

Published Bi-Weekly for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska • Volume 49, Number 26 • Saturday, December 26, 2020

## Bago Bits...



On behalf of the Winnebago Tribe, a special THANK YOU to the Winnebago Food Distribution Program and their helpers for all their hard work and efforts in putting together the 2020 Christmas Food Basket bundles for the Winnebago community!



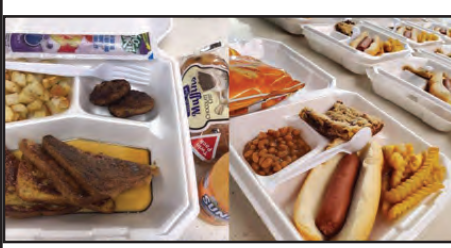
The first doses for the COVID-19 vaccination were administered on the morning of Thursday, December 17th. Pictured above is Winnebago Tribal Chairwoman Victoria Kitcheyan, Vice-Chairman Brian Chamberlain, and Mr. Clint Free SR.



Winnebago's very own Jocelyn Painter featured in an article on the North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources webpage. Jocelyn will be working with a professor to explore the deep connection that N.C. Native American tribes have to water resources. (Find this article on: [cnr.ncsu.edu](http://cnr.ncsu.edu))



Shoutout to these two on their performances at Fremont High! Zeriah George (2-0), Darian Earth (3-0) #GoBigBlue



Winnebago's Boys and Girls Club staff served breakfast and lunch to their little club members! Thank you to their staff for all their hard work in putting this together for the children.



Statement from Winnebago Tribal Chairwoman, Victoria Kitcheyan on U.S. Representative Deb Halaand! "Congratulations Rep Deb Halaand for breaking the red ceiling and becoming the first Native American to be nominated for a cabinet position and the first Native American to oversee the Department of the Interior. She is a visionary leader and champion for Indian Country. We look forward to supporting our Indigenous sister in making history."  
- Victoria Kitcheyan  
Winnebago Tribal Chairwoman

# Winnebago COVID-19 Response is "Unprecedented"



Pictured in the collage: PPE, Freezer & Meat Bundle Distributions, ATLAS of Winnebago's Tuesday Drive-up Pantry, Quarantine Housing, Road Infrastructure, Tribal Security, Big Screen LED Projector, and an earlier look at one of the first COVID-19 weekly updates.

## Winonah Leader Charge

From the time the Tribe received funds from the US Treasury in June, plans were put in place to both get the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) money into the community, under the ever-changing rules issued by the Treasury, and to comply with the requirement that the CARES Act money be spent by the Dec. 30th deadline, or risk having to return the funds to the U.S. Treasury.

Listed below explains and clarifies the use of the CARES Act money. A description of the overall purpose, expected outputs and outcomes or results of the project or activity funded by the CARES Act funding.

Projects funded by the CARES Act program include:

The ATLAS program's food pantry has been generously funded to provide food to the community as well as enhancing its ability to deliver food to those in the community.

Creating the Housing and Utility Assistance program to provide financial relief to Tribal members (both here at home as well as to those living in other areas).

Food security.

IT upgrades for the Tribe so proper social distancing protocols can be observed while protecting the staff and the public, to ensure continuity of services. This helped increase communication, both internally for Tribal operations and public awareness.

Funds provided to local schools to help slow the virus as well as providing funds to the hospital to purchase equipment.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Sanitation of buildings.

Road infrastructure improvements.

Quarantine & Isolation Housing.

### FOOD SECURITY

The food security project enhances the components of the local food system to ensure reservation residents have access to healthy foods without exposing themselves to potentially dangerous trips to nearby communities to purchase food in commercial outlets during the pandemic.

This project meets immediate nutrition needs of families who are suffering economic impact due to the pandemic by: Increasing the capacity of the local food pantry system to distribute food.

Supporting efforts to process, preserve and store more food in the community.

Enhancing the communities ability to grow more of its own food on reservation land.

### TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS

During the pandemic, the tribal members rely more than ever on our tribal programming to provide effective local governance and vital supports. The Co-

vid-19 Tribal Department pandemic project help tribal programs respond to new and emerging needs related to the pandemic. This includes:

Keeping the tribal employees and community stakeholders safe through provision of PPE, sanitation upgrades, and installation of barrier/safety equipment at program facilities.

Increasing programs' IT capacity to enable tele-work, digital delivery of tribal services, and access to public health and safety information

Providing hazard pay, increased staffing, contracted services in order to meet the increased demand for programming and supports during the pandemic.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The pandemic has created an urgent need to improve the ability to share information between and among tribal programs, community partners, and tribal members particularly in the areas of public health information, tele-health, tele-work, and the transition to digital learning options. The COVID CARES Communications project focused on increasing technology capacities to meet these pandemic-driven communication needs. There are three primary deliverables associated with this project and include:

Increase internet and wireless access across our service area by installing 4G upgrades aligned to provide connectivity for the first responders in the community as they respond to the pandemic.

The 4G upgrade was engineered such that when 5G is readily available, the Tribe will be positioned to upgrade as needed so the community is ready to respond to current and future phases of the pandemic by offering new tools for sharing emergency information, pandemic public policy advisories, educational content, telemedicine options for safer engagement with health services, and supporting increased transition to tele-work.

Upgrade tribal facilities and programs with enhanced telecommunications capacity to ensure the Tribe can effectively share pandemic-related updates and information with constituents, offer tele-work options to tribal employees, and engage tribal members in Tribal Council public meetings and other Tribal functions without requiring them to participate in potentially unsafe public gatherings.

The funds were also used to create increased communication ability to the public with a community screen so that COVID updates and educational information can be made available to keep the community safe.

### SECURITY

The pandemic security initiative focused

on meeting the increased need for public safety, oversight, emergency response, and policy enforcement necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic such as the mask mandate in public areas and the community-wide curfew. The project enhanced and integrated with existing Law Enforcement and Public Health resources to effectively respond to this increased need. Deliverables include:

Increased by 5 the number of equipped police officers with vehicles to ensure adequate 24/7 response to curfew violations or other pandemic-related Tribal policies across the reservation

Increased by 10 the number of security officers available across the reservation to provide oversight, crowd disbursement, policy directives, and law enforcement coordination in support of pandemic-related needs.

Increased communication and oversight/enforcement for public health and tribal council policies and advisories utilizing signage, and enhanced surveillance; assist with transportation needs associated with quarantine and isolation of Covid-19 patients (or potential patients) and their families.

### HOUSING

The pandemic housing project establish a continuum of housing options to prepare the community for an increase in Covid-19 cases, and established sufficient inventory to respond to the isolation and quarantine requirements of the current and subsequent waves of Covid-19 infections in the community. The Tribe developed a range of housing options to meet the specific needs of households or individuals that will need to isolate regardless of their income status, age, household size or other eligibility factors. Deliverables include:

Adding or upgrading paving to 2.5 miles of reservation roads to ensure first responder and health services access to tribal members' homes and public facilities.

Increasing by 6 units the number of single family homes to be utilized for quarantine and isolation during the pandemic.

The addition of ten camper trailers suitable for use as temporary quarantine and/or isolation housing.

Develop 1 women's shelter facility for women and children in need of safe relocation for isolation/quarantine.

Add a bath/shower facility at the Veteran's Park so that camper/trailers will have sanitation adequate for quarantine/isolation.

Ensuring that tribal members have the resources to maintain their current housing situation via rent and utility assistance.

# BAGO NEWS



## Winnebago COVID-19 Hotline

Available by call or text message Monday - Sunday  
from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**(402) 922-1508**

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**Closed For Holidays on:**

**Christmas: December 25th, 2020**  
**New Years Day: January 1st, 2021**

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\*The COVID-19 Hotline is not intended for emergency use. Patients needing immediate medical care should visit the Emergency Room at Twelve Clans Unity Hospital.



Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System

## NOTICE OF HOLIDAY CLOSING


Twelve Clans Unity Hospital and the Winnebago Public Health Department will be closing at

**2:30P ON DECEMBER 31ST, 2020**  
and will also be closed on Friday  
**JANUARY 1ST, 2021**

Any appointments already scheduled for Tuesday will be accommodated. The Emergency & Inpatient Departments always remain open.

For emergencies, please use the ER or East Entrance.  
We will re-open for business on Monday, January 4th, 2021.

*Thank you and Happy New Year.*

## Virtual Training

(Group and Personal Training)

**Six Week Training Session Via Zoom**  
**Beginning January 4th**  
**20 Minute Sessions**

A Fitness Specialist will set up a zoom meeting 1 -2 times per week for 6 weeks. Exercises will be tailored to the fitness level of the participant's choice. Resistance bands will be provided to participant prior to the first session.

Personal training forms can be found at <https://winnebagopublichealth.com/whirlingthunder/>.  
Forms should be completed and emailed to [pilar.aldrich@winnebagotribe.com](mailto:pilar.aldrich@winnebagotribe.com).

**For more information call WTWC at (844) 568-6421.**






## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Most people who receive a COVID-19 vaccine experienced mild side effects. Some side effects range from mild to moderate. Side effects with the COVID-19 vaccine can include:

- Injection Site Pain, Swelling, or Redness
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle Pain
- Chills
- Joint Pain
- Fever
- Nausea
- Feeling Unwell
- Swollen Lymph Nodes

There is a remote chance that the vaccine could cause severe allergic reaction. Inform your healthcare provider if you have a history of reactions to vaccinations prior to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. A severe allergic reaction would usually occur within a few minutes to one hour after getting vaccinated. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include:

- Difficulty Breathing
- Swelling of your face and throat
- A fast heartbeat
- A rash
- Dizziness and weakness

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Two doses are needed to complete the vaccination. The second shot will be given 3-4 weeks after the first shot. Both doses of the vaccine will be given as a shot in the arm muscle.
- Right now, the vaccine is recommended only for ages 16 years and older.
- Precautions (such as wearing a mask, avoiding gatherings, and washing our hands) should still be taken after vaccination.




## Summer Internship Program

See yourself here.

**APPLY NOW**  
[bit.ly/ho-chunk21](http://bit.ly/ho-chunk21)




*The internship program helped me get out of my comfort zone. I applied because I wanted to see what it was all about along with challenging myself because I knew it was going to be something I never experienced before. If you're thinking about applying, do it. You're only going to grow personally and professionally while you're here.*

Kellen Kelsey, 2019 & 2020 Intern  
HCCDC & HCI Distribution



**March 1, 2021**  
DEADLINE TO APPLY

**May 17, 2021**  
INTERNSHIP BEGINS

**July 30, 2021**  
INTERNSHIP ENDS

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Contact Felicia Masquat at [fmassquat@hochunkinc.com](mailto:fmassquat@hochunkinc.com) for more information.



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

would like to wish  
you a Merry Christmas!

**Mānikisak  
hinigirawi na**

## Hocak Corner

**Ksaiksu**  
(kshy-kshoo)  
Gloves

**Waguje haksi**  
(wah-gloo-jay hahk-shee)  
Boots

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Does the Vaccine Turn You into a Zombie?

Winnebago Public Health Department

Many of our Community Members have been asking for an update from our healthcare workers on how they feel after they received the first dose of vaccine yesterday. Winnebago Public Health Department's Diabetes Director, Camilla Barajas (RN, BSN, CDE), gave this update:

"Today I woke up feeling a little achy. The injection site was sore and I had mild muscle aches. I did my normal morning stretches, took Ibuprofen, and feel great now! We work with the most vulnerable patients in the community. My husband is also living with diabetes. It is important to me to keep myself healthy so I can be here for them without worry. I received the vaccine a little before 11 am yesterday and feel great today."

Thank you to Camilla for sharing her experience and for her work in serving the Winnebago community.



Winnebago Diabetes Director Camilla Barajas (RN, BSN, CDE) gets the vaccine.

## Ho-Chunk, Inc. is dedicated to ensuring students are equipped with the skills they need for a rewarding career

Despite the pandemic, Felicia Masquat, youth and education coordinator, worked with managers across the company to develop innovative ways to safely continue the Ho-Chunk, Inc. 2020 Summer Internship Program, and she is looking ahead to 2021.

**Applications are now open at [bit.ly/ho-chunk21](https://bit.ly/ho-chunk21). The deadline to apply is March 1.** This is a full-time, paid position with Ho-Chunk, Inc. Potential placements include working with communications, corporate operations, finance, government contracting, HR, IT, manufacturing, marketing, retail, or real estate and construction.

The Ho-Chunk, Inc. Summer Internship Program is designed to give students in undergraduate and graduate degree programs hands-on experience at an innovative Native American-owned company that prides itself on a strong social mission and community impact.

Ho-Chunk, Inc. interns become an active part of the team from day one.

The personalized approach to learning and development helps foster growth and ensure each intern's experience is meaningful.

Based on educational goals and interests, interns are placed across a wide range of projects and business sectors. During the 11-week paid program, interns learn directly from company leaders, see classroom teachings come to life and make impactful contributions to the company and Winnebago community.

The program starts Monday, May 17 and goes through Friday, July 30. Only applicants who can commit to full-time employment should apply.

Preference will be given to enrolled members of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and other federally recognized tribes.

For full details and eligibility criteria, visit [bit.ly/ho-chunk21](https://bit.ly/ho-chunk21).

Questions can be directed to Felicia Masquat at [fmassquat@hochunkinc.com](mailto:fmassquat@hochunkinc.com) or 402-878-2809.

## Holiday Blues: How to cope.

This holiday season do what's best for you and your loved ones

Being away from family and friends during the holidays can be hard.



Hard choices to be apart this year may mean that you can spend many more years with your loved ones.



Do what is best for your health and the health of your loved ones. This year spend time with those in your own household.



When you talk with your friends and family about plans, it's ok if you decide to stay home and remain apart from others.



Doing what's best for you includes eating healthy foods and getting enough sleep.



Make time to take care of your body and stay active to lessen fatigue, anxiety, and sadness.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Disaster Distress Hotline: Call or text 1-800-985-5990

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

### Winonah Leader Charge

The holiday season can trigger depression for a number of reasons. It is often a difficult time for some people especially, this year with the challenges of the covid 19 pandemic-related restrictions. This increased isolation has led some experts to worry that it will cause higher levels of loneliness, anxiety, and depression.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends doing what is best for you and your loved ones. This includes:

#### Take Care of Yourself

Being away from family and friends during the holidays can be hard.

When you talk with your friends and family about plans, it's okay if you decide to stay home and remain apart from others.

#### Do What's Best for Your Household

Doing what's best for you includes eating healthy foods and getting enough sleep.

Take care of your body and stay active to lessen fatigue, anxiety, and sadness.

#### Spend Time with Those in Your Household

Hard choices to be apart this year may mean that you can spend many more years with your loved ones.

Do what is best for your health and the health of your loved ones. This year spend time with those in your own household.

For more information please visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/coping-holiday-stress.html>

## Wīwewi hopixji hāñiwina egi manikisak anaga ma cek wozawa ra hanac hinikaragiwi na.

Our warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year.

### Manikisak Hinigirawi Season's Greetings



## The Winnebago Tribal Council wishes you a Happy Health Holiday!



The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on January 9, 2021. DEADLINE for this issue will be January 5, 2021.

## Winnebago Indian News

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.

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contact us at our e-mail address:  
[winnebagoindiannews@winnebagoTribe.com](mailto:winnebagoindiannews@winnebagoTribe.com)  
402-878-2272

"Official Newspaper of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska"

**Yearly Subscription Rates**  
Nebraska Residents .....\$12.50  
Out-Of-State .....\$15.00  
Overseas .....\$35.00  
**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

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Ho-Chunk, Inc. launches gaming division for Nebraska casinos



A design concept shows the proposed casino at Horsemen's Park in Omaha. WarHorse Gaming will be responsible for gaming operations there, in addition to new casinos at Lincoln Racecourse in Lincoln, and Atokad in South Sioux City.

Ho-Chunk, Inc. has launched a gaming division to manage and operate new casinos in Nebraska.

The new division, WarHorse Gaming, LLC, is a partnership with Ho-Chunk, Inc. and the Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA). Ho-Chunk, Inc. is owned by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

"The future is bright. We're excited to bring a new industry to Nebraska, and in turn, serve Ho-Chunk, Inc.'s mission of creating jobs and economic opportunity for Tribal members," said Brian Chamberlain, WarHorse Gaming's new Executive Director, who is an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe.

WarHorse Gaming, LLC will be responsible for overall gaming operations at Horsemen's Park in Omaha, Lincoln Racecourse in Lincoln, and Atokad in South Sioux City. The Nebraska HBPA will continue to oversee all horse racing at the tracks.

In the November general election, Nebraska voters overwhelmingly approved a trio of ballot measures sponsored by Ho-Chunk, Inc. and the Nebraska HBPA to expand, regulate and tax gaming in the state.

The two organizations are in early planning stages for the new casinos and management operations. WarHorse leadership anticipates expanded gaming in some form during the second half of 2021, with full casino operations up and running in 2022. More information on timelines and milestones will be announced as planning advances.

Chamberlain's history with Ho-Chunk, Inc. includes serving as a board member, past and present Tribal Council terms, two terms with the Winnebago Gaming Commission, and managing the Winnebago Gaming Development Corporation.

In Iowa, the Winnebago Tribe will continue to own and operate WinnaVegas Casino Resort, which is on reservation land that extends into that state. The new casinos operated by WarHorse Gaming in Nebraska are not located on reservation land, and will be regulated by state law rather than federal law.

"We are thrilled to partner with a world-class organization like Ho-Chunk, Inc.," said Nebraska HBPA Executive Vice President Lynne McNally. "It's been a very long process getting to this point, with a lot more yet to do, but we're very much looking forward to what this will do for Nebraska."

## JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH



### "It happened."

That is how the story of the greatest Christmas gift begins and sums it all up "It happened!"

Luke, the evangelist, used the Greek word 'egeneto' that can be translated "it happened." The King James Version translated this word with "and it came to pass." "It happened" is such a matter-of-fact and ordinary way of reporting an occurrence that most modern translations leave it out, regarding it as redundant" (quoting Norman Nagel from his 1975 Christmas sermon).

Now you might be wondering 'what happened?' The story begins with the Roman government requiring everyone to register. Citizens were required to do so that they might be taxed. So what else is new? As the saying goes the only two things one can be certain about is 'death and taxes.' This is not the 'what happened' point of the story.

However, this was all part of Mauna's plan to have His Son, His only begotten Son, to be born at the place that the prophet Micah had foretold. As the Christmas story unfolds, Joseph who was engaged to Mary, went from Nazareth in northern Israel south to Bethlehem. Bethlehem, whose name means 'house of bread', was the town of David, Joseph and Mary's ancestor.

"It happened" that while they were there that Mary gave birth to her first-born son. So, what is the big deal? Mothers give birth to children each and every day. About half of them are sons. We learn from the story that Mary had to wrap her newborn in cloths and laid him in a manger. So, they were poor. Most

people of this world are poor and give birth in settings other than hospitals.

"It happened" that this mother was a virgin. Impossible according to the basics of science and physical anatomy - therefore rejected by many. How was this possible? The Holy Spirit came upon the virgin Mary and she conceived and bore the Son of God. Now that is something awesome that happened!

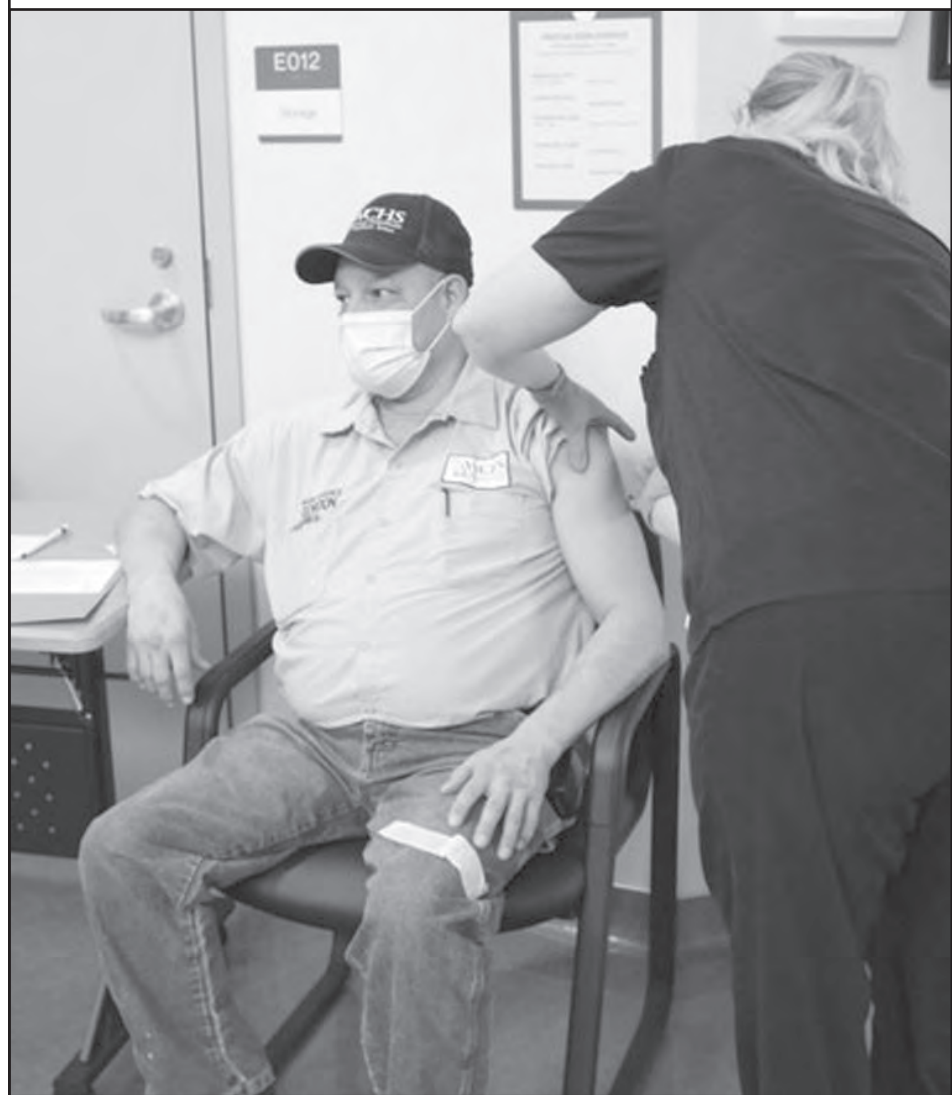
"It happened" that an angel, a heavenly messenger of Mauna, appeared to some shepherds who were watching their flock by night and they were terrified. 'And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" [Luke 2:10-11 (KJV 1900)].

"It happened" that the Savior of sinners was born. The story of Christmas, which Christians celebrated on December 25th each year, is about the birth of God's anointed One- the Christ. This baby boy who was born in order to suffer and die in full payment for the sins of all people.

Joseph, his earthly step-father, would name him: Jesus which means 'God saves.' This is Good News, especially to those who accept Mauna's heavenly gift. It is my prayer that Jesus is born in your heart today, if he has not already taken up residence there.

Mary wrapped her first-born son in cloths. Mauna wrapped up the Christmas gifts of love, peace, hope and joy in this precious Christ child! And this sums up 'It happened.'

## Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System Administers First Dose of COVID-19 Vaccination



Gordon Rave (from the Maintenance Department at Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System) volunteers to receive the first COVID-19 vaccination in Winnebago. Mr. Rave is a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and a Veteran.

Winnebago, NE - Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System (WCHS), comprised of the Winnebago Public Health Department and Twelve Clans Unity Hospital, has administered the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccination to its frontline healthcare workers. A limited supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccinations arrived at the facility the evening of Wednesday, December 16th, 2020 from Indian Health Services (IHS). The vaccine is a 2-dose series given three weeks apart. One of the first employees from WCHS to volunteered to receive the vaccination was Winnebago Public Health Administrator and EMT, Mona Zuffante.

"I was honored and humbled to be a part of the first group to receive the vaccine. As an EMT, I have seen people at their worst and have witnessed the devastating effects this virus has been on our people. Our people have survived several pandemics. Over the past 9 months we have all prayed for this to come to an end and a vaccine to be created. That day has arrived and we have taken one step in a positive direction. I know that the vaccine is our best hope to keep our traditions and culture alive for the next generation," said Zuffante.

The Food and Drug Administration authorized the emergency use of the vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older. Distribution plans for the vaccine will coincide with the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s recommendations for giving the vaccine. Healthcare personnel are among the first group to receive the vaccine.

Sixty-five vials of the COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the first shipment of vaccination. WCHS employees were offered the COVID-19 vaccination based on prioritization criteria from the CDC. This included the risk and frequency of potential COVID-19 exposure for staff.

The first phase of the CDC's vaccine distribution plan offers the vaccine to those serving in a healthcare setting who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. Long-term care facility residents are also recommended for the initial distribution. The second phase of vaccination distribution will be primarily offered to the essential workers outside a healthcare setting and high-risk populations. Phase three of the distribution plan encompasses the general population.

## Update from HoChunk Farms



Ho-Chunk Farms, the agriculture subsidiary of Ho-Chunk, Inc., recently finished harvesting 5,400 acres of reservation farmland. Next year, that is projected increase to about 6,300 acres.

That includes almost all of the Winnebago Tribe's farmable land and a large portion of allotted land, plus 231 acres purchased by the ag company last winter.

Ho-Chunk Farms started in 2012. Since then, they have changed the dynamics of reservation farming and increased farmland values for the Winnebago Tribe and its members.

This year, Ho-Chunk Farms started leasing over 200 acres from one tribal member and 80 acres from another. Both wholly own these pieces of land, and that makes them unique.

"These checks are written out to the individuals. Not the BIA, not the tribe," manager Aaron LaPointe said. "I get to work directly with these tribal members, negotiate prices. It's putting more money into tribal members' pockets."

Very few tribal members wholly own tracts of land. Much of it is allotted trust land.

The Dawes Act of 1887 divided and sold tribal lands, leaving behind a checkerboard of land own-

ership on many reservations with parcels owned by tribes, individual tribal members, and non-Natives.

Despite drought conditions in Thurston County, conventional corn yields increased for Ho-Chunk Farms. LaPointe attributes the above-average year to the fact that the company acquired leases to a lot of irrigated acres in the last two years.

Another new development: Ho-Chunk Farms doubled their storage capacity. They are storing 370,000 bushels of corn - over half of this year's harvest - and planning to sell at more profitable times in the coming months.

Ho-Chunk Farms is also leading the way with regenerative agriculture. The holistic land-management practice emphasizes ways to protect and build the soil.

They are looking forward to planting nearly 1,000 acres of USDA certified organic corn and field peas in 2021. An additional 300 acres of alfalfa will be planted to start transitioning to organic production.

"Everything we do is based on sustainability," LaPointe said. "That includes economics, the environment and traditional ways."



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Senator Joni Albrecht WEEKLY UPDATE December 14, 2020

It is starting to look a lot like Christmas! With unseasonably warm December temperatures, we may have lost sight of the fact that this is, in fact, December in Nebraska. The past weekend certainly reminded us in short order. Remember to drive safely as snow and ice accumulate periodically and to dress for the cold weather. Sledding and playing in the snow can be a lot of fun with proper clothing. Children just want to get out into it, so if you can, donate winter coats and other clothing to local charities that want to make sure every child is able to stay warm. As the holiday approaches, look in on vulnerable family members and neighbors to make sure they are okay.

Legislature Ahead: Every day, just before the legislature officially convenes, a state senator leads the Pledge of Allegiance in the Legislature's chamber. I have been honored to take my turn during each of the four years I have served. This year, my office is preparing a proposed change in the rules that would allow each senator to either lead the Pledge themselves, or to have an active or retired military member of their district lead it in the senator's place. The Rules Committee will review the proposal and it must be voted on by the full body to be adopted.

Wreaths Across America Proclamation. Nebraska and our nation are rich with historic recognition of time-honored tradition. One such tradition is coming up on Saturday, December 19, 2020. At 11:00 a.m. Nebraska time, Nebraska will join in 2100 ceremonies throughout the country and 24 other countries and the Seven Seas in recognizing all of the fallen military members in Wreaths Across America events. The events differ in some respects but one thing is consistent across the world. Wreaths are laid and the names of the fallen are read aloud. There are over 250,000 wreaths laid in Arlington Cemetery alone. In Nebraska there are 12 participating cemeteries.

On Monday, December 14, 2020, the Governor signed a Proclamation, proclaiming Saturday, December 19, 2020 as National Wreaths Across America Day in Nebraska.

I join fellow Americans in recognizing the brave service and importance of those who have served our country.

### COVID-19 State Response Update.

Once again, Nebraska has done a good job of slowing the spread. In his Monday press briefing, the Governor reported that hospitalizations throughout the State continue to decrease. The State is now in the yellow zone on the risk dial and the Governor has loosened restrictions accordingly. As of Monday, fifteen to twenty percent of hospital patients in the state are coronavirus patients. That percentage allows for elective surgeries to resume, for non-household members, like grandparents to attend extracurricular events like school sports. The Governor did state that even though those restrictions are loosened by the State, schools still have the discretion to implement their own safety guidelines. You can find updated Directed Health Measures (DHMs) for each county at [governor.nebraska.gov](http://governor.nebraska.gov), keywords Directed Health Measures.

Even as restrictions loosen, the Governor stressed that no one wants to be quarantined or hospitalized over the holiday and urged Nebraska residents to continue to use the known tools to help protect the hospital availability. Tools include avoiding the 3 "C"s – close contact, crowds, and confined spaces. Wash hands frequently, sanitize hands and surfaces, social distance, and wear a mask when around others. If you are experiencing symptoms, get tested and if you feel sick, stay home.

As of Monday, TestNebraska has returned back over 523,000 tests. As a reminder, the test is available to anyone who wants to sign up at [www.testnebraska.com](http://www.testnebraska.com).

There is news that doses of vaccine are on the way and should arrive in Nebraska shortly. The first to receive the vaccine are said to include frontline medical personnel and long-term care facilities, followed by those with underlying conditions. Be sure to watch the Governor's press briefings on Nebraska Educational Television (NET TV) to keep up to date on this and other information concerning the state.

### COVID-19 numbers in District 17

The number of positive tests reported for the periods December 4, 2020, and December 11, 2020 in District 17 are as follows:  
Dakota County +105 (3422)  
Thurston County: + 63 (774)  
Wayne County: +57 (870)  
College in District 17.

After last week's report by President Turner about the state of the University of Nebraska, I found it fitting to brag about District 17 institutions of higher learning. Wayne State College and Northeast Community College serve a number of students from Nebraska and other states in pursuing a number of career paths.

Wayne State College was kind enough to provide us a very thorough update of its 2020-21 academic year and the year ahead. We first congratulate Wayne State College on welcoming the second largest class in its history for the 2020-2021 academic year. The increase was a whopping 11.7% over the previous year and was just five students short of the largest freshman class since the 1960s. The College provided us with the following updated information:

"Wayne State's fall semester started a week early on Aug. 17, 2020, with face-to-face instruction. The College was able to maintain face-to-face instruction throughout the entire semester, which ended Nov. 25. Graduation was held Nov. 20 due to the modified fall schedule.

Wayne State was exceptionally proud of the way students, faculty, and staff rallied for a successful fall semester. The College instituted the 4 Pillar approach, which emphasized hygiene, masks (which were required in all academic buildings and while in line for food service in the Student Center), social distancing, and self-screening (via mobile app that the college community used to monitor for symptoms). Our full plan for the academic year is available here: [www.wsc.edu/covid19](http://www.wsc.edu/covid19)

The College kept numbers low throughout the semester, largely due to rigorous testing and tracing combined with quarantine and isolation

protocols. We paid for a block of rooms at local motels that we used for students who lived on campus to use when quarantine or isolation was needed for either exposure to the virus or a positive test result. We made it through the semester without any evidence of spread in our classrooms. The College sent weekly emails to the campus community regarding numbers along with updates regarding safe practices (our numbers for the entire semester are available here: [https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/552/covid-19\\_cases\\_at\\_wayne\\_state\\_college](https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/552/covid-19_cases_at_wayne_state_college))

Wayne State College began the fall 2020 semester with the second largest class in its history with 821 new freshmen on campus for the 2020-21 academic year. The 11.7% increase is just five students short of the largest ever class that entered in 1968 during the height of the Vietnam War.

The freshman class growth, combined with a 2.41% increase in graduate students and a 5.94% increase in returning undergraduate students, put the college at 3,865 total students, which is 4.77% more than fall 2019. Wayne State's total enrollment has grown 20% in the past three years. You can read more about our enrollment here: [https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/555/wsc\\_welcomes\\_second\\_largest\\_freshman\\_class\\_in\\_college\\_s\\_history](https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/555/wsc_welcomes_second_largest_freshman_class_in_college_s_history)

Our current recruitment cycle for fall 2021 is underway. We are encouraged by the number of applicants as we continue to meet our mission of regional service through access and affordability, student success, and learning excellence. We are especially proud of our work to keep costs down for students and families through aggressive scholarship programs and the work by the Nebraska State College System to keep our tuition affordable.

One of the ways we have committed to continued affordability is through a new Tuition Guarantee Program. The Nebraska State Colleges Tuition Guarantee ensures that Pell-qualified Nebraska students can attend Wayne State College tuition-free.

Qualified first-time freshman and transfer students pursuing an undergraduate degree will receive a combination of federal grants, state or private grants, college remissions, or College Foundation scholarships to fill any tuition gap left after the Pell Grant. The State College Tuition Guarantee does not cover additional costs such as room and board, books, and fees. However, the student's private or community scholarships will not be considered when providing support to cover tuition costs. You can read more about the plan here: [https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/557/state\\_colleges\\_to\\_guarantee\\_affordability\\_and\\_access\\_through\\_new\\_program](https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/557/state_colleges_to_guarantee_affordability_and_access_through_new_program)

We are extremely grateful to the Nebraska Legislature for funding approved in August for the Career Scholarship Program to provide student support aimed at growing the state's workforce in high demand fields. The newly created Career Scholarship Program will provide a total of \$1 million in scholarships in its first year to be awarded to Chadron State, Peru State, or Wayne State College students who are pursuing careers in technical workforce areas. The new funding, signed by Gov. Pete Ricketts on Aug. 6, will help support Wayne State's Cooperative Education program as part of the Aksarben Foundation's Northeast Nebraska Growing Together initiative launched last spring. Wayne State is proud to have launched the cooperative education program this past fall, even in the midst of the pandemic.

This exciting cooperative education program, which you can learn more about at <https://www.wsc.edu/growtogether>, combines classroom education with real work experience for college credit. At its core, the Growing Together Career Scholars Program supports workforce and economic development in Northeast Nebraska. To participate, students must be passionate about earning a degree in one of the eligible fields and must be committed to remaining in Northeast Nebraska. Throughout the program, students participate in career readiness activities. During their senior year, students live in the downtown Norfolk area with peers. This living experience will help students socially connect with the community and gain an appreciation for the many exciting social and cultural opportunities available in the city of Norfolk. Upon graduation, the goal is for students to be hired into full-time positions in Northeast Nebraska.

One final note: Wayne State is currently renovating Benthack Hall, home of counseling, education, and the family and consumer sciences programs. The College aims to make an immediate impact on the region's shortage of mental health practitioners with the renovation by providing students with a dynamic learning environment that encourages their passionate approach to mental health care.

The renovation, which will be complete in the summer of 2021, includes a state-of-the-art counseling training clinic for students to perfect their psychotherapeutic practices with clients. This clinic aims to serve the surrounding communities' needs regarding behavioral and mental health. The full-service training clinic will be supervised by licensed professional counselors serving people of all ages, families, and individuals experiencing a variety of diagnoses and treatment needs. The Counseling Department strives to become a leader in producing highly trained clinical providers to serve our rural community starting with the capabilities and functioning of this training facility. You can learn more about the project here: [https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/562/benthack\\_hall\\_renovation\\_aims\\_to\\_serve\\_regional\\_mental\\_health\\_needs](https://www.wsc.edu/news/article/562/benthack_hall_renovation_aims_to_serve_regional_mental_health_needs) I am so proud of the education we are able to provide our young people in District 17 and am thankful for the hard work Wayne State has done to keep them safe while educating them well. Thank you Wayne State College!

As always, it is of great importance that I hear from my constituents to effectively do my job as your voice in the Legislature. I encourage you to contact me and I look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me by phone at 402-471-2716 or by email at [jalbrecht@leg.ne.gov](mailto:jalbrecht@leg.ne.gov)

## Winnebago Indian News to Reset Subscriptions on 1/1/21. Update Your Subscription Today!



Dear Winnebago Indian News Readership,

On behalf of the Winnebago Indian News, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your continued membership and support. At this time, we are asking all subscribers to please update their subscription with the Winnebago Indian News. Your membership and commitment to the Winnebago Indian News allows us to continue serving as a department and providing a bi-weekly newspaper.

Effective January 1st, 2021 there will be a small increase for a yearly subscription. During the past year, Winnebago Indian News has seen increase costs for publishing and mailing. Winnebago Indian News is committed to giving our membership the best newspaper and services. This price increase does not affect members who have paid and have an active agreement.

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

\*\*\*Failure to update subscription and submit payment will cancel services\*\*\*

Additionally, we will continue focusing on our mission 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.

If you have any questions about the renewal process, please contact:

Phone: 402-878-2272 Extension 4000 & 4001

E-mail: [winnebagoindiannews@winnebagotribe.com](mailto:winnebagoindiannews@winnebagotribe.com)

Please send subscription information and payment to:

Winnebago Indian News

P.O. Box 687

Winnebago, NE 68071

Thank you once again for your commitment to the Winnebago Indian News. We look forward to serving you for another year.

Sincerely,  
Winonah Leader Charge  
Winnebago Indian News Editor

## JOBS

Founded in 1994, Ho-Chunk, Inc. is the award-winning economic development corporation owned by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Our business model reinvests in the Winnebago Tribe through programs including employment, housing, education and health.

JOB TITLE	DIVISION	LOCATION
Capture Manager	Flatwater Solutions	Bellevue, NE
Director of Legal	Ho-Chunk Corporate Services	Bellevue/Winnebago, NE
HRIS Analyst	Ho-Chunk Corporate Services	Bellevue, NE
Logistics Manager	Flatwater Logistics	Bellevue, NE
Project Cost Specialist I	Flatwater Solutions	Bellevue, NE
Senior Enrollment Clerk	Ho-Chunk Corporate Services	Bellevue, NE
Facilities/Maintenance	Pony Express Corporate	Rosalie, NE
Facilities/Maintenance	Pony Express Corporate	Sloan, IA
Construction Estimator	HCI Construction	South Sioux City, NE
Shop Tech Delivery	HCI Construction	South Sioux City, NE
Food Service Team Member	Heritage Foodtown	Walthill, NE
Ambassadors (6) PT	Ho-Chunk, Inc.	Winnebago, NE
Assistant Team Manager	Pony Express	Winnebago, NE
Facilities/Maintenance	Pony Express Corporate	Winnebago, NE
Maintenance Engineer Assistant	Pony Express Corporate	Winnebago, NE
Project Manager	WarHorse Gaming	Winnebago, NE
Team Member	Pony Express	Winnebago, NE
VP of Gaming	WarHorse Gaming	Winnebago, NE

APPLY ONLINE [www.hochunkinc.com/employment.php](http://www.hochunkinc.com/employment.php)

Ho-Chunk, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants are considered without regard to age, sex, race, religion, national origin, gender identity or expression, marital status, or physical disability. However, preference may be extended to persons of Native American descent in accordance with applicable laws.



## Next WIN Deadline: January 13th

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. CV21-014

In the Matter of the  
Estate of:  
LEVI DECORA, Deceased,

WILBUR DECORA, Petitioner.

To: CORAL DECORA, SHELLY DOENHOFER, MIRIAM DECORA, JENNY DECORA, CORNELIUS DECORA, AND WILLARD DECORA

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed and a hearing concerning the above referred individual(s) estate in case no. CV21-014 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 18TH day of MARCH, 2021 at the hour of 11:00 A.M.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. CV21-024

In the Matter of the  
Name Change Petition of:  
JAMISON N. ROBINSON JR.  
to JAMISON N. SMITH

To: JAMISON ROBINSON SR.  
ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

You are hereby notified that a petition for Name Change has been filed and a hearing concerning the above referred individual in case no. CV21-024 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 15TH day of FEBRUARY, 2021 at the hour of 9:00 A.M.

**The Winnebago Tribal Council is 100% AGAINST Meth. Not only is Meth harmful to the individual, it destroys families and our community. Meth use is not the HoChunk/Winnebago way of life. On 12-30-19, during the Winnebago Mid-monthly Tribal Council meeting, a motion was passed to publish all meth related offenses occurring on the Winnebago reservation, in the Winnebago Indian News.**

*The following individual(s) has been arrested for a meth offense...*

As of 12-22-20, no recent meth arrest(s) have been reported.



# \$50,000 Stuffed Stocking Giveaway

Every Saturday in December  
from 2pm to 5pm

We'll draw two winners every 30 minutes. Win your share of over **\$50,000 in cash!** Every Saturday we'll draw 14 winners for a chance to win up to **\$5,000 in CASH!** That's **56 WINNERS** throughout the month!



## Happy New Year! 2021

### New Year's Eve \$22,000 Giveaway

Thursday, December 31, 2020  
2pm to 10pm & 1am

Kick 2020 goodbye! Win your share of **\$22,000** in cash and prizes throughout the day. Every 30 minutes we'll draw two winners of **\$500 Cash** or **\$500 Free Play** from 2pm to 10pm. Then after the clock strikes Midnight we'll drawn one winner of **\$5,000 Cash** at 1am!

### We saved you a seat at our table! FLOWERS ISLAND RESTAURANT

#### New Year's Day Brunch \$16.95 per person

Friday, January 1st from 10am - 2pm  
Mobile made to order omelet station, ham, roasted chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, fresh vegetable medley, scrambled eggs, bacon & sausage, cheesy hash browns, rolls & butter, assorted pastries & desserts.  
*Served with complimentary mimosas.*

All-You-Can-Eat served homestyle



### Join us for our New Year New Car Giveaway Friday, January 1, 2021 • 6pm to 9pm

Win a brand NEW 2021 Chevy Equinox! We'll draw two winners every 30 minutes from 6pm to 8:30pm. Each winner will receive **\$250 Cash!** At 9pm, we'll draw two more winners with one winner driving away in a brand **NEW 2021 Chevy Equinox** and the other with **\$1,000 Cash!**



Happy  
Holidays  
from all  
of us!



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or call 1.800.468.9466

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