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WPS Homecoming 2026!

page: 7 & 9

HoChunk Renaissance Hosts Annual Harvest Celebration 2026!

pages: 6

Volume 55, Number 20

Cā mą hinągo wīra
Deer Pawing Moon

Saturday, October 10, 2026

The masthead scene for this edition of the Winnebago Indian News features newly crowned 2026-2027 Jr. & Sr. Miss Harvest Celebration Royalties, Graleigh Littlewalker and Presley Nieman. This will conclude our countdown to the Wahaĝi Wōška Harvest Celebration, which was held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at the Whirling Thunder Wellness Center. *(Photography by Savannah Anderson)*

Winnebago Tribal Council Swear-In Ceremony 2026-2027

By Bethani Redhorn, WIN Editor
Photography by Bethani Redhorn

WINNEBAGO, Neb. – It was a momentous morning at the Whirling Thunder Wellness Center gym on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, as community members gathered both in person and virtually on the Winnebago Tribe's YouTube livestream to witness the 2026 Winnebago Tribal Council Swearing-In Ceremony. The ceremony followed the General Election on Tuesday, October 6, in which tribal members cast ballots to fill three vacant seats on the nine-member governing body. Six candidates were listed on the ballot, including two incumbents.

The finalized election results brought back two familiar faces and introduced one new voice to the council table. Eugene DeCora, Sr. secured the most votes, leading the ballot with 285 votes to retain his incumbent position. Craig Cleveland, Sr. emerged as the council's newest member, securing 219 votes. Keely Bassette-Purscell locked in the final seat with 217 votes, retaining her incumbent position as well. Rounding out the ballot were candidates Damon Payer with 185 votes, Darla LaPointe with 143 votes, and Brian Chamberlain with 116 votes.

The morning opened with a welcome by Quince Bass, Big Voice Radio Station Manager, offering a brief run of show from the agenda. Winnebago New Breed Singers rendered traditional Winnebago's Welcome and Flag songs, followed by Winnebago Veterans Anthony Bassette, Kevin Ebert, and Alfred Lopez posting of the colors. Before moving to official business, Winnebago Tribal Elder and Combat Veteran Larry Payer offered the blessing and prayer, praying for guidance, mutual respect, and wisdom for the incoming council table. He also shared a reflection on the translation of the flag song, stating, "there goes our flag. Today, our flag is at war. Stand up for it, protect it."

Following the prayer, Judge Zendejas

Con't. on page 2...

Nį šoc Nįgešąną

By: Tyler Snake

Congratulations to Terri Lee Medina for being named Expand's 2026 Top 10 under 40! Expand Magazine features ten young leaders, business owners, executives, and community volunteers who are under the age of 40 and making an impact around Siouxland. Check out Terri's article featured in Expand's magazine issue Vol 8 Issue 5!

On September 23rd, the Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System hosted the Wazoki Round Dance! The evening was full of events for the community; dinner and contests including the two-step, potato dance, best ribbon shirt, best ribbon skirt and more.

On September 30th, WCHS and Wazoki partnered with Waksik Xete Wirakara for a healthy brain puzzle challenge. 12 teams of 4 raced against each other to finish a 500-piece puzzle. 1st place is Team Boarder Control, 2nd place is Team the Valley Girls, and 3rd place is Team No Puzzle for Old Men! Congrats to all the teams!

Winnebago Community Wears Orange in Remembrance and Solidarity

By Gayla Whitewater, WIN Reporter
Photography Courtesy of Winnebago Public School

WINNEBAGO, Neb. — The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska observed Orange Shirt Day, Every Child Matters, and the Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools on September 30. Across Winnebago, tribal members, employees, and Winnebago Public School students wore orange to honor boarding school survivors, remember the children who never returned home, and recognize the lasting impacts on Native families and communities.

Orange Shirt Day began with the story of Phyllis Webstad, whose new orange shirt was taken from her when she arrived at a residential school in Canada at six years old. Her experience inspired a movement centered on the message "Every Child Matters," affirming every child's right to safety, love, and belonging. September 30 also serves as a day of remembrance in the United States for those affected by Indian boarding schools.

WTN Tribal Council members Keely Purscell and Emmy Scott hosted an educational presentation for students and staff about the observance and its significance. The presentation provided an opportunity to learn, reflect, and connect the act of wearing orange with the history it represents.

The Big Voice Radio staff also visited tribal departments and entities to interview community members about what Orange Shirt Day means to them. These conversations brought local voices into the observance, creating space for adults and youth to share their perspectives on remembrance, healing, and the importance of supporting Native children.

To further encourage community learning, The Big Voice released a special episode of WOIPERES, its Ho-Chunk history series, focused on the observance. Together, the presentation, interviews, and episode offered ways for community members to engage with this history beyond wearing an orange shirt.

Con't. on page 2...

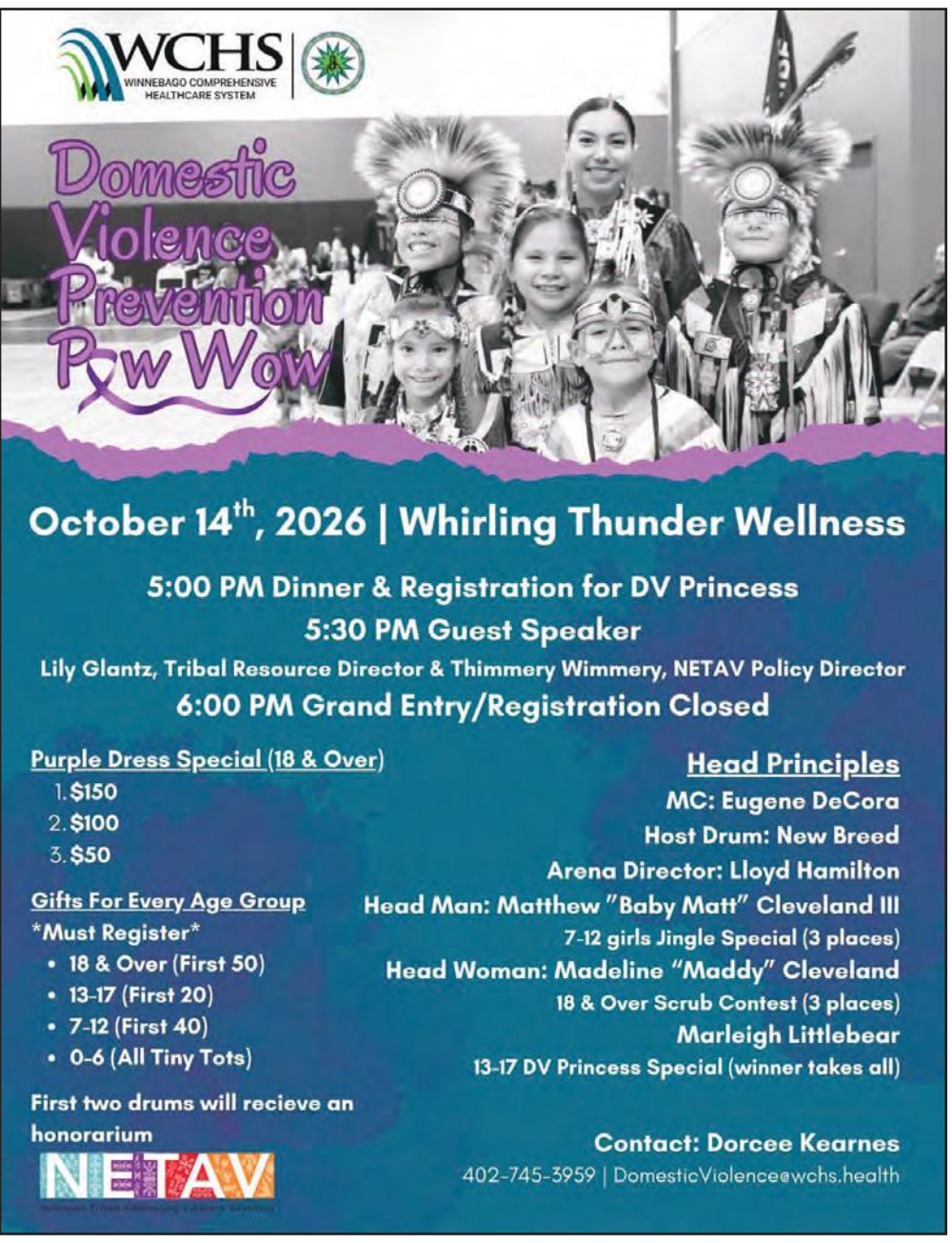
"**Wōkixete hįwa'ųąjawį ną!** - *We love one another.*"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...*Con't from front page:* Winnebago Community Wears Orange in Remembrance and Solidarity

Throughout Winnebago, the sea of orange carried a shared message: our children are valued, our survivors are honored, and those who never came home are remembered. Carrying that message forward means continuing to listen, learn, and nurture a future in which our children can grow up knowing who they are and feeling proud of where they come from.

To learn more, visit the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition at www.boardingschoolhealing.org and the Orange Shirt Society at www.orangeshirtday.org.

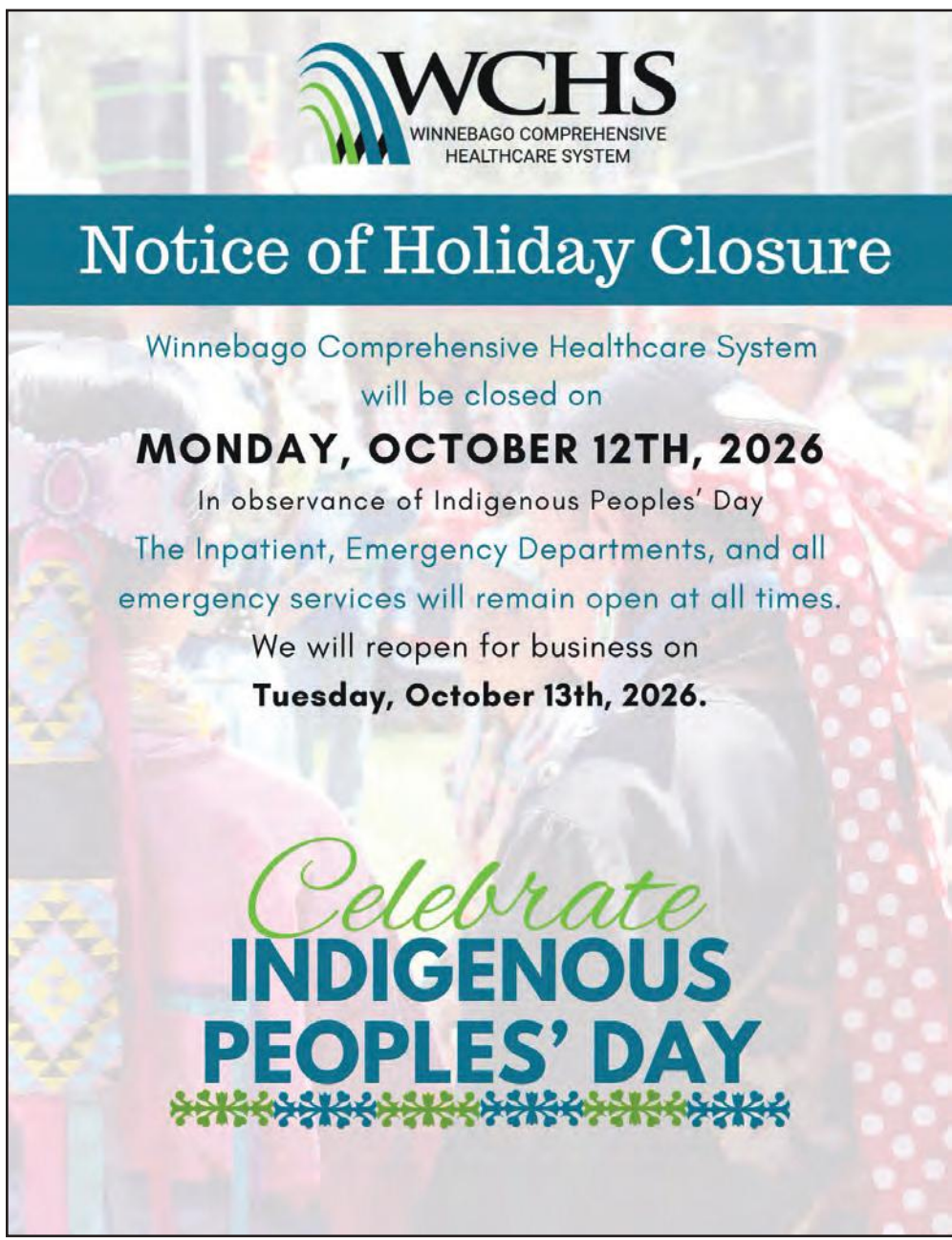


...*Con't from front page:* Winnebago Tribal Council Swear-In Ceremony 2026-2027

proceeded forward with the Oath of Office. One by one, hands raised, Eugene DeCora, Sr., Craig Cleveland, Sr., and Keely Bassette-Purscell swore to support and defend the Constitutions of both the United States and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The table immediately moved into nominations to the election of Officers. The council voted to reappoint sitting Chairman Coly Brown, Trey Blackhawk as the table's Vice-Chairman; re-elected councilman Eugene DeCora Sr. as the Winnebago Tribal Council Treasurer; and Secretary Teresa Littlegeorge continues her role as Winnebago Tribal Council Secretary. Judge Zendejas called the newly appointed Officers to take a secondary oath for their officer duties.

The newly elected and re-elected council members shared heartfelt words with the tribal membership, sharing lighthearted personal jokes, gratitude to their families, keeping open lines of communication, looking out for the youth and elders, and maintaining unity even when the table doesn't completely agree. The Winnebago Tribal Council then took its first official action during the ceremony as they reviewed and passed Resolution 27-05, officially approving the adoption ballot of tribal applicants from the previous evening with a unanimous 8-0-0 vote.

To close out the event, Winnebago Veterans and New Breed Singers rendered the retreat of the flags. With the formal business finished, the ceremony adjourned, and everyone was invited to take pictures with the new council.



Wāgax hūk ra wāgax hokik'ụna

Letter to the Editor

Winnebago Tribal Police Department Announces Retirement of Lead Dispatcher Kathy Guerue

The Winnebago Tribal Police Department would like to recognize and congratulate Dispatcher Kathy Guerue on her retirement after 31 years of dedicated service to the Winnebago community.

Kathy has served as an important member of the WTPD Communications team, providing professional and dependable support to officers, emergency responders, and community members. As the voice behind many calls for service, her work has played an important role in helping keep the community and our officers safe.

Throughout her career, Kathy has demonstrated commitment, professionalism, and dedication to public service. Her contributions to the department and the community will be remembered and appreciated.

The Winnebago Tribal Police Department extends its sincere gratitude to Kathy for her years of service and wishes her all the best in this next chapter.

Congratulations on your retirement, Kathy! Thank you for your service to the Winnebago Tribal community.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
FOR
PASTOR RICKY AND KIM JACOB

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
FROM 2:30-4:00 PM
3:15 PM MEMORIES TO SHARE

LOCATION:
Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Outreach
204 West Mercer Street, Winnebago, Nebraska
Bring your lawn chairs to sit outside
We will be serving cake and drink!

In case of inclement weather:
Blackhawk Community Center
In the Hope Classroom
205 Bluff Street, Winnebago, Nebraska

Please join us to celebrate the 39 years
of sharing Jesus' love
as a Missionary Family!

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
- Recruitment Specialist
- Student Equity Intern
- Student Extension Intern

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV26-172
In the Interest of:
J.B.

To: Mira Parker-Respondent

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Temporary Restraining Order concerning the above referred individual(s) in case no. CV26-172 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 11th day of November, 2026 at the hour of 11:30A.M.

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 Oct. 24 , 2026. DEADLINE for this issue will be Oct. 20, 2026.

THE WIN Winnebago Indian News

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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 Winnebage 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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Winnebago Tribal Council
Coly Brown ..... Chairman
Trey Blackhawk ..... Vice Chairman
Teresa Littlegeorge ..... Secretary
Eugene DeCora ..... Treasurer
Craig Cleveland Sr. ..... Member
Ireta Frazier ..... Member
Rona Stealer ..... Member
Keely Purscell ..... Member
Margaret Scott ..... Member

NAJA Native American Journalists Association

TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Keely out at 3:20 p.m.]
[Coly out at 3:25 p.m.]
EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to enter executive session at 3:34 p.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE:(5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Keely in at 3:42 p.m.]
[Coly in at 3:49 p.m.]
[Victoria in at 4:03 p.m.]
[Eugene out at 4:41 p.m.]
[Keely out at 5:10 p.m.]
Rona Stealer motioned to exit executive session at 5:25 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE:(5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
ADJOURN:
Rona Stealer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE:(5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
MID-MONTHLY TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING
September 21, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:
Coly Brown
Teresa Littlegeorge
Trey Blackhawk
Ireta Frazier
Margaret Scott
Rona Stealer *(in at 9:16 a.m.)*
Keely Purscell-Bassette (v) *(in at 9:21 a.m.)*
OTHERS PRESENT:
Christina Parker
Terri Lee Medina (v)
Natalie Earth (v)
Chad Smith (v)
Kellie Snow (v)
Maggie Miller (v)
Barbara Pretends Eagle (v)
Darla LaPointe (v)
Tiffany Buchanan (v)
John Jensen (v)
TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Victoria Kitcheyan (travel)
Eugene DeCora (travel)

*(v) indicates virtual attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 9:09 a.m.
OPENING PRAYER: Councilman Blackhawk offered the opening prayer.
APPROVE AGENDA:
Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the agenda with addition. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
READING OF THE MINUTES:
September 17, 2026 – CEO Report meeting minutes
Maragret Scott motioned to approve the September 17, 2026, CEO Report Meeting minutes. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
September 17, 2026 – Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes
Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the September 17, 2026, Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
RATIFY FIVE SIGNATURES:
Approval of Resolution #26-209: Winnebago Tribe FY 2027 EPA General Assistance Program
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to ratify the five-signature: Approval of Resolution #26-209: Winnebago Tribe FY 2027 EPA General Assistance Program. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
NEW BUSINESS:
Human Services:
New Position Request
Approval of Org Chart
Ireta Frazier motioned to table Human Services items; New Position Request, and Approval of Org Chart until the department can be present. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Rona in at 9:16 a.m.]
Enrollment:
Travel Request – Enrollment Committee member/Enrollment Round Table
Travel Approval – Enrollment Round Table, Rapid City, SD, Oct. 8-9, 2026
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve the travel for the Enrollment Committee member and any Tribal Council to attend the Enrollment Round Table in Rapid City, SD, Oct. 8-9, 2026. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Keely Purscell-Bassette in at 9:21 a.m.]
OLD BUSINESS:
Tribal Election – Adoption Ballot Discussion
Margaret Scott motioned to add the two excluded members to the adoption ballot and approve the Tribal Member applicant on a new resolution as suggested by legal counsel. Keely Purscell-Bassette seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
SAVE THE DATE: Winnebago Health Foundation – An Evening of Culture, October 30th, 2026, at Country Celebrations in Sioux City, IA.
Discussion only.
American Indigenous Tourism Conference – October 19-22, 2026, in Tulalip, WA
Rona Stealer motioned to approve travel for any Tribal Council to attend the American Indigenous Tourism Conference, October 19-22, 2026, in Tulalip, WA. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
ADJOURN:
Trey Blackhawk motioned to adjourn at 9:43 a.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (6) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
PHYSICAL RESOURCES REPORT MEETING
September 21, 2026

TRIBAL COUCNIL PRESENT:
Coly Brown
Teresa Littlegeorge
Rona Stealer
Trey Blackhawk
Margaret Scott
Ireta Frazier *(in at 11:19 a.m.)*
Keely Purscell-Bassette *(in at 12:04 p.m.)*
OTHERS PRESENT:
Brian Chamberlain
Harvey Freemont
Autumn Nieman
Anna Bess Preston (v)
Oscar Canales
Tara Hernandez
Tiffany Buchanan (v)
Darla LaPointe (v)
Anna Berridge (v)
Trisha Rivers
Aseanna Overfelt
Laurice Gilpin
James Fat
Marge Gilpin
Cynthia Earth
Sara Anne Larson
TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Eugene DeCora (travel)
Victoria Kitcheyan (travel)

*(v) indicates virtual attendance

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 11:02 a.m.
OPENING PRAYER: Brian Chamberlain offered the opening prayer.
APPROVE AGENDA:
Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the agenda with additions. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
LAND MANAGEMENT:
Allotment Ag Resolution 618 Lucy Snowball
Rona Stealer motioned to adopt resolution #26-219: Ref: Agricultural Lease Bid: 618 Lucy Snowball. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Allotment Ag Resolution 17L James White Horse
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to table Allotment Ag Resolution 17L James White Horse. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Allotment Ag Resolution 356L Charles Sharp
Rona Stealer motioned to adopt resolution #26-220: Ref: Agricultural Lease Bid – Allotment 356L Charles Sharp. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Allotment Age Resolution 472 William DeCora, 472-A William DeCora, 475 Mrs. Mary Earth
Rona Stealer motioned to adopt resolution #26-221: Ref: Agricultural Lease Bid – Allotment 472 William Decora, 472-A William DeCora, 475 Mrs. Mary Earth. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Allotment Ag Resolution 196 Thomas Rainbow
Trey Blackhawk motioned to adopt resolution #26-222: Ref: Agricultural Lease Bid – Allotment 196 Thomas Rainbow. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Allotment Ag Resolution 516 Frank Lewis, 517 Henry Lewis
Margaret Scott motioned to adopt resolution #26-223: REF: Agricultural Lease Bid – Allotment 516 Frank Lewis, 517 Henry Lewis. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Allotment Ag Resolution 295L-A
Trey Blackhawk motioned to adopt resolution #26-224: Ref: Agricultural Lease Bid – Allotment 295L-A. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Allotment Ag Resolution 48W George Boyd, 49W White Cedar, 50W Green Rainbow, 913 Mrs. George Boyd, 916 John Fireman
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adopt resolution #26-225: Ref: Agricultural Lease Bid – Allotment 48W George Boyd, 49W White Cedar, 50W Green Rainbow, 913 Mrs. George Boyd, 916 John Fireman. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Land Lease Resolution Community Garden
Trey Blackhawk motioned to adopt resolution #26-226: Ref: Land Lease – Greenhouse/Community Garden. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (4) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Ireta in at 11:19 a.m.]
Discussion Cemetery expansion; The expansion of the (Winnebago) cemetery needs to happen soon. Estimated cost: $1.3 Million.
PHYSICAL RESOURCES REPORT:
Monthly Report
[Teresa out at 11:27 a.m., in at 11:28 a.m.]
Rona Stealer motioned to approve the Physical Resources Report as presented. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Thunder Way South – 30 Lot Infrastructure Project
Trey Blackhawk motioned to declare the 30 Lot Infrastructure Project at Thunderway property of the Winnebago Tribe, and for it to remain as such. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Tribal Transit Rider Policy
Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the Tribal Transit Policy to be effective as of 9-21-26. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Tribal Transit Fee Increase
Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the increases to the Tribal Transit Fees to take effect as soon as Tribal Transit can notify the riders. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Discussion regarding increase and invoices for WinnaVegas. This will be shared with the G.M. during the Treasurer's Report meeting.
EPD EPA Construction General Permit Discussion
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of response to EPD EPA Construction General Permit request for a 60-day review. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Facilities Additional Positions – Discussion only
Utilities Village Monthly Bills – Discussion only
Lease/Maintenance Agreement – Discussion
Updated version should be changed to maintenance repairs.
Suspend the Rules for Executive Session
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to suspend the rules and enter Executive Session for a personnel issue at 12:03 p.m. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
[Margaret out at 12:53 a.m., in at 1:22 p.m.]
[Rona out at 2:06 p.m., in at 2:10 p.m.]
Rona Stealer motioned to exit Executive Session at 2:23 p.m. Keely Purscell-Bassette seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Enrollment: Tribal Applicant - resolution
Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to adopt resolution #26-227: Tribal Enrollment Applicant [A4940]. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.
VOTE:(5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Education Policy
Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to approve the Education Policy adding: Maximum of four (4) paid work hours per week, effective October 1, 2026. Margaret Scott seconded the motion
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
ADJOURN:
Trey Blackhawk motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.
VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.
Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
GENERAL COUNSEL MEETING
September 24, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:
Coly Brown
Teresa Littlegeorge
Rona Stealer
Margaret Scott
Trey Blackhawk
Ireta Frazier (v) & in-person
Keely Purscell-Bassette (v) & in-person
OTHERS PRESENT:
Danelle Smith
Brandon Stout
Christina Parker
Sarah Herring (v)
Kiana Lewis (v)
Darla LaPointe (v)
Joy Johnson (v)
Miskoo Petite
Kristin Lowry (v)
Terri Lee Medina (v)
Misti Gomez
Cherie Tebo (v)
Maggie Miller (v)
Joi Long (v)
Jennifer Berridge (V)
Erin Miller
Tiffany Buchanan (v)
Kelli Snow (v)
Jason Searle (v)
Josh Pitre (v)
Joey Adler Ruane (v)
Anna Berrige (v)
Todd Mormon (v)
Danielle Lazore-Thompson (v)
Virgina Snake-Bumann (v)
Barbara Pretends Eagle (v)
TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Victoria Kitcheyan (travel-Travois Conf.)
Eugene DeCora (travel-Travois Conf.)

*(v) indicates virtual attendance

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

TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

OPENING PRAYER: Danelle Smith offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Rona Stealer motioned to approve the agenda. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

BROADBAND FIBER PROJECT:

Project Report – presented by Joy Johnson and Brandon Stout

[Trey out at 9:48 a.m., in at 9:54 a.m.]

[Rona out at 10:02 a.m., in at 10:07 a.m.]

Teresa out at 10:08 a.m.]

Newill Family Trust Easement

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to adopt resolution #26-228: Approval of an Exclusive Utility Easement with Trustees of the Newill Family Trust to the Tribe in Support of the Winnebago Tribe Broadband Connectivity Project. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

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

[Teresa in at 10:18 a.m.]

STATE ADVOCACY: Presented by Joey Roune Adler

AMERICAN TIRE

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to approve Chairman to sign and send the letter regarding the American Tire Processing & Recycling Site pending EPD review. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

TRIBAL COLLEGE FUNDING – Discussion only

NEBRASKA LEGISLATOR BUS TOUR (October 1)

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

ACTION: Wellness Program Policy

ACTION: Traffic and Parking Citation Policy

ACTION: Privacy and Confidentiality of Records Policy

Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the Wellness Program Policy, Traffic and Parking Citation Policy, and Privacy and Confidentiality of Records Policy for Law Enforcement. Keely Purscell-Bassette seconded the motion.

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

11:00 A.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trey Blackhawk motioned to enter Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

[Rona out at 11:12 a.m., in at 11:15 a.m.]

[Teresa out at 11:16 a.m., in at 11:40 a.m.]

Trey Blackhawk motioned to exit Executive Session at 12:06 p.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

LUNCH BREAK: 12:06 p.m. return at 12:30 p.m. Chairman reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY: Presented by Josh Pitre.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES:

Government Funding

Congressional Hearings

NAHASDA Modernization Act

MMIP

ADMINSTRATIVE UPDATES:

OVW Consultation Comments

DOJ Grant Consolidation Comments

BIA 105(l) Leasing Consultation

Ireta Frazier motioned to authorize Big Fire Law to work with PRD and Finance on submitting comments regarding the BIA 105(l) Leasing Consultation. Keely Purscell-Bassette seconded the motion.

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

Head Start Consultation

Discussion on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs.

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to authorize Big Fire Law to submit comments for the Head Start Consultation on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

HRSA Tribal Advisory Committee Nomination

Trey Blackhawk motioned to nominate Margaret Scott as the Alternate for HRSA Tribal Advisory Committee Nomination. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

National Archive Closures

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to provide written comments to U.S. National Archives and Records regarding the proposed closure of the National Archives in Chicago. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

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

[Trey out at 1:38 p.m., in at 1:42 p.m.]

U.S. Census Bureau Consultation

Trey Blackhawk motioned to submit comments for the U.S. Census Bureau Consultation written comments due by November 2, 2026. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

Discussion: October 2, 2026, is the virtual consultation.

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

FEDERAL TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDING: Discussion only.

[Ireta out at 1:47 p.m., in at 1:50 p.m.]

WINNEBAGO HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Home Sales to WPS – still in the process of confirming legal descriptions for the deeds.

[Ireta out at 2:00 p.m. for TAC meeting]

TRIBAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – SECRETARIAL ELECTION:

The Secretarial Election is completed. A public announcement will be sent out.

*A workgroup session with Enrollment Department/Committee, General Counsel, and Tribal Council will be scheduled regarding next steps for further Secretarial Election items for the next available date.

TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION: On-going, discussion only.

EPA NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS FIFRA INSPECTION:

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to authorize Anna Berridge, *EPD* and Chad Smith, *In-house legal* to write a response to Region 7 EPA regarding: Nutrien Ag Solutions FIFRA Inspection for Chairman's signature to give notice that we would like to be informed and consulted. Keely Purscell-Bassette seconded the motion.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to enter Executive Session at 2:43 p.m. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.*[Ireta in at 2:53 p.m.]*

[Coly out at 3:48 p.m., in at 3:53 p.m.]

[Trey out at 4:30 p.m.]

[Rona and Keely out at 4:50 p.m.]

[Keely in at 5:02 p.m.]

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to exit executive session at 6:03 p.m. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

5-0-0

ACTION ITEMS:

Keely Motion to authorize Chairman to send a letter to the Omaha Tribe/Omaha Tribal Chairman regarding WCHS billing issue with a response date of October 9, 2026. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to proceed to explore historical site designation for the Winnebago Navy. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to acknowledge receipt of ethical complaints 1 & 2. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

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

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to authorize Big Fire Law to explore a Tribal Code Revision for set-asides for adult criminal convictions. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN:

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA TREASURER'S REPORT MEETING
September 25, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:
Coly Brown
Rona Stealer
Eugene DeCora
Teresa Littlegeorge
Ireta Frazier
Margaret Scott

OTHERS PRESENT:
Thomas Heeney
Tom Teesdale
Ray Thomas
Christian Rogers
David Edwards
Erin Miller
Mike Means
Tanya Baker
Lisa Walker
Nakia Mallory
Petra Nielsen (v)
Kiana Lewis (v)
Trey Blackhawk
Danelle Smith (v)
Kellie Snow (v)
Tyresha Romero (v)
Christina Parker
Terri Lee Medina (v)
Aaron LaPointe
James Ridgeway
Char Richardson (v)
Ricky Suarez (v)
John Jensen (v)
Lance Morgan
Carrie Staplekamp (v)
Monica Cleveland
Serenity Drew
Tatanka Petite
Lisa Anderson
Barbara Pretends Eagle (v)

TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Victoria Kitcheyan

*(v) indicates virtual attendance

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 9:04 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Treasurer Rona Stealer offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve the agenda with additions. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

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

WINNEBAGO TRIBE FINANCIAL REPORT:

AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT: Presented by Rona Stealer, Treasurer

Trey Blackhawk motioned to approve the WTN August 2026 Financial Report. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

[Keely in at 9:20 a.m.]

BILL Software solution for credit cards: Presented by Thomas Heeney.

Discussion only.

[Rona out at 9:25 a.m., in at 9:30 a.m.]

WCHS FINANCIAL REPORT: Presented by Erin Miller, James Ridgeway, and David Edwards

August 2026 Financial Report

August 2026 Revenue Generation Report

Margaret Scott motioned to approve the August 2026 Financial and Revenue Generation Report.

Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

WINNEBAGO GAMING COMMISSION REPORT: Presented by Lisa Walker and Tanya Baker

AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the Winnebago Gaming Commission August 2026 Financial Report. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

SUSPEND THE RULES- FY2027 BUDGET:

Eugene DeCora motioned to suspend the rules to review and approve the Winnebago Gaming Commission Budget. Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

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

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the Winnebago Gaming Commission FY2027 Budget as presented. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

WARHORSE REPORT: Presented by Lance Morgan, and Aaron LaPointe.

AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT:

[Trey out at 10:12 a.m., in at 10:14 a.m.]

Margaret Scott motioned to approve the Warhorse August 2026 Financial Report. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

BREAK: 10:20 a.m., reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

WINNAVEGAS REPORT: Presented by Tom Teesdale, and Mike Means..

AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve the WinnaVegas August 2026 Financial Report. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

[Rona out at 10:54 a.m., in at 10:55 a.m.]

PROMOTIONS: Presented by Petra Nielsen.

TRIBAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trey Blackhawk motioned to enter executive session at 11:01 a.m. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

[Victoria in at 11:39 a.m.]

Trey Blackhawk motioned to exit executive session at 1:56 p.m. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the FY 2027 Budget option #2 for the amount $18,170,944.00. Keely Purscell-Bassette seconded the motion.

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

ETHICS COMPLAINTS

Trey Blackhawk motioned to deem Ethical Complaint #1 on R.S. deemed non-frivolous.

Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

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

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to deem the Ethical Complaint #2 on R.S. non- frivolous.

Margaret Scott seconded the motion.

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

Eugene DeCora motioned to appoint the investigative committee consisting of the H.R. Directors from the Tribe, WinnaVegas, and LPTC. Keely Purscell-Bassette seconded the motion.

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

Keely Purscell-Bassette motioned to authorize the investigative committee to access all resources necessary to conduct the investigation within a 30-day period. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN:

Eugene DeCora motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

CLOSING PRAYER: Eugene DeCora

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

HAKEWE

Question of the Issue:

What's your favorite Halloween memory?

Bethani Redhorn
Winnebago Indian News Editor

My favorite Halloween memory is from 2021. I took my kids to the Skinny Bones pumpkin patch for the day, and they were able to wear their costumes around. They received all kinds of candy and sweet treats, but we still ventured out that evening to trick-or-treat. After that, we ended our night at the haunted hallway inside Briar Cliff University

Kevin Ebert
Multi-Media Coordinator

My favorite Halloween memory has to be from when we were kids. I was probably 10 or 12, and my little brother was around 8 or 10. We were getting dressed for Halloween, and he decided to be a cowboy—complete with a loaded BB pistol.

My mom saw it and said, "No, you're not taking that!"

He said, "Yeah, I am! Last year those big kids took my candy. They ain't gonna take it again!"

That's probably one of my favorite Halloween memories. My little brother was serious about protecting his candy! RIP Roland, chum Ebert.

Tyler Snake
W.I.N. Office Manager

My favorite Halloween memory has to be.. Spending 2023 Halloween night with my Sis Ky and Nani Sue. I'll cherish those memories with them forever!

Christina Parker
Web Master

My favorite Halloween Memory? I think this is the same question from last years issue. I shared mine at that time.

However, I'll go with a favorite Halloween costume growing up. I remember having a maid costume one year and my daughter (hocak) Keely, did my hair and make-up. I remember going to some older guys house and he asked if I was a "Mom," not sure what he meant by that but thought it was creepy in hindsight.

Gayla Whitewater
Comm. Office Manager

My favorite memory was trick-or-treating every year, mainly in the 90s and early 00s. Back then, people in our community really got into it and sometimes, we would even be trick-or-treating until around midnight! I remember my legs just aching afterward, but we'd have these huge bags of candy that would last us a few weeks. I loved the houses that would give out full-sized candy bars, popcorn balls, and frybread, haha.

Quince Bass
Radio Station Broadcast Manager

For most of my adult life—ever since I was 18 years old—Halloween has been less of a holiday and more of a military-grade tactical operation.

If you asked me what my favorite spooky memory was over the past three decades, I used to have a standard answer. For years, the mission was simple: maximize candy output. My goal was always to fill as many bags as humanly possible, leaving no neighborhood un-plundered. We would load up, hit the high-yield streets over in Sioux City, and then hustle back to Winnebago to finish up the night strong. It was about volume, hustle, and sugar-fueled triumph.

But life moves fast, and traditions evolve.

I've lived in my house on Thunderway for 18 years now, and in all that time, I've never actually handed out candy. Not once. While the older kids were growing up, the tradition was always about being out on the pavement.

That brings us to right now, and the answer to this week's question has completely flipped the script. My favorite memory of Halloween in my lifetime? It hasn't even happened yet.

This year, for the very first time, we are staying home. My youngest daughter is 12 years old now, and she's my baby. When we talked about what she wanted to do for Halloween this year, she didn't want to hit the road for a massive candy haul—she wanted to stay right here and hand candy out to the kids in our neighborhood.

So, that is exactly what we are doing.

We are turning our place on Thunderway into a full-scale haunted destination. We're going all out decorating the house as scary as we can make it so the neighborhood kids have a great spot to stop by.

After 35 years of being on the prowl for candy, hanging up my trick-or-treating shoes to sit on the porch with my youngest daughter is going to be the best Halloween memory of my life. Sometimes, the best traditions are the ones you haven't even made yet.

What is your favorite Halloween memory, or what are you planning for your porch this year? Let us know in the comments below!

Community Voices Meet Candidates at Tribal Election Forum

By Gayla Whitewater
Photography by Gayla Whitewater

WINNEBAGO, Neb. — Tribal members had an opportunity to engage directly with candidates for the Winnebago Tribal Council during the General Election Forum held October 5, 2026, at Little Priest Tribal College's Elk Auditorium.

Hosted by LPTC's NATV2510 Contemporary Native American Issues class, the forum brought community members and candidates together ahead of the October 6 General Election. The event was free and open to the public, with a program scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m.

The gathering gave tribal members a chance to hear directly from those seeking to represent them and engage in conversations about the community's future. Opportunities like this help voters get to know candidates beyond campaign materials and consider the leadership they want for their nation.

For the students hosting the forum, the event connected classroom learning with participation in tribal civic life. Bringing candidates and community members together made space for the kinds of discussions that shape decisions within Native nations.

Tribal Council leadership carries responsibilities that affect families, programs, and future generations. Direct engagement between candidates and the people they hope to serve can support informed voting and strengthen expectations for communication and accountability.

The forum also highlighted the role of a tribal college as a place for community dialogue. By hosting a public gathering before Election Day, the Contemporary Native American Issues class helped create an opportunity for tribal members to take part in conversations about their government.

The evening underscored a responsibility shared by candidates and voters: listening to one another and staying engaged in the work of the nation. That work continues beyond Election Day, through the voices, questions, and participation of the people.

Rooted in Gratitude: Wahaği Wōšką Brings Community Together

By Gayla Whitewater
Photography by Savannah Anderson

WINNEBAGO, Neb. — The Winnebago community gathered October 1, 2026, at the Whirling Thunder Wellness Center for Wahaği Wōšką, the Harvest Celebration and Green Corn Dance, giving thanks for the season's gifts and celebrating the traditions that connect Hōcąk people across generations.

The harvest is a time to thank the Creator for the foods that sustain the people. Corn, beans and squash carry generations of knowledge about planting, tending and caring for the land. Through the Green Corn Dance and Bean Dance, gratitude takes shape in songs and steps passed down by those who came before us. Celebrating ancestral foods also renews connections to the land and its seasonal rhythms.

The evening's program included a community meal and Grand Entry. Craig Cleveland Jr. served as master of ceremonies, VJ Wolf Leader as arena director, Florence Lonetree as headwoman and Jaxon Bearskin as headman, with New Breed as host drum.

Sr. Miss Harvest Eliana Blackhawk and Jr. Miss Harvest Payton Miller were featured alongside their specials, a "Little Girls" Dance Special, and honorariums for dancers and drums.

MiTena St. Cyr's family sponsored a Thank You Tiny Tot Special for boys and girls ages 0–6, giving the youngest dancers a moment to shine and celebrating their place in the community's living traditions.

Winnebago Public School staff member Andrew Halsey was also honored for being named Nebraska State Social Studies Teacher of the Year, celebrating his accomplishment among the community he serves.

For young people, these gatherings create opportunities to learn alongside family and elders, hear the songs, and discover the meaning behind traditions. For everyone who sings, dances, prepares food or brings their family, participation is a way of caring for the community and its future.

At the Wahaği Wōšką, gratitude comes alive through song and dance. Each song carried forward and every child welcomed into the circle strengthens the connection between generations.

WPS SPORTS

Indians On Fire: Winnebago Dominates Gridiron with Back-to-Back Blowouts

By Big Voice Sports Team

WINNEBAGO, NE — The Winnebago Indians varsity football team continues its spectacular run, extending their winning momentum with two high-scoring victories over the past two weeks. The Indians' offensive powerhouse has proven unstoppable, lighting up the scoreboard in consecutive games and solidifying their place as top contenders this season.

On September 25, Winnebago completely grounded the Walthill Blujays in a 54-0 shutout. The team followed that up on October 2 with a spectacular 54-24 Homecoming victory over Cheyenne-Eagle Butte High School, highlighted by a thrilling defensive touchdown from lineman Chris Perez.

(BY THE NUMBERS):

108: Total points scored by Winnebago across both contests.

150: Rushing yards racked up by Raiden Decora against Walthill on just 13 carries.

3: Rushing touchdowns scored by Decora, alongside 3 receiving touchdowns from Rahkim Free-Bass (who also tallied 97 receiving yards) during the September 25 game.

5-1: Winnebago's impressive overall season record following their latest victory.

The Indians look to keep their three-game winning streak alive as they prepare to travel to take on conference rival Mahpiya Luta on October 9.

Lady Indians Show Heart and Grit at Pierce Invite and Districts

By Big Voice Sports Team

WINNEBAGO, NE — The Winnebago Lady Indians varsity girls' golf team wrapped up a grueling stretch of competitive play over the past two weeks, demonstrating remarkable perseverance against the state's top fields. Facing technical fairways and tricky green speeds, Winnebago's golfers continue to refine their short games and course strategy at the perfect time.

On September 12, the Lady Indians traveled to compete in the challenging Pierce Invitational at the Pierce Golf Course, facing a highly competitive lineup of schools. They used that momentum to fine-tune their swings for their biggest stage yet: the NSAA Class C-3 District Championship on Tuesday, October 6, hosted at the Atkinson-Stuart Country Club. Competing alongside massive regional powerhouses like Battle Creek, Norfolk Catholic, and Pierce, the Lady Indians navigated the high-stakes postseason atmosphere with true Warrior poise.

(BY THE NUMBERS):

18: The heavy number of powerhouse schools assigned to the packed Class C-3 District, creating one of the most competitive fields in the state.

18: The total number of holes tackled by each golfer under intense pressure during the tournament championship rounds.

7:00 AM: The early morning departure time logged by the team to travel out and conquer the course layout at the Pierce Invite.

3: The month of October marks the definitive peak of the fall season, as the team focuses entirely on individual development and lower score differentials.

Winnebago Homecoming 2026

WPS Students at the parade

Students at the homecoming game

Indians Runners Show Endurance and Grittiness as Districts Loom

By Big Voice Sports Team

WINNEBAGO, NE — The Winnebago Indians cross country teams have put their conditioning and determination on full display over the last two weeks, turning in stellar performances across multiple regional invitationals. Competing in massive multi-team events, Winnebago's runners have continually pushed their boundaries against the region's elite distance competitors. The packed fall schedule has proven to be a true test of stamina, with the squad steadily shaving down their times as they gear up for the highly anticipated postseason trail.

The Indians laid it all out on the course at the competitive Stanton Invitational and went toe-to-toe with deep fields at the Wisner-Pilger multi-school meets. Delivering a great visual display of tactical running, the varsity athletes stayed tightly packed, navigating the rolling terrains and demanding stretches with sharp strategic poise. With individual times continuing to peak at the perfect time, the squad is showing the exact kind of momentum needed to make a serious splash on the course this October.

(BY THE NUMBERS):

24: The total number of powerhouse schools competing alongside the Indians in recent multi-team invitationals, making every single spot at the finish line a massive battle.

5,000: The standard race distance in meters (3.1 miles) conquered by the high school varsity runners at every major flight.

2: The designated district assignment (District D-1) locked in for the upcoming NSAA state-qualifying championship series.

15: The calendar date in October when the Indians will officially travel to the Twin Creeks Golf Course in Pender to race for a ticket to the State Finals.

Lady Indians Battle Through Hard-Fought Contests on the Court

By Big Voice Sports Team

WINNEBAGO, NE — The Winnebago Lady Indians varsity volleyball team has shown incredible resilience over the past two weeks, pushing opponents to the absolute limit in a series of dramatic, multi-set marathons. Facing fierce regional competition, the Lady Indians continue to display immense heart and teamwork as they navigate the peak of their fall schedule.

On September 22, Winnebago engaged in an unforgettable five-set thriller against the Omaha Nation Chiefs. After rallying fiercely to win the second and third sets, they narrowly missed out in a nail-biting fifth frame (25-23, 20-25, 23-25, 26-24, 15-2). Less than a week later, on September 29, the squad was back in action at home against the Osmond Tigers. The Lady Indians fought back from an early deficit to secure a commanding 2-1 lead by the third set before Osmond barely edged out the final two sets in another absolute classic (25-23, 12-25, 23-25, 25-15, 15-12).

(BY THE NUMBERS):

10: Total sets played by the varsity squad across their last two major featured matchups.

9-9: Winnebago's perfectly balanced overall season record as they head into October.

25-12: The dominant score of the second set against Osmond, showcasing the team's explosive offensive potential.

The Lady Indians will look to bring that fire into their upcoming tournament appearance at the October Classic on October 10 at Wisner-Pilger High School.

Carlos Trinidad-Snake Meet & Greet at WPS!

Seniors in the parade

Homecoming parade

COMMUNITY

WINNEBAGO TRIBE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT APPROVED

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is pleased to announce that in the recent Secretarial Election, Winnebago tribal members voted overwhelmingly to amend the Winnebago Tribal Constitution.

The amendment inserts the following language as Article II, Section 4 of the Winnebago Tribal Constitution:

"Beginning on the date this amendment is approved by the Secretary of the Interior, no person aged twenty-five (25) or older may apply for enrollment with the Winnebago Tribe if that person was previously enrolled in another federally recognized Indian tribe."

Effective September 1, 2026, this amendment prohibits any individual (1) 25 years or older and (2) previously enrolled in another federally recognized Tribe from applying for enrollment in the Winnebago Tribe.

The amendment does not make any changes to blood quantum requirements for enrollment with the Winnebago Tribe.

In total, 303 ballots were cast in the Secretarial Election, including 226 (74.5%) ballots for, 74 (24.4%) ballots against, and 3 (1%) ballots spoiled.

The Secretarial Election results were officially approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on September 1, 2026. It was conducted via a mail-in vote open to all Winnebago tribal members. Election results were certified by a Secretarial Election Board made up of Winnebago tribal members and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials.

WCHS's Foundation Receives Over 25k From WarHorse Patrons

By: Erin Flores Communication Manager

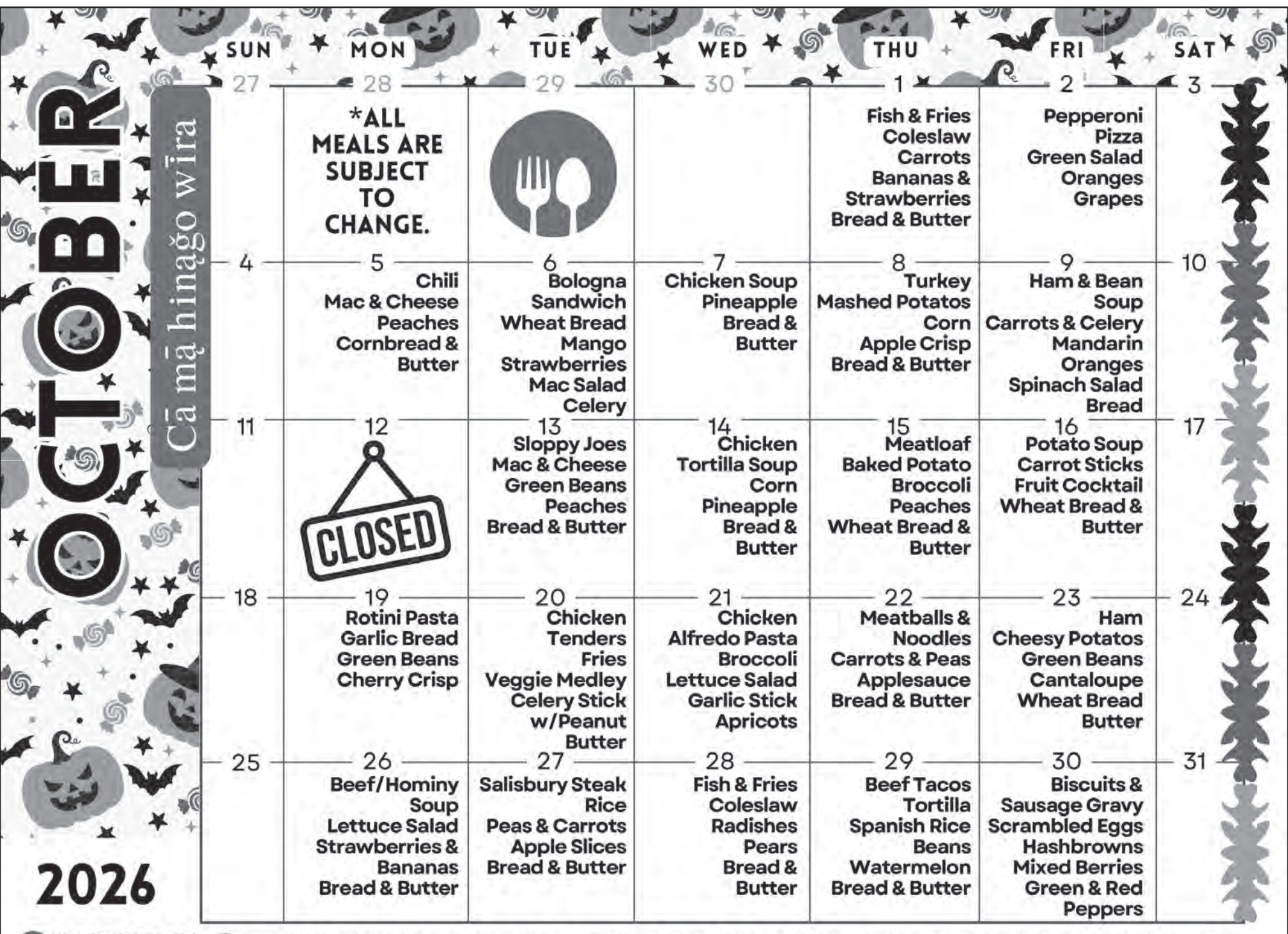
Winnebago, NE – On Monday, 9/28/2026, the Winnebago Health Foundation was honored to receive $26,179.91 in donations from the WarHorse Gaming Patron Giving Program.

The Winnebago Health Foundation (WHF) is a 501c3 non-profit created in partnership with the Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System. These contributions will support the Foundation's ongoing campaign initiatives to advance health and wellness in the Winnebago community, including our Playground Project. The WHF's Youth Playground Project, which will create culturally grounded outdoor space for young children (ages 0-5) and families at Land of Wellness, an outdoor recreational park in Winnebago NE.

"On behalf of the Winnebago Health Foundation, we are extremely grateful to WarHorse's patrons for their contributions to supporting our community," said Danielle Smith, Board Chairperson for the Foundation. "With your help, we will continue creating opportunities that positively impact the health and well-being of generations to come."

Over the past year, the Winnebago Health Foundation has been honored to be included as a WarHorse Gaming Patron Giving Program Partner. WarHorse Gaming is a division of Ho-Chunk, Inc., the economic development corporation of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, that operates the WarHorse Casinos locations. Through the WarHorse Gaming Patron Giving Program, when casino guests are cashing out, they are given the option to donate the remaining change to a selection of non-profits. This program reflects WarHorse's commitment to positively impact communities and gives WarHorse Casino players a simple way to give back in support of local non-profits in their region.

The Winnebago Health Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to WarHorse Gaming and the guests who contributed through the Patron Giving Program. Through partnerships and community support like this, WHF can continue turning community needs and ideas into meaningful projects that make a lasting difference. To learn more about this and other impactful giving campaigns, the Winnebago Health Foundation invites you to join them foran "Evening of Indigenous Culture" on October 30th in Sioux City, IA. Tickets, tables, and sponsorships are available now; visit www.wchs.health/evening-of-culture.



OCTOBER 2026

Cā mą hinąğo wīra

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28 *ALL MEALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.	29	30	1 Fish & Fries Coleslaw Carrots Bananas & Strawberries Bread & Butter	2 Pepperoni Pizza Green Salad Oranges Grapes	3
4	5 Chili Mac & Cheese Peaches Cornbread & Butter	6 Bologna Sandwich Wheat Bread Mango Strawberries Mac Salad Celery	7 Chicken Soup Pineapple Bread & Butter	8 Turkey Mashed Potatos Corn Apple Crisp Bread & Butter	9 Ham & Bean Soup Carrots & Celery Mandarin Oranges Spinach Salad Bread	10
11	12 CLOSED	13 Sloppy Joes Mac & Cheese Green Beans Peaches Bread & Butter	14 Chicken Tortilla Soup Corn Pineapple Bread & Butter	15 Meatloaf Baked Potato Broccoli Peaches Wheat Bread & Butter	16 Potato Soup Carrot Sticks Fruit Cocktail Wheat Bread & Butter	17
18	19 Rotini Pasta Garlic Bread Green Beans Cherry Crisp	20 Chicken Tenders Fries Veggie Medley Celery Stick w/Peanut Butter	21 Chicken Alfredo Pasta Broccoli Lettuce Salad Garlic Stick Apricots	22 Meatballs & Noodles Carrots & Peas Applesauce Bread & Butter	23 Ham Cheesy Potatos Green Beans Cantaloupe Wheat Bread Butter	24
25	26 Beef/Hominy Soup Lettuce Salad Strawberries & Bananas Bread & Butter	27 Salisbury Steak Rice Peas & Carrots Apple Slices Bread & Butter	28 Fish & Fries Coleslaw Radishes Pears Bread & Butter	29 Beef Tacos Tortilla Spanish Rice Beans Watermelon Bread & Butter	30 Biscuits & Sausage Gravy Scrambled Eggs Hashbrowns Mixed Berries Green & Red Peppers	31

WCHS WINNEBAGO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winnebago Celebrates Homecoming with School Spirit and Community Pride

By Gayla Whitewater
Photography by Gayla Whitewater

WINNEBAGO, Neb. — Students, families, staff and community members came together October 2 for the Winnebago Public School Homecoming Parade, celebrating the Winnebago Indians with school spirit and community pride.
The parade was part of the school's "A Night in Rio" Homecoming week. The week's schedule included themed dress-up days, student activities and coronation, with Friday's festivities featuring the parade, a pep rally and the Homecoming football game against Cheyenne-Eagle Butte.

Congratulations to the 2026 Homecoming royalty, including the senior court, class attendants, and first grade crown bearers. Their recognition added another reason to celebrate the students at the heart of Homecoming.

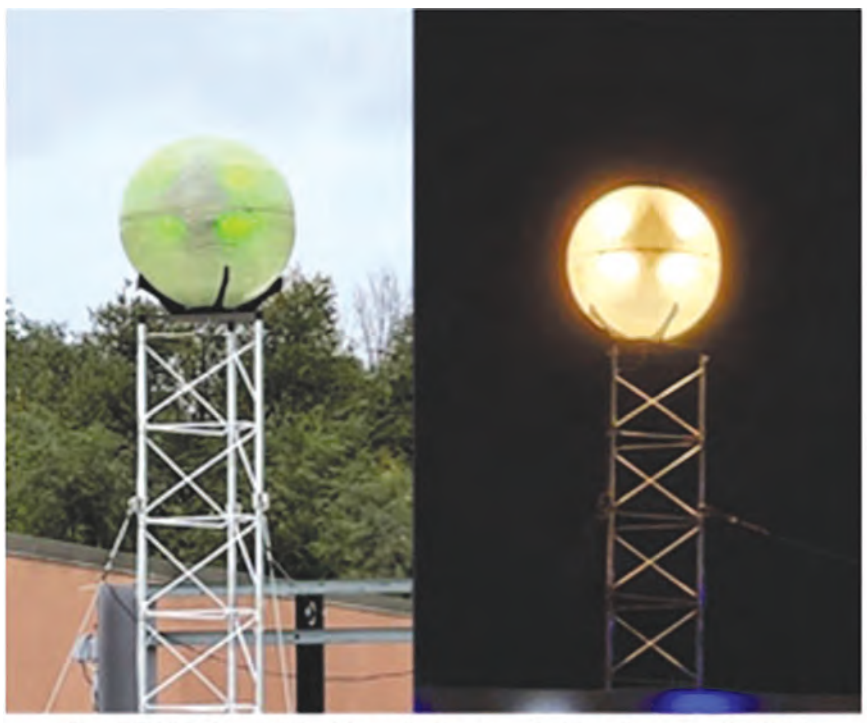
Thank you to every program that participated in the parade and to the families, students, staff and community members who helped make it a fun celebration. From organizing and joining the parade to cheering along the route, your contributions helped bring the community together.

Homecoming celebrates our students and the people who stand behind them. Thank you, Winnebago, for showing up, sharing the excitement and making memories together. Go Big Blue!

Blackhawk Center AQI Light and How to Read It

By Kurt Lyons – EPD Air Quality

Since August 2025, a glowing sphere on a tower above the Blackhawk Center has been telling Winnebago what the air is doing — from the parking lot, the road, and much of the village after dark. It is the Tribe's Air Quality Index (AQI) Light.



The AQI Light at Blackhawk Center. Left is Green. Right is Yellow. Photo EPD Air Quality

The AQI Light was invented here. It takes two familiar ideas — the U.S. EPA's AQI flag program, which uses colored flags to show air quality, and Sioux City's Weather Ball, which changes color so people can read a condition at-a-glance. This sphere reports current air quality, not the weather forecast. Inside the 3-foot globe, LED lights change color with the Air Quality Index. Green and yellow are everyday air. Orange and above are the days to pay attention — especially for children, elders, people with asthma or heart and lung conditions, and anyone working or practicing outdoors.

The light runs on the Tribe's own PM2.5 sensor network. Those monitors report to AirNow.gov. Each hour the AQI Light reads that hour's data from the network and updates the color of the sphere to match. What you see on the globe is the same air the sensors just measured, not a forecast and not someone else's city. The AQI Light operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week — daylight and after dark.

What the colors mean

Color	AQI category	What to do
Green	Good	Air quality is satisfactory. It is a good day to be active outside.
Yellow	Moderate	Air is acceptable. Unusually sensitive people should take it easier outdoors.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Older adults, children and teens, people with certain health conditions, and people active outdoors should take it easier.
Red	Unhealthy	Everyone should take it easier. Shorten outdoor time and choose lighter activity.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	Health alert. Sensitive groups should avoid outdoor exertion. Everyone else should avoid long or intense outdoor activity.
Maroon	Hazardous	Emergency conditions. Stay indoors when you can. Close windows and limit outdoor time.

On orange and red days, coughing or shortness of breath are signs to ease off. Air pollution can worsen asthma and trigger attacks. Simple steps help: take breaks, walk instead of run, reschedule hard outdoor work, and close windows so outdoor air stays outside.

Email alerts for organizations

When the AQI reaches Orange or Red, EPD Air Quality sends warning emails to local authorities so schools, emergency management, health programs, and other partners know conditions have changed. If your organization wants to be added to that list, contact Kurt Lyons at EPD. Phone: (402) 263-8502, ext. 2003 Email: kurt.lyons@winnebagotribe.com

Phone app

A companion smartphone app is still in development. The app itself is built; release to the Apple App Store and Google Play is waiting on final account access through Tribal IT so the developer can publish it for iPhone and Android. Until that step is finished, the sphere at Blackhawk Center is the public signal. AirNow.gov and the Tribe's Air Quality page remain available for anyone who wants the numbers behind the color.

Look up when you pass the Blackhawk Center. If the globe is green, enjoy the day outside. If it has shifted to orange or red, take it easier — and pass the word.

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