



Winnebago Treaty of 1865!

page: 7



WTN gets new CFO!

page: 6

Volume 55, Number 6

Wake hikiruxe wi
Racoon Mating Moon

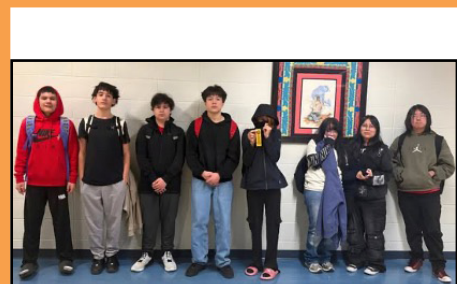
Saturday, March 28, 2026



In Honor of
Neola Walker

Nī šoc Nięšaņa

By: Tyler Snake



The 7th & 8th grade band students of WPS attended the WSC Middle School Music Festival. Solos, duets, and trios were performed for judges which earned 4 superior rankings and 4 excellent rankings. Results: Clarinet Trio: Liam BuffaloChief, Alaryse Merrick, and Ruby Hulit – Superior Rating 1. Clarinet Duet: Liam BuffaloChief, and Alaryse Merrick – Superior Rating 1. Trumpet Solo: Chevale White – Superior rating 1. Flute Solo: Khyrae Ebert – Superior Rating 1. Trumpet Solo: Kellin WhiteTwin – Excellent Rating 2. Saxophone Solo: Raden Lopez – Excellent Rating 2. Trumpet Duet: Chevale White, and Kellin WhiteTwin – Excellent Rating 2. Percussion Solo: Trayesen Jacobs – Excellent Rating 2.



Little Priest Tribal College announced that Laila Petite has been named the American Indian College Fund Student of the Year. Laila serves as the President of the Student Senate at LPTC while showing academic excellence and leadership on campus.



The BlackHawk Community Center has a Mothers Room located near the Tribal Offices. This was created in collaboration with the Winnebago Public Health Department to support mothers who are breastfeeding or pumping while away from home, at work, or while at meetings/events.

Winnebago Tribe Calls for Urgent Federal Action on Public Safety and Education



By Bethani RedhornPhotography from Archive: Washington, DC
[Winnebago, NE] On March 18, 2026, Winnebago Tribal Councilmember Eugene DeCora Sr. provided testimony before the United States House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to deliver a powerful message—federal funding must evolve to match the Tribe’s growing self-determination and unprecedented educational expansion. Councilman DeCora’s testimony emphasized that while the Tribe is taking charge of its own future, it cannot do so effectively without reliable federal partnerships. The testimony outlined urgent funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2027, focusing on a transition toward tribal self-determination and the expansion of educational opportunities. A cornerstone of the Tribe’s current strategy is the full transition of law enforcement from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Department, a move that was finalized on October 1, 2025, ending a long period of reliance on the BIA. While the Tribe successfully swore

in Chief of Police Jeremiah Lonewolf and expanded its force, Councilman DeCora detailed significant “operational burdens” caused by a federal shutdown that delayed FY2026 funding until January 2026, forcing the Tribe to cover 100% of the costs for four months. Due to limited BIA resources, local officers are often pulled away for five-hour round-trip transports to distant facilities, leaving the reservation under patrolled. Since the transition, tribal officers can now execute civil warrants, such as child support which were previously restricted under BIA policy. The Tribe plans to assume control of its own corrections program on July 1, 2026, to fill critical gaps in 24/7 coverage. The testimony also addressed a nationwide shortage of School Resource Officers (SROs), highlighting a critical gap in school safety. Historically, the Winnebago school system was served by a full-time SRO, but the position was recently left vacant. Currently, the BIA’s Office of Justice (OJS) funds only 63 SROs for all 574 federally recognized tribes. In response to this, the Winnebago Public School has taken steps to fund its

own SRO position to protect its students while the Tribe advocates for dedicated federal funding to ensure safe learning environments. Beyond public safety, the Tribe is celebrating a historic era at Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC), where enrollment has more than doubled over the last four years. To sustain this growth, the Tribe is seeking operational support with increased funding for a \$60 million Master Plan to build a new 10-acre campus expansion and supplement aging structures, some of which date back to 1947. The expansion will include a Wellness Center, a Dormitory, and a Career and Technical Education (CTE) building, which will house programs like the newly launched Carpentry track. Councilman DeCora, an LPTC alumnus himself, concluded his testimony by urging the Subcommittee to provide stable, sufficient resources that reflect the true needs of the Tribe. For the Winnebago community, these investments are not just line items, they are the foundation for a safer, more educated, and truly self-sufficient Nation.

Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Department Upgrades



By Bethani Redhorn
Photography by Bethani Redhorn & Garan Coons
[Winnebago, NE] On October 1st, a quiet but profound shift occurred in the Winnebago Tribe’s history. After decades of federal oversight, the tribe officially took the reins of its own law enforcement from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Leading this charge is a man who knows these streets better than most, Chief of Police Jeremiah Lonewolf. “I was born in the IHS hospital before it stopped,” Chief Lonewolf recalls, tracing his roots from Head Start through 12th grade at Winnebago Public. “I left the BIA so I could be here. I live here, right next to the Ho-Chunk Center. It’s nice and quiet and peaceful out here.” But the transition has been anything but quiet.

The department inherited a fleet of BIA vehicles described as being on their “last leg.” In their place, the community will now see sleek 2026 Chevy Tahoe Pursuit Package Vehicles (PPPVs). These aren’t just cars; they are symbols of tribal identity. Featured on the vehicles is the department’s brand-new logo designed by Winnebago Tribe’s Webmaster Christina Parker. The new logo features the bear clan, symbolizing the protectors of the Winnebago community, along with beautiful Ho-Chunk applique. The vehicles also feature “ghost graphics,” reflective logos that appear as standard black Tahoe’s until they catch the light. On the sides, the Ho-Chunk language proudly declares the mission to Protect and Serve, while the back identifies the officers as Wajrukos (the traditional name for police) and bears the phrase Helping

People and Community. Inside, the Tahoe’s are mobile command centers. The days of typing reports on Word documents and hand-delivering paper copies to a box for the Tribal Court are fading. New laptops, scanners, and printers will allow officers to scan a driver’s license and instantly populate electronic tickets, a system that will integrate directly with tribal justice. Chief Lonewolf shared how each of the officers have deep community connections, the force is invested in the people they serve. The current administration includes Chief of Police Jeremiah Lonewolf, Lieutenant and First Line Supervisor Roberto Gorin, Sr.; Investigative and specialized roles include

Con’t. on page 2...

“Mā na anaņa nī na wawirakara wiāje – Take care of the Earth and Water”



ANNOUNCEMENTS



...Cont. from front page: WINNEBAGO TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT UPGRADES

Criminal Investigator Julya Starr and SORNA Officer Jamison Wolf. Patrol Officers include Roberto Gorriin Jr., Drake Gorriin, Joseph Barnes, and Christopher Kollhoff. The department also receives support during these staffing transitions from Pete Snowball, Wildlife and Parks Conservation Officer.

A major upcoming shift is scheduled for July 1, 2026, when the tribe will take over the Corrections Program from the BIA. Currently, officers face significant operational burdens, including 5.5-hour round trips to transport inmates to Wagner, South Dakota, when local facilities are full. By managing their own corrections, the department can negotiate its own bedspace contracts and keep officers on the reservation where they are needed most.

The department is actively looking for dedicated individuals to join their growing team. Chief Lonewolf emphasizes that while the job comes with public scrutiny, it is a calling for those invested in making things better. Available Positions include one vacancy for a regular patrol role,

an officer position funded through a Department of Justice grant, a dedicated role to ensure safety and mentorship within schools as a School Resource Officer (SRO), and two new Corrections Officers positions that will help launch the tribal corrections and transport operation.

"You've got to want to be in law enforcement," says Chief Lonewolf. "We're just humans ourselves... but we have to navigate these systems together to hold people accountable and improve our community."

You can find more information for the Winnebago Tribal Law Enforcement Department available on the Winnebago Tribe's website: <https://winnebagotribe.com/tribal-police/>

**Editor's Note: Thank you to Chief Lonewolf and the Law Enforcement Officers and Staff for all that you do to keep the Winnebago community safe. I am sure it is often a thankless job but thank you for ensuring the safety of our community members. We look forward to seeing the continued advancements within the department.*

1st MEMORIAL

JOSEPH PAINTER



"Te wocexi ga"

April 3, 2026

6pm Meal & NAC Services

Breakfast & Noon Day Meal following day

Located at the Winnebago Native American Church

WINNEBAGO SUMMER YOUTH Employment Program

JOB FAIR

Friday, April 10, 2026
9AM-12PM

WPS PRACTICE GYM

Any questions? Please contact Rana at (402) 878-2631
email: education@winnebagotribe.com






Attention College Students: Develop Your Career on Us!

Receive funding for conferences, trainings, & more!

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

For more info visit:
hochunkinc.com/CDP


Morningstar Counseling Services presents:

Mental Health Wellness Series

ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE AT 4:00 PM CST

WPS Mental Wellness Series recurring video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/jwv-zpaz-oof>

FEB 2	Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Healthy Relationships
FEB 16	Building and Nurturing Friendships
MAR 2	Healthy Boundaries and Communication
MAR 16	Identity Awareness
APR 20	Panic Attacks and Anxiety
MAY 4	Finding a Culturally Responsive Therapist



Supporting Mental Wellness

Join the Morningstar Counseling Services team for a series of culturally rooted presentations focused on supporting mental wellness for the students, staff, and faculty at Winnebago Public School.




Come to connect, find support, and learn new information.

THESE SESSIONS ARE 100% ONLINE.

Be sure to check your WPS e-mail for the calendar invitation and Google Meet link for each presentation.

Questions?
contact@morningstar-counseling.com
(402) 327-9711

Follow us on Facebook:
[@morningstarcounseling05](https://www.facebook.com/morningstarcounseling05)

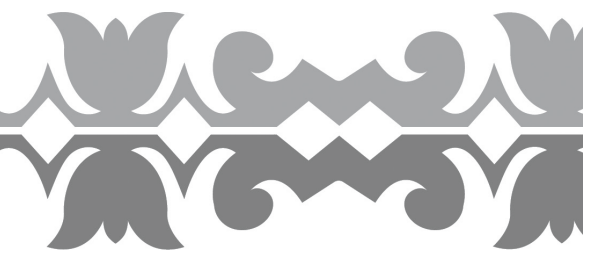




WHIRLING THUNDER GYM SCHEDULE

<p>22 MAR SUNDAY 8:30 AM - 5 PM</p>  <p>10AM Senior Exercise @ SCC 12PM Walking Club 5PM Circuit Training 6PM Women's Strength</p>	<p>23 MAR MONDAY 8AM-8PM</p> <p>10AM Senior Exercise @ SCC 12PM Adult Bball 12PM Women's Strength 6PM Women's Strength</p>	<p>24 MAR TUESDAY 8AM-8PM</p> <p>12PM Cardio & Core 12PM Adult Volleyball 5PM Cardio & Core</p>	<p>25 MAR WEDNESDAY 8 AM - 8 PM</p> <p>10AM Senior Exercise @ SCC 12PM Adult Bball 12PM Women's Strength 6PM Women's Strength</p>
<p>26 MAR THURSDAY 8 AM - 8 PM</p> <p>12PM Circuit Training 12PM Adult Volleyball 5PM Circuit Training</p>	<p>27 MAR FRIDAY 8 AM - 8 PM</p> <p>11AM Women's Strength 12PM Adult Bball</p>	<p>28 MAR SATURDAY 8:30 AM - 5 PM</p> 	

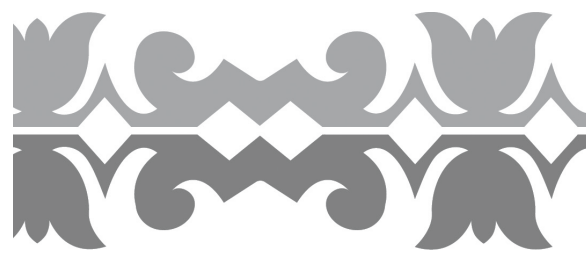
LOW = Land of Wellness
SCC = Senior Citizens Center





Wāgax hūk ra wāgax hokik'ūna

Letter to the Editor



IN THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COURT

IN RE ESTATE OF) CASE # CV26-063
 DAVID H. DECORA,)
 Deceased Person,) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
)
 MARK DECORA Sr.,)
 Personal Representative.)

TO: All creditors of DECEDENT.

You are hereby notified that Mark Decora Sr. has been appointed as Personal Representative for the Estate of Mr. David Decora, who died on November 18, 2025.

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 14th day of March, 2026.

Mark Decora Sr.
 Personal Representative

JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH



By: Pastor Ricky Jacob

Faith from one to all

What do you place your faith in? Things in this world? Or who do you place your faith in? Do you reason that if it is to be then it is up to me? How confident are you in living up to Mauna's demands? Have you walked in all His ways? Or have you faltered along the way?

Each and every day I come to the realization that I have not lived up to the demands of Mauna. I am a sinner. I in no way deserve to share in the glory of God. I should be banished from His loving presence as I have so often banished Him from my presence.

And yet, I still have a hope that is beyond my feeble and limited understanding. This hope begins and ends with what Mauna has done for me and which He offers to you too.

You might be wondering what proof do I have for such a hope? The proof is in the blood. Not my blood, but in the blood of the Lamb of God, the world's one and only Savior.

The apostle Paul summed this truth up in his letter to the saints, to the believers in Christ Jesus, who were living in Rome. His words, inspired by Mauna's Spirit, are for you as well.

Paul wrote, 'All sinned and are lacking the glory of God, while being declared righteous undeservedly by his grace through the redemption, the one in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth publicly [as] an atoning sacrifice, through the faith, in his blood for proof of his righteousness

on account of the passing over of the sins which had occurred previously and were yet unpaid in the delaying of God, toward the proof of his righteousness in the present momentous time, with the result that he is righteous and declares righteous the one from faith of Jesus' [Romans 3:24-26 Middendorf translation].

First, we read the reality of one's predicament. All have sinned and are lacking the glory of God. Do you disagree with this assessment?

Next, Paul informs the reader that one is declared righteous - forgiven, absolved - undeservedly by God's grace. GRACE: God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

The proof of God's grace is in the blood - the blood of Jesus Christ [the Anointed One]. Yes, Jesus' bloody sacrifice on the cross redeemed sinners. Jesus' blood was the price paid in FULL for the sin of the world. This gracious and loving offer of forgiveness extends to all.

Sadly, tragically most will reject this offer. While the faith and faithfulness of Jesus fulfilled the will of his Heavenly Father - Mauna - and extends to all, most would rather fulfill their own self-centered desires.

The good news from God's Sacred Word is that one is saved by grace alone, through faith alone, found in Scripture alone, that points to Christ Jesus alone. To God alone be all glory! Yes the faithful obedience of one - Jesus the Son of Mauna - extends to all! The proof is in the blood of Jesus.

Thurston County Clerk's Office

106 South 5th Street, Pender, Nebraska 68047

Contact:

Thurston County Clerk Steven Schneider

clerk@thurstoncountyne.gov — 402-385-2343

Help Your Neighbors Vote

Nebraskans, we need your help to ensure we have smooth elections in Thurston County this upcoming election cycle. The Thurston County Clerk's Office is looking for citizens to become poll workers for the statewide primary on May 12, 2026, and for the statewide general election on November 3, 2026.

On Election Day, more than 9,000 election workers are needed to serve voters at the polls in Nebraska. This is a great opportunity to serve our Thurston County community and to be involved in the election process. Our grandparents and retired neighbors are hanging up their hats after dutifully serving years as poll workers. Now, we need a new generation to step up and answer the call just as our older family members did.

To qualify as a poll worker, you must be a registered voter in Thurston County, and you must be able to read and write in English. Election workers cannot be a current candidate for office. Poll workers are paid for training time and for their service on Election Day.

Please contact the Thurston County Clerk's Office for more information on how to become an election worker.

Poll workers will need to attend one afternoon of training and will need to work 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

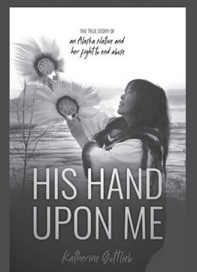
The State of Nebraska operates the most secure and accurate elections in the country – all due to the effort from our neighbors and friends who step up and become poll workers. Serve your county and help Nebraska vote in 2026.

A Special
 Meet and Greet
 Katherine Gottlieb
 on Monday
 April 13th
 from 7 to 8 p.m.
 at
 Jesus Our Savior
 Lutheran Church
 as well as on Friday

"The True Story of an Alaskan Native and Her Fight to End Abuse"

Meet the Author
 Katherine Gottlieb

April 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
 Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Outreach Church
 204 W. Conser Street



Katherine grew up in a war zone of alcoholism, domestic violence, abuse and neglect. Through faith, she refused to be defined by her past; her story is one of struggle, faith, determination, and hope.

Please join us as Katherine shares her story.
 *Limited free copies of her book for those who attend!
 All 18+ are welcome!

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
- 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

Winnebago Indian News
 is owned and published by the
 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska".

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on April 11, 2026. DEADLINE for this issue will be April 7, 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@winnebago.tribe.mn
 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

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

Brian Coyle

[Isaac out at 9:38 a.m., in at 9:41 a.m.]

BREAK: 10:10 a.m., reconvene at 10:32 a.m.

WCHS FINANCIAL REPORT: Presented by Beth Wewel and David Edwards

Tribal member question regarding using our insurance to purchase glasses/contacts from optometry, CEO Edwards responded that contracts need to be put into place.

Rona Stealer motioned to approve December 2025 and January 2026 WCHS Financial Reports. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

WINNEBAGO GAMING COMMISSION: Presented by Nakia Mallory, and Lisa Walker.

Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the December 2025 and January 2026 Winnebago Gaming Commission reports. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

WARHORSE REPORT: Presented by Angel Derochie and Lance Morgan.

[Isaac out at 11:24 a.m., in at 11:25 a.m.]

[Trey out at 11:31 a.m., in at 11:37 a.m.]

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Warhorse December 2025 and January 2026 Financials. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

(Secretary Littlegeorge requested to move the Warpath request up in the agenda so the students can return to school after their presentation.)

Warpath 6th grade Boys Basketball Donation Match request:

Mitchell DeCora, Jr., Justin Bearskin, Jr., and Andrew Zagurski presented their request to the Tribal Council.

Iva Masquat and Zeria George were also in attendance with the students.

Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the Warpath 6th grade Boys Basketball donation match in the amount of \$1,000.00 from donations. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

[Rona out at 11:57 a.m., in at 11:58 a.m.]

[Coly out at 11:58 a.m., Isaac assumes the chair]

WINNAVEGAS REPORT: Presented by Mark Grant and Tom Teesdale, Christian Rogers, and Ray Thomas.

[Coly in at 12:03 p.m., reassumes the chair]

WINNAVEGAS DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve the WinnaVegas December 2025 and January 2026 financial reports. Eugene decora seconded the motion.

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

APPROVALS:

Bingo Department request; approval of the 34th Anniversary Bingo Bash promotion on April 04, 2026.

Rona Stealer motioned to approve the Bingo Department request; approval of the 34th Anniversary Bingo Bash promotion on April 04, 2026. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval for the \$100,000 Blooming Bucks Drawings promotion.

Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the Marketing Department request; approval for the \$100,000 Blooming Bucks Drawings promotion. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval for the \$100,000 Blooming Bucks Drawings promotion.

Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the Marketing Department request; approval for the \$100,000 Blooming Bucks Drawings promotion. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Marketing Department request; approval to present Blackhawk in Concert on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

the TAP Meal donation request up to \$5,000.00 out of the donation funds and use of remaining visa gift cards from 2023. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Tribal Council Payroll – Chairman Brown discusses further the payroll increase for the Tribal Council.

[Isaac out of 1:07 p.m., in at 1:10 p.m.]

5% increase for Tribal Council Officer members, and 10% increase for Tribal Council Non-Officer members.

Suspend the Rules - Executive Session

Rona Stealer motioned to suspend the rules for 2 items from WinnVegas. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

WinnaVegas discussion items

Rona Stealer motioned enter Executive Session at 1:43 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

[Isaac out]

Trey Blackhawk motioned to exit executive Session at 2:33 p.m. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

[Isaac in]

ADJOURN:

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

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

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA REGULAR TRIBAL COUNCIL

March 2, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown

Teresa Littlegeorge

Victoria Kitcheyan

Isaac Smith

Rona Stealer

Ireta Frazier

Trey Blackhawk

Eugene DeCora

Lorelei DeCora

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jocelyn Brasher

Toni Brasher

James Huntwork

Jeremiah Schutz

Michael Chodoronek

Anna Bess Preston

Lisa Anderson

Brittany Thomas

Kellie Snow

Kiana Lewis

Danelle Smith

Maggie Miller

Christina Parker

Lynelle Blackhawk

Andy Snowball

Tiffany Buchanan

William Bass

Janelle DeCora

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tyresha Romero

Ethan Clapsaddle

Dulcie Paiva

Joi Long

Rebecca Walker

Sarah Snake

Cherie Tebo

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 9:01 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Vice Chairman Smith offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Rona Stealer motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

INTRODUCTION:

Jocelyn Brasher – Candidate for Attorney General.

[Isaac out at 9:12 a.m., in at 9:16 a.m.]

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Amend motion wording, 2-11-26 CEO Report meeting minutes

Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the amendment as presented. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

[amended motion to read as follows:

Trey Blackhawk motioned to advertise for three (3) vacancies at staggered terms for the Winnebago Gaming Development Corporation for 30 days. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion. VOTE: (4) yes, (0) no, (0) abstain Motion carried.]

2-16-26 Special Meeting – Enrollment

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the 2-16-26 Special Meeting-Enrollment meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

2-16-26 Mid-Monthly Tribal Council meeting minutes

Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the 2-16-26 Mid-Monthly meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

2-18-26 General Counsel meeting minutes

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the 2-18-26 General Counsel meeting minutes. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

2-25-26 Treasurer's Report meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the 2-25-26 Treasurer's Report meeting minutes with correction to typo. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

2-25-26 Treasurer's Report meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the 2-25-26 Treasurer's Report meeting minutes with correction to typo. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

2-25-26 Treasurer's Report meeting minutes

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the 2-25-26 Treasurer's Report meeting minutes with correction to typo. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Boys & Girls Club

Lisa Anderson – Presentation

[Teresa out at 9:34 a.m., in at 9:51 a.m.]

[Isaac out at 9:56 a.m., in at 9:58 a.m.]

[Isaac out at 10:02 a.m.]

Amendment to MOA

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the amended MOA for the Boys and Girls Club. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

[Eugene out at 10:10 a.m.]

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Department – Resolutions

FY 2026 Institute of Museum and Library Services – Native American Basic Grant

Trey Blackhawk motioned to adopt resolution #26-84: FY 2026 Institute of Museum and Library Services – Native American Basic Grant. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Winnebago Tribe Youth Build FY25 Project

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adopt resolution #26-85: Winnebago Tribe Youth Build FY25 Project. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

FY26 CERCLA Section 128(a) Technical Assistance Grant

Lorelei DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-86: FY26 CERCLA Section 128(a) Technical Assistance Grant. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

[Eugene in at 10:17 a.m.]

2026 AARP Community Challenge: Flagship Grant

Ireta Frazier motioned to adopt resolution #26-87: 2026 AARP Community Challenge: Flagship Grant. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

Congressman Adrian Smith (NE-03)

FY 2027 Community Project Funding – USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities Grant Proposal: Winnebago Boys & Girls Club Community Facilities Project

Eugene DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-88: Congressman Adrian Smith (NE-03) FY 2027 Community Project Funding – USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities Grant Proposal: Winnebago Boys & Girls Club Community Facilities Project. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to authorize Chairman Brown to send a letter to support resolution #26-88: Congressman Adrian Smith (NE-03) FY 2027 Community Project Funding – USDA Rural

Development, Community Facilities Grant Proposal: Winnebago Boys & Girls Club Community Facilities Project. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Pow-wow Committee Resignation

Eugene DeCora motioned to accept the resignation from James Sun III from the Winnebago Pow-wow Committee and re-advertise until the vacancy is filled. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Request – Tec~a Os~paye Youth Council President

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the flag request for Tec~a Os~paye Youth Council President to display the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska flag in the Elementary Lunchroom and carried during the Senior Honoring if a student from Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska graduates from Flandreau Public High School. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

NRCS – discussion

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to table the MOU until further legal review. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

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

Big Voice – request for sponsorship to live-stream the District Games for Winnebago and Bancroft.

Per email, HCI agreed to sponsor the live streaming of the district playoff games. **TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:**

Senior Citizens – Match Request

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned for the Tribal Council to sponsor the 38-passenger bus request for \$1,845.00 out of donations. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

GPTLHB

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve travel for any Tribal Council to attend the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board meeting in Omaha, NE on March 19, 2026. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

Potential Breakout Session at Tribal Self-Governance Conference

Eugene DeCora motioned to authorize Victoria Kitcheyan to speak on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska at the Breakout Session at the Tribal Self-Governance Conference. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

[Trey out at 11:25 a.m.]

Rona Stealer motioned to approve the letter of Proxy for Ireta Frazier to act on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska at the GPTLHB meeting. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

ABSTAIN: Ireta

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (1) abstain, IF Motion carried.

LIHTC Presentation – Trent Rogers

[Teresa out at 11:32 a.m.]

[Isaac in at 11:35 a.m.]

[Teresa in at 11:37 a.m.]

[Victoria out at 12:21 p.m., in at 12:23 p.m.]

ADJOURN:

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Development, Community Facilities Grant Proposal: Winnebago Boys & Girls Club Community Facilities Project. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Pow-wow Committee Resignation

Eugene DeCora motioned to accept the resignation from James Sun III from the Winnebago Pow-wow Committee and re-advertise until the vacancy is filled. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Request – Tec~a Os~paye Youth Council President

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the flag request for Tec~a Os~paye Youth Council President to display the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska flag in the Elementary Lunchroom and carried during the Senior Honoring if a student from Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska graduates from Flandreau Public High School. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

COMMUNITY

Danelle Smith
Tyresha Romero
TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Rona Stealer (travel)
*Meeting start delayed due to weather.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 10:21 a.m.
OPENING PRAYER: Councilman DeCora offered the opening prayer.
PURPOSE OF THE HEARING:
For Tribal Council to make a determination whether to act upon recommendations by the Tribal Enrollment Committee to take action to Disenroll certain members of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.
Chairman Brown reads the procedure to be conducted for the hearing.
PRESENTMENT OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE SUPPORTING BASIS OF TEC DETERMINATION-ENROLLMENT STAFF/TRIBAL ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE:

- T.C. #4076
- V.C. #4075
- T.H. #4052
- K.C. #4073
- T.S. #7085
- S.K. #3741
- L.C. #4075
- J.K. #3472
- J.H. #2141
- E.W. #3937

EXAMINATION OF ENROLLMENT STAFF/TEC:

Enrollment Director presents documentation. **OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO DISENROLLMENT PROCEEDINGS TO PRESENT EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP:**
Enrollment Director states that efforts have been made to have the individuals present their case.

None of the individuals have made an effort to present their case.
(Ireta in at 10:44 a.m.)

ISSUANCE OF DECISION:
Lorelei DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-91: Disenrollment of Henry Family. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE:(6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

ADJOURN:
Eugene DeCora motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE:(6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska*



CARPENTRY

LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE
WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA

LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE OPENS CARPENTRY BUILDING

Winnebago, Nebraska – Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC) will unveil its newest campus addition, a \$1.5 million carpentry facility named “Deer Clan,” on March 27, 2026. LPTC launched its one-year Carpentry Diploma program in Fall 2025, which includes three stackable certificates. The program welcomed 18 students in its inaugural cohort, marking a significant step forward in expanding workforce-focused education at the college.

“This is a dream come true,” said President Patil. “The Winnebago community and the college have long envisioned a strong trades program, and today that vision has become a reality. With 18 students in our first cohort, we are excited for them to learn and grow in this state-of-the-art facility. I am deeply grateful to the LPTC Board of Trustees, Tribal Council, faculty, staff, and students for their continued support. A special thank you to Carpentry faculty member Mr. Bob Wilcke for building this program from the ground up. We are also grateful for the \$1.4 million grant from the Department of Labor to start the Carpentry program. We look forward to celebrating this milestone at the grand opening on March 27.”

Please contact LPTC President, Manoj Patil, for media inquires. Media is invited to attend the grand opening ceremony at 12 noon on March 27th.

CONTACT:
Manoj Patil, President, Little Priest Tribal College

Severe Weather Safety
National Weather Service Houston/Galveston

- Have multiple ways to receive weather information is important in case any one way fails
- Make sure that the warning really reaches you in multiple ways – a bunch of apps on one phone doesn’t count!
- Know that your sources are trustworthy. Weather radio, our website, and your favorite local meteorologist are all reliable ways to get the best warning information

Have multiple ways to get warnings weather.gov

- INTERNET
- LOCAL TV AND RADIO
- WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS AND WEATHER APPS
- OUTDOOR SIRENS
- NOAA WEATHER RADIO
- FROM YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COWORKERS

Image 11/3/2017
Created 9:25 AM

Hōcaḱ Wōšga
HoChunk Values

Rō hašņj ņa hirakikara wiāje.
Take care of your health.

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

NEXT W.I.N. DEADLINE:
APRIL 7, 2026

2026 April

Winnebago Food Distribution

DELIVERIES AVAILABLE

Important Dates

- April 1st - Certifications Only
- April 2nd - First day of Distribution
- April 3rd - Closed
- April 16th - Big Truck Delivery
- April 30th - Last Day of Distribution
- Every Wednesday is Fresh Produce

Nutrition Education
Every Tues, Wed, & Thurs
subject to change

M-F 8AM-4:30PM
Distribute 8:30AM-4:00PM
P : (833) 568-5989
E : food@winnebagotribe.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	Closed	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

HAKWEWE

Question of the Issue:

A Blast from the Past: Tell us about a memorable school field trip or assembly from either your elementary, middle school, or high school days.

GARAN: I was in junior high when a Native lady named Lisa Tiger came in to discuss HIV/AIDS. Back in the '90s, a lot of awareness needed to be raised because it was becoming rampant. I originally thought to myself, 'It can't be that bad,' but then I heard Magic Johnson got it and Eazy-E passed away because of it. When she was speaking, she revealed that she herself had HIV. She looked normal and healthy while talking about prevention, which really changed my perspective. At the time, I thought if you contracted something like the flu, you could just tell—but I learned that the danger of HIV is how hard it is to detect. Her presentation was very memorable.

KEVIN: Class of 1986, my favorite high school memory was from a homecoming assembly. During the event, Football Team Seniors took part in a lighthearted "Best Legs" contest, where only contestants' legs were visible to the audience. The mystery added to the fun, as classmates voted without knowing who was who. I earned the top spot voted best legs 1986 Winnebago Indians Football Team, making it one of the most memorable and talked-about moments of my senior year. (not)

CHRISTINA: When I went to boarding school in Chamberlain, SD, I was able to go on a drive to take some kids home to Pine Ridge. It was the only time I've ever seen the Wounded Knee Massacre memorial. There was a limo driving up to the archway and I always wondered if that was a movie celebrity. I don't really remember the side of town we were on but I do remember the kids family that we got to visit was very nice.

BETHANI: In elementary school, I remember we had an assembly with a magician. We were in the old gym, which at the time was the main gym, and is now the location for the fine arts theatre at Winnebago Public School. I do not recall any of his talking points, although I am sure he had a message to share with us. The magician performed many different tricks, but the memorable part of this came when the lights were shut off due to his glow-in-the-dark props. I used to be extremely terrified of the dark, and I just remember seeing the lights go one by one while also seeing the lights from outside seep through underneath the gym doors. I started crying, but eventually, I overcame this fear.

TYLER: My favorite trip was while I was attending SSC middle school. We went to the NE State Capitol in Lincoln for a tour. Although I'm afraid of heights, I'd say the best part was going to the 14th observation floor. We also went to the University of NE State Museum, the planetarium show about Dolphins was cool. The museum is very hands on for kids of all ages.

AYDEN: A funny memory that I'll always remember is when we were doing presentations and kaveboss switched our presentation to some nonsense. The best part was that we got 75% on the assignment for that.

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Announces New Chief Financial Officer



The Winnebago Indian News recently met with the new CFO, Jarold McWilliams, and this is what he had to say:

- Tell us about yourself.

I grew up in Norfolk, Nebraska, and I have lived in Nebraska my whole life. I come from a big family with 10 brothers and sisters, so family and community have always been the most important things in my life. I'm also a full member of the Osage Nation, and my tribal identity has played an important role in shaping my values and the path I've taken.

- What is your educational background?

I studied economics in Nebraska, earning my bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and my master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. My academic work focused on economics, development, finance, and long-term institutional growth.

- What experience do you bring to this role?

My background includes accounting, financial services, billing operations, and economic research. Most recently, I worked as a Billing Operations Manager in the private sector, where I made significant process improvements that helped correct a major cash collections gap of nearly \$100 million. I've also

worked in accounting and financial operations roles and have built my career around improving systems, strengthening processes, and making organizations more effective.

- What are your goals as CFO?

As CFO, my main priority is to be a good steward of the Tribe's financial resources, improve processes within the Finance Department, and offer ideas and implementations that will contribute to the long-term financial benefit and preservation of Winnebago Tribe moving forward. I take seriously the responsibility of overseeing tribal funds, programs, and priorities, and I want to make sure that work is done with integrity, accountability, and vision.

- What does this role mean to you personally?

I believe life is about opportunity. Two of the greatest opportunities of my life have come as a direct result of my tribal affiliation, and one of my primary goals of the future is giving back to the Native community, both my own tribe of Osage Nation, and also now serving my commitment as CFO of Winnebago Tribe. This role means a lot to me because it gives me the chance to serve, to lead, and to give back in a meaningful way.

- How do you hope to impact the community?

I want to give back to the community that made this great opportunity for me possible. I am particularly concerned with giving back in the form of opportunities to the youth of Winnebago Nation through expanding internship and educational opportunities. I think investing in young people is one of the most important things we can do for the future.

- What else should people know about you?

I'm also an author and researcher. I have completed a large book project on a new comprehensive economic development model, and I've published economics writing and research connected to development and finance. That work reflects a big part of who I am — I care deeply about ideas, long-term strategy, and creating better outcomes for communities.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: 

WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY NIGHT



APRIL 18TH - KICK OFF 07:00 PM

TYSON EVENTS CENTER - SIOUX CITY, IA
PERFORMANCES BY: WINNEBAGO DANCERS & SINGERS
FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL CADEN 402-833-9875
OR EMAIL CCLEVELAND@HOCHUNKCORPORATESERVICES.COM

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



UP TO \$1,000 per student!

For information on the Academic Development Program visit:
HOCHUNKINC.COM/STUDENT

Your Ad Here!

PLEASE CALL BETHANI OR TYLER TO GET YOUR AD PLACED IN THE NEXT WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWSPAPER!

(402) 878-2272
email: winnebagoindiannews@winnebagoTribe.com



Winnebago Treaty Day – Understanding the 1865 Treaty

Presented by Gayla Whitewater

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Organization was closed on Monday, March 9, 2026, in recognition of the tribal holiday: Winnebago Treaty Day of March 8, 1865. The Winnebago Indian News is grateful to our very own, Gayla Whitewater, for sharing this information with us. This presentation took place on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, and was hosted by the Little Priest Tribal College Cultural Task Force in efforts to educate LPTC students and staff about the history and meaning of the Winnebago Treaty Day holiday observed in Winnebago.

Before we talk about the Treaty of 1865 specifically, it's important to understand what a treaty is. A treaty is a formal, legally binding written agreement between sovereign nations or international organizations and is governed by international law, these agreements—also known as conventions, pacts, or covenants—create binding obligations regarding trade, peace, or defense. When the United States entered into treaties with Native Nations, they were acknowledging that indigenous nations are separate political entities with their own governments, territories, and authority—recognized as Nations. Treaties were often used to negotiate things such as land boundaries, peace agreements, trade relationships, movement between territories, payments or compensation for land, and services promised by the U.S. Many treaties involved Native Nations agreeing to cede land to the U.S., often under intense pressure or difficult circumstances.

In return, the United States would promise things like payments or annuities, supplies or rations, services such as doctors, blacksmiths, or teachers, and permanent land reservation (sometimes). These agreements were written down, signed by representatives of both governments, and ratified by the U.S. Senate. Under the U.S. Constitution, treaties are considered the “supreme law of the land.” Meaning they are not just historical artifacts; they are legally binding agreements that still carry weight today.

Treaties are also important because they affirm something fundamental—Indigenous nations were never conquered nations that disappeared. They entered into nation-to-nation agreements with the United States, and that is why tribal nations today still maintain a government-to-government relationship with the federal government. Our sovereignty does not come from the United States, it comes from our existence as peoples and nations long before the United States existed and treaties simply recognized that.

Before treaties and removal, the Ho-Chunk, or “People of the Sacred Voice,” historically referred to as the “Winnebago,” are one of the oldest Indigenous nations of the Western Great Lakes region. Their traditional homelands span present-day Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, reflecting a deep and enduring relationship with the lands and waterways of the region. For thousands of years—long before European contact—the Ho-Chunk were a thriving, self-sustaining nation with a complex social structure, rich cultural traditions, and a strong spiritual connection to place.

Throughout the 19th century, the Ho-Chunk endured multiple episodes of forced relocation carried out by the United States government. Unlike many tribes who were removed once, the Ho-Chunk were removed repeatedly—more than a dozen times—from their ancestral homelands in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. Despite forced relocations, many Ho-Chunk families persistently returned to their Wisconsin homelands, ultimately leading to the establishment of two federally recognized tribes: the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Their history reflects resilience and determination as they maintained their identity, culture, and community despite repeated displacement.

Another important thing to understand is that the 1865 treaty was not the first treaty our people signed. By the time our leaders signed the Treaty with the Winnebago in 1865, the Ho-Chunk had already entered into many treaties with the United States over several decades. These treaties gradually reduced our land base and pushed our people further and further west.

In 1816, the Peace Treaty was the first treaty with the U.S., signed to end hostilities following the War of 1812—a war fought by the US and Great Britain and their respective indigenous allies. In 1825, the Treaty of Prairie du Chien was signed and established boundaries between Native groups but did not involve ceding land. Continuing into 1829, the first major land cession in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois occurred due to pressure from lead miners and the Winnebago War of 1827.

In 1832, the Treaty with the Winnebago included more land lost in Southern Wisconsin and pressure to move west. Continuing into 1837, a coerced treaty forced the Ho-Chunk to cede their lands east of the Mississippi River and relocate to Iowa’s “neutral ground” within eight months. Moving into 1846, the Ho-Chunk were removed from the “neutral ground” to a reservation in Minnesota, (Long Prairie). In 1855, the Ho-Chunk ceded their land at Long Prairie, MN, for a new reservation along the Blue Earth River in Southern Minnesota. In 1859, the Tribe was forced to cede the western half of their Minnesota reservation to pay debts.

In 1863, the Winnebago Removal Act forcibly removed the Ho-Chunk from their Blue Earth, MN reservation to a desolate 18-square-mile area at Crow Creek, South Dakota, following the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. In 1865, the Treaty with the Winnebago ceded the tribe’s territory in Crow Creek and purchased northern part of the Omaha Reservation, establishing the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebraska. Nebraska did not end federal harm. Under the Dawes era, communal tribal land was broken into allotments. This opened the door to non-Native control and checkerboarding of reservation land. Land loss continued even after a reservation had already been forced on the tribe.

The Treaty with the Winnebago of 1865 was signed between the United States and Ho-Chunk leaders on March 8, 1865, establishing the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebraska. This treaty was signed after decades of forced removals and marked a turning point for Ho-Chunk survival in Nebraska. By the 1860s, the Ho-Chunk had already been removed multiple times: Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Many Ho-Chunk were suffering at Crow Creek in Dakota Territory, where the land was poor for farming, food was scarce, and disease spread quickly. The U.S. negotiated a new treaty to move the Ho-Chunk again—this time to Nebraska. The treaty created land for the Ho-Chunk in northeast Nebraska. The United States agreed to set aside land for the tribe, provide financial payments (annuities), and provide federal services. This land became the reservation of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The United States promised to provide services including a physician, an interpreter, a miller, an engineer, a carpenter, and a blacksmith. These roles were meant to support the community after relocation.

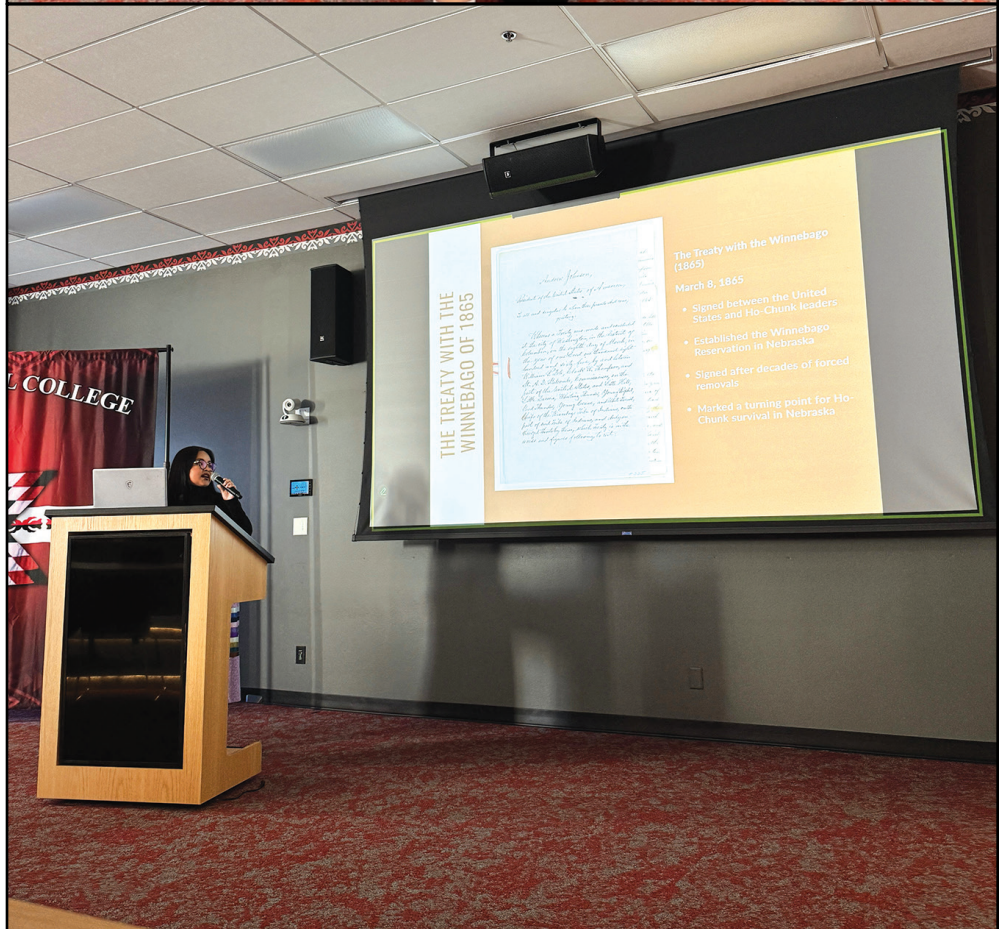
These treaties still matter today as they are the legal foundation of tribal sovereignty. When people hear the word, “treaty,” they often think of something that happened a long time ago; something that belongs only in history books, but treaties are not just historical documents. They are living agreements that still shape the relationship between Native nations and the United States today. Treaties are important as they acknowledge Indigenous nations as sovereign entities. When the U.S. negotiated treaties with Native nations, it recognized their political status. Tribal governments today operate as sovereign governments with the authority to govern their own people and territories. That includes things like tribal courts, tribal law enforcement, tribal elections and governance, economic development, and cultural preservation. Treaties ensure a government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government.

The U.S. Constitution states treaties are part of the “supreme law of the land.” Courts still interpret treaty rights today as treaties define the federal trust responsibility. Treaties influence issues such as land and reservation boundaries, hunting and

fishing rights, federal obligations to tribes, and jurisdiction on tribal lands. The relationship created by treaties continue to shape policy, law, and Indigenous life today. Understanding treaties helps people better understand tribal sovereignty, Indigenous land rights, modern tribal governance, and the ongoing relationship between Native nations and the United States. For Native communities, treaties are not just historical artifacts—they are part of ongoing history.

Honoring Treaty Day includes recognizing the resilience of the Ho-Chunk people and the legacy of our ancestors. It means continuing to carry our history forward—sharing knowledge, protecting our sovereignty, and making sure the next general understands where we come from. Different ways to honor Treaty Day include learning about the treaties our ancestors signed, research which leaders you may descend from, teaching younger generations about our history, visiting the land and acknowledge our ancestors, and participating in tribal governance and community. Honoring Treaty Day also means understanding treaty rights, sharing Ho-Chunk history with others, and protecting our sovereignty and culture. Remembering these treaties ensures that the sacrifices of our ancestors are never forgotten.

In summary, treaties are not just history, they are living agreements that continue to shape tribal sovereignty and Native communities today. Treaty Day is not a celebration of colonization; it is a time to acknowledge the sacrifices our ancestors made so that the Ho-Chunk people would still be here today.

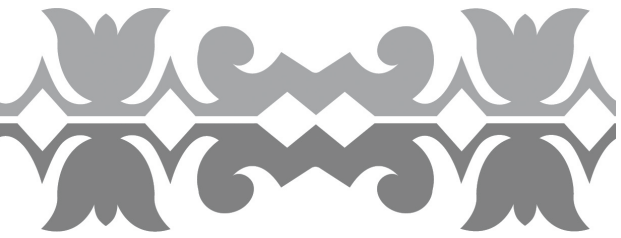


WITH GAYLA WHITEWATER

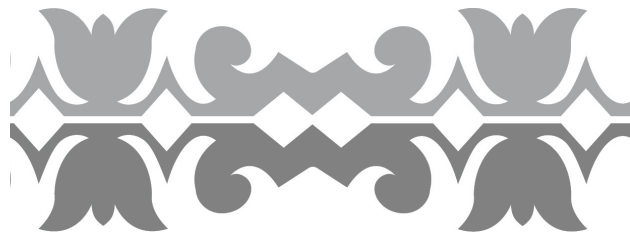
Treaty with the Winnebago, March 8, 1865. Ratified Indian Treaty No. 335. National Archives Identifier 178928959. National Archives and Records Administration.

WINNEBAGO TREATY DAY

Understanding the 1865 Treaty



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, February 18, 2026 at 4:45p.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, Kristine Earth

Others Present: Marge Gilpin, Laurice Gilpin, Elizabeth Bayer, Trevor Wilkie Sr., Dulcie Paiva

Trisha Ross, Jared Doxey, Ruby Bellanger, Sydney Bird, January Bird/Thomas, Thelma Whitewater

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:

2. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:45 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 amendment regarding 4-1.

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

4. Business Affairs

4-1. Discussion Athletic Director Report and Closed Session if needed. Possible State Wrestling

Obligations in Omaha.
 No Action taken

Motion:
 Second:
 Discussion: None
 Voting for:
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent:
 Motion Carried: (0-0-0-0)

1. February 18, 2026 School Board Meeting

4-2. Approve minutes of January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting

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

4-3. Approve accounts payable in the amount of \$460,345.00, petty cash account/ treasurer's report.

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

4-4. Approve Facilities WEFLC: \$103,603.41

Motion: Ross
 Second: Lewis
 Discussion: discuss the change in dates
 Voting For: Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis, Ross, Solomon
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Earth
 Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

4-4. Impact Aid Application has been submitted on time.

5. New Business

5-1. Discussion-Set Date for Bullying Forum (March 4, has no school conflicts)

5-2. Board Retreat Dates-March 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th, Day or Evening-Strategic Planning after CSI visit.

No Action taken, Retreat postponed until April. Dates to be determined.

Motion:
 Second:
 Discussion: none
 Voting For:
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None

Absent:
 Motion Carried: (0-0-0-0)

2. February 18, 2026 School Board Meeting

5-3. Discuss/Approve School Calendar for 2026-2027

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

5-4. Discussion-Basketball Shirts

Kristine Earth in at 5:21 p.m.

5-5. Discussion-Current Certified Openings: Administration/Safety Director-Administration/Elementary Principal/Elementary Counselor.

5-6. Approve to accept resignation of S.H. (Preschool teacher)

Motion: Bass III
 Second: Earth
 Discussion: none
 Voting For: Lewis, Ross, Solomon, Bass III
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried: (6-0-0-0)

6. Reports

1. Superintendent:

- a. Resource Center Update-Refrigerator/Dishwasher are installed-Punch List in progress
- b. NAFIS: March 14th-18th (Need to buy Airline tickets this week)
- c. Front Entrance Locks/Cameras Update (Everything is ordered may need to shut down front for a day)
- d. Construction Program for Dropouts

2. Administrative Reports

- a) Elementary Principal
 - b) High School Principal
 - c) Special Education Director
 - d) Dean of Students
 - e) Safety/Athletic Director
 - f) Staff Presentation

Greg Bass III out at 6:46

7. Public Comment (No Board Discussion)

Noted: We received a letter dated February 18, 2026 addressed to the Board from January Bird/Thomas

3. February 18, 2026 Board Meeting

8. Closed Session 84-1410 Enter Motion 6:56 p.m. Exit Session at 7:31p. m.

- To discuss: 1. Discussions with School Lawyers on Personnel Issues and MOU's
- 2. Employee Policy Concern
- 3. Employee Termination Hearing #1
- 4. Employee Termination Hearing #2

Motion: Ross
 Second: Lewis
 Voting For: Earth, Ross
 Solomon, Littlegeorge, Lewis

Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Bass III
 Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

Motion: Solomon
 Second: Ross
 Voting For: Ross, Solomon
 Lewis, Earth

Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Bass III
 Motion Carried (5-0-0-1)

9. Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 17 WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA

The regular meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of Thurston County School District 0017 (Winnebago Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska (the "District") will be held at 4:45 PM, on Monday, April 13th, 2026 in the regular meeting place of the Board, the School Conference Room on Highway 77 & 75 in the Village of Winnebago, Nebraska. An agenda, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection in the offices of the District Superintendent, located at Highway 77 & 75, 878-2224. The meeting will be open to the attendance of the public. If the meeting needs to be rescheduled, the 1st rescheduled date and time is Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 4:45p.m. and the 2nd rescheduled date and time will be Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 at 4:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY

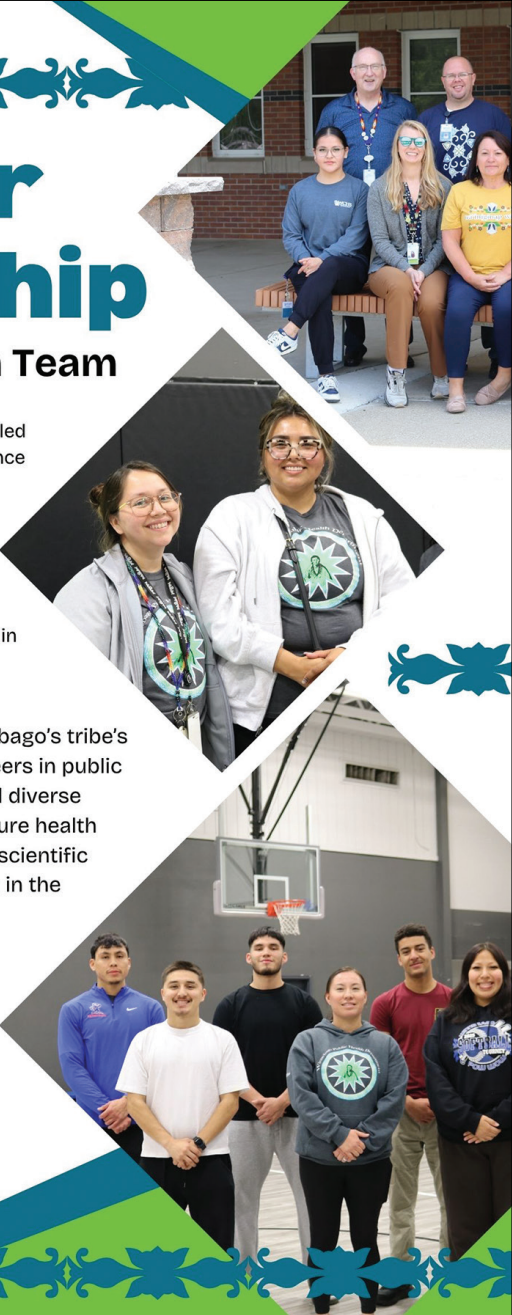
Summer Internship

Join our Public Health Team

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

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

APPLY TODAY!
www.wchs.health/apply



Healing Groups



Are you curious about what the Bible says about healing and restoration?

Please join us for a free Healing Group developed by the Trauma Healing Institute and the American Bible Society that uses Sacred Scripture to show how God's word heals and restores.

Healing Groups consist of six sessions:

- What is a wound of the heart?
- If God loves us why do we suffer?
- What can help our wounded hearts heal?
- What happens when someone is grieving?
- Bringing our pain to the cross
- How can we forgive others?

This process equips you to help people who have experienced loss and trauma. Watch our video: <https://www.lutheranindianministries.org/about-lim-2025>

Lunch is Provided! Everyone 18 and older are welcome

Register to attend at: limhope.org

Healing Group
Must attend all sessions
 4/14/26 Tuesday 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
 4/15/26 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Equipping - Train the Trainer
Must complete Healing Group sessions
 4/16/26 Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
 4/17/26 Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Training held at:
Whirling Thunder Wellness Center
 205 Bluff St., Winnebago, NE 68071
 Held in the Ho-Chunk Hope classroom
Register to attend at: www.limhope.org
 OR call Pastor Ricky Jacob of
 Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Church (402) 878-2522
 Childcare will not be provided



Nāžī ņe.
 (nah-zhee-nay)
 Stand up.



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



Nīge hot'una re
 (knee-geh-hoh-t-oo-nah-ray)
 Throw it away.



HoChunk Renaissance Language Preservation Program

Hahere jāsgē ranā?

(hah-hey-ray-jah-sgay-rah-nah)
 How did you sleep?

Ke pī hanā ni na

(kay-pee-hah-nah-knee-nah)
 I didn't sleep well.

Pī hanā no!

(pee-hah-nah-no)
 I slept good!

HoChunk Renaissance Language Preservation Program

APRIL

Hō hiroginā wira

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

2026



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



CASINO ♦ RESORT

**IT'S JUST
MORE FUN**

34th Anniversary Drawings

**WINN Your Share of Over
\$145,000 in CASH & PRIZES!**

Saturdays In April!

6pm to 10:45pm | Promo Play Drawings Every 15 Minutes

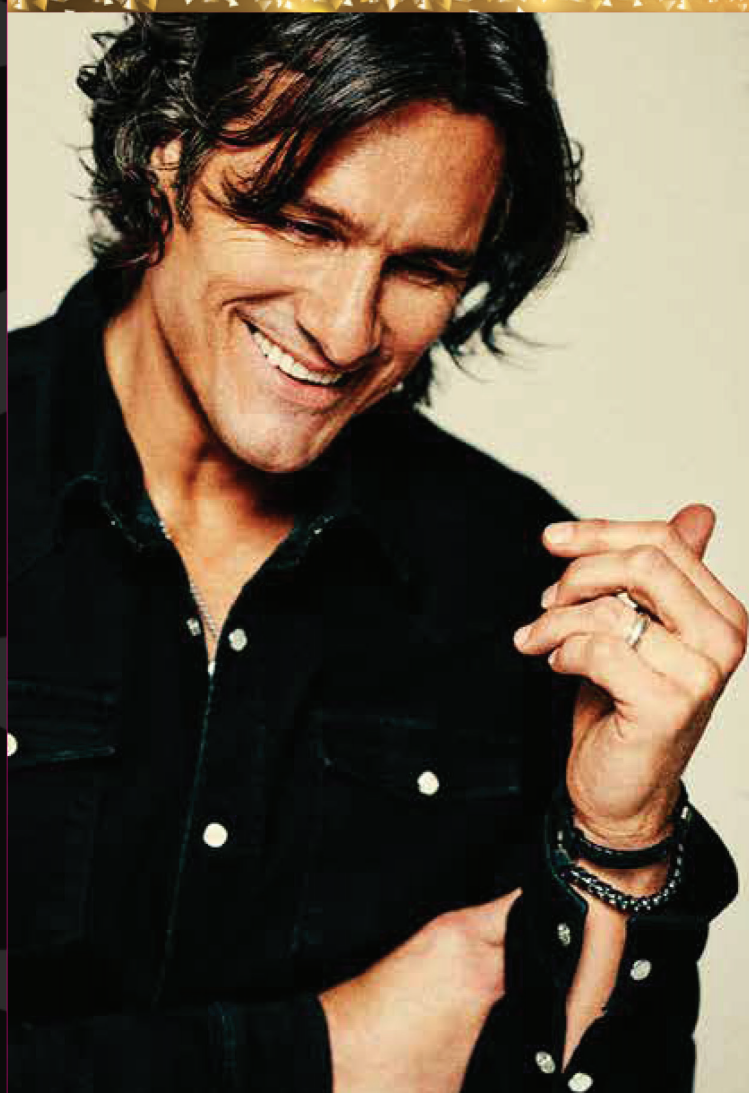
SATURDAYS, APRIL 4, 11 & 18

11pm | Three Winners will receive
\$3,400 CASH each!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH

11pm | One Lucky Winner will be drawn to
WINN \$34,000 CASH!

Players must be present to win. All players, including players who won earlier on the promotion day, are eligible for the 11pm drawing.



**JOE
NICHOLS**

WINNAVEGAS EVENT CENTER
SATURDAY, APRIL 11

TICKETS ON SALE NOW STARTING AT \$25

For more information: visit WinnaVegas.com or call us at 800-468-9466