



Concert Review:
Cyndi Lauper

page: 6



2025 Chief
Standing Bear
Prize for Courage
- Deb Haaland

pages: 7

Volume 54, Number 16

Watajox hī wīra Corn Popping Moon

Saturday, August 16, 2025



Our masthead for this issue features Mr. Victor Bird, Jr. / Kajapiniga [Good To Look At] [1951-2021]. An uncommon leader for our people whose generosity in his life became the legacy of his service to our tribe. Victor served as a member of the Winnebago Tribal Council during the dawn of Indian Gaming. Becoming Treasurer for the Council, he is viewed by many as the architect of the modern financial system which is still benefiting our people to this day. A personal mentor of the WIN Editor, his genuine sentiments like, ‘there’s enough for everyone in the circle’ still live in my mind. Living his life just as he spoke, his family to this day practice their teachings providing for our people in so many ways. Proud being waksik, his dynamic professional presence paled against the depth at which he lived being Hocak. Humble, generous, and knowing the true value of our people being not in material things, but in our hearts, Victor saw the potential in each of us and worked daily to ensure our opportunities were never diminished or settled for less. A generous heart, a compassionate soul, a visionary statesman, a truly uncommon leader. Our gratitude to his family for their kindness in giving their permission to feature him here.

Nīšoc Nigešana

By: Tyler Snake



August 5th, The HoChunk Renaissance language program held their Waboxiri cook off. Some may know is as Wobo. In Ho-Chunk, Waboxiri can be translated/broken down to corn bread pudding or paste. Judges donated a dollar to taste and choose their favorite. 1st– 3rd place winners are Semia S, Kathy S and Ben S. Congratulations to the Winners!



August 8th, The Little Priest Tribal College hosted their Fall 2025 orientation for new and returning students. During the event Advisors made the sign-up process easier with help on registration, FASFA, books and other resources available. LPTC has recently made strides with their record breaking amount of graduates, followed by their new Carpentry program. Tuition is still free for all students, its not too late to sign up!



August 13th, the Winnebago Tribe hosted their annual Employee Appreciation. The Land of Wellness was full of tribal employees participating in tournaments like cornhole, volleyball, and smoochball. Huge Thank-You to everyone who helped plan this event and all the employees working within the Tribal organization!

RECORD BREAKING: 79K VIEWS 159th Annual Homecoming Celebration Livestream



By Bethani Redhorn
Photography by Bethani Redhorn

[Winnebago, NE] The 159th Annual Winnebago Homecoming Celebration is officially in the books! For anyone that missed out, you can always head over to the Big Voice YouTube channel to replay the 4-day celebration at any time. For this year’s livestream, we broke our record from last year with 50,000 views and reached a whopping 79,000 views in total on both our YouTube channel and Facebook page combined. Each year, out of all the livestreams that our department takes part in, the Homecoming Celebration is the biggest stream of the year for us.

We had a growing productions team to help with the livestream this year and each of our team members plays a vital role in providing full coverage with multiple angles, where we do our best to capture the event and provide an enjoyable viewing experience to those viewers that are tuned in. There is also quality control for audio which was provided this year by Travis and Brandon Rave. From early morning Flag Raisings at 6:00 AM to concluding the evening session close to midnight, the days are long, busy, and always worth it in the end. We learn something new on each livestream, especially throughout a 4-day event such as our annual Homecoming Celebration. To dive into the livestreams, we offer a

variety of livestreaming services, and we are always looking for ways to improve our productions. We have implemented new equipment this year and began working with new streaming software, continuing to practice split screens and multiple camera angles to be viewable simultaneously. Other powwow livestreams that our department looks forward to streaming is the Last Bear Moon Powwow (in February), and the annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Inter-Tribal Contest Powwow (in July, 2 weeks before Winnebago Homecoming Celebration). In the past, we’ve

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FOR ARTISTS, BY ARTISTS 2ND ANNUAL YOUTH FILM SHOWCASE



By Bethani Redhorn
Photography by Trisha Rivers

[Winnebago, NE] On the evening of Monday, August 11, 2025, in the Fine Arts Theatre within the Winnebago Public School, a premiere event was held for the 2nd Annual Youth Films Showcase. The hybrid event featured a livestream by the Big Voice Radio beginning at 5:30 PM in the WPS cafeteria. A prayer was offered by Mr. Randy DeCora with a meal to follow for those in attendance. After the meal, everyone made their way to the Fine Arts Theatre to find a seat and await the premiere of the youth projects.

There are (6) Winnebago Youth that participated in the Worak Horak Summer Film Camp, which is a Summer Youth Program collaboration managed by the Winnebago Tribe’s Education department, the Worak Horak Youth Organization (Jordana Bass, Founder & President), Indigucation (Sandy Scott II, Founder), the Winnebago Public School (Andrew Halsey, Teacher), and Vision Maker Media (Nonprofit Organization). The Winnebago Youth that participated this year include Angeline Snake, Kaevyn Harden, Ka’Mia Blackhawk, Leo Holstein Jr., Lula DeCora, and Zowie Zephier-Wilkie. The first of their kind projects this year consisted

of a music video, a short animation, and a narrative short film. In the order that they premiered, we will share more about each of the projects starting with the music video. The music video is a music composition directed and edited by Kaevyn Harden called BYZANTIUM. He begins the music video by sharing his inspiration behind his love for music. “My earliest experience with music, my grandparents used to play classical and piano music.” His biggest influence comes from his old guitar teacher Andrew Stickman, and he shared that audio has always been an

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

...Cont. from front page
RECORD BREAKING: 79K VIEWS
159TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING CELEBRATION LIVESTREAM

collaborated with the Winnebago Youth Crisis Intervention Center & Youth Shelter for their 2nd Annual Mental Health and Wellness Pow-wow along with a Community Round Dance, as well as the Ho-Chunk Renaissance program for the Harvest Celebration, and we’ve provided numerous sports livestreams for the Winnebago Public School, Walthill Public School, Omaha Nation Public School, and Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools. Other livestreams include conferences, special events, and much more.

This year, our productions team for the 159th Annual Homecoming Celebration livestream included Bethani Redhorn (Lead Director), Kevin Ebert (Assistant Director), Jordana Bass (Lead Camera Operator), Sinya Harlan (Camera Operator), Sandy Macky Scott II (Camera Operator), Austin Scott (Camera Operator), Dustin Earth (Camera Operator), Rachman Free-Bass (Camera Operator), and David Walker (Camera Operator). We want to extend a special thank you to Wildlife & Parks for allowing our team to utilize an RV as headquarters, thank you to the Winnebago Tribe’s IT department for ensuring a strong, solid internet connection, and thank you to the Winnebago Veterans Association, the Winnebago Homecoming Powwow Committee, the Winnebago Tribal Council, the Homecoming Celebration Head Staff, all the singers and dancers, and lastly, our team at the

Winnebago Communications department! We thank Wabashaw Electrics LLC for helping fix the air conditioning for the RV as it went out on the hottest day! Shout out to Tyler Snake, our WIN Office/Circulation Manager, as she prepared care packages for our crew to stay hydrated & cool during the scorching weather.

It was a goal of ours to increase our viewing numbers this year and we want to thank all the viewers out there for tuning into the livestream during this year’s 159th Annual. As of August 4th, with Facebook and YouTube combined, we reached a total viewing of 79,052!!! The views increased this year by 29,052 which is incredible! I speak for the whole team when I say we appreciate your support. Since the pandemic in 2020, learning livestreaming has come to be such a huge asset to not only our department but to our community and beyond. You cannot spell community without unity; we thank all the viewers and listeners out there for your continued support. We are already looking forward to the 160th ANNUAL WINNEBAGO HOMECOMING CELEBRATION! If you want to learn more about the livestreams, are interested in having your event livestreamed, or want to find out how you can join the productions team, email us at: kwtn@winnebagotribe.com or visit: <https://winnebagotribe.com/kwtn-radio>

...Cont. from front page
FOR ARTISTS BY ARTISTS 2ND ANNUAL YOUTH FILM SHOWCASE

interest of his. He credits the film program for helping him learn more about video editing, lighting, and camera angling. The music video was about 7+ minutes long of guitar and piano with visuals of different photographs, video clips, and a few cameos. Leo Holstein Jr. (Camera Operator 1) & Sandy Scott II (Camera Operator 2 & Lighting) assisted in the production of this music video.

Next, a short animation starts with a young girl named Jade asking for a puppy but is quickly reminded of how much responsibility it takes to care for a dog. Jade gets a new puppy and names him Uncle, which is where the adventure begins! He is passing through a park when a random kid approaches him to pet him when he bites at the random kid. Dogcatchers pursue Uncle when a young man named Jasper finds Uncle and saves him from going to the dog pound. While driving with Uncle in the car, Jasper sees a missing dog poster and gets in touch with Jade and family to return Uncle when she surprises him and asks if he wants to keep Uncle as his own dog. Jasper and Uncle hop back in the car together and drive away. The animation is considered a draft at this time with plans to continue further developing this project to a fully completed Animation project. Produced by Ka’Mia Blackhawk, Zowie Zephier-Wilkie, and Leo Holstein Jr., written by Ka’Mia Blackhawk and Zowie Zephier-Wilkie, edited by Andrew Halsey, animated by Zowie and Leo, with sound design by Ka’Mia and Angeline Snake. Voiceovers by Toby Bassette, Jessique Free-Bass, Alen Whitewing, Krystal Brownrigg, Leo, Zowie, Angeline, Ka’Mia, Jordana, and Sandy.

Sandy “Macky Scott II, and Andrew Halsey.

As we mentioned in the beginning, this year’s cohort included (6) Winnebago Youth which we will begin introducing them in the order that they introduced themselves during the event. Each of the youth are enrolled members of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, starting with Kaevyn Harden. Kaevyn (Hap pi mani ga – Walks on a Good Day) is from the buffalo clan, his grandparents are Fran Sharpback and Fred Harden. Leo Holstein Jr. is from the bear clan; his parents are Leo Holstein Sr. and Tiffany Grant, and his grandmother is Marian Holstein. Zowie Zephier-Wilkie is from the wolf clan, her parents are Trevor Wilkie and Courtney Zephier, and her grandmother is Robin Bear. Lula DeCora is from the eagle clan; her parents are Eugene DeCora and Brooke DeCora, and her paternal grandparents are Randy DeCora and Martina DeCora. Ka’Mia Blackhawk is from the bear clan; her mother is Ebony St Cyr, and her grandmother is Marcie Smith. Angeline Littlegeorge-Snake is from the snake clan, her mother is Selena Snake, and her grandmother is Cecilia Earth.

Meeting the mentors: Jordana Bass (Hataža Manj Winga – Walking in the Light) is an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, founder of Worak Horak Youth Organization, and serves as lead for this year’s cohort; Sandy “Macky Scott II is an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, a member of the wolf clan, founder of Indigucation, and serves as the co-lead; Andrew Halsey is a teacher from the Winnebago Public School, works in the Academy program, manages the WPS film club, and also serves as co-lead.

The event is an ongoing project with plans to host another showcase during Native American Heritage Month in November. During the talking panel, the mentors were able to share more about their overall experience working in media and why they chose to work with the youth. Jordana shared about her experience growing up in the Winnebago community and explained her educational background with Salish Kootenai College in Montana and Institute of American Indian Arts in New Mexico. Experiencing the diverse cultures in other tribes, Jordana was inspired to begin working with the youth to help provide the opportunities that weren’t provided to her growing up in Winnebago. Sandy added to the words shared by Jordana, sharing their vision on filmmaking and their collaborative efforts in various projects. Sandy emphasized the importance of creating space for our youth to explore different career paths which is where the idea for Worak Horak Summer Film Camp derives from.

With an ongoing plan to showcase both sets of cohort’s films forthcoming, we will continue to provide coverage with an additional spotlight on both the Worak Horak Youth Organization and Indigucation. Plans for a showcase during Native American Heritage Month will include showcasing the films from both the 2024 and the 2025 Worak Horak Summer Film Camp. In the meantime, you can gain anytime access to the growing collection of student films by subscribing to the Worak Horak Youth Organization where you will find exclusive behind the scenes content, podcast interviews, youth blogs, and much more! Support the youth by visiting: <https://www.worakhorakyouth.org/>



Water Quality Tribal Community Forum

September 16th at 5pm
EPD Building
903 N. Mission Dr.
Winnebago, NE 68071

We want to hear from our Tribal community when it comes to the quality and future of our sacred and cultural waterways. Join us in this family-centered event where we will hear from our Water Clan and gather your valuable input to help protect and restore our water.

NATIVE YOUTH COLORING CONTEST

We are encouraging our Native youth to participate in our Native youth coloring contest. Participants must be 5-17 years old. Participants will be using recycled crayons and markers as a way to demonstrate reusing products that are traditionally thrown away. A winner will be judged, selected, and given a prize.

LIGHT MEAL PROVIDED

PAPIO NEBRASKA
MISSOURI RIVER NRD
RED SKY NATION
YOUR LOGO HERE
Want to become a sponsor for our event? Contact EPD at (402) 878-4060 or email aseanna.overfelt@winnebagotribe.com

To stay connected, please like and follow Winnebago Tribe Environmental Protection Department



Kikijire Crisis Response Program
Mental Health & Wellness FAIR

Visit with representatives from a variety of community organizations to learn how to manage your mental health, receive guidance on how to help loved ones and discover new ways to enhance your well-being.

September 10th, 2025
10am-2pm
Location: Big Screen

To register a booth, scan the QR code!

Registration ends September 3rd @3pm

Questions?
Contact Cassie Kitcheyan
cassie.kitcheyan@wchs.health



Wāgax hū̄k ra wāgax hokik’una
Letter to the Editor

NEW W.I.N. EDITOR
INTRODUCTION

Hello Winnebago Tribal Members & WIN Readers,

My name is Bethani Redhorn, and I am grateful to have this opportunity to serve as the Winnebago Indian News Editor. I am the daughter of Nicole Redhorn, the granddaughter of Ihler Mark Redhorn, Norma Jean Redhorn, Kay LaFaun Crawford-Bursheim, and Steven Arlington Farmer Sr. I am from the Bear Clan and my traditional name in Dakota is Ohitika Cante Winyan meaning Brave Heart Woman. I grew up in Winnebago, and I am a third-generation alumni of Flandreau Indian Boarding School. I joined the United States Navy from 2013 to 2014 and have been in the workforce ever since, spending time in different fields such as teaching and phlebotomy.

I have worked with the Winnebago Communications department since 2020, serving as the Communications Office Manager. Fun fact, my journey with our department actually began with the Winnebago Indian News. In that time, we added the labels one by one, and this was the highlight to issue week. Seeing the finished product, preparing it to mail out to the readership, and it has been incredible to see the growth throughout these years. I want to continue adding to the growth and progress of our print and digital versions of the Winnebago Indian News, with hopes to bring the WIN to a livestream near you!

One comment I want to add is that I love to write. As a kid growing up in Winnebago, I dreamed of writing a book and although it is different, this feels like that which fills my heart with gratitude. We are the People of the Big Voice with the Winnebago Indian News being one form of our voice to share all that makes us the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. We look forward to getting to work! There is much to cover, and we hope to capture as much of it as possible. I would like to extend a thank you to all our subscribers, contributors, supporters, and a special thank you to my team. I will do my best to continue contributing to the efforts of those before me.

Respectfully,



Bethani N. Redhorn



LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Service

CASE NO. CV 25-009

In the matter of WINNEBAGO TRIBE
OF NEBRASKA V. AFFORDABLE
HANDYMAN SERVICES LLC

To: AFFORDABLE HANDYMAN
SERVICES, Defendant

You are hereby notified that the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has filed a Civil Complaint against you for breach of contract in the Winnebago Tribal Court to recover damages in the amount of \$14, 022.12, and all costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees incurred in recovering said damages. You must file an answer to the Civil Complaint before August 12, 2025, or otherwise appear at the hearing before the Winnebago Tribal Court scheduled for August 12, 2025, at 10:00 AM, or entry of a default judgment against you may be rendered, accordingly. A copy of the Civil Complaint may be obtained from the Winnebago Tribal Court Clerk upon request.

Pursuant to Section 2-306 of the Winnebago Tribal Code, this notice shall serve as service of process upon posting in the Winnebago Indian News.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing

Case No. JFJ25-028ABC

The People of the Winnebago Tribe
In the Interest of:

T.W. (Born 10/2013)

K.W. (Born 11/2014)

L.W. (Born 10/2015)

To: THERESSA WEBSTER, Mother

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ25-028ABC has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 3rd day of **September, 2025** at the hour of **1:00 P.M.**

Notice:

Winnebago Housing and Development Commission Resident Services is sending out letters for Annual Housing keeping Inspections. It has come to my attention that there are several tenants that have changed P. O Boxes and or never got a P.O Box or refuses to pay for them to stay open. It is stated in the lease you have signed with WHDC to always have an active mailing address. It is your responsibility as a Tenant of WHDC to inform us on any changes with mailing addresses, phone numbers, employment status and or of household changes. This is a violation and can lead to termination of your lease.

Once your letter is received by to post master, we are legally able to enter our property with-in two days’ time. We have been lenient in allowing two- three weeks. So, this is a notice that when you are scheduled for inspection WHDC; Resident Services and Maintenance will be proceeding to do what is required. Regardless if you have received your letter or not. All tenants should always be ready for an inspection any day of the week, as we could use your home to showcase, if need be, this is also stated in your lease.

Remember it’s your responsibility to inform us of any changes.

Project Title: Winnebago Tribe Senior Home Improvement Project FY25

Funds requested for USDA: Up to 100,000.00

Type of Grant: US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development,
Housing Preservation
Grant Program

Project Period: October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026

Grantee Type: Federally recognized Tribe – Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Tribal Program Madisyn Redhorn, Tribal Housing Department
Contact:

Project Purpose:

The HPG program is a grant program which provides eligible entities grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. **The Winnebago Tribe Senior Home Improvement Project FY26** will be a homeowner assistance program maintaining adequate housing for Senior Citizen homeowners on the Winnebago Reservation who are low or very low income. Financial assistance for a home improvement project is capped at \$9,000.

Expected Impact on Community:

Senior Citizen homeowners will have:

- ☐ Installation and/or repair of sanitary sewer and waste disposal systems;
- ☐ Water softener/reverse osmosis systems;
- ☐ Energy conservation measures such as insulation and screen-storm windows, and Screen doors;
- ☐ Repair or replacement of heating systems;
- ☐ Repair of structural supports and foundations;
- ☐ Repair or replacement of roof, and gutters;
- ☐ Alterations for accessibility;
- ☐ Necessary repairs to manufactured housing

For additional information, please contact Brittany Thomas at 402-878-2272 ext. 2707 or stop by the Planning and Development Department located at: *121 S. Bluff St., Winnebago, NE. (68071)*

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on August 30, 2025. DEADLINE for this issue will be August 26, 2025.



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

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

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

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

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please send change of address with old mailing label to:

Winnebago Indian News

P.O. Box 687

Winnebago, NE 68071

or contact us at our e-mail address:

winnebagoindiannews@winnebagotribe.com

Phone: 402-878-2272

**“Official Newspaper of
the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska”**

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Winnebago Indian News Staff

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

WTN Communications

Garan Coons.....Comm. Officer
vacant.....Comm. Office Manger
Christina Parker.....Web Master
Kevin Ebert.....Multimedia Coordinator

Winnebago Tribal Council

Victoria Kitcheyan.....Chairwoman
Isaac Smith.....Vice Chairman
Teresa Littlegeorge.....Secretary
Rona Stealer.....Treasurer
Coly Brown.....Member
Kenny Mallory.....Member
Aric Armell.....Member
Lorelei DeCora.....Member
Eugene DeCora.....Member



TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
MID-MONTHLY TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING
July 21, 2025

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Victoria Kitcheyan
Teresa Littlegeorge
Rona Stealer
Kenneth Mallory
Lorelei DeCora
Coly Brown
Isaac Smith (in at 9:13 a.m.)
Aric Armell (in at 9:37 a.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brittany Thomas
Anna Bess Preston
Tyresha Romero
Darla LaPointe
Christina Parker
Janelle DeCora
Charlie Earth
Miskoo Petite
Kumiko Masquat
Chad Smith
Willy Bass
Amy LaPoint
Tyler Smith
Angie Walker
Tiffany Armell-Buchanan

TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:

Eugene DeCora (PTO)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Kitcheyan called to order at 9:03 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Councilman Brown offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Coly Brown motioned to approve the agenda with additions. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

READING OF MINUTES

July 7, 2025, Regular Tribal Council meeting minutes (9:00 a.m.)

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve July 7, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes (9:00 a.m.). Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

July 7, 2025, (rescheduled) Mid-Monthly Tribal Council meeting minutes (1:00 p.m.)

Rona Stealer motioned to approve July 7, 2025, (rescheduled) Mid-Monthly Tribal Council meeting minutes (1:00 p.m.). Coly Brown seconded the motion.

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

July 8, 2025, Winnebago Housing Development Commission Quarterly Update meeting minutes.

Kenneth Mallory motioned July 8, 2025, Winnebago Housing Development Commission Quarterly Update meeting minutes. Coly Brown seconded the motion.

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

July 10, 2025, Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System/12 Clans Unity Hospital Quarterly Update meeting minutes.

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve July 10, 2025, Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System/12 Clans Unity Hospital Quarterly Update meeting minutes. Coly Brown seconded the motion.

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

July 14, 2025, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve July 14, 2025, Physical Resources Report meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

July 15, 2025, CEO Report meeting minutes

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve July 15, 2025, CEO Report meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

July 16, 2025, General Counsel meeting minutes

Coly Brown motioned to approve July 16, 2025, General Counsel meeting minutes. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

FY 2025 Grants for Coordination of Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Welfare Services to Tribal Families at Risk of Child Abuse and Neglect

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adopt resolution #25-200: FY 2025 Grants for Coordination of Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Welfare Services to Tribal Families at Risk of Child Abuse and Neglect. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

[Isaac in at 9:13 a.m.]

C.E. S~ga}c hak ik iz~u Parks Project – updates

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve S~ga}c hak ik iz~u Park Project to solicit funds from outside entities. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Region 7 EPA – reissue the NPDES permit Bruns Feedlot LLC – CWA Section 401 Certification

Lorelei DeCora motioned to table to refer to EPD for review and respond to the Tribal Council with recommendations. Coly Brown seconded the motion.

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

Request Travel approval for Enrollment Roundtable (Committee Member)

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve travel for Committee Member (N.E.) to attend Enrollment Roundtable in Standing Rock, July 28 to July 30, 2025. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

LPTC

Revision of By-Laws

Lorelei DeCora motioned to table the approval of the LPTC revised By-Laws until the Tribal Council can review. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

ried.

Transfer of the Museum Building to WTN

Lorelei DeCora motioned to table until further review by the CEO. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

LPTC Board Vacancy

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to advertise one vacancy for the LPTC Board Vacancy for 30 days. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

[Aric Armell in at 9:37 a.m.]

Human Services Action Items

Approval – Social Services Program Policy and Procedures Manual

Approval – Winnebago CFS Policy and Procedures Manual
Lorelei DeCora motioned to table the approval of the Social Services Program Policy and Procedures Manual and Winnebago CFS Policy and Procedures Manual for a Special meeting.

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

New position request and org chart

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve the new position (social services caseworker) request and Org Chart for Human Services Department. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

Horseshoe tournament sponsorship request

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve a \$500.00 donation for the Horseshoe Tournament to be held on July 26, 2025. Lorelei DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Entertainment contract

Aric Armell motioned to approve the WinnaVegas Marketing Department request of the entertainment agreement in the amount of \$50,000.00 concert to be held on October 4, 2025. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Payroll advances for Tribal Employees

Aric Armell motioned to approve payroll advances for Tribal Employees for the Homecoming Celebration. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Aric Armell motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:54 a.m. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

Aric Armell motioned to come out of Executive Session at 10:29 a.m. Coly Brown seconded the motion.

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

Aric Armell motioned to contact the woman’s shelter to see if there is an opening that E.E. can get back into the shelter as long as she is not taking place of anyone that is waiting to enter the shelter. Kenneth Mallory seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN:

Aric Armell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Coly Brown seconded the motion.

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

Chairwoman Kitcheyan adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary

Winnebago Tribal Council

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
LAW ENFORCEMENT/FIRE DEPARTMENT/BIA REPORT MEETING
July 29, 2025

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Victoria Kitcheyan
Teresa Littlegeorge (in at 9:13 a.m.)
Rona Stealer
Kenneth Mallory

Lorelei DeCora
Coly Brown
Eugene DeCora
Aric Armell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tino Lopez, ASAC
Joseph Barnes
Danelle Smith
Nila Soloman
Darla LaPointe
Tyresha Romero
Anna Bess Preston
Monica Flores
Crystal White
Delores Springer
Kellie Snow
Vanna Rave
Arianna Rave
Christina Parker
Marvin Grassrope, ACOP
Tiffany Armell-Buchanan
Mike Means
Tom Teesdale

TRIBAL COUNIL ABSENT:

Isaac Smith (PTO)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Kitcheyan called to order at 9:10 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Councilman Armell offered the opening prayer.

AGENDA:

Aric Armell motioned to approve the agenda. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

[Teresa in at 9:13 a.m.]

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Introductions: Tino Lopez, Marvin Grassrope, and Joseph Barnes.

Marvin Grassrope gives an activity update from the Pow-wow weekend.

Background checks

Inventory shed cleaned out

Investigation update – charges on-going

Discussion – reporting incidents, and monetary incentive for reporting activities that lead to an arrest.

BREAK: reconvene at 10:30 a.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief on leave, Chairwoman gives a brief update.

BIA: Presented by Nilah Soloman and Delores Springer.

Discussion on Secretarial Election.

Tribal Council will be meeting with General Counsel to review further.

Final language and certified list of enrolled members 18 years and older is needed to move forward with the Election.

BREAK: reconvene at 10:50 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Aric Armell motioned to go into Executive Session at 10:54 a.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Eugene DeCora motioned to come out of Executive Session at 1:02 p.m. Coly Brown seconded the motion.

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

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve to assist Aric Armell in lieu of tribal council salary with his window repair for \$278.20. Coly Brown seconded the motion.

OBJECT: Lorelei DeCora

ABSTAIN: Aric Armell

VOTE:(3) yes, KM, CB, ED (3) no, RS, TL, LD (1) abstain, AA

Chairwoman Kitcheyan votes yes.

FINAL VOTE: (4) yes, KM, CB, ED, VK (3) no, RS, TL, LD (1) abstain, AA

Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Aric Armell motioned to adjourn at 1:09 p.m. Kenneth Mallory seconded the motion.

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

Chairwoman Kitcheyan adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary

Winnebago Tribal Council

KIKIJIRE



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COMMUNITY

Creating a Vision for the Future: Early Childhood, Tribal Experts Convene in Nebraska for ‘Native Nations’ Event



By Erin Duffy

For Linda Smith, the landmark gathering in June, hosted by the Winnebago Nation in northeast Nebraska, was a full-circle moment.

Smith, the director of policy at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska, started her illustrious career in early childhood on the Northern Cheyenne Tribe reservation in her home state of Montana.

“I learned most of what I value about early childhood from that experience,” she said.

Now, years later, she and some of the nation’s top Tribal early childhood experts are developing a vision and blueprint for the future of Native American children and families.

From June 9-11, the Buffett Institute and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska hosted leaders from more than 40 sovereign Tribal Nations and communities.

The need is great: more than one in four Native children live in poverty, and they are significantly underserved by nearly all systems obligated to serve them. So too are the strengths: Native children live in communities and within families that hold them sacred and surround them with cultural beliefs and practices that nurture their development.

At the “Native Nations: Honoring Culture and Shaping Futures for Children and Families” event, the nearly 60 participants represented Tribal leadership, child care, Head Start, home visiting programs, health care, Tribal colleges, parents, elders, and more.

Maria Garcia from the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Amy LaPointe-Houghton from the Winnebago Tribe represented Nebraska, and the group toured the Educare Winnebago early childhood facility. A dinner showcasing Indigenous food was prepared by [Chef Anthony Warrior](#).

Attendees worked together to identify eight priority areas for action:

- Investing in a thriving Tribal early childhood workforce
- Preserving and revitalizing Tribal heritage through language and culture
- Ensuring access to health services, including services addressing the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellness of families, that respect traditional knowledge and practices
- Protecting Tribal sovereignty and right to self-govern
- Creating trusted partnerships among Tribes and across other sectors

Providing infrastructure based on the assets, needs and priorities of Native families and children

Centering Native voices and perspectives to drive meaningful research and data collection

Ensuring all Tribes have access to abundant resources and partnerships

Importantly, the event addressed Native families living both on and off Native lands. A 2023 Bipartisan Policy Center report, [“Invisible Children, Invisible Families,”](#) noted that more than 80% of Native families do not live on Tribal land.

“It was so gratifying to see so many committed to improving early childhood for Native Americans come together to create a vision for the future that is grounded in the beautiful values, customs, and beliefs of our Native community,” Smith said.

Melanie Sands-Snyder is a citizen of the Chippewa Cree/Rocky Boy Tribe and a member of the Early Childhood Tribal Coalition in Montana.

“I was invited into this space because of two parts of my life’s work,” she [wrote on LinkedIn](#) after the event. “The work I do in healthcare, where I lead efforts to grow, support, and retain the people who care for our communities—building workplaces that value connection, culture, and well-being. And my work within Indigenous communities, where I stay rooted in advocacy, cultural preservation, and the power of Native-led solutions.”

“To sit in this circle—to listen, learn, and contribute—is an honor I carry with humility and fire. We are not just imagining change—we are shaping it. Together,” she continued.

Moving forward, the Buffett Institute will work with an advisory committee representing the larger group to further define the blueprint and lay out action steps to improve Native families’ and children’s access to early care and learning opportunities.

The Heising-Simons Foundation funded this opportunity. The conference’s planning committee included Leigh Ann Courville, Barb Fabre, Amy LaPointe-Houghton, Callie Parr, Lee Turney, Dion Wood, Dawn Yazzie, and the Buffett Institute’s Smith, Hanna Junus, and Michelle Sarche.

Erin Duffy is the managing editor at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska and writes about early childhood issues that affect children, families, educators, and communities. Previously, she spent more than a decade covering education stories and more for daily newspapers.

WCHS Representation at National Diabetes Prevention Discussion Panel



By: Sarah Collison, Marketing Specialist

Winnebago, NE – Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System (WCHS) proudly celebrates the involvement of employee Camilla Barajas in the Native Diabetes Gathering: Road to Prevention, a national event held this June in Oklahoma City. The gathering, organized by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) through a CDC-funded initiative, brought together Master Trainers, Lifestyle Coaches, and tribal health leaders from across Indian Country. During the gathering the leaders worked to strengthen networks, deepen understanding of Medicare and Medicaid claims, and explore sustainable solutions for diabetes prevention in tribal communities.

Camilla Barajas, Wa i pi nagi (Diabetes) Program Director and dedicated Master Trainer Select and Lifestyle Coach with WCHS, was one of six expert speakers featured on a panel hosted by the Diabetes Training and Technical Assistance Center (DTTAC). The panel highlighted the critical role that Master Trainers and Lifestyle Coaches play in scaling and supporting evidence-based diabetes prevention programs within tribal communities.

Barajas shared insight into her journey and commitment to empowering other coaches, saying, “It was powerful to be in a room full of passionate leaders all working toward the same goal, building healthier futures for our tribal communities. Supporting new Lifestyle Coaches isn’t just about training; it’s about lifting each other up and walking the prevention journey together.”

DTTAC has been a key partner in the development of Master Trainers and Lifestyle Coaches, providing foundational training to ensure culturally grounded and community-driven delivery of the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP).

Barajas continues to be a passionate voice for diabetes prevention and education within the Winnebago community and beyond. The Wa i pi nagi (Diabetes) Program at WCHS offers tailored treatment plans for type 1 and type 2 diabetes, while also providing screenings for early intervention and community education. You can hear more from her next week on the [DTTAC Advance Podcast](#) providing Advanced Coach Training to Lifestyle Coaches serving tribes and tribal communities.

WCHS Hosts Community Baby Shower for Expecting and New Parents



By: Sarah Collison, Marketing Specialist

Winnebago, NE – On Thursday, Aug 7th, Winnebago Comprehensive Health System (WCHS) invited expecting and new parents with infants under a year old to a Community Baby Shower. This Community Baby Shower was a resource fair that highlighted insurance benefits and community resources for growing families.

The Shower was a welcoming and supportive environment where growing families could connect with healthcare professionals, learn about local programs, and receive helpful tools for the journey into parenthood. The Public Health Nursing, Social Services, and Women, Infants & Children (WIC), and more programs were on hand to answer questions and share information on wellness screenings, prenatal and postnatal care, and breastfeeding support. Medicaid enrollment is critical so that many families being able to take advantage of these resources. Medicaid Insurance providers like United Healthcare Community Plan, Heritage Health, Nebraska Total Care, and Molina Healthcare were also available to empower our community to learn more about their options and answer enrollment and plan questions.

“Our goal is to empower parents with the tools and knowledge they need to give their babies a healthy start,” said Mona Zuffante, Chief Public Health Officer. “The baby shower is not only a celebration of new life but also a chance to build connections and trust between families and the services that are here to support them.”

Attendees enjoyed light refreshments, games, giveaways, and the opportunity to take home baby supplies and educational materials. Many parents expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about health coverage options and to meet other families in similar stages of life. The Community Baby Shower is just one of many outreach efforts by WCHS to improve maternal and child health in the Winnebago community. To learn more about services available to families from WCHS, visit www.wchs.health.

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Question of the Issue:

The 2025-26 school year begins soon. Tell us, what are your top three highlights from the summer of 2025?

GARAN: Another summer came and went. So far, I have had 43 summers to enjoy, and this particular summer didn’t disappoint. One is performing with Brule at the Lev-itt outdoor amphitheater in Sioux Falls, SD. Over 15,000 people were in attendance. The best part is I get to perform with my son and daughter on stage. The other is getting to help emcee the 159th Annual Winnebago Homecoming Celebration. It’s truly a honor to try to help out the veterans. Although it was pretty hot, overall, I heard a lot of good compliments on this year’s celebration. I think every celebration has something amazing happen! Our late WIN editor, Jerome LaPointe had a really amazing memorial singing special. Good job to his family, a very nice way to honor him.

3rd highlight was working with the WTN Communications team this summer. We had some pretty amazing events including WIN issues produced, Big Voice Radio shows aired, and great collaborations from a lot of our entities/partners. Although one bad thing I want to mention is that we didn’t have any office potlucks this summer, “ahem” Comms Team!

BRIAN: Once again, the summer has flown by. But we still have a lot of days left when the weather should be warm and nice. The highlights of the season include the 159th, outdoor concerts, and weekend get aways to our usual haunts. Summer just wouldn’t be complete, though, without that amazing outdoor cooking. Food cooked outside just tastes better, I think. Don’t you? Well anyway, we did have some good times and good food. Looking forward to a great Labor Day holiday – just don’t put those white clothes away so fast. :-D

TYLER: It feels like summer only lasted a few weeks. I’d have to say the best part of summer is school being out and I can spend more time with my son, swimming, 4th of July, and all things summer. The 2nd highlight would be our homecoming celebration, seeing friends and family, the food and dancing is always memorable.

CHRISTINA: My top 3 highlights? My first would have to be my family trip to Montana! First timers for me and the kids. Yellowstone had some awesome scenery but kids were liking it at first due to loss of cell service. Seeing the gorgeous landscape with them was really special to me.

Taking my daughter to see The Weeknd at Mile High Stadium and her saying it was the best day of her life!

Welcoming another baby girl into the family! Congratulations to my neice and her significant other.

KEVIN: It started with laughing, chortling, and the smell of turkey legs and chicken strips, in the air. Worlds of Fun was our kingdom for the day, and we came armed with the ultimate superpower: fast passes. No endless lines, no waiting—just ride after ride with the kids and our neighbors. The little ones raced from one adventure to the next, sticky with ice cream and glowing with excitement.

For my second it would have to be Yankton, South Dakota, where a cabin by the water waited for us. The mornings were filled with coffee and Blackstone grilling, broken only by the call of a boat engine, and kids wanting to go tubing. Our pontoon became the magic carpet of the weekend, taking us places only accessible by water.

When I tried to name my final summer highlight, I couldn’t pick just one. It wasn’t a single moment—it was all of it. Every laugh, every sunset, every lazy afternoon and wild ride. This summer wasn’t just good; it was the kind you want to fold up and tuck into your pocket, just to carry the warmth a little longer. Most of all, spending time with my little Brats! That I love so much.

BETHANI: Another eventful summer for Communications! My top 3 highlights will include 2 from work and 1 from home. My first highlight is from the Drive-In Movie Night hosted at the big screen by YCIC! It was a good turnout, and I loved that my boys were able to attend with me as well. My second highlight is going to include both July powwows that we cover which are the MMIR powwow and our homecoming celebration. We spent time learning how to operate the new software and equipment, which we implemented into this summer’s live broadcasts with a growing productions team. Lastly, a huge highlight that I can never get enough of is spending time with my family. Unbelievably, I only went swimming ONCE this entire summer. I went swimming with my nieces Scarlett (2 years old) and Penelope (1 year old), and it was both fun and stressful at the same time. Scarlett is at that age where she can do it all herself! I would notice her pattering away and would try to help her with balancing, but she would be quick to say, “I. CAN. DO. IT. ME SELF. ANNNN TEEE!!!” A moment that I will cherish forever. NOW, let us talk about sweater weather!!! :)

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CONCERT REVIEW:

SHE’S SO UNUSUAL – STILL LIVE in Concert – Cyndi Lauper

By Brian Chamberlain
Photos by Sharon Redhorn-Chamberlain / archive

[Azure Amphitheater – Bonner Springs, KS]
As a proud member of *Generation X*, growing up in the 1980s we had so many firsts as far as mainstream society was concerned. Social mobility included for the first time, real and open female artists who controlled their destiny when it came to their music and their careers. One of these women was the incomparable, Cyndi Lauper.

Lauper burst onto the music scene after cutting her teeth doing back-up work and singing in cover bands before she led her own group, Blue Angel. But it was with her move to being a solo artist that the *girl who just wanted to have fun* became a household name for so many of us. We had the chance to see her LIVE, in-concert recently. As a bittersweet notion, this first-time seeing Cyndi was also on her Farewell Tour.

Growing up, Cyndi Lauper became one of those people who helped define the decade that was the 1980s. Not just because she embraced the seismic changes that came with video music, but also because she was in full possession of an incredible talent. Her four-octave vocal range placed her on top of the Billboard charts with ease as the debut album released became a smash hit around the globe.

In 1983 when Lauper released, *She’s So Unusual*, her debut solo album, she was indeed that – unusual. So much so that her vocal abilities led her to become the first woman to score 4 consecutive top five hits from one album. This was at a time when megawatt divas like Whitney and Mariah and Celine were still unheard of. Ironically, Celine would go on to re-record one of Cyndi’s signature hits – *I Drove All Night*. Lauper’s vocal prowess captured the emotions of the music she sang, making an indelible mark on this young listener. So, on a hot and steamy evening in rural suburban Kansas City, we found ourselves perched to see the diva who once ruled the airwaves.

The Azure Amphitheater in Bonner Springs, Kansas, is a great venue for music. Fully outdoors, it has ample seating both assigned and open lawn style. We arrived just before showtime. First up was a DJ who played well-known hits for the mature crowd. Her stylings were not earth shaking, but adequately enough the set let the crowd know the main event was approaching. Following the DJ set was an opening act that honestly did not capture our attention, but he was from Kansas City and was living out his dream playing for the hometown crowd in a nearly packed arena.

The sun had set, and the heat of the day was beginning to wane – some. As the lights fell dark and the beat began to pump, the people rose to their feet. Wonderful classic television color panels displayed on her huge video screens evoked media long gone. Suddenly, with a literal burst, rainbow colored powder and ribbons flew from the platform and over the cheering crowd. Cyndi Lauper has taken the stage. Opening with one of my favorite songs by her, *She Bop*, blasted in its driving rock style. Lauper worked the crowd, pumping them up from all areas of her stage. The people loved it.

She followed with a brief introduction to her next song, another 80s gem. This one from the *Goonies* movie soundtrack – (*Goonies R*) *Good Enough*. Cyndi knew her audience and was playing to us with fire and flare. With that song’s conclusion, Cyndi officially introduced

herself and told the people, *I wanted to give you all a proper good-bye*. The people cheered, with many screaming, *NO!* as she described her thoughts on her Farewell Tour. I must admit it made me sad too, because this was my first time seeing her, but I knew it would probably be my last as well.

As her set of hits continued, she spoke in between the songs and talked about her journey as an artist. She shared her stories: some funny, some challenging, and some very odd. But again, Cyndi is the girl who is so unusual.

Lauper soon sang the song that made her an icon for me – *Change of Heart*. I remember watching this on MTV thinking how the song and the video made me want to sing and dance. The sound captured the era so well. To this day that is still one of my favorite songs from her. Hit after hit came, each time she told a story. One of her biggest hits, if not the biggest, *Time After Time* then made its entry. With little fan-fare but with massive pull, the tragically sad, but endearing ballad enthralled the audience. The amphitheater sang with her as the darkness of the night began to grow.

Songs and stories came and then finally a not-well disguised play at ending the show. The people chanted and cheered calling for her to come back to the stage. In the darkness stage-hands moved and everyone knew she would return. As she did, the lights rose and the beat that still lives in my mind began. The solo beats of percussion in the unmistakable introduction to the iconic *True Colors* pounded from the dynamic sound system. With the full moon now rising above the trees of the amphitheater pit and with this song, Cyndi knew she had the crowd in her palm. She played for us all. For those who know this song, we know the beat I’m talking about. As the melancholy ballad drew to its close, she stood high on a new platform. Bending to open a box, she pulled from it a PRIDE flag. As she closed the song, microphone in one hand, the banner raised high with the other she sang proudly, *your true colors... are beautiful ... like a rainbow*. The crowd already on their feet showed their adoration with the loudest, most profound cheers and applause.

She closed the show with a mixed version of her debut hit, *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*. The people sang and chanted and danced. Cyndi a long supporter of women’s rights, artistic expression, and LGBTQ equality donned the garb of an artist that she said she loved – Yayoi Kusama. Cyndi Lauper spoke of chapters throughout her set and this one was an amazing one for sure. Throughout the show being taken back to those early days moved me. Being a fan of her voice and her music, it was fun feeling like a kid again as she entertained us all.

Being able to see her LIVE was a good experience, one that I’m glad to have had the chance to experience. Cyndi will be inducted into the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame for the Class of 2025. At 75, her voice does show its wear, but she can still hold those notes and can definitely engage the public. I loved her stories and appreciated her sharing as much of her personal experiences as she did. The chapters of her life are truly extraordinary. Icons like Cyndi are few and far between, so when your paths cross take the opportunity. She may be unusual, but that’s exactly what we’re seeking and precisely what we need in this world.

Cyndi Lauper – Farewell Tour
LIVE Nation
Azure Amphitheater
Bonner Springs, KS





**Chief Standing Bear Prize for Courage Committee
Announces Former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland as
2025 Prize Recipient**

Lincoln, Nebraska — July 25, 2025 — The Chief Standing Bear Prize for Courage Project proudly announces that former United States Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Chief Standing Bear Prize for Courage.

The Chief Standing Bear Project, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2022 to promote the life and civil rights legacy of Ponca Chief Standing Bear through public forums, lectures, and events on a national level. The signature initiative of the Project is the Standing Bear Prize for Courage, which honors Native Americans who embody courage in the spirit of Standing Bear by choosing to do what is right rather than what is expedient.

“Former Secretary Haaland’s life and leadership reflect the many forms that courage can take — quiet resilience, determination in the face of hardship, and the willingness to lead, even when the path is uncertain,” said Katie Brossy, board president of the Chief Standing Bear Project. “Like Chief Standing Bear, she has shown that courage is not always a singular act, but a lifetime of standing firm in one’s convictions. From overcoming financial hardship as a single mother to becoming the first Native American woman to lead a state political party, one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, and most recently, first Native American Cabinet Secretary, former Secretary Haaland has shattered barriers with grace and determination. Her leadership in addressing the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and her courageous efforts to confront the painful legacy of federal boarding schools — a history her own family endured — embody the same spirit of dignity and justice that defined Chief Standing Bear’s stand for human rights.”

Former Secretary Haaland will be presented with the award at a ceremony held at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Indigenous Peoples Day, Monday, October 13, 2025. She will receive a statuette of Chief Standing Bear created by renowned artist Benjamin Victor, the sculptor of the iconic Statuary Hall Chief Standing Bear sculpture.

More information about the award and the upcoming event will be available soon at www.chiefstandingbear.org.

Deb Haaland Biography

Deb Haaland made history as the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a 35th-generation New Mexican.

Haaland grew up in a military family. Her father was a 30-year combat Marine who received the Silver Star Medal for saving six lives in Vietnam, and her mother, a Navy veteran, served as a federal employee with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 25 years.

As a military child, Haaland attended 13 public schools before graduating from Highland High School in Albuquerque. As a single mother, she volunteered at her child’s preschool to help afford early childhood education. Like many parents, she relied on food stamps at times, lived paycheck to paycheck, and worked to put herself through college.

At age 28, Haaland enrolled at the University of New Mexico, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in English. She later earned her J.D. from the UNM School of Law.

She has worked as a small business owner—producing and canning Pueblo Salsa—and served as a tribal administrator at San Felipe Pueblo. She was the first woman elected to the Laguna Development Corporation Board of Directors, which oversees one of New Mexico’s largest tribal gaming enterprises. In that role, she successfully advocated for policies promoting environmentally responsible business practices.

Throughout her career in public service, Secretary Haaland has broken barriers and created pathways for future generations. After running for New Mexico Lieutenant Governor in 2014, she became the first Native American woman elected to lead a state political party. In 2019, she became one of the first Native American women to serve in the U.S. Congress, where she championed environmental justice, climate action, the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, and family-centered policies.

In 2021, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Secretary of the Interior, becoming the first Native American cabinet secretary in American history and served in that role until January, 2025.

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CARMELITA.PARKER@WINNEBAGOTRIBE.COM

MATTHEW.CLEVELAND@WINNEBAGOTRIBE.COM

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska



2025 Tribal Council Candidates:

Aric Armell
Tanya Baker
Coly Brown
Harold Cleveland
Ireta Frazier
Darla LaPointe
Keely Purscell
Sharon Redhorn-Chamberlain
Terry St. Cyr

Approved by: *Jurena Spittage Cyr* Date: 8-4-25

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| PRIMARY & REGULAR ELECTION SCHEDULE | | |
| SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 & OCTOBER 7, 2025 | | |
| August 22, 2025 | Friday | Deadline for Absentee Ballot Requests |
| August 25, 2025 | Monday | Absentee Ballots Mailed Out-Primary |
| September 2, 2025 | Tuesday | PRIMARY ELECTION |
| September 4, 2025 | Thursday | Post Top Candidates |
| September 4, 2025 <i>Special Tribal Council Meeting</i> | Thursday | Approve Enrollment & Adoption Requests |
| September 5, 2025 | Friday | Send Ballots to Automated Election Services-Regular |
| September 26, 2025 | Friday | Deadline for Absentee Ballot Requests |
| September 29, 2025 | Monday | Absentee Ballots Mailed Out-Regular |
| October 7, 2025 | Tuesday | REGULAR ELECTION |
| October 8, 2025 | Wednesday | Notification of Newly Elected Members Oath of Office Re-Organizational Meeting of New Tribal Council Members |



2025 AUGUST

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WINNEBAGO HEALTH FOUNDATION

Tickets and Sponsorships Available Winnebago Health Foundation's "An Evening of Culture"

By: Erin McElroy Flores, Communication Manager

What: Join the Winnebago Health Foundation for "An Evening of Culture" featuring Indigenous dining and entertainment. It will be a night filled with delicious Native food and drink; a silent auction of native-focused arts, crafts, and services; and a captivating dance performance by Many Moccasins Dance Troupe.

Who: Anyone is welcome to attend this exciting event! Sponsorships and tickets are available today at www.wchs.health/evening-of-culture! Tickets and sponsorships are key to making this fundraising event a success. If you are an organization that is committed to building and improving health and healthcare services in Winnebago, Nebraska, please consider partnering with Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System and the Winnebago Health Foundation in attending [An Evening of Culture](#).

Why: This event aims to raise awareness and funds to further the mission of the Winnebago Health Foundation. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and history of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) people and the Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System. This evening event at the Country Celebrations Event Center is a fundraiser for "Food is Medicine," a critical component of [Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System's Master Facilities Plan](#).

The Foundation invites everyone to join us in the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) traditional value of "Hoikikara ra" or "taking care of one another."

Available For Interviews as Requested:

Winnebago Health Foundation Chair, Danelle Smith
Communications Manager, Erin McElroy Flores
Planning and Development Manager, Linda Santi
Event Chair, Danielle Gutierrez

Event Date/Time: October 3, 2025, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM at Country Celebrations, 5606 Hamilton Boulevard, Sioux City, IA 51108

Media Instructions: Please add to community calendars and call 402-745-3950 or email marketing@wchs.health if you are interested in setting up an interview about this event or would like us to appear as a guest for an on-screen interview.

JOIN US IN
PRESENTING
"AN EVENING OF
CULTURE,"
A FUNDRAISING
EVENT FEATURING
INDIGENOUS
DINING &
ENTERTAINMENT.

OUR VISION IS
TO LEAD THE
NATION IN
HEALTH FOR
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE AND WE
KNOW THAT WE
CANNOT DO IT
ALONE.

BECOME A SPONSOR

We are seeking partners who understand the importance of creating a tradition of healthier lifestyles and improving the healthcare capacity in Winnebago, NE for the next seven generations.

CONTACT OUR TEAM
402-745-3956
whf@wchs.health
www.wchs.health/evening-of-culture



WINNEBAGO HEALTH
FOUNDATION

WINNEBAGO HEALTH FOUNDATION'S AN EVENING OF CULTURE

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

OCTOBER 3, 2025
COUNTRY CELEBRATIONS
5606 HAMILTON BLVD
SIOUX CITY, IA 51108
DOOR OPEN AT 5:30 PM

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING
SPONSORSHIP LEVELS &
RECOGNITION.

HEALTHY MOVEMENT SPONSORS

- Reserve Table: 8 premium seats at a front-row table with a complimentary drink ticket for table host and every guest.
- Recognition: WHF will provide prominent logo placement on event digital and print marketing materials including the stage and entrance signage and a full page ad in the event program.
- Stage and Social Mention: The WHF will acknowledge the sponsor as an individual and/or business during the event and on social media.
- Exclusive Access: These sponsors will have the option to lead-off for round dance with Many Moccasins Dance Troupe.
- Special Gift: All table guests receive a custom-made native gift.

\$10,000

NUTRITION CHAMPION SPONSORS

- Reserve Table: 8 reserve seats at a table with a complimentary drink ticket for table host and every guest.
- Recognition: WHF will provide logo placement on event digital and print marketing materials including the catering and bar signage and a half page ad in the event program.
- Stage and Social Mention: The WHF will acknowledge the sponsor as an individual and/or business during the event and on social media.
- Special Gift: All table guests receive a custom-made native gift.

\$5,000

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE SPONSORS

- Reserve Table: 8 reserved seats at a table with a complimentary drink ticket for the table host and every guest.
- Recognition: WHF will provide logo secondary placement on event digital and print marketing materials including a quarter-page ad in the event program.
- Stage and Social Mention: The WHF will acknowledge the sponsor as an individual and/or business during the event and on social media.

\$3,000

HEALTH & WELL-BEING SPONSORS

- Reserve Table: 8 reserve seats at a table with a complimentary drink ticket for table host and every guest.
- Recognition: WHF will include your logo in the event program.
- Social Mention: Thank you on social media platforms.

\$1,500



**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 22, 2025, 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

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

SOCIAL WORKER

THERAPIST

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ASSISTANT

MEDICAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CUSTODIAL WORKER

FACILITIES SAFETY OFFICER / SECURITY

SECURITY GUARD

COOK

**For more information contact
Tamaria.Featherlin@ihs.gov or
Olisameka.Ifesiokwu@ihs.gov**

Tribal Information
Winnebago Tribe Of Nebraska
www.winnebagoTribe.com

