

ANISHINAABEG TODAY

A Monthly Chronicle of the White Earth Nation



Vol. 31 No. 2

White Earth, Minn.

today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Having fun at Waubun School Forest Winter Camp



The Waubun School Forest Winter Camp was recently held for Waubun 4-6th grade students. Several tribal programs were on hand to help with making knockers, smoking fish and venison, cross country skiing, special permitted deer cleaning presentation, snowshoeing, fur and track presentation, teas and healthy snack giveaway, and asemaa education.

Top: Jimmy Uran, White Earth Natural Resources, teaches students how to smoke venison.

Right: Students play the stick and hoop game. See more photos and story on Page 14.

Photos by Ana Kircher



Candidates file for WE Election

The White Earth General Election will be held June 9 on the White Earth Reservation. This General Election provides for a March 31 Primary Election in the event there are more than two eligible candidates for the open position.

Elected positions to be filled are as follows:

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

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

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

The following candidates filed during regular business hours from Jan. 9-21 at the White Earth Compliance Department in Mahnomen.

Certified candidates for Secretary-Treasurer:

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

Certified candidates for District I Representative:

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

Certified candidates for District II Representative:

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

Each certified candidate will be offered the opportunity to submit an article and photo expressing their views and platforms in the March 4 Anishinaabeg Today.

Election Board members

The White Earth RBC appointed the following members to the General Reservation Election Board - Gary Frazer, Beverly Smith, Sherald Hanks, and Bonnie Badboy.

General Election Board

Shooting Star RV Office,
777 SE Casino Drive, PO Box 99
Mahnomen, MN 56557
electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov
218-936-5622

The March 4 newspaper will have more election information as well as the website at www.whiteearth.com and White Earth Facebook



Ready to Ride!

White Earth Natural Resources hosted a Youth Snowmobile Safety Riding Performance Course on Jan. 11 at the Mahnomen Natural Resources office. The class was open to youth ages 11-15. All attendees had to complete the online snowmobile safety course and bring the printed certificate prior to the field day.

Photo by Zoe Keezer

Postal Customer

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ECRWSS

Anishinaabeg Today

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

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

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

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

Anishinaabeg Today
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591

Memberships

- ❖ Indigenous Journalist Association
- ❖ Minnesota Newspaper Association

WER Business Committee

Michael Fairbanks
Chairman

Michael LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer

Henry George Fox
District 1 Representative

Eugene Sommers
District 2 Representative

Laura Lee Erickson
District 3 Representative

Editor

Gary W. Padrta

Future Issues *

Deadline	Issue Date
February 25	March 4
March 25	April 1
April 29	May 6
May 28	June 3
June 24	July 1

* Deadline and issue dates subject to change

White Earth Investment Initiative

offers free income tax preparation services on reservation

Since 2006, White Earth Investment Initiative (WEII) has provided free income tax preparation services on the White Earth Reservation through a partnership with the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Low- and moderate-income taxpayers can have their federal and state returns prepared by VITA staff and volunteers at no cost.

WEII's main site at Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen opened on Jan. 26 and will remain open through April 8. A second site at First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes will be open March 10 through April 9. Appointments are needed for these sites and can be made by calling 218-396-1002 or by visiting weii.website.

A third site – located at WEII offices at 718 Washington Avenue in Detroit Lakes – is currently open for taxpayers who want to drop off their tax documents and pick the completed returns up later. Drop off hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and appointments are not needed.

"We are excited to be open and look forward to seeing everyone at our sites again. Like always, taxpayers visiting any of our locations – either for in-person appointments or drop-off services – will need to bring their photo IDs and

Social Security cards plus their tax documents for us to prepare their tax returns," said Sue Trnka, WEII VITA Coordinator.

One of the cornerstones of the VITA program is involvement from volunteers in the community, but WEII VITA organizers note that it has been harder to find volunteers the past few years. "When our sites had to operate differently during COVID, we lost some volunteers – and they have been hard to replace. Having familiar faces helping out at our sites puts people at ease and also increases the number of taxpayers we can help each year," said Trnka. Community members interested in learning more about volunteering for VITA should stop by one of WEII's tax sites or call Trnka at 218-844-7029.

The tax site is one of White Earth Investment Initiative's community services and is made possible by the Internal Revenue Service, Minnesota Department of Revenue, Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, Shooting Star Casino, Hotel & Event Center, and First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes. WEII is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.



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

January-February-March-April 2026

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

LAST DAY
APRIL 8

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



WHITE EARTH NATION FITNESS CENTERS

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

218-401-2421 OR 218-401-3079

White Earth Mental Health

WALK IN SCHEDULE



White Earth Indian Health Services:

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



Pine Point:

Monday: 12pm-4:30pm

Naytahwaush Indian Health Services:

Tuesday: 8am-12pm

Bagley/Rice Lake:

Wednesday: 8:30am-12pm

Mahnomen Behavioral Health Building:

Thursday: 1pm-4:30pm

GETTING A TRIBAL ID OR RENEWAL

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

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

White Earth DMV Licensing

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 Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waababiganikaag Niminwendam Waabaminaan!

Makwa-Giizis!

Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadi-zookaanag.

Weweni-sago-na

Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is already February!

Everyone be safe, stay safe, and if you have to mask up let's keep our Elders and babies safe.

In our Anishinaabe Creation story, there was a time long ago when Gichimanidoo saw that the Anishinaabeg on Mama Aki Mother Earth, were living in great turmoil and fighting amongst each other. Gichi-Manido decided to send a great flood to wash away the chaos happening and cleanse Mama Aki, Mother Earth, for a new beginning. Oral teachings tell us of a time after this flood that Nanaboozho and the surviving animals searched for many days for land to begin again.

Finally, Wazhashk Muskrat swam to the greatest depths under the water, losing his life, and floated up to Nanaboozho with a handful of soil. With no land to be seen far and wide, Nanaboozho asked all of the animals who would carry the new land and all of Creation. After some time, the great Mikinaak, Snapping Turtle offered its shell, and Mikinaak Minising, Turtle Island was created. Then Gichimanidoo sent our ancestors from the Stars to live in this new land on Turtle Island.

My mother's clan, Turtle Clan, Mikinaak Doodem, is part of the great Fish Clan Giigoonh Doodem. The Turtle people are connected to Mama Aki and represent our direct relationship with all of Creation so clan members are determined and goal oriented and Mikinaak reminds us to be truthful in all that we do and in how we live our lives. My mother Elsie was very determined and oriented in everything she ever did. We find that there is strong medicine among the Turtle Clan Mikinaak, because of their connection with AKI, NIBI, Anangoog, Earth, Water, and Stars.

So throughout Makwa Giizis, February we will have awan giizhigong or foggy days; it is said that these are the days the makoonsag bear cubs are being born and in the old days that's when our ancestors would fish for namebinag suckers to get through until the waters opened up into ziigwan, spring.

Good luck to all the candidates running in the upcoming primary election. Several important leadership positions are open, including Secretary-Treasurer, District 1 Representative, and District 2 Representative. These are four-year terms, and those elected will help guide our Nation forward as ogi-maag (leaders).

As Anishinaabeg (the People), it is your inherent right and responsibility to help steer the direction of our Tribal Council through the election process. Your voice matters, and your vote truly counts. Participating in our elections is part of gwayak-waadiziwin (honesty and integrity) and strengthens our shared path toward mino-bimaadiziwin (the good life).

The primary election will be held on March 31, with the general election taking place on June 9. I encourage everyone to listen carefully to what each candidate has to say, ask questions, and reflect before deciding who you feel will best represent you, your



family, and our Nation.

As the election process moves forward, more information will be shared through the White Earth website, White Earth Facebook page, the Anishinaabeg Today newspaper, and the election office located behind Shooting Star Casino. I also strongly encourage community members to attend upcoming candidate forums in your area—these gatherings are an important part of informed decision-making and civic participation.

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 minawaa anooj ninda-gikino'amaadiwin

Gigawaabamininim naagaj.

Take it easy.

Thank you for listening to me to learn together.

See you all later.

Chairman,
Michael Fairbanks

Benson + Turner Foods – B & T Meats

USDA Locally Sourced, Full-Service Butcher Shop.

Brats, hot dogs, steaks, burgers, breakfast sausage, meat bundles. All local. All made right here.

Just a half mile north of Waubun on Hwy. 59.

EBT accepted

www.btmeats.com

218-473-2822



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

News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

Aanin Boozhoo!

Greeting White Earth Members, I am honored to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for the White Earth Tribal Council. This is my 1st fiscal year 2026 quarterly report, ending Dec. 31, 2025. Our fiscal year runs from Oct. 1, 2025, to Sept. 30, 2026.

Overview of the Tribe's Financial Position

(Q1 Financial Report)

As of the close of Q1 FY2026, the Tribe remains in a strong and stable financial position, supported by robust enterprise performance and healthy fund balances across key governmental and programmatic accounts. Shooting Star Casino continues to provide a solid financial foundation, with total assets of **\$135.3 million**, unrestricted cash of **\$78.5 million**, and total fund equity of **\$123.1 million**, reflecting strong liquidity and sustained asset growth. In addition, major Tribal funds—including Behavioral Health, Health, ARPA, and Youth & Elder Funds—maintain adequate cash reserves to support ongoing operations and approved investments. Within the General Fund, **\$7.29 million** has been expended against the **FY26 approved budget of \$31.26 million**, leaving **\$23.97 million** available to support remaining FY26 operations and approved initiatives. Collectively, these results demonstrate sound financial management, sufficient liquidity, and the capacity to advance the Tribe's strategic priorities while maintaining long-term financial stability.

Shooting Star Casino – Financial Overview (December to November 2025)

As of December 31, 2025, Shooting Star Casino, Hotel & Event Center remains in a strong financial position with continued growth in total assets and stable fund equity. Total assets increased by **\$1.7 million**, reaching **\$135.3 million**, driven primarily by higher cash reserves and continued investment in property and equipment. Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents rose by nearly **\$1.95 million**, reflecting solid liquidity and operational strength.

Current assets increased to **\$84.5 million**, while net property and equipment grew by **\$444,299**, reflecting ongoing capital investment and maintenance of facilities. On the liability side, total current liabilities increased by **\$2.6 million**, largely attributable to higher gaming-related accruals and accounts payable, reflecting normal operational activity and timing of expenses.

Fund equity remains strong at **\$123.1 million**. While retained earnings decreased modestly by **\$902,603** month-over-month, overall equity levels remain robust and continue to support the Tribe's long-term financial stability and strategic priorities.

Category	December 2025	November 2025	Change
Unrestricted Cash & Equivalents	\$78.5M	\$76.5M	+\$1.9M
Total Current Assets	\$84.5M	\$83.3M	+\$1.3M
Net Property & Equipment	\$50.8M	\$50.3M	+\$0.4M
Total Assets	\$135.3M	\$133.6M	+\$1.7M
Total Current Liabilities	\$12.2M	\$9.6M	+\$2.6M
Total Fund Equity*	\$123.1M	\$124.0M	-\$0.9M

Category	Q1 FY2026
Bagley Casino	
Quarterly revenue	\$2.7 M
Quarterly expense	\$2.3M
Net income	\$410k
Mahnomen Casino	
Quarterly revenue	\$24.4M
Quarterly expense	\$22.8M
Net income	\$1.6M
Total net income	\$2.0M
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	
September 30, 2025	\$77.7M
December 31, 2025	\$78.5M



**Total fund equity is the residual value of a company's assets after all liabilities are deducted, representing the net worth belonging to shareholders. It is found on the balance sheet and calculated as Total Assets – Total Liabilities. This figure indicates the amount returned to owners if the company were liquidated.*

As of the close of Q1 FY2026, selected major funds continue to maintain stable cash positions sufficient to support ongoing operations and approved expenditures. Cash balances remain strongest within the Behavioral Health Funds, reflecting the scale of services and funding streams supporting these activities.

The ARPA Fund reflects revenues exceeding expenses for the quarter, consistent with the planned and phased use of time-limited federal resources. Health Funds show expenses modestly exceeding revenues for the period, consistent with normal timing differences between expenditures and reimbursements. Youth & Elder (Y&E) Funds reflect smaller-scale activity with cash balances aligned to current operational needs.

Overall, these funds remain financially stable and continue to support the Tribe's operational and strategic priorities.

Fund	Cash Balance	Revenues	Expenses
ARPA Fund	\$3.64M	\$4.49M	\$0.85M
Y&E Fund	\$225,193	\$248,977	\$23,783
Health Fund	\$15.63M	\$1.75M	\$1.93M
Behavioral Health Fund	\$57.40M	\$6.74M	\$9.04M

General Fund Overview

As of the close of Q1 FY2026, \$7.29 million has been expended, leaving \$23.97 million available to support remaining FY26 operations and approved initiatives.

Category	Amount (\$)
FY26 Approved Budget	31,260,421
FY25 Q4 Cumulative Actual	7,289,634
Remaining Available	23,970,787

Tribal Response to Federal Enforcement Activity and Impacts on Members

The Tribe continues to address increased federal enforcement activities impacting Tribal members residing in urban areas, particularly in Minneapolis. These circumstances have introduced considerable uncertainty for families on and off the reservation, affecting housing stability, employment opportuni-

See LaRoque Page 18



SHOOTING STAR

NOW HIRING

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

FIVE STAR REASONS TO APPLY

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

Apply now at StarCasino.com/Employment

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Microsoft 365 Office Beginner
Courses
Starting at 2:30 PM

TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Contact Victor Litzau 218-935-3059

Sign up for Free Courses

2/12/26 RBC Cafe computer lab

2/17/26 WE Congregate Housing

2/19/26 NayTahWaush Workforce Center

2/24/26 NayTahWaush Complex

2/26/26 Rice Lake Community Center

Every Wednesday 2:30-4:30 Pine Point Lab

Tribal Broadband Connectivity
Program



Your job search ends here

www.whiteearth.com



News From District 2 Rep. Eugene Sommers

Boozhoo Anishinaabe, Cannabis Workforce Training

On Jan. 8, White Earth Tribal College launched a Cannabis Horticulture Program through its Custom Education Program. This training opportunity supports workforce development by providing participants with hands-on education in the emerging cannabis industry. The program helps prepare Tribal members for employment opportunities while supporting long-term economic diversification for the Nation.

East Grand Forks Consultation

On Jan. 15, the Reservation Business Committee (RBC) met with members of the East Grand Forks City Council regarding the establishment of a new dispensary. Initial confusion surrounding White Earth's compact agreement was clarified during the meeting. The discussion was productive and helped establish a positive working relationship moving forward.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Consultation

On Jan. 20, a meeting was held with Bureau of Indian Affairs staff to initiate consultation requests with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Homeland Security. These consultations will allow the Tribe to formally voice concerns related to recent ICE activity in Minneapolis.

Special Finance Meeting

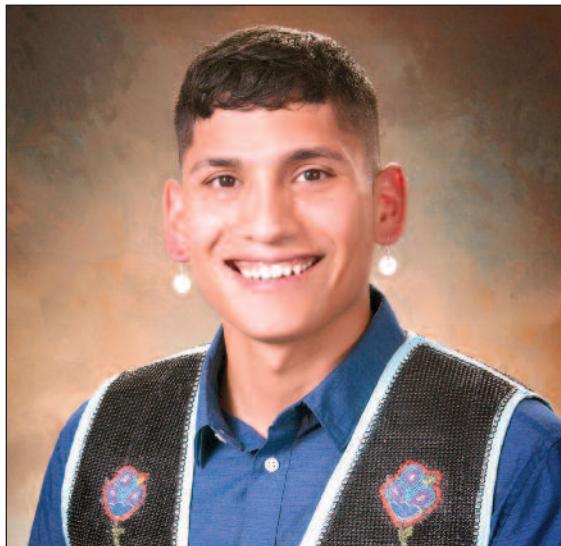
On Jan. 23, the Reservation Business Committee attended a Special Finance Meeting at Shooting Star Casino. Updates were provided on casino renovation projects and budget planning, ensuring continued oversight and transparency in Tribal enterprises.

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Meetings

On Jan. 26, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe subcommittee meetings were held at Northern Lights Casino in Walker, Minnesota. The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) meeting followed on Jan. 27, bringing leadership together to address intertribal matters and constitutional reform.

City of Mahnomen Consultation

On Jan. 28, White Earth consulted with the City



of Mahnomen regarding land use and zoning matters. The City expressed interest in Tribal land located on Main Street and proposed a potential land exchange involving a parcel on Riverland Road. Discussions remain ongoing as both parties explore available options.

2026 Election

Election filing closed on Jan. 21. Candidates will be certified by Feb. 11 if no eligibility challenges are filed.

Primary Election: March 31, 2026

General Election: June 9, 2026

Swearing-In of Elected Officials: July 14, 2026

I will not be seeking reelection this year and wish all candidates the best of luck in their campaigns. Miigwech for the opportunity to serve. I am excited for the future of our Tribe.

Contacts

Eugene Sommers

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Office Phone: 218-935-6250

Christopher Vanwert Jr.

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

23rd Annual

Jake Busse Fishing Derby

SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 2026 / ROY LAKE

11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

\$5 a person entry fee (with a 4 hole limit)

✓ Non-enrolled must follow state regulations

✓ Enrolled members must follow tribal regulations

With 100% Payback

Everyone welcome!

Persons to contact for questions:

Pete Busse / 218-401-2617

Sherry Halberg / 218-261-1198

Mary Beaulieu / 218-358-0453

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



"Save The Date"

Return to First Medicines Annual Gathering

July 28 & 29, 2026

Shooting Star Casino & Hotel

Presented by:

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



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GAAWAABAABIGANHAAKAGABEGINNAABIAOWIGAMU

You Belong at WETCC!

PSEO

High school students in grades 10, 11, or 12 can take college-level courses and earn both high school and college credit simultaneously.

- ✓ No Cost - Includes tuition, fees, & textbooks.
- ✓ Student is responsible for transportation.
- ✓ Applications are available from the MN Dept. of Education (www.education.mn.gov)
- ✓ Students must notify their enrolling public school district by May 30.

Email: info@wetcc.edu

2250 COLLEGE RD, MAHNOmen, MN

News From District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

As we begin a new year, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all members of our tribal community. It is a time for reflection and setting intentions for the months ahead. Together, we will continue working toward a stronger future for our tribe and our families. Wishing everyone a positive and successful New Year!

1-20 Tribal leaders convened with Scott Davis, Deputy Assistant Director of the Department of the Interior, to discuss issues including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), education and funding for the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). The meeting aimed for collaboration, address concerns and explore solutions related to these areas impacting tribal communities.

1-26/27 I attended the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe TEC subcommittee and TEC meetings hosted by Leech Lake in Walker, Minn.

I serve on the Minnesota Housing Finance Committee. Enrolled members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) are eligible to apply for a variety of loan programs including assistance for home purchases, renovations, and new construction. If you are interested in learning more or applying, please contact the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Home Loans Department at 218-335-8581 or visit their website at <https://mnchippewatribe.org/services-and-programs/finance-corporation/home-loans/>. These resources are available to support our community members in achieving their homeownership goals.

1-28 Minnesota Department of Transportation and White Earth Nation hosted a Roundtable Discussion about Community Traffic Safety that focused on local road conditions and traffic safety. The primary goal was to gather input directly from participants, including law enforcement, public works, and roads department staff, to understand current traffic issues on our local roads. Attendees also collaborated to brainstorm ideas for future traffic safety initiatives such as scheduling a MOCK crash demonstration, issues at the intersection of Highway 59 and State Highway 113. Additionally, plans were discussed to incorporate traffic safety simulators and goggles at community events to promote awareness and education on safe driving practices.

Other Updates

The White Earth garage (formerly the fleet garage) is currently being demolished. A new garage facility will be constructed to house General Services Administration (GSA) vehicles that are used daily by our health program staff to deliver essential in-home services to community members.

I have received inquiries regarding the new homes at White Earth Enterprises. Highway 59 Homes, LLC has recently received three new homes designated as display models. An open house event will be scheduled soon and additional details will be shared as they become available. For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.highway59homes.com/>. We look forward to showcasing these beautiful homes and providing opportunities for community members to explore their options.

The \$300 Health and Safety Checks are ongoing and continue to be processed by our Enrollment and Finance Departments. These checks are part of our ongoing efforts to support community health and well-being.

The Pine Point Water Treatment Plant Planning Project is set to move forward with the planning agreement established between White Earth Nation



and the Indian Health Service. The project will include a comprehensive structural assessment of the existing water treatment plant building, well investigations and a hydrogeologic study. The project timeline is as follows: project documents are expected to be approved by March, environmental clearance is targeted for completion by April and the preliminary engineering report is scheduled to be finalized by March 2027. This initiative aims to enhance water quality and infrastructure for our community's future.

With the recent cold weather, we want to remind everyone to check in on elders and vulnerable community members. If you know of any elders who may need assistance or need to be checked on, please reach out to us or contact our Elder Program 218-935-3856, we have dedicated elder advocates available to help.

Our Water and Sewer Department has been actively assisting residents with frozen pipes and sewer issues while our Human Services team has been supporting homeless members of the community. We thank everyone for their efforts and kindness during this time. We are committed to providing support, ensuring safety and connecting individuals with the services they need to live securely and comfortably.

Miigwech

Contact information:

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

Assistant for District 3
Tiffany Swiers
Office: 218-935-6235
Cell: 218-997-9124
tiffany.swiers@whiteearth-nsn.gov

WHITE EARTH URBAN OFFICE

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

Tribal offices closed for holiday

White Earth RBC offices will be **closed on Monday, Feb. 16 for Presidents Day** and will reopen on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 8 a.m.

Modified services will still be available.

2026 WHITE EARTH ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

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

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

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

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

No funds available until around first week in November 2025

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

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

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

Reminder from White Earth Natural Resources

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

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

Valley View Manor

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

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

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



CREATING BETTER LIVING
Equal Housing Opportunity

TTY711



News From District 1 Rep. Henry George Fox

Boo-zhoo,

Hope all is well with our people of the White Earth Reservation. It's Election Year so make sure to get out and VOTE!

Housing

All four new houses are set up and are occupied by families with children, and the burned-out house is set up and getting prepared for another family to move in.

Chemical Health

In my travels, addiction is everywhere. When you feel like it is finally enough please reach out for help - that first step is always a hard one in that we admit we were powerless over alcohol/drugs. So reach out and get help.

Pow-wow Grounds

The Rice Lake Powwow Grounds dancing circle has the new dirt and was seeded with Kentucky Bluegrass. It was growing good just before fall so it should be perfect by our powwow in May.

Water and Sewer

Water and sewer during a Rice Lake winter is a tough time. The Water and Sewer staff have been busy with frozen water and sewer pipes. The emergency phone number 218-401-3821.

Education

College and primary education are on the second quarter of the year with snow and cold canceling school days. But, we live in Minnesota so we will get through it as we always do.

Day Labor and TERO

We have a day labor program in Naytahwaush that is helping the Elders with snow removal around the house porches, and a walk path to your propane or fuel tank.

Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club is back to their evening hours. We've had cancelations due to snow/cold and funerals here at the building. My thoughts on that is we need to get them their own building!

Forestry

Our fire fighters have been going out of state to help fight forest fires. All these brave men and women take time away from their families to go help other people - my hat is off to these people, you are



strong fighters. They also cut and deliver the spirit firewood for when one of our members passes on into the spirit world. Mii-gwech Forestry.

Urban Communities

Our urban members are going through the ICE enforcement and protests. The way ICE is doing their actions is no different than what they have been doing to the Native Americans for years from all our broken Treaties.

White Earth State Forest

We are capable of managing the White Earth State Forest so it's not take back - it's ours and we can manage it now. We have never seen anything from all the sales and how can you sell tax forfeited land when it's not yours. I have yet to hear from Clearwater or Becker Counties. Read the Treaties first or I can come read it to you. Mii-gwech

Elder Advocates / Elder Commission / Elder Council / Elder Repair

Our Elder Advocates are out in the communities helping with some of the Elder needs.

CSO Program

Currently the tribe is looking to fill the Community Service Officer positions in a few of the communities.

Henry G. Fox
District 1 Representative
White Earth Nation
218-407-2729 or 218-850-0753

Winter home safety tips from WE Public Health

By Lindsey Adams

White Earth Tribal Public Health

We are entering the time of winter that often brings a combination of heavy snow, cold and possible thawing/refreezing episodes. You and I can guess the weather often as well as the meteorologists! (Joke; they are very well educated and appreciated).

White Earth Public Health wants to share these gentle reminders and tips for staying well and SAFE IN OUR HOMES as we navigate through the upcoming winter events.

- Keep a close eye on heating sources. Clean and replace filters as needed and monitor gas levels so you do not run out!

- Use space heaters correctly. They must be plugged directly into the outlet and with plenty of "breathing space" surrounding them. AWAYS have them level and on the floor.

- Install and maintain carbon monoxide and fire detectors in your home. The New Year is a great time to change batteries every year (if needed).

- Practice safe snow removal! Late Winter and Spring snowfall often has more moisture in it and is heavier than we remember. Take small scoops and breaks while shoveling. Ask for help with maintenance and check in with someone BEFORE you shovel and AFTER you get done.

- Check in on friends, family, neighbors, (aunties and uncles) – Winter gets long physically, mentally and emotionally.

- Support your pets! They still need warm shelter, water, food and company!

- And our last tip is to always keep on hand any medications that may be needed in the next couple of days. Spring snowstorms can take a day of two to dig out from. Keep an "emergency supply" of life sustaining medications to prevent emergencies.

White Earth Council of Elders

By Lucille M. Silk, Chairwoman

White Earth Nation Council of Elders

The Elder Council has been very active in the roles that we were elected for. All Elders of the White Earth Nation are represented by this group and if an Elder is unable to attend monthly meetings, we will be happy to hear your concerns and attempt to find a remedy for you. You are welcome to call any one of us and we can contact the person or agency that can accommodate the need. The executive board has met and are trying to plan activities, meetings, or personal requests.

January turned out to be extremely cold, with closings of both schools, and business places. Therefore, please always honor the weather warnings and keep yourself safe, or if you must be traveling, always have a survival kit in your car and extra blankets.

Due to the inclement weather, we decided that a overnight two-day trip would instead be made a one-day trip to Walker, Minn., on Jan. 27 for the quarterly TEC meeting. As Elders, we are more vulnerable to the cold and ice conditions. That is the reason we do not gather our Elders to meetings during January, February, and March of each year, as a protective measure.

In renewing our by-laws, we have added three new members in order to have this Council representative of the whole Reservation. Please consider applying for one of the three District positions from now until 4:30 p.m. on March 13. You may call either Lawrence (Sam) Crowell: 218-252-9390 or Joan Thompson: 218-204-0852. The Secretary position is also open and can be obtained as a nominee with the same people. The election committee has decided in all fairness to have the vote on Monday, March 23 from 1-5 p.m. at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. We encourage your support by adding your name to the District position of which you are from according to your Tribal ID. The Secretary position is open to all Elder enrolled members, except those with a conflict of interest. When you come to vote remember to bring your Tribal ID.

This is an election year also for our Tribal Government for the positions of Secretary/Treasurer, and District Representatives 1 and 2. As in previous years, we will be holding a Candidate Forum on Saturday, April 4 at the Shooting Star Casino. It is important that we all attend these forums as the candidates will be presenting their platforms on which they will serve our White Earth Nation. These primaries are needed to make a reasonable and responsible decision as to whom we elect to the various positions.

Please keep this date open, to all those Wisdom Step folks who have met the criteria to attend an annual conference in your honor, from June 16-18 at the Black Bear Casino on the Fond du Lac Reservation. Remember, you must have completed two cards in order to be eligible. The first is a health card that records your visits to your health provider. There are four mandatory requirements as indicated by the asterisk on the card. Second is the walk card of which you must keep a weekly record of either steps or miles.

The cut-off date is always the last day of the previous year - Dec. 31, 2025. The reason we need to count the previous year is because our Board needs to order incentives for well over 400 members each year, plus do all the planning for the conference with costs, etc. This is a voluntary Board approved by the individual Tribal Nations. Remember too, this is a preventive health program in the State of Minnesota for all enrolled members of the various Tribes and urban areas. We want our Elders to take control of their own health with their own health

See Elders Page 18

WE MCT Constitution Reform Delegation Updates

By Mykee Brown

White Earth MCT Constitutional Reform Delegate

Your input is needed to rewrite it right! We are currently planning an educational/constitution review meeting and we are shooting for sometime in April. Be on the lookout for the flyer announcement. We will be going over at least three of the past drafted constitutions for White Earth and begin to prepare to draft our own potential constitution or "governing document."

One of the ideas we are working on currently is replacing the current constitution with a stack of documents that is presumed to go hand in hand and separate the governing powers to band/reservation/nation level while remaining together as one tribe.

The MCT Constitution Reform Delegation (six bands/reservations) alternates hosting monthly meetings. The next meeting is on Feb. 20 hosted by Fond du Lac at the Black Bear Casino. Keep an eye out for the agenda to be posted for specific details. White Earth had just hosted the last monthly meeting in January where we quickly went through the agenda during a winter storm. We had a decent turn out and would like to thank everyone for attending; members, descendants and delegates.

We represent YOUR voices! Please reach out

and let us know what you think and what you would like for us to bring to the table. We need your approval and advice to move forward. There are many different ways to reach us. The best way is to contact your district delegate directly by email or phone; however, we also have two Facebook pages. "White Earth MCT Constitution Reform" and "White Earth Constitutional Reform Delegation."

Our delegates are listed as follows:

Chris Vanwert, At-large Delegate
Christopher.Vanwert@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Fawn Roy, District 1 Delegate
FawnMarieRoy@gmail.com

Patty Straub, District 2 Delegate
1020patty.straub@gmail.com

Mykee Brown, District 2 Delegate
brownmykee25@gmail.com

Emily Annette, District 3 Delegate
mle1annette@gmail.com

Sybil Gund, Metro Delegate
sybil.gund@yahoo.com

Louie Johanssen, Iron Range Delegate
louiejohanssen3@msn.com

Jolyn Donnell, Cass Lake Delegate
Jeffjolyn@gmail.com

Self-love has a strong impact on our mental health

By Martha Allen

White Earth Mental Health
Project Outreach Coordinator

Self-love is a practice of nurturing and valuing oneself. It includes accepting both strengths and weaknesses and prioritizing self-care. Practicing self-love can improve mental health by boosting self-esteem, self-confidence, and resilience in the face of challenges. Self-love involves setting healthy boundaries, saying no when necessary, and prioritizing one's own needs and well-being without guilt.

Self-love includes practicing self-compassion and treating oneself with kindness and understanding during difficult times or when facing setbacks. Self-love has a strong impact on our mental health and our emotional state. It can decrease anxiety, depression, anger and loneliness.

Why is self-love important?

- Allows us to feel more confident in our abilities.

- Becomes easier to express/work with our strengths and identify areas of growth.

- You know your worth and can advocate for what you deserve.

- Self-love can give us a more positive attitude and outlook.

- Encourages us to pick up good habits.

Ways to love yourself more

- *Meditate

- *Say no when you need to

- *Take a social media break

- *Don't compare yourself to others

- *Cook your favorite meal

- *Create a gratitude list

- *Catch up with a friend

- *Connect with culture

- *Be kind to yourself

Daily affirmations

This month when we celebrate Valentine's Day and love, practice saying daily affirmations that

encourage self-love.

- *I am proud of who I am becoming.
- *I belong here.
- *I embrace my flaws and struggles.
- *I am valuable.
- *I am capable of accomplishing my goals.
- *I am beautiful inside and out.
- *I forgive myself.
- *I am moving in the right direction.
- *I am proud of myself.
- *I learn and grow every day.
- *I am loved.
- *I am not selfish for taking care of myself.
- *I deserve to make time for myself.
- *I am strong.
- *I am grateful for opportunities.
- *I love myself.
- *I have a lot to offer the world.

If you or someone you know needs additional support with mental health, please call White Earth Mental Health at 218-983-6325 to place a referral. Crisis hotline is 218-850-4357.

 **WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council**

Save the Date

WEUCC 3rd Annual Pow Wow

May 16th, 2026



SAVE THE DATE!

Heart Health/ MMIWR Event

FEB. 12TH | 2PM - 6PM

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

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

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



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

See what child care licensing has to offer YOU!

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

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



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

Contact Child Care Licensing Kim L. at (218) 935-6272 or email Kim.Lage@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Tribal Child Care Licensing for the White Earth Reservation

NAYTAHWAUSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL & FOSSTON THEATER invite you to:

Saturday 02/21



FREE FEBRUARY MOVIES

1 PM The Princess & The Frog
3 PM Spider-man: Across the Spider-verse
7 PM Poetic Justice



GAA-WAABAABIGANIKAAG ELECTION CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Re-Elect Secretary Treasurer Michael LaRoque

PRIMARY ELECTION HELD MARCH 31, 2026

Get out and vote!

LEADERSHIP - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY - TEAM PLAYER

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

paid for by Secretary Treasurer Mike LaRoque campaign

WE Natural Resources Nation Climate Action Plan

White Earth Natural Resources is excited to announce the adoption of our Climate Action Plan. This plan will help guide us toward being prepared to mitigate challenges associated with a changing climate, while also working to reduce our carbon footprint.

The planning process took one year and included input from a broad range of professionals, along with surveys to gather public feedback. Our youth and elders were invited to share wisdom from the past and their hopes for the future.

The Climate Action Plan addresses key areas such as transportation, waste management, food sovereignty, and health, among others. Please scan the QR code to be directed to our Natural Resources webpage. Under the Climate Action Plan section, you will find the full plan linked there.



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.

Bibooni-aadizookewin Winter Storytelling

with Biidaabanikwe Anderson

Thursdays

February 12 & 19, 2026
5 - 8 PM

WEETCC Drum Hall
2250 College Rd.
Mahnomen, MN

Traditional winter legends told in Ojibwemowin

FREE
Open to All

No registration required.
Meal provided - bring a dish to share if you wish.

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND
EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INVITATION TO INDIGENOUS GAMES DAY

Snow Snake Games
Grades 4th - 8th
Feb. 27th
Youth Hand Drum Contest all ages!!!

Pine Point School invites neighboring schools to join us for a day of traditional Indigenous games, learning, and community.

Event Details
Time: 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Lunch Provided - Please Join Us!

Location:
Pine Point School
48075 Pow Wow Hwy
Ponsford, MN.

Featured Activity
Snow Snake
A traditional Indigenous winter game celebrating skill, culture, and friendly competition.

White Earth Nation TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH Education. Prevention. Protection.

Call to Reserve Your School
Neegonee Brunner
218-261-0835
We Hope to See You There!
Come learn, play, and celebrate Indigenous traditions together.

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 *Anishinaabeg Today!*

Call White Earth Enrollments at 218-935-6247

RICE LAKE ELDER SEWING CLASS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR BEGINNER-FRIENDLY SEWING CLASS TO LEARN THE CRAFT AND PRODUCE YOUR OWN RIBBON SKIRT OR SHIRT!

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- BASIC STITCHES
- MACHINE OPERATION
- FABRIC SELECTION
- PATTERN CREATION
- PROJECT CREATION

RICE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER

FEB 10TH, 17TH, & 24TH 10:00AM-2:00PM

EVERY TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY 2026
FABRIC AND RIBBON WILL BE PROVIDED BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN!

WHITE EARTH PUBLIC HEALTH QUESTIONS? EMAIL: PUBLIC.HEALTH@WHITEEARTH-NSN.GOV CALL: 218.401.1639



Submitted photo

Kindness just isn't a value, it's a way of life, and nowhere is that more evident than in an elder group that meets once a week on Thursday at Giizhigan in Naytahwaush. Their selflessness and generosity quietly shape our community every day. They lead with patience, humility, and deep care for one another. They step in whenever help is needed, reminding us what it truly means to be community. They remind us that strength can be gentle and leadership can be quiet. Most recently with their contributions to helping those in need - with clothing, even altering clothing for those in need. Getting down to business are Marilyn Goodwin, right, and Susie Coleman. Other regulars include Phyllis Bunker, Ruthie Foss and Petey Olson.

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

Family Event! Everyone Welcome!
***New Dates* February 21st & 22nd, 2026**
10:00am-3:00pm each day

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

Celebrate Learning and Growing through Traditional Anishinaabeg Values

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

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

For questions on this event, please contact: Dana Trickey at 218-289-1193, trickey014@umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
White Earth Tribal 4-H Community & Youth Program
www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h

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February 2026 Namebini-giizis Cultural Calendar

White Earth Cultural Activities Monthly Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	OMC (All Tobacco Ceremony 9-12)	MAH IOP 10-12		WE WESA 10-12		
8	OMC (All) Tobacco Ceremony 9-12	WE Mats 10-12 NTW Moms 10-12	NTW IOP 1-3	NTW Wesa 10-12		
15	Closed	MAH IOP 10-12		WE Wesa 10-12		
22	OMC (All) Tobacco Ceremony 9-12	WE Mats 10-12 NTW Moms 10-12	NTW IOP 1-3	NTW Wesa 10-12	Gilmikwenimin NTW BH Bldg 5-7pm	

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

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

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

FIVE SKIES EMPOWERMENT TRAINING



Wheel and Mending Broken Hearts, Financial Literacy, Critical Core Skills and Resumes and Interviewing are also incorporated into this program as part of the entire Empowerment curriculum.

The program begins with Mending Broken Hearts. This is an intensive course designed to provide culturally-based healing from grief, loss, and the unresolved effects of Intergenerational Trauma as developed from the White Bison curriculum. This program is delivered in a condensed 3-day format.

Teachings of the Medicine Wheel

This programming is designed to help individuals gain an understanding of the Medicine Wheel's teachings and how those teachings can benefit their everyday lives. Our program does not focus on any single Tribe's culture but rather gives the participant the tools necessary to have a good understanding of how their own traditions can be applied or gives them a foundation to grow from where one's own teachings are unavailable.

An Introduction to Financial Literacy

This is an essential skill that is often overlooked when preparing someone for a career pathway that may see them making thousands of dollars a week. It is designed to help the participant begin to think of money from a different perspective. It covers a wide range of topics from a basic budget through credit and credit scores and even discusses incorporating traditional values into your budgeting and spending. The program covers

WHO: White Earth Tribal MEMBERS
WHAT: EMPOWERMENT TRAINING
WHERE: Maadaadizi Workforce Center
WHEN: March 2 – March 27, 2026

broad topics to help shift the way money is thought about. CASHFLOW is often included in this program.

Critical Core Skills

Critical core skills include the soft skills that are often sought by employers in any industry, whether construction related or otherwise. Some of the skills covered include communication, critical thinking and problem solving, teamwork and collaboration, leadership skills and many others.

Resumes and Interviewing

This program provides an overview of the different Resume styles and their uses and gives the participant an opportunity to develop their own or fine-tune an existing resume. We cover interviewing skills, go over some of the more difficult questions that may arise and to approach an interview. Mock interviews are also conducted with the participant receiving immediate feedback and suggestions for improvement going forward.

Additional certifications included in this program are:

OSHA 30, Flagger Certification, First Aid/CPR and other industry specific programming can be incorporated into this program.

This is a 4-week long program running Monday-Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (some days may be longer or shorter)

For more information:
Call Kathleen: 218-935-3756
Marcus 218-935-3829

Water & Sewer protection for homeowners

Cold temperatures can cause frozen pipes, water breaks, and sewer backups. Follow these tips to help prevent winter damage to your home.

WATER PROTECTION TIPS

- Let faucets **drip slowly** during extreme cold.
- Keep your home heated to **at least 55°F**, even when away.
- Open cabinet doors** under sinks to allow warm air to circulate.
- Insulate exposed pipes** in basements, crawl spaces, and garages.
- Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses**.
- Shut off and drain **outside water spigots** if possible.
- Know where your **main water shut-off valve** is located. (for most homes, located near water meter).

SEWER PROTECTION TIPS

- Do NOT pour grease, fats, or oil down drains.**
- Flush **toilet paper only** — no wipes, diapers, or hygiene products (even "flushable").
- Run water occasionally in rarely used sinks or tubs.
- Watch for **slow drains, gurgling sounds, or sewer odors**.

OUTDOOR & PROPERTY TIPS

- Clear snow away from your home's foundation.
- Keep **water meters, meter pits, and cleanouts accessible clear of snow and ice**.
- Avoid plowing parking or driving over buried water and sewer lines.
- Make sure roof vent is not blocked or covered with snow.
- Make sure any cleanouts or risers are capped.

WARNING SIGNS OF A FROZEN LINE

- No water or low water pressure
- Frost on pipes
- Sewer backups or strong odors
- Gurgling drains

If you experience any of these issues, contact your local Water & Sewer Department immediately.

Water & Sewer Department: 218-935-6276
After-Hours Emergency: 218-401-3821

New digital sign greets RBC visitors



Photo by Gary W. Padra

A new color digital sign greets community members visiting the RBC headquarters and other tribal programs in that area. The sign, located on the corner of County Highway 34 and Eagleview Drive, can display many images, messages, time and temperature.



Smart Moves
Behavior•Exercise•Nutrition•Support
White Earth Tribal Health



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

NOTICE OF DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Pursuant to Section 1.4(B) and 1.4(C) of the MCT Election Ordinance, revised 12/16/2025, this message serves as notice to the Tribal Executive Committee of the districts and designated polling places for the White Earth Primary and General Elections:

POLLING PLACES

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

GENERAL ELECTION BOARD
Shooting Star RV Office
777 SE Casino Drive
Mahnomen, MN 56557
Electionboard@whiteearth-nsn.gov
218-936-5622

DISTRICT I:
Bejou - Community Center, Main Street, Bejou, MN
Pine Bend - Church Parking Lot, Pine Bend, MN
Rice Lake - Community Center, Co Rd 35, Rice Lake Village, MN

DISTRICT II:
Mahnomen - Tribal College, 2250 College Rd, Mahnomen, MN
Naytahwaush - Fire Hall, Co Rd 4, Naytahwaush, MN
Waubun - Community Center, 1004 Central Ave., Waubun, MN

DISTRICT III:
Callaway - Community Center, HWY 59, Callaway, MN
Ogema - VFW Hall, Main St. E., Ogema, MN
White Earth - Community Center, Martin Drive, White Earth, MN
Elbow Lake - Elderly Nutrition Center, Little Elbow Lake Village, MN
Pine Point - The Old School, Community Center, Pine Point Village, MN

CASS LAKE, MN
White Earth Family Office
220 2nd St NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

MARBLE, MN
Marble City Hall
(Community Center)
302 Alice Avenue
Marble, MN 55764

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
Minneapolis American Indian Center
1530 E. Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404

White Earth Food Shelf
February 2026 Delivery Schedule

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

Applications are available at Community Centers, ENP sites and Naytahwaush Complex
Hours are subject to change due to weather and holidays
Feel free to contact the White Earth Food Shelf at 218-935-6313 or 218-935-6314
Please note you may go to any of our stops to pick up a food box, you don't have to reside in that area
White Earth Food Shelf Hours / 6 am-3 pm Monday-Friday
Times have changed to 10 am-noon for January and February due to cold weather. Thank you!

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL ENROLLED ELDERS SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

2025-2026

DATE APPLYING: _____

Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____ Permanent residency is required.

Telephone # _____ Cell # _____ E-mail _____

Birthdate: _____ Spouse's Birthdate: _____

Enrollment # _____ Spouse's Enrollment # _____

Attach a colored copy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

White Earth INVESTMENT INITIATIVE


Sue Trnka
WEII Community Services Coordinator
218-844-7029


Jodi Lunde
WEII Community Services Coordinator
218-844-7057

DO YOU WANT TO:

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

We can help!

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

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

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

Shop for February bargains while supplies last!

SAVE OVER 45% 6.99 Master Electrician [®] 6-Outlet Power Strip E 264 300	SAVE OVER 30% 3.79 SOS [®] 16 ct. Steel Wool Soap Pads W 642 274	SAVE OVER 45% 6.99 Oatey [®] 4 oz. Handy Pack Purple Primer and Regular Clear PVC Solvent Cement F 127 840	SAVE OVER 40% 6.49 Jiffy [®] Easy Grow Greenhouse Kit L 250 373
SAVE OVER 30% 2.49 Scott [®] 55 ct. Shop Towels H 570 978	SAVE OVER 40% 6.99 Master Electrician [®] 8 ft. 16/3 SJTW 3-Outlet Outdoor Extension Cord E 765 174	SAVE OVER 35% 5.99 Green Thumb [®] 4 in. Brass Twist Hose Nozzle L 581 522	SAVE OVER 35% 7.99 Level [®] 10.5 oz. Clear Caulk P 133 041

©2025 TV Hardware Distribution, LLC. Consumer responsible for taxes. While supplies last. Product, product availability, pricing and savings may vary by store. See your local store for details. Prices good through February 28, 2026. TV-DM-16378379942 February 2026 BOM Bargain Stuffer A version.

WHITE EARTH SANITATION

3278 US HWY 59. S, WAUBUN
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
218-473-3222

Map showing the locations of transfer stations on the White Earth Reservation. The stations are: Waubun Transfer Station (Open Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM), NayTahWaush Transfer Station (Open every Tuesday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM), Rice Lake Transfer Station (Open every Monday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM), Elbow Lake Transfer Station (Open every Wednesday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM), Pine Point Transfer Station (Open every Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM), and White Earth Transfer Station (Open every Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM). The map also shows the locations of Mahnomen, Beaulieu, Mahkonie, NayTahWaush, Elbow Lake, Pine Point, and Callaway.

WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council

ELECTION NOTICE

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

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

WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council
1308 East Franklin Ave Suite 206
Minneapolis, MN 55404
OR weurbancommunitycouncil@gmail.com

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

Forms will be accepted until March 31st, 2026.

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

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

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ MN Zip Code _____ County _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ (Text? Y or N)
Email _____

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

Why would you like to be a council member? _____

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

WECARE
WHITE EARTH COORDINATION ASSESSMENT RESOURCES & EDUCATION

Come Join a New Group

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

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

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

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

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

Waubun students participate in winter camp

By Ana Kircher
White Earth Tribal Public Health
Community Health Educator II

Waubun 4th-6th graders recently participated in the Waubun School Forest Winter Camp, grounding youth in cultural identity as a protective factor for their health and wellbeing.

Due to the rise of youth vaping, students worked with Public Health Tobacco coordinator to distinguish the difference between commercial tobacco and traditional asemia. By showing the sacred plant and learning about the medicine within, youth are empowered to make healthier choices rooted in culture.

The Natural Resources and Food Sovereignty programs provided hands-on opportunity and education on animal identification, tracking, food harvesting, processing and preservation. Students were able to sample smoked fish and venison while learning the different gifts waawaashkeshi (deer) provides, such as using the brain for tanning and using specific joints for traditional games. A Public Health educator taught each student how to make a tasty, nutritious snack with simple ingredients that can be made at home in no time.

"Miizhishin!" (Give it to me!) shouted one student during a card trading game, laughing as they practiced Anishinaabemowin. A moment that captured the heart of Winter Camp and a reminder that language and tradition stick when there's play. Youth enjoyed a stick-and-hoop game, from cheering each other on to stating "you always have the best games." This rein-



Photos by Zoe Keezer

forced that living the culture brings joy, well-being and positive social connections.

Despite the cold, the spirit of Winter Camp was warm. The bright sun shined through the woods of the Waubun School Forest. The smell of wood smoke from the venison and fish filled the air while students stayed warmed with cups of giizhik (cedar) and mullein aniihiisaaboo (tea) provided by White Earth Tribal and Community College Community Extension. Youth cross-country skied the freshly groomed trails to round off the day of learning, laughter, movement and connection with the land.



UPDATED LOCATION:
North Twin, MN

Saturday, February 7th 2026
Tournament 11 AM - 3 PM
Admission Open 8 AM - 12 PM

**6th Annual
WHITE EARTH NATION
ICE FISH'N DERBY**

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON ICE!

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

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

**ADULT & YOUTH
ADMISSION PRIZES!!**

**Land These Top
Raffle Prizes:**
Garmin Livescope
4-Day / 3-Night Stay at
Ballard's Resort on
Lake of the Woods

**DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE
EVENT**

**Tune into
KRJM Gold 101.5**
throughout the day for
important announcements
&
Watch out for our new
list of sponsors on
Social Media

Brought to you by:
**WE Natural Resources
&
WE Public Health**

**Reel in Even More Raffle
Prizes:**
Fission E-Bike & Trailer
Crossbow Hunting Condo

**NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR
ACCIDENTS**

**Enrolled White Earth
members** must follow tribal
regulations with a 4 hole limit.
Non-members must follow
state regulations.

**6th Annual
White Earth Nation Fishing Derby
February 7 2026, North Twin**

Contact White Earth Natural Resources or White Earth Community Service Officers for tickets.
Raffle Permit #2025-11-20A

**1st Garmin Echomap UHDZ 93sv Livescope
Summer/Winter Bundle**
Retail Value \$3,469.94

2nd Ballard's Resort on Lake of the Woods
Includes 3 nights lodging &
2 days guided walleye fishing for 6 people
Retail Value \$3,900.00

3rd Dual Crossbow/Rifle Hunting Condo
Retail Value \$2,299.00

4th Large Ice Fishing Package
Retail Value \$2,268.90

5th Fission E-Bike plus Trailer
Retail Value \$3,476.80

Only \$5.00!

Miigwech for your support!

****Must be 18 or older to participate****

Boys & Girls Club of White Earth opens two new sites at Callaway and Elbow Lake

By Carol Thompson, BSW
CEO, Boys & Girls Club of White Earth

Happy almost spring! We hope! The Boys & Girls Club of White Earth has been busy over the last year or so. Despite many barriers and issues with mother nature, we have finally been able to get our two club sites open!

We opened Callaway on Nov. 3, 2025! We are in the Callaway Community center located at 403 Main Avenue. The cell number to the site is 218-570-8343. The site's Unit Lead is Abigail Mitchel with our Character, Leadership, Service Coordinator being Terese Madigan and the Youth Development Professional being LaKaylee Kingbird. These kind ladies will be your contacts to get youth signed up for enrollment at the club as well as to answer any questions regarding the club site.

Abigail, Terese, and LaKaylee have been on numerous field trips such as the Detroit Mountain sledding expedition along with many memorable recreational trips to the Detroit Lakes Community Center! Youth do need to be actively attending clubs to participate in the trips but there is so much programming offered!

Our Elbow Lake site opened on Dec. 28, 2025! So close to the end of the year but we did it! The site is located at 39989 North Elbow Lake Drive. The cell number to this site is 218-570-9795. We have Kaelyn Snetsinger as the Unit Lead and are currently hiring

for the Character, Leadership, Service Coordinator as well as the Youth Development Professional. For more details on these positions please reach out to our White Earth Human Resources department and fill out the applications!

As our Elbow Lake site has just recently opened and with many winter obstacles to constantly overcome, we are looking forward to serving more youth in the community in the coming months! You can reach out to Kaelyn or any B&G Club staff to find out where and how to ask for assistance on completing an application for enrollment!

As stated above we have various programming in key areas such as: Arts, Education, Health and Wellness, Leadership and Service, Sports, E-Sports, and Recreation and as a Native Club we also have Native Adapted Programs and provide culture within the clubs. All calendars are available on the Boys & Girls Club of White Earth Facebook page. Hours are after school, on school days and switch to 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on non-school days and during summer months. Please look at our page for closures and updates.

The Boys & Girls Club of White Earth has eight sites open across the White Earth Reservation located at Callaway, Elbow Lake, Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Pine Point, Rice Lake, Waubun, and White Earth-COLA. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to anyone of our clubs or to B&G Club Administration.



The Boys and Girls Club of White Earth recently opened two new locations in Callaway and Elbow Lake.

They offer various programming in key areas such as: Arts, Education, Health and Wellness, Leadership and Service, Sports, E-Sports, Native Adapted Programs and provide culture within the clubs.

Top: New Elbow Lake Club. **Left:** Callaway Club.

Submitted photos

Cold causes tree to explode



Photo by Emma Grossman

Extreme cold temperatures in mid-January caused this tree by the White Earth Childcare building to explode (frost crack). This happens when temperatures drop suddenly or trees don't have time to adjust to the cold, and the sap or water inside starts to freeze. That expansion puts intense pressure on the bark and wood, which sometimes causes it to crack or split apart,

 American Heart Association.

Common Heart Attack Warning Symptoms

Call 911 right away if you or someone you are with has one or more of these symptoms!



1	Chest pain or discomfort
2	Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck or back
3	Pain or discomfort in the arms or shoulders
4	Shortness of breath
5	Feeling very tired, lightheaded or faint
6	Nausea or vomiting

Learn more at heart.org/HeartAttack.

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Ojibwemodaa.2! Lets all speak Ojibwe! Aaniin, Boozhoo.; Greetings.

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

Abinoojiwin•Infancy	Bilingual: To speak two languages-Give their gift of Ojibwemowin. Speak daily to our Nation's youngest. Birth to age five best promotes bilingualism! Pronounce by syllables: Boo zhoo! Aa niin e zhi -a yaa yan. - Greetings! How are you? Gimino-ayaa na? You're well? Gaye niin-Also me. •Use a consonant with a <i>Vowel sound to speak in "syllables"</i> : Oji bwe. •“Bineshiiyag <u>ina</u> bimisewag? Eya’, zhaawanoog.” (“Birds ? they fly? Yes, to the south.”)
•“Makoonsag, miikawaadiziwig.” (“Bear cubs, they are beautiful.”)	Bezhig -1, Niizh -2, Niswi -3. Niizho-wiigwaasi-mitigoog 2-birch-trees
•“Nigii-waabamaa a’aw makoons!” (“I saw him/her that bear cub!”)	<u>Omaa</u> , <u>Niso</u> -zhingwaakwag Here, 3-white pines
•“Makoons odaminwaagan!” (“Bear cub toy!”)	Niibaabizo. - S/he drives at night.
Awesiiyag - Animals Makwa(g) - Bear(s) Waagosh(ag) - Fox(es). Biboon. - It is winter. Makwa, nibaa noongom. Bear, s/he sleeps now. Waagosh, giiyose gaye. Fox, s/he hunts also.	Bagwaj. - In the wilderness. Waawaashkezhi bima’adoo. - Deer, he follows a trail in the bush, inland. Nimbima’adoo. - I follow a trail.
<u>Find the ten(10)underlined Ojibwe words in the wordfind.</u>	Bejibizo. - S/he drives slowly.

Oshki-nitaawigiwin•Young Adult•Teen

Howah!-Alright! Root “VAI”-verb/living/doesn't take a noun. •**Zhooshkonige.** -“She or He” plays checkers. •Yes!- Eya! •Noongom nanda-gikendaan.- Now seek to learn how to speak these kind of (action/feeling) words. Also you can **also** learn how to play cards. Ataage.-S/he plays cards.

King(card)-Ogimaa. Queen(card)- Ikwe. Jack(card)- <u>Zhimaaganish</u> . Clubs- <u>Danens</u> , Diamonds- <u>Gaanoo</u> Hearts-Giiwoon, Spades- <u>Biig</u> .
Goal: Learn a phrase a day Listen/Speak/Write-Dictionary online. Niwi-ojibwem.-I will speak Ojibwe. Gigashki’ewiz. - You succeed. Howah! - Alright! Wow!

Double Vowel Sounds!
Specific to Ojibwe!
***Longer voiced vowels:**
AA (baa), II (teen),
OO (moo), E (cafe')
***Shorter voiced vowels**
A (about), I (tin), O (only)
A glottal stop ‘ is a
voiceless nasal hesitation
as the dash in: oh-oh

Nitaawigiwin • Grownup <u>Aaniin, Boozhoo-Greetings</u> =>>>=>>> NI's...Nouns Inanimate. (Things, non-living. Action Present tense: now, at this time. Wii- future tense (will, want) Gii- past tense (did) •VTI is a Verb, Transitive, Inanimate/Non-living items. •Add NI-Noun Inanimate: Waakaa’igan(oon)-House(s) Ishkwaandem(an) - Door(s) Waazakonenjigan(an)-Light(s) Ningii-mikaan. -I <u>did</u> -find it. Niwii-mikaan.-I <u>will</u> -find it. Niminwendaan..!-I like it...! Giwaabandaan. -You see it.. Gigii-mikaan. You <u>did</u> -find it. Gidondinaan, makak. -You get it from there, a box. See the grammar patterns!	Miinawaa. -Review. :-). Ambe! -Come VAI = Verb speaks of an <u>Animate/living</u> thing and is <u>Intransitive-no</u> transmitting action to a noun. <u>Root word</u> is “She/He... is a <u>feeling</u> or <u>action word</u> , in present, past, or future tense. :-). Inini-Man and Ikwe-Woman . VAI: Ojibwemoo ikwe. = She speaks Ojibwe the woman. Gii-ojibwemoo inini. - He did-speak Ojibwe language, the man. Niminwendam,ojibwemoyaan. Eya’! - I am happy, when/if I speak Ojibwe. <u>Ojibwemoyan</u> -when/if <u>you</u> speak Ojibwe. <u>Ojibwemod</u> -when <u>s/he</u> speaks Ojibwe. Practice syllables & sounds of the Double Vowels-> A ni shi naa be mo win O ji bwe mo win	Gichi-aya’aa•Elder <i>Aaniin ezhinikaazod wa’aw giizis?</i> What/how is s/he called this moon/month? Namebini-giizis wa’aw giizis. —S/he’s called “Sucker Fish” Moon this moon (Feb). •Ask elder relatives respectfully if they may want to visit: “Giwii-mawadishiwi na? lidog giigidowin?” — “You will visit? Maybe by phone?” •Ask artists:-Gagwejim: “Aaniin ezhii-ayaayan?” -How are you? Gidojibwem ina?-You speak ? Ojibwe? •Ikidon/Say it: Miigwech!-Thanks! Eya! Giwii-gikinoo’amaage.-Yes! You’ll-teach Gibizindam gayel-You will listen also! Ginaawakwe-wiisini ina?-You eat lunch? Eya! Giwii-asiginan! - Yes, You will-gather it up! Let’s all speak Ojibwe! - Ojibwemodaa! •Miigwech.
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Awas! Minose! Ambe!
Be well! Get along well! Let’s go now!
Search online Ojibwemowin links.

•WE Resources

- <https://www.whiteearth.com/community>
- Search/Listen: Ojibwe People’s Dictionary <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu>
- Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Comm. <https://www.glfwc.org/>

3. Naanda-gikendan idash _____.
Seek to learn/know it and **you will-speak Ojibwe language**.
4. Maajiibii’igedaa! _____, gaye.
Let’s all write a letter in Ojibwe Language! **You use it**, too.
5. Noongom _____ bangi! Giin ina gaye? Ojibwemodaa!
Now, **I speak Ojibwe** a little bit! You ? also? Let’s all speak Ojibwemowin!
Ojibwemodaa! - Let’s all speak Ojibwe! February©2026 Shelly Ceglar

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

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

ICE & ADVENTURE Giveaway

CHANCE TO WIN UTV,
FISH HOUSE OR \$10,000!

Sundays in February

Flip the script with a new UTV, fish house or cold, hard cash. Earn entries and get ready for the grand prize on February 22.

CONCERTS

Great White | Feb 6

Joe Nichols | Feb 20

Hinder | Mar 6

BlackHawk | Mar 20

Carly Pearce | Apr 3

38 Special | Apr 17



Proudly owned and successfully operated by the White Earth Nation.
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HEART HEALTH & MMIWR EVENT

Shooting Star Casino
FEB 12, 2026

2:00PM	REGISTRATION Opening with Lacy Armstrong
2:15PM-6:00PM	EXHIBITOR BOOTHS OPEN Vendor Booths open, safe space available
2:30PM-6:30PM	INFORMATIONAL SPEAKERS Every 30 minutes
2:45PM-6:00PM	STAINED GLASS CRAFT Create a stained glass piece to take home
2:15PM-6:00PM	MEMORIAL WALL Place a personalized message on the memorial wall.
2:00PM-5:30PM	PHOTOBOOTH Picture area
2:15PM-6:00PM	HEART TOURS A guided tour through our giant heart.

Light meal and refreshments available

218-255-2204
Public.Health@whiteearth-nsn.gov

White Earth Nation
TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect

Home Stretch Homebuyer Education Class

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

February 18
March 11
April 22
May 20
June 24

All classes are 9am to 5pm at

**Shooting Star Casino
Mahnomen MN**

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

2026 Election Calendar

Jan. 5: Last day for a sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.

Jan. 8: Election Announcement

Jan. 9: 8 a.m. - Opening of period for filing for office

Jan. 20: Close of filing period

Jan. 27: Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge (For certification of candidate)

Feb. 9: Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC

Feb. 11: Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of certification.

Feb. 12: Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.

Feb. 12: Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge.

Feb. 13: Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 13: Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 13: Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 13: Submit all materials to Tribal Election Court of Appeals at expiration of aforementioned deadlines.

Feb. 17: Deadline for the Decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals

Feb. 20: Notice of Primary Election and Posting

Feb. 24: TEC provides ballots for Primary Election

March 30: Deadline to notify MCT on choice of appellate forum

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

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

April 2: General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.

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

April 6 Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary.

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

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

April 17: Deadline for Decision on Contest

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

April 22: Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election 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.)**

Elders from Page 7

provider and also the walk card is to promote walking, exercise, and simply moving at their own pace or in an organized program.

We are all appalled by the shootings and mistreatment of individuals in Minneapolis and the distorted view of the Federal Government in the murder of two people that were only expressing their rights as American citizens. Please pray for the families and communities for safety and peace.

Bless all that suffer. Our afflictions become a cross that burdens us with fear and uncertainty. Give us strength that we may be filled with hope. Let our Spirit come to our aid that we may live each day in the joy for which we were fashioned.

Lucille Silk, Chairwoman
White Earth Nation Council of Elders
218-204-0112

LaRoque from Page 4

ties, access to essential services, and family cohesion.

In response, the Tribal Council has exercised its authority to implement protective measures and provide guidance during this period of instability. Initiatives include consistent communication with members, organizing Tribal ID events to ensure proper identification for interactions with federal authorities, and reinforcing Tribal sovereignty by restricting federal agent access to Tribal property. The Council remains vigilant, actively monitoring developments and coordinating efforts to keep members informed, supported, and respected throughout these challenges.

As Secretary-Treasurer, I am firmly committed to safeguarding our membership and upholding the rights of Tribal members wherever they reside. I have been working to facilitate coordinated responses among Minnesota Tribal Nations, fostering collaboration to present a unified front in the face of federal enforcement actions that impact our communities. When federal agencies operate outside the bounds of their authority or engage in unlawful conduct, I will pursue accountability through appropriate legal, governmental, and intergovernmental procedures.

Confusion and intimidation will not be permitted as tactics against our members. Upholding Tribal sovereignty, asserting jurisdiction over Tribal property, and ensuring citizens

possess accurate documentation and information are essential duties of Tribal leadership. I remain dedicated to employing all lawful and necessary actions to protect our families, both on and off the reservation.

Upcoming Primary Election and Candidate Acknowledgement

I want to acknowledge and congratulate all candidates who have stepped forward to serve the White Earth Nation in the upcoming primary election scheduled for March 31. Putting ones name forward to serve our people is a meaningful commitment, and I respect every individual who is willing to take on the responsibility of leadership on behalf of our Nation and our families, both on and off the reservation.

I am also seeking reelection as Secretary-Treasurer. During my term, I have worked collaboratively with the entire Tribal Council to address complex challenges, strengthen financial stewardship, advance strategic initiatives, and respond decisively when our members needed leadership. I believe that progress is made when we work together with transparency, accountability, and respect for Tribal sovereignty. I respectfully ask that all Tribal members get out and vote and make your voice heard in this years election.

Miigwech!
Michael "Mike" LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer

WE Sanitation offers commingled recycling

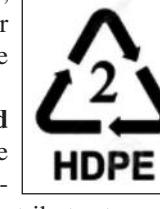
White Earth Sanitation now offers commingled recycling for plastics one and two, glass and aluminum cans.

Examples of plastics one and two include but are not limited to pop bottles, water bottles, and laundry soap jugs. Look for the symbols on the bottom of the container.

All items must be **rinsed clean**. Dirty items cannot be recycled. The food/drink contamination can cause mold and contributes to system failures at the recycling centers.

White Earth Sanitation also accepts cardboard for recycling. All boxes must be broken down.

Battery recycling is also a huge issue in the world right now. We recycle any type of used battery, including cellphones.



Please update your address!

Please let the newspaper know if you moved so we can cancel your old address.

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

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

2  Options

	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.

White Earth Tribal Court Traffic Court

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

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **CO2025-00050**

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

Dated: December 31, 2025

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Troy Sirjord,

Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2024-00019**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on August 19, 2025, a Petition for Transfer of Permanent Physical and Legal Custody was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00019. A continued Pretrial Hearing on the matter is scheduled for February 20, 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: January 28, 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 continued Admit-Deny Hearing on the matter is scheduled for March 17, 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: January 28, 2026

Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

My name is Mykee Brown. I just followed my heart here.

I am a unique candidate for Secretary-Treasurer. I would like to announce my candidacy for the 2026 tribal election and begin to introduce myself.

"Let's better our reservation for our future generations, one step at a time."

I chose to run for this position to honor the encouragement I have received from those who see my potential to lead. I am committed to bringing balance and fairness to the business committee and demonstrating that our members can trust leadership when it is rooted in genuine intention.

Having served as an MCT Constitution Reform District II Delegate for White Earth since February 2023, I have gained significant knowledge on the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Revised Constitution, which we currently abide by. This experience has allowed me to listen to our members' stories, concerns, and suggestions. I have learned how to develop balanced, collaborative solutions following the voices of our people.

The traits I have that are necessary to serve the White Earth Nation include being very self-aware, confident, caring, and innovative. I am a solution-oriented person who bases decision making on fairness and equality. My ideas come from striving for resolutions to fit the best interest of all. I would enjoy an opportunity to put my skills and strategic ideas into action. I want to bring more voices to more tables and get the important work done so we can restore balance to our lives through our business. I believe I am made for this type of work.

Regardless of the successors in this election, I believe it is meant to be. I would love to show everyone that if your heart pulls you to do something, then do it. No matter what. I know I have the ability and experience to bring all our voices to the table and make the best decisions possible. Looking seven generations into the past, and seven generations into our future. I want to show us all that we really can wholeheartedly trust leadership when their heart is in the right place. I wish us all the best success as members, descendants, and candidates of White Earth Nation Reservation.

Looking forward to hosting a few candidate forums; I hope to get a widespread reach for us candidates to present ourselves and answer questions so all of us members can cast our best informed, preferred, educated vote. I invite and welcome all candidates, I encourage everyone to show up, participate, and get involved. See the flyer for more information. Additional Candidate Forum dates, including virtual, may be introduced in the future.

Best regards with love,

Mykee Brown

Secretary-Treasurer Candidate 2026

Paid for on behalf of Mykee Brown for White Earth Secretary-Treasurer

2026 Tribal Election Candidate Forum

DATES AND LOCATIONS

- February 17th @ Waubun Community Center 5:00-7:00
- February 28th @ NTW Complex 1:00-3:00
- March 1st @ Rice Lake Community Center 1:00-3:00
- March 8th @ White Earth Community Center 1:00-3:00

White Earth Tribal Court Traffic Court

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

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **CO2025-00040**

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

Dated: January 29, 2026

White Earth Tribal Court Traffic Court

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

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **CO2025-00014**

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

Dated: January 29, 2026

White Earth Tribal Court Traffic Court

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

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **T2025-00145**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on March 25, 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: January 29, 2026

White Earth Tribal Court Traffic Court

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

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **CO2025-00021**

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

Dated: January 29, 2026

White Earth Tribal Court Traffic Court

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

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **T2025-00144**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on March 25, 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: January 29, 2026

White Earth Tribal Court Traffic Court

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

Summons to Appear in Court

File No: **T2025-00180**

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

Dated: January 29, 2026

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

Special Events

- Diabetic Bingo
- February 4th—Pine Point
- February 17th—Elbow Lake
- February 25th—Mahnomen
- Senior Meals

White Earth Elder Nutrition Program

Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige

“White Earth Elder Eating Good”

Namebini-giizis (Suckerfish Moon)- February

Elderly Nutrition Program Information

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

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

Guest Meals \$6

Elders Suggested Donation \$4

Questions or comments please contact:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Bratwurst Sauerkraut Diced Potatoes Cucumber Salad Apple Slices	3 Lasagna w/ Meat Sauce Breadstick Asparagus Pineapple	4 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	5 Tator tot hotdish Wheat roll Pickled beets Apricots	6 BLT sandwich w/ Fixins Chicken Noodle Soup Fresh fruit
9 Meatloaf Baked Potato Dinner roll Green beans Tropical fruit	10 Baked Chicken Rice Pilaf Carrot Coins French Roll Melon Mix	11 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	12 Chef Salad Artisan roll Brownie Grapes	13 Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tomato Tortellini Soup Fresh Fruit Valentine Cookie
16  Closed	17 Brunch for Lunch  Chefs Choice	18 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	19 Birthday Lunch California Burger w/ Fixins Potato salad Orange Birthday Treat	20 White chicken chili Cornbread Side Salad Fresh Fruit
23 Chicken Alfredo Texas Toast Cauliflower Jello w/ Diced Fruit	24 Pork chop w/ gravy Mashed potatoes Stuffing Wheat bread Cranberries	25 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	26 Philly sandwich w/ Fixins Potato Wedges Broccoli salad Fresh Berry Mix	27 Egg Salad Sandwich Bean soup Banana Carrots w/ Dip

White Earth Food Distribution February Store Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30

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

Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education & Health Screenings w/Shirley: Feb. 2, 9 and 23

Feb 6th: Naytahwaush & Bagley

Feb 9th: Mahnomen & Waubun

Feb 13th: White Earth

Feb 16th: Closed – President's Day

Feb 20th: Detroit Lakes & Ponsford

Feb 27th: Store closed for inventory

No Store hours on Fridays

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

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

White Earth WIC

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<small>*Dates and times are subject to change*</small>	<small>*WIC follows RBC schedule for closings*</small>					
1	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	2	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	3	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	4
8	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	9	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	10	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	11
15	CLOSED	16	Bagley ECFE 10:00-3:00	17	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	18
22	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	23	Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	24	White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	25

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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

Obituaries

Todd Steven Askelson

Todd Steven Askelson, born on May 28, 1961, in Detroit Lakes, Minn., to Harold Sr. and Shirley (Glover) Askelson, passed away on Dec. 26, 2025, at the age of 64.

Todd was the youngest of four siblings, and his early education began in Buffalo, N.D., before transitioning to Perham, Minn., where he graduated from Perham High School. He furthered his education at Moorhead Technical College, specializing in HVAC, and at Alexandria Technical and Community College, focusing on Electrical and Commercial Refrigeration.



On July 3, 1993, Todd found love with Brenda Fiedler, embracing not only her heart but also the joys of family by welcoming her four children: Brandon, Tiffany, April, and Ashley. The couple made their home in Fargo, N.D., from 1993 to 1999, where Todd held positions at Grants Mechanical and Cass County Heating. In 2000, they relocated to Perham, which became their permanent residence. Todd worked at Laney's from 2000 to 2009 before establishing his own business, Four Seasons Heating and Air Conditioning, while running his business he also worked at Tweenon Refrigeration and Heating until his passing.

Todd had a zest for life that included fishing, hunting, participating in pool leagues, riding his Harley, and cherishing moments spent with his family and grandchildren.

He is survived by his companion, Brenda Fiedler and their children: Brandon Fiedler of Hoffman, Minn., Tiffany Burge Fiedler of Dent, Minn., April Klein Fiedler of Perham, and Ashley Fiedler of Dent; eight grandchildren; brothers, Harold (Geri) Askelson, and Roger Askelson both of Detroit Lakes, Minn.; sister, Alice McDonald of Detroit Lakes; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harold Sr. and Shirley Askelson; niece, Sheila Kasowski Lindseth; and sister-in-law, Rita Doll Askelson.

Mass of Christian Burial was Jan. 8 at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Perham.

Interment: St. Henry's Catholic Cemetery in Perham.

Arrangements: Korsmo Funeral Service.

Online: www.korsmofuneralservice.com

Betty Louise (Stanhope) Benson

Betty Louise (Stanhope) Benson, 87, of Waubun, passed peacefully on Jan. 24, at her home under the loving care of her family and HIA Hospice.

Betty was born Oct. 24, 1938, to Ernest and Margaret (West) Stanhope on the north end of White Earth Lake in Becker County. She attended country school during her elementary school years before going to Waubun High School where she met her future husband, Lloyd Benson.



Much of Betty's young life was lived at Nemec's Resort (now Ceder Crest Resort) which was established by her mother and step-father, Joseph Nemec. Through the years, she shared many stories of harvesting ice blocks, cleaning cabins and swimming to the island. On Sept. 15, 1956, Betty and Lloyd were married at Lake Grove Lutheran Church. They purchased land for a small farm and built a three-room, tar-papered house which was later replaced by a larger home for their growing family. When the youngest of five kids entered kindergarten, Betty achieved her GED and got a job as a cook at the White Earth School. Later she transferred to Waubun School and eventually became the head cook where she brought a smile to the faces of students and staff for ten years. She then attended vocational school in Detroit Lakes to become a home health aide and served the elders of the community until retirement.

Betty was a devoted mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt and neighbor. She was known for her wit, common sense and ability to get things done. As a mother of five on a small farm, she and Lloyd taught their children the value of hard work, soft hearts, and family joy. She was an active member of Lake Grove Lutheran Church and served as Sunday School teacher, church treasurer, and WELCA president. In 1998, Betty and Lloyd received the honor of Valley Farm Couple of the year. In her retirement, she and Lloyd traveled and spent many hours in the fishing boat. Family and friends were important to Betty, and she embraced every opportunity to be in the company of them. Her skill and luck in cards and fishing were known throughout, and she always had a cup of coffee and cookies in the jar for anyone who stopped by.

Betty's legacy of love and laughter will be carried on by her children: Sue (Wilbur) Heisler, Mary (Stew) Metelak, John (Billie Jean) Benson, Margaret Benson Thompson, and Paul (Shelly) Benson; 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd Benson; brothers: Ernest Stanhope,

Donald Stanhope, Paul Stanhope and Larry Nemec; sisters, Darlene and Shirley; parents, Margaret and Joseph Nemec and Ernest Stanhope Sr.; and sisters-in-law: Caroline Stanhope, Donna Stanhope, and Beatrice Benson Purdy; and brother-in-law, Bill Purdy.

Though she may no longer walk among us, Betty's memory will always bring a smile to our faces, a bit of humor and common sense at just the right time, and a lifetime of memories.

A Funeral service was held Jan. 31 at Lake Grove Lutheran Church in rural Waubun.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Nathan "Nate" Gene Jackson

Nathan "Nate" Gene Jackson, 41, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Jan. 13.

Nathan was the son of Pauline Manypenny and Terrance Jackson. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, leeching, and ricing. Nathan loved spending time with his family and friends, especially his daughters, Tessa, Trinity, and Taylynn, and his little buddy, Ma'ingan Stevens. Nathan attended Waubun school and then worked with his grandpa Leonard "Honeycutt" Smith as a roofer. He worked many jobs but his most recent employment was working with Joe Zima.

Nathan always had the biggest smile and the best sense of humor that could make anyone laugh. He had a big heart and was generous, kind, loving, and caring. He would help anyone in need and would give you the shirt off his back. Nathan was taken away from us way too soon.

Nathan leaves behind his mother, Pauline Manypenny of White Earth; daughters: Tessa Jackson, Trinity Jackson, and Taylynn Jackson all of Mahnomen; sisters: Cheyenne Manypenny, Mary Manypenny, Tara Manypenny, and Debra Jackson all of White Earth; nephews: Jarred, Preston, Kayden, and Dalton all of White Earth; grandma, Mary Smith of White Earth; three uncles and six aunts.

Nathan is preceded in death by his dad, Terrance Jackson; grandparents: Leonard "Honeycutt" Smith, and Frederick and Susan Jackson; nieces, Hayley Rayne Smith and Rylee Ann Jackson; aunts, Debra Jackson and Sharon Jackson; and uncle, Calvin Jackson.

All night wake services began Jan. 21 and continued until the time of the funeral on Jan. 22, both held at the White Earth Community Center.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Shawn Jerome Jones

Shawn Jones, 28, of Ponsford, died unexpectedly on Jan. 15 at his home.

Shawn Jerome was born in Fosston, Minn., on June 3, 1997, the son of William Butcher Sr. and Nora (Jones) Butcher. He grew up with his siblings in the Pine Point area where he attended school. After high school in Park Rapids, Minn., Shawn entered the workforce. He worked as a prep and deli cook at the Shooting Star Casino for some time. Shawn recently returned to the area after living and working in Fargo, N.D.



Shawn will be remembered as a friendly, sassy individual who was willing to help when he could. He had a great sense of humor and a wide collection of guns, knives and bow and arrows, both for show and purpose. Shawn enjoyed playing Xbox and games especially with his son, Keyon. He loved spending time with all his family and treasured every moment spent with his children. He will be greatly missed by many.

Leaving behind to mourn his death are his children, Keyon and Ashlyn; parents, William Butcher Sr. and Nora Jones Butcher of Ponsford; brothers, William Butcher II of Ponsford and Benjamin Jones of Minneapolis; sisters: Jolynn Jones of Onamia, Minn., Audrey (Daniel) Warren of Mahnomen, Lisa (Andrew Andrews) Butcher of Red Lake, Minn., and Corrine Jones of Ponsford; aunt and uncle, Lenora (Charles) Jones of Park Rapids and Charles Jones of Michigan; and longtime special friend, Amy Thompson.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Lawrence and Helen Butcher and Thomas and Corrine Jones; sister, Melissa Butcher; brothers, Marcel "Mark" Basswood and Joshua Jones; niece, Kayla Butcher; nephews, Robert Brown and Darryl Mitchell; and several extended family.

All-night wake services began Jan. 22, and continued until the time of traditional services on Jan. 23, both held at the old Pine Point School.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Obituaries

Jeffrey "Jeff" Scott Keezer

Jeffrey "Jeff" Keezer, 53, of rural Waubun, died unexpectedly on Jan. 15.

Jeffrey Scott was born Aug. 25, 1972, in Minneapolis, the son of Kenneth and Susan (Anderson) Keezer Sr. When Jeff was two, the family moved to the Park Rapids, Minn., area and he started school in Osage, Minn. Then in 1979, they settled in Elbow Lake Village and Jeff attended school in Waubun. He graduated from Waubun High School with the Class of 1990.

Following high school, he entered the workforce and began working for BLM (Bureau of Land Management). While living in Detroit Lakes, Minn., with Tammy Bunker and her daughter, Samantha, the couple was blessed with two sons, Derek and Devan. After some time, Jeff moved back to the White Earth Reservation and was employed by the White Earth Nation RBC as a surveyor. He later worked at the Shooting Star Casino in maintenance, Pet Care Systems in Detroit Lakes, followed by North Star Bin Builders.

Jeff spent several years with Shana Keezer and together they raised three daughters and Shana's son, James. As a devoted and caring dad, Jeff's recent focus was providing care for his youngest daughter, Porsha.

Jeff was easy going with a wonderful sense of humor. He was always cracking funny comments and could make you laugh. He enjoyed being in the outdoors, cooking and cleaning with Norwex products. Jeff will be remembered as a talented artist who enjoyed drawing, painting and doing crafts. Some of his most recent projects included several drawings, a set of rice knockers and a diamond willow cane. Jeff also liked fixing and tinkering on engines and could build and put together almost anything. Above all, he loved his family and cherished the time spent with all of them. He will be missed by many.

Jeff is survived by daughters: Brenna Keezer, Brooke Keezer and Porsha Keezer; step-daughter, Samantha Keezer; sons, Devan (Zeegwunikay Warren) Keezer and James Goodman; grandchildren: Ezekiel, KenTrell, Maliyah, Zaiden, Victor, Derek, Devan Jr., Jazznlyn and Nindaanis; mother, Susan Keezer; sister, Terrie Sue Keezer; brother, Kenneth "Beep" (Lois) Keezer Jr.; mother of James and his girls, Shana Keezer; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; father, Kenneth Keezer Sr.; son, Derek Keezer; and brothers, Timothy Keezer and Robert Keezer.

Funeral services were held Jan. 27 at the Anderson Family Funeral Home in Mahnomen.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Kenneth James Bellefeuille

Kenneth James Bellefeuille, 92, of Spokane, Wash., (formerly of Ponsford) passed away on Dec. 13, 2025. Born in White Earth on March 14, 1933, Ken was raised in a large loving family in Callaway and graduated from Detroit Lakes High School in 1951. He served honorably in the U.S. Air Force as a gunnery instructor and bombing performance analyst until 1955. Ken earned a Bachelor of Science degree from St Cloud State in 1958.

He began his professional career as a high school teacher before joining Honeywell. At Honeywell, Ken started as a buyer and quickly advanced to computer programming, contributing during the early years of information technology. His technical expertise and leadership led to several promotions, ultimately serving as Associate Director of Information Systems. Ken's career included relocations to Denver, Seattle, and back to Minneapolis. He retired early after a distinguished tenure.

Ken married Lois Otto in 1961 and together they built a family. He was a devoted husband, caring for Lois through her illness until her passing in 2011. Ken and Lois enjoyed strong bonds with their siblings and extended family. Their Round Lake home was often the center of spirited card games and joyful gatherings.

As a loyal Vikings and Twins fan, Ken rarely missed watching a game and had an encyclopedic memory of their history.

Ken was an avid and skilled outdoorsman. His life and career brought him on an outdoor adventure round trip; fishing with his parents and siblings as a child on water near Callaway, fly fishing and hunting elk in the Rockies, pursuing salmon and cod in Puget Sound, and back to Minnesota fishing and hunting deer with his family. Ken and his 14' Lund were well known to Round Lake residents and the local eagles. Only the walleyes, crappies, and northerns were pleased to see him move.

In 2025, Ken relocated to be near his son, John and family in Spokane where he particularly enjoyed time with his three great granddaughters.

Ken was firmly rooted in his lifelong Catholic Christian faith. His trust in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus provide assurance of Ken's eternal salvation.

Ken is survived by sons: John (Lisa) Bellefeuille and Jesse Bellefeuille; grandchildren: Katie (TJ) Bracey, Steven (Ilatei) Bellefeuille, Aspen Bellefeuille, Baxter (Ellie) Bellefeuille, Kit Bellefeuille; great grandchildren: Ellie Bracey, Claire Bracey, and Lily Bellefeuille; siblings and in-laws: Dick (Marilyn) Bellefeuille, Marion Bellefeuille, Natalie Bellefeuille, Jeanette Bellefeuille Jahnke, David (Betty) Bellefeuille, Jim Dixon, Doug (Mary) Otto, Ken (Joyce) Otto, and Lois Otto; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Ken was preceded in death by his wife of fifty years, Lois Bellefeuille; parents, Richard and Alma Bellefeuille; siblings and in-laws: Warren (Della) Bellefeuille, Duane Bellefeuille, Keith Bellefeuille, Mary (Bernie) Nugent, Dennis Bellefeuille, Danielle Dixon, Elroy Otto, Vern Otto, and Marlene Otto.

Memorial services will be held May 30 at 2 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Mahnomen with a Time of Gathering one hour prior at the church.

Interment: St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Mahnomen.

In lieu of flowers and memorials, honorariums can be given in Ken's memory to St. Michael's Catholic Church, Mahnomen, St. Francis Cabrini Big Elbow Lake or Assumption Catholic Church, Callaway.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Deloris Mae Peterson



Deloris Mae Peterson, 90, of Bagley, Minn., passed away on Jan. 8 at the Mahnomen Health Center.

Services will be held at a later date at Samuel Memorial in Naytahwaush.

Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley.

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

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



**Not sure what Minnesota tax
credits you qualify for?
We can help!**

**CHILD TAX · WORKING FAMILY
CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE · K-12 EDUCATION · RENT · HOMESTEAD**

White Earth
♦INVESTMENT INITIATIVE♦



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**weii.website
218.396.1002**

Obituary

Shane Patrick Bellanger

Shane Bellanger, 52, of Detroit Lakes, Minn., passed away on Jan. 26, at Sanford Health in Fargo,.

Shane Patrick Bellanger was born on Jan. 21, 1974, in Park Rapids, Minn., to Roberta Bellanger and Louis Butcher Jr. He was proudly given his Ojibwe name, Wiidookaage Innini, meaning "Man Who Helps

Others," a name he truly lived by throughout his life.

He attended Park Rapids High School and later worked at Shooting Star Casino. In 1991, he met the love of his life, Angela Blaine. While Angie attended college, the couple lived in the Fargo-Moorhead area, where Shane worked various auto mechanic jobs to support his family.

The couple was united in marriage on Sept. 15, 2001. They were blessed with two daughters, Mercedez in 2000 and Maddisen in 2004, who were the absolute center of Shane's world. The family made their home in Osage, Minn., for many years before moving to Detroit Lakes in 2017, where they have lived since.

Shane dedicated more than 20 years of service to the White Earth Tribe, working in several departments including conservation, maintenance, the Boys & Girls Club, and most recently as a community health representative. No matter his role, his focus was always on helping others and supporting his community.

Family meant everything to Shane. He was a devoted and hands-on father who treasured time with his daughters — tubing or cruising at the lake, traveling together, and faithfully showing up to cheer them on at their activities and sporting events. He was especially proud to watch them compete at their many softball competitions and most recently at the Native American Softball World Series in Las Vegas. Shane also helped raise two Special Children of his Heart;

Darrel Bellanger and Lynette Londo retire

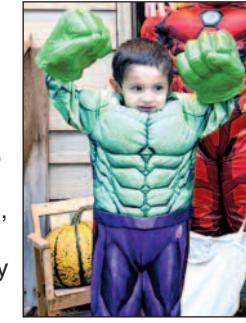


Photo by Kim St. Clair

Darrel Bellanger and Lynette Londo recently retired from the Workforce Center in Naytahwaush. Darrel was the Day Labor Supervisor for Outside Projects, and Lynette was a Job Developer/ Case Manager for the 477 Program. Happy retirement and enjoy!

Howah Ads

Happy Birthday Jerry!



From
Auntie
Meg,
Layne,
Baby
Charlie,
and
Gammy

Happy 70th Birthday Dove



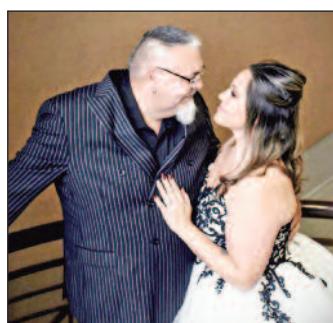
We
love
you!

Your
family

Jan. 7

Happy Birthday Mom
From NiswiTo my two loves!
Happy Valentines DayHappy Birthday
from all of usHappy Birthday
Athena Esibanikwe

We Love you so much

Happy Birthday
My Love!Happy 40th Birthday
Hoban Twins
Buck & Tiff

Love - your family

February 24

Happy 17th Birthday
Hanna Thompson

Love - Mom, Ben,
Grandma, Papa, Emani,
Ella and Eevi

Feb. 12th

Happy Birthday
to our
Beautiful Sister
LisaHappy 10th Birthday
Eevi May

Love,
Mom, Dad, Grandma, Papa,
Emani, Ella and Hanna

Feb. 28th

ELDER WINTERIZATION 2025-2026

To Apply:

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

Supplies provided

- Inside or outside plastic for windows
- Weatherstripping for doors
- Outside Plastic will be installed by Day Laborers
- Day Labor workers can not enter homes, or accept money or gifts.
- Shoveling of roofs/walkways depending upon snow fall amounts



40-HOUR BASIC WILDLANDS FIRE TRAINING

Get qualified for certification by the National Wildfire Coordination Group. The training will include a session on cultural burns.

**MONDAY - FRIDAY
FEB. 23-27, 2026**

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2250 COLLEGE ROAD, MAHNOmen, MN

DEADLINE TO REGISTER
FEBRUARY 13th

SPACE IS LIMITED!

SCAN TO REGISTER

The next wildlands fire season is just around the corner. Tribal and other agencies will soon be accepting applications for EMERGENCY firefighters for 2026. Emergency firefighters are on call spring through fall during fire season, with occasional out-of-state opportunities. Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/3c34z72>

THIS TRAINING DOES NOT GUARANTEE EMPLOYMENT

White Earth Reservation Forestry & Fire Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other agencies are potential employers.

NOTE: There are stringent requirements for employment with federal agencies.

Questions? Call: 218-936-8348 or email: ecenter@wetc.edu

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The Nature Conservancy
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture



INJURED? CALL JOE.

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

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

YOUTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

**Circle Back Center & Youth Healing to Wellness Court,
Dually Involved Youth Services**
**33991 Victory Way Dr.
Ogema, MN 56569**

TWO CONVENIENT WAYS TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

PODIATRY SERVICES WITH DR. UNG



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

01 CALL:
218-255-2204

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



Diabetic Bingo

All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.



February 4th, Wednesday Pine Point
February 17th, Tuesday Elbow Lake
February 25th, Wednesday Mahnomen – Senior Meals

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

March 4th, Wednesday Naytahwaush

March 11th, Wednesday White Earth

March 25th, Wednesday Rice Lake

Bingo in Naytahwaush is at the Sports Complex, E.N.P. dining hall after the 11:30 elder meal.

Bingo in White Earth is at the Congregate Housing, Dining Hall after the 11:30 elder meal.

Bingo in Rice Lake is at the Rice Lake Community Center after the 11:30 elder meal.

April 1st, Wednesday Pine Point

April 8th, Wednesday Elbow Lake

April 22nd, Wednesday Mahnomen – Senior Meals

Bingo in Pine Point is on the west side of the School in the E.N.P Dining Hall after the 11:30 elder meal.

Bingo in Elbow Lake Village at the E.N.P. building after the 11:30 elder meal.

Bingo at the Mahnomen County Service Center after the 11:30 Senior meals (About Noon)

Schedule is subject to change without notice. If the RBC or the E.N.P. site is closed.

Bingo will be rebooked to another date, if possible.

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

Dr. Ung (foot Doctor) Clinic

February 9th & 10th at the White Earth Tribal Health Building

February 11th at the Pine Point Community Center

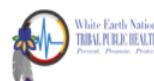
To make an appointment call (218) 255-2204 or email public.health@whiteearth-nsn.gov

February 7th W.E. Nation Ice Fishing Derby 11am-3pm on North Twin Lake

February 12th Hearth Health /MMIWR Event 2-6pm Shooting Star Casino.

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

Updated 1/20/26



In Memory

Darrin "Tony" Fineday

"We will miss you. You made our days happy - like you were. We love you."

Auntie Bev, Uncle Simon and Uncle Francis Rock

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

Lake Grove Township Monthly Meeting Notice

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

Lori Tibbets

Clerk, Town of Lake Grove

White Earth T.E.R.O.

PREPARE NOW FOR TRAININGS & CAREERS

Must have the following:

- 18+ years of age
- Driver license
- GED - Diploma
- Reliable Transportation

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

UPCOMING TRAININGS

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

Contact regarding trainings
Kimberly StClair 218-935-6268 & Liz Andersen 218-935-3699
Made with PosterMyWall.com

Naytahwaush Community Council

Regular Monthly Meetings

6 PM JAN 08	6 PM JULY 09
6 PM FEB 12	6 PM AUGUST 13
6 PM MARCH 12	6 PM SEPT 10
6 PM APRIL 09	6 PM OCT 08
6 PM MAY 14	6 PM NOV 12
6 PM * JUNE 18 *	6 PM * DEC 03 *

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS NOTED DIFFERENT * @ NTW OLD CENTER
QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO A CURRENT NCC MEMBER OR EMAIL
NTWCORPORATION@GMAIL.COM

LAKE GROVE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Notice of Filing

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

COMBINED CLERK/TREASURER- 2 YEAR TERM

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

Lori Tibbets, Clerk
Lake Grove Township

Sugar Bush Township Residents

Notice of Township Filing

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

SUPERVISOR / 3-YEAR TERM

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

Deb Chilton, Clerk
Sugar Bush Township

PP School Meeting Minutes

Pine Point Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, December 8, 2025 @ 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 – Gerald Roberts, Allison Jones, John Swan, Marva Aitken, Michael Swan
Members absent – Sara Hunt
Ex-officio – Christopher Schulz, Principal

2.0 Recognition of Visitors – Bonnie Meeks, Nancy Schulzetenberg

3.0 Approval/Amendment of Agenda – Motion by Michael Swan to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.

4.0 Approval/Amendment of Minutes – Motion by Marva Aitken to approve the November 5, 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 November 2025 as submitted, seconded by Gerald Roberts. 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 November 2025 in the amount of \$44,592.73 for check #34617 through check #34677 and the EFT for Federal/State/TRA/PERA Payroll Tax & Debit Card Transactions, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.

6.0 Unfinished Business
6.1 No unfinished business

7.0 New Business

7.1 2024-2025 Audit – Motion by Gerald Roberts to approve the 2024-2025 Audit as presented, seconded by Marva Aitken. All in favor. Motion carried.

8.0 Principal's Report – Discussion on Christmas cookie contest; Christmas Program/Feast; Thursday-1/2 day of school; Teacher Inservice-Friday. No action needed.

9.0 Public Participation – COLA basketball; Community Christmas party

10.0 Adjournment – Motion by Michael Swan to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m., seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.

SMART MOVES OPEN HOUSE
Thursday February 5, 2026 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Come check out Smart Moves!

Join us for an open house- get to know about the Smart Moves program, hear from the Smart Moves staff, have a snack, and meet new friends!

White Earth Tribal Health Building
26246 Crane Road, White Earth, MN 56591

Please come in the gym entrance

Smart Moves
Behavior•Exercise•Nutrition•Support
White Earth Tribal Health



Submitted photo

Shannon Eck has been sober since July 7, 2020.

After hitting her breaking point, Waubun woman reaches out for help

By Shannon Eck

My journey with addiction began early, shaped by the environment I grew up in, where parties and drinking were a norm. As a child, the taste of beer wasn't appealing, but the feeling it gave me - a warm, fuzzy sense of belonging - was something I chased. As I grew older, alcohol became a tool for courage, helping me try out for sports and navigate social gatherings. By the 5th grade, I was drinking as often and as much as possible, unable to stop at just a couple of beers like my friends.

My life took a turn in the 9th grade when we moved to Victorville, Calif., and I started using meth, skipping school, and hanging out with the wrong crowd. But becoming a mother my senior year of high school changed everything - my daughter's arrival gave me a reason to sober up, and I managed to stay sober during my pregnancies. However, maintaining sobriety between pregnancies proved challenging, and I found myself hiding my drug use, manipulating doctors into prescribing me meds.

Despite appearing to have a normal life, I was struggling with addiction, which intensified during an abusive relationship. After a series of health issues and surgeries, I became addicted to fentanyl patches, but being forced to stop when I moved to Waubun, marked a turning point. The withdrawals were brutal, and I hit rock bottom, losing everything that mattered.

It wasn't until I went to Four Winds treatment in 2017 and subsequent outpatient programs that I started to find my footing. Although I lapsed often, each struggle taught me resilience. On July 7, 2020, at a breaking point with my health and life in shambles, I reached out for help, and that's when my true journey to recovery began. I found support, rebuilt my relationships, and discovered a community that accepted me for who I am.

If you are struggling, know that it's possible to transform your life, to find hope, and to live a life that's rich in love, connection, and purpose. If you need help please reach out.

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

Breanna Azure

White Earth Tribal and Community College Student Spotlight

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

This month's Student Spotlight is on Breanna Azure.

Breanna's journey at WETCC is a story of perseverance and growth. One of her biggest challenges was learning how to balance school, work, and personal life. "It took me a while to figure out how to stay organized, manage stress, and still show up for my responsibilities," she shared. By asking for help and taking things step by step, Breanna discovered that consistency and positivity were key to her success.

Her proudest achievement came in high school when she made up all her credits during senior year to graduate on time. Enrolling in college afterward was another milestone that showed her strength and determination. "Staying committed, even when things got stressful, showed me that I am stronger than I thought," Breanna said.

Breanna defines success as reaching a goal you've worked hard for—big or small. Passing a tough class or earning a good grade matters just as much as major accomplishments. She credits WETCC's supportive community for making school feel safe and personal. "The staff actually cares, and the classes feel personal. It makes school feel less overwhelming."

Looking ahead, Breanna will graduate with her AA degree next spring. After that, she plans to continue her education and pursue a career helping others,



Submitted photo

Breanna Azure was selected for the White Earth Tribal and Community College Student Spotlight.

ers, possibly in mental health or social services. She's also considering business or law enforcement. "I'll know when the time comes," she says with confidence. For now, she's focused on finishing her generals and preparing for the next big step.

WE welcomes Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs



Photo by Sage Thompson

Tribal leaders hosted Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Scott Davis (SRST), on Jan. 20 at the tribal offices in White Earth. Some topics discussed were concerns with how to protect our relatives and staff when involved in situations with ICE, BIE updates and ideas for the Circle of Life Academy, regulation issues the tribe is having with the state, and the drug epidemic.