

ANISHINAABEG TODAY



A Monthly Chronicle of the White Earth Nation

Vol. 31 No. 4

White Earth, Minn.

today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

**White Earth
Mother's Day Powwow**

May 9 & 10, 2026
Shooting Star Event Center
SHOOTING STAR CASINO, 777 CASINO ROAD, MAHNOMEN, MN 56557

Grand Entries
Saturday | 1pm & 7pm Sunday | 1pm | All dancers must be in regalia to register
Feast Saturday at 5PM

Mother's Day Gift Giveaway

Emcees: Wes Jourdain & Londel Seaboy
Arena Directors: Jeremy Clark Lucas Hisgun
Spiritual Adviser: Rob Tibbetts

Host Drum | White Fish JRS **Co-Host Drum | Eyabay**
Drum Split - TBD
No drum hopping

Drum Registration Contact Information
Jon Weaver | 218-261-1433 & Anthony Buckanaga | 218-850-3048

WHITE EARTH HONOR GUARD
SPECIALS | TBA
Vendor Contact
The Vendor List is Full and there are No More Spots Available.
This is a Drug and Alcohol Free Event. WERBC, SSC, WEPC and all associated entities will not be held liable for people who are attending at their own risk nor be held responsible for accidents, losses, illnesses or short funded travelers.

Sponsored By: White Earth RBC & **SHOOTING STAR**
CASINO HOTEL ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Gary W. Padra

Highway 59 Homes, located at White Earth Enterprises in Waubun, held a Grand Opening on March 14. Community members toured the new manufactured home models on site. Cutting the ribbon from left are Tony Villebrun, Henry Fox, Michael Fairbanks, Michael LaRoque, Jeremy Syverson and Nicholas Fairbanks.

Highway 59 Homes opens in Waubun

Highway 59 Homes, a tribally owned enterprise under White Earth Enterprises, celebrated a successful Grand Opening on March 14 in Waubun, welcoming community members, partners, and families to tour new manufactured home models and learn about the path from home selection to move-in.

Guests enjoyed refreshments, connected with local vendors, and received information on financing options, site readiness, and next steps. Highway 59 Homes thanks the many supporters who helped make the event possible, including White Earth Nation, Shooting Star Casino, White Earth Tribal and Community College, 1st Tribal Lending,

White Earth Land Office, and Manoomin the Good Berry who contributed to giveaways and community engagement.

During the event, several frequently asked questions came up, and Highway 59 Homes provided clear answers. Many asked, "Who can buy a home through Highway 59 Homes?" The team shared that anyone is welcome to tour, ask questions, and request information, and we will help families understand options and next steps. Another common question was, "Where can homes be placed?" Highway 59 Homes explained that at this time they are

See Homes Page 28

The Anishinaabeg Today went to press before the results of the White Earth Primary Election were available. You can see the results on the White Earth website at www.whiteearth.com or visit the White Earth Facebook page.



Heading to Oklahoma!

These Naytahwaush Community Charter School students were recognized for their projects at the Native American Science and Engineering Fair held recently at Pine Point School. They will be going to Oklahoma City, Okla., from April 8-12 to attend the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair.

From left are Naythan Keezer, Persaeus Sargent-Hawks, Azalea Brown, Tanise Comrie, Karen Wadena, Jayceon Quimby and Adrial Bruguier.

Submitted photo

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Anishinaabeg Today

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

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

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

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

Anishinaabeg Today
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591

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District 3 Representative

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Gary W. Padrta

Future Issues *

Deadline	Issue Date
April 29	May 6
May 28	June 3
June 24	July 1
July 29	August 5
August 26	September 2

* Deadline and issue dates subject to change

Alexus Perreault

WE Tribal and Community College Student Spotlight

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

One of Alexis Perreault's happiest moments was enrolling at White Earth Tribal and Community College. She had struggled at the college that she previously attended and with this change came new beginnings. As Alexis explains, "Coming here made me realize I was more than capable of my dreams, and everything is always in an arm's reach if I work hard enough and believe in myself. I had newfound confidence in my abilities, both socially and academically."

Like most students, Alexis faced struggles on her path to education. She had to learn how to think and act differently after being diagnosed with a disability. She spent a lot of time experimenting with what would work both in and out of the classroom. Alexis developed intricate intrapersonal skills for herself that taught her that anything is possible if you work towards your goals.

While Alexis is cognizant of what makes her successful, she is also aware of the challenges faced by indigenous learners. Indigenous people face the highest drop out rates in high school and the lowest college attendance. She feels that the key to succeeding in your education is taking control.

Showing up for your classes is only half the battle. Alexis elaborates, "Once you realize that your education is bigger than you are, that can benefit your community, the feeling of responsibility you encounter is tremendous. We are the type of people that serve our community. Being able to show others that success is possible will encapsulate the idea that they too can also succeed."

Alexis finds success in attaining knowledge, not material objects. She strives to know our Indigenous history, ways, and language. She envies those that are connected

closely to the Great Spirit and dreams that one day she too can have that connection. As she says, "Wisdom is something they can never take away from you, no matter how hard they may try."

The proudest moment for Alexis was being state runner-up in poetry at the MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League) Class A speech tournament in 2023. Her program detailed awareness of issues Indigenous women faces in modern day; MMIW and fetishization to mascots and civil rights. Alexis eloquently describes her experience, "Being able to spread that message in a predominately white space made me truly feel that my voice had meaning. It felt like I had all the women in my lineage backing me up when I spoke."

Alexis feels that the small class size of WETCC allows her to connect more with classmates and instructors, which tremendously has helped her succeed. She appreciates the resources available on campus and her professors are more than willing to help. WETCC prepares her for career success through rigorous coursework and real-world experience.

Alexis plans to transfer to the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities to continue her bachelor's degree. She intends to major in Indigenous studies with a focus on the Ojibwe language. She plans to one day be teaching the next generation of Ojibwemowin speakers, taking her rightful place as an Indigenous leader.



White Earth Financial Services helps students

White Earth Scholarships

Applications for the White Earth Scholarship Program (WESP) will have a priority deadline of May 31 prior to the next academic year. Please use the links below to download the packet corresponding to your educational plans.

All applicants must:

- Be an enrolled member of the MCT White Earth Band
- Apply at least 8-12 weeks prior to the day classes begin
- Be accepted to an accredited higher education university or technical college
- Apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is required regardless of your income status!
- Have a high school diploma or GED prior to WESP consideration.
- Currently in good academic standing and not in prior student loan default.

Please submit original signed applications by USPS. WESP does not accept digital signatures faxed, emailed or copied WESP applications. The following packets are fillable, please make sure to print and mail via USPS.

- White Earth Scholarship Program Application Packet
- Graduation Incentive Application Packet
- Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program
- Federal Student Aid

Please see the resources tab for more scholarship resources!

Johnson O'Malley

The federal government, under the authority of the JOM Act, provides financial assistance for supplemental educa-

tional programs to meet the unique needs of eligible Indian students in public schools and for educational programs for 3- and 4-year-old children.

Indian students from age 3 years through grade 12, except those who are enrolled in Bureau or sectarian operated schools, shall be eligible if they are enrolled or ¼ or more degree Indian blood of a U.S. federally recognized Tribe. Students who are not enrolled must provide documentation of blood quantum, most commonly a birth certificate and parent(s) enrollment information or a certification of descendency with blood quantum listed. Note: Members of Canadian tribes are not eligible.

The purpose of JOM is to provide supplementary financial assistance to meet the unique and specialized educational needs of Indian Children. These supplementary funds are not to take the place of federal, state, or local funds.

Supplemental programs and activities may include educational support items. Funds may be used for academic remediation, tutoring, preschool programs, summer school classes, cultural enrichment, field trips, transportation, and school supplies.

JOM funds are contracted to tribes, tribal organizations, public school districts and state departments of education.

Education/Travel Assistance

The White Earth Reservation Business Committee-Education Division has limited funding available for White Earth enrolled members to assist in education related expenses.

See Assistance Page 29

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!

Today@whiteearth-nsn.gov
218-935-3569

News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks



Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag Niminwendam Waabaminaan!

Maango-Giizis!

Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadi-zookaanag.

Weweni-sago-na

Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is already April the Maango-Giizis or Loon Moon.

We usually use iskgimizige-giizis which means boiling sap moon.

We as Anishinaabeg utilized copper for thousands of years. Copper is sacred to the people of the great lakes. Alongside shores of lake superior lives a water being known to the Anishinaabeg as Mishibizhiw the water panther.

Ogiishkimanisii kingfisher. Kingfisher helped Nanaboozhoo long ago. This bird was not very good looking at one time and when the kingfisher helped Nanaboozhoo, and made him beautiful. His name ogiishkimanisii means ricochets off the water because he warns us of a water spirit called Mishibizhiw.

Anishinaabeg are known as lake, river and woodland people.

Long ago, the Anishinaabeg lived on the great lakes, they were known for they built birchbark canoes. People that come and barter trade for the canoes. A little girl named Naawagamikgabokwe said she was raised by bears when her parents lost her in the woods when she was a baby and some years later the bear nation returned her to the people.

Naawagamikgabokwe would play by the water and she befriended a water spirit. Her father and others saw her playing and they let her be.

Naawagamikgabokwe had grown to be a beautiful lady and was set to marry her love. She had to say goodbye to her water spirit that she grew to know. The spirit told her if she ever needed help to call onto the wind his name and the spirit would be present.

Time had passed and she had many children. She became one of the great leaders in her community and was invited to a ceremony in Bawating many miles away.

They stocked their canoes with goods for the ceremony with thirty canoes in all. They set off into the great lakes and in the distance a great storm erupted, then a huge sound of thunder within the storm.

The people were traveling they saw the thunder beings fighting huge serpents. The serpent's pushed the Thunder beings away, and the serpents came after the canoes taking a few of them under.

Naawagamikgabokwe was in one of those canoes. She gather her children in water and uplifted them into other canoes. The snakes would not stop advancing. She cried in the wind, her friend name Mishibizhiw.

In the distance this huge creature is running on water. The snakes slammed towards Mishibizhiw, eventually Mishibizhiw was pulled under.

The storm cleared and Naawagamikgabokwe and the people canoa back to the shores. She was on her knees on the shore lines crying for her friend.

Out of nowhere Mishibizhiw appeared out of the water holding a great snake in his mouth, bringing body after body to the shores.

Mishibizhiw said to the people I brought you gifts and remember and honor these gifts. Watch the bodies of these beings turn, the snakes turned to copper. This is how Anishinaabeg received copper.

Here is an update on our Land Back journey with Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. As you know, Land Back is very important to our Nation. Despite the long history of land theft and loss, we are resilient adaptive people who will continue into the infinite future. Remember our fight for Land Back is a long-distance race, not a sprint, and we are going about it in a good way by taking deliberate steps towards our goals so we can set ourselves up in the best position now and for those whocome after us—the next seven generations.

We first entered a Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge) on June 4, 2024. Then we quickly followed up with a Co-Stewardship Agreement with FWS for the Refuge that took things a little further and a little more in depth on Oct. 1, 2024. Our WEDNR meets regularly with the FWS Refuge staff and coordinates easily on the many aspects of co-stewarding Refuge management. We're moving full speed ahead on the next steps in our plan, even with some hold ups with the federal government shut-downs!

Since our first agreements with FWS in 2024, we've now executed a Self-Governance Compact with Department of Interior (DOI) that was signed Dec. 4, 2025 under P.L.638 or the Indian Self Determination Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA). This compact gave us the ability to enter into Multi-Year Funding Agreements (MYFA) and Annual Funding Agreements (AFA) for BIA and non-BIA programs and services such as the ones that FWS provides at the Refuge. This means we would receive funding to carry out the programs, functions, activities, and services (PFSAs) that we contract for instead of FWS and that's exactly what we've done. We formally requested to begin negotiations with FWS for a MYFA on Nov. 13, 2025. Although our request was delayed by the government shut down at the time, our negotiation team has been hard at work to quickly regain footing. Now, we have a complete MYFA ready for Council to vote on accepting at this next regular meeting on March 27.

Recall, for our first MYFA we selected three main PFSAs to assume control over that the FWS provides at the Refuge. Since water protection is one

See Chairman Page 24

News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

Boozhoo White Earth Nation.

As this Spring begins, I'm sharing key updates that benefit Tribal members both on and off the reservation. This update also covers March achievements that show our commitment to transparency, financial stability, and community well-being.

- I had the pleasure of attending the Minnesota Department of Human Services Consultation. The Topic of discussion was Active Grants and Medicaid discussion.

- Tribal leaders and staff met with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services at the Tamarac Wildlife Refuge building. Topics of this meeting were Negotiation of the Annual Funding Agreement and timelines for the Co-Stewardship.

- Tribal leaders reviewed the Strategic Report from Blue Stone Group.

- Tribal leaders meet every Friday via zoom to discuss topics at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe level.

- Tribal leaders had a great discussion with the Property Management group Optima, addressing needs of our Elders and membership in tribal housing.

- Tribal leaders attended the monthly Circle of Life Academy meeting addressing school attendance and issues that they face with funding.

- Tribal leaders and staff attended the annual Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Legislative dinner in St. Paul, Minn. All 11 nations were invited to this event; there was good discussion with Minnesota State Legislatures.

- I attended the annual Native American Science and Engineering Fair in Pine Point; I was also asked to judge the competition projects. This was a great event for all local schools.

- I attended the Waubun School annual Pow-Wow and enjoyed all the dancers and drum groups and students that attended.

- I attended the Elder Bingo and Easter Bingo for the children's events in the Urban area, where I enjoyed visiting and had good conversations with our Elders. It was a great event and miigwech to the Urban Community Council staff for holding these events.

- Tribal leaders and staff attended the White Earth Public Health Accreditation Ceremony at the Shooting Star Convention Center. District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson did the opening and I did the closing. District 1 Rep. Henry Fox made a great statement about the accomplishment. This was a great honor for the Public Health Division and staff. Our Public Health Accreditation is the first tribe in Minnesota to receive this accreditation and only a few tribes in the United States. I would like to say Miigwech and congratulations.

- Tribal leaders attended and wished one of our long-time employees in Head Start a happy and well-deserved retirement. Leah Hvezda retired with 40+ years of service with the Rice Lake Community Head Start Program. Congratulations Leah and enjoy your retirement.

Waabigwan Mashkiki first Quarter Report

Consolidated revenue for Mahnomen, Moorhead, St. Cloud, Wholesale Sales, and all other sources of revenue for the 1st Fiscal Quarter of FY2026, ending Dec. 31, 2025, was \$7.1 million. The consolidated total expenses for the Quarter were \$4.4 million. Consolidated net income for the quarter was \$2.7 million. Compared to the 1st Fiscal Quarter



of FY2025, ending Dec. 31, 2024, revenue increased \$4.9 million or 223% from \$2.2 million. The primary driver of the variance was due to the expansion of retail operations with the opening of the Moorhead and St. Cloud dispensaries, which drove substantially higher retail cannabis sales, along with the launch of distillate and concentrates sales.

The consolidated expenses increased \$2.8 million or 175% from \$1.6 million. The primary driver of the variance was due to higher cost of goods sold from the increased sales volume, as well as elevated payroll, manufacturing, and other operating expenses associated with the expanded dispensary locations and manufacturing activities. Net income increased \$2.1 million from \$0.6 million.

Compared to the 4th Fiscal Quarter of FY2025, ending Sept. 30, 2025, revenue decreased \$0.1 million or 1.4% from \$7.2 million. The primary driver of the variance was due to a decrease in retail cannabis sales, partially offset by increases in distillate and concentrates sales and wholesale cannabis sales. The consolidated expenses decreased \$0.4 million or 8.3% from \$4.8 million. The primary driver of the variance was due to lower cost of goods sold for distillate and concentrates and reduced outside services expenses. Net income increased \$0.3 million from \$2.4 million.

The unaudited preliminary numbers are subject to change as the numbers are finalized.

The total employees as of this quarter is 123 and range from Cultivation Technician, Dispensary Technician, Post Harvest Technician, Security, Extraction Lab, Kitchen, Custodian, and Maintenance. These employees are at Mahnomen, Moorhead, and St. Cloud.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Spring and welcome the Pow-Wow Season, and I would like to thank everyone for the successful beginning to this year that this Nation has had and look forward to continuing that success throughout 2026. Together we can do great things for this Nation moving forward.

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

Miigwech,
Mike LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer
(218) 849-1140
White Earth Nation

You are invited to the 2026 White Earth State of the Nation

Thursday, May 7, 2026

**Shooting Star Casino Event Center
Mahnomen, Minn.**

AGENDA

8 a.m. - Doors Open / Visit White Earth
Program Exhibits

9 a.m. - Social Hour

10 a.m. - Welcome Ceremony

❖ State of the Nation Address

Feast following ceremony

**The event will also be streamed live on the
White Earth YouTube channel**

White Earth Urban Community Council

Join us for a meaningful gathering to learn about Manoomin (Wild Rice) — a sacred food and an important part of Indigenous culture, history, and way of life.

Date: Saturday, April 18 from noon to 3 p.m.

Location: MCT Building 1308 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis

Join us for a meaningful gathering to learn about Manoomin (Wild Rice) — a sacred food and an important part of Indigenous culture, history, and way of life.

This event will include:

- Introduction to Manoomin and its cultural significance
- Educational history and traditional teachings
- Discussion on harvesting, preparation, respect for the land
- Community sharing and questions

All are welcome to attend!

Come learn, listen, and connect in a good way.

For more information, contact:

Sherri at 612-423-6760. Please text or call.

IN NEED OF SEPTIC PUMPING

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

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

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

White Earth Business - \$115

Non-enrollee (any age) - \$185

Businesses - \$225

(You must reside on the White Earth Reservation)

News From District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

As March comes to a close our community prepares to welcome the arrival of April and the sweet Sugarbush season. The days are getting longer and the sap is beginning to flow. It's a season that brings us together, share stories and enjoy the gifts from mama akii- mother earth.

3-10 Tribal leaders and staff traveled to the Minnesota State Capital to meet with Minnesota state legislators to discuss key tribal priorities including the protection of wild rice, funding to support tribal communities and support for the rental assistance bill. These conversations focused on strengthening partnerships and ensuring that tribal perspectives are included in state policy discussions.

We attended the wild rice hearing for SF3749 a bill that would recognize the inherent right of wild rice to exist and flourish in Minnesota. The hearing highlighted the cultural, environmental, and spiritual importance of wild rice to tribal nations and the need for protections that support its sustainability. We attended environmental hearings regarding water permitting and the potential impacts on natural resources. These discussions emphasized the importance of responsible environmental stewardship and protecting water quality for future generations.

That evening, we attended the MCT Legislative Dinner, which brought together tribal leaders, tribal businesses, state legislators, state agency commissioners and tribal relations staff. The event provided an opportunity to build relationships, discuss shared priorities, and continue meaningful dialogue between tribal governments and state leadership.

3-12 I attended the annual Native American Youth Science and Engineering Fair at Pine Point School. Students in grade 4-8 from Pine Point School, Naytahwaush Community and Charter School, Red Lake, and Nay Ah Shing School showed off their science and engineering skills. Each project was graded by judges. Congratulations to all the students for participation and to the top six youth that placed and will be awarded with the trip to Disney World.

3-18 Congratulations to Alexis Lerud for being named the 2026 Boys and Girls Club of White Earth Youth of the Year. A celebration in her honor was held at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center. Alexis is a member of the Pine Point Club, one of eight Clubs throughout the reservation. She travelled to the Twin Cities and represent White Earth at the Minnesota Boys and Girls Clubs 2026 Youth of the Year Competition on March 25. Each year I look forward to the Youth of the Year event.

3-25 I had the opportunity to join Boys & Girls Club staff and youth for the Minnesota Youth of the Year event held at the Minnesota Twins stadium. The event started with a behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium giving youth a look into a professional sports environment followed by a reception and the official Youth of the Year selection for Minnesota.

This year's Youth of the Year representative, a candidate from Central Minnesota was selected to advance to the national competition and was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship. In addition, all participating youth received scholarship funding in recognition of their leadership and personal achievements. The event was a great celebration for our young leaders across the state.

I want to commend the youth for their participation. In order to be considered, youth completed an application, prepare a resume, write and memorize a



speech and then confidently deliver that speech in front of an audience. Public speaking can be challenging! This experience will serve them well in many aspects of their lives.

3-26 Staff and youth continued their experience with a visit to the Minnesota State Capitol. During this visit they had the opportunity to meet with Governor Tim Walz and state legislators. Youth participants shared their personal stories, speaking to the impact that the Boys & Girls Club has had on their lives from providing safe spaces to opportunities. These conversations not only elevated youth voice but also created a space for connection with policy-makers. It was an experience that encouraged young people to see themselves as leaders, advocates and changemakers within their communities.

Bison Update

Our White Earth Nation bison program continues to grow and strengthen as a vital component of our cultural and food sovereignty efforts. This past fall, we welcomed 45 surplus bison bringing our total herd to 55 animals. These bison are strategically housed at two separate locations to support herd health, breeding and harvest management. At our Mahnomen site, we currently care for 16 bison. These animals are primarily males and are two years of age or older. This site supports our harvest operations, which are now entering their second year.

Beginning at the end of April, we will harvest two bison per month in partnership with B&T Meats for processing. The meat is distributed to the Naytahwaush Food Shelf and included in elder food boxes. In addition, a portion of the harvest is reserved for special community needs and events including powwows, fishing derbies, Earth Day gatherings, ceremonial use and gifts for dignitaries and honored guests. Planning is also underway for our second annual community traditional harvest, scheduled for 2026.

At the Spence pasture located between Makonce and Naytahwaush, we maintain our primary breeding herd of 39 bison. This herd currently includes two bulls, 14 adult females, 16 female yearlings and 7 calves born in 2025. Looking ahead, we anticipate approximately eight calves in 2026 with some already expected to be born in the spring around May. As part of our commitment to respecting the natural behavior of the herd, these bison are managed as wild animals. We do not intervene in their reproductive processes allowing natural cycles to guide herd growth. Calving success can vary from year to

See Erickson Page 24

White Earth's 29th Annual College & Career Fair

Thursday, April 30th, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Mahnomen High School Gym
Open to 9th-12th Grade Students

For more information contact:
 Kimberly.Neisen@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Freezer getting empty?
 B & T Meats has some cost-saving options!

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

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

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

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

Phone: 218-473-2822

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

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

Valleyview Commons

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

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

Tenant is responsible for electric and heat.

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

CREATING BETTER LIVING
 Equal Housing Opportunity

TTY711

White Earth's new Air Quality Flag Program

By Amber Eken

Air Quality Environmental Coordinator II
White Earth Natural Resources

Watch out for the colorful flags popping up within our community over these next few months! These flags are being flown as part of the White Earth Air Quality Program's efforts to raise air quality awareness.

The first site to fly these air quality flags is the Naytahwaush Head Start, but we will keep you updated on new site locations as we get more volunteers. We anticipate a total of five sites throughout the White Earth Nation that will fly these flags.

The flags come in a variety of colors—green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. Each color represents how clean and healthy our air is for the day.

Green means that our air quality is good, and it's

a great day to be outside! Yellow flags being flown mean that the air is okay and healthy for most people, but if you are unusually sensitive to air quality, you may want to limit your time outdoors. Orange days mean that the air is unhealthy to sensitive groups (elders, youth, and those with pre-existing lung or heart conditions), and these people, along with anyone else experiencing symptoms (i.e., coughing, shortness of breath) should take it easier outside.

Red flags indicate that the air quality is unhealthy for everyone, so everyone should take it easier outside and remain indoors as needed. Purple air quality is considered hazardous or very unhealthy for everyone, which means we should all avoid spending time outside and remain indoors as much as possible.

As we move into the wildfire season, be sure to check air quality conditions each day and stay safe!



Spring greetings from Food Sovereignty!

Boozhoo Anishinaabeg! Ziigwan omaa! Indizhinikaaz Nicole LaFrinier. Gaa-waabaabiganikaag indoonjibaa idash Nay-Tah-Waush indaa. Miigizi indoodem. Nindanokii Food Sovereignty and Security Coordinator.

The White Earth Division of Natural Resources, Agriculture Department via the Food Sovereignty Initiative (WEFSI) would like to help those who wish to start a vegetable garden by offering tilling services once again.

Priority will be given to enrolled Elders, but we

hope to help as many people as we can! Last year we were able to get approximately 50 gardens tilled and delivered over 100 raised beds!

For more information or to get on the tilling schedule, call 218-935-3562 or email Nicole.LaFrinier@whiteearth-nsn.gov. Please note that submission of information does not guarantee participation.

Miigwech,
Nicole

WELRP awarded Rauschenberg Foundation Grant

The White Earth Land Recovery Project recently received a \$50,000 grant from The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation (New York City).

This one-time grant was approved exclusively in support of general operating expenses related to helping the organization's efforts in land recovery, traditional agriculture, seed sovereignty, and community food systems.

This grant was nominated by the Black and Indigenous Land Rights and Agriculture Initiative, led by an advisory committee of experts in related fields. This important philanthropic initiative seeks to redress the losses of Black and Indigenous people's land and capacity for wealth generation resulting from long-term bias embedded in governmental and statutory systems.

PRESENTED BY: **m MINNESOTA**
AGING PATHWAYS

MEDICARE 101

PARTS A, B, C & D

April 22, 2026
Shooting Star Casino

- ✓ Morning and afternoon sessions available
- ✓ Must be pre-registered
- ✓ Lunch provided

Register by emailing:
public.health@whiteearth-nsn.gov or text or leave a message at 218-255-2204.

White Earth Nation
TRIAL PUBLIC HEALTH
DIVERSITY • PROMOTE • PROTECT

White Earth Nation
TRIAL PUBLIC HEALTH
DIVERSITY • PROMOTE • PROTECT

You are cordially invited to the

PINE POINT SCHOOL RESILIENCE HUB

Ribbon Cutting Festivities

3:00PM, MAY 4TH

Join us 3pm CST, May 4, 2026 at Pine Point School
48075 Pow Wow Hwy, Ponsford, MN 56575

- Ceremony & Celebration
- Job Fair
- Community Dinner
- Screening of Ojibwe Star Wars

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU

Presented by Pine Point School, 8TH FIRE SOLAR, 10 POWER, ZIEGLER ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Valley View Manor

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

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

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



CREATING BETTER LIVING
Equal Housing Opportunity

TTY711



Veterans from Page 16

Some of the names were misspelled in the original article, noted Parker. The archived photo, found online, is too dark to be reproduced and enlarged for the memorial.

“We’ve been searching all avenues and trying to contact relatives for several years without success,” Parker said.

Hundreds were involved in the Golden Gloves from the 1930s to the 1940s, Parker said, yet the Becker and Hubbard historical societies don’t have any memorabilia or photos

Weaver, son of William and Josie Weaver of White Earth, was “in the Golden Gloves in the late 1930s, with many teammates and friends from the Leech Lake and Bemidji areas.”

Petrie, son of Roy and Hazel Petrie of Park Rapids, was killed on the western front of the European theatre on Jan. 24, 1945. He was married to Marion DeYoe and father of Jon Petrie.

Two other men – Charles V. “Buster” Smith and George “Jumbo” Burnette — were from the Cass Lake area or had family there.

According to Parker, “Smith and Burnette died 80 years ago, and odds are most of the living family won’t recognize their names, but they will recognize their siblings who have mostly only passed away in the past 10 to 20 years.”

Smith was a “well-known and highly popular baseball player” in Cass and Beltrami counties.

He was killed, along with seven other crew members, on April 1, 1943, in Alaska. He was 27. Son of Charles and Esther (Bellecourt) Smith, Buster was the eldest brother of Frances “Mindy” Jones, Gladys Cain, George Hermit Smith, James Smith, Theodore “Ted” Smith, Phillip Smith, all of the Cass Lake area, along with Margaret Smith of Ice Cracking Lake-Ponsford on the White Earth Reservation.

Burnette, of Naytahwaush, was the son of Simon Peter and Effie Burnette and brother of Mary Nina Cloud of Cass Lake, and John, Eddie, Oodge, Jimmy and Ivan Burnette of Naytahwaush. Jumbo was killed at Camp Blanding, Florida in an explosive accident on May 24, 1944.

They are seeking help from the community to locate photographs of the following young men from, or who resided in, Mahnomen County that were killed in the two world wars and one female veteran serving in World War II. Individual memorials to honor their service are being created but they have not been able to locate a photograph of these individuals. They are reaching out to the community in hopes there may be some that kept photos of these young veterans:

World War I

Bear, (aka Beare) James J. of White Earth

Bunker, Isaac of Naytahwaush

Defoe (Dufault), Peter of Beaulieu, Naytahwaush, and Cloquet

Kiplin, Michael of Mahnomen County

LeQuier, Louis Aloysius of Beaulieu and Ball Club

Mitchell, William of Twin Lakes - Naytahwaush area

Paul, Joseph D. of Mahnomen Co. and Bemidji

World War II

Belland, Robert M. of McCraney Lake area east of Waubun north of Hwy. 113

Brown, Eddie H. of McCraney Lake area east of Waubun north of Hwy. 113

Brunette (aka Burnette), “Jumbo” George of Naytahwaush

Bunker, Ruth L. of Naytahwaush

Lewis, Harry V. of Beaulieu

St. John, Emery E., of Pine Bend, Ebro, Lengby, Rice Lake, Jackpine, Big Bend, and Twin Lakes area

Smith, “Buster” Charles V. of Cass Lake and Beaulieu

Wadena, “Sonny” Charles V. of Naytahwaush

Weaver, Joseph L. of White Earth

The new ‘hall of honor’

Parker and Fairbanks hope to complete the refurbished memorial by spring 2026.

It begins with the Spanish-American War.

“He was a young boy from White Earth. He’s actually buried at Arlington National Cemetery,” Parker said.

The commemoration of those killed in action continues through the Vietnam War. Many veterans will be recognized.

“There are two POWs that we know of,” Parker said.

They will create a separate wall for 30 female veterans because they “always get swept under the rug.”

They have collected information about the women who were in the Army during World War II and the Korean War.

“My grandma’s cousin was the only female from the region in World War I to die during the war from the Spanish flu epidemic,” Parker said. “She refused to leave her post. She was a nurse.”

According to Parker, she was given a full military funeral at White Earth.

If you have photographs or information please email faircox@arvig.net or whiteearthhistory@gmail.com or write to: Sexton - Calvary Cemetery, PO Box 57, Ogema, MN 56569.

White Earth Council of Elders

By Lucille M. Silk, Chairwoman

White Earth Nation Council of Elders

Greetings all members.

The White Earth Council of Elders has finalized their election process and here are the results. Nominations were closed on March 13 at 5 p.m.

Secretary – Janet Oskinowe

District 1 – Vernie Hisgun

District 2 – Virginia Smith

District 3 – Harvey Bonga

Both Vernie and Janet ran unopposed. Elections were held on March 23 from 1-5 p.m. at Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. The election judges volunteered their time and were very much appreciated.

On March 2, several WECO members attended the Reservation Business Committee meeting at Shooting Star Casino to give a report of Elder activities.

The WECO Executive Board met on March 16 to finalize plans for the election of District Representatives to provide more transparency to all members of this Council.

We hope to provide conferences and other meetings that concern Elders.

To all members of the Wisdom Step Program, we are completing the plans for an annual conference to be held June 2-4 at Black Bear Casino in Fond du Lac.

Please understand that there are requirements that must be met for Wisdom Steps members and completed by the end of each year. Any new members can get ready for next years conference by working on their own preventive health care items. If you have any questions on this program do not hesitate to contact myself or another member.

We are trying to have an Easter Bingo at each of our Elder Nutrition sites on Thursday, April 2 after the noon meal.

There are two events that are happening in April. The first one will be held April 21-22 at Northern Lights in Walker, Minn. The other is on April 29-30 at Mille Lacs in Onamia, Minn. We will have sign up sheets for both of these events at the WECO meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at the White Earth Elder Nutrition site. We ask that you sign up for only one event so that others have an opportunity to attend. Our bus capacity is a comfortable 12. Thank you for your cooperation.

We want to take this time to wish everyone a very Happy Easter, may The Great Spirit bless you and family.

Reminder: Please attend the final candidate forum sponsored by WECO on April 18 from 1-4 p.m. at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen.

Even if the path is unclear, trust the right direction. Missteps, pauses and detours are part of every meaningful journey. They don’t erase progress—they shape it. Stay patient with yourself. Your dreams are still within reach, and you are closer than you think!

Lucille M. Silk,
WECO Chairperson
218-204-0112



The Anishinaabeg Today went to press before the results of the White Earth Primary Election were available. You can see the results on the White Earth website at www.whiteearth.com or visit the White Earth Facebook page.

Mental health matters: Understanding depression

Depression is much more than simply feeling sad or navigating a difficult period. While everyone occasionally experiences moments of sadness, these typically fade with time. In contrast, depression, also referred to as major depressive disorder, is a serious mental health condition that can have a profound impact on how a person feels, thinks, and functions in daily life, affecting routines such as sleeping, eating, and working.

Importantly, depression does not discriminate; it can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, culture, income, or background. Current research highlights that depression often arises from a complex interplay of genetic, biological, environmental, and psychological factors. Although women are diagnosed with depression more frequently, men also experience it and may be less inclined to seek support, which can result in their symptoms going unnoticed or untreated.

Depression frequently coexists with other chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, or ongoing pain. This overlap can intensify both the physical illness and the symptoms of depression, creating additional challenges for those affected.

Recognizing the signs and symptoms

The symptoms of depression can vary widely from person to person. Common indicators include:

- Persistent feelings of sadness, anxiety, or emptiness
- Hopelessness or a pessimistic outlook
- Irritability, frustration, or restlessness
- Overwhelming feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness
- Loss of interest in hobbies or activities that once brought pleasure
- Fatigue, low energy, or a sensation of being slowed down

- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, or making decisions
- Sleep disturbances, such as insomnia or sleeping excessively
- Changes in appetite or noticeable weight fluctuations
- Unexplained physical aches and pains that don't resolve with treatment
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Additionally, depression can manifest in other ways, including:

- Heightened anger or irritability
- Feeling restless or constantly on edge
- Withdrawing from family, friends, or social activities
- Increased participation in risky activities
- Greater use of alcohol or other substances
- Struggling to meet responsibilities at work, home, or school

It's important to note that not everyone with depression will experience all of these symptoms. Some individuals may notice only a few, while others may encounter many. When these symptoms persist and begin to disrupt everyday life, seeking help becomes crucial.

Help is within reach

If you or someone you care about is experiencing signs of depression, remember, you are not alone. Taking the step to reach out for support is both courageous and vital. Help is available, and connecting with mental health professionals can make a meaningful difference.

For Mental Health Services, contact:

White Earth Mental Health
218-983-6325

For 24/7 Crisis Support, call:

218-850-4357

Community gathers for WOVE Powwow



Photo by Aleisha Fox

WOVE Indian Education sponsored a Powwow at the Waubun School on March 20. White Earth Honor Guards Everett "Biscuit" Goodwin, left, and Dean Johnson lead the dancers in. The Emcee was Vince Beyle.

WHITE EARTH CHILD CARE

SPRING BOOK EVENT

Join us as we share the joy of reading with little learners and their families. Each child will receive a free, age-appropriate book to help build early literacy skills and encourage a lifelong love of reading. We can't wait to see our young readers bloom this season!

HELP US FILL THE GAPS AND GET TRAINING THE NEEDS FOR CHILD CARE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY BY TAKING A BRIEF SURVEY AND BE ENTERED TO WIN A \$75 READING GIFT CARD!

AGES 0-5 YEARS OLD
THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH
5PM-7PM

White Earth Child Care Building
35609 Eagle View Road,
Ogema, MN 56569

♥ CARING FOR COLA CLOSET ♥

DONATION WISH LIST
YOUR DONATIONS HELP SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS.

CLOTHING

- NEW SOCKS & UNDERWEAR (ALL SIZES)
- WINTER GEAR (COATS, HATS, GLOVES, SNOW PANTS, BOOTS)
- SWEATSHIRTS • SWEATPANTS • LEGGINGS • PAJAMAS

HYGIENE & PERSONAL CARE

- TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE
- SOAP • BODY WASH
- SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
- FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- BRUSHES & COMBS

HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- DISH SOAP
- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER TOWELS
- CLEANING WIPES / SPRAY
- TRASH BAGS

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

- OATMEAL
- PASTA & SAUCE
- RICE
- MAC & CHEESE
- CANNED SOUPS, FRUIT, VEGGIES, MEAT
- PEANUT BUTTER / SUN BUTTER
- SHELF-STABLE MILK
- GRANOLA BARS & SNACK PACKS

WE NEED YOUR HELP **GIVE SUPPORT**

♥ THANK YOU FOR HELPING CARE FOR OUR KIDS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY! ♥

Contact:
Kris Manning
Circle of Life Academy
218-983-4180
kristine.manning@col.pvt.k12.mn.us



Your job search ends here
www.whiteearth.com



April is Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month

By Savannah Leiser, LPN
White Earth Tribal Public Health

Boozhoo! April is Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month—a time to come together as a community to learn, share, and take steps toward protecting our health.

Cancer can affect anyone, but the good news is that many types of cancer are preventable and treatable when found early. Early detection gives us the best chance for successful treatment and healing. Taking care of our bodies is a way of honoring ourselves, our families, and future generations.

Cancer often begins quietly, without symptoms. That's why regular check-ups and screenings are so important—even when you feel healthy.

Why Early Detection Matters?

When cancer is found early:

- Treatment is often easier and more effective
- Survival rates are higher
- There are more options for care

Screenings like mammograms, colonoscopies, Pap tests, prostate exams, and skin checks can help find cancer before symptoms begin.

Talk with your healthcare provider about when you should start screening. Many begin around 40-50, but some may need to start earlier based on personal or family history.

The Importance of Seeing a Doctor

Seeing a doctor regularly is one of the most important steps you can take for your health. Even if nothing feels wrong, routine visits help catch problems early.

Your provider can:

- Recommend the right screenings for you
- Answer questions about symptoms or concerns

- Support you in making healthy diet and lifestyle changes

- Help manage risk factors like diabetes, blood pressure, or weight

If you haven't seen a provider in a while, April is a great time to reconnect and schedule a check-up.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

It's okay to ask questions—your health matters, and your voice is important. Here are some helpful questions to bring to your visit:

- How often should I be screened?
- Does my family history put me at a higher risk?
- What cancer screenings do I need at my age?
- Should I get any vaccines (like HPV) to prevent cancer?
- Are there any diet and lifestyle changes that could improve my health?
- What can I do to lower my risk of cancer?
- Are there symptoms I should watch for?

Writing down your questions ahead of time can help you feel more prepared.

Ways to Reduce Your Cancer Risk

There are many small steps we can take every day to protect our health:

- Stay active: Aim for at least 30 minutes of movement most days
- Limit alcohol
- Eat well: Choose more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and traditional foods when possible
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Stay up to date on screenings and vaccines
- Protect your skin from the sun
- Avoid commercial tobacco—seek support through IHS, WESA office, or White Earth Tobacco Program if you need help quitting.

Pine Point School hosts indigenous games



Photo by Aleisha Fox

Pine Point School hosted Indigenous Games Day on Feb. 8. Students from neighboring schools attended and participated in a day of traditional indigenous games and learning. The featured activities were Snow Snakes and Hand Drum competition. Above: A student throws his Snow Snake in the Distance contest.

NEW SERVICE AVAILABLE!



VAPE DISPOSAL

Keep your community clean & protect the environment!

We now offer safe, responsible disposal for:

- ✓ Disposable vapes
- ✓ Vape pens
- ✓ Cartridges & pods
- ✓ Vape batteries

WHY PROPER VAPE DISPOSAL MATTERS

- Prevents toxic chemicals from entering landfills and water
- Keeps lithium-ion batteries out of the trash
- Promotes a cleaner, safer community

Cost: Free

Drop Sites:

Location: White Earth

EZ One Stop

Sanitation

M&W Stores

Phone: 218-935-3234



Protect the planet. Dispose responsibly.

Public Hearing Indian Education Programs and Budgets NOTICE

Waubun-Ogema-White Earth Schools
There will be a public hearing regarding the spring review 2025-2026 American Indian Education Programs and Budgets

The Public Hearing will take place at
5:30 p.m. at the Waubun Media Center
Wednesday, April 15, 2026

The hearing will include the following:

1. Presentation of Annual Needs Assessment and Indian Policies and Procedures.
2. Overview of Title I, II, & VI, Johnson O'Malley, American Indian Education Aid, and Impact Aid.
3. Seek comments and recommendations regarding the programs.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS ATTENDING WAUBUN-OGEMA-WHITE EARTH SCHOOL DISTRICT #435 IS URGED TO ATTEND.

FEEDBACK IS WELCOME ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS. PLEASE SHARE FEEDBACK PRIOR TO THE MEETING IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

Jordan Spaeth, Superintendent jspaeth@waubun.k12.mn.us
218-473-6171

Patti Degroat, Indian Education Coordinator
pattid@waubun.k12.mn.us 218-473-6173



877-410-8550

anonymous crime and elder abuse tip line



The excitement you feel when it's time to expand your business?

We've got a loan for that.

White Earth Investment Initiative offers affordable business expansion loans for businesses in tribal communities.



(218) 902-2069 | www.weii.website

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and lender.



A Gathering for Adults & Youth to Learn About Sacred Medicines, Growing Traditional Foods, Maternal Health, and Self-Care



~ Restoring Traditional Knowledge ~

Key Note Speakers:

Dr. Terry Maresca & Dr. Kalidas Shetty

- Basic skills about gathering, using and respecting our traditional medicines
- Water and environmental teachings
- Self-care and mental health practices
- Art workshops
- Barter and Trade
- *new* Ribbon Skirt & Jewelry Swap
- Sunrise Ceremony

SHOOTING STAR CASINO
777 S Casino Rd

Hotel Booking ID:
"Return to First Medicine Conference"

JULY 28 & 29TH 2026

Eventbrite Registration



White Earth Reservation Enrolled Elder Lawn Mowing Program

DATE APPLYING: _____

Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____
Permanent residency is required.

Telephone # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email address: _____

Birthdate: _____ Spouse's Birthdate: _____

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

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

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

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

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

***Lawn mowing will be done every two weeks; area needs to be cleared of debris.
***Dogs must be tied up, fenced in, or housed during service.
***Weed trimming, bagging of grass & mowing ditches will not be provided.
***Mowing service will end after Labor Day weekend.

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



Sue Trnka
WEII Community Services Coordinator
218-844-7029



Jodi Lunde
WEII Community Services Coordinator
218-844-7057

- DO YOU WANT TO:**
- \$ CREATE A HOUSEHOLD BUDGET?
 - \$ GET STARTED WITH SAVINGS?
 - \$ PLAN FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP?
 - \$ FIX YOUR CREDIT?
 - \$ LEARN NEW FINANCIAL HABITS?

We can help!

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

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

WHITE EARTH 2026 ANGLING SEASONS AND DATES

Species	Dates	Daily Possession Limits
Walleye	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027	10
Northern Pike	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027	15
Muskellunge	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 (Minimum size limit of 50 inches) <u>Angling only.</u> Netting incidentals will be exempt.	1
Bass	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 (Large/small mouth combination)	10
Trout	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 (All species in combination)	10
Crappies	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027	20
Sunfish	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 (All species in combination)	30
Rough fish	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 (Perch are classified as rough fish)	200
Lake Sturgeon	Open angling March 1, 2026 - February 28, 2027 * Ceremonial and educational permits may be issued for limited harvest and use. Please contact Natural Resources for a permit application	0

Catch and Release Season Only

DARK HOUSE SPEARING

November 14, 2026 though March 31, 2027

- Daily possession limit is the same as angling.
- Spearing and angling limits are combined and may not exceed daily possession limits alone or in combination with the exception of muskellunge.
- It is prohibited to spear muskellunge during any season(s).

ROUGH FISH SPEARING REGULATIONS

Daytime Period

Rough fish may be speared in rivers and lakes during daylight hours beginning at sunrise on March 1 through April 10, 2026

Nighttime Period

Rough fish may be speared in rivers and lakes anytime beginning at 12 a.m. on April 11, 2026 through Feb. 28, 2027

General

- ❖ It is prohibited to harvest game fish with a spear. This includes Lake Sturgeon.
- ❖ All lakes, rivers, ponds, streams and creeks are open to the harvest of rough fish with a spear, dip net, or bow except for crossing private property without permission or areas posted as trout streams or sensitive areas by White Earth Natural Resources.

Tribal members are asked to respect private property:

1. Please do not litter.
2. Please be careful and do not damage stream banks or other access points.

Daily Limit: 200 rough fish (all species in combination)

TURTLE HARVEST

Species	Dates	Daily Possession Limits
Snapping	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027	10
All other species	May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027	200

2026 ROUGH FISH BOW FISHING, DIP NET AND SEINE REGULATIONS

Daytime Period

Rough fish may be bow fished, dip netted and seined in rivers and lakes during daylight hours beginning at sunrise on March 1 through April 10, 2026

Nighttime Period

Rough fish may be bow fished, dip netted and seined in rivers and lakes anytime beginning at 12 a.m. on April 11, 2026 through February 28, 2027

General

- You cannot bow fish, spear, seine, or dip net in designated trout lakes and streams.
- You cannot bow fish in posted spawning areas.
- Arrow must be tethered to the bow. If you shoot a fish you must retrieve the fish and your arrow.
- You cannot shoot a fish and throw it back in the water, leave it on the bank of any waterway, ice of any lake, stream, pond or any access site.
- You can transport and use a bow while taking rough fish from a watercraft with or without a motor.
- You may only bow fish for rough fish, which include carp, buffalo, sucker, redhorse, sheephead, bowfin, burbot (ellpout), yellow perch, cisco (tullibee), and bullhead.
- **It is prohibited to harvest game fish with a dip net, bow and arrow or seine. This includes Lake Sturgeon**
- The hoops on hand-held dip nets cannot exceed 24 inches in diameter.
- You cannot spear, dip net, or seine within 1,000 feet of a swimming beach.
- You cannot exceed the daily limit for each species taken with any combination of spearing, dip netting or seining equipment to reach the limit. Fish taken by archery (bow fishing) also are included in this limit.

Daily Limit

200 rough fish (All species in combination)

All violations of the provisions of these regulations shall be considered a violation of the Conservation Code and shall be subject to any penalties provided therein.

Help us Celebrate National Public Health Week April 6-12

Good health doesn't just happen-you help create it! Try some of these at home or anywhere activities:

Mental-Emotional-Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Reflection or Prayer Time: spend a few quiet minutes in reflection, prayer or gratitude. • Journaling or Story Reflection: write about teachings learned from elders, family or life experiences. • Mind-Body Balance: gentle stretching, breathing or mindfulness rooted in balance and wholeness.
Physical Health & Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement as Medicine: Go for a walk, stretch or dance. • Family Activity: Encourage movement with your children or relatives. • Daily Movement: Set a personal goal for minutes or steps
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Foods: Learn about or prepare traditional food if available. • Healthy Plate: use what is available, focus on balance not perfection. • Food Gratitude: Take a moment to acknowledge where food comes from and who provides it
Community Safety & Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing: Practice and teach proper handwashing (20 seconds). • Home Safety: Review medications, smoke detectors and emergency supplies. • Clean Shared Space: Focus on caring for shared spaces used by everyone.
Environmental & Land Based Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time on the Land: Spend time outdoors, noticing plants, water or seasonal changes. • Protecting Resources: ID one way to reduce waste, save water or care for the environment. • Stewardship: Share a teaching or story related to caring for the land.

There are many ways that we support public health without knowing it, checking in on an elder, expressing gratitude, sharing knowledge, all of these contribute to community health.

-Lisa Braun, RN





MAHNOMEN + BAGLEY
STARCASINO.COM + 800.453.STAR

SPRING SHOWDOWN SUV GIVEAWAYS



CHANCE TO WIN CASH OR A NEW SUV!

Sundays in April

Spring's here. Be ready to roll the windows down on a new SUV. Join hourly cash drawings on Sundays and the grand prize on April 26.

CONCERTS

- Carly Pearce | April 3
- 38 Special | April 17
- Gary Allan | May 1
- Kansas | May 15
- Terri Clark | June 5
- Starship | June 26



Proudly owned and successfully operated by the White Earth Nation.
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Home Stretch Homebuyer Education Class

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

- April 22
- May 20
- June 24
- July 22
- August 19

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

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

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

Shop for April bargains while supplies last!



SAVE OVER 45%

6.79

GE 10.1oz. Advanced Silicone 2" Window & Door Sealant, Clear 510 446



SAVE OVER 40%

2.99

DampRid® 10.5 oz. Refillable Fragrance-Free Moisture Absorber with Microban® 106 155



SAVE OVER 35%

6.39

Terro® 8-pk. Outdoor Liquid Ant Bait Stakes 174 127



SAVE OVER 30%

12.99

Preen® 5.625 lb. Garden Weed Preventer 689 867

True Value.



15.99 SALE PRICE

-5.99 INSTANT REBATE*

2/\$20

FINAL PRICE

Miracle-Gro® 50 qt. Potting Mix 206 564 *Limit 6 per offer.



36.99 SALE PRICE

-15.00 INSTANT REBATE*

21.99

FINAL PRICE

YOUR CHOICE Scott's® 1,400 sq. ft. Turf Builder® Grass Seed Tall Fescue Mix or 2,240 sq. ft. Turf Builder® Grass Seed Sun & Shade Mix® 105 576, 588 *Limit 2 per offer. 105 588 not available in LA.



SAVE OVER 35%

11.99

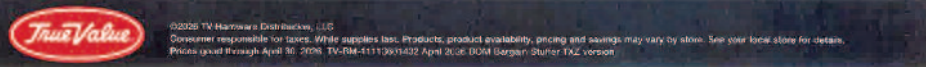
Green Thumb® 3.75 lb. Certain Seed®, Northern 130 154



SAVE OVER 40%

15.99

Green Thumb® 5,000 sq. ft. Weed & Feed 225 487 Not available in all areas.




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

You can reach the newspaper at today@whiteearth-nsn.gov or 218-935-3569

Tired of paying for tax preparation? With WEII free tax services and tools, you don't have to!



	WEII VITA Tax Site	TaxSlayer FSA
Delivery Method	Our IRS-certified volunteers prepare your returns for you	You prepare your own returns and we provide help, if needed
Income Limit	AGI must be under \$67,000	AGI must be under \$89,000
Tax Years Allowed	2020 to 2025	2025 only
What Can Be Filed?	Federal, state, and MN property tax returns	Federal, state, and MN property tax returns
Get Started Today!	Call 218-396-1002 or visit weii.website to schedule an appointment. Must bring photo ID and Social Security card to appointment	Scan from your phone; complete on phone, PC, or tablet 

**Questions?
Call us today!
218.396.1002**



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

2026 Election Calendar

March 31: Primary Election

(Polling place open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.)

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

April 2: General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.

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

April 6 Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary.

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

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

April 17: Deadline for Decision on Contest

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

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

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

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

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

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

June 9: General Election

(Polling Place open from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.)



Photo by Gary W. Padra

White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health marked a historic achievement on March 24, celebrating its successful Public Health accreditation at an event held at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen.

White Earth celebrates historic Tribal Public Health Accreditation milestone

The White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health Department marked a historic achievement on March 24, celebrating its successful Public Health accreditation at a special event held at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen.

This accomplishment represents a major milestone, as White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health becomes the first Tribe in Minnesota and only the ninth Tribe in the nation to earn this distinction.

The event brought together leadership, staff, and community partners to recognize the years of dedication and collaboration that made this success possible. Public Health accreditation is a rigorous, multi-year process that demonstrates a health department's commitment to excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement in serving its community.

The celebration began in a meaningful and culturally grounded way with a traditional opening prayer and drumming, setting a respectful and powerful tone for the day.

Health Director Lindsi Darco welcomed the audience and acknowledged the remarkable accomplishments of the Public Health team, commending their dedication, collaboration, and ongoing commitment to improving community health.

District 3 Representative Laura Lee Erickson spoke on the significance of the achievement, highlighting the strength and success of the Tribal Public Health Department and emphasizing the importance of continuing to build and strengthen Tribal public health systems for future generations.

Kris Rhodes, Minnesota Department of Health, Director of American Indian Health and Tribal Relations, noted the importance of the milestone as a "Big Deal," stating that accreditation is a significant accomplishment that reflects both high standards and a deep commitment to community well-being.

Gina Boudreau, Tribal Public Health Tobacco Coordinator, and Cyndy Rastedt, White Earth Nation

Tribal Public Health Coordinator, reflected on the journey to accreditation, and expressions of gratitude and appreciation to a great team and honoring those that contributed to the journey who passed prior to the project accreditation status.

Brent Gish spoke about the importance of partnerships and community engagement throughout the process, emphasizing that meaningful collaboration with local organizations, stakeholders, and residents was essential to achieving long-term success.

Tara Mason shared insights on the role of community voice and its impact on public health outcomes, emphasizing that listening to and incorporating feedback from community members leads to more equitable, effective, and sustainable solutions. Mason also expressed her strong support for the program and the Public Health Team, noting their dedication, collaborative approach, and commitment to serving the community's best interests.

Ravyn Gibbs, Minnesota Department of Health, Tribal Liaison, surprised White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health with a Certificate of Recognition from the State of Minnesota office of Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan.

District 1 Representative Henry Fox also offered remarks, expressing appreciation to the staff for their continued efforts in improving the health and well-being of the Nation.

The celebration concluded on a meaningful note with a closing song performed by Lacey Armstrong and her son, bringing a sense of unity and reflection to the event.

This milestone not only honors the accomplishments of the White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health Department but also sets a strong foundation for the future. With accreditation achieved, the department is well-positioned to continue advancing health initiatives and strengthening the well-being of the community for years to come.

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Photos by Gary W. Padrta

Veterans Pete Fairbanks, left, and Budd Parker, mount one of 60 displays at the White Earth Health Center. The displays honor veterans that died in service during past wars.

Wall of Honor recognizes Veterans

By Shannon Geisen
Park Rapids Enterprise

Budd Parker and Tim “Pete” Fairbanks are on a mission.

For nearly 20 years, they’ve been identifying, researching and memorializing veterans who were killed in action.

Now, they seek help from the public to locate long-lost photos.

“We are creating individual memorials for each of these men and are hoping to include a photograph of them,” Parker explained.

The original memorial wall, begun around 2005 or so, was displayed at the White Earth Health Center.

“They remodeled the clinic, took all these down, threw them in storage. Many of them were wrecked,” Parker said, “which sucked because it was a lot of work.”

The hunt for military records

Parker served in the Navy for 12 years, Fairbanks in the Army. Both are from the White Earth Nation.

“I’m good at researching,” Parker said of his efforts in this project.

“We’re spending money out of our own pockets,” Parker said, noting the White Earth Nation contributed funds, but they’ve already expended over \$1,000 just for ordering military records.

Some records have been more difficult to access due to federal employee cutbacks by the current administration, he said. Some are difficult to access, even though they are supposed to be free and easily available.

“So I have to pay a guy in St. Louis to go there and he can do it in person, but it’s \$90 a pop,” Parker said.

Parker has been trying to acquire gravestones for two World War I veterans and one World War II soldier who have been unmarked in the White Earth village for 80 years.

“It took me two years to get my mother’s Army

record,” he added.

Parker explained that there is an individual deceased personnel file (IDPF), if the person died while in military service, and an official military personnel file (OMPF), which is the complete service record.

About 97% of OMPFs were destroyed in a 1973 fire in St. Louis. “Every Army and Air Force record from World War I through Vietnam” was burned, Parker said. “The only thing that did survive is the IDPF.”

Parker is digging through newspapers, public records and anything he can find to recreate military details, like medals.

“Our purpose is to point out – not glorify – the huge price and suffering of war,” Parker said.

If someone was killed during wartime and the body wasn’t recovered, Parker said the military would typically wait one year and one day before declaring the person “presumed dead.”

Parker recounted how one local family waited four years to hear the fate of their son after his ship was sunk in the Sea of Java.

The memorial is meant “to point out the horror and wickedness that war does to, not just the soldiers and sailors, but the families and their whole community,” Parker said.

Searching for Weaver, Petrie, Smith and Burnette

They are currently seeking the original photo of Park Rapids Boxing Club members who qualified for the 1939 Golden Gloves championship.

The black-and-white photograph was originally printed in the Star Tribune on Jan. 30, 1939.

“These young men and their families were all from Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, White Earth and Park Rapids,” explained Parker.

Two of the men — Joseph L. Weaver and Sidney A. Petrie — were killed in military service during World War II.

See Veterans Page 7

Cat in the Hat visits White Earth



Submitted photo

The White Earth ECFE and Early Head Start celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday on March 5 at the White Earth Head Start. Cat in the Hat read a story and gave each child a book and gift bag. Teal Fineday greets Cat in the Hat.

Thompson reaches 1,000 points



Submitted photo

Waubun junior Anthony Thompson II reached an incredible milestone by scoring his 1,000th career point during a playoff game against Blackduck on March 5. The Thunderbirds went on to win 86–57. This is a tremendous accomplishment for Anthony, and the school and community are very proud of the dedication and hard work he has put into achieving this milestone.

School Forest hosts Fun Day



Photo by Jackie Haugo

The Waubun School Forest hosted Winter Fun Day on Feb. 27 with Ogema 2nd graders. There was skiing, snowshoeing, sliding, hot chocolate and lots of wind! White Earth Public Health employees, Ogema school staff, and Friends of the School Forest helped these children enjoy wonderful outdoor activities.

Alexis Lerud is White Earth Youth of the Year

Alexis Lerud was recently named the White Earth Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year at a ceremony in her honor at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center. Alexis attends the Pine Point Boys and Girls Club and the Unit Lead is Alexis' mom, Ashley Fineday.

For winning Youth of the Year for White Earth Reservation, Alexis was eligible to compete in the Minnesota Youth of the Year event held March 25 at the Minnesota Twins stadium in Minneapolis. Participants enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour followed by a celebratory reception. Each student was awarded scholarship funding in recognition of their leadership, service and personal achievements.

On March 26, the youth continued their experience at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, where

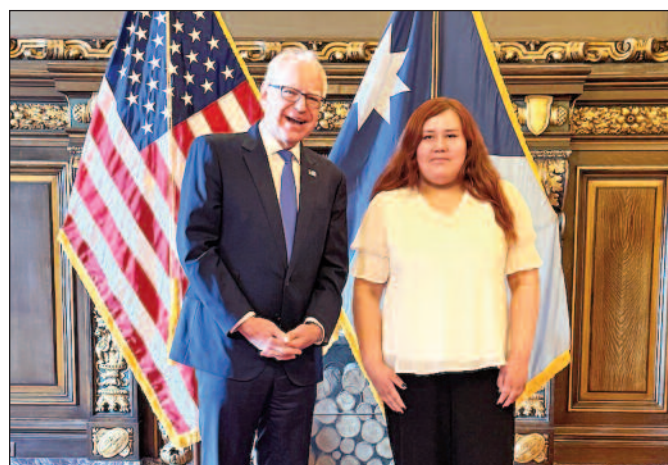
they met with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and state legislators. During these conversations, they shared personal stories highlighting the meaningful impact the Boys & Girls Club has had on their lives providing mentorship, opportunities, and a safe, supportive environment that has helped shape their futures.

Joining Alexis on her trip were White Earth Boys & Girls Club staff Jim Hvezda, Aimee Drift, and Ashley Fineday, and District 3 Representative Laura Lee Erickson.

The event not only celebrated their accomplishments but also amplified youth voices, giving them a platform to advocate for the programs and communities that have supported their growth.



The Minnesota Youth of the Year event was recently held at the Minnesota Twins stadium in Minneapolis. From left are Aimee Drift - B&G Club, Alexis Lerud - WE B&G Club Youth of the Year, Ashley Fineday - B&G Club and Alexis' mom, Laura Lee Erickson - District 3 Representative, and James Hvezda - B&G Club.



Alexis Lerud was recently named the White Earth Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year. **Upper left:** Alexis gives her speech at a celebration event in her honor at the Shooting Star Casino. **Upper right:** Alexis meets with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz during the Minnesota Youth of the Year Competition. **Left:** Alexis with her family at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center.

Photos by Gary W. Padrta and Sage Thompson



Photo by Shannon Eck

I am a survivor

Boozhoo, Ozaawaabinesikwe indigo. Gaawaabaabiganikaag indoojibaa. Gaa-niizhogamaag indaa. Maang indoodem. Niimidana ashi-niswi imbiiboongiz. Melissa Brownindizhinikaaz zhaaganaashiimong.

My name is Yellow Thunderbird Women and loon is my clan. Melissa Brown is my English name, and I am 43 years old. I am an enrollee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. I am from White Earth and live in Twin Lakes (Naytahwaush). I have a twin sister named Star Women (Michelle Brown) who is my other half since birth. I have four kids and five extended kids. My mom's name is Jeanette Bellanger (Bevins) and my dad's name is Julius Browniban. My dad passed when I was five months old and my older sister passed when I was 8 years old Rhonda. I have eight siblings, four brothers, and three sisters. Together my significante other and I have 10 beautiful grandkids, one that has passed.

I was born at St. Mary's hospital in Detroit Lakes. I lived for the first 6-7 years of my life in White Earth where my family, mom, and dad were born and raised. When we were going into first grade my mother moved us just past Naytahwaush by Mahkonce corner, where she still lives to this day. I went to Naytahwaush Charter Community Charter School during grade school, then attended Mahnomen High School for a few years, attended Waubun high school for a couple semesters, and graduated from Circle of Life Academy.

I was involved in track, basketball, and my favorite sport volleyball, I received three champion jackets. I lived in Rice Lake with my oldest kids' father for 13 years before splitting up. I lived with all my brothers at one point in my life. Nowadays I am living in Naytahwaush where I want to help our people and community grow and prosper.

When I left my kids dad and we went through the courts for custody. I knew leaving him meant leaving my kids. After going through that I became depressed, started to drink, did care about anything or anyone, and kept myself drunk for over a year straight. From there everything just progressed. It started with one tiny line of a Vicodin and within time I was seeking and spending as much money as I had to not run out. That lead to other meds and any meds to keep me from getting sick. I then was laid off not caring about or thinking of work and more about keeping myself high.

Eventually they were not enough, I was introduced to heron and started to hustle to keep an income. I began traveling back and forth to the cities with a guy I was dating at the time to get more for our money and better quantity and quality. After a year or two we split paths. I was consuming orally at the time but being blamed for injecting being mostly everyone I was around did. I wanted to know why, what was the big deal, and thought I could just once. That was not the case. One is not enough but one is too many.

About a year later I was introduced to meth I don't remember

See Survivor Page 25



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Special Events

- Diabetes Bingo
 April 1st – Pine Point
 April *th- Elbow Lake
 April 21st- Mahnomen Senior Meals

Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige “White Earth Elder Eating Good” White Earth Elder Nutrition Program Manidoo-Giizisoons (Little Spirit Moon)- April 2026

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 consideration to overall well-being.

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

**Elders Suggested Donation \$5
 Guest Meals \$6**

Questions or comments please contact :

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


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

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

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

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

Tanya Heinonen, Program Manager
Tanya.Heinonen@whiteearth-nsn.gov
 (218)983-3286

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	2 Lasagna Breadstick Roasted asparagus Salad Banana	3 Brunch For Lunch Early Home Delivery Congregate meals served 10am-11am
6 Stir fry over rice Egg roll Fortune cookie Spiced pears	7 Brat + wheat bun Sauerkraut Potato wedges Potato Salad Apple	8 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	9 Chicken fajitas Peppers and onions Spanish Rice Fiesta corn salad Melon	10 Liver and onions Boiled potatoes Creamed corn Wheat bread Apricots
13 Manoomin hotdish Glazed carrots Croissant roll Cottage cheese w/ peaches	14 Meatloaf Baked potato Green Beans Dinner Roll Fruit Cocktail	15 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	16 Chicken parmesan Garlic bread Season cauliflower Spinach salad Berry yogurt parfait	17 Turkey and swiss On a croissant bun Lettuce and tomato Manoomin soup Jell-o Fruit salad
20 Chicken & rice hotdish Steamed veggies Wheat roll Orange	21 Baked Ham Garlic mashed potatoes Roasted Brussel sprouts Wheat bread Pineapple	22 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	23 California burger Sweet potato fries Manoomin salad Fruit cocktail	24 Beef tips w/ gravy Egg noodles Steamed broccoli Salad Grapes
27 Brunch for Lunch Chefs Choice 	28 Shepherds pie Beets Dinner roll Peaches	29 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	30 Turkey tetrazzini Roasted zucchini Banana Rice pudding	

White Earth Food Distribution April Store Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30

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

April 2026 Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education & Health Screenings w/Shirley & Taylor: April 1st, 6th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 27th and 29th.

Apr 10th: Naytahwaush & Bagley

Apr 13th: Mahnomen & Waubun

Apr 17th: White Earth

Apr 24th: Detroit Lakes & Ponsford

Apr 30th: Store closed for inventory

No Store hours on Fridays

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

White Earth WIC April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	2 Pine Point Community Building 9:30-3:00	3 White Earth Health Center 8:15-12:00	4
5	6 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	7 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	8 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	9 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	10 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	11
12	13 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	14 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	15 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	16 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	17 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	18
19	20 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	21 Bagley Elementary School 10:00-3:00	22 White Earth Health Center 8:15-12:00	23 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	24 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	25
26	27 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	28 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	29 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	30 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00		

WIC follows RBC schedule for closings

Dates and times are subject to change

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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



Anglers gather for Jake Busse Fishing Derby

About 370 people attended the 23rd Annual Jake Busse Fishing Derby held at Roy Lake. Anglers caught 223 fish.

The following are winners of the fishing contests.

Northern category

- 1st place - Adam Highberg / 9 lbs. / \$300
- 2nd place - Vance Stevens / 7.13 lbs. / \$200
- 3rd place - Mark Burnette / 7.4 lbs. / \$100

Walleye category

- 1st place - Hudson Lafriniere / 1.10 lbs. / \$200 (Only 1 registered)

Bass category

- 1st place -Elijah Lafriniere / 3.11 lbs. / \$75
- 2nd place -William Auginaush Jr / 3.2 lbs. / \$50

Numerous fish were caught with drawings ranging from \$10 to \$50. All children that attended won a prize at this derby.

Donations:

- White Earth Donations Committee - \$2,500
- Gloria Beaulieu - \$400 for kid drawings
- Mike LaRoque - \$100
- Henry Fox - Beaded hat
- Henry and Sara Fox - \$100 drawings
- Zerkel Store - 150 bottles of pop for kids
- Brain Busse - \$20 for kids drawings
- Indy Lafriniere - \$20 for adult drawings
- Roy Lake Store - \$20
- Shawn Barstad - \$50 for adult drawings
- Daccari Busse - Propane heater
- Shooting Star Casino - Casino package
- Solid Bottom - Porta potty

Derby organizers would like to thank Pete Busse, Gloria Busse, Mary Beaulieu, Sherry Halberg, Daccari Busse, Naomi Tyson for all of their help putting on this years fishing derby.

They would also like to thank all the people that attended this years derby and hope to see everyone next year. They are planning to hold the derby two weeks earlier on the second weekend in February.



Ninanda-Gikendaan Niinundih ANISHINAABEG MENTAL HEALTH EVENT

A Community Event open to All Adults

- 8:30am Breakfast and Registration begin (registration is open til noon)
- Noon Lunch followed by Breakout sessions
- 3pm Closing and traveling song



Professor of Anishinaabeg Language and Culture at White Earth Tribal and Community College
Naabek Liberty
returns with *Roots of Resilience: an Ojibwe Mental Health History, the rest of the story and more.*

Afternoon sessions offer a balance of education and wellness

- Cedar Teachings
- Brain Injury and Stroke Information
- Tobacco Pouch making
- SPMI Roundtable
- Traditional Anishinaabeg hand games and More!



At The Shooting Star Casino
May 27th, 2026

please email PublicHealth@whiteearth-nsn.gov

*to register for CEU's*to register a program table*to register a group of 4 or more



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Photo by Jack Heisler

Update on White Earth Bison Program

By **Wade Jackson and Jack Heisler**
Agriculture Department/Bison Program
White Earth Division of Natural Resources

In October 2025, staff from the White Earth Division of Natural Resources (WENDNR) and Facilities Maintenance Department drove to Minneopa State Park to pick up additional bison. A private hauler also brought bison from Blue Mounds State Park on Oct. 10.

Forty-five total bison were received; 29 were added to our breeding herd near Naytahwaush and 16 to our harvest bison in Mahnommen. Making up a total of 55 bison throughout White Earth's operations. All the animals were received through the annual surplus program administered by the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC).

We will begin our harvest operation again for 2026 at the end of April. We plan to harvest two per month and continue the meat processing at B&T Meats in Waubun. Processed meat will, again, be distributed through the Elder Nutrition Program (ENP) and disseminated within their scheduled elder routes. We will also keep some meat back and be available for special events such as ceremony and powwow requests.

With the success of our first traditional harvest held last year, inviting our community members participation, we are in the planning stages to do that again sometime during the latter portion of 2026.

As many of you are aware, we were surprised a bit earlier than anticipated with our first calf born in August 2025. And equally surprised all four of our inaugural breeding herd cows had a calf by October 2025. This gave us a total of 10 bison, including our two bulls. However, we were presented with an opportunity during ITBC's annual surplus buffalo request to significantly increase the breeding herd size by getting 29 more bison. They consisted of 2 cow/calf pairs, 7 adult cows, and 18 female yearlings. Therefore, we potentially could see up to 12 calves again in 2026 at our breeding herd operation at the Spence pasture (between Mahkonce and Naytahwaush).

Please keep in mind, although they are confined in a fence, they are wild animals. We do not intervene in any reproduction efforts. And it is rare to have a 100% success rate of all adult females to have a calf annually. Typically, about 85% is the norm. But we were surprised once. And being the caretakers of these majestic animals, they continue to surprise us often.

Through our partnership with the US Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service, our grazing management plan states about two acres per bison carrying capacity of our pasture. We will be at maximum carrying capacity of this pasture very soon. When we reach that we will begin to supplement our own bison for our harvest efforts. Also, this will provide us an opportunity to start another pasture and continue to move our program forward. We continually explore all opportunities for additional pasture lands. As the herd grows and supply and demand grows, we will need additional pasture.

Lastly, as WENDNR Ag Dept moves forward with our Bison Program and more and more of you are aware of them on our lands, we would like to continue to offer some safety tips, educational information, and what to do in the event of Bison getting out of their respective units.

In the event of any animal(s) getting out of their respective units, please call White Earth Dispatch at 218-983-3281 and they will notify Management and on duty Conservation officers. WENDNR has an internal Buffalo Escape Action Plan that we will implement. Often, they are simply foraging for more food. They typically do not pose a threat to humans and will likely avoid you unless they feel you are endangering them. Please keep your distance.

If life and/or safety is of concern, such as Bison traffic collisions, PLEASE CALL 911.

To date, all our units are 6-foot-tall high tensile electric wire. Do not touch the wire and do not approach the fence. Enjoy watching and observing them from a distance.

See **Bison Page 24**

**Tribal Broadband
Connectivity
Program**

TBCP Workshops

White Earth Congregate Housing
April 14, 2026

Pine Point Community Center
April 15, 2026

Rice Lake Community Center
April 16, 2026

Naytahwaush complex
April 21, 2026

White Earth RBC Cafe'
April 22, 2026

Naytahwaush Workforce Center
April 23, 2026

2:30pm - 4:30pm

Microsoft 365 Excel
Beginner Course

Warriors of Wellness

Warriors of Wellness (WOW)
12-Session Family Wellness Program

Warriors of Wellness (WOW) is a culturally grounded, family-centered wellness program designed for youth ages 10+ and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The program brings families together to strengthen wellness through shared learning, cultural connection, and skill-building. Sessions include traditional teachings, hands-on activities, shared meals, and interactive discussions focused on physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. WOW supports youth and families in building healthy relationships, strengthening identity and resilience, and developing practical tools for everyday wellness within a supportive community environment.

SESSION DATES:

Rice Lake & Naytahwaush
March - May 2026 (Reg deadline: 02/25/26)

Pine Point & White Earth
Tentative dates: Septemeber - November 2026

Mahnommen & Waubun/Ogema
Tentative dates: January - March 2027

Summer Programming
More information to come

Youth must have an active and up to date application with Boys & Girls Club in their respective community. Applications for Boys & Girls Club can be filled out at the time of WOW Registration.

Did You Know...

You can read the current and past issues of the *Anishinaabeg Today* online at www.whiteearth.com for free! The online issues feature more color and you can read them right away when the paper comes out on the first Wednesday of each month.

Obituaries

Jayvonese "Jay" Ann Longus

Jayvonese "Jay" Longus, 76, of Waubun, passed away Feb. 2 at the Benedictine Community in Ada, Minn.

Jayvonese Ann Longus was born on May 2, 1949, in Marshalltown, Iowa, to Ralph Longus and Alice Moore. She attended Marshalltown High School, graduating with the Class of 1967. After high school, Jay pursued cosmetology school in Des Moines, Iowa, and held various jobs before moving to California in 1982.



While in California, Jay worked as a secretary at the Indian Center in San Jose until moving to Minnesota in 1995. After moving back, she worked for several years at the Midway Group Home, followed by a meaningful career with Indian Child Welfare as a foster care licensur. Jay later took a position with White Earth Transit as a dispatch office manager, where she worked until her retirement in early 2023 at the age of 73.

Jay was a hardworking woman who often held multiple jobs at once and built lasting friendships wherever she went. She was well known in the community and deeply valued the relationships she created over the years. Jay bravely battled stage four lung cancer for several years and was most recently in remission.

Family meant everything to Jay. She was blessed with two children, Jason and Jeneane, who later reconnected and shared a close bond. Jay shared a loving relationship of 39 years with her significant other, John Parsons. She was also part of a close-knit family group affectionately known as "The Stepping Stones," which included Dennis, Jason, Neily, Jeneane, and Jerri. Jay had a special fondness for dogs, especially her beloved companions over the years, Chewy and Pugsley. She treasured Christmas with her family and never forgot a birthday.

When she wasn't working, Jay enjoyed a little retail therapy, always on the hunt for the best thrift store deals. She also loved fishing and trying her luck at her favorite slot machine, "Whales of Cash." Known for her wonderful sense of humor, Jay loved to make those around her laugh. Her strength, resilience, and warmth left a lasting impression on all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Jay is survived by her children, Jason (Stacy) Knox and Jeneane Knox; grandchildren: Jessica, Javonnis, Jase and Corinthia; great-grandchildren: Knox, Magnolia, Zane, Elias; Aunt, Maxine Burns; significant other, John Parsons; brother, Kevan Moore; special cousins: Neily (Chuck) Anderson and Jerri (Jamie) Hawks; special friend, Karla Mayhews; and many nieces and nephews.

Jay was preceded in death by her parents, Alice and Clarence Moore; father, Ralph Longus; siblings: David Moore, Donovan Moore, and Mary Moore Sr.; niece, Mary Moore Jr.; nephew, Nathan Moore; special aunts and uncle: Jeremiah, Ethel, Ruth and Kathleen; and many extended family.

There will be a graveside celebration this spring but per Jay's request there will be no services held at this time.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Louise Marie Zokan-Delos Reyes

Louise Marie Zokan-Delos Reyes left us on Jan. 29 in Billings, Mont. at the age of 76.

Louise was born on April 17, 1949, in Milwaukee to Leo Zokan and Florence St. Clair Zokan. She spent her childhood and young adult years in Milwaukee, attending the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee where she obtained her Master of Social Work degree.

After graduation Louise left Milwaukee to start her career dedicated to helping the underserved and disenfranchised. Her journey led to Washington, D.C., and a federal government position within the Department of Interior/Bureau of Indian Affairs. Over time Louise's position took her west to Pierre, S.D. and finally to Billings, Mont., where she raised her daughters Jessica and Sarah with husband Roger. She retired from her position as Miscellaneous Administration and Program Director for the Rocky Mountain Region of the BIA. She served nine of the federally recognized tribes across Montana and Wyoming over a 40+ year span of being a dedicated civil servant.



During her retirement Louise became actively engaged with humanitarian causes. She was a fierce advocate for decency and justice. Louise regularly volunteered for the ACLU, Relay for Life, Walk to End Alzheimer's, as well as supporting political candidates and causes.

Having battled breast cancer for 19 years, she served as an honorary member of the Wisconsin Intertribal Pink Shawl Initiative (founded by her WI family members). Louise enjoyed painting, birding, gardening and virtual word games with family and friends. Early on, Louise traveled to Hawaii, Europe and Mexico with her sister Carol. The valuable experiences of cultures and diversity that she gained on these trips would prove useful

in her career path. Hawaii being her favorite destination, she and her daughters would travel back on multiple excursions.

Louise could have served as an official Montana ambassador. Wisconsin family and friends were treated to a variety of sightseeing trips which always showcased the state's places of interest.

Louise was deeply loved by many who knew her, especially by her loving daughters, Jessica and Sarah Delos Reyes; and husband, Roger Cepeda Delos Reyes. Further survived by sister, Carol Zokan (John) Cameron; brother, Neal Zokan (Valerie) Braun; and cherished friends, cousins and staff members.

Louise was a warm, strong, resilient woman, a devout Catholic and a proud enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Her warmth, strength and generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. A celebration of life is being organized for later this year in Milwaukee.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Jody Marie Londo

Jody M. Londo, 54, of Naytahwaush, died unexpectedly following recent health complications on Feb. 27 at the Mahnomen Health Center.

Jody Marie Londo was born on March 5, 1971, in Detroit Lakes, Minn., the daughter of Loris Londo and Harold Parisian. Her father died before she was born so Jody was lovingly raised by parents, Loris and Floyd LaFriniere. Her youth was spent growing up in the Naytahwaush area and she attended Mahnomen High School.



As a young mother, Jody worked hard to provide and be a good mom to her five children. She loved each of her children which brought her the greatest gift from God...grandchildren! Jody loved spending time with all her family, especially her children and grandchildren. Early on, Jody worked at the Shooting Star Casino followed by the Grand Portage Casino. She and the kids spent a couple quality years living in Grand Portage, Minn., before moving back to the White Earth Reservation following the birth of her youngest, Hannah. They have lived in the Naytahwaush area since returning and the past 10+ years with significant other, Ed Gonzales.

Over the years, Jody truly embraced the outdoors and the activities it provided. She loved ricing, leeching, picking berries, mushrooms, rocks and balsam boughs. She was a hard worker with a kind heart, always willing to help others. As a diligent mom, she instilled these qualities in her own children to be better parents themselves. Jody also enjoyed listening to music and getting dressed up for any occasion. Although she leaves this world too soon, she will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Jody is survived by her children: Tiffany (Dylan) Anderson of Fargo, N.D., Dereck Londo of Naytahwaush, Trevor (Jennifer Shaide) Ashing of Naytahwaush, Destane (Bishop Burnette) Ashing of Naytahwaush and Hannah (Shane LaGue Jr.) of Naytahwaush; grandchildren: Audrey, Raquel, Wolfgang, Jacquelyn, Jaysun and Dereck Jr.; significant other, Edward Gonzales; sisters, Bambi Roy of Rice Lake, and Elizabeth LaFriniere of Roy Lake; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded by her parents, Loris and Floyd; biological dad, Harold; and grandparents.

An all-night wake service was held March 10 and continued until the time of the funeral service on March 11, both at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex.

Interment: St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery in Naytahwaush.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Community members invited to COLA DARE graduation

The Circle of Life Academy will hold its DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) graduation on May 6 at 1 p.m. for all COLA students in grades 1st through 12th.

Parents, community members and media are invited!

Each student will receive a certificate and DARE T-shirt

Warriors of Wellness (WOW)

off to a strong start in Rice Lake and Naytahwaush

Warriors of Wellness is a culturally centered prevention and family wellness program that combines traditional teachings, cultural activities, health education, and community connection to strengthen identity, resilience, and positive decision-making for youth.

White Earth Behavioral Health, White Earth Tribal Health, and Boys & Girls Club Warriors of Wellness (WOW) program is already off to a successful start in the Rice Lake and Naytahwaush communities. The program has successfully completed two weeks of the 12-week family wellness series designed for youth and their parents or guardians.

The first week focused on orientation, meeting one another, and preparing for the cultural activities ahead. Youth participants selected fabric, shirts, and

ribbon that will be used to create their own ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts. During the second session, participants took part in a painting activity led by local artist Kent Estey, along with health education discussions and a shared meal for families each session.

Feedback from youth and families has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the importance of culturally grounded programming that brings families together.

Additional sessions are planned for White Earth, Pine Point, and Callaway in fall 2026 and Mahnomen, Waubun, and Ogema sessions scheduled for January 2027. We are continuing to expand the program across the reservation.



Submitted photos

Warriors of Wellness (WOW) program is off to a successful start in the Rice Lake, bottom, and Naytahwaush, top, communities. The program has successfully completed two weeks of the 12-week family wellness series designed for youth and their parents or guardians.

Forestry has wood available for Spirit Fires

The White Earth Tribal Forestry office has firewood available for Spirit Fires when there is a passing in our communities. This firewood is cut and split, and can be delivered to families on the reservation that may be going through the grieving process.

There are a few special considerations:

- ❖ This firewood is available for a tribal member passing only.
- ❖ Firewood deliveries will be limited to **one** pickup load per Spirit Fire/passing.

- ❖ The firewood will be delivered to families within the reservation boundary.

- ❖ This firewood may be used only for Spirit Fire purposes.

We hope to continue to offer this service as much as we can in the future. Please contact the White Earth Tribal Forestry Office in Naytahwaush for this service at 218-935-5967. After business hours and during weekends, call White Earth Police Dispatch at 218-983-3281.

SAVE THE DATE

Rice Lake Memorial Pow-Wow
May 24th & 25th

Grand Entry
Sunday @ 1 & 7
Monday @ 2

Rice Lake Pow-Wow Grounds
26217 Water Tower Loop, Bagley, MN 56621

Please join us for a

Community Baby Shower

Hosted by White Earth WIC and LIFE Programs
April 22, 2026 | 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Shooting Star Casino
 777 S Casino Rd, Mahnomen, MN 56557

Are you expecting or know someone who is? Spread the word and come enjoy this FREE event for expectant moms. Families are welcome!

There will be a meal provided, multiple prize drawings, maternity photos, and valuable resources for you and the whole family.

Please register online at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/78VZ8RV>
 or scan the QR code

Or call
 218-204-0399 or 218-401-4247

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

WE General Election Board

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

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

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

Absentee Ballot
 PO Box 99, Mahnomen, MN 56557

KAXE News asking for community participation

KAXE News, a public radio station serving northern Minnesota, recently received a grant from the journalism nonprofit Poynter to explore the impacts of incarceration on Indigenous communities. KAXE News wants to better understand the impacts incarceration and the criminal justice system place on individuals, families and communities.

Despite representing 1% of the state's population, American Indians are vastly overrepresented in the state's prison system as well as in county jails in northern Minnesota. KAXE hopes to hear more about how Indigenous families and individuals are impacted: hardships caused by cash bail, lost housing or jobs because of incarceration, and the funds needed to facilitate contact with an incarcerated loved one.

KAXE News is distributing a survey in northern Minnesota and will host a series of listening lunches

in the region, as well as conduct one-on-one interviews and research.

Survey responses will be accepted through April 15. Survey responders may be invited to attend a free listening lunch for further engagement. The finished project will be published by July 1.

KAXE will not publish any identifying information gathered in the survey. If you have difficulty submitting the survey, contact news@kaxe.org for assistance.

Take the survey at <https://bit.ly/kaxesurvey>.

To thank participants for their engagement, survey responders will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.



Bison from Page 21

The Spence Bison pasture is a "native prairie" reclamation. Not to be confused with a restoration, as no prairies existed on this site needing to be restored after natural forestation replaced the prairie more than 5000 years ago and farming cleared the forest about a century ago. This reclaimed agriculture field was replanted several years ago into a mix of prairie plants and has received annual burning to prevent wildfires. Therefore, the previous agriculture field was reclaimed in favor of a prairie ecosystem, where now the primary vegetation is native Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem and Indian grass, along with a few other sparsely dispersed species of prairie grasses and forbs throughout.

Bison are a well-known and essential keystone species of a healthy prairie ecosystem. Prairie ecosystems are dependent on natural disturbance regimes of heavy grazing and occasional fires, just like the real prairies of yesterday that supported estimates of up to 60,000,000 bison.

Introducing bison, the keystone species, onto this replicated prairie ecosystem is necessary to achieve the full ecological restoration desired. The proven benefits of this are increased plant species diversity and improved soil health; reduced dependence on fire disturbance and bringing in a healthier protein source to the people of White Earth.

Chairman from Page 3

of our top priorities, we selected water management which will include wild rice management as one of the PFSAs we plan to assume control of on the Refuge. We are also selected forestry and all cultural components of the Refuge's visitor's services program for assumption. The MYFA will allow us to carry out these PFSAs on the Refuge and have greater Tribal control over the resources and relatives that mean so much to us.

For example: we will make sure our story in our words is told to visitors at the Refuge and hold education events for youth that are culturally appropriate; we will manage water levels in an ecologically balanced way that benefits Manoomin; we will monitor for invasive species to protect the forests and the waters; as well as provide new opportunities to our Tribal timber harvesters if we determine timber should be harvested.

If Council accepts the MYFA, then the proposed start date for our assumption of the selected PFSAs is

July 1, 2026. From now until then the MYFA will go out to other Tribal Nations in Minnesota pursuant to a federal law for a 90 day comment with them. After that, this first MYFA is slated to run until September 2028. We plan to renegotiate another MYFA and progressively assume more and more PFSAs at Tamarac so we can continue on our steady path forward to return Tamarac Refuge to White Earth Nation!

Miigwech and thank you to everyone who takes the time to stay informed and getting involved by casting your vote for the future of our Nation.

Chi-miigwech bizindawiyeg miinawaa anooj ninda-gikinoo'amaadiwin

Gigawaabaminim naagaj.

Take it easy.

Thank you for listening to me to learn together.

See you all later.

Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Erickson from Page 5

year and it is uncommon for every adult female to produce a calf annually. This variability is a normal and important aspect of maintaining a healthy, resilient herd.

Miigwech

Contact information:

Laura Lee Erickson

Office: 218-935-6238

Cell: 218-401-1153

laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Facebook: Laura Lee for District 3

Assistant for District 3

Tiffany Swiers

Office: 218-935-6235

Cell: 218-997-9124

tiffany.swiers@whiteearth-nsn.gov



**NOW OFFERING
ONLINE COURSES
FOR YOUR AA DEGREE!**

White Earth Tribal and Community College is now offering online courses for the Associate of Arts (AA) degree.

This new option creates more flexibility for students who are balancing work, family, and community responsibilities.



START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY

218-935-0417 www.wetcc.edu

OUR HEALTH IS SACRED

YOUTH WELLNESS NIGHT

MAY 15
5:30pm - 11:30pm

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INDIGENOUS FOOD • CULTURE • GAMES • DOOR PRIZES

Join us for an event for students in grades 9-12 and their parents. Families are invited to start the evening by:





Parents are free to leave after dinner, and youth stay for the following activities:






Registration is required for this event.
Contact: 218.401.3241 or public.health@whiteearth-nsn.gov

ATTENTION WE MEMBERS!

You **MUST** update your address with White Earth Enrollments even if you updated your address with White Earth Licensing (IDs), White Earth Election Board, or the newspaper.

Call White Earth Enrollments at 218-935-62473

(Sample)

White Earth Absentee Ballot Request Form

Please send an Absentee Ballot for the upcoming White Earth election set for the 9th day of June, 2026

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

District 1 _____ District 2 _____ District 3 _____

FIRST TIME VOTERS; you may select a District.

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

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

District 1: North of State Highway 200

District 2: From State Highway 200 to State Highway 113

District 3: South of State Highway 113

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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

Send submissions to:

White Earth Election Board
PO Box 99
Mahnomen, MN 56557

Contact:

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

Survivor from Page 16

those two weeks of my life and must've blacked out I'm not sure. I started to date him, who I thought was a good person but soon discovered the dark side of him and the drug. I was put through the worst part of my life where I was verbally and physically abused. I once thought I was going to kill him, or I was going to kill myself but never did. For some reason I felt like I needed him and always went back no matter what he put me through. I finally realized after the last beating, strangulation, being held hostage, threatening me with everything in the book, and a football kick to the face that I was done.

I allowed him to have so much power over me. It lasted two or three days but seemed like weeks. I convinced him I was okay with what he had put me through, wasn't going to tell anyone, and was able to get away. That was the last time I seen him to this day. A year or two later I start seeing and spending time with the father of my youngest son Michael. We had a summer fling years ago and went our separate ways both had children with other people and ended back together. We were both addicted to drugs when we started dating and staying here and there making home where we could.

We were lost seven years together before finding sobriety. We had our ups and downs, good times and bad. Being in a relationship through addiction is not easy, a relationship is not easy, but worth it if it survives. Before recovery we found out I was pregnant and it is one of the most important events in my life along with having my other children of course. Our son and our kids are the ones who saved us both from darkness and possible death. The hardest 15 years of my life, I was lost in addiction, where I learned and went through many things. Addiction is and well always be the hardest thing I have overcome.

I'm grateful for the good and bad that life has brought to me and yet to bring. I've tried a few times to become sober knowing not any who is stuck in addiction wants to be there. I don't focus on that part of my life being that is not what defines me. What matters is what I have done since. With help, support, love, forgiveness, and guidance from myself, family, community, and the MOMs Program I am soon to be eight years in recovery.

I started to heal when I found identity of who I am and where I am from through our traditions, culture, and language. I passed tobacco for my second Anishinaabe name and went to dark room to find out my clan. Every other time I tried recovery something was missing. Finding my identity and figuring out where I belong helped me to become whole. This time there was nothing missing I felt complete with purpose and meaning. I found healing in our culture and dove headfirst. Our Anishinaabe ways has helped me heal and I'm hungry for as much as I can get.

I took the first year to work on myself and heal, while being pregnant, and the first part of his life. I struggled to find employment or even get an interview with everything I have done in my pass. I was hire through TERO. during the COVID pandemic for the food program that was created. I was later hired full-time for my driver's license and one year into the position the pandemic ended. Mostly everyone working the food program were employees under other divisions and went back to their regular positions. Leaving myself and another employee Sam, the only two hired for the program full-time. I was placed as interim manager and Sam as supervisor. I held the position for just under three years learning many things and overcame things I never thought I would have been capable of.

With guidance from Mike Thompson who pushed, believed in me 100%, and had my back. He seen something in me I couldn't at the time. When I was still in the MOMs Program, I knew I wanted to be able to help those still lost in addiction. The opportunity and door opened, a position as a counselor. Julie Williams hired me and Dennis Hisgun helped with other options to make it possible. I do my job to best of my ability with no judgement, love, kindness, and compassion. Dennis guided and helped me to the path I am on today. I will always be grateful for the part he played in my healing and journey through sobriety and into recovery.

Before starting work I attended a round table, Naabekwa was passed tobacco to speak. The words he spoke stayed with me, he spoke to my spirit. He stated it's okay you don't know our language, it's okay you didn't grow up with our language, it's okay don't speak our language, it's okay, it's okay, it's okay... but if in 20 years you don't know our language THAT IS ON YOU! He was and is right. That is when I made the decision I will learn and carry our language because if in 20 years, I don't know our language that is on me. As of today, I have been learning and living our language for almost four years, and it is a lifelong class.

The biggest barrier to learning our language is not having programs, speakers, funding, and options here on the White Earth Reservation. We need more learners, teachers, and everyone to see the importance of the survival of OUR language for future generations to come. We all have a role to play. It is very important to me and many more. I had a few choices, language, college, or work. I chose to work but everything works the way it is meant to, and all came hand and hand. I started work, went to school to keep my position, and started my language while in school at the White Earth Tribal College. I work a full-time job while attending WETCC as a full-time student. It wasn't easy but having a supportive significant other helped me be successful obtaining my AA degree, Ojibwe Language Certificate, and graduate with honors. I aced and loved my experience at the college. I made the Presidents and Deans list all but one or two semesters. I put my heart into everything I do and do it to the best of my ability.

I am always looking for new challenges and Naytahwaush is the community in which I live and can see myself growing old. One of my biggest goals in life is to help our community and language grow and prosper. I have volunteered as a fire fighter in the Naytahwaush community and one day I will again. I attend Big Drum Ceremonies, Clan Feast, storytelling, moccasin games, sobriety feast, recovery support groups, and much more. I love to give back, as much as I can, and when I can. I am involved in and attend as many events within the White Earth Reservation as I can.

As I said earlier, I graduated from WETCC with honors completing my AA degree and Ojibwe language Certificate. I am currently working at the Mat program under Behavioral Health as a SUD counselor full-time, attending Language classes again at the college, and on the Naytahwaush community council board NCC. I find time for community, family, self, doing my best to continue healing and stay balanced in all areas of my life. The path of a good life and my family are very important to me. My biggest passion in life is our language, culture, traditions and helping others.

I am a survivor.

White Earth Election Board

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

Email: electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Or by mail at:

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

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

Election Board Hours

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

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

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

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00144**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **April 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** an Order to Show Cause Hearing on the traffic citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: March 9, 2026

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

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

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00180**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on April 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. an Order to Show Cause Hearing on the traffic citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: March 26, 2026

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Brenna Keezer,

Notice of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2026-00008**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on March 3, 2026, a Petition for Child in Need of Protection and/or Services was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2026-00008. A continued Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 10:15 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: March 25, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Any Man Coming Forward as the Father of the Child of Bridget Beaulieu,

Notice of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2024-00028**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on February 12, 2026, a Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00028. A Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 30, 2026, at 10:00 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: March 25, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Tony Vang,

Notice of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2024-00028**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on February 12, 2026, a Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00028. A Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 30, 2026, at 10:00 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: March 25, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

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

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Brooke Keezer,

Notice of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2026-00007**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on March 2, 2026, a Petition for Child in Need of Protection and/or Services was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2026-00007. A continued Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 10:30 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: March 25, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Vincent Beaulieu,

Notice of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2026-00007**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on March 2, 2026, a Petition for Child in Need of Protection and/or Services was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2026-00007. A continued Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 10:30 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: March 25, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Monica Crowell,

Notice of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2025-00026**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on December 22, 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 CP2025-00026. A Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 30, 2026, at 10:15 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: March 25, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Lacey Clark,

Notice of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2026-00001**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on February 12, 2026, a Petition for Child in Need of Protection and/or Services was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2026-00001. A Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 10:45 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: March 25, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson
Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WHITE EARTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Directory
Main Phone Number: 218-935-6320

Option 1: White Earth Substance Abuse	Press 1 for White Earth Press 2 for Naytahwaush Press 3 for Mahnomen Press 4 for Pine Point Press 5 for Rice Lake Press 6 for Urban SUD	Option 7: Men's Acute Care	or 218-935-6315
Option 2: White Earth Mental Health	Press 1 for WEMH Crisis Line or 218-850-4357 (HELP) or 1-877-380-3621 Press 2 WEMH Clinic in White Earth or 218-935-3879 Press 3 for WEMH Clinic in NTW	Option 8: Oshki Manidoo Center (OMC)	or 218-751-6553
Option 3: Access to Recovery/Civil Commitments	Press 1 for Civil Commitments or 218-935-3713 or 218-401-6956 Press 2 for Access to Recovery or 218-935-3720 or 218-935-3913	Option 9: Urban	or 612-872-8208
Option 4: MOMS Program	Naytahwaush or 218-935-3041	Option * Healing Bridge Program	Press 1 for Melanie Anderson Press 2 for Rachel Rogers
Option 5: MATS Program	Press 1 for Naytahwaush MAT Press 2 for White Earth MAT	Option #	WEBH Culture Team
Option 6: First Thunder Being House	Press 1 for Circle Back Center Press 2 for Juvenile Healing to Wellness	Incarcerated Assessments Direct Line	218-935-3596

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

Obituaries

Jenene “Jean” Mayberry

Jenene “Jean” Mayberry, 58, of Mahnomen, passed away on March 23 at Essentia Health in Fargo, N.D.

Jenene Adair Clark was born on May 16, 1967, in Park Rapids, Minn., to Glenn and Pearl Clark. She attended school in Park Rapids and later proudly earned her GED. Jean continued her education at the technical college in Detroit Lakes, where she studied culinary arts and later pursued nursing. In her younger years, she worked at Viking Manor Nursing Home in Ulen, Minn., before dedicating herself to her home and raising her family.



Family was the heart of Jean’s life. She was blessed with three children: Corinne, Anthony, and Brandy. On Feb. 22, 1991, she married her soulmate, Doyle Mayberry, and lovingly welcomed his son, Johnny, into her family. Jean took great joy in caring for her children and treasured her role as a grandmother. Over the years, many others came to know her as “Mom” or “Grandma,” a reflection of the love she so freely gave. She also cherished time spent with her extended family, especially at large gatherings where she enjoyed preparing family favorites, including her beloved pies.

Jean had a kind and generous heart and was always ready to help anyone in need. She created countless spontaneous memories traveling across the United States with family and friends. In her younger years, she enjoyed crafting, and later in life, she found comfort in relaxing while watching cooking shows. She also enjoyed trying her luck gambling, especially playing Keno.

Jean is survived by her partner of 35 years, Doyle; children: Johnny (Cheryl) Mayberry, Corinne (Tony) Cochrane, Anthony DeVall, and Brandy (Thomas) Lee; several grandchildren; brother, Glenn (Angela) Clark; special aunt and uncle, Darrel and Carol “Cookie” Clark; and many extended family.

Jean was preceded by an infant child; siblings, Kevin “Midnight” Clark Sr. and Patricia Clark; and granddaughter, Aaliyah Clark.

A memorial service was held on March 27 at the Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahnomen.

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

Duriel John Jackson

Duriel John Jackson, 40, of Fargo, N.D., died unexpectedly on March 21 at his home. Duriel, the son of Sharon Jackson and Darrel Bellanger, was born in Detroit Lakes, Minn., on Aug. 24, 1985. His youth was spent growing up around family in the White Earth, MN, area. As a teen, John moved with his mom to the Twin Cities, where he attended high school.

Following his schooling, he entered the workforce. John worked as a drywaller both in the metro and when he moved back to the White Earth Reservation. After his mom’s death in 2013, Duriel went through some trials and tribulations, but he carried on and made choices his mom would’ve been proud of. Duriel owned and operated his own Drywall Company and over the past 15+ years, he has been a union member of the Carpenter’s Local 1176 and continued to work both on his own and with Joe Zima. John met Iris Giard in 2018 and six years ago they were blessed with a son, John Duriel Jackson. They have made their home together in Fargo since that time.



John’s personality was one of a sweet, caring nature who was always willing to help anyone in need. He was loveable, funny and outgoing, most times meeting as strangers but parting as friends. Duriel’s family was important to him, and he loved spending time with family, especially his one and only son, John Duriel. He loved him more than anything. Although gone far too soon from this life, he will live on in the hearts of many.

Duriel is survived by a son, John Duriel Jackson; significant other, Iris, both of Fargo; father, Darrel (Delia) Bellanger of Waubun; brothers: Richard (Juanita Lopez) of Callaway, Shawn (Jardy) Jackson of Fargo, Dustin Jackson of White Earth, and Brent Smith Jr. of Waubun; sisters: Brandi Wichern of Ogema, Victoria Wichern of Minneapolis, Jenni Wichern of Mahnomen, and Whitney Smith of Bemidji, Minn.; several nieces and nephews including, Isabella and William Jackson; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; mom, Sharon Jackson; sister, Londa Wichern; uncles, Calvin Jackson Sr. and Terrance Jackson; and aunt, Debbie Jackson.

Blessed be the memory of Duriel John Jackson.

All-night wake services began Monday, March 30 and continued until the time of the funeral service on Tuesday, March 31, both at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex.

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

**White Earth Food Shelf
April 2026 Delivery Schedule**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3
			Closed	Closed
6	7	8	9	10
Closed	Callaway	Rice Lake	NTW	Closed
	10am-noon	10am-12noon	10am-noon	
	Nijji Radio	ENP Site	Sports Complex	
13	14	15	16	17
Closed	Elbow Lake	Pine Point	Closed	Closed
	10am-noon	10am-12noon		
	ENP Site	ENP Site		
20	21	22	23	24
Closed	White Earth	Ogema	Closed	Closed
	10am-noon	10am-12noon		
	Congregate	M&W Gas Station		
	ENP Site			
27	28	29	30	
Closed	Waubun	Mahnomen	Closed	
	10am-noon	10am-12noon		
	Community Center	College parking lot		

Applications are available at Community Centers, ENP sites and Naytahwaush Complex
Hours are subject to change due to weather and holidays
Feel free to contact the White Earth Food Shelf at 218-935-6313 or 218-935-6314
Please note you may go to any of our stops to pick up a food box, you don't have to reside in that area
White Earth Food Shelf Hours are 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday and Thursday

2026

Summer Youth Employment

Requirements:

- Ages 14 to 21
 - must be 14 years old by May 26th
- A resident of White Earth reservation
 - proof of address required
- Enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe
 - tribal ID or CDIB
- A low-income individual, or a youth who lives in an area of high poverty

Benefits:

The purpose of SYEP is to provide supplemental employment and training related services to low-income Indian/Native American youth who live on White Earth Reservation

Application Deadline:
May 15th

Call: (218) 936-3110 ask for Darwin or Janea

Applications can be mailed, emailed or picked up at the address below

Maadaadizi Workforce Center 3081 Workforce Rd Naytahwaush MN



Photo by Bob Bale

Eight students recently completed training to become entry-level wildland fire fighters and prescribed burners at the White Earth Tribal and Community College. Pictured are students and instructors.

Basic Wildland Fire Training held at WE Tribal and Community College

By Nicole LaFrinier
White Earth Natural Resources

Eight students recently completed training hosted by White Earth Tribal and Community College to become entry-level wildland fire fighters and prescribed burners.

The training was coordinated by White Earth Agricultural Extension, White Earth Wildland Fire Crew, and White Earth Food Sovereignty staff, and supported by fire staff from The Nature Conservancy. Students were encouraged to use the training to give back to White Earth Nation.

The training prepares students to apply to work for the Wildland Fire Crew, to volunteer for that Crew or on a volunteer fire department, and to use their new knowledge to support the Tribal programs

such as food sovereignty, the bison herd, and cultural revitalization.

The coursework blended wildfire operations theory and skills with eco-cultural knowledge shared in presentations from Zaryn Prussia, Brandon (Bam) Kier, and Naabek Liberty. Jack Heisler, White Earth Bison Herd Foreman shared the story of his career in fire so far and the relationships among prairie health, bison, and fire.

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Fire Management Officer Eric Carlson visited the class to share some of his in-depth knowledge of the relationship between blueberry and fire. Jeremy Londo, White Earth Wildland Prevention Officer, brought the week to a close with a look back at the evolution of White Earth's wildland fire program over the last several decades and a look ahead.

Homes from Front Page

focused on homes placed on reservation land, with placement depending on land status and required approvals. Families also asked what they needed to get started, and the answer was simple: a general location for the homesite, an estimated timeline, and a comfortable monthly payment range, after which the team can help with a lender introduction and a clear plan toward purchase and installation.

Highway 59 Homes encourages community members who could not attend the Grand Opening to stop in for a walk-through during White Earth Enterprise regular business hours or call to schedule an appointment. Highway 59 Homes is committed to making the path to homeownership clear, respectful, and achievable for families on reservation land.



Howah Ads

Happy Birthday Drake

We love you!
From your family.



Remember that 1 HP save?
Best Fortnite player ever.
Happy Birthday Drake T!



Happy 29th Birthday

Chase Sr.

Love Mom and Family



Happy 4th Birthday

Weston Blaze

Love,
Dad. Mom, Arayah,
and Carter

April 12th

Happy 4th Birthday

Weston Blaze

Thompson

Love Papa, Gramma, Auntie
Melanie, Uncle Ben, and all
your cousins

April 12th

Happy 2nd Birthday

Chase Jr.

Love Grandma Mary
and Family



Happy Birthday

Coke

We love you Grandma!

Niswi, Justuz, and Athena

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AMERICAN INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERS

JOIN US APRIL 17TH!

EASTER BASKET RAFFLE AND EGG HUNT!

CELEBRATE WITH JOY

COME ON OUT FOR AN EGG HUNT AND FESTIVITIES!
WE ARE RAFFLING OFF EASTER EGG BASKETS AND HOSTING AN EGG HUNT.

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AMERICAN INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERS
2250 COLLEGE RD MAHNOMEN, MN
APRIL 17TH - 12 PM - 4 PM

RAFFLE CONTACT INFO:
C. HISGUN: 218-935-0417
I. KEEZER: 218-902-1123
A. OLSON: 424-391-3348
A. STEVENS: 701-561-8907

Assistance from Page 2

General Policies for Assistance

- Must be White Earth enrolled member
- Must be ineligible for White Earth Scholarship Program
- Student should seek other funding: example: JOM/Title VI, student organizations, scholarships, schools, fundraising, etc. prior to applying.
- Request should be submitted to the White Earth Student Finance Program thirty (30) days in advance, when possible.
- Students receiving funding are asked to submit a one-page reflection of the funded training/experience to the White Earth Student Finance Program within thirty (30) days of completion. Photos and stories shared may be published in the White Earth Anishinaabeg Today.

Eligible Programs and Expenses

- Eminence Credential interview and related expenses
- Teacher Licensure and related expenses
- Career development related courses and/or training
- Career/Job related licensing and/or licensing renewal fees and related expenses
- Beautician/Barber school fees
- Original State Birth Certificate ~ see notes below
- Written, notarized permission form required for birth certificate pick-up
- To be utilized to verify eligibility for White Earth tribal enrollment, Johnson O'Malley, White Earth Scholarship Program, or other assistance program
- Photocopy of the original birth certificate will be kept on file with the student's application
- This is a one-time purchase; no exception- The WERBC reserves the right to terminate this service at any time

Funding

- Funding is limited to the individual applicant
- Funding will be supported up to \$2,500 per fiscal year (October 1 - September 30) per enrolled member
- When funds are limited, priority will be given to students who have not previously received funding

About Travel Assistance

The White Earth Reservation Business Committee-Education Division has funding available for high school and post-secondary students to participate in travel which enhances their education experiences.

General Policies for Funder Travel

- Must be a White Earth enrolled member
- Students must be enrolled as a full-time high school or

post secondary student

- Students are eligible to receive assistance for one travel experience while attending high school and one travel experience while attending post-secondary
- Students should seek other funding: example: JOM/Title VI, student organizations, scholarships, schools, fundraising, etc. prior to applying
- When funds are limited, priority will be given to students who have not previously received funding
- Requests should be submitted to the White Earth Student Finance Program thirty (30) days prior to the proposed travel dates, when possible
- Funds may be used for travel expenses: event registration, lodging, per diem, and mileage
- Students receiving funding are asked to submit a one-page reflection of the travel experience to the White Earth Student Finance Program within thirty (30) days of completed travel. Photos and stories may be published in the White Earth Anishinaabeg Today.
- Any student group trips must apply to the White Earth Donation Committee. Groups receiving assistance from the WE Donation Committee are ineligible to apply and receive individual Travel Assistance.

Study Abroad Experience

- Priority will be given to high school and college juniors and seniors.
- Individual students may be funded for only one study abroad experience during high school and one during his/her college experience.

Extra-Curricular Experiences

In order to request assistance with expenses for extra-curricular travel experiences, the student must be an active team or organization member.

Funding

Funding is limited to students requests; chaperone and/or accompanying traveler expenses will not be considered. Funding will be supported up to 50% of the actual cost minus other resources for individual requests, or whichever is less:

- In-state travel: \$100 per day; \$500 maximum
- Out-of-state travel: \$200 per day; \$1,000 maximum
- Travel abroad: \$1,000 maximum




For more information about White Earth Financial Services contact Kimberly Scott-Neisen a 218-935-3515 or kimberly.neisen@whiteearth-nsn.gov. You can also visit the White Earth website at www.whiteearth.com

**HOPE
for Mahnomen**

Mahnomen High School Gymnasium

April 14-15
Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30 PM

A Reason to hope. A time to heal.

For all young people, for all adults, for all elders.

Free Community Gathering

Brought to you by area churches, community leaders, and organizations.
For more info, call (218) 261-0916

A VISIT FROM WILL DILG

Created and Performed by
Steven Marking



ON THIS EARTH DAY

HEAR FROM THE FATHER OF OUR
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE

Wednesday, April 22nd Free Wild Rice porridge & beverage
7:00 P.M. at discussion group to follow

D.L. Middle School
500 11th Ave, Detroit Lakes

Advance / Door
Adults - \$15 / \$20
Students - \$7.50 / \$10

Event sponsored by:





NOTICE OF AVAILABLE GAMING COMMISSIONER POSITION
White Earth Gaming Commission / (1) Position

Position available to fulfill the remainder of a term expiring December 31, 2027.

The White Earth Tribal Council announces a vacancy on the White Earth Gaming Commission following the passing of Commissioner Mike Swan. We honor his dedicated service to the people and the White Earth Band.

The Council is accepting applications from qualified enrolled members of the White Earth Band.

Applicants must have four (4) years of experience in gaming, including regulatory, compliance, legal, or casino operations, and knowledge of applicable Tribal and State/Federal gaming laws. Applicants must be able to act independently and meet all requirements under the White Earth Gaming Ordinance, including licensure and background investigation.

Applicants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must not be: employed by any Gaming Operation; a Tribal Court judge or employee; residing in the same household as a Primary Management Official or Key Employee of a Gaming Operation; or holding a direct or indirect financial interest in any Gaming Operation, Management Contractor, or Gaming Supplier (as defined by the Gaming Ordinance). Applicants must not have been convicted of, or terminated from, a gaming operation for theft, misappropriation, or fraud, and must not hold any position creating a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict, as determined by the Tribal Council.

To Apply: Gaming Commissioner Applications are available on the White Earth website (Human Resources – Employment) or at the Compliance Office, 779 E. Jefferson Ave., Mahnomen, MN, 56557.

Completed applications may be submitted by email to Christie.haverkamp@whiteearth-nsn.gov, by USPS mail to: WE Compliance P.O. Box 395, Mahnomen, Mn 56557, or in person at the Compliance Offices.

For email application requests or additional information, contact Christie at the email address above.
Applications must be received by 4:30 pm Friday, April 18, 2026.

WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council

Save the Date

WEUCC 3rd Annual

Pow Wow

May 16th, 2026

Diabetic Bingo

All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.

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

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

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

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

June 3 rd , Wednesday	Pine Point
June 10 th , Wednesday	Elbow Lake
June 23 rd , Tuesday	Mahnomen – Senior Meals

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

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

Other Public Health Events that are coming up in April are...

Dr. (foot Doctor) Clinic
 April 13th & 14th at the White Earth Tribal Health Building
 April 15th at the Naytahwaush I.H.S. Clinic
 April 16th at the Rice Lake Community Center

To make an appointment call (218) 255-2204 or email public.health@whiteearth-nsn.gov
 April 30th MMIWR Poster Making at the Tribal Collage

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

Updated 2/19/26





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

CALL FOR TERO COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioners are needed at this time to:

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

Knowledge and experience needed in the following areas:

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

Must be willing to:

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

Other requirements

- Must be an enrolled member of White Earth Reservation.

If you are interested in serving as a TERO Commissioner, please send your resume to:

Maadaadiizh Workforce Center
 ATTN: TERO Office
 PO Box 69, Naytahwaush MN 56566



INJURED? CALL JOE.

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



218-736-5673

Attention New Homeowners & Existing Homeowners

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

Requirements to qualify for the grants are:

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

Contact us at 218-935-6276



EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR) TRAINING

ORIENTATION MAY 5, 12PM-6PM IN-PERSON
 CLASS DATES MAY 19-JULY 21, 2026
 TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS 4:30-8PM
 CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION CLASSROOM

Application Link: <https://tinyurl.com/B2C-24>

PROGRAM DETAILS

Emergency Medical Responders provide immediate lifesaving care to critical patients who access the emergency medical services system. EMRs have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide immediate lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional EMS resources to arrive. This program trains participants for the state license.

MUST TAKE ACCUPLACER EXAM TO DETERMINE READINESS

COST ASSISTANCE

Pathways to Prosperity Grant Requirements

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

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

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



SPECIAL BOILER OPERATOR LICENSE COURSE

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
 APRIL 13 - MAY 11, 2026
 4:00 - 8:00 PM
 MAY 14th TEST PREPARATION

Application Link: <https://tinyurl.com/B2C-24>

CLASS OBJECTIVES

- Understand safe operation and maintenance of pressure boilers
- Become familiar with Minnesota Boiler License Requirements
- Recognize the major hazards associated with boiler operation and ways to prevent them.
- Gain working knowledge of boiler water treatment programs, chemicals and equipment
- Troubleshoot basic boiler problems before they become boiler failures

MUST TAKE ACCUPLACER EXAM TO DETERMINE READINESS

COST ASSISTANCE

Pathways to Prosperity Grant Requirements

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

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

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



CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) TRAINING

APRIL 13 - JUNE 30, 2026

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

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces concepts of:

- basic human needs
- health/illness continuum
- basic nursing skills needed to work as a Nursing Assistant in long-term care

Upon successful completion of classroom studies, the student will participate in supervised clinical experience in a long-term care facility.

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

MUST TAKE ACCUPLACER EXAM TO DETERMINE READINESS

COST ASSISTANCE

Pathways to Prosperity Grant Requirements

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

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

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

Accepting Bids

The White Earth LTCC program is accepting bids for a Handicap Accessible Ramp to be done at an individual home located on the White Earth Reservation. Modifications must be performed by a Minnesota licensed contractor and per MN State Code. All contractors must pass both White Earth RTC background and drug testing. Modifications must follow State guidelines, including cost effectiveness. Payment will be made in full after final inspection, review of receipts, and approval of completed job. Bid specifications and locations are available at the White Earth Tribal Health Building, 26246 Crane Road, White Earth, MN 56591.

All BIDS submitted MUST include a diagram/blueprint of the proposed project and a list of materials, labor, equipment, etc. or they will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted. Due to client confidentiality the bid description must be picked up in person at the White Earth Tribal Health Building. We are open Monday-Friday 8 a.m-4:30 p.m. Bids will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on April 24, 2026. If interested in bidding, stop by the front desk of the Health Building and pick up bid documents.

Iron Range Area Community Council

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



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

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

Deadline: Until filled
 Contact: Lisa or Buck at W&S Department 218-935-6411
 Email addresses: Lisa.donovan-larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov or Burnham.tibbettsIII@whiteearth-nsn.gov

White Earth T.E.R.O.
PREPARE NOW FOR TRAININGS & CAREERS

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

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

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Heavy Equipment TESTING FEBRUARY - MAY *locations vary by date	Carpentry JUNE- JULY MONDAY - FRIDAY TRAINING IS LOCATED IN BEMIDJI
CLASS APRIL - MAY MONDAY - FRIDAY TRAINING IS LOCATED IN HINCKLEY	Cement Masons 633 MAY- AUGUST MONDAY- FRIDAY TRAINING IS LOCATED IN NEW BRIGHTON

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

PP School Meeting Minutes

Pine Point Regular School Board Meeting
January 15, 2026 @ 4:30 p.m.
 Pine Point School Staff Room

- 1.0 Roll Call** – Meeting called to order by Chairman John Swan at 4:36 p.m.
 Members present – Marva Aitken, Gerald Roberts, Anthony Buckanaga, Allison Jones, John Swan, Michael Swan
 Ex-officio – Christopher Schulz, Principal
- 2.0 Recognition of Visitors** – Bonnie Meeks
- 3.0 Motion** by Michael Swan to approve the agenda as amended: Add 7.7 Pay Equity, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 4.0 Approval/Amendment of Minute** – Motion by Gerald Roberts to approve the December 16, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 5.0 Finance**
 5.1 Treasurer's Report – Motion by Marva Aitken to approve Treasurer's Report for December 2025 as presented, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.
 5.2 Payment of Bills & Electronic Funds Transfer & Debit Card Transactions – Motion by Allison Jones to approve the payment of bills for the month of December 2025 in the amount of \$77,862.85 for check #34678 through check #34740 and the EFT for Federal/State/TRA/PERA Payroll Tax & Debit Card Transactions, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 6.0 Unfinished Business**
 6.1 No unfinished business
- 7.0 New Business**
 7.1 Reorganization of Board – Motion by Michael Swan to keep John Swan as Chairman, Marva Aitken as Vice Chairman and Allison Jones as Clerk/Treasurer, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.
 7.2 Selection of Official Publication – Motion by Michael Swan to utilize Anishinabe Today as the official publication for the school district, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.
 7.3 Selection of Depositories – Motion by Allison Jones to authorize the use of the following depositories: Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund (MSDLAF); US Bank of Minneapolis; and Northview Bank of Park Rapids, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.
 7.4 Authorize Superintendent/Principal and Business Manager to conduct financial transactions and Electronic Fund Transfers and to make debit card transactions on behalf of school district – Motion by Marva Aitken to authorize Christopher Schulz, Superintendent of School/Principal and Bonnie Meeks, Business Manager, to conduct financial transactions (including all banking transactions) and Electronic Fund Transfers on behalf of school district, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.
 7.5 Schedule of Monthly Board Meetings - Motion by Michael Swan to schedule monthly board meetings on the first Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m., seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.
 7.6 Salary for Board Members – Motion by Michael Swan to amend salary at \$150/regular meeting and \$150/special meeting, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.
 7.7 Pay Equity – Motion by Michael Swan to approve the 2025 Pay Equity Report as submitted, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 8.0 Principal's Report** – Discussion on start of 3rd quarter; Snow Shoeing on January 21st; Ice Fishing; ½ day of school for students on January 23rd; Read Act Training in afternoon on January 23rd; Snowsnakes on February 27th; Science Fair on March 12th; ICE procedures; Solar Panels. No action needed.
- 9.0 Public Participation** – Community Healing on January 23rd; Culture Camp on January 24th
- 10.0 Adjournment** – Motion by Anthony Buckanaga to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m., seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.



Hands-On ADA Concrete Training

WHEN: June 22-26, 2026 (tentative)
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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

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

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

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

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

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



Job Opportunity

Naytahwaush Community Charter School is seeking a Facility & Grounds Manager

NCCS is seeking a Facility and Grounds Manager. During the school year this position will be a 10-15 hour position. June through August the position will be full-time. Duties include regular weekly meetings with the Director, identification of facility and grounds issues, development of plan to address issues, communication with appropriate outside contractors, directing and supervising facility worker(s). Boiler's license required; Maintenance skills and ability to work independently required. Wage: \$30/hr. More information and job application can be found at www.ntwschool.org/o/nccs/page/employment-openings. Please contact Nicole Jesness at 218-936-9420 or nicolej@ntwschool.org if you have any questions.

NEED MORE ENERGY?

JOIN STAR FITNESS CENTER TODAY!

Located in the Maniotok Mall, Mahanomen

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

UPDATED KEY CARD HOURS:

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



White Earth Nation TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Prevent, Promote, Protect

White Earth Urban Office

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

612-813-1590

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chilton places in state tourney



Anthony Chilton, Detroit Lakes High School, recently took 6th place in the 107 pound class at the Minnesota State High School Wrestling tournament in St. Paul, Minn. It was his second year back to wrestling and first year on varsity. He's only a freshman and is a descendant of the White Earth Nation. His mother is Alicia Chilton and his grandparents are the late David and Linda Chilton.

Submitted photo

Leah Hvezda retires from HS



Photo by Jeffrey Burnette

Friends, family and co-workers gathered March 26 to celebrate Leah Hvezda's retirement at the Rice Lake Community Center. She was a Lead Teacher, and Assistant Teacher at the Rice Lake Head Start since Dec. 1, 1986 - almost 40 years! Congratulations Leah and enjoy your retirement.

Students shine at Science/Engineering Fair



Photos by Gary W. Padrta

The annual Native American Youth Science and Engineering Fair was held March 12 at Pine Point School. Students in grade 4-8 from Pine Point School, Naytahwaush Community and Charter School, Red Lake, Circle of Life Academy, and Nay Ah Shing School (Onamia, Minn.) showed off their science and engineering skills. Each project was graded by judges.

