



White Earth welcomes Yellowstone bull

By Jack Heisler
Bison Foreman
White Earth Nation

On Nov. 26, staff from the White Earth Nation Division of Natural Resources (WENDNR), Behavioral Health, and the Ag Department conducted the first buffalo (bison and buffalo used interchangeably) harvest. They were assisted by a staff member from B&T Meats in Waubun. It was a relatively cold day, but everything went very well. Food was prepared to honor the Buffalo sacrifice, and the Behavioral Health Department and the Cultural Division conducted the ceremony (song and prayer).



Photo by Jack Heisler

A newly acquired bull from Yellowstone

We received the ground bison after processing by B & T Meats in mid-December. The Ag Department partnered with the Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP) to get some of the meat out to our tribal members. On Dec. 23, staff from the Ag and Fisheries Departments delivered 453 packages of ground bison to ENP in White Earth, eventually being delivered to the elders on their routes. We also received a request from the New Year's Sobriety Powwow and provided them with 40 pounds of ground bison for a feast.

On Jan. 20-21 the Ag Dept staff met the InterTribal Buffalo Council trailer coming from Fort Peck, Mont., with a load of 10, 3-4-year-old Yellowstone bulls. It was bitterly cold as we unloaded our bull, and then helped Grand Portage Tribe load their two bulls onto their trailer. The remaining seven stayed on the trailer for transport to Prairie Island.

The Yellowstone herd is a very sought-after herd, and we are very pleased to have been given this opportunity to have this bull to start our inaugural herd. We hope to see the first White Earth Nation calf born in Spring 2026.

Currently, there are six bison at the Spence pasture located between Naytahwaush and Makonce. This includes four heifers and two bulls to begin our inaugural breeding herd. The remaining 13 harvest animals are located at our feeding and harvesting operation in Mahnomen.

As WENDNR Ag Dept moves for-

See Bison Page 10

Gone Fish'n

1,082 anglers gather on North Twin Lake

By Jessica Johnson
WE Natural Resources Director

The 5th Annual White Earth Nation Ice Fish'n Derby was held Feb. 8 on North Twin Lake in Naytahwaush. The event was a great success, surpassing attendance records thus far with 1,082 attendees. Of that total, 612 were adults and 470 were under 18 years old.

A delicious meal of chili and frybread was provided by the Elbow Lake Community Council. There was warm hot chocolate and coffee, as well as snacks provided by White Earth Public Health. Men's Acute Care team handled the fish weigh-ins.

The Community Service Officers had a



Photos by Bruce Starkey

Above: Isabella Brunette caught the largest sunfish. **Upper right:** Rene Keezer won an Ice Castle fish house.

total of 250 youth bring a fish in to redeem for Kids Cash, and a \$10 bill was received with many big smiles! Both youth and adults received a numbered wristband at registration that entered their wristband number into drawings for 30 youth prizes and 32 adult prizes.

The tournament consisted of five different fish categories: Walleye, Northern, Crappie, Bass and Sunfish. For each category, there were prizes 1-5, for a total of 25 prizes to be won. Anyone who brought in a fish to register was entered into a drawing for one of the 5 prizes in that category. We also had beautiful plaques made to give to the registrant of the largest fish for each cat-

See Fish Page 15

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Men's Night Out

Men's Night Out was held Feb. 5 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. The Manoomin Singers opened the event and the guest speaker was Dr. Michael Bishop, PA-C with the Naytahwaush clinic. He spoke on men's health from a young teen up through the senior years. The event was sponsored by the White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health.

Photo by Gary W. Padrta

Anishinaabeg Today

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

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

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

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Future Issues *

Deadline	Issue Date
March 26	April 2
April 30	May 7
May 28	June 4
June 25	July 2
July 30	August 6

* Deadline and issue dates subject to change

Peggy Flanagan

hopes to be the first Native woman in US Senate

By Jourdan Bennett-Begaye
ICT News

WASHINGTON — It's official: Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan is running for the U.S. Senate.

Flanagan announced her decision and officially launched her campaign on social media on Feb. 20, one week after indicating her interest to run when current Sen. Tina Smith said she would not seek reelection.

The lieutenant governor wrote in her formal announcement that a Native woman has never won a U.S. Senate seat.

"I believe we can change that," she said.

Flanagan, White Earth Nation, is currently the highest-ranking Native woman in an executive office across the country.

"Growing up, my family relied on government assistance programs like Section 8 and free and reduced lunch — even though my mom worked full-time in healthcare," Flanagan said in the statement.

"My lived experience has informed my belief that we should wrap our arms around our neighbors in need," she said. "That's why on the school board, in the state house, and as lieutenant governor, I've championed kitchen-table issues like raising the minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, and free school meals."

Democrat Paulette Jordan, Coeur d'Alene, gave a try at becoming the first Native American woman as a U.S.

Senator in 2020 when she ran against incumbent Jim Risch, Republican, in Idaho. She was unsuccessful.

Oklahoma Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin, Cherokee, is the second Native American man to serve in the U.S. Senate. Former Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Northern Cheyenne, served two terms after becoming the first Native American to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

Flanagan has served as the state's 50th lieutenant governor alongside Gov. Tim Walz since 2019. She helped create the Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office, a first for the country.

Many others are considering running for the seat, including Democrats Walz, U.S. Rep Ilhan Omar, and U.S. Rep. Angie Craig. According to Axios, Royce White and Adam Schwarze, both Republicans, are also expected to run.

If Flanagan won the seat, she would join a group of four Native American congressional members: Mullin; Oklahoma Republican Rep. Tom Cole, Chickasaw Nation; Kansas Democratic Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho Chunk; and Oklahoma Republican Rep. Josh Brecheen, Choctaw.

Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, kicked off her run for New Mexico's Governor on Feb. 11, noting that she would be the first Native American woman governor in the nation as well if elected.

Both the Minnesota and New Mexico gubernatorial elections are Nov. 3, 2026.

BIA launches Operation Spirit Return to help solve Indian Country missing and unidentified person cases

WASHINGTON — The Bureau of Indian Affairs recently announced that the Office of Justice Services has launched Operation Spirit Return, an initiative to help solve missing and unidentified person cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States.

The initiative is being conducted by the BIA's Missing and Murdered Unit to identify unknown human remains located within or close to Indian Country and are believed to belong to either American Indian or Alaska Native persons. The operation will focus on reuniting remains with family members and returning them to their tribal communities. The unit is actively investigating 15 unidentified persons cases from its regions, including Alaska.

"The crisis of American Indians and Alaska Natives gone missing or who have been murdered, but whose cases remained unsolved, has been decades in the making, and we are committed to ending it," said Bryan Mercier, director of the BIA exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs "Thanks to the BIA Missing and Murdered Unit and its partners, our Operation Spirit Return initiative will help return missing relatives to their families, so that they can be comforted knowing their loved ones have come home."

"Each member of the Missing and Murdered Unit is dedicated to combatting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons crisis," said BIA Deputy Bureau Director for Justice Services Richard "Glen" Melville. "With our partners in federal law enforcement and the genetic research community, we are striving to make a meaningful impact for the tribal families and communities who have been left for years with unanswered questions about those who went missing. Operation Spirit Return's focus is on identifying these victims and sending them home, and we are actively engaged in achieving that result."

The Missing and Murdered Unit is collaborating with

the federal database NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and the Texas-based company Othram, which utilizes forensic genetic genealogy to identify human remains.

The Missing and Murdered Unit began as the Cold Case task force, part of Operation Lady Justice, a multi-agency effort established in 2019 to enhance the operation of the criminal justice system and address the staggering number of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Natives in tribal communities.

WHITE EARTH URBAN CULTURE DIVISION

ANISHINAABE FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS

10AM - NOON
212 W. FRANKLIN AVE
MINNEAPOLIS MN

RECURRING EVERY OTHER FRIDAY
OTHERWISE DATES POSTED BELOW

FEBRUARY 7	ASEMAA (TOBACCO)
MARCH 7	ISHKODE (FIRE)
MARCH 28	NIBI (WATER)
APRIL 4TH	ANISHINAABE CREATION STORY
APRIL 18TH	OUR SACRED GIFTS
MAY 2ND	WIKONDE-WIHKONDIWIN (FEAST)
MAY 16TH	OONDAADIZKE (BIRTH) DIBA'AMAAGE IZHI MANIDOO (RETURNING TO SPIRIT)
MAY 30TH	GENDER ROLES (MALE AND FEMALE)
JUNE 27TH	LIFEWAYS AND CEREMONIES

CONTACT CULTURAL COORDINATOR
KENNETH YANEZ FOR QUESTIONS,
218-401-4345

White Earth Tribal ID Event

April 3
9:00am-4:30pm
 *last intake at 3:45pm
 -No Service either day from 1:00-1:30pm-

April 4
9:00am-3:00pm
 *last intake at 2:30pm

Mpls. American Indian Center
1530 E. Franklin Ave, Mpls.
 ...
Call the W.E. Nation Urban office with questions @ 612.813.1590

Picture ID Card Fees

Juvenile (12-15 yr) - \$6
 Adult (16-54) - \$12
 Elder (55+) - FREE
 **Descendant - \$35

-CASH ONLY-
 Please have correct change.

Wild rice will be sold while supplies last:

W.E. Elder - \$6.50
 W.E. Members - \$8
 Non-Members - \$16

Other merch also available

****Attention Descendants****
 A White Earth Request for Verification of Descendancy Form must be completed and submitted to WE Enrollments at least 2 weeks prior to this event. There is a \$50 fee (money order is best as a check will be held for 14-30 days before application is processed). Must bring certificate of descendancy received from WE to ID event. Call 800.710.4092 for info.

News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag Niminwendam Waabaminaan!

Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadi-zookaanag.

Weweni-sago-na

Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is already March!

Everyone Be Safe, Stay Safe, Mask Up.

Another story of Onaabani-Giizis (March Moon)

In the time long ago, the Ojibwe people lived closely with the cycles of the moon. Each month, they looked to the sky for guidance and wisdom, and each moon carried with it a story that shaped their lives. The moon of March was called Onaabani-Giizis, or the "Snow Crusted Moon," and it held an important place in our hearts.

As winter began to fade and the snow began to melt, the earth started to warm, and the trees prepared for the return of life. The Onaabani-Giizis, the March moon, was the time when the sap of the maple trees would begin to flow on into early April. The elders told the children that this was a sacred time, for it was the moment when the trees gave their sweetness to the people, to nourish them after the long, harsh winter.

One of the most cherished stories of Onaabani-Giizis was that of the Great Spirit and the Maple Tree. It is said that the Maple Tree was once a proud and tall tree, full of strength and life. However, it lacked something that all the other trees had — the gift of sweetness. The Maple Tree asked the Great Spirit for help, wanting to offer the people something to show its gratitude.

The Great Spirit, in turn, smiled and told the Maple Tree that its sweetness would not come in the form of fruit or flowers, but in its sap. "When the time is right," said the Great Spirit, "you will give your sweet gift to the people, and they will thank you by using it to sustain themselves through the coldest months of winter."

As the Great Spirit spoke, the wind blew and the snow began to melt. The first hints of spring warmth touched the earth. And true to the Great Spirit's words, when the moon of March arrived, the Maple Tree began to weep its sap, and the people gathered it to



make syrup and sugar. This sweet offering helped them regain their strength and prepare for the seasons ahead.

The people of the Ojibwe tribe celebrated the coming of Onaabani-Giizis each year with joy, knowing that the Maple Tree's gift would give them the energy to continue living with balance and respect for the entire natural world. The moon reminded them that even after the hardest times, new life and sweetness would always return.

And so, as the March moon rises, the Ojibwe people remember the gift of the Maple Tree, the wisdom of the Great Spirit, and the sweetness that the earth provides when we are most in need.

In closing I hope everyone can visit an iskigamizigan maple syrup and sugar camp at least for an hour. Just getting out there is a blessing and healing to us all as we participate in our ancestors traditions passed down to us this very day.

Baamaapii wiingezin.

Miigwech bizindawiyeg.

Gigawaabaminim naagaj.

Take it easy.

Thank you for listening to me.

See you all later.

Chairman Michael Fairbanks

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SAVE THE DATE!
Friday April 4th

White Earth Tribal and Community College

4.4.2025 9:30am-2pm

The FINAL event held for White Earth Nation youth interested in a Health or Science Career. A partnership with The White Earth Tribal Community College, Medica Foundation, The University Of Minnesota Medical School and the Center of American Indian and Minority Health.

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)



Congratulations to Naytahwaush Community Charter School 3rd grader Karen Wadena for asking Gov. Tim Walz to recognize 3rd graders with their own special day.

Gov. Walz, by official Proclamation, named March 3 as "Third Graders Day" in Minnesota.

Chairman Michael Fairbanks congratulates Karen during a celebration on Monday, March 3 at the NCCS gym.

For more information turn to Page 28.

Courtesy photo

News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

Greetings White Earth Members,

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

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

- **Tribal Healthcare Sovereignty:** I attended a Health Board Education Session to help White Earth prepare for taking over all healthcare programs and services from the federal government, Indian Health Services (IHS). The process, known as Tribal 638, empowers us to take control of healthcare delivery for our members. By exercising our sovereignty and managing all healthcare services locally, we can improve quality care, tailor services to our community's needs, and make decisions that best serve our people without federal oversight.

- **Enrollment Amendment:** During January's Minnesota Chippewa Tribe quarterly meeting. The Tribal Executive Committee passed an enrollment Amendment, which allows each Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to make independent decisions regarding other Minnesota Chippewa blood eligibility.

- **Legislative Bonding for Community Centers:** February was an important month for discussing our legislative priorities for bonding bills to develop three new community centers in Naytahwaush, Mahnomen, and Elbow Lake or Callaway. These centers will serve as hubs for our youth, elders, and local community, providing spaces for education, cultural activities, wellness programs, and social gatherings.

- **Cannabis Compacting:** I attended weekly cannabis compacting sessions with the State of Minnesota regarding off-reservation cannabis dis-



pensaries. The cannabis compacts between Minnesota and tribal nations, including White Earth, will allow us to operate dispensaries beyond reservation lands.

These agreements enhance our tribal sovereignty, generate revenue, create jobs, and support economic growth. We are opening a dispensary in Moorhead and St. Cloud and are exploring additional locations to be at the forefront of this industry across Minnesota.

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

Miigwech!

Michael J. LaRoque
Secretary-Treasurer, White Earth Nation

An Indigenous medical student at the U is sewing ribbon skirts to foster community in the program

By Chandra Colvin
Minnesota Public Radio News

Every evening Dannah Nephew sits in her living room, alongside a small table with her sewing machine. Fabric and ribbons in a variety of colors drape across her lap. Between her part-time job and full-time studies, she works diligently to create ribbon skirts for Native American students entering medical school at the University of Minnesota.

"I'm thinking about who would be wearing this ribbon skirt and what colors they might like," she said.

Nephew is Ojibwe from the White Earth Nation. As a third-year student in the program, she wants to help upcoming Native American students feel welcome in an industry she says has a complicated history with tribal communities.

"The reason why I wanted to make these ribbon skirts is to help other students have that reconnection with their cultural identity, reconnection with themselves and feeling like they belong."

Ribbon skirts are traditional articles of handmade clothing, often representing a symbol of resilience. Made from fabric adorned with ribbon designs, the skirts are typically worn during traditional ceremonies or celebratory gatherings in tribal

communities.

Any incoming Native medical student will be able to request a ribbon skirt.

Nephew's project is funded by the John Song Student Awards through the university's Center for the Art of Medicine. The awards allow current medical students to pursue projects that are a blend of community service and artistic creation.

Dr. Anthony Williams is the associate director for the center. He says engaging in art can be a break from the intensity of medical training, providing a chance for students to reconnect with their creativity.

"Having a creative outlet that also serves the community can maintain a sense of personal fulfillment," he said.

Past awards have funded a range of projects, including podcasts centered around race and identity, program creations at youth shelters and a children's book to teach about neurodiversity.

"Creativity, creative outlets, the humanities, has a larger role in the practice of medicine in terms of helping us connect with our patients, helping us connect with our communities, and reducing the stress and burnout that's associated with our profession," Williams said, emphasizing the reinforcement of

See Sewing Page 5

Fish house removal deadline draws near

The White Earth Conservation Law Enforcement Officers would like to remind all Tribal members that unoccupied fish houses and shelters must be removed from the ice by Monday, March 17 by 11:59 p.m.

Failure to comply with this regulation is a violation of the White Earth Conservation Code and may result in the fish house/shelter being confiscated or destroyed and the owner being cited into White Earth Tribal Court. Remember the importance of ice safety and be careful when on the ice.

WHITE EARTH FAMILY OFFICE CASS LAKE (OLD LEGION)

ID EVENT
MARCH 18, 2025
9:30-2:30

ID'S
12-15 YEARS \$6
16-54 YEARS \$12
55+ FREE
DESCENDANT \$35
PLEASE BRING
EXACT CHANGE

Family Movie Night



Thurs. March 20th at 5:30 pm | Shooting Star

BROTHER BEAR!

Join us for a Free Event!

Must register to attend

Call: 218-401-3208

Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

AGENDA

5:00 pm - Doors Open

5:30 pm - Meal
(Chicken Nuggets, Mac n' Cheese,
Tator Tots, Yogurt & Cake)

6:00 pm - Movie Starts

7:00 pm - Interactive Intermission
("Get the Wiggles Out" activity)

7:15pm - Movie Resumes

(Event ends after the movie is finished)



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative donates \$2,500 to Elbow-Tulaby Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is proud to support the Elbow-Tulaby Lake Volunteer Fire Department with a \$2,500 donation through the cooperative's Operation Round Up program. This funding will enhance the department's emergency response capabilities by providing essential safety and medical equipment.

With this contribution, the department will purchase a choking victim suction device, along with majestic fire hoods, gas masks, and first aid kits for all 11 firefighters who dedicate their time and service to protecting the community.

"We are grateful for the continued support from Wild Rice Electric Cooperative and its members," said Paul Gerving, Chief of the Elbow-Tulaby Lake Volunteer Fire Department. "This donation allows us to equip our firefighters with life-saving gear that is lighter and more mobile, making it easier for each individual to carry essential equipment and respond effectively to emergencies."

Operation Round Up is a community-driven program that allows Wild Rice Electric Cooperative members to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. These small contributions, when pooled together, make a significant impact by funding local organizations and initiatives that strengthen the community.

"Supporting our local first responders is an essential part of our mission to give back to the communities we serve," said Tommy Houdek, Director of Member Services and Communications at Wild Rice Electric Cooperative. "We are honored to assist the

Elbow-Tulaby Lake Volunteer Fire Department in acquiring the equipment they need to continue serving our members and communities."

For more information about Wild Rice Electric Cooperative and the Operation Round Up program, visit www.wildriceelectric.com or call 800-244-5709.



Submitted photo

Rick Morris, Operation Round Up Trust Board Member, left, presents a \$2,500 check to 2nd Lieutenant Jacob Folstrom with the Elbow-Tulaby Lakes Fire Department.

Sewing from Page 4

identity within underrepresented communities.

During Nephew's undergraduate degree at the Duluth campus, she found community in an on-campus organization of Native students. She says she immersed herself in cultural activities, including ribbon skirt making.

"I've found that sewing, painting and beading make me feel grounded and whole, and like myself again. It's almost like patching up a wound on your arm. It's that Band-Aid," Nephew said. "I can sit here and focus and do something constructive and beautiful."

Nephew is currently working on a skirt that she says can represent a student's journey through their schooling: yellow fabric, patterned with small daisies and hues of green and white satin ribbons layered on top. She says the colors replicate those of the robes one receives when graduating from medical school.

"To whoever receives this, it could mean so many things for them," Nephew said. She chooses colors that could have varying meanings. While the yellow and green ribbon skirt can represent graduation, it can also mean something as simple as being in nature.

Her goal is to make at least 25 skirts by May. Nephew's hope is that her ribbon skirts will welcome incoming students for the next three to five years.

"Finding community right away, instead of having to look for it, I think really can start off your journey in medical school in a good way, and really encapsulate 'mino-bimaadiziwin,'" she said, meaning "living the good life" in the Ojibwe language.

Rez Briefs

Waubun School Forest Information

The Waubun School Forest Ski Hut will be open daylight hours on weekends and school holidays as long as there is snow on the trails. There are cross country skis, snowshoes and sleds for you to use. There is no charge. Come Sunday afternoons for help getting started. Located at 2541 State Hwy 113. Call 218-473-2575 for more information. See our facebook page - Waubun School Forest Information for updates.

White Earth Urban Office

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

Anishinaabeg Today Readers

Please let us know if you recently moved, or have moved in the past few years so we can cancel your old address. **Many papers are still being sent to old addresses!** Call the *Anishinaabeg Today* at 218-935-3569 or email today@whiteearth-nsn.gov.

Call for Bids - 2 Beaded Crowns

The White Earth Powwow Committee is seeking bids with designs for two (2) beaded crowns (one each for a Sr. Princess crown and a Jr. Princess crown) for the upcoming 157th White Earth Annual Celebration on June 13-15, 2025.

All bids and designs must include contact information for the artist and **are due by March 31, 2025**. Please include pictures of previous crowns you have made and drawings of the proposed crowns. Within the designs, please include the following:

- 157th White Earth Sr Princess
- 157th White Earth Jr Princess

Bids with designs should be emailed to Dana Goodwin Williams at dana.goodwin@whiteearth-nsn.gov. Crowns must be completed and delivered to the White Earth Powwow Committee by close of business on 06/6/25 to receive full payment.

Additional information will be provided to the artists following the bidding process. Miigwech aapijil!

White Earth Delegate Announcement

WHITE EARTH DELEGATE ELECTION NOTICE

An election for a White Earth Reservation At-Large Delegate will be held at the White Earth "State of Band" event at the Shooting Star Event Center from 8:00-10:30 AM. **[DATE FOR W.E. STATE OF BAND event IS TBD]**

Qualifications for Reservation At-Large Delegate:

- Delegate must reside on the White Earth Reservation
- Be an enrolled member of the MCT
- At least 18 years of age

Nomination Information

- Nominations will be taken from March 3, 2025 to March 31, 2025
- Self-Nomination & tribal enrollment is required, please contact a White Earth Delegate to be placed on ballot:

Delegate Listing:		
Angel Stevens	District I	w.e.c.r.delegation@gmail.com
Fawn Roy	District I	Fawnmarroy@gmail.com
Mykela Brown	District II	brownmykela@gmail.com
Patty Straub	District II	1022pattystraub@gmail.com
Emily Annette	District III	mie.lannette@gmail.com
Mike Swan	District III	swanmike@andis.net
Louise Johansson	Iron Range	louisjohansson2@msn.com
Johyn Donnell	Cass Lake	jeffjohn@gmail.com
Sybil Gund	Metrol/Urban	sybil.gund@yahoo.com

Election Date/Time/Location

- Date: TBD
- Time: 8:00-10:30 AM
- Voting Location: Shooting Star Event Center (White Earth Delegate Table)
- Voter must show tribal ID to vote

Your job search ends here

www.whiteearth.com

2025 DRAWING FOR LEECH, MINNOW AND TURTLE HARVEST WITHIN THE TAMARAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



- PLACE:** Twin Lakes Fire Hall Naytahwaush
- DATE:** Thursday, March 20th, 2025
- TIME:** Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 5:55 p.m.
- LEECH ZONES:** Four zones to harvest leeches and turtles drawn.
- MINNOW ZONES:** One zone to harvest minnows drawn.

- A VALID "TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION CARD" IS REQUIRED AT THE DOOR.
- A CURRENT "NATURAL RESOURCES HARVEST PERMIT" IS REQUIRED AT THE DOOR.
- A CURRENT "LEECHING PERMIT" IS REQUIRED AT THE DOOR.
- TRIBAL MEMBERS MUST BE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD.
- **Doors close @ 5:55 p.m.**
 - (ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 6 PM) DON'T BE LATE!
- **THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT 6:15.**
- **Zone winners will need to meet with White Earth Natural Resources Staff after the drawing.**
- Please call Natural Resources with any questions:
218.935.3934 or 218.935.3981

Family Fun Day

AT THE WAUBUN SCHOOL FOREST IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WHITE EARTH NATION TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

MARCH 9TH, 2025 FROM 12:30 PM TO 3:30 PM

Come Enjoy

- Hiking
- Sledding (possibly)
- Skiing (possibly)
- Games
- Snowshoeing
- Outdoor Experience stations

Warm up with a cup of hot chocolate and soup...




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



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

News From District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

Aaniin Anishinaabe. As we move forward into March, I want to take a moment to update you on the work happening within our tribe through the month of February.

With the arrival of a new administration in D.C., change is inevitable. The ongoing shifts within Washington's leadership could have impacts on our tribal communities and throughout Minnesota. We have been hearing about tariffs that could drive up the cost of food, proposed healthcare funding cuts, education cuts impacting our schools. Our leadership and staff are closely monitoring the situation to stay informed about any developments that may affect our rights, resources, and overall well-being. We are committed to advocating for the best interests of our people and we will take swift and decisive action as necessary to safeguard and protect our community and our future.

February Updates

2-5 I had the privilege of attending the Minnesota State High School League Academic, Arts, and Athletics Award banquet at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center. This event recognizes seniors who have achieved excellence in the classroom, in athletics, and in fine arts activities such as theatre, speech, music, or debate. Two students from Waubun and two students from Mahnomen were nominated. Congratulations to all of our local students who were honored for their hard work and accomplishments!

2-6 Every Thursday, tribal leaders join a call with staff from the office of the Minnesota Governor and representatives from various state agencies to engage in important discussions on a wide range of topics including climate pollution control, funding opportunities, new staff and/or programs, upcoming events, etc. These regular meetings serve as a platform for collaboration, where key issues impacting our communities—such as policy changes, resource management and legislative matters—are addressed. By having open communication, these discussions help ensure that the voices and concerns of our tribal communities are heard and considered in state decision-making. These ongoing dialogues are essential for building stronger partnerships and advocating for the needs and interests of our people.

2-8 The White Earth Nation held its 5th Annual Fishing Derby at North Twin Lake, and it was truly heartwarming to see so many adults and youth participating in this derby. The first 500 youth to arrive were given a gift at admission and each of the first 500 kids to catch a fish received \$10 cash for their first fish entered into the competition. In addition, door prize drawing were held for registered attendees. This annual event serves as a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together, enjoy the outdoors and create lasting memories.

2-11 I attended the City of Callaway public meeting to stay informed on community matters; however, I had to depart early. During the cold weather snap, a water main break occurred but the City responded quickly and was able to repair it in a timely manner. It was announced that the Callaway Firefighters Banquet will be held March 8 at the Callaway Community Center. Discussion about the need for Boys and Girls facility. The other building was demolished.

2-13 White Earth staff recently traveled to Duluth to offer tribal members the opportunity to obtain tribal IDs and purchase wild rice. I had the privilege of joining them in Duluth to support this important initiative and meet with constituents in the area. The weather was exceptionally cold with temperatures dropping well below freezing, reaching sub-zero levels. The White Earth Duluth office provides services including dedicated spaces for both the White Earth Indian Child



Welfare staff and White Earth mental health providers. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to making essential services more accessible to our members, ensuring that we are present in the communities where our people live and work.

2-14 The White Earth Council of Elders along with Tribal Health organized Valentine's Bingo events throughout the White Earth Elder Nutrition Program (ENP) sites across the reservation, where a King and Queen were crowned in each village. I had the privilege of attending briefly at the White Earth ENP site, where I was able to join in the festivities with our cherished elders. These events are a wonderful way to honor and connect with our community while creating memories.

2-18 Tribal leaders traveled to the Minneapolis to attend the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Legislative Dinner, an event hosted by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe each year. Representatives from the 11 Minnesota tribes were invited to participate, alongside Minnesota legislators, business owners and community leaders. This event provides a valuable opportunity for tribal leaders to connect directly with lawmakers and local officials, fostering meaningful discussions about funding, policy initiatives and potential collaborations. This is an opportunity for building stronger relationships and working together to address the needs of our communities, ensuring that our voices are heard and our priorities are shared in the legislative process.

2-28 The regular RBC monthly meeting took place at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center, where tribal leaders convened to review and discuss various agenda items. These included the meeting minutes, MCT Data request forms submitted by different departments and the appointment of a judge to the MCT Election Court of Appeals Judge to handle appeals related to the special elections being held at the Fond du Lac and Bois Forte Reservations. Additionally, the consent agenda was approved with changes.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge all of our employees that work tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring that essential services are delivered and that people's needs are met. Every department, every program and every initiative stands as a testament to the hard work, passion and perseverance of these individuals. From health and education to resource management and cultural preservation, our tribal employees are at the forefront of every effort to uplift and strengthen our community. Their commitment goes far beyond the 8-to-4:30 workday. They are the ones who respond to emergencies, guide vital programs and make decisions that directly impact the well-being of

See Erickson Page 25

Northwest Minnesota Foundation is accepting grant applications to promote inclusive, welcoming communities

The Northwest Minnesota Foundation is now accepting grant applications to promote equity-focused welcoming and inclusion initiatives, leading to more welcoming communities in our region.

Efforts should be intentionally focused on improving the inclusion of newcomers with priority to immigrant and refugee belonging efforts. Initiatives should result in a stronger culture and policy environment where all residents feel empowered to work with each other in strengthening the social, civic, and economic fabric.

Grants may fund cultural inclusion initiatives, cultural equity and access programs, community events, collaborative work, technical assistance, trav-

el, or other efforts as defined by the applicant that advance welcoming communities and equitable rural belonging.

Eligible applicants are nonprofits, governmental, and public organizations located within the NMF service area that includes Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation, and 12 counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake Falls, and Roseau).

Details on the grant application can be found on the Grants page on the NMF website, www.nwmf.org. **Grant applications will be accepted until March 10.**

Everyone welcome to WE Child Care public hearing

What: An invitation to a public hearing to visit about the next Child Care Development Fund Plan for fiscal years 2026-2028 for the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Programs. Through these funds we have the financial resources to strengthen the health, safety, and quality of child care and provide more stable child care assistance to families.

In addition to meet our Mission Statement "To provide high-quality, culturally based child development support, services, outreach and advocacy for children, families, child care providers and community on or near the White Earth Reservation to help

our children succeed."

When: There are two public hearing sessions to choose from on March 27 at 2 or 7 p.m.

Where: White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program Building

Light Refreshments will be served.

Please contact Sue Heisler for any questions.

Director

White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Programs
PO Box 418

White Earth, MN 56591

218-935-6253

Spring greetings from Food Sovereignty!

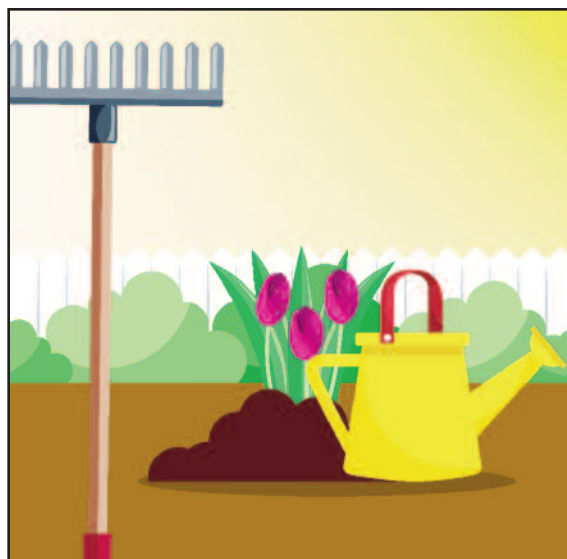
Boozhoo Anishinaabeg! Ziigwan omaa! Indizhinikaaz Nicole LaFrinier. Gaa-waabaabiganikaag indoonjibaa idash Nay-Tah-Waush indaa. Miigizi indoodem. Nindanokii Food Sovereignty and Security Coordinator.

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

Priority will be given to enrolled elders, but we hope to help as many people as we can! Complete the form and return when possible, as forms will be processed/prioritized in the order of which they are received. Forms are available at the White Earth Agriculture Department located at 1482 State Highway 200 in Mahnomen, or you can contact Nicole at the email address listed. Please note that submission of this application does not guarantee participation.

In addition to these services, FSS would also like to invite community members to participate in the

Sugar Bush! If you would like to join and/or start a small sugar bush of your own, please call 218-935-3562 or email Nicole.LaFrinier@whiteearthnsn.gov.



White Earth Council of Elders

By Tim Rindahl, Chairman

White Earth Nation Council of Elders

Boozhoo my Relatives,

Well we had a pretty good turn out for Valentine's Day Bingo and the crowning of a King and Queen in Rice Lake, Naytahwaush, Elbow Lake, White Earth and Pine Point. We are still looking for some help in the Mahnomen area so that we can make sure everyone is involved and that we don't miss anyone. I know a lot of our people have moved to the Mahnomen area so if you live in this area please let us know that you would like to have as much fun as we are having and be part of the planning committee for upcoming events. A special thanks to the Mii-Gii-Way-Win Advisory Board for the donation - without them it wouldn't have been as big and fun. Thanks.

I am looking forward to our first meeting of the year on April 1 at the White Earth ENP in Congregate right after lunch where we can start putting together a community calendar of events. The more that show up the better so we have more ideas on where and what to do this summer. We will have local trips to the park for BBQ and walks. If you can think of anything that sounds like fun bring it with you so we can promote living a healthy lifestyle and staying active.

Now that the weather is getting better the ice is here so be careful when outside as it only takes a second to slip and fall so walk slow and don't be in a hurry.

I heard though the grape vine that Social Security has a number you can call and they will walk you through the steps to make sure that you have the right plan for Medicare. The number is 1-352-841-0632. Also on YouTube you can view a video by Dr. Ed Weir, Ph.D., that explains the upcoming Social Security changes that will take effect this year, sounds like we are getting a raise lol.

The Shooting Star Casino and Home Health hosted a Men's Night Out Event on Feb. 5 that had a pretty good turn out. We ask that you try to attend these events in the future as they have a lot of information on health and aging. I was totally impressed by Dr Michael Bishop with his presentation on Native Americans and how to live a healthy lifestyle. There were lots of good slides with tons of information so a big Thank You to Dr. Bishop - you did a wonderful job.

Home Health put on a health fair at the casino on Feb. 13 that anyone could attend and they also had a pretty good turn out for that event. Great job Home Health and keep up the good work.

I know everyone is already thinking about gardening and word has it that at this time we won't be having the summer vegetable give away this year due to cuts in the funding. Just wanted to put that out there so everyone has the chance to put some seeds down this year for fresh vegetables.

We are checking into how we can get some raised gardens this year for those that don't have one and want to get out and plant. Maybe have a contest on growing fresh vegetables with pictures as the season goes along and maybe some cool prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Any suggestions would help.

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

Miigwech,

Tim Rindahl (Chairman) 218-261-0182

Sam Crowell (Vice Chair) 218-252-9390

Colleen Blattenbauer (Treasurer) 218-204-0134

Missy Fairbanks (Secretary) 218-401-0553



**WHITE EARTH NATION
FITNESS CENTERS**

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

218-401-2421 OR 218-401-3079

Jake Busse

Annual Memorial Fishing Derby was a hit on Roy Lake

The 22nd Annual “Jake Busse” Memorial Fishing Derby was held Feb. 22 on Roy Lake. More than 815 people registered and 307 fish were caught. The following is a list of winners:

Bass
 1st place - Chad Fischer \$400 (3.7)
 2nd place - Aliya Stevens \$200 (3.4)
 3rd place - Darnell Warren \$100 (3.2)

Northern
 1st place - Heather Bird \$400 (9.12)
 2nd place - Charlie Hvezda \$200 (8.13)
 3rd place - John Christopherson \$100 (8.0)

Crappie
 1st place Kennon Dakota \$400 (.13)
 2nd place Jamison Beck \$200 (.12)
 3rd place Issac Dakota \$50 (.11)
 3rd place Rob Swanson \$50 (.11)

Walleye
 1st place - Kevin Knutson \$400 (2.7)
 2nd place - Willy Auginaush \$200 (2.12)

3rd place - Tracy Madigan \$100 (1.5)

The winner of the 50/50 raffle for Gloria “Beaulieu” Busse’s medical expenses was Travis Lang - \$1,151.

We would thank people who donated: Roy Lake Store - Fishing poles and tackle, Zerkel Store - eight flats of pop bottles for kids, Halberg Logging - two kids bikes, Gloria Busse - \$300 (\$5 gift for kids who didn’t win anything), Mondo Neeland - space heater, Rice Lake Community Council - four \$25 gift cards, Shooting Star Casino - casino package, White Earth Donation Committee - \$1,500 for door prizes, White Earth Conservation Officers for all your help.

The Jake Busse Memorial Fishing Derby Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the annual fishing derby - it was a huge success. Hope to see you all next year!

Special thanks to for all your help: Pete Busse, Sherry Halberg, Gloria “Beaulieu” Busse, Mary Beaulieu, Naomi Tiessen, Tyler Busse, Tom Busse, and Duanne Tanner.



Submitted photo

The 22nd Annual “Jake Busse” Memorial Fishing Derby was held Feb. 22 on Roy Lake. More than 815 people registered and 307 fish were caught.

A message from White Earth Energy Assistance

Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule (CWR) is a state law that protects residential utility customers from having electric or natural gas service shut off between Oct. 1 and April 30. To protect your service from disconnection you must make and keep a payment plan that you and your utility agree on. The utility must offer a payment plan that is reasonable for your household’s financial circumstances. You can set up a CWR payment plan any time during the CWR season.

You are eligible for CWR protection even if you rent – the electricity or gas must be the primary heat source and the utility account must be in your name.

You and your utility must agree to a payment plan that is reasonable for your household. You can

set up a utility payment plan any time throughout the year.

All-natural gas and electric utilities must offer CWR protection. CWR does not apply to delivered fuels; oil and propane or wood. If you use delivered fuels, and your furnace is run by electricity, you should apply for CWR protection with your electric company.

Call your natural gas, electric, municipal utility or electric cooperative for more information, or contact the Commission’s Consumer Affairs Office at consumer.puc@state.mn.us or 651-296-0406, 1-800-657-3782.

For more information on the Cold Weather Rule: <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/shut-off-protection/>

SPREAD HOPE. FIGHT SUICIDE. EMMA BENOIT

Mental Health Advocate & Suicide Attempt Survivor

My Ascension, a documentary film to spread hope & fight suicide will be shown, followed by a discussion with Emma as she shares her message of hope & healing.

Please join us for an evening of inspiration & support. Recommended for ages 12 & older.

Monday, March 31, 2025 - 6:00 PM
 Waubun High School

5:15 PM - a FREE meal will be served - please enjoy a meal, conversations, hope, & connections.

To guarantee a meal, please register by 3/27 - either scan the QR code, or call 218-401-3241.

Register Here!



Sponsored by the Mahnommen County Collaborative & agencies below:



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SAANAAABAGIWAAGI GABIGENNAADONTEAANI

You Belong at WETCC!

Whether you earned your diploma or GED yesterday or decades ago, there is a place for you in our WETCC family.

- ✓ Open to ALL - No Tribal Affiliation Required
- ✓ Low Tuition with Financial Assistance
- ✓ Individualized Attention
- ✓ Education Grounded in Anishinaabe Culture, Values & Traditions

APPLY NOW

WWW.WETCC.EDU/APPLY 2250 COLLEGE RD, MAHNOMEN, MN

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

Board and committee members needed to make Minwanjige Food Co-op a reality for WE community

By Danielle Sutherland, Chair
Minwanjige Food Co-op Board of Directors

As mentioned in our November 2024 update, members of the White Earth community have been working hard to bring a food cooperative to reality. Our goal is to create a store, designed to unite us by bringing a shared commitment to our community's well-being through healthy, local and traditional foods, along with some conventional foods.

But, to bring this vision to life, we need your help. Building a food cooperative is a community effort—one that involves the dedication and involvement of local residents, businesses, and organizations. From those who grow food to those who seek it, we can all play a role in building something that benefits everyone.

The success of a co-op depends on the collective effort of its community. Whether it's helping with fundraising, spreading the word, or participating in planning sessions, your time and energy will directly contribute to the co-op's success.

We're calling on all members of our community to take an active part in making this food co-op a reality by joining us at our weekly meetings on Tuesday mornings (virtual) and/or by volunteering on one of our committees!

Committees will begin meeting soon. We are not asking you for a huge time commitment—maybe an hour a week, depending on the committee's activities. Below are some of the committees:

Communications and Marketing Committee

Help get the word out to the community, share our progress, and encourage your friends and neighbors to join the co-op and help out.

Membership Committee

Everyone who wants to shop at the new co-op can be a partial owner of the store! This committee will plan the events and strategies to educate and encourage people to join the co-op.

Tribal Relations Committee

The co-op is partnering with the Tribe to make this new grocery store a reality. We need people to communicate with tribal leaders and coordinate the co-op's efforts with them.

Finance Committee

This committee will help plan our budget and raise funds to develop the co-op.

Interested in learning more? Visit our Facebook Page Minwanjige Food Co-op and/or email us at minwanjigefoodcoop@gmail.com. YOU are the reason we are working to make this a reality and need your help/assistance to do so. Every bit of support and involvement counts!

DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS POWWOW

In celebration of youth and children
Open to the public, students, and adult dancers!

WHERE
DLHS LAKESHIRTS FIELDHOUSE
1301 Roosevelt Ave,
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

WHEN
THURSDAY, MARCH 13
9:30 am- 2:30 pm
(Grand Entry at 9:30 am)

Princess & Brave Contest
(For Detroit Lakes school students only)

Meal from 11:30-12:00 pm
(Provided for staff, drum groups & registered dancers)

Emcee: Vince Beyl • Spiritual Advisor: Mike Swan
Co-Host Drums: The Tribesmen & Smokey Hills Singers
Arena Director: Tom Mason • White Earth Honor Guards
Invited drums and vendors only
Miigwech (Thank you)!

SMOKING, VAPING, TOBACCO, DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ARE NOT PERMITTED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY
Contact: Joe Carrier for more information at jcarrier@detlak.k12.mn.us

March's Speaker 3/27/25
Valerie Eischens
White Earth Peer Recovery Support Specialist,
and enrolled member.

The last Thursday of every month!

- Community education (substance use disorder (SUD) topics)
- New facilitator/ Speaker each month
- Home cooked meal and light refreshments
- Safe space for community

We offer a welcoming sober environment for you and your loved ones!

212 West Franklin Ave
Minneapolis, MN

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Agenda

- 5:00-5:30 Begin to Gather/ Socialize
- 5:30-6:30: Meal Served
- 6:30-7:30: SUD Guest Speaker
- 7:30-8:00: Coin Ceremony/ Talking Circle

Hosted by White Earth Behavioral Health and White Earth Urban Programs

JOIN US FOR A COLORECTAL CANCER-DIGESTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS EVENT

MARCH 27, 2025
3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM
PINE POINT COMMUNITY CENTER

PREVENTION IS POWERFUL

Learn more about what you can do to prevent colon cancer and strengthen your digestive health!

- Healthy living bingo
- Interactive booths
- Join us for a community meal!

Take a guided tour through an interactive inflatable colon and learn about the importance of screening.

White Earth Nation, Healthy Together, White Earth Nation

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation

First-Time Homebuyer Education Class

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building
15542 State 371 NW, Cass Lake, MN

Course Topics

- Budgeting for a Home
- Obtaining a Mortgage with MCT
- What to look for in an Existing Home
- Procedures for New Construction
- Fee Land/Lease Land
- Working with a Real Estate Agent
- Closing your Loan
- Maintaining your Home
- Avoiding Delinquency

First-time Homebuyer Education is a requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation for qualified buyers.

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

Childcare is NOT provided so please make other arrangements.

Spring FORWARD

SET YOUR CLOCK AHEAD ONE HOUR

Sunday, March 9, 2025

877-410-8550

anonymous crime and elder abuse tip line

UPCOMING Events



Monday, 1:30-3pm
Shooting Star Casino
Breathwork Healing Circle for somatic (body/mind) healing & deep emotional release

March 17
2025



Thursday, 1:30-3pm
Naytahwaush Health Center
Breathwork Healing Circle for somatic (body/mind) healing & deep emotional release

March 20
2025



Monday, 1:30-3pm
Virtual
Breathwork Healing Group for somatic (body/mind) healing & deep emotional release - right from the comfort of your home.

March 24
2025

Register by emailing:
rachel.rogers@whiteearth-nsn.gov or
melanie.anderson@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Bison from Front Page

ward with our Bison Program, we would like to offer some safety tips, educational information, and what to do in the event of bison getting out of their containment fence. In the event of any animal(s) getting out of their containment fence, please call White Earth Dispatch at 218-983-3281, and they will notify management and on-duty Conservation Officers. WENDNR has an internal Buffalo Escape Action Plan to deploy in that situation. They're often simply foraging for more food. They typically do not pose a threat to humans and will likely avoid you unless they feel you are endangering them. Please keep your distance.

If life and/or safety is of concern, such as Bison versus traffic collisions, **Please Call 911**. To date, all our units are 6-foot-tall, high-tensile electric wire. Do not touch the wire and do not approach the fence. Enjoy watching and observing them from a distance.

The Spence Bison pasture is a "native prairie" reclamation. Not to be confused with a restoration, as no prairies existed on this site to be restored after natural forestation replaced the prairie more than 5000

years ago, and farming cleared the forest about a century ago. This reclaimed agricultural field was replanted several years ago into a mix of prairie plants and has received annual burning to prevent wildfires. Therefore, the previous agriculture field was reclaimed in favor of a prairie ecosystem, where now the primary vegetation is native Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, and Indian grass, along with a few other sparsely dispersed species of prairie grasses and forbs throughout.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE



**TASTE TRADITION & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
BISON STEW & PLANT STORIES**

JOIN DEREK NICHOLAS FOR A COOKING DEMONSTRATION OF BISON STEW WITH WILD RICE AND MILK WEED. LEARN ABOUT LOCAL PLANTS, NATURAL SALT AND PEPPER ALTERNATIVES, AND INDIGENOUS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY!

APRIL 4TH
11a - 3p

RICE LAKE
ENP SITE



2/25/25




Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Calendar
Shooting Star Event Center Site / Mahnomen
February-March-April **2025**

INVESTMENT INITIATIVE


MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
February 10 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 11 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 12 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 13 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 14 SITE CLOSED
February 17 SITE CLOSED	February 18 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 19 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 20 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 21 SITE CLOSED
February 24 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 25 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 26 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 27 OPEN 11am-7pm	February 28 SITE CLOSED
March 3 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 4 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 5 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 6 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 7 SITE CLOSED
March 10 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 11 SITE CLOSED	March 12 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 13 SITE CLOSED	March 14 SITE CLOSED
March 17 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 18 SITE CLOSED	March 19 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 20 SITE CLOSED	March 21 SITE CLOSED
March 24 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 25 SITE CLOSED	March 26 OPEN 11am-7pm	March 27 SITE CLOSED	March 28 SITE CLOSED
March 31 OPEN 11am-7pm	April 1 SITE CLOSED	April 2 OPEN 11am-7pm	April 3 SITE CLOSED	April 4 SITE CLOSED
April 7 OPEN 11am-7pm	April 8 SITE CLOSED	April 9 OPEN 11am-7pm	April 10 SITE CLOSED	April 11 SITE CLOSED
April 14 OPEN 11am-7pm	April 15 SITE CLOSED	For assistance after April 15, call Sue at 218.844.7029 or Jodi at 218.844.7057		

Call 218-396-1002 for appointments or go to weii.website

HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED:



**Hurt at work or in an auto accident?
Slipped & fell or attacked by a dog?**



Nycklemoe & Ellig
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Call JOSEPH R. ELLIG & VAN R. ELLIG
"Our family helping your family since 1925"
Fergus Falls
218-736-5673

*Licensed in Minnesota and White Earth Tribal Courts

Opportunities for Growth Program

Maadaadizi Workforce Center

Our job is to assist and uplift our young adults in our area.

- We aim to overcome barriers that may hinder in developing short and long-term goals, employment, education, and personal development.
 - Our services can help create momentum to lead our youth into the workforce or obtaining their educational diplomas.
- Our program can assist individuals with weekly stipend as they test for GED/diplomas, also assisting with weekly gas/bus card to get to and from test site.
- Occasional trainings are held here at the Workforce building such as Welding, Carpentry, and 5 Skies Trainings. Other workforce sites include a variety of trainings that we may be able to assist with.
- Our program can assist with fees pertaining to getting a Driver License and reinstating your License.
 - Eligible Participants:
 - ✓ 18-24 years old
 - ✓ Enrolled Tribal Member/Descendant
 - ✓ Residing on White Earth Reservation
 - ✓ In need of employability services due to barriers to employment

❖ If interested, Case Managers Kathy Wadena and Marcus Deegan can assist

❖ Contact either: Kathy Wadena - (218) 935-3756 (or) Marcus Deegan - (218) 935-3829




Health plans
to fit every
lifestyle.

**UCare Medicaid plans offer
fitness club and grocery
discounts, no-cost car seats for
children, rewards for taking care
of your health and much more.**

Find out if you qualify at ucare.org/boozhoo
Call 1-866-605-3418 (TTY 1-800-688-2534)







That sense of calm you get when you watch the sunset from your new home?

We've got a loan for that.

White Earth Investment Initiative offers affordable home loans for those living in Native American communities. Apply at www.weii.website/home-loans/



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and lender. (218) 983-4020 | www.weii.website



White Earth Food Shelf March 2025 Delivery Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
NTW	Callaway	Rice Lake	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelves	Nlijii Radio	ENP Site	Stocking Shelves	
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-3pm	CLOSED
10	11	12	13	14
NTW	Elbow Lake	Pine Point	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelves	ENP Site	ENP Site	Stocking Shelves	
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-3pm	CLOSED
17	18	19	20	21
NTW	White Earth	Ogema	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelves	ENP SITE	Dream Catcher Homes	Stocking Shelves	
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-3pm	CLOSED
24	25	26	27	28
NTW	Waubun	Mahnomen	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelves	Community Center	Vet's Building	Stocking Shelves	
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-3pm	CLOSED
31				
NTW				
Walk in's				
Stocking Shelves				
9am-3pm				

HOURS OF OPERATION 7AM-- 3:30PM Monday--Friday
 applications are available at Community Centers, ENP Sites and Naytahwaush Sports Complex
Hours are subject to change due to weather and closure's for Holiday's
 Walkin's are Monday's and Thursday's only at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex from 9am-3pm
 please feel free to contact the White Earth Food Shelf at 218-935-6313 or 218-935-6314
 please call ahead of time if picking up so that we have enough food for everyone thanks



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White Earth 4-H Cultural Winter Camp



Photo by Dana Trickey

The 9th Annual White Earth Tribal 4-H Cultural Winter Camp was held Feb. 22-23 at the Rediscovery Center on White Earth Lake. More than 40 people enjoyed many activities to include language, storytelling, games, food, arts and crafts, and fishing. The event was a collaboration between the White Earth Tribal 4-H Program, White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health, and White Earth Tribal and Community College Extension.



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RaeLynn & Jerrod Niemann | April 25



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April 23

May 21

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Scott Mayer honored



Submitted photo

Scott Mayer, a staff member at the Oshki Manidoo Center in Bemidji, Minn., retired after 16 years of service working with the youth. He has moved to the women's side of the residential center. Presenting him with a blanket are Keenan Goodfellow, Shift Supervisor, left, and Derek Cornelius, interim Residential Administrator.

Elders shine on Valentine's Day



Submitted photo

John LaVoy and Lori Morales were selected King and Queen at the Naytahwaush ENP site on Valentine's Day. Each ENP site held special activities for the Elders to include bingo. Other Elder royalty were Harry Hvezda and Martha Neeland (Rice Lake), Tim Rindahl and Judy Paul (Elbow Lake), Robert "Bobby" Adams and Irene Adams (Pine Point), and Tony Sullivan and Betty Tow (White Earth).



Submitted photo

White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health hosted a "Sewing Stories" event on Feb. 15 at the White Earth Community Center.

Generations connect at White Earth's "Sewing Stories" event held at WE Community Center

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

The White Earth Community Center buzzed with intergenerational connection on Feb. 15 as White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health (WENTPH) hosted "Sewing Stories."

The event, inspired by Marcie Rendon's book "Stitches of Tradition (Gashkigwaaso Tradition)," brought together intergenerational pairs for an afternoon of storytelling, crafting, and community.

Participants enjoyed chicken dumpling soup provided by Hilltop Supper Club and hot tea provided by the White Earth Tribal and Community College – Community Extension before embarking on a ribbon skirt-making workshop.

Author Marcie Rendon, a White Earth Anishinaabe, led a read-aloud of her book and remained throughout the event, offering hands-on assistance. A collective effort by Erika Bellanger, Paulie Neisen, and community members guided the skirt-making process with kits provided by Mary Turner.

The event, which reached its capacity of 28 attendees, saw 13 ribbon skirt kits come to life. WENTPH also provided board games, further fostering interaction between generations. The event's success was highlighted by the strong sense of community and big smiles as pairs left with their finished skirts.

"What made this event so special was the interactions between generations and being able to hear from an Anishinaabeg author what it took to become confident in her abilities. It is important for people to

hear and see that their art matters," said a WENTPH organizer.

The event aimed to reinforce intergenerational relationships, promote a sense of belonging, and offer healing through hands-on projects.

WENTPH, with its mission to improve the health and well-being of the White Earth Nation, considers the event a success in fostering community connection and cultural preservation.



Submitted photos

Author Marcie Rendon (White Earth), signs her book "Stitches of Traditions" for a girl at an event held Feb. 15 at the White Earth Community Center.

Fish from Front Page



Submitted photo

White Earth Tribal and Community College student, Raeanna Connor with her daughter, Giizhibaa.

Raeanna Connor

WE Tribal & Community College Student Spotlight

White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) honors a student each month who exemplifies academic excellence, resilience, and personal growth. Students are nominated by fellow students who recognize the unique and exceptional qualities of their peers. WETCC’s student spotlight for the month of March is Raeanna Connor [Ozaawaabines].

Raeanna expects to graduate with her AA degree this spring, an accomplishment that is made more impressive given the obstacles she has faced over the past year.

Last winter, Raeanna’s unborn child was diagnosed with spina bifida while in utero. Mother and baby underwent open fetal surgery at Mayo Clinic to repair the birth defect. They spent two weeks in the hospital before being allowed to return home. Raeanna carried the baby for another 13 weeks and in May, her daughter was born full-term and completely healthy.

“To say the situation was terrifying would be an understatement,” says Raeanna. “The happiest moments of my life were finding out that my daughter was healthy and safe after surgery, and hearing her cry for the first time.”

Through it all, Raeanna stayed in school and did the best she could to finish out Spring Term 2024. She continued through Summer Term, literally doing homework from her hospital bed after delivering her daughter. With her baby on her hip, she stuck to her schoolwork and finished Fall Term with a 4.0 GPA.

Raeanna says that the secret to her college success is staying consistent. “Even if it's writing one sentence of an essay at a time, any amount of work done is better than no work done at all.” She defines success by how happy you are. “Money and luxuries don’t mean much if you’re not happy with who you are.”

When asked why she chose WETCC, Raeanna says it’s because she loves how close-knit everyone is, and that campus feels very much like family. After graduation, she plans to re-enter the workforce full-time and enroll in the online criminal justice program through Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Raeanna, congratulations on your success!

egory. There was no Walleye registered.

Our fishing derby planning team is grateful for the local sponsorship and support that surpassed prior years donations. There were raffle tickets sold for \$5, and need not be present for the top seven prizes, which included a livescope, hunting stand, two different large fishing packages, electric bike and trailer, and two \$1,000 gift cards to local sporting goods stores.

There were also 86 other prizes drawn from that ticket that must be claimed by 3:30 p.m. This year we also raffled off an Ice Castle on a separate \$20 ticket and the lucky winner was Renee Keezer.

KRJM broadcasted winners and tournament information throughout the day, and Friends of Tamarac set up an underwater camera viewing opportunity. Bruce Starkey took photos of the tournament winners.

Chi-Miigwech to everyone who worked and donated to make this event a great success. Our goal of a family friendly event supporting the traditions and knowledge of ice fishing is providing lifelong lessons and love and respect for the outdoors. We hope to see everyone again at the 6th Annual White Earth Nation Ice Fish’n Derby next year! Thank you!




Photos by Laura Lee Erickson

The 5th Annual White Earth Nation Ice Fish’n Derby was held Feb. 8 on North Twin Lake in Naytahwaush. The event was a great success, surpassing attendance records with 1,082 attendees.

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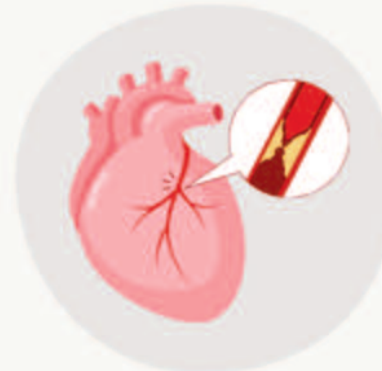
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Source: www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/health_effects/heart_disease/index.htm



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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 Ojibwe Vowel sounds in "syllables": consonant(s) & vowels >

••"Aaniin ezhi-ayaawaad noongom? Mino-ayaawag."

("How are they today? They are well.")

••"Gaye, nimino-ayaamin. Mino-giizhigad."

("Also, we are good. It is a good-day.")

••"Ningikinoo'amaagoz noongom."

("I go to school now/today.")

••"Gikinoo'amaadiiwigamig ina?"

("The teaching building?")

••"Ginaandagikendaan."

("You seek to learn it.")

Abinoojiyens(ag)-Baby(s)

Niibawi.- S/he stands.

Ninginagaap.- I giggle.

Ginagaapi.- S/he giggles.

Goshkozi.- S/he's awake.

Bamoozhe.- S/he babysits.

Gitizi.- S/he is older.

Odaminodaa!
Let's all play!
Beshwaji'.
Close friends w/...
Wawiyazhinaagozi.
S/he is cute.
Dazhitaa agwajjiing!
Let's play outside!

Bikwaakwad(oon)
Basketball(s)



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

Oshki-nitaawigiwin•Young Adult•Teen

Boozhoo! Aaniin waa-izhichigeyeg? **Gidojibwem ina?**

Greetings. How/what way will-you all be doing? You speak Ojibwe? Students are learning Ojibwemowin at home, with relatives and at school! A student, Clayton shares, "Miigwech: Thanks - lots to be thankful for. -Boozhoo; Hello: Greetings - Meeting up with someone. -Niminwendam: I am happy. It expresses happiness! -Ningiigooyike: I fish - I really do like to fish.- Many fond memories talking with my grandma. -Aniibiish: Tea - I like tea. -Ogaa: Walleye. -My favorite fish. -Gaawiin: -No. Eya': - Yes."

-Waawaashkeshi; Deer - One of my favorite activities is hunting. Nijiji; Friend/Brother - having good friends and brothers in your life is important. This is the double vowel writing way.

Goal: Learn one word a day.
Speak a weekly list from this page.
Listen/Speak w/dictionary online.

G K A A B
O B M ' E N
S G I O S W I
H I N K H Z G I
K N O P W H O O B
O A A B A A W I N A
Z G Y K J Y A I S D W
I A A W I D I K C O O I
T A A O ' N W E W G M Z
E P W D A Z H I T A A J
B I A A J Y E H P Y D I
I S G I T I Z I N E N Y

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

Nitaawigiwin

• Grownup

Eya'? ina gemaa Gaawiin?

Yes, ? or No?

-Bimibaatoo na? _____

-Gibimibaatoo na? _____

-Nimbimibaatoo. _____

-Bejibatoo. _____

-Onjigaa. _____

-Bakobiibatoo. _____

-Giwebatoo. _____

-Ginjiba'. _____

-Wanibatoo. _____

-Agwaabatoon! _____

-Giwebatoo. _____

-Nimbimibaatoomin. _____

-Bimibaatoowag _____

-idash bimibaatoowag. _____

___ Miigwech!-Thanks! ___

Key: -S/he runs? You run? I run. S/he runs slowly. -Runs with sap. Runs into the water. -S/he runs home. Run away from someone. -S/h runs wrong way. Run ashore! S/h runs back. We run. They run and they run. Mii'iw..

Ninzaag'aag Anishinaabeg. = I love them the People. •Bemaadizid.-One who lives, a person. Bimaadizijig.-Those who live. Anishinaabeg.- The People.

Anishinaabekaa. -There are many people: Niin. -Me, I. Giin, -You. Wiin. He/She.

Wiinawaa. -They. Giinawaa.- You all.

Giin.-You. See more personal pronouns in your dictionary.

Zaagi' !- Love him/her! Waabam! - See him/her! Naadin! -Get h/her!

Gichi-aya'aa•Elder

Aaniin ezbinikaazod wa'aw giizis? What/how is s/he called this moon/month? Onaabini-Giizis wa'aw giizis. -S/he's called Crust on the Snow-Moon this moon. (March). —Makade-mashkiki-waaboo na omaa?-Black-medicine-liquid? here? •Eya! Niwii-minikwen i'iw gaapii. Gizhide. Boodaadan! Giwii-ayaan miini-baashkiminasigan idash bakwezigan? Howah, eya! Gichi-minopogwad. •Yes! I will drink that coffee. It is hot Blow on it! You will-have blueberry sauce and bread? Alright, yes! It is a very-good taste.

Gichi-Miigwech!- Big Thanks!

1. Niwii-minikwen o'ow _____ I will drink it this coffee (short).
2. Biindigen! Let's all sit down. Come in! Namadabidaa!

3. O'ow gizhaagamide-nibi omaa dash imaa gichi-_____ This hot-water here and there, it is very-hot.
4. Niwii-minikwen o'ow makade-_____ -waaboo. I will drink it this black-medicine-liquid/coffee.
5. Giwii-minikwen ina o'ow _____ -mashkiki-_____ daga? You will drink it? this black-medicine-liquid please?

Ojibwemodaa! - Let's all speak Ojibwe! February ©2025 Shelly Ceglar

ASIN (iig) -Rock (s)
ASINIINKAA. -There's lots of rocks.
AAZHIBIK. -There's a rock cliff.
AGIDASIN. -On top of a rock.

•WE Resources
<https://whiteearth.com/divisions/culture/services>
•Search/Listen: Ojibwe People's Dictionary
<https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu>
•Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Comm.
<https://www.glifwc.org/>
•Clipart: wpclipart.com

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!

Obituaries

Henry Samuel Harper

Henry Harper, 78, of Cass Lake, Minn., passed away on Jan. 31 in Grand Forks, N.D., with family by his side.

Henry Samuel Harper was born on June 28, 1946, to (John) George and Mattie (Soreyes) Harper, he was the seventh wonder of the eight sons. He graduated from Cass Lake High School in 1964 and went on to graduate from Haskell Institute in 1966. At the age of 21, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam, assigned to the 25th Medical Detachment as a combat medic. Henry received an honorable discharge in December 1968 and returned home to Cass Lake.



Hank, or Crock, as he was known throughout Indian Country, was an avid sports enthusiast. He helped build and dedicate the Veteran's Memorial Softball Fields and Cass Lake pow wow grounds. He helped to organize, establish and coach the Golden Gloves Boxing at Leech Lake; he organized and coached men's and women's softball, organized and coached men's and women's basketball and organized regional tournaments that drew hundreds of top-notch Native athletes from across Indian Country.

Hank's coaching and organizing also led him to organize a Leech Lake Youth Baseball league that began at t-ball all the way through to Little League. He was inducted into the National Indian Athletic Association Hall of Fame on July 27, 2017. During his induction speech, he reminded the attendees to remember the female athletes and the champions amongst the women as well. He also noted that his coaching career began upon his return from Vietnam. He said nobody really talked about post traumatic stress disorder in those days and how he was asked to coach young athletes, "They thought I was helping the kids out so much, they were helping me out."

Hank is survived by his brothers, Francis (Julie) Harper of White Bear Lake, Minn., and Colin "Corky" (Janice) Harper of Newport, Minn., and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and brother: John, Roger, Charles, Dennis and Wellington.

Traditional funeral rites began on Feb. 7 at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake with a wake. His funeral was held Feb 8, also at the Veteran's Memorial Building. Naabekwaa was the officiant.

Pallbearers were Martin Wind, Alvin Wind, Alex Harper, Taylor Humphrey, Brendan Humphrey, Dennis Smallwood, Theo Liberty. Honorary pallbearers were the athletes he coached in the boxing clubs, basketball teams and the softball teams.

Interment: Burial was in Onigum immediately following services.

Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home of Bemidji, Minn.

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com.

Wade "Wabasha" Frederick Bjergo

Wade Frederick Bjergo, born on Jan. 18, 1962, and passed away on Jan. 25.

Wade was a gifted artist whose creativity knew no bounds. Whether building, drawing, or carpentry everything he touched became a work of art. A proud member of the White Earth Tribe, Wade deeply cherished his Native heritage and carried it with pride throughout his life. He was a free spirit who found joy in the outdoors, spending time fishing and hunting, and embracing the beauty of nature. Known for his humor and kind heart, Wade brought laughter and warmth to those around him.



He is survived by his mother, Marlys Bjergo; children: Matthew Bjergo, Justine (Justin) Wewers, and Jessi Jane Bjergo; beloved grandchildren, Kennedy and Charlotte Wewers; siblings: Desiree Nelson, Bart (Rami) Bjergo, Suzette (Paul Kottke) Younggren, and Rochelle (Braun) Woods; and nieces and nephews: Alisha, Jessica, Benjamin, Don, Joseph, Derek, Kyle, Lindsay, and Kaden.

He was preceded in death by his father, LeRoy Bjergo; and brother, Ralph Bjergo. Memorial services were held Feb. 6 at the Church of Gichitwaa Kateri in Minneapolis. Arrangements: Miller Funeral Home and Crematory of Fridley, Minn.

Online: www.millerfuneralfridley.com

Edward Hegg

Edward Hegg, 77, of Mahanomen, passed away on Feb. 18 at the Veterans Hospital in Fargo, N.D.

A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahanomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Craig Walter Larson

Craig Walter Larson, 35, died on Jan. 29 at his home in Mahanomen.

Craig was born on Nov. 25, 1989, to Karrie Auginaush and Kevin Larson. He lived in Bagley, Minn., for the first three years of his life and his brother, Corey's life but then moved to Staples, Minn., where his father went to school for two years. Craig and Corey then moved to Michigan with their aunt and uncle Karmen and Tom Ingersoll for a few years then moved back home to live with their mom, Karrie in Naytahwaush. He attended White Earth Technical College and graduated from Circle of Life. He lived in Rice Lake until he moved to Mahanomen, where he resided ever since. He then met the love of his life, Jandy in 2005. Together they had five beautiful children, Damani, Denali, Daycian, Daleah, and Daisy.



Craig worked various jobs over his lifetime, some of them included working at the casino as a blackjack dealer and was entrusted with soft count duties. He also worked at Team Industries as well as for a roofing company in Minneapolis.

He was shy when you first met Craig, but once you got to know him, it was obvious how funny he was naturally with a contagious laugh. He enjoyed spending time with his children, visiting family and friends, cruising around, and going fishing whenever he could. He also liked to fiddle around with his vehicles. Family meant everything to him, he will be missed by many.

Craig is survived by his mother, Karrie Auginaush; children: Damani, Denali, Daycian, Daleah, and Daisy; grandmother, Darlene Martine; special sisters, Kamae Leavitt and family, and Lily Ingersoll; special brother, Kole Ingersoll; aunt, Karmen Ingersoll; niece and nephews, Corey Jr., Tarren, Tavian, Hailey, and Josh; special niece and nephew, Amarah and Grayson Goodwin; uncle, Nathan Martine; special cousins, Andy Auginaush and Raymond Auginaush Jr.; mother-in-law, Michelle Frederick; sister-in-law, Jess Frederick, and brother-in-law, Tristan Frederick; friend, Darrell Fox and Jovan Gagnon; and numerous other aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his dad, Kevin Larson; siblings, Corey Larson and Desirae Auginaush; the love of his life, Jandy Frederick; grandparents: George and Daisy Auginaush, Kenneth "Tooter" Martine, Kenneth Larson; great-grandparents: Walter and Lorna Larson, Mayme and Henry Boe; grandpa-in-law, Calvin (Rubble) Thompson; cousins: Wyatt Martine, Russell Auginaush, Jared James "Bud" Auginaush; aunt, Tara Martine; and uncles, Tom Ingersoll and Kenneth Auginaush Sr.

A wake and prayer service was held Feb. 4 at the Rice Lake Community Center and continued until the time of the memorial service on Feb. 5, also at the Rice Lake Community Center.

Interment: Samuel Memorial Episcopal Cemetery in Naytahwaush in the spring.

Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley.

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

Jacob Gaius Downey

Jacob Gaius Downey of St. Paul, Minn., formally of White Earth Reservation, unexpectedly passed away on Feb. 12. Jacob was born on July 14, 1988, in Eau Claire, Wis., to Karen Fairbanks and Gaius Downey. At the young age of six years old, Jacob's mother unexpectedly passed away. From that point on, he was raised with his blended family of four sisters and two brothers in St. Paul by Gaius and Nan Downey. He was the youngest of the brood.



Throughout Jacob's life, he was known as a free spirit; he preferred to be in charge of his own life. He had an amazing penchant for artistry, particularly anime drawings. He was known to have a goofy sense of humor, which always led to playing pranks on his siblings and family.

He was well known amongst the community of Dorothy Day, Catholic Charities, The "Hewitt House," and several like minded communities.

Jacob struggled with mental illness most of his adult life, a fact that he understood well. Despite this, he had a genuine spirit, caring heart, and an amazing will to be as independent as he possibly could be.

His sudden passing is already changing hearts and changing minds in regards to others struggling with mental illness and homelessness. May his passing not be in vain.

Jacob is preceded in death by his mother, Karen Fairbanks; brother, Anthony King; and many many relatives.

Jacob is survived by parents, Gaius and Nan Downey; siblings: Eddie, Monica, Charlotte, Justin, Nicole, and Alyssa; and many nieces and nephews and a very large extended family.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers and monetary items to please donate winter preparedness items to Dorothy Day and/or your local shelter(s).

Obituaries

Mary E. Heisler

Mary E. Heisler, 84, of White Earth, passed away to the awaiting arms of her beloved husband, Ducky on Feb. 13.

Mary Whitsitt was born to Earl and Virgie Whitsitt in 1940. Mary grew up in Jacksboro, Texas and was a 1962 graduate of Texas Woman's University and has a Master of Education in Supervisory Education degree from North Texas State University. In addition, she had taken further graduate work in special education at NTSU and Western Michigan University.



She has taught in the elementary grades in Colorado, Amarillo, Texas, and for the Department of Defense in the Philippine Islands and Wiesbaden, Germany before joining the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She had been teacher-supervisor at Fort Thompson and was a fourth-grade teacher. Besides her teaching and supervisory experience, Mary had traveled and visited 27 countries and most of the states of the United States.

Mary met the love of her life, Richard "Ducky" Heisler while they were both working for the BIA in South Dakota and married on July 19, 1974. They lived in Pierre and Aberdeen, S.D., and then decided to move where Ducky was born and raised and built their beautiful log home on the White Earth Indian Reservation. She worked for the White Earth Reservation in the Planning Department until her retirement and served several years among the many boards she served on including the Waubun School Board.

Mary was a woman of many interests, her Catholic faith was a constant in her life. She was known to express her matter-of-fact opinions, but she had a giving heart and supported many charities. When she and Ducky were not out fishing or spending time with family, she would spend her spare time reading, baking her delicious pecan pies, crafting, or in her flower gardens throughout her yard. She had a deluge of different trees, flowers and lilac bushes but her favorite was her peonies. She often was a part of Ducky's stories that were filled with laughter and shined with love. Her husband Ducky was her best friend, and throughout their 50 years together it would still be heard through their home "hello my love, I missed you."

She is survived by her stepdaughter, Lisa Heisler; granddaughters: Brittney and Jenna; nieces: Susan Haines and Caren Kenedy; nephew, Charles Horton; brothers-in-law: Stanley "Rob" Heisler (Cleone), James Heisler (Laverne); sister-in-law, Dorothy Heisler; niece, Christie Haverkamp (Tony); nephews, Jack Heisler and Billy Stech; and a treasure trove of nieces and nephews and greats, who were all special to her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ducky; parents, Earl and Virgie Whitsitt; sisters, Norma Ann Haines and Emma Jane Horton; brothers-in-law: Jiggs, John, Bud and Vernon Heisler; and sisters-in-law: Pearl Fabre, Doris Drinkwine, Harriet Stech and Jane Christofferson.

God Bless the memory of Mary Heisler

A memorial service was held Feb. 21 at St. Benedict Catholic Church in White Earth.

Interment: Calvary Cemetery in White Earth in the spring.

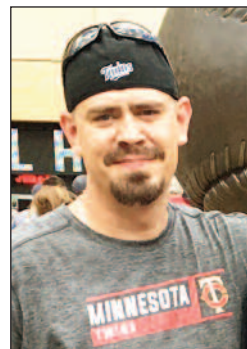
Arrangements: David-Donhower Funeral Home.

Online: www.daviddonhower.com

Jedidiah Angus Clark

Jedidiah Clark, 45, of Lengby, Minn., died unexpectedly on Feb. 5 at his home.

Jedidiah Angus Clark, known to many simply as Jed, was born Dec. 10, 1979, to Rickie Clark Sr. and Frances Lindberg. He grew up near Lengby and attended school in Fosston, Minn. Following his high school graduation, Jed studied Computer Science at Moorhead State University in addition to playing basketball. He then entered the workforce doing building construction. Jed worked with his dad and brother, Jason. He was blessed with a son, Angus, who he loved doing things with anytime he could.



Jed was an outgoing, hardworking individual with a good sense of humor. He liked to keep things organized and tidy. Whether it was hunting, cutting wood, downhill skiing or snowboarding, Jed really enjoyed the outdoors. He also spent much of his time wood working. Although gone so soon from this life, he will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Jed is survived by his son, Angus Vigoren-Clark; father, Rickie Clark Sr.; sister, Laurie (Mili); brothers, Jason Clark and Aaron Clark; sister-in-law, Sheila Clark; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mom, Frances; grandparents; and a brother, Rickie Clark Jr.

Memorial services were held Feb. 14 at Faith Hill Assembly of God in Bagley, Minn.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Margaret "Marge" Louise Bellefy

Margaret "Marge" Louise Bellefy, 73, of Bagley, Minn., passed away peacefully at home with her husband by her side on Jan. 30.

Marge was born in Bagley on Aug. 1, 1951, to Donald and Adeline (Holweger) LaFontaine. Margie attended grades 1-3 at Pine Center Country School, middle school in Emerado, N.D., and high school in Larimore, N.D. She was baptized and confirmed at Holm's United Methodist Church in Reynolds, N.D. Marge married Kelly Bellefy Sr. in Sisseton, S.D., on June 15, 1981. They moved around a lot before making their home permanently south of Bagley.



Marge had various jobs throughout life. She worked as a bartender, cook, sales clerk, assembly line worker, and from 1991-2006 at TEAM. For several years she and Kelly farmed and milked cows. In 2016, the family started their own business called "Bellefy's Local Bubbles." Throughout the years, she and Kelly traveled to various craft shows and fairs from all over Minnesota and to as far as Minot, N.D. They would sit for hours selling their soaps, lotions, and bath bombs, that they had handcrafted from the milk of their own herd of goats.

Marge was also a talented bead worker, jewelry maker and loved to crochet. She would display many of her crafts at various shows. On her spare time, Marge enjoyed berry picking, gardening, raising Pomeranian's, crossword puzzles, attending several music concerts, and loved anything Elvis. Anyone who knew Marge knew she had a heart of gold. She could carry on a conversation with anyone. They didn't even have to purchase anything; she just enjoyed their company. Marge was a kind, thoughtful, loving person who selflessly gave to others.

Marge is survived by her husband, Kelly Bellefy Sr.; son, Kelly (Robin) Bellefy Jr. and honorary son, Reuben Netland; sons, Steve (Joy) Willis and Joachim (Amanda) Willis; daughters, Marge (Jody) Chesley and Melissa (George) Hinnenkamp; sisters: Sharon Headlund, Sally Amundson, and Donna Ehlers; brother, Marvin (Ann) LaFontaine; special "sister"-in-law, Shelly Bellefy; mother-in-law, Betty Bellefy; brother-in-law, Brad Gregory; sisters-in-law, Bonnie Wastweet and Faith (Doug) Mickelson; and numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family

Marge was preceded in death by her daughter, Marlene; parents, Donald and Adeline; brothers, LeRoy LaFontaine and Rodney LaFontaine; sister, Sue West; and brothers-in-law: Al Headlund, Lowell Amundson, and Kevin Bellefy.

A Celebration of Life was held Feb. 21 at the Cease Family Funeral Home Chapel in Bagley.

Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

2nd Annual Heart Health/MMIWR Event



Photo by Gary W. Padrta

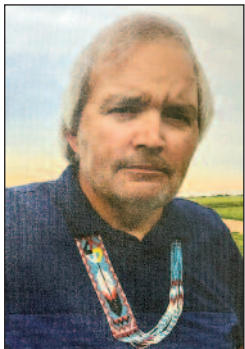
Tanya Heinonen, White Earth ENP, visits at the 2nd Annual Heart Health/MMIWR Event held Feb. 13 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. Community members had access to several vendors, breakout sessions, health screenings, and a light dinner. The event was sponsored by White Earth Tribal Public Health.

Obituaries

Leslie "Les" Allan Fairbanks

Leslie "Les" Fairbanks, 62, of Mahnomen, died on Feb. 7 at his home under the loving care of his family and Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Leslie Allan Fairbanks was born March 14, 1962, (a PI baby) in Kenosha, Wis., to Lewis and Merle (Mortenson) Fairbanks.



He attended St. John's School for the Deaf in Milwaukee, superseded with Minnesota School for the Deaf, graduating in 1979. While there, Les blossomed into an outstanding student as evidenced by skipping two grades. He also played a role in the school's football team achieving the National Deaf Football Championship in 1977 and was named All-American as a center. Les continued his education at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C., and Bemidji State University.

At the age of 16, Les worked for a camp in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), for which he worked on and off the next 12 years. While there, he learned quite a bit from his superiors, namely Jim Cherry and Jim Wiinanen. Maintenance aside, Les also assisted in fighting forest fires along with several major projects.

In 1985, Les moved to Texas, for a short time before returning to Minnesota. He started Les' Marine and four years later, took a job with the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. He was employed at the casino for seven years before transitioning to the trucking industry. His career in transportation began hauling sugar beets and eventually led to 17 years with Mark Trnka Auto Transport, based in Mahnomen. While there, in collaboration with the NAD (National Association of the Deaf), he advocated for reforming the USDOT policy regarding the "whisper test" requirements. In 2013, that requirement was abolished and to date, around 700 deaf individuals now are employed as semi-truck drivers. That number is expected to increase in the future as well.

In 2019, then Governor Walz appointed Les as the NW representative to the Minnesota Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Board until he resigned in 2023. Les was also a proud member of the White Earth Ojibwa Nation.

Preceding him in death are his parents; brother, Kim; sisters, Denise Vargason and Michelle Olson; and great buddy, Jeffrey Aarness.

Les is survived by his wife, Linda; sisters: Dawn (Rev. Paul) Larson of Detroit Lakes, Minn., Sheree Keprios of Mahnomen, and Dana (Randy) Johnson of Hibbing, Minn.; brothers, Clay (Toni) Fairbanks of Ogema, and Craig (Pam) Fairbanks of Waubun; and several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews, and several terriers, including Sam.

Les wishes to thank the Dialysis Team of White Earth for their care and patience, Hospice of the Red River Valley, and the friends who have visited him at the end of his journey through life.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Please visit our website for updated service information.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Leola "Lee" Rae Anderson-Rousu

Leola "Lee" Rae Anderson-Rousu, 86, of Callaway, died Feb. 19 at Oak Cross Nursing Home in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Leola Nicholson was born in Vancouver, Wash., on March 12, 1938, the daughter of Clifford and Blanche (Switzer) Nicholson. As a young girl, the family moved to North Dakota where Lee graduated from Bowesmont, N.D. She then furthered her education at Josef's School of Hair Design in Fargo, N.D., becoming a licensed beautician. Lee owned and operated LeAnn's Beauty Salon in Detroit Lakes from 1974-1998.



On April 20, 1991, Leola was united in marriage to Thomas Rousu and they made their home together near Callaway. In 1998, Lee started working at Beauty Lane in Detroit Lakes until her retirement from the industry in 2004. Her love of children showed through as she became a foster grandparent for the White Earth Head Start Program in 2004 until 2013. Lee's abundant love was especially evident in the way she loved and cherished all her grandchildren.

During Lee's free time she had many hobbies that kept her busy. She was a true homemaker who excelled at baking, cooking, sewing and gardening. In her younger years, Lee enjoyed bowling and later in life it was the simple pleasures of watching and feeding the many birds that gathered on her porch. Lee held memberships with Detroit Lakes Auxiliary, serving as the past president from 1987-1989. In addition, she belonged to the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society where she served as the state treasurer from 2002-2007 and also the local Chapter #54-Becker County Finnish American Historical Society as their past treasurer. Lee will be remembered as a loving and caring individual who cherished all her family and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Lee is survived by her husband, Tom, of Callaway; step sons: William (Maxine) Rousu of Bagley, Minn., Donald (Cheyanne Farley) Rousu of Waubun, and Richard Rousu of Callaway; grandchildren: Caitlyn, Jordan, Faith and Remington; brothers, Norman (Bev) Nicholson of Fargo, and Gerald (Lynette) Nicholson of Beaverton, Ore.; brothers-in-law, Harvey Johnson of Kennedy, Minn., and Dennis Danielson of Lake Havasu, Ariz.; several nieces and nephews and many extended family on Tom's side.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother; stepfather, Wilferd Fisher; and sisters: Janice Nicholson, Bonnie Danielson and Goldie Johnson.

Blessed be the memory of Leola Anderson-Rousu.

A funeral service was held Feb. 25 at Northern Lights Freedom and Life Church in Callaway.

Interment: Auran Finnish Cemetery, rural Callaway, in the spring.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Marvin "Moss" Tibbetts Sr.

Marvin "Moss" Tibbetts Sr., 68, of Waubun, passed away on Feb. 21 in Mahnomen.

Marvin was born on March 27, 1956, in San Diego, Calif., to Burnham and Marion Tibbetts (Sargeant). Marvin married Lynn Olson of Grand Portage, Minn., on Dec. 6, 1974, in Grand Portage, and together they shared a life full of love, adventure, and cherished memories.



He was proud to be a graduate of Moorhead State University in 1992, and his life was further enriched by the birth of his three sons: Marvin Louis Tibbetts Jr., Jeffrey Allen Tibbetts, and Dennis Anthony "Butch" Tibbetts. Over the years, Moss became a devoted grandpa, finding joy in the lives of his grandchildren: Emmett Tibbetts, Shaylyn Tibbetts, Taylor Tibbetts, Alexandra Tibbetts, Emily Tibbetts, Jensen Tibbetts, Dennis Tibbetts Jr., Meresa Tibbetts, Briella Tibbetts, Austin Thompson, Niko Carmichael, and Azaleah Bloom.

Moss' greatest joy was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed taking rides with his wife, Lynn, and looked forward to summer days tending to his little garden. He was an avid fan of old western movies, loved reading books by the warmth of the wood stove, and loved a cup of black coffee. Moss had a fun-loving side, always looking forward to visits to the casino where he played his promos and often kept his jackpots a secret from Lynn. He also looked forward to hunting season and taking long rides on the back roads with his sons.

A passionate fisherman, Moss was well known for his skill in smoking fish for anyone who brought it to him. Marvin's life was also marked by his numerous achievements throughout his career. His work ethic and dedication earned him many awards, reflecting

his commitment to everything he set his mind to.

A life well lived, Marvin "Moss" Tibbetts will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His legacy of love, laughter, and the simple joys of life will forever remain in the hearts of his family and friends.

Moss is survived by his beloved wife, Lynn Tibbetts; sons, Jeff and Dennis Tibbetts Sr.; grandchildren: Emmett, Shaylyn, Taylor, Alexandra, Emily, Jensen, Dennis Jr., Meresa, Briella, Austin, Niko, and Azaleah; brothers, Burnham "Buck" (Mary) Tibbetts, Bernard "Bimbo" (Bette) Tibbetts; sister, Judy Tibbetts; and many extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Burnham and Marion Tibbetts; son, Marvin Tibbetts Jr.; sisters: Ella Vogel, Joyce Tibbetts, Deb Uran, and infant Carol Tibbetts.; and brother, Terrance Tibbetts Sr.

Visitation and a prayer service was held Feb. 25 at Samuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Naytahwaush. The funeral service was held Feb. 26, also at Samuel Memorial Episcopal Church.

Interment: Free Gospel Alliance Cemetery in Naytahwaush.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Did You Know...

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

Special Events

- **Diabetes Bingo**
 March 5th—Naytahwaush
 March 12th—White Earth Cong.
 March 26th—Rice Lake

White Earth Elder Nutrition Program Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige “White Earth Elder Eating Good” Onaabani-giizis (Hard Crust Moon)- March

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 ~ Angie Clark


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

Pine Point ENP Site (218) 573-2210
 Site Controller ~ Thor Smith

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

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

Kat Thompson, ENP Manager
 Danielle Sutherland Uran, Nutrition Coord.
 (218) 983-3286 ext. 1266
 Katherine.thompson@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Chicken pot pie w/ mixed veggies Beets Wheat bread Tropical fruit	4 Lasagna Garlic bread Cali blend veggies Mangoes	5 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	6 Pecan crusted chicken Mashed potatoes Corn Dinner roll Fruit salad	7 Fish tacos w/ fixings Seasoned rice Coleslaw Pineapple
10 Tomato tortellini soup Ham and cheese on a Croissant Veggies w/ dip Apricots	11 Turkey w/ gravy Mashed potatoes Steamed veggies Wheat roll Peaches	12 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	13 Beef stew Biscuit Spinach salad Fruit crisp	14 Baked fish Manoomin pilaf Cheesy broccoli Wheat roll Pears
17 Corned beef sandwich  Sauerkraut Potato wedges Pistachio fruit salad	18 Stuffed pepper Spanish rice Wheat bread Berry yogurt parfait	19 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	20 Birthday Lunch Bison meatballs over egg noodles Glazed carrots Garden salad Birthday Treat	21 Salmon loaf w/ dill sauce Roasted baby potatoes Italian veggie blend Wheat bread Fresh fruit
24 Chicken alfredo Breadstick Steamed broccoli Fruit cocktail	25 Turkey club Sweet potato fries Cookie Mandarin oranges	26 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	27 Pork roast and gravy Mashed potatoes Country blend veggies Wheat bread Fresh fruit	28 Manoomin soup Artisan roll Baked chips Bananas and wafers w/ pudding
31 Brunch for Lunch Chefs choice				

White Earth Food Distribution March Store Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30

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

March 2025 Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education w/Shirley: Mar 6th, 12th, 17th and 27th.

Mar 7th: Bagley, Ponsford & Naytahwaush

Mar 10th: Mahnomen & Waubun

Mar 14th: White Earth

Mar 21st: Detroit Lakes

Mar 31st: Store closed for inventory

No Store hours on Fridays

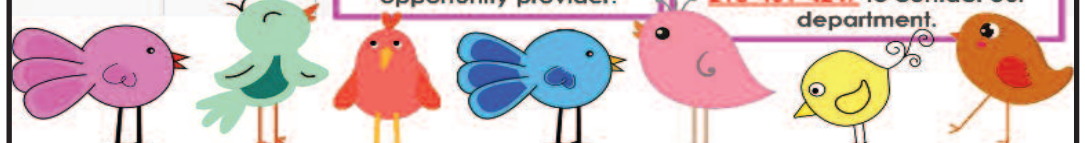
If you receive home delivery service and will not be home on your scheduled route, please notify us ASAP.

White Earth WIC March 2025

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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



MARCH

2025

Cultural Calendar

Onaabini-giizis

White Earth Cultural Activities
Monthly Schedule



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2						8
	OMC Tobacco Ceremony 9am Youth Sweat 12pm	Mahnomen Culture 10-12	WE WESA AFT 8 10-12	Skirt making 10-12 NTW, call to enroll	Mpls. Urban AFT 2 10-12	
9						15
	OMC Tobacco Ceremony 9am	NTW Moms Ceremony 10-12	WE Mats Culture 10-12 NTW School 1:30-3:30pm	Acute Care 1-3 Circle Back 4-6:30	Urban Mpls. Sweat 6:30 pm	
16						22
	OMC Tobacco Ceremony 9am Women sweat 12pm	Mahnomen Culture 10-12	WE WESA AFT 9 10-12	OMC Talking Circle 9-11am	Ceremony Gathering NTW 10am - 6pm	Ceremony Gathering NTW 10-3pm
23						29
	OMC Tobacco Ceremony 9am	NTW Moms Ceremony 10-2	WE Mats Culture 10-12	Acute Care 1-3 Circle Back 4-6:30		
30						31

Boozhoo, Nindinawemaaganidoog.

The White Earth Behavioral Health Cultural Team has met to discuss any upcoming Sweat Lodge ceremonies and would like to inform you of the following updates.

Beginning in March 2025, due to fluctuations in attendance, the Men's and Women's community Sweat Lodges will transition to a combined, co-ed format. To ensure the safety and comfort of all participants, both male and female staff will be present, and all established safety protocols will be followed. We recognize the importance of personal and cultural preferences, so upon request, we will continue to accommodate Male-Only or Female-Only Sweat Lodges as needed. We kindly ask that any such requests be accompanied by Asemaa (tobacco) in accordance with tradition.

Miigwech, White Earth Behavioral Health Cultural Team

WENR Youth Summer Internship

White Earth Natural Resources is looking for highly motivated individuals that want to learn about natural resources. WENR is offering our summer internship to those who have an interest in NR, are able to work outside, and are flexible to various job duties and environments.



The summer internship pays \$16.00/hour and will approximately be 12-weeks starting June 2nd 2025.

Requirements:

- *Valid drivers license
- *Subjected to a background check.
- *Must be 16-25 years old.
- *Must currently be in high school, or have diploma/GED.
- *If in college, must be in a natural resources field or interest in a natural resources career.
- *Flexibility of the working schedule.
- *Interest in working in the outdoors in various environments.

MUST HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION TO WORK STATION

INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES/DUTIES INCLUDE:
 NETTING
 WATER SAFETY
 CANNING DEMO
 COLLEGE TOURS
 PARK MAINTENANCE
 FORESTRY PRACTICES
 FISH CLEANING
 MACROINVERTBRATE SAMPLING
 FISHERIES/HATCHERY
 AG PRACTICES
 BISON CARETAKING
 AND MANY MORE DUTIES

PLEASE REACH OUT TO
 JASON.CLARK@WHITEEARTH-NSN.GOV OR
 ZOE.KEEZER@WHITEEARTH-NSN.GOV TO ACCESS
 THE APPLICATION AND LETTER OF INTEREST

APPLICATIONS DUE- APRIL 11TH



JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER!

Be notified of upcoming Healing Bridge events and healing groups- both virtual & in-person

SUBSCRIBE HERE

Search for Sasquatch Contest at Waubun School Forest

- Visit the Waubun School forest and ski, snowshoe or hike with a partner. **One adult (18 or older) must be present.**
- **Sign your names on the sign in sheet before you go into the woods.** The sign in sheet is located on the desk in the Bomber Hut located at 2541 State Highway 113, Waubun Minnesota.
- **When you find the 7' sasquatch located in the Waubun School Forest take a picture of yourself with him and text or email the photo along with your contact information to 218-401-2421 or Fitnesschallenge@whiteearth-nsn.gov**
- Photo must be taken during the daylight and non-school hours.
- Plan ahead, use the restroom before venturing into the woods, dress appropriately and bring a cell phone for emergencies/photo taking.
- Unauthorized motor vehicles, ATV's and snowmobiles are NOT allowed.
- Take litter home with you.
- The use of drugs and alcohol are prohibited.
- Have fun enjoying the fresh air, beautiful scenery and outdoor exercise!
- **Contest ends March 31, 2025. Prizes will be awarded in April 2025.**



Motivational Therapy Sessions

March 26th, 2025 & March 27th, 2025 | Shooting Star Event Center

Join us for three **free** motivational therapy sessions to strengthen your health and wellness.

The following sessions will be offered on Wednesday and Thursday. You can attend as many sessions as you like.

- Cessation: 10:00am to 11:00am
- Anxiety: 11:30am-12:30pm
- Weight loss (nutrition) 1:30pm-2:30pm

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

REMINDER: Doors will close at 10:00 am sharp/11:30 am Sharp/1:30 sharp.

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

For questions about the event, call 218-401-3174.



Community Experiences

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

"I haven't smoked since the second session I attended. I appreciate having the workshops repeated so I can reinforce the fact that I am a non-smoker."

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

"I don't know how, but my coffee cravings just went away that quick."

Ganawendandaa Nibiikaangi LET'S PROTECT OUR WATERS Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

To avoid spreading aquatic invasive species do the following:

BEFORE launching and **BEFORE** leaving.

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

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

Erickson from Page 6

our people. My deepest gratitude to all of our tribal employees. The impact of your work reaches far beyond the walls of your offices. THANK YOU ALL for everything you do each and every day. Your hard work does not go unnoticed — today and every day, we recognize you.

Other Information

The elder tiny home process is moving forward. Applications are under review by the Dreamcatcher Homes Board in collaboration with Optima Property Management, ensuring a thorough and fair selection process. This initiative aims to provide housing for homeless elders.

White Earth IT continues to update the White Earth Nation webpage <https://www.whiteearth.com>. The website includes White Earth Programs, job opportunities, events and more!

Purchase Online: White Earth Wild Rice, maples syrup, White Earth flag and other items: <https://realwildrice.shop/>

If constituents are facing issues with propane shortages or have received disconnect notices, they are encouraged to seek assistance through Energy Assistance programs, Mahube, or Human Services. These resources are available to provide support and help ensure households remain warm and safe.

We encourage all tribal members to share any concerns, ideas, or questions they may have. Your input is invaluable in guiding our efforts to serve and represent you. Miigwech for the honor and privilege of being your representative. If you need assistance, or would like to discuss any issues, or wish to schedule a meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out to either myself or Tiffany Swiers. We are here to listen, support, and ensure your voice is heard.

Contact information:

Laura Lee Erickson

laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Office: 218-935-6238

Cell: 218-401-1153

Facebook: VOTE LAURA LEE

Tiffany Swiers (Assistant for District 3)

Office: 218-935-6235

Cell: 218-997-9124

tiffany.swiers@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Award winning educator



Submitted photo

Courtney Moyer, a proud member of the White Earth Nation, was recently presented the 2025 Outstanding Early Career Award from the Minnesota Association of Family Consumer Sciences for contributions in the FCS Field during the first three years of her career. She earned her masters of arts in teaching degree and is a Native American Liaison at Kelliher (Minn.) High School.

Howah Ads

REMINDER!

Howah Ads are \$5 with a picture or \$4 without.

All payments must be made in advance.

No exceptions

Happy Birthday Sophie

Happy Heavenly Birthday to my brother **Jimmy Krause**

Love and miss you from Mom, Tina, Margo, Michael and Aunt Becky

Forever 54!

Happy Birthday Zach

Happy **13th** Birthday **Jordan**

Love Mom, Dad & Azalea

March 22

Iron Range Area Community Council

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

Everyone is encouraged to attend and get involved

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Gordon Leroy Smith, DOB: 08/17/1945**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00008**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **March 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** an Initial Hearing on the traffic citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: January 30, 2025

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Chester Allen Retz Sr., DOB: 04/09/1983**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00004**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **March 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** an Initial Hearing on the traffic citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: January 30, 2025

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Treyton Lee Bloom, DOB: 04/04/2001**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00025**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **March 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** an Initial Hearing on the traffic citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: February 10, 2025

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of **Brandon Michael Fairbanks, DOB: 04/12/1992**

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2025-00031**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **March 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** an Initial Hearing on the traffic citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-3285.

Dated: February 11, 2025

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

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

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. **T2024-00166**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on **March 26, 2025, 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: February 26, 2025

Did You Know...

You can read the current and past issues of the Anishinaabeg Today online at www.whiteearth.com for free!

The online issues feature more color and you can read them right away when the paper comes out on the first Wednesday morning of each month.

GROW YOUR GREEN: FARM BUSINESS START UP COURSE



Ryan Pesch is a UMN Extension Educator who assists farmers to better manage their businesses and helps new growers get started. Ryan and his family have operated a commercial vegetable farm in Otter Tail County since 2004.

MARCH-APRIL 2025
6:00-7:30PM CST
LOCATION: ZHISHIB CLASSROOM AT WETCC

Community Extension Department
USDA NIFA
United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY EXTENSION

About Course
This course will introduce the basics of starting a farm or food business and how to profitably steer farm financials. The course includes a field trip to a local vegetable farm to see the tools of the trade in person.

5 Sessions (90 minutes each):

- **March 13:** Goals and Mission for your Business
- **March 20:** Customers and Farm Marketing
- **March 27:** Farm Finance and Recordkeeping
- **March 29:** Creating your Start Up Budget
- **April 3:** Field Trip to Uda Farm

Scholarship opportunities: Complete training and receive \$200. Do monthly follow up - complete 2025 farm finance records and receive \$650.

Registration Questions:
Contact Us:
maria.fatz@wetcc.edu
218-935-8349

pesch@umn.edu
218-770-4398
wetcc.edu
<https://forms.office.com/r/fvYbAq5xa>

WINTER PRUNING Community Learning Opportunity



Wednesday
March 12, 2025
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Rice Lake Community Center

Thursday
March 13, 2025
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
White Earth Community Center

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
WETCC Community Extension

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Callaway Land Recovery

Meet at the sites listed and please dress for the weather.

Madeline Wimmer
UMN Extension

Gain hands-on experience and learn basic winter pruning principles for apple trees (WETCC: apple trees & grapes).

Call or Email to Register: Maria Fatz 218-936-8349 extension@wetcc.edu

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY EXTENSION
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Attention New Homeowners & Existing Homeowners

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

Requirements to qualify for the grants are:

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

Contact us at 218-935-6276

Diabetic Bingo

All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.

March 5th, Wednesday Naytahwaush
March 12th, Wednesday White Earth – Congregate
March 26th, 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 2nd, Wednesday Pine Point
April 9th, Wednesday Elbow Lake
April 23rd, Wednesday Mahnomen – Valley View

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 is at the E.N.P. building after the 11:30 elder meal.
Bingo at Valley View will be in the Community Room in Valley View at 1:00pm.

May 7th, Wednesday Naytahwaush
May 21st, Wednesday White Earth – Congregate
May 28th, Wednesday Rice Lake

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

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

Other Public Health Events that are coming up in March
Dr. Ung (a foot doctor) Clinic – Call (218) 255-2204 to set up an appointment.
March 17th in White Earth 9:00-4:00
March 18th – 19th in Mahnomen 9:00-4:00

March 9th Family Fun Day at the Waubun School Forest 12:30-3:30
March 20th Family Movie Night “Brother Bear” at the Casino starting at 4pm limited to 100 people
March 26th and 27th Motivational Therapy for Cessation, Anxiety and weight loss
March 27th Colon Health Fair at the Pine Point Community Building 3pm-6pm
March 31st Suicide Prevention: guest speaker Emma Benoit at the Waubun School

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

Updated 2/25/2025

NABCEP SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ASSOCIATE TRAINING

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
APRIL 1 - MAY 29, 2025
5 - 8 PM

HYBRID WITH BOTH ONLINE AND IN-PERSON CLASSES

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

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Training prepares & covers the fee for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Solar PV Associate Credential Exam. Internship Opportunities with White Earth Nation and partners.
- Participants will receive a free basic electronics kit (a \$170 value).

MUST TAKE ACCUPLACER EXAM TO DETERMINE READINESS

COST ASSISTANCE

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

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

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

*This workforce project was funded in part by a grant awarded by the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The project was created by the grant recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of DEED. DEED makes no guarantee, warranties, or assurance of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information or listed data and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

21st Annual Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference

Save the Date

August 13th & 14th, 2025
with Preconference August 12th, 2025
Shooting Star Casino & Event Center
Mahnomen, MN

More information coming soon... Scan me

Conference website: <https://bit.ly/ccbdconference>
White Earth Child Care and Early Childhood Programs
sueheisler@whiteearth-nsn.gov

PP School Meeting Minutes

Pine Point Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.
Pine Point School Staff Room

1.0 Roll Call – Meeting called to order by Chairman John Swan at 4:30 p.m.
Members present – Michael Swan, Gerald Roberts, Sara Hut, John Swan, Allison Jones
Members absent – Marva Aitken
Ex-officio – Christopher Schulz, Principal

2.0 Recognition of Visitors - Bonnie Meeks, Sandra Kwak.

3.0 Approval/Amendment of Agenda – Motion by Allison Jones to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Sara Hunt. All in favor. Motion carried.

4.0 Approval/Amendment of Minutes – Motion by Allison Jones to approve the December 9, 2024 minutes as presented, seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.

5.0 Finance

5.1 Treasurer’s Report – Motion by Michael Swan to approve the Treasurer’s Report for December 2024 as presented, seconded by Sara Hunt. All in favor. Motion carried.

5.2 Payment of Bills & Electronic Funds Transfer & Debit Card Transactions – Motion by Michael Swan to approve the payment of bills for the month of December 2024 in the amount of \$54,391.15 for check #33933 through check #33983 and the EFT for Federal/State/TRA Payroll Tax & Debit Card Transactions, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 Solar Panels – Contact Land office about new location of solar panels.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Reorganization of Board – Tabled until February meeting.

7.2 Selection of Official Publication – Motion by Michael Swan to utilize the Anishinaabeg Today as the official publication for the school district, seconded by Sara Hunt. All in favor. Motion carried.

7.3 Selection of Depositories – Motion by Gerald Roberts to authorize the use of the following depositories: Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund (MSDLAF); US Bank of Minneapolis; and Northview Bank of Park Rapids, seconded by Sara Hunt. All in favor. Motion carried.

7.4 Authorize Superintendent/Principal and Business Manager to conduct financial transactions and Electronic Fund Transfers and to make debit card transactions of behalf of school district – Motion by Michael Swan to authorize Christopher Schulz, Superintendent of Schools/Principal and Bonnie Meeks, Business Manager, to conduct financial transactions and Electronic Fund Transfers and Debit Card transactions on behalf of the school district, seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.

7.5 Schedule of Monthly Board Meetings – Motion by Michael Swan to schedule monthly board meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m., seconded by Gerald Roberts. All in favor. Motion carried.

7.6 Salary for Board Members – Motion by Michael Swan to set salary at \$150/meeting and \$50/special meeting, seconded by Sara Hunt. All in favor. Motion carried.

8.0 Principal’s Report – Discussion on Core Read Act Training on January 17th & 24th; No School for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20th; Head checks on January 22nd; Paraprofessional’s Day on January 22nd; Parent/Teacher Conferences on February 14th; Tubing field trip on February 21st; Science Fair on March 7th. No action needed.

9.0 Public Participation – Culture Camp on February 22nd; Ribbon Skirt class in March.

10.0 Adjournment – Motion by Michael Swan to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m., seconded by Allison Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.

Eagle View Township
will hold its annual meeting
on **March 11, 2025** at 7 pm in the
Elbow Lake Community Center,
39944 N. Elbow Lake Drive

Twin Lakes Township
will hold a meeting on **March 11,**
2025 at 7 pm in Pinehurst Resort and
Lodge in Naytahwaush



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION



SPECIAL BOILER OPERATOR LICENSE COURSE
MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
MARCH 24 - MAY 1
5:00 - 8:00 PM

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

CLASS OBJECTIVES

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

COST ASSISTANCE

Pathways to Prosperity Grant Requirements

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

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

2250 College Rd
Mahnomon, MN 56557
wetcc.edu/customized-ed



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION

ONLINE



CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) TRAINING
MARCH 3-APRIL 20, 2025

Application Link: <https://qrcc.de/CustomizedEducation>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE). It is based on a core set of competency statements, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children.

- Course work: 120 hours online
- 480 hours of work/volunteer experience with three to five-year-olds at a licensed facility (This can be fulfilled retrospectively.)
- Infant Toddler, PK-3, and Family Childcare Credentials Available

COST ASSISTANCE

Pathways to Prosperity Grant Requirements


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

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

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

NAYTAHWAUSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL **2025 REGULAR MEETINGS**

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS NOTED DIFFERENT * @ NTW OLD CENTER



09 JAN	NCC 6PM		
13 FEB	NCC 6PM	14 AUG	NCC 6PM
13 MAR	NCC 6PM	*04* SEPT	NCC 6PM
10 APR	NCC 6PM	09 OCT	NCC 6PM
08 MAY	NCC 6PM	13 NOV	NCC 6PM
19 JUN	NCC 6PM	*04* DEC	NCC 6PM
10 JUL	NCC 6PM	QUESTIONS? PLEASE MESSAGE NAYTAHWAUSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL FB PAGE	

March 22, 2025
WEUCC Family Craft Day and Elections

One position open: Community at Large Board Member

Tami Rock and Allison Dakota are running for this position.
The League of Women Voters will be there from 11 to 5 pm so that you can come and vote along with enjoying the family activities.

Family Crafts Noon to 3 PM

Join us to make crafts-all families and members without children are welcome to sign up and come make crafts

We will need a head count to buy the supplies—contact us to let us know if you can attend and if you are bringing family members so we can order enough supplies and food

Sherri 612-423-6760 or Annette 612-508-4425

We are looking for an Elder for Story telling.

We have found a drum group to attend and teach how to dance.

Pizza and water will be provided for lunch.

1308 East Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404
Sponsored by WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council

YOUTH Event

Saturday, April 12th, 2025
Noon to 3PM

B I N G O

Parents and guardians, sign up the children and attend with them for our YOUTH Bingo. We will have plastic eggs filled with either candy or cash for them to win.

Pizza and water will be provided for lunch

We do need a head count for the food and bingo prizes.
Contact Sherri 612-423-6760 or Annette 612-508-4425

Sponsored by WEUCC-White Earth Urban Community Council

MCT Building—1308 East Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404

NEED MORE ENERGY?

JOIN STAR FITNESS CENTER TODAY!

Located in the Manito Mall, Mahnomon

Email Jackie.Haugo@whiteearth-nsn.gov or call 935-0808 or 218-401-2421 to fill out an application

NEW KEY CARD HOURS:
Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-10:00p.m. (age 15-17)
Saturday &-Sunday 6 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. (age 15-17)
Adults (18 & older) get 24 hour access 7 days a week.



White Earth Nation TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Present, Promote, Protect


Bins Now Located Behind Naytahwaush Complex

Recycling Underway

NEARLY 1000LBS OF RECYCLABLES DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL TO DATE

ACCEPTED ITEMS: 1&2 PLASTICS, TIN/STEEL, ALUMINUM, PAPER, GLASS

PLEASE NO TRASH BAGS LOOSE ITEMS ONLY

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GAWAABAABIGANAKAAG
GABEGIKENDASOWWIGAMIG

Customized Education Career Coach

Position Summary: Under the supervision of the customized education coordinator, this position will assist participants in identifying a career path, goals, and advancement through case management and employer relationships.

Work Schedule: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, evenings, weekends as needed.

Advertised Salary: \$19.21/hour

Minimum Qualifications:

- Associates degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
- Experience working effectively in a team environment with a customer service focus.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.
- Ability to pass a background check before being offered employment.

Visit www.wetcc.edu for the full job posting as well as the application and background check form.

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



Submitted photo

From left are Toney Begay, SFI Project Manager, Helen Montgomery, Leech Lake Tribal College President, Keith Shoates, SFI President & CEO, and Anna Sheppard, White Earth Tribal and Community College President.

Minnesota tribal colleges sign partnership agreements with Student Freedom Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC – Representatives of White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC), Leech Lake Tribal College (LLTC), and Student Freedom Initiative (SFI) recently met in Washington, D.C., for a ceremonial signing of new partnership agreements.

The partnerships are intended to help both tribal colleges gain access to modern funding solutions, paid internship opportunities, tutoring, mentorship, investment education, and capacity building — all specifically designed to meet the unique needs of the colleges and their students.

SFI is a single-purpose nonprofit organization that aims to reduce the wealth gap through the lens of education, specifically for students attending Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs.) It was founded in 2020 following Robert F. Smith, Philanthropist and Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Vista Equity Partners gift to the graduation class at Morehouse College in 2019.

WETCC President Anna Sheppard thanked SFI for its commitment to equity, access, and opportunity, stating that the partnership will leave an eternal mark on the lives of Indigenous students and their communities for generations to come.

She added, “To our campus and community members: This is more than just an agreement on paper. This is a promise. A promise to invest in our future, to uplift our students, and to honor our traditions while preparing for the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

WETCC and LLTC look forward to the incredible impact this partnership will have on their communities.

About WE Tribal and Community College

White Earth Tribal and Community College is two-year college located in Mahanomen, dedicated to academic excellence grounded in Anishinaabe culture, values, and traditions. The college strives to provide quality education and training that meets the needs of the White Earth Nation and surrounding communities. WETCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is open to all, regardless of tribal affiliation.

About Leech Lake Tribal College

The Leech Lake Tribal College is a two-year degree-granting institution located in Cass Lake, Minn., and open to the public. It serves Native Americans and non-Native students throughout the area. Degree programs include Business Management, Early Childhood Education, Indigenous Leadership, Liberal Education, Law Enforcement, Integrated Residential Builder, and Indigenous Science.



Your job search ends here
www.whiteearth.com

Gov. Walz proclaims Third Graders Day at request of Naytahwaush 3rd grader

Naytahwaush Community Charter School 3rd grader, Karen Wadena, decided to dream big and asked Governor Tim Walz to proclaim March 3 the official 3rd Graders Day in Minnesota.

Karen is one step closer to making her dream of a National 3rd Grade Day come true.

In January, Karen watched as 4th grade students at her school celebrated National 4th Grade Day. Karen thought to herself, “Woah, can we have a National 3rd Grade Day?”

Desiree Reine, Educational Consultant with DREAM Consulting, was talking with Karen at her school that day and asked Karen what she thought she could do to have a National 3rd Grade Day. That is when Karen had the idea to write a letter to the editor of the Minneapolis (now Minnesota) Star Tribune in hopes Governor Walz would help Karen make national change. Karen dictated her letter to Desiree, and together the two sent Karen’s letter to the editor.

Karen’s letter was published by the Star Tribune on Feb. 3. That is when Karen’s letter caught the attention of Governor Walz. The Governor’s office sent Wadena and Reine an email on Feb. 24 stating that Governor Walz has written an official Minnesota proclamation naming March 3, Third Graders Day in Minnesota.

About Karen’s accomplishment, Trista Ayers, Assistant Director of Education for the White Earth Nation, states, “I love it when our officials respond to our kiddos - I think it builds their confidence and their belief that they have a voice that can truly make a difference.” Reine echoes Ayer’s sentiment and adds, “When a student tells a trusted helper she has a dream, it is our job as helpers to support her to make her dream come true.”



Submitted photo

Karen Wadena, a 3rd grader at the Naytahwaush Community Charter School shows her editorial that was printed in the Minnesota Star Tribune.