



pages: 7 & 8

pages: 9

Volume 55, Number 16

Watajox hī wīra
Corn Popping Moon

Saturday, August 15, 2026



In Honor of
Neola Walker

The masthead scene for this edition of the Winnebago Indian News features Woodland Dancers that participated in the All-Ages Woodland (Iktomi's Coming into the Circle) Spider-Man Red Special at the 160th Annual Winnebago Homecoming Celebration Powwow at Veterans Memorial Park from Thursday, July 23, through Sunday, July 26, 2026. Photography by Tyler Snake, WIN Circulation/Office Manager.

Nī šoc Nīgešana

By: Tyler Snake



Congratulations to Melanie Parker on reaching her 20-year milestone with Ho-Chunk, Inc. Coworkers, friends and family gathered to celebrate Melanie's accomplishments over the years.



On August 6th, the Winnebago Public School hosted their Annual Back to School Powwow with an Open House to follow. The Head Staff were Headman: Jaden Painter, Headwoman: Marleigh Littlebear, Arena Director: "Tunny" Cleveland, MC: Silar Cleveland & Les Painter.



On August 7th, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska hosted their Annual Employee Appreciation. Employees were able to participate in different activities and tournaments such as golf, cornhole, volleyball and bingo. Tastee's and LaPalapa served lunch. Check out page 6 for the winners list!



On August 11th, the Carrer and Technical Education (CTE) Program hosted a soft skills training for at the Little Priest Tribal College with Natasha Deal. The training covered career success. For more information on the program and future opportunities, email cteproject@winnebagoTribe.com or check their new Facebook at Winnebago CTE Program.

Winnebago Tribe Celebrates Land Back After 54-Year Fight



By Bethani Redhorn
Photography by Kevin Ebert & Savannah Anderson

[Winnebago, NE] Over half a century of legal, political, and spiritual endurance culminated on Saturday, August 8, 2026, as the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska hosted its official Land Back Celebration at the WinnaVegas Casino Resort Event Center. The historic event honored the return of approximately 1,600 acres of

reservation land along the Missouri River, which was unlawfully condemned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1970. The day commenced at 10:00 AM with a sacred land blessing and prayer ceremony rendered by Winnebago Combat Veteran Larry Payer. The blessing and prayer took place directly on the recovered Iowa acreage, marking the first time in generations that tribal members could legally stand on the territory as its rightful stewards.

Following a community luncheon, the formal program opened with the posting of colors by members of the Winnebago Veterans Association, Sam Prue, Ray Thomas, Anthony Bassette Jr., and Mike Walker, accompanied by singing of the flag and welcome songs by Winnebago drum group, Greywolf Singers. The legislative victory was made possible by the passage of the Winnebago Land Transfer Act (H.R.

Con't. on page 2...

Winnebago Tribal Council Addresses Recent BIA Human Trafficking Operation



The Winnebago Tribal Council issues this official statement to address and correct inaccurate rumors circulating in the media regarding a recent multi-agency law enforcement operation addressing human trafficking. First, the Winnebago Tribal Council is exceptionally proud of the Winnebago Tribal Police Department and our law enforcement partners for their proactive work in keeping our properties, our people, and the broader region safe.

We want to send an unmistakable, zero-tolerance deterrent message: Criminal activity, human trafficking, and the exploitation of the vulnerable will not be tolerated anywhere on or around our tribal properties and jurisdictions. Law enforcement will continue to utilize every available resource—local, state, tribal, and federal—to track down, arrest, and prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law. Our information was that a human

trafficking operation was based at WinnaVegas Casino (located in Sloan, Iowa). Because WinnaVegas is owned and operated by the Winnebago Tribe, news headlines broadly referenced "Winnebago," which unfortunately led to confusion and false assumptions locally. Furthermore, none of the individuals arrested or involved in these crimes are members of the Winnebago Tribe.

Con't. on page 2...

"Wākšik š'ak hīwanīwina hīwaracqk hikjawina . – Honor our ancestors."



...Con't from front page: Winnebago Tribe Celebrates Land Back After 54-Year Fight...

1240), championed by Senator Deb Fischer, Representative Randy Feenstra, and Representative Sharice Davids. Signed into law by President Joe Biden on July 12, 2024, the Act permanently places the 1,600 acres into federal trust. Per tribal and federal mandates, the land is strictly designated for non-gaming purposes and will be managed by the Winnebago Wildlife and Parks Department for conservation, habitat restoration, and tribal hunting.

While the official paperwork is signed and sealed, the heart of Saturday’s celebration was found in the shared memories of the people who refused to let an injustice stand. Our storytelling traditions were on full display, reminding everyone in the room that we didn’t just fight with law briefs, we fought with resilience, humor, and heart.

Winnebago Tribal Vice-Chairman Eugene DeCora Sr. shared the history of the “Winnebago Navy,” originally captured in Reuben Snake’s book, Your Humble Serpent. Born out of pure defiance in 1970 after the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Iowa illegally seized tribal land for a \$13 million water park, the Winnebago Navy was launched. Lacking actual vessels, leaders Louis LaRose, Reuben Snake Jr., and Sterling Snake borrowed a 14-foot runabout and a 12-foot aluminum rowboat to cross the mighty Missouri River and plant “NO TRESPASSING” treaty signs.

The room overflowed with emotion as current leaders looked back on the generational sacrifice that brought the tribe home. Winnebago Tribal Chairman Coly Brown delivered a speech, noting that he was just a two-year-old toddler when this fight began 54 years ago. He reminded the youth in attendance that our connection to this land along the Missouri River is permanent and can never be erased by changing federal policies.

Councilwoman Victoria Kitcheyan spoke of the deep emotion of traveling

to Washington, D.C., to view the original physical treaties. She described looking at the X’s and fingerprints of past Chiefs who couldn’t read or write but sacrificed everything to secure a homeland for us. “We take that trauma, we take that pain, and we turn it into love,” Kitcheyan stated, explaining how that diplomacy ultimately won over lawmakers in Washington.

Winnebago Tribe’s General Counsel Danelle Smith received recognition, along with a standing ovation from the community. Growing up in Winnebago, Smith said she looked around her community and wanted to understand why things were the way they were. She went to law school specifically to learn how to navigate and dismantle the very legal systems that had been used against our people for centuries.

Following the look back at our history and legal battles, the celebration shifted into a showcase of living Ho-Chunk culture. Winnebago Tribal Member and Award-Winning Composer Tyler Free-LaMere performed her musical piece titled “My Heart is Strong,” which perfectly captured our people’s long fight and ultimate triumph. Then, Winnebago Youth stepped out and performed different dance categories. Their traditional styles, vibrant regalia, and amazing footwork that brought the historic significance of the day to life through movement.

The formal program concluded with a powerful closing ceremony of recognition with two honor songs rendered by Greywolf Singers. The honor songs were rendered to officially recognize all the tribal council members who have served throughout this 54-year fight, as well as the families of those council members who supported them. To initiate this tribute, Greywolf Singers rendered the George Snake song and the Mallory song, offering a sacred conclusion to a milestone day of sovereign resilience along the Missouri River.



...Con't from front page: Winnebago Tribal Council Addresses Recent BIA Human Trafficking Operation...

Key Facts Regarding the Operation:

Location: Although the initial operational plan focused on WinnaVegas Casino in Sloan, Iowa, investigators modified the plan to make contact with the subjects in the Village of Winnebago, Nebraska. Investigators did not conduct the operation in residential neighborhoods; the subjects were contacted and subsequently apprehended at a location away from residences to minimize any potential risk to the public and to ensure the operation was conducted in the safest manner possible.

Suspects: No tribal members were involved. All arrested suspects are non-tribal members from outside our community.

Law Enforcement Partnership: The operation was a coordinated multi-jurisdictional effort led by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Predatory Crimes Unit and the Winnebago Tribal Police Department, alongside federal, state, and local partners, to target predatory crimes.

Victim Support: One adult female victim was successfully recovered on the scene and immediately provided with necessary support services.

As always, if you need to report any criminal activity occurring on our homelands, please call the Winnebago Police Department at 402-878-2245 or call 911.

Child Support Awareness Month

Color Walk

August 19th

Land of Wellness | 5PM - 7PM

Arrive in white
Leave in color

Sunglasses,
light refreshments,
and fun
provided



Empowering Native American's with disabilities to find meaningful employment.

What is Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR)?

The program provides culturally relevant vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians and Alaska Natives with disabilities who reside within a 20 mile radius of Winnebago. These services focus on the individuals strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and most importantly informed choice.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe
- Living on the Winnebago Indian Reservation or within a 20-mile radius of Winnebago
- Documented physical or mental impairment
- Substantial impediment to employment
- Can benefit from TVR services
- Requires the Program services to prepare for or enter into, engage, or retain employment.

How to Apply?

Contact us and we will assist you through the entire process

Contact us:

Phone:
402-205-4645

Toll-Free:
833-551-5541

Fax:
1 833-840-2189

Location:
304 Little Priest Drive
Winnebago, NE 68071

YOUR BRAIN MATTERS

Know the signs

Protect your brain

Talk to your healthcare provider

WHEN SHOULD YOU REACH OUT TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?

Talk with your provider if you or someone you care about notices:

Memory Changes that interfere with daily life.

Frequently forgetting recent conversations or important information

Repeating questions or stories more often than usual

Having trouble completing familiar tasks

Becoming confused about time, places, or familiar surroundings

Difficulty finding the right words or following conversations

Changes in judgment or decision- making

Trouble managing medications, finances, appointments, or household tasks

Noticeable changes in mood, personality, or behavior

Getting lost in places that were once familiar

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE SURE SOMETHING IS WRONG.
Your healthcare provider can help determine whether changes are related to normal aging, medications, stress, sleep, depression, another health condition, or something that needs further evaluation.

You're not alone- help is available

For any questions, please contact:
Cari Hinrickson
Wäksik Xete Wirakara (Elder Care Services) Coordinator
Winnebago Public Health Department
cari.hinrickson@wchs.health

Your brain health is an important part of your overall health. As we age, some changes in memory and thinking can be normal- but new, persistent and worsening changes **should not be ignored.**

Wāgax hū̄k ra wāgax hokik’ūna
Letter to the Editor

IN THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COURT

IN RE ESTATE OF)
ANNE AGNES BIG BEAR,)
Deceased Person,)
)
ROBERT F. St Cyr,)
Personal Representative.)

CASE # CV26-082

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: All creditors of DECEDENT.

You are hereby notified that Robert F. St Cyr has been appointed as Personal Representative for the Estate of Ms. Anne Agnes Big Bear', who died on November 16, 2023. Pursuant to Winnebago Tribal Code §14-115, you have ninety days from the date of this Notice to file a claim against the Estate of Decedent with the Winnebago Tribal Court, or be forever barred from exercising that claim.

Dated this 15 day of July, 2026

Robert St Cyr
Personal Representative

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV26-146

In the Matter of the
Guardianship Petition of:
Kristina Yellowbank
In Re:
J.V.G. (Born 12/2017)

TO: MAYA WHITE, Mother
JERAMY VANDELL, 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. CV26-146 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 21st day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at the hour of 11:00 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. JFJ26-023
The People of the Winnebago Tribe
In the Interest of:
Z.B.

To: VICTORIA POLENDO, Mother
&
ALL POTENTIAL FATHERS

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ26-023 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 23rd day of Sept., 2026 at the hour of 10:30 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. JFJ22-011/24-011/25-011AB
The People of the Winnebago Tribe In the Interest of:
G.H. (Born 6/2009)
L.W. (Born 1/2024)
R.M. (1/2014)
S.M. (4/2016)
Agnes Horton, Mother

To: Agnes Horton, Mother

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Permanency Hearing concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ22-011/24-011/25-011AB has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 16th day of September, 2026 at the hour of 11:30 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV23-018

In the Matter of the
Guardianship Petition of:
SIMONE ALDRICH In Re:
M.A. (Born 9/2017)

TO: SHAQUILLE MONIZ, 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. CV23-018 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 21st day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at the hour of 10:30 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. JFJ26-022
The People of the Winnebago Tribe
In the Interest of:
A.C.

To: TANYA MCCULLY, Mother
&
ALL POTENTIAL FATHERS

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ26-022 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 23rd day of Sept., 2026 at the hour of 11:00 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. JFJ26-024
The People of the Winnebago Tribe
In the Interest of:
X.C.

To: ANNA CLEVELAND, Mother
&
RASHAAN POMANIO,
Father

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ26-024 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 23rd day of Sept., 2026 at the hour of 11:30 A.M.

JESUS OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN OUTREACH



By: Pastor Ricky Jacob

‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’

Then Mauna said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” [Genesis 4:9 (NIV84)]

If you know this story from Mauna’s Sacred Word then you will be able to answer this question: Did Cain know where his brother Abel was? A follow up question: Did Mauna know where his brother was?

I will begin with the follow up question. Did Mauna know where his brother was? The answer is a resounding ‘yes!’ Creator God certainly did know where Abel was. Then why do you think Mauna asked Cain this question?

Mauna asked “Where is your brother Abel?” so that Cain might fess up to what he had done. When one is confronted by another with a wrong, that he or she did, it is best to take responsibility. This goes against one’s nature - one’s sinful nature. When confronted by Mauna Cain lies thus adding to his wicked ways and actions.

The answer to my first question: Did Cain know where his brother Abel was? The answer was surely he did. How do we know this? Just prior to Mauna asking the question of “Where is your brother Abel?” Cain had asked his younger brother Abel to go out to the field. While they were in the field Cain attacked his brother and killed him. Cain killed his brother and knew full well where he was - where his dead body lay or where he had buried him.

Then Cain was so bold, so brash, so arrogant to ask Mauna “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Mauna confronted Cain “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. [Genesis 4:10 (NIV84)].

The blood of Abel cried out from the ground demanding vengeance! What had Abel done to deserve such a death? Actually it was what Cain had done that led up to this tragedy.

One must go back further in this story. ‘Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to Mauna. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.

Mauna looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then Mauna said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.” [Genesis 4:2b–7 (NIV84)] inserting Mauna in place of ‘the LORD’].

Mauna was WARNING Cain! Cain did not heed Mauna’s warning. Many today do not heed Mauna’s countless warnings - but would rather do things their way - forsaking the wise advice of Mauna and his pastors & teachers.

Mauna’s Sacred Word reveals what made Abel’s sacrifice acceptable, and what Cain’s sacrifice lacked. We turn to the book of Hebrews: ‘By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead’ [Hebrews 11:4 (NIV84)].

Cain lacked faith. He was merely going through the outward motions of offering up a sacrifice. Without faith it is impossible to please God or for him to say to you “pinagigi” - ‘you have done well,’ or ‘with you I am well pleased!’

Abel’s blood cried for vengeance. However the blood of another, a member of the tribe of Mauna’s chosen people and his dearly loved son, provides a better word.

Again we turn to the book of Hebrews: ‘You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel’ [Hebrews 12:23b–24 (NIV84)].

The blood of Jesus offers FULL and COMPLETE payment for the sin of the world. To each and every one who places his/her faith in Jesus receives the forgiveness of one’s sin and the hope and the promise of everlasting life!

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
employment tab. Or in Clerk’s Office.
Choose non-driver application.

Equal Opportunity Employer, preference to Veterans.

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on August 29, 2026. DEADLINE for this issue will be August 25, 2026.



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

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

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

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or contact us at our e-mail address:
winnebagoindiannews@winnebagotribe.com
Phone: 402-878-2272

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Winnebago Indian News Staff

Bethani Redhorn.....Editor
Tyler Snake.....Office Manager
Christina Parker.....Desktop Publisher

WTN Communications

Garan CoonsComm. Officer
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Winnebago Tribal Council

Coly Brown Chairman
Eugene DeCora..... Vice Chairman
Teresa Littlegeorge..... Secretary
Rona Stealer..... Treasurer
Victoria Kitcheyan Member
Ireta FrazierMember
Trey BlackhawkMember
Keely Purscell.....Member
Margaret Scott.....Member



TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA MID-MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES July 28, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown
Eugene DeCora
Rona Stealer
Teresa Littlegeorge
Ireta Frazier
Trey Blackhawk
Victoria Kitcheyan
Keely Bassette (in @ 11:10 a.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael D. Wolfe
Marian Holstein
Tyler Smith
Jonathan Taylor (v)
Tyresha Romero (v)
Anna Bess Preston (v)
Dorine Payer (v)
Terri Lee Medina (v)
Kiana Lewis (v)
Jarold McWilliams (v)
Barbara Pretends Eagle (v)
Joi Long (v)
Kevin Ebert
Chad Smith (v)
Willy Bass (v)
Darla LaPointe (v)
Tyler LaMere (v)
Kiva Harden-Free
Anna Berridge (v)
Maggie Miller (v)
Janelle DeCora (v)
Kellie Snow (v)

TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:

Margaret Scott (PTO- Bar Exam)
*(v) indicates virtual attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 10:07 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Councilman Trey Blackhawk offered the opening prayer.

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEM #2: Michael D. Wolfe – Shared a heartfelt Thank you to the Tribal Council and shared his appreciation for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and the hard work they do.

READING OF THE MINUTES:
July 13, 2026 – Physical Resources Report meeting minutes
Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the July 13, 2026, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
July 13, 2026 – Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes
Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the July 13, 2026, Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
July 14, 2026 – General Counsel meeting minutes
Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the July 14, 2026, General Counsel meeting minutes. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
July 15, 2026 – CEO Report meeting
Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the July 15, 2026, CEO Report meeting minutes. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
RATIFY FIVE SIGNATURES:
Approval of resolution #26-162: WTN FY 26 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Hiring Program.

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to ratify the five-signature: Approval of resolution #26-162: WTN FY 26 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Hiring Program. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Approval of Resolution #26-163: Boys & Girls Club of Hocak Nisoc Hoci Non-profit Security Grant.
Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to ratify the five-signature: Approval of Resolution #26-163: Boys & Girls Club of Hocak Nisoc Hoci Nonprofit Security Grant. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
NEW BUSINESS:
Resolution: To Approve Lender Status, New Market Tax Credit Project Loan Documents, Arbitration Agreement, and Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adopt resolution #26-172: To Approve Lender Status, New Market Tax Credit Project Loan Documents, Arbitration Agreement, and Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immuni-

ty. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
OLD BUSINESS:
John Taylor – Taylor Policy Group – Case Study, presentation.
[Ireta out at 10:54 a.m., in at 10:56 a.m.]
[Rona out at 11:04 a.m., in at 11:10 a.m.]
[Keely in at 11:10 a.m.]
[Teresa out at 11:11 a.m., in at 11:14 a.m.]
TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:
Marian Holstein – request to address some items.

Care and Maintenance of Family Cemeteries
Natural Resources: Clearing of brush, fallen trees, etc. as future fire prevention. And request to plant more willow trees and cattail growth be restored
Consideration of hosting and supporting local and national candidates in the November Election.
[Eugene out at 11:21 a.m.]

Initiate the Compilation of Comprehensive demographic data on tribal members living on and off the reservation.
Initiate and understand the importance of a government’s responsibility in establishing, maintaining and archiving its records for historical preservation.

[Eugene in at 11:24 a.m.]
Michael D. Wolfe (heard at beginning of meeting)
EMG request J.S. –
[Victoria out at 11:54 a.m.]

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to enter executive session at 11:55 a.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

[Victoria in at 11:57 a.m.]
Keely Bassette motioned to exit executive session at 12:00 p.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE: (7) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

Keely Bassette-Payer motioned to support J.S. with the request for \$927.37 paid to the vendor APEX AUTOWORKS out of Tribal Council donations. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.
OBJECT: Victoria Kitcheyan
VOTE: (6) yes (1) no, VK (0) abstain
Motion carried.

Announcement: Travois Award – recognition of award, list being created.
HUD Housing – discussion.
[Rona out at 12:22 p.m., in at 12:24 p.m.]
[Rona out 12:38 p.m., in at 12:42 p.m.]

ADJOURN:
Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to adjourn at 12:49 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (7) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m.

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

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA TREASURER’S REPORT MEETING MINUTES July 31, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Teresa Littlegeorge
Rona Stealer
Ireta Frazier
Victoria Kitcheyan
Trey Blackhawk
Keely Bassette-Purscell in person & (v)
Eugene DeCora (v)
Margaret Scott (v)
OTHERS PRESENT:
Jarold McWilliams
Tom Teesdale
Brittany Thomas
Mark Stout
Lisa Walker
Ray Thomas
Mike Means
Beth Wewel
David Edwards
Tyresha Romero (v)
Angel Derochie (v)
Petra Nielson (v)
Kellie Snow (v)
Tanya Baker
Aaron LaPointe
Kiva Harden-Free
Christina Parker
Lance Morgan
Tiffany Buchanan (v)
William Bass (v)
Anna Bess Preston (v)
Maggie Miller (v)
Billie Kitcheyan (v)
Kiana Lewis (v)

Charie Tebo (v)
Terri Lee Medina (v)
Ricky Suarez (v)
Barbara Pretends Eagle (v)
TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Coly Brown (PTO)
*(v) indicates virtual attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: Secretary Littlegeorge called to order at 9:07 a.m.
OPENING PRAYER: Treasurer Stealer offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:
Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the agenda. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

[Keely in at 9:09 a.m.]
WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA FINANCIAL REPORT:
Presented by Jarold McWilliams.
Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to accept the June 2026 Winnebago Tribe Financial Report. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

VOTE: (7) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Victoria out at 9:17 a.m.]
CFO FINANCIAL APPROVALS:
WTN Separate IDC Proposal (IBC Submission headed by Jarold and Charles)
WCHS Separate IDC Proposal (IBC Submission headed Jarold, Charles, and Beth)

Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to approve the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and WCHS IDC Proposals as presented. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Trey out at 9:37 a.m., in at 9:42 a.m.]
FY 27 Preliminary Appropriations Budget – Discussion

*Budget will be prepared by the 14th of August and presented at the Mid-Monthly meeting.

TRIBAL COUNCIL APPROVALS:
FY27 Winnebago Child and Family Services Chafee Funds
Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to adopt resolution #26-173: FY27 Winnebago Child and Family Services Chafee Funds. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
FY27 CFS Resolution
Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to adopt resolution #26-174: Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska – Child Support Program (WTN-CSP) FY 27. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Alliance for Energy Innovations Non-Disclosure Agreement
Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) for Alliance for Energy Innovations, LLC. Keely Bassette-Purscell seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
BREAK: 10:08 a.m., reconvened at 10:26 a.m.
WCHS FINANCIAL REPORT:
Presented by Beth Wewel and David Edwards.
June 2026 Financial Report

[Trey in at 10:29 a.m.]
June 2026 Revenue Generation Report
[Rona in at 10:35 a.m.]
Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to accept June 2026 WCHS Financial report and Revenue Generation Report. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
WINNEBAGO GAMING COMMISSION:
Presented by Lisa Walker and Tanya Baker.

June 2026 Financial Report
Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to accept the June 2026 Winnebago Gaming Commission Report. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
WARHORSE REPORT:
Presented by Angel Deroachie, Lance Morgan, and Aaron LaPointe.
June 2026 Financial Report
Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the June 2026 WarHorse Financial Report. Keely Bassette-Purscell seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Ireta out at 11:00 a.m., in at 11:05 a.m.]
WINNAVEGAS REPORT:
Presented by Tom Teesdale, Mike Means, and Ray Thomas.

Keely Bassette-Purscell motioned to approve June 2026 WinnaVegas Financial Report. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Keely going virtual at 11:09 a.m.]
ANNOUNCEMENT: Tom Teesdale announces the YEARS OF SERVICE for the following:

Ray Thomas – 34 years
Kiva Harden-Free – 31 years
Promotions presentation: Petra Nielsen.
Tom requested an Executive Session at the next Regular meeting for a presentation from Wipfli.

TRIBAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:
SUSPEND THE RULES:
Ireta Frazier motioned to suspend the rules to hear the U.S. Cellular issue. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

Ireta Frazier motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the signature/approval to accept the building transfer from US Cellular. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

Online Participation Meeting Discussion – The Secretary is working on an SOP/ policy and will present it to the Tribal Council.

ADJOURN:
Trey Blackhawk motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m. Keely Bassette-Purscell seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Secretary Littlegeorge adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

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

LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE

Our Mission: “Be Strong and Educate My Children”

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

- Academic Advisor
- Administrative Assistant-Academics
- Extension and Equity Coordinator
- Recruitment Specialist
- Student Equity Intern
- Student Extension Intern
- Wolves Den Assistant

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



COMMUNITY



Community Notice: Positive West Nile Virus Mosquito Sample Detected

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has been notified that a mosquito sample collected within the community boundaries of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has tested positive for West Nile virus.

At this time, this means the virus has been detected in a mosquito in the boundaries of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. It does not mean that a human case has been identified in our community. However, the positive test serves as an important reminder to take precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito bite.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Use an EPA registered insect repellent (with Deets) when spending time outdoors. DEET is considered the suggested standard for insect repellent because it provides long-lasting, broad spectrum protection against mosquitoes, ticks, and other biting bugs by disorienting their sensory receptors so they cannot locate humans.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Remove standing water from around your home, including buckets, bird baths, flowerpots, gutters, and other containers where mosquitoes can breed.
- Ensure windows and doors screens are in good repair to help keep mosquitoes out of your home.

The Māḱa cīṇaḱ wōgijire ra (Winnebago Public Health Department) will continue to monitor mosquito activity and work continue to work with other local public health partners as appropriate.

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not become ill, but may develop symptoms such as fever, headaches, body aches, rash or fatigue. In rare cases, serious neurological illness can occur. Anyone experiencing severe symptoms should seek medical attention immediately.

We appreciate everyone’s cooperation with helping reduce mosquito breeding sites and protect the health of our Village. If you have any questions, please contact Monica Cleveland at the Mā Rašguni Woiperes Wahi (Environmental Health & Safety) Office, the Māḱa cīṇaḱ wōgijire ra (Winnebago Public Health Department) at 402-745-3950

WCHS Receives IHS Staff Quarters Grant to Support Employee Growth

By: Halle Murray Marketing Specialist

Winnebago, NE – The Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System (WCHS) is pleased to announce that it has been selected to receive an Indian Health Service (IHS) Staff

Quarters grant to support the development of additional staff housing on the Winnebago Reservation.

The funding is part of the FY 2026 IHS Staff Quarters initiative, which provides resources to support healthcare organizations by addressing critical employee housing needs. The IHS Division of Facilities Planning and Construction received 22 proposed staff quarters projects from 6 IHS areas totaling more than \$111 million in requested funding. After reviewing and ranking, 8 projects were selected nationwide to help address healthcare workforce housing needs.

WCHS was selected as one of the healthcare organizations to receive this investment, which will allow for the construction of a fourplex consisting of small, efficient one-bedroom, one-bathroom units designed to support healthcare recruitment and retention. The need for additional staff housing comes as healthcare services in Winnebago continue to grow due to health needs and

chronic conditions. To meet this demand, WCHS has expanded its workforce from approximately 199 employees to 349 employees, helping the organization strengthen access to care.

This fourplex will be developed in partnership with the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and its economic development organization, Ho-Chunk, Inc., through BluStone Homes. The project will build upon existing residential development and infrastructure to create efficient, accessible housing for WCHS employees.

“Having staff housing available is an important part of supporting our employees and strengthening our organization,” said Sharon Frenchman, Chief Administrative Officer. “This additional housing opportunity will help us recruit and retain talented healthcare professionals, support the growth of our workforce, and ensure WCHS can continue meeting the healthcare needs of the community.”

This project reflects WCHS’s ongoing commitment to investing in resources, facilities, and employees needed to provide compassionate, comprehensive healthcare for generations to come. WCHS would like to thank the Indian Health Service and all partners involved who helped make this project possible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant
FY 2026 Senior Home Improvement Project

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is providing public notice of its proposed Statement of Activities for a pre-application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Fiscal Year 2026 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska proposes to request \$19,249 in FY2026 Housing Preservation Grant funds to support the Tribe’s Senior Home Improvement Project. The project is a homeowner assistance program designed to preserve and improve adequate housing for eligible low- and very-low-income senior citizen homeowners residing within the exterior boundaries of the Winnebago Indian Reservation. This continues the purpose of the Tribe’s previous Senior Home Improvement Project.

The proposed program will provide assistance for eligible home repairs and rehabilitation activities intended to improve the safety, condition, accessibility, and habitability of existing homes. Proposed activities may include:

- Installation and/or repair of sanitary sewer and waste disposal systems;
- Water softener/reverse osmosis systems;
- Energy conservation measures, including insulation, storm windows, and screen doors;
- Repair or replacement of heating systems;
- Repair of structural supports and foundations;
- Repair or replacement of roofs and gutters;
- Accessibility improvements; and
- Necessary repairs to manufactured housing.

These are the types of eligible repair activities included in the Tribe’s proposed Statement of Activities.

Eligible recipients will be selected in accordance with applicable USDA Housing Preservation Grant requirements and the requirements of the Winnebago Tribe’s Senior Home Improvement Project. The proposed program will serve eligible homes located within the geographical boundaries of the Winnebago Indian Reservation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska invites interested members of the public to review and provide comments regarding the proposed FY2026 Housing Preservation Grant Statement of Activities.

The complete proposed Statement of Activities will be available for public review through the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Planning & Development Department, in coordination with the Tribal Housing Department.

Written comments will be accepted for 15 days following publication of this notice.

Publication Date: August 15, 2026
Public Comment Deadline: August 30, 2026

Comments or requests for a copy of the proposed Statement of Activities may be submitted to:

Planning & Development Department
Attn: Brittany Thomas
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 687
Winnebago, NE 68071
Phone: 402-878-2272 ext. 2707
Email: brittany.thomas@winnebagotribe.com

Tribal Housing Department
Attn: Madisyn Redhorn, Tribal Housing/EHR/SHR Manager
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 687
Winnebago, NE 68071
Office: 402-200-5371 ext. 3401

All comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed and considered prior to submission of the Tribe’s pre-application to USDA Rural Development.

This is an equal opportunity program. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law.



Children’s Well Visits

A well child does well! Help us get your children set for the school year. Prioritize their wellness by calling our Primary Clinic.

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NOW AVAILABLE – Schedule in your WinnHealth Patient Portal. Visit www.wchs.health/portal today!



Have You Set Up Proxy Access?
Empower your account to be able to request/schedule appointments on behalf of your kids. Contact Medical Records or email portal@wchs.health.



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
employment tab. Or in Clerk’s Office.
Choose non-driver application.

Equal Opportunity Employer, preference to Veterans.



Question of the Issue:

“It’s that time of the year for back to school, who was your favorite teacher and why?”

Garan: My favorite teacher has to go to the art wizard, Mr. Dale Mette. He encouraged me to pursue art beyond high school, had great stories about playing in a band, was a wicked artist himself, and drove the coolest car to school. I’m proud to say I earned Art Student of the Year once because he made the subject so engaging and fun! Even 26 years after graduation, we still keep in touch, and I proudly display one of his original art pieces in my living room. Thank you, Mr. Mette, for being my favorite teacher!

Kevin: My favorite teacher was a professor I had while playing football at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. I can’t remember his name—probably because of the football. Anyway, what was I talking about? Oh yeah! Favorite Teacher LOL, He was a former NASA rocket scientist. I liked him because he saw potential in me. I was only a freshman, but by my second semester, he had me taking junior-level calculus, statistics, and advanced math classes. I really appreciated that he had so much faith in me.

Bethani: My favorite teacher was Mr. Marc LaDue! He taught history at Winnebago Public School and was one of the most realistic teachers I ever had the opportunity to learn from. He gave me a lot of motivational speeches at a time in my life where I needed to hear them the most. Honorable mention, I have to give a shout-out to Mr. Mark Feight. He is another one of my favorite teachers from the public school and I hope he is living it up in retirement!

Tyler: My favorite teacher was Mrs. Patrick of SSC Cardinal Elementary in 5th grade. She was pretty cool. I remember she rode a motorcycle, wore a leather jacket, and had a short pixie cut. She was always super tan. She made reading time fun and overall was a great teacher!

Quince: My favorite Teacher growing up was the late Joan Cline. She was my middle school teacher for 3 yrs. 6th-8th grades. She was the only Native teacher at WPS. She was a Legend. And, then in High School, my favorite teacher was Mel Southwell. He was my Jr. High track coach. At our 1st trackl meeting in Columbus, NE he allowed me to compete in a track meet in 8th grade under the name Greg Bass Jr. for 4 events and then Quince Bass for 4 events. I took 1st place in 7 of 8 events and 2nd place in the last event. Out of 16 teams, I placed 3rd and the trophy is still sitting in the trophy case at WPS.

Christina: My favorite teacher was my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Anderson. She was the kindest and sweetest teacher, always ever so patient with us and fun too! I remember one time she let us make caramel apples and she would separate seating between the mean naughty kids and the well-behaved kids like myself lol.

Gayla: My favorite teacher was Mr. Marc LaDue at WPS! He was my history teacher. He was one of the few staff members who noticed when I was struggling, pulled me aside, and made special accommodations for me. That meant a lot to me, and I’ve never forgotten it. I also learned so much in his class and really appreciated the way he taught history. He didn’t romanticize it or teach it from just one perspective. He understood that history is nuanced. He saw the humanity in it, the good and the bad, and taught it in a way that made you genuinely interested in learning more. I really admired that about him. I carry his teachings with me today. One time, he caught me passing notes in class, and I was TERRIFIED because the “note” I passed was actually a sketch I had drawn of him. He looked at it, smiled, and ended up hanging it near his desk, where it stayed for the rest of my time at WPS. I also always thought it was cool that he rode a motorcycle to school every day. And I’ll never forget his Wu-Tang Clan button-down he often wore, haha. He was one of those teachers who left an impression on me, not only because of what he taught, but because of how he treated me when I needed someone to notice. He passed in 2018. He is definitely missed. RIP Mr. LaDue!

Employee Appreciation Activity Winners:

Cornhole Winners
1st Place- Trisha Walker & Alyas Bertucci –
2nd Place- Cela Payer & Jaxon Bearskin -
3rd Place – Ira Rave Jr & Craig Cleveland Jr

Golf Winners
1st Flight
1st Place- Michelle Armell & Kenny Blackhawk
2nd Place- Patrice Bass & Travis Malloy
3rd Place- Rana Merrick & Byron Walker
2nd Flight
1st Place- Tyler Miller & Oscar Earth
2nd Place- Eugene DeCora & Sky Aldrich
3rd Place- Kelly Lonewolf & Buffalo Bass

Volleyball Winners
1st Place-
Andre Snowball
Averi Lapointe
Toryann Johnson
Xcaydia Nieman
Amour Sheridan
Tricia Smith

2nd Place-
Jae Payer
Alissa Williams
Bernie WhiteTwin
Colee Brown
Tamara Houghton
Brandi Brown

3rd Place-
Kayleen Blackhawk
Zach Hansen
Jon Rave
Jean Parker-Morris
Kourtney Funk
Daynee Harlan

INDIAN HEALTH
SERVICE
GREAT PLAINS AREA
REGIONAL DRUG
DEPENDENCY UNIT
WINNEBAGO, NE
CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES



INDIAN PREFERENCE CANDIDATES
PLEASE BRING BIA FORM 4432

JOB FAIR AUGUST 21, 2026, 10AM - 4PM
Location: Little Priest Tribal College Auditorium
601 E College Drive Winnebago, NE 68071
ALL ENTRY LEVEL AND OPEN POSITIONS AT THE
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE GREAT PLAINS AREA REGIONAL
DRUG DEPENDENCY UNIT
USA JOBS APPLICATION SUPPORT PROVIDED

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
SOCIAL WORKER

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ASSISTANT
MEDICAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT
ENTRY LEVEL POSITIONS

For more information contact
Josette.Church@ihs.gov or
Christina.Habben@ihs.gov



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INTERESTED? CONTACT THE WINNEBAGO CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM:
(402) 878-2570

SAVE THE DATE
HARVEST CELEBRATION
Wahaǵi Wōška
2026
September 29th



Head Woman: Shaundiin Long



Wažanįwį ņa hižakišana hinįkaragi ņa maixete rasra Shaundiin Evelyn Long hįgairena. Hoocak rasra ņaągepiwinga hįgairena. Mā kerepaņa nūp ņaąa hakewe wā’uaje ņa ege hųc hikikarac wā’uaje ņa. Nisoc haci eja howawāji ņa. Joi long ga hi’unį hā na. Evelyn “wiragusgeiga” Lucille Cleveland wanagira hikoroke ha ņa. hizakisana hanicara haipi ņa. haizo’u ņe. Pinagigiwi. My relatives, each of you, I greet you. My english name is Shaundiin Evelyn Long and my hochunk name is Good Heart woman. I am 26 years old, I am a descendent from the bear clan, I grew up in Winnebago. My mother is Joi Long and my grandmother is Evelyn Lucille “Star woman” Cleveland. I am glad to see each of you today, Thank you.

Around this time of the Homecoming celebration it’s important to remember that we are honoring and commemorating Chief Little Priest and the Company “A” scouts for their bravery and sacrifice on behalf of the Winnebago people. I am also reminded of my great grandfather Paul Bearskin Logan and my grandpa Robert Lieb as they both served in the Army. On my maternal side my great grandparents are Evelyn Pauline

Logan and Silas Cleveland and my mother was raised by her grandparents Harry Funmaker and Evelyn Pauline Logan in Lyndon Station, WI. I am the youngest daughter of the family and my father is from the Navajo Nation in Birdsprings, Arizona. I am going to be graduating from the University of Nebraska-Omaha with my bachelors in Political science and minors in Native American Studies and Philosophy. I’ve been recognized on the Dean’s List for 3 semesters in a row and compete in pow-wows all across the country. My next goal in life is to head to law school and continue my education journey so I can help uplift not only my tribe but others as well. Being asked to be this year’s head woman is a special moment and a huge honor not only for me but my family as well. My main motivation and inspiration for taking on this position is because of my mother Joi Long. She was fortunate enough to be asked to take on this responsibility twice in her lifetime with her last time being in 1993 and also held the title for Winnebago princess for this celebration back in 1975. Another catalyst that helped me immerse myself into my culture is my Kunika Juanita “Ruucge Sgai Ga” Cleveland Wanagira, she taught me how to dance, how to sing, and how to dress whether it was pow-wows or NAC meetings. Every year, I look forward to this Homecoming Celebration because of the songs, dances and seeing relatives and friends that come from near and far.

I am very grateful for this honor and will continue to pay tribute to Chief Little Priest, the Company “A” Scouts, the veterans and the ones who have passed on. I wish all of our visitors safe travels, hope you enjoy your time with us and come back next year! Wa’iniginapsana!

Head Man: Matthew Cleveland III



“In honor of our ancestors, our families, and those who sacrificed before us. With deep gratitude, I recognize Chief Little Priest and the Company A Scouts for their courage and sacrifices that helped make Winnebago, Nebraska, the home we proudly continue to celebrate today.”

My name is Matthew Cleveland III. I am a proud member of the Bear Clan and come from both Ho-Chunk and Meskwaki heritage. My nickname, “Baby Matt,” was given to me by my family and friends and has stayed with me throughout my life. My Ho-Chunk name is Huc Ma Ni Ga, which translates to “Walking Bear.” I carry this name with great pride, respect, and responsibility.

I am deeply humbled and honored to be selected as this year’s 160th Homecoming Celebration Head Man dancer here in Winnebago, Nebraska. This opportunity means a great deal to me because it represents my family, our community, our culture, and the many teachings that have guided me throughout my journey.

My parents, Dorcee Kearnes and Matthew Cleveland Jr., have always been some of my greatest teachers. From an early age, they showed me the importance of respect, kindness, hard work, and the values needed to walk through life with a good heart. My mother and I are very close; she was my main source for strength, motivation, and encouragement. My grandparents, Matthew Cleveland Sr., Violet Lasley Cleveland, Richard Kearnes Sr., and Loylee Likehim Kearnes, also played an important role in shaping who I am today. Through their knowledge, love, and guidance, I learned lessons that I will carry with me forever. I have always wanted to make them proud. I will always remember what my Choka Matt and Koko Violet have done for me and many others, forever thankful is an understatement.

Growing up, powwows became one of my favorite hobbies and a major part of my life. Through traveling throughout Indian Country and meeting people from many different backgrounds, I have been blessed with experiences that have expanded my understanding of the world. I have visited many reservations, tribes, towns, and cities, and I have even traveled to parts of Canada to pursue opportunities and try my luck. Each place and each person I encountered taught me something valuable.

Some of my greatest accomplishments have come through the classroom, athletics, and powwows. In my journey as a dancer and competitor, I experienced success in both the Junior and Teen categories. One year in the Junior category, I went undefeated throughout the entire contest powwow season, and I was also fortunate enough to accomplish that one more time in the Teen category. The biggest achievement in my life so far is becoming a father of two beautiful daughters, Alliana and Amaliyah. The joy and happiness I got from them is far more than anything I accomplished. They are the main reason why I agreed to be this year’s Head Man dancer so they can look back one day and watch what their dad has done. I want to thank their mother, my fiancé, Allie Robinson, for carrying these beautiful souls into my world.

However, my greatest teachers have not only been my successes— they have been my challenges. Failure has taught me some of life’s most important lessons. I have faced moments where I failed repeatedly and felt like giving up, but those experiences pushed me to keep learning, growing, and finding a way forward. Humility has always reminded me to stay grounded and appreciate the people and blessings around me. Perseverance has carried me through difficult times because I know life can knock us down, break our hearts, and challenge us in ways we never expect.

Through all of these experiences, I have learned that life is shaped by how we choose to see both the good and the bad. Every challenge is an opportunity to grow, and every moment is a chance to make a positive impact. Life is short, and we should strive to make the most of it while honoring where we come from and the people who helped us along the way.

I am grateful for my family, our culture, our ancestors, and everyone who has been part of my journey. I will continue to walk forward with humility, strength, and pride, carrying the wisdom of my people and the name Huc Ma Ni Ga—Walking Bear.

Head Man Dance Judge: Les Painter



Les Painter (kawas-ma-ni member of the Bear Clan) is Nįšoc Haci (Ho-Chunk in Winnebago, NE) who enjoys dancing and singing with family at powwows across Indian Country. For him, powwow is more than celebration. It is a way to stay connected to culture, traditions, and continue to pass down for the future generations.

Les is honored to have been selected as the 2026 Winnebago Homecoming Celebration Head Men’s Dance Judge. He thanks the Winnebago Homecoming Celebration Committee for this opportunity and is proud to serve at what is known as the oldest powwow in the universe.

Woman Dance Judge: Cassie Kitcheyan



Hanac Hinikaragi Wi Na!

My name is Cassie Kitcheyan. My Ho-Chunk name is Ho Minika, a name passed down to me from my great-great-grandmother that means “Sitting Inside.” I am an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and also represent the San Carlos Apache Tribe. I come from the Whitebeaver family, who are of the Bear Clan.

My husband and I are blessed with four children and one grandchild, and we are proud to call Winnebago our home. As

a family, we enjoy traveling throughout Indian Country, dancing at powwows, and celebrating our culture and traditions with relatives and friends across many tribal communities.

I earned my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Haskell Indian Nations University. I also hold a Graduate Certificate in Native American Studies and a Master of Science in Education (MSE) in Academic Affairs and College Counseling. In addition, I am a Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (PLMHP) in Nebraska.

Currently, I serve as the Coordinator of a Community Crisis Response Program in Winnebago, where I am honored to support the well-being of our community.

I am deeply honored to have been asked to serve as the Head Women’s Dance Judge for the 160th Winnebago Homecoming Celebration. I extend a warm welcome to all dancers, singers, and their families. Dance hard, sing strong, and enjoy a wonderful Homecoming Celebration!

*Wa’iniginapšqņa
Cassie Kitcheyan*

Master of Ceremonies: Craig Cleveland Jr.



Hižakišana hanác hinį karagi Hanác hanįcara haipiįi Hō cąk rāš ra Māhirukara ga wa’uaje naga mąxete rāš ra Craig Cleveland jr wa’uą je Kųnų hižą wa’uaje Craig Cleveland sr naga DeeAnn Cleveland x’oke wahāra naga jōp

wākinūpašan cęxji yakikarac šan Hōcąk nįšoc ra hakipax šąņa egi hōcąk nįšoc eja howawaji na

Lois cleveland ga wonąğira hikoroke hāra naga Joseph snow sr ga hicoke hāra naga Hōcąk rāš ra cę xji cōņi ga hinik hāra Albert Scott Cleveland rāš eanį ņa .

Nįsoc howašį wgoižawa regi hokawa wire

Egi Winnebago Homecoming celebration wijaja wa’uaje na

Nácgepi wašI wi ne Nácgepi nawą wi ne

Cčk naga š’ak hicakoro nāp hiperes hikipa wi ne

Wogixete wi ne



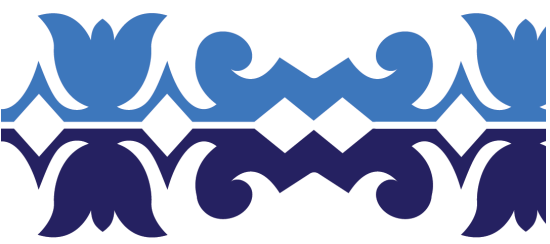
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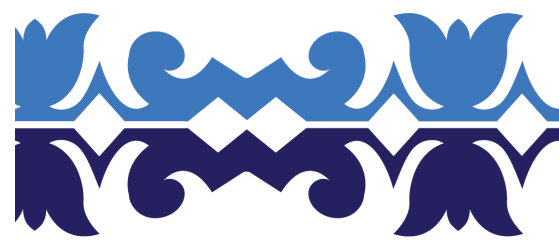
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FORT OMAHA INTERTRIBAL POWWOW



35TH ANNUAL FORT OMAHA

INTERTRIBAL POWWOW

Building Bridges

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 | 1-7:30 p.m.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fort Omaha Campus | 5300 N. 30th St.
Omaha, NE 68111
mccneb.edu/Powwow
531-MCC-2662

Emcee

Taylor Cheii Begay
Diné

Princess Judge

Leah Gossard
Umon'hoⁿ/MHA

Arena Director

Waylon LaPlante
Isnati/Dakota

Host Northern Drum

Dakota Boys
Dakota

Head Man Dancer

Louis Antoine
Sicangu/Lakota

Host Southern Drum

Omaha Rough Riders
Umon'hoⁿ

Head Lady Dancer

Noni Stabler
Umon'hoⁿ

Reigning Princess

Teyanna Runnels
Santee Sioux

Free and open to the public.



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METROPOLITAN
Community College

Metropolitan Community College affirms a policy of equal education, employment opportunities and nondiscrimination in providing services to the public. We are committed to ensuring our websites and facilities are accessible and usable to everyone. To read our full policy statement, visit mccneb.edu/Nondiscrimination.



IT'S JUST MORE FUN



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Saturdays, August 1, 8, 15 & 22
6pm to 11pm | Drawings Every 30 Minutes!

You Could WINN \$1,000 CASH!

Players may only win once per promotion day.



RANDY HOUSER
RH

Saturday, August 22nd
*Doors at 7pm * Show at 8pm*

Tickets starting at \$35!
Live at the WinnaVegas Event Center

Tickets can be purchased in person at the WinnaVegas Gift Shop, by
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For more information: visit WinnaVegas.com or call us at 800-468-9466