



Throw back pics of Last Bear Moon powwow

Higher Education Spotlight!

page: 7

page: 5

Volume 55, Number 4

**Hūc wī hiroāgnī na**  
Last Bear Moon

Saturday, February 28, 2026



In Honor of Neola Walker

For this issue of the WIN our masthead features the icon representing the Fish Clan / Ho Hikikarac. The Fish Clan holds many functions within our tribe. Of those they held responsibility for our engineering, commerce, and the environment. Fish Clan members are Friendship clan to the Snake Clan. The Fish Clan is one of the eight Earth clans. In ancient times, the Fish Clan may have held a special significance, given the name of our people is a compound word beginning with Ho, reflected in the name Hōcāk. Families belonging to the Fish Clan include: Big Head, Blackfish, Fischer, Houghton, and Sharpback. Our gratitude to the HoChunk Renaissance Department for their assistance in providing this information.

**DOXEY DOES IT AGAIN:  
B2B STATE WRESTLING CHAMP**



By Bethani Redhorn  
Photography by Tyler Last, Antonyo Johnson, & Shot by Cheline

[Winnebago, NE] Jared Doxey does it again! He becomes the first back-to-back Nebraska School Athletics Association State Wrestling Champion and the first multiple-time state champion amongst all sports, team or individual, in Winnebago Indians history. Doxey defended his title in the Class-C heavyweight division at the CHI Health Center in Omaha, NE from February 19-21, 2026, in the NSAA Boys State Wrestling Championship Tournament.

Jared is the son of Angel Terese Figueroa and Jared Doxey Sr. His Ho-Chunk name is Hac Maci Ga, meaning Lives by the Village. He is currently in his Senior year at Winnebago Public School and began wrestling on the youth wrestling team, Company A Scouts, in the fourth grade. Following a

few years off, Jared rejoined wrestling in the eighth grade, fell back in love with the sport, and has consecutively wrestled since.

There is a lot of blood, sweat, and tears that go into the sport of wrestling. Doxey talked about several factors that are considered in wrestling, whether you are battling, cutting weight, trying to stay in top shape, or winning matches; pressure is at an all-time high building up to the state tournament. Three words helped Doxey lock in this season which is purpose, goal, and focus. "You need to have a purpose, not only in the room, but in your everyday life. You need to have a purpose of what you want to be, your goal, your purpose to get that goal," shared Doxey. Mending a dislocated thumb and a knee injury a week out of districts, Doxey showed resilience through adversity.

Earning his first state gold medal in 2025, Doxey shared that Coach Adam

Tranmer reminded him of the target he had on his back coming into this season and that everyone would try to wrestle their best against him. In the first wrestling tournament for the season, a tone was set. From there, Doxey dominated through the season with his eyes on the goal of becoming this year's back-to-back state champion. At the State Wrestling Championship Tournament, Doxey won all four matches, two tech falls and two pins. A tech fall occurs when there is a 15-point lead against the opponent. Closing his record-breaking season out with an undefeated 55-0 record and a back-to-back state champion!

\*Editor's Note: Congratulations on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe's Communications department, Jared! We are so proud of you! Thank you for sitting down with the WIN for an interview to talk about your senior year season and the events leading up to state. Have fun on your campus tours!

**Nī šoc Nīgešana**

By: Tyler Snake



The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's HR department has recognized Elaine Rice as January 2026's Employee of the Month. Elaine's work for WTN and HoChunk Renaissance has shown outstanding performance and consistently exceeded expectations. Congratulations!



On February 25<sup>th</sup>, the WTN EPD department attended the Environmental Advocacy Day at the Iowa State Capitol. The Iowa Environmental Council curated this event to promote awareness and educate. Environmental groups were brought together to highlight and advocate for policies that protect our natural resources.



Ho Chunk Renaissance met with our Elders and were able to listen to their stories, memories and wisdom. Their teachings and shared history continue to guide us and remind us of the importance of listening and carrying our knowledge forward to the community. Renaissance has also finished their Princess Etiquette Classes; participants learned how to formally introduce themselves, their clan, age and family members.

**Building Digital Sovereignty: Fiber-to-Home Project**

By Bethani Redhorn  
Photography from Archive

[Winnebago, NE] Building digital sovereignty in Winnebago as construction for the fiber-to-home project with Jajap Telecommunications is now underway! This project is a historic moment for our community, bringing high-speed fiber internet to homes and businesses in the Winnebago community as well as surrounding areas such as Homer, Emerson, Thurston, and Wakefield. Jajap Telecommunications is owned and operated by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

Currently in phase two, a service line agreement (SLA) for homeowners is required and allows crews to install a fiber

connection box at your home or business for FREE! There is no charge included for the installation, and it should be noted that only the homeowner or property owner can sign and submit the SLA. Any renters that are interested will need to request landlords to complete the agreement. Completing the agreement will allow for fiber installation but does not include sign-up for services as that will be included in phase three.

It's important for homeowners, property owners, and landlords to complete the SLA as it allows for fiber box installation ahead of construction, it speeds up the connection process once service is available, helps the IT department map completed addresses, prepare for installation, and

ensures homes and businesses are ready on day one of service. Additional benefits of having high-speed fiber internet include clear video calls with family and friends, telehealth appointments with doctors outside of the area, online learning for students without buffering, and increasing property values by having fiber available.

The service line agreement form is available online on the Winnebago Broadband website and paper copies are available for those without internet access. Questions can be directed to Brandon Stout, Winnebago Tribe's IT Department Director, by calling (402)878-2272, or email [brandon.stout@winnebagotribe.com](mailto:brandon.stout@winnebagotribe.com). For more information, visit the website: [www.winnebagobroadband.com](http://www.winnebagobroadband.com)

**"Aikiruti hinaži hi'ųkwawi – Help Support Each Other"**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Nāžī ņe.**  
(nah-zhee-nay)  
**Stand up.**

**Tē rus re.**  
(day-roos-ray)  
**Take this.**

**Nįge hot'ųna re**  
(knee-geh-hoh-t-oo-nah-ray)  
**Throw it away.**

HoChunk Renaissance  
Language Preservation Program

WINNEBAGO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# SCAN HERE

## TO COMPLETE APPLICATION

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

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE CALL OR VISIT

**402-257-5586**  
<https://portal.laserfiche.com/d2162/forms/WTNHSAA>

NEW FACES IN WTN PLACES!

Welcome to our newest  
Winnebago Tribal Employees!

**Raegan Chavez**  
Tribal Deputy  
Prosecutor

**Nevaeh Moniz-Morris**  
Corrections Officer

**Taryn Thomas**  
Carpenter Assistant

**Sherriel Slowman**  
Ho-Chunk Renaissance  
Project Manager

**Maxine Rice**  
Child & Family Services  
Trainee

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTS:

Women's  
Talking  
Circle

A Weekly Event  
Where Everyone  
Has a Voice.

Every Last Thursday  
-We will go to  
Souix City to  
Celebrate Recovery.

Need a Ride? Call  
(402)-922-0055

Where:

104 East Waddell St  
Winnebago, NE  
BLUE TRAILER

When:

Every  
Thursday @  
5:15PM-7 pm

MEETINGS TO FOLLOW EVERY THURSDAY AT THE SAME TIME & PLACE WEEKLY.  
QUESTIONS? Call: 402-257-5586

# Xāwico

# Wāgax hūk ra wāgax hokik'una

## Letter to the Editor

### NOTICE – HELP WANTED

#### Thurston County Clerk's Office is seeking applications for a full-time office clerk.

Please contact the clerk's office at 402-385-2343 for more information or for an application.

### POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Applications may be found on Thurston County website- [www.thurstoncountyne.gov](http://www.thurstoncountyne.gov) under services tab. Or in Clerk's Office. Choose non-driver application.

*Equal Opportunity Employer, preference to Veterans.*

### JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH



by: Pastor Ricky Jacob

#### 'The Righteous judgment of God'

Christians are reflecting on the passion of Jesus during this season of Lent. So, what is Lent? 'In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation through fasting for new believers who were baptized at Easter. Today, it has become a shared season on the Christian calendar of repentance and discipline in preparation for Easter as Christians focus their hearts on Jesus's sacrifice and await the celebration of His resurrection' [taken from The Pour Over].

At Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Church we have been studying the first few chapters of Paul's inspired letter to the saints, the believers in Christ Jesus, at Rome. Paul points out that one is not in a position to judge others.

However, it is quite easy for you to be critical of others. One is quick to see the error of others - while overlooking the error of one's own ways. Often we become judgmental. Even when one tries not to do so. This is not the way one should be.

Paul wrote: 'Therefore you are without a defense, yes, you, every person who judges. For in whatever you are judging the other person, you are condemning yourself, because you, the one who judges, are practicing the same things. And we understand that the judgment of God upon the ones who practice things like these is in accordance with truth' [Romans 2:1-2 Middendorf].

The person who judges is making two fatal mistakes - according to Michael Middendorf whose translation from the Greek I am using. First, 'you' are taking it into your own hands to judge those guilty of practicing things like these when it is properly 'the judgment of God'. The 'things like these' were writ-

ten down in the opening chapter.

Paul wrote: '[the foolish unbelievers and at times Christians as well] become filled up with every unrighteousness, wickedness, greediness, [and] evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, [and] meanness; [they are] gossipers, slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, puffed up, boastful, [and] inventors of evil; [they are] disobedient to parents, lacking common sense, disloyal, without affection, and merciless' [Romans 1:29-31 Middendorf].

'God (and God alone) is the One who justly executes judgment; it is not up to "you." Middendorf's second point: 'You' fail to perceive that you are similarly condemned because you are doing some of same things. As a result, Paul begins with the charge that any such person is also defenseless.

God, through these condemning words, is actually being kind to you. By speaking the truth of one's sinful existence God is demonstrating His kindness that, I pray, is leading you to repentance. Repentance, the turning back to God and owning one's sins, is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing one to seek God's mercy. This leads one to God's gracious invitation to place one's faith and hope, not in oneself, but rather in the righteousness of God and his saving work found in Jesus Christ! A Christian is a believer in Christ Jesus.

I close with these words from Sacred Scripture: '[N]ow, apart from the Law, a righteousness of God has been revealed and is now out in the open, while being testified to by the Law and the Prophets, that is, a righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ into all those who believe' [Romans 3:21-22a Middendorf].

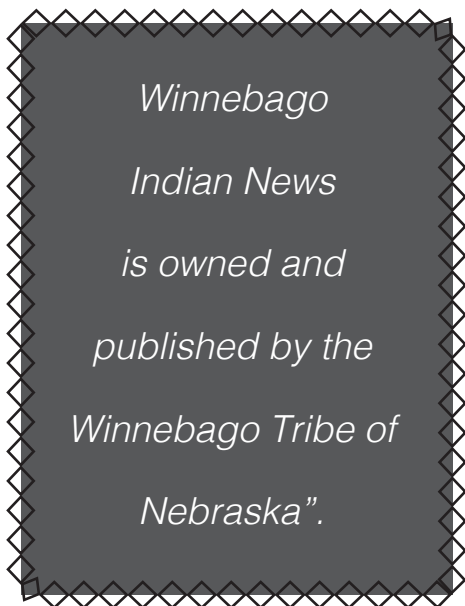
### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. CV26-068

In the Matter of the Custody Petition of:  
**Kateri Payer**  
vs.  
**Christopher Morris Sr.**

To: **CHRISTOPHER MORRIS SR.**

You are hereby notified that a Custody petition has been filed and a hearing concerning the above referred Individual(s) in case no. **CV26-068** has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of **APRIL, 2026** at the hour of **11:30 A.M.**



### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. CV26-076

In the Matter of the Guardianship Petition of:  
**LAURA BUCHANAN**  
In Re:  
**A.B. (Born 3/2022)**

**SHAI WEBSTER, Mother**  
**LAWRENCE BUCHANAN, Father**

**TO: SHAI WEBSTER, Mother**  
**LAWRENCE BUCHANAN, 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. **CV26-076** has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of **March, 2026** at the hour of **10:30 A.M.**

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. CV26-075

In the Matter of the Guardianship Petition of:  
**Rheanna & Lamuel Freemont**  
In Re:  
**C.R. (Born 05/2016)**  
**C.R. (Born 12/2017)**  
**A.R. (Born 11/2019)**

**DANICIA FREEMONT, Mother**  
**XAVIER RAVE, Father**

**TO: DANICIA FREEMONT, Mother**  
**XAVIER RAVE, 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. **CV26-075** has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of **March, 2026** at the hour of **11:00 A.M.**

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. CV26-021

In the Matter of the Name Change Petition of:  
**LATRICA LUCERO to LATRICIA BLACKHAWK**

To: **ANY INTERESTED PARTIES**

You are hereby notified that a petition for Name Change has been filed and a hearing concerning the above-referred Individual in case no. **CV26-021** has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of **FEBRUARY, 2026**, at the hour of **11:30 A.M.**

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing  
Case No. JFJ26-012  
The People of the Winnebago Tribe  
In the Interest of:  
**E.E.S. (Born 09/2012)**

To: **DELRAE MEDICINE HORSE, Mother**  
**GEORGE ELKSHOULDER, FATHER**

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. **JFJ26-012** has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of **FEBRUARY, 2026** at the hour of **11:30 A.M.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA  
Hókak Njōoc Hacı

**160th Annual HOMECOMING CELEBRATION**

COMMEMORATING THE RETURN OF CHIEF LITTLE PRIEST & THE "COMPANY A" SCOUTS

**July 23-26, 2026**

WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA • VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on February 28, 2026. DEADLINE for this issue will be February 24, 2026.



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

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

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

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

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

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

**"Official Newspaper of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska"**  
**Yearly Subscription Rates**  
Nebraska Residents .....\$25.00  
Out-Of-State .....\$35.00  
Overseas .....\$50.00

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

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

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

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

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



# TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA MID-MONTHLY MEETING January 19, 2026

### TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Isaac Smith  
Rona Stealer  
Victoria Kitcheyan  
Ireta Frazier  
Eugene DeCora  
Lorelei DeCora

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Ebert  
Aric Armell  
Anna Berridge  
Kiana Lewis  
Larry Payer  
Kellie Snow  
Aaron LaPointe  
Terri Lee Medina  
Keri LaPointe  
Greg Walker  
Daryl LaPointe, Jr.  
Scott Medina, Olsson  
Tylen Bear  
Jennie Kozal, Olsson  
Anthony Bassette  
Velma Alaniz  
Gordon Rave  
Cherie Tebo  
Sarah Snake  
Keely Purscell  
Desirae Kitcheyan  
Barbara Pretends Eagle  
Willy Bass  
Alfred Lopez  
Kellen Kelsey  
Brittany Thomas  
Danelle Smith  
Kristine Earth  
Fran Sharpback  
Tiffany Buchanan  
Kenny LaPointe  
Darla LaPointe  
Dorine Payer

### TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:

Coly Brown (PTO)  
Teresa Littlegeorge (Bereavement leave)  
Trey Blackhawk (Travel)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman Smith called to order at 5:08 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Kellen Kelsey offered the opening prayer.

### APPROVE AGENDA:

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the agenda with additions. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

### READING OF THE MINUTES:

January 5, 2026, Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the January 5, 2026, Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

January 6, 2026, Treasurer's Report meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the January 6, 2026, Treasurer's Report meeting minutes. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

January 12, 2026, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the January 12, 2026, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

January 14, 2026, CEO Report meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the January 14, 2026, CEO Report meeting minutes.

Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

### NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Dept. Resolution  
FY 2026 Winnebago Water Resources Performance Partnership Grant – Clean Water Act Section 106 (Water Quality) and Clean Water Act Section 319 (Nonpoint Source Water Pollution)

Ireta Frazier motioned to adopt resolution #26-70: FY 2026 Winnebago Water Resources Performance Partnership Grant – Clean Water Section 106 (Water Quality) and Clean Water Act Section 319 (Nonpoint Source Water Pollution). Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

### OLD BUSINESS:

TAP Resolution  
Lorelei DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-71: Authorizing the Establish-

ment of a Tribal Coordinating Committee to Develop and Implement a Tribal Action Plan for a Comprehensive Prevention and Treatment Program for Alcoholism and Other Substance Abuse. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

EAPC, Justice Center update  
Update only with presentation.

**BREAK:** 6:03 p.m. (lost zoom audio), reconvene at 6:07 p.m.

### TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

Resolution  
Lorelei DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-72: A Resolution of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska in Support of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Other Tribal Nations and Opposing Immigration and Customs Enforcement Practices that Violate Tribal Sovereignty, Civil Rights, and Treaty Obligations. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

### ADJOURN:

Eugene DeCora motioned to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary  
Winnebago Tribal Council  
CONCUR:  
Ireta Frazier, Recording Secretary/  
Council member  
Winnebago Tribal Council*

## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA GENERAL COUNSEL MEETING January 21, 2026

### TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown  
Teresa Littlegeorge  
Ireta Frazier  
Lorelei DeCora  
Victoria Kitcheyan  
Rona Stealer (in at 9:30 a.m.)  
Isaac Smith (in at 10:32 a.m.)  
**OTHERS PRESENT:**  
Danelle Smith  
Darla LaPointe  
Burke Harr  
Terri Lee Medina  
Sarah Herring  
Kiana Lewis  
Jennifer Berridge  
Brandon Stout  
Joy Johnson  
Ramona Sheridan  
Maggie Miller  
Tyler Smith  
Brittany Thomas  
Kevin Ebert  
Karen Bass  
Anna Berridge  
Cecelia Earth  
Tyresha Romero  
Jewel Parker  
James Price, Sr.  
Bethani Redhorn  
Kellie Snow  
Chad Smith  
Brian Chamberlain  
Tiffany Buchanan  
Anna Bess Preston  
Kirstin Lowry  
Billie Kitcheyan  
Jeremiah Lonewolf  
Nilah Soloman  
John "JR" Burge  
Antionette Kyriess  
Olivia Steve, Regional Office  
Jason Searle, NARF  
Beth Wright, NARF  
Todd Morman  
**TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:**  
Eugene DeCora (PTO)  
Trey Blackhawk (travel)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Brown called to order at 9:15 a.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Kevin Ebert offered the opening prayer.

### APPROVE AGENDA:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the agenda. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

**STATE ADVOCACY:** Presented by Burke Harr.

Update on the Legislative Luncheon event.

[Rona in at 9:30 a.m.]

### ACTION ITEMS:

Boys & Girls Club NMTC Project – Novogradac Agreement

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve the Novogradac Agreement as presented. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

Winnebago Tribal Police Department Animal Control Policy

Lorelei Decora motioned to approve the Winnebago Tribal Police Department Animal Control Policy. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

[Isaac in at 10:32 a.m.]

Wildlife & Parks Code Revision

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adopt resolution #26-73: Amendments to the Winnebago Tribal Code Title 8, Article 1, Wildlife and Parks Code. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

### WINNEBAGO LAND TRANSFER

ACT IMPLEMENTATION: Updates.

Hunting Season – update for the Iowa side of the river.

Working with the Casino and Security regarding the sales of Hunting Licenses, safety and patrol.

Looking into a boat for patrolling.

WL&P will be hosting training at WinnaVegas.

[Teresa out at 10:50 a.m., in at 10 55 a.m.]

### BROADBAND FIBER PROJECT:

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve an exception to Bauer Underground contractors insurance/bonding requirements for its Professional/Pollution insurance policy coverage for the Winnebago Tribe Fiber Broadband Project, such that the internal laws of the State of Nebraska shall apply, without giving effect to any conflicts or choice of law principles, to any dispute concerning or relating to this policy, including its formation, coverage, or the meaning, interpretation or operation of any term, condition, definition, enforcement, or provision of such policy resulting in litigation, arbitration or other form of dispute resolution. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

**BREAK:** 11:15 a.m., reconvene 11:29 a.m.

### THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Update regarding draft support letter to present to the Thurston County Board of Supervisors to approve regarding County Road D. Avenue.

### FEDERAL ADVOCACY:

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES  
Minibus Appropriations Bill  
ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES  
Administration for Children & Families Comments

ACF's framing questions and re-

sponses

ICWA, Title IV-B funding  
Guidance requiring consistent remote access for Tribes in ICWA cases  
HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee Nomination

Tribal Council nomination letter submitted for Victoria Kitcheyan  
SAMHSA Cancellation the restoration of Tribal Grant

Chairman Brown recommended sending a Thank you letter for rescinding the termination of the grant.

IHS Tribal Consultation on Agency Realignment

TRIBAL CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS – SECRETARIAL ELECTION:

Survey will be conducted until the end of January.

**BREAK:** 12:35 p.m., reconvene at 1:11 p.m.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT:

[Isaac and Rona out]

BIA REGIONAL DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION: Olivia Steve, Regional Director.

Officer J.R. Burge – finalization of transfer of BIA property from the Winnebago Tribal Police Department.

### EXECUIVE SESSION:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to enter Executive Session at 1:44 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to exit Executive Session at 2:57 p.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

### WINNEBAGO HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Thunder way updates  
HAVW transfer of property to WHDC.

Eugene DeCora was named to the TIAC Committee

ICE GUIDANCE: Legal will work on a statement from the Chairman.

Lorelei DeCora motioned to direct legal counsel to start the Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras project. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

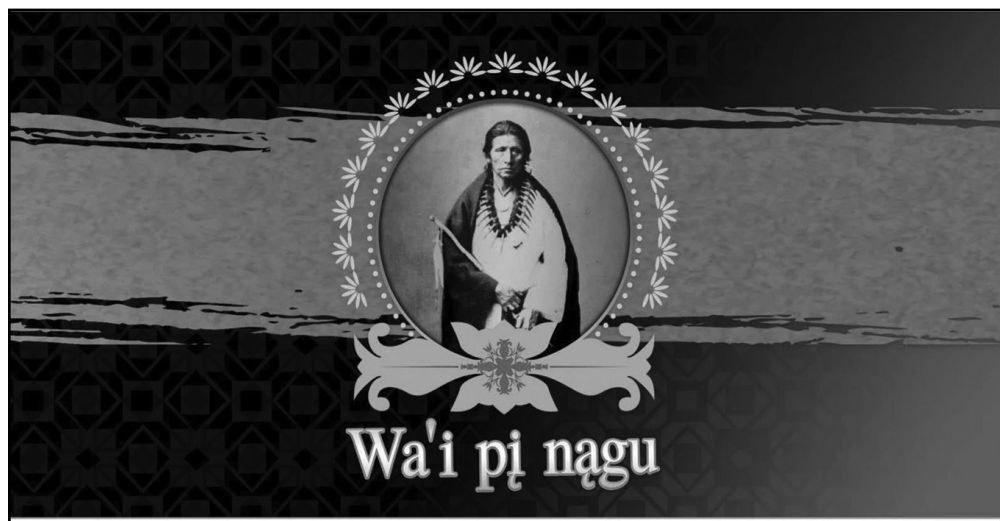
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain  
Motion carried.

### ADJOURN:

Ireta Frazier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:31 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

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



### Class registration starts March 4, 2026!

**Stop in at the Whirling Thunder Wellness Center to get registered for Diabetes Self-Management classes**

When: Monday – Friday from 9am to 12 noon starting March 4, 2026

Please plan for a 30-minute visit to complete a baseline assessment, learn details about class, set goals and prepare for the best learning experience

**If you are interested, stop at the front desk and ask for Kerri**

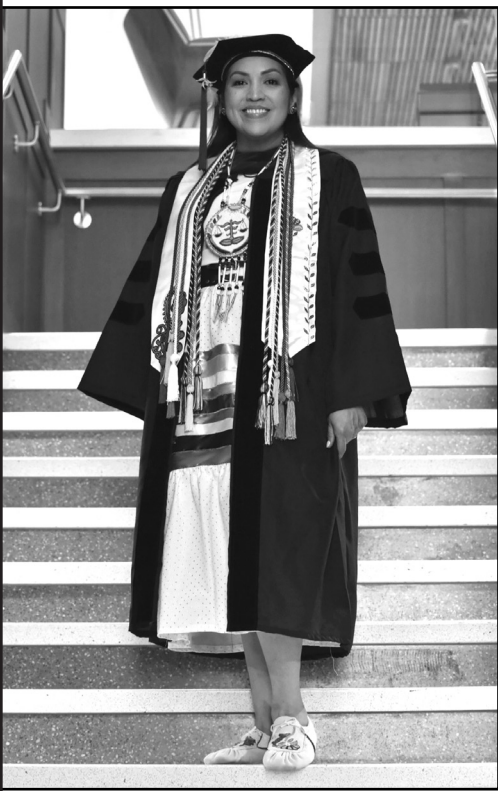
**\*If you have questions or need transportation, call 712-253-3411**



COMMUNITY

**Winnebago Tribe Higher Education Spotlight**

**Nickolasa (“Nikki”) Jackson**



titions, including the recent publication of her article, Native History Is United States History: How United States History Censorship Leads to Passive Acceptance of Racial Discrimination and Furthers the Decline of Tribal Sovereignty, in the American Indian Law Journal at Seattle University School of Law. She also earned fourth place for Best Written Advocate at the 2025 NALSA National Moot Court Competition among more than sixty teams nationwide.

Jackson participated in the Washburn Law Clinic and received the Zac Bealer Memorial Award, a public service scholarship. She was also the recipient of several scholarships from the Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law.

Jackson passed the Kansas bar exam with a score qualifying her for admission in any UBE jurisdiction.

Throughout law school, she balanced her academic and professional commitments while raising her family, including two children at home. She is from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation, enrolled with the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and is the daughter of the late Sandra K. Mitchell and Larry Fairman. She is also the granddaughter of the late Melvin Twin, a Winnebago Tribal member and one of eight Meskwaki Code Talkers who received the Congressional Silver Medal for their military service. Jackson is deeply grateful to the Winnebago Tribe and its various departments for supporting her throughout her challenging yet rewarding educational journey.

Following her clerkship, she plans to focus her practice on tribal law. #Rezgirls-candoanything

**Terri Lee Medina**

My name is Terri Lee Medina, and my Hocak name is Masu Ska Wiga, White Quill Feather. I’m Wakaja Hik’ikarac (Thunder). I am dedicated to education, leadership, and serving my community. I’m a single mother of three children, my parents are Terry and Pat Medina (Smith); my maternal grandparents are Waukon and Emily Smith; my great-grandparents are George and Maggie Smith, and John and Lucy Lowry.

I earned my Associate of Science in Business from Little Priest Tribal College in May 2022. I then completed my Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, with a minor in Business Administration, from Wayne State College in December 2023. Most recently, I earned my Master of Business Administration from Wayne State College in December 2025.

I am currently pursuing a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Interdisciplinary Leadership at Creighton University and expect to graduate in December 2028. I am also a participant in Native Nation Rebuilders through the Native Governance Center; a two-year leadership program focused on developing change-makers in tribal communities.

Professionally, I serve as the Community Programs Manager for the Community Impact and Engagement team at HoChunk, Inc., where I will celebrate seven years in April. I oversee eight youth development and education programs, including internships, apprenticeships, scholarships, career and academic development initiatives, the Career Closet for



program participants, and the oversight of Community Chat over Coffees. My work centers on mentorship, leading by example, and helping tribal members access educational and career pathway opportunities.

In addition to my professional role, I serve my community as Chairwoman of the Winnebago Tribal Housing Committee and Vice-Chairwoman of the Winnebago Tribal Enrollment Committee. I am also a member of the Winnebago National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Winnebago Tribal Election Board, the Winnebago Homecoming Celebration Committee, and the Winnebago Water Resource Committee.

**WCHS Hosts Heart Healthy Lunch & Learn**



Winnebago, NE – Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System (WCHS) recently hosted a successful Heart Healthy Lunch & Learn Event at Whirling Thunder Wellness Center. Community members gathered for an afternoon centered on education, prevention, and strengthening heart health in Winnebago, NE.

Heart disease continues to disproportionately affect Native American communities and remains the leading cause of death among Native people nationwide. The Higher rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and smoking commercial tobacco that are seen in WCHS patients all contribute to increased cardiovascular risk. Heart disease develops at younger ages in many Native communities, including Winnebago. This makes early education, prevention efforts, and routine screenings critical. By increasing awareness, WCHS’s Public Health Nursing team supports and empowers their relatives and patients to take meaningful steps towards heart health.

Guests enjoyed informational booths,

a nutritious meal prepared by Mary Kelsey during a lunch & learn presentation led by guest speaker Ashleen Blackbird, DNP, NP. Dr. Blackbird shared guidance on recognizing risk factors, understanding personal health numbers, and making realistic lifestyle changes to support long-term cardiovascular wellness.

“It was truly encouraging to see so many community members come together to learn about heart health,” said Carla Olsen-Griffin, Public Health Nursing Director. “Heart disease continues to affect our people at high rates, but when we understand our risk factors and take small, consistent steps toward healthier habits, we can make a lasting impact for ourselves and our families.”

The event emphasized the importance of routine screenings, healthy nutrition, physical activity, and community support in reducing heart disease risk. Opportunities like this reflect WCHS’s continued commitment to promoting education, prevention, and accessible healthcare resources for the community.

**Mājanahā waš’u naje?**

(maw-ja-nah-hah-wah-sh-oo-nah-jay)  
How old are you?



**Mā [age] wā’uaje na.**

(mah- [age] - wah-oo-ah-jay-nah)  
I am [age] years old.

HoChunk Renaissance  
Language Preservation Program

**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**
- **Math Faculty**
- **Project Manager**
- **Part-Time Maintenance 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**

**Hōcaḱ Wōšga**  
HoChunk Values

Rō hašjnĵ űa hirakikara wiāje.  
Take care of your health.



# HAKWE

## Question of the Issue:

**The Last Bear Moon (HoChunk spelling) is coming to a close, which signifies the changing seasons. What goals, professionally, and personally do you have for the upcoming season?**

**GARAN:** My goal is to get into powwow shape! Both professionally and personally.

**BRIAN:** As it was also the beginning of the Lunar New Year (Year of the Fire Horse), this is a good time to set new pathways forward. Professionally, learning never stops, so anything new that can be added is positive. Personally, staying the course and keeping those who love you close in my mind and heart feels like the good path to follow.

**KEVIN:** My professional goal is to make it to retirement and that ties into my personal goal of traveling and enjoying life.

**TYLER:** Hmm for powwows specifically- I'd like to learn more about using the manual mode. Jerry Mennenga, a skilled local photographer, is usually at Winnebago's events and never fails to show me new techniques and tips.

**BETHANI:** Professionally, I would like to take part in a creative writing workshop. I want to improve my writing skills and become a better writer. Personally, the list goes on and on, but I want to work on getting a home built for myself. I want my own home and my own space.

**CHRISTINA:** A lot coming up for me personally. My twins are growing up on me, no longer my tiny babies \*teary eyed\* they will be graduating this spring and venture off into their adult lives. Professionally, with technology always changing I feel like I need to take a minute from time to time to see what is changing around me and I rarely get a chance to do that. So with the new sesason I hope to catch some time to research those new abilities.

## Ho-Chunk, Inc. Hosts Leadership Siouxland at Little Priest Tribal College



Submitted by Kiana Lewis

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Ho-Chunk, Inc. and Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC) welcomed the 2025-26 Leadership Siouxland cohort at LPTC for an evening focused on economic development, leadership, and culture.

Leadership Siouxland is a regional program that develops emerging leaders by connecting participants with communities and organizations across the Siouxland area. The visit marked the first time the group gathered in Winnebago, giving attendees an opportunity to learn firsthand about the Winnebago Tribe's community-centered approach to growth.

Lance Morgan, Aaron LaPointe, and John Blackhawk presented on tribal economic development and the Winnebago Tribe's ongoing efforts to create long-term opportunities. The evening also included a campus tour of LPTC, a traditional meal, and a cultural presentation and singing by New Breed.

Ho-Chunk, Inc. employees Rachel Penn, Blade Smith, and Kiana Lewis are members of this year's Leadership Siouxland cohort, representing the Winnebago community while developing their leadership skills.

Hosting this cohort provided an opportunity to share our culture while highlighting the importance of developing the next generation of leaders for both the community and the region.

## Understanding Our Waters: Monitoring and Stewardship in Our Community

Clean water is something many of us rely on every day — for drinking, farming, fishing, recreation, and cultural traditions. Protecting that water requires consistent monitoring, thoughtful planning, and long-term commitment.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Environmental Protection Department's Water Resources Program works each year to monitor and assess water quality across Tribal lands. The information collected helps guide protection efforts, inform planning decisions, and support long-term stewardship of our local waters. Because water flows beyond jurisdictional boundaries, this work benefits both Tribal members and neighboring communities.

### What We Do:

From April through October, our team conducts routine water quality monitoring at streams, ponds, and natural springs throughout the Reservation. These warmer months are when water flow, recreation, and biological activity are most active.

During sampling season, we test for several important indicators of water health, including:

- Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus
- Bacteria, including E. coli
- Dissolved oxygen, which fish and aquatic life depend on
- Temperature and pH
- Turbidity
- In certain locations, metals or other site-specific contaminants

Each of these measurements helps us understand the overall condition of our waters. For example, excessive nutrients can contribute to algae blooms that reduce oxygen levels. Low dissolved oxygen can stress fish populations. Elevated bacteria levels may affect recreational use.

By collecting data year after year, we are able to track trends, identify concerns early, and guide decisions that support protection and long-term water quality.

### Why Monitoring Matters:

Water monitoring is not just about collecting data. It helps protect public health, support wildlife habitat, and preserve natural and cultural resources.

Clean water supports:

- Healthy source waters that supply drinking water systems
  - Agriculture and livestock
  - Fishing and aquatic life
  - Outdoor recreation
  - Cultural and traditional uses
  - Flood and erosion control
- Consistent monitoring provides reliable information about the health

of our local waters. Public drinking water systems serving the community are monitored separately by the Village of Winnebago and the Tribe's Utilities Program.

### Understanding Watersheds:

A key part of our work involves watershed planning.

A watershed is the area of land where rainfall and snowmelt drain into a common creek, river, or pond. Everything that happens on the land — from land use practices to stormwater runoff — can influence water quality downstream.

The Tribe's Watershed-Based Plan was recently accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This plan provides a science-based framework for evaluating priority waterbodies and identifying practical steps to protect and strengthen water quality.

### A Watershed-Based Plan identifies:

- Likely sources of pollutants
- Areas where additional protection or improvement efforts may be beneficial
- Practices that reduce runoff and erosion
- Long-term strategies that support water quality

For our community, this means we now have a structured roadmap to guide future projects and continue supporting the overall health of our local waters.

### A Shared Responsibility:

Water does not stop at political boundaries. Improvements upstream benefit downstream neighbors. Reducing erosion and runoff strengthens water quality across the entire watershed.

The Water Resources Program works collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners to support the long-term health of our local waters. Protecting water is both a shared responsibility and an ongoing commitment.

Community members can help by maintaining septic systems, limiting fertilizer use near waterways, picking up pet waste, and reporting unusual algae blooms or fish kills.

The Winnebago Tribe's Water Resources Program remains committed to consistent monitoring and responsible stewardship to help protect our waters for current and future generations.

For more information about water monitoring or watershed projects, please contact the Winnebago Tribe Environmental Protection Department.

Submitted by:

Ase Overfelt  
Water Quality Specialist  
Office: 402-878-4060 ext. 2002  
920 N Mission Dr, Winnebago, NE 68071

[aseanna.overfelt@winnebagoTribe.com](mailto:aseanna.overfelt@winnebagoTribe.com)

## THE 2026 WINNEBAGO POWWOW COMMITTEE IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR

# CROWNS & SASHES

FOR THE 160TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

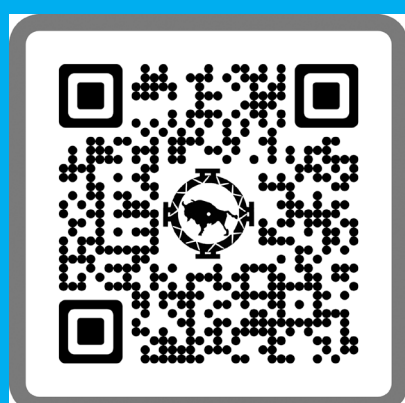
**MUST SEND PICTURES OF PREVIOUS BEAD WORK**  
[powwowcommittee@winnebagoTribe.com](mailto:powwowcommittee@winnebagoTribe.com)

**DEADLINE IS:**

**FRIDAY, JULY 10TH 2026**

**PLEASE EMAIL OR DROP OFF BIDS TO:**  
[powwowcommittee@winnebagoTribe.com](mailto:powwowcommittee@winnebagoTribe.com)

Any questions, contact: [powwowcommittee@winnebagoTribe.com](mailto:powwowcommittee@winnebagoTribe.com) or (402) 878-2272



**BIG VOICE RADIO**

**KWTN  
100.9 FM**

**Official Radio Station of the  
Winnebago Tribe of  
Nebraska**



# MOMENTS IN TIME: LAST BEAR MOON BLAST THROUGH THE PAST: LAST BEAR MOON

Last Bear Moon 2019: Photography by Garan Coons



Last Bear Moon 2024:  
Photography by Savannah Berlyn Photo & Design



Last Bear Moon 2020:  
Photography by Kayleen Blackhawk & Garan Coons



Last Bear Moon 2025: Photography by Keya Clairmont



Last Bear Moon 2023: Photography by Jordana Bass





LAST BEAR MOON



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

**WINNAVEGAS EVENT CENTER • SLOAN, IA**

**HEAD STAFF**

*Host Drums:*  
**(HO-CHUNK FAMILY DRUMS)**

- HAY-LUSH-KA • GREYWOLF •
- NEW BREED •

*Invited Drums*

- HO-CHUNK STATION, WI
- IRON BOY, MN
- MESKWAKI NATION, IA
- LEADING ARROW, OK
- IRON BOW, OK
- LITTLE SOLDIER, KS

*MC:* **SILAS CLEVELAND**  
WINNEBAGO, NE

*Arena Director:*  
**JOHN SNOWBALL**  
WINNEBAGO, NE

*Head Dance Judge:*  
**TARA HERNANDEZ**  
WINNEBAGO, NE

*Headman Dancer and  
Headlady Dancer*  
\*SELECTED PER SESSION

*Powwow Live Stream  
Correspondents*  
**GARAN COONS • BETHANI REDHORN**  
BIG VOICE RADIO 100.9 FM AND



*Dance Contest Information*

**\*\*\* 12:00 PM & 6:00 PM GRAND ENTRIES • POINTS START AT 12:00 PM  
SUPPER BREAK DINNER PROVIDED BY WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**INVITED DRUMS ONLY**

**MEN'S GOLDEN AGE (55 +)**

MEN'S TRADITIONAL • GRASS • FANCY

**WOMEN'S GOLDEN AGE (55 +)**

WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL • JINGLE • FANCY SHAWL

1<sup>ST</sup> \$600 • 2<sup>ND</sup> \$500 • 3<sup>RD</sup> \$400 • 4<sup>TH</sup> \$300 • 5<sup>TH</sup> \$200

**ADULT CATEGORIES (18-54)**

MEN'S TRADITIONAL • GRASS • FANCY • WOODLAND  
SOUTHERN STRAIGHT

WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL • SOUTHERN TRADITIONAL  
JINGLE • FANCY SHAWL • WOODLAND SCRUB

1<sup>ST</sup> \$600 • 2<sup>ND</sup> \$500 • 3<sup>RD</sup> \$400 • 4<sup>TH</sup> \$300 • 5<sup>TH</sup> \$200

**TEEN CATEGORIES (13-17)**

TEEN BOY'S TRADITIONAL • GRASS • FANCY • WOODLAND

TEEN GIRL'S TRADITIONAL • JINGLE

FANCY SHAWL • WOODLAND SCRUB

1<sup>ST</sup> \$200 • 2<sup>ND</sup> \$175 • 3<sup>RD</sup> \$150 • 4<sup>TH</sup> \$125 • 5<sup>TH</sup> \$100

**JUNIOR CATEGORIES (6-12)**

JR BOY'S TRADITIONAL • GRASS • FANCY • WOODLAND

JR GIRL'S TRADITIONAL • JINGLE

FANCY SHAWL • WOODLAND SCRUB

1<sup>ST</sup> \$150 • 2<sup>ND</sup> \$125 • 3<sup>RD</sup> \$100 • 4<sup>TH</sup> \$75 • 5<sup>TH</sup> \$50

**TINY TOTS (0-5) WILL RECEIVE DAY PAY**

DANCER REGISTRATION WILL OPEN AT 9:00 AM ON SATURDAY

**WINNEBAGOTRIBE.COM • WINNAVEGAS.COM**

*>> Spotlight Special <<*

**DRUM GROUPS • SING YOUR BEST  
HIGHLIGHTING OUR INVITED DRUMS**

**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE AFTER GRAND ENTRY  
\$2,000 PRIZE POOL**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**ADMISSION: FREE**

**ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS**

Contact Melanie Parker:  
mparker@hochunkinc.com  
No Raffles

**HOTEL:** Winnavegas Hotel - SOLD OUT

**HOTEL PARTNER:**

**Comfort Inn**  
4202 S Lakeport, Sioux City, IA 51106  
712-274-1300

\$99 plus tax (Feb. 20 cutoff date)

**CODE: Winnavegas Pow Wow**

**WV GOLF SIMULATOR TOURNEY**

**2 Person Golf Scramble • \$120 per team**

**20 Teams Max • Tee Time Schedule with**

Anthony Earth (712) 253-1059

Or Aaron LaPointe (402) 922-3721

No drugs or alcohol allowed in event center • Not liable  
for accidents and/or stolen property • No pets  
Winnavegas reserves right to change  
or modify this event

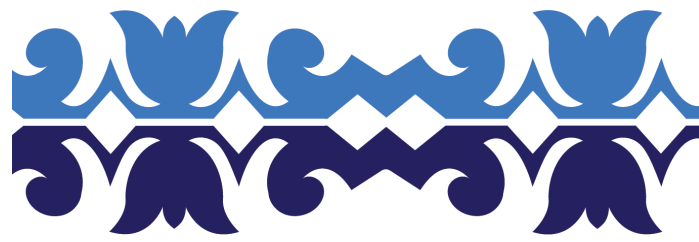


Tune In LIVE  
KWTN The Big Voice or  
Powwows.com





SUMMER INTERNSHIP



Cultivating the  
**next  
gen**

*Now Hiring Interns*  
**SUMMER 2026**

**Scan Code to Apply**  
[hochunkinc.com/intern](http://hochunkinc.com/intern)



**Now Hiring Interns**

**Applications Close:**  
March 6, 2026





**IT'S JUST  
MORE FUN**

# ON THE HOUSE

**WINN Mortgage  
Payments  
for a Year!**

## **Saturdays In March!**

**6pm to 10:45pm | Drawings Every 15 Minutes**

### **SATURDAYS, MARCH 7, 14 & 21**

**11pm | Three Lucky Winners will be drawn to  
WINN one month's mortgage\* payment.**

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH**

**11pm | One Lucky Winner will be drawn to  
WINN mortgage payments for a year!**

\*Mortgage payment paid as \$2,500 cash for the one month's prize and as \$30,000 cash for the year's prize.

Players can win up to two Promo Play prizes per promotion day. All players eligible for 11pm drawing.

# BILLY DEAN



**WinnaVegas Event Center  
Saturday, March 14  
SHOW STARTS 8PM**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
STARTING AT \$20**

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