



WTN Employee of the Month

2026 Graduate Photos!

page: 6

page: 8-11

Volume 55, Number 10

Mā hī́tawus hī́ wī
Earth Drying Moon

Saturday, May 23, 2026



In Honor of
Neola Walker

In recognition of the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday, our masthead scene for this edition of the Winnebago Indian News features the Winnebago Veterans Association, carrying the honor guard colors during grand entry at the 156th Annual Winnebago Homecoming Celebration Powwow at Veteran's Memorial Park in Winnebago, NE. This year was post-pandemic, and the powwow was held from July 28th through July 31st, 2022.

NWS Confirms Tornado in Winnebago



By Bethani Redhorn
Photograph courtesy of Carmelita Parker

[Winnebago, NE] An official National Weather Service (NWS) storm assessment has confirmed that a verified EF-1 tornado struck the village of Winnebago, Nebraska, on the evening of Sunday, May 17, 2026. The tornado was part of a violent, multi-day severe weather outbreak stretching from May 15-18 across eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, which produced destructive straight-line winds, giant hail, and a cluster of regional tornadoes. Despite severe property destruction, no fatalities were reported in Winnebago due to rapid alert systems and decisive emergency response actions.

The storm cells began triggering severe weather alerts across the surrounding areas on early Sunday morning. Around 4:00 AM, the NWS issued initial storm system notifications to local emergency agencies. Independent online storm chasers (including Max Velocity) noted the danger and issued immediate warnings to residents just before local impact, noting that the rotation developed incredibly fast. The storm rapidly intensified as it approached Thurston County, touching down in Winnebago at 7:19 PM for 3 minutes.

The tornado carved a path length of approximately 1.8 miles through

Winnebago, reaching max wind speeds of 95 mph. Because of its high elevation and lack of valley protection, the neighborhoods located south of Winnebago bore the brunt of the storm's intensity. High-velocity debris punctured buildings, including one confirmed report of a 2x4 wooden beam completely embedded into a residential roof. Multiple homes suffered roof and fence damage. Extreme wind gusts shattered vehicle windshields and sent trampolines, outbuildings, and shed materials flying. Widespread uprooted and snapped trees severed power lines, plunging large sections of the community into immediate electrical blackouts.

The deep personal and cultural impact of the storm was highlighted by Winnebago Elder and Veteran Larry Payer, who recounted witnessing a dark, maroon-tinted sky and clouds colliding just before fleeing to the basement with his wife, Charlotte. They heard two massive sonic booms as the tornado passed over, which stripped everything into a vortex of flying dust. The reported damages included the baseball field bleachers entirely into center field, many of the trees were uprooted across town, the longstanding grain bins were crushed, and the roof to one of Larry's bedrooms being torn open, ruining

Con't. on page 2...

Caps Off to the Class of 2026!



By Bethani Redhorn
Photographs courtesy of WPS & LPTC

[Winnebago, NE] The local community marked a monumental weekend of academic success on Saturday, May 9, 2026, as Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC) hosted their spring commencement ceremony and Winnebago Public School (WPS) hosted their class of 2026 graduation ceremony. The double milestone brought families, friends, tribal leaders, community members, and elders together to honor the dedication, cultural grounding, and future ambitions of a record-breaking class of both college and high school graduates.

Graduation season in Winnebago is a time for unity, pride, and shared achievement; it is a time where accomplishments of every student are felt across the entire community. This season serves as a powerful bridge between generations, blending modern academic milestones with the deep-rooted cultural values of resilience and communal support that define the Winnebago Tribe.

The day began at 11:00 AM with the Little Priest Tribal College Commencement Ceremony, held inside the Fine Arts Theatre at Winnebago Public School. LPTC proudly conferred 46 degrees and certificates to the largest graduating class in the college's history with 18 students receiving their Associates, 6 students receiving diplomas, and 30 students

Con't. on page 2...

NAGPRA Applies to Winnebago Children's Remains



Current and former Winnebago Tribal leaders with legal counsel at the 4th Circuit court house, September 2025.

By: Native American Rights Fund

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, represented by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), Big Fire Law & Policy Group LLP, and Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC is celebrating a May 14, 2026, decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit vacating the lower court's dismissal and holding that

the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) applies in Winnebago v. Department of the Army. The ruling allows the Tribe to proceed with its lawsuit against the U.S. Army seeking repatriation of the remains of Samuel Gilbert and Edward Hensley, two Winnebago boys who died at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School more than 125 years ago.

In the Fourth Circuit's first decision interpreting NAGPRA, the court rejected the government's argument that NAGPRA does not reach Native children buried without consent in the Carlisle boarding school cemetery and held that NAGPRA's repatriation protections can apply there. The court recognized that these remains

Con't. on page 2...

"Hanāc mānāpe hīwāniwina hiwaracāk hikjawina – Honor Our Veterans"

Nī šoc Nigešana

By: Tyler Snake



On May 21st, the Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System held their annual Spiritual Walk. Located at the Big Screen, community members had a chance to recharge and refocus alongside other attendees.



On May 20th, the Kikijire Mobile Crisis Response Team held an open house for their new location. Located at 272 HoChunk Plaza, Suite B. Kikijire's goal is to provide 24/7 emergency services to people in crisis, as well as provide mental health support. Stop in their new location to meet the team or to see what services are available. For support after 4:30pm, call the non-emergency line: 402-745-3950 or their crisis line: 402-745-3968.



On May 11th, the Winnebago Food Distribution department, with support of the Siouxland food bank, held a pop-up food distribution. The department served the Winnebago Community due to the closure/low stock of local stores.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



...Con't from front page: NWS Confirms EF-1 Tornado in Winnebago...

furniture and clothing with pouring water and ceiling insulation. Reflecting on the disaster, Larry noted the importance of our traditional teachings and why tribal members should remember to put out tobacco offerings in the spring to keep the storms from harming Winnebago. He and other elders viewed the storm as a clear message from the creator regarding climate change, global warming, and the treatment of Mother Earth. He expressed deep pride in tribal members immediately pulling together, stepping up to clear debris for neighbors, and checking on one another.

Under the leadership of Winnebago Tribe's Emergency Manager Julie Smithart, known locally as Auntie Julie, emergency protocols were enacted immediately, including emergency sheltering and police safety sweeps. Following an 8:00 PM briefing between Emergency Management, Chief of Police, and WTN departments, an immediate emergency shelter was opened in the new emergency services training room to accommodate displaced families and those experiencing prolonged power outages. Additionally, emergency management coordinated door-to-door welfare checks in hit zones by the police department.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has formally initiated a disaster declaration process to secure federal relief funding. Residents with structural, property, or vehicular damage must report it to the WTN Emergency Manager to be added to the official inspection list. Contact Julie by phone or email at: (402)922-3868 or julie.smithart@winnebagotribe.com. The WTN Human Services department is offering emergency assistance for storm-impacted households. Residents within the exterior

boundaries of the reservation requiring emergency shelter or utility support can complete the electronic application or contact intake staff directly at: (402)922-1194. There is also a storm tree debris removal service being offered by the WTN Facilities department. Contact: (402)878-2203 for assistance with storm tree removal, cutting, or trimming. If you are unable to transport tree debris yourself, stack it neatly near the curb and crews will pick it up as they are able. There is a drop-off location for community members located in the opposite area of the powwow grounds.

Ultimately, the aftermath of the May 17 tornado put the profound strength and enduring resilience of the Winnebago Tribe on full display. In the hours immediately following the destruction, before external aid could even arrive, the community organically gathered to spearhead recovery efforts from the ground up. The community came together to help clear shattered debris, right overturned trash cans, haul away massive fallen tree limbs, and help piece together down fences. Tribal entities and local community programs immediately chipped in both financial support and physical labor to facilitate rapid tree removal and heavy cleanup. This rapid, unified response proved that while a vortex of wind can tear apart physical infrastructure, it cannot fracture the communal bond of the Winnebago people. United by shared culture, traditions, and a deep responsibility to care for one another, the community continues to stand tall, transforming a moment of disaster into a powerful testament to tribal unity and collective recovery.

...Con't from front page: Caps Off to the Class of 2026...

receiving certificates with plans to either enter the regional workforce or continue to a four-year institution.

Renowned local leader John Blackhawk served as the commencement speaker, delivering an inspiring address emphasizing how higher education serves as a modern tool for tribal sovereignty and community leadership. LPTC President Manoj Patil and the Board of Trustees conferred Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees alongside technical certificates. The day prior on May 8, LPTC hosted its first-ever honoring of graduates' powwow which was held at Veteran's Memorial Park, featuring a grand entry and a shared community meal to offer traditional blessings for the scholars.

At 2:00 PM, the focus shifted to the high school gym as the Winnebago Public School celebrated its newest class of alumni. The high school gymnasium was packed to capacity as the community cheered on an exceptionally large class of 61 graduating seniors receiving their high school diplomas. The ceremony opened with an elegant welcome address by WPS senior Cierre Vargas, followed by a powerful rendering of the Flag Song by the New Breed drum group. Ashton Lyons and Jerason St.Cyr then stepped forward to deliver the invocation and traditional blessings. A particularly moving highlight of the afternoon occurred when graduating senior Gerry Earth took the stage to introduce his mother, Mrs. Kristine Earth, who served as the day's distinguished

commencement speaker.

Leading the historic cohort were the class valedictorian and salutatorian, who were honored on stage for achieving the highest academic standings in the Class of 2026. Presented by Mr. Everett Wall, Breezie Treglia received salutatorian and Lula DeCorra received valedictorian. In their addresses, the two scholars reflected on their shared journeys through late-night studying and extracurricular triumphs. They extended deep gratitude to their families, teachers, and tribal elders for providing the guiding foundation that fueled their academic success, challenging their peers to use their diplomas as tools to uplift the Winnebago community.

As the caps settled and the echo of the honor songs faded, the true impact of the historic weekend became clear. The graduation of over 100+ local scholars represents more than individual triumph; it marks a vital step forward for the economic development, health, and cultural sovereignty of the region. Equipped with high school diplomas, collegiate degrees, and advanced certificates, these newly minted alumni are positioned to serve as the future leaders, educators, and innovators of their communities. Guided by values of their ancestors and fueled by the unwavering support of their families, the Class of 2026 leaves a legacy of resilience that will undoubtedly inspire generations of Winnebago scholars to come.

**Editor's Note: On behalf of the WIN, a special congratulations to the entire Class of 2026 from both WPS & LPTC! We are proud of you!*



Hōcāk Wōšga
HoChunk Values

Hanāc mānāpe hīwāniwina
hiwaracāk hikjawiṇa.
Honor our veterans.

HoChunk Renaissance

WINNEBAGO GROCERY & RETAIL NEEDS COMMUNITY SURVEY

Your voice. Your community. Your future.

We want to hear from you!

This survey aims to collect input from Winnebago Tribal members to enhance access to food and essential services in local grocery and retail outlets.

Your input will help guide decisions on:

- Keeping the current Dollar General
- Replacing it with a local grocery store
- Expanding shopping options within our community

***Survey Goal: 1,000 Responses**
Reaching this goal helps ensure the results are meaningful and representative.

For more information: tribalcouncil@winnebagotribe.com

...Con't from front page: In Victory for Tribe, Court Confirms NAGPRA Applies to Children's Remains...

are part of a "holding or collection" under NAGPRA and made clear that the Tribe's request is exactly the kind of remedy Congress intended when it enacted the law to address the long history of Native burial desecration and the retention of Native remains without consent.

"At the end of the day, the U.S. government kept and buried the remains of two Native American schoolchildren, Samuel Gilbert and Edward Hensley, without their families' or tribe's consent after forcing them from their homes and after they died in the government's care. Nearly a century later, Congress passed a statute that, by its terms, entitles their tribe finally to bring their remains home and to bury them according to their tribal and religious traditions. Nothing in the statute's text or purpose forecloses that outcome. Quite the opposite: All signs indicate that the Tribe's repatriation request is precisely the kind of remedy of historic wrongs that NAGPRA was designed to facilitate." -Judge Harris in writing the opinion

This decision is a powerful affirmation of Tribal sovereignty, dignity, and the right of Tribal Nations to bring their children home. It acknowledges the profound injustice inflicted on Native families through the federal boarding school system and reinforces that NAGPRA is not limited to museum shelves or boxed collections. NAGPRA applies where federal agencies have retained Native children's remains without the consent of their families or their Tribe.

NARF Staff Attorney Beth Margaret Wright explains, "Winnebago's lawsuit demonstrates its commitment to honor its ancestors and its children; and Winnebago continues to advocate for its rights under NAGPRA to bring Samuel and Edward home and provide them with the Tribal burials they were denied over 125 years ago. The Fourth Circuit recognized that Congress enacted NAGPRA as a remedy for this 'shameful injustice'."

Today's ruling is a major step toward

bringing Samuel and Edward home so they may finally be laid to rest in accordance with Winnebago customs and traditions. It also sends an important message to federal agencies nationwide: NAGPRA must be honored as Congress intended; Native families and Tribal Nations cannot be denied the protections of a law designed to remedy historic wrongs.

"This is an extraordinarily important decision not only for the Winnebago Tribe, but for Tribal Nations across the country seeking to ensure that federal agencies finally comply with the laws enacted to help address the profound and multigenerational trauma inflicted by the federal Indian boarding school system," said Greg Werkheiser of Cultural Heritage Partners, co-counsel for the Tribe.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's Chairman, Chairman Brown stated, "The Fourth Circuit's ruling brings joy to the Tribe. As the Court recognized, it would be a disservice to find NAGPRA does not protect the Winnebago's right to bring home Samuel Gilbert and Edward Hensley for proper burials, according to our traditional practices. NAGPRA is an important statute our relatives fought for and is meant to "address the desires of Indians to bury their dead," a right "for too long ignored."

The case now returns to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia for further proceedings.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is represented by its General Counsel, Big Fire Law & Policy Group LLP, NARF, and Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC. To learn more about Samuel Gilbert and Edward Hensley and Winnebago's fight for their repatriation, visit the *Winnebago v. U.S. Army* case page at: <https://narf.org/cases/winnebago-carlisle-nagpra/>

This article was originally issued as a press release by Native American Rights Fund on May 14, 2026. It has been edited for length and style to fit the Winnebago Indian News layout.

NEXT W.I.N. DEADLINE:
JUNE 2, 2026



Wāgax hūk ra wāgax hokik'una

Letter to the Editor



Thank You



Submitted by Beverly Snow-Peterson

On behalf of the family of Linda Lou Snow, her sister, Beverly Snow-Peterson, wishes to express her deepest gratitude to the Snow Aunties for taking care of Linda's funeral arrangements. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who assisted the cooks; your hard work and contributions meant to the world to us. Finally, thank you to everyone who came to visit, shared memories, and provided comfort and support during this difficult time.

JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH



By: Pastor Ricky Jacob

'Seated at the right hand'

Last week Thursday - Christians around the world celebrated the ascension of Jesus into heaven.

Jesus is now said to be seated at the right hand of God. How do we know this as fact? We turn to the Sacred Word of God where over seven times this is stated. One such text from God's Holy Scriptures is recorded in the Gospel of Mark:

And [Jesus] said to the [eleven apostles], "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs' [Mark 16:15-16, 19-20 (ESV)].

You might be wondering what difference does Jesus being seated at the right hand of God do for you? For one, this truth should move one to think beyond. Think beyond what you might be wondering. Think beyond the trials and the troubles and the temptations or tests found in this world. This world will pass away. For many this can not happen soon enough.

The truth is that there is more to life than that which is found in this world. For the Christian, who believes that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father - he or she is assured of this. We turn our attention to the apostle Paul's words found in his letter to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ who were in Colossae, the third chapter:

"Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, be seeking the things above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Be setting your minds on the things above, not on the things on the earth. For you died, and your life has

been hidden with Christ in God. Whenever Christ, your life, is revealed, then also you will be revealed with him in glory' [Colossians 3:1-4 Deterding translation].

Right in the middle of this reading we hear: Be setting your minds on the things above, not on the things on the earth. This is easier said or read than done. Ask yourself this question: What good does it do to be all worried and anxious about something that lasts but for a moment compared to what will last forever and ever and ever without end?

Paul went on to write: For you died. When does a Christian die? A Christian dies at his or her baptism. A Christian is united with Christ in his baptism - connected him to Jesus' death. But also uniting him with Jesus' resurrection. Furthermore, the believer in Jesus will also be united with Jesus in his glory!

Please pray with me: Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

This Sunday we begin the study of the book of Hebrews at 10 a.m. One of my favorite books found in God's book of books - the Holy Bible - is the book of Hebrews. The writer of this book makes so many connections found in the spiritual ways of the Hebrew people that had been given to Moses in the wilderness. Here is a sample of what we will study:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God' [Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)].

Hočąk Wōšga
HoChunk Values

Rō hašįņį ŋa hirakikara wiāje.
Take care of your health.

HoChunk Renaissance
The Official Language Program of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV26-102
In the Matter of the
Guardianship Petition of:
Jeremiah and Sierra Bigfire
In Re:
A.G (Born 12/2019)
A.G (Born 3/2022)
A.G (born 11/2024)

TO: RAMONA GRANT, Mother
TERRANCE LEWIS, Father
CHRISTOPHER RUIZ, Father

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed for Guardianship and a hearing concerning the above-referred Individual(s) in Case No. CV26-102 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 28th day of May 2026 at the hour of 11:00 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV26-113
In the Matter of the
Divorce Petition of:

TAUNIA J. ROJAS
vs
RAUL C. ROJAS

To: RAUL C. ROJAS

You are hereby notified that a Divorce petition has been filed and a hearing concerning the above referred Case No. CV26-113 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 11TH day of JUNE, 2026 at the hour of 11:30 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV26-110
In the Matter of the
Guardianship Petition of:
KRISTINA YELLOWBANK
In Re:
M.L.V.G (Born 4/2026)

MAYA WHITE, Mother
JERAMY VANDALL, Father

TO: MAYA WHITE, Mother
JERAMY VANDALL, Father

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed for Guardianship and a hearing concerning the above referred Individual(s) in Case No. CV26-110 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 22nd day of June, 2026 at the hour of 11:30 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. JFJ26-017
The People of the Winnebago Tribe
In the Interest of:
A.C.

To: ADRIENNE PETERSON, Mother
ARTHUR CAMPOS, Father
ALL POTENTIAL FATHERS

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ26-017 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 27th day of May, 2026 at the hour of 1:30 P.M.

ARE YOU ON THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST??

DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF THE DECISIONS MADE ON THE BEHALF OF THE WINNEBAGO TRIBE?

IF YOUR ANSWER IS YES THEN

THE CRITERIA IS SIMPLE and the process is QUICK!

1. BE AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF THE WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
2. MAINTAINED RESIDENCE ON THE WINNEBAGO RESERVATION FOR SIX (6) CONSECUTIVE MONTHS OR LONGER PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ELECTION
3. EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

IF YOU MEET THESE CRITERIA, AND ARE NOT ON THE LIST

FILL OUT AN APPLICATION, GET IT NOTARIZED, ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND HAND IT BACK IN

IT REALLY IS AN EASY PROCESS!

THE ELECTION IS COMING UP FAST GET ON THE LIST!

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!



FIND OUT TODAY

CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT LOCATED AT THE BLACKHAWK CENTER

205 N. Bluff St. Winnebago, NE 68071

Monday through Friday
8:00am - 4:30PM
402-878-2272

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on June 6, 2026. DEADLINE for this issue will be June 2, 2026.



Postmaster Send Address Changes To
Winnebago Indian News
P.O. Box 687
Winnebago, Nebraska 68071

The Winnebago Indian News (WIN), founded in January 1972, is published bi-weekly for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

The Mission of the WIN is to inform and to educate the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska of issues that affect them, and to be a vehicle in which stresses positive and beneficial concerns and points of view. LETTER POLICY: Signed editorials, letters and articles appearing in the WIN are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the Winnebago Indian News or the Winnebago Tribal Council.

The WIN encourages the submission of Letters to the Editor; however, letters must be signed and addressed. Letters may be edited for language and length.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The reproduction of editorial or photography content without permission is prohibited.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please send change of address with old mailing label to:
Winnebago Indian News
P.O. Box 687
Winnebago, NE 68071
or contact us at our e-mail address:
winnebagoindiannews@winnebagoindiannews.com
Phone: 402-878-2272

"Official Newspaper of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska"

Yearly Subscription Rates
Nebraska Residents\$25.00
Out-Of-State\$35.00
Overseas\$50.00

Advertising Rate
Per Column Inch.....\$7.00

Advertising/News Deadline
12:00 Noon Monday Printing Week
Periodicals Postage Paid
(Issn 1060-3026) At Winnebago, NE

Winnebago Indian News Staff
Bethani Redhorn.....Editor
Tyler Snake.....Office Manager
Christina Parker.....Desktop Publisher

WTN Communications
Garan Coons.....Comm. Officer
Gayla Whitewater.....Comm. Office Manger
Christina Parker.....Web Master
Kevin Ebert.....Multimedia Coordinator

Winnebago Tribal Council

Coly Brown Chairman
Isaac Smith Vice Chairman
Teresa Littlegeorge Secretary
Rona Stealer Treasurer
Victoria Kitcheyan Member
Ireta Frazier Member
Trey Blackhawk Member
Lorelei DeCora Member
Eugene DeCora Member



COMMUNITY

...Con't. from last issue...

Eugene DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-118: Blood Quantum Correction #383-U08612. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
 VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain
 Motion carried.

Blood Quantum Correction #383-U04283
 Eugene DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-119: Blood Quantum Correction #383-U04283. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
 VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain
 Motion carried.

EDUCATION:
 Approve Education Vision and Mission Statement Revision
 Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve the Education Vision and Mission Statement. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
 VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain
 Motion carried.

Approve Summer Youth Policy

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Summer Youth Employment Program Policies and Procedures. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
 VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain
 Motion carried.

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEM:
 Wizoki Mushroom Contest
 Eugene DeCora motioned to sponsor the 1st Wizoki mushroom Contest with a budget of up to \$1,000.00. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
 VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain
 Motion carried.

ADJOURN:
 Trey Blackhawk motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:16 p.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
 VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain
 Motion carried.

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
 Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
 Winnebago Tribal Council*



WAŽŌKĪ WAGIJIRE RA Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

To: Winnebago Membership and Surrounding Tribes
 From: Wažōkĭ Wagijire Ra
 RE: Traditional Foods

Wažōkĭ Wagijire Ra is search of local cooks to submit a proposal to showcase traditional Native American cuisine for our Grand Opening celebration on June 24th, 2026, please submit your proposal to Kumiko Masquat no later than June 1st, 2026. Include your proposed price, a dish you would like to prepare, a brief narrative explaining the significance of your chosen dish.

We look forward to hearing from you!

LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE

Our Mission: "Be Strong and Educate My Children"

Little Priest Tribal College is now taking applications for the following positions:

- **Math Faculty**
- **Project Manager**
- **Recruitment Specialist**
- **Resident Assistant (1 Male)**
- **Student Equity Intern**
- **Student Extension Intern**

For more information, visit us on the web at:
<https://www.littlepriest.edu/human-resources/>
 LPTC is an equal-opportunity employer.
LPTC 601 E. College Dr. Winnebago, NE

402-922-1194 | kumiko.masquat@winnebagotribe.com | 218 Industrial HWY, Winnebago Ne 68071

MĀ'ŪNA WA'INĪGINĀP
 HĀPHISACAHA JE NA!
 THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!

HoChunk Renaissance
 Language Preservation Program

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31		1	2	3	4	5	6
		BBQ Pulled Pork on a Bun Potato Egg Salad Cantaloupe	Enchilada Casserole Spanish Rice Pineapple & Strawberries Beans	Chicken Alfredo Pasta Broccoli Lettuce Salad Garlic Bread Apple	Meatloaf Mashed Potatos & Gravy Green Beans Wheat Bun Carrots Pears	Spaghetti Garlic Bread Corn Lettuce Salad Pears	
7		8	9	10	11	12	13
		Brat on a Bun Baked Beans Macaroni Pea Salad Fruit Cocktail Peas	Ham & Bean Soup Carrots/Celery Frybread Cherry Crisp Lettuce Salad	Tuna Noodle Casserole Wheat Bun Asparagus Pineapple Celery & Peanut Butter	Salisbury Steak Rice Peas & Carrots Wheat Bread Peaches	Beef Roast Rstd. Potatos Carrots/Celery Brussel Sprouts Wheat Bun Strawberries	
14		15	16	17	18	19	20
		Pork Loin Au Gratin Potatoes Veggie Medley Wheat Bread Mixed Berries	Rice Vegetable Egg Roll Chicken Broccoli Peaches	Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn Canteloupe	Steak Tacos Rice Corn & Cauliflower Applesauce	BLT (Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato) Fries Mixed Veggies Pears	
21		22	23	24	25	26	27
		Fish Coleslaw Beans Fruit Cocktail Pickles Rye Bread	Cheeseburger Lettuce Salad Potato Salad Celery & Peanut Butter Apple Crisp	Tator Tott Casserole Wheat Roll Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Lettuce Salad	Biscuits & Gravy Hard Boiled Egg Hash Browns Watermelon Banana	Chicken Tenders Mac & Cheese Green Beans Wheat Roll Strawberries & Bananas	
28		29	30	1	2	3	4
		Bologna Sandwich Mac & Pea Salad Baked Beans Relish	Potato Soup Green Beans Corn Wheat Roll Apple Crisp	*ALL MEALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.			

2026



WCHS'S SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER SERVES A MEAL EVERY WEEKDAY, 11:30AM-12:30PM TO THE ELDERS IN OUR COMMUNITY. IF YOU ARE DISABLED OR HOMEBOUND, CALL 402-745-3957 TO ASK ABOUT HOME DELIVERY!

TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

WCCHS Whirling Thunder Wellness Serves Up Community Fun



Submitted by Halle Murray, WCCHS Marketing Specialist

Winnebago, NE – The Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System (WCCHS) Whirling Thunder Wellness Center is in the midst of its first-ever community volleyball league for the Winnebago community. The recreational league was created to provide community members with an opportunity to stay active, connect with others, and enjoy friendly competition in a welcoming environment.

The league includes 8 teams, and games are held every Thursday evening from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, creating a consistent space for participants, families, and supporters to come together each week. After the games, food is provided for everyone who attends, giving players and spectators a chance to relax, hang out, and connect outside of the competition. Fresh fruit, a meal, and drinks are available, making it easy for everyone to refuel and enjoy some time together after a night of games.

Community wellness goes beyond physical health, and opportunities like this one encourage both movement

and social connection. This league gives participants a chance to exercise, relieve stress, and spend time with others in a laid-back and positive atmosphere. Whether someone has years of volleyball experience or is simply looking for a fun activity to join, this league was designed for anyone interested in participating.

“Providing opportunities like this is important because it encourages people to stay active while also bringing the community together,” said Pilar Aldrich, Wellness Program Director. “Watching community members come together, have fun, and encourage one another has been very rewarding.”

Programs like the WCCHS Whirling Thunder Wellness Center volleyball league help create long-term opportunities for healthy living, community connection, and active lifestyles within the Winnebago community. WCCHS hopes this first season will inspire community members to stay involved, remain active, and continue participating in future wellness and recreational activities for years to come. Make sure to get your teams signed up for the next recreational league!

2026 HCI Summer Internships



Submitted by Kiana Lewis

Ho-Chunk, Inc. recently welcomed its 2026 Summer Intern cohort as the program officially kicked off this month. Throughout the summer, interns will gain hands-on experience across several departments and divisions, build professional skills, and contribute to meaningful projects that support the organization and the Winnebago community. The internship program is designed to provide students and emerging professionals with valuable career development opportunities while giving them insight into the diverse work happening across Ho-Chunk, Inc.

Ho-Chunk, Inc. Celebrates Leadership Siouxland Graduates



Submitted by Kiana Lewis

Ho-Chunk, Inc. is proud to recognize our very own Kiana Lewis, Blade Smith, and Rachel Penn on their recent graduation from Leadership Siouxland.

Leadership Siouxland is a nine-month leadership development program designed to cultivate emerging leaders, strengthen professional networks, and further participants’ understanding of the Siouxland region through civic engagement, collaboration, and community impact. Since its founding in 1984, the program has helped shape leaders across the Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota tri-state area.

Throughout the program, they have joined professionals from a wide range of industries, participating in monthly sessions focused on leadership development, community issues, and service-driven initiatives. Their graduation reflects not only their personal commitment to growth, but also Ho-Chunk, Inc.’s continued investment in developing leaders who create positive impact both within the organization and throughout the communities they serve.

Ho-Chunk, Inc. congratulates Kiana, Blade, and Rachel on this accomplishment and looks forward to the leadership they will continue to bring to their teams, projects, and community initiatives.



Notice of Public Hearing: Social Services Program P.L. 102-477

The Winnebago Human Services Department invites all members of Federally Recognized Tribes residing within Thurston County (excluding the Omaha Reservation), Dakota County, and Woodbury County to a Public Hearing focused on the Social Services Program P.L. 102-477.

Date: June 29th, 2026

Time: 11:30 am

Location: Nĭkjaĭ Wakąçak anaĝa Wagijire Hoci
199 HWY 77/75
Winnebago Ne, 68071

The purpose of this hearing is to share information about the Social Services Program P.L. 102-477, gather feedback, and hear suggestions or concerns from clients and community members within our service area (Thurston, Dakota, Woodbury). Your input will help shape the future of our community.

All are encouraged to attend and participate. Your voice matters!

For more information, contact:
Kumiko Masquat
Social Service Program Manager
402-257-5586 ext:1203

Summer Internship

Join our Public Health Team

- Must have descended from or be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe. Preference to Winnebago Tribal members.
- Must have completed 1 and be enrolled in the next semester of or have graduated > 1 year ago from an accredited college or university.
- Preference given to students majoring in health-related fields.

This Internship will strengthen the Winnebago's tribe's healthcare infrastructure, and foster careers in public health, while providing practical skills and diverse perspectives. We want to mentor two future health professionals by teaching them to apply scientific knowledge alongside Indigenous wisdom in the development of their assigned projects.



APPLY TODAY!

www.wchs.health/apply



HAKWEWE

Question of the Issue:

What is your favorite food truck menu item that you crave and why?

GARAN: At the employee appreciation picnic they brought down a food truck called Lapalapa, they have these amazing fruit cups! They put this seasoning on it which is mouthwatering! A great refreshing snack!

KEVIN: I like food trucks one of my most favorite was this one guy who only sold huge baked potatoes! They had sour cream, butter, salt, pepper, chives and some white cheese. They were awesome! He only sold them for 4 months out of the year. That was in Northern Germany.

CHRISTINA: Over the recent winter I was craving the toste elote from La Palapa so I attempted to make it at home. Settled the craving but was not the same.

BETHANI: I would have to say La Palapa food truck. I tried them for the first time during the 2024 MMIR Red Sky Nation Powwow at Riverside Park in Sioux City, IA. We were collaborating with them for a livestream of the powwow. My Tega Bill DeCora was there with me the entire weekend and I swear, all we ate was elote's and all we drank was pineapple water! The best part was the option to have it on the cob or in the cup, and they were both delicious. They've been there every year, so I am looking forward to having them this upcoming July! =>

TYLER: I haven't been able to try man food trucks but a favorite would always be cheese fries. I look forward to Winnebago's Homecoming Celebration just for 'em.

GAYLA: I don't eat at many food trucks because I've had poor experiences, but I do enjoy the drinks! Reminds me of summertime. Lemonades or blue raspberry slushies are my favorite!

QUINCE: I love food trucks or Pop ups for a few reasons. They usually family businesses (I love to support family-owned spots) and they usually try to sell something that is unique. My favorites are the classic Taco Trucks...the ones that have the rotating meat and they shave it off into the tacos. The kids live the carnival foods.



"WALK FOR A CAUSE"



5K RUN & WALK

ALL PROCEEDS RAISED WILL BENEFIT THE WINNEBAGO TRIBE'S CULTURAL EVENTS

**SATURDAY
30
MAY
2026**

**WINNAVEGAS
CASINO &
RESORT**

- Open to ALL ages and skill levels!
- Registration Fee: \$10.00
- Registration Time: 8:00 AM
- Almost \$5K in prizes to be distributed across all age groups!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (712) 428-7135

BUS TRANSPORTATION for Groceries





We're here to help get you where you need to go!

- PICK UP LOCATION**
Human Services
(Neola Walker Building)
218 Industrial Rd
- DAYS**
Tuesday & Fridays
Beginning May 5
- TIME**
9:00 AM
- DURATION**
2-Hour Trip
- CAPACITY**
We can only fit up to 6 riders + the groceries.

SIGN UP AT HUMAN SERVICES
Note: Only those who have signed up will get to ride.

POINT OF CONTACT:
Emilee Harris | (775) 385-3750
emilee.harris@winnebagotribe.com

Helping our community—one ride at a time.



NĪKJAĀK WAKAČAĀK ANAĀGA WAGIJIRE GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th, 2026
11:00am - 1:00pm
A light lunch will be provided

Located: 199 Hwy 77/75, Winnebago, NE

WINNEBAGO POWWOW:

160th Annual Homecoming Celebration
**JULY 23-26
2026**

- 61 DAYS •
- 2 MONTHS •
- 5 TRIBAL PAY DATES •



**APRIL 2026
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
Mary Petite**




**BIG VOICE RADIO
KWTN 100.9 FM**
Official Radio Station of the
Winnebago Tribe of
Nebraska






BISON MEAT FOR SALE

Due to the DG's closure and rising gas prices, bison meat is now available to Winnebago tribal members at reduced prices!



GROUND BISON
\$4/lb



BISON ROAST
\$5/lb



BISON STEAK
\$12/pack




Stop in and grab what you need while supplies last!

Payments accepted: Money order or credit card ONLY.

(402) 878-2362

Winnebago Wildlife & Parks Dept.
125 1/2 600 E Ave Highway 75, Winnebago, NE

JOIN US FOR THE HONOR EVERY WOMAN WALK





Wednesday, May 27th
10 am – 12:30 pm

Located at Winnebago Public Schools Track

~~~~~

For more information please contact Caitlin Johnson  
402-745-3950. This event is just for adults.

*Sponsored by Winnebago Public Health Nursing Department & Honor Every Woman's Quest*

## Academic funding for 7-12th graders for educational events!



**UP TO**  
**\$1,000**  
*per student!*

For information on the Academic Development Program visit:  
[HOCHUNKINC.COM/STUDENT](http://HOCHUNKINC.COM/STUDENT)



## Attention College Students: Develop Your Career on Us!

*Receive funding for conferences, trainings, & more!*

UP TO  
**\$2,000**  
*per student, per event!*

For more info visit:  
[hochunkinc.com/CDP](http://hochunkinc.com/CDP)



## WINHEALTH PORTAL

WINNEBAGO'S FIRST-EVER PATIENT PORTAL



### YOUR HEALTH IS IN YOUR HANDS

Now Available! Secure & convenient online access to your health record.

**OUR PATIENT PORTAL BRINGS YOU:**

- 24/7 Access
- Updates in Real Time
- Proxy Access for Parents/Guardians
- View Access to Caregivers

**EMPOWERING YOU WITH THE ABILITY TO:**

- Request an Appointment
- Review Your Medications, Lab Results, & Visit Summary
- Direct Message Your Provider
- Update Your Personal, Medical, or Family History
- Check In For Your Upcoming Visit Online

**CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY & PREREGISTER**






WINNEBAGO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# SCAN HERE

TO COMPLETE APPLICATION

- HAVE PROOF OF RESIDENCY
- HAVE PROOF OF ENROLLMENT
- SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ENCOURAGED



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE CALL OR VISIT

402-257-5586

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/d2162/forms/WTNHSA>



CLASS OF 2026

# CONGRATULATIONS WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL Graduates



AYDEN ARMELL



AURORA BASSETTE



MICAH BASSETTE



ETTA BEARCOMESOUT



DOMINICK BIGFIRE



PRESTIN BLACKHAWK



PATRICK BURTT III



JAVIANNA CHAVEZ



MAGDALENA CLEVELAND



KAMIMILA COONS



NAPIIGA COONS



AUDRIN DECORA



LULA DECORA



JARED DOXEY II



GERRY EARTH



TRISTAN EARTH



ISABEL ELK SHOULDER



VIOLA FEAR



THOMAS FLANDERS



ADARIUS FLEMISTER



RACHMAN FREE-BASS



KAEBYN HARDEN



ROXY HOUSTON



AARON HULIT



MELVIN HULIT



JAYLEN HUNTER



FARON KEARNES



HAPMANIGA KEARNES



ASHTON LAPOINTE



LEVIN LAPOINTE

CLASS OF  
2026

GRAD AD SPONSORED BY:



HO-CHUNK  
INCORPORATED

CLASS OF 2026

# CONGRATULATIONS WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL Graduates



LATRICE LEVERING



JACOB LINCOLN



ERIC LITTLEGEORGE JR



AYDEN LITTLEGEORGE-  
CLOUD



RICARDA LITTLEWALKER



DEACON LONEWOLF



DESTINEE MEDINA



DONTE MERCER



JOSIAH MORGAN



DAMON NEGRONI-  
LITTLEWIND



KENNY NIEMAN



JENNA PAYER



RAMONE PICOTTE



JREDYN RAVE



ALEXANDER SMITH



HO-HUMP-GEE-KA-  
DDA-GA SNAKE



MAZHUPIWINGA SNOW



CASSIUS SNOWBALL



AMERIE THOMAS



TRINITY THOMAS-  
HORTON



KAIN THOMPSON



BREEZIE TREGLIA



CIERRE VARGAS



DIMITRIOUS WALKER



IYANA WARNER

GRADUATES NOT PICTURED:  
JASON BASS, DANIA EARTH, EMALINE KEARNES, AND NORMA REDHORN



ELIJAH WHITEBEAR



CARALEE WHITEEAGLE

# Best Wishes to the CLASS OF 2026

GRAD AD SPONSORED BY:



HO-CHUNK  
INCORPORATED



CLASS OF 2026

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE

*Graduates*

**Associate Diploma**



**Associate of Applied Science – Diversified Agriculture**  
Kevin W Rohde - Hubbard, NE  
**Associate of Arts – Liberal Arts**  
Adain M Robles - Winnebago, NE  
Solomon G Whitewing - Winnebago, NE  
Moses Albert Warner - Winnebago, NE

**Associate of Arts – Interdisciplinary Studies**  
Lisa Moore - Winnebago, NE  
**Associate of Arts – Early Childhood Education**  
Jacey Price- Winnebago, NE  
**Associate of Arts – Native American Studies**  
Maggie R Miller - Winnebago, NE  
KayLee Michaela Rolston - Vermillion, SD

**Associate of Science – Computer Information Technology**  
Charles White Eagle Parker - Walthill, NE  
Isaiah Edward Snyder - Rosalie, NE  
Angelica J Parker - Winnebago, NE  
Falisha Lucretia Shoun - Norman, OK  
Owen Eric Herrera - Rosalie, NE

**Associate of Science – Indigenous Science – Environmental**  
Teresa Isabel Graham - Pine Ridge, SD

**Associate of Science – Business**  
Samantha H Craig - Herman, NE  
Anna L Baker - South Sioux City, NE  
Dawn Marie Kills Back - Parker, CO

**Associate of Science – Indigenous Science – Health**  
Laila A Petite - Sioux City, IA

**Carpentry Diploma**



**GRAD AD SPONSORED BY:**

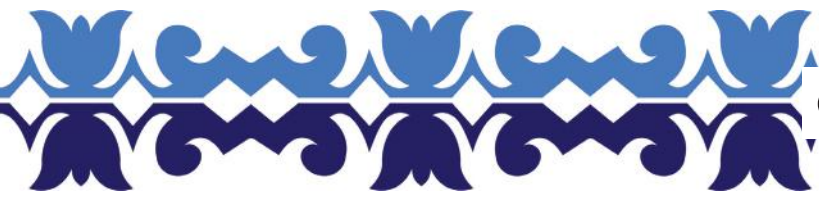


**Carpentry Diploma**  
Eliseo Buchanan Nava  
Royce Moses Payer Jr.  
Miskoo Benasche Petite Jr.  
Drake L Porter  
Elijah J Quagon  
James W Sun III

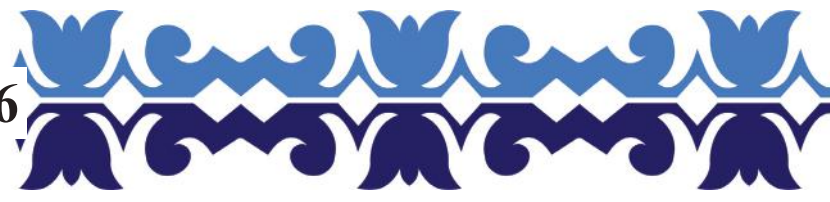
**Carpentry Certificate**  
Duane D Etsitty  
Eliseo Buchanan Nava  
Royce Moses Payer Jr.  
Miskoo Benschette Petite Jr.  
Drake L. Porter  
Elijah J Quagon  
Reuben Snake IV  
James W Sun III

**Framing Certificate**  
Eliseo Buchanan Nava  
Royce Moses Payer Jr.  
Miskoo Benasche Petite Jr.  
Drake L. Porter  
Elijah J Quagon  
Reuben Snake IV  
James W Sun III  
Josephine Wolf Leader

**Drywall Certificate**  
Duane D Etsitty  
Eliseo Buchanan Nava  
Royce Moses Payer Jr.  
Miskoo Benschette Petite Jr.  
Drake L Porter  
Elijah J Quagon  
Reuben Snake IV  
James W Sun III  
Josephine Wolf Leader



CLASS OF 2026



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE

*Graduates*

**Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate**



DonnyLeigh Blevins  
Thomas Charles Earth  
Charlize Frances Frenchman  
Cheyenne Rain Mallory  
Lynda N Waters  
Kaylynn Whitebear  
Solomon G Whitewing

Ashley CloudEagle  
Misty Dawn Marie Eagle  
Sadie Marie Littlehunder  
Amelia Parker  
Mackennen Sanford  
Isabel Lenore Trinidad-Snake  
Kevin J Urbanec

Shonna Rae Aldrich  
Okihinyanpiwin Bolles  
George Elkshoulder  
Steviraye M Wolfe  
Tosha Flowers  
Savannah Overfelt  
Agnes Mary Warner

*Best wishes  
to the  
CLASS OF*  
**2026**

**Faculty of the Year**



Mark Keck

**GRAD AD SPONSORED BY:**

**LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE**

OUR MISSION: "BE STRONG AND EDUCATE MY CHILDREN"



CASINO ♦ RESORT

**IT'S JUST  
MORE FUN**

# \$100,000 BLOOMING BUCKS DRAWINGS



**Saturday, May 30th**

Grand Finale Drawing | 11pm

One **LUCKY WINNER**  
could win up  
to **\$25,000 CASH!**



**BONUS ENTRIES: Friday, May 29th**  
Every 10 points equals 5 drawing entries

Visit [WinnaVegas.com](http://WinnaVegas.com) for more details.



# MJ

# LIVE

Michael Jackson Tribute Concert

**Saturday, June 13th**

*Doors at 7pm \* Show at 8pm*

**Tickets starting at \$15!**

Live at the WinnaVegas Event Center

The Michael Jackson Estate is not affiliated or connected with MJ Live Tribute Concert, nor has it endorsed or sponsored MJ Live Tribute Concert.

Tickets can be purchased in person at the WinnaVegas Gift Shop, by calling 800-468-9466, ex. 7117 or online at [winnavegas.com](http://winnavegas.com).

For more information: visit [WinnaVegas.com](http://WinnaVegas.com) or call us at 800-468-9466