



Tribal Council passes new public safety laws

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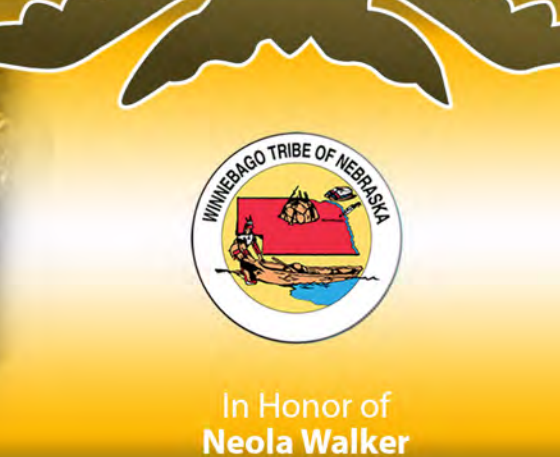
Summer Internship available!

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Volume 55, Number 1

Hūc wiconī na  
First Bear Moon

Saturday, January 17, 2026



In Honor of  
Neola Walker

Our masthead for this first issue of 2026 features the icon representing the Deer Clan / Ca Hikikarac. The Deer Clan holds many functions within our tribe. Of those they hold responsibility for issues related to the environment and weather. Members of the Deer Clan would be taught to recognize weather indicators that would signal harvest time, and they would be consulted about the best timing for it. They also possess other important political and social functions. Deer clansmen might have painted plants, white flowers, and leaves on their clothes. The Deer Clan is one of the eight Earth Clans. Families belonging to the Deer Clan include: Blackdeer, Henry, and Sampson. Our gratitude to the HoChunk Renaissance Department for their assistance in providing this information.

# Echoes of 2025: Recap the Year



By Bethani Redhorn & Brian Chamberlain  
Photography from WIN Archive

[Winnebago, NE] The Winnebago Indian News covered numerous stories in the past year and as we begin our 2026 publication schedule, let us take a moment to reflect on the stories featured in each month throughout 2025. Starting us off

**JAN25:** (Vol. 54, #1) WTN Internet Outreach Begins for Jāḡap Telecommunications – The Winnebago Tribe seeks collaboration with reservation landowners to construct high speed internet network and is reaching out to landowners whose property is managed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The Tribe received federal funding through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) office Tribal Broadband Program to serve the rural reservation and adjacent communities.

**FEB25:** (Vol. 54, #2) WTN Hires New CEO – The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska announced the hiring of new Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Darla LaPointe. The WTN CEO oversees the daily operations of the organization and is directly responsible for leading the hundreds of staff members who work for our people. The

overall direction of the tribe is partly determined by the CEO.

**MAR25:** (Vol. 54, #6) Winnebago Residents Vote to Transfer Water and Sewer System to the Winnebago Tribe – In a Special Election held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, seventy percent (70%) of the Village residents who participated voted in favor of the Initiative Measure to transfer ownership of the water treatment plant, lagoon system and water tower, as well as the responsibility for the operation of the Village Water and Sewer System to the WTN.

**APR25:** (Vol. 54, #7) Hocak Fighter in Dubai – On Friday, April 4, 2025, the local Winnebago crowd was treated to a mid-afternoon bout featuring one of our own, Carlos Trinidad-Snake. The young tribal member traveled to the other side of the globe landing in the grand desert city of Dubai for the Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship.

**MAY25:** (Vol. 54, #10) Blackhawk Center Renovation Complete – After more than a calendar year, renovations being made to the Blackhawk Community Center (BHCC) in downtown Winnebago have been completed. The BHCC functions as the administrative office location for the Winnebago Tribal organization. It houses the Tribal Council, WTN Administration, WTN Finance department, WTN IT department, as

well as the headquarters for the Whirling Thunder Wellness, the Tribal Credit Program, and WTN Human Resources, as well as others.

**JUN25:** (Vol. 54, #12) Culture Camp Fires It Up – The Boys & Girls Club of Winnebago in cooperation with the Winnebago Tribe’s Ho-Chunk Renaissance department hosted its 2025 Culture Camp over the week of June 9, 2025. With a full curriculum of activities and events, the children who participated in the Culture Camp are exposed to all kinds of traditional teachings.

**JUL25:** (Vol. 54, #13) Hocak Youth Visit Winnebago – On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, members of the Hocak Youth Services programs operated through the HoChunk Nation (HCN) from various locations all throughout Wisconsin came to Winnebago. The travelling group included 28 youths ranging in age from kindergarten to high school, visiting historical locations throughout the Winnebago reservation.

**AUG25:** (Vol. 54, #15) Chief Little Priest Honored – At the 159<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Celebration that was held from July 24<sup>th</sup> through July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Chief Little Priest was honored for his service and bravery. He was awarded the Order of Saint George by the United States Cavalry & Armor Association.

(Vol. 54, #16) For Artists, By Artists – On the

## Nī šoc Niḡešana

By: Tyler Snake



Congratulations to Isaac Smith on 20 years of dedicated service to the Winnebago Volunteer Fire Department and the community.



Congratulations to the Winnebago Public Schools, Varsity Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams! WPS hosted their first post-Holiday tournament on January 9th and 10th. WPS' Lady Indians played the Isanti Lady Warriors, winning 79-47. WPS' Varsity Boys played the St. Francis Warriors, winning 63-37.



In January 1972, the Winnebago Indian News was founded. We are now 54 years in printing! Thank you to our WIN Contributors, advertisers, and readers who have been with us over the years. Our goal is to keep our tribal membership informed on relevant topics and provide a positive platform.

## ANNUAL UNICAMERAL LUNCHEON HELD



By Brian Chamberlain  
Photos by Danelle Smith

[Lincoln, NE] For 36 years the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has been a host to the Senators of the Nebraska Unicameral. Each year during the opening days of the new legislative session, leadership for our Winnebago people travel to Lincoln to meet with the State representatives. Over the years, the Winnebago Tribe has built a reputation that attracts not only our local representation but also those Senators from across our State and from all political backgrounds.

The time allocated to each annual luncheon is sparse considering the hectic schedule of the Unicameral members. Our seasoned tribal leadership understands the timelines we must work with so only the most priority issues are discussed at these well-attended meetings. “The focus of this year’s luncheon was advocating for increased funding for Tribal Colleges.”, Danelle Smith, General Counsel

for the Winnebago Tribe told the WIN.

On hand to present details to the Senators was Little Priest Tribal College President, Manoj Patel. Under Patel’s leadership LPTC has experienced record attendance and has become recipient of the largest financial donation in the history of our college. Patel told the Senators, “[w]e are very proud to be an integral part of the Winnebago community as we offer greater educational opportunities to all tribal people and non-tribal persons alike.”

The 36-year history of this Senators’ luncheon has seen many changes and met many challenges over the years. Winnebago Tribal leadership attending the luncheon included our General Counsel, Tribal Council members, and other tribal dignitaries. As each session is truly a hurried event, the focus to remain on task is paramount. Yet this does not mean our efforts are miniscule or thwarted. To the contrary, “[a] nother initiative the Tribe has been supporting is State recognition of tribal customary adoptions...” General Counsel Smith continued

telling the WIN.

Because of State mandated term limits, the Senators’ luncheon is also a chance to reintroduce our people to the new members of the Unicameral. Local district representatives attended our luncheon helping to bridge the gap between those members who know who we are and what we hope to achieve together, and those who are new to the State legislature who may have never had any contact with our people. It is because of our storied history as being perennially involved in our State’s politics that we are able to gain such support and attendance. As one Tribal Council member said, *when the Winnebago tribe speaks, people listen.*

The Winnebago Tribe would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all who helped coordinate the event this year, and thanks all Senators and staff for making time to attend. The Winnebago people will return in 2027.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ...Cont. from front page: ECHOES OF 2025: RECAP THE YEAR...

evening of Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the Fine Arts Theatre within the Winnebago Public School, a premiere event was held for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Films Showcase. The first of their kind projects this year consisted of a music video, a short animation, and a narrative short film.

**SEPT25:** (Vol. 54, #19) **WATER: Our Most Important Resource – The Winnebago Tribe’s Environmental Protection Department** hosted a tribal community forum on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The purpose of the forum was to host a space for the Water Quality Team to provide information and hear input from the community as they are creating a Watershed Base Plan aimed to protect and preserve tribal rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds from nonpoint source pollution such as urban stormwater, ineffective septic systems, and agricultural runoff.

**OCT25:** (Vol. 54, #20) **Winnebago Tribe assumes operations from Bureau of Indian Affairs – A historical enterprise is underway for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska as the organization assumed management of the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Department** on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 12:01 AM.

(Vol. 54, #21) **Winnebago Public Health Department Earns National Tribal Health Accreditation – The Winnebago Com-**

**prehensive Healthcare System** hosted a community celebration on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at the Blackhawk Community Center Gym. The event was organized to celebrate the Winnebago Public Health Department’s achievement in becoming the 8<sup>th</sup> Tribal Health Department in Indian County to earn national accreditation.

**NOV25:** (Vol. 54, #23) **History in the Making, Cōñi Wagijire Hoci – The new facility that will serve as the central hub for Winnebago Emergency Services** held an open house on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, in North Winnebago. The new building will house all Winnebago Emergency Services.

**DEC25:** (Vol. 54, #24) **Largest Gift in LPTC History – Little Priest Tribal College** received a momentous gift of \$5 million from MacKenzie Scott’s Yield Giving Foundation, marking the largest donation in LPTC history since its founding in 1996.

(Vol. 54, #25) **Baby Wam Shakes the Earth in NYC! – A young Winnebago son, Wambli “Baby Wam” Dolezal Jr. (Maa Wak Suc, Shakes the Earth), had the opportunity to dance with Native Pride Productions on one of the largest stages in America, the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, in New York City, New York.**



# Fan Appreciation Night

# WINNEBAGO INDIANS

— VS —

# PONCA INDIANS

Thursday, January 22nd  
starting at 4:30pm

**FIRST 450 FANS RECEIVE A FREE HOT DOG!**  
Courtesy of Ho-Chunk, Inc.  
Visit the Ho-Chunk, Inc. table!

Game Times: JV starts at 4:30PM  
Girls Varsity 6PM • Boys Varsity to follow  
at Winnebago Public High School



DURING LAST BEAR MOON POWWOW WEEKEND....

# GOLF SIMULATOR TOURNAMENT

Winnevegas Casino Resort **WGA SPONSORED EVENT**



50% of the proceeds will go towards WGA Fundraising Efforts!  
50% Towards Flight Winners!!

**PAYMENT DUE WEDNESDAY FEB. 19<sup>TH</sup> 27-28<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2026 | \$120 PER TEAM**

**CASH OR CHECK ONLY!**

20 TEAM LIMIT, 2-MAN SCRAMBLE, 18 HOLES, 2 FLIGHTS, DRINK TICKETS, SHIRTS, & CHAMPION HATS!

Please contact Anthony Earth @712-253-1059 or Aaron LaPointe @402-922-3721 for Entry, Payment, and to Reserve a Tee Time!



## FIBER TO HOME PROJECT

PREPARING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR HIGH-SPEED FIBER INTERNET

**WHAT IS SLA?**  
A Service Line Agreement (SLA) lets our crews install a fiber connection box at your home or business for FREE. There's no charge to you. Only the homeowner or property owner can sign the SLA.  
*\*Renters: please ask your landlord to complete the form.*

**WHERE WE'RE STARTING:**

- WINNEBAGO
- HOMER
- EMERSON
- THURSTON
- WAKEFIELD

**WHY SIGN NOW?**

- ☑ **ALLOWS CREWS TO INSTALL FIBER BOXES AHEAD OF CONSTRUCTION**
- ☑ **SPEEDS UP THE CONNECTION PROCESS ONCE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE**
- ☑ **HELPS OUR TEAM MAP COMPLETED ADDRESSES AND PREPARE FOR INSTALLATION**
- ☑ **ENSURES YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS IS READY ON DAY ONE OF SERVICE**



SCAN ME

**MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**  
WINNEBAGOBROADBAND.COM






## FREE TRIBAL I.D.s FOR ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

AVAILABLE FOR 60 DAYS ONLY

The Winnebago Tribal Council has authorized the Enrollment Department to issue Tribal I.D. cards for all enrolled tribal members at NO COST for a limited time.

This action was approved to support and protect Tribal members during current federal enforcement activities.

**WHY GET A TRIBAL I.D.?**

- Confirms your Tribal Citizenship.
- Helpful when presented with a State I.D. or Passport.
- Provides peace of mind for you and your family.

**QUESTIONS?**

Phone: (402) 878-2028  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Email: enrollment@winnebagotribe.com

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Under the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, all Native people born within the territorial limits of the United States are recognized as U.S. citizens by birthright. As Tribal citizens of a sovereign nation, Tribal I.D.s help affirm that status.

Authorized by Winnebago Tribal Council – January 14, 2026

# Wāgax hūk ra wāgax hokik'una

## Letter to the Editor

### ATTENTION WTN GARBAGE CUSTOMERS:

All garbage collection patrons of the Winnebago Tribe will have their service provider reassigned from Gill Hauling (WMS) to Kings Disposal Co. beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Kings Disposal will be delivering replacement dumpsters to your residence prior to their collection start date. Gill will be collecting their dumpsters on or before February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

All billing and payment information remains unchanged. Collection days will also be communicated once the new disposal route is completed by Kings Disposal. Also, recycling options may be available following the onset of services with Kings Disposal. Details for additional service options, including fees, will be provided at a later date.

Please contact Kristin Neff with any questions at (402) 878-2203 ext. 2105, or by email at: [kristin.neff@winnebagotribe.com](mailto:kristin.neff@winnebagotribe.com)

## JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH



by: Pastor Ricky Jacob

### 'Finding favor with God'

Luke records the following encounter between an angel of God named Gabriel and a Jewish virgin engaged to be married. Angel Gabriel says to Mary: "[Rejoice], O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" [Luke 1:28-30 ESV].

My question for you today is how does one 'find' favor with God? I am reminded of Marie in the Sound of Music singing "Something Good." Marie reasons that she must have done something good in order to be blessed with a husband. This is not, I repeat, this is not how one 'finds' favor with God.

The virgin Mary did not 'do something good' in order to hear that God has found favor with her. Why do I say this? I say this because Mary, like each and every person since Adam and Eve, is a born sinner. Born sinners are all in need of a Savior.

I also base this on the very words of Mary who later in this chapter, during her visit with Elizabeth says "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" [Luke 1:46-47 ESV]. Now why would Mary rejoice in God my Savior if she was sinless? Mary was a sinner. Mary is blessed by God because Mary . . . is

blessed by God's grace!

Gabriel continues saying to the virgin Mary: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." [Luke 1:31-32a ESV].

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Mary's response underlines the reason that she 'finds' favor with God. She, unlike Zechariah, believes the words of angel Gabriel - which are truly the words of God! All those who place their faith in the words of God 'find' favor with God. Without faith in God it is impossible to please God, or for Him to find favor with a sinner like Mary or like me or you.

My prayer this Christmas season is that Creator God has found favor with you too!

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COURT

IN RE ESTATE OF	)	CASE NO. CV25-016
MARY ANN HULIT,	)	
Deceased Person,	)	NOTICE TO CREDITORS
	)	
PATRICK E. HULIT, Jr,	)	
Personal Representative.	)	

TO: All creditors of DECEDENT.

You are hereby notified that PR has been appointed as Personal Representative for the Estate of Mary Ann Hulit, who died on February 3, 2023. Pursuant to Winnebago Tribal Code §14-115, you have ninety days from the date of this Notice to file a claim against the Estate of Decedent with the Winnebago Tribal Court, or be forever barred from exercising that claim.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025

Personal Representative

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. CV26-023  
In the Matter of the  
Guardianship Petition of:  
Elaine Earth  
In Re:  
A.B.W. (Born 10/2011)

TO: ANTOINETTE BLACKFISH, MOTHER  
JEREMY WALKER, FATHER

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed for Guardianship and a hearing concerning the above referred Individual(s) in Case No. CV26-023 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2026 at the hour of 11:00 A.M.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Abandonment/Consent Hearing  
Case No. CV25-141

In the Matter of the  
Adoption of:  
J.A. (BORN 05/2013)

TO: SIMONE ALDRICH, Mother

You are hereby notified that an Adoption Petition has been filed and an Abandonment/Consent Hearing concerning the above referred Individual(s) in case no. CV25-141 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2026 at the hour of 10:30 A.M.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Abandonment/Consent Hearing  
Case No. CV25-141  
In the Matter of the  
Adoption of:  
J.A. (BORN 05/2013)

TO: SIMONE ALDRICH, Mother

You are hereby notified that an Adoption Petition has been filed and an Abandonment/Consent Hearing concerning the above referred Individual(s) in case no. CV25-141 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2026 at the hour of 10:30 A.M.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. JFJ26-009DEFG  
The People of the Winnebago Tribe  
In the Interest of:  
A.B. (Born 12/2019)  
A.W. (Born 07/2021)  
N.S. (Born 12/2024)  
N.S. (Born 12/2025)

To: JONAS WALKER, FATHER  
NICHOLAS SMITH, FATHER

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ26-009DEFG has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2026 at the hour of 1:00 P.M.

## In Loving Memory



## Louis LaRose

Xatap Horaje ga (Travels in Bush)

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
at noon

Join us at the HoChunk Center for  
his 2nd memorial.



## LEGACY LEARNING PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN JAN. 19!

This cohort focuses on renovating homes within our community. Participants gain hands-on, real-world experience in carpentry and maintenance through a training program lasting up to five months.



APPLY ONLINE BY:  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

Completed in partnership with the Winnebago Housing and Development Commission



The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on January 31, 2026. DEADLINE for this issue will be January 27, 2026.



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

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

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

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

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"Official Newspaper of  
the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska"

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Tyler Snake.....Office Manager  
Christina Parker.....Desktop Publisher

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

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



# TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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

tified law enforcement officers. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to direct in-house legal to work on a tribal code regarding the Ban of all firearms from all educational facilities within the boundaries of the Winnebago Reservation, to exclude certified law enforcement officers. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN:  
Rona Stealer motioned to adjourn at 1:33 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

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

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA MID-MONTHLY TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING December 15, 2025

### TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown  
Isaac Smith  
Teresa Littlegeorge  
Rona Stealer  
Ireta Frazier  
Lorelei DeCora  
Victoria Kitcheyan  
Trey Blackhawk  
Eugene DeCora  
**OTHERS PRESENT:**  
Christina Parker  
Anna Bess Preston  
Tiffany Buchanan  
Darla LaPointe  
Kamau Turner  
Katie Danielski  
Brittany Thomas  
Willy Bass  
Garan Coons  
Kellie Snow  
Kiana Lewis  
Linda Santi  
Charli Earth  
Tyresha Romero  
Sarah Snake  
Lance Morgan  
Joi Long  
Marshall Bass  
Bethani Redhorn  
Marc Blackhawk  
Anna Berridge  
Billie Kitcheyan

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Brown called to order at 9:09 a.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Councilman Isaac Smith offered the opening prayer.

### APPROVE AGENDA:

Rona Stealer motioned to approve the agenda with additions. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

### READING OF THE MINUTES:

Revision of minutes: October 15, 2025, (reflecting corrected resolution number)  
Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the revision of October 15, 2025, General Counsel Meeting minutes reflecting corrected resolution number. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

December 1, 2025 – Regular Tribal Council Meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the revision of October 15, 2025, General Counsel Meeting minutes reflecting corrected resolution number. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

December 2, 2025 – WCHS Quarterly Tribal Council Meeting minutes

Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the December 2, 2025, WCHS Quarterly Tribal Council Meeting minutes. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

December 4, 2025 – Orientation and Board/Committee/Workgroup Assignment meeting

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the December 4, 2025, Orientation and Board/Committee/Workgroup Assignment meeting. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

December 8, 2025 – Physical Resources Report meeting minutes

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the December 8, 2025, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

December 12, 2025 – CEO Report meeting minutes

Isaac Smith motioned to approve the December 12, 2025, CEO Report meeting minutes with corrections. Eugene DeCora seconded the

motion.

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

### NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Department: Resolution  
EPA – Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia, Grant 2026

Eugene DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-56: EPA-Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia, Grant 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

### WPS – Title I

Presented by Katie Danielski and Kamau Turner.

Long discussion regarding the gun incident at the Public School.

[Isaac out at 9:43 a.m., in at 9:47 a.m.]

[Victoria out at 9:56 a.m.]

[Eugene out at 10:02 a.m., in at 10:05 a.m.]

[Rona out at 10:21 a.m.]

[Isaac out at 10:27 a.m.]

[Rona, Isaac in at 10:29 a.m.]

[Victoria in at 10:45 a.m.]

**BREAK:** 10:29 a.m., reconvene at 10:45 a.m.

Further discussion on Title I at WPS.

[Isaac out at 10:50 a.m., in at 11:04 a.m.]

[Trey out at 11:24 a.m., in at 11:27 a.m.]

[Rona out at 11:29 a.m., in at 11:32 a.m.]

[Isaac out at 11:46 a.m.]

Communications: Request to use Tribal Seal on Historical Signage – Turkey River Reserve Sites

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to authorize the use of the seal for the German American Museum, Library and Family History Center, St. Lucas Historical Society. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

MRRIC – Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee

Isaac Smith motioned to appoint Roland Warner to replace Sunshine Bear at the (MRRIC) Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to appoint Trey Blackhawk as alternate for the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

VOTE:(7) yes (0) no (1) abstain, TB  
Motion carried.

### Credit Committee

Ireta Frazier motioned to accept resignation and advertise one vacancy for 30 days. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

Suspend the rules to add Resolution for WCHS

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to suspend the rules to hear a resolution to be presented by Linda Santi. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

[Ireta out 12:21 p.m.]

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adopt resolution #26-57: Participation in Cycle IX of the National Resource Center on Native American Aging Needs Assessment “Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders” (WCHS). Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

### TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

#### Travel:

Legislative Luncheon – January 13, 2026

[Ireta in at 12:23 p.m.]

Isaac Smith motioned to approve Tribal Council travel for the Legislative Luncheon on January 13, 2026, in Lincoln, NE. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

2026 Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention – March 30-April 2, 2026, San Diego, CA

Isaac Smith motioned to approve Travel for Tribal Council interested in attending the 2026 Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention, March 30-April 2, 2026, in San Diego, CA. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

### ADJOURN

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adjourn at 12:26 p.m. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

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

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA GENERAL COUNSEL MEETING December 17, 2025

### TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown  
Teresa Littlegeorge  
Rona Stealer

Ireta Frazier  
Victoria Kitcheyan  
Trey Blackhawk  
Eugene DeCora  
Lorelei DeCora  
Isaac Smith (in at 9:25 a.m.)

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Danelle Smith  
Joy Johnson  
Brandon Stout  
Christina Parker  
Garan Coons  
Sarah Herring  
Tyresha Romero  
Darla LaPointe  
Kiana Lewis  
Anna Berridge  
Cecelia Earth  
Kristin Lowry  
Chad Smith  
James Price, Sr.  
Joey Adler Ruane  
Burke Harr  
Davin French  
Jay Payer  
Todd Morman  
Josh Pitre  
Tiffany Buchanan

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Brown called to order at 9:10 a.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Councilwoman Frazier offered the opening prayer.

[Trey out at 9:14 a.m.]

### APPROVE AGENDA:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the agenda with additions. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

[Trey in at 9:16 a.m.]

### ACTION ITEMS:

Broadband Fiber Project  
Discussion regarding Digging permissions on property owners.

[Isaac out at 9:35 a.m., in at 9:41 a.m.]

[Trey out at 9:54 a.m.]

[Eugene out at 9:54 a.m.]

South Sioux City Right of Way

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adopt resolution #26-58: Approval of Right of Way Agreement with South Sioux City for the Winnebago Tribe Broadband Connectivity Project and Approval of the Tribe’s Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Within the Agreement. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

### Dakota City Right of Way

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adopt resolution #26-59: Approval of Right of Way Agreement with Dakota City for the Winnebago Tribe Broadband Connectivity Project and Approval of the Tribe’s Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Within the Agreement. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

[Victoria out at 10:01 a.m., in at 10:02 a.m.]

\*Moving to scheduled time with Thurston County Board of Supervisors.

### THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (10:00 a.m.)

Presented by David French and James Price, Sr.

[Isaac out at 10:04 a.m.]

[Eugene in at 10:06 a.m.]

[Trey in at 10:07 a.m.]

Highway 94 Bypass

D. Avenue

Discussion:

Request a transition letter

Develop scenarios on who applies and what it would look like for the County vs. WTN to apply.

Discussions started during the Tribal Transportation meeting regarding D. Avenue.

Add to the NITC meeting for further discussions. (January 23, 2026 in Norfolk, NE at the Ponca Tribal Council Office)

[Teresa out at 10:23 a.m., in at 10:31 a.m.]

[Rona out at 10:35 a.m.]

**BREAK:** 10:50 a.m., reconvene at 11:03 a.m.

[Isaac and Rona in at 11:04 a.m.]

[Victoria out at 11:04 a.m.]

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (moved to meet with out-of-town attendees)

Rona Stealer motioned to enter Executive Session at 11:04 a.m. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

[Isaac out at 11:08 a.m.]

[Victoria in at 11:10 a.m.]

[Trey out at 11:18 a.m. to offer prayer for an event]

[Victoria out at 11:25 a.m., in at 11:28 a.m.]

[Eugene out at 11:36 a.m.]

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to exit of Executive Session at 11:51 a.m. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

**STATE ADVOCACY:** Presented by Danelle Smith, Joey Adler Ruane, and Burke Harr.

Tribal College Funding Initiative

[Eugene in at 12:02 p.m.]

LR 176 – Recognition of Tribal Customary Adoption - to allow Adoptive parents eligibility for financial assistance.

Legislative Luncheon – Tuesday, Jan. 12, 12 pm-1 pm.

Medicaid work requirements discussion.  
2026 Legislative Session  
Anti-Foreign Nation Bill was also worked on.

[VK out at 12:24 p.m., in at 12:26 p.m.]

[Teresa out at 12:27 p.m.]

[Isaac in at 12:27 p.m.]

[Teresa in at 12:32 p.m.]

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to authorize Chairman Brown to take all action necessary to work with the Lobbyist and General Counsel to carry out 2026 Nebraska Legislative priorities. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

[Trey in at 12:53 p.m.]

**BREAK:** (lunch) 12:53 p.m.,

[Teresa out at 1:22 p.m., Ireta Frazier assumes recording for the Secretary]

### ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED:

WINNEBAGO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE BYLAWS:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the Winnebago Public Safety Committee ByLaws. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

WINNEBAGO TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCESS TO RECORDS POLICY

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve the Winnebago Tribal Police Department Access to Records Policy. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

Note: 9 pending policies for Winnebago Tribal Police Department.

[Isaac out at 1:51 p.m.]

Eugene DeCora motioned to direct BigFire Law to work with IT Department to update surveillance policy. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

### FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Congressional Updates:  
House Hearing on 638 Compacting  
Recap of Winnebago Tribe’s Hill meetings  
Update only. Discuss draft letter of response from IHS and Invoice sent to OTN.

[Isaac in at 1:54 p.m.]

[Isaac out at 2:15 p.m.]

Tribal Self-governance Advisory Committee: 1 vacancy

Administrative Updates:  
FEMA Review Council Report

[Trey out at 3:02 p.m.]

IHS Tribal Consultation on Agency Realignment

Update only. Will send proposed realignment to Tribal Council for Consultation.

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned for Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska to submit comments to HHS Tribal Consultation on Agency Realignment. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

**BREAK:** 3:03 p.m., reconvene at 3:17 p.m.

### TRIBAL CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS – SECRETARIAL ELECTION:

Updates only.

### WINNEBAGO HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Updates only.

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CONSTRUCTION NMTc PROJECT:

Updates only.

### GAO REQUEST – NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:

Updates only.

### WINNEBAGO LAND TRANSFER ACT IMPLEMENTATION:

Update only, re-engage workgroup for celebration.

### TRIBAL ACTION PLAN:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to direct General Counsel to draft the Tribal Action Plan and Resolution for Tribal Council consideration. Lorelei DeCora seconded the motion.

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

[Trey in at 3:36 p.m.]

### JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

Eugene DeCora motioned to table the Job Descriptions for facilities until the next meeting. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

### ADJOURN:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:39 p.m. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

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

### CONCUR:

Ireta Frazier, Council member  
Winnebago Tribal Council

# SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WINNEBAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Meeting of the Board of Winnebago Public Schools was convened in open and public session on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5:46 p.m. in the board room at the Winnebago Public Schools, Highways 77 & 75, Winnebago, Nebraska. The roll was called and the following Board members were present or absent:

Present: Teresa Littlegeorge, Nilah Solomon, Crystal Ross, Greg Bass III, Kiana Lewis  
Absent: Kristine Earth (excused)

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Receiving of Delegations: Human Trafficking Presentation (Lisa Molina) via Zoom 4:45p.m.-5:46p.m.

2. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by President Teresa Littlegeorge, also President Littlegeorge states, "MEMBERS OF THE BOARD RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE MEETING SHOWING THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING INCLUDING THE AGENDA TO BE CONSIDERED. NOTICE OF THE MEETING WAS PUBLISHED BY POSTING ON THE OFFICE DOOR AND THREE OTHER PLACES." A COMPLETE COPY OF THE OPEN MEETING ACT IS POSTED ON THE SOUTH WALL.

3. Approval of Agenda with the addition of 4. Volleyball Coach 5. Playground incident added to #8

Motion: Solomon  
Second: Lewis  
Discussion: None  
Voting for: Lewis, Ross, Solomon, Littlegeorge, Bass III  
Voting Against:  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

4. Business Affairs

4-1. Approve minutes of October 6, 2025 Regular Meeting

Motion: Lewis  
Second: Solomon  
Discussion: None  
Voting for: Ross, Solomon, Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

1. November 10, 2025 School Board Meeting

4-2. Approve accounts payable in the amount of \$239,795.44, petty cash account/ treasurer's report.

Motion: Ross  
Second: Solomon  
Discussion: accounts payable  
Voting For: Solomon, Littlegeorge, Bass III, Lewis, Ross  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

4-3. Approve Facilities WEFLC: \$333,443.70

Motion: Solomon  
Second: Bass III  
Discussion: update on building completion date  
Voting For: Littlegeorge, Bass III, Lewis, Ross, Solomon  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

4-4. WPS Operations and Government Shut Down

4-5. 2025 (24-25) AFR has been submitted to NDE and the State Auditor

4-6. Approve Bus purchase by Mid-West Bus Repair in the amount of \$473,402.50

Motion: Lewis  
Second: Ross  
Discussion: quotes  
Voting For: Lewis, Ross, Solomon, Bass III, Littlegeorge  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

5. New Business

5-1. Discussion/Approval for Lighting and Sound Board for the Theater by Munkey Industries in the amount of \$62,415.69

Motion: Ross  
Second: Lewis  
Discussion: prices/recommendations  
Voting For: Ross, Solomon, Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

2. November 10, 2025 School Board Meeting

5-2. Discussion/Approval for Main and Practice Gym (full quotes are digital) by KCAV in the amount \$40,719.07

Motion: Solomon  
Second: Bass III  
Discussion: quotes  
Voting For: Solomon, Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis, Ross  
Voting Against: None

Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

5-3. Discuss/Approve Strategic Planning Facilitator

Motion: Lewis  
Second: Ross  
Discussion: price/dates  
Voting For: Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis, Ross, Solomon  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

5-4. Discussion/Superintendent Evaluation Process

5-5. Discuss/Approve Assistance for Football Rings in the amount of \$10,000.00

Motion: Solomon  
Second: Ross  
Discussion: prices  
Voting For: Littlegeorge, Lewis, Ross, Solomon, Bass III  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristine Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

6. Reports

1. Superintendent:
  - a. State Education Conference November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>
  - b. NIISA Conference December 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Las Vegas, NV
  - c. Hearing for LR 204-5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Nick Kleve attended
  - d. AQI Light System for Air Quality
  - e. Veteran's Day Program
  - f. SERC Building Update
2. Administration Reports
  - a. Special Education
  - b. Dean of Students
  - c. Athletic Director
  - d. Elementary
  - e. High School
  - f. School Staff Slideshow

3. November 10, 2025 Board Meeting

7. Public Comment (No Board Discussion)

8. Closed Session 84-1410 Enter Motion 8:03 p.m. Exit Session at 8:53 p. m.  
To discuss: 1. Atlas Program 2. Students in Crisis 3. Employee Policy Concern 4. Volleyball Coaching concerns 5. Playground Incident

Motion: Solomon  
Second: Ross  
Voting For: Lewis, Ross, Solomon, Bass III, Littlegeorge  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristina Earth  
Motion Carried: (5-0-0-0)

Motion: Littlegeorge  
Second: Ross  
Voting For: Ross, Solomon, Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis  
Voting Against: None  
Not Voting: None  
Absent: Kristina Earth  
Motion Carried (5-0-0-1)

9. Discussion:

10. Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Crystal Ross, Secretary  
Winnebago Board of Education



## Notice of Holiday Closure

Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System will be closed on

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2026**

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Inpatient, Emergency Departments, and all emergency services will remain open at all times.

We will reopen for business on **Tuesday, January 20th, 2026.**



"The time is always right to do what is right."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

# HAKWEWE

## Question of the Issue:

### What is 1 lesson & 1 blessing from 2025?

**GARAN:** The 1 lesson that I took away is that life is like a slot machine, keep spinning until you hit something but don't bet beyond your means. The 1 blessing is I have the best co-workers ever!

**BRIAN:** Either we win, or we learn. Lessons from 2025 include remembering what's truly important in life – family, loved ones, peace of mind. Making a conscious decision to choose peace and happiness is always a lesson to learn and exercise. Blessings are having people in our lives that help us to create peace and happiness and moving away from anyone or anything that takes away from those things. I am grateful for and thankful to Mauna for helping me see who's genuinely concerned for my well-being and helping remove those who were not. And I fell blessed for those new opportunities that have been cultivated. 2026 will be the best year ever! Claim it!!

**KEVIN:** In 2025, one big lesson I learned was to trust my gut. It's like a sixth sense—sometimes it's already telling you what's really going on before you can explain it. I didn't always listen to that feeling, and I realized later... I should've trusted it more. The biggest blessing I got from 2025 was this: keep your faith. God will answer your prayers. It might not happen on your timeline, and it might not show up the way you expected, but it will happen. 2025 reminded me that faith isn't about control—it's about trust.

**TYLER:** A lesson I have learned from 2025 is to plan for the future, with that in mind, also be aware of the blessings you have. So many things happen out of our control and it's easy to get ahead of yourself.

**BETHANI:** The greatest lesson for me in the last year was to practice better self-care. I struggled throughout 2025 but realize now the growth that came from these challenges. I'm always trying to focus on the positives in life & I am grateful for my blessings. I'm beyond thankful for my supportive, loving family & my amazing co-workers! <3

**CHRISTINA:** Let's see...a lesson from this past year would be that its a good thing to be boring. I enjoy learning and creating new things and may be boring to some but it's my favorite past time and that would also be my blessing to be able to do those things.

**GAYLA:** A blessing from 2025 was the new friendships that entered my life. A lesson I learned was the power of reciprocity in every area. "Pour into what pours into you."

## MEET OUR APPRENTICE Ayden Armell



Hello, my name is Ayden Amrell. I am 17 years old and a senior at Winnebago Public School. My parents are James Armell and Esther Mercer. I'm a member of the bear clan. Some of my favorite things to do are drawing, listening to music, wrestling, and cooking. After high school, I plan to continue my studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I'm working for the Big Voice under the apprenticeship program.

WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS PRESENTS: EXCLUSIVELY IN HAKWEWE

WINNEBAGO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STORYTELLERS

**PART 3 - THE FINALE**  
will return in the next issue on January 31, 2026.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### Request for Proposals

THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING BIDS FROM LOCAL ARTISTS TO CREATE A NEW LOGO.

OUR DEPARTMENT OVERSEES FIVE PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE OUTLINED BELOW:

1. SCARED CHILDREN CARE CENTER
2. SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM
3. CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM
4. PRESERVING NATIVE FAMILIES UNIT
5. TRIBAL TANF CHILD WELFARE (TTCW)

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES WITHIN A CULTURE OF CARE THAT PROMOTES THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF FAMILIES, ENABLING THEM TO THRIVE AND ACHIEVE HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES. WE EMBRACE EACH INDIVIDUAL'S UNIQUENESS AND ABILITIES, MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO BUILD ON AND STRENGTHEN THEIR EXISTING SKILLS.

PLEASE SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO KUMIKO MASQUAT AT [KUMIKO.MASQUAT@WINNEBAGOTRIBE.COM](mailto:kumiko.masquat@winnebagotribe.com) NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 2ND, 2026.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR CREATIVE PROPOSALS!



Winn Vegas CASINO RESORT

## LAST BEAR MOON POW WOV

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

WINNAVEGAS EVENT CENTER • SLOAN, IA

**GRAND ENTRY AT 12 PM - SAVE THE DATE**

[www.winnebagotribe.com](http://www.winnebagotribe.com) | [www.winnavegas.com](http://www.winnavegas.com)

## LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE

Our Mission: "Be Strong and Educate My Children"

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

- Carpentry Instructor
- Project Manager
- Project Success Student Intern
- Part-Time Data Analyst
- Recruitment Specialist
- Student Equity Intern
- Student Extension Intern

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

## Air Quality Light Program!

How air pollution can affect my family's health and activity today?



	<b>HEALTHY</b> It's a great day to be active outside.	The CDC recommends 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity every week for adults.
	<b>ACCEPTABLE</b> It's a great day to be active outside. Take it easier if you are unusually sensitive to air pollution.	Coughing or shortness of breath are signs to take it easier. Air pollution can also make asthma symptoms worse and trigger attacks.
	<b>SENSITIVE</b> Older adults, children and teens, people with certain health conditions, and people who are active outdoors should take it easier.	Take breaks. Be active for a shorter amount of time. Do less intense activities, like walking instead of running.
	<b>UNHEALTHY</b> Everyone should take it easier.	Reduce or reschedule outdoor exercise and strenuous activities.
	<b>HAZARDOUS</b> Sensitive groups, avoid outdoor exertion. Everyone else, avoid long or intense outdoor exertion.	Close windows and doors to prevent outdoor air from entering. Stay indoors as much as possible, especially during peak pollution times.



### WPHD Wazoki Hosts Roots of Home Christmas Event for Community Families

On December 18th, WPHD Wazoki hosted the Roots of Home, A Christmas Event, welcoming families from across the community to celebrate the holiday season together. The event brought joy to more than 200 children and their families, offering a warm and welcoming space filled with food, laughter, and connection.

Children had the opportunity to meet Santa and the Grinch, take family photos, decorate cookies, and enjoy a hearty meal. The gathering focused on creating positive memories and supporting togetherness for families during the holidays. "This event is about creating a safe and joyful space for our children and families," said Charisse Bass, Wazoki Coordinator. "Seeing our community come together in this way reminds us why we do this work and how important it is to nurture our youth."

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the community members who attended and shared in the celebration, and to all staff members and local programs who came together to support the youth and make this event possible.

"Events like the Roots of Home reflect the strength of our community partnerships and our shared responsibility to care for our children today and for generations to come," said Mona Zuffante, Chief Public Health Officer.

*Pinagigi!*



### WCHS New Domestic Violence Shelter



By: Erin McElroy, Communications Manager

Winnebago, NE – The Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System (WCHS) is proud to announce the completion of its newly constructed domestic violence shelter, a modern shelter designed to provide survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking with a safe and supportive environment to begin their healing journey.

The new modular shelter, measuring approximately 2,500 square feet, includes three client living quarters, office space for advocates, and a therapy/crafting room dedicated to group and cultural therapy sessions. Survivors will also benefit from a new outdoor living area and a state-of-the-art security system that ensures only authorized individuals can access the premises, with immediate alerts to WCHS security and law enforcement if needed.

Funding for this vital project was made possible through the Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System and the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime Tribal Set-Aside Funding. The total cost of construction is estimated at \$650,000 to \$700,000.

"The previous shelter was built in the 1930s, and while it has served us for decades, it had become increasingly difficult to maintain," said Matthew Benson, Director of the WCHS Domestic Violence Program. "Our new shelter not only addresses the community's need for more space but also creates an environment where survivors feel safe and supported. As a father of a young woman, I want to ensure this shelter is a place of safety

and emotional healing that I would trust for my own daughter."

The design of the new shelter reflects direct input from advocates and survivors. Past residents noted that the old facility often felt cramped, especially when at capacity. The new space allows for greater privacy, comfort, and freedom of movement, as well as enhanced programming opportunities such as hosting Aunties Night, a cultural therapy session aimed at fostering connection and healing.

While construction faced challenges, particularly in navigating federal requirements, WCHS remained committed to bringing this vision to life. The shelter's completion marks an important milestone not only for survivors but also for the entire Winnebago community.

"Not many tribes in the Great Plains have the ability to provide safe, emergency shelter for survivors," Matthew Benson added. "We want our community to know that we are here to help, to spread awareness of these crimes, and to teach future generations the importance of respect and care for one another."

Community members are encouraged to support the shelter by donating essential items such as clean clothing, food, and personal care products. Monetary donations can be made directly through the Winnebago Health Foundation (WHF) to further sustain and enhance shelter services.

For more information, please contact WCHS at (402) 745-3959 or to support the Domestic Violence Program, please contact WHF at (402) 745-3950.

Angel De Cora Museum contact information: 402-257-5587, angeldecoramuseum@winnebagotribe.com

## Hūc wī hiconi ńa

First Bear Moon  
January



During this time of the month, storytelling was happening over the campfires while snow was still on the ground. The women were beading and sewing while the men were hunting wild game such as turkeys, squirrels and deer. It was also the time that winter feasts were happening with singing and dancing in the clan lodges.

#### All game was considered edible EXCEPT:

- Skunk
- Mink
- Marten
- Otter
- Horse
- Weasel
- Gophers
- Crows
- Eagles
- Dogfish
- Eel

#### Methods used for hunting:

- Bow & Arrows- 5 types of arrows, each designed for specific purposes
- Traps- 3 distinct trapping techniques utilized
- Spears (Seasonal Fishing)- A traditional method for catching fish in shallow waters

#### Songs that were used:

- Clan songs

Source: Radin, P. (1923). The Winnebago tribe (37th Annu. Rep., Bureau of American Ethnology). Smithsonian Institution. (Reprinted, 1970, Univ. of Nebraska Press).



### Hey, Indigenous artists (18 & under)! Your art could be featured for 2026 Together for Indigenous Families Conference

The theme will be  
"Stronger Together: Centering Culture, Building Community"

Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners and  
1<sup>st</sup> PLACE ART WILL BE FEATURED ON FLYERS AND BANNERS!

Deadline:  
Sunday, December 14 @11:59PM  
QR Code for submission portal  
and guidelines



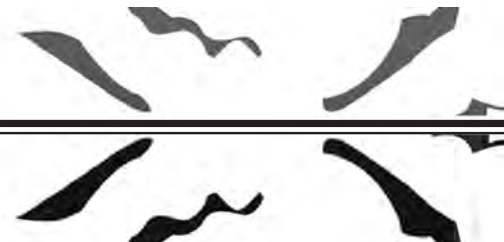
# Call for ARTISTS



## BIG VOICE RADIO KWTN100.9 FM



Official Radio Station of the  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska



# COMMUNITY

## NOTICE



### No Weapons Allowed

A VALID CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT DOES NOT AUTHORIZE YOU TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON INTO THIS AREA

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
Tribal Code  
Title 3, Article 7  
Resolution #26-61  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1202.01

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 687 • Winnebago, Nebraska 68571 • PH: 402-878-2272 • Fax: 402-878-2963  
Visit us at: www.winnebago-tribe.com

### RESOLUTION #26-61

#### AMENDMENTS TO WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE, TITLE 3, ARTICLE 7 PROTECTION OF SCHOOLS AND RESTRICTED OR SENSITIVE AREAS FROM DANGEROUS WEAPONS (Legislation)

**WHEREAS**, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), (25 U.S.C. § 476, et seq.) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935, (49 Stat. 378); and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council is the duly recognized governing body of the Tribe established under the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, which was duly adopted and ratified by members of the Tribe on February 29, 1936; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(c) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power inter alia, "To safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals, and general welfare of the Tribe"; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(d) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power inter alia, "To promulgate and enforce statutes governing the conduct of persons located within or passing through the Reservation and providing for maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice"; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of dangerous weapons in schools and other sensitive locations poses heightened risk of violence, accidental injury, and disruption of essential governmental and educational functions; and

**WHEREAS**, children, elders, students, and participants in educational, cultural, and governmental activities are entitled to heightened protection; and

**WHEREAS**, schools and educational programs on the Reservation are essential to cultural preservation, language revitalization, and future leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, federal law, including 18 U.S.C. § 922(a), recognizes the legitimacy of restricting dangerous weapons in school zones, and the Tribe has independent authority to enact similar dangerous weapons or greater protections under tribal law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council finds it is in the best interest of the Tribe to codify comprehensive dangerous weapons regulations, including protections for school-zones and restricted or sensitive areas, civil forfeiture, exclusion, and enforcement provisions consistent with tribal sovereignty; and

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**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this action is to protect public safety, secure schools and other sensitive locations, provide clear notice of prohibited conduct and lawful exceptions, and affirm the Tribe's sovereign authority to govern conduct within the Reservation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Winnebago Tribal Council hereby adopts amendments to the Winnebago Tribal Code, as set forth in Title 3, Article 7, §§ 3-736, 3-737, 3-738, and 3-739, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, these provisions shall be codified as part of Winnebago Tribal Code, Title 3, Article 7, shall take effect immediately upon adoption, and the Tribal Prosecutor, Tribal Police Department, and Tribal Court are authorized to implement and enforce these provisions.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Chairperson and Secretary of the Tribal Council are authorized to execute this Resolution.

#### CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Officers of the Winnebago Tribal Council hereby certify that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2025, at a meeting duly convened by the Winnebago Tribal Council, the Tribal Council voted to adopt the above Resolution by a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, with the Chairman voting and 4 member(s) absent.

DATED THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.

Cory Brown, Tribal Chairman  
Winnebago Tribal Council

Teresa LittleGeorge, Secretary  
Winnebago Tribal Council

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3 CRIMINAL CODE ARTICLE 7 - OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY 2025-12-22 PROPOSED REVISION

##### 3-736 Dangerous weapon, firearm, school zone, other terms; defined.

- "Dangerous weapon" shall mean any firearm, knife, or other instrument, device, or object which, under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury, including any object used to simulate such an instrument, firearms (loaded or unloaded), knives, dirks, daggers, blades, explosive or incendiary devices.
- "Firearm" is defined as provided by federal law, including 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3), as amended.
- "Knife" shall mean any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over three- and one-half inches in length, or any other dangerous instrument capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds.
- "Knuckles and brass or iron knuckles" shall mean any instrument that consists of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.
- "School zone" shall mean:
  - The grounds of, or any building, structure, or facility used for educational purposes; and
  - The area within one thousand (1,000) feet from the grounds of a school, excluding residences, private business facilities, and federal, state and tribal highways and streets.
- "School" shall mean any public, private, tribal, charter, parochial, or community-based educational institution, whether permanent, temporary, mobile, or satellite, including but not limited to:
  - Early childhood education programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, and preschool programs;
  - Elementary and secondary schools;
  - Alternative and continuation schools;
  - Tribal schools and Bureau of Indian Education schools;
  - Vocational, technical, and career training programs;
  - Colleges, universities, and community colleges;
  - Daycare facilities, childcare centers, and youth activity centers providing regular instructional or educational programming; and
  - Any facility or location used for organized instructional, cultural, language, or youth programming.
- A firearm or other weapon shall be deemed "loaded" when there is an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile in the firing position except in the case of pistols and revolvers, in which case they shall be deemed loaded when the unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile to be fired is in the cylinder. [TCR 86-79]

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3 CRIMINAL CODE ARTICLE 7 - OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY 2025-12-22 PROPOSED REVISION

##### 3-737 Unlawful carrying or possession of dangerous weapons; penalty.

- No person shall knowingly carry, possess, or have under the person's custody or control any dangerous weapon within the exterior boundaries of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Reservation in a manner prohibited by this Code or by lawful order or regulation of the Tribe.
- Penalties by prohibited persons.** No person shall knowingly possess, carry, or control any dangerous weapon if that person:
  - Has been convicted of a felony offense under tribal, federal, or state law;
  - Has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence;
  - Is subject to a valid domestic violence protection order or restraining order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;
  - Is under indictment or information for a felony offense; or is otherwise prohibited from possessing dangerous weapons under applicable tribal or federal law.
- No person shall have a dangerous weapon in one's actual possession while being addicted to any narcotic drug; or after having been declared mentally incompetent; or while being intoxicated or otherwise under the influence of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicating substance, drug, or medicine; or while possessing the intent to unlawfully assault another, or while under the age of sixteen years and without the consent of one's parent or guardian.
- No person shall carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a public road without lawful authority to do so; or to discharge any kind of firearm from a motor vehicle without lawful authority to do so; or to discharge a firearm from upon or across any public highway without lawful authority to do so.
- Possession of dangerous weapons in restricted or sensitive locations prohibited.** No person shall knowingly possess, carry, or control any dangerous weapon in a restricted or sensitive location designated by tribal law or regulation, including but not limited to:
  - Tribal government buildings and offices;
  - Tribal courts and court facilities;
  - Detention, correctional, or law enforcement facilities;
  - Facilities where Tribal Council meetings, hearings, or official proceedings are conducted;
  - Cultural buildings, facilities, and places, including pow grounds, veterans' memorials, cemeteries;
  - Places of worship;
  - Any other location designated by the Tribal Council or appropriate tribal authority as necessary to protect public safety.
- Possession of a dangerous weapon in a school zone prohibited.** No person shall knowingly possess, carry, or have under the person's custody or control any dangerous weapon while in a school zone located within the exterior boundaries of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3 CRIMINAL CODE ARTICLE 7 - OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY 2025-12-22 PROPOSED REVISION

Reservation, including all trust land, restricted fee land, and other lands subject to the Tribe's criminal jurisdiction.

- Exceptions.** This section does not apply to:
  - Law enforcement or peace officers acting within the scope of official duties and authorized by the Tribe, the United States, or another government with lawful jurisdiction;
  - Persons lawfully transporting an unloaded firearm in a locked container or locked firearms rack in a motor vehicle;
  - Persons authorized in writing by the Tribe or by the governing authority of a restricted facility or school for lawful purposes, including safety, instruction, or ceremonial use; or
  - Any other exception expressly recognized by tribal or federal law.
- Criminal Penalties.** A violation of this section constitutes a criminal offense under tribal law and shall be punished pursuant to Title 1B, Article 7, § 1B-706, as a Class I Offense, including fines, imprisonment, probation, exclusion, forfeiture, or any combination thereof as authorized by tribal law.
- Civil Forfeiture.**
  - Any dangerous weapon possessed in violation of this section is declared contraband and subject to civil forfeiture to the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.
  - Civil forfeiture proceedings are in rem, remedial in nature, and independent of any criminal prosecution or conviction.
  - The Tribe may initiate forfeiture by filing a petition in Tribal Court describing the seized property and the basis for forfeiture.
  - Any person claiming an ownership or possessory interest in the subject dangerous weapon shall be provided notice and an opportunity to be heard consistent with tribal due process.
  - Upon forfeiture, the Tribal Court may order the property destroyed, retained for official use, or otherwise disposed of consistent with tribal law and public safety.
  - No dangerous weapon shall be returned if possession would be unlawful under tribal or federal law.
- Exclusion.**
  - In addition to criminal or civil penalties, the Tribal Court may order temporary or permanent exclusion of any person who violates this section.
  - An exclusion order may apply to the Reservation as a whole or to specific facilities or zones, including school zones.
  - In determining exclusion, the Court may consider the seriousness of the offense, risk to public safety, prior violations, and protection of children and other vulnerable persons.
  - Violation of a valid exclusion order constitutes a separate offense.
- Detention, Disarmament, and Transfer of Non-Indians.**

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3 CRIMINAL CODE ARTICLE 7 - OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY 2025-12-22 PROPOSED REVISION

- When a person not subject to Tribal criminal jurisdiction is reasonably believed to have violated this section, tribal law enforcement officers may temporarily detain and disarm the individual and secure any firearm.
- Detention shall be limited in scope and duration and exercised solely to protect public safety, investigate the violation, determine jurisdiction, and transfer custody.
- Tribal law enforcement shall notify and transfer custody of the individual and any seized dangerous weapons or evidence to appropriate federal, state, or local authorities as soon as practicable.
- Nothing in this subsection expands tribal criminal jurisdiction beyond that authorized by federal law.
- "Person not subject to Tribal criminal jurisdiction" means a person who is not recognized as an Indian, citizen, or member by a federally recognized tribe or the federal government. [TCR 86-79, 89-87, 26-\_\_\_]

##### 3-738 Aggravated weapons offense; penalty.

- Except as provided in subsection (2) of this Section, any person who carries a weapon or weapons concealed on or about his/her person such as a revolver, pistol, bowie knife, dirk or knife with a dirk blade attachment, brass or iron knuckles, or any other dangerous weapon, or threatens to use or exhibit the dangerous weapon in a dangerous and threatening manner, or use a dangerous weapon in a fight or quarrel commits the offense of carrying concealed weapons.
- It shall be an affirmative defense that the defendant was engaged in any lawful business, calling or employment at the time he/she was carrying any weapon or weapons, and the circumstances in which such person was placed at the time were such as to justify a prudent person in carrying the weapon or weapons, for the defense of his/her person, property or family.
- Aggravated weapon offense is a Class I offense. [TCR 86-79, 26-\_\_\_]

##### 3-739 Using firearms to commit a crime; penalty.

- Any person who uses a firearm, knife, brass or iron knuckles, or any other dangerous weapon to commit any crime which may be prosecuted in a Tribal Court, or any person who unlawfully possesses a firearm, knife, brass or iron knuckles, or any other dangerous weapon during the commission of a crime which may be prosecuted in a Tribal Court commits the offense of using firearms to commit a crime.
- Using firearms to commit a crime is a Class I offense. [TCR 86-79, 26-\_\_\_]

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE CURRENT PROVISIONS - AS OF JUNE 2025 FOR REFERENCE ONLY

- 3-736 Deadly weapon, knife, firearms, other terms; defined.**
  - "Deadly weapon" means any item that in the nature of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. In determining whether an item, object or thing not commonly known as a dangerous weapon is a dangerous weapon, the character of the instrument, object or thing, the character of the wound produced, if any, and the manner in which the instrument, item or thing was used shall be determinative.
  - "Knife" shall mean any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over three and one half inches in length, or any other dangerous instrument capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds.
  - "Knuckles and brass or iron knuckles" shall mean any instrument that consists of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.
  - "Firearms" means pistols, revolvers, rifles, rifles having a barrel less than sixteen inches in length, shotguns, altered or modified shotguns less than twenty-four inches in overall length, and any device that is capable of being used as a weapon because it expels a projectile by some means of force.
  - A firearm or other weapon shall be deemed loaded when there is an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile in the firing position except in the case of pistols and revolvers, in which case they shall be deemed loaded when the unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile to be fired is in the cylinder. [TCR 86-79]

##### 3-737 Weapons offense; penalty.

- It shall be unlawful to:
  - Have a dangerous weapon in one's actual possession while being addicted to any narcotic drug, or after having been declared mentally incompetent; or while being intoxicated or otherwise under the influence of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicating substance, drug, or medicine; or while possessing the intent to unlawfully assault another; or while under the age of sixteen years and without the consent of one's parent or guardian;
  - Carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a public road without lawful authority to do so; or to discharge a firearm from upon or across any public highway without lawful authority to do so.
- This provision does not apply to the issuance of firearms to peace officers or temporary loan of pistols, revolvers, or any rifle for instruction under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian or adult instructor.
- Weapons offense is a Class III offense. [TCR 86-79, 89-87]

##### 3-738 Aggravated weapons offense; penalty.

- Except as provided in subsection (2) of this Section, any person who carries a weapon or weapons concealed on or about his/her person such as a revolver, pistol, bowie knife, dirk or knife with a dirk blade attachment, brass or iron knuckles, or any other deadly weapon, or threatens to use or exhibit the deadly weapon in a dangerous and threatening manner, or use a deadly weapon in a fight or quarrel commits the offense of carrying concealed weapons.

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE CURRENT PROVISIONS - AS OF JUNE 2025 FOR REFERENCE ONLY

- It shall be an affirmative defense that the defendant was engaged in any lawful business, calling or employment at the time he/she was carrying any weapon or weapons, and the circumstances in which such person was placed at the time were such as to justify a prudent person in carrying the weapon or weapons, for the defense of his/her person, property or family.
- Aggravated weapon offense is a Class I offense. [TCR 86-79]

##### 3-739 Using firearms to commit a crime; penalty.

- Any person who uses a firearm, knife, brass or iron knuckles, or any other deadly weapon to commit any crime which may be prosecuted in a Tribal Court, or any person who unlawfully possesses a firearm, knife, brass or iron knuckles, or any other deadly weapon during the commission of a crime which may be prosecuted in a Tribal Court commits the offense of using firearms to commit a crime.
- Using firearms to commit a crime is a Class I offense. [TCR 86-79]

##### 3-736 Dangerous weapon, firearm, school zone, other terms; defined.

"Dangerous weapon" shall mean any firearm, knife, or other instrument, device, or object which, under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury, including any object used to simulate such an instrument, firearms (loaded or unloaded), knives, dirks, daggers, blades, explosive or incendiary devices.

"Firearm" is defined as provided by federal law, including 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3), as amended.

"Knife" shall mean any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over three- and one-half inches in length, or any other dangerous instrument capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds.

"Knuckles and brass or iron knuckles" shall mean any instrument that consists of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

"School zone" shall mean:

A. The grounds of, or any building, structure, or facility used for educational purposes; and

B. The area within one thousand (1,000) feet from the grounds of a school, excluding residences, private business facilities, and federal, state and tribal highways and streets.

"School" shall mean any public, private, tribal, charter, parochial, or community-based educational institution, whether permanent, temporary, mobile, or satellite, including but not limited to:

Early childhood education programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, and preschool programs;

Elementary and secondary schools;

Alternative and continuation schools;

Tribal schools and Bureau of Indian Education schools;

Vocational, technical, and career training programs;

Colleges, universities, and community colleges;

Daycare facilities, childcare centers, and youth activity centers providing regular instructional or educational programming; and

Any facility or location used for organized instructional, cultural, language, or youth programming.

A firearm or other weapon shall be deemed "loaded" when there is an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile in the firing position except in the case of pistols and revolvers, in which case they shall be deemed loaded when the unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile to be fired is in the cylinder. [TCR 86-79]

##### 3-737 Unlawful carrying or possession of dangerous weapons; penalty.

No person shall knowingly carry, possess, or have under the person's custody or control any dangerous weapon within the exterior boundaries of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Reservation in a manner prohibited by this Code or by lawful order or regulation of the Tribe.

**Possession by prohibited persons.** No person shall knowingly possess, carry, or control any dangerous weapon if that person:

Has been convicted of a felony offense under tribal, federal, or state law;

Has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence;

Is subject to a valid domestic violence protection order or restraining order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;

Is under indictment or information for a felony offense; or is otherwise prohibited from possessing dangerous weapons under applicable tribal or federal law.

No person shall have a dangerous weapon in one's actual possession while being addicted to any narcotic drug; or after having been declared mentally incompetent; or while being intoxicated or otherwise under the influence of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicating substance, drug, or medicine; or while possessing the intent to unlawfully assault another; or while under the age of sixteen years and without the consent of one's parent or guardian.

No person shall carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a public road without lawful authority to do so; or to discharge any kind of firearm from a motor vehicle without lawful authority to do so; or to discharge a firearm from upon or across any public highway without lawful authority to do so.

**Possession of dangerous weapons in restricted or sensitive locations prohibited.** No person shall knowingly possess, carry, or control any dangerous weapon in a restricted or sensitive location designated by tribal law or regulation, including but not limited to:

Tribal government buildings and offices;

Tribal courts and court facilities;

Detention, correctional, or law enforcement facilities;

Facilities where Tribal Council meetings, hearings, or official proceedings are conducted;

Cultural buildings, facilities, and places, including pow grounds, veterans' memorials, cemeteries;

Places of worship;

Any other location designated by the Tribal Council or appropriate tribal authority as necessary to protect public safety.

**Possession of a dangerous weapon in a school zone prohibited.** No person shall knowingly possess, carry, or have under the person's custody or control any dangerous weapon while in a school zone located within the exterior boundaries of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Reservation, including all trust land, restricted fee land, and other lands subject to the Tribe's criminal jurisdiction.

**Exceptions.** This section does not apply to:

Law enforcement or peace officers acting within the scope of official duties and authorized by the Tribe, the United States, or another government with lawful jurisdiction;

Persons lawfully transporting an unloaded firearm in a locked container or locked firearms rack in a motor vehicle;

Persons authorized in writing by the Tribe or by the governing authority of a restricted facility or school for lawful purposes, including safety, instruction, or ceremonial use; or

Any other exception expressly recognized by tribal or federal law.

**Criminal Penalties.** A violation of this section constitutes a criminal offense under tribal law and shall be punished pursuant to Title 1B, Article 7, § 1B-706, as a Class I Offense, including fines, imprisonment, probation, exclusion, forfeiture, or any combination thereof as authorized by tribal law.

**Civil Forfeiture.**

Any dangerous weapon possessed in violation of this section is declared contraband and subject to civil forfeiture to the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

Civil forfeiture proceedings are in rem, remedial in nature, and independent of any criminal prosecution or conviction.

The Tribe may initiate forfeiture by filing a petition in Tribal Court describing the seized property and the basis for forfeiture.

Any person claiming an ownership or possessory interest in the subject dangerous weapon shall be provided notice and an opportunity to be heard consistent with tribal due process.

Upon forfeiture, the Tribal Court may order the property destroyed, retained for official use, or otherwise disposed of consistent with tribal law and public safety.

No dangerous weapon shall be returned if possession would be unlawful under tribal or federal law.

**Exclusion.**

In addition to criminal or civil penalties, the Tribal Court may order temporary or permanent exclusion of any person who violates this section.

An exclusion order may apply to the Reservation as a whole or to specific facilities or zones, including school zones.

In determining exclusion, the Court may consider the seriousness of the offense, risk to public safety, prior violations, and protection of children and other vulnerable persons.

Violation of a valid exclusion order constitutes a separate offense.

Detention, Disarmament, and Transfer of Non-Indians.

When a person not subject to Tribal criminal jurisdiction is reasonably believed to have violated this section, tribal law enforcement officers may temporarily detain and disarm the individual and secure any firearm.

Detention shall be limited in scope and duration and exercised solely to protect public safety, investigate the violation, determine jurisdiction, and transfer custody.

Tribal law enforcement shall notify and transfer custody of the individual and any seized dangerous weapons or evidence to appropriate federal, state, or local authorities as soon as practicable.

Nothing in this subsection expands tribal criminal jurisdiction beyond that authorized by federal law.

"Person not subject to Tribal criminal jurisdiction" means a person who is not recognized as an Indian, citizen, or member by a federally recognized tribe or the federal government. [TCR 86-79, 89-87, 26-\_\_\_]

##### 3-738 Aggravated weapons offense; penalty.

Except as provided in subsection (2) of this Section, any person who carries a weapon or weapons concealed on or about his/her person such as a revolver, pistol, bowie knife, dirk or knife with a dirk blade attachment, brass or iron knuckles, or any other dangerous weapon, or threatens to use or exhibit the dangerous weapon in a dangerous and threatening manner, or use a dangerous weapon in a fight or quarrel commits the offense of carrying concealed weapons.

It shall be an affirmative defense that the defendant was engaged in any lawful business, calling or employment at the time he/she was carrying any weapon or weapons, and the circumstances in which such person was placed at the time were such as to justify a prudent person in carrying the weapon or weapons, for the defense of his/her person, property or family.

Aggravated weapon offense is a Class I offense. [TCR 86-79, 26-\_\_\_]

##### 3-739 Using firearms to commit a crime; penalty.

Any person who uses a firearm, knife, brass or iron knuckles, or any other dangerous weapon to commit any crime which may be prosecuted in a Tribal Court, or any person who unlawfully possesses a firearm, knife, brass or iron knuckles, or any other dangerous weapon during the commission of a crime which may be prosecuted in a Tribal Court commits the offense of using firearms to commit a crime.

Using firearms to commit a crime is a Class I offense. [TCR 86-79, 26-\_\_\_]

# COMMUNITY

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 687 - Winnebago, Nebraska 68071 • PH: 402-878-2272 • Fax: 402-878-2963  
Visit us at: www.winnebagotribe.com

### RESOLUTION # 25-194

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE ADOPTION OF TITLE 3, ARTICLE 16 WINNEBAGO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CODE

WHEREAS, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), (25 U.S.C. § 3123) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935, (49 Stat. 378); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, the governing body of the Tribe shall be the Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(c) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power, *inter alia*, "To safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals, and general welfare of the Tribe"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(p) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power, *inter alia*, "To protect and preserve the property, wildlife and natural resources of the Tribe"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(q) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power, *inter alia*, "To promulgate and enforce statutes governing the conduct of persons located within or passing through the Reservation and providing for maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice"; and

WHEREAS, in order to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has determined it necessary to adopt a new Title 3, Article 16 entitled Winnebago Public Safety Commission Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby adopts Title 3 Article 16 of the Winnebago Tribal Code by adopting the attached Winnebago Public Safety Commission Code; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this adoption of Title 3, Article 16, Winnebago Public Safety Commission Code shall be effective upon adoption of this Resolution.

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### CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Officers of the Winnebago Tribal Council, hereby certify that on July 16, 2025, at a meeting duly convened by the Winnebago Tribal Council, the Tribal Council voted to adopt the above Resolution by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, with the Chairperson not voting and 2 Member(s) not present.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.

Attest:

*Victoria Kitcheyan*  
Victoria Kitcheyan, Chairwoman  
Winnebago Tribal Council

*Teresa Littlegeorge*  
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary  
Winnebago Tribal Council

### 2025-07-15 PROPOSED DRAFT (WITH EDITS)

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 16

##### 3-1606 Public Safety Commission Meetings

The Commission shall meet at least once a month. The public may participate in a portion of the monthly meeting, except when the Commission is in executive session. The public portion of any meeting may include but is not limited to the following:

1. A report by the Chief of Police, including statistics of the number of incidents responded to in the prior month, the types of calls, any public service performed by the Police Department, and the number of complaints filed and investigated.
2. Review of any policies and procedures;
3. Any comments from the public.

##### 3-1607 Appointment of Commissioners.

The Winnebago Tribal Council shall appoint five (5) members to the Winnebago Public Safety Commission for staggered five (5) year terms. Commissioners may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms. The initial Commission shall be appointed as follows:

1. One (1) member shall be appointed for a five (5) year term.
2. One (1) member shall be appointed for a four (4) year term.
3. One (1) member shall be appointed for a three (3) year term.
4. One (1) member shall be appointed for a two (2) year term.
5. One (1) member shall be appointed for a one (1) year term.

Thereafter, each subsequent term shall be for a period of five (5) years, and each Commissioner shall serve until his/her successor is appointed by the Tribal Council.

##### 3-1608 Commissioner Requirements and Qualifications

The following are membership requirements for serving on the Winnebago Public Safety Commission:

1. Shall be a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska;
2. Must be 25 years of age or older;
3. Must complete a satisfactory background investigation. The following would prohibit any person from serving on the Winnebago Public Safety Commission:
  - a. A felony conviction under 18 U.S.C. Code 1153, or an equivalent crime under the laws of any state;
  - b. A felony arrest which results in a misdemeanor conviction due to a plea arrangement;
  - c. A conviction of a violation that could bring discredit to the Commission;

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### 2025-07-15 PROPOSED DRAFT (WITH EDITS)

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 16

4. Must submit to drug testing prior to appointment and be subject to random drug testing.
5. Must not be an employee of the Winnebago Police Department;
6. Shall attend required meetings and training;
7. Must be a person of good standing in the community; and
8. Must be committed to the improvement and provision of police services for the Tribe.

3-1609 Confidentiality. Commissioners shall not reveal any confidential information regarding personnel matters, investigations, and disciplinary hearings. Unauthorized sharing of confidential information shall result in the removal from the Commission.

##### 3-1610 Conflicts of Interest

In the event a Commissioner has a conflict of interest on a particular issue, he or she shall recuse himself or herself from the matter entirely, including deliberation and decision-making. If the Commissioner fails to recuse himself or herself and the conflict of interest is apparent to the remaining commissioners, they shall remove him or her from the meeting by majority vote and may recommend termination from the Commission to the Tribal Council.

##### 3-1611 Removal of Commissioners

1. The Commission may recommend termination of a member from the Commission to the Winnebago Tribal Council for:
  - a. Failure to fulfill duties and responsibilities, including failure to recuse oneself in the case of a conflict of interest;
  - b. Conduct which could jeopardize the reputation of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, the Winnebago Public Safety Commission, or the Winnebago Tribal Police;
  - c. Any change in status which would place the Commissioner in conflict with the qualifications specified herein; and
  - d. Violation of the confidentiality of closed hearings or any other unauthorized disclosure of confidential information;
2. Commission recommendations for a member's termination from the Commission must be determined by a majority vote of members in attendance at a Commission meeting with quorum.
3. The Winnebago Tribal Council shall have the authority to remove a Commissioner by a majority vote of the Tribal Council.

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### 2025-07-15 PROPOSED DRAFT (WITH EDITS)

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 16

##### 3-1612 Complaints

1. The Commission shall not solicit complaints from the public, however, it shall make complaint forms accessible to the public and ensure the public knows the complaint process and where to submit a complaint form.
2. Any person may file a written complaint against a Law Enforcement Officer with the Chief of Police, or his or her designee, who shall investigate the complaint.
  - a. The Chief of Police, or his or her designee, may invite the Law Enforcement Officer to agree to an informal resolution to the complaint which shall be reduced to a writing that waives any right to an appeal and that outlines the discipline to be imposed.
  - b. If the Chief of Police, or his or her designee, determines that an informal resolution is inappropriate, the Chief of Police or his or her designee, may bring formal disciplinary charges against the Law Enforcement Officer.
3. The Commission shall investigate any complaints against the Chief of Police and may bring formal disciplinary charges against the Chief of Police. If the Commission determines it is necessary, an independent investigator may be retained and appointed to assist in the investigation of complaints against the Chief of Police.
4. Law Enforcement Officers and Personnel may also make any complaints about working conditions to the Commission and no disciplinary action may be taken against a Law Enforcement Officer or Personnel for making such a complaint.

##### 3-1613 Commission Hearings

1. When formal disciplinary charges have been brought against the Chief of Police, the Commission shall conduct a hearing.
2. The Commission shall adopt hearing procedures to be used for the conduct of all hearings, and which shall be adopted by the Commission within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this Act.
3. The Commission may have legal counsel or a hearing examiner facilitate the conduct of any hearing.
4. The Commission shall arrange for a court reporter to record and transcribe all proceedings.
5. The Commission shall have the authority to subpoena witnesses.
6. The Commission shall render a decision by a majority vote.
7. The decision of the Commission may be appealed to the Tribal Court, which shall review the Commission's decision based on a Reasonableness Standard.
8. The Chief of Police, when subject to a formal disciplinary charge, shall have the following rights:
  - a. The right to notice of the charge(s) that have been made, as well as actions or consequences if the charge is sustained;

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### 2025-07-15 PROPOSED DRAFT (WITH EDITS)

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 16

- b. The right to a hearing to respond to the charges;
- c. The right to legal representation at his or her own expense; and
- d. The right to present evidence and argue his or her view of the facts and circumstances of the case.

3-1614 Severability. Should a provision of this law or the application thereof to any person or circumstances be held as invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this law which are considered to have legal force without the invalid portions.

3-1615 Repeat. All other Winnebago laws, codes, policies, regulations, rules, resolutions, motions and all other similar actions which are inconsistent with this code are hereby repealed unless specifically re-enacted after adoption of this code.

### 2025-07-15 PROPOSED DRAFT (WITH EDITS)

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 16

##### ARTICLE 16 WINNEBAGO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CODE

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 3-1600 Establishment                                | 3-1609 Confidentiality          |
| 3-1601 Purpose and Policy                           | 3-1610 Conflicts of Interest    |
| 3-1603 Source of Authority                          | 3-1611 Removal of Commissioners |
| 3-1604 Definitions                                  | 3-1612 Complaints               |
| 3-1605 Winnebago Public Safety Commission           | 3-1613 Commission Hearings      |
| 3-1606 Commission Meetings                          | 3-1614 Severability             |
| 3-1607 Appointment of Commissioners                 | 3-1615 Repeat                   |
| 3-1608 Commissioner Requirements and Qualifications |                                 |

3-1600 Establishment. The Winnebago Public Safety Commission is hereby established as the independent law enforcement oversight authority of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

3-1601 Purpose and Policy. The purpose of the Commission is to provide performance and regulatory oversight of Tribal law enforcement and to act as the liaison between the community, law enforcement, and the Tribal government providing transparency, advice and advocacy for effective policies and protocols that will help reduce crime and increase safety and justice on Tribal Lands.

It shall be the policy of the Commission to:

1. Support the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's goal of self-sufficiency and sovereignty through the implementation and enforcement of Tribal laws and regulations;
2. Provide the community with a professional and effective law enforcement agency that is responsive and respectful while serving the community;
3. Strengthen the relationship between the community and the police by providing an accessible and credible complaint review process and increasing the community's confidence in the Department; and
4. Provide an open and independent forum for the community to express concerns about police conduct.

3-1603 Source of Authority. The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska ("Tribe") has both constitutional and inherent sovereign authority to govern and provide for the health and safety of its members, residents, visitors and territory, and through that authority has enacted this code and created the Winnebago Public Safety Commission ("Commission").

3-1604 Definitions. This section shall govern the definitions of words and phrases as used herein. All words not defined herein shall be used in their ordinary and everyday sense.

1. "Chief of Police" shall mean the highest-ranking law enforcement officer of the Winnebago Police Department.

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### 2025-07-15 PROPOSED DRAFT (WITH EDITS)

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 16

2. "Commission" shall mean the Winnebago Public Safety Commission.
3. "Commissioner" or "Member" shall mean a duly appointed member of the Winnebago Public Safety Commission.
4. "Department" shall mean the Winnebago Police Department.
5. "Law Enforcement Agency" shall mean an agency responsible for enforcing the laws of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and any other applicable law, including but not limited to the Winnebago Police Department.
6. "Personnel" shall mean all civilian personnel of the Department.
7. "Police Officer" or "Law Enforcement Officer" shall mean a qualified and sworn member of the Winnebago Police Department who meets all qualifications for a law enforcement officer, including accepted professional training and experience, state or federal certification, which includes but is not limited to, satisfactory background investigation, psychological evaluation, drug testing, and police firearms certification.
8. "Reasonableness Standard" means the standard of review which requires the Tribal Court to uphold the decision of the Commission if it falls within a range of acceptable or defensible outcomes, the court doesn't substitute its own judgment for that of the Commission, rather the Tribal Court assesses whether the agency's decision is justified, transparent and intelligible.
9. "Tribal Council" shall mean the Winnebago Tribal Council.
10. "Tribal Lands" shall mean all lands over which the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska exercises jurisdiction.
11. "Tribal Police" shall mean the Winnebago Police Department.
12. "Tribe" shall mean the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

##### 3-1605 Winnebago Public Safety Commission

The Winnebago Public Safety Commission shall be responsible for and empowered to do the following:

1. Appoint, discipline, or remove the Chief of Police of the Winnebago Police Department, however the Chief of Police shall manage the daily operations of the Department;
  2. Adopt, modify, and repeal rules governing eligibility for appointment and promotion of Law Enforcement Officers;
  3. Formulate, review and recommend for adoption by the Tribal Council policies, practices, orders, regulations and procedures for the government, discipline, administration and conduct of the Department and of its members;
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- July 2025
4. Review all reports and audits conducted by the Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or any other entity's reports or audits that are submitted to the Chief of Police;
  5. Hear formal disciplinary charges filed against the Chief of Police, make findings and determinations, and impose penalties, up to and including termination;
  6. Adopt rules governing the Commission's management of its own activities, including but not limited to bylaws and hearing procedures;
  7. Review and forward to the Winnebago Tribal Council for its approval agreements such as cross-deputization, dispatch function and mutual aid agreements which are made between the Department and other agencies;
  8. Approve the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Manual.
  9. Review and recommend the Department's annual proposed budget to the Tribal Council;
  10. Review all summaries of use of force incidents, after investigations are complete. The summary shall include badge numbers of officers involved, circumstances of the incident, such as an officer involved shooting, and final determinations of investigations. The Commission shall identify patterns and trends and adjust policies and procedures and training when appropriate based on this review;
  11. Work towards increasing public awareness of the Commission and the Police Department to include providing public notice of its monthly meetings, provided that all hearings involving ongoing investigations or internal department personnel matters shall be held in executive (closed) session;
  12. Provide a monthly report to the Tribal Council to include but not be limited to statistics on the number of complaints and disciplinary actions it has heard, and any other issues the Commission or the Tribal Council may deem important and appropriate;
  13. For any reason, may appoint an independent auditor to address a particular complaint or investigation;
  14. Conduct a yearly evaluation of the Department and may hire an outside evaluator to assist with the review, and submit an annual report to the Tribal Council;
  15. Conduct a yearly evaluation of the Chief of Police; and
  16. May have the services of its own contract attorney, separate from the Tribe's Legal Counsel, during disciplinary hearings to avoid any conflict of interest. Payment for the services of any contract attorney shall be included in the Commission's annual budget.
  17. Shall be paid a reasonable stipend as determined by the Tribal Council.

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 687 - Winnebago, Nebraska 68071 • PH: 402-878-2272 • Fax: 402-878-2963  
Visit us at: www.winnebagotribe.com

### RESOLUTION # 25-193

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 14 WINNEBAGO LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE

WHEREAS, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), (25 U.S.C. § 5123) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935, (49 Stat. 378); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, the governing body of the Tribe shall be the Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(c) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power, *inter alia*, "To safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals, and general welfare of the Tribe"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(p) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power, *inter alia*, "To protect and preserve the property, wildlife and natural resources of the Tribe"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV Section 1(q) of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, and its inherent powers of self-government, the Tribal Council is vested with the power, *inter alia*, "To promulgate and enforce statutes governing the conduct of persons located within or passing through the Reservations and providing for maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice"; and

WHEREAS, in order to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has determined it necessary to amend Title 3, Article 14 by replacing it in its entirety with the attached Winnebago Law Enforcement Code as revised July 16, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby amends Title 3 Article 14 of the Winnebago Tribal Code in its entirety by adopting the attached Winnebago Law Enforcement Code, as revised July 16, 2025; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this amendment to Title 3, Article 14, shall be effective upon adoption of this Resolution.

Resolution #25-193  
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### CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Officers of the Winnebago Tribal Council, hereby certify that on July 16, 2025 at a meeting duly convened by the Winnebago Tribal Council, the Tribal Council voted to adopt the above Resolution by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, with the Chairperson not voting and 2 Member(s) not present.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

Attest:

*Victoria Kitcheyan*  
Victoria Kitcheyan, Chairwoman  
Winnebago Tribal Council

*Teresa Littlegeorge*  
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary  
Winnebago Tribal Council

#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 14

##### ARTICLE 14 WINNEBAGO LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE

(As revised July 2025)

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 3-1401 Purpose                   | 3-1408 Chief of Police                           |
| 3-1402 Source of Authority       | 3-1409 Tribal Police Officers                    |
| 3-1403 Repeal                    | 3-1410 Powers of the Winnebago Police Department |
| 3-1404 Definitions               | 3-1411 Cross-Deputization and Other Agreements   |
| 3-1405 Jurisdiction              | 3-1412 Conflicts of Interest                     |
| 3-1406 Authority over Department | 3-1413 Severability                              |
| 3-1407 General Principles        |  |

3-1401 Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to reaffirm the establishment of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department, to clarify the powers and authority of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department, and to maintain a fair, impartial and effective law enforcement system for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

3-1402 Source of Authority. The Tribal Council is empowered to enact this Article pursuant to Article IV of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution which provides Tribal Council with the authority to:

1. safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals and general welfare of the Tribe;
2. promulgate and enforce statutes governing the conduct of persons located within or passing through the Reservation and providing for maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice;
3. delegate to subordinate boards, or to tribal officials, or to cooperative associations which are open to all members of the Tribe, any of the foregoing powers reserving the right to review any actions taken by virtue of such delegated powers; and
4. subject to the express limitations in the Winnebago Tribal Constitution, or in federal law, to legislate or act upon any subject upon which the Tribe is empowered to act, now or in the future.

3-1403 Repeal. All other Winnebago laws, policies, regulations, rules, resolutions, motions and all other similar actions which are inconsistent with this Article are hereby repealed unless specifically re-enacted after adoption of this Article.

##### 3-1404 Definitions.

1. "Article" means this Winnebago Law Enforcement Code.
2. "Chief of Police" or "Police Chief" means the highest-ranking law enforcement officer of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department.
3. "Department" means the Winnebago Tribal Police Department.

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#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 14

4. "Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Manual" means the policy and procedure manual that is periodically updated to remain current and compliant with applicable laws and regulations and with which all members of the Department must comply.
5. "Special Law Enforcement Commission" ("SLETC") means that a member of the Department is certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to act as a special law enforcement officer empowered to enforce Federal laws.
6. "Commission" means the Winnebago Public Safety Commission.
7. "Personnel" means all civilian personnel of the Department.
8. "Tribal Council" means the Winnebago Tribal Council.
9. "Tribal Police" means the Winnebago Tribal Police Department.
10. "Tribe" means the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

##### 3-1405 Jurisdiction.

1. The Tribe's jurisdiction is as set forth in Title 1, Article 1 of the Winnebago Tribal Code.
2. The Tribe has the authority to enforce Tribal laws as provided in the Winnebago Tribal Code, Winnebago Tribal Court orders, and pursuant to compacts and agreements authorized by the Winnebago Tribal Council, and by Federal law.

3-1406 Authority over Department. The Winnebago Public Safety Commission shall have the ultimate responsibility for the Winnebago Tribal Police Department as set forth in Title 3, Article 16 of this Code, and such authority is hereby delegated to the Commission by the Tribal Council.

##### 3-1407 General Principles.

1. Law enforcement operations shall be as set forth in this Article.
2. Law enforcement operations shall be used primarily for the purposes of providing law enforcement supervision including a written report of each complaint and the investigative action including officer findings shall be reported to the Winnebago Public Safety Commission.
3. The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska shall appoint and employ law enforcement personnel as it deems necessary for the purpose of detecting and preventing crime and enforcing the laws of the Winnebago Tribe, in addition to protection of persons, property, and premises.
4. The Winnebago Tribal Police Department may, as authorized and delegated by this Article and as approved by the Winnebago Tribal Council, enter into cross-deputization agreements and other law enforcement agreements with other jurisdictions.

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#### WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE TITLE 3, ARTICLE 14

3-1408 Chief of Police. The Winnebago Tribal Police Department shall be managed by a Chief of Police who shall have authority and supervision over the department officers, personnel, and the daily operations. The duties of the Chief of Police shall include but are not limited to the following:

1. To be responsible for the proper and efficient enforcement of all laws for which he/she has been given authority, and to be responsible for all Tribal Police functions and operations within the jurisdiction of the Tribe.
2. To be in command of the Department, all Officers and Personnel.
3. To make divisions of operations as necessary.
4. To be responsible for the efficient service and discipline of the Tribal Police Officers and other persons under his/her supervision.
5. To thoroughly investigate all complaints filed by any person against any personnel under his/her supervision including a written report of each complaint and the investigative action including officer findings shall be reported to the Winnebago Public Safety Commission.
6. To coordinate investigative functions with state, county, or other applicable law enforcement officers and officials, special officers and other federal officials whenever appropriate in promoting law enforcement on the Reservation.
7. To develop and maintain the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Manual.
8. To follow the responsibilities and duties outlined in the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Manual, and
9. To perform other law enforcement duties and activities as the Winnebago Public Safety Commission shall direct.

3-1409 Tribal Police Officers. The Chief of Police shall hire Tribal Police Officers who shall abide by duties set forth herein and as provided in the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Manual. The duties of a Tribal Police Officer shall include but are not limited to the following:

1. Promptly follow directives of the Chief of Police or the ranking officer;
2. Lend assistance to other officers;
3. Abstain from the use of narcotics or the excessive use of alcohol and refrain from engaging in any act which would reflect discredit on the Tribe or the Tribal Police;
4. Refrain from the use of profane, vulgar, insolent, or offensive language;
5. Keep all equipment furnished by the Tribe in good repair and order and to immediately report the loss of any or all of such property;
6. Prevent a violation of applicable law;
7. Investigate and report on all violations of applicable law;

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July 2025

# COMMUNITY

...Con't. from previous pg...

WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE  
TITLE 3, ARTICLE 14

8. Wear a prescribed uniform, badge and to carry prescribed credentials;
9. Perform any other law enforcement related duties;
10. Complete all basic, annual, and mandatory training requirements.
11. Be diligently informed of and keeping current on all applicable laws and regulations; and
12. Diligently and faithfully serve and protect the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

**3-1410 Powers of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department.**

1. The Chief of Police of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department, acting in accordance with the Department's Law Enforcement Policy Manual, may charge employees of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department with law enforcement responsibilities and may authorize those Tribal Police Officers to:
  - a. Carry firearms;
  - b. Execute or serve warrants, summonses, or other orders issued under the laws of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, the United States of America, or, if applicable, the State of Nebraska or a County thereof;
  - c. Offer and pay a reward for services or information, including assisting in the detection or investigation of an offense committed on the Winnebago Reservation or in the arrest of an offender;
  - d. Make inquiries of any person, and administer to, or take from, any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit, concerning any matter relevant to the enforcement or carrying out of a law of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, or applicable Federal or State law, or that has authorized the employee to enforce or carry out such laws;
  - e. When requested or authorized, to assist any Tribal, Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies in the enforcement or carrying out of applicable laws or regulations.
2. Detention and Arrest
  - a. A Tribal Police Officer possesses the authority to search and temporarily detain any person located within the Winnebago Reservation, that the Tribal Officer reasonably believes may commit or has committed a violation of Tribal law, or of applicable Federal or State law, so that the suspect may be promptly turned over to the proper authorities.
  - b. In accordance with the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Policy Manual and any Memorandum of Understanding, Joint Powers Agreement, Cross-Deputation Agreement, or Commission, and applicable Tribal, Federal, and State laws, Tribal Police Officers may:
    - a. initiate a detention of a person when there is an articulable, reasonable suspicion of a need to do so, and in accordance with the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Policy Manual. A person, however, should not be detained longer than is reasonably necessary to resolve the Tribal Police Officer's suspicions;

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July 2025

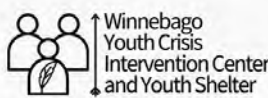
WINNEBAGO TRIBAL CODE  
TITLE 3, ARTICLE 14

- b. detain a suspect until the appropriate agency can assume custody of the individual or if another agency cannot respond to the Tribal Police Officer's location and the Tribal Police Officer may secure the suspect and complete any investigation before transporting the suspect to the appropriate agency;
  - c. if weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the Tribal Police Officer prohibits immediate transportation of the suspect, the Officer may detain the suspect in a Tribal detention facility, once established, but only after the other agency has been notified and only until it is safe for the other agency to retrieve the suspect or transport the suspect to the other agency;
  - d. temporarily detain, convey to headquarters, and cite and release those individuals that Tribal Police Officers reasonably believe have violated any provisions of Tribal law or Winnebago Tribal Court orders, or applicable Federal or State law, of which enforcement by the Department is permitted under the Winnebago Tribal Code.
- c. Certain Tribal Police Officers may carry out an arrest or detention as authorized by and pursuant to a Deputization Agreement with the United States, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, or agreement other agreement with another law enforcement agency.

**3-1411 Cross-Deputization and Other Agreements.** Certain authority may be granted to a Tribal Police Officer by and through a valid deputization agreement, or other agreement, entered into between the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and any other law enforcement agency, including but not limited to state or local agencies, or federal agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs who may issue Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLECs) to certain officers.

**3-1412 Conflicts of Interest.** No officer or employee of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department shall permit any member of his or her immediate family to interfere in any way with the performance of official duties nor shall the officer discuss or make available to his or her family or any other person any information that was obtained by his or official position that is not otherwise public record. This Section is in no way meant to prevent the officers or employees from releasing of such information to other law enforcement officers, courts, or other authorized persons. Failure to comply with this section shall be grounds for dismissal.

**3-1413 Severability.** If any provision of this Article or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Article to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of the provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this end the provisions of this Article are severable.



# SMUDGE 101

Join us for a welcoming learning experience - exploring the practice and meaning of smudging.

01.26.2026 | 3:30 pm | YCIC Basement



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OUR MISSION: "BE STRONG AND EDUCATE MY CHILDREN"

## 2026 EXTENSION PROGRAMMING CALENDAR



- JAN. 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Family Living Series #1 - Is it the Blahs or is it Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)?
- JAN. 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-7:00 PM | Emergency Preparation Series #1 - Cold Weather Emergency Preparation
- JAN. 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #1 - Choosing Seeds for Your Garden: Navigating Seed Catalogs
- JAN. 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Family Living Series #2 - Why Reading to Your Child Is Crucial
- FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Family Living Series #3 - Making Nutritious Food on a Limited Budget
- FEB. 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #2 - The Benefits and Cultivation of Houseplants
- MAR. 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #3 - Starting Garden Plants Indoors



For more info:

Marjorie Nussbaum  
Extension & Equity Coordinator  
402-878-2380 ext. 190



REGISTER TODAY!

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## 2026 EXTENSION PROGRAMMING CALENDAR



- APR. 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #4 - Planting Frost Tolerant Plants and Seeds
- MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Family Living Series #4 - Kids in the Garden: Ideas for Involving Your Children in Family Food Production
- MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #5 - Getting Down to the Business of Warm Weather Gardening
- MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #6 - Meeting the Challenge of Insects and Weeds in Your Garden
- JUN. 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00 - 7:00 PM | Food Preservation Series #1 - Canning
- JUN. 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00 - 7:00 PM | Emergency Preparation Series #2 - Warm Weather Emergency Preparation
- JUL. 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Food Preservation Series #2-Freezing



For more info:

Marjorie Nussbaum  
Extension & Equity Coordinator  
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## 2026 EXTENSION PROGRAMMING CALENDAR



- AUG. 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Food Preservation Series #3 - Dehydrating and Root Cellaring
- SEPT. 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #7 - The Why and How of Seed Saving
- SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #8 - The Why and How of Composting
- OCT. 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | Gardening Series #9 - Putting Your Gardens to Bed for the Winter
- NOV. 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
5:00-6:30 PM | The Basics of Small Business Start-up and Management



For more info:

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