



2026 Elections

Eligible candidates can begin filing for office on January 9

The White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby announces that a General Election will be held June 9 on the White Earth Reservation.

This General Election provides for a March 31 Primary Election in the event there are more than two eligible candidates for the open position.

Elected positions to be filled are as follows:

A. **Secretary/Treasurer** – White Earth Reservation Business Committee – for a Four (4) Year Term.

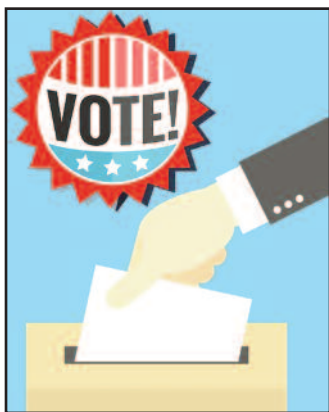
B. **District I Representative**- White Earth Reservation Business Committee – for a Four (4) Year Term

C. **District II Representative** - White Earth Reservation Business Committee – for a Four (4) Year Term

Candidates shall file during regular business hours beginning Jan. 9 at the White Earth Compliance offices located in the Shooting Star Casino north parking lot at 779 East Jefferson Ave., in Mahanomen. **Filing will close on Jan. 20 at 4:30 p.m.** Eligible candidates will be certified by Feb. 9. Challenges to certification matters will be due by Feb. 11.

The Election Ordinance provides that if a candidate receives more than half of the votes cast for that position in the primary, that candidate is the winner and no further election is required for that position.

A copy of the 2026 election calender is available on Page 24. More election information will be available in future editions of the *Anishinaabeg Today*, White Earth website at www.whiteearth.com and the White Earth Facebook page.



White Earth makes trade with Prairie Band Potawatomi



Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal leaders recently made a 12-hour trip from Kansas to the White Earth Reservation to meet with White Earth leaders and staff. While here, the two tribes traded 500 pounds of buffalo meat for 400 pounds of wild rice.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi visited last summer and toured White Earth's cannabis operation and the two sides agreed on the buffalo/wild rice exchange.

Leaders also discussed tribal sovereignty and additional current and future projects.

Top: The two tribes make the exchange at the Agricultural building in Mahanomen.

Left: Potawatomi Tribal Council members Ronald "Tony" Wahweotten Jr., and Lorrie Melchior load wild rice from White Earth.

Photos by Gary W. Padrta

WE welcomes Commissioner

The White Earth Tribal Council and key staff met with Minnesota Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell, holding support dog leash, and DOC Tribal Relations Director Wendy Spry (White Earth), second from right, on Dec. 30 at Tribal Headquarters.

Some of the topics discussed involved tribal supervision, updated legislation, and 1115 Waiver Considerations.

Photo by Richard Hanks



Anishinaabeg Today

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

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

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

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

Anishinaabeg Today
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591

Memberships

- ◆ Indigenous Journalist Association
- ◆ Minnesota Newspaper Association

WER Business Committee

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Michael LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer

Henry George Fox
District 1 Representative

Eugene Sommers
District 2 Representative

Laura Lee Erickson
District 3 Representative

Editor

Gary W. Padrta

Future Issues *

Deadline	Issue Date
January 28	February 4
February 25	March 4
March 25	April 1
April 29	May 6
May 28	June 3

* Deadline and issue dates subject to change

Pine Point wants more control over cost/future of energy

By Winona LaDuke

It was like that movie *Back to the Future*. I traveled to a meeting with White Earth Tribal representatives and 8th Fire Solar to meet with some energy industry professionals in Minneapolis at OATI (Open Access Technology International). OATI supplies software to manage the grid which moves electrical power around the country and around the world. We discussed renewable energy, the future, and how local communities' utilities and rural cooperatives are moving towards the sun and the wind for the future of power.

After the meeting, I traveled back to the reservation in a Ford Lightning electric truck. I was in the back seat and two of my sons were in the front seat. That's the future.

What is the future of energy?

What do you want it to be?

Pine Point village on White Earth decided it wanted to have a little more control over the costs and future of energy. This fall, Pine Point Elementary School, with 10 Power, 8th Fire Solar and Ziegler Energy, installed 480 kw of solar power for the school -- that's a school that is 100% electric and serves one of the poorest communities in Minnesota. Their electric bill is whopping! Scheduled to come online by January of 2026, the project could provide 100% of the school's energy, and with battery backup power, that school will keep the power going till the grid comes back up after it goes down. What's wrong with that?

For now, most of the power used by the school and the White Earth community has been coming from some dirty coal plants in North Dakota, which have been spewing nasty stuff towards Minnesota, and a few big dam projects in Manitoba, which are destroying that northern river. That's where fish and migratory birds live. I'd like to move along.

On what my ancestors called the Scorched Path, these types of outdated power production will cause the bills to get bigger and the problems worse. For 100 years or so, economists and all have been saying Big is Best. But more power outages, long inefficient transmission lines and generation -- which waste about 61% of the energy between point of origin and use -- are not a very reliable future. That's why we need local power.

The White Earth tribal officials from the Tribal Utilities Commission and tribal planners went to see OATI, sort of the gurus of electric grid management. Simply stated, utility power producers and transmission entities need to move power around, turn off and on switches, "manage loads" and such. Computers and smart people operate the "smart grid."

With customers like Great River Energy, Ottotail

Power, Xcel and others "OATI provides solutions for the operational challenges of energy providers in an industry that is constantly changing. Changes in technology, market demand, and regulations require utility companies to constantly adapt..." it says on their website. That's the future. That's being adaptable, or their words -- having interoperability.

The White Earth tribal staff and community members from 8th Fire Solar and Akiing listened to these guys talk about the grids of the future. That future grid for them though is mostly renewable energy and distributed energy -- and not all from centralized power plants. That's local generation, wind in a farm field and community units called micro grids.

The writing is on the wall, and we all just need to read it. This fall, the Federal Energy Regulatory Council reported some 68% of the energy coming online in our region is solar, with wind and batteries pushing that higher. And the majority of what's getting retired is coal. This region is called MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operators), and MISO is changing.

Despite attempts by the Trump administration to change the course of history, keeping a 50-year-old plant that wastes lots of energy on life support doesn't make any sense. It sure doesn't make any sense for our communities. Why should we pay for monopolized fossil fuel industries, when we can each bask in the sun? And, by the way, solar is a third less expensive to put in than new coal, or some crazy mini-nuclear plants on the Missouri River to feed a data center.

Over there in OATI land, they had all sorts of charts and graphics, and what seemed clear is that the future is in these changes, and that most of the energy industry is embracing them. But what's even better is the idea of using less energy. That's what 8th Fire Solar is working on -- reducing home heating bills by implementing simple solar thermal panels, installed on a south-facing wall. Heating bills using solar thermal can be reduced by up to 30% and considering that almost 40% of energy bills this time of year are heating, well that's some significant savings.

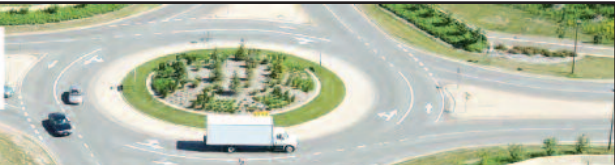

As the longest night of the year comes upon us, the sun will return, and I want to be ready. Let's all work together to make a good future. These rural cooperatives who serve us all can be part of making that future, and I think that these smart grid ideas and community-scaled projects are the power of the future.

Pine Point and OATI are talking about the future of energy, right along with 8th Fire Solar. And as I sat there in the back of that electric Ford Lightning, headed back to the reservation, I realized that I want to be part of that future.



From left are Gwekaanimad Gasco, Nick Bellrock, Jon Martin and William Sayers with the Ford Lightning truck at the 8th Fire Solar shop.

Photo by
Winona LaDuke



Mark your calendar!

West Central Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths
4TH ANNUAL REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES

Dates and Locations

January 26, 2026
Shooting Star Casino & Hotel
777 S. Casino Rd., Mahanomen, MN
Register by January 21

April 29, 2026
Otter Tail County Sheriff's Ops Center
469 Main St., Ottertail, MN
Register by April 22

June 17, 2026
Barnesville Event Center
101 2nd St. SE, Barnesville, MN
Register by June 10

September 10, 2026
Starbuck Community Center
307 E. 5th St., Starbuck, MN
Register by August 28

Purpose

Connect. Share. Impact.
Join us for TZD Roundtables, where local partners come together to build relationships, amplify voices, and build a stronger traffic safety future for the region.

Who Should Attend

Everyone invested in safer roads! Community law enforcement, engineers, educators, emergency services, policymakers, and advocates – all the E's are welcome.

Event Objectives

- Build
- Connect
- Learn
- Inspire
- Elevate

Desired Outcomes

- New regional initiatives
- Unified visions
- Strategic plans for safer roads

For More Information

Katy Kressin
West Central Minnesota
TZD Regional Coordinator
218-849-0048
katy.kressin@state.mn.us

Registration

Registration is free.
Register online at:
minnesotatzd.org/events/westcentralroundtables/2026

Time

All roundtables will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lunch will be provided.



MinnesotaTZD.org

News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag
Niminwendam Waabaminaan!
Gichi-Manidoo-Giizis!
Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadi-
zookaanag.
Weweni-sago-na
Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See
You!
It is already January the Great Spirit Moon!
Everyone Be Safe.

Many moons ago, our Anishinaabe ancestors journeyed here from the eastern edge of Turtle Island, North America following the waters from the Atlantic coast on up through the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, through Mashkiki-Ziibiing, meaning Medicine River but the colonizers deemed it Bad River like many other sacred places we have. Mashkiki Ziibiing is the heart of Turtle Island. I have ancestors from there; Bad place was never bad to us; it was made “bad” only by those who did not understand its power strength to us.

Our relatives remain scattered along that great water road, bound together by blood, memory, and language. We were taught long ago that no force could ever erase us as long as we continued to speak our words and tell our stories, passing them down from gichi-aya'aag gagwewinan gagwejitoonan miinawaa gagwewidamawinan – teachings that are carried and remembered, abinoonjiinyag, elders to children hand to hand, breath to breath, and generation to generation. We are still here because our ancestors knew this.

Our old teachings were written on wiigwaas, birchbark scrolls, and actually some of those sacred records have found their way home again to Gaawaabaabiganikaag Ishkoning, White Earth Nation a few years ago. That return did not happen by accident. It came at the right time, because we now walk in the era of the Seventh Fire which is being ignited by our children and grandchildren, the Oshki Ogimaag who came here just to do just that.

It is said they are the ones who will heal us all and take us out of Historical Trauma. They are igniting the Eighth and Final Fire as we speak and it is prophesized they are the ones who will take us up and out of Historical Trauma. My grandma said, “Those 8th Fire babies weren’t created like us or our ancestors they come here as healers not affected by their elders’ history.”

Each fire marks a chapter of our Anishinaabe history, before the arrival of the gichi-mookomaanag, long knife people (White race) - to these modern days, reminding us of what our people endured and how we survived. These teachings slow us down, steady our hearts, and remind us who we truly are as Anishinaabeg.

White Earth State Forest / Tamarac Refuge

We have been working hard for the return of the 160,000-acre White Earth State Forest to the White Earth Band of Anishinaabe. White Earth Nation’s goal is the management and return of the White Earth State Forest to protect the resources in an environmentally positive manner for the benefit of present and future generations and to ensure the forest lands on the White Earth State Forest are managed in an environmentally sensitive, sustainable, and economically viable manner. And manage the forest land in balance with the conservation of natural, aesthetic, and our own Anishinaabe cultural values.

We have made great strides in clarifying the White Earth Band’s treaty rights and regulatory authority in the entirety of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, including both the portion located



within the White Earth Nation and the portion within the 1855 Treaty Territory. The Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge encompasses approximately 42,724 acres. A little over half of the Refuge (24,162 acres) is located within the White Earth Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe’s Reservation, and the rest of the Refuge is located within the 1855 Treaty Territory wherein the Band retains hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

Elder Tiny Homes

In an increasing need for Elder housing, White Earth Builders completed and turned over the keys to Elder Tiny Homes in Rice Lake (10), Naytahwaush (6), White Earth (4) and Pine Point (2). These homes were proudly manufactured by Dynamic Homes of Detroit Lakes, a company owned by Ho-Chunk Inc., the award-winning economic development corporation of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

White Earth Buys Land Near Moorhead

The White Earth Band recently purchased 280 acres east of Moorhead at the intersection of Interstate 94 and Highway 336 at a local land auction. This purchase is part of our broader efforts to support the long-term economic and cultural sustainability of our people. As stewards of our own future, we are continuously exploring opportunities to diversify our economic initiatives, which may include but are not limited to housing, education, environmental preservation, business development, and cultural enrichment.


Bison Program

The White Earth Bison Program continues to move forward with our goals and initiatives. The program recently expanded its herd with the arrival of 45 new bison, which includes yearlings, mature cows and two cow and calf pairs. The program welcomed its first calf to its breeding herd near Naytahwaush. This historic birth marks a new chapter in our ongoing efforts to restore the bison to Anishinaabe lands. We are very excited about continuing to move this program forward and anticipate further requests related to the program. Whether those requests are for meat/consumption or for any ceremonial purposes or items (hides, bones, skulls, etc.) we look forward to doing our best to accommodate these requests and leading in a good way.

Waabigwan Mashkiki Celebrates Historic Grand Opening

On May 24 in Moorhead, Minn., we made history as the first tribal cannabis dispensary to operate off-reservation in the state of Minnesota. This moment is not only a step forward for White Earth but a strong message of sovereignty and vision for all of Anishinaabe Country. A second dispensary was

See Chairman Page 24




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 we begin a new year, I want to share several updates from December that impact Tribal members both on and off the reservation. This update highlights recent meetings, community events, and year-end activities that reflect our continued commitment to transparency, strong financial management, and the well-being of our people.

Meetings and Travel Updates

In December, I attended the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) Quarterly Meeting at the Lower Sioux Community in Morton, Minn. The meeting included an Executive Session with Tribal leaders and MIAC staff, along with presentations and updates from Minnesota state commissioners.

Tribal leaders and staff also participated in our annual consultation with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Commissioner Shireen Gandhi and her staff attended in person to discuss shared Tribal and DHS priorities.

We also met with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge building to discuss negotiations and timelines for the annual co-land management funding agreement.

In addition, Tribal leaders and staff took part in a two-day action planning work session with the Blue Stone Strategy Group, sharing priorities and challenges to help guide long-term planning for White Earth Nation.

Lastly, we held our annual consultation with the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Commissioner Paul Schnell and Tribal Liaison Wendy Spry attended in person to discuss culture and language in correctional settings, Tribal supervision, and budget considerations. A key focus was the Assistant Tribal Probation Officers Program, which White Earth Nation has successfully operated for five years and is now being recognized as a model by other Tribal Nations.

Holiday Event Updates

I had the opportunity to attend several holiday events throughout the month. I joined our Elders at the White Earth Elders Christmas party held at the Shooting Star Event Center. It was wonderful to visit with Elders from both on and off the reservation. The event included entertainment, drawings, dinner, and a \$30 gaming coupon for each attendee. Due to an incoming storm, the event ended early to ensure everyone returned home safely, but it was still an enjoyable event for the elders.

I also attended the White Earth Employees Christmas Party at the Shooting Star Event Center. This event included games, entertainment, dinner, and time to visit with employees and their spouses. Everyone in attendance also received a \$30 gaming coupon, and I appreciated the opportunity to connect with staff and their families.

In addition, I attended the annual New Year's Sobriety Powwow at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex. This event continues to bring together Tribal members from across the state. I want to thank the Powwow Committee members who dedicate their time during the busy holiday season to make this event meaningful for our communities.

Looking Ahead: Reelection Announcement

As we enter 2026, I also want to share that I will be seeking re-election as Secretary-Treasurer of White Earth Nation.

Serving in this role has been an honor, and I am



proud of the work we have done together. Over the past term, I have focused on responsible financial leadership, improving transparency, and advocating for benefits that directly support our members—especially Elders, families and urban members.

This includes supporting member and elder disbursements when our finances allowed, strengthening communication and access to financial information through Tribal Council-approved processes, and ensuring White Earth Nation maintains a strong voice in state and federal consultations. I have also worked to support culturally grounded programs and initiatives that reflect our values and strengthen our sovereignty.

I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me, and I respectfully ask for your continued support so we can continue moving White Earth Nation forward together.

New Year's Message to White Earth Nation

I wish everyone a happy and safe New Year. Thank you to our membership for contributing to a successful year, and I look forward to building on that momentum in 2026. Together, we can continue to do great things for our Nation.

Miigwech,
Mike LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer
White Earth Nation

JOIN US FOR A YOUTH BAKING AND SEWING EVENT
FOR YOUTH AGES 13-17YRS
SPACE LIMITED!

Abinoojiyag jiibaakwewigamigong
YOUTH IN THE KITCHEN
Youth awareness skills presentation with lunch provided.

NEW GATE
JAN 19TH, 10AM-2:45 PM
PINE POINT COMMUNITY CENTER

Must Pre register.
Call 218-401-2990

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:
Rice Lake ENP Site	Pine Point ENP Site	• December: Holidays and Loneliness
Dec 10 th	Dec 11 th	• January: Winter Safety
Jan 21 st	Jan 22 nd	• February: Heart Health
Feb 18 th	Feb 19 th	

Contact Us: 218-401-3173

HOUSING AVAILABLE IN CITY OF MAHNOMEN

For Rent & For Sale Homes

218-847-5641
info@mmcdc.com
www.mmcdc.com

Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
Blending Capital With Innovation For Successful Community Development

NeighborWorks
CHARTERED MEMBER

MMCDC is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.

Health Motivational Therapy Sessions

January 28th, 2026 | Shooting Star Event Center

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."

News From District 2 Rep. Eugene Sommers

Boozhoo Anishinaabe,

Health and Safety Disbursement

At the November RBC meeting, a \$300 Health and Safety disbursement for Tribal members was approved. To qualify, applicants must be enrolled members of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and 18 years of age or older. Applications were accepted through Dec. 31, 2025.

RBC Christmas Party

The RBC Christmas Party was very well attended this year. Chi-Miigwech to all the employees who attended and helped coordinate the event. The White Earth Nation now employs more than 2,100 employees, and that number continues to grow.

DHS Consultation

Tribal leaders and staff met this week to address several priorities affecting health care services and reimbursement for the White Earth Nation. The discussion centered on ensuring tribal programs can continue delivering behavioral health and recovery services while remaining compliant with state and federal Medicaid requirements.

Topics included Medicaid billing compliance, credentialing and licensing rules for tribal health providers, and documentation standards for peer recovery support services. Participants also reviewed reimbursement timelines and rates for outpatient mental health services, including those provided in specialized treatment settings, as well as requirements under MinnesotaCare for submitting claims to managed care organizations.

The meeting also addressed telehealth policy, with a focus on reimbursement for audio-only services, which remain critical for serving patients in rural areas with limited broadband access. Tribal representatives emphasized the importance of clear guidance and fair reimbursement to support access to culturally appropriate, community based care.

USFWS Consultation

The White Earth Nation recently participated in



a consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. The Tribe is pursuing a larger role in managing portions of the refuge through a formal agreement with USFWS.

Using federal law that allows tribes to carry out certain governmental functions, the Nation is seeking authority and funding to help manage water resources including the protection of wild rice along with forestry, cultural, and visitor services. This effort is about strengthening Tribal stewardship, honoring cultural connections to the land, and building a long-term partnership that reflects the Tribe's historical ties to the area.

Contacts

Eugene Sommers

Email: Eugene.Sommers@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Office Phone: 218-935-6250

Christopher Vanwert Jr.

Email: Chrstopher.Vanwert@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Cell Phone: 218-850-2533

Minwaajimowinan – Good Stories Naytahwaush artists featured in Bemidji art exhibit

An exhibit entitled Minwaajimowinan – Good Stories is coming to the Watermark Art Center in Bemidji, Minn. This exhibition remembers and highlights community members who have served the Naytahwaush community for many years and recalls their stories of growing up in this small village in the heart of the White Earth Reservation.

This exhibit also showcases artists and their families with roots in Naytahwaush. Kent Estey, who is the guest curator for this exhibit, is showcasing families of artists and their artwork to the forefront. "Oftentimes, the only news we hear about our little villages on the reservation is bad news," says Estey. "We are so much more than the bad things that happen to us. Our woods are full of amazing artists who do beautiful work, and their artistry deserves to be shown in galleries and art centers. Watermark is a place where we can show our artistry," Estey added.

The first edition of this show was on display at the Gizhiigin Arts Incubator during the summer of 2024. During that show, more than 600 people attended the exhibition to learn about Naytahwaush and view the artistry of community members. "Our village is full of talented people who paint, carve, weave, bead, sew, and create music. I hope to intro-

duce you to these families of artists who have been creating all their lives," Estey added. Families featured in the show include Estey, Robinson, LaVoy, Bunker, Keahna, Burnette, Mason/Roy, and Littlewolf. More than 30 artists' work will be featured in this exhibition, showcasing basketry, beadwork, blankets, contemporary and traditional fashion, paintings, and more.

Minwaajimowinan – Good Stories will open Friday, Jan. 9 and be on display until March 28. The community is invited to stop in to see the exhibit and attend the artist reception on Feb. 14 from 3-5 p.m. Singer and songwriter Doyle Turner will share one of his new songs about Naytahwaush, and pianist Jayme Littlewolf, another Naytahwaush musician, will play during the reception.

Minwaajimowinan-Good Stories is sponsored by Paul Bunyan Communications.

Public Notice

All outdoor warning sirens will be tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. These are routine tests only —please do not be alarmed. Thank you for your cooperation!

WE Natural Resources hosting Youth Snowmobile Safety Course

White Earth Natural Resources is hosting a Youth Snowmobile Safety Riding Performance Course on Jan. 11, starting at 1 p.m. at the Mahnomen Natural Resources Office. Open to ages 11–15, with a class limit of 25 participants. All attendees must complete the online course prior at snowmobilecourse.com and bring the printed certificate to the field day. Contact Zoe Keezer at Natural Resources to register: Zoe.Keezer@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Microsoft Word Beginner Courses
2:30 - 4:30 PM

**TRIBAL BROADBAND
CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM**
Contact Victor Litzau 218-935-3059

Sign up for Free Courses

- 1/13/26 WE Congregate Housing
- 1/14/26 RBC Cafe computer lab
- 1/15/26 Naytahwaush Workforce Center
- 1/20/26 Naytahwaush Complex
- 1/21/26 Pine Point Community Center
- 1/22/26 Rice Lake Community Center

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Grooming

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 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

Warm holiday greetings to our tribal members, families and communities. I hope this message finds you in good health as we prepare to welcome a new year 2026. May the coming year bring strength and prosperity to our Nation.

12-4 I had the pleasure of joining the Iron Range Community Council at their annual Christmas celebration. We enjoyed a delicious potluck meal, drawings, guest speaker and update about proposed project.

12-5 White Earth RBC Employee Christmas Party was a blast, filled with laughter, good food, great show: Mastermind Colin Cloud (check out his facebook page). A heartfelt miigwech to the amazing staff who put so much time and care into coordinating this event. To all of our employees: Thank you for the hard work you put in each and every day for our people and our community. Your commitment strengthens our Nation and we are grateful for everything you do. And a special shout out to the team members who kept things running and continued working during the celebration, your service does not go unnoticed.

12-15 Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal leaders traveled to the White Earth Reservation to meet with White Earth leaders and staff, strengthening intertribal relations through the exchange of buffalo meat for wild rice. Leaders also discussed tribal sovereignty and additional current and future projects.

12-17 Tribal leaders and staff convened with U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel to discuss the Tamarack Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and outline the next steps in the collaborative process. The meeting fostered productive dialogue and shared commitment toward advancing our mutual goals.

12-18 & 19 Tribal leaders gathered with Blue Stone Strategy partners for a strategic planning session focused on strengthening tribal governance and progressing toward our long term goals. We are eager to review the upcoming report which will outline the actionable steps and insights gained from this collaborative effort.

12-21 I had the opportunity to attend the Callaway Community Council's Christmas event that included a visit from Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch. Families enjoyed hot cocoa, reindeer food and gifts. Miigwech to the Community Council for organizing this wonderful event and bringing joy to families in our community.

Update and Upcoming Event

On Dec. 29, the Elbow Lake Boys and Girls Club officially opened its doors. Youth interested in joining can register by completing a simple application. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Unit Lead Kaelyn Snetsinger at 218-570-9795. We look forward to welcoming young members and providing a positive space for growth and activity.



Reminder: Callaway Boys and Girls Club is now open. Youth interested in joining, can register by completing an application.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe TEC meeting is scheduled to be hosted by Leech Lake on Jan. 26-27.

Miigwech to all of our community councils and administration for their time and commitment in assisting with the Toys for Tots program. This program helps bring joy to our children and families.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our dedicated employees across various organizations including Shooting Star Casino, White Earth Housing, White Earth Business Products, and other entities. Your hard work and commitment this past year are truly appreciated and play a vital role in serving our community. We recognize and commend your efforts in making a positive difference every day.

We have received inquiries regarding the expiration date of the elder Christmas gift cards. Please note that these gift cards are valid for one year from the date of issuance.

If anyone would like to visit or discuss any concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to listen and offer support in any way we can.

Miigwech

Contact information:

Laura Lee Erickson

Office: 218-935-6238

Cell: 218-401-1153

laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Facebook: Laura Lee For District 3

Assistant for District 3

Tiffany Swiers

Office: 218-935-6235

Cell: 218-997-9124

tiffany.swiers@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Tribal offices closed for holiday

White Earth RBC offices will be **closed on Monday, Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day** and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 8 a.m.

Modified services will still be available.

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution Reform Convention Monthly Meeting

Location: Mahnomen, MN-Shooting Star Event Center

Friday, January 16, 2026 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

In-Person & Zoom is available

Zoom Meeting ID: 825 3772 6164

Zoom Passcode: whiteearth

(Teams may be available also -TBD)

Shooting Star Casino/Event Center

PO Box 418, Mahnomen, MN 56557

Telephone: 866.345.4998

Fax: 218.935.2738 (Sales)

www.starcasino.com

A Block of 10 Shooting Star Hotel Rooms are available, please call and mention:

Hotel Block ID #: BKG726

Room Rate: \$ 85.00

All MCT Members are Welcome to Attend- please join us!

Breakfast & Lunch will be Served

Event Hosted by: White Earth Constitution Reform Delegates



How does tribal child support work?

Child Support refers to payments one parent makes to their child's other parent or legal guardian to help with the costs of raising the child.

Here are the services our tribal child support program provides:

- **Find the other parent:** We can try to find the other parent to establish parentage and a support order.
- **Establish parentage:** We can help parents establish a legal relationship with their child through a quick and easy form or genetic testing.
- **Establish and enforce a support order:** We can establish an order that provides support for your child. When the other parent doesn't pay the full amount or doesn't pay at all, we can use enforcement options like withholding child support from their paycheck.
- **Review or modify the order:** We can review your order and, if appropriate, modify it based on a change in income or circumstances.

Our program also has culturally specific elements:

- **Cultural understanding:** Our program knows the community and works to help children financially, emotionally, and holistically. We can make referrals to community and culturally-based programs.
- **Hands on experience:** We're uniquely positioned to walk you through our tribal child support process and family-centered approach.

Did you know?

Our office can help parents who have cases with other tribal and state programs.

Have questions?

We're here for you! Contact us to learn more.

White Earth Nation Child Support Program

Phone: 218-983-4641

Fax: 218-983-3101

Address: PO Box 387 White Earth, MN 56591

Hours: Mon-Fri. 8:00 am – 4:30 pm



WHITE EARTH NATION FITNESS CENTERS

Mahnomen | White Earth | Naytahwaush | Rice Lake | Pine Point

 **218-401-2421 OR 218-401-3079**

Giiwedining Museum seeks oral histories 40th Anniversary of the White Earth Land Settlement Act

By Winona LaDuke

In 1986, Congress passed the White Earth Land Settlement Act. Returning 10,000 acres of land to the White Earth Anishinaabe and \$17 million in settlement funds to the White Earth Tribe. What was this for? How did this happen? Was it just?

The Giiwedining Museum will be exploring the history of land loss on the White Earth reservation, and those who fought to protect our land- from the 1800s to the 1980s. We've collected a lot of historical information and interviewed people involved with the 2415 investigation into land loss on the White Earth Reservation. We want to talk to those who remember and participated in meetings, demonstrations and the formation of Anishinaabe Akeeng, a community organization, along with groups like White Earth Heirs and Allottees Association to seek justice.

The museum will be hosting a set of community meetings to record oral histories of land loss on the White Earth reservation and the contemporary struggles of those in the 1980s and beyond who sought return of land. Those meetings will begin in January, and the museum will work with community people to prepare exhibits and materials from historic and present oral histories. We will hold meetings in White Earth village, and in Minneapolis.

How did this happen?

"... the lands so held by any Indian shall be exempt from taxation and sale for debt and shall not be alienated except with approval of the Secretary of Interior and in no case to any person not a member of the Chippewa..." Article 7 of the 1867 Treaty. That treaty was signed by President Andrew Johnson, and was the basis for many of the Anishinaabe Chiefs to move their people to the reservation, including Mezhukegiizhig, who moved to the Rice Lake area, Bad Boy (Pine Point and Tamarac Refuge area), Wadena, whose family is today largely in Naytahwaush, and of course Wabunoquod, or White Cloud who became one of the principle leaders of the Anishinaabe of White Earth.

The Problem

From an initial reservation area of 829,444 acres, in 1983 there were only 54,125 acres in tribal hands, and 1,953 under allotment on the White Earth

Reservation. The Nelson Act, Clapp Act and Steenerson Act stripped land and trees from the Anishinaabe, followed by land takings like the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and the White Earth State Forest. It was devastating for our people, and illegal. That is how the urban Anishinaabe came to be - by the 1920s, three quarters of all tribal members had moved off reservation - refugees in our own land. The museum will explore this historic record, and the impacts on our people.

Then we will talk about resistance: A 1974 Minnesota Supreme Court decision and the actions of George Aubid the heir of ZayZah, opened a door for the beginning of land recovery by the White Earth band, underscoring what would become a national investigation.

The federal 2415 investigation began on White Earth in 1979 and was intended to review the allotments and the land transactions which had resulted in the illegal transfer of lands. The investigation found that there were several ways in which land had been transferred illegally - tax forfeiture (ZayZah case), forced fee patents, minor sales, full blood sales and more. The initial investigation by the 2415 found at least 99,350 acres of land were tied up in 947 disputes. The 2415 investigation was closed before completion, but many of the researchers concluded that if the 2415 study had been completed, two or three times as much real estate could have been claimed. Interviews with John Morrin, an initial researcher for 2415 Claims, and others helped reveal the injustices.

White Earth tribal members organized to inform others about the land rights and the 2415 investigation. Tribal members formed groups like Anishinaabe Akeeng, and the White Earth Coalition of Heirs and Allottees. They held meetings, met with the tribal council, and testified at state and federal hearings. Initial legislation proposed in 1983 would have "cleared land title," in return for \$3 million. This was opposed by the community and later the tribal council. There was a bitter battle, ending in the 1986 White Earth Land Settlement Act which was passed in Congress under a suspension of the rules, and very few legislators in the room, another theft of land.

The White Earth Land Settlement Act told a story of what had happened to our people, but much of the story was omitted, and there were clear denials of due process and just compensation. This law was opposed by many allottees and their descendants, who filed two federal cases - Manypenny V. US and Little Wolf V. US seeking return of land and due process. These cases, filed in Washington, D.C., were dismissed.

In 1989, some members of Anishinaabe Akeeng formed the White Earth Land Recovery Project and were able over the course of 20 years, to secure 1,300 acres of land on which they farm, harvest maple syrup, hold ceremonies, and created a radio station - Nijii Radio (KKWE) in one of the facilities, the former Callaway Elementary School. That's the legacy and there is more.

The quest for justice on White Earth continues. We hope to have a display commemorating the 40th Anniversary of WELSA, and what it means in these times, up for the summer.

Please email winona@giiwedining.org if you've got stories to tell and want to help organize informational meetings!

White Earth Council of Elders

By Lucille M. Silk, Chairperson

White Earth Nation Council of Elders

The White Earth Nation Council of Elders has new leadership as of Dec. 1, 2025. The results were announced at the Dec. 2 meeting held at the Naytahwaush Elder Nutrition site. We hope that a smooth transition can be upheld so that we can proceed with our goals, which is to advocate for all Elders of the White Earth Nation to improve conditions and better health care for Elders. We hope to continue to work with all programs that are attempting better roadways for safe, healthy, and profitable outcomes for our Elders.

Our thanks to all the Elders that did come out to vote, and here are the results: Chairperson: Lucille (Teedo) Silk, Co-Chair: Lawrence (Sam) Crowell, and the Treasurer: Pamela Aspinwall. Unfortunately, no one applied for the Secretary nor the three District Representative positions. Since we have an elected quorum, we will proceed forward so as not to delay services to Elders. In the same manner that was conducted for the Executive Board positions, we will use Facebook, Anishinaabeg Today newspaper, Elder Nutrition sites, and more importantly by way of the 'Moccasin Telegraph.' Please consider applying for the remaining positions by contacting any one of the current board members.

The next TEC meeting is Jan. 19-20 at Northern Lights in Walker, Minn. This was the date given to us and if it is not correct, please call RBC to verify. With all the bad weather recently, we were unable to attend the TEC meeting that was held in Minneapolis.

We want to wish everyone a healthy New Year. It is important to heed all our members of the White Earth Nation to be very careful on the ice and snowy roads. The cold weather is another factor that we must consider and dress accordingly. Always check your weather resources before traveling and make sure you are prepared for any emergency.

We are once again mourning the deaths of several members from our Reservation and we must remember to pray and be supportive to their families at this time.

Thank you for the monetary gifts we have received from our Reservation Business Committee. Also, many thanks for the programs that fed us, provided shelter needs, safety, and materials to protect us during the cold winter.

Grief is like the ocean; it comes on waves ebbing and flowing. Sometimes the water is calm, and sometimes it is overwhelming. All we can do is learn to swim.

Valley View Manor

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

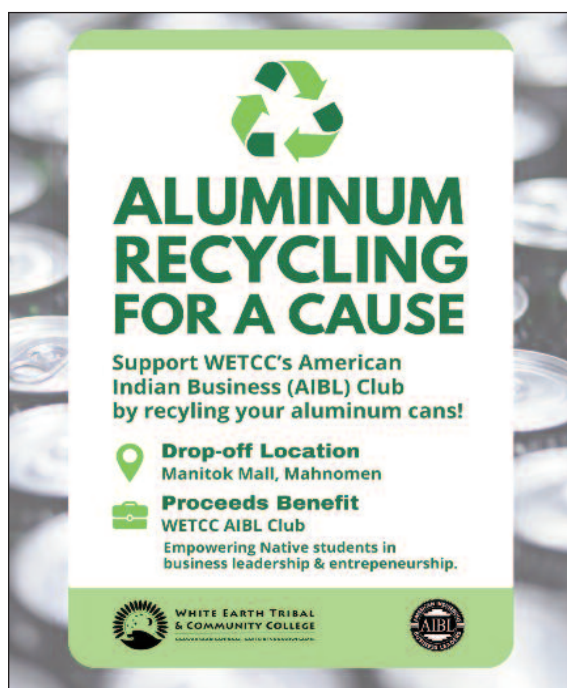
Rent is based on 30% of your adjusted monthly income calculated per HUD guidelines up to a contract rent of \$750 and includes: Water, Sewer, Garbage and Heat.

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



CREATING BETTER LIVING
Equal Housing Opportunity

TTY711



Deidra Berg

White Earth Tribal and Community College Student Spotlight

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 is on Deidra Berg.

Deidra's story is one of courage and transformation. At just 14 years old, she began using drugs—starting with meth and eventually heroin. Addiction consumed her life for years, but on Nov. 26, 2019, she made the life-changing decision to get sober. Today, Deidra celebrates six years of sobriety, a milestone that reflects her strength, determination, and commitment to building a better future.

When asked about her happiest moment, Deidra didn't hesitate: "The birth of my children. They are my reason for everything. I want them to see that anything is possible." Her children inspire her daily to keep moving forward and to show that perseverance pays off.

Getting accepted to WETCC was another turning point. Since enrolling, Deidra has accomplished things she never imagined—like traveling to Washington, D.C., speaking before state representatives, and sharing her story in a way that made a difference.

Deidra defines success by her achievements, and

the list is impressive. She will earn her Business Management Certificate this semester, has made the President's List once and the Dean's List multiple times, and has served in leadership roles, including Student Senate President, Secretary-Treasurer, and now Senator. She has also represented WETCC at AIHEC conventions, earning recognition as High Spirit Point Woman for Hand Games and helping her team secure second place in 2025.

Looking ahead, Deidra plans to decrease her credit load next term as she prepares to welcome a baby girl this spring. "I chose WETCC to learn about my cultural heritage—something I never had growing up. This college has given me that opportunity and the resources to prepare for my future." While her long-term plans are still unfolding, Deidra is grateful for the unwavering support she's received and excited for what's ahead. Her journey is a testament to resilience, community, and the power of education.



WELRP receives Arts Midwest Gig Fund Award to support Indigenous Artists at Regional Conference

The White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP) is pleased to announce it has been awarded \$10,000 through the Arts Midwest Gig Fund to support Indigenous artists participating in the 2026 Great Lakes Indigenous Farming Conference. This funding will directly honor artists for their time and knowledge while covering lodging, meals, and related costs that allow them to fully engage in the conference.

Held annually, the Great Lakes Indigenous Farming Conference brings together Indigenous farmers, knowledge keepers, artists, youth, elders, and community members from across the region. Scheduled for March 5–8, at Sugar Lake Lodge in Cohasset, Minn., the conference serves as a vital gathering space to celebrate traditional foodways, land stewardship, and cultural revitalization. Through workshops, demonstrations, and hands-on learning opportunities, participants strengthen connections between land, food, art, and Indigenous identity.

The Arts Midwest Gig Fund award will support the participation of 10 Indigenous artists who will share their talents through demonstrations, workshops, and cultural teachings. These artists represent Anishinaabe and Lakota communities from White Earth, Red Lake, and beyond, and work across disciplines including beadwork, porcupine quillwork, birchbark arts, clay, moccasin making, storytelling, painting, jewelry, traditional foods, and Indigenous plant medicines. Their presence enriches the conference experience while ensuring artists are properly compensated and supported for the cultural knowledge they carry.

"This funding allows us to honor Indigenous artists in a meaningful way," said Margaret Rousu, Executive Director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project. "Artists are culture bearers. Their teachings connect generations and remind us that food sovereignty, land stewardship, and the arts are deeply intertwined. By investing in artists, we are investing in the strength and continuity of our communities."

In addition to artist honorariums, the project budget reflects WELRP's broader commitment to accessibility and equity. Conference registration, travel support, and lodging are structured to reduce barriers for participation, particularly for artists and community members from underserved and historically marginalized communities. WELRP will also contribute matching funds to ensure the full scope of the project is supported.

Founded with the mission to recover the original land base of the White Earth Indian Reservation while preserving traditional practices of sound land stewardship, language fluency, and cultural heritage, WELRP has long centered Indigenous-led solutions and community-based knowledge. The integration of artists into the Great Lakes Indigenous Farming Conference reflects this mission by elevating creativity as an essential component of cultural resilience and community well-being.

The White Earth Land Recovery Project extends its gratitude to Arts Midwest for recognizing the importance of Indigenous artists and for supporting opportunities that honor cultural expression, intergenerational learning, and community connection across the Great Lakes region.

SAVE THE DATE!

Heart Health/ MMIWR Event

FEB.12TH | 2PM - 6PM

It's time to think about our next Health Fair!
Join us for the Heart Health/MMIW health event.

****As a quick reminder: Booths will remain up the entire time in respect to people attending the event later in the day.**

Contact us at: 218-255-2204 or email public.health@whiteearth-nsn.gov to reserve your booth.

TWO CONVENIENT WAYS TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

PODIATRY SERVICES WITH DR. UNG

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

01 CALL:
218-255-2204

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

Reminder from White Earth Natural Resources

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

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

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution Reform Convention Friday, January 16, 2026 9:00-4:00 PM Convention Location: Shooting Star Event Center Mahnomen, MN Phone : 1-866- 345-4998	
Zoom Meeting ID: 825 3772 6164 Passcode: whiteearth	
8:00-9:00	Breakfast
9:00	<div><div><div><div></div></div><div>Welcome</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>Invocation</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>Housekeeping Information</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>MCT Band Roll Call:</div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div>Activity</div></div></div> <div>BF</div> <div>FDL</div> <div>GP</div> <div>LL</div> <div>MLB</div> <div>WE</div>
9:45-10:00	Discussion – TEC Meeting (12/16/25) – Election Ordinance
10:00-10:15	TEC subcommittee discussion (Feb. 26 decision)
10:15-10:30	BREAK
10:30-11:30	Proposal on Model(s)
11:30-12:00	Handbook discussion and separate constitution update.
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00- 1:30	Super majority/consensus – voting
1:30-2:30	MCT CR Subcommittee Reports - (Education, Facilitation, Finance, TEC, Drafting) 3 recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Replace the Secretary with a Temporary Interim CouncilProcedure for removal of Temporary Interim CouncilProposed Uniform Election Procedure
2:30-2:45	BREAK
2:45-4:00	Open Discussion (community education updates/information, videos, Article XII, CR meeting schedule)
4:00	February 2026 MCT CR Convention host/location Adjourn
Event Hosted by the White Earth Constitution Reform Delegates	

Winter foot care tips for people with diabetes

1. Inspect Feet Daily
Use a mirror or ask for help to check for cuts, blisters, redness, or swelling. Cold weather can mask symptoms, so daily checks are crucial.

2. Keep Feet Warm, Not Hot
Wear thermal socks, but avoid heating pads or hot water bottles—diabetic neuropathy can reduce sensation, increasing burn risk.

3. Moisturize, But Not Between Toes
Apply lotion to prevent cracking, but skip the spaces between toes to avoid fungal infections.

4. Choose Proper Footwear
Insulated, waterproof shoes with a wide toe box help prevent pressure points and keep feet dry and warm.

5. Avoid Walking Barefoot
Even indoors, wear slippers or socks with grips to prevent injury and maintain warmth.

6. Trim Nails Carefully
Cut straight across to avoid ingrown toenails, which can become infected more easily in winter.

7. Change Wet Socks Immediately
Dampness from snow or sweat can lead to fungal infections and cold-related skin issues.

8. Exfoliate Gently
Use a pumice stone or gentle scrub to remove dead skin and prevent painful cracks.

9. Stay Active
Movement improves circulation, which is especially important in cold weather when blood flow to extremities decreases.

Hydrate and Eat Well
Good nutrition and hydration support skin health

and circulation, both vital for foot care.

Best Sock Materials for Diabetics

1. Bamboo Fiber
• Naturally antimicrobial and moisture-wicking
• Soft/breathable, reducing friction and irritation

2. Merino Wool
• Excellent at regulating temperature
• Wicks moisture away while keeping feet warm in winter

3. Acrylic Blends
• Durable and moisture-wicking
• Often blended with other fibers for added softness and stretch

4. Cotton (with caution)
• Only if blended with moisture-wicking fibers
• Pure cotton retains moisture, which can increase infection risk

5. Spandex or Elastane (in small amounts)
• Provides gentle stretch without constriction
• Helps socks stay in place without tight bands

Key Features to Look For

Seamless toes – Prevents rubbing and blisters
Non-binding tops – Avoids restricting circulation
Padded soles – Adds cushioning and reduces pressure
Moisture-wicking – Keeps feet dry to prevent fungal infections
Antimicrobial properties – Helps reduce odor and infection risk

Submitted by:
White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health

YOUTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SERVICES

If you are in need of youth Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Services such as Comprehensive Assessments or Youth Wellness Court, please call The Circle Back Center, our main office is at 218-401-3973 Monday through Friday and talk with our Intake Coordinator to get an appointment or referral.

Circle Back Center & Youth Healing to Wellness Court,

Dually Involved Youth Services

33991 Victory Way Dr.

Ogema, MN 56569

Mino Oshki-Biboon in Naytahwaush!

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Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ⬆️, ⬇️, ➡️, ⬅️, and ↘️.

ANISHINABE

BABEACH

CHARTER

COMPLEX

CORNER

DEBWEWIN

DRUMHALL

FIREHALL

FORESTRY

GIWANIKIMIN

GWAYAKWAADIZIWIN

HEADSTART

HORSESHOE

MAADAADIZI

NAYTAHWAUSH

NIBWAAKAAWIN

OODENA

OSHKAABEWIS

PROJECTS

SANDPITS

VALLEY

VILLAGE

ZAAGIIDWIN

ZOONGIDEWIN

New Year's Sobriety Powwow features moccasin games



Photo by Brent Murray

Moccasin games were featured at the New Year's Sobriety Powwow at the Naytahwaush Complex. The event was hosted and sponsored by Brent Murray. There were three teams that participated - a team from White Earth, a team from Red Lake, and a team from East Lake. The games were long and brutal with East Lake (ezigaag) and Red Lake ending up in final match with Red Lake winning the game! A prize of \$500 was awarded, winner take all!



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

WHITE EARTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Directory

Main Phone Number: 218-935-6320

Option 1:
White Earth
Substance
Abuse

Press 1 for White Earth
Press 2 for Naytahwaush
Press 3 for Mahnomen
Press 4 for Pine Point
Press 5 for Rice Lake
Press 6 for Urban SUD

Option 6:
First Thunder
Being House

Press 1 for Circle Back Center
Press 2 for Juvenile Healing to
Wellness

Option 2:
White Earth
Mental Health

Press 1 for WEMH Crisis Line
or 218-850-4357 (HELP)
or 1-877-380-3621
Press 2 WEMH Clinic in White Earth
or 218-935-3879
Press 3 for WEMH Clinic in NTW

Option 7:
Men's Acute
Care

or 218-935-6315

Option 3:
Access to
Recovery/Civil
Commitments

Press 1 for Civil Commitments
or 218-935-3713
or 218-401-6956
Press 2 for Access to Recovery
or 218-935-3720
or 218-935-3913

Option 8:
Oshki Manidoo
Center (OMC)

or 218-751-6553

Option 4:
MOMS
Program

Naytahwaush
or 218-935-3041

Option 9:
Urban

or 612-872-8208

Option 5:
MATS
Program

Press 1 for Naytahwaush MAT
Press 2 for White Earth MAT

Option *
Healing Bridge
Program

Press 1 for Melanie Anderson
Press 2 for Rachel Rogers

Option #

WEBH Culture Team

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 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



Submitted photo

Lisa Braun with Paul's Passion teamed up with Tim Rindahl at the White Earth Food Shelf, and together delivered a donation of 2,000 pounds of Swheat Scoop litter to be shared across nine reservation communities. Families most in need now have one less worry when caring for their pets.

An unexpected gift

Swheat Scoop donation helps reservation cats

By Lisa Braun
Paul's Passion

Sometimes the most meaningful support arrives when you least expect it. Paul's Passion recently received a surprise donation of cat litter from Swheat Scoop, thanks to Rob—who remembered our rescue and reached out. His thoughtfulness set into motion a chain of collaboration that will benefit families and pets across the White Earth Reservation.



As soon as we learned of the donation, our team sprang into action. We scheduled pick-up and began brainstorming how best to distribute such a gift. By chance, we crossed paths with Tim Rindahl, who runs the White Earth Food Shelf, and the idea to join forces quickly took shape. Together, we realized that this donation could reach far beyond our immediate circle.

Paul's Passion picked up and delivered over 2,000 pounds of Swheat Scoop kitty litter to the food shelf. From there, the litter will be distributed across nine communities on the reservation, ensuring that households most in need will be getting access. For many families, caring for their pets is a source of comfort and companionship, and this donation helps ease the burden of providing for them.

This collaboration is a reminder of what's possible when community organizations work hand-in-hand. A simple act of kindness, being thought of...turned into a wide-reaching effort that will support both people and pets across the reservation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Swheat Scoop, to Rob for hooking us up, and to Tim and the White Earth Food Shelf for their partnership. Together, we've shown that compassion multiplies when shared.

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: pamroseasp@hotmail.com
Dan P. 218.401.0585
Email: drgain@arvig.net

Website: www.wildriceroundup.com

Pre-Registration fee:	\$45.00
Banquet fee:	\$15.00
	\$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.

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

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

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, Mahanomen, MN 56557
Your cancelled check is your receipt.

NEWE Community Council toy giveaway



Submitted photo

The Northeast White Earth Community Council held their Toy Giveaway on Dec. 18 at the White Earth Family Office in Cass Lake, Minn. In addition to the toys, community members were treated to popcorn and coffee.

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.



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.tibbetsiii@whiteearth-nsn.gov

White Earth Food Shelf January 2026 Delivery Schedule				
5	6	7	8	9
	Callaway	Rice Lake	NTW	
Closed	10am-12pm	10am-12pm	10am-12pm	Closed
	Nijji Radio	ENP Site	Sports Complex	
12	13	14	15	16
	Elbow Lake	Pine Point		
Closed	10am-12pm	10am-12pm	Closed	Closed
	ENP Site	ENP Site		
19	20	21	22	23
Closed	White Earth	Ogema		
Martin Luther	10am-12pm	10am-12pm	Closed	Closed
King Day	ENP Site	M&W Gas Station		
Closed				
26	27	28	29	30
	Waubun	Mahnomen	Mahnomen	
Closed	10am-12pm	10am-12pm	10am	Closed
	Community Center	College parking lot	Homeless	
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				
White Earth Food Shelf Hours 6am-3pm Monday-Friday				
Times have changed to 10am-12noon for January and February Due to cold weather Thank you!				

White Earth

INVESTMENT INITIATIVE



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!

Retiring Dan Gunderson on decades covering Native American tribes in northwest Minnesota

Minnesota Public Radio / Minnesota Now
With Nina Moini, Leah Lemm and Dan Gunderson

MPR News reporter Dan Gunderson recently retired. He spent decades reporting Native American stories in the Fargo-Moorhead region.

Dan has highlighted many community members from the White Earth Nation, including artists, tribal leaders and those working on land return efforts. He was at Standing Rock, reporting from the camp during the 2016 pipeline standoff in North Dakota. He also covered many other stories including boarding school history, wild rice harvests and cultural reclamation.

Native News editor Leah Lemm spoke with Dan Gunderson about his reporting on tribal nations as a non-Native journalist.

Audio transcript

NINA MOINI: Well, reporter Dan Gunderson retires this week. He spent decades reporting Native American stories in the Fargo-Moorhead region. Dan has highlighted many community members from the White Earth Nation, including artists, tribal leaders, and those working on land return efforts. He was at Standing Rock, reporting from the camp during the 2016 pipeline standoff in North Dakota. And he covered many other stories, including boarding school history, wild rice harvests, and cultural reclamation, including this story about traditional ways of Ojibwe people in Minnesota.

Native News editor Leah Lemm spoke with Dan Gunderson about his reporting on tribal nations as a non-Native journalist. He reflects on the necessary and long-term work of building trust.

LEAH LEMM: Can you tell me a bit about the start of your career and how you got into chatting with Native people?

DAN GUNDERSON: I was looking around my geographic area that I cover, and I have the largest reservation in the state in my area. And I'm thinking, nobody's covering this. So that was really the start of it, was just thinking, these are voices that are not being heard. My job is to get out there and try to give them an opportunity to be heard.

LEAH LEMM: So you started in 1987. When was that realization of that need to expand over to White Earth?

DAN GUNDERSON: I would say probably around 1990 is when I started doing more of that. And I mean, I have to say, it took several years. There was a lot of going there and being frustrated, and finding people didn't trust outsiders and didn't want to talk to me. And there were many times I went to White Earth and came back without a story. But eventually I



Photo by Evan Frost | MPR News file

MPR reporter Dan Gunderson.

earned some trust, enough to get people to talk to me.

LEAH LEMM: Can you tell me a bit about leadership, like MPR leadership at that time, and how supportive they were of your going out to White Earth and not coming back with a story? How supportive were they?

DAN GUNDERSON: Well, initially, when I told my editor I wanted to start doing stories in Indian Country, my editor said, well, if anyone's going to do it, it'll be you, so go for it. And there was an understanding that those stories would take longer and be more challenging. And there was occasionally push-back, like, that's taking a long time to get that story, kind of thing. But no one ever said, stop doing it.

LEAH LEMM: How did you do it?

DAN GUNDERSON: I'm a persistent person. [LAUGHS] Not easily deterred. And so I just kept going back until I began to make some inroads with people, and the more people-- I think a couple of people, really, in a sense, almost took me under their wing and thought, maybe this guy's OK. George Fairbanks was one. And he was influential in the White Earth community.

And then Andy Favorite was, at the time, the tribal historian, and I would go sit in Andy's office and he would lecture me for hours. And he educated me a lot. He taught me a lot of history. Of course, I grew up and went to school in Minnesota. I didn't learn the real history, right? So I had to learn all of that in order to understand, and be able to ask the right questions and have the right perspective.

LEAH LEMM: What did you find worked for you to make a connection, and be able to do effective reporting in Indian Country and particularly White

See Gunderson Page 18

Ice safety is important this time of year

What should you do if you fall through the ice? First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps and be prepared.

1. Don't remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.
2. Turn toward the direction you came. That's probably the strongest ice.
3. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.
4. Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to

work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.

5. Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.
6. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and re-warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!

GED Testing Appointments Available in White Earth!

Tuesday January 6	Naytahwaush	9:00-3:00
Wednesday January 7	Naytahwaush	9:00-3:00
Monday January 12	Mahnomen	9:00-3:00
Monday January 26	Mahnomen	9:00-3:00
Tuesday February 3	Naytahwaush	9:00-3:00
Wednesday February 4	Naytahwaush	9:00-3:00
Monday February 9	Mahnomen	9:00-3:00
Monday February 23	Mahnomen	9:00-3:00
Tuesday March 3	Naytahwaush	9:00-3:00
Wednesday March 4	Naytahwaush	9:00-3:00
Monday March 9	Mahnomen	9:00-3:00
Monday March 23	Mahnomen	9:00-3:00


Testing dates can be scheduled in other communities as needed.

Appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. Testers should be enrolled in White Earth Adult Education or a partner program and have a GED Ready score of 150+ in the subject area.

Contact White Earth Adult Basic Education
Melissa.Widner@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Charles.Littlewolf@whiteearth-nsn.gov
(218) 935-3576
(218) 570-9431



TESTING SERVICE®



"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



Your Village & our families appreciate all the many volunteers, businesses, organizations, schools, tribal programs, & non-profits who partnered with us in 2025 to bring so many amazing activities & events to our members!

Chi-Miigwech from the Naytahwaush Community Council.

Brian Clark, Rock Keezer Jr, Fran Brown,
Sheri Snetsinger, Dustin "Duddy" Keezer & Melissa Brown

"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." - Mr. Rogers





Ojibwemodaa.2!

Lets all speak Ojibwe! Aaniin, Boozhoo.; Greetings. Ojibwemowin involves 4 communication skills; speaking, listening, reading and writing. This is the Double Vowel writing system. Refer to The Concise Dictionary of MN Ojibwe, by John Nichols & Earl Nyholm. Respectfully ask an elder, family and friends to speak Ojibwe within your circle.

Abinoojiwin•Infancy Bilingual: To speak two languages-Give their gift of Ojibwemowin. Speak daily to our Nation's youngest. Birth to age five best promotes bilingualism! Pronounce by syllables: Boo zhoo! Aa niin e zhi -a yaa yan. - Greetings!-How are you? Gimino-ayaa na?-You're well? Gaye niin-Also me.

•Use a consonant with a Vowel sound to speak in "syllables": O ji bwe.

•"Animosh ina? Animoons. Gaazhagens." ("Dog? Puppy. Cat.")

•"Makwa dash makoons. Nibaawag." ("Bear and cub. They are sleeping.")

•"Bizhiki dash bebezhighooganzhii." ("Cow and Horse.")

•"Ajidamoo. Misajidamoo." ("Red squirrel. Grey squirrel.")

Speak the syllables:
Consonant + vowel

Root: S/he howls. -Waa woo no.

I howl. - Ni waa woon.

You howl. - Gi waa woon.

Root: S/he sleeps. - Ni baa.

I sleep. - Ni ni baa.

You sleep. - Gi ni baa.

Giin nitam!- Your turn!

~~~~~

### Bezhigh - 1

Zhingwaak - Pine,  
White Pine (MN)

Niizho-zhingwaakwag  
2-white pines

### Megwayaak-

In the woods

Noopiming-In the  
bush, inland

Akoozi.-S/he is so  
tall/certain height.

Akooziwag.-They  
are a certain height.

Gagaanwaakoziwag.

They are long/tall.

Note plural endings

They: -wag or -oog.



Find the ten(10)underlined Ojibwe words in the wordfind.

## Oshki-nitaawigiwin•Young Adult•Teen

**Howah!**-*Alright!* Root "VII"-verb/nonliving/doesn't take a noun. •**Biboon**.-**"It is..."** winter. •**Gigii-gikinawaab ina?**- You did-learn English? •**Yes!**-Eya! •**Noongom nanda-gikendaan**.- Now seek-to learn Ojibwemowin. •**Giwii-ojibwem ina noongom?** - You'll-speak ojibwe language ? now?

Ojibwemowin/Anishinaabemowin  
are names for the same language.

Bwaanimowin (Dakota language) gemaa

Omashkiigoomowin (Cree language).

Dakota and Cree speakers help youth  
reclaim their languages, too!

\*\*\*Goal: Learn a phrase a day\*\*\*  
Listen/Speak/Write-Dictionary online.  
Niwii-ojibwem.-I will speak Ojibwe.  
Howah! - Alright! Wow!

### Double Vowel Sounds!

Specific to Ojibwe!

\***Longer voiced vowels:**

AA (baa), II (teen),

OO (moo), E (cafe)

\***Shorter voiced vowels**

A (about), I (tin), O (only)

A glottal stop \* is a  
voiceless nasal hesitation  
as the dash in: oh-oh

I G I N J  
O A Y W O B  
W A N A M E I  
A Z ' A S N D Z  
A H S W I I H A H  
O A A O M N A O S I  
I G W O Y I J I W H K  
S E I N Z B S E ' A A I  
E N D O G A D M N ' H W  
M S O H W A G I B K Y E  
Z K A N I M O O N S A C  
A J I D A M O O B A M G

## Nitaawigiwin

### • Grownup

**Aaniin, Boozhoo-Greetings**

>>>>=====>>>>>

**Action VTI's Root Commands**

**Present tense is now, at this time.**

**Wii- future tense (will, want)**

**Gii- past tense (did)**

•**VTI is a Verb, Transitive,**

Inanimate/Non-living items.

•**Add NI-Noun Inanimate(s):**

**Makak**(oon) - Basket(s)

**Giigidowin**(an) - Phone(s)

**Webaa'agonaan**(an)-

Shovel(s)

**Abaajitoon!** - Use it!

**Mikan!** - Find it! (Add NI)

**Minwendan!**- Like it. (+NI)

**Nindabaajitoon**.-I use it...

**Nimikaan**(an).-I find it(them)

**Niminwendaan!**-I like it...

**Gidabaajitoon**.-**You** use it...

**Gigii-mikaan**.You **did**-find it.

**Giminwendaan**-You like it.

**Ningii-mikaan makak**.-

I did-find it a basket.

See the grammar patterns!

Minawaa. (Again, review. :-)

**Biboon. Ikidowinan**.- **It is winter. Words.**

I will seek to learn. - Niwii-nanda-gikendaan.

See the correct sounds for the Double Vowels.

**O ji bwe mo win**.-Ojibwe Language syllables

Speak to somebody: **Ojibwemon!** Speak Ojibwe!

Write in Ojibwe: Anishinaabewibii'igan!

**A ni shi naa be wi bii 'i gan!**

Word(s): Ikidowin(an).- Pluralize

**Short vowels are spoken quickly.** (a, i, o)

**Long vowels voiced longer.** (aa, ii, oo, e)

Glottal stop: a hesitation as in oh-oh.

Waa ba moo ji chaa gwaan -Mirror

Waabamoojichaagwaan

Practice: **O ji bwe mo win**

**Gi ga-waa ba min.** -

**I shall-see you.**

**Miigwech zhimaaganishag idash**

**zhimaaganishii-ogimaag.**

**Thank you military soldiers and officers.**

### •WE Resources

<https://www.whiteearth.com/community>

•Search/Listen: Ojibwe People's Dictionary

<https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu>

•Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Comm.

<https://www.glifwc.org/>

## Gichi-aya'aa•Elder

*Aaniin ezhinikaazod wa'aw giizis?* What/how is  
s/he called this moon/month? Gichi-Manidoo-  
giizis wa'aw giizis.. -S/he's called "Great Spirit  
Moon *this moon (Jan.)*. •Ask elders respectfully

if they may need things. Perhaps offer up your  
time. Elders have profound life knowledge,  
stories, & language tradition. •Ojibwemowin!

Daga ambe omaa. Bizhindaw! Ozhibii'an!

Wiidanokiim! Babaamose! Wiidooam!

Giwii-asiginigaaz! Ojibwe Language.

\*Ojibwe language! Please come here.

Listen to him/her. Write it down!

Work together! Walk with h/h!

Eat with him/her! -You will

gather it up!

Ojibwemowin!

.....

3. Gidayaana ina ? \_\_\_\_\_ jiibaakwewigamigong?  
You have it ? **a basket** in the cooking room/kitchen?

4. Nindayaan omaa, mangaanibaajigan. \_\_\_\_\_, gaye.  
I have it here, a shovel. **I use it**, too.

5. Ojibwemodaa! \_\_\_\_\_ also. Ojibwemodaa!  
Let's all speak Ojibwe! Speak to somebody gaye! Let's all speak Ojibwe!

**Ojibwemodaa! - Let's all speak Ojibwe!** January©2026 Shelly Ceglar

## Ojibwemon!

**gidozhibii'aan**

**Daga**

**makak**

**Nindabaajitoon**

1. \_\_\_\_\_, noongom ojibwemon!  
**Please**, today/now speak Ojibwe!

2. Ojibwemowin, \_\_\_\_\_ gaye!  
Ojibwe Language, **you write it** also!

Ojibwemowin/Anishinaabemowin is an "indigenous language"; meaning it is native to a region, is spoken by the region's original groups and has minority language status. "Dialect" is region-specific unique speech patterns or word use within the same language. "Orthography" is a standardized way of writing the language. The Double Vowel orthography is commonly used in teaching Ojibwe in MN & WI circles.

MIIGWECH! Share your Ojibwemowin successes, knowledge, resources, how you learn, and help others!





MAHNOMEN + BAGLEY  
STARCASINO.COM + 800.453.STAR



**CHANCE TO WIN A  
NEW SUV + \$10,000!**

*Sundays in January*

New year. New SUV! Earn entries now and be here every Sunday, then get ready for the January 25 grand prize.

### CONCERTS

Phil Vassar | Jan 10  
Craig Morgan | Jan 30  
Great White | Feb 6  
Joe Nichols | Feb 20  
Hinder | Mar 6  
BlackHawk | Mar 20



Proudly owned and successfully operated by the White Earth Nation.  
©2026 White Earth Reservation



## Home Stretch Homebuyer Education Class

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

January 21  
February 18  
March 11  
April 8  
May 20

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

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

## 10th Annual: White Earth Tribal 4-H Cultural Winter Camp

Family Event! Everyone Welcome!  
January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
10:00am-3:00pm each day

White Earth Rediscovery Center, 29401 400<sup>th</sup> St, Waubun, MN  
On the Point of White Earth Lake

*Celebrate Learning and Growing through  
Traditional Anishinaabeg Values*



Bring your families for an introduction to 4-H Youth & Family Winter Activities: fishing, traditional arts and/or crafts (all ages), language, storytelling, games, food, and winter fun. Dress for the weather! Youth, please bring your parent or guardians (No youth drop off please). **This event is a collaboration between the White Earth Tribal 4-H Program, White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health, and White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) Community Extension.**

The University of Minnesota Extension, Office of Youth Development, offers 4-H Community Programming serving the communities of the White Earth Nation. 4-H provides youth opportunities to learn, explore, and grow through leadership.

For questions on this event, please contact: Dana Trickey at 218-289-1193, [trickey0014@umn.edu](mailto:trickey0014@umn.edu)



White Earth Tribal 4-H Community & Youth Program  
[www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h)

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# Highlights of the New Year's Sobriety Powwow



Photos by Gary W. Padrta

More than 230 dancers and 13 drums gathered for the New Year's Sobriety Powwow Dec. 31-Jan.1 at the Naytahwaush Complex. The event featured a Moccasin Tournament and many specials. The new Sobriety Powwow royalty are Ayden Zornes (Brave) and Gabriella Lague (Princess).







6th Annual  
WHITE EARTH NATION  
ICE FISH'N DERBY

UPDATED LOCATION:  
**North Twin, MN**

Saturday, February 7th 2026

Tournament 11 AM – 3 PM

Admission Open 8 AM – 12 PM

**RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON ICE!**

**ADMISSION**  
ADULT: \$10  
KIDS 17 & UNDER: FREE

**FIRST 500 KIDS WILL  
RECEIVE \$10 CASH FOR  
THEIR FIRST FISH ENTERED**

**ADULT & YOUTH  
ADMISSION PRIZES!!**

Land These Top  
Raffle Prizes:

- Garmin Livescope
- 4-Day / 3-Night Stay at  
Ballard's Resort on  
Lake of The Woods

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**Enrolled White Earth  
members** must follow tribal  
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ACCIDENTS**

.....



Photo by Shannon Eck

## Elder shares his recovery journey

By Sherald Hanks

My drinking problem was intense from the start, blackouts were normal, without a blackout I was not successful. I worked at committing suicide via the bottle. After 10 years of failure, I tried sober life.

I went from attempted suicide to attempted life! I had an epiphany, an answer to my nightmares, my lost loved one were with me - not lost. I started working with others that needed a direction, within my first year of sobriety. Working in a program structured toward sobriety certainly helped and those that I helped. I

worked 40 years in recovery programs, spoke at countless events, and traveled countless miles to speak or council those in need. This is and extremely short article about by journey of enlightenment and recovery but I will tell in more detail if asked, so ask...

I am extremely proud of my sobriety, which I never thought would happen. I will be more than happy to share my journey and accomplishments in my recovery. Recovery is possible, I can and will attest to that. I am currently celebrating my 50+ years of sobriety, a day at a time. Thank you for your time, feel free to talk to me.

## It was a full house at the annual White Earth Elder’s Christmas Party



The White Earth Elder’s Christmas Party was held Dec. 9 at the Shooting Star Casino. Almost 450 Elders and caregivers enjoyed a meal, socialization, door prizes, and an Ugly Sweater Contest. The annual event was hosted by the White Earth Elderly Nutrition Program.

Photos by Gary W. Padrta





## Gunderson from Page 13

Earth?

DAN GUNDERSON: I think the things I learned reporting in Indian Country that made me a better journalist was humility, learning to listen, and learning to go into a situation with the intention of earning the respect of the people that I was going to be talking to. I remember one of the first times I went there and came back without a story, George Fairbanks, he said to me, white people come here for two reasons. They come to take something or to fix us. So why are you here?

And I thought about that for days after that. So that was an influence on me thinking about, yeah, here's the perspective that the people I'm talking to have of me, right? I need to overcome that. He's also a person who said to me, you should come here when there's a good story to tell.

LEAH LEMM: Mm-hmm. Did you figure out your purpose, why you were approaching them, why you were approaching folks from White Earth?

DAN GUNDERSON: Well, just because I felt like their voices should be heard. People sometimes said to me-- in those earlier days, we'd sit down to do an interview, and they'd be like, why is a white guy here doing this? And I would say, well, who's telling your story? Do you think it's important for your story to be heard? And they would usually say, yeah, I think it is. So here's an opportunity for you to tell your story.

I guess it was pretty simple for me. I didn't have any real agenda or anything. It was just like, these are voices in my coverage area that are not being heard, so it's my job to go in and try to tell their stories.

LEAH LEMM: Well, you talked about listening, demonstrating that you're listening, and gaining trust. How do you go about demonstrating good listening and gaining trust?

DAN GUNDERSON: Sure, I think so. It was partly learning communication styles. Andy Favorite taught me a lot about that. I had said something to him about-- because someone had blown me off for an interview or something and I was complaining about it, probably. And he said, if you want people to talk, you have to learn to listen. And I said, well, of course I listen. I'm a journalist, right? He said, no, you're listening to ask your next question. You have to listen to understand.

And he said, Native people aren't communicating the same way people you're used to talking to are,

right? It might be a circular conversation, but it comes back to the main point. But they want you to know the history and the background, and you've got to listen. So that was also pretty influential for me, because I realized he was right. Like a lot of journalists, I was thinking about my next question as I'm listening.

And so I learned to listen with an open mind. There's the saying, come with a good heart, and that's a nonjudgmental, open approach to listening. So I think that's something I learned. I also learned to be patient. Like, I can remember going and sitting under a tree in the shade and just waiting for someone to decide they were ready to talk to me.

LEAH LEMM: I was going to ask, then, if there's a way that your reporting at White Earth or other tribal nations has affected you personally beyond your work.

DAN GUNDERSON: Yeah, I think so. I mean, I think it's made me more aware of humility, and the value that has as a person. I think it's made me, in general, more patient, and probably more respectful in general too of people. Like always thinking of other people's perspective, that everybody has a perspective.

LEAH LEMM: Any other reflections?

DAN GUNDERSON: When I think about all the people who trusted me with their stories-- and some of them were really, really painful stories for people to tell-- and having someone trust you and believe that you will respect that story, because it's not my story. It's their story. I'm just the person who's sharing it with a wider audience. I just would say I just feel really honored to have been accepted in a culture that I didn't know anything about or understand.

LEAH LEMM: Well, what would you say to the next Moorhead reporter?

DAN GUNDERSON: The things I would say to any young reporter goes back to the fundamentals of listening and being respectful, and doing your homework, and just making sure you do the best work possible. That's how you earn respect, I think, is by always doing your best work. And even if you make a mistake, well, it will happen, right? You will make mistakes. This is a fast-moving business. But if people understand that you're giving it your best shot every time, they're going to, I think, respect that effort.

NINA MOINI: That's reporter Dan Gunderson talking with Native News editor Leah Lemm. Dan is retiring after 38 years with MPR News.



Courtesy of Minnesota DNR

These recommendations are based on average equipment weight and assume solid, clear ice. You are responsible for knowing the weight of your vehicle, equipment, and bodies. Temperature, snow cover, currents, springs and rough fish all affect the relative safety of ice. Ice is seldom the same thickness over a single body of water; it can be two feet thick in one place and one inch thick a few yards away. Before traveling on ice let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return, evaluate ice conditions and possible hazards, know your plan of escape and have your safety gear accessible, and measure ice thickness.

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**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)

You can reach the **Anishinaabeg Today**  
at 218-935-3569 or email  
[today@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:today@whiteearth-nsn.gov)



# White Earth Constitution Reform Delegate Report – January 2026

Boozhoo, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT)-White Earth Members,

The White Earth Constitution Reform Delegate Group continues to share and update all Tribal Members with fact-based information. We do not share personal or political opinions; this is reserved for each tribal member to make.

The topic of January is the development of the “Transition” from the current Constitution to revise and/or new constitution.

Within the MCT-Constitution Reform Group, a sub-committee titled Drafting Committee has produced a copy of a “Temporary Interim Council”.

## **DRAFT\*\* TEMPORARY INTERIM COUNCIL \*\*DRAFT**

(To replace the role of the Secretary of the Interior in Article XII)

The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) shall authorize the Interim Council to oversee the constitutional amendments and tribal election processes.

When providing oversight and acting as a liaison (partnership), consider the impact of TEC amendments to the constitution on fiscal responsibility, the preservation of traditions and culture, sustainability, the rights of citizens, social justice, and the rights of nature. Consult constituents before making decisions or offering suggestions related to amendments to the constitution.

The **TEMPORARY Interim Council** Representative shall understand, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.
2. The roles and responsibilities of the Temporary Interim Council.
3. The roles and responsibilities of the TEC and the Reservation Business Committee (RBC)
4. Ordinances and Resolutions, Interpretations
5. Universal Tribal Election Ordinance

### **PURPOSE:**

The Temporary Interim Council shall exercise an oversight and liaison role.

1. To bridge the gap between the TEC and the people.
2. To create a stable and effective intermediary between the TEC and the community, ensuring that concerns and information flow in both directions.
3. To focus on oversight roles, the constitution, and citizen engagement.

### **SECTION 1. COMPOSITION**

1. The Temporary Interim Council shall comprise three (3) representatives from each Nation and one alternate.
2. Each band shall determine the manner of how to select its three (3) representatives and alternates. (appointment, volunteer, elections).
3. Upon the removal of a Temporary Interim Council representative, the alternate will fill the position.

### **SECTION 2. THE OVERALL FUNCTION OF THE INTERIM COUNCIL**

1. To oversee amendments and Tribal elections.
  - (a) To report to the respective Nation about proposed TEC amendments, resolutions, and ordinances and elections.
  - (b) To ensure that citizens are formally informed of proposed amendments to the constitution, related resolutions and ordinances, and the proposed Uniform Tribal Elections through
    1. Amendments to the Constitution, related resolutions, and ordinances are posted publicly (Newspapers, websites, Facebook, etc.).
    2. The written and posted notices that indicate the citizens are given a specific period to submit comments (i.e., two weeks).

3. The document is amended and opened up for review again before it is finalized.

2. When deemed necessary, research and educate citizens on select topics.

- (a) Assist with transparency and citizen inquiries.
- (b) Be given access to relevant documents, via subpoena-like power.

### **SECTION 3. THE TERM OF THIS LIMITED-TERM POSITION.**

The Temporary Interim Council shall serve during the interim period from when the Secretary of the Interior is removed from Article XII AMENDMENT until after the Universal Tribal Election on the New Governing Structure is certified/approved.

### **SECTION 4 REMOVAL FROM POSITION**

1. Any Temporary Interim Council is subject to Removal if they are

- (a) Unable to fulfill role due to mental or physical illness
- (b) Failure to conduct Roles and Responsibilities
- (c) Noncompliance with the Code of Conduct, Ethics, and Conflict of Interest
- (d) Unable to complete their term and make a personal decision to leave their position voluntarily.

2. Grounds and procedures for Removal or recall are outlined in the REMOVAL AND VACANCIES PROCEDURES.

### **SECTION 5. COMPENSATION**

The Temporary Interim Council representatives shall be given reasonable compensation for their position. Where the money comes from is TBD.

### **SECTION 6. MEETINGS**

To facilitate meetings, the Temporary Interim Council shall select a Spokesperson, a Co-spokesperson, and a secretary. The Spokesperson shall preside over meetings of the Interim Council. The Co-spokesperson shall preside over meetings in the Spokesperson's absence. The Secretary shall take minutes and record votes. The Secretary shall transmit the minutes to their respective Nation.

### **SECTION 7. SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

1. The Temporary Interim Council shall hold quarterly meetings.
2. The meetings shall be informational and responsive to citizens' questions and concerns.

### **SECTION 8. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

1. The Temporary Interim Council may call for Special Meetings
2. The meetings shall be informational and responsive to citizens' questions and concerns.

### **SECTION 9. OPEN MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Temporary Interim Council shall be open to citizens.

### **Role of the Temporary Interim Council**

### **OVERSIGHT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND THE RELATED RESOLUTION, AND ORDINANCES PROPOSED BY THE TEC**

1. Communicate information between the TEC and their respective Nation.
2. Maintaining a thorough knowledge of the activities of the TEC and their impact on the Nations.
3. Provide regular reports to their respective Nation.
4. To inform their respective Nation about proposed amendments to the constitution, resolutions, and ordinances.
5. Attend TEC meetings, TEC sub-committees, and RBC meetings.
  - (a) Quarterly and special TEC meetings
  - (b) Subcommittee meetings

1. Administrative
2. Education
3. Finance, if not closed
4. Human Services

### **Elections**

1. Monitor and educate the citizens, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) The eligible voters' list
- (b) The registered voter list
- (c) The youths who are turning age 18 within 120 days of the elections
- (d) All time limits
- (e) Activity at the polling sites
- (f) What documents go into the voting packet
- (g) Date by which the citizens can submit challenges to the election process
- (h) Counting of the ballots

### **Open Transparent Meetings**

### **Responsibilities of the Spokesperson, Co-Spokesperson, and Secretary of the Interim Council (Selected by the tribal representatives of the Temporary Interim Council)**

1. SPOKESPERSON
  - (a) Preparing for the meeting:
    1. Prepare an agenda.
    2. Post the agenda for the meeting.
    3. Send a reminder to all attendees before the meeting, if necessary.
    4. Arrange a meeting room and prepare it accordingly.
    5. Schedule a Zoom meeting and post the details.
    6. Ensure presentations, electronics, and other devices are set up and tested beforehand.
    7. Prepare any food or drinks needed for the meeting.
    8. At the start of the meeting, explain the ground rules to make attendees aware of expectations.
    9. The meeting will start on time.
    10. Participants must treat one another with respect.
  - (b) During the meeting, review the meeting structure and rules, follow the agenda, maintain order, and ensure everyone is involved. Those who wish to speak will be allowed to do so within a 15-20 minute time limit. If the meeting goes off-topic, it is the Spokesperson's responsibility to guide the conversation back to the agenda and stick within the time constraints of the meeting.
  - (c) It is the Spokesperson's responsibility to pull together the points discussed and reach a decision. If there are different points of view, summarize each. Before moving to the following agenda item, the Spokesperson should clarify and confirm the conclusions.
  - (d) The Spokesperson may delegate any of the above duties to the Co-spokesperson.

### **2. Co-Spokesperson**

- (a) Assist the Spokesperson with preparing for a meeting, and assume any responsibilities the Spokesperson delegates, and ensure that the meetings run smoothly.
- (b) Be attentive to the Chat and “raised hands” if there is a Zoom meeting.
- (c) Maintain order during the meeting.

### **3. SECRETARY**

- (a) Take the minutes of the meeting.
- (b) Record the participants' discussion and any decisions reached.
- (c) Record any actions needed for the next meeting and who will be responsible for completing the activity.
- (d) Attached to the minutes are any documents discussed or presented during the meeting.

**See Report Page 26**





**GAA-WAABAABIGANIKAAG**

## **ELECTION CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

☒ **Re-Elect Secretary Treasurer Michael LaRoque**

**LEADERSHIP - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY - TEAM PLAYER**

Learn about my priorities on the Secretary Treasurer - Mike LaRoque Facebook Page

paid for by Secretary Treasure Mike LaRoque campaign



### Special Events Diabetic Bingo

January 7th @  
Naytahwaush

January 21st @ White  
Earth

January 28th @ Rice Lake

## White Earth Elder Nutrition Program Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige "White Earth Elder Eating Good"

### Elderly Nutrition Program Information

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

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

Elders Suggested Donation \$4  
Guest Meals \$6

Questions or comments please contact :

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

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

Pine Point ENP Site (218) 573-2210  
Site Controller— Zahery Adams

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

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

Tanya Heinonen— ENP Manager  
Tanya.heinonen@whiteearth-nsn.gov

| Mon                                                                                                                 | Tue                                                                                                           | Wed                                                                               | Thu                                                                                                  | Fri                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                               |                                                                                   | <b>1 CLOSED</b><br><b>Happy New Year</b>                                                             | <b>2</b> Chicken parmesan over spaghetti<br>Steamed cauliflower<br>Breadstick<br>Cinnamon Apples         |
| <b>5</b><br>Sausage alfredo<br>Breadstick<br>Steamed broccoli<br>Tropical fruit                                     | <b>6</b><br>Chili<br>Cornbread<br>Spinach salad<br>Berry yogurt parfait                                       | <b>7 Chefs Choice</b><br>Main Entrée<br>Vegetable and/or salad<br>Fruit<br>Bread  | <b>8</b><br>Salisbury steak<br>Mashed potatoes<br>Stewed tomatoes<br>Wheat bread<br>Pineapple        | <b>9</b><br>Baked ham<br>Mac n cheese<br>Green beans<br>Garden salad<br>Mixed fruit                      |
| <b>12</b><br>Chicken pot pie<br>Steamed broccoli<br>Bread stick<br>Apricots                                         | <b>13</b><br>Pork fritter<br>Rosemary potatoes<br>Sauerkraut<br>Dinner roll<br>Peaches                        | <b>14 Chefs Choice</b><br>Main Entrée<br>Vegetable and/or salad<br>Fruit<br>Bread | <b>15</b><br>Broccoli Cheese Soup<br>Ham & cheese on pretzel bun<br>Fresh Veggies w/dip<br>Pineapple | <b>16</b><br>Fish sandwich w/ lettuce and tomato<br>Baked potato<br>Bananas and pudding w/ wafer cookies |
| <b>19 CLOSED</b><br><b>Martin Luther King JR Day</b>                                                                | <b>20</b><br>Beef stroganoff<br>Mashed potatoes<br>Italian blend veg.<br>Wheat bread<br>White cake w/ berries | <b>21 Chefs Choice</b><br>Main Entrée<br>Vegetable and/or salad<br>Fruit<br>Bread | <b>22 Birthday Lunch</b><br>Pizza Boats<br>Side Salad<br>Strawberries<br>Birthday Cake               | <b>23</b><br>Manoomin hotdish<br>Beets<br>Wheat roll<br>Fruit cocktail                                   |
| <b>26 Spaghetti w/ meat sauce</b><br><b>Garlic Toast</b><br><b>Green Beans</b><br><b>Pineapple Upside Down Cake</b> | <b>27</b><br>Chicken stir-fry<br>Oriental veg.<br>Brown rice<br>Egg roll<br>Mangoes                           | <b>28 Chefs Choice</b><br>Main Entrée<br>Vegetable and/or salad<br>Fruit<br>Bread | <b>29</b><br>Beef stew<br>Biscuit<br>Spinach salad<br>Fruit crisp                                    | <b>30</b><br>Brunch for Lunch<br>Chefs choice                                                            |

### White Earth Food Distribution January Hours

**Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30**

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

January 2026 Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education & Health Screenings w/Shirley: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Jan 1<sup>st</sup>: Closed New Years Day

Jan 9<sup>th</sup>: Naytahwaush & Bagley

Jan 12<sup>th</sup>: Mahnomen & Waubun

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: White Earth

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>: Detroit Lakes & Ponsford

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>: 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 January 2026



| Sunday                                  | Monday                                          | Tuesday                                         | Wednesday                                        | Thursday                                         | Friday                                           | Saturday  |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| *Dates and times are subject to change* | *WIC follows RBC schedule for closings*         |                                                 |                                                  | <b>1</b><br><b>CLOSED</b>                        | <b>2</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4</b>                                | <b>5</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>6</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>7</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00  | <b>8</b><br>Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30  | <b>9</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>11</b>                               | <b>12</b><br>Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00  | <b>13</b><br>Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00  | <b>14</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>15</b><br>Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30 | <b>16</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>17</b> |
| <b>18</b>                               | <b>19</b><br><b>CLOSED</b>                      | <b>20</b><br>Bagley ECFE 10:00-3:00             | <b>21</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>22</b><br>Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30 | <b>23</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>24</b> |
| <b>25</b>                               | <b>26</b><br>Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00  | <b>27</b><br>Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00  | <b>28</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>29</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>30</b><br>White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00 | <b>31</b> |

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



Obituaries

Adam Webster

Adam Webster, 24, died on Dec. 14, 2025.

Adam Webster was born on March 21, 2001, in Minneapolis to Tanya Eischens and Robert Webster. He was raised between the Minneapolis and Ponsford communities, both of which helped shape his life. In recent times, he had returned to the White Earth Reservation, where he was beginning a new chapter filled with reflection and hope.



Adam attended several schools before earning his GED. He was hardworking and driven, often pursuing various ventures and opportunities throughout his life.

Family was deeply important to Adam. He shared close bonds with his siblings and cousins, many of whom were also his closest friends. He was a devoted and loving father to his daughter, Aubrianna, and looked forward with great anticipation to the birth of his son, expected in March 2026. He found special joy in spending time with his young nephews, Waawaate and Legend, who held a meaningful place in his heart.

Adam cherished being surrounded by those he loved, whether spending time with his close cousin, Chuck, or with his many friends, including Erika Bellanger. He will be remembered for the pride he held for his loved ones, his strong presence, and the warmth he brought wherever he went.

Adam is survived by his mother, Tanya Eischens; daughter, Aubrianna Webster; sisters, Nakita (Shaun) Eischens and Kianna Eischens; brothers, Matthew (Makayla) Webster and Edward Moran Jr.; and his bonus family: Amanda (Luis) Eischens, Alisha Bloom, Xzania, Analecia, and Luis Jr. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who became family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Webster; grandparents, Eugene and Florence Eischens; uncle, David Eischens; and cousins, Frank Ortley and Tammara Eischens.

Adam’s time with us was brief, but the love he shared lives on—through his daughter, the son he eagerly awaited, and the memories held by all who loved him. As he begins his journey, may he walk in peace, guided by love, prayer, and those who came before him, and may those left behind find comfort in knowing he is never far, carried in heart, memory, and spirit.

All-night wake services began on Dec. 18 and continued until the time of a traditional service held Dec. 19, both at the old Pine Point School.

Interment: St. Theodores Catholic Cemetery at a later date.  
Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.  
Online: [www.andersonfamilyfh.com](http://www.andersonfamilyfh.com)

Albert Francis Estey

Albert F. Estey, 79, lifelong resident of Kelly Lake, Minn., died Dec. 19, 2025, at Aspirus St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth, Minn. He was born May 28, 1946, to William and Elvina (Norris) Estey in White Earth. Albert was employed with the City of Hibbing, Minn., as an equipment operator. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing with his family over the years. He was an avid racing fan who only missed two race nights in his entire lifespan. He also really enjoyed attending his grandchildren’s sporting events.



Albert had been a member of AA for the past 47 years. This organization and gatherings were an enormous part of his life. He touched the hearts and helped countless individuals overcome addiction through his tireless dedication at the ALANO Club in Hibbing. Albert’s family would also like everyone to know that he gave the precious gift of donation with Life Source so others could benefit from the gift of tissue donation.

He is survived by his children: Michael Estey of Kelly Lake, Kelly (Wendy) Estey of Kelly Lake, Lisa (Jeff) Estey-Swick of Pengilly, Minn., and Carrie (Tommy) Estey-Dix of Shoreview, Minn.; siblings: Dennis (Sharon) Estey of Hibbing, Yvonne Estey of Ogema, and Beverly Hills of Waubun; grandchildren: Steven (Harley) Estey, Zach (Kendra Tidemann) Wohlers, Skeeter Estey, Samantha Olsen, Mack (Maddi Kubena) Estey, Dillon (Diana Clement) Samsa, Shay Rabbers, and CJ Estey-Dix; 10 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Elvina; brother, William Estey; and brother-in-law, Norman Hills.

Funeral services for Albert where held Dec. 26 at the Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing, with Rev. Dave Aho officiating. Memorials are preferred to the ALANO CLUB, 3725 1st Avenue, Hibbing, MN 55746.  
Arrangements: Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing.  
Online: [www.doughertyofhibbing.com](http://www.doughertyofhibbing.com).

Shirley Lenore Hagen (nee Donnell)

Shirley Lenore Hagen (née Donnell), 90, of Blaine, Minn., passed away peacefully on Dec. 5, 2025.

Shirley was born on Nov. 17, 1935, in Mahnomen to Frances Donnell and grew up with a deep love for family, faith, and community. She married the love of her life, Leo Hagen, in 1956, and together they shared 62 wonderful years filled with laughter and love.



Shirley was known for her warmth, generous spirit, and for making everyone around her feel welcome. She touched the lives of countless students and colleagues during her 20 years working as the lunch lady at Eisenhower Elementary in the Anoka-Hennepin School District, always spreading kindness and friendliness. She also volunteered with the SGT John Rice VFW Post 6316 Auxiliary in Blaine, where she helped serve food at funeral luncheons and holiday events. Shirley and Leo were also longtime members and volunteers with the Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers and were named king and queen of their annual event in

2018.

She is survived by her sister, Carolyn Blaser (David) of Sibley, N.D.; brother, Earl Donnell of McGregor, Minn.; daughter, Joanne Hoska (Mike) of Lexington, Minn.; sons, Durk (Sandra) of Andover, Minn., and Scott of Blaine; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends who will forever hold her memory in their hearts.

She is preceded in death by husband, Leo; mother, Frances Donnell (née Kirsch); grandson, Joe Hagen; sister, Darlene Paul; and brother, Dick Donnell.

Memorial services were held Dec. 19 at Gearhart Funeral Home in Coon Rapids, Minn.  
Interment: Morningside Memorial Gardens.  
Arrangements: Dignity Memorial  
Online: [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)

Herbert Eugene Libby Jr.

Herbert Eugene Libby Jr., Band member of the White Earth Nation, of the Bear Clan, 85, of Cass Lake, Minn., began his spiritual journey on Dec. 21, 2025, at his home in Cass Lake. He was born on Sept. 6, 1940, in White Earth, the son of Herbert Sr. and Thelma (Thompson) Libby.

For the past 10 years, Herbert lived in Cass Lake with his daughter, Sherri and her family after the passing of his wife, Sandra. He enjoyed going to the casino and playing cards. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Herbert specialized in roofing and sheet rocking in his career. He was also a Golden Glove champion in boxing. The greatest peace he had was sitting in the yard in his office listening to music, drinking his BC’s and smoking Pezi.



The family that Herbert joins again are his grandparents, George Libby Sr. and Mary Parker Libby; parents, Herbert Sr. and Thelma; first wife, Darlene McDougall; second wife, Sandra Jo (Norcross) Libby; siblings: Richard Libby, Robert Libby Sr., George Libby Sr., Phyllis Libby, Janice Persian, Lola Dodd, Mary Sue Shaugabay, infant sisters, Carolyn and Gloria Libby; and beloved cousin, Jack Parker.

Those he leaves behind to cherish his memory are his daughters, Sherri (Mick) Newago and Julie (special friend Eugene Anderson) Lufkins; sons: Daniel Lee Libby, Donald Libby Sr. and Mark (Chase Baker) Libby; brothers: James (Beverly) Libby Sr., William Ike Libby Sr., Jerry Lee Libby, and Thomas Libby Sr.; step sons, John and Paul Larson; grandchildren: Joey Libby, Leroy Pacheco, Ashley Pacheco, Jordan Newago, Siera Pacheco, Marcella Libby, and Donnie Libby Jr.; and great grandchildren: Nathan Libby, Analiya Pacheco, Ariel Pacheco, Lorenzo Lavato, Omari Reeves, Sonny “Beebs” Reeves, Jordan Newago Jr., Irie Libby, Ollie Pacheco, and Liam Pacheco.

A traditional service was held at Dec. 26 at the White Earth Community Center. An overnight wake followed the service until the Journey song was played on Dec. 27. Allen Hardy was the spiritual advisor.

Pallbearers were Jim Libby, Jerry Libby, Mark Libby, Mark Foster, John Larson, Tom Libby Jr. and Bill Losh. Honorary pallbearers were Jordan Newago, Leroy Pacheco, Ashley Pacheco, Sierra Pacheco, Marcella Libby, Donnie Libby Jr., Raymond Clark, Keagon Goodman, Tacia Beauchamp, Laura Larson, Brandon Larson, Jess Larson, Anton Larson, Mick Larson, along with 25 other grandchildren.  
Interment: Calvary Cemetery in White Earth in the spring.  
Arrangements: Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, Minn.  
Online: [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com)



Obituaries

Nicholas “Nick” Lee Buck

Nicholas “Nick” Lee Buck, 44, of Mahnomen, passed away Dec. 5, 2025, at his home surrounded by family and under the care of HIA Hospice.

Nick was born July 13, 1981, to Merton R. “Butch” and Patricia “Patti” (Vizenor) Buck. He grew up on the shores of Ice Cracking Lake near Ponsford. When his parents divorced, Nick chose to live with his dad until he completed his schooling in Detroit Lakes, Minn. He then began working in produce at County Market then Central Market for over eight years.



Nick moved to Mahnomen in 2009 and worked for Bruggeman’s Super Valu as produce manager before beginning at Auto Value. He enjoyed his job until COVID 19, and that is when his health started to fail. Nick was diagnosed with Stage IV throat cancer in early 2024. He underwent radiation and chemo treatments until going on Hospice in October 2025.

Nick enjoyed the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and searching for mushrooms. He especially enjoyed sitting around a campfire with his many friends. In recent years, he found a love for gardening, planting flowers (some he grew from seeds), shrubs and trees. Some of his other hobbies were drawing, dabbling in the stock market, watching world and local news and keeping an eye on wildlife from the numerous trail cameras near his house.

Nick was the proud parent of his daughter, Brooklynn Buck of Fargo, N.D., and his son, Nicholas D. Buck of Mahnomen.

Nick is survived by his parents, Patti (Mike) Vizenor and Merton R. “Butch” Buck; daughter, Brook Buck; son, Nicholas D. Buck; brother, Brian (Ashley) Buck; sister, Jana Buck; grandmother, Pauline Vizenor; and nieces and nephews: Hannah, Daniel, Emry and Aiden.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Don Vizenor; paternal grandparents, Joan Sullivan and Merton H. Buck; uncles: Daniel Buck, Michael Buck, and Douglas Buck; aunty, Judy Buck; cousin, Adam Savaugau; and many dear friends.

Blessed be the memory of Nicholas L. Buck.

A memorial service was held Dec. 11 at Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahnomen.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: [www.andersonfamilyfh.com](http://www.andersonfamilyfh.com)

Leonard A. Smith

Leonard A. Smith, 88, of White Earth, died Dec. 24, 2025, at his home.

Leonard Allen, affectionately known by many as Honeycutt, was born Sept. 11, 1937, in White Earth, the 4th child of John Henry and Evelyn (Carl) Smith. Growing up, Honeycutt attended White Earth Mission School and spent most of his childhood in the Detroit Lakes, Minn., area. He met the love of his life, Mary Bevins, and the two were united in marriage on Nov. 5, 1971, in South Dakota. They moved to White Earth to make their home and raise their family.



Over the years, Honeycutt worked as a roofer. He worked for many years with his uncles and then with his sons, Tim and Mike, under the name Red Roofers and Sons. Leonard retired at age 69 after tearing off his last roof!

He enjoyed hunting, cutting wood, going to the casino and his scratchies! Most of all, Honeycutt loved family gatherings, playing cards and poker at birthday parties and on holidays. He treasured the time spent with his children and all his grandchildren. He loved each and every one of them but had a unique bond with Cheyenne and Jarred.

Leonard is survived by his wife of 54 years, Mary, of White Earth; children: Karen (Doug Statley) Manypenny of Bagley, Minn., Pauline Manypenny of White Earth, Donna Manypenny of White Earth, Diane (Ronald) Chilton of Strawberry Lake, Sherri Bevins of White Earth, Michael Smith of White Earth, Timothy (Lori) Smith of White Earth, and Cheyenne Manypenny also of White Earth; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; one great-great granddaughter; sister, Edith Chaberbain of Dearborn Heights, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughters, Haley Rayne Smith and Rylee Ann Jackson; brothers, Carl Smith and Dennis Smith; and sisters: Connie Bevins, Janice Morley, Patsy Roy, Evelyn “Diddies” Cox, and Phyllis Torgerson.

Blessed be the memory of Leonard Allen “Honeycutt” Smith.

A visitation and ceremony began Jan. 5 and continued until the time of the funeral service on Jan. 6, both held at the White Earth Community Center

Interment: Calvary Cemetery in White Earth in the spring.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: [www.andersonfamilyfh.com](http://www.andersonfamilyfh.com)

Beverly Ann Craig

Beverly Ann Craig, 72, of Ogema, passed away Dec. 15 at Essentia Health St. Mary’s in Detroit Lakes, Minn., surrounded by her family.

Beverly was born on Jan. 14, 1953, to the late Howard Jackson and Martha (Wilson) Sanders in White Earth.

Bev spent her days doing her favorite things such as watching TV, bird watching and making future plans to go camping up north. She loved her children and grandchildren so much and enjoyed making plans to spend time with them as much as she could. She adored her sisters; and appreciated all their help when she needed to go shopping, run errands or get things done around her apartment. Bev will be greatly missed by her children, sisters and friends.



Bev is survived by her children: Renee Fosmark (Olson), Chester Retz, Stella Hazelton, David Retz and Tina Retz; sisters: Patricia (Dan Englund) Clark of Detroit Lakes, Dorothy (Larry) Zima of Ogema, and Loretta (Pat) Solmon of Ogema; along with 20 grandchildren, whom she adored so much; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Martha; stepfather, Patrick Clark; brothers, James and John Clark; nephew, Jimmy Clark; sister, Judy Snoball; and a daughter, Theresa Richter (Olson)

A private memorial service for family and the Biimaadiiziwiin apartment residents was held Dec. 27 at the Biimaadiiziwiin Apartments in Ogema.

Everyl Jean Fineday

Everyl Fineday, 67, of Ogema, passed away on Dec. 29, 2025, at Essentia Health St. Mary’s Hospital in Detroit Lakes, Minn., following a courageous battle with cancer.

Everyl Jean Fineday was born on July 10, 1958, in Detroit Lakes, Minn., to George Sr. and Laura (Butcher) Fineday. She grew up in the Ponsford area and attended school in Pine Point and Park Rapids, Minn. Following school, Everyl worked various jobs over the years.



Family was the center of Everyl’s life. She was a proud and devoted mother and grandmother who cherished every moment spent with her family. She especially enjoyed cooking meals for them and was always willing to try new recipes. She spent many hours caring for her grandchildren and enjoyed time shared with her siblings and extended family.

Everyl loved the outdoors, particularly fishing, and could often be found thrift shopping or browsing rummage sales in search of a good deal. She enjoyed gambling and playing bingo. Trips to Duluth, Minn., were always a favorite and a place her called her second home. Known for her strong will, quick wit, and sense of humor, she was always ready with a joke and a smile. Everyl will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Everyl is survived by her children: Georgia “Joe” Davis (Lee), Eugene (Brittney) Davis, Alex Petite, and Robbie (Alicia) Fineday; siblings: Herbert (Mary) Fineday Sr., Nancy (Tim) Fineday, and Judith Fineday; many beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Everyl was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Robin Davis; brothers: Lester “Spud,” Douglas, Gordon Jr., JayCee, Denis, George “Coonie;” and sister, Laurie Hvezda.

A memorial service will be held at Monday, Jan. 5 at Everyl’s Residence.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: [www.andersonfamilyfh.com](http://www.andersonfamilyfh.com)

Debra Sargent

Debra Sargent, 72, of Mahnomen, passed away on Dec. 22, 2025, at Sanford Health Center in Fargo, N.D.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: [www.andersonfamilyfh.com](http://www.andersonfamilyfh.com)

You can reach the Anishinaabeg Today at  
218-935-3569  
or email  
[today@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:today@whiteearth-nsn.gov)



# 2026 Election Calendar

- Jan. 5 :** Last day for a sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.
- Jan. 8:** Election Announcement
- Jan. 9: 8 a.m. - Opening of period for filing for office**
- Jan. 20: Close of filing period**
- Jan. 27:** Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge  
(For certification of candidate)
- Feb. 9:** Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC
- Feb. 11:** Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of certification.
- Feb. 12:** Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.
- Feb. 12:** Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge.
- Feb. 13:** Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13:** Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13:** Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13:** Submit all materials to Tribal Election Court of Appeals at expiration of aforementioned deadlines.
- Feb. 17:** Deadline for the Decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals
- Feb. 20:** Notice of Primary Election and Posting
- Feb. 24:** TEC provides ballots for Primary Election
- March 30:** Deadline to notify MCT on choice of appellate forum
- March 31: Primary Election**  
**(Polling place open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.)**
- April 1:** General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results. (Prior to 8 p.m.)
- April 2:** General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.
- April 6:** Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5 p.m.)
- April 6** Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary.
- April 7:** 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).
- April 13:** Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed. (If allowed or 11th or 12th if earlier request)
- April 17:** Deadline for Decision on Contest
- April 20:** 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision. (Or within 3 days of decision on Contest)
- April 22:** Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appels. (At least 2 days prior to the hearing date)
- April 27:** Last Day for Hearing on Appeal. (Hearing within 7 days of appeal)
- May 7:** Last Day for Decision on Appeal. (10 days from hearing on appeal).
- May 8:** Notice of General Election (or earlier if no appeal)
- May 8:** TEC provides ballots for General Election (or earlier if no appeal)
- June 9: General Election**  
**(Polling Place open from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.)**

## Chairman from Page 3

opened on July 2 in St. Cloud, Minn. This is only the beginning. As we move forward ahead of any tribe in Minnesota, we remember that true growth takes patience.

**White Earth Public Transit Building**  
A groundbreaking ceremony was held this spring for a new Transit building in Waubun. This building will house a bus wash bay, mechanic bays, bus storage, indoor transfer and passenger waiting area, administrative offices and dispatch center. Transit looks forward to serving the people of White Earth and surrounding areas with your transportation needs. The building is expected to be completed in early or late fall of 2026.

**Severe Thunderstorm Damage**  
A powerful wind storm swept through the White Earth Reservation on the evening of June 20, leaving widespread damage in its wake. The severe thunderstorm brought down trees, disrupted power lines, and left many residents without electricity—some for days. White Earth Emergency Management, in partnership with White Earth Public Safety and White Earth Conservation, led efforts to assist affected residents. Emergency generators were delivered to Elders and individuals with medical needs, and water was provided where service had been disrupted.

**Highway 59 Homes**  
It’s with deep pride and hope for our future that I share exciting news about a new initiative that is not only rooted in economic growth, but in service to our people: Highway 59 Homes.

This new tribally owned business is more than a home dealership—it’s a bold step forward in our mission to create opportunity, stability, and prosperity for our families. Located in Waubun, this project is a product of the Nation’s business arm, Mississippi Pillager LLC, and it stands as another example of what we can accomplish when we invest in ourselves. Highway 59 Homes will offer high-quality, affordable manufactured homes.

These aren’t just structures—they are fresh start for young families, a dignified downsizing option for our elders and a real path to homeownership for those who’ve long waited for the chance.

**Child Care Building / Library**  
A brand-new Child Care building located near the White Earth RBC building opened for business. This beautiful learning facility will provide more opportunities for our children in their early stages of development. These children are our future. In addition to the new building, the library was relocated on site and is expected open to the community in the summer.

**Wild Rice**  
We had another record breaking year for purchasing wild rice! The 2025 manoomin harvest season has been a remarkable year for our community. White Earth purchased a total of 320,699 pounds of manoomin from ricers, making this the largest year for rice purchasing in our history. This year, White Earth compensated ricers with a total payout of \$1,747,299. WENR purchased 176,895 pounds of rice at \$5 per pound, amounting to \$884,475, and 143,804 pounds at \$6 per pound, totaling \$862,824. These figures not only highlight the economic significance of the Manoomin harvest but also underscore the importance of making sure this valuable food source is accessible to our tribal membership.

In addition, several major infrastructure projects were also completed this year at Lower Rice Lake through a collaborative effort involving several programs. At Ponsford and Bush Landings, wood corduroy walkways with gravel overlays were installed, providing improved access to the water’s edge. Boulders were strategically placed at the start of each walkway to prevent damage from ATVs and UTVs. Parking areas were also expanded to improve traffic flow and accommodate more vehicles. The old channel at Big Bear Landing was reopened after years of overgrowth, allowing ricers to travel directly from the parking area to the lake. All four landings are now equipped with poles that will support solar-powered lights and navigation flags.

**Ojibwe Language Immersion**  
As council we are really pushing for our future Ojibwe Gaawaabaabiganikaag Language immersion school. Our Language and Culture Director Rob Tibbetts is making headway. I talked to him recently at the Naytahwaush Sobriety Powwow; he said, “Yes, but it will be very difficult.” So as council I will keep you updated with his progress. Rob is our Spiritual Advisor at many of our programs and events also.

**White Earth Health System and 638 Process**  
We are excited our Health Board will be running our own health clinics on June 1, 2026. (Self-Governance) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), Public Law 93-638, which allows tribes to assume control and management of IHS health programs, offering greater flexibility than Title I contracts, though often used alongside it for broader self-determination in healthcare delivery. It’s a key legal framework for tribal self-governance, enabling us as White Earth Nation (WEN) to operate federal health services directly, moving from federal administration (IHS) to our own control.

As we enter into 2026, I’d like to thank everyone for your support and the most successful year ever - 2025! Looking back last year we dealt with land issues, addressed housing concerns, moved forward with our Waabigwan Mashkiki business, expanded our Bison heard, created Highway 59 Homes, bought land in Moorhead for the future casino - plus so much more! I am excited for us as Gaawaabaabiganikaag Ishkoning- White Earth Nation.

Chi-miigwech bizindawiyeg miinawaa anooj ninda-gikinoo’amaadiwin  
Gigawaabamininim naagaj.  
Take it easy.  
Thank you for listening to me to learn together.  
See you all later.

Chairman Michael Fairbanks



Obituaries

Warren Justin Brown

Warren J. Brown, 32, of Pine Poin, died Dec. 24, 2025, in Moorhead, Minn.

Warren Justin Brown, the son of Donovan Brown and Pamela Ellis was born Dec. 2, 1993, in Detroit Lakes, Minn. He grew up in the Pine Point area and attended school at Circle of Life Academy in White Earth. After graduating from high school with honors in 2012, Warren joined the Minnesota National Guard. He returned to the Pine Point area where he kept busy working various jobs. Warren has spent the last few years going between the Fargo-Moorhead area and the White Earth Reservation. He also enjoyed many trips to South Dakota to see family and friends.

Warren will be remembered for his great sense of humor, kind heart and genuine smile. He enjoyed joking and teasing with friends and family, watching sports on television and his wide variety of music he listened to. Above all, he loved spending time with family especially his children. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Warren is survived by his children and their mothers: Keyian, Ahnna, Shyleah, and Melissa Brown; parents, Pam Ellis of Ponsford and Donovan Brown of Bullhead, S.D.; brother, Frank Thompson of Detroit Lakes; sisters: Ondrea (Michael Croud) Brown, Alexandria (Uriah Liebl) Brown and Talia Brown all of Ogema, Jeron (Zhaawanong Warren) Butcher of Strawberry Lake, and Jerrial Ellis also of Ogema; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; uncle, Deron Elli; and a special cousin, Shyleah Steele.

Traditional funeral services were held Dec. 30 at the old Pine Point School.  
Arrangements: Anderson Famiy Funeral Home of Mahnomen.  
Online: [www.andersonfamilyfh.com](http://www.andersonfamilyfh.com)



Marlys “Babe” Bjergo

Marlys “Babe” Bjergo was born on Aug. 13, 1937, and passed away surrounded by her family at New Brighton (Minn.) Care Center on Nov. 30, 2025.

Babe graduated from Mahnomen High School in 1955. She married her beloved LeRoy Bjergo in 1957 and they raised six children together. She enjoyed bingo, taking trips to the casino, and dancing. Babe will be lovingly remembered for her smile, which she was never without.

Babe was preceded in death by her parents, Al and Verle Goodwin; husband, LeRoy “Butch” Bjergo; sons, Ralph and Wade Bjergo; siblings: Albert Jr. “Bunny,” Raymond, Mary Kay and Jay Goodwin.

Babe will be deeply missed by her children: Desiree Nelson, Bart (Ramie) Bjergo, Suzette (Paul) Younggren, and Rochelle (Braun) Woods; grandchildren: Alisha, Jessica, Don, Joseph, Matthew, Benjamin, Justine, Derek, Kyle, Samantha, Lindsay, Codey, Kaden, Jesse Jane; great-grandchildren, Elaina, Alexis, Boston, Donnie, Greg, Dylan, Stevie, Medina, Aspen, Elimina, Kennedy, Charlotte, Cash, Senad, Cade, Mason, Simon, and Lainey; siblings: Nancy Pemberton, Bruce (Wanda) Goodwin, David (Shelly) Goodwin, and Mark (Noreen) Goodwin.

Services were held Dec. 8 at Miller Funeral Home in Fridley, Minn.  
In lieu of flowers, consider planting a tree in Babe’s memory.  
Arrangements: Miller Funeral Home.  
Online: [www.millfuneralfridley.com](http://www.millfuneralfridley.com)



William “Billy” Scott

William “Billy” Scott, 69, of St. Francis, Minn., died on Dec. 23, 2025, at his home under the loving care of his family and Moments Hospice.

William Joel Scott was born on Nov. 16, 1956, in Minneapolis, to Alvin and Jacqueline “Jackie” (Casey) Scott, one of eight children. He grew up in Bejou, where he attended school. Billy traveled to Wyoming, where he worked in the mines for a short time, before returning to Minnesota where he worked a variety of jobs. One of those jobs led him to the Sweep family farm and the love of his life, Debra Sweep. The two were married on May 3, 1980, celebrating 45 years of marriage this year. The couple made their first home in Bejou.

Over the years, the Scott family lived in several communities including Crookston, Minn., where Billy worked at American Crystal; Thief River Falls, Minn., where he attended Thief River Falls AVTI, graduating in Auto Mechanics; Cottage Grove, Minn., where he worked for Good Year and later District 833 as a mechanic and bus driver and eventually settling in St Francis, Minn., where he worked for Metro Transit as a bus mechanic.

Billy was an avid outdoorsman who loved deer hunting, fishing and golf. He was a talented, self-taught carpenter and made several changes to their home in St. Francis. Friends and family could always count on him to lend a hand whether it be carpenter work or fixing vehicles, which he did a lot with his sons. Billy had a couple of favorite nieces, Katie to whom he lovingly called “Boy” and Nicky whom he provided several printed directions while she was visiting and he loved to joke with her, especially about his stinky pits! He looked forward to the horseshoe and later “bags” tournament each year at this sister LeAnn’s backyard BBQ’s and enjoyed watching football at family gatherings but above all Billy enjoyed spending time with the people he loved most, his family.

Though Billy loved his children, he was over the moon when he became a papa. He was blessed with nine grandchildren: Jace, Kiera, Braedon, Evelynn, Charlotte, Cash, Henry, RaeLynn and Archer, whom he called “Archie.” Many memories were made between Billy and his grandchildren. Whether it was trips to South Dakota or riding on the 4-wheeler, there was always laughter. A highlight each year was “Boys Weekend,” a cherished tradition of camping, fishing, and tubing with his sons and grandsons. While tubing, he would always try to get someone to fall off but would always have the look of innocence on his face that he did not do that on purpose. Billy had a soft spot for his granddaughters and every year at Christmas the girls would either get a necklace, earrings or a bracelet that he personally picked out. The grandkids would always come to him to fix things that were broken and he not only fixed it, but taught them how to fix it as well.

Billy is survived by his loving wife, Debra, of St. Francis; children: Darcy Scott of LeSuer, Minn., Billy Scott of St. Francis, and Kyle (Sam) Scott of Isanti, Minn.; grandchildren: Jace, Kierra, Braden, Evelyn, Charlotte, Cash, Henry, RaeLynn, and Archer; siblings: Leo Scott of Bejou, James (Debra) Scott of Frazee, Minn., and LeAnn (Mark) Halland and Beverly Mazzucco of Crookston; in-laws, Darrell (Nancy) Sweep of Casselton, N.D., Karol (Wes) Mills of Byron, Minn., Karen (Richard) Tadych and Kathy (Stacy) Stene both of Gary, Minn.; several nieces and nephews, many cousins and lots of friends.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Jacqueline; sister, Kathryn Hedlund; brothers, Dennis and Wayne Scott; nieces: Karen Quam, Crystal Scott and Wendy Eggl, and nephew, Jamie Scott.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 3 at Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahnomen.  
Interment: Will be held in the spring.  
Arrangement: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.  
Online: [www.andersonfamilyfh.com](http://www.andersonfamilyfh.com)



Jesse Peter Bardwell

Jesse Peter Bardwell, 62, of Trail, Minn., passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 1, 2025.

Jesse spent much of his life in public service. He worked as a police officer in Bagley, Clearbrook, and Gonvick, Minn., and took great pride in his years serving Clearwater County. He later worked at the Oak Park Heights Prison in Minnesota before returning to a role he truly valued and loved with the Leech Lake Ambulance Service.

Jesse was a private man, but those who knew him understood his steady presence, his selflessness, and his unmistakable sense of humor. He had a talent for making people laugh, whether it was



simple jokes or well-planned pranks, he brought a genuine smile to the people around him. In his free time, Jesse enjoyed fishing, watching NASCAR, following wrestling and WWE, and listening to music, especially his favorite singer, John Prime.

Jesse is survived by his wife, Maurittia Bardwell; children: Amanda, Bobbie Kate, Jacob, Alex, and Ashley; granddaughter, Ailey; siblings: Diane, Warren and Wayne; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Ruby; grandson, Jotham; and many other family members.

A celebration of Jesse’s life will be held at a later date.  
Online: [www.ceasefuneralhome.com](http://www.ceasefuneralhome.com)



WE TRIBAL COURT  
TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Dustin James Johnson, DOB: 08/28/1993**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00145**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **January 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** a Continued 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 18, 2025

WE TRIBAL COURT  
TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Dustin James Johnson, DOB: 08/28/1993**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **CO2025-00014**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **January 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** a Continued Initial Hearing on the conservation citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: November 18, 2025

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT  
CHILDREN'S COURT

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Children of: **Miquela Lorene Marchaud, and Brian Ward**

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2025-00017**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on October 23, 2025, a Suspension of Parental Rights Petition was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2025-00017. A Pretrial hearing on the matter is scheduled for January 21, 2026, at 9:00am. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

**Dated:** December 23, 2025  
Joy Parker  
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT  
CHILDREN'S COURT

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: **Ashley Martin,**

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2023-00026**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on October 21, 2025, a Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2023-00026. An Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for February 10, 2026, at 9:45 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

**Dated:** December 30, 2025  
Tammy J. Swanson  
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WE TRIBAL COURT  
TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Nakoa Neeland, DOB: 09/16/1978**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **CO2025-00021**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **January 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** a Continued Initial Hearing on the conservation citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: November 18, 2025

WE TRIBAL COURT  
TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Jameson Lee Jackson Sr., DOB: 05/24/1985**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00144**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **January 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** a Continued 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 18, 2025

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT  
CHILDREN'S COURT

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: **Troy Sirjord,**

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2024-00019**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on August 19, 2025, a Petition for Transfer of Permanent Physical and Legal Custody was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00019. A Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for January 30, 2026, at 9:45 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

**Dated:** December 30, 2025  
Tammy J. Swanson  
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT  
CHILDREN'S COURT

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: **Randall Basswood,**

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2024-00034**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on November 5, 2025, a Petition for Long Term Foster Care was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00034. A continued Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for January 26, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

**Dated:** December 30, 2025  
Tammy J. Swanson  
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WE TRIBAL COURT  
TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Charles Louis Hanks, DOB: 10/17/1975**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00180**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **January 28, 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: December 18, 2025

WE TRIBAL COURT  
TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Austin L. Johnson, DOB: 07/14/1995**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **CO2025-00040**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **January 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** an Initial Hearing on the conservation citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: November 18, 2025

## Report from Page 19

(e) Within ten (10) days of the meeting, the Secretary shall distribute a draft of theminutes to the Spokesperson, the Co-Spokesperson, and the other Interim Council representatives for review. Make any suggested revisions. Distribute thecorrected minutes to their respective Nation.

(f) In the event of an Application for Removal of one or more of the Temporary Interim council representatives, the Secretary shall accept those Applications for the Removal, in accordance with the Procedure for Removal of Temporary Interim council representative, and shall:

1. File-stamp the application with the

date and sign it as the person who received it.

2. Distribute the Application to the Temporary Interim Council member.
3. Generate a file to keep all documents, letters and decisions.

White Earth Members, your voice is needed in this proposed process. The White Earth Constitution Reform Delegates is presenting this information for the White Earth Members to decide.

White Earth will be hosting the MCT Constitution Reform Convention meeting on Jan. 16 at the Shooting Star Casino from 9 a.m - 4 p.m. We hope to hear input from members attending in-person and virtually.

 **PROMISE Act grants!**  
up to \$50,000 for small businesses and nonprofits

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- Be a for-profit business or a nonprofit organization that earns revenue in ways similar to a business
- Have a primary business location located in the NMF service region (see graphic at right)
  - Home-based businesses must submit proof of home office expense deduction from 2024 tax return.
- Have a gross annual revenue in tax year 2024 of at least \$10,000 but no more than \$750,000
- Be operating at the time the grant application is submitted



**DETAILS:** <https://nwmf.org/grants-scholarships/grants/>





Even if you are not required to file a Minnesota income tax return, you may be eligible to receive a **refundable Minnesota Child Tax Credit** of \$1,750 per child dependent under age 18. Find out today!

Questions?  
Call us!  
218.844.7029



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



# Breathe Easy in 2026

## Commit to a Commercial Tobacco-Free You!

**This year, honor your body, your family, and your community by choosing a life free from commercial tobacco.**

### 🔥 Set Your Intention :

- Reflect on why you want to quit.
- Write your reasons down and keep them close.
- Remember: traditional tobacco is sacred—used to pray, give thanks, and make offerings.
- Every small step counts!

### 🍌 Stay Prepared

- When cravings hit, try:
- A straw, stress ball, or craft project
- Water, healthy snacks, or sugar-free gum
- Deep breathing, prayer, or time outdoors

### 👥 Lean on Your Circle

- You don't walk this path alone. Connect with your family, friends, Elders, and community members for encouragement. Need extra help?
- Contact the American Indian Quitline at 1-833-9AI-QUIT (1-833-924-7848).
- Indian Health Service or your provider. Ask about quit support and medication options

### ☀️ Strengthen Mind, Body & Spirit

- Move your body. Eat well. Drink water.
- Reconnect with nature and traditions that heal.

### 🎉 Celebrate Your Success

- Each day commercial tobacco-free is a victory!
- Use your savings and energy for things you love — a trip, a class, a gift, or a self care experience to honor your journey.

### 🌿 Remember:

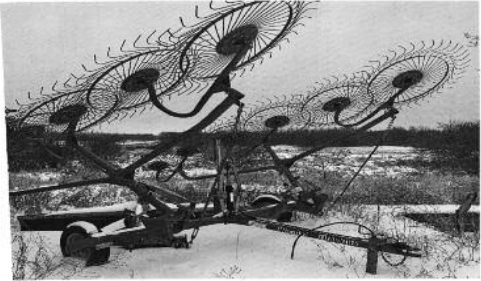
- Quitting takes courage. Every attempt brings you closer to success.
- You are strong. You are capable. You are supported.
- Make 2026 your year to heal, grow, and breathe free.





FRONTIER HAY RAKE

LOCATED AT THE RANCH 2205 271<sup>ST</sup> AVE MAHNOMEN



SOLD AS IS, HAS LIGHT RUST, IN WORKING CONDITION, NEEDS TIRES (205X14) TO MOVE

Minimum BID \$2000.00

Please use this bid sheet to place your bid. (return or e-mail to)

Cassandra Hoban, White Earth Finance,  
P.O Box 270  
White Earth, MN 56591  
(218) 935-3411  
[Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov)  
Bidding will close on January 26th, 2026 @ 4:30pm


Name:

Phone Number:

BID Amount:

JOHN DEERE 946 HAY MOWER/CONDITIONER/HAYBINE

LOCATED AT NATURAL RESOURCES CAMPUS 1482 HWY 200 MAHNOMEN



SOLD AS IS, NEEDS REPAIRS, HAS LIGHT RUST, FLAILS ARE BOUND WITH VEGETATIVE MATTER, BELT IS BURNED, CLUTCH IS LIKELY DAMAGED.

Minimum BID \$1,200.00

Please use this bid sheet to place your bid. (return or e-mail to)

Cassandra Hoban, White Earth Finance,  
P.O Box 270  
White Earth, MN 56591  
(218) 935-3411  
[Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov)  
Bidding will close on January 26th, 2026 @ 4:30pm

Name:

Phone Number:

BID Amount:

Naytahwaush Community Council

Regular Monthly Meetings

6 PM JAN 08

6 PM FEB 12

6 PM MARCH 12

6 PM APRIL 09

6 PM MAY 14

6 PM \* JUNE 18 \*

6 PM JULY 09

6 PM AUGUST 13

6 PM SEPT 10

6 PM OCT 08


6 PM NOV 12

6 PM \* DEC 03 \*



2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
UNLESS NOTED DIFFERENT \*  
NTW OLD CENTER  
QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO A  
CURRENT NCC MEMBER OR EMAIL  
[NTWCOMMUNITYCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NTWCOMMUNITYCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM)

TAX 351- 2011 CHEVROLET 3500 TRUCK



SOLD AS IS, ISSUE WITH DIFFERENTIAL, NEEDS REPAIRS.

Approx 200,000 Miles - NO Minimum BID

Please use this bid sheet to place your bid. (return or e-mail to)


Cassandra Hoban, White Earth Finance,  
P.O Box 270  
White Earth, MN 56591  
(218) 935-3411  
[Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov)  
Bidding will close on January 26th, 2026 @ 4:30pm

Name:

Phone Number:

BID Amount:

TAX 446-2005 FORD BUS



SOLD AS IS, Transmission is out, NEEDS REPAIRS.

Approx 250,000 Miles - NO Minimum BID

Please use this bid sheet to place your bid. (return or e-mail to)


Cassandra Hoban, White Earth Finance,  
P.O Box 270  
White Earth, MN 56591  
(218) 935-3411  
[Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov)  
Bidding will close on January 26th, 2026 @ 4:30pm

Name:

Phone Number:

BID Amount:

TAX 689- 2013 CHEVROLET SILVERADO



SOLD AS IS, FRONT WINDSHIELD SHATTERED, MOTOR BLOWN, NEEDS REPAIRS.

Approx 160,000 Miles - NO Minimum BID

Please use this bid sheet to place your bid. (return or e-mail to)


Cassandra Hoban, White Earth Finance,  
P.O Box 270  
White Earth, MN 56591  
(218) 935-3411  
[Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov)  
Bidding will close on January 26th, 2026 @ 4:30pm

Name:

Phone Number:

BID Amount:

TAX 679-2023 FORD E450 STARCRAFT BUS-WERBC LOT



SOLD AS IS, MOTOR KNOCK, NEEDS REPAIRS.

121,331 miles - NO Minimum BID

Please use this bid sheet to place your bid. (return or e-mail to)

Cassandra Hoban, White Earth Finance,  
P.O Box 270  
White Earth, MN 56591  
(218) 935-3411  
[Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov)  
Bidding will close on January 26th, 2026 @ 4:30pm

Name:

Phone Number:

BID Amount:

Howah Ads

Happy 32<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

DAD!

Love, Liam & Lindy  
January 12th



Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Cooper Kivi

Love, Grandma Helen



Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Molly Kivi

Love, Grandma Helen



Happy 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Jacob Robert Littlewolf

From mom, dad,  
Jayme, and Julisa  
January 4th

You can reach the  
Anishinaabeg Today  
at  
218-935-3569

WE Urban Office

The White Earth Urban Office is located at 1730 Clifton Place, Suite 100 in Minneapolis.

612-813-1590  
Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



## 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



## 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

## Diabetic Bingo

All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.

January 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday      Naytahwaush  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday      White Earth  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday      Pine Point  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday      Elbow Lake  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 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)

March 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday      Naytahwaush  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday      White Earth  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday      Rice Lake  
Bingo in Naytahwaush is at the Sports Complex, E.N.P. dining hall after the 11:30 elder meal.  
Bingo in White Earth is at the Congregate Housing, Dining Hall after the 11:30 elder meal.  
Bingo in Rice Lake is at the Rice Lake Community Center after the 11:30 elder meal.

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

### Other Public Health Events that are coming up...

#### Dr. Ung (foot Doctor) Clinic

January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in the White Earth Health Building  
January 14<sup>th</sup> in the Naytahwaush IHS Clinic  
January 15<sup>th</sup> in the Rice Lake Community Center

For additional information please check the Anishinaabeg Today or Facebook for detailed information.



## Thank You

From the family of Vernon R. Anderson.

We would like to send a Thank-you to all those who helped console our hearts in the passing of our dear Vern. We would like to send a special Thank-you to the White Earth Home Health nurses for their wonderful care they provided. We would also like to thank Dr. Johnson and his staff at IHS.

We appreciate everyone that was able to attend the funeral, shared kind words and memories of Vern, sent cards, stopped by to visit, and offering to help in so many ways. We are grateful for all those who brought food for the wonderful meal and to those worked in the kitchen. We are blessed to have so many friends and family that shared in the joy of knowing Vern. He will forever be in our hearts and his warm hugs and big smile will always be a memory we all share.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Anderson and family

The St. Benedict's Calvary Cemetery Committee would like to extend a big Thank You to everyone that came together to make our first Toy Bingo a huge success in December! There were many local businesses/individuals who donated or sponsored the event, people who baked goods, people who volunteered their time to work the event and make the event happen, and everyone who came to play bingo. It was a huge success overall. All funds raised will directly offset the costs of maintaining/upkeep and/or expansion of the St. Benedicts Calvary Cemetery. Be on the lookout for an Easter Bingo!

Thank you tons!  
Heather Berry

Our family would like to thank all the people that helped and supported is with the loss of our family member. We are deeply grateful to all the family and friends who donated food for the wake and funeral.

We also want to thank all the family and friends in the Cass Lake area for all their help and support. Thanks to Allen Hardy for doing the wake and funeral. A special thanks to Laura Lee who helped is get lodging so our family and friends who traveled from a long distance so they could attend the wake and funeral.

We know we might have missed thanking someone. You are all appreciated. We are deeply grateful for your love and support.

Family of Darrin "Tony" Fineday

## Accepting Bids

The White Earth LTCC program is accepting bids for a bath modification that includes the installation of a walk-in tub to be done at an individual home located on the White Earth Reservation. Construction must be performed by a Minnesota licensed contractor and per MN State Code. All contractors must pass both White Earth RTC background and drug testing. Construction must follow State guidelines, including cost effectiveness. Payment will be made in full after final inspection, review of receipts, and approval of completed job. Bid specifications and locations are available at the White Earth Tribal Health Building, 26246 Crane Road, White Earth, MN 56591. All BIDS submitted MUST include a diagram/blueprint of the proposed project and a list of materials, labor, equipment, etc. or they will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted. Due to client confidentiality, the bid description must be picked up in person at the White Earth Tribal Health Building. We are open Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. **Bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm on Feb. 6, 2026.** For more information contact Angela Soyryng at 218-983-3286 or angela.soyryng@whiteearth-nsn.gov



## INJURED? CALL JOE.

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



218-736-5673

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>

#### PROGRAM DETAILS

These programs prepare students for jobs in cannabis dispensaries or other licensed cannabis businesses.

- Horticulture Mastery, Manager, and Worker Certifications Start January 22
- Business Startup, Financing, and Licensing Certification Starts February 4
- Retail Management and Budtending Certifications Start February 18
- Cannabis Business Management Certification Starts March 4
- Cannabis Breeding w/ James Loud Starts April 28

#### COST ASSISTANCE

**CanTrain Grant Requirements**

Must be 21 years or older and one or more of the following to qualify for cost assistance:

- 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 36 or more of the past 52 weeks
- Individual with limited English or math proficiency
- Individual at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline

bridget.gurza@wetcc.edu 218-935-0417 ext. 8327  
c.robinson@wetcc.edu 218-935-0417 ext. 8326  
2250 College Rd  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
www.WETCC.edu

## Lake Grove Township Monthly Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given to the citizens of Lake Grove Township, County of Mahnomen, State of Minnesota, that the monthly Township meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The meeting will commence at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Tibbetts residence.

Lori Tibbetts

Clerk, Town of Lake Grove



White Earth T.E.R.O.

PREPARE NOW FOR TRAININGS & CAREERS

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

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

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Heavy Equipment  
TESTING  
FEBRUARY - MAY  
Locations vary by date

Carpentry  
JUNE- JULY  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
TRAINING IS LOCATED IN BEMIDJI

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

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

Contact regarding trainings  
Kimberly StClair 218-935-6268 & Liz Andersen 218-935-3699



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL ELDER SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Position: On Call Snow Removal Provider  
Location: District III  
Closing date: Until Filled

- Must be a W.E. Tribal Enrollee or W.E. Descendant
- Must have a truck and a plow.
- Must have a valid Minnesota Drivers License
- Proof of Insurance (liability-coverage) for personal plow truck
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check and drug screening.
- Knowledge of area highways and roads in this District
- Must be able to communicate well with elders.
- Must sign a contract and liability form upon hire.

Apply at: White Earth Water & Sewer Department  
P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591  
Phone: 218-935-6411  
Fax: 1-888-228-3650  
E-mail address: [Lisa.donovan-larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Lisa.donovan-larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov) or [Burnham.TibbettsIII@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:Burnham.TibbettsIII@whiteearth-nsn.gov)

Contact Lisa Donovan-Larson or Buck Tibbetts III by telephone if you have any questions.

LAKE GROVE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Notice of Filing

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Lake Grove Township that the annual filing for election of officers opens on December 31, 2025. The following positions are to be filled at the election on March 10, 2026.

COMBINDED CLERK/TREASURER- 2 YEAR TERM

If you wish to file for candidacy please file with the township clerk at her residence or call for further information at 218-841-4963. The deadline for filing is January 13, 2026 at 5 PM. The clerk's home will be open for filing on January 14, 2026 from 1-5 PM.

Lori Tibbetts, Clerk  
Lake Grove Township

Sugar Bush Township Residents

Notice of Township Filing

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

SUPERVISOR / 3-YEAR TERM

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

Deb Chilton, Clerk  
Sugar Bush Township

NEED MORE ENERGY?

JOIN STAR FITNESS CENTER TODAY!

Located in the Manitok 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

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.

Iron Range Area CC

The Iron Range Area Community Council holds a meeting on the first Thursday of each month at at 6:30 p.m. the Greenway Township Hall in Marble, Minn.

PP School Meeting Minutes

Pine Point Regular School Board Meeting  
Monday, November 5, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.  
Pine Point School Staff Room

1. Roll Call – Meeting called to order by Chairman John Swan at 4:35 p.m.  
Members present – Marva Aitken, Michael Swan, Gerald Roberts, Allison Jones, John Swan  
Members absent – Sara Hunt

2. Recognition of Visitors – Bonnie Meeks

3. Approval/Amendment of Agenda – Motion by Marva Aitken to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried

4. Approval/Amendment of Minutes – Motion by Michael Swan to approve the September 8, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Finance

a. Treasurer's Report – Motion by Marva Aitken to approve Treasurer's Report for September/October 2025, seconded by Michael Swan. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Payment of Bills & Electronic Funds Transfer & Debit Card Transactions – Motion by Michael Swan to approve the payment of bills for the month of September/October 2025 in the amount of \$109,669.89 for check #34507 through check #34616 and the EFT for Federal/State/TRA/PERA Payroll Tax & Debit Card Transactions, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Unfinished Business

a. No unfinished business

7. New Business

a. IOWA Designation – Motion by Marva Aitken to designate Christopher Schulz to act as the Identified Office with Authority for Pine Point School District #25, seconded by Michael Swan. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Canvassing Election Results – Motion by Allison Jones to approve the November 4, 2025 election results as submitted, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. Principal's Report – Discussion on Culture Family Fun Day; School Pictures; DL Pow Wow; Student Presentations; Student Showcase; Thanksgiving Feast/Break; Christmas Movie; Christmas Feast/Break; Teacher Inservice; Tribal Consultation; Audit; Solar Panels. No action needed.

9. Public Participation – Toys for Tots; Community Christmas Party; Halloween Party; School Pictures

10. Adjournment – Motion by Michael Swan to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m., seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.

WeTiP

PAUL BUNYAN  
DRUG TASK FORCE

ANONYMOUSLY SUBMIT A TIP

If you have any information regarding violent crime or drugs, submit a WeTip anonymously.

1 WAY TO REPORT





WHITE EARTH RESERVATION





Submitted photo

Elbow-Tulaby Lakes Fire Department representatives from left are Paul Gerving, Jake Folstrom, Ken Wittmann and WREC's Operation Round Up Secretary/Treasurer Rick Morris.

# Wild Rice Electric Cooperative helps local firefighters gear up

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative (WREC) recently donated \$5,000 to the Elbow-Tulaby Lake Volunteer Fire Department through its Operation Round Up® program. The donation will help buy turnout gear for several new volunteers who have joined the department.

Fire Chief, Paul Gerving, said the funding couldn't have come at a better time. "This is a huge help for our department," Gerving said. "Getting new volunteers properly equipped makes a big difference, and we're extremely grateful to Wild Rice Electric and its members for supporting us."

Operation Round Up lets WREC members round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, with the extra change going into a fund for local projects and community needs like keeping firefighters safe and ready to serve.

"Supporting local first responders is just one of the ways we give back to our communities," said Rick Morris, Secretary/Treasurer of WREC's Operation Round Up Trust Board.

## 2026 Sobriety Powwow Royalty



Photo by Becky Howard

The New Year's Sobriety Powwow was held Dec. 31-Jan. 1 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex. The new Sobriety royalty are Ayden Zornes (Brave) and Gabriella Lague (Princess).



Photo by Becky Howard

From left are Jamie Wirth, Shari Korte, Raegan Hendrickson, Chairman Michael Fairbanks, Margaret Eischens, Anna Nessman, and Liz Fairbanks. Not pictured: Merrilu Crandall and Stacy Zima.

# WEN Child Support Program receives honors for their dedicated service to families and community

The White Earth Nation Child Support program received the "Spirit of the People Award" at the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce 37th Annual MAICC Awards Dinner on Dec. 11, 2025, at the Hinkley Resort and Casino. This recognition reflects the exceptional dedication, hard work, and significant impact White Earth Nation Child Support Program has made in the community and in the Indigenous landscape.

White Earth Nation Child Support program staff

members attended the awards banquet to accept the award. "We are honored to receive such a prestigious award, thank you to MAICC, board members, sponsors, and everyone in attendance for the recognition," said Raegan Hendrickson, Manager of White Earth Nation Child Support Program. "We would also like to thank the White Earth Tribal Council and leadership for their commitment and ongoing support and to our communities for allowing us to serve you."

## Annual RBC Employee Christmas Party



Photo by Gary W. Padrta

The annual White Earth RBC Employee Christmas Party was held Dec. 5 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. More than 800 employees and guests played games, had a chance at door prizes, enjoyed a meal, and were entertained by Mastermind Colin Cloud. (above)