

Published Bi-Weekly for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska • Volume 52, Number 21 • Saturday, October 14, 2023

## BAGO BITS

By: Tyler Snake



Thursday October 5th Winnebago public Health Department and Health Education held a walk for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Attendees walked to the BIA & back for a nice t-shirt and were able to learn more about the signs and symptoms to look for as well as made aware of mammogram appointments available at 12 Clans Unity Hospital. Les & Silas were present keeping the guests entertained & informed as usual!



Pictured above are WPS's 2023 Homecoming Royalty! Freshman: Jolon Blackbird and Manape Masquat. Sophomores: Ho-Hump Snake and Jenna Payer. Juniors: Jon Earth, Thomas Walker, Yaina Frazier and Haylie Lovejoy. Seniors: Lorde-Oscar Earth, Lady-Darian Earth, Duke-Timothy LaPointe, Dutchess-Misty Eagle, Prince-Kaden Kennedy, Princess-LeAngela Robinson-Lincoln, King-Zayne Bassette and Queen-Amiah Tyndall. Congrats to all the Royalty! Shown below are pictures of the parade

## Winnebago Election Results, Eugene DeCora Earns Top Vote & Victoria Kitcheyan Retains Chair



Back row (L to R): Coly Brown - Member, Kenny Mallory - Member, Aric Armell - Member, Eugene DeCora - Member  
Front row (L to R): Rona Stealer - Treasurer, Isaac Smith - Vice-Chairman, Victoria Kitcheyan - Chairwoman, Lorelei DeCora - Secretary

Written by WIN Circulation Manager Tyler Snake

October 4th The Winnebago Tribal Council held a Swearing-In Ceremony & Election of Officers for the newly elected Council members: Victoria Kitcheyan, Lorelei DeCora and Eugene DeCora Sr.

Located in the Black Hawk Community Center gym the Welcome Song was sung by a group of Winnebago Singers: Kunu Dave Russell, Mel Frenchman, OC Earth, Jeff Berridge, VJ Wolfleader, Lewis St. Cyr, Craig Cleveland, Trey Blackhawk gathered by Kunu Dave. Following the song, the flags were posted by members of the Veterans association, Gordon Rave

& Randy Decora. A prayer and "love one another" song was shared by the Ho-Chunk Immersion classroom.

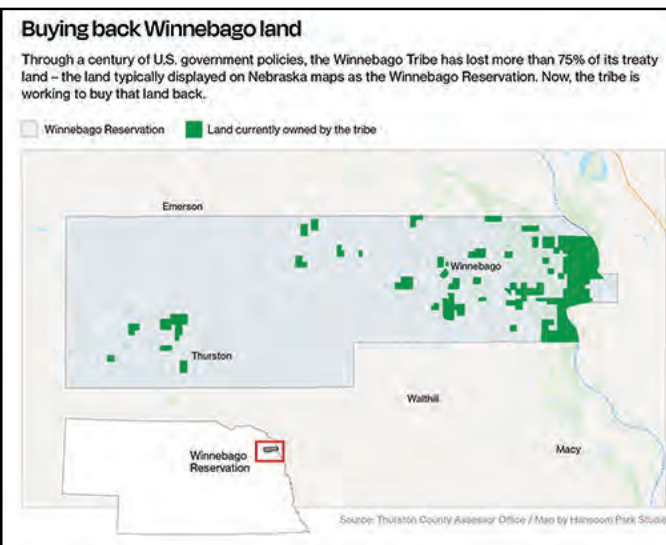
Taking the podium, Judge Jordan Zendejas called the meeting to order by swearing in the new members. All three members raised their right hand and took oath of defending the constitution and bylaws of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Following, nominations for the Tribal Chairperson were requested by Judge Zendejas, Lorelei DeCora nominated Victoria Kitcheyan as Chairwoman of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Aric Armell then nominated Isaac Smith as Vice Chairman, Seconded by Rona Stealer. Kenny Mallory motioned to cease nominations

and Lorelei DeCora seconded, making Isaac Smith Vice Chair by acclamation. Councilman Kenny Mallory nominated Rona Stealer as Treasurer, Seconded by Eugene DeCora. Motion to cease nominations by Eric Armell, seconded by Isaac Smith. By acclamation Rona Stealer continues as Treasurer. Kitcheyan calls for nominations for Secretary, Rona Stealer nominates Lorelei DeCora, Seconded by Eugene DeCora. By acclamation Lorelei DeCora continues as Secretary.

Victoria Chairwoman shares her continued commitment to the council and the people, quoted "there's no I, it's often

Con't. on page 4...

## Three Nebraska tribes buying back farmland, attempting to reverse history



By Destiny Herbers of Flatwater Free Press

Winnebago — Aaron LaPointe sits behind a desk in the Little Priest Tribal College's library basement, ready to speak to a class in a new program he helped develop — diversified agriculture.

He's here, on this 100-degree August day, to show these high school and college students — the future of the Winnebago Tribe, he believes — how Ho-Chunk Farms, the tribe's farming company, is changing the face of agriculture on their reservation.

"When you asked a student at my high school what a farmer looks like they would tell you a white guy with cowboy boots and a cowboy hat on," said LaPointe, senior director of business operations for Ho-Chunk, Inc. "They didn't see themselves as farmers, they just thought that's what the white guys do. And we just let them use our land to do that."

That perception is rooted in a century of

reality. The tribe only owns roughly 27,000 acres of its 120,000-acre reservation, after U.S. government actions that directly or indirectly led its farmland to pass into non-Native hands — mostly white farmers.

But that reality is starting to change. In the past five years, three Nebraska tribes — the Winnebago, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska — have bought an estimated 3,000 acres, total, of farmland that was once theirs.

Despite the tribes' recent financial successes — or perhaps, in part, because of them — the process has been neither cheap nor easy. Tribal leaders say white landowners who know that buying back land is a priority believe the tribes can and will pay any price.

All three tribes are paying prices that are higher than normal, according to a Flatwater Free Press analysis of data gathered by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln journalism class.

The Winnebago Tribe spent near-

ly \$10,000 per acre, on average, to buy back 340 acres of ag land. That's about \$3,000 higher than the northeast region's 2022 average.

Ho-Chunk leaders like LaPointe think the higher prices and headaches are worth it. (Editor's note: Ho-Chunk Inc. is a Flatwater Free Press sponsor.)

"We want to start farming our own reservation. We want to own our reservation again," LaPointe said.

Reservation, not reserved Just after the Civil War, the United States government attempted to completely upend the way most Native American tribes lived — including the way they viewed land.


The General Allotment Act of 1887, commonly known as the Dawes Act, tried to force assimilation by splitting the previously communally owned reservation into 160-acre pieces of farmland, individually owned by tribal members.

The government then sold the leftover

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

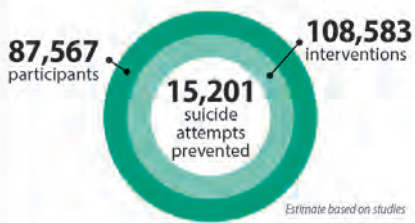


## Learn the skills. Help save a life.

**Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference.**

- Two-day workshop in suicide intervention skills
- Learn and practice a life-saving intervention model
- Widely used by professionals and the general public

**ASIST's impact in 2016**



**ASIST changes lives**

Odds of improvement after receiving an ASIST intervention (2013 study):

- ▲ 35% more hopeful
- ▼ 31% less depressed
- ▼ 46% less overwhelmed
- ▼ 74% less suicidal

**ASIST is cost-effective**

**50:1** return on investment in decreasing long-term costs of suicide (2015 study)

**ASIST works**


Studies show that ASIST participants gain:

- ✓ Knowledge about suicide
- ✓ Skills to reach out
- ✓ Confidence to help save a life

**Upcoming ASIST workshop**

**Date: Oct. 16 & 17, 2023**  
**9-4pm each day**  
**Location: 110 Visiting Eagle Street, Niobrara, NE 68760**  
**Hosted by: Society of Care**  
**Cost: FREE**  
**To inquire or register, call 402-857-2300**  
**or email: [crouillard@societyofcare.org](mailto:crouillard@societyofcare.org) or [amcbride@societyofcare.org](mailto:amcbride@societyofcare.org)**

Learn more about ASIST and see the evidence at [www.livingworks.net/ASIST](http://www.livingworks.net/ASIST)



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

# OCTOBER 27TH, 2023

### MINI HEALTH FAIR:

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS/SCREENING**  
 (BLOOD PRESSURES, BLOOD SUGARS, NUTRITION, WEIGHT MANAGEMENT, EXERCISE, MENTAL HEALTH, MAMMOGRAM SCHEDULING, STI'S, TOBACCO/ALCOHOL)

**LOCATION:**  
**LOWER LEVEL OF THE HOSPITAL (HEALTH DEPARTMENT)**  
**ENTER FROM THE LOWER WEST DOOR (GSA LOT)**  
**WINNEBAGO NS**

## WINNEBAGO PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# Together We Rise




CONTACT INFO: PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING 402.878.2258

## Wed. Oct. 18th 12-1pm over Zoom

Learn the importance of reaching out for support when needed and be encouraged to have an honest conversation about mental health and well being.

**IT'S REAL:**  
 TEENS AND MENTAL HEALTH  
**for High School Students**

To register, email: [donna.wolff@winnebagotribe.com](mailto:donna.wolff@winnebagotribe.com)

## Let's Chat Over Coffee

FRI. OCT. 27TH 9-10 AM

YCIC  
Basement

910 N. Mission  
Drive  
Winnebago, NE

Coffee and hot  
chocolate

Breakfast  
treats




Contact:  
[donna.wolff@winnebagotribe.com](mailto:donna.wolff@winnebagotribe.com)

# FARMLAND AUCTION

## THURSTON COUNTY, NE | BID NOW AT [BID.DREAMDIRT.COM](http://bid.dreamdirt.com)

# 552.57 Acres

**Bidding Ends:**  
**November 1<sup>st</sup> | 2 PM**



Contact **Jason Smith** for more info :

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH



By: Pastor Ricky Jacob

### “God-fearing Earnest Prayer”

A God-fearing man once wrote these words: “If someone wants to describe adequately the usefulness of God-fearing, earnest prayer, he will, in my opinion, surely find a beginning more easily than a conclusion. God-fearing prayer offered in faith is familiar conversation with God.

- It is a salutary remedy to all the difficulties of life.*
- It shows us how much we depend on God.*
- It is a shield for our defense.*
- It is refreshment in the heat of misfortune;*
- it is medicine during illness.*
- It is a winch, drawing us to heaven.*
- It is a vessel that draws water from the font of divine kindness.*
- It is a sword against the devil.*
- It is a defense against misfortune.*
- It is a wind that blows away evil; it brings earthly benefits.*
- It is a nurse that nurtures virtues and conquers faults.*
- It is a great fortification for the soul.*
- It gives free access to God.*
- It is a spiritual feast and a heavenly delicacy.*

- It is a consolation for the dejected and it is a delight for the holy.*
- It upholds the world and rescues people.*
- It is a joy for the heart and a jubilation for the mind.*
- It follows God's gifts of grace, and it leads ahead into glory.*
- It is a garden of happiness and a tree full of delights.*
- It calms the conscience and increases our thankfulness.*
- It sends demons running and draws angels close.*
- It is a soothing remedy for the misfortunes of this life and the sweet of the sacrifice of thanksgiving.*
- It is a foretaste of the life to come and it sweetens the bitterness of death.*

Whoever is truly a child of God through faith will, with childlike trust, address his or her heavenly Father every day in prayer. The one in whose heart the Holy Spirit has made His home will, as a spiritual priest, daily offer to God this incense of prayer.

I would add one important part to an earnest God-fearing prayer. I would add that it is only through the Son of God, Jesus, that one has access to our heavenly Father.

# OCTOBER

## WHAT'S IN SEASON FOR OCTOBER??

APPLES

BRUSSEL SPROUTS

CAULIFLOWER

DATES

KALE

POMEGRANATE

PUMPKIN

SQUASH

SWEET POTATO

**Winnebago Food Distribution**

### SUICIDE IN INDIAN COUNTRY PART 35

Direct communication may help you get what you need. While it may be hard for you to talk about what happened, it is also important for you to try your best to be direct in communicating what you need. It may seem obvious to you, but others may not understand or know the best way to support you. This period can be challenging because you might want to ask people for help, but you don't want to scare anyone if you're still struggling. This is especially true if you're concerned that people might overreact and insist on care in a hospital when you believe you just need more support and understanding.

A system for monitoring the intensity of your suicidal thoughts, should you have them, can help you notice if things are getting better or worse. It can help you communicate how much assistance you need from those supporting you. Using a scale from 1 to 5 (with 1 being minimal distress or no thoughts of suicide and 5 being extreme distress and thoughts of imminent suicide) can make it easier to express how you're feeling.

Take note of not only what's going on around you and through your mind when you're at a "4" or a "5", but also when you're at a "1" or a "2". These may be the situations, people, or strengths that will help you get through the hard days.

Support can make things easier. It might be hard at first, but having someone you feel comfortable talking to after your attempt is very important. You may face some challenges as you move forward; knowing there is at least one person you can turn to will make the road to recovery less daunting. Being alone with suicidal thoughts can be dangerous. Having supportive people around you and educating them on how to help you can be a crucial part of staying safe.

Ask yourself, "What do I need from a support person?" Different people need different things after a suicide attempt, so make sure the person you choose meets your unique needs. Maybe you need someone who will listen to you without judgment, or maybe you need someone who will come and be with you when you're feeling alone. Perhaps it would be helpful to have someone close to you who can go with you to appointments, or perhaps you want to schedule regular phone calls with a trusted friend. No matter what kind of assistance you need, it's helpful to have at least one person with whom you can share your thoughts of suicide—someone who will stay calm and help you when you need support. Once you know what you need, it may be easier to find someone to help. And remember, because you might not get everything you need from one person, it can be helpful to have a variety of people available to support you, if possible.

Tips for asking for help: When you ask for help, let people know you are dedicated to safety but need their assistance to maintain that commitment. For example:

"Mom, I want to keep myself safe, but I am feeling really depressed right now. Do you think we can just talk for a while?"

Be direct. It may seem obvious to you that you need support, but others may not understand or know how to help you. Asking for what you need specifically can help others respond appropriately.

"I've been having a hard time figuring out how to get to my doctor's appointment. Could you help me?"

Know the strengths and limitations of the people in your support system. It's good to know who can help you with what.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 (TALK), Winnebago Behavioral Health 1-402-878-2911, After Hours Crisis # 1-712-259-3263.

## Common Brutter Presents Crinkle Cutz...

m m m ... that popcorn smell's good!...

I Didn't make no popcorn!

So what smell's so good!...

these babies are flavored!

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on October 28, 2023. DEADLINE for this issue will be October 24, 2023.

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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.

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## COMMUNITY

...Con't. from front page top article...

somebody else that were trying to carry out wishes/prayers, so I just want to say that in a really humbly way that I take this seriously and that this is something bigger than any of us, this is about the survival of our people, and I hope that I can be a positive impact on your lives and on the tribes work."

Secretary Lorelei DeCora took the podium to express her gratitude in the work taken to "build survival mechanisms for the future so that our little ones here that prayed and sang to us have a good life, basic human needs: land, clean air, clean water, our ways- our Ho-Chunk ways, food, housing. Those are what we are charged to continue working on by us sitting at this circle."

Newly elected Tribal Councilman Eugene DeCora thanks the younger generation for exercising their right to vote, quoted "I hope that holds true for the future and then beyond that shows our younger membership has taken interest in what happens at the table, within our own community" and " I think that's going to lead us into the future and put us in a good, better place".

Commencement of the Ceremony finished with a Honor song by the gathered drum group of Winnebago singers followed by the flag song for the retreating flags to adjourn the meeting. Congratulations to the three elected Tribal Council members and everyone who voted!

### "Move Aside," New Ad Campaign for American Indian College Fund, Highlights Potential of Tribal College Graduates in Workplace

By: Dina Horwedel

Denver, Colo., October 9, 2023 — At the heart of the American Indian College Fund's latest PSA campaign, "Move Aside," is the unwavering potential of tribal college students. Launching on Indigenous Peoples' Day in partnership with Wieden+Kennedy Portland, the campaign shines a light on the growing number of Native Americans with college degrees (more than 300,000) while centering on and celebrating the Indigenous experience.

W+K Creative Director Patty Orlando and creative team members Robin Maxkii and Brad Trost saw an opportunity to create something unapologetically Native — by subverting the formal and outdated everyday symbolism and language of corporate America and breaking tribal stereotypes. Directed by Erica Tremblay of the Seneca-Cayuga (most notably known for her film, *Fancy Dance*), the film is based on the simple concept of bringing to life a cover letter, where we witness a Native graduate (her character played by Reservation Dogs' Elva Guerra) preparing to take on her promising future ahead.

Guerra's character explains that she has over 20,000 years of experience and mentoring from the generations of Native elders' hands who came before her. Tribal colleges helped her develop her skills; her culture helped her develop her knowledge; and in the final scene, she looks forward to taking this job opportunity—and other applicants can "Move Aside" — as seen in the ending tagline.

While creating the film, the W+K trio ensured every detail of the campaign was rooted in Native culture by presenting traditional elements in authentic and unexpected ways. The Indigenous crew, wardrobe, production design and props, and even the iconic muscle car symbolize freedom, happiness, and confidence.

"The campaign line is 'Move Aside' and that is what we tried to do. Rather than working in our usual way, we engaged an up-and-coming director from Reservation Dogs, Erica Tremblay," Orlando said. "From there things just fell into place as she brought in Indigenous crew partners and actress, Elva Guerra, from Oklahoma. The shoot took on a life of its own, with Erica calling out crew calls in her native Iroquoian language. I think you can feel all these decisions and intentions in the finished work."

In addition to being used by the College Fund to promote tribal education awareness and the great potential of its graduates, the "Move Aside" campaign will also be used by tribal colleges and universities to promote and market their institutions to their surrounding communities. Beyond the film, the campaign also has extensions in social media, online banner advertisements, and out-of-home advertising placements in Times Square and on a billboard in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade route, to show employers the promising prospects graduating from tribal colleges.

"I'm a former tribal college student and remember applying for a College Fund scholarship after seeing a campaign poster in the hallway at school

— and now, I get to work on those very campaigns," said Maxkii. "I don't think I have fought harder for any creative the way that I fight for Indigenous work because I know the impact this work has had and will have. As an Indigenous kid, it meant so much to me to see myself reflected in something — so I strive to continue to do the same by continuing to create authentic and dynamic Indigenous representation into my own work today."

The launch of this campaign coincides with the two-year anniversary of W+K co-founder and longtime College Fund friend and ally, David Kennedy's passing. After nearly 35 years of partnership, the "Move Aside" campaign is the first work that Kennedy has not played an active role in since the start of the relationship. While on set, Orlando and Producer, Jeff Selis, marveled at how Kennedy would have loved this work and how his legacy lives on.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said, "The arts and stories that are embodied in the "Move Aside" campaign are so reflective of the joyful and inclusive way that Native people engage with education and opportunity. Once again, the College Fund, with our great allies at W+K and our deep relationships with Native artists and actors, demonstrates through film that we are here to offer our knowledge and talents for a better society."

Current and future American Indian college students can learn how to apply for scholarships at <https://collegefund.org/students/scholarships/>.

Tribal colleges and universities can contact the American Indian College Fund at 303-426-8900 to receive campaign materials.

About the American Indian College Fund — The American Indian College Fund has been the nation's largest charity supporting Native higher education for 34 years. The College Fund believes "Education is the answer" and provided \$17.4 million in scholarships and other direct student support to American Indian students in 2022-23. Since its founding in 1989 the College Fund has provided more than \$319 million in scholarships, programs, community, and tribal college support. The College Fund also supports a variety of academic and support programs at the nation's 35 accredited tribal colleges and universities, which are located on or near Indian reservations, ensuring students have the tools to graduate and succeed in their careers. The College Fund consistently receives top ratings from independent charity evaluators and is one of the nation's top 100 charities named to the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance. For more information about the American Indian College Fund, please visit [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org).

About Wieden+Kennedy — Wieden+Kennedy is an independent, global creative company that has partnered with some of the world's most well-known, exciting brands for over forty years. Offering world class creative, media, social, design and strategy operations, W+K is driven by a core mission—use creativity and influence to transform brands, make change in the world and impact culture.

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land to non-Native settlers.

"At one point we owned 100% of our reservation, until the federal government thought 'Oh, this guy's got maybe too much land, let's take some of that from them,'" LaPointe said.

Native Americans had no concept of land as property, said Ted Hibbeler, member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Tribal Extension Educator at UNL. Tribes identified with territories through their creation stories, and built relationships with that land over thousands of years, but they did not view land as a form of money or power.

More reservation land was lost when tribal members grew financially desperate.

One example: After the land allotment, members of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska shopped for necessities in White Cloud, Kansas. When they couldn't afford groceries at one store, the grocer convinced them to sign over land as a promise to repay.

"They needed food, and that's just what they had to do," said Tony Fee, secretary of the Iowa Tribe. "This individual got them to sign it over as collateral ... and they never could afford to get it back. So they lost it."

Today, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska owns about half of its 12,000-acre reservation, with Native and non-Native land ownership checkerboarded throughout.

On the Winnebago reservation, many families lost their land back paying unfamiliar taxes, or sold the land to cover medical bills, LaPointe said.

#### In Trust

Today, even tribal members who own their own farmland can't use it as collateral to finance equipment or other purchases. It also can't be easily bought or sold. That's because for almost a century the land has been held in trust, another consequence of American history.

As more tribal members were forced to sell their land to pay bills, the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act put all remaining Native-owned allotments in trust indefinitely. It limited the jurisdiction of each tribe to only the land held in trust — not the original reservation boundaries.

By that point, though, an estimated 90 million acres had been removed from Native ownership, according to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation.

Leadership of the Winnebago Tribe today mostly want reservation land to stay in trust, LaPointe said, where it is under full tribal control and not taxed.

But it's difficult to start farming if you own land in trust, LaPointe said, because that land can't be used to get an operating loan at the bank. Farm equipment is costly, he said — a used combine can cost Ho-Chunk Farms around \$400,000.

"It really puts tribes in a tough situation," LaPointe said. "You can look at how much tribal trust land is farmed or row cropped by tribes, it's very small. ... A lot of it, it's just cash leased out, because that's the only real value it has."

Ho-Chunk Farms created a compromise, using cash backing from Ho-Chunk Inc.'s other businesses as capital to rent out tribal land currently in trust.

"We're owned by the tribe, so if we're making money, they're making money too," LaPointe said.

Ho-Chunk Farms is now farming 6,500 acres, almost all of the available tribal owned land and allotment land.

"We've gotten to the point where our only expansion is based on land acquisition, and it's tough," LaPointe said, "With the land markets right now, I mean, they're crazy high ... so it's really hard to buy ground right now."

#### Sticker shock

In the past few years, both the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska have made small and large land purchases. The Iowa Tribe added 4 acres next to some land it already owned. The Ponca made a 36-acre land buy.

Neither is notable, except for the price tag: More than \$43,000 per acre.

"I don't see too many places where anything approaching that happens," said Cris Stainbrook, Oglala Lakota and president of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation. "I mean, \$40,000 an acre is a lot."

Farmland prices in Nebraska have risen across the board in recent years alongside the commodity market. According to UNL's 2022 Nebraska Farm Real Estate Report, the highest quality irrigated land in the state is sold for around \$11,000 an acre.

In north and southeast Nebraska, though, where the Winnebago and Iowa are buying, average acre values range closer to \$7,000.

Those tribes often pay far more than that. In fact, every piece of reservation land the Iowa Tribe buys is priced higher than what similar land sells for, Fee said.

"The commodity prices, even though they're up, don't justify much more than

\$10,000 an acre on really prime farmland," Stainbrook said.

Racism is an underlying reason for higher land prices, Stainbrook said. He has seen sales where the asking price dropped dramatically when a non-Native organization was the buyer. Other sales happened when the original seller asked a Native tribe for a sky-high price, passed away, and then relatives sold it at a more reasonable rate.

"When we're helping (tribes) get land back there's this underlying thought that if the tribe wants it bad enough, they'll pay anything for it, or they must have a casino somewhere and therefore they can afford to pay more," Stainbrook said.

Sales on tribal land are sometimes disincentivized by existing tax policies, like capital gains, LaPointe said, because the original sales happened for such little money that the taxes would be disproportionately high.

Sellers may face higher capital gains or estate taxes if they inherited the land from the original homesteader, Stainbrook said, but tribes shouldn't be paying more because the current owner has to pay taxes on the sale.

"Do you think they sell it to another non-Indian and tell them, 'Well, you'll have to pay X amount more because of our capital gains?'" Stainbrook said.

Another reason for the high prices is the high demand.

One of the last pieces of reservation land the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska bought was offered to another individual right before the sale, Fee said, so the tribe's only option was to give more money to get the land.

"They got us over the barrel if we want it. I mean, then they know we want it. We want it bad enough. We're gonna pay for it," Fee said, "To me, that's not the right way, but we really don't have a choice."

The Iowa Tribe didn't have many opportunities to buy land four or five years ago, when values were cheaper, but now that prices have risen everywhere, sellers are offering up their land if the price is right.

"The tribe does feel that we should do everything we can to try to get the land back," Fee said. "And we're just doing what we can to work toward that."

#### Food as sovereignty

For Trey Blackhawk, manager of the nonprofit Winnebago Tribal Farm, acquiring more farmland is a path toward food sovereignty, a way for the tribe to feed itself without relying on outside sources.

On a plot of around 40 acres, the farm, founded in 2018, grows fruit and vegetables, as well as traditional Indian corn that is used by tribal members in ceremonies.

"Hopefully in the future, the 5 to 10 year plan is to move towards a food co-op for the tribe," Blackhawk said. "I think that would be really good and actually utilize all the local farmers."

The nearest grocery stores to the Winnebago reservation are in Sioux City, Iowa. Tribe members drive 20 to 30 miles each way to get their groceries.

Blackhawk is hoping to both lessen the commute and lead tribe members to a new way of thinking about their food, where sustainably and locally grown is a possibility and a priority.

"I think the pandemic helped people realize that we're not very sovereign. We can't even feed ourselves, really," LaPointe said. "All these shortages were happening and we're like, geez, we're really dependent on a lot of people for our food sources."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, 49% of Native Americans and Alaskan Natives experienced food insecurity, according to a survey conducted by the Native American Agriculture Fund.

"That number is very high, it's significant," said Whitney Sawney, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and director of communications and policy for NAAF.

Investments in Native agricultural infrastructure and operations help tribes to keep food production local so tribes can support their communities, Sawney said.

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska farms about 4,500 acres of their land, Fee said, with the goal of food sovereignty.

The tribe is moving toward regenerative agriculture, using native plant species, natural fertilizers and beekeeping to grow nutrient dense foods.

On the Winnebago reservation, LaPointe often visits classes at Little Priest Tribal College, presenting farming as a way to feed the tribe. It's also a good career opportunity for the students' future.

At 32, LaPointe is the second oldest Ho-Chunk Farms employee. Young tribe members are becoming interested in agriculture, and LaPointe believes they can be the next generation of farmers.

"That's why I say land acquisition is so important for us, because our growth is dependent on it," LaPointe said. "If I'm going to create jobs for this next generation of people that are getting educated in this field, we need to be moving forward by growing our acre base."



# TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

...Con't. from 9-16-23 issue...

sioner.

Aric Armell motioned to approve the agenda. Isaac Smith seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Aric Armell motioned to go into Executive Session at 1:10 a.m. Isaac Smith seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Kenneth Mallory motioned to come out of Executive Session at 2:26 p.m. Louis LaRose seconded.  
VOTE: (7) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

[Brian Chamberlain in at 1:11 p.m.]

Aric Armell motioned that the Winnebago Gaming Commission is authorized to make revisions to its policy and bring them back to the Tribal Council by 30 days. Brian Chamberlain seconded.  
VOTE: (8) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Aric Armell motioned to add a 4th Gaming Commissioner immediately. Isaac Smith seconded.  
VOTE: (8) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Brian Chamberlain motioned to authorize the Secretary to take all actions necessary to effectuate the advertising of the 4th Gaming Commissioner open until filled. Isaac Smith seconded.  
VOTE: (8) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Kenneth Mallory motioned to adjourn at 2:44 p.m. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (8) yes(0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lorelei DeCora, Secretary  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska*

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA MID-MONTHLY TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING September 18, 2023

### TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Victoria Kitcheyan  
Brian Chamberlain  
Rona Stealer  
Coly Brown  
Kenneth Mallory

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Kellie Snow  
Christina Parker

### TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:

Lorelei DeCora (leave)  
Aric Armell (leave)  
Isaac Smith (leave)  
Louis LaRose (leave)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairwoman Kitcheyan called to order at 5:09 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Kenneth Mallory offered the opening prayer.

### APPROVE AGENDA:

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the agenda. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

### READING OF THE MINUTES:

August 31, 2023, Treasurer's Report meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the August 31, 2023, Treasurer's Report meeting minutes. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

August 31, 2023, General Counsel meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the August 31, 2023, General Counsel meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

September 6, 2023, Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the September 6, 2023, Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

September 6, 2023, Reconvened General Counsel meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the September 6, 2023, Reconvened General Counsel meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

September 12, 2023, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the September 12, 2023, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

September 13, 2023, CEO Report meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the September 13, 2023, CEO Report meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

September 14, 2023, Special meeting -Law Enforcement minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the September 14, 2023, Special Meeting - Law Enforcement minutes. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

### RATIFY FIVE SIGNATURES:

Adopt resolution #23-189: FY2024 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska - CERCLA Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program - Brownfields.

Rona Stealer motioned to ratify the five-signature adopting resolution #23-189: FY2024 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska - CERCLA Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program - Brownfields. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Approve the Maintenance to repair the pool in the hotel from Suter for the amount of \$206,667.00

Kenneth Mallory motioned to ratify the five-signature approving the Maintenance to repair the pool in the hotel from Suter for the amount of \$206,667.00. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Approve \$500.00 Emergency Assistance for Tribal Member

Coly Brown motioned to ratify the five-signature approving \$500.00 Emergency Assistance for a Tribal Member. Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Approving request for Assistance in the amount of \$1,462.50

Coly Brown motioned to ratify the five-signature approving a request for assistance in the amount of \$1,462.50. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Amending Resolution

Brian Chamberlain motioned to adopt resolution #23-162A: Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska/Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System Staff Quarters with IHS Support (Amended). Rona Stealer seconded.  
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Youth Council

Rona Stealer motioned to table the Ho-Chunk Nisoc Haci Youth Council. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

### ADJOURN:

Brian Chamberlain motioned to adjourn at 5:23 p.m. Rona Stealer seconded.  
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Chairwoman Kitcheyan adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Kitcheyan, Chairwoman  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska*

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA GENERAL COUNSEL MEETING September 26, 2023

### TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Victoria Kitcheyan  
Lorelei DeCora  
Brian Chamberlain  
Rona Stealer  
Aric Armell  
Coly Brown  
Kenneth Mallory

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Danelle Smith  
Michele Mitchell  
Kellie Snow  
Teresa Littlegeorge  
Cecelia Earth  
David Edwards  
Rebecca DeCora  
Garan Coons

### TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:

Isaac Smith (training)  
Louis LaRose (leave)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairwoman Kitcheyan called to order at 2:05 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Aric Armell offered the opening prayer.

### APPROVE AGENDA:

Additions: Approve Dept of Treasury Request, Nation of the Winnebago Tribe sign on Interstate 29.

Aric Armell motioned to approve the agenda with additions. Rona Stealer seconded.  
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain

Motion carried.

### ACTION ITEMS:

Public Intoxication Code

Aric Armell motioned to adopt resolution #23-197: Amending the Winnebago Tribal Code Title 3, Article 7 Regarding Public Intoxication. Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Juvenile Code Child Placement Preferences

Aric Armell motioned to adopt resolution #23-198: Amending the Winnebago Tribal Code Title 4, Juvenile Procedure. Rona Stealer seconded. Aric Armell Withdraws motion, Rona Stealer withdraws second.

Aric Armell motioned to table Title 4 - Juvenile Procedure until the General Counsel does revision and brings it back to the Tribal Council. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

DISCUSSION: General Counsel will bring back by October 2, 2023.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

IHS Buyback Agreement FY 2024

Brian Chamberlain motioned to approve the Buyback Agreement between the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and United States of America, Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Services, also Chairwoman is authorized to sign the agreement.

VOTE: (5) yes, LD, BC, CB, KM, AA (0) no (1) abstain, RS Motion carried.

Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) Congressional Support

Aric Armell motioned to authorize the General Counsel to submit the letter to our Congressional Delegation for reauthorization of the SDPI. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Iowa Sign on "Nation of the Winnebago Tribe"

Aric Armell motioned to authorize the General Counsel to take all actions necessary with Iowa Department of Transportation on the "Nation of Winnebago Tribe" signs.

Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Brian Chamberlain motioned to suspend the Rules to add 2 items to the agenda.

Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

BIA Law Enforcement

[Rona Stealer out, Coly Brown out]

Aric Armell motioned to authorize the General Counsel to draft a letter for the Chairwoman's signature to the BIA Law Enforcement Head quarters and District 1 Services on the state of our Law Enforcement. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

RECESS: reconvene at 4:02 p.m.

UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Brian Chamberlain motioned to approve letter of support for the EPA. Aric Armell seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

[Lorelei out, back in]

Tribal Member Long Term Loan: still being worked on

NE Class III Gaming Compact: being worked on (meeting on 9/27/23)

Thunder Way LLC/WHDC: being worked on

Animal Control Code: being worked on

HEARTH ACT - no change

BIA Law Enforcement - already discussed.

Winnebago Land Transfer Act: meeting on 10/6/23 with Senator Ernst and staffers at WinnaVegas.

Federal Protections & Support: Consultation and Comments submitted.

HR 3461 - Letter went out on the strengthening Tribal Families Act

EPC - Mental Health Commitment Orders: being worked on.

Carlisle Repatriation - meeting with NARF and will send draft letter for Tribal Council approval.

MidAmerican Coal Ash Dump: letter drafted, will be coming for signature.

Independent Contractor Policy: in progress

Tribal Member Land Exchange:

Brian Chamberlain motioned to adopt resolution #23-198 for appropriate CFR correction for tribal member land exchange. Aric Armell seconded.

ABSTAIN: Kenneth Mallory

VOTE: (3) yes, BC, AA, LD (0) no (1) abstain, KM Motion carried.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Aric Armell motioned to go into Executive Session at 4:28 p.m. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Brian Chamberlain motioned to come out of Executive Session at 4:38 p.m. Aric Armell seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

### ADJOURN:

Aric Armell motioned to adjourn at 4:38 p.m. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Chairwoman Kitcheyan adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lorelei DeCora, Secretary  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska*

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA TREASURER'S REPORT MEETING September 28, 2023

### TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Victoria Kitcheyan  
Brian Chamberlain  
Lorelei DeCora  
Rona Stealer  
Coly Brown  
Kenneth Mallory  
Isaac Smith (in at 10:10 a.m.)  
Aric Armell (in at 9:45 a.m.)

### OTHER PRESENT:

Christina Parker  
David Edwards  
Beth Wewel  
Chris Tyhurst  
Kellie Snow  
Cecelia Earth  
Mike Lyons  
Tyresha Wolfe  
Angel Derochie  
Lance Morgan  
Kiva Harden-Free  
Ray Thomas  
Mike Means  
Thomas Snow  
Jasmine Lammers  
Eli Painter  
Jonathan Grant  
Teresa Littlegeorge  
Julie Smithart  
Autumn Nieman  
Ireta Frazier

### TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:

Louis LaRose (leave)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairwoman Kitcheyan called to order at 9:06 a.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Brian Chamberlain offered the opening prayer.

### APPROVE AGENDA:

Brian Chamberlain motioned to approve the agenda. Coly Brown seconded.  
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

**WCHS FINANCIAL REPORT:** Presented by David Edwards and Beth Wewel. Financial Report

Revenue Generation Report (not available)

Brian Chamberlain motioned to approve the WCHS August Financial Report. Kenneth Mallory seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Brian Chamberlain motioned to table the WCHS Revenue Generation Report. Rona Stealer seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

\*No date yet for COVID vaccine booster.

**GAMING COMMISSION REPORT:** Presented by Thomas Snow.

Brian Chamberlain motioned to accept the Winnebago Gaming Commission August 2023 Report. Kenneth Mallory seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

Lorelei DeCora motioned to table the Winnebago Gaming Commission Personnel Policies and Procedures. Brian Chamberlain seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

**WARHORSE REPORT:** Presented by Angel Derochie and Lance Morgan.

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve the August 2023 Warhorse Financial Report. Kenneth Mallory seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

**WINNAVEGAS REPORT:** Presented by Ray Thomas and Mike Means.

Brian Chamberlain motioned to approve the August 2023 WinnaVegas Financial Report as presented. Kenneth Mallory seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

[Aric Armell in at 9:45 a.m.]

### ACTION ITEMS:

Request from the Marketing Department, Re: Cash O Pumpkin side by side #3 Bids. Kubota RTV250 Taggart's Power Sport @ \$12,774.00

Brian Chamberlain motioned to approve the request from the Marketing Department, Re: Cash O Pumpkin side by side #3 Bids. Kubota RTV250 Taggart's

Con't. in next issue...



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Winnebago Environmental Protection Department will be holding Fall Community Clean-up on October 18th and 19th 2023. (Wednesday and Thursday) at the dumpsite on Mercer Street.

More Information on the event coming soon.

For Questions, contact James Neff at 402-922-0442.

YCIC FUNDRAISER  
**HAUNTED HOUSE**

Friday October 27th, 5-7pm \$5.00 entrance. Children 6 and under are free. Start in back by bonfire.

Logo: Youth Crisis Intervention Center and Youth Shelter

## LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE

Our Mission: "Be Strong and Educate My Children"

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

- Administrative Assistant to Academics
- Tutors
- Student Interns
- Extension and Equity Student Interns

For more information, visit us on the web at:

<https://littlepriest.edu/jobs-openings/>

LPTC is an equal-opportunity employer.

LPTC 601 E. College Dr. Winnebago, NE

### Red Ribbon Week Event

Explore how our tech revolution has impacted teens views and behaviors around alcohol, vaping, cannabis, and other substances, and what parents, schools, and teens can do to support healthy decision making, such as harm reduction education, restorative practices and improved family communication.

**SCREENAGERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

ADDRESSING VAPING DRUGS & ALCOHOL IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Lunch and Learn Tues. Oct. 24th from 12-1:30pm over Zoom  
To register, email: [donna.wolff@winnebagotribe.com](mailto:donna.wolff@winnebagotribe.com)

## Please join us

Diabetes Prevention Lunch & Learn

Where: Whirling Thunder Wellness Center Gym

When: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 11 am – 1230 PM

### Did you know?

Over 96 million American adults have prediabetes- that's 1 in 3 adults! (CDC, 2022)



Without taking action, many people with prediabetes could develop type 2 diabetes within 5 years.

#### What:

- Health screening
- Diabetes risk assessment
- Onsite consultation
- Speaker: Sue McLaughlin
- A healthy lunch

*Know your numbers. Learn what you can do to decrease your risk. Take action!*

## GRAND OPENING NEW RAPID SEXUAL WELLNESS SERVICES

Walk in STI tests available without an appointment. Stop by to get tested.

October 13th

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

225 S. Bluff Street, Winnebago, NE

Gift cards available for participants.



Gallery 103 & 3 Rivers Art Gallery

present

# New Artist Showcase

HENRY PAYER



ED ENCINAS



FRI 5PM

17

NOV 2023



## Ho-Chunk Centre

MEET THE ARTISTS & CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH WITH OUR DELICIOUS CUISINE

ERNEST RICEHILL



SUNROSE IRONSHELL



SAVANNAH ANDERSON



600.4TH STREET SIOUX CITY, IOWA 51101



**Ho-Chunk, Inc.**  
**Community Update:**  
***Driving***  
***Change:***  
***Winnebago's***  
***Economic Growth***

**Open to Winnebago Community  
& Tribal Members**

*Catered by R-Eatz. Various swag items will  
be available for the first 50 people  
and there will be drawings  
for door prizes.*



**TUESDAY,**  
**Oct. 24**

**at the Blackhawk  
Community Center**

**Meal & Presentation 5:30-7pm**





CASINO RESORT

# IT'S JUST MORE FUN

The top prize will be \$5,000 for the drawing on Saturday, October 7th and October 21st. The winners will choose one of the twenty Pumpkins or Spooky Jars containing a cash prize.

The top prize will be a 2023/2024 Side-By-Side Utility Vehicle\* for the drawing on Saturday, October 14th and October 28th. The winners will choose one of the twenty Pumpkins or Spooky Jars containing a cash prize or a 2023/2024 Side-By-Side Utility Vehicle\*. That's 56 winners throughout the month!

# \$70,000 CASH-O-PUMPKIN PATCH

**SATURDAYS  
IN OCTOBER!**

**7PM TO 10PM**

**DRAWINGS EVERY  
30 MINUTES**



WITH SUPPORT FROM

## THE GEORGIA THUNDERBOLTS



# THE MARSHALL MATTUCKER BAND

**FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 20**

**LIVE IN  
CONCERT**

**DOORS AT 6PM  
SHOW AT 7PM**

**TICKETS  
STARTING  
AT \$37**

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