

# A Monthly Chronicle of the White Earth Nation

Vol. 29 No. 7

White Earth, Minn.

today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

2nd Annual

NAAME GIIZIS

White Earth Community Council Pow Wow

JULY 26, 27 & 28, 2024

The votes are in!

## Fairbanks and Erickson come out on top in general election

The tension was mounting as the last of the absentee ballots were being counted from the White Earth General Election held June 11 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen.

When the final votes were tabulated. Michael A. Fairbanks was re-elected as Chairman and Laura Lee Erickson was chosen as the District III Representative. Both are four-year terms.

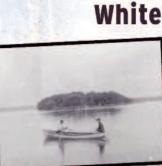
In the Chairman race, Fairbanks received 1,155 (55.96%) votes and Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts garnered 909 (44.04%).

Incumbent District III Representative Cheryl "Annie" Jackson lost her seat to challenger Laura Lee Erickson. Erickson defeated Jackson 595 (57.43%) to 441 (42.57%).

After the election, Tibbetts and Jackson filed a request for the White Earth Election Board to conduct a hand count of the ballots. A hand count was held June 17 and 18 at the Shooting Star Casino. Once the count was finished there were no changes to the final numbers. Neither candidate filed any appeals.

A breakdown of the election results can be seen on page 6.

The date of an inauguration celebration was not finalized when the July paper went to press. More information will be made public on the White Earth Facebook page, White Earth website at www. whiteearth.com, and Nijii Radio (KKWE 89.9 FM).



**RULES FOR POW WOW GROUNDS & CAMPING AREA** · Camping at your own risk Free campfire wood Showers are available on Saturday and Sunday betwee 6AM & IOAM

24-hour security on-sit **IIPM Curfew** 

 No fireworks, weapons, alcohol or illegal substances No unruly behavior

No ATVS The White Earth Reservation

Business Committee, Police and Pow Wow Committee reserve the right to remove violators.

VERBC, SSC, WEPD and all associated nitities will not be liable for people w re attending at their own risk nor be eld responsible for accidents, losses, lnesses or short-funded travelers.



White Earth, MN FRI, JULY 26 | WARM-UPS 7PM **3 GRAND ENTRIES** SAT, JULY 27 | 1PM & 7PM SUN, JULY 28 | 1PM All dancers must be in regalia to register. All dancers must register prior to every grand entry. FEAST - 5PM - SATURDAY HOST DRUM: SMOKEY HILL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: ROB TIBBETTS MCs: VINCE BEYL / FRANK STECH **ARENA DIRECTORS: TOM MASON / LUCAS HISGUN** DRUM SPLIT | TBD - No Drum Hopping Bring own chairs Drum contacts: Candice Smith 218-204-0129

**CONTESTS:** Luck of the Draw SPECIALS: TBD

**BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: 3RD GRADE - ADULTS** For more information call 218-401-3769

MEMORIAL 5K RUN/WALK - SAT, JULY 27 | 9AM **Registration: 8AM-9AM** Start at White Earth Health Division Parking Lot Open to everyone. No registration fee

VENDOR CONTACT: Paula Smith 218-204-1400 Shannon Heisler 218-368-2311

FOR MORE INFO F WHITE EARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL www.whiteearth.com

## New council member

Laura Lee Erickson was sworn in as the newly elected District III Rep. on Monday, July 1 at the RBC Headquarters. She and Chairman Michael Fairbanks defeated their opponents during the White Earth Election on June 11.

From left are Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque, District I Rep. Henry Fox, District III Rep. Laura Erickson, Chairman Michael Fairbanks, and District II Rep. Eugene Sommers.

Photo by Sage Thompson

Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks congratulates Laura Lee Erickson on June 11 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen.

Fairbanks won re-election and Erickson was voted in as the new District III Representative.

> Photo by Garv W. Padrta

ECRWSS





## Anishinaabeg Today

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

The *AT* reserves the right to reject any advertising or materials submitted for publication. The submission of articles and photos is encouraged, however, they are subject to editing for grammar, length, and malicious/ libelous content. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the *AT* and will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material nor will the *AT* guarantee publication upon submission. *Deadlines are strictly enforced!* Deadline dates are printed below in each issue.

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

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

Anishinaabeg Today PO Box 418 White Earth, MN 56591

Memberships Indigenous Journalist Association Minnesota Newspaper Association

## **WER Business Committee**

Michael Fairbanks Chairman

Michael LaRoque Secretary-Treasurer

Henry George Fox District I Representative

Eugene Sommers District II Representative

Laura Lee Erickson District III Representative

## Editor

Gary W. Padrta

Future Issues *			
<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>		
July 31	August 7		
August 28	September 4		
September 25	October 2		
October 30	November 6		
November 27	December 4		
* Deadline and issue dates subject to change			

# Where the Wild Things Are - Noopeming

#### By Winona LaDuke

"First they put us on Reservations. Promised us a good life, then they take our land illegally, and try to diminish us. Today, much of the same, still trying to take what little we have left, when will they realize we are still here, we still fight. Where is our federal government, they are who we made the treaties with, not the state or counties. They

should be here doing what's right for once!"

## Cheryl Jackson, White Earth

There is not much of it left. Nopeming is where the wild things are; the amikwag, bizhiwag, ma'inganag, namewag, amoog, esaag, zhashagiwag, manoomin and inititaag, the maples. There is not a lot left of the places where the wild things are and those places are shrinking. They are shrinking from a lack of courage, imagination, people who stay inside on their Xboxes and sheer greed.

With the axe of Weyerhauser Stenerson Lumber, and Knute Nelson's pen, the great pines are long gone; 75 million acres of trees in two decades, White Earth provided 89 million board feet in a year to build timber industry empires... Anishinaabe and Dakota great basswood and sugar maple forests fell to the axe as well, and have been cut into smaller and smaller pockets during the last 150 years.

Maple sugar is the sweetness of the Anishinaabe people - the first medicine in the spring, the basis of a robust trade, and sugar which could be produced without slavery. In one-year Keewenaw Bay Anshinaabe produced 563,000 pounds of maple sugar. Those are some Sugar Mamas. You can make sugar year after year, or you can cut them once and not see any more sugar or life for another 50 years. That's the difference between Indigenous thinking and Wiindigo thinking.

In early May, a logging company under permit from Becker County was cutting a big pile of trees in Eagle View township. The permit said \$56,000, and that means a substantial cut. So, I sat down. I sat down on the pile of trees they had cut, and soon, some neighbors, friends, Red Lakers, the tribal police, Cheryl Jackson and Eugene Tibbets were there, Angel Stevens, the Tribal cultural monitor and the Becker County Sheriff were all out there in the woods.

Becker County Sheriff Glander told Eugene Sommers, "I thought we were supposed to work together." Sommers responded, "If we were working together, it wouldn't have gotten this far. We're tired of the county and state never consulting with us. As the governing body of the Reservation, the Tribe needs to be at the table to give consent, so people don't destroy our medicines. We are never consulted; we always have to find these things out after the fact."

Three counties - Becker, Clearwater and Mahnomen Counties are the largest landholders on the White Earth reservation. They carved their lands illegally out of the reservation. "... the lands so held by any Indian shall be exempt from taxation and sale for debt and shall not be alienated except with approval of the Secretary of Interior and in no case to any person not a member of the Chippewa..." Article 7 of the 1867 Treaty.

Becker County has been harvesting trees and issuing permits on the White Earth reservation for a long time. The Anishinaabe have not benefitted from those timber sales, losing not only millions of dollars' worth of trees, but entire ecosystems.

The Herbt Decision reaffirms the right of the Anishinaabe to harvest maple sugar and other gifts from the Creator on the reservation, and the tribal right to regulate this, as opposed to the state of Minnesota or Becker County. As Don Wedll treaty rights historian explained in in a written interview. "In the Leech Lake Band of Chippewa vs. Herbst the court made two rulings. First: Leech Lake enrolled members can hunt, fish, and gather within the boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation where public hunting, fishing, and gathering occurs free from State of Minnesota Hunting and Fishing laws.

Secondly: Non enrolled members who hunt, fish, and gather within the Leech Lake Reservation would be required to have a license issued by the Leech Lake Tribal Government."

He continued, "because the decision made by the court would apply to other Reservations in the 1855 ceded territory, the state legislature passed a law directing the Minnesota Commissioner of Natural Resources to negotiate with other Reservations impacted by the decision. This included White Earth Band, and Mille Lacs Band. The negotiations broke down at White Earth and no agreement was reached..."

Time to talk it seems.

What's clear is that, as Wedll explains, "This has been a significant benefit to the county and the state of Minnesota. They have basically exploited these natural resources for their own gain over the last fifty years. This has cost the White Earth Band millions of dollars."

The White Earth Anishinaabe are not the only ones concerned about the Minnesota DNR and the counties timber harvesting practices, a group of DNR employees writes, "...Employees are concerned that the current forest management plan, the Sustainable Timber Harvest Initiative (STHI), established in 2018, is unduly prioritizing timber production over essential conservation efforts. This onesided focus has already led to the loss of heritage woods, and if not rectified promptly it will lead to irreversible damage to our forest ecosystem..."

Time to protect the maple trees and go back noopeming into the woods.

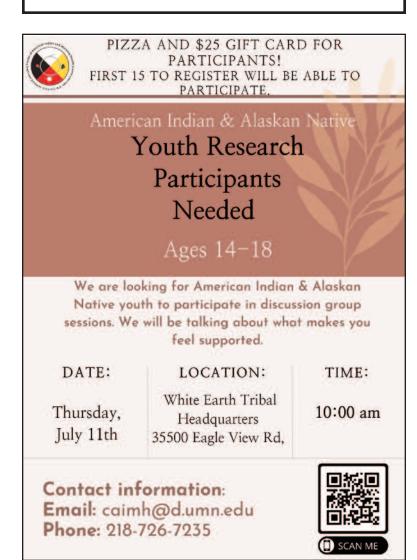


White Earth Nation has a Facebook page! www.facebook.com/WhiteEarthNation

# **RBC offices closed for holiday**

White Earth RBC offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 for the Fourth of July holiday and will reopen on Monday, July 8 at 8 a.m.

They will also be closed on Friday, July 19 for the RBC Employee Appreciation Picnic and will reopen on Monday, July 22 at 8 a.m.



## White Earth Home Health Car Seat Clinics



This is a great opportunity to get your child's car seat checked to make sure that your child is in the proper car seat! A team of safety specialists will be on hand to provide technical assistance and an appropriate car seat if eligible.

Car Seat Check Up

Mahnomen College Road Apartments: Wednesday June 26 from 2-4 pm Navtahwaush Ilead Start Thursday June 27 from 2-4 pm White Earth Community Center: Thursday July 18 from 3-5 pm Rice Lake Community Center: Thursday July 25 from 2-4 pm Pine Point Community Center: Thursday August 1 from 12-2 pm

\*\*\* To qualify; the child's legal guardian must attend, have custody of child/children, live on the White Earth Reservation, and bring the child/children along. Legal guardians will receive <u>one</u> car seat per stage of development as needed.\*\*\*

Any questions please contact Bryanna Chilton at 218-983-3286.



## News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag Niminwendam Waabaminaan!

Aabita-Niibino-Giizis.

Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagiizomaag aadizookaanag.

Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is July the Mid-Summer Moon,

Akawe Chi-Miigwech, Gaawaabaabiganikaag Anishinaabeg. First of all I am very grateful to everyone in our White Earth Nation who voted for me and elected me as your Chairman, I will continue to work tirelessly daily to serve all of you. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to all White Earth members for their support during my campaign.

For the next four years I will work persistently with the tribal council to make our nation the best it can be. We will continue to progress significantly in these vital areas: workforce stability, economic development, and natural resource protection. Under White Earth Nation leadership, we have established a thriving cannabis business, prioritized workforce development, and increased wages for our community members. I firmly believe that workforce stability is essential for our government, gaming, and cannabis business. Furthermore, we are committed to protecting our water and other natural resources and will continue our unwavering fight for return of our ancestral lands. Being born as Gaawaabaabiganikaag Anishinaabe we are caretakers of this land and we will continue to do just that.

With this month comes the beautiful outdoor weather we can all enjoy. Let's all make it a point to get outdoors this summer and enjoy this healing season more than we ever have. Just putting your bare feet on Mother Earth for 10 minutes a day is very good for the body, mind and spirit; it is called grounding. There are actual scientific research studies to prove this and what we've known as Anishinaabe all along.

I am looking forward to the end of this month which marks our White Earth Community Council's Second Annual Sturgeon Moon Powwow July 26-28 with Friday warm-ups. It will be another great powwow at our beautiful White Earth Powwow Grounds.

We have a good little story about niibin, summer.

Long ago, in the time of the ancestors, there was a young Ojibwe boy named Niibin, which means "summer" in our Ojibwe language. Niibin was known for his curiosity and kindness toward all living beings.

One hot July day, as Niibin wandered through the woods near his village, he heard a faint cry for help. Following the sound, he discovered a tiny Miskwaadesi, mud turtle or painted turtle, trapped in an area where there was no shade. Giizis, the sun's rays were very hot, and Miskwaadesi was struggling to break free as his shell was getting hot from Giizis's rays.

Niibin gently lifted little Miskwaadesi from its entanglement and carried it to a nearby pond, where cool water shimmered under the midsummer sun. He placed the turtle gently into the pond, where it swam joyfully singing nimiigwechwendam Niibin- nimiigwechwendam Niibin (I am very thankful for Niibin) as he swam home.

As Niibin sat by the pond, he heard a rustling in the tall grass and out popped Waabooz, the Rabbit, known for his quick wit and mischief. Waabooz



hopped over to Niibin and asked, "Why do you help creatures like that turtle? The summer sun is for playing and feasting, not rescuing!"

Niibin smiled and replied, "Waabooz, every living thing deserves kindness, especially under Giizis's warm embrace. Summer is not just for us, but for all beings to thrive. As Anishinaabe when we are born we have a duty to care and protect our beautiful Mama Aki, Mother Earth."

Waabooz pondered Niibin's words and nodded thoughtfully. From that day on, Waabooz often joined Niibin in his adventures, learning the wisdom of compassion and the beauty of summer through their shared experiences.

And so, in the Ojibwe village, the story of Niibin and Waabooz became a reminder of the importance of caring for others and Mama Aki, Mother Earth during the months of Niibin (summer), when Mama Aki is alive with abundance and Giizis's rays warm the land.

This story reflects the Ojibwe values of kindness, respect for nature, and the interconnectedness of all living things during the summertime, a time of growth and life.

Baamaapii wiingezin. Weweni-sago-na Miigwech bizindawiyeg. Gigawaabamininim naagaj. Take it easy. Everyone Be Safe, Thank you for listening to me. See you all later.

**Chairman Michael Fairbanks** 



## News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

#### Aanin Boozhoo

Greeting White Earth Members, I have the honor of providing you with the monthly report of the Secretary/Treasurer position for the White Earth Tribal Council. This month I will be providing an update on a Financial Information Request - White Earth Enterprises and its subsidiaries.

#### Financial Information Request-White Earth Enterprises and its subsidiaries

#### Dear Membership,

The White Earth RBC has received a request for financial information for White Earth Enterprises and some of its subsidiaries. The White Earth RBC is the sole owner of White Earth Enterprises; however, the business operates pursuant to an operating agreement and has oversite by its own Board of Directors. The information requested is the business entity's information and any requests for that information should be made to the White Earth Enterprises Director and Board of Directors. Please understand that some of the information you request is likely considered confidential and proprietary.

The organizational structure of the White Earth Enterprises and its subsidiaries is such to create a segregation of duties and responsibilities between government and business enterprises of the board.

Thank You for your interest and please let me know if you have any addition questions.

I would like to inform all Membership that you can submit any Financial Data request to me at mike.laroque@whiteearth-nsn.gov or call me at 218-



849-1140.

I hope everyone had a happy and safe Spring season and continue to have a great summer with Pow-Wow season in full swing. We are moving forward into the future with another successful year ahead of us.

In closing I want to thank the members of the White Earth Nation for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for this great nation. I look forward to moving forward with great progress and optimism and I hope we can work together for a brighter future. Miigwech!

> Michael J. LaRoque Secretary-Treasurer

# WE receives \$1.75 million to expand solar array at Pine Point

U.S. Sen.Tina Smith (D-MN) announced \$1.75 million for the White Earth Nation in Minnesota to use energy storage to increase their use of solar power and allow for greater energy flexibility. The project will expand an existing solar array at Pine Point Elementary School and Community Center to help lower electricity costs and support White Earth's goal to be energy independent.

"Tribal Nations have always been leaders in environmental stewardship," Smith said in a news release. "This funding will help White Earth Tribal Nation continue building a more resilient and clean energy system for the Tribe."

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of

Electricity selected three communities across the country to receive a total of \$3.7 million in project development assistance under the Energy Storage for Social Equity Program.

The program successfully launched in March 2022 and selected 14 communities for similar projects that focused on providing a strategy for energy access and affordability, decarbonization, environmental impact, resilience, and social impact.

The funding will promote an equitable clean energy transition, advance more affordable and reliable electricity, and support the Biden Administration's Justice40 goals.

## DIABETES & DEPARTMENT PREDIABETES: WHAT CAN WE DO?

Native American community members are invited to share their ideas, experience, and wisdom with each other and the Minnesota Department of Health. We want to learn from

Thursday, July 18, 2024 6:00- 7:30 PM ZOOM



All participants will receive a \$50 VISA gift card, which will be mailed within two weeks.

#### Pre-register to join the conversation!

For more information or to register, contact Isabel at <u>isabel@lighthouseglobal.co</u> or scan the QR code: https://forms.gle/AUhCWjcC784qZziE8



#### Minnesota Department of Health with facilitation by KA Nicholas Consulting

# **Valleyview Commons**

Valleyview Commons in Mahnomen has immediate openings for 1 bedroom units

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.

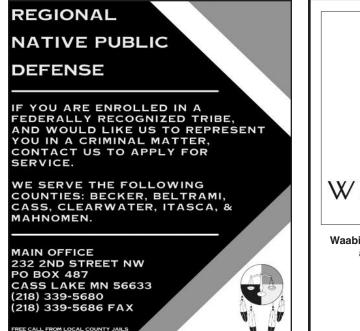
Currently all ages and incomes welcome to apply!

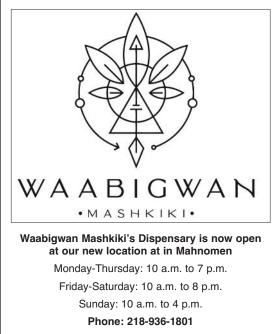
For more information contact DW Jones Management. 218-547-3307 or apply at www.dwjonesmanagement.com



CREATING BETTER LIVING Equal Housing Opportunity









## 4

## News From District II Rep. Eugene Sommers

Boozhoo Anishinaabe, this month the RBC made significant progress on our Landback initiatives and setting the stage for renegotiating past agreements. One of my favorite moments this month was visiting everyone at this year's Treaty Day Powwow and witnessing the crowning of Majestic Murray and Gitigaan Littlewolf as princess and brave. So proud of you both!

## Tamarac Wildlife Refuge MOA

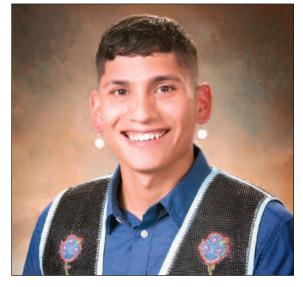
The Tamarac Wildlife Refuge was established by executive order 7902 on May 31, 1938, after being subject to fires set by timber tycoons for accessing the valuable timber resources. It was designated to protect its unique waterfowl habitat and remains a spiritually significant place for our people. Two pivotal agreements altered our land rights: the 1935 Collier Agreement initially restricted our hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, later in 2014 a MOU granted White Earth Nation authority over treaty activities in the refuge, resulting in a dual permitting system that restricted access for Tribal Members. On June 4, the RBC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the USFWS, acquiring management and eliminating the dual permitting system.

White Earth Nation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have now entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to jointly manage the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, spanning 42,534 acres. This partnership emphasizes conserving natural resources and recognizes the Tribe's treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather within the Refuge. Key aspects include collaborative planning, information sharing, and shared responsibilities like adjusting water levels to support wild rice harvesting. Effective for five years, the agreement reaffirms a commitment to a government-to-government relationship, respecting each party's sovereignty and legal obligations.

## Minnesota Department of Revenue Consult

The RBC met with the Minnesota Department of Revenue to begin discussions aimed at updating current tax agreements. Currently, the White Earth Nation has an agreement with the State of Minnesota allowing the state to collect sales tax on the Reservation, covering liquor, cigarettes, tobacco, and motor fuel excise. In return, White Earth Nation receives 50% of the taxes collected. These agreements have not been revised since the 1980s.

Given White Earth Nation's role as a major economic contributor, there is a strong belief that the Tribe deserves a larger share of these taxes. It is anticipated that negotiations could result in an increase of at least 20% in the Tribe's share, leading to greater annual funding.



#### **Minnesota DNR Consultation**

On June 27, the RBC met with Minnesota DNR regarding Consultation, Permitting, Protected Animals and the White Earth Forest. It is my goal to have the forest returned to the Tribe.

# National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

On June 1, I participated in the NCAI Mid Year Convention in North Carolina, accompanied by our Divisional Directors. At the convention, we introduced three resolutions. Our team testified and garnered support for our legislative priorities. These priorities encompass improving healthcare access for American Indians and Alaskan Natives, safeguarding cultural traditions, and bolstering family preservation efforts in Indian Country. I'm pleased to report that our team successfully passed all of our resolutions during this session.

#### **Softball and Picnics**

This month our Community Service Officer Program kicked off their summer softball league. Games are hosted at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex on Wednesday nights. The game was well attended by the community, even a few rez dogs showed up. The Mahnomen Community Picnic was also this month, taking place at the City Park. Miigwech to our CSO's for kicking off the summer in a good way.

#### **Elders Picnic**

I had such a good time visiting everyone at the Elders Picnic this month. Chi Miigwech to all the staff and volunteers who helped coordinate this year's picnic. I am very impressed with the event setup and transportation coordination that ensured elders on and off the reservation were able to attend. Looking forward to the next one!



"I had such a good time visiting everyone at the Elders Picnic this month. Chi Miigwech to all the staff and volunteers who helped coordinate this year's picnic."

#### Photo by Sage Thompson

## Rez Briefs

### **RBC** offices closed for holiday and event

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#### **Ogema VFW Post 9880 Auxiliary news**

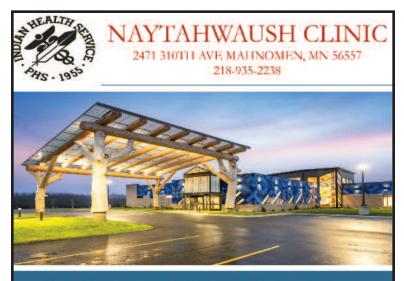
Ogema VFW Post 9880 Auxiliary has meeting on Monday, July 8 at 9 a.m. in the Ogema VFW Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. New members are being recruited in order to keep our post and auxiliary alive. If you are interested or need more information please call Carol Fabre at 218-983-3443.

#### 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.

#### Waubun School Forest information

You can find Waubun School Forest information and updates on their facebook page. The trails are always open for walking.



#### CLINIC & PHARMACY HOURS 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Same day appointments now available! Physical & Occupational Therapy PT - Monday & Thursday OT - Tuesday & Friday Mammo – Thursday Dental – Thursday White Earth Behavioral Health Walk-in Clinic Tuesdays 8-12

Patients can present any other week days and the mobile crisis team will be called WIC – Please call 218-204-0399 or 218-401-4247 to contact our department.

# **Valley View Manor**

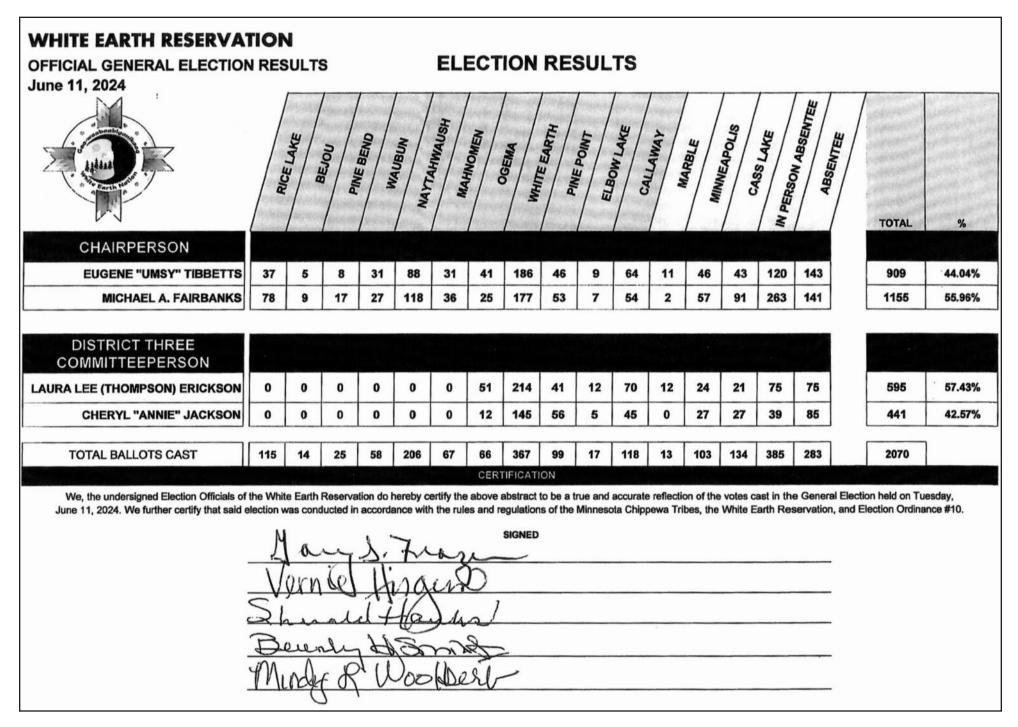
## Valley View Manor in Ada has 1 bedroom units for rent.

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







# Laura Lee Erickson sworn in as District III Rep.



Indigenous Games with Coach Dan Ninham and Chamisa Goodwin! Indigenous games for 3:3 play are: Gwaashkwanin—Standing Triple Jump Bakite'an-Shinny Ball Strike for Distance Bakite'ani-Longball Hit for Distance Apagidoon-Wooden stickball Throw for Distance Breakfast served as usual (8 am-9 am) Baaga'adowe (boys) Lunch: (12pm-1pm) Babsikawewin (girls) **Bison Burgers Wild Rice Bison Brats** Basikawaadan-Indian Football kick for Wild Rice Salad Distance Snacks will be available throughout the day -Kickball Footcast Kick for throug Distance : 9 am to 5 pm each d Club site oys & Girls Club Sites Rice Lake-July 9 -July 10uly 11 July 12 July 15 July 16 ught to you in p CDO Boys & Girls Clubs of White Earth (H White Earth Public Health m White Earth Behavioral Health

Photo by Sage Thompson

DEPARTMEN

Laura Lee Erickson was sworn in as the new District III Rep. during an open Special Meeting on July 1 at the RBC Headquarters building. Swearing in Erickson is her mother, Harriet "Dove" Keezer Thompson.

# **Citizen Update** Tribal Council working hard to protect water resources

## A Step Forward for Protecting Water Resources

We are facing a critical water crisis that demands immediate and comprehensive action. Water is sacred and belongs to everyone, yet Minnesota's current system fails to protect this vital resource for all. Despite decreasing overall water availability, the permitting process for large users has remained mostly unchanged, resulting in significant challenges for small farmers, wild ricers, leech harvesters, and minnow producers.

In May 2023, the Reservation Business Committee (RBC) took a pivotal step by passing an ordinance that requires large water users within five miles of the reservation to obtain a permit from the White Earth Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Today, the RBC has expanded our efforts, directing the White Earth DNR to take further action.

#### New Measures Passed by RBC

# Increase Enforcement of New Water Source Permitting

We recognize that new wells and pumps pose significant risks to our water supply. To ensure that existing problems are not compounded, the RBC directs the White Earth DNR to enforce the WEN ordinance requiring a tribal permit for new wells or pumps, invest in ongoing scientific research, and engage more actively in state processes for highcapacity water permits.

# Expand White Earth DNR Regulatory Enforcement Capacity

Effective protection of our water resources requires enhanced monitoring, analysis, and enforcement. The RBC directs the White Earth DNR to increase these capacities and seek funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to support expanded water management efforts.

#### **Expand Scientific Research**

To ensure a fair and equitable water permitting process, the RBC directs the White Earth DNR to increase investment in research and analysis, develop projects on aquifers and groundwater flow, and produce a final report and recommendations by 2026. As this research continues, enforcement of the May 2023 water ordinance regulations will be suspended for existing permitted water sources.

#### Expand to Regional Approach

Water issues extend beyond our immediate area, requiring a broader regional focus. The RBC has eliminated the five-mile radius limitation and directed White Earth DNR to establish the White Earth Regional Water Taskforce in collaboration with various agencies and stakeholders, including the Red River Basin Commission, the Mississippi River Headwaters Basin Commission, Minnesota DNR, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This task force will focus on the seven-county region around the White Earth Reservation to identify needs, conduct research, and develop regulatory solutions.

### **Expand Focus to Include Water Quality**

Protecting water sources requires attention to both quantity and quality. The RBC directs the White Earth DNR to work with the Regional Taskforce to expand research on water quality, develop new recommendations for water quality protection measures, and collaborate with stakeholders to develop water testing clinics.

We are committed to protecting our sacred water resources and ensuring their availability and quality for all. These measures represent a comprehensive approach to addressing the water crisis and safeguarding our community's future.

## US Flag Retirement Ceremony



Photo by Brenda Tilton

# Ogema VFW Post 9880 and Auxiliary hosted their annual US Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 14 (Flag Day) at the Ogema Ball Diamond. In addition to burning worn U.S. flags, Post members taught community youth the importance of respecting the flag.

## White Earth Council of Elders

#### By Tim Rindahl, Chairman

White Earth Nation Council of Elders

#### Boozhoo,

A lot has happened in June! We had the big pow wow in White Earth - myself and Sam ran the Elder's Booth with some help from Ruth Waukazo. Thanks Ruth and thank you to Cheryl Rindahl for making all those brownies, they were awesome. Also a big shout out to ICW for the donation - we also received donations from White Earth DNR, the Boys and Girls Clubs, along with a donation from Tribal Health. We want to thank everyone for all the help we received and a Special Thanks to Tully Wark and his awesome crew for building us the most perfect shelter booth that can be broke down and stored and put back together for any event that we hold. This is much appreciated, we stayed dry and did not have to worry about the wind. We also had the Elder bus in the parade. Just before the parade, Sam took the bus in for lettering and it turned out nice, thanks Sam.

My hats off to the Tribal Council for letting the programs decorate for the parade. I seen a lot of team work with the RTC employees this is great and helps build team work with everyone helping each other. Thank you Tribal Council this was good for morale in every department.

We have a TEC trip coming up July the 7-9 in Bois Forte. We like to attend these events, anyone that would like to join up just contact one of us to be put on the list. We need names, phone numbers and an address because sometimes things change at the last minute. The next TEC meeting will be held Oct. 29-30 in Leech Lake.

We would like to have a field trip sometime in September on a Saturday to do some fishing, walking, play some games and BBQ at either the Itasca Park or the Refuge. We would like to get a list of who will be attending so that we can have enough food and drinks and to see if we need the bigger bus to transport. I know that some of us would rather drive and that's a good thing but if you plan on driving please sign up so that we can plan accordingly. I am hoping to have a good turnout, would love to hear some comments on the Elders of White Earth Facebook page if you haven't visited the site yet please do.

Also, don't forget Minnesota State Park Permits are free to tribal members! You can pick yours up at any staffed state park (tribal affiliation/identification required) or you can pick them up at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Headquarters in Cass Lake during regular operating hours, M-F 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

We had the Elder's Picnic June 27 at the Rediscovery Center on White Earth Lake. This event is put on by the Elder Nutrition Program and it was a very nice time to visit with our friends and family that we don't get a chance to see very often. Thank you ENP staff - we appreciate your hard work.

Our next meeting is Aug. 6 in Naytahwaush at the ENP site right after lunch. We went back to doing the meeting during the day so that programs can attend and provide information on what is going on that Elders should be aware of.

As always feel free to reach out to any of us with any concerns and comments.

#### **Future meeting dates**:

Sept. 3 - Pine Point ENP Site after lunch Oct. 1 - White Earth ENP Site after lunch Nov. 5 - Rice Lake ENP Site after lunch Dec. 3 - Naytahwaush ENP Site after lunch

Sincerely,

Tim Rindahl (Chairman) / 218-261-0182 Sam Crowell (Vice Chair) / 218-252-9390 Colleen Blattenbauer (Treasurer) Monica Perrault (Secretary)

# White Earth set to offer specialty registration plates and identification cards to on-reservation members

White Earth Public Safety Division Motor Vehicle is pleased to announce we will be issuing vehicle registration plates for our area volunteer firemen and a fireman identification card.

#### **Rules for qualifying Tribal Member**

• Volunteer fireman specialty plate may only be issued during the period the registered owner(s) of the vehicle is an active volunteer of an area fire department.

• Fireman plates may be issued to an active volunteer fireman, for passenger and SUV vehicles owned by a federally enrolled member, residing within the White Earth Reservation boundaries, or registered with two owners, provided one is enrolled and two registered owners are residing within the White Earth Reservation Boundaries.

• Fireman plates are issued for the life of the vehicle, provided the tribal member continues to be an active volunteer fireman, plates are nontransferable and must be renewed annually.

• Applicants for volunteer firemen plates must submit at the time of registration, title documents, a letter of authorization from the fire chief of the respective department they are actively volunteering for, stating the individual is on active volunteer duty for the fire department.

• Applicants must pay a fee of \$15 for the specialty firemen plate, in addition to the regular registration rates or fees for title transfer and registration of the vehicle, whether passenger class or SUV rates.

• If the tribal member volunteer fireman owns more than one vehicle, the applicant may apply for the fireman specialty plate for each motor vehicle, a letter from the fire chief for each motor vehicle.

• Applicants will be limited to a combination of three sets of current registered plates, plates are non-transferable and must be renewed annually.

• If the tribal member volunteer fireman is no longer qualified for the volunteer fireman specialty plate(s), the department fire chief must give written notification to the White Earth Public Safety Director and the White Earth DMV Coordinator, that the tribal member is no longer qualified for these specialty plates. The DMV coordinator shall invalidate the plates and notify the tribal member of this action, within 30 days from the date of separation from an area volunteer fire department.

• Upon retirement or separation from an area volunteer fire department the registered owner shall remove the specialty plates and apply for regular passenger class plate registration within 30 days of the date of separation and pay the required fees for the title transfer and registration under the passenger or SUV class fee table.

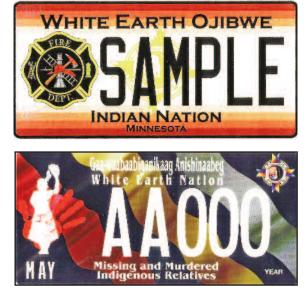
The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council reserves the right to adopt further rules to govern the issuance and use of the specialty volunteer fireman plates.

Volunteer Fireman Identification Card – Rules on Issuance

Applicants must be enrolled and be an active member of an area fire department and reside within reservation boundaries to apply for Volunteer Fireman identification cards.

Each applicant must bring in identity documents to verify enrollment and a letter from the current Fire Department Chief that they volunteer under.

Each identification card issued will be valid for three years from the date of issue, each renewal a letter accompanying verification that the tribal member



is current or active duty for the fire department. Applicants must pay a fee of \$12 for the

Volunteer Fireman identification card. The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council reserves the right to adopt or terminate any amend-

reserves the right to adopt or terminate any amendments pertaining to the issuance of the fireman identification card.

#### MMIR Vehicle Registration Plates

The White Earth DMV Department is also happy to announce we are now issuing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) plates. The plates represent and bring awareness to the missing and murdered indigenous relatives who are missing from the lives of their loved ones.

The plates are offered as specialty license plates, a choice at the time of registration, numerical, personalized, or MMIR. They are not transferable from vehicle to vehicle and will not be made to be personalized. Personalized plates will continue as usual issuance.

The vehicles currently registered under the numerical license plate system will not be switched or swapped for the MMIR plates. We apologize for this, we just have too many vehicles registered under the numerical system, and impossible to switch all the titles, database records etc.

The fees for the MMIR plates are as follows:

Passenger Class	SUV
2024/25 - \$208.25	2024/25 - \$247.50
2023 - \$184.50	2023 - \$221.25
2022 - \$168.75	2022 - \$189.75
2021 - \$137.25	2021 - \$158.00
2020 - \$121.50	2020 - \$137.25
2019 - \$105.75	2019 - \$126.75
2018 - \$90.00	2018 - \$111.00
2017 - \$79.50	2017 - \$100.50
2016 - \$74.25	2016 - \$90.00
2015/older - \$69.00	2015/older - \$59.50

Miigwech, Department of Public Safety







an auto accident? "or Slipped & fell or attacked by a dog?

Fergus Falls 218-736-5673

\*Licensed in Minnesota and White Earth Tribal Courts

# **Diabetes Memorial 5K winners announced**

**By Paulie Niesen** White Earth Public Health

It was a beautiful morning on June 15, there was a bit of a breeze but that was nice for the runners and walkers for our 23rd Annual Diabetes Memorial 5K Fun Walk/Run.

Everyone who completed the 5K fun walk/run received a \$5 Walmart gift card and a red T-shirt donated by White Earth Behavior Health.

Thank you to all who came out and participated in our event and especially to those who help make this event possible each year.

## Men

Ages 5-14 1st place - Davian Bower: 22 minutes (2nd place overall) 2nd place - Blayne Smith: 26 minutes 3rd place - Grayson Zima: 30 minutes Ages 15-29 1st place - Landon Nathe: 21 minutes (1st place overall) 2nd place - Jermanie Williams: 1 hour and 8 minutes Ages 30-39 1st place - Cory Bellefeuille: 25 minutes (3rd place overall) 2nd place - Curtis Rogers: 30 minutes 3rd place - Shawn Kostoh: 34 minutes Ages 40-49 1st place - Jerome Lhotka: 27 minutes Ages 50 + 1st place - John Swan: 31 minutes 2nd place - Allen Haugo: 34 minutes 3rd place - Roger Zima: 49 minutes

## <u>Women</u>

Ages 5-14 1st place - Kay Smith: 31 minutes 2nd place - Brylee Omang: 36 minutes 3rd place - Ayanna Zornes: 52 minutes

#### Ages 30-39

Ages 50+

1st places - Tracee Omang: 25 minutes 2nd place - Kyla Soland: 33 minutes 3rd place - Emily Sargent: 40 minutes Ages 40-49 1st place - Michelle St.Clair: 33 minutes 2nd place - Kami Lhotka: 35 minutes 3rd place - Jennifer Accobee: 54 minutes

1st place - Laure Zima: 35 minutes



Submitted photo

Laure Zima won first place in the Womens 50+ category during the 23rd Annual Diabetes Memorial 5K Fun Walk/Run held June 15 in White Earth.

## WE Child Support Program honored at conference



#### Submitted photo

The White Earth Nation was presented with the Outstanding Tribe Award at the National Tribal Child Support Association Conference held June 16-20 in Cherokee, N.C. The tribe was recognized for exhibiting an inspiring dedication to the success of tribal children. From left are Anna Nessman, Margaret Eischens, Shari Korte, Jamie Wirth, and Liz Francis. Not pictured: Raegan Hendrickson and Stacy Zima.

## THE DOCTOR'S CORNER

## Eye injuries are preventable

**By David J. Bellware, OD** White Earth Health Center

Once again, the weather is warming up and outdoor activities will be occurring more frequently. Many of us will commence with spring and summer cleaning, outdoor construction projects, summer sports and outdoor lawn and yard maintenance activities. This increase in outdoor activities also increases the chance of an eye injury. In the United States, more than one million eye injuries occur per year. According to the EyeSmart Eye Injury Report, approximately 50 percent of these injuries occur at home. The good news is that most eye injuries are preventable.

The most common types of eye injuries occur from: exposure to environmental factors, splash injuries, burns, foreign body, and traumatic injuries. These can typically be prevented by wearing the appropriate type of eye protection for the various activities that can cause each of these types of eye injury.

Environmental exposure eye injuries can be caused by the sun and wind as well as intense heat from welders. The sun can cause irritation when Ultra-Violet (UV) radiation burns the structures in the front of the eye. Additionally, exposure to UV radiation has been linked with cortical cataracts, pterygium, and pinguecula growth on the eyes. The wind can also cause injury to the eye by exacerbating dry eye. The most common cause of eye pain is dry eye. Long-term exposure to the wind has also been linked with the growth of pterygium and pinguecula on the cornea and conjunctiva of the eyes.

Thermal burns can occur from intense heat or Infra-red (IR) radiation. Common sources of thermal burns are from gas grills, fireworks/pyrotechnics, open flames, and welder's flash. Open flames will often cause damage to the eyelids and lashes along with other ocular structures; while welders flash will cause intense eye pain primarily from damage to the cornea and conjunctiva. A good pair of sunglasses will provide protection from the wind and sun. It is important to select sunglasses that provide adequate coverage in front of the eye, and that block at least 90% UV. Sunglasses that block more than 98% of UV radiation are readily available. Individuals who work with welders (or in shops where welders are being used) should use an appropriate welder mask or goggles-sunglasses will not protect against welders flash.

Splash injuries to the eyes are common when working with liquids. This typically occurs when spraying, pouring or mixing chemicals or other liquids that may contain pathogens or other bio-

See Eyes Page 25







## 2024 Annual Picnic & 4th Annual Carl Fransen's White Earth Has Talent Contest

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



Minnehaha Park Wabun Shelter D 4655 46<sup>TH</sup> Ave S Minneapolis, MN Sat. July 13th, 2024 11am-3pm Meal served at 12:00 PM

Sign up for the Talent Contest by going to the White Earth Urban Community Council Facebook Business Page. In the Comments, list your nam me or names of those who are interested and what talent you will showca For more information call Char at 651-262-7602.

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

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

Site Name	Site Address	Dates and Days of Operation	Meals with Service Times
Mahnomen Boys & Girls Club	416 5 Hwy 59 Mahnomen, MN	June 3rd-August 30th, 2024 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Naytahwaush Boys & Girls Club	2531 310 <sup>th</sup> Ave Naytahwaush, MN	June 3rd-August 30th, 2024 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Pine Point Boys & Girls Club	48580 Pow Wow Hwy Ponsford, MN	June 10th- July 31st, 2024 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Rice Lake Boys & Girls Club	13830 Community Loop Rd Rice Lake, MN	June 3rd-August 30th, 2024 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
Waubun Boys & Girls Club	1041 Dutch St Waubun, MN	June 3rd-August 30th, 2024 Mon – Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30
White Earth Boys & Girls Club	26310 Crane Road White Earth, MN	June 3rd-August 30th, 2024 Mon –Friday	Breakfast 8:30-9:30 Lunch 12:30-1:30

Hours are subject to change due to staffing

nore information, contact Aimee Drift at 218-935-3519 n complaint of discrimination, complete the <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u> (AD-3027), found online at r.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the k requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

- leted complaint form or letter to USDA by

s institution is an equal opportunity provide

# IN NEED OF SEPTIC PUMPING

If you need your sewer system pumped call the White Earth Water and Sewer Department at 218-983-3202.

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)

# WE R FURR sponsoring a

WE R FURR is having a vaccination/microchip clinic on July 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Callaway school.

vaccination/microchip clinic

Rabies, Feline and Canine Distemper, Bordatela, and Lymes vaccinations are \$25 each. Lifetime microchip is \$25. We will have wormer available. Nail trims are \$10. Tic chews will be available.



Your job search ends here www.whiteearth.com



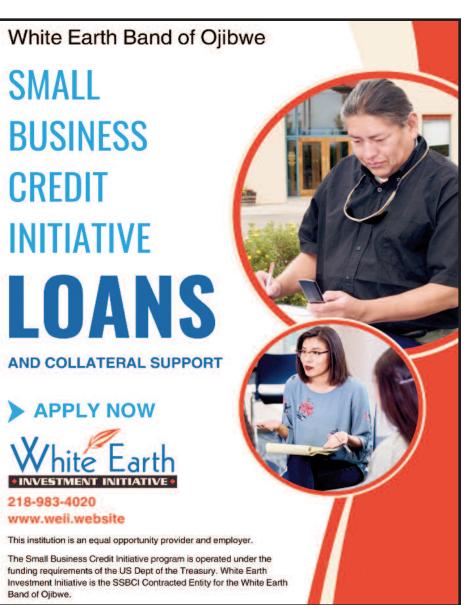


Submitted photo

The Mahnomen-Waubun Thunderbird Ladies golf team competed in the Section 8A golf tournament held May 28-29 at Bemidji Town and Country Club. The team put together two good days of golf but found themselves coming just short of the BGMR Gators and finished the season with a 2nd place team finish. Individual golfers Cady Clark - Medalist, Isabella Schlick - 7th place, and Leah Hlubek - 9th place positioned themselves to advance onto the MSHSL State Class A Golf Tournament that was recently held at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker, Minn.

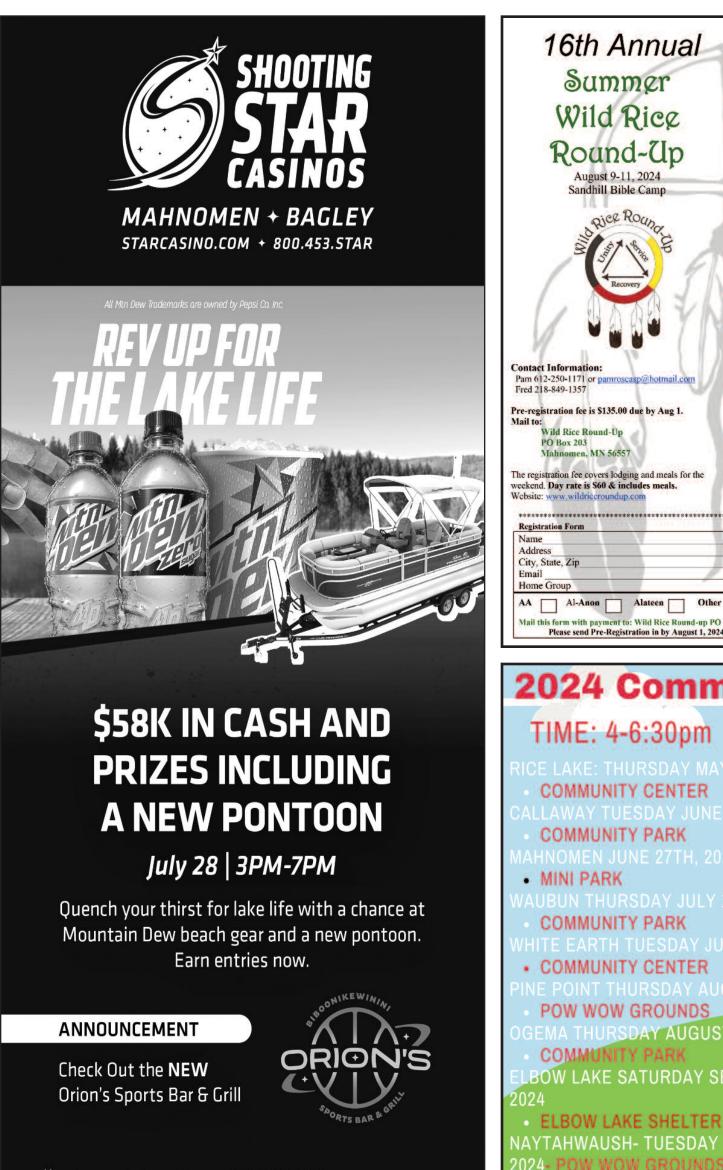
Cadence Clark is a senior at Waubun High School and an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation. Cady's 2024 golf honors include Pine to Prairie All Conference golfer, Subsection 8A South Individual Champion and Section 8A Individual Champion. This was Cady's second appearance at the State Tourney to finish of an outstanding high school career.

From left are Bailey Halvorson, Isabella Schlick, Mia McArthur, Cadence Clark, Leah Hlubek, Olivia Halvorson, McKenna Bjerk, and Coach Derek Aus.

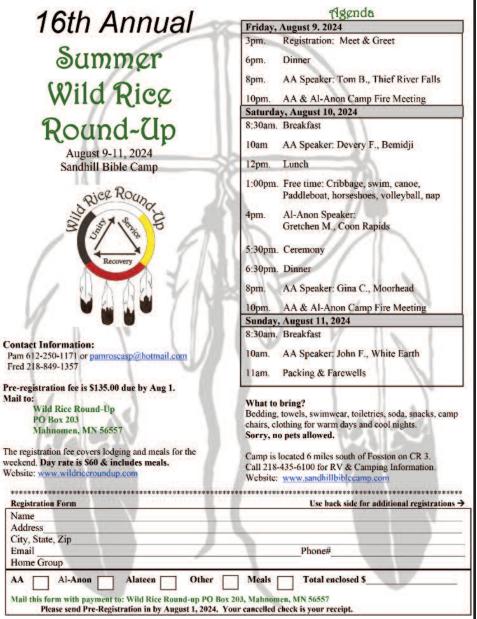


FISH

STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



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## 2024 Community **Picnics**

TIME: 4-6:30pm

COMMUNITY CENTER COMMUNITY PARK **COMMUNITY PARK**  COMMUNITY CENTER POW WOW GROUNDS OGEMA THURSDAY AUGUST 29TH, 2024 **COMMUNITY PARK** LBOW LAKE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH,

NAYTAHWAUSH- TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2024- POW WOW GROUI





White Earth Nation TRIBAL PUBLICHEALTH



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# WETCC receives grant from U.S. Department of Commerce to strengthen healthcare workforce

White Earth Tribal & Community College is proud to announce the receipt of a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to support healthcare workforce development.

President Anna Sheppard states, "We are excited to announce the addition of a medical simulation mobile unit to our college. This portable, hi-tech classroom will provide two training rooms for interactive student learning with Anishinaabe teachings embedded into the curriculum. This innovative facility aims to enhance the learning experience by providing flexible, technologically advanced environments for a variety of healthcare educational programs. This portable classroom aims to address the increasing need for qualified healthcare professionals in our tribal community and beyond. We are excited to expand our degree options at WETCC."

This grant will provide mobile medical training units and related equipment to help nursing students prepare for good-paying, indemand jobs. Through this initiative, graduating students will be equipped with the requisite skills and the opportunity to secure well-paying jobs within their community. By growing a skilled workforce, we are paving the way for a brighter future for generations to come and serving the needs of the community.

This project was made possible by the

regional planning efforts led by the Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC). EDA funds HRDC to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic development road map to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment and create jobs.

This project is funded under the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, which provided EDA with \$483 million in additional Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program funds for disaster relief and recovery for areas that received a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Act as a result of Hurricanes Ian and Fiona, wildfires, flooding, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2021 and 2022. Please visit EDA's Disaster Supplemental webpage for more information.

# About White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC)

White Earth Tribal and Community College is a Tribal College & University (TCU) dedicated to providing higher education grounded in Anishinaabe language, culture, and values. With a commitment to excellence in teaching, WETCC prepares students to think critically and use the knowledge they attain to contribute positively to their communities.

I

This institution is an

equal opportunity

provider and lender.





Mahnomen held their Community Picnic on June 27 at the Mini Park.

The drug and alcohol free event was sponsored by White Earth Behavioral Health, CSO's, CHOWS, Overdose Response, and the Community Council.

For a list of upcoming Community Picnics turn to page. 12

Photos by Cortney Pemberton

E

DATE APPLYING:		
Name:	Spous	ses Name:
Mailing Address:		
Physical Address: Permanen	residency is required.	
Telephone #	Cell #	Work #
Birthdate:	Spouse's Birthd	late:
Enrollment # Attach a colored	Spouse's Enrolls l copy.	ment #
Do you live in a Housing hon Which district do you reside i	n: District I District	ur landlord? plow for their own Residents/Units. II District III nts):
Would you consider your law	n to be small, medium, or large	?
***Dogs <u>must be tied up, f</u>	one every two weeks; <u>area ne enced in, or housed</u> during se ig of grass & mowing ditches <mark>d after Labor Day weekend.</mark>	rvice.
	White Earth Water & Sev P.O. Box 4 White Earth, MN Phone #: 218-98 Fax #: 218-98	8 56591 3-3202



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/



## Anishinaabeg Today

## Astronaut Boot Camp



Photos by Jackie Haugo

White Earth Tribal Public Health recently teamed up with the Mahnomen Public Library, Mahnomen Elementary STEAM camp program, and the Waubun Community Forest to create Astronaut Boot Camp. The event was held outdoors near the elementary playground. Twenty nine children and 14 adults worked their way through various exercise stations that helped children use their imagination, as well as their muscles. **Top**: Children were challenged to deliver alien eggs on a spoon wearing moon shoes (snow shoes) to the space ship. **Bottom**: Camp attendees.

## **Beverly Robbins retires from IHS**



Photo by Sage Thompson

Beverly Robbins retired from IHS on June 28 after 40 years of service. Starting out in her career Beverly was a Medical Support Assistant worker for 20 years. She then transferred to work as a Patient Benefit Coordinator for another 20 years. Beverly said, "I'll miss coming to work every day. It was my home away from home. I will really miss my coworkers because they have become like family." Pictured from left are White Earth Health Center CEO Raimy Ronning, Beverly Robbins, and District III Rep. Laura Lee Erickson.

# **Rediscovery Center beach is a hidden gem**

It's been a cool, wet summer so far but when things heat up community members can enjoy a new and improved Rediscovery Center beach to spend a relaxing day.

"I feel that this is a wonderful place for people to use but it's being underutilized," said Jason Clark, White Earth Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Manager. "There has been improvements made and we are now taking care of this area on a regular basis."

Last summer, Parks and Recreation, White Earth Public Health, and the Roads Department made some improvements to the beach area that make it more accessible and family friendly.

"The Roads Department fixed up the walking trail down to the beach to make it more accessible to elderly and handicapped," said Clark. "Public Health purchased tables, benches, and grills, and Parks and Recreation installed all the new equipment, rebuilt the walking bridge and has taken over maintenance of the parking area and beach."

Clark reminds people that this location is used by families so drugs and alcohol are not allowed. He asks that community members be respectful of this beautiful area and to please clean up any mess that is made.





Submitted photos

WE Parks and Recreation has added benches, rebuilt the walking bridge, and made the walking trail more accessible to elders and handicapped.

## Community gathers for annual WE Elders Picnic







Photos by Sage Thompson

More than 245 community Elders, 24 caregivers and 34 Elders from the Twin Cities attended the annual White Earth Elders Picnic on June 27 at the Rediscovery Center on White Earth Lake.

In addition to door prizes and bingo, Judy Simpson from Mental Health talked about substance abuse and self-care for Elders.

Lunch included fried chicken, pulled pork sandwiches, wild rice, baked beans, coleslaw, and assorted desserts.

Organizers would like to thank White Earth Maintenance who did an awesome job with setup, (4 tents and 60+ tables) and they also drove golf carts to bring Elders to and from their cars. And a big shout out to Frank Stech, Roman Hanks, drum group, and the staff.

The event was organized and sponsored by the White Earth Elderly Nutrition Program.

# Highlights of the annual White Earth Pow-Wow







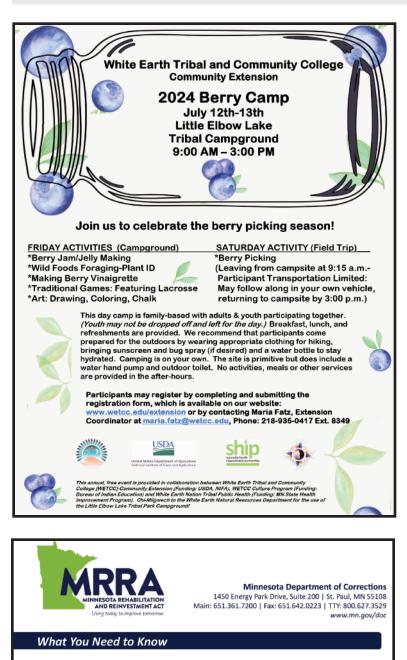
Photos by Gary W. Padrta

More than 800 registered dancers and 20 drums gathered for the 156th Annual White Earth Treaty Day Celebration and Pow Wow June 14-16. The host drum was Young Spirit and the co-host drum was Decendents. The 2024/25 Royalty are: Sr. Princess Majestic Murray, Jr. Princess Bunny Rojas, Sr. Brave Gitigan Littlewolf, and Jr. Brave Harry Kettle Jr.









#### What:

Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRA) is a new approach to Minnesota's sentencing that allows people committed to the Department of Corrections (DOC) to earn early release and earned supervisio abatement by successfully completing goals identified in their Individualized Rehabilitation Plan.

MRRA will shift the DOC's focus from how <u>much</u> time people spend in prison to <u>how</u> people spend that time. This new approach creates incentives for incarcerated individuals to participate in and make progress toward individualized goals that they aid in setting when they start their time in prison.

#### When:

MRRA policies are expected to be published in January 2025. An implementation plan will be in place with phased rollout throughout 2025.

#### How to Engage:

Check out the following ways to engage with staff and team members and to register for upcoming town halls and email notifications:



# **AT 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 218-983-3285 Ext. 5903 or

email: today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

# Mental Health June highlights many important awareness issues

Boozhoo from White Earth Mental Health. June highlights many awareness months such as Men's Mental Health Awareness Month and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month. June was also Pride Month! Let's discuss why these topics are important!

### Men's Mental Health Awareness Month:

Did you know that men suffering from mental illnesses are less likely to receive mental health treatment or a diagnosis? There are many reasons for this and one of them is the pressure men face to "man up or "tough it out." The stigma of men speaking out is that is seen as a form of "weakness" or not being "manly."

Other reasons that may impact a man's mental health journey are culture, fatherhood, race, and socioeconomic status. You may be wondering; how can we help the men in our life receive the mental health treatment they need and deserve? Signs such as feeling sad or down, withdrawal from family, friends, or activities, anger, increased worry or stress, misuse of alcohol, drugs, or both may indicate that you or someone you love may be struggling with mental health symptoms and need help.

Recognizing these signs, offering support, and connecting them to the correct resources/services is the first step toward receiving the right help and treatment. If you are someone you love are having trouble with managing mental health symptoms, please reach out if needed. Reminder, lets encourage our brothers, uncles, cousins, friends, elders, sons, dads, and grandfathers to have regular wellness visits, share your knowledge, and be a supportive relative.

### Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month:

What is PTSD? Posttraumatic stress disorder, or PTSD is a mental health concern that some people develop after seeing or experiencing a traumatic event. Trauma can take many forms and can affect someone in many different areas of their life. A traumatic event could be something that happened to you, or something you saw happen to someone else such as seeing the effects of a horrible or violent event can also be traumatic.

Remember, you are not alone. At least half of Americans have had a traumatic event in their lives. Of people who have had trauma, about one in 10 men and two in 10 women will develop PTSD.

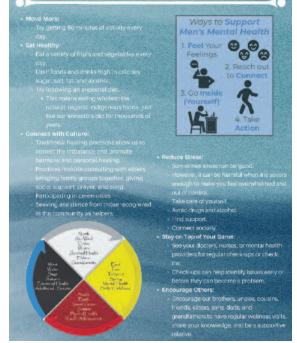
#### **Pride Month:**

Pride month is a time for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies to come together in solidarity to celebrate and embrace identity. We want to remind our families and caregivers that your support and acceptance of your loved one's sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression directly impacts their mental wellness and personal safety.

Did you know that many Indigenous peoples had diverse gender systems that exceeded the binary of men and women prior to colonization? Native communities have individuals who identify as Indigiqueer, Two-Spirit, LGBTQIA+, and Gender Non-Conforming. Our nations, peoples, and communities have teachings based on respect and self-determination that go back much farther than the different ideas brought over by colonizers.



# MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH TIPS



How can we support a loved one that is part of the LGTBQIA+ community?

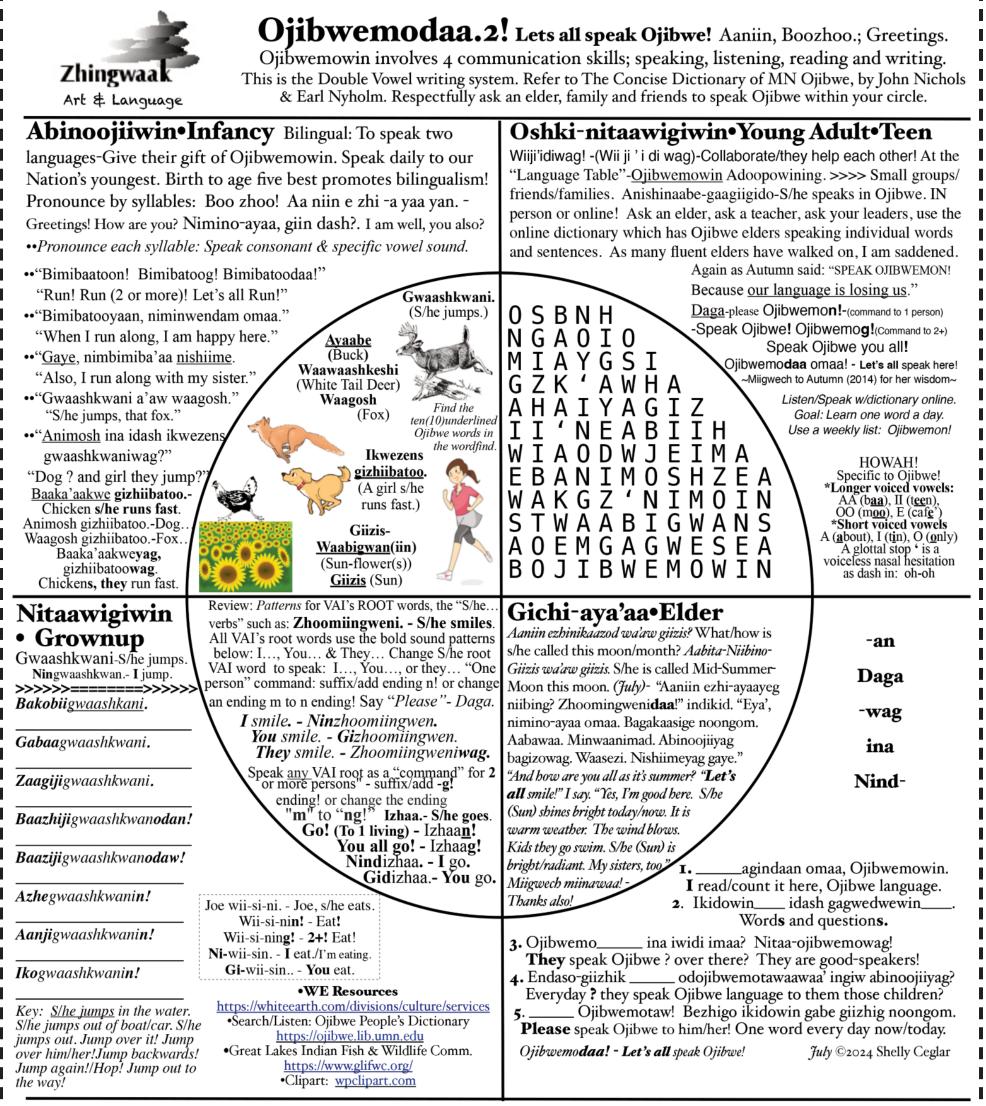
Families, friends, and allies play a critical role and can take actions to be supportive!

1) Respect Their Identity: Affirming and respecting how they are living their life. Using their chosen gender pronouns. Affirming LGBTIA+ people's identities can actually save lives!

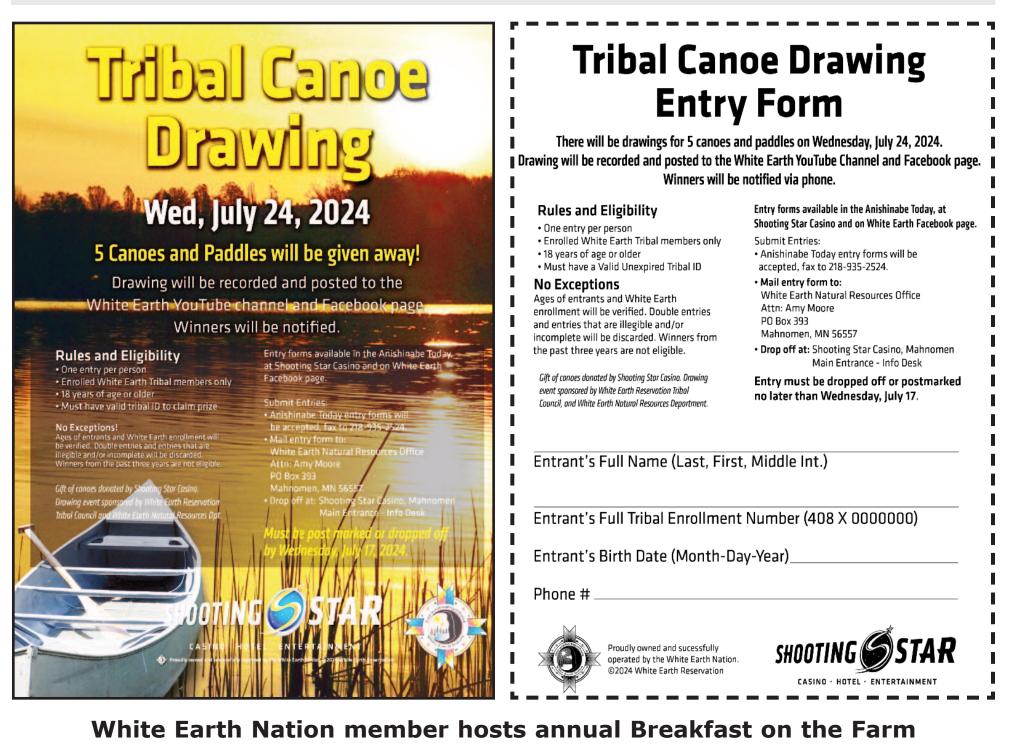
2) Create and Teach Awareness: Be supportive publicly. Addressing anti-LGBTQIA+ language and actions when you hear or see them. Support organizations and policies benefiting the LGBTQIA+ community.

3) Listen and Show Compassion: Being compassionate of the struggles of others, listening, and offering help is a great way to show your support of a loved one.

The 2nd Annual Sturgeon Moon Powwow is July 26-28



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!





<image>

#### Submitted photos

The Mahnomen County Breakfast on the Farm 2024 was hosted at the Jim and Sue Steinmetz Robotic Dairy Farm on June 15. Hundreds of guests were served a breakfast of pancakes, ice cream, strawberries, ham, and a beverage. Left: Sue Steinmetz (White Earth member) and her daughter Kristi Briard prepare for the event.

## **Special Events**

Diabetes Bingo

July 2nd: Shooting Star July 10th: NayTahWaush July 24th: Congregate WE July 31st: Rice Lake

WECOE Meeting

July 2nd: Elbow Lake, after lunch

## Elderly Nutrition Program Information

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

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

## Elders Suggested Donation \$4 Guest Meals \$6

Questions or comments please contact : White Earth ENP Site (218) 983-3744 Elbow Lake ENP Site (218) 734-2315 Pine Point ENP Site (218) 573-2210 Site Supervisors ~Angela Clark and James Bevins

Naytahwaush ENP Site (218) 935-5554 Rice Lake ENP Site (218) 694-2795 Site Supervisor ~ Sherry Halberg

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

# White Earth Elder Nutrition Program Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige "White Earth Elder Eating Good" Aabita-niibino-giizis (Mid Summer Moon) -July 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
l Alfredo pasta w/ sausage and pep- pers Breadstick Garden salad	<b>2</b> Sloppy joe Oven fries Broccoli salad Peaches	<b>3</b> <b>Chefs Choice</b> Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	4 Closed for Independence Day	5 Closed for Independence Day
<b>8</b> Tator tot hotdish Dinner roll Mixed veggies Spinach salad Pears	<b>9</b> Pork tenderloin Stuffing Sweet potatoes Wheat bread Cranberries	10 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	II Chicken Philly sandwich on hoagie Potato wedges Mandarin oranges	12 Taco salad w/ the fixings Churro Grapes
<b>I5</b> Fish sandwich w/ fixings Baked beans Coleslaw Cookie	<b>16</b> Pecan crusted chicken Mashed red potatoes Steamed veggies Wheat bread Pineapple	<b>17</b> <b>Chefs Choice</b> Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	<b>18 Birthday Lunch</b> Manoomin hotdish Brussel sprouts Croissant roll Spinach salad Birthday treat	19 Closed for Employee Picnic
<b>22</b> Ravioli w/ Sausage marinara Breadstick Green beans Tropical fruit	23 Bison meatballs Mashed potatoes Glazed carrots Cranberry WR bread Fruit crisp	24 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread	25 Scalloped potatoes w/ ham Mixed veggies Dinner roll Orange sherbet	<b>26</b> Manoomin soup Egg salad sandwich on croissant bun Melon
<b>29</b> Lemon pepper fish Cheesy broccoli rice Veggie blend Wheat roll Plums	<b>30</b> Beef stew Biscuit Garden salad Bananas w/ pudding	31 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread		

## White Earth Food Distribution July 2024 Store Hours

## Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30

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

July 2024 Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education: July 1st, 10th, 15th and 24th.

July 4th holiday - Closed

July 12th: Bagley, Ponsford & Naytahwaush

July 15th: Mahnomen & Waubun

July 22<sup>nd</sup>: White Earth

July 26th: Detroit Lakes

July 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.





JMING ELDER EVEN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
NTW	NTW	NTW	CLOSED	CLOSED
Walk in's	Walk in's	Walk in's		
Stocking Shelfs	Stocking Shelfs	Stocking Shelfs		
9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
8	9	10	11	12
NTW	Callaway	Rice Lake	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelfs	Niijii Radio	ENP-Site	Stocking Shelfs	
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-3pm	
15	16	17	18	19
NTW	Elbow Lake	Pine Point	NTW	RTC Picnic
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	
Stocking Shelfs	ENP Site	ENP Site	Stocking Shelfs	
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-3pm	CLOSED
22	23	24	25	26
NTW	White Earth	Ogema	NTW	Cleaning, Inventory
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon	Walk in's	CLOSED
Stocking Shelfs	ENP Site	Dream Catcher Homes	Stocking Shelfs	
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED	9am-3pm	
29	30	31		
NTW	Waubun	Mahnomen		
Walk in's	10am-noon	10am-noon		
Stocking Shelfs	Community Center	Vet's Building		
9am-3pm	NTW CLOSED	NTW CLOSED		

On community day's Naytahwaush warehouse will be closed with no pick ups in NTW

please feel free to contact the White Earth Food Shelf at 218-935-6313 or 218-935-6314

	Open to everyone 55+ r light snacks, education, and culture!
JULY	<b>RBC Closed</b> No elder class - Holiday
JULY	12:00P - 4:00P <b>Potluck &amp; Trivia</b> at Gizhiigin in Mahnomen Feel free to bring a dish!
JULY	12:00P – 4:00P <b>Guest Speaker &amp; Field Trip</b> Starts at Gizhiigin in Mahnomen, Farmers Market
<b>25</b>	12:00P - 4:00P <b>International Self Care Day</b> at Gizhiigin in Mahnomen Education and resources
Contact Courtney at co	urtney.bunker@whiteearth–nsn.gov or 218.983.4656



## WE Reservation Council of Elders show off new bus



The White Earth Reservation Council of Elders recently took possession of their new bus. From left are Sam Crowell - WECOE Vice Chairman, and Tim Rindahl - WECOE Chairman.



Many papers are still being sent to old addresses!

Call the **Anishinaabeg Today** at 218-983-3285 Ext. 5903 or email today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

## Obituaries

## William "Bill" J. Hanks Jr.

William "Bill" J. Hanks Jr., 83, of Callaway, passed peacefully at home on June 7. He was born Jan. 17, 1941, in White Earth, to the late William J. Hanks Sr., and Mary Ellen Roy. Bill attended local schools, and entered the U.S. Army on Feb. 28, 1963. Bill was stationed in California, Arizona, Korea and Georgia before being honorably discharged while he was stationed in Kansas. He received numerous decorations and medals,



including Sharpshooter and Expert Rifleman.
Following his discharge, Bill worked for the Tribe and later
for Indian Health Service in Bemidji, Minn., Aberdeen, S.D., and
then back to Bemidji. Bill loved music, and was an avid musician.
He played guitar, accordion and had played the organ for his
church in earlier years. He led numerous bands over the years,
including the Hanks Brothers Band. Bill also played the KDLM
Rhythm Rangers with his brother and sister. He loved fishing,
boating and "slotting" at the casino, his greatest love, however,
was for his family. He will be sadly missed.

Bill leaves so many friends and family to cherish his memory. He leaves his dear friend of over 50 years, Emma King; children:

Sharon Hanks, Dawn Hanks and William "Billy" King; siblings: Judy Thomas, Betty Red Horse, Thomas Hanks and Sherald Hanks; he leaves behind his grandchildren, including Nick Baker, Tayah King and Mya Copiskey; many nieces and nephews, including his special niece and caretaker, Shirley McGregor; and countless musician friends, made over a lifetime.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Francis Hanks and Wilma Bobbie McGregor; and a daughter, Mary Jo Hanks.

The visitation and prayer service was held June 10 at David-Donehower Funeral in Detroit Lakes, Minn. The funeral service was held June 11 at St. Columba Episcopal Church in White Earth.

Interment: St. Columbia Cemetery with full military honors Arrangements: David-Donehower Funeral Home. Online: www.david-donehower.com

## Darwin "Dar" James Shaugabay

Darwin "Dar" Shaugabay, 55, of Naytahwaush, passed away June 25 at Essentia Health in Fargo, N.D.

Darwin James Shaugabay the youngest son of Margaret Shaugabay, was born April 5, 1969, in Warroad, Minn. Dar grew up and attended school in Warroad. Following his high school graduation, Dar entered the workforce, working at Marvin Windows and then



Seven Clans Casino in Warroad. A few years later, he met Diane Accobee. The couple would spend the next 28 years together and were blessed with three sons. Over the years, Dar kept busy working different jobs. He worked at the Shooting Star Casino followed by a short time at Dakota Magic Casino before returning to the area. He then worked for White Earth Transit, Road Construction and in the Maintenance department for the RTC. Dar transferred to COLA, where he worked as the Facilities Manager and most recently, he held the position of Safety Compliance Officer/TERO Assistant for the White Earth Nation.

During high school, Dar played both football and hockey and later in life his extracurricular activities included softball and pool.

He was an avid pool player and enjoyed being in a pool league with his boys. They were his pride and joy and he proudly beamed watching them shoot pool and play darts. Dar was an easy-going individual with a great attitude who could always make you laugh and turn negatives into positives. He loved spending time with friends and family, especially his wife and children. Although he is gone far too soon, he will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Dar is survived by his wife, Diane of Naytahwaush; sons: James of Thief River Falls, Minn., Jared of Moorhead, Minn., Darian, Deon and Darwin Jr. "Dubbs" all of Naytahwaush; granddaughters Aurora and Rayna; bonus son, Patrick "Patches" Scott of Naytahwaush; brother, Darrell "Son" (Emily) Shaugabay of Warroad; brothers-in-law, Alrick (Kitty) Accobee of Naytahwaush and Dale Accobee of Ogema; aunts, Christine and Janice of Warroad; uncle, Zeb of White Earth; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret; in-laws, Jean Accobee and John Burnette; and brothers-in-law, George Accobee and Mike Accobee.

Blessed be the Memory of Darwin James Shaugabay.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, July 2 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex. Interment: Free Gospel Alliance Cemetery in Naytahwaush.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

## Donovan "Don" Vizenor

Donovan "Don" Vizenor, 90, of Mahnomen, died June 2 at his home surrounded by family and under the care of Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Don was born May 21, 1934, in White Earth to Delmas and Doris (Cogger) Vizenor. He lived his early years on Little Sugar Bush Lake, what is now known as Maplelag Resort.



When Don was approximately 11 years old, his family moved to Pine Point Village just north of Ponsford, where he attended both Pine Point School and Park Rapids High School. During his teen years and beyond, Don worked with his dad and Uncle Mitch in the woods/logging business, furnishing firewood to many households. He learned the skills of processing wild rice from his dad, which he in turn taught to his grandson, Brian.

Don met his high school sweetheart, Pauline Boldt, marrying her on Sept 25, 1954. They had two daughters and a son. During their early years together, Don had a dance band called "Don Vizenor and the Westerners" where they entertained almost every weekend at Ruby's Supper Club by Height of the Land Lake.

Don worked at a Stave Mill near Park Rapids until it burned down. Then in 1962, he began working at the Pine Point School, first as a janitor then after obtaining a boilers license as a Maintenance Engineer. After 15 years he left that job to do carpentry work with his son-in-law. Don was proud of the work he did in the Paul Bunyan Mall of Bemidji, building 13 stores and also an addition on Ruttger's Resort. When work slowed in the lower 48, he traveled to Alaska in 1981 with the company. However, Minnesota called him back and Don returned to do carpentry with his brother, Dallas, remodeling houses for the White Earth Housing Authority. In 1991, a maintenance position opened at the White Earth Indian Health Clinic. Don applied and was accepted. He worked for over five years until his retirement. While there, his skills with small engine repair helped save the clinic many dollars and earned him an award.

During his retirement years, Don repaired lawn mowers. He had a way of explaining how to keep the mowers working which saved many young people several dollars. He finally had to stop this hobby as his health failed.

He leaves behind his wife of 69 years, Pauline of Mahnomen; daughters, Sherry Vizenor-Sawicky and Patti (Mike) Vizenor of Mahnomen; son, Chuck (Kristi) Vizenor of Beaulieu; grandsons: Kyle (Molly) James of Nevada, Brian (Ashley) Buck of Mahnomen, Nick Buck also of Mahnomen, Donovan Vizenor of Florida and Nolan (Taylor) Archer of Fargo, ND; granddaughters: Jana Buck of Mahnomen, Olivia Archer of Detroit Lakes. Minn., and Isabella Vizenor of Hankinson, N.D.;12 great grandchildren; brothers, Delano (Linda) Vizenor of Soldotna, Alaska and Duane (Kathy) Vizenor of St. Francis, Minn.; sister, Donna Buckanaga of Ponsford; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was proceeded in death by his parents; brother, Dallas Vizenor; son-in-law, Dean Sawicky; granddaughter, Amanda Archer; great-grandson, Tim Conant.

Blessed be the Memory of Donovan Vizenor.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held June 6 at St. Theodore's Catholic Church in Ponsford.

Interment: St. Theodore's Catholic Cemetery in Ponsford.

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

## Niindonis Jade Goodman

Niindonis Jade Goodman, the daughter of Christin VanNett and Jonathan Goodman III, was born Jan. 3, 2022, in Detroit Lakes, Minn. She died unexpectedly on May 28 at the tender age of 2. Niindonis was a sweet and innocent toddler whose favorite color was purple. She loved to snuggle, and her favorite stuffed animal was Lambie. Although she left this earth much too soon, she will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.



Niindonis is survived her mom, Christin; dad, Jonathan; sisters: Aaliyah Greene, Avita VanNett-Goodman, and Waubun-Nu-Anung "Star" Norcross-Goodman; grandmas, Ashley (Donovan) Bellanger and Rhonda Basswood; aunties: Cynthia "Cyd" Diaz, Azalea Stone, Shannon Goodman and Sarah Goodman; uncles, Izaiah Stone Sr., Eric Goodman and Lawrence "Sonny" Goodman Sr.; several cousins including special cousin, Avery Beaulieu; and many extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her great grandparents, Eugene and Helen Fischer; and uncles, Anthony "Toni" VanNett and Michael "Money Mike" Goodman.

Traditional services began with an all-night wake service and ceremony on June 11 and continued until the time of the funeral on

June 12, both at the White Earth Community Center.

Interment: Bellanger Family Cemetery in White Earth.

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



# **Street Dance featuring:**



## WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of Murphy Lee Olson, DOB: 02/22/1998

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. T2024-00054

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on July 31, 2024, 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) 983-4648 ext. 5757.

Dated: June 21, 2024

### WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: **Tommy Wallace** 

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. CP2022-00519

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on February 20, 2024, a Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child(ren) in file CP2022-00519. An Admit-Deny hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 22, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: May 29, 2024 Tammy Swanson Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

## WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of Kenneth Lee Jackson, DOB: 03/19/1978

Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. T2024-00028

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on August 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. an Order to Show Cause Hearing on the traffic citation will be held at the White Earth Tribal Court at 35500 Eagle View Road Ogema, MN 56569. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may find you in default and/or held in contempt of Court. You may contact Court Administration at (218) 983-4648.

Dated: June 26, 2024

# Did You Know...

You can read the current and past issues of the *Anishinaabeg Today* online at <u>www.whiteearth.com</u> 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.

## 2nd Annual Pride Parade and Community Meal



Photos by Sage Thompson

The 2nd Annual Pride Parade and Community Meal was held June 23 in Naytahwaush. June was both Odemiini-giizis (Strawberry Moon) Month and LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month. The Naytahwaush Community Council invited all allies, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Two Spirit, Third and Fourth Gender (LGBTQIA2S+) Tribal citizens and community members to join the celebration. The event also featured a float and food contest.

## Navajo corporal becomes first Marine authorized to wear traditional Native hair

#### By Drew F. Lawrence

Military.com

Cpl. Bradford Flores is honoring his culture by growing his hair out -- and the Marine Corps authorized it.

Flores, a Native American service member and anti-tank missile gunner, is the first Marine in the Corps to receive a religious waiver allowing him to grow his hair long in accordance with his Navajo heritage, the service recently confirmed to Military.com.

The authorization, which was issued late last month, marks a critical milestone in a long push for service members to be allowed to observe religious practices while in uniform. The exemption is particularly notable, as the Marine Corps is known among the military branches to have the strictest adherence to uniformity and a reticence to allow exceptions to it.

For Flores, the push for his authorization is not driven by individualism, he told Military.com in a recent interview, but a desire to honor his Navajo heritage while simultaneously being a part of the Corps -- and to help other Marines of Native American descent do the same.

"I know this is bigger than me," Flores said. "This is for other people in my community."

When he joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 2021, Flores was not able to wear his hair in the traditional fashion of the Navajo or Diné, as the tribe originally called itself. In his heritage, long hair exemplifies strength and communal identity, Flores said, and it is essential.

"In our culture, you only cut your hair if there's a major lifechange or someone in the family passes," he said. "Even when you cut your hair, you have to do things very ceremoniously ... as an offering. You're letting go of yourself."

Originally from Oklahoma, Flores comes from a long line of military service members and Navajo tradition. His father served in the Air Force for more than two decades, and his great grandfather, also a Navajo man, served in World War II, Flores said.

Part of his push to request the accommodation was not only to be an example for other Indigenous men looking to join -- or already in -- the Corps, but to honor generations of his ancestors who served but were unable to observe their heritage while doing so.

"We, the Navajo people, weren't treated the best," Flores said, referring to generations of racism and oppression by the U.S. government and non-Indigenous groups. "But we make do with what we have, and that's always been since the first Native people were around."

As part of the religious accommodation process, Flores submitted a letter to the Marine Corps from the pastor of his church, the Rev. Dr. Justine Wilson.

"The cutting of Native men's hair is a painful legacy of the practices of Native boarding schools, which sought to erase all traces of Native traditions from Native youth, down to prohibition of Native languages and the forcible cutting of hair," she wrote.

Wilson said the effects of that forced assimilation and erasure have led to "astronomical" rates of alcoholism, drug addiction and suicide within Native communities. And to forcibly shear one's hair disconnects Indigenous men from the land and God.

"For decades, Native men have had to choose between their Native religion and serving in the armed forces," she wrote. "It is my hope that we are at a time when Native men will no longer be singled out for restrictions on practicing traditional Native beliefs, and still be able to serve with distinction in defense of this country."

Native Americans have served in the U.S. military for two centuries and, more recently, at five times the national average, according to the USO. Specifically, Navajo men have a long, rich history of serving in the Marine Corps but even so, were not allowed to practice their heritage, Flores said.

During World War II, nearly 200 Navajo Code Talkers joined the Marine Corps and the annals of military legend when they transmitted radio communications using their unique language to obfuscate messages on the battlefield. According to the Marine Corps, those messages were "undoubtedly" intercepted, but never deciphered by Axis powers.

Now, Flores can both serve his country and observe critical tenets of his heritage. And for him, many of those tenets in Navajo and Marine Corps culture are not at odds -- they're complementary.

"Especially with Marine Corps warrior ethos, a lot of that falls in line with Native culture, regardless of whatever tribe it is," he said. "We're natural warriors. ... That's why in our communities, anyone that joins the military -- they're very, very highly respected."

Prior to shipping off to boot camp, Flores was honored by tribal leaders at a powwow for joining the military, a sign to him of communal support. That support extended to his Marine Corps community too, he said. With guidance from his leadership and chaplain, Flores began requesting a religious exemption in 2023.

He said he talked to one of his sergeants, who is also Native American, who gave him the confidence to request it. He recalled that sergeant saying, "If you decide to do that, we're going to be here and support you the whole way."

A year later, in the middle of a training exercise in Arkansas, his first sergeant told Flores that he had been granted the accommodation. Part of the exception means that he must adhere to female hair

#### See Hair Page 25

## **College** from Page 28

dents with academic excellence that is grounded in Anishinaabe culture, values, and traditions, these additional resources are aimed at fostering student success and well-being, ensuring that all students have access to the support they need to thrive.

The construction of the new addition is expected to be completed by fall 2025, with the facility opening its doors to students during the 2025-2026 academic year. We look forward to welcoming our students, faculty, and the community to explore and utilize these innovative spaces.

This project is funded under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) (a)(2) Construction, Renovation, and Real Property Projects

## Eyes from Page 9

hazards. Many cleaners contain acidic or caustic (basic) liquids. These can cause chemical burns to the eye that require immediate attention to reduce injury. Caustic base pH materials like lye or ammonia will continue to cause tissue damage well after the initial exposure. If an acid or base is splashed into the eye, it should be treated immediately by washing the eye for 15 minutes. Then, professional medical attention should be sought.

This type of injury can be avoided or prevented by wearing an appropriate mask, visor, or goggles to cover the eyes. In general, eye protection should be worn when spraying or powerwashing even if chemicals are not being used. This will help prevent foreign bodies and hazardous pathogens from being sprayed into the eyes. In addition to the appropriate personal protective equipment for the eyes, it is recommended that contact lens use be avoided when working in dusty environments or with substances like acids that give off vapors. Contact lenses may trap and concentrate dust particles or chemicals on the front of the eye. This may cause or increase the severity of an eye injury.

Foreign body in the eye is frequently encountered when using powertools, or when working overhead, or in a windy environment. Rotating power tools, especially cutting tools like saws, grinders, and lawn trimmers can cause foreign bodies to enter the eyes. A mask, shield or visor that covers the face and eyes will typically provide the best protection when using most powertools. Goggles will also provide good protection against ocular foreign bodies. As a minimum, safety glasses with side shields should be worn when there is a risk of foreign body injury. A common ocular foreign body injury that I have seen occurs when rust or other foreign material falls from a car that someone is working underneath. Safety glasses with through Department of Education and Bureau of Indian Education COVID funds.

To watch the progression of our new addition and renovation to the WETCC, please follow us on Facebook.

#### About White Earth Tribal & Community College

White Earth Tribal and Community College is a Tribal College & University (TCU) dedicated to providing higher education grounded in Anishinaabe language, culture, and values. With a commitment to excellence in teaching, WETCC prepares students to think critically and use the knowledge they attain to contribute positively to their communities.



sideshields will usually prevent this type of injury from occurring.

Traumatic eye injury can result in serious vision loss, and eye damage that can cause other short and long-term eye problems. One common preventable cause of traumatic eye injury occurs when striking metal on metal. This occurs when an object strikes the eye with significant force-usually as a result of hammering or pounding. Powertools like grinders, mowers, trimmers, and saws; can also propel objects into the eve with significant force to cause traumatic eve injury. It is worth noting that many summer sports can lead to preventable eye injuries. Golf balls, baseballs, softballs, tennis balls, racquetballs, and fishing cause many eye injuries every year in the United States when they strike the eye as a result of being thrown, hit, or flung. A pair of impact resistant glasses with UV protection is recommended for most outdoor sports. Additionally, most sports will require a helmet with an appropriate facemask for certain positions/sports. Goggles should always be worn when four-wheeling, and it is the law in most states that eye protection must be worn while riding on a motorcycle.

One of the most common traumatic eye injuries occurs when tree branches or brush scratches the eye. This typically causes an abrasion on the front of the eye, which can be very painful. These should be treated to prevent or minimize the occurrence of infection, inflammation, and recurrence. A pair of safety glasses with side-shields is a good recommendation when operating riding mowers or when walking through heavily forested areas.

"An ounce of prevention can be worth a pound of cure" with respect to eye protection. The use of appropriate eye protection will allow for safe, enjoyable participation in the season's outdoor activities.

## Hair from Page 24

standards, meaning he must keep it in a bun, or braids if he is out in the field.

"It was awesome," Flores said. "The first thing I did was screenshot the religious accommodation and sent it over to my dad, my mom and my fiancée. They were all ecstatic."

Flores is not alone in his efforts. Other services, such as the Army, have made exemptions for Indigenous service members as well. And Flores was inspired by Senior Airman Connor Crawn, who received a religious exemption for hair wear to observe his Kanien'kehà:ka, or Mohawk, tradition in 2022. Crawn is part of the Indigenous Nations Equality Team, or INET -- an Air Force-based initiative that provides advocacy and outreach for Native

American service members.

Flores said he expects criticism and has already gotten some since announcing he is the first Indigenous man in the service to receive the accommodation. Largely, he said, that criticism has been outweighed by the support he has gotten from his Navajo and Marine Corps families.

"Obviously, there are going to be people that have their criticisms and have their thoughts and opinions on it. But I don't care about any of the negative stuff," Flores said. "For me, my people, or even anyone that's interested in learning about it -- it's an opportunity for people that don't understand to learn or people that do understand it that want to be able to do this that are Indigenous."

		White Earth Constitution Reform Delegates Delegate Vacancies Information
		The White Earth delegate group has two (2) delegate slots we need to fill by election:
		1 delegate slot - representing District 1 1 delegate slot - representing District 3
Minnes	ota Chippewa Tribe Constitution Delegate Meeting	Delegates must reside in the voting district (1 and 3), and must be a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe member. Please contact any of the listed delegates for more
	White Earth Reservation Constitution Delegates	information or to submit your name for the election. The election will be held in September 2024 (date-TBD), date and time will be posted in the White Earth
I	Friday, July 19, 2024 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	tribal newspaper, & social media.
	In-Person & Zoom	Current Delegate Contact & District Vacancies:
Me	eting ID: 260 125 4510 Password: whiteearth	Angel Stevens District 1 (218) 204-1564 VACANT District 1
		Patty Straub District 2 (218) 473-2135 Mykee Brown District 2 (218) 902-0287
	Shooting Star Casino/Event Center PO Box 418, Mahnomen, MN 56557	Emily Annette District 3 (218) 849-0717 VACANT District 3
	Telephone: 866.345.4998 Fax: 218.995.2738 (Sales) www.starcasino.com	VACAN I District 3 Raymond Bellcourt At-Large (218) 204-1646
	www.scarcasino.com	Jolyn Donnell Cass Lake (218) 368-4329
A Block of	10 Hotel Rooms available until <u>Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024</u>	Louie Johannsen Iron Range (218) 929-0725
He	otel rates are \$70.00 Block ID# is 17778.	Sybil Gund Metro/Urban (651) 398-1324
		Our local delegate meetings are held 2 or 3 times per month. 1 meeting each month is held at one of the other MCT reservations (3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of month).
		Please join our delegate group, we represent White Earth as a part of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. No other requirements are needed – just your interest and knowledge you can share with others.
All MC-	T Members are Welcome to Attend- please join us!	
	NS:	
***	light Breakfast & Lunch will be Served ***	Thank You
**** ]	Light Breakfast & Lunch will be Served ***	Thank You
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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.

Diabetic Bingo	and a second
All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.	
Diabetes Bingo has been cancelled for July due to a fire their storage unit.	
ugust 2024       - Thursday       Shooting Star Event Center         ug 7 <sup>th</sup> 2024       - Wednesday       Pine Point         ug 21 <sup>th</sup> 2024       - Wednesday       Elbow Lake         ug 29 <sup>th</sup> 2024       - Thursday       Valley View, Mahnomen         ngo at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center will be at 1:00pm       ngo in Elbow Lake         ngo in Elbow Lake Village is at the EANP building, after the 11:30 mm meal.       ngo in Elbow Lake First Pinisma meal.         ngo in Elbow Lake Village is at the EANP building, after the 1:30 mm meal.       ngo at Valley View will be in the Community Room beginning at 1:00pm	
Geptember 2024         ept 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024       -       Thursday       Shooting Star Casino Event Center         ept 12 <sup>th</sup> 2024       -       Thursday Naytahwaush         ept 13 <sup>th</sup> 2024       -       Thursday       White Earth - Congregate Center         ept 26 <sup>th</sup> 2024       -       Thursday       Rice Lake         ingo at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center will be at 1:00pm       ingo in Naytahwaush is at the Sports Complex, E.N.P dining hall after the 11:30 meal.         ingo in Naytahwaush is at the Congregate Center, Dining Hall after the 11:30 meal.       ingo in Rice Lake is at the Rice Lake Community Center after the 11:30 E.N.P meal.	
On June 5 <sup>rd</sup> starting at about 12:45, enjoy a cup of coffee or glass of water with a light snack. Topping it all off you can play Diabetic Bingo starting at 1pm Schedule is subject to change without notice. If the R.B.C or the E.N.P. site is closed Bingo will be rebooked to another date, if possible. Updated 6/1/2024	

## ention New Homeowners k Existing Homeowners

re in need of a Well and Sewer System for your railer home you can contact White Earth Water r for an application as we receive grants.

quirements to qualify for the grants are:

\* Tribal Enrolled member

Reside on the White Earth Reservation

how proof of land (Land Deed/Tribal Land agreement) and proof of homeownership

\* 18 years of age or older

ust have electricity, heat source, and interior plumbing to the home

\* Income verification ome existing home owners grants require)

Contact us at 218-983-3202





White Earth descendant Abigail Syverson from Pelican Rapids, Minn., graduated May 3 from Bemidji State University, Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with a Coaching Certificate.

Her parents are Dana and the late Ryan Syverson of Pelican Rapids, and her grandparents are Barbara and Ed Syverson of Waubun, and Colette and Mike Kemper of Mahnomen.

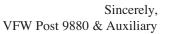
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arts

@Manoomin Arts Initiative

@WildRiceDay



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

#1ROUP

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Roberta Lotvola: r.lotvolaciee@gmail.com

I can work with families that live

in the Mahnomen, Waubun and

Detroit Lakes schools districts.

# White Earth Tribal & Community College announces new addition to main campus building

White Earth Tribal & Community College is excited to announce the groundbreaking of a new addition and renovation to our main campus building, a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the academic environment and support the success of our student body.

The new addition, Phase IV, will include a Wellness Center which will serve as a comprehensive hub for physical, mental, and emotional health services. A commercial kitchen and dining center will be an additional resource for culinary education, nutrition, and dining services, reinforcing our commitment to student well-being and academic excellence.

The loading dock will support various campus functions, including dining services, facilities management, and academic departments, by providing a centralized location for the receipt and distribution of goods, ensuring that our campus operations run smoothly. The additional office spaces for our faculty will facilitate research, collaboration, and student engagement.

Key Features of the New Addition and Renovation Include:

• Student Counseling and Mental Health Services: Private counseling and group therapy to provide support for mental health and emotional wellbeing.

• Fitness and Recreation Areas: Fully equipped



gym, exercise studios, and recreational spaces to encourage physical fitness and healthy lifestyles.

• **State-of-the-Art Commercial Kitchen**: Equipped with the latest culinary technology and tools, providing students with a professional environment to develop their culinary skills.

• Modern Dining Hall: A spacious and inviting dining area designed to accommodate students, faculty, and staff, fostering community and social interaction.

• Event and Catering Services: Facilities equipped to host special events, catering services, and community gatherings, enhancing the campus experience.

• Enhanced Accessibility: A well-designed loading area to accommodate various types of delivery vehicles, ensuring easy and efficient access.

• **Streamlined Operations**: Increased capacity for handling deliveries and shipments, reducing congestion and improving the speed and efficiency of campus services.

• Modern Workspaces: Ergonomically designed offices equipped with the latest technology to enhance productivity and comfort for faculty and staff.

• **Collaborative Seating Spaces**: Designed to foster teamwork and creative problem-solving among students from various disciplines.

• **IT Support**: Assistance for all IT-related issues, ensuring that help is available when it is needed.

• **Reception Desk**: Offering a centrally located welcome area for the campus community.

President Anna Sheppard of White Earth Tribal & Community College commented, "This new addition to our main campus building is a testament to our dedication to providing our students with the best possible educational environment. We believe that these expanded facilities will empower our students to achieve their academic goals and prepare them for successful careers."

In alignment with our mission to support all stu-

Photo by Sage Thompson

See College Page 25



Tribal Council and White Earth Tribal and Community College staff break ground on June 18 for a new addition and renovation to the main campus building in Mahnomen.

White Earth Sobriety Parade







Photos by Gary W. Padrta

Hundreds of kids were excited for candy during the annual Sobriety Parade held June 13 in White Earth. The theme was Honoring Indigenous Traditions: Creating Strength and Sobriety.

1st place: Acute Care, 2nd place: White Earth Child Care, 3rd place: Oshki Manidoo Center (Bemidji).

After the parade community members gathered at the powwow grounds for a picnic lunch and door prizes.

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