



Vivian Marie McArthur

is first 2025 baby born at Detroit Lakes Essentia Health

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Newspaper

When Vivian Marie McArthur was born at noon on Jan. 1 at Essentia Health St. Mary's in Detroit Lakes, she became the hospital's first baby of the new year... though that fact came as something of a surprise to her parents.

"She came about a week early," said Tasha Bellanger, Vivian's mother, in a telephone interview from the family's home in Naytahwaush.

Her status as Essentia's first-born of 2025 could also have been in jeopardy, Bellanger noted, because there was another woman in labor at the hospital around the same time.



Courtesy photo - Essentia Health St. Mary's

Vivian Marie McArthur was born at noon on Jan. 1, 2025, to parents Tasha Bellanger and Nathan McArthur of Naytahwaush.

"I was asking the nursing staff if there were any other babies coming along, and they were like, 'Yeah, but no pressure,'" she joked, adding that she really wasn't expecting any media attention surrounding the birth, but "it's been fun."

The birthing process did go relatively smoothly, Bellanger added, though there was some early concern because "her shoulder got a little bit stuck."

That was probably at least somewhat due to Vivian's size, Bellanger noted, as her daughter weighed 10 pounds and 12.5 ounces at birth, measuring 21.5 inches long.

Though Vivian is Bellanger's fourth child, she is father Nathan McArthur's firstborn, as Bellanger's three older children — Monte, Carson and Scarlett — all came from a previous relationship. Though their last names are different, Vivian does share her middle name, Marie, with both her mother and grandmother, Ruth.

Bellanger said that her 4-year-old daughter is pretty enamored of her little sister. "She wants to be really hands-on and holding the baby, feeding her and helping out as much as she can," said the siblings' proud mother, who will be on maternity leave for 12 weeks following the birth.

Eventually, she will return to work at the Mahnomen County Courthouse, where she works in court administration, while Vivian's dad, Nathan, will be taking on the bulk of the daytime caregiving duties. After all, he works next door.

"He doesn't need to take time off (for maternity leave), because he's literally right here," Bellanger said, adding that they live in the same building as the Village Store in Naytahwaush, which McArthur runs in conjunction with his mother.

Though Vivian was the first-born of 2025 at Essentia Health-St. Mary's, she will be far from the last: Almost 500 babies were born at the local hospital in 2024.

Tiny Homes project finished in reservation communities



2025/01/15



Photos by Rachele Perkes

White Earth Builders recently completed and turned over the keys to Tiny Homes in Rice Lake (10), Naytahwaush (6), White Earth (4) and Pine Point (2). **Top:** Standing from left are Monte Farley Jr., Todd Woiteshek, District 1 Rep. Henry Fox, Reed Bjerck, and Cody St. Clair. **Bottom:** From left are Cody St. Clair, Tim Rindahl (accepting keys on behalf of District 2 Rep. Eugene Sommers), Todd Woiteshek, and Monte Farley Jr. On Jan. 29, District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson accepted the keys to the homes in White Earth and Pine Point.

Dancers welcome 2025 with New Year Sobriety Powwow



Photo by Jeffrey Burnette

The New Year Sobriety Powwow was held Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex. There were almost 200 dancers and 13 drums. The new royalty are Princess Ja'Niya JJ Hanks (daughter of Carissa Hanks and Brandon White) and Brave Cairo Littlewind (grandson of Jackie Lenoir and Stanton Alexander). The event was sponsored by the White Earth RBC and White Earth Behavioral Health.

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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.

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

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Future Issues *

Deadline	Issue Date
February 26	March 5
March 26	April 2
April 30	May 7
May 28	June 4
June 25	July 2

* Deadline and issue dates subject to change

White Earth and Leech Lake aim to improve Indigenous education in Minnesota with Bush Foundation grant

With a \$7.7 million investment from the Bush Foundation, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) and the White Earth Nation (WEN) will collaborate to improve Indigenous education in Minnesota by seizing the opportunity to meaningfully implement Indigenous Education for All (IEFA) legislation, which mandates that schools use Tribally endorsed curriculum. This five-year project aims to strengthen Tribal-state systems to support change at multiple levels, ultimately addressing long-standing education disparities and promoting Indigenous self-determination.

This work builds on momentum created by the TRUTH project, a Native-organized, Native-led, community-driven research movement that offers multiple recommendations on how the University of Minnesota can be in better relationship with Indigenous peoples. This will also support the ongoing work Tribal researchers have been doing at both LLBO and WEN, including oral history projects and working with youth leadership councils.

"This investment supports Tribal leaders' ability to use their full power to educate our people and to tell our own histories," said Laurie Harper, director of education for Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. "We believe the IEFA legislation is an opportunity for Tribal perspectives and knowledge to be integrated into Minnesota classrooms in a way that exercises Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, building a new model of curricula that is community-centered, Tribally led and replicable by other Tribes throughout the state."

There is an eagerness and readiness for this work as both Tribal councils have emphasized education as a high priority within Tribal government, and IEFA has been something both nations have wanted to see implemented correctly as a pathway to long-standing change in education.

"We believe this work can be transformational at multiple levels," said Dr. Mattie Harper DeCarlo, grantmaking officer at the Bush Foundation. "This work will help validate Native students' identities by making them feel seen in schools; it will help students overall by increasing their knowledge of Tribal nations and Native Americans; and it

will address major barriers educators face when seeking to teach Native content, all while strengthening the knowledge-sharing infrastructure within the LLBO and WEN nations. This model can set a new standard for community ownership and Tribal self-determination in education. We're very excited to see this idea developed and tested."

The National Indian Education Association believes Minnesota can be a leader within a nationwide movement and prove a model of successful IEFA implementation. Similar legislation is being tested across the country, including Montana, Washington and North Dakota.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is committed to the responsible operation of government, preservation of our heritage, promotion of our sovereignty, and the protection of natural resources for our elders and future generations, while enhancing the health, economic well-being, education, and our inherent right to live as Ojibwe People.

The White Earth Reservation, located in northwestern Minnesota, is the largest of the 11 reservations in the state. The reservation encompasses over 1,300 square miles of land and is rich in cultural heritage, natural resources, and a deep connection to the land. The White Earth Reservation Business Committee and its programs are committed to preserving traditions while working to address contemporary challenges, including economic development, education, and the preservation of language and culture.

The Bush Foundation works to inspire and support creative problem solving — within and across sectors — to make our region better for everyone. To do this, we invest in great ideas and the people who power them in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography. We work through open grantmaking programs to develop, test and spread great ideas to make our region better, and to inspire, equip and connect people to lead change effectively. We are inspired by the lives of Archie and Edyth Bush, who created the Bush Foundation in 1953. Today, our job is to do the most possible good with the resources they left to the community.

White Earth hosts MCT Constitutional Reform Convention



Photo by Gary W. Padrta

The White Earth Constitutional Reform Delegate Committee hosted the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitutional Reform Convention on Jan. 16 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. Delegates from each MCT Band attended in person or via zoom. White Earth Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque welcomed the delegates. There were updates from each Band, subcommittee updates, presentations, and open discussion. Patty Straub, pictured, helped facilitate the Convention.



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2nd Annual Heart Health/MMIWR Event
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2 to 6 PM
Shooting Star Casino Event Center

This event is a public health fair focused on empowering individuals to take control of their heart health. Nothing can hurt our hearts more than not knowing what has happened to a loved one. This event is dedicated to honoring all our stolen community members and learning about healthy ways to protect our hearts, emotionally and physically.

White Earth Nation
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News From Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Aaniin Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag
Niminwendam Waabaminaan

Migiziwi-Giizis

Aaniish inaa akawe ninga-gaagizomaag aadi-zookaanag.

Weweni-sago-na.

Greetings White Earth Nation I am Happy to See You!

It is already February!

Everyone Be Safe.

In our Anishinaabe tradition, our months are called giizis which refers to sun or moons in this case; February is known as Namebini, the Sucker Fish Moon, or, to some, Migiziwi-Giizis— or Eagle Moon. This name comes from the presence of the mighty eagle during this time of year. Just yesterday, I offered asema as I witnessed two eagles locking their talons above us. February is when we see the eagles soaring high above, searching the land for food, and the beginning of mating season. They're strong, resilient, and fly with grace, even in the harshest of winter's cold. Migizi symbolizes strength, vision, and endurance, qualities we hold dear as Anishinaabe people.

When we honor the Eagle Moon, we're reminded of the wisdom that the eagle represents. Even in the most challenging winter months, we look to the eagle's flight as a reminder to stay strong and persevere. The eagle's ability to navigate the winter skies reflects our resilience and carries a message of hope as we continue on our journey through Minobimaadiziwin the Red Road of life.

Upholding Empowerment through the Sacred Path of Truth

As the Chairman of the White Earth Nation, I stand before you to address an essential aspect of our lives, the quest for truth - Debwewin - in a world often clouded by falsehoods and distractions. Navigating through these layers of illusion is no simple task, but it is a journey deeply rooted in our identity and guided by the teachings of our ancestors.

The foundation of our beings lies in the desires held within our hearts, those aspirations that reflect our authentic selves. When these desires are valid and resonate with our spirit, they illuminate our paths to Minobimaadiziwin, the Red Road, the proper way to live. It helps us distinguish between what is real and merely a façade. This power of authentic desire can dismantle the barriers we face, empowering us to rise above the confusion of untruths.

My parents, Elsie and Juel Fairbanks, taught me the meaning of Minobimaadiziwin and empowerment; in this context, they would tell me at a very young age that it is not just a state we achieve; it is an ongoing mindset shaped by the teachings of the sacred Seven Grandfather Teachings.

We cultivate a profound connection to our highest potential through Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, and Truth. When we strive for desires that uplift others and us, we initiate a transformation where limiting beliefs and falsehoods fall away, making room for true empowerment to take root.

To foster this transformation, we must self-reflect and challenge the assumptions that no longer serve our growth. Real empowerment is a journey we embark on with intention, a commitment to unveiling the more profound truths within ourselves. As we embrace this path, we learn that the perceived barriers to our empowerment are constructs of our mind



— they can be broken down through a heartfelt desire to grow and evolve.

I graduated from the Naadamaadiwin Tribal cohort a special education program that emphasized on our own Native Anishinaabe children and our issues as Anishinaabe. I taught and understood various childhood traumas that come out later in life when people least expect it, and we have to deal with it professionally in adulthood.

The journey toward embracing Debwewin unfolds as we honor our true desires. When we align these desires with the vision of our most authentic selves, we dismantle the false narratives that may surround us. This practice is continual, a sacred commitment to elevating our spirits and living under our true nature. Together, may we walk this path of truth with courage and intention, supporting one another in becoming our fullest selves and sharing the wisdom of our Anishinaabe way of life for generations to come.

Miigwech, White Earth Nation, for your continued resilience and dedication to the path of truth. Let us move forward together with the strength of the Migizi, guided by the wisdom of our ancestors and the teachings of our sacred traditions.

May we honor Eagle Moon by embodying its strength, vision, and endurance. As we walk the Red Road of Minobimaadiziwin, let us remember that empowerment comes through truth, connection, and the courage to be our most authentic selves.

Gaawaabaabiganikaag Ishkoning— White Earth Nation, I offer my prayers every day for well-being and safety. May we continue to stand together, guided by our shared values and the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers.

Baamaapii wiingezin.

Miigwech bizindawiyeg.

Gigawaabaminim naagaj.

Take it easy.

Thank you for listening to me.

See you all later.

Chairman Michael Fairbanks



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News From Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. LaRoque

Aanin Boozhoo

Greeting White Earth Members, I have the honor of serving as the Secretary/Treasurer position for the White Earth Tribal Council and this is my 1st Quarter report ending Dec. 31, 2024. Our fiscal year runs from Oct. 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Due to the fiscal year dates, the RBC must have a general fund budget in place by Sept. 30, 2024. This budget was approved by the Tribal Council and adopted by resolution on Sept. 27, 2024. The approved FY2025 budget is \$28,578,630. The approved budget accounts for revenues in the amount of \$25,44,188 million which consists of State of Minnesota Tax revenue and Minnesota State Impact Aid funding, Casino distribution, and a variety of other revenue sources.

This expenditure is incurred for departments that operate for the benefit of the band members and the White Earth Nation, rather than for the purpose of making a profit. These departments include but are not limited to Education, Public Safety, general government, Human Services, Public Works, Economic Development, and Culture. This allows for a budget deficit of \$3,134,442 which will be funded by distributions from the Shooting Star Casino. This deficit includes all capital expenses.

Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget

FY2024 the approved budget was \$22.46 million with capital expenses included. FY2024 budget actuals were \$18.13 million, with a \$4.33 million under budget.

General Fund

This first quarter FY25 budget for governmental activities ending Dec. 31, 2024, is at \$28.5 million with expenses at \$3.8 million with a balance of \$24.7 million. Land purchases total \$6,348,836.52. Capital purchases total \$147,089.18.

Gaming

Consolidated revenue for Mahnomen, Bagley, and all other gaming revenue for the 1st Fiscal Quarter of FY2025, ending Dec. 31, 2024, was \$28.7 million. The consolidated expenses for the Quarter were \$25.4 million. Consolidated net income for the quarter was \$3.3 million; Mahnomen is \$2.7 million, and Bagley is \$637,000.

The budget throughout the 1st Fiscal Quarter was \$29.4 million of revenue and \$27.1 million in expenses for a budgeted net income of \$2.3 million for the first quarter of FY2025. YTD Revenue was \$0.7 million higher than the budget while expenses were \$1.7 million lower than budget resulting in net income being \$1 million higher than budget.

The Bagley Casino for the first quarter ending Dec. 31, 2024, earned \$2.9 million in revenue with expenditures of \$2.3 million. Bagley Casino has a net income for the quarter of \$637,000.

Shooting Star Casino cash on hand on Dec. 31, 2024, was \$77.2 million. The cash on hand at the close of the last fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2024, was \$75.2 million. After Shooting Star Casino capital improvement spending and distributions to the White Earth RBC, cash has increased by \$2 million during the first quarters of the fiscal 2025.

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

ARPA Fund (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund)

This quarter FY2025 ARPA funds a cash balance of \$7.57 million with \$3.80 million in expenses with revenues balance of \$11.24 million.



Other Grant Funds

In this quarter of FY2025, we recorded \$82 million in other grant funding while recording \$15.96 million in expenditures. The other grant funds consist of grants from the federal, state, and local funding agencies. The funds are meant for a specific program, service, or activity and must be budgeted as such.

Behavioral Health

In this quarter of FY2025, we accounted for \$8.79 million in revenue while recording \$7.18 million in expenditure. This leaves us with \$1.61 million. The ending cash balance in Behavioral Health funds is \$51.3 million, in addition, there is an investment account of \$15 million.

Youth and Elder Funds

In this quarter of FY25, we have \$384,726 in revenue while recording \$16,964 in expenditure. This leaves us with a cash balance of \$367,762.

Travel Update

Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes fall meeting at Green Bay, Wis.; October MCT/TEC Quarterly meeting at Walker, Minn.; Annual National Congress of American Indians conference in Las Vegas; Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting in Washington, D.C.; Special MCT/TEC meeting at Hinkley, Minn.; White Earth State Forest meeting with MNDNR in Hinkley; Midwest Region Budget Formulation meeting at Bloomington, Minn.; Grand Council meeting in Hinkley.

Local Meetings Attended

I attend the monthly Gaming Commission meetings, monthly Council of Elders meetings; monthly White Earth Enterprise Board meetings, and monthly Waabigwan Mashkiki Board meetings. I also attend the Minnesota Governor's update meetings every Thursday of the month. I attended monthly consultation meetings with Minnesota Commissioners per Minnesota Statute 10.65 requiring State agencies to consult with Tribal Governments.

There is a long-standing history of attacks on Tribal Sovereignty. Releasing Tribal data on a social media platform goes to the public. White Earth Nation provides an opportunity for members to submit written requests for information, which they can view, so long as it does not violate any privacy laws. These protections are in place to ensure that Tribal data is protected from the public.

I would also like to say that I have been holding all government divisions in line to stay within their approved budgets or come in under these approved budgets. The last two years we have been under budget with no budget amendments.

See LaRoque Page 25

22nd Annual "Jake Busse" Fishing Derby on Roy Lake

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025

\$ 5.00 a person entry fee

(with a 4 hole limit)

11:00 am to 3:00 pm



❖ Non-enrolled must follow state regulations

❖ Enrolled members must follow tribal regulations

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Persons to contact for Questions:

Pete Busse - (218) 214-3870

Sherry Halberg - (218) 261-1198

Mary Beaulieu - (218) 358-0453



IN NEED OF SEPTIC PUMPING

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

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

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

White Earth Business - \$115

Non-enrollee (any age) - \$185

Businesses - \$225

(You must reside on the White Earth Reservation)

Valleyview Commons

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

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

Tenant is responsible for electric and heat.

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218-547-3307 or apply at www.dwjonesmanagement.com



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News From District 2 Rep. Eugene Sommers

Letter of Concern

Boozhoo White Earth RBC

In review of the White Earth RBC historical documents, I have identified a concern that I would like to bring to your attention. Between 1970-1975 Tribal leaders had raised concerns regarding enrollments. Those that were enrolled that were less than ¼ blood quantum, would then have a right to vote.

In 1963, there was true membership. I want to review the numbers of membership and the impacts of the decision. Specifically impacts on voting.

I would like to review the numbers of voters that were less than ¼ to see if they have actual influence on the outcomes of our elections. This information is important to know as we continue to fight for our Sovereignty and inherent right to self-govern. The goal would be to address the discrepancies in the corrections that are made for blood quantum and put in quality assurance to protect the process.

The land office is still working on compliance issues. I noticed an increase in lease transfers when fraud was discovered on South Twin Lake. This suggests the possibility of more fraud. Also Chairman Doyle Turner dealt with similar issues of land lease fraud in the early 2000s.

The DMV had multiple issues with fraudulent Tribal IDs being made. In one case a non-enrolled person was made a Tribal ID and received \$30,000 in Tribal funds. This individual received Tribal services for over a decade.

When did enrollment data become confidential from Tribal Members? It is my understanding that the enrollment book was open for Tribal Membership to view at Tribal offices.



This issue originates from the Enrollment Office, which provides enrollment verifications. This information is not accessible to the membership, and there needs to be more checks and balances in place to ensure the accuracy of the information. These records serve as the foundation for determining membership. If the integrity of this information is compromised, it creates opportunities for fraud and the potential disenfranchisement of our people.

Contacts

Eugene Sommers

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Cell Phone: 218-396-9502

Christopher Vanwert Jr

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

Rez Briefs

RBC offices closed for holiday

White Earth RBC offices will be closed Feb. 17 for **Presidents Day** and will reopen on Feb. 18 at 8 a.m. Modified services will still be available.

Waubun School Forest Information

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

Notice to all tribal land lessee(s)

The White Earth Land Office is conducting in-depth file reviews and periodic inspections on all sites, assignments, leases and contracts as it relates to compliance on all tribal land. All those occupying or residing on tribal land must update their information in-person or by completing and submitting an Address Update form. If you are residing on or occupying tribal land and **do not** have a current lease, assignment, and/or contract you must contact our office immediately to avoid further action. Please contact the Land Office at 218-983-4650 if you need additional information or have questions. Miiqwech!

AA meeting times and locations

Thursday night - Shooting Star AA meeting, Mahnomen - 7 p.m. (The room will be listed on the event center teleprompter.)

Friday night - Rising Sun AA meeting, Circles of Faith Church, Waubun - 7 p.m., **also the last Friday of the month.** Features a potluck at 6 p.m. followed by a speaker meeting.

White Earth Urban Office

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

Anishinaabeg Today readers

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

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9th Annual: White Earth Tribal 4-H Cultural Winter Camp
***New Dates* February 22nd & 23rd, 2025**
10:00am-3:00pm each day
White Earth Rediscovery Center, 29401 400th St, Waubun, MN
On the Point of White Earth Lake
Celebrate Learning and Growing through Traditional Anishinaabeg Values
Everyone is welcome to come and bring your families for an introduction to 4-H Youth & Family Winter Activities: fishing, traditional arts and/or crafts (all ages), language, storytelling, games, food, and winter fun. Dress for the weather! Youth, please bring your parent or guardians (No youth drop off please). **This event is a collaboration between the White Earth Tribal 4-H Program, White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health, and White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) Community Extension.**
The University of Minnesota Extension, Office of Youth Development, offers 4-H Community Programming serving the communities of the White Earth Nation. 4-H provides youth opportunities to learn, explore, and grow through leadership.
For questions on this event, please contact: Dana Trickey at 218-289-1193, tric0014@umn.edu
Logos for University of Minnesota Extension, White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health, and White Earth Tribal & Community College.

Community invited to public meeting can comment on feasibility study for possible C&D landfill on tribal land

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has funds designated for Tribal government use. The White Earth Environmental Program, in partnership with White Earth Solid Waste, intends to apply to the USDA – Rural Development agency for a SEARCH grant of \$30,000, to be used to conduct a feasibility study for a C&D landfill on tribal land.

In accordance with grant guidelines, Ed Snetsinger, of the White Earth Department of Natural Resources –

Environmental Affairs of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee, will be receiving comments during a public meeting to be held at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, at the Twin Lakes Fire Hall, located on 245 County Road 4, Naytahwaush, MN 56566.

Should you have any questions or comments prior to the scheduled meeting time, please email Ed Snetsinger at ed.snetsinger@whiteearth-nsn.gov.

White Earth tribal offices closed for the holidays

White Earth RBC offices will be closed on Feb. 17 for **Presidents Day** and will reopen on Feb. 18. Modified services will still be available.

News From District 3 Rep. Laura Lee Erickson

Aaniin Anishinaabe. As we move forward into February, I want to take a moment to update you on the work happening within our Tribe. We remain committed to strengthening our Nation and ensuring a brighter future for all.

Tribal leaders are actively engaging with county, state and federal agencies, advocating for key priorities such as funding for our youth programs, health-care services and environmental protections. These discussions are aimed at fostering collaboration and addressing key issues affecting the community.

January 2025 Updates

Events/Meetings

1-3 White Earth submitted a grant application for the development of a community building in Elbow Lake, with potential funding of up to \$500,000. If selected, we expect to receive notification in April. The grant announcement came with a short turnaround time, requiring swift action. We quickly convened a meeting with our construction team and Boys and Girls Club representatives to assess community needs and ensure the project aligns with our vision for supporting youth and families in the area.

Tribal leaders recently met with the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources to discuss proposed changes to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Rule. The conversation covered a range of critical topics, including tiling practices, watershed district management, and the importance of increased tribal involvement in environmental decision-making. Additionally, leaders highlighted wetland conservation efforts and environmental concerns unique to White Earth Nation, emphasizing the need for policies that protect and sustain our natural resources for future generations.

1-6 Attended a meeting at Waubun High School with the Chair of the School Board Nick McArthur and Superintendent Jordan Spaeth to discuss strategies for addressing student attendance and truancy.

1-14 A meeting was held with Tribal leaders, staff and a consultant to discuss the Indian Health Service (IHS) 638 process which would allow the Tribe to assume greater control over health care services. This discussion focused on the steps necessary for the Tribe to take over key duties, ensuring improved access, culturally responsive care and self-determination in healthcare management for our community.

I joined the Circle of Life Academy School Board meeting virtually to engage in discussions on educational priorities and initiatives that support our youth. These meetings provide an important opportunity to collaborate with school leadership, address community concerns and work toward strengthening educational opportunities for our students.

1-14 The Minnesota Legislative Session is well underway, and we have been actively collaborating with our lobbyist to advance key priorities for our communities. Tribal leaders are scheduled to travel to the capitol in early February to engage with legislators and advocate for vital initiatives.

1-17 White Earth DNR staff, along with Tribal leaders, recently met with Shawnee Chief Ben from Oklahoma and Professor Steve from Iowa to engage in a productive discussion on natural resource management and other shared concerns affecting our reservations. This meeting was a valuable opportunity to collaborate on strategies and solutions that support the well-being and sustainability of our lands and communities. White Earth DNR staff had the



opportunity to take our guests out on the ice for a fishing experience. This provided an opportunity to share our traditions and showcase the natural beauty of White Earth's lakes during the winter season.

Attended a meeting with Behavioral Health staff: discussion included expanding medicated treatment services and integrating additional support services in Pine Point. Currently, clients must travel to White Earth for these essential services, creating barriers to access. We are actively collaborating with staff to develop a plan that brings these critical resources directly to Pine Point, ensuring that individuals receive the care they need within their own community.

1-24 A White Earth RBC Special Meeting was held to review and approve grant signatory requests, ensuring the necessary authorization for funding applications that support programs and initiatives.

1-27 I attended the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Subcommittee meetings and Tribal Executive meeting at Black Bear Casino Event Center. During the TEC meeting, we received quarterly reports from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and updates on ongoing Constitutional reform efforts. Additional discussions included a presentation on the Mesabi Metallics project, a review of the Minneapolis urban building, and considerations for amending the enrollment ordinance. These discussions are vital in shaping policies that impact our tribal communities and governance.

The Tribal Executive Committee approved the proposed changes to the MCT Enrollment Ordinance to align with the MCT Constitution, allowing for the recognition of all Minnesota Chippewa Indian Blood. The next step is to bring this matter back to White Earth, where each MCT reservation will have the autonomy to decide whether to implement the changes.

To ensure community engagement and input, White Earth Constitutional Reform Delegates will be organizing meetings in each community to provide information, answer questions and facilitate discussions on this important issue.

1-29 Tribal leaders held a call with Commissioner Olson of the Minnesota Office of Education to discuss concerns regarding education and Tribal College funding. The conversation also addressed the potential impacts of executive orders and how they may affect tribes moving forward. Leaders emphasized the importance of sustained support for tribal education and the need for policies that uphold tribal sovereignty and educational access.

See Erickson Page 25

URBAN NATIVE COMMUNITY:

The White Earth Urban Office in Minneapolis is creating a new communication platform to share information about the events and programs we offer. If you would like updates from us, please share/update your contact information using the QR code below.



White Earth Urban Office
1730 Clifton Place, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612.813.1590

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation

First-Time Homebuyer Education Class

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building
15542 State 371 NW, Cass Lake, MN



Course Topics

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

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

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

Childcare is NOT provided so please make other arrangements.

White Earth hosts Tribal Transit Listening Session



Photo by Gary W. Padrta

Jack Smyth, Housing, Banking, and Transportation Outreach Director for Minnesota U.S. Senator Tina Smith, center, facilitates a Tribal Transit Listening Session on Jan. 16 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. Senator Smith is exploring ways to support Tribal transit agencies, including by increasing set-aside funding for Tribes within competitive grant programs. "Reliable and accessible transit systems are a lifeline for Tribes, connecting people to jobs, clinics, schools, opportunities, and more. That's why my staff launched a rural transit listening tour — to hear directly from the communities who know best what's working and where improvements are needed," said Senator Smith. "Tribal voices are essential to this conversation, and I'm grateful to everyone who participated in the listening session hosted by White Earth Nation to share their insights and experiences. Their input will help shape solutions that meet the unique needs of Tribal transit systems."

USDA accepting applications to help low-income individuals and families buy or repair homes

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.

The Direct Home Loan program offers financing to qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. The program is available in rural communities of generally 35,000 people or less.

The maximum loan amount is \$40,000 at a one percent interest rate, repayable for a 20-year term and can be used to improve or modernize homes and do

essential repairs. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.

USDA Rural Development loans and grants provide assistance that supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas.

For more information contact USDA Rural Development at USDAHousingMN@usda.gov or Lydia Gag, SFH Loan Technician, USDA Rural Development, 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN. Phone: 218-847-9392 Ext. 3296.

White Earth Council of Elders

By Tim Rindahl, Chairman

White Earth Nation Council of Elders

Boozhoo my Relatives,

January has been a very cold month. I put my tobacco out every night and prayed that everyone is safe and warm including both wild and domestic animals - it's been just too cold.

Thankfully we live in a Tribal nation where our Tribal leaders take good care of us and sometimes we forget all that the Tribe does for us. So many programs offer help with heating, plumbing, ramps, driveway plowing, helping us if we get behind on bills, if we break down and need a ride, plus all the extras like the a Christmas party, gift cards, Elder coupons from the casino, summer picnic, and the list goes on. So a Big Thank You to our Tribal Council for all they do.

We had a bus go to the TEC meeting on Jan. 27 at the Black Bear Casino and looking forward to the next meeting. Remember, if you would like to get out and attend one of these meetings be sure to reach out to Colleen at the number below to get on the bus list.

I attended the Tribal Transit Listening Session on Jan. 16 at the Shooting Star to voice our concern about transit and the Elders to see if there is a way that we can ride the bus for free or a cheaper price and to have more pickup times.

We are hosting a Valentines Day Bingo at the ENP sites on Feb. 14. Right after lunch there will be some great prizes - mostly stuff that you can use around the house like cleaning supplies, coffee, etc. We will also crown a King and Queen.

The Men's Night Out was held Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the Shooting Star in Mahanomen. The guest speaker was Dr. Micheal Bishop and he talked about health as we age, and diabetes. There were door prizes plus everyone got a swag bag filled with some pretty cool stuff just for attending. I hope everyone got a chance to visit and learn something new.

I would also like to remind Elders that the college has an Elder waiver to attend a class of your choice. They have a lot to offer to include beading, language, and sewing. It's never too late to learn and there is a lot to choose from.

We would like to hear from you about your concerns and all the good stuff that takes place in your village and what you would like to see happen, then we can start to build a calendar of events and start on some spring outings.

Miigwech,

Tim Rindahl (Chairman) 218-261-0182

Sam Crowell (Vice Chair) 218-252-9390

Colleen Blattenbauer (Treasurer) 218-204-0134

Missy Fairbanks (Secretary) 218-401-0553

Call for Bids - 2 Beaded Crowns

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

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

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

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

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



**WHITE EARTH NATION
FITNESS CENTERS**

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

218-401-2421 OR 218-401-3079



**5th Annual
WHITE EARTH NATION
ICE FISH'N DERBY**

Saturday, February 8th, 2025

**North Twin Lake
Naytahwaush, MN**

Tournament 11 AM - 3 PM
Admission open 8 AM - 12 PM

Raffle Tickets Available on Ice!

Admission \$10 Adult, kids 17 and Under Free

Admission wristbands required to register fish in tournament
First 500 kids receive \$10 cash for their first fish entered

Adult & youth admission prizes
First 500 youth receive gift at admissions

Angling Only. Non-members must follow state regulations
Enrolled White Earth members must follow tribal regulations with a 4 hole limit
Drug & alcohol free event. Not responsible for accidents.

Chi-Miigwech to our sponsors

Cory Berry Drywall	White Earth Enterprises	Gordon Construction
True Value	Mahnomen Fire Dept.	CHS Northern Grain
Mahnomen Sportsman's Club	Pinehurst	Ruffed Grouse Roadhouse
Ahmann Construction	Absolute Ice	Mahnomen Tribal Community Council
Berry's Bar	Hoffman's Town & Country	Jamie's Daycare
Bighorn Financial Services	Larson Parts & Repair	Larson Parts NAPA
Burger Hut	Lakes Community Co-op	Midwest Bank
Busse Welding	MN Drywall & Framing LLC	Three Bears Golf Course
Carrot's Autobody	Wild Rice Electric	United Valley Bank
Deerwood Bank		
Foltz Trucking		

Brought to you by White Earth:
RBC, Natural Resources, Public Health & CSO's

Raffle Permit #24-12-09A

Thank You!



Tune into KRJM Gold 101.5 throughout the day for important announcements

Valley View Manor

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

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

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

 CREATING BETTER LIVING
Equal Housing Opportunity TTY711 

Native American Youth Science And Engineering Fair

Pine Point School
48075 Pow Wow Hwy,
Pine Point Mn. 56575

March 6th 11:30 -3pm
Competing Grades
4th-8th

We will provide a meal 11:30
Awsesome Prizes in different catagories

MC: Rob Fairbanks
Guest Speaker: Mike Swan
contact : Neegonee Brunner (612) 327-1774

White Earth Delegate Announcement

WHITE EARTH DELEGATE ELECTION NOTICE

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

Qualifications for Reservation At-Large Delegate:

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

Nomination Information

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

Delegate Listing:

Angai Stevens	District I	w.e.c.r.delegation@gmail.com
Fawn Roy	District I	Fawnmarieroy@gmail.com
Mykee Brown	District II	brownmykee@gmail.com
Patty Straub	District II	1020pattystraub@gmail.com
Emily Annette	District III	mie1annette@gmail.com
Mike Swan	District III	swanmike@arvig.net
Louie Johanssen	Iron Range	louiejohanssen3@msn.com
Jolyn Donnell	Cass Lake	Jeffjolyn@gmail.com
Sybil Gund	Metro/Urban	svbil_gund@yahoo.com

Election Date/Time/Location

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

Winter Schedule


Nurse on Site
WECare Staff on-site

Pine Point and Rice Lake Communities

Pine Point Nurse Hours
from 1-3:30 pm
Dates...1/7, 2/4, 3/4 and 4/1

Rice Lake Nurse Hours
from 9:30-12 pm
Dates...1/22, 2/18, 3/11 and 4/8


Wednesdays
WECare staff will be in Pine Point from 9-12
Tuesdays/Thursdays
Rice Lake from 9-11



A Nurse will be available for blood sugar testing, vital signs, weight, cholesterol screenings and ABI testing and scheduling.

WECare Staff will be available to help with WECare assessments

Questions? Call 218-255-2204 or 218-280-6283

 **White Earth Nation
TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH**
Prevent. Promote. Protect

Solar meets hemp on Lower Sioux Reservation 8th Fire Solar team heats up home with thermal pannel

OSAGE, MINN. -- During one of the colder, iciest and foggiest days on the Lower Sioux Reservation in southwest Minnesota in mid-January, a team of four Anishinaabe men from the White Earth Nation created an ideal green marriage of hemp and solar. There, 8th Fire Solar brought a solar thermal panel to install on a recently built hempcrete house – perhaps the perfect housing material of the future.

According to Danny Dejarlais, the Project Manager for the Morton, Minn., - based Lower Sioux Hemp Program and Housing Project, “hempcrete is resilient, flame retardant, and energy efficient. And now with a newly installed solar thermal panel from 8th Fire Solar, it can be pretty toasty, too. That’s the dream.”

For the past few years, the crew at Lower Sioux have been putting up hempcrete houses in their community and are way finders for tribal sustainable housing. Their latest set of houses includes some tiny homes, and there’s a lot of interest in hemp mixed with lime to create the hempcrete product. Dejarlais says that “after some initial skepticism from tribal leaders, interest remains high in using the natural material for a number of reasons:

- “First, the hemphouse can be energy efficient, at least with a 14-inch wall that can both keep a place warm and keep a place cool.
- “Second, the house is for the most part, fire-proof: Hempcrete doesn’t burn easily and in this day and age of raging fires, that’s a bonus.
- “Third, the house can be grown and built in a year. Think of it this way, it takes 40 years for a tree to get big enough to harvest for timber framing, but it takes 100 days or so, for the fiber hemp to grow into something usable.
- “Fourth, hemp sequesters carbon at the highest rate of any field crop, while concrete produces it. That means in a time when climate chaos is upon us, one of the main things we want to do is cut the amount of carbon we spew into the environment. Think of it this way, if concrete were a country, it would be the third largest source of CO2 emissions in the world!”

Dejarlais says the Lower Sioux folks have been looking forward to working with the 8th Fire Solar team “to make this dream happen on our reservation for a while. Some of the folks from 8th fire came down last year, and we thought about doing a hempcrete solar thermal place. I was looking at those guys when they came in, and it was like looking in a mirror: those guys from 8th fire remind me of us and what we’re trying to do with naturally-made products for homes.”

Led by 8th Fire Solar Program Coordinator, Gwe Gasco, the four-man team installed two small base heaters where it was 64 degrees in the house. “The thermal solar and hempcrete are going to provide enough warmth with that new solar in there,” he says. “Hempcrete has its own thermal mass; those walls are going to hold that solar heat in. An electric heater might have to turn on in the middle of the night when it’s really cold, but that thermal mass is going to hold.”

Gasco noted that the project came to fruition when 8th Fire Solar discovered it had some funding left from a grant from the CERTS program and rural Development Sustainability Partnerships for some workforce development installation. “We had already installed and trained at our location in Pine Point and had done an install at Battle Lake. But Danny had a hemphouse, and we checked it out to see if it was right for our solar thermal panels. It was.”

The visiting team picked the smallest house -- a simple one bedroom -- and did a simple installation of a 5-by-8-foot panel. It was a little different from our other installs,” Gasco said. “But those hempcrete walls were 14- inches thick, which makes for really good warming conditions. We had to take out some of the hempcrete for the panel, but we made it work.

“Next time, the best thing would be to provide the house with a pre-made set up for the solar panel. Overall though, we were really happy to be part of this project. For housing projects like this one on the Lower Sioux – or anywhere else for that matter – solar thermal and hempcrete are an efficient and cost-effective use of natural, sustainable products that are good for everyone and the environment.”



Submitted photo

The two teams who married hempcrete home with solar thermal heating from left are Will Sayers, Jon Martin, Nick Belrock, Gwekaanimad Gasco, Danny Dejarlais, and Larry Swan.

SPREAD HOPE. FIGHT SUICIDE.

EMMA BENOIT

Mental Health Advocate & Suicide Attempt Survivor

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

Please join us for an evening of inspiration & support.

Monday, March 31, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Location TBD

Recommended for ages 12 & older.

Sponsored by the Mahnommen County Collaborative & agencies below:

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NOW HIRING

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

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- New living wage salary plan
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JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER!

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



SUBSCRIBE HERE

White Earth Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Calendar
 Shooting Star Event Center Site / Mahnomen
INVESTMENT INITIATIVE February-March-April 2025

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

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

Thanks to businesses supporting White Earth FEA

The White Earth Service Unit Federal Employee's Association (FEA) is beyond grateful for the generous donations provided to our organization from local businesses. Because of these contributions the FEA was able to increase the frequency and level of FEA events. Their support means so much to the FEA and we cannot express enough gratitude for their generosity.

Businesses and organizations who donated to the FEA this year.

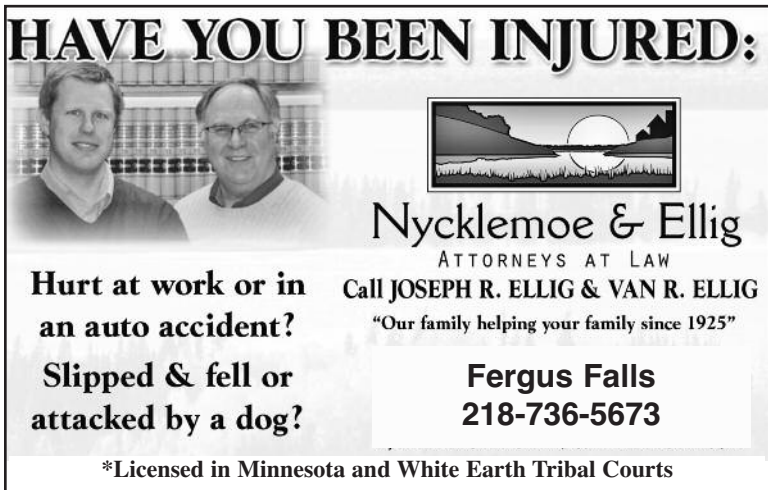
- Brygge - Detroit Lakes
- Shooting Star Casino - Mahnomen
- Hub 41 - Detroit Lakes
- DLCCC - Detroit Lakes
- Benson & Turner - Waubun
- The Landing Café - Waubun
- Holmes Theater - Detroit Lakes
- Cedar Sense - Waubun
- White Earth Enterprises - Waubun
- EZ One Stop - Waubun
- Blue Bird Books - Detroit Lakes

- Dr. & Mrs. Cumba - Detroit Lakes/White Earth
- Norsemans - Detroit Lakes
- Roasted - Detroit Lakes
- M&W - Ogema
- Nicole Kent - White Earth
- Cory Berry Drywall
- Thank you for supporting the WESU FEA!



Your job search ends here
www.whiteearth.com

HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED:



Nyklemoe & Ellig
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 Call JOSEPH R. ELLIG & VAN R. ELLIG
 "Our family helping your family since 1925"

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

Fergus Falls
218-736-5673

*Licensed in Minnesota and White Earth Tribal Courts

Attention New Homeowners & Existing Homeowners

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

Requirements to qualify for the grants are:

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

Contact us at 218-935-6276

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

Opportunities for Growth Program
Maadaadizi Workforce Center

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

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

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

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



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





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STARCASINO.COM + 800.453.STAR



**CHANCE TO WIN
YOUR SHARE OF \$149K
IN CASH AND PRIZES**

Sundays in February | 3PM-8PM

Navigate through icy wins and frosty fortunes all month long, with exciting weekly prizes including ATVs, a side-by-side and a new SUV.

DO THE DEW

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. OPEN TO STAR REWARDS MEMBERS WHO ARE LEGAL US AND CANADA RESIDENTS 18+ (19+ AL & NE). ENDS FEBRUARY 23, 2025. SUBJECT TO RULES AT STARCASINO.COM.



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Stephanie Turner

WE Tribal and Community College Student Spotlight

White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) honors a student each month who exemplifies academic excellence, resilience, and personal growth. Students are nominated by fellow students who recognize the unique and exceptional qualities of their peers. WETCC's student spotlight for the month of January is Stephanie Turner.

Stephanie began her college journey at WETCC last fall. She is an outgoing people person who is not easily intimidated. By attending classes and participating in campus events, she developed relationships with staff and other students quickly. "WETCC gets you used to attending college by offering refresher courses for anyone that has been out of school for years," she said. For her, it has been an awesome learning experience. "I feel like I fit in on campus."

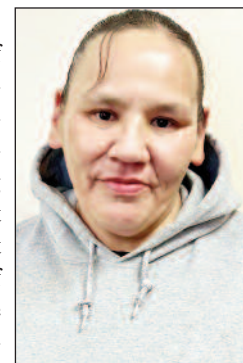
Stephanie has faced many obstacles in her life, the biggest of which has been overcoming her long-term addiction. She has been in recovery for over two years. Sobriety has allowed her to own her own home, attend college, and to have her children and grandchildren in her life. The happiest moments of her life were when each

of them was born.

One of Stephanie's proudest accomplishments was successfully completing her first semester at WETCC. She not only passed all of her classes, she earned a 3.77 GPA - something that she never thought possible. She feels that the secret to her college success has been regular classroom attendance and completing all of the homework in a timely manner. Her advice, "Set reasonable goals and work towards them. You can accomplish things you never thought possible and overcome battles you never thought that you could."

After Stephanie graduates with her AA degree from WETCC, she plans to transfer to a four-year college and study to become a licensed alcohol and drug counselor. WETCC looks forward to seeing how far she can go with her passion and drive.

Stephanie, congratulations on your success!



Stephanie Turner

White Earth Food Shelf February 2025 Delivery Schedule

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

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



Home Stretch

Homebuyer Education Class


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

February 12
March 12
April 23

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

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


Register online at weii.website or call 218-844-7057

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/



(218) 983-4020 | www.weii.website

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and lender.




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- SET UP A PERSONAL SAVINGS PLAN?
- BUY YOUR OWN HOME?
- ESTABLISH OR REPAIR CREDIT?
- SET FINANCIAL GOALS?

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

Call 218.844.7057 to schedule your appointment today!





White Earth Reservation Tribal Enrolled Elder Snow Removal Application

Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Physical Address: _____
Permanent residency is required.

Mailing Address/P.O. Box: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Alt Contact: _____

Birthdate: _____ Spouse's Birthdate: _____

Enrollment ID # _____ Spouses Enrollment ID # _____

Attach a color copy.

Do you own the home: Yes No if no, landlords name: _____

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

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

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

Estimated length of driveway (new applicants only): _____

*** Snow plowing will be done only when snowfall accumulation exceeds 4" inches or more.

*** Driveway needs to be cleared of vehicles and debris prior to plowing.

*** Snow shoveling of driveway or sidewalk will not be done.

*** Signatures from elder's will be required on Snowplow Provider's timesheets.

White Earth Water & Sewer Department
PO Box 418, White Earth, MN 56591 Phone: 218-983-3202 Fax: 1-888-228-3650
Email: lisa.donovan-larson@whiteearth-nsn.gov or Burnham.tibbettsIII@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Keeping kids safe on the ice



Photo by Margaret Jirava

Ogema VFW Post 9880 and Auxiliary along with the White Earth Natural Resources Department - Jason Clark, Ashley Zurn and Amy Moore recently presented an Ice Safety program at Ogema Elementary School. Two groups of third graders (56 students) attended with teacher Lisa Fabre. The group left 100 Ice Safety coloring books and information with the school to hand out to the other grades.

Swiers shines as a Weather Kid



Submitted photo

White Earth enrollee Athena Alex Swiers, 9, who lives in Callaway and attends Detroit Lakes School, recently, had the opportunity to appear on Hutch's Weather with Hutch Johnson as a Weather Kid for the month of February. Athena impressed viewers with her confident weather report, where she introduced herself in the Ojibwe language as "Esiban Ikwe" (Raccoon Woman).

Her parents, Tiffany Swiers and Ricky Smith, couldn't be prouder of their daughter. Athena follows in the footsteps of her big brother, Justuz Swiers, who was also a Weather Kid with Hutch Johnson two years ago. Athena said she looks forward to seeing her younger brother, Niswi, take part in Hatches Weather Kids in the future, continuing the tradition of being a familiar face on the show.

Athena's participation in Hatches Weather not only highlights her talent but also serves as an inspiration to other young members of the community.

New Ice Cracking Lake access available



Submitted map

This last summer White Earth Natural Resources constructed a new water access on Ice Cracking Lake. It is on the same road as the Fisheries and is ½ mile past the entrance to the office. There is a concrete boat ramp with plenty of parking and will be maintained in the winter. Here is a list of lakes that will be kept open this winter by Natural Resources: Roy Lake, North Twin (BAB), South Twin, Bass Lake (Naytahwaush), Snider Lake, Little Elbow, Net Lake, Bass Lake (White Earth), Many Point, Round Lake, Ice Cracking Lake, Big Rush Lake, and Little Bemidji.

Gordon Construction golf tournament raises money for Mahnomon County Agricultural Society

Gordon Construction's fifth annual charity golf tournament, held on Sept. 6 at the Mahnomon Country Club raised \$27,891 for the Mahnomon County Agriculture Society.

The Mahnomon County Agricultural Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Minnesota Agriculture and Heritage, supporting and encouraging youth in their development, and encouraging community involvement in Mahnomon County.

The main project of the Mahnomon County Agricultural Society is to plan, promote, fund, and produce the annual Mahnomon County Fair. We also maintain and make improvements to the building and fairgrounds, providing an area for the community to gather.

The Mahnomon County Fair provides a variety of family-friendly entertainment and attractions, 4-H and open class judging, as well as exhibits and education for all ages and interests. With this donation we will continue to add more to our fair program!

We would like to thank all who participated in this event and contributed to our local community. We strive to provide family-friendly events at the fair and are open to new ideas and new volunteers are always welcome. If you want to be involved in this year's fair planning, please reach out to an Ag Society member.



Submitted photo

From left are Gordon Construction owner Matt Gordon, Gordon Construction founder Butch Gordon, Joe Swiers, and John Seeger.

Representing WE in football game



Photo by Studio 63

Waubun High School senior Easton Bevins recently competed in the Native American Athletic Foundation All-Star Football Game in Frisco, Texas. Easton, a running back on the Mahnomen-Waubun Thunderbirds football team, spent a week proudly representing White Earth Nation and Thunderbirds football. Easton was one of 60 student athletes from 36 tribes across the United States. He participated in skills clinics, pro practices, team meetings, motivational and wellness lectures, and scholarship and financial workshops. Easton wore #21 for team Wa-Ya in the game.

Honored for community service



Submitted photo

The Waubun Senior Nutrition Board recently presented an award to employees of Midwest Bank in Waubun in appreciation of their many hours during their lunch break delivering meals and providing socialization to those in need. Their kindness and generosity is truly inspiring and we are proud to have such kind and compassionate people representing our hometown bank and our community. We also wish to commend our other volunteers, some having donated hundreds of hours over the past years. Pictured are Jacki Clark, President of the Waubun Midwest Bank and Mark Vail, owner/operator of Cedar Sense in Waubun.

White Earth Nation cannabis dispensary appears on track to open doors at former business in Moorhead

By Helmut Schmidt
The Forum

MOORHEAD - Construction on Minnesota's first off-reservation adult-use cannabis dispensary is well underway in Moorhead and if all continues to go smoothly, the White Earth Nation could open it sometime in March, the head of the tribe's cannabis operations told The Forum.

Zach Wilson, CEO of Waabigwan Mashkiki LLC, said compacts between the White Earth Band of the Minnesota Chippewa and the state should be completed in the next couple weeks.

The dispensary will be in the former JL Beers building at 2902 U.S. Highway 10.

"Things are going along quickly. Construction and all that is underway and we're making a lot of headway there (in Moorhead)," Wilson said Friday, Jan. 24.

The dispensary will sell cannabis flower (smokable buds plucked from a flowering marijuana plant) and pre-rolled cannabis cigarettes, he said.

The tribe is also installing extraction equipment in the facility to take cannabis biomass and turn it into CBD oils, tinctures and other desired cannabis compounds.



Photo by Anna Paige / The Forum

The former JL Beers bar and grill building is being turned into an off-reservation dispensary for the White Earth Nation's cannabis products company Waabigwan Mashkiki.

Some of those compounds are used to make cannabis gummies (under the brand name Souree),

[See Construction Page 28](#)

CWD program thanks local hunters for support

White Earth Natural Resources held a CWD Drawing on Jan. 15 at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center in Mahnomen. All hunters that submitted deer heads for sampling in 2024 were invited to attend the live drawing.

Natural Resources are continuing efforts to collect deer heads harvested within the boundaries of the reservation to test for the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Hunters, both tribal and non-tribal members were encouraged to drop deer heads off for testing.

Hunters were required to show proof of enrollment if applicable, share the date of harvest and most importantly the most accurate location of where the deer was harvested.

Each hunter was entered equally (one chance per hunter) for the three large prizes - an enclosed deer stand, a two-person ladder stand and, a Yeti cooler.

There were also two \$500 gift cards - one for tribal members and one for non-tribal members. The gift cards were drawn by the total number of deer heads each individual dropped off, so if you dropped five heads off, your name is was in five times.

Currently there have been no CWD positive tests, we are still awaiting results from 17 heads submitted the first week of January. In total for 2024, 98 deer heads were submitted, so many thanks to all of the hunters that dropped off heads, this surveillance program can only be done by the support of local hunters.

Vernon "Mike" Bray is the winner of the top prize in the CWD drawing. Anna Bjerck won the two-person ladder stand and Harry Stevens won the Yeti cooler. John Simon won the \$500 gift card for non-tribal member drawing and Jason Clark won the \$500 gift card for tribal members.



Vernon "Mike" Bray was the winner of an enclosed deer stand during the White Earth Natural Resources CWD Drawing held Jan. 15 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen.

Submitted photo

White Earth Band of Ojibwe

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WHITE EARTH TRIBAL ENROLLMENT & ID DAYS



LOCATION:
Duluth MN

205 West 2nd Street
Suite 300
Duluth MN, 55802
Information: 218-606-1706

Wild Rice and Cultural Items

PICTURE ID CARD FEES:
Adults: (16-54) - \$12.00
Juveniles: (12-15) - \$6.00
Elders (55+) - FREE
Descendant ID ** - \$35.00

****Attn. Descendants:**
White Earth request for verification of Descendancy form must be completed through WE Enrollments prior to the event. There is a \$50 fee for this certificate. Call enrollments at (800-710-4092) for more information. Must Bring Certificate to the ID event.

CASH ONLY PLEASE HAVE CORRECT CHANGE.

Wednesday, February 12th - 9:00 am – 4:30 pm, Last intake at 3:45 pm
Thursday, February 13th - 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Last intake at 2:30 pm


STAFF LUNCH BREAK TAKEN FROM 1 PM – 1:30PM
(NO SERVICES AVAILABLE DURING THAT TIME !)

WILD RICE WILL BE LIMITED (60 lbs. per year)

W.E. Elders - \$6.50
W.E. Members - \$8.00
Non-Members - \$16.00

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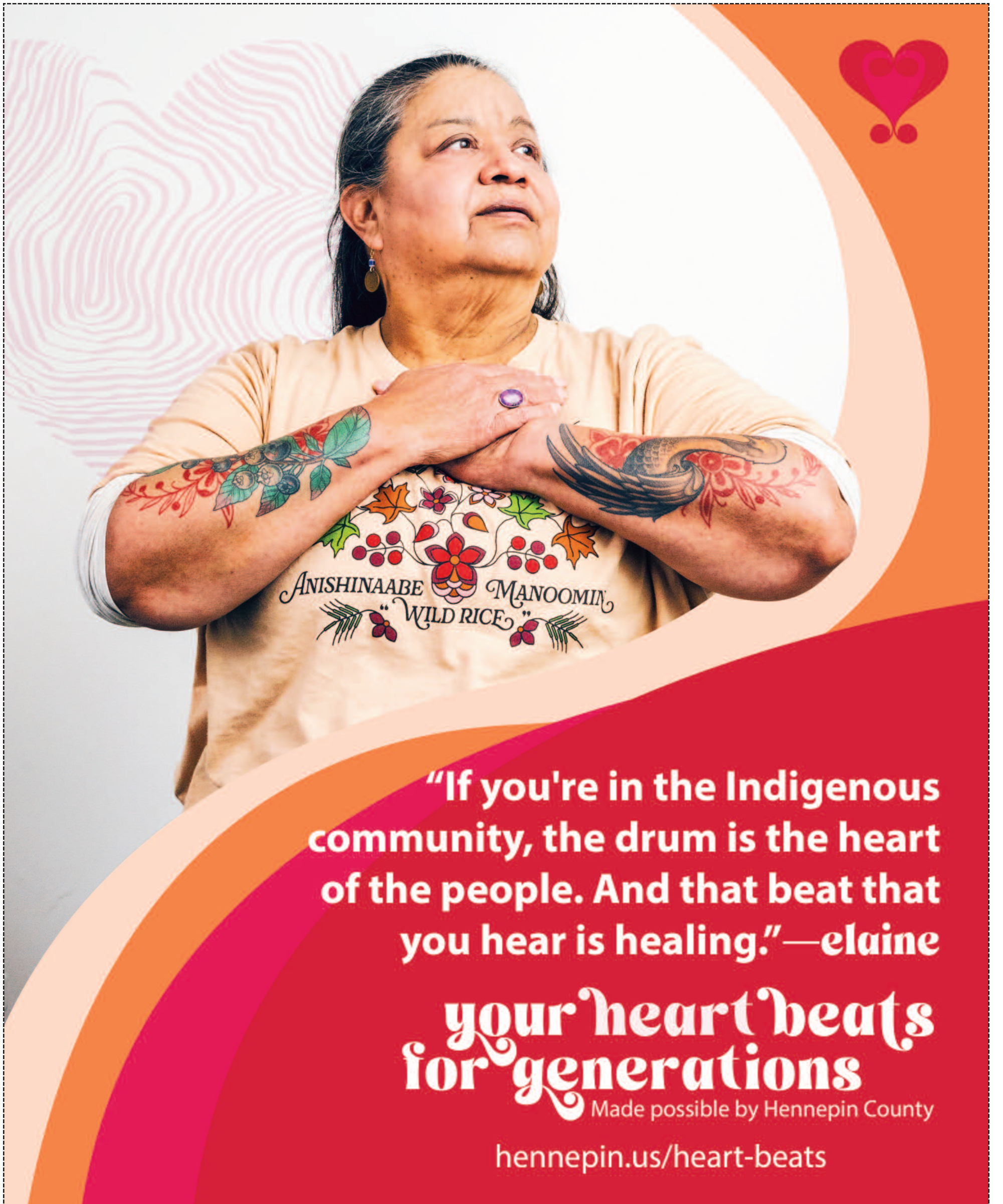
Member **FDIC**



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AMERICA'S BEST REGIONAL BANKS
2025

Newsweek

PLANT-A LEAF
INSIGHTS GROUP



“If you're in the Indigenous community, the drum is the heart of the people. And that beat that you hear is healing.” —elaine

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hennepin.us/heart-beats



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



Ojibwemodaa.2! Lets all speak Ojibwe!

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

Abinoojiwin•Infancy

Bilingual: To speak two languages-Give their gift of Ojibwemowin. Speak daily to our Nation's youngest. Birth to age five best promotes bilingualism! Pronounce by syllables: Boo zhoo! Aa niin e zhi -a yaa yan. - Greetings!-How are you? Gimino-ayaa na?-You're well? Gaye niin-Also me.

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

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

("How are they today? S/he is well.")

••"Gaye, mino-ayaawag. Dash nimino-ayaa."

("Also, good-are they. And I am well-here.")

••"Maajiibatoo. Ganawaabi!!"

("They run off together. Look!!")

••"Giwaabamaa na gidagaa-bizhiw?"

("You see him/her ? bobcat?")

••"Gidagaa-bizhiwag ina?"

("Bobcats? Wah!-Wow!")

Abinoojiyens(ag)-Baby(s)

Mawi. -S/he cries.

Bimose. - S/he walks.

Wiisini. -S/he eats.

Zhoomiingweni. -S/h smiles.

Aakozi. - S/he is sick.

Ozosodam. -S/he coughs.



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

Oshki-nitaawigiwin•Young Adult•Teen

Boozhoo! Aaniin waa-izhichigeyeg? Gidojibwem ina? Greetings. How/what way will-you all be doing? You speak Ojibwe? Students are learning Ojibwemowin at home, with relatives and at school! Some students are learning by listening/repeating, speaking with Elders, or using the dictionary. There are many "root" action and feeling verbs. Ojibwemo. -S/he speaks Ojibwe. Gikendaaso. -S/he is smart. These words are changed up/conjugated to speak of other people. Nindojibwem. -I speak Ojibwe. Gidojibwem. You speak Ojibwe Ningikendaas. -I'm smart.

Gigikendaas. - You are smart.

•Minochige. - S/he does good.

Niminochige. - I do good.

Giminochige. - You do good.

Giminochigedaa!!-Let's all do good!

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

G A S E I
E O N N H M
Y J A I O I A
K I O M M N O A
S B O Z T O B E K
S W P V H C S I A O
H E G Z P H A H M K Z
F M O A N I A S H O W I
L O A I Y G A J I B S D
B E M W L E B G Z H E E
N I N G I K E N D A A S
G I K E N D A A S O C T

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

Nitaawigiwin

• Grownup

Eya'? ina gemaa Gaawiin?

Yes, ? or No?

Gidojibwem ina? _____

Bakwezhigaans ina? _____

Mazina'igan ina? _____

Asema ina? _____

Gidayekoz ina? _____

Gigizhibiz ina? _____

Ziibaaska'igan ina? _____

Gigiiwanaadiz ina? _____

Nimbaap. _____

Gibaap ina? _____

Wawiyazhinaagozi _____

Wawiyazhitaagozi _____

Makade-mashkiki-waaboo

na? _____ Miigwech!-Thanks!

Key:You speak Ojibwe? Coo-

kie? Book? Tobacco? Are you

tired? You itchy? Jingle? Are

you insane? I laugh? You are

laughing? S/he looks funny.

S/he sounds funny.

Black-medicine-liquid/Coffee?

Wiisiniwigamig(an) ong - At the restaurant(s)

Jiibaakwewigamigong - In the Kitchen

(NI) Mijim (an) - Food(s). (NI: noun inanimate)

(NI) Dakiisijigan/Mikwaamii-makak (oon) -

Refrigerator/Freezer/Ice-box(s)

(NI) Waasakonenjigan (an) - Light/lamp (s)

(NI) Onaagan (an) - Dish (es)

(NI) Onaagaans (an) - Cup (s)

(NI) Desinaagan (an) - Plate (s)

(NI) Emikwaan (an) - Spoon (s)

(NI) Badaka'igan (an) - Fork (s)

(NI) Mookomaan (an) - Knife (s)

(NI) Abwewin (an) - Fry Pan (s)

(NI) Jiibaakwe-gizhaapikizigan (an) -
Cookstove(s)

ZIIGWAN. -It is Spring.
NIIBIN. -It is Summer.
DAGWAAGIN -It is Fall.
BIBOON -It is Winter.

•WE Resources

<https://whiteearth.com/divisions/culture/services>

•Search/Listen: Ojibwe People's Dictionary

<https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu>

•Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Comm.

<https://www.glifwc.org/>

•Clipart: wpclipart.com

Gichi-aya'aa•Elder

Aaniin ezbinikaazod wa'aw giizis? What/how is s/he called this moon/month? Namebini-Giizis wa'aw giizis. -S/he's called Sucker-Moon.this moon. (February). Gidayaana ina omaa?-You have it here? Gidayaana ina aate'igan? Eya'!

Gidayaana ina boodawaan? Nindayaanan.

Gidayaanan ina ziinzoopizonan? Eya'!

Gidayaana ina giziibiigazhewaaboo?

Eya'! Miigwech! You have it a fire

extinguisher? Yes! You have fireplace?

I have it. Do you have them ?

bandages? Yes! Do you have

rubbing alcohol? Yes!

Gichi-Miigwech!-

Big Thanks!

1. Gidayaana ina _____?

Do you have it ? **handkerchief**?

2. Ayaana ina _____.

Does she have it ? a **plate** ?

3. _____, baakisin imaa. Izhaadaa imaa.

The restaurant, the door, it is open there. Let's go there.

4. Nimbakade noongom. Niminwendam _____.

I am hungry now. I like it **soup**.

5. _____ojibwem ina? Niizhtana-ikidowinan noongom!

You speak Ojibwe ? Twenty-words now!

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

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

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

Obituaries

Evelyn Cheryl (Auginaush) Thompson

Evelyn Cheryl (Auginaush) Thompson, 71, of Rice Lake, died on Jan. 3, at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, N.D.

Evelyn was born on Oct. 27, 1953, to Joseph and Gertie (Summers) Auginaush in White Earth. She married Peter Thompson Jr. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Rice Lake on July 10, 1973. She obtained her GED and continued her education at Northwest Tech at Culinary School where she excelled and took pride in decorating cakes. Evelyn was later trained and became a Black Jack dealer for many years.



Once she became a grandmother, she retired and became a homemaker. She was a member of the St. Philip's Ojibwe Hymnal Singers. Evelyn was a caring and loving person. She was an avid pow wow dancer. She loved her family, especially her grandbabies, with all her heart.

Evelyn is survived by her children: Cheryl Thompson, Carol Thompson, and Patrick Thompson; grandchildren: Tyler Troxell, Quentin Troxell, Micheal Troxell, Courtney Troxell, Robert Beaulieu III, Linden Beaulieu, Cher Beaulieu, Justine Leslie, Jordy Neeland, Blake Neeland, Nick Neeland, and Hannah Bellefy; 20 great grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Brenda Neeland; siblings: William (Darla) Auginaush, Donald Auginaush, Raymond (Karen) Auginaush, and Melody Auginaush; brother-in-law, Jack (Laura) Thompson; and many other loved family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Peter Thompson Jr.; sons, Peter Thompson III and Henry Neeland; parents, Joseph and Gertie Auginaush; great grandson, LJ Beaulieu; two angel great grandbabies; sons-in-law, Mike Troxell and Rob Beaulieu Jr.; sister, Irene Auginaush; and many other loved ones.

A dinner for family and friends was held on Jan. 7 at Carol's home in Mahnomen in celebration of Evelyn's life. A church service will be held in the coming weeks at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Rice Lake.

Interment: Graveside services will be held later in the spring at Samuel Memorial Episcopal Cemetery in Naytahwaush.

Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley, Minn.

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

Carolyn Sue Williams

Carolyn Sue Williams was born Aug. 31, 1953, in White Earth to the late William John and Martha Heisler. She passed away on Jan. 1, holding her daughter Martha's hand, under the care of Hospice.

Carolyn was raised in the Ogema area and graduated from Waubun High School and attended DL Vocational Tech in Detroit Lakes, Minn. She married the late Paul "Poncho" Williams on Dec. 27, 1975. They lived in Bemidji, Minn., for a few years and then moved back to the White Earth area where they raised their two daughters. Carolyn and Poncho fostered many children throughout the years and provided a house that many people called home.



Carolyn worked for the White Earth Tribe for over 35 years as a Head Start teacher, ECFE teacher, and later became the Education Coordinator. One of her favorite sayings would be, "Oh I taught them in Head Start, they were the cutest!"

Carolyn enjoyed playing cards, beading, baking, playing dice and visiting with family and friends. If you came to visit her, you could easily find her at the table listening to music, either beading or playing dice. She loved her dogs and would often be caught given them way too many treats.

She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend. Her love for children and teaching them songs will forever be a memory that many people will cherish. If you listen closely enough, you could hear her sing, "She ripped and she roared and she sh** on the floor."

Carolyn is survived by her daughters, Martha Williams and Julie Williams; stepdaughters: Karen (Terry), Angie (Dennis) and Jennifer; grandsons: I'zayah Williams, LeRoy Williams, Gerome Williams, Tommy (Alyssa) Bouressa, Andy (Haley) Bouressa, Brendan Fouss, and Rashad Haq; granddaughters: Raven Fouss and Nevaeh Williams; as well as four great-grandchildren; and siblings: Patricia Anderson, Bonnie Badboy, Julie Steichen, Wilbur Heisler, Sandra Mertens and Willie Heisler.

She is preceded in death by her husband; parents; and sister, Mary Dorman.

Funeral services were held Jan. 9 at St. Benedict Catholic Church in White Earth.

Interment: Will take place in the spring at Calvary Cemetery.

Arrangements: David-Donohewer Funeral Home of Detroit Lakes.

Online: www.daviddonehower.com

Barbara "Bobbi" Ann LaFriniere

Barbara "Bobbi" Ann LaFriniere, 76, of Bagley, Minn., made her journey to heaven on Jan. 3, at her home in Bagley, surrounded by her loving family under the care of hospice.

Bobbi was born on Feb. 12, 1948, at the Cass Lake Indian Hospital in Cass Lake, Minn., to Stanley and Hazel (Hill) Goodwin. She was raised in the Ebro/Rice Lake area and attended school in Naytahwaush, Ebro and Bagley. She then married John Lafriniere, but they later divorced. Bobbi obtained her GED and then went on to receive her EMT certificate. Bobbi was baptized by Pastor Clarence Watkins, one of her most significant moments of her life. She was a very compassionate person, and later fostered children.



Bobbi loved to read, especially the Farmer's Independent. She was a huge Twins fan and kept handwritten stats of every single game. She was a flower and bird lover. She particularly was fond of her cat, Taz. She also loved gardening and berry picking when she was able. Bobbi was ahead of her time and loved to play games on the Super Nintendo and iPad. She also enjoyed playing bingo,

slots, and poker and Skipbo with her family. More than anything else, she cherished spending time with her family and friends. She was everyone's favorite aunt, the best grandma, and she was fiercely protective of her loved ones. Bobbi had some boisterous opinions and was never afraid to speak her mind. She was overjoyed that she got her final wish to come home again before she passed. She will be tremendously missed.

Bobbi is survived by her children: Lynette (Mike) Thompson of Bagley, Jody LaFriniere of Bagley, Tanya Vold of Bemidji, Minn., Scott LaFriniere of Bagley, adopted daughter, Lisa Brunner; and her cat, Taz; grandchildren: Brandon, Shauna, Amanda (Blaise), Seth, Mike Jr. (Krista), Luke (Kelsey), Ashley (Nate), Katy (Tylor), Cody, Dreyton (Kennedy), Skyler, Gavin (Gracie), Hope, Harper, and Dalton (Brianna); honorary grandkids: Isaiah Gray, Dustin Johnson, and RJ Auginaush; 26 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren with one on the way; siblings: Yvonne Goodwin of Bagley, Cheryl Erickson of Clearbrook, Minn., Delton Goodwin of Bagley, Leonard (Valerie) Goodwin of Bagley, and Cindy Camp of Bagley; special niece, Trina Stenseng; special nephew, Tony Goodwin; and many other loved family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Stanley and Hazel Goodwin; sons, Bruce LaFriniere and Jeffrey LaFriniere; daughter, Angel; grandson, Jonathan LaFriniere; sisters, Shelby Danks and Joyce Johannesson; and brothers: Robert Goodwin, Randy Goodwin, and Sonny Goodwin.

A wake and prayer service was held Jan. 9 at the Cease Family Funeral Home in Bagley. Services were held Jan. 10 at Grace Chapel 10 miles south of Bagley.

Interment: Pine Bend Cemetery in Lengby.

Arrangements: Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley.

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

Roberta (Bobbi) LaVonne Fairbanks

Bobbi Fairbanks, 74, passed away Jan. 4, in Hugo, Minn. Bobbi was born Aug. 13, 1950, in White Earth to Philomene Dvorak. Bobbi was united in marriage to Virgil (Cob) Fairbanks on April 8, 1978, in Minneapolis. She retired from Minnegasco where she worked in dispatch for many years.

Bobbi cherished the simpler things in life and took great pleasure in the basics. She found great fulfillment in everyday experiences and opted out of unnecessary extravagances. Thrifting and garage saling were her favorite sports. She couldn't pass up a good deal and bought anything on sale whether she needed it or not. She returned from a garage sale once raving about her great finds, 'Look at this hamster cage!' Hysterical, no one owned a hamster. She was a coffee enthusiast and enjoyed her cup of dark roast Joe no matter what time of day. A creature of habit, she wrapped up her days with her favorite late-night snacks and a good show. Bobbi created unforgettable memories with all who knew her and will be remembered with unwavering love.



She is survived by her children: Donald Fairbanks (Lori) of Rice Lake; Thomas Fairbanks; Rachel Fairbanks of Bemidji, Minn., and Brandon Fairbanks of Bemidji; sisters: Joyce (Darrell) Goodwin of Pine Bend, Minn.; Robin Ankeny of Pine Bend; Ramona Melina of Ebro; as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil (Cob) Fairbanks (2009); mother, Philomene Dvorak; sisters, Rita Marchaud and Beverly Hicks; and brother, Tony Dvorak.

A viewing was held Jan. 13 at Cease Funeral Home in Bagley, Minn.

Arrangements: Cease Funeral Home.

Online: www.ceasefuneralhome.com

Obituaries

Travis Neil Weaver

Travis Weaver, 41, of Naytahwaush, died Jan. 25 at the Mahnomen Health Center, after losing his battle with addiction.

Travis Neil Weaver, the son of Veronica Weaver and Joseph Thomas was born on Sept. 5, 1983 in Detroit Lakes, Minn. He grew up in the Naytahwaush area and graduated from Mahnomen High School with the Class of 2003.



Following graduation, Travis began working at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. He also worked laying fiber optic cable, in security, and a variety of other jobs. Most recently and the job he enjoyed the most was working as a PCA. Travis was a natural caregiver and he was committed not only to family but to his friends and community as well. He was good-hearted and always willing to help people in need and to make them laugh. Travis was a social person with a great sense of humor. His family was very important and as a stay-at-home dad, Travis loved spending time with his girls. He also had a special bond with his grandma Shirley and nephews, Colson and Zaiden.

Travis enjoyed ricing, playing chess, darts, bean bags, Texas Hold 'em and was a Minnesota Vikings fan. Growing up, he was quite athletic and participated in basketball, football, softball and boxing. Travis always remained a "fighter," doing tough man competitions and amateur boxing.

Travis is survived by his mom, Veronica Weaver; dad, Joe Thomas; daughters: DeNae, Gracianna, Karmila, and Ariella; sisters: Nicole LaFrier, Adrianna Morris, Josette Staples and Vanessa Villebrun; brothers: Lyman Weaver, Grant LaFrier, Terry Burnette Jr., Joe Roberts and Kristopher DeFoe; many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews in addition to father figures, Terry Burnette Sr. and Dan LaFrier.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Shirley and Lyman Weaver and Hildred and Olaf Thomas; many aunts and uncles; and special friends of the family, Linda Littlewolf and Tony Keezer.

Visitation with a wake service was held Jan. 29 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex with Traditional Funeral Services following on Jan. 30, also at the Sports Complex.

Interment: Naawa'kamig Family Cemetery.

Arrangements: Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen.

Online: www.andersonfamilyfh.com

Ronald Claire Peterson

Ronald Claire Peterson peacefully passed on Jan. 24. Our Lord and Savior welcomed him as he was surrounded by his loving family, ending his short yet brave battle against Lymphoma. Born on March 7, 1941, in Wadena, Minn., the eldest son of Donald and Luzetta (Martin) Peterson.

In 1961, Ron married Mary Ellen Klose at Sacred Heart Church in Staples, Minn. A union that celebrated 63 years of love and devotion. Together they raised seven children: Dureen (Patrick) Donahue, Steven (Pamela) Peterson, Kim (Joseph) Finn, Joseph (Christie) Peterson, Matthew (Nancy) Peterson, Kelly (Ryan) Hajek, and Mary Kathryn (Nathan) Noska.



Ron's life was filled with the joy of family, which extended to 19 cherished grandchildren: Danielle, Anna, Samantha, Benjamin, Noah, Owen, William, Laura, Cathryn, Joseph, Abigail, Cassidi, Jack, Alexis, Gavin, Chloe, Lyla, Ronnie, and Charlie; seven great-grandchildren: Lucy, Maggie, Jameson, Vera, Irelyn, Jude, Rylee Mae, and the eighth great-grandchild expected later this summer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Luzetta; siblings: Geraldine, Sandra, and Lynn; and is survived by his sister, Karen.

A respected businessman in Staples, Ron helped establish the local Jaycees chapter, served as President of the Sacred Heart School Board and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Ron was also an Elder of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and took great pride in his Native American heritage.

Ron's true passion was supporting his children and grandchildren, never missing a moment to cheer them on in their athletics and school activities. He will be remembered by his family for his unwavering devotion as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

A visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 7 at Brenny Funeral Home in Staples from 5 to 7 p.m. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Staples, under the direction of Brenny Funeral Services

Ronald's legacy of kindness, love, service and dedicated work ethic will remain forever in the hearts of those who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Sacred Heart School.

Interment: Burial services at Evergreen Hill Cemetery will be held at a later date.

Online: www.wecare@brenny.com

WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Delilah Sommers

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2023-00016**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on December 11, 2024, a Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody was filed; and on December 12, 2024, a Long-Term Foster Care Petition was filed, both with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your children, in file CP2023-00016. An Admit-Deny hearing on the matter is scheduled for March 7, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: January 30, 2025

Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Curtis Dionne

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2023-00016**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on December 11, 2024, a Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody was filed; and on December 12, 2024, a Long-Term Foster Care Petition was filed, both with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your children, in file CP2023-00016. An Admit-Deny hearing on the matter is scheduled for March 7, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: January 30, 2025

Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Any Man Coming Forward as the Father of the Child of Summer Myhre

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2024-00040**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on December 18, 2024, a Child in Need of Protection and/or Services Petition was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2024-00024. A Pretrial on the matter is scheduled for February 28, 2025, at 9:30 A.M., and a Trial is scheduled for March 28, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: January 31, 2025

Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Deondra Bellanger

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2023-00023**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on January 8, 2025, a Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2023-00023. An Admit-Deny on the matter is scheduled for March 31, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: January 30, 2025

Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Any Man Coming Forward as the Father of the child of Deondra Bellanger

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2023-00023**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on January 8, 2025, a Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2023-00023. An Admit-Deny on the matter is scheduled for March 31, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: January 30, 2025

Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

WE TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Abdulaziz Ahmed

Summons of Petition and Hearing Notice

Court File No. **CP2023-00023**

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on January 8, 2025, a Petition for Suspension of Parental Rights was filed with the White Earth Tribal Court regarding your child in file CP2023-00023. An Admit-Deny on the matter is scheduled for March 31, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. You are asked to contact White Earth Tribal Court Administration located at the RTC in White Earth, Minnesota at 218-983-4648. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

Dated: January 30, 2025


Tammy J. Swanson

Attorney for White Earth Indian Child Welfare

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

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

2 FREE Options

	WEII VITA Tax Site	TaxSlayer FSA
Delivery Method	Our IRS-certified volunteers prepare your returns for you	You prepare your own returns and we provide help, if needed
Income Limit	AGI must be under \$67,000	AGI must be under \$84,000
Tax Years Allowed	2019 to 2024	2024 only
What Can Be Filed?	Federal, state, and MN property tax returns	Federal, state, and MN property tax returns
Get Started Today!	Call 218-396-1002 or visit weii.website to schedule an appointment. Must bring photo ID and Social Security card to appointment	Scan from your phone; complete on phone, PC, or tablet 

**Questions?
Call us today!
218.396.1002**



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

Special Events

- **Diabetic Bingo**
 February 4th—Pine Point
 February 19th—Elbow Lake
 February 26th—Valley View

White Earth Elder Nutrition Program
Gaawaabaabanganikaag Ogikaag Miniwanjige
“White Earth Elder Eating Good”
Namebini-giizis (Suckerfish Moon)- February

Elderly Nutrition Program Information
 *Daily Menu includes 1% milk, and provides 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) set by USDA guidelines, with health conscious and cultural consideration to overall well-being.
 *Menu is subject to change depending on product availability and/or schedule changes

Guest Meals \$6

Elders Suggested Donation \$4

Questions or comments please contact :

White Earth ENP Site (218) 983-3744
 Site Supervisor ~ Angie Clark




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

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

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

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Meatloaf Baked potato Glazed carrots Wheat bread Pineapple	4. Chicken sandwich Baked beans Potato wedges Fruit salad	5 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	6 Tator tot hotdish Wheat roll Pickled beets Rice pudding w/ raisins	7 BLT sandwich Broccoli cheese soup Cookie Fresh fruit
10 Manoomin hotdish Dinner roll Green beans Sliced cucumbers Tropical fruit	11 Beef stroganoff over egg noodles Italian blend veg. Wheat roll Mandarin oranges	12 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	13 Baked ham Mac n cheese Croissant roll Steamed peas Fresh fruit	14 Chicken Caesar salad w/ the fixings Artisan roll Brownie Grapes 
17 Closed 	18 Brunch for Lunch Chefs Choice 	19 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	20 Birthday Lunch Fish sandwich w/ lettuce and to- mato Potato salad Fresh fruit	21 White chicken chili Cornbread Spinach salad Berry crunch parfait
24 Chicken teriyaki Oriental veggies Brown rice Egg roll Apricots Fortune cookie	25 Pork chop w/ gravy Mashed potatoes Stuffing Wheat bread Cranberries	26 Chefs Choice Main Entrée Vegetable and/or salad Fruit Bread 1% milk	27 Philly sandwich Sweet potato fries Broccoli salad Fresh fruit	28 Ham and bean soup Manoomin bread Garden salad Peach and blueberry dump cake

White Earth Food Distribution February Store Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30

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

February 2025 Home Delivery Schedule (Subject to Change)

Nutrition Education w/Shirley: Feb 3rd, 6th, 18th, 27th.

February 7th: Bagley, Ponsford & Naytahwaush

February 10th: Mahnomen & Waubun

February 14th: White Earth

February 17th: Closed – President’s Day

February 21st: Detroit Lakes

February 28th: Store closed for inventory

No Store hours on Fridays

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

White Earth WIC February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dates and times are subject to change	*WIC follows RRC schedule for closings*					
2	3 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	4 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	5 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	6 Rice Lake Community Center 9:30-3:00	7 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	8
9	10 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	11 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	12 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	13 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	14 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	15
16	17 CLOSED	18 Bagley RRC 10:05-3:00	19 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	20 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	21 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	22
23	24 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	25 Mahnomen Tribal College 9:30-3:00	26 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	27 Naytahwaush Health Center 9:15-3:30	28 White Earth Health Center 8:15-4:00	

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Please call 218-204-0377 or 218-401-4247 to contact our department.



Ribbon Shirt Making

with *Raeanna Connor*

A beginners class. Construct a ribbon shirt for a member of your family, a friend or for yourself!

Saturday, February 15, 2025
9 AM - 2 PM

Pine Point Community Center

Space is limited
16 years and older
Light lunch provided
Supplies will be provided
Call to register: 218-935-3534




GIVING HEARTS DAY

Your gift will help improve the quality of life for animals in, and around the White Earth reservation. By providing animal transport, pet food, education, and additional spay and neuter clinics.

Schedule your gift today!
bit.ly/ppghd25



Paul's Passion
ANIMAL RESCUE
WHITE EARTH

Our mission is to advocate for Animals on, and around the White Earth Reservation. While providing resources, and educational opportunities for the people of the region.

In 2024, we took 107 surrendered animals to rescue partners and we had six pet food giveaways in seven communities. No matter the size of the donation, it will be doubled on Giving Hearts Day and the more funds we raise - the more animals we can help!

You can reach the Anishinaabeg Today at today@whiteearth-nsn.gov or 218-983-3285 Ext. 5903

Obituary

Billie Jo Holmer

Billie Jo Holmer, affectionately known as “Ogichidaakwe,” meaning “Warrior Woman” in Ojibwe, passed away on Jan. 25 at the Sunnyside Care Center in Lake Park, Minn. Born on July 26, 1977, to James Fairbanks and Sandra Warren Kier in Detroit Lakes, Minn., she spent her life embodying the strength and resilience of her nickname, touching the lives of all who had the privilege to know her.



Billie's journey began in the vibrant community of Detroit Lakes, with a brief stint living in Pennsylvania, but eventually returning to attend Detroit Lakes High School in 1995. She dedicated her professional life to caring for others as a food service provider with Ecumen of Detroit Lakes in the health care industry, and she also contributed her talents to the LPA School District and the Lakeshirts Company. Her commitment to service was evident not only in her career but also in the warmth she shared with family, friends, and those in her community.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Billie was a loving mother to her three daughters: Allison [Riley] Olson, Ashley [Collin Wurst] Holmer, and Kayla Holmer. She took immense joy in being a grandmother to her 11 grandchildren, cherishing every moment spent with them. Billie's love extended to her sister, Samantha Mortenson of Waubun and her brothers, Scott and Wesley Warren of Mahanomen,

Preston Kier of Ogema, and Bruce Mortenson of Waverly, along with her stepfather Bruce Mortenson of Waubun. Her significant other, James Kohler, and her stepsons, Michael Hayes and James Kohler Jr., formed an integral part of her life, along with many cherished nieces and nephews.

A woman of many interests, Billie embraced life's adventures with enthusiasm. Whether it was horseback riding, hunting, fishing, or capturing memories through photography, she found joy in nature and cherished moments spent surrounded by her loved ones. Her passions reflected a spirit that was vibrant and full of life, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

Billie faced an ongoing battle with recurring GIST cancer, showing remarkable strength and courage throughout her journey. Her spirit remained unbroken, inspiring many with her determination and grace.

As we say goodbye to Billie Jo Holmer, we celebrate a life lived passionately and a heart that loved deeply. Her legacy of strength, love, and kindness will continue to inspire all who were privileged to know her.

Family and friends were invited to honor Billie's memory on Jan. 31 at David-Donhower Funeral & Cremation Service in Detroit Lakes. A second visitation took place on Feb. 1 followed by a funeral service at noon.

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery in Detroit Lakes.

Arrangements: David-Donhower Funeral Home of Detroit Lakes

Online: www.daviddonehower.com

Northwest Minnesota Foundation accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors

Bemidji, MN – The Northwest Minnesota Foundation began accepting applications to its scholarship funds on Feb. 1. Last year, scholarships housed at NMF issued 262 awards, totaling more than \$330,000.

Scholarship awards can range from \$500 to \$4,000. Scholarship funds have a variety of focuses, such as support for students from specific school districts, those involved in certain extracurriculars, or those intending to pursue specific majors.

NMF encourages all high school seniors considering post-secondary education to take the time to research scholarship opportunities. The NMF scholarship portal makes it easy for students to identify the specific scholarships for which they are eligible through an eligibility quiz. Students input their information (e.g. high school district, high school extracurriculars, intended field of study, etc.) and then see a filtered result list. From there, they can apply for specific scholarships for which they qualify.

The deadline to apply for most of the scholarships is April 15.

“Applying for a scholarship can provide crucial financial support, allowing students to focus more on their studies and less on financial stress,” said Kelly Martinka, who leads scholarship funds on the NMF Philanthropy team. “It also offers an opportunity to enhance one's academic experience and professional profile, making future career opportunities more accessible.”

NMF hosts more than 128 scholarship opportu-

nities for students throughout Northwest Minnesota. Most of the scholarships are for high school seniors living within the region, however there also are opportunities for nontraditional students or college-enrolled students.

“Every year, we hear from numerous students who nearly didn't apply because they didn't think they'd be awarded,” Martinka said. “We encourage all students to take the time to apply.”

Applications are completed through the NMF website at www.nwmf.org by clicking on “Grants & Scholarships” at the top of the homepage. Students will be required to create an online account and take the eligibility quiz to begin the application process.

If you are interested in learning about how you can establish a scholarship fund at Northwest Minnesota Foundation or to support one of the scholarship funds at NMF, please visit www.nwmf.org.

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 **AT** at 218-935-3569 or email today@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Erickson from Page 6

1-31 The White Earth RBC Quarterly Meeting took place at Shooting Star Casino Event Center, bringing together tribal leadership, community members and programs. Updates were provided by Indian Health Services (IHS), the White Earth Housing Authority and the White Earth Community Councils. Tribal members engaged in meaningful discussions on a range of important topics, including constitutional interpretations, proposed amendments, tax exemptions, treaty rights and law enforcement authority under Public Law 280. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding transparency, financial matters and other community issues, reflecting the ongoing commitment to open dialogue and accountability.

White Earth applied for funding to create housing specifically for medical providers. We've identified housing as a significant barrier to ensuring that our community has access to consistent, quality healthcare. By providing housing for medical professionals, we aim to improve healthcare services and attract and retain providers who are essential to the well-being of our community.

Callaway Community Council

This is our final call for community members interested in joining the Callaway Community Council. If you'd like to participate or need more information, please feel free to contact me directly or get in touch with my assistant, Tiffany Swiers. We're planning to hold elections in March.

Duluth Area

White Earth staff have finalized plans for staff to travel to Duluth on Feb. 12 and 13, providing White Earth tribal members with the opportunity to obtain tribal IDs and purchase hand-harvested wild rice. This initiative aims to enhance accessibility to essential tribal services and cultural resources for our members in the area.

LaRoque from Page 4

I am at the two- and half-year mark of my term as Secretary/Treasurer, and I have always said that we need to continue to move forward and secure our future for our next generations to come. I look forward to continuing success for the next two years of my term.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the White Earth Nation for giving me this opportunity to

Upcoming/Other Events

The Pine Point Culture Camp on Feb. 22. The community does an amazing job hosting these camps.

The White Earth Youth Council Advisory is currently seeking youth participants to represent our communities throughout our reservation. If you would like to nominate a youth from your community, please reach out to Tara Mason, our White Earth Youth Administrator, main contact or contact my office.

We have experienced several losses over the past few months, and I want to offer my deepest condolences to the families and friends affected. Please know that if you need any support, we are here to help. We are all in this together. I encourage everyone in the community to take a proactive stance by reporting any suspicious activity.

During these chilly winter days, please take time to check on our elderly neighbors and one another, ensuring that everyone in our community feels supported and cared for. A little kindness can go a long way in making sure no one feels alone or overlooked.

Miigwech for the honor and privilege of representing you. I am committed to serving our communities with dedication and integrity. If you need assistance or have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Contact information:

Laura Lee Erickson
laura.erickson@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Office: 218-935-6238
Cell: 218-401-1153
Facebook: VOTE LAURA LEE

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

serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of 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

Region 2 Arts Council and the Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Council award \$4,990 to Indigenous artists

The Region 2 Arts Council's Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Council recently awarded \$4,990 to enrolled tribal members or descendants creating art in our region.

The Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Grant program is supported by a grant from the McKnight Foundation to fund costs associated with the exhibition, performance, or production of a creative work, purchase of materials or equipment to create works of art, educational opportunities in the arts, and proposals for projects or opportunities to enhance the creative work of artists or culture bearers that are enrolled tribal members or descendants residing in the Minnesota counties of Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, or Roseau.

Roberta Roy was awarded \$1,000 to purchase the supplies she will need to continue making ribbon

skirts.

Jakob Littlewolf was awarded \$1,000 to purchase art painting supplies to keep expanding and improving his work.

Lisa Donovan-Larson was awarded \$1,000 to create Native American Dance Regalia and Quilts to gift to underprivileged youth for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

Gregory Smith Sr. was awarded \$1,000 to create picture frames and other crafts with wood.

Devin Larson was awarded \$990 to create ribbon skirts, ribbon shirts and other regalia like fancy shawls and grass dance outfits for the children in her care.

Region 2 Arts Council Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Grants are made possible with funding from the McKnight Foundation

Howah Ads

REMINDER!

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

All payments must be made in advance.

No exceptions

Happy **8th** Birthday to our Beautiful BabyGirl
Leahanna

Love, Nana, Papa & Family

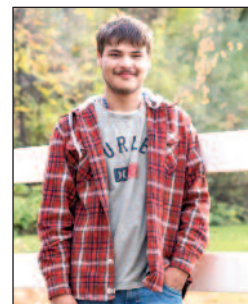
February 7th



Happy **19th** Birthday
Son

Love, Mom, Sam & Kids

Feb. 10th!



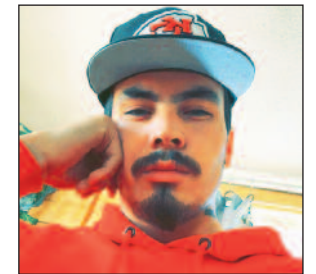
Happy **3rd** Birthday to my grandson
KenTrell

Love from mom, Brenna, grandma Shana and family

February 7th

Happy **23rd** Birthday Baby
Sam

Love Dad, Fran & Kids
February 2nd!



Happy **5th** Anniversary **Danny**
I Love You!

February 6 - Love Audd



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

February's Speaker 2/27/25

Niitami Gahbow
(Colin Cash)

The last Thursday of every month!

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

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

📍 212 West Franklin Ave
Minneapolis, MN

📅 **5:30pm – 8:00pm**
Agenda

5:00-5:30 Begin to Gather/ Socialize

5:30-6:30: Meal Served


6:30-7:30: SUD Guest Speaker

7:30-8:00: Coin Ceremony/ Talking Circle

Hosted by:
White Earth
Behavioral Health &
White Earth Urban Programs



ServSafe Training



Monday, March 3, 2025
8:30 am to 5:00 pm
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 24th


Includes in-person instruction, book, & exam!

The National Restaurant Association's ServSafe Food Safety training program is widely recognized and respected in the foodservice industry.

Questions and Registration:
 bridget.guiza@wetcc.edu
 218-935-0417 ext. 8327
 c.robinson@wetcc.edu
 218-935-0417 ext. 8326
<https://tinyurl.com/WETCC-CE>
 www.wetcc.edu

\$129 PER PERSON Exam Retake \$79

APPLY NOW



IMPORTANT ONLINE DISCUSSION

TOPIC:
 American Indian History Cultural Competency for Minnesota K-12 Teachers

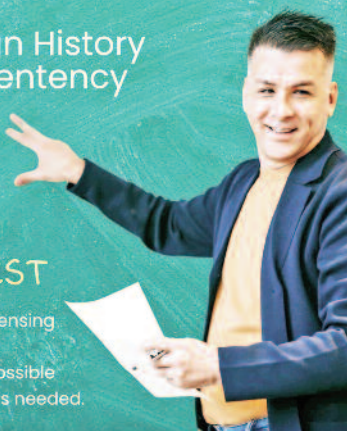
Thursday Feb. 27, 2025
 1:00 to 2:00 PM CST

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is considering a number of possible rule changes and your input is needed.

Read the proposed changes online at: mn.gov/pelsb/board/rulemaking

Hosted via Teams by WETCC Customized Education and MN PELSB.

Contact Us for Meeting Link:
 bridget.guiza@wetcc.edu
 218-935-0417 ext. 8327
 c.robinson@wetcc.edu
 218-935-0417 ext. 8326



WHITE EARTH RESERVATION FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

White Earth Reservation Forestry and Fire Management will be accepting applications for emergency firefighters for the 2025 wildland fire season. Applications may be picked up at:

- White Earth Tribal Forestry, 254 County Road 4, Naytahwaush, MN 56566
- Maadaadizi Workforce Center, 3081 Workforce Road, Naytahwaush, MN 56566
- White Earth Tribal and Community College, 2250 College Road, Mahnomon, MN 56557
- White Earth Natural Resources, 102 3rd St. NE, Mahnomon, MN 56557
- White Earth Tribal Human Resources at the RTC headquarters, 3550 Eagle View Rd, Ogema, MN 56569

You can also find the application by scanning the QR code:



Requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must pass pre-employment drug test.
- Must obtain medical clearance per the Department of Interior Medical Standards for arduous duty.
- Must be able to pass a physical fitness test which includes carrying a 45 lb. pack for 3 miles in less than 45 minutes.

Please note that this is not a White Earth Reservation Job. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is the employer. Selected candidates will attend basic firefighter training after all tests are completed. This employment is not guaranteed. Emergency Firefighters are employed on an on-call basis as needed. Possible times of employment are during spring fire season (which usually ranges from early April through middle to late May), Fall fire season as conditions allow, and possible off unit fire assignments during the summer months.

Applications will be accepted until February 10th, 2025

If interested and have questions please contact: White Earth Forestry @ 218-935-5967 or email Jeremy.londo@whiteearth-nsn.gov

Check us out on Facebook:
 @WhiteEarthFireMgt



Diabetic Bingo

All are welcome and it costs nothing to play.

February 4 th , Tuesday	Pine Point
February 19 th , Wednesday	Elbow Lake
February 26 th , Wednesday	Mahnomen – Valley View
March 5 th , Wednesday	Naytahwaush
March 12 th , Wednesday	White Earth – Congregate
March 26 th , Wednesday	Rice Lake
April 2 nd , Wednesday	Pine Point
April 9 th , Wednesday	Elbow Lake
April 23 rd , Wednesday	Mahnomen – Valley View

Other Public Health Events that are coming up in February

Dr. Ung Clinic
 February 10th, White Earth 9-4pm
 February 11th, White Earth 9-4pm
 February 12th, Pine Point 9:30-2:30pm

Men's Night Out
 February 5th, 2025 at the Shooting Star Casino registration starting at 4pm

Heart Health /MMIW Event
 February 13th, 2025 at the Shooting Star Casino from 2pm-6pm

WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION

ONLINE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) TRAINING

MARCH 3-APRIL 20, 2025

ORIENTATION: 11:30 AM - 1 PM, MARCH 3

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

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

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

MUST TAKE ACCUPLACER EXAM TO DETERMINE READINESS

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

- Individuals of color
- Individuals lacking stable housing
- Individuals with a criminal record
- Individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent*
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals who have been unemployed for 25 or more of the past 52 weeks
- Individuals with limited English or math proficiency
- Individuals at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline

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

Free Course

HOW TO BUILD & MANAGE CREDIT

6:30 - 7:30 PM MONDAYS
FEB. 24, MARCH 3, 10, & 17, 2025

WETCC Customized Ed Classroom
 2250 College Road, Mahnomon, MN

REGISTER NOW

Registration Link: <https://shorturl.at/h7AeG>

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Understanding Credit
- Improve Your Credit Score
- Creating a Spending Plan
- Mastering Your Money

Contact Us:
 bridget.guiza@wetcc.edu
 218-935-0417 ext. 8327
 c.robinson@wetcc.edu
 218-935-0417 ext. 8326

www.wetcc.edu

Thank You

We extend our gratitude to Curtis Rogers, Tribal Council, Elders Program, White Earth Boys and Girls Club for the bus transportation, All Nations Rise, Grandpa Guy, Galen's, Kristy Melina, Hoffmans Meat Market for their generous donations, Minnesota Timberwolves, Rudy's Kids Foundation, and the dedicated volunteers who assisted in fundraising.

Special thanks to Kim from Minnesota Young Adults For Recovery and all supporters of the fundraiser for making this event successful.

The children enjoyed their time immensely and were thrilled to meet Rudy Gobert after the game. Your contributions helped make their dreams a reality.

White Earth Youth, Volunteers,
 Ashley Bunker



To: All interested Contractors

Project: Minwanjige Food co-op Website

Owner: Minwanjige Food co-op

Proposals Due: Until filled

Project Description:
 Minwanjige Food Co-op is accepting proposals for website Building and Design.

The client wants to create a new landing page for their business that will include updates from their launch campaign, special events, monthly newsletter, and member sign-up

Please send proposal to Minwanjigefoodcoop@gmail.com

Minwanjige Food Co-op
Minwanjigefoodcoop@gmail.com
 +1 218-259-6759
 +1 218-261-1084

IS THERE A FIRE IN YOU?

NOW HIRING FIREFIGHTERS

RECRUITMENT OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, February 15 – Noon to 4pm at Station 2, 24770 Co Hwy 48, Osage
Friday, February 21 – 4pm to 8pm at Station 1, 48605 Co Hwy 26, Ponsford

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
 See our department up close!
 Meet our current Firefighters and Officers!
 Complete your Application and Interview on the spot!
 Check out our trucks and equipment, and ask questions.
 Bring your family and enjoy some smores around the fire!

We need brave great people like you!




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



Snowmobile Safety

Riding Performance Course

Sunday - March 2nd 2025
1:00 PM
Mahnomen Natural Resources Office

Students must complete online course prior to attending
Youth Ages 11-15 | Complete Online Course: snowmobilecourse.com (MNDNR.com)
Students attend a one day class room review and riding performance course.
Lead by trained volunteer instructors | Certificate Becomes Valid at age 12
Day of : Bring your own helmet | Bring Online Certification

To register: email/call
Taylor Anderson: (218-935-3806)
taylor.anderson@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Justin Keezer:
justin.keezer@whiteearth-nsn.gov



French Toast Breakfast Bake Sale
Sponsored by St. Ann's Church - Waubun

Sunday, February 9th
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Waubun Community Center

Serving: French Toast,
'Ketters' Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,
Orange Juice, Coffee

Cost – Adults \$12.00
Children (10 & under) - \$6.00

Proceeds benefitting St. Ann's Church

Thank you for your support!

NEED MORE ENERGY?

JOIN STAR FITNESS CENTER TODAY!

Located in the Manitok Mall, Mahnomen

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

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



White Earth Nation TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Present. Promote. Protect

2018 FORD CUTAWAY T450 TRANSIT



SOLD AS IS. Propane Bus, mileage: 267,417
(Runs and Drives, may need minor repairs)

Minimum Bid : \$2,000.00

Please use this bid sheet to place your bid. (return or e-mail to)

Cassandra Hoban, White Earth Finance,
P.O Box 270
White Earth, MN 56591
(218) 935-3411 Cassandra.Hoban@whiteearth-nsn.gov
Bidding will close on February 24th , 2025 @ 4:30pm

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

BUS #3 Bid Amount: \$ _____

NAYTAHWAUSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL **2025 REGULAR MEETINGS**

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

09 JAN	NCC 6PM		
13 FEB	NCC 6PM	14 AUG	NCC 6PM
13 MAR	NCC 6PM	*04* SEPT	NCC 6PM
10 APR	NCC 6PM	09 OCT	NCC 6PM
08 MAY	NCC 6PM	13 NOV	NCC 6PM
19 JUN	NCC 6PM	*04* DEC	NCC 6PM
10 JUL	NCC 6PM		

QUESTIONS? PLEASE MESSAGE NAYTAHWAUSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL FB PAGE



WHITE EARTH TRIBAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FLORAL VEST APPLIQUE WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 15th 10am-4pm
WETCC AZAADI ROOM (Sewing room)

This workshop is free and open to students and community! Lunch is provided.

To register, email ian.anderson@wetcc.edu or text 507-404-9994

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

Iron Range Area Community Council

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



Bins Now Located Behind Naytahwaush Complex

Recycling Underway

NEARLY 1000LBS OF RECYCLABLES DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL TO DATE

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

PLEASE NO TRASH BAGS
LOOSE ITEMS ONLY

Legal Notice

WE TRIBAL COURT TRAFFIC COURT

In the Matter of Jameson Lee Jackson Sr., DOB: 05/24/1985
Summons to Appear in Court

Court File No. T2024-00166

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

Dated: January 24, 2025

WETCC team is one of 14 Phase 1 winners of American-Made TCU Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy) recently announced 14 Phase 1 winners of the American-Made Tribal College and University (TCU) Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize. Student-led groups teamed up and created plans to increase the use of renewable energy to support Tribal food sovereignty initiatives on TCU campuses.

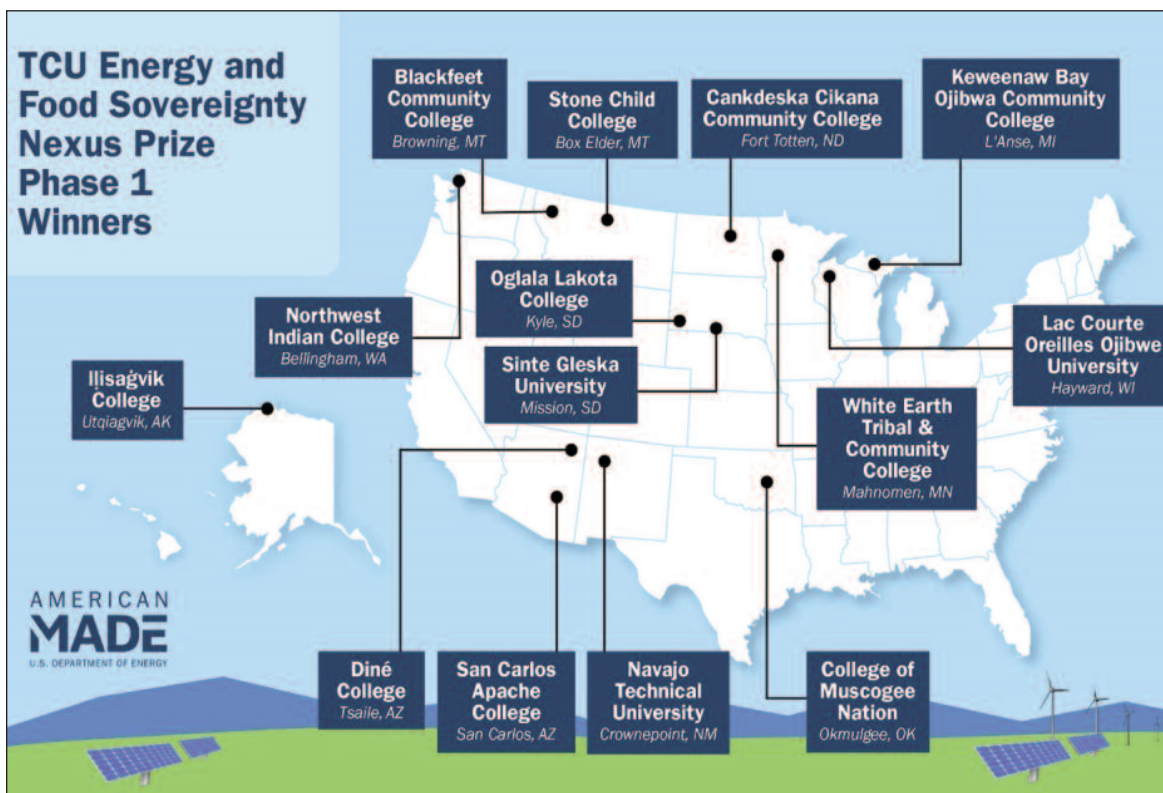
“TCU’s hold unique ties to land, language, and Indigenous knowledge to foster a regenerative economy,” said Office of Indian Energy Director Wahleah Johns. “The \$4 million prize selections will support 14 student led teams in demonstrating how clean energy compliments and strengthens Indigenous food sovereignty.”

Read more about the prize and semifinalists at <https://www.herox.com/TCUenergyandfood>.

This is the Office of Indian Energy’s first prize in the American-Made program, which incentivizes innovation through prizes, training, teaming, and mentoring by connecting the nation’s entrepreneurs and innovators to America’s national labs and the private sector.

Learn More About Office of Indian Energy Investments

DOE funds a wide variety of projects to support Tribes in realizing their energy visions. From 2010 through 2024, DOE’s Office of Indian Energy has invested over \$190 million in more than 240 Tribal energy projects implemented across the contiguous 48 states and in Alaska. These projects, valued collectively at over \$300 million, are leveraged by more than \$125 million in recipient cost-share. Find information about current funding opportunities and learn more on the DOE Office of Indian Energy website.



Construction from Page 15

cannabis distillates for vaping cartridges, and live resins.

“Everything we will be selling is grown in Minnesota and grown on the reservation,” Wilson said.

The only thing to be sold at the dispensary that is not made on the reservation is a beverage line called Minobii, which is Ojibwe for “drink and be merry,” Wilson said.

Negotiations with the state of Minnesota for the tribe to open off-reservation dispensaries haven’t been tough, but they have been painstaking, Wilson said.

“It’s been tedious, to say the least, but not strenuous,” he said

The White Earth Nation will be the first of the state’s tribal nations to open an off-reservation dispensary, he said.

“This will be a pretty historical opportunity. It will be the first adult-use cannabis dispensary in the state,” Wilson said. “We will absolutely be the first (tribe) to do so.”

Wilson said there will be more than 30 employees working at the dispensary. He added that it has

been a pleasure to work with Moorhead city officials and the police and fire departments.

“Just getting it open is exciting,” he said. “We’re happy about supplying jobs to the area.”

The White Earth Nation opened its on-reservation marijuana dispensary in August 2023 in Mahnomon. The reservation’s dispensary is across from Shooting Star Casino, Wilson said.

The White Earth Nation bought and repurposed a chip factory for indoor marijuana production, and it has greenhouses and about 10 acres of land under cultivation for cannabis. “So, right now we have a very large footprint. We’ve got a lot of great products and flower coming to the market,” Wilson said last year.

Anything the tribe sells off the reservation will have to meet state regulations, Wilson said.

He said the tribal cannabis regulatory commission “is very stringent on what we do, just as much, if not more, than the state.”

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

Interning with Becker County

Waubun High School (WHS) seniors Easton Bevins and Gabe Smith have started an internship with the Becker County Sheriff’s Office.

The students will be interning in the court system, correctional office, investigations, dispatch and doing ride alongs. Work Based Learning licensed instructor Patti DeGroat will supervise the students.

Students at WHS earn credits towards graduation while learning and getting hands-on experience about their career of interest.

If your business is interested in connecting with the program for internships or paid positions please contact Patti DeGroat at 218-473-6183 or pattid@waubun.k12.mn.us



Submitted photo

From left are Ty Warren - Becker County Sheriff’s Office, Gabe Smith, Easton Bevins, and Patti DeGroat - Waubun High School Work Based Learning Program.

New Sobriety Powwow Royalty



Photo by Jeffrey Coleman

The New Year Sobriety Powwow was held Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex. The new royalty are Princess Ja’Niya JJ Hanks (daughter of Carissa Hanks and Brandon White) and Brave Cairo Littlewind (grandson of Jackie Lenoir and Stanton Alexander).