

#### A Monthly Chronicle of the White Earth Nation

Vol. 30 No. 7 White Earth, Minn. today@whiteearth-nsn.gov Wednesday, July 2, 2025



VENDOR CONTACT: Paula Smith 218-204-1400

WHITE EARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FOR MORE INFO-



Submitted photo

Crews clear roads around the White Earth Reservation after a sever thunderstorm on June 20.

#### Severe thunderstorm causes widespread damage

Emergency Response Teams provide critical support to elders & residents

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.

Thanks to the CodeRed emergency notification system, residents received advance warning of the Severe Thunderstorm Warning, allowing many to take precautions before the storm hit.

The storm, marked by intense winds and heavy rainfall, uprooted trees, damaged homes, and blocked several roads across the reservation. Emergency services were quickly mobilized in response to the widespread impact.

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.

Many White Earth Departments supported relief efforts for the affected residents. An example of these efforts are the White Earth Forestry Department and the White Earth Roads Department, whose crews worked tirelessly to remove downed trees, clear debris, and reopen vital roadways. Their swift action ensured emergency teams could reach isolated areas and provide critical aid.

"We're thankful no one was seriously injured," said a spokesperson from White Earth

See Response Page 9

PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID Petroit Lakes MN Permit NO 14

Postal Customer

WERBC, SSC, WEPD, WEEC and all associated ontities will not be liable for people who are attending at their own risk nor be held responsible for acciden losses, illnesses or short-funded

CASINO HOTEL ENTERTAINMENT



#### Annual Head Start Powwow

The Annual Head Start Powwow was held June 5 at the Pine Point School.

They have centers in Mahnomen, Waubun, Rice Lake, Pine Point, White Earth and Navtahwaush.

Tribal Head Start promotes Ojibwa language and Indigenous knowledge.

Photo by Gary W. Padrta

#### 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 instillations overseas. One paper per household. The cost of a newspaper subscription is \$12 per year for non-members (including descendants) living off the reservation. **Current and past issues of the** *AT* **can be read online for free at www.whiteearth.com.** 

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

Anishinaabeg Today PO Box 418 White Earth, MN 56591

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- **❖** Indigenous Journalist Association
- **♦** Minnesota Newspaper Association

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#### **Future Issues \***

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>		
July 30	August 6		
August 27	September 3		
September 24	October 1		
October 29	November 5		
November 26	December 3		
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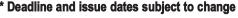




Photo by Carlos Gonzalez / The Minnesota Star Tribune

Margaret Rousu, who runs KKWE, otherwise known as Niijii Radio, in Callaway, said the community relies on the radio station to keep them informed and public funding cuts would threaten its ability to keep broadcasting.

# Federal funding cut could silence tribal, rural radio stations many in Minnesota consider vital

**By Christopher Vondracek andEmmy Martin** The Minnesota Star Tribune

Margaret Rousu is doing everything she can to keep Niijii Radio on the air.

But the station, located on the White Earth Reservation, relies on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for half of its funding.

A bill that narrowly passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month threatens to cut \$1.1 billion from the CPB — and could force Niijii Radio and other rural Minnesota stations to shut down.

These small radio stations are often not just local entertainment but one of few or the only source of essential information in an emergency.

"They're hurting a community that has constantly struggled to overcome the trauma that has been placed on us," said Rousu, the station's general manager.

#### Bill would make cuts permanent

That \$1.1 billion cut to the CPB is part of \$9.4 billion in wide-ranging cuts to federal agencies by the Department of Government Efficacy that Congressional Republicans are trying to make permanent.

It's part of President Donald Trump's effort to downsize government in his second term.

Independent, nonprofit radio stations have received public dollars from CPB since President Lyndon Johnson established it in 1967. In Minnesota, nearly two dozen radio and TV stations received CPB funding last year, totaling \$17.2 million.

Most Americans think of PBS' Big Bird and talk news stations, such as MPR and its national counterpart, National Public Radio, as targets for the cuts. The White House labels NPR and PBS as producers of "woke propaganda," while House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, said, "We're in a different era now" for media funding.

Taken over two years, PBS and NPR could lose more than \$1 billion. But the cuts to small and short-staffed community radio stations like the ones that dot Minnesota will hit harder, they say.

"Cutting off federal funding to public media will not

only damage local stations," Patricia Harrison, president and CEO of CPB, said in a statement. "It will be disruptive for millions of Americans who rely on it for news and information that helps them make decisions about their lives and participate in their communities."

#### Niijii relies on CPB funding

For Niijii Radio, whose call letters are KKWE, CPB support is critical.

"We have a lot of elders who rely on the radio to keep them informed as to what our government is doing," Rousu

Niijii said it is the only Anishinaabe radio station in northern Minnesota that operates independently of tribal government. It broadcasts Tribal Executive Committee meetings for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and covers tribal and local government.

White Earth Nation's newspaper, Anishinaabeg Today, only prints once a month. So when breaking news events occur, residents turn to Niijii Radio.

"If we lose the ability to broadcast this, many people are going to lose the ability to follow along with the tribal government and stuff that's going on there," she said.

#### Local stations could become 'collateral damage'

Other small stations across Minnesota, especially those in rural areas, are in similar straits.

At music station Pioneer 90.1 in Thief River Falls, CPB funding accounts for 40% of the budget.

To survive the cut, general manager Mark Johnson said, the station serving rural northwest Minnesota would likely need to switch to an entirely volunteer staff.

"We're sort of the collateral damage of this war that's going on, not just in public media, but across all the media," Johnson said.

Rousu, too, is searching for other ways to keep Niijii Radio on air, including through nonprofit and foundation grants. The station also might might have to rely on volunteers if it can't pay its three full-time staff members.

Up in Grand Rapids at the offices of KAXE Radio, which hosts a local morning show, music, news and local cooking and trivia programs, general manager Sarah

See KKWE Page 28

#### Tribal offices closed for holiday

White Earth RBC offices will be closed starting at noon on Thursday, July 3 through Friday, July 4 for Independence Day and will reopen on Monday, July 7. They will also be closed on July 18 for the RBC Employee Picnic and will reopen on July 21.

Modified services will still be available

# HEALING FEAST 5PM - 7PM JUNE 11TH - PINE POINT PINE POINT COMMUNITY CENTER JULY 30TH - WHITE EARTH WHITE EARTH COMMUNITY CENTER AUGUST 27TH - MAHNOMEN FARMERS MARKET, MAHNOMEN SEPTEMBER 24TH - RICE LAKE RICE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER OCTOBER 29TH - NTW NTW BH BUILDING CONTACT BRENDA WEAVER FOR QUESTIONS (218) 401-0391



#### **News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks**

Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag Niminwendam Waabaminaan!

Aabita-Niibino Giizis!

Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadizookaanag.

Weweni-sago-na

Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is already July!

Everyone Be Safe.

As Anishinaabe people, we have always been innovators, creating practical and loving ways for our children. Long before the world recognized modern baby gear, our ancestors were already designing tools to nurture the next generation. One such example is the **baby swing** that swung from clothesline rope in our homes, a practice passed down through generations. But did you know that the **Jolly Jumper**, one of the most beloved baby devices today, was created by a woman right here in White Earth.

Susan Olivia Poole, an Indigenous woman from the White Earth Reservation, invented the Jolly Jumper in 1910. Inspired by the Ojibwe tradition of the papoose, where babies were gently hung from a frame or tree for safety and comfort, Susan created a device that used a cloth diaper and broom handle as its original prototype. In 1948, this invention was refined with a steel spring, and the Jolly Jumper was commercialized, providing a safe and fun way for babies to bounce.

#### **Building a Stronger Future on Highway 59**

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 right here in Waubun at 3282 US Highway 59, 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, built by Champion Homes in Worthington, Minn. These aren't just structures—they are the beginnings of someone's life story. They're a 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.

But we're not stopping at selling homes.

We're building a full-service experience that includes:

- Expert home setup and transportation
- Concrete foundations and skirting
- Customizable floor plans
- Trusted financial guidance
- Friendly, knowledgeable local staff who understand your needs

This isn't just business—it's community. It's about Nation helping Nation, with a special focus on tribal collaboration. We've set our sights on expanding throughout Anishinaabe Country—White Earth, Red Lake, Leech Lake, Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage—and building true Nation-to-Nation partnerships. That's how we strengthen tribal economies and keep resources circulating where they're most needed: in our communication.



The manufactured housing industry is thriving in annual value nationally. There are more than eight million manufactured homes in the U.S., and the market is growing. Here at White Earth, we're ready to claim our share of that future—and make it our own.

Our plan includes sustainable growth, operational strength, and future initiatives that include green building practices, technology upgrades, and collaboration with other tribal innovators. We're proud of the team behind this vision—tribal citizens and local talent working side by side, with strong leadership guiding us forward.

This is about homes—but it's also about sovereignty. It's about providing for ourselves, doing the work, and taking control of our economic destiny. When we build homes, we build futures.

Miigwech to everyone who has supported this vision.

Baamaapii wiingezin.

Chi-miigwech bizindawiyeg miinawaa anooj ninda-gikinoo'amaadiwin

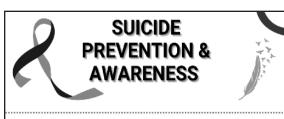
Gigawaabamininim naagaj.

Take it easy.

Thank you for listening and continuing to learn together.

See you all later.

Chairman Michael Fairbanks



#### Warning Signs of Suicide:

 The behaviors listed below may be some of the signs that someone is thinking about suicide.

#### TALKING ABOUT:

#### Wanting to die

Wanting to die
 Great guilt or shame

Being a "burden" to others



#### FEELING:

- Empty, hopeless, trapped, or having no reason to live
- Extremely sad, more anxious, agitated, or full of rage
- Unbearable emotional or physical pain

#### CHANGING BEHAVIOR, SUCH AS:

- Making a plan or researching ways
  to die
- Withdrawing from friends, saying, goodbye, giving away important items, or making a will
- Taking dangerous risks such as driving extremely fast
   Displaying extreme mood
- swings

   Eating or sleeping more or less
- Using drugs or alcohol more often



#### News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

Greetings White Earth Members,

As we welcome the arrival of summer, I am filled with excitement for the season ahead. The longer days and warming temperatures signal the start of a vibrant time for our community, including the much-anticipated Pow-Wow season.

I am honored to provide you with this monthly report from the Secretary-Treasurer's office. My report includes the following key updates:

• Waabigwan Mashkiki: I am working on a plan with legal counsel and the Board of Directors for Waabigwan Mashkiki (and its related companies) to provide White Earth Band members with access to certain financial information. While the plan has not been finalized or approved by the Board of Directors or the RBC, I think the plan will work out like this, we are considering a process for holding an annual meeting that the Board members may attend, and that annual meeting will be a forum for presenting financial information. The company's management and Board of Directors will lead the presentation of the financial information to the Band members. At this time, it is likely that the financial information will cover year-to-date information on revenue, expenses, net income and key balance sheets for capital investment, cash and inventories as of the reporting date. The financial information will not contain any confidential or trade secrets information about any of our companies.

I will continue to keep the Band membership informed on the status of the plan and when it is approved and the date will go into effect.

• White Earth Enterprises: Highway 59 Homes is a new business and will be a startup operation by Mississippi Pillager., d/b/a White Earth Enterprises. The business will be quality and affordability while carrying a prestige product manufactured by Champion Homes in Worthington, Minn. The staff will be complete, with knowledgeable salespeople, efficient set up crew, skilled financial advisors, senior project manager and design expectations that will keep the home buying experience simple and smooth. Additionally, Highway 59 provided home foundations that include concrete pillars. The modular home foundations could include concrete pads or ICF crawl spaces or ICF full basements and the shirking. Lastly, the floor plans are from Champion Homes Builders, Inc.

Highway 59 Homes is a Mobile Home Company located at 3282 US Highway 59 in Waubun.

The White Earth Nation Tribal Council desires to create a new Propane Enterprise. A new White Earth Propane Enterprise will assist the Tribe in achieving energy sovereignty goals by directly controlling and managing the purchase and distribution of propane heating and fleet fuels. White Earth intends to purchase and store bulk propane and manage its distribution to residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural customers both on and off the White Earth Reservation.



The purpose of the new White Earth Propane Enterprise will be to:

- 1. Assist the Tribe to fulfill the energy sovereignty goals of the White Earth Nation.
- 2. Create a new successful business division of the Tribe that will generate new revenue.
- 3. Service the White Earth Nation fleet and facilities with propane energy it purchases and manages itself.
- 4. Transition White Earth vehicles from diesel/gasoline fuels to a more environmentally friendly fuel system.
- 5. Directly serve Reservation members and especially elders who often struggle with propane heating bills, varying private payment protocols and delivery methods, various propane tank and equipment leases, and other issues.

I attended the 157th Annual White Earth Treaty Day Celebration & Pow-Wow last month. This was a great celebration where all relatives were able to celebrate and visit from all over the country.

I would also like to give a big shout out to White Earth staff for the quick response to the recent storms that hit our area and region. I know members were without power for hours and some were without power for days. The Bemidji area, where we have a significant amount of membership, was also hit the worst by these storms. The responses by staff were great and much needed for the membership that needed assistance.

As summer arrives, bringing with it outdoor activities, I eagerly anticipate the celebrations and the chance to engage with our members this season. I am grateful to the members of the White Earth Nation for appointing me as Secretary-Treasurer. Serving our Nation is an honor, and I am dedicated to advancing our priorities and improving people's lives.

Miigwech!

**Michael J. LaRoque** Secretary-Treasurer, White Earth Nation

#### Looking for Behavior Health services for your child?

**The First Thunderbeing House** has services available in the following programs:

<u>Circle Back Center</u> can provide Comprehensive Substance Use Assessments, and Adolescent outpatient (High and Low Intensities).

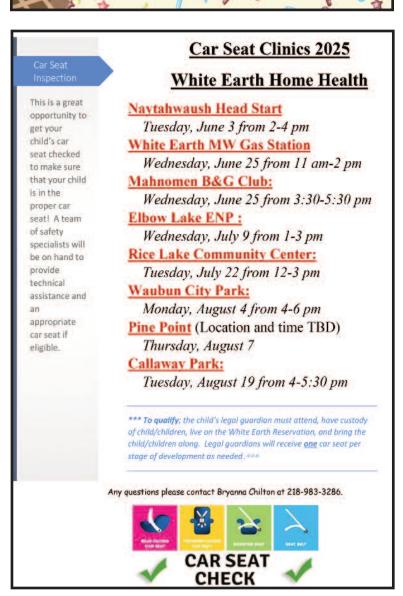
Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court can offer restorative justice work that can improve a child's court outcome and use a team approach to restoring a clean legal record.

<u>Dually Involved Youth services (DIY)</u>: In DIY we offer supportive case management services to area youth in regards to school, mental health or substance use services.

If you have any questions or would like to get more information please call us at 218-983-4693 or 218-401-3973.

Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





#### Iron Range Area Community Council

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

#### News From District 1 Rep. Henry George Fox

Boo-zhoo,

Hope all is well with our people of the White Earth Nation.

#### 10 Elder Homeless Tiny Homes (Rice Lake)

We have five homes for enrolled Elders 55 and over, and five are for 65 and over. We currently have nine Elders moved in and we have one more house available for 65 and older.

#### **Land Tamarack and State Forest**

Tamarack Refuge is still moving forward as is the State Forest. There are a lot of the county commissioners not wanting it at all, even our enrolled members in those positions are against it. I say you all need to look at history, we can do our own management of the State Forest. It comes down to that it's ours, not anyone else.

#### Housing

I'm working with our District 1 Housing Board member James Hvezda Sr., and I attend monthly meetings with the Housing Board. Applications need to filled out and turned in to get on the list. Also tenants need to re-certify every year.

#### **Chemical Health**

We have had a spike on overdose's. I was at a funeral and there was a Elder that got up and talked. He was saying if your going to use, make sure you use with someone. I got mad but after thinking about it and it's true, they would probably be here if they did. Addiction is hard in any form.

#### **Powwow and Walk**

Everyone had a fun time at the annual Memorial Powwow and Walk in May. The host drum was Smoky Hill and the co-host was Manoomin Singers. I had a great time co-hosting MC duties with Frank Stech.

#### Water and Sewer

The water and sewer project hooking up the houses from County Road 7 all the way down to the sewer system by the Rice Lake Community Center is nearly completed. Everyone will get the opportunity to get hooked into the city system.

#### Education

I was excited to see all the recent high school graduations. Make sure you let our students know



they did a great job and you are proud of them.

#### **Day Labor and TERO**

We have day labor in Naytahwaush that goes throughout the reservation so get signed up.

#### **Boys and Girls Club**

It is always good to see all the kids coming to the Club. Come in to wind down for the day, this time of the year they go on field trips and are able to go outside to the playground.

#### **Forestry**

Our firefighters were busy with controlled burns and putting out fires here on the reservation. They also have been delivering Spirit firewood to the families that have lost loved ones.

#### **Urban Communities**

The White Earth Urban Council has a Board that will take the lead on all things for our activities.

#### Elder Advocates, Elder Commission, Elder **Council and Elder Repair**

Our Elder advocates are out in the communities helping with many needs. We also have some HAF funding for Elder repairs

#### Henry G. Fox

District 1 Representative 218-407-2729 or 218-850-0753

#### What is an Indigenous Family, Friends, and Neighbors Program?

Are you a grandparent, auntie, uncle, family friend, or neighbor caring for children in your community while their parents or guardians are at work or school? You may qualify for All Nations Rise's Indigenous Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) Program—an initiative that provides free educational, cultural, and developmental resources to unlicensed child care providers across Minnesota.

The FFN Program is designed specifically to support Indigenous caregivers or those caring for Indigenous children. FFNs often play a critical role in our communities, especially for families with limited transportation, few child care options, or a desire for more culturally grounded care. This program acknowledges your important work and want to support you through tools and resources you need to help the children you care for thrive.

#### What you receive as an FFN with ANR:

- Educational resources including early childhood development materials, age-appropriate toys, and engaging activities
- Cultural tools such as books, crafts, and language materials that reflect and honor Indigenous identities

- Safety supports like childproofing items, smoke alarms, and CPR/First Aid training
- Mini grants to help with supplies, activities, or improving your care space
- One-on-one support with ANR staff who are here to guide you every step of the way
- Community gatherings and field trips to connect with other FFNs and strengthen relationships
- No cost to register and no identifying information is shared with the state

To qualify, you must:

- Be providing care without a child care license
- · Be Indigenous or caring for Indigenous chil-
- Not be the parent or legal guardian of all the children you care for
- Not be providing 24/7 care (overnight care every day)

#### The process is simple:

Registering as an FFN is quick and easy, and help is available every step of the way. Just complete a short application, answer a few questions, and com-

#### See Program Page 30

#### NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD **INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25** PONSFORD, MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 25 shall begin on July 29, 2025, and shall close at 5 o'clock p.m. on August 12, 2025.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. At that election, three (3) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of three (3) years.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, PO Box 8, Ponsford, MN 56575. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for 30 days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same general elec-

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5 o'clock p.m. on August 12, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

#### **HOUSING AVAILABLE IN CITY** OF MAHNOMEN

#### For Rent & For Sale Homes

info@mmcdc.com www.mmcdc.com







MMCDC is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender



#### A MESSAGE FROM ST. COLUMBA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Due to recent vandalism and illegal activities at St. Columba Episcopal Church, the gate will be locked. We are sorry for the inconvenience but due to these issues we have no alternative.

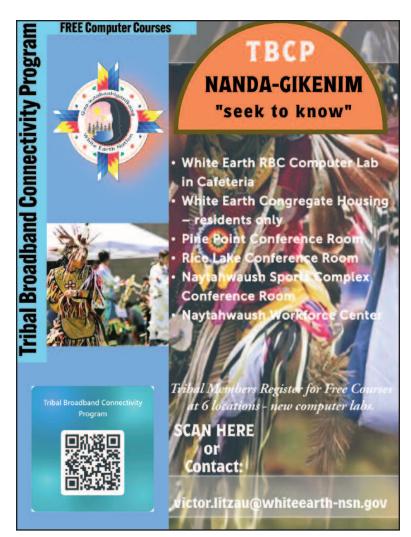
#### **Boys & Girls Club Summer Hours**

Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Waubun & White Earth sites:

8 am to 4:30 pm

Rice Lake: 8 am to 4 pm Pine Point: 8 am to 4 pm

> Breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:30 am Lunch will be served from 12:30-1:30 pm Snack will be served in the afternoon



### **Valleyview Commons**

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

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

Tenant is responsible for electric and heat.

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



CREATING BETTER LIVING Equal Housing Opportunity



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

#### News From District 2 Rep. Eugene Sommers

Boozhoo Anishinaabe,

#### **MAST Impact Week**

In March, I joined the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes in Washington, D.C., where we met with lobbyists and lawmakers on Capitol Hill to advocate for Indian Country. A major concern was the abrupt cut to federal funding, along with efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. If successful, these actions would have devastating consequences for Tribal Colleges and Indian education programs across the nation.

#### **Legislative Session**

This legislative session, I had the opportunity to testify on issues affecting both Indian Education and Natural Resources.

In education, I spoke out against proposed rollbacks that would weaken Tribal involvement in our schools. Efforts included removing oversight by American Indian Parent Advisory Committees, repealing the state's ban on Native mascots, and delaying the implementation of the ethnic studies curriculum. These changes threaten cultural visibility, limit Native voices in public education, and undermine the progress we've made in codifying Indian education.

On the natural resources front, I supported efforts to protect wild rice through stronger pesticide regulations, habitat mapping, and the formal recognition of wild rice as a living relative. These protections are essential to preserving our land, water, and cultural heritage for future generations-especially as new mineral extraction operations emerge in the state of Minnesota.

#### **Moorhead Gaming Proposal**

In April, members of the RBC met with the Moorhead City Council to discuss the possibility of a gaming facility on a 280-acre property purchased in October 2024 for \$3.9 million. At the time of purchase, the property's estimated value was \$4.5 million. The proposal was for a gaming facility, and concerns were raised about potential damage to an

#### White Earth Cannabis Compact

On May 20, the RBC signed a cannabis compact agreement with the State of Minnesota, marking the first cannabis compact in state history. This compact authorizes the White Earth Nation to operate up to eight off-reservation dispensaries. Three days after signing, we opened the Moorhead dispensary, which was very well attended. The St. Cloud dispensary is expected to open in early July. The RBC plans to utilize all eight licenses, with dispensary locations strategically chosen for long-term sustainability. As state-licensed operations expand, we expect to lose more market share, so we are ramping up cannabis production to supply not only our dispensaries but also other licensed distributors across the state.

#### **Indian Gaming**

I attended this year's Indian Gaming Association Conference, a well-attended event where Tribes gathered to discuss challenges like federal funding cuts and emerging threats to Indian gaming. One major concern is the rapid growth of online sweepstakes casinos, which are drawing players away from Tribal casinos and cutting into vital revenue streams. These platforms operate outside the regulatory frameworks governing tribal gaming, creating an uneven playing field. They also undermine the exclusivity of Tribal-State gaming compacts, threaten Tribal sovereignty by establishing digital gambling precedents without tribal input, and risk excluding Tribes from the



expanding online gaming market where they should be leading.

Many Tribes are exploring opportunities in iGaming and sports betting to diversify revenue and stay competitive in a changing market. While digital gaming offers significant economic potential and supports tribal sovereignty, it also brings legal complexities, substantial startup costs, and concerns about player safety.

#### **BIA Consultations**

Following Executive Order 14210, which established the Department of Government Efficiency, the Department of the Interior launched a series of Tribal consultations across the country. I participated in the in-person session held in Bloomington, Minn., where I provided testimony highlighting the harmful impact of federal staffing cuts. These reductions have left many Tribes in limbo, creating delays and uncertainty when engaging with the federal government on critical programs and services.

It's been an interesting few months navigating the shifts under the new federal administration. While there have been significant threats to Tribal sovereignty, there are also emerging opportunities. One area I remain optimistic about is the recent cuts to the National Park Service. These challenges could open the door for Tribes to step in as caretakers of public lands, restoring stewardship grounded in Indigenous knowledge. If 638 contracting authority is expanded, Tribes could eventually assume full management of these lands. Currently, there is a pathway through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that allows for co-stewardship agreements, laying important groundwork for deeper Tribal involvement.

Miigwech

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#### Christopher Vanwert Jr

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Cell Phone: 218-850-2533

#### UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

Please update your address with the Anishinaabeg Today. Let us know if you moved so we can cancel your old address.

Many papers are still being sent to old addresses!

#### News From District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

Aaniin Anishinaabe

Summer is a time of gathering, cookouts, picnics, swimming, ceremony, a time when we come together and support one another as a community. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all who continue to serve our communities—whether through programs, cultural preservation, education or daily acts of kindness. Let us continue to lift each other up, care for our elders and youth and walk forward with respect and purpose.

6-2 Tribal leaders met with Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon and Melanie Hayslip, Voter Outreach Director to discuss voting, pop up voting sites, absentee and early voting expansion, staff training partnerships, outreach, community education, voting methods. Secretary of State office provided educational documents, Ojibwe language and cultural inclusion, educational sessions. During the last county, state election, White Earth Nation and Becker County hosted a pop-up voting site at the Fire Hall, helping increase accessibility and civic participation within our community. We remain committed to building on these efforts and will continue working to ensure our members have convenient opportunities to engage in the electoral process.

6-5 Secretary Michael LaRoque, Health staff and myself met with representatives from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) as part of an interview process. White Earth is actively pursuing public health accreditation a significant step toward strengthening our health systems ensuring quality services and improving health outcomes for our community. This effort reflects our ongoing commitment to building a healthier future for all Tribal members. We should hear possibly this fall if we are approved or not.

I had the honor of attending the annual White Earth Head Start Powwow which was held this year at Pine Point School. This powwow is hosted annually and rotates among the various villages within the community. It was a joy to see our youth participate, dancing proudly in their regalia and having fun with their friends and family members.

The Callaway Community Picnic was held at the softball field and brought out a wonderful turnout of community members. Attendees enjoyed delicious food along with raffles and great company. Families played kickball on the softball field. Programs set up booths for families to learn and visit. The Callaway Community Council election took place during the event. Congratulations to the newly elected Callaway Community Council members: Tiffany Swiers, Teresa Madigan, Brian Murray, Zack Jackson, Emily Annette. We look forward to your leadership and service to the community.

**6-11** Tribal Leaders attended and welcomed guests at the 25th Annual Wisdom Steps Conference at Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. Elders throughout Minnesota gathered to listen to speakers and attend several sessions with topics that ranged from Boarding Schools, Men's Health Issues, Senior Scams, Drug Trends, and Adult Caregivers to a Virtual Dementia Tour. The Conference wrapped up on June 12 with a 1-mile walk and a closing ceremony.

**6-12** The White Earth Annual Recovery Parade was filled with a number of creative floats, lots of candy even ramen noodles for families. The event was followed by a community meal, a raffle with great prizes and blessing of the powwow grounds. Miigwech to all who participated, organized and



came out to support. It is great to see our families gathering together.

**6-13, 14, 15** The White Earth Nation held the 157th Annual Powwow. Grand entry was held Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening, Sunday afternoon. We were blessed with beautiful weather, outstanding vendors and incredible dancers. Thank you to everyone who traveled from near and far to join us. Your presence helped make this year's powwow a memorable gathering for all.

**6-16** I met with staff from the Finance and Land departments for an on-site walk-through in Callaway. Our discussion focused on current land, future development plans for the Boys and Girls Club and potential opportunities for housing development. This collaborative effort is an important step toward planning for sustainable growth and meeting the long-term needs of the community.

We held a follow-up meeting with the architect regarding the proposed Callaway Building project. During the meeting, we reviewed the initial schematics and engaged in discussion about modifications and improvements. This review process is helping to ensure the final design meets the needs of the community and aligns with our vision for the space.

6-17 Tribal leaders recently held a brief meeting to discuss updates related to the Indian Health Service (IHS). IHS has been actively working to address and catch up on outstanding Patient Care Referral (PRC) bills. While there have been some barriers in the process, IHS continues to make progress and remains committed to resolving these issues. We encourage patients who may have unpaid PRC bills to bring them to the clinic as soon as possible. This will help ensure that your bills are processed and paid in a timely manner. IHS has a system in place to move these payments forward and your cooperation is appreciated as we work together to improve healthcare services for our community.

**6-24** A special meeting of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (RBC) was held to address recent severe weather events. During the meeting, a local emergency was officially declared and the White Earth Tribal Emergency Operations Plan was activated in response to the storms and high winds that impacted the area. In addition, the RBC approved a grant application to apply for funding for supportive housing for young adults ages 18–24. If funding is secured, this is an important step toward addressing housing stability and transitional needs within our community for ages 18-24.

#### See Erickson Page 29

#### White Earth Council of Elders

By Tim Rindahl, Chairman White Earth Nation Council of Elders

Aaniin.

I would like to start out by saying Thank You to the Tribal Council, they really helped out a lot after the storm working on the front lines and making calls to make sure we had everything that we needed. I know there were some people that felt they didn't get the help they needed but you have to remember they tried to get to everyone. Some people did not have cell service to call in for help so we did not know that they needed anything, and everything went by so fast!

Thank you to the White Earth Disaster Team and all the programs that stepped up to help out. We know that we need to update all the information so that when this happens again, and it will, we can be more prepared - so please update your information and if you have any medical needs or anything that would prevent you from calling in, make sure that it gets to the right program.

I would like to give a Big Thank You to Shirley Holzgrove for the NARCAN training and demonstration that she put on at our Elbow Lake meeting in June, she was very good at explaining how and when to administrate NARCAN. She was asked a lot of questions and had all the answers that we needed, so thank you Shirley - woohoo!

I would also like to give a Big Thank You to Dean Villebrun who is in the process of making two picnic tables for each ENP site for the Elders so they sit down and visit. Please utilize them to sit and visit, this expense came out of his own pocket and heart so if you see Dean be sure to shake his hand and let him know that we really appreciate the beautiful picnic tables. Thank you, Dean, yeah!

The White Earth Powwow was totally awesome, with lots of dancing, food, and artwork. The weather was nice this year which caught me by surprise, but we were busy with the Elder booth and let's not forget about the parade. It gets bigger every year with lots of talent out there.

Still looking for some Mahnomen residents that would like to be involved so that next year we can add Mahnomen to the meeting calendar. If you would like to be involved with setting this up reach out to Pam Aspinwall - she can be reached at 218-850-7016.

Just a reminder that in December we will have our elections for the White Earth Elder Council seats. I encourage anyone to run - I believe that we are going in the right direction but there is still a lot of work to do let's keep this going. Elections will take place at the Elders Christmas Party.

This is our meeting schedule for this year as follows.

Aug. 5 - Pine Point ENP site

Sept. 2 - White Earth ENP site

Oct. 7 - Rice Lake ENP site

Nov. 4 - Elbow Lake ENP site

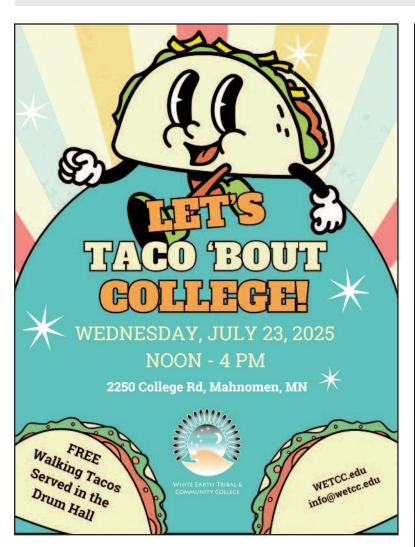
Dec. 2 - Naytahwaush ENP site

Native American quote of the month: "Wisdom comes only when you stop looking for it and start living the life the Creator intended for you."

If you have something exciting happening in your area let us know so that we can get the word out.

Miigwech,

Tim Rindahl (Chairman) 218-261-0182







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.

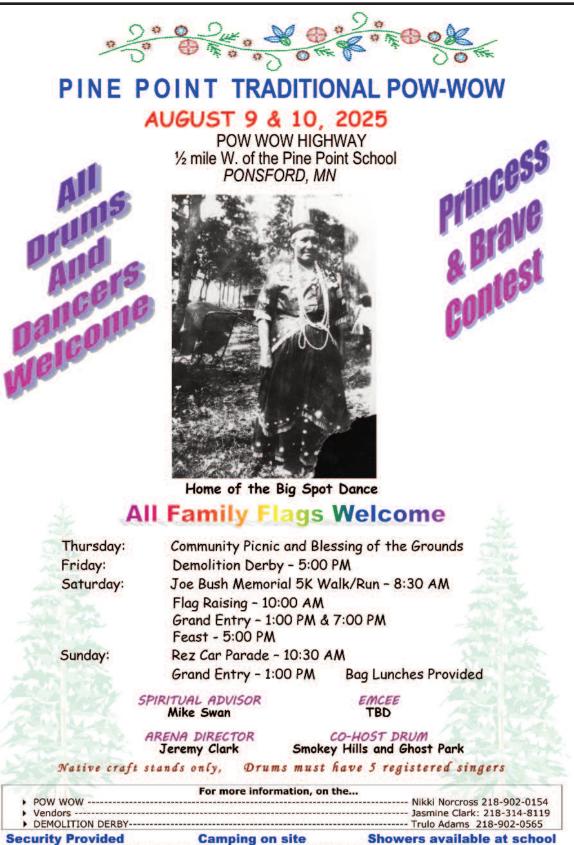
For more information contact DW Jones Management. 218-547-3307 or apply at www.dwjonesmanagement.com



CREATING BETTER LIVING Equal Housing Opportunity

TTY711





#### **Debwe Motorcycle Club donates to Mahnomen TCC**

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT OR ACCIDENTS

NO ALCOHOL . NO DRUGS . NO COLORS



Submitted photo

The Debwe Motorcycle Club Gaawababikanikaag recently donated \$500 to the Mahnomen Tribal Community Council. The Native American based club mission statement is to bring a brotherhood, Native values and support to the surrounding communities of White Earth Reservation.

#### **Alamo Scouts**

#### White Earth veteran was part of a top-secret unit

#### By Budd Parker

White Earth Community Member and Navy Veteran

In last month's Memorial Day article in the honoring our deceased veterans, a vital portion was inadvertently omitted from the telling of Francis H. LaQuier (White Earth) and the Alamo Scouts. As stated, 6th Army's top-secret Alamo Scouts were comprised entirely of volunteers who infiltrated enemy lines in the Pacific Theater during World War II gathering critical intelligence about the enemy.

What was accidentally omitted from the article was that upon graduating from the intensive sixweek training course those who chose to continue on as operational retained Scouts were divided into individual teams of 6 or 7 men under one junior officer and that each team regularly conducted their top secret missions on their own.

The idea for the formation of the Alamo Scouts was the brain child of Army Lt. General Walter Krueger who wanted a tight knit unit of soldier spies who could work independently, with no chain of command, to provide ground-based intelligence.

"Volunteers for the Alamo Scouts underwent a rigorous selection process at the divisional, regimental, battalion, and company levels before selection to one of the six Alamo Scouts Training Centers that were established throughout the war. Class size ranged from 80-100 candidates, with an attrition rate of over 40 percent.

At the end of each training class, graduates had the choice of returning to their parent units or they could continue their service as retained operational Alamo Scouts. These candidates then voted by secret ballot for the four men they would most like to



Photos courtesy of Alamo Scouts Historical Foundation

Rounsaville Team at Levte award ceremony on Jan. 1, 1945. Standing from left are Francis H. LaQuier (White Earth), Harold N. Hard, and Franklin B. Fox. Kneeling from left are 1st Lt. Tom J. Rounsaville and Alfred Alphonso. Not pictured in the group photo are Rufo V. Vaquilar and LaRoy F. Donnette. Their photos are included on the right of this article.



go on a dangerous mission with and for the officer they would like to lead them. In turn the officers voted for the men they would most like to serve on their

Such a selection had not been used by the

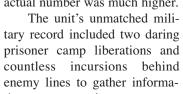
Rufo L. Vaquilar

military since the Civil War, but unlike the mixed results of that time, the Alamo Scouts experienced resounding success. Retained graduates then were formed into elite 6 to 7 man teams led by a junior officer, with the team taking the last name of the officer."

From the Alamo Scouts formation in November 1943 to November 1945, when the unit was disbanded, 21 teams were formed from the 138 retained operational Scouts. Graduates of this intense course numbered Native Americans from approximately 20

tribes, including the Cherokee, Navaio. Chippewa, Sauk, Choctaw, Seminole, Apache, Papago, Fox, Chitimacha, Sioux, Pawnee, and others, which brought a wealth of experience to the Southwest Pacific Theater.

"Of the approximately 138 retained operational Scouts, 14 were known to be Native American, six percent of the total force. However, given the unit's top-secret classification and absence of detailed records indicating race, it is likely that the actual number was much higher.



LaRoy F. Donnette tion, capture prisoners, rescue civilians, and to organize, supply, equip, and train Filipino guerilla units in operations against the Japanese.

Source: Lance Q. Zedric author of "Silent Warriors of World War II: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines," and lecturer on military affairs and special operations forces.

#### Response from Front Page

Emergency Management. "Our teams, with the help of forestry and roads crews, worked through the weekend to protect our community, especially our elders."

Recovery operations are ongoing, as utility companies collaborated with tribal departments to restore power and services. Community volunteers also came forward to help neighbors in need, a testament to the strength and solidarity of the White Earth Nation.

Residents are reminded to exercise caution during ongoing cleanup efforts and to report any unsafe conditions, such as downed power lines, to tribal authorities.

Anyone interested in receiving emergency alerts through CodeRed can sign up by visiting www.whiteearth.com/divisions/natural-resources.

#### THE DOCTOR'S CORNER

#### White Earth IHS Updates

#### By Marissa Stevens

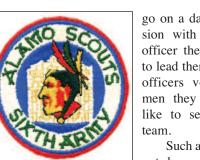
White Earth Service Unit Business Office Manager

Niibin, the summer season or season of plenty, is here! At the White Earth Indian Health Service, we have had plenty of updates and would like to share them with you.

- N New Insurance Plans and Cards: It is VERY important you bring your new insurance card to your upcoming appointment at IHS. Having your most current card on file ensures your medical provider can process your claim efficiently and provides you with the care you need without delay.
- I Injured at work or in a motor vehicle? Please let registration know about the injury when you check into your appointment. Have the date of injury, claim number, phone numbers, or copies of accident related information with you on the day of your appointment. Including up to date records ensures proper billing and coverage.
- I Important announcement: Appointment reminder calls are now automated! You will be able to confirm, reschedule, or cancel your appointment from your phone. If you prefer a text message reminder next time, you will have the option to sign up during the reminder call. For this program to work to the highest potential, always make sure your contact information is correct. If your address or phone number has changed, call the White Earth Service Unit Registration Staff directly at 218-983-6260.
- **B** Benefit Coordinators (also known as PBCs) are available to assist you with questions on the benefits of Medicare and private insurances. They can also help you fill out the applications. Call 218-983-6251 for White Earth and Pine Point or 218-935-6566 for Naytahwaush.
- I Incoming call from a phone number you don't recognize? It may be our automated system reminding you of an upcoming appointment. Don't hang up, it isn't a scam! By answering the call, you can let us know if you are coming to your appointment and if not, another patient can have access to that available appointment.
- N New address or phone number? Call the White Earth Service Unit Registration staff directly at 218-983-6260. We want to be able to reach you with important information such as appointment reminders, lab and test results, and in case of an emergency.

Wishing you a plentiful summer from the all the staff at the White Earth Indian Health Service.





#### IN NEED OF SEPTIC PUMPING

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

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

**Tribal Enrolled Member** (54 years or younger) - \$80 **White Earth Business** - \$115

Non-enrollee (any age) - \$185

Businesses - \$225

(You must reside on the White Earth Reservation)

# 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.







Submitted photo

Front Row: IPLI Graduates: Cynthia Jones, Raven Freebird, Matty Bowstring Sr., Crystal Littlewolf, Shona Hanks, Geri Goodwin. Middle Row: ICLI Graduates: Jaysen Warren, Matty Bowstring Jr., Nayshia Hanks, Jaycene Jones (Classroom Asst). Back Row: Barb Fabre (All Nations Rise CEO), Kris Manning (ICLI Facilitator/Lead Teacher), Marlena Hanson (IPLI Facilitator/Site Coordinator), Stephanie Longfield (IPLI Facilitator), Beth Ann Dodds (IPLI Program Manager/Site Coordinator), and Susie Ballot (IPLI Cultural Facilitator)

# All Nations Rise celebrates graduates of the 2025 Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative - Cohort 3

All Nations Rise (ANR) recently held their Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative (IPLI) graduation ceremony at Shooting Star Casino and Event Center to honor cohort 3's six amazing and dedicated parent leaders who committed to sharing a journey of exploration, vulnerability, understanding and discovery over 22 weeks.

The IPLI process guides parents to focus on their advocacy voice and communication skills through Passion with Purpose. Each graduate is creating positive changes, grounded in culture through their community projects and with their families.

This year, ANR also graduated four children through the Indigenous Children's Leadership Initiative (ICLI). ICLI is an indigenized curriculum that offers children ages 3 to 12 years old, a parallel course while their parents attend IPLI classes in the same building. The CLTI curriculum follows the IPLI class format, with children discussing civic topics (age appropriate) through suggested Indigenous children's literature and hands on activities.

Through ICLI, children received a total of 23 books over the course of the initiative building their own family library. ICLI incorporates language and cultural activities through Indigenous Visioning's Indigebox (culture in the classroom) curriculum/activities. In ICLI, children develop their own "group community project" which was to provide hygiene products to people experiencing homelessness. The ICLI group community project is also in the process of establishing a donation box for those who wish to contribute.

The mission of the Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative is to guide parents in becoming leading advocates for children. As parent leaders go through the 22-week journey, they are inspired and empowered to be their own change agent and be a role model

for their children while bringing positive change within their lives, their children's lives and the health of their tribal communities. IPLI integrates child development, leadership, democracy skills and culture into a parent curriculum that empowers the parent voice. IPLI weaves together the Parent Leadership Training Institute, a nationally accredited and evidence-based parenting leadership curriculum and the Indigenous Foundations curriculum (created by Elders from Red Lake Nation, White Earth Ojibwe Nation and Dr. Anton Treuer).

The initiative is being offered through a cultural lens to acknowledge and reverse the effects of historical trauma and adverse childhood own traditional teaching each week through the Indigenous Foundations curriculum, the initiative supports the revitalization of Ojibwe values, teachings, language and a healthy traditional lifestyle for participants.

Minnesota-based non-profit, All Nations Rise (ANR) was established in 2021 by Indigenous Visioning, LLC (IV) and is an Indigenous women led non-profit that is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children and parents through multi-generational efforts. By supporting tribal communities, the organization emphasizes a cultural perspective in its initiatives to achieve lasting and meaningful change. ANR works with tribal, state, federal and philanthropic partners and champions tribal sovereignty through policy advocacy, systems improvement, parent empowerment and fostering successful tribal economic development.

To learn more about All Nations Rise and their initiatives, or if you are interested in learning more about becoming an Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative Parent Leader or Facilitator visit www.allnationsrise.com or call us at 218-694-2005.

The Pine Point Traditional Pow-Wow is Aug. 9-10



Photo by Ana Kircher

The 24th Annual White Earth Diabetes Memorial 5k Fun Walk/Run was held June 14. The event was created to help fight diabetes.

# Having fun fighting diabetes through annual White Earth 5k Fun Walk/Run

The 24th Annual White Earth Diabetes Memorial 5k Fun Walk/Run was held June 14 starting at the White Earth Health Division parking lot. The event was created to help fight diabetes.

The 5k had its best turn out ever with 96 runner/walkers participating on a slightly cool but beautiful morning.

The 1st place over all winner in the men's category was Taylor Zima and the 1st place overall winner in the women's category was Tracee Omang.

#### Girls' 5-14

1st Brylee Omang 2nd Macy Rose Warren 3rd Embry Lhotka-Nelson

#### Women's 15-29

1st Marley Jean Mindt 2nd Kelly Newman 3rd Anna Paul

#### Women's 30-39

1st Tracee Omang 2nd Jessica Haugo 3rd Nicole Jarvis

#### Women's 40-49

1st Kelly Zima 2nd Michelle St.Clair 3rd Kelly Mindt

#### Women's 50+

1st Laverne Hoban 2nd Laure Zima 3rd Lisa Larson

#### Boys' 5-14

1st Trevor Bevins 2nd Gien Hagen 3rd Parker St. Clair

#### Men's 15-29

1st Travis Bevins 2nd Christoper VanWert Jr. 3rd Wayan Austin

#### Men's 30-39

1st Tyler Zima 2nd Randy Hagen Jr 3rd Cory Bellefeuille

#### Men's 40-49

1st James Libby 2nd Micheal Mindt 3rd Grandon Divor

#### Men's 50 +

1st Gary Van Hunnik 2nd John Schultz

Congratulations to all the participants for completing the annual 5k event. Organizers hope to see you all again next year and bring your friends.



#### **WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council**

11 am to 3 pm

Meal served at noon

Annual Community Picnic Saturday, 7-12-25

WEUCC cordially invites
White Earth Families &
Friends to the Annual
Summer Picnic where
there will be great food,
fun and door prizes.

We would love for you to let us know if you can attend so we can make sure we bring enough food.

You can call/text Sherri Loken at 612-423-6760 or text Annette Christensen at 612-508-4425



Minnehaha Park Wabun Picnic Area Shelter D 4655 46th Ave So Minneapolis, MN 55406

#### WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

DATE APPLYING:	
Name: Spouses Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Physical Address:  Permanent residency is required.	
Telephone #	
Email address:	
Birthdate: Spouse's Birthdate:	
Enrollment # Spouse's Enrollment # Attach a colored copy.	
Do you own the home: Yes No if not, name your landlord?	
Do you live in a Housing home?, as they plow for their own Residents/Units.	
Which district do you reside in: District I District II District III	
Detailed directions to your residence (only for new applicants):	
***Lawn mowing will be done every two weeks; <u>area needs to be cleared of debris</u> .	
***Dogs must be tied up, fenced in, or housed during service.	
***Weed trimming, bagging of grass & mowing ditches will not be provided.	

White Earth Water & Sewer Department P.O. Box 418 White Earth, MN 56591 Phone: 218-935-6411 Fax: 888-228-3650

Email address: Lisa.Donovan-Larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov or Burnham.tibbettsiii@whiteearth-nsn.gov



MAHNOMEN + BAGLEY STARCASINO.COM + 800.453.STAR



# **CHANCE TO WIN CASH** OR A TRAVEL TRAILER

Sundays in July

Hear that? The open road is calling. Start earning entries for a chance to win cash every Sunday or the grand prize on July 27: a new travel trailer.

#### STAY. PLAY. REPEAT.

Your summertime getaway starts with The Star Experience Stay & Play Package. Check it out and book it now! Not valid with other offers.















**WEII Community** Services Coordinator 218-844-7029



**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!



# Home Stretch

Homebuyer **Education Class** 

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

> June 18 July 9 August 5

All classes are 9am to 5pm

at

**Shooting Star Casino** Mahnomen MN

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

Proudly owned and successfully operated by the White Earth Nation. ©2025 White Earth Reservation



#### Receive emergency alerts with CodeRED

The White Earth Emergency Management Department uses CodeRED to send out emergency alerts to community members when the need arises. These alerts include but are not limited to, severe weather, missing persons, and boil water advisories. Notifications can be sent to landlines, cell phones, text messages, TDD/TTY devices, and email accounts. Community members must voluntarily sign up in order to receive the emergency alerts and notifications. The following information will guide you through the process of signing up.

- Click on the link below to sign up for the CodeRED Community Notification platform (the link can also be found on the main page of the White Earth Natural Resources webpage https://www.whiteearth.com/divisions/natural-resources): CodeRED Community Notification platform
  - Check the circle by "No, continue to enroll as a guest"
  - Click "Continue"
  - Fill out the "Contact Information" section
  - Complete the "Contract Addresses and Communication Methods" Sections.
- + Enter phone number and select all the methods that you would like to get notified, i.e. TDD/TTY Device and/or text messages
  - + You can also add another phone line if needed
- + If you'd like to receive an email notification, click "+Add email" and enter your email address
  - Read "Data Privacy" and click the "Keep my information private" box
- Read "Terms and Conditions" and click the box stating that you have read and agreed
  - Click "Verify Information" button
  - Review information to verify that it is correct
  - Click the "Continue" button
  - If a warning box comes select the "Continue" button

Once this information is all complete you will be enrolled into the CodeRED Community Notification system. Again, CodeRED notifications are completely voluntary, individuals won't get the message unless they sign up.

#### White Earth Food Shelf July 2025 Delivery Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
	Callaway	Rice Lake	NTW	CLOSED
	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
	Niijii Radio	ENP Site	Stocking Shelfs	Independence Day
	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-2pm	CLOSED
7	8	9	10	11
NTW	Elbow Lake	Pine Point	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelfs	ENP Site	ENP Site	Stocking Shelfs	
9am-2pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-2pm	CLOSED
14	15	16	17	18
NTW	White Earth	Ogema	NTW	CLOSED
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelfs	ENP Site	Dream Catcher Homes	Stocking Shelfs	Employee Picnic
9am-2pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-2pm	CLOSED
21	22	23	24	25
NTW	Waubun	Mahnomen	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelfs	Community Center	Vet's Building	Stocking Shelfs	
9am-2pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-2pm	CLOSED
28	29	30	31	
NTW				
Walk in's				
Stocking Shelfs				
9am-2pm				

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

Walk in's are Monday's and Thursday's only at the Nay tah waush Sports Complex from 9am-2pm please feel free to contact the White Earth Food Shelf at 218-935-6313 or 218-935-6314 please call ahead of time if picking up so that we have enough food for everyone thanks

#### 17th Annual

#### Summer Wild Rice Round-Up

August 8-10, 2025 Sandhill Bible Camp



#### Contact Information:

Pam 612-250-1171 or pamroseasp@hotmail.com Fred 218-849-1357 Website: www.wildriceroundup.com
All-inclusive lodging & meals fee is \$140.00.

Mail Registration form & payment to: Wild Rice Round-Up PO Box 203

Mahnomen, MN 56557

Friday, August 8, 2025

Registration: Meet & Greet 3pm.

Dinner 6pm.

AA Speaker: Randy, Hackensack, MN

10pm. AA & Al-Anon Camp Fire Meeting

Saturday, August 9, 2025

8:30am. Breakfast 10am AA Speaker: Guest speaker

1:00pm. Free time: Cribbage, swim, canoe,

Al-Anon Meeting: Topic 4pm.

5:30pm, Ceremony

6:00pm. Dinner

AA Speaker: Gayle, Winnipeg

AA & Al-Anon Camp Fire Meeting

Sunday, August 10, 2025 8:30am Breakfast

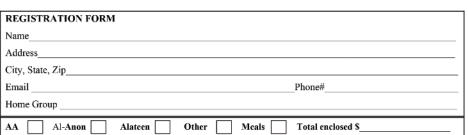
AA Speaker: Beth, Florida

11am Packing & Farewells

What to bring?
Bedding, towels, swimwear, toiletries, soda, snacks, camp chairs, clothing for warm days and cool nights. Sorry, no pets allowed.

Camp is located 6 miles south of Fosston on CR 3. Call 218-435-6100 for RV & Camping Information

Website: www.sandhillbiblecamp.com Day rate is \$60 which includes meals





# **Bush Foundation selects Curtis Rogers as a Bush Fellow**

SAINT PAUL - The Bush Foundation recently announced the 2025 Bush Fellows-individuals whose bold vision and leadership are shaping communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography. One of the individuals selected was White Earth enrollee Curtis Rogers.

Fellows are working on a wide range of issues such as decreasing stigma and increasing supports for people with autism, advocating for the rights and needs of amputees, providing doula care to people with cancer and building low-cost housing that considers our changing climate and environment.

They all have plans to help them think bigger and think differently about what is possible, including learning from work around the globe to bring wisdom back to the region. This includes learning about language preservation efforts in Scandinavia to understanding school discipline in Japan.

#### **About the Bush Fellowship**

The Bush Fellowship is a self-designed leadership program that gives individuals the flexibility they need to develop their own capacity to lead effectively. Bush Fellows are at a point in their lives where they know what they need to do become a stronger leader, and they have a plan for how to do it. The Fellowship provides them with best of my ability." the time and resources needed.

Up to 30 Bush Fellows are selected each year to receive funds to support their self- designed leadership plan. Fellows can come from any sector-including business, nonprofit and government. What sets them apart is their bold vision for what is possible and their commitment to making it real.

#### **Curtis Rogers**

#### **White Earth Nation**

Curtis Rogers is strengthening Tribal governance through culturally grounded leadership and long-term systems thinking. As Deputy Director of the White Earth Nation, he oversees programs that touch all aspects of Tribal life, from public safety to economic development. Curtis is recognized for his quiet strength, ethical leadership, and commitment to service. He has championed initiatives like paid parental leave, culture-embedded Tribal law and leadership development pipelines.

"I am honored to become a Bush Fellow," said Rogers. "I will utilize the fellowship to gain a better understanding of our culture, further my education, and strengthen my leadership so I can continue to serve our communities to the

With his Bush Fellowship, he will deepen his legal and policy knowledge to advance land reclamation, build resilient leadership systems and elevate traditional practices as core elements of Tribal sovereignty.

#### **About Bush Foundation**

The Bush Foundation works to inspire and support creative problem solvingwithin and across sectors-to make the region better for everyone. We do this by investing in great ideas and the people who power them in



**Curtis Rogers** 

Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share this geography.

Bush works through open grantmaking programs to develop, test and spread great ideas to make our region better, and to inspire, equip and connect people to lead change effectively.



# White Earth Nation ITBC BUFFALO HARVEST AND NECROPSY TRAINING



**July 23, 2025** 

1482 Highway 200 Mahnomen, MN 56557 lpm - 5pm

Please join us for a hands-on experience brought to you by White Earth Natural Resources Ag. Dept. & Bison Program and the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) to learn about traditional buffalo harvest and necropsy using ITBC's mobile harvest unit. Prepare to learn how to harvest in the field!

All White Earth Reservation community members are welcome to attend! Please wear clothes you can get dirty and bring a cooler for meat distribution!

Contact Mikiya or Jack with any questions:

Mikiya Reuther InterTribal Buffalo Council mikiya@itbcbuffalonation.org

Jack Heisler White Earth Bison Program jack.heisler@whiteearth-nsn.gov Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Anishinaabeg Today



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.

# Abinoojiiwin•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.
- ••"Doodooshaaboo. daataagwa'igan, bakwezhigan." ("Milk. Oatmeal. Bread.")
- ••"Nibi. Aniibiishaaboo. Gizhaagamide-nibi." ("Water. Tea drink. Hot water.")
- ••"Ziinzibaakwad. Niminwendaan." ("Sugar/maple sugar. I like it.")
- ••"Zaasagokwaan(ag) ina?" ("Fry bread(s)?")
- ••"Daga. Eya'!"("Please. Yes!")

Speak syllables=consonant & vowel
Mii gwa n (ag) - Feather (s)
Gii shki jii wa goo day(an),
Giishkijiiwagooday-Skirt(s)
Ba ba gi wa yaan(an)-Shirt(s)
Odazhigan(an)-H/h sock(s)

Giboodiyegwaazon(an)
-Your pair of pants.(s)
Niwiiwakwaan-My hat.
Onik.- H/her arm.

-S N

Miskozi. -S/he is red.
Ozaawaa. - It is yellow.
Ozaawizi. -S/he is yellow.
Ozhaawashkwaa.
-It is green. Or It is blue.
Ozhaawashkozi.
-S/he is green or S/he is blue.
Nagweyaab. - Rainbow (NI)
Gizhiikaa. - S/he goes fast.
Ningizhiikaa. - I go fast.
Gizhiibatoo. S/he runs fast.
(Add -wag)-They run fast.)
Find the ten(10) underlined Ojibwe words in the wordfind.

Miskwaa. - It is red.

#### Oshki-nitaawigiwin•Young Adult•Teen

Listen to Ojibwemo-ikidowinan (words) online at the Ojibwe People's Dictionary website. Search words in Zhaaganaashiimowin/English or Ojibwemowin. Use the "Listen" button to listen and speak aloud. Create Ojibwemowin word/sentence posters to study at home. Learn a word or concept and it can be your responsibility to teach/share it with friends and family. Speaking will save the Babies/toddlers pick up language

E I Z O A

G Y A G N W

I K A M D E O

Z D S ' I M B W

O Z A A W I Z I N

Z A G J I I B Z M I

A N O B E G A D I W B

O J K I Y W A A S G E I

S Z W O S A Y ' K D W O

B Y A W K N B O O N I K

E K A I A G I I Z W M O

Miigwech to the youth who introduced themselves in Ojibwemowin! It was beautifully done at the WE Powwow!

Miigwech to communities, families, elders, teachers and other kids helping kids learn Ojibwemowin!

\*\*\*Goal: Learn a phrase a day\*\*\*

Or a weekly list from this page

\*\*\*Goal: Learn a phrase a day\*\*\*
Or a weekly list from this page.
Listen/Speak w/dictionary online.

Double Vowel Sounds!

Specific to Ojibwe!

\*Longer voiced vowels:

AA (baa), II (teen),

OO (moo), E (cafe')

\*Short voiced vowels

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

A glottal stop ' is a voiceless nasal hesitation as dash in: oh-oh

# Nitaawigiwin • Grownup

Aaniin, Boozhoo!-Greetings

Giikidon! Speak!

- •Minikwe. S/he drinks.
- •Wiisini. S/he eats.
- •Bimibatoo.-S/he runs.
- •Bakiteshin.-S/he falls.
- •Bimose. S/he walks.
- Nagamo. She sings.
- •Waawoono.-S/he howls.
- •Bagizo.-S/he swims/bathes.

#### Add a word below

Add any of these to create a longer sentence/statement.

- 1. A lot Niibowa
- 2. S/he is loud. Ombiigizi.
- 3. Quick ginibi- (preverb)
- 4. Very, big gichi- (pv) 5. Wolf - Ma'iingan
- 6. Woman Ikwe
- 7. Man Inini
- **8.** Child **Abinoojii** *Examples*.

Bimose niibowa.-S/he eats

Nagamo. Ombiigizi. S/he sings. S/he is loud.

#### Niibining.- In the summer....

I swim at the lake. -Nimbagiz zaaga'iganing.

Gibimose miikanaang.-You walk on the road.

Nimbimosemin imaa.-We walk there.

Gibimosemin omaa.-We all walk here.

Gibimosem oodenaang.-You all walk in town.

Bimosewag agwajiing.-They walk outside.

Niniim. -I dance. (short vowels drop off)

Ginagam.-You sing. (drop short vowel)

Nimbagizomin. -We swim.

Gibagizomin.-We all swim.

Bagizowag.- They swim/bathe.

Gaawiin nimbagizosii.

No, I swim not/no.

Mii'iw!

Niibin. - It is summer. Niibini giizis - Summer sun Niibinong, gii-waaseyaa. -Last summer, it was-sunny.

•WE

Resources
<a href="https://whiteearth.com/divisions/culture/services">https://whiteearth.com/divisions/culture/services</a>
•Search/Listen: Ojibwe People's Dictionary
<a href="https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu">https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu</a>

 Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Comm. <a href="https://www.glifwc.org/">https://www.glifwc.org/</a> https://schools.clipart.com/

#### Gichi-aya'aa•Elder

NINGIZHIIKAA

Aaniin ezhinikaazod wa'aw giizis? What/how is s/he called this moon/month? Aabita-niibino-giizis wa'aw giizis. -S/he's called Halfway Summer-Moon this moon. (July). • Gitigaaning: Nimba-shkwashkibijike. Aandi eyaayan noongom? Daga wiidookawishin! Giwii-debibidoon ina gwaaba'aawangwaan? Gaye ningii-gitigaadaan waabigwanii-gitigaan. Onizhishin. Ojinii-waabagwaniin idash oginiiwaatig. (In the Garden: I weed things. Where are you now? Please help me! You grab? a shovel? Also, I did-plant flower garden. It's nice/pretty

I. Gidayaan Roses and a rose bush.)

Thank you! - Miigwech!

Mii'iw. - That's it

Ningii-

ina

Gaye

Niwii-

daa

**1.** Gidayaan \_\_\_\_\_ ozaawikosimaan? Do you have it ? Pumpkin/squash? **2.** \_\_\_\_\_ mawinz megwayaak.

I will-pick blueberries in the woods?

- **I did**-pick berries when it was last summer. Seeds. It is fun.
- **4.** Noongom ina gibakade? Wiisini\_\_\_\_! Namadabidaa omaa! Now? you hungry? **Let's all** eat! Let's all sit here.
- 5. Gimino-izhiwebiz. Gidapiitenim. \_\_\_\_\_\_, miigwech! You're well-behaved. You be proud of yourself. **Also**, thank you! Ojibwemodaa! Let's all speak Ojibwe! July©2025 Shelly Ceglar

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!

#### Elders enjoy summer picnic







Photos by Sage Thompson

More than 230 registered Elders and 20 caretakers attended the annual Elders Picnic June 26 at the Rediscovery Center on White Earth Lake. Highlights included a meal with pulled pork from B&T Meats (Waubun), wild rice, potato salad, baked beans, fruit salad and dessert made by the ENP sites, door prize drawings, yard games, a water balloon toss contest, and photo booth. The White Earth Council of Elders was there as well with a survey and prize drawings. A huge thank you to the Elderly Nutrition Program and Maintenance staff and the many staff and volunteers for all their hard work.

#### **Shooting Star Casino hosts Wisdom Steps Conference**





The 25th Annual Wisdom Steps Conference was held June 10-12 at the Shooting Star Casino. The opening ceremonies were held June 11 and Elders from Minnesota's 11 tribes listened to speakers and attended breakout sessions throughout the day. Topics included Senior Scams, Legal Risk Detectors, Boarding Schools, Overview of Alzheimers and Dementia from Indigenous Understanding, and more. Later in the evening the Elders attended an awards ceremony and enjoyed a concert. The conference ended June 12 with a one-mile walk, breakfast and closing ceremonies.

Photos by Sage Thompson

#### Check blood sugar more as the heat rises

Due to the damage diabetes can do to our blood vessels and nerves-that also includes affecting your sweat glands. Your body can't cool as effectively and can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke-which is a medical emergency.

Diabetics get dehydrated more quickly and by not drinking enough water, your blood sugar can rise, which makes you urinate more and in turn makes you more dehydrated. Vicious circle! You may need to check your blood sugar more often when the temperatures rise outdoors.

The heat index comes in handy when deciding

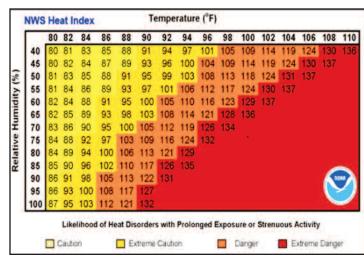
how safe it is to be outdoors. The heat index measures humidity and temperature. You should take steps to stay cool when it is  $80^{\circ}F$  in the shade with 40% humidity or above. The heat index can be up to  $15^{\circ}F$  higher in the sun.

Remember that your diabetic medications need to be stored in a cool spot. When traveling, keep them in a coolerdon't put insulin directly on ice or pack. Heat can damage your monitor and other diabetic equipment as well.

#### Warm Weather Wisdom

☐ Drink plenty of water-even if you are not thirsty-so you don't get dehydrat-

- $\hfill\square$  Avoid alcohol and caffeine-they can lead to water loss and may spike your blood sugar
- $\hfill\Box$  Check your blood sugar before, during and after activities
- ☐ Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored
- ☐ Wear sunscreen and a hat when you are outside-sunburn can raise blood sugar levels
  - $\hfill\square$  Don't go barefoot-even on the beach or pool
- ☐ Use your air conditioning or go to an air-conditioned place-in high heat, a room fan will not keep you cool enough.



# **Highlights of the annual White Earth Pow-Wow**









Photos by Gary W. Padrta

More than 850 dancers and 28 drums gathered for the 157th Annual White Earth Treaty Day Celebration and Pow Wow June 13-15. The host drum was Bear Creek from Batchewana First nation, Canada. The MCs were Micky Hodges and Londel Seaboy, and the Arena Directors were Tom Mason and Jeremy Clark.









# Bone's 113 Waubun M.N

- Bait (crappie, suckers, fats, crawlers & wax worms....)
  - Tackle & rods, fishing license,
  - · Off sale & liquor/beer on- sale, groceries, gas
    - Vehicle supplies, pizzas to go or dine in~
      - Gaming machines & pull tabs!

Hours Mon- Sat 8 am- 10 pm

Sundays 9am-8pm \* Off Sale 11am-6pm only\*

\*July 4<sup>th</sup> open 8am – 3pm\*

East of Waubun on Hwy 113

WEX, Fleet cards, EBT / SNAP accepted!

ATM available

#### White Earth Nation Expungement Clinic

Sunday, July 20, 2025 - 10am-5pm **Shooting Star Casino** 777 S Casino Rd, Mahnomen, MN 56557

If you have a criminal record for an offense that was prosecuted in a state court, we may be able to help you determine if you qualify for expungement at the Clean Slate Expungement Clinic nosted by our office. If you qualify, we may be able to help you get your record sealed by the Court <u>at no cost to you</u>. Sealing, or ng, a criminal record can make it easier for you to obtain ng, get a job and certain types of job-related licenses



Scan this QR Code



Minnesota Attorney General

nesota Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55101

#### **B&G Club Summer Food Service Program**

The Boys & Girls Club of the White Earth Reservation is participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Meals will be provided to all children without charge. Meals will be provided, on a first come, first serve basis, at the following sites, times, and dates/days during the summer as follows

Site Name	Site Address	Dates and Days of Operation	Meals with Service Times
Mahnomen Boys & Girls Club	416 US Hwy 59 Mahnomen, MN	June 2nd-August 29th, 2025 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Naytahwaush Boys & Girls Club	2531 310 <sup>th</sup> Ave Naytahwaush, MN	June 2nd-August 29th, 2025 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Pine Point Boys & Girls Club	48580 Pow Wow Hwy Ponsford, MN	June 16th- August 2nd, 2025 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Rice Lake Boys & Girls Club	13830 Community Loop Rd Rice Lake, MN	June 2nd-August 29th, 2025 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Waubun Boys & Girls Club	1041 Dutch St Waubun, MN	June 2nd-August 29th, 2025 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
White Earth Boys & Girls Club	35233 Misson Road. White Earth, MN	June 2nd-August 29th, 2025 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30

\*Hours are subject to change due to staffing.

For more information, contact Aimee Drift at 218-935-3519

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u> (AD-3027), found online at rw.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in nation requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

- nail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights



Submitted photo

Campers Jax Gillis (left) and Keegan Anderson completing one of the many hands-on activities.

#### Transportation Camp revs up young learners

A STEM Transportation Summer Camp for students aged 10 to 14 was held at White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) during the week of June 9. The camp featured fun hands-on activities developed by University of Maryland (UMD) faculty in collaboration with partners at WETCC.

The camp gave young learners a chance to explore key concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), including polarity, hydrophobicity, energy systems, and environmental engineering. At the same time, it encouraged them to think critically about the impact of transportation and fossil fuels in their communities. One of the key topics campers learned about was the environmental risks associated with oil pipelines -- an important local issue for the White Earth Nation and the other tribes and communities in Minnesota.

"Our objective was to convey the possible environmental impacts of pipelines and how those impacts can be mitigated," explained UMD Professor, Alba Torrents, who is the Ben Dyer

Centennial Chair at the civil and environmental engineering department. She and other departmental faculty, including Associate Professor, Terry Yang, and Senior Faculty Specialist, Marya Anderson, helped develop the activities and lead the camp.

A second camp for high school students is scheduled at WETCC for the week of July 7. It will include a field trip to North Dakota State University (NDSU) with activities focused on drones, soil science, and transportation safety.

The camp was funded with support from the Center for MultiModal Mobility (CMMM) in Urban, Rural and Tribal areas with a grant from the US Department of Transportation. CMMM is a Tier 1 Urban Transportation Center based at UMD's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and is led by Professor Ciniza Cirillo. The CMMM team includes WETCC faculty member, Allen Derks, who collaborated with UMD colleagues in developing the activities.



# **CURRENTLY TAKING APPLICATIONS**

First Day of School is August 20, 2025

# FREE TO ALL QUALIFIED NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS

Contact admissions for more information:

605-997-3773 • flandreauindianeducation.com

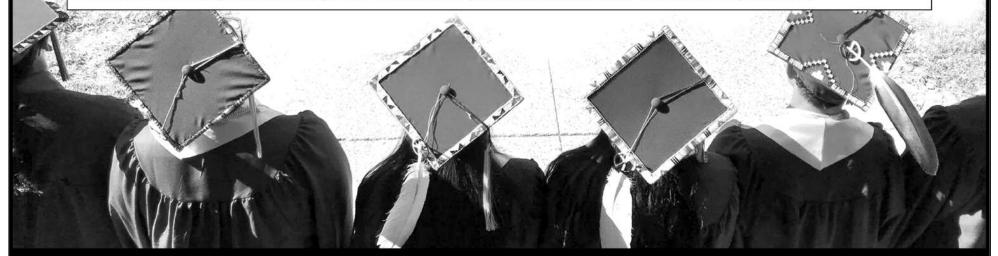
The Flandreau Indian School (FIS) serves grades 9–12 representing 35+ tribally recognized Indigenous Nations and is accredited by the State of South Dakota.

FIS is the oldest continuously operated off-reservation boarding high school in the country today. The campus consists of a modem school building with gymnasium and weight training facilities, canteen, outdoor basketball/pickleball court, cross country course, disc golf course, a contemporary industrial arts/fine arts complex with new welding equipment, laundry facilities and two dormitories connected by a central dining area.



We are a bridge between the cultures where young people from diverse backgrounds may grow to their full potential.

The Flandreau Indian School believes in providing an appropriate education for all children and is conducting its annual Special Education and Section 504 "Child Find" search to identify and evaluate children, under the age 21, who may not be receiving an appropriate education. Flandreau Indian Schools principal(s) and special education staff are the designated contact persons for any individual who would like to refer a child for additional educational services. Any person who knows of a child who may need additional educational services or has unmet educational needs may give the child's name to either the building principal(s), Special Education staff, or they may call the school administrative office at (605) 997-3773 to make a referral. After obtaining parental consent, the school will conduct an evaluation of the child's needs, at no cost, and hold a meeting with the child's parents or guardian to discuss appropriate educational planning for the child.



FLANDREAU INDIAN SCHOOL • 1132 N. CRESCENT, FLANDREAU, SD 57028

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# Annual Niimi'idiwin (Powwow)

#### The Healing Power of Heritage

Thursday, August 21 • 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Sanford Bemidji Medical Center

11:30 a.m. Registration

1 p.m. Grand Entry (All dancers must be registered

and dressed in regalia.)
Committee Dance Specials
(Juniors, Teens, Adult)

· Men's and Women's Traditional

· Men's Grass

· Women's Jingle

**Spot Dances** 

· Royalty and Veterans encouraged to attend

4:30 p.m. Community Feast

Indigenous craft, art and food vendors, contact stephanie.skaret@sanfordhealth.org

# EVERYONE WELCOME

#### **Master of Ceremonies:**

**Darrel Kingbird** 

**Arena Director:** 

**Gary Charwood** 

Thank you to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for providing the wild rice and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa for providing the walleye for our community feast.



SANFORD

#### **Obituaries**

#### Kenneth "Kenny" Niemi

Kenneth "Kenny" Niemi, 76, of Callaway, died on May 29 at his home under the loving care of his family and Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Kenny was born Jan. 1, 1949, in Chisholm, Minn., the son of John and Blanche (Rousu) Niemi. Growing up, he attended school in Menahga, Minn., and then graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston, Minn.

Following graduation, Kenny entered the workforce before enlisting in the U.S. Army



in February 1969. He served overseas, mostly in Europe, particularly loving his time spent in Heidelberg, Germany, before his honorable discharge in February 1971.

In 1972, Kenny lived and worked with his brother, Arnold, in Seattle. On Sept. 28, 1972, Kenneth was united in marriage to Donna Johnson Jahnke. The couple made their home in the Callaway area and welcomed their daughter in 1973. A few years later, the family moved to Hibbing, Minn., where Kenny worked in the Taconite mines and they completed their family with the addition of three sons.

Kenny and Donna would return to the Callaway area where they built their home and raised their family. Over the years, Kenny

worked for himself, providing for his family. He worked outdoors leeching, trapping, ricing, sagoing and maple syruping, a way of life he truly embraced. Later in life, he also worked at the Shooting Star Casino as a blackjack dealer for several years until his retirement.

Kenny was an intelligent individual who would stand up for his beliefs and protect his family. He was generous to a fault as he was always giving to others whenever he could. He enjoyed all the outdoor activities, but deer hunting was his favorite. Kenny also liked to read, play cards, especially pinochle, go to rummage sales and auctions and in his younger years play volleyball. He was an intricate part of the Earth Games that were held each year in White Earth. However, the things that meant the most to him weren't things at all but people...he loved his family, friends and neighbors. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him in return.

Kenny is survived by his wife of 52 years, Donna, of Callaway; daughter, Monica Niemi; sons: Christopher Niemi, Brooks Niemi and Jackie Niemi; grandsons, Blake Niemi and Nathaniel Christianson; great-grandson, Kane Niemi; sister and brother-in-law, Ailene (Gary) Rosentreter of Georgia; brother, Donovan Niemi of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Blanche; grandparents: Ale and Emma Rousu and Esther and Jacob Niemi; and brother, Arnold.

Blessed be the memory of Kenneth "Kenny" D. Niemi.

A Memorial Service was held June 10 at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Callaway. A Time of Gathering was held June 9 at Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahnomen.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

#### **Christopher "Chris" Eugene Fairbanks**

Christopher Eugene Fairbanks "Chris" (or to his brothers and sisters "Bubby") past on May 25.

Chris was born on the White Earth Reservation and though he lived in several states for short periods of time, he returned to family and friends to complete the circle of life.



Chris loved to ride his motorcycle, go trail-riding on his four-wheeler, fishing, camping and sharing a good meal with family and friends while enjoying life. Chris's greatest treasure was his family - he loved them all unconditionally and wholeheartedly. He will be missed terribly but never forgotten.

Chris was preceded in his journey by his father, Marvin Virgil Fairbanks; mother, Carolyn Sue "Kay" Brewer; brother, David Wayne Fairbanks; sister, Dorthy Laura Davis; and brother, Jessie Scott Fairbanks.

Chris is survived by his eldest brother, "Ric" Richard Dean Fairbanks; brother, Jeffery Lynn Fairbanks; sister, Tracey Nicole Goodwin; sister, Brandy Lee Jones; son, Tommy Christopher

Fairbanks; son, Timothy Dale Fairbanks; son, Kyle David James Fairbanks; granddaughter, Violet Mae Fairbanks; granddaughter, Jaylee Fairbanks; and many, many aunties, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 11 at 1 p.m., with a visitation starting one hour prior at Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahnomen.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

On line: www. and erson family fh. com

#### **Asia Monique Bevins**

Asia Bevins, 24, of Ogema, died June 13 as a result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Asia Monique, the daughter of Paulette Nelson and Joshua Bevins was born May 30, 2001, in Detroit Lakes, Minn. She graduated from Mahnomen High School with the Class of 2019. In 2023, Asia graduated from the White Earth Tribal and Community College with her



Associates of Arts Degree with certification in Ojibwemowin. She was proud of her Native heritage and enjoyed sharing and teaching the language with those around her. Asia was furthering her education at Bemidji State University with the goal of becoming an Ojibwe Language teacher. In addition to her schooling, Asia was working as a bartender in Ogema. During this time, she got to know some of the regulars and even gave them nicknames like "Hobo."

Asia will forever be loved and remembered by all who knew her. Her fun loving, adventurous spirit and beautiful smile that could light up any room. She had a great sense of humor and was quick with the witty one liners, often reflecting lines from movies she had watched numerous times. Asia enjoyed hunting, fishing and being in the great

outdoors. She also liked to travel, attend pow wows and ceremony and could sleep anywhere and for long periods of time. Above all, her greatest love was her family. She truly loved spending time with family and being a big sister and Auntie to Meladee.

Asia is survived by her mother, Paulette (Rock Keezer Jr.) Nelson of Naytahwaush; father, Josh (Tiffany Hoban) Bevins of Ogema; grandma, Amparo "Ida" Rios of Naytahwaush; grandpas, Mike Bray of Ogema and Curt Bevins of Naytahwaush; sisters: Morrissa (Lucas Littlewolf) Fanning of Naytahwaush, Serenity Goodman of Naytahwaush and Emilyn Demere of Ogema; brothers: Aaron Norcross of Naytahwaush, Sonny Goodman of Naytahwaush, Gabe Demere of Ogema and Joel Keezer of Naytahwaush; niece, Meladee; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and her cat, Libra. She was welcomed with open arms by her grandma, Amelia "Bitsie" Bray; great grandma, Rose Weaver; grandpa, Tommy Nelson; aunt, Judy "Sis" Bevins; and uncle, Neftali Fuentes.

Traditional services were held at the Josh Bevins and Tiffany Hoban residence on June 18. All-night Wake services began June 17 and continued until the time of the service.

Interment: Bethel Cemetery in White Earth.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

#### Jason Thomas Bellanger

Jason Bellanger, 49, of Mahnomen, died unexpectedly on June 15 at his home in Mahnomen.

Jason Thomas Bellanger was born to Ruth Oppegard and Ed Bellanger on July 17, 1975, in Hennepin County, Minn. He spent his early years in the Minneapolis area before moving with his mother to Naytahwaush. Jason attended elementary school in Naytahwaush and later Mahnomen High School.

With his mother's marriage to Frank Stech, Jason gained a devoted stepfather who loved



him as his own. As the family grew, Jason became a proud older brother who affectionately tormented his younger siblings whenever he had the chance. Determined to further his education, Jason earned his GED and took courses at Cankdeska Cikana Community College in Fort Totten, N.D. He had a sharp mind for numbers, was skilled in carpentry, and had a natural talent for working on cars. He was employed for a time as a blackjack dealer at Shooting Star Casino, but he was most proud of his work as a wildland firefighter.

On Sept. 22, 2020, Jason married the love of his life, Brittney and together they shared a beautiful family. He was a proud dad and grandpa, eagerly awaiting the arrival of his sixth grandchild. As an avid deer hunter and talented softball player, Jason never missed a

chance to share his favorite "glory stories" with anyone willing to listen. He loved spending time with friends, visiting, laughing, and simply hanging out. Above all, Jason cherished the time he spent with his family. He had a generous spirit and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Jason's kindness and big heart will forever leave a lasting impact on many.

Jason is survived by his wife, Brittney; mother, Ruth Stech; children: Jasmine, Meranda (Enrique), Eldon, Emily, Jordain (Chazz Sr.), Beoncca (Dale), Jashaun (Nathan), Amaani, Jason Jr., and Deion; siblings: Rosella, Frank, Paul, Jesse, and Blaise (Amanda); grandchildren: Ellie, Vivian, Neleaha, Chazz Jr., and Elydia; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by daughters, Skylar and Janay; father, Ed; stepfather, Frank Stech Jr.; especially close nephews, Jordan and Tyler; as well as many extended family members.

A Traditional Funeral Service was held June 24 at the Naytahwaush Complex. All-Night Wake Services with a ceremony began June 23 and continued until the time of the service.

 $Arrangements: Anderson\ Family Funeral\ Home\ of\ Mahnomen.$ 

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

#### **Obituaries**

#### **Dianna Marie Storms**

Dianna Marie Storms (Saice/Mangan), 86, gained her wings on June 1 at Edgewood Vista in Duluth, Minn., surrounded by the love of her family.

Born in White Earth, Mahnomen. Dianna loved to volunteer, from organizing the Lester Park Smelt Fry to being a Grandma of Lower Chester Park. She was a trailblazer in her work with Native communities, serving as the director of the first boys' Indian group home in Duluth, working for St. Louis County licensing Indian foster homes and being a

dedicated counselor at the Bizenden School.

Her passion for education and empowerment led her to recruit Indian students into special education programs at UMD and working in Indian Vocational Rehabilitation for the State of Minnesota, supporting Indigenous individuals with disabilities across northern reservations. She also served on the board for Indian Legal Assistance, where her leadership and voice made a lasting impact.

Dianna's life felt short to her loved ones, but those of us who were blessed to be touched by her understand that Dianna's existence and the imprint she left on our hearts exceed the quantity of time that she stayed here.

Dianna was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Edna Saice; and her siblings: Tom, Jim, and Gerry.

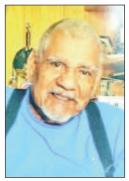
She is survived by her beloved husband, Henry Storms; children: Kathleen Holz, Cheryl Whereatt, Richard (Bruna) Mangan, Jerry (Merima) Mangan, and Joseph Mangan; stepsons: Jim (Lynn) Storms, Scott (Brenda) Storms, Steven (Debra) Storms, and Gary (Rachel) Storms; siblings: John 'Buddy' (Kathy) Saice, Peggy (Bud) Collins, and Bob (Kim) Saice. Dianna was a proud grandmother and great-grandmother, mother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend to many, who brought her immense joy.

A funeral service was held June 23 at the Forest Hill Cemetery Chapel in Duluth. Memorials and cards may be sent to: Henry Storms at Edgewood Vista.

#### Dale Herbert "Kaadaak" Greene Sr.

A Hereditary Chief of the Sandy Lake / Rice Lake Band

Kaadaak was born about 1930 at Gete-Minisinaakwaang, Baakaamanoominikaaning on the 1855 Rice Lake Indian Reservation. Maang doodem. He was born in the woods to his biological mother Nahbow aka Nancy Ann Benjamin aka Maggie Benjamin. She was a non-removable Mille Lac Band original allotee who moved to Rice Lake, she is buried at the 1915 Sandy Lake Reservation.



Dale was raised by his parents Frank "Jack" Misquadace and Maggie Misquadace in the traditional Anishinaabe lifestyle at Gete-Minisinaakwaang, the original Rice Lake village, on what is today the Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge. His siblings were Julie, Mattie, Orletta, Ruth, Nancy, and William. He is the last Indian alive who was born on the Rice Lake Reservation.

He was too young to attend the East Lake Indian School on the Refuge but joined each morning for breakfast and specifically recalls hot chocolate. Kaadaak was swept up and taken away to Pipestone Boarding school where he was able to run away and escape to Pine Point on the White Earth Reservation where he resided for sometime. Eventually he was admitted to Agwa-chiing

near Walker, Minn., where he spent time in his youth.

The oldest Anishinaabe of our Band, Kaadaak was present at the Great Removal of the Rice Lake Band from their homelands (1934-1940) for the creation of the Refuge. He remembered the final day, "a sad day, everyone packed up the last of their belongings in bundles and carried them out to East Lake." He then remembered the homeless camp of the Rice Lake people living until the government would honor the "Original Agreement of 1934" and build everyone who was removed a house, amongst other promises such as a new school. Which never occurred. Kaadaak was a founder of the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, as well as the Rice Lake Resource Center.

A hero in the Ojibwe Treaty right struggle, Kaadaak was a member of the "Mille Lac 12" who protested the selling of the 1837 Treaty rights by fishing and being charged. He was also instrumental in the creation and an original council member of the 1855 Treaty Authority. "Get off your geedee, and fight for your treaty!" – Kaadaak

A Drum Chief of the Bwaani-Dewe'igan for decades, Dale steadfastly carried on the teachings and ways of the traditional Ojibwe Drum society. He was also a leading Oshkaabewis on a Binesii-Dewe'igan for numerous years building drum stands and contributing countless things to all the ceremonial doings. Also a member of the Mide lodge Waawiiyegamaag, second degree.

Manoomin, the good berry. Dale was an avid ricer his whole life. He became a magnet in the Wild Rice world with his Rice Mill processing tons upon tons of Manoomin for people for many years. He took great pride in the Manoomin business. Minisinaakwaang's Marshall, Kaadaak was a member of the Rice Committee for nearly half a century.

Dale had two children, Dale Greene Jr. and Sam Greene. Grandchildren: Christopher Boyd, Cara Martin, Robert Greene, Makoonz Greene, Donovon Greene, Buddie Greene, Mary Greene, Rose Leah Greene, Art Greene, and Keith Red Eagle. Many great-grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he loved very, very much. Numerous we'ehs, nephews, nieces, great-nieces, great-nephews, and much more. He was grandpa to many and truly the whole villages' "Uncle."

He is joining in the spirit world, his parents – Nahbow, Newaji-Giizhik, Bizhiwens. Children, Dale Jr. and Sam. Sisters: Mattie Moose, Julie Shingobe, Orletta Sharlow, Ruth Lyons, and Nancy Lyons. Brother, William Lyons Jr. All the old Anishinaabe Kaadaak remembered and thought of often. He and his teachings are carried on by us all.

Tribal Rites Services were held June 1 in East Lake Community Center in McGregor, Minn., with Keller Paap "WaaWaaKeyaash" as Ceremonial Leader.

Interment: Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Arrangements: McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service, McGregor.

Online: www.srtfuneral.com.

#### Josephine (Jodi) Wheeler

Josephine (Jodi) Wheeler, 80, of Detroit Lakes, Minn., passed away on June 7 surrounded by her loving children. She had been battling numerous health issues since January. The compassionate attendants of Hospice of the Red River Valley were brought in to care for her in March. Jodi's wishes were to pass at home, surrounded by the sounds of birds, children and family. In that time, sadly, her beloved dog "Pen Pen" also passed on May 5, and Jodi's health then took a steep decline.

Jodi was born August 22, 1944, to Joseph and Josephine (Wilson) Miller in Fargo,



N.D. She attended Lake Park High School, from which she attained her GED in her later years. She eventually moved to Wisconsin, but then returned to Minnesota in 1967. A single mother of three children, Jodi supported her family through her work at Swifts and Emmanuel Nursing.

She met the love of her life, Roger, in 1969 and married him on Oct. 17, 1970. Her last child (Tolly) was born in 1971, and then had all of her children baptized together where she married Roger at First Lutheran Church.

Jodi and Roger did a lot of traveling together, especially while trucking the open road in their semi. Beyond the adventures of the pavement, they also took a cruise to Alaska and traveled to Ireland

before Roger passed in 2016. Jodi had no idea, but Roger had made plans and bought tickets to take her to Panama. She found them inside his reclining chair and used them to take a trip to New York City at Christmas time with her daughter, Joy in late 2016.

Jodi had numerous longstanding jobs. She worked at Bergen's Greenhouse for 17 years, after which time she was employed at Ben Franklin in the fabric department (of course). Having spent 13 years with a steady co-worker, Steve, the two of them started the well-known Boys and Girls Thrift Store in Detroit Lakes. She and others laid the foundation for a great community asset that we still treasure to this day. This was Jodi's last, and perhaps most impactful, work adventure. Unable to just give things away from the store, Jodi would often buy items herself for those less fortunate, out of the pure kindness of her heart.

She had a contagious smile, always plenty of hugs and kisses for everyone, and was known for her huge, loving heart. She had perhaps the biggest collection of elephant memorabilia and glassware anyone could ever imagine...something she's still recognized for today

Every spring, the birds would come back to visit her, and she treasured the time she'd spend sitting in her favorite spot on her deck, relishing in their sights and songs.

But more than anything, Jodi loved her family, which included numerous friends...far too many to count.

Jodi is survived by her children: Joy (Dan Yocom), Bob (LeAnn Allen), Mike, William, and Tolly (Holly); grandchildren: Nicole Bridgeman, Danny (Leah), Toni, Casey, Tarissa, Shanarra (Jacob), Ryan, Tanner and Ted; great grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Kennedy (Andrew), Mabel, Brantley, Eleanor, Emmett, Jaqulyn, Tori, William, Waylon, Hadley, and Emmary; sisters: Donna Kohler, Debbie DeGroat, Connie, Engebretson, and Martha Miller; brother, Lyle Miller; sister and brother in law, Mary and Tony Valese; as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger (2016); parents, Joseph and Josephine; granddaughter, Jaqulyn Wheeler; mother and father-in-law, Raymond and Marjorie Wheeler; sisters, Beverly Lenz and Bonnie Engleking; sisters in law, Margaret Simonson and Kathy Wheeler; brothers: Frank, Bill, Paul, Larry, Donald, Arnie, Lowell, and Roy; brothers in law, Doug, Wally, Leon and George; and her fur-babies, Pen Pen (poodle, 16 ½ years) and Scruffy (cat, 13 years).

A visitation was held June 18 at David-Donehower Funeral Home in Detroit Lakes and formal services were held June 19 at First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes.

#### **Special Events**

Diabetes Bingo

July 2nd: Nay Tah Waush July 9th: Congregate WE July 23rd: Rice Lake WECOE Meeting:

July 1st: NTW site, after lunch

#### Elderly Nutrition Program Information

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

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

Guest Meals \$6 Elders Suggested Donation \$4

Questions or comments please contact:

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

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

Pine Point ENP Site (218) 573-2210 Site Controller ~ Zachery Adams

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

Rice Lake ENP Site (218) 694-2795 Site Controller~ Millie Roy & Larae Stevens

Danielle Sutherland Uran, Nutrition Coord. (218) 983-3286 ext. 1266
Danielle.Sutherland@whiteearth-nsn.gov

# White Earth Elder Nutrition Program Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige "White Earth Elder Eating Good" Aabita-niibino-giizis (Mid Summer Moon) -July 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
30 Chicken/rice hotdish Steamed broccoli Wheat roll Pickled beets Fruit cocktail	I Sliced ham Au gratin potatoes Hawaiian roll Green beans Rhubarb crisp	Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread Beverage of choice	3 Egg salad sandwich Creamy potato soup Sliced cucumbers Parfait w/ berries and granola	4 Closed for Independence Day
7 Alfredo pasta w/ sausage & peppers Breadstick Spinach salad Mandarin oranges	8 Pork tenderloin Manoomin stuffing Sweet potatoes Wheat bread Cranberry fluff salad	9 Chefs Choice Country fried steak Mashed potatoes Mixed vegetables Fruit Wheat roll Melon		Taco salad w/ the fixings Churro Grapes
Lemon pepper fish Cheesy rice Veggie blend Wheat bread Plums	Chicken sandwich Pickles Mac salad Cinnamon peaches	Main Entrée Biscu Vegetable and/or salad Gard		18 Closed for Employee
<b>21</b> Ravioli w/ sausage marinara Garlic toast Green beans Tropical fruit	violi w/ Manoomin hotdish Isage marinara Brussel sprouts Irlic toast Artisan roll een beans Pineapple  Manoomin hotdish Brussel sprouts Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Broad  Cheesebur Oven fries Fresh fruit Fresh fruit		24 Birthday Lunch Cheeseburger Oven fries Broccoli salad Fresh fruit	25 Brunch for lunch Chefs choice
28 Baked Italian chicken Pesto pasta Zucchini blend Croissant roll Mangos	Bison meatballs Mashed potatoes Glazed carrots Manoomin bread Apricots	30 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	31 BLT sandwich Broccoli cheese soup Cookie Fresh fruit	

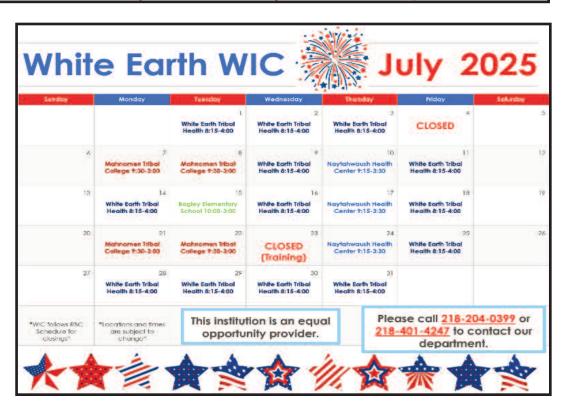
# White Earth Food Distribution July Store Hours

Monday - Thursday / 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Nutrition Education with Shirley: July 7, 15, 21, 28

- July 4 Closed for Holiday
- **July 11** Bagley, Naytahwaush home deliveries, no distribution at store
- **July 15** Mahnomen, Waubun, Biimaadiiziiwiin home deliveries
- July 18 Closed for RBC employee picnic
- **July 25** Detroit Lakes, White Earth home deliveries, no distribution at store
- July 31 Closed for inventory, no distribution at store

No distribution at store on Fridays



#### White Earth welcome Minnesota Secretary of State



**Photo by Richard Hanks** 

The White Earth Nation welcomed Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon at the RBC Headquarters. The meeting focused on improving voter participation within tribal communities. Key points included the ongoing support for Tribal IDs as valid identification for voting, voting registration being completed without a numeric address by describing or plotting their residence through a recently passed state law, and the introduction of a new law that requires counties to provide at least one in-person absentee voting day, which was successfully implemented in Becker and Mahnomen counties. From left are Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque, Minnesota Voter Outreach Director Melanie Hazelip, Secretary of State Steve Simon, District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson, Tribal Court Administrator Lori Thompson, and Executive Director Laurie York.

#### **Making traditional Ojibwe lacrosse sticks**







White Earth Tribal Public Health sponsored a two-day Ojibwe Lacrosse Stick Making Workshop on June 20-21 at the Waubun School Forest. Participants made two sticks one to keep and one to give away. The workshop was led by Thomas Howes - Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

> Photos by Gary W. Padrta



Photo by Sheri Snetsinger

#### **NTW hosts annual PRIDE Parade**

The 3rd Annual PRIDE Parade and Feast was held June 21 in Naytahwaush. The event was still held a day after a huge storm swept northern Minnesota.

Families, friends and youth worked together in the heat to decorate floats, vehicles and bikes in vibrant colors, balloons and banners. This year Naytahwaush Community Council in the true spirit of inclusion and addressing barriers announced they would be assisting with providing decorations and helping to dress up floats, vehicles, bikes and anyone willing to march. Local families, White Earth Police Department and Redrum motorcyclists took up the challenge.

Following the PRIDE parade, families and friends gathered at the Naytahwaush Drum Hall to share a feast, judge in the food contest, and to discuss what PRIDE means to our people and community members. There were a few new faces this year and many who have continuously shown up year-round in support and celebration of our LGBTQIA2S+ members.



#### **WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

#### Lerov Hanks

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. CP2025-00007

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on May 21, 2025, a Petition for Child in Need of Protection and/or Services was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2025-00007. A Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for August 1, 2025, at 9:15 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**: June 26, 2025 Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

#### **WE TRIBAL COURT** CHILDREN'S COURT

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

#### Caitlyn Clark

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. CP2024-00026

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on April 10, 2025, a Petition for Transfer of Permanent Physical and Legal Custody was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00026 A Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 29, 2025, 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: June 26, 2025 Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

#### **WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

Any Man Coming Forward as the Father of the Child of Latoya Auginaush

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. CP2024-00009

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on May 7, 2025, a Petition for Transfer of Permanent Physical and Legal Custody was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00009; and that on June 26, 2025, an Amended Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00009. An Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 25, 2025, at 9:15 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: June 26, 2025 Tammy J. Swanson Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

#### **WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

#### Latova Auginaush

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. CP2024-00009

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on May 7, 2025, a Petition for Transfer of Permanent Physical and Legal Custody was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00009; and that on June 26, 2025, an Amended Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00009. An Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 25, 2025, at 9:15 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**: June 26, 2025 Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

#### **WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

#### Joseph Sudar

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. CP2024-00009

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on May 7, 2025, a Petition for Transfer of Permanent Physical and Legal Custody was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00009; and that on June 26, 2025, an Amended Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00009. An Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 25, 2025, at 9:15 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: June 26, 2025 Tammy J. Swanson Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

#### **WE BAND OF OJIBWE** TRIBAL COURT

Eugene James Eischens, Jr. Petitioner.

#### SUMMONS OF ANSWER AND COUNTERPETITION

Court File No. D2024-00012

and Valerie Jeanne Eischens, Respondent.

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on June 10, 2025, an Answer and Counterpetition was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding the above-named parties. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this matter. Any party to this matter shall contact the White Earth Tribal Court at (218) 983-3285 to be served with the Answer and Counterpetition. If a response is not filed within thirty (30) days of this notice, you will be found in default.

Dated: June 25, 2025

Heather Turner Morgan

Attorney for Respondent Valerie Eischens

#### WE BAND OF OJIBWE TRIBAL COURT

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of: Harley Warren

TP2025-00002

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on May 23, 2025 a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parent. An initial hearing will commence on August 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the White Earth Tribal Courtroom located at 35500 Eagleview Rd., Ogema, MN. The telephone number is (218) 935-3512. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding, or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning the protection of your child. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: June 3, 202 Court Administrator



Submitted photo

Walmart deliverered more than 50 bikes and scooters to the Naytahwaush event.

#### Naytahwaush CC hosts bike safety event

#### By Sheri Snetsinger

Naytahwaush Community Council

The Naytahwaush Community Council (NCC) hosted with the Naytahwaush Community Charter School, White Earth Police Department (WEPD), and Debwe Motorcycle Club for a fun and informative Bike Safety event on June 4 at the school.

All youth who attended received brand new helmets donated by the Sanford Safe Kids FM program and one generous donator. Debwe made sure each kid received the correct fit for head gear because a good helmet worn correctly will protect our youngsters. Affinity Plus (Mahnomen) provided water bottles for the bikers. NCC was able to gather sponsorship to purchase more than 50 bikes from trikes to 24" mountain bikes, along with 24 scooters to get community kids out playing this summer!

WEPD, Debwe, volunteers, parents and Naytahwaush event!

young athletes had some pretty impressive kickball stars. Youngsters impressed everyone with their kindness on the playground and their respectful behavior throughout the entire event. New friendships were made at the park and lots of our families brought along their extra adopted in summer kids.

Some of the children were able to shine with kindness and even gifted their brand new cruisers to friends or little family members. Volunteer youth stepped up to teach with WEPD as Bike Safety Trainers.

Although at the end there was a nice cleansing rain, community council and WEPD did get all the bikes, trikes and scooters out to the 'tiny tots' (age 1-3), 'mini-bikers' (age 4-6), 'biggin' (age 7-12) and 'road ragers' (age 13-17)!

NCC wants to remind people that everyone is always welcome to a



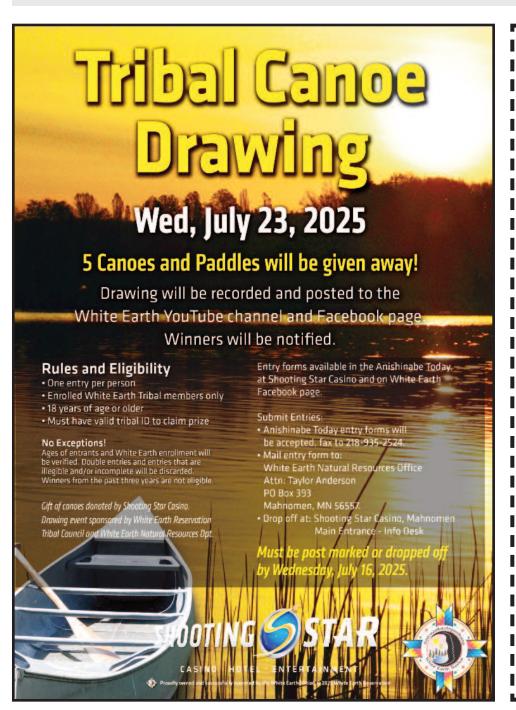
Wednesday: 8am-4:30pm Thursday: 8am-4:30pm Friday: 8am-4:30pm

Health Building: Tuesday: 8am-12pm

> Bagley/Rice Lake: Wednesday: 1pm-4:30pm

Mahnomen Behavioral **Health Building:** 

Thursday: 1pm-4:30pm



# **Tribal Canoe Drawing Entry Form**

There will be drawings for 5 canoes and paddles on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. **■** Drawing will be recorded and posted to the White Earth YouTube Channel and Facebook page. Winners will be notified via phone.

#### Rules and Eligibility

- One entry per personEnrolled White Earth Tribal members only
- 18 years of age or older
- Must have a Valid Unexpired Tribal ID

#### No Exceptions

Ages of entrants and White Earth enrollment will be verified. Double entries and entries that are illegible and/or incomplete will be discarded. Winners from the past three years are not eligible.

Gift of canoes donated by Shooting Star Casino. Drawing event sponsored by White Earth Reservation Tribal Council, and White Earth Natural Resources Department

Entry forms available in the Anishinabe Today, at Shooting Star Casino and on White Earth Facebook page.

Submit Entries:

- · Anishinabe Today entry forms will be accepted, fax to 218-935-2524.
- Mail entry form to: White Earth Natural Resources Office Attn: Taylor Anderson PO Box 393 Mahnomen, MN 56557
- · Drop off at: Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomen Main Entrance - Info Desk

Entry must be dropped off or postmarked no later than Wednesday, July 16.

Entrant's Full Name (Last, First, Middle Int.)

Entrant's Full Tribal Enrollment Number (408 X 0000000)

Entrant's Birth Date (Month-Day-Year)

Phone #

Proudly owned and sucessfully operated by the White Earth Nation ©2025 White Earth Reservation





#### Transit from Page 32

tribe's transit fleet, along with 18 employees. "We're running a little short on drivers, so we're hoping to add a few more and then we do expect to expand and add some more routes," said Kenneth Bakken, White Earth public transit manager. In addition to transporting people across the reservation, the tribe's bus routes extend to some nearby towns, such as Detroit

"It's been a long road," Bakken said. "I've been with transit for 16 years, been a manager here for 10, and that's kind of when we started the project. We got together with the Land Office, working on securing the property here. And then once we did that, we went and worked with FTA, which is the Federal Transit Administration, working on securing funding with them to do the project."

While the recent groundbreaking was years in the making through the efforts of many people, including the Reservation Business Committee, or RBC, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith from Minnesota led a campaign to support transit needs for Native communities. On Aug. 18, 2022, the senators announced \$5.9 million in federal grants to Minnesota Native nations, including \$3.6 million for White Earth public transit facilities.

'This funding will help modernize public transit in Tribal communities, while improving air quality and helping combat climate change," said Sen. Smith

in a statement. "I am proud of our work to help make these grants more accessible for Tribal communities and will continue working to support public transportation across Minnesota."

Smith chaired a field hearing in summer 2022 in Minnesota aimed at elevating the infrastructure priorities of Minnesota's Tribal Nations and raising awareness among Tribal Nations for the funding opportunities available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, passed at the end of 2021.

In 2022, American Indian and Alaska Native adults were 17.1% more likely to lack reliable transportation for daily living in the past 12 months compared with Asian, white and Hispanic populations, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. This hinders people in numerous ways, including their ability to seek medical attention.

"On behalf of myself and the other members of the RBC, we are proud to be one of the recipients of such a generous grant from the FTA," said Fairbanks in a statement. "Our goal is to always ensure that our systems, processes, and decisions work to serve our community and families of the White Earth Reservation to the highest standard possible. This grant will aid in the continuance of providing excellency of White Earth's Transit system as well as being at the forefront of improving air quality and combating climate change."

#### **JULY 2025**

# Miinikewi-giizis Picking Blueberries Moon

Cultural Calendar White Earth Cultural Activities Monthly Schedule





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 WE Mats 10- 12pm	2 WE Wesa 10-12pm, Co-ed Sweat 1pm NTW IOP 1-3pm	RBC CLOSED ® 12pm	RBC CLOSED Independence Day	5
6	7 OMC Tobacco 10-12pm Women's Sweat 12	Mah AFT 3 NTW Moms 10-12 Offering to the Wild Rice Lakes 10am	9	Acute Care 1-3pm Waubun Community Picnic 5-7 pm	11 Mpls. Urban AFT 9	12
13	OMC Tobacco 10-12pm Sewing 1-3:30pm	WE Mats 10- 12pm NTW Moms 10-12	16 WE Wesa 10-12pm NTW IOP 1-3pm	17 Circle Back 12-3 NTW Wesa 10-12	18 RBC PICNIC 8-2pm	19
20	OMC Tobacco 10-12pm Youth Sweat 12	22 Mah AFT 4 NTW Moms 10-12 Offering to the Wild Rice Lakes 10am	23 ICW 11:00am	24 Acute Care 1-3 WE Community Picnic 5-7 pm	25	26
27	28 OMC Tobacco 10-12pm Sewing 1-3:30pm	29	30 WE Healing Feast 5-7pm	31 Gwayako 10-12 Circle Back 12-3 NTW Wesa 10-12		

The White Earth Behavior Health Cultural Team has met and would like to inform you of decisions regarding upcoming Sweat lodges. Due to the fluctuation of participants in attendance at recent sweat lodge ceremonies, the White Earth BH Cultural staff will begin combining the Men's and Women's community Sweat lodges in a co-ed fashion. To ensure safety o our relatives that will attend, both male and female staff will also be in attendance and safety protocols will be followed. We will accommodate Male or Female only Sweat lodges. Please consider Asemaa/tobacco with any request. Miigwech, BH Cultural Team

#### **Community Council election held at picnic**



Photo by Gary W. Padrta

The Callaway Community Picnic was held June 6 at the softball field and brought out many community members. Attendees enjoyed delicious food along with raffles and great company. Families played kickball on the softball field. Programs set up booths for families to learn and visit. The Callaway Community Council election took place during the event. Congratulations to the newly elected Callaway Community Council members: Tiffany Swiers, Teresa Madigan, Brian Murray, Zack Jackson, Emily Annette. **Top**: Ayecia Kent watches over the ballot box.

#### Application and Participation Rules for Princess and Brave Contests White Earth Sturgeon Moon Pow Wow - July 25-27

The deadline for submission of completed applications with documentation is noon on Monday, July 14.

- All portions of the Princess and Brave contest will begin at 1:00 p.m., Grand Entry on Saturday, July 26, 2025.
- This includes but is not limited to: Interview, Verification of Eligibility, Self-Introduction at Powwow, and Dance Competition scoring. Please note that an introduction in our language is beneficial to the contestants.
- All applicants and their parents/guardians agree, through submission of their signed application, that the contestant: 1. Pledges to live a crime, drug, and alcohol-free lifestyle always before and during their reign as princess or brave, including but not limited to their social media presence.
- 2. Continues with successful academics and maintains a positive role within their school and community, including social media.
- 3. Is unmarried and may not have any pregnancies past, present, or during the year the participant holds the title of princess or brave.
- 4. Is enrolled member or descendant of the White Earth Reservation, documentation required\*
- 5. Resides on or within 25 miles of the White Earth Reservation presently and during the reigning year, <u>documentation required\*</u> a. If a princess or brave moves, it is the family/guardian's responsibility to contact the committee immediately.
- 6. Ages 8 years old to 17 years old.
- 7. Is willing to represent the White Earth Reservation throughout the reigning year by traveling to and dancing at other powwows\*\*\*
- 8. Cannot hold any other title of royalty while applying for or holding the title of White Earth Sturgeon Moon Pow Wow Princess or Brave.
- 9. Will only be awarded the title of White Earth Sturgeon Moon Pow Wow Princess or Brave once in their life-time.
- 10. Will immediately relinquish his or her title to the first runner up if the White Earth Sturgeon Moon Pow Wow Committee finds the princess or brave to violate these rules. Relinquishment includes returning the crown and/or sashes to the White Earth Sturgeon Moon Powwow Committee.
- Applications are available at the RBC Headquarters, via email, and in the Anishinaabeg Today newspaper.
- Application and documentation materials must be filled out completely and submitted to Shannon Heisler by noon on Monday, July 14, to be verified by the Sturgeon Moon Powwow Committee and Enrollments Department.
- Please mail the completed application and documentation to: White Earth Sturgeon Moon Powwow Committee, Enrollments Dept. PO Box 506, White Earth, MN 56591. Contact Shannonheisler@yahoo.com or Paula.Smith@whiteearth-nsn.gov with questions or concerns. Do not rely on social media for communication.

Princess		Brave			
Plea	se Print Clearly				
Full Legal Name	Birth Da	teClan			
Address	City	Zip Code			
Phone Number	Additional Phot	ne Number			
School	Grade in School	Year 2024-2025			
Enrolled Contestant's White Enrollment # or  Descendant Contestant's Enrolled Parent or Grandparent					
Full Legal Name DOB	,	WE Enrollment Number			
I,					
Participant Signature, Print	ed Name	Date			
Custodial Parent / Guardian Signature Print	ed Name	Date			
White Earth Sturgeon Moon Powwow Committee	Signature	Date			
Verified eligible by WE Enrollments Signature		Date			

#### KKWE from Page 2

Bignall said CPB funding accounts for a little over \$200,000, or roughly 13% of the station's budget.

It's a small but mighty operation run by 17 employees. The towers' signal pulses over the pine trees of northern Minnesota, stretching from Hermantown down to Brainerd and up northwest of Bagley.

And with the cuts to local newspapers across this vast rural region, KAXE is often the main source for local news. During the spring's forest fires, listeners tuned in to find out about road closures and impending danger.

"We were providing these updates and life-saving resources," Bignall said. "Within the first couple of hours, we had 15,000 people viewing that information."

But it has gotten more expensive. Bignall said she pays thousands of dollars each month for electricity for the radio towers alone.

Three hours away from Grand Rapids in Grand Marais, WTIP North Shore Community Radio's signal reaches from Two Harbors to the Thunder Bay area along the North Shore of Lake Superior, as well as to the Gunflint Trail and across Lake Superior to northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

It's the only radio broadcast in Grand Marais.

"We're the fastest way to get the information out, whether that be structure fire or forest fire, weather, ice storms, snow storms, wind storms," Executive Director Matthew Brown said.

Brown said the station receives \$238,000 from CPB, which makes up 25% percent of the radio station's budget.

While the station, which has nine full-time and two part-time staff, won't have to shut its doors if it loses CPB funding, Brown said they will have to "tighten our belt."

In the meantime, Brown and his staff have been reaching out to foundations, major donors and even individual listeners to raise more funds.

"This will be a massive loss for rural America," Bignall, at KAXE, said.

Some of the small stations in the Twin Cities will be hit as well.

Stations receiving CPB funding also include mainstays like Jazz88, KFAI and North Minneapolis' KMOJ, home for hip-hop, R&B and soul classics.

Last year, KMOJ, with six full-time employees, received a grant from CPB for over \$188,000. Freddie Bell, the station's general manager, doesn't know where the cuts will come from if the bill pass-

"The whole idea of KMOJ's inception in the mid-1970s was to keep the people informed and uplift the Black experience," Bell said. Yet he doesn't know how much thinner his budget can get.

Across town at headquarters for Jazz88, a station employing a dozen people, interim manager Johnny Lee Walker ticked off a list of programs — from broadcasts of the Minneapolis Public Schools concerts to a spotlight on local music legends — that are funded by CPB.

"We're the only jazz station in Minnesota," said Walker. "It's not like it's controversial stuff."

#### A 'compounding effect'

Most of the small stations are members of the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (AMPERS).

Joel Glaser, AMPERS' president and CEO, estimates that two to three AMPERS stations would shutter entirely if CPB funding is eliminated. The

ripple effects could also cut off state funding, which many small stations depend on to survive.

"One thing that a lot of people don't understand is how funding can be interconnected," Glaser said. "And what I mean by that is that there's a compounding effect. The federal cuts could result in the elimination of state funding as well."

On Capitol Hill, the cuts have yet to pass the U.S. Senate. On Wednesday, the Senate Appropriations Committee questioned Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought on the rescissions package.

"There is no longer any excuse for tax dollars to subsidize these radical far-left networks," he told the committee.

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, opened his questioning by asking Vought if he could find a way to preserve funding for Native-run radio stations.

"It's not a large amount of money," Rounds said, noting the state's emergency notifications run on tribal radio. "They will not continue to exist."

Vought didn't answer specifically, but said that "other funds in other agencies" could help "with this particular need."

In a social media post, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat, said she hopes to peel off four Republicans to vote against the measure, ending its hopes in the Senate. She called it offensive that "the president thought he could just come in and take away the money that, wait a minute, Congress had already appropriated."

Under state law, stations must meet certain criteria, including employing at least two full-time staff members, to qualify for Minnesota's public broadcasting grants.

Pioneer 90.1 typically employs two full-time and one part-time staffer, alongside 15 volunteers. But right now, Johnson is the only full-time employee, and he's scrambling to hire a second.

"If we were to lose CPB and then no longer qualify for the state grants, it is hard for me to see a path for the station to continue to be locally operated," Johnson said.





#### WHITE EARTH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Dedicated to providing services for people with disabilities on or near White Earth Reservation. WEVR program is designed to assist with reducing barriers to employment, advocacy between employees and employer, to ensure that all reasonable accommodations are being met that fit your disability, referrals, and more.

Must be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe

Must reside on or near the boundaries of the White Earth Reservation

Employed at least 20 hours per week/or a fulltime student

Individual must have a physical or mental npairment which results in a substantial impediment to

Presumption that applicant can benefit from VR services

employment

WE VR Program PO BOX 7 Naytahwaush, MN 56566

218-935-3816

Fax: 218-935-3013



#### Ganawendandaa Nibiikaangi Let's Protect Our Waters

#### Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

To avoid spreading aquatic invasive species do the following:

<u>BEFORE</u> launching and <u>BEFORE</u> leaving.

- ◆ Remove aquatic plants and aquatic animals
- ◆ Drain lake/river water away from the landing
- ◆ Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash

It's unlawful to transport aquatic plants, and zebra mussels.

# Reservation youth selected to play in Native American Junior Nationals

#### By Sheri Snetsinger

White Earth Nation is well known for our young athletes which is why it's no surprise that Charlie Montoya (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate/White Earth), Alexander Montoya (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate/White Earth) and Bentley Keezer (White Earth), three Thunderbirds traveling teammates, were recruited this past spring to join and practice with the 3 Bears basketball team.

The 3 Bears team is made of up White Earth, Red Lake and Leech Lake rezballers. The seven Minnesota teams (Sota Boyz, Waawaate, 3 Bears, Supreme Team, WRKNATION, Leech Lakers Select and Red Lake 7/8) traveled June 27-29 to Mesa, Ariz., for the Native American Junior Nationals Tournament. More than 400 teams throughout Indian Country registered to attend the largest all Indigenous basketball event in the world.



Submitted photo

From left are Charlie Montoya, Alex Montoya (Mahnomen Elementary 4th graders), Bently Keezer (Naytahwaush Community Charter School 3rd grader) and Vernie Hisgun (proud grandma).

#### **Howah Ads**

#### Happy 1st Birthday Esmae!

Love Mom, Dad & Auntie Tia

7th



Happy 3rd Birthday

#### Emani Elizabeth

July 12

Love, Mom, Dad, Gramma & Papa, Eevi, Ella and Hanna

Happy Birthday **Ben** 

July 5th

Love - Your girls

Howah Ads are \$5 with a picture or \$4 without. All payments must be made in advance.

No exceptions

#### Erickson from Page 7

Tribal leaders met with the Executive Director and Tribal Liaison of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to engage in a discussion focused on strengthening Tribal consultation practices. Key topics included ensuring meaningful Tribal involvement in permitting activities, improving communication protocols and providing adequate and timely notice for projects that may impact Tribal lands and resources. This meeting reflects a continued commitment to upholding Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relationships. This was a follow up meeting from January.

6-25 I attended the Annual Tribal-State Agreement meeting held at the Juvenile Justice Center in Minneapolis. This gathering brought together representatives from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (MN DHS), Tribal Nations and other key stakeholders to share information and updates on various collaborative efforts. The agenda included updates from the Tribal-State Agreement workgroups, a historical overview of the Tribal-State Agreement, ICWA Guardian ad Litem updates, information from the American Indian Office of the Ombudsperson, and progress from the Tribal Training Certification Partnership (TTCP).

We also discussed the outcomes of the 2025 legislative session and previewed upcoming legislation, along with updates on ICWA and MIFPA compliance. Attending this meeting helped deepen my understanding of ICWA-related court cases and their ongoing impact on Tribal Nations. The State of Minnesota created statute to corm a Intergovernmental Advisory Council and will require representation from each Tribal Nation. Tribal participation is essential to ensure that the council reflects diverse perspectives and upholds government-to-government collaboration.

A discussion was held regarding the need for technical amendments to the Tribal/State Agreement. The conversation focused on the process for engaging all 11 Tribal Nations in reviewing and contributing to these updates. Ensuring that each Tribe has a voice in this process and strengthening Tribal-State partnerships moving forward.

**6-26** The White Earth Elders Picnic was held at White Earth Rediscovery featuring raffles, games, food and a day filled with laughter. It was truly uplifting to see the elders come together, share stories and enjoy a beautiful day.

#### Other Updates

#### White Earth Sturgeon Moon Powwow

The White Earth Community Council is hosting the upcoming White Earth Sturgeon Moon Powwow on July 26–27 in White Earth. This powwow is a time to come together in to dance, sing and be together. We invite everyone to join us. Bring your families and your moccasins—we hope to see you all there!

#### Recent Storm

A recent severe storm accompanied by high winds and hail caused significant damage across the Reservation. The storm led to power outages, downed

trees and damage to homes and properties. Emergency response teams and community members worked together to assess the impact and support those affected. Staff identified community members that had health care needs, oxygen, medical needs, deployed generators and assisted with hotel rooms also.

Staff met at White Earth congregate to make sandwiches, snacks and water to deliver to elders. Thank you to all the staff, volunteers who assisted during and after the recent storms. Your dedication and quick response were greatly appreciated by the community. One recommendation moving forward is to establish a telephone alert system similar to those used by schools to quickly send out emergency messages and important updates to community members during severe weather or other critical events.

Our team is working on this and get community members signed up. The team will be providing other recommendations also. Our White Earth Community Council opened up the community center to assist community members for a place to shower, charge electronics, cook food. Thank you for assisting!

#### White Earth Tribal Program Updates

I have requested that our Executive Director and Deputy Director collaborate with our tribal programs to provide regular updates in each edition of Anishinaabe paper. These updates will help ensure our community is well-informed about the services and resources available to them.

#### **Shooting Star Casino Show Tickets**

For each show held at the Shooting Star Casino, I receive eight tickets that are made available to District 3 constituents. We maintain a list to ensure fair distribution and give everyone an opportunity to attend. If you're interested in tickets for an upcoming show, please reach out to Tiffany Swiers or myself to be added to the list.

#### Fiber Optic Project

Arvig is working with a White Earth Natural Resource team on a permit application to install fiber optic to White Earth Dreamcatcher homes in Ogema.

#### **White Earth Community Picnic**

Mark your calendars for the White Earth Community Picnic that is scheduled for Thursday, July 24 and will take place at the new playground area. I'm looking forward to connecting with everyone.

It is an honor to represent our community and families. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Miigwech

**Contact information:** 

Laura Lee Erickson

Office: 218-935-6238 Cell: 218-401-1153

laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov Facebook: VOTE LAURA LEE

**Tiffany Swiers** (Assistant for District 3)

Office: 218)-935-6235 Cell: 218-997-9124

tiffany.swiers@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



Thank you to the Ogema VFW Post #9880 and Auxiliary for the dignified and beautiful Memorial Day services you conducted at the 12 cemeteries here. Year after year, you dedicated men & women sacrifice part of your holiday weekend away from your families to honor the hundreds of veterans buried in our cemeteries and for our communities. This doesn't go unnoticed. The appreciation of the veteran's families and members of our communities cannot be fully expressed. Know however, we are incredibly grateful to each and every one of you. Chi Migwetch!

#### Program from Page 5

plete a brief online training to be eligible for mini-grant opportunities.

All Nations Rise is proud to serve all tribal communities, rural and urban, across Minnesota. Through funding by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families, ANR is committed to uplifting caregivers like you who are essential to the well-being of our children and communities.

To learn more or begin your FFN registration, please visit us at www.allnationsrise.com or call Jonee at 763-923-5997, Korii at 612-965-6853, or ANR at 218-694-2005.







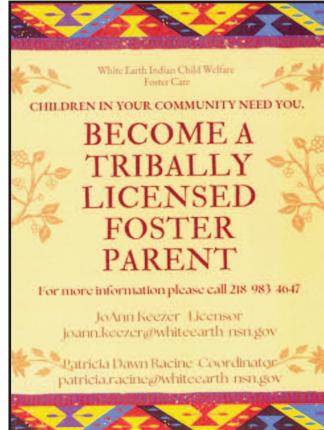
# Attention New Homeowners & Existing Homeowners

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





#### Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life will be held for **Dr. Carson Gardne**r on Tuesday, July 8 from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at the Shooting Star Casino.

Gardner, 72, of White Earth, passed away on May 9 after a long battle with cancer. In 1999, he began his service with the Indian Health Service at the White Earth Clinic. His deep respect for Annishinaabe culture, traditions and language enriched his work and relationships there.

After retiring from the Indian Health Service in 2011, Carson continued his service to the community as Medical Director of the White Earth Tribal Health Programs and Ambulance Service, a role he held until his passing.





#### **NEED MORE ENERGY?**

# JOIN STAR FITNESS CENTER TODAY!

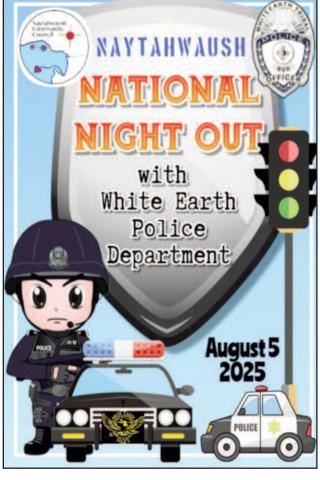
Located in the Manitok Mall, Mahnomen

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





#### **Family Reunion**

The Leu - Gjerde - Cogger family reunion will be held July 12 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Callaway Event Center. Contact Sandy at 218-850-1581.

#### **PP School Meeting Minutes**

# Pine Point Regular School Board Meeting Monday, May 5, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

Pine Point School Staff Room

**1.0 Roll Call** – Meeting called to order by Chairman John Swan at 4:35 p.m.

Members present – Marva Aitken, Allison Jones, Gerald Roberts, John Swan, Michael Swan

Members absent - Sara Hunt

Ex-officio – Christopher Schulz, Principal

**2.0 Recognition of Visitors** – Bonnie Meeks

- **3.0** Approval/Amendment of Agenda Motion by Allison Jones to approve the agenda as amended Add: 7.2 Sidewalk quote, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **4.0 Approval/Amendment of Minutes** Motion by Marva Aitken to approve the April 7, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### 5.0 Finance

- 5.1 Treasurer's Report Motion by Allison Jones to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 2025 as presented, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 5.2 Payment of Bills & Electronic Funds Transfer & Debit Card Transactions Motion by Gerald Roberts to approve the payment of bills for the month of April 2025 in the amount of \$53,538.64 for check #34169 through check #34232 and the EFT for Federal/State/TRA/PERA Payroll Tax & Debit Card Transactions, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### 6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 No unfinished Business

#### 7.0 New Business

- 7.1 2025-2026 Staffing Changes Motion by Marva Aitken to approve Speech reduced to one day per week and to eliminate one paraprofessional position, seconded by Michael Swan. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 7.2 Sidewalk quote Motion by Allison Jones to approve the sidewalk quote as presented, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **8.0 Principal's Report** Discussion on MCA Testing; Teacher Appreciation Week; DLCCC K-3 field trip; 3-8 Pizza Ranch field trip; Solar Panel Dinner at Community Center; K-3 Science Center field trip; 4-8 grade Redhawks Game; Pow Wow; K-3 Troll Bridge Zoo field trip; Memorial Day; Head Start Pow Wow. No action needed.

#### **9.0 Public Participation** – None

**10.0 Adjournment** – Motion by Michael Swan to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m., seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.



#### **White Earth Recovery Parade**







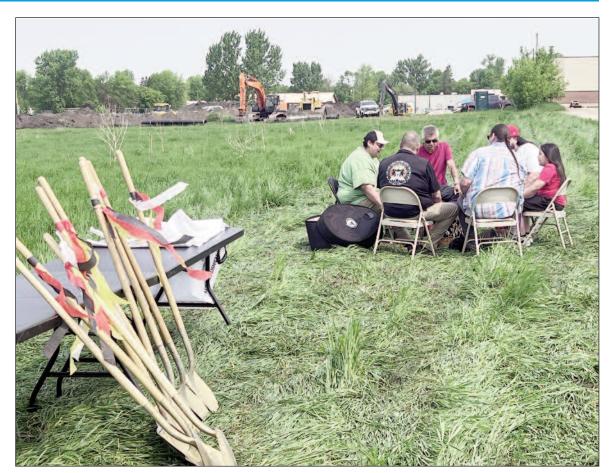
Photos by Gary W. Padrta

The annual White Earth Recovery Parade was held June 12. The theme was Walking the Good Life: Lead by the Seven Teachings.

There were 33 floats and several emergency vehicles in the parade. The top three floats were White Earth DOVE (1st), Indian Child Welfare (2nd), and White Earth Substance Abuse (3rd).

After the parade, more than 1,100 community members gathered at the powwow grounds for a picnic lunch and door prizes.

The event was sponsored by White Earth Behavioral Health, White Earth Tribal Public Health, and Maintenance.



Photos by Jodi Rave Spotted Bear

Drum group sings during an official ground breaking for a new Transit station being constructed in Waubun.

# Largest tribal transit station in Minnesota under construction on White Earth Reservation

**By Jodi Rave Spotted Bear** Buffalo's Fire

Native peoples often experience the worst road conditions and have the highest need for transportation. After about a decade of envisioning an expansive transit hub for the White Earth Nation, Tribal leaders and administrators recently officially broke ground for the White Earth Transit Station.

On May 30, White Earth Nation Chairman Michael Fairbanks sat and sang with a local drum group, signaling the cultural and spiritual importance of the tribe's transit station groundbreaking. In the background, heavy equipment operators cleared the ground and moved earth for the 18,000-square-foot transit hub, which is expected to be completed in July 2026. When done, the hub will be the largest tribal transit facility in Minnesota.

"It's a really good day here in White Earth to see the project moving forward," said Rep. Laura Lee Erickson, White Earth's District 3 leader, who joined Fairbanks and fellow White Earth Nation tribal leaders, staff and citizens who gathered at the construction site and later held symbolic gold shovels.

The White Earth Transit Station is greatly needed for citizens living on the largest of Minnesota's 11 reservations. With 1,300 square miles of land, the White Earth Transportation Department is responsible for 150 miles of rural roads.

White Earth Reservation land is situated among lakes, trees and more than a hundred miles of dirt and gravel roads plus 50 miles of bituminous roads. A reliable transit system ensures the safety of all citizens, particularly women and young girls.

"With limited access to cars – and few, if any, auto mechanics in rural reservation communities – Native women and girls resort to hitchhiking, which places them at risk," according to a transportation research report by TR News. "The forms of travel for



District 3 Representative Laura Lee Erickson, right, and Sage Thompson look at building plans.

tribal people are sometimes affected by a lack of access to reliable mode choices provided by the tribal transportation agencies, such as public buses or other ride-sharing and transit for rural communities."

Numerous statistics underscore the urgent need for reliable transportation in Native communities, where public transit options are frequently limited. The White Earth Nation is poised to change these national dynamics with the construction of the \$7 million White Earth Public Transit Station.

The hub will house 12 buses currently in the

See Transit Page 26