



James Vukelich with Chairman Jamie Azure



Charles Monette family with Chairman Jamie Azure



Gordon Baker with Chairman Jamie Azure

## RELATIVES

from page 1A

dians for coming to Minneapolis to host a pop-up tribal ID Event! Several tribal groups have conducted pop-up events for members in the Twin Cities this last week in response to the detention of Native people during immigration enforcement operations... This is a weird time for the Twin Cities. Daga ayaangwaamizig — please do take care."

Gordon Baker Jr., who also resides in the Twin Cities area, made his way to downtown Minneapolis on Thursday to update his tribal ID. Gordon said, "I got my new tribal ID. Thank you for your support and coming to our aide, Tribal Chairman Jamie Azure and our motor vehicle department. We greatly appreciate it... It was good visiting with all of you."

Charles Monette said on Wednesday: "Chi miigwech to our Chairman Jamie Azure and Turtle Mountain Motor Vehicle Depart-

ment staff for making the trip to Minneapolis and providing new Tribal ID's to Li Michif."

Chairman Azure added, "People that have come in are smiling and their anxiety is lifting as they come in."

Tensions are high for tribal members living in the Twin Cities, especially after the recent killing of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent on January 7, along with multiple arrests of Indigenous people in and around the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. "If anybody questions your cit-

izenship or whatever question it may be, this tribal identification card serves as that validation," Chairman Azure said last week.

Chairman Azure sent this statement a week ago to the Tribe's federal partners amid the ongoing ICE raids throughout the Twin Cities area and now here in North Dakota: "This notice serves to inform all federal agencies that valid Tribal Identification Cards issued by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, a federally recognized Tribe, meets the requirements for identification for

all federal purposes. Agencies must accept these Tribal IDs as equivalent to other government-issued identification documents, including but not limited to passports, state-issued driver's licenses, and state identification cards, whenever federal law or policy requires proof of identity or citizenship."

Tribal Chairman Jamie Azure the rest of the Turtle Mountain Tribal Council put the safety of tribal members residing in the Twin Cities area a top priority last week, simply looking out for our

relatives in a city that's considered a hot spot for ICE raids and targeted extra hard by the current administration. However, the simple fact of having an up-to-date tribal ID for the Turtle Mountain membership whom reside in the Twin Cities will certainly go a long way in protecting their rights and their freedom amid these uncertain times dealing with uncommon immigration practices.

Stay safe, relatives.



## COMPLEX

from page 1A

apartments, and two units will be 2-bedroom apartments.

Comfort and closeness were in mind when designing these new units. Harris said tenants will be able to live comfortably in a cozy

and homey unit, whether the healthcare professionals are here short-term or long-term.

"The building is designed with comfort and community in mind," Harris stated. "It will include a spacious shared great room and a large outdoor patio where tenants can relax, socialize, and unwind. Each unit will be

fully equipped with heating and air conditioning, modern appliances such as an oven and range, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher, and each unit will also have its own washer and dryer for added convenience."

Harris said the units will fill up completely when finished, stating, "Yes, due to the hospital's significant need for additional housing, it is anticipated that the

units will fill very quickly once the project is complete and available for occupancy."

Construction is currently about 60 percent complete, Harris noted, with the project expected to be finished by September 1, 2026. Greenstone Construction is serving as the prime contractor for the project, working alongside several subcontractors, including

some local businesses from the Belcourt area, Harris said.

Harris shared more about the units when completion comes later this fall. She said this complex is an important investment in supporting health care long-term here at Turtle Mountain.

"The IHS multiplex for quarters has an overall building size of approximately 11,700 square feet, with individual unit sizes varying to accommodate different needs," Harris said. "Each unit is designed as a fully functional living space with private bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, and in-unit laundry. The combination of modern amenities, thoughtful design, and shared community spaces makes this facility a valuable addition to the Belcourt Hospital campus and an important investment in supporting health-

care staff and services for the region."

Harris added, "This new multiplex apartment building is an important investment in the future of health care at Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility. By providing modern, accessible housing for new providers and contract staff, we're strengthening our ability to recruit and retain the professionals our community depends on."

Turtle Mountain Times will provide future updates on the all-new IHS multiplex later this year as construction nears completion, as well as when the Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility officially opens the units as tenants move into these comfortable living quarters of out-of-town health care professionals.

## ACCESS

from page 1A

ident, Traynor said. Minnesota received \$193 million for 2026, while Montana and South Dakota got \$233.5 million and \$189.5 million, respectively, according to CMS data.

Health and Human Services staff worked hard to get those funds, Nelson said.

"At the end of the day, we will have the opportunity to fill the gaps in rural health care," Nelson said.

The North Dakota Legislature

had to authorize the expenditures before the state received the funds. Armstrong called lawmakers to Bismarck for a three-day special session that began Wednesday.

Not all states involved their legislatures in approving the funds, Rep. Eric Murphy, R-Grand Forks, said Thursday.

"This is a historic day for health care and across the state," he said.

Not all lawmakers supported accepting the funds.

"At some point, we have to stop saying yes to federal dollars," said Rep. Jeff Hoverson, R-Minot. "The reason is this: It's

still a redistribution of our tax dollars."

Health and Human Services plans to educate the public on how the funds can be used so it can accept applications and issue subgrants by Oct. 31.

The state could lose funding if it doesn't meet that deadline or certain commitments, Traynor said.

The Legislature almost unanimously passed four bills during the special session to meet those commitments, including legislation that reinstates a physical fitness test for school children every four years — superintendents can authorize exceptions —

and allowing pharmacists to prescribe certain medical drugs and prescriptions.

Traynor said he expects CMS to announce the 2027 amounts next month. HB 1623 authorized an additional \$199 million in spending in preparing to receive the funds for next year.

The Legislature may adjust allocation legislation for the program when it meets for its regular session next year.

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**UNITED TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATIONS**

**Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians**

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AGENDA (REVISED)**

**Regular (December & January) OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 THURSDAY, JAN. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**@ 10:00 A.M., Tribal Headquarters**

**• Call To Order • Roll Call • Opening Prayer • Adopt Agenda**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Tribal Chairman & Tribal Council Reports
2. Chief Financial Officer— Review and approve Financial Reports
3. Review and Approve Minutes from Regular Open Public Meeting, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Regularly Scheduled Meetings - November 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025; January 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>(x2) & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**4. TRIBAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORTS — Senior Meals & Services - Kristy Parisien (acting); Master Health - Blaine Malaterre; State/Tribal Home Visitation - Amy Gourneau & Diabetes Prevention Program and Special Diabetes Program (SDPI) - Eric Dionne**

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
No New Business at this time.

**DATE OF NEXT OPEN PUBLIC MEETING — February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**