECTED TO DELIVER ALL COMPLETED CROWNS (2), MEDALLIONS (2) TO PATTI DEGROAT, INDIAN ED DIRECTOR, WAUBUN SCHOOL, 1013 3RD STREET, WAUBUN, MN 56589 NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM, TUESDAY, March 11, 2026**

Materials Payment: 1) The District will cover 100 percent of approved materials costs needed to complete the crowns and medallions. 2) Materials costs must be pre-approved by the District and supported by an itemized list and receipts. 3) At the District's discretion, the District may either reimburse the artist for materials upon submission of receipts or purchase the materials directly for the artist. 4) No portion of the artist fee is included in this materials payment.

Artist Fee/Progress/Final Payments: 1) No general down payment or advance on the artist fee will be made. 2) Upon verified completion of approximately 50 percent of the project (as determined by the District based on proof of work such as progress photos or an in-person review), the District will pay 50 percent of the artist fee. 3) The remaining 50 percent of the artist fee will be paid within five business days following delivery of all completed crowns and medallions by the agreed-upon due date and the District's acceptance of the finished work.

Late Delivery/Payment Reduction: 1) Failure to meet agreed-upon deadlines will result in a reduction of the final artist-fee payment. 2) For every day the project is delayed beyond the due date, the final artist-fee payment will be reduced by 10 percent of the amount due.

ANY QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO PATTI DEGROAT, 218-473-6183

WE CARE
WHITE EARTH COORDINATION ASSESSMENT RESOURCES & EDUCATION

Come Join a New Group
Designed to Support Families
Are you looking for ways to strengthen your family's health and wellbeing? Meet other families, build a strong support network, and join our Family Support Group!

We provide support and referrals to services
Our staff is available to assist with support and completing applications

- Early Childhood Services
- Housing Assistance
- Mental Health Resources
- Education opportunities and activities

Explore programs for both children and adults. Participate in cultural and educational activities that connect you to our community

JOIN NOW!
To learn more, Please contact 218-401-0550

Waubun School Forest

- Ski Trails and Sledding -
Check Facebook page (Waubun School Forest Information) to find when the hut is open and trails are ready. Located at 2541 State Hwy 113.

Thunderbirds football team finishes season at 11-1



The Mahnomon-Waubun Thunderbirds football team finished another great season with an 11-1 record. They went undefeated during the regular season and made it to the Minnesota 1A semifinal game before losing to the Minneota Vikings, 28-14 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Top left: Blake McMullen scores a touchdown as Manny Johnson looks on. **Top right:** Tanner Stech runs past a defender. **Right:** Brody Lhotka runs with the ball as Hudson McArthur looks on.



Photos by Hallie Clark

Chairman represents White Earth at MN Wild game



Photo by Becky Howard

Chairman Michael Fairbanks represented the White Earth Nation at the Minnesota Wild Native American Heritage Day on Nov. 28 at Grand Casino Arena in St. Paul, Minn. Also representing White Earth were Veterans Sherald Hanks and Everett "Biscuit" Goodwin who walked the White Earth staff and White Earth flag down to the ice. The game also marked the first time a National Hockey League game was broadcast entirely in the Ojibwe language.

Detroit Lakes Schools Powwow



In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Detroit Lakes Public Schools held a powwow on Nov. 13 at the Detroit Lakes High School gym.

Top: Students from several districts were invited.

Left: The Detroit Lakes School Brave and Princess are Justuz Swiers (8th grade) and Sage Smith (5th grade).

Submitted photos

Working out at HOWAH event



Photo by Jackie Haugo

White Earth RBC employee Melanie Hough poses for a photo at the annual HOWAH Wellness and Cultural Event held Nov. 19 at the RBC building lower level. HOWAH is a year-long program that helps keep employees healthy. There were vendors, program booths, bingo, draw prizes, and a healthy lunch.