



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



# HOCAK WORAK



Vol. XL, Issue 2

Hųc wiconį ną wira | First Bear Moon

January 23, 2026

## MISSING

**Kenneth Lewis**  
Humbird, Wisconsin  
Last seen: January 13, 2026



MISSING: Kenneth Lewis, Jr.

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Vincent Hamilton Receives  
2026 MLK Jr. Leadership  
Award

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# Jennifer Adams on Beadwork, Community, and Growing Through Art

Kaili Berg

Ho-Chunk artist Jennifer Adams was one of four Ho-Chunk community members who helped create the fully beaded murals featured in Dyani White Hawk: Love Language, a mid-career survey at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

The exhibition highlights White Hawk's work alongside the many Indigenous artists and family members who contributed to large-scale beadwork installations now shown in major museums across the country.

Adams, along with Eloise Funmaker, Abel Martinez, and Kaina Martinez, worked on two massive beaded murals with a team of five to ten community members. The pieces include traditional beadwork techniques and contemporary Indigenous design.

The Hocak Worak spoke with Adams about her experience working on the beaded murals featured in the Walker Art Center.

Adams reflected on how the collaborative, multi-generational beadwork process helped shape her growth as an artist and the importance of Indigenous

representation in major art spaces.

**Can you share how you became involved in Dyani White Hawk's mural projects?**

It was one of the first jobs I had when I got out of high school. I needed work, so I put it out there on Facebook, and Dyani reached out. She already knew I knew how to bead and said she had a really big project she was taking on and could use more help. So, I said yes.

**What kinds of projects did you work on in the studio?**

I worked there for about two years. In that time, I helped complete two murals and two other beaded multimedia installations. Eloise, Abel, and Kaina also worked on the fully beaded pillars that are at the Walker Art Center. Those are more sculptural, but they're completely beaded.

**How long did it take to make the murals?**

The first big one we did took about a year. That one ended up at the Whitney Museum. We even got to go to New York for the opening, which was really amazing.

**What was it like seeing Native artwork in that kind of museum**



**space?**

High art is really institutionalized, and it's a super white space. So being able to see Native people represented in that way was really eye-opening and life-changing for me, especially being so young.

**What was the beadwork process**

**like?**

All of the murals and even the pillars were loomed. Some of the other pieces are lazy-stitched or flat-stitched onto canvas, but we've all had a hand in pretty much all of the beaded pieces.

**What do you appreciate most about**

*Continued on Page 11*

# ICE Activity in Minneapolis Raises Concerns for Native Communities

Kaili Berg

Tribal Nations across the Midwest are speaking out after increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area has led to fear, confusion, and reports of Native Americans being questioned or detained.

In recent weeks, ICE agents have been conducting door-to-door operations and traffic stops in parts of the Twin Cities. While these actions are described as immigration enforcement, several Native American citizens have reportedly been stopped despite being U.S. citizens and enrolled tribal members.

The situation escalated after a U.S. citizen was shot and killed by an ICE agent during an operation in Minneapolis. Since then, community members have raised serious concerns about safety, racial profiling, and the treatment of Indigenous people.

Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer acknowledged the growing anxiety in a message to tribal members.

"My office and social media feeds



have been buzzing with concerned tribal members following the recent shooting of an American citizen by an armed ICE Official. Now, with the news of alleged door-to-door campaigns, the threat literally hits home," Greendeer said.

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# Letter from the President



## HO-CHUNK NATION TRIBAL MEMBERS

Greetings Friends and Relatives,

On behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation, I wish to extend a belated Happy New Years wish. I hope your homes are all warm, safe, and sound and your year is off to a great start. For some, that hasn't been the case. My office and social media feeds have been buzzing with concerned tribal members following the recent shooting of an American citizen by an armed ICE Official. Now, with the news of alleged door-to-door campaigns, the threat literally hits home.

What I would have hoped would dissipate the anxiety only prompted this Administration to double down and allow agents to work with absolute impunity. As a sovereign Nation, our identity will NOT be in question. Our tribal identification will not be insufficient, and we have the affirmative responsibility to seek accountability for any actions that violate the Indigenous or Constitutional rights of our members or their families.

Whether your tribal IDs are lost, damaged, or expired, Executive Order 1.30.25 allows tribal members to fill out a form, notarize it, and send it in. Their tribal ID will be processed with urgency and sent to the address listed, free of cost. As well, if a member and his/her family wish to secure a US Passport, the Ho-Chunk Nation will fully reimburse you for the cost of the basic, standard mail passport(s).

Attached, you'll find some guidance hopefully helpful to our relatives in the Twin Cities area or anywhere there is active ICE presence. We will continue to seek on-the-ground resources and will remain vigilant to our communications as the landscape or circumstances change. Ho-Chunk members, we see you and we are here for you! Haizo uune (Take care!)

Jon Greendeer  
President of the Ho-Chunk Nation

# Tribal Member Guidance and Resources

### Proper Identification

Keeping valid, proper identification is a mandatory personal requirement and responsibility. This includes any and all forms of state, federal, and tribal identification credentials for you and any vulnerable individuals such as children, elders, and those with special needs.

### Tribal Identification (TID) Cards

Under the continuation of HCN Presidential Executive Order 1.30.25, ALL tribal identification cards are waived of any fees, are available by mail, and processed on an expedited basis. The process does not require the Enrollment Division to be dispatched to any location to produce the cards. TIDs can be mailed out to the recipient's address on file upon completion of the Division's Information Request Form on the Ho-Chunk Nation's Homepage ([www.ho-chunknation.com](http://www.ho-chunknation.com)). It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that they and/or anyone under their guardianship has a valid tribal identification.

### United States Passports

Under HCN Presidential Executive Order 1.30.25, the Ho-Chunk Nation Office of the president will reimburse the cost of a US Passport for enrolled tribal members and their listed dependents whether enrolled, enrollable, or not. This reimbursement applies to the standard passports less any special instructions such as expedited processing/shipping costs. Once the passports are applied and paid for, receipts can be sent to the Office of the President along with a W-9 and documentation used for verification and the reimbursement can be sent out.

### Local Resources

American Civil Liberties Union (Minnesota – <https://www.aclu-mn.org/>)

The ACLU is the leading organization specializing in protecting the rights of American Citizens networked across the US. Their mission (excerpt):

"We are especially mindful of the need to protect the interests of people who are disfavored or marginalized. The ACLU of Minnesota is nonpartisan, defending the civil

liberties of everyone, regardless of their politics."

They are also a clearinghouse of data and resources for citizens which include research, tracking, legal services and multiple forms of support for people who are facing threats to their civil rights along with anything that may present a clear threat to health, safety, and welfare.

The ACLU provides an online reporting tools to track unlawful conduct by federal agents (<https://www.aclu-mn.org/ice-feds-form/>) and profiling and unlawful detentions (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=uDVXwt1AyUOCxfs5Fs5DzBfHbm4bElhcVJhqBnUKrk7fdUMFE5Ro1ITUZHTk1YUFdYRU9KTE5QQo5BOS4u&route=s horturl>)

### Online Resources

- ICE Activity Tracker <https://iceinmyarea.org/>
- ArcGIS <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=c2f5639601a24aa2922f321204a6c6a3>
- Immigrant Defense Project <https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/raids/>
- Mobile Apps
- IceBlock
- Coqui Juntos Podemos
- Visual Notice

The Ho-Chunk nation will initiate disbursement of door signs for Ho-Chunk tribal members alerting law enforcement of their state, tribal, and federal citizenship as well as affirming that agents may not enter the property without a valid warrant. The signs are optional and while the sign serves to deter interaction with law enforcement, members must understand the risk associated with any unnecessary alert which may be caused by openly displaying this message.

### Other Support

Predicting situations ahead is different from preparing for them. Some circumstances may arise unseen and general planning and provisions may not do much to accommodate so that reason, the Ho-Chunk Nation Office of the President may be contacted by phone (800) 727509 or by email [oop.help@ho-chunk.com](mailto:oop.help@ho-chunk.com).

Maąsusga (Jon Greendeer)  
President, Ho-Chunk Nation

# Waje Instructional Classes at the Tomah Community Center

Submitted by Carole Mae Decorah

The Tomah Community Center hosted a Waje instructional class led by Wakącowi Terry L. Snake-Hindsley, Sewing Teacher and Ho-Chunk Artist. The class was offered as a six-part series beginning on Thursday, November 13, 2025, and concluding on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Over the two months, participants gathered at the Tomah Community Center to receive instruction in the art of making a Waje within a supportive and welcoming learning environment.

The class was structured to allow each participant to work at their own pace, ensuring adequate time and attention were given to each step of the process. Each session began with a shared meal, potluck style. Many participants attended consistently, demonstrating a strong commitment to completing the class.

As part of the class, Wakącowi created a black Waje featuring geometric designs, which served as the example piece throughout the sessions. At the conclusion of the class, participants who missed only one session were entered into a drawing for the example Waje. Kelly Jo Funmaker was the proud winner of the black Waje.

Participants in the class included Courtney Blackdeer, Waverly Bird, Kelly Jo Funmaker, Yohnyah Williams, Karie Decorah, Cassandra Rave, Karen Lincoln Michel, and Leah Walters. During the final session, two participants completed their Waje. Karen Lincoln Michel completed a mint-colored Waje, and Yohnyah Williams completed a blue Waje.



Participants who did not attend the last class were able to complete their waje on their own time.

In addition to the six-part series, a one-day Waje class was held on Sunday, January 4, 2026. This session was open to a larger group and included tribal members from multiple communities, including Tomah, Madison, Wisconsin Dells, Black River Falls, and Minneapolis. The one-day class provided an opportunity for broader participation and reflected strong interest in sewing instruction.

The Waje classes held at the Tomah Community Center demonstrate the importance of culturally based programming, as we plan to continue bringing in artists and teachers to offer instruction in sewing, beading, paaxge, quill work, and cooking classes. The Community Center appreciates the interest and participation from tribal members across all communities and looks forward to offering additional opportunities in the future.



# DECOLONIZE FROM THE ALCOHOL & DRUG GENOCIDE

PSA FROM HCN HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT



## February Elders Birthdays

1. Scott Beard	17. Cleopus Delarosa
2. Harold Blackdeer III	18. Eloise Funmaker
3. Mark Krause	19. Kenneth Cabasos
4. Peter Matter	20. Darcia Blackdeer-Lent
5. Calvin Snowball	21. Vicki Greendeer
6. Daniel Snowball	22. Donald Blackhawk, Jr.
7. Georgianna Joey	23. Mary Beeman
8. Rebecca Krause	24. Michelle Cloud
9. Eileen Octuck	25. Arlene Keahna
10. Laverda Richter	26. Delia Maisells
11. LeAnn Westbrook	27. Ava De Priest
12. Carlos Cabasos	28. Susan Johnson
13. Sidney Hall Jr.	29. Gladys Morgan
14. Matthew Johnston	30. Roger Thundercloud
15. Verdie Kivimaki	31. Helene Day
16. Crystal Herriage	32. Daryl Lonetree
17. Daniel Brown	33. Juan Rivera
18. John Climer	34. Mildred Decorah
19. Janine Houghton	35. Boye Ladd
20. David Orozco Jr.	36. Roy Littlegeorge
21. Pamela Anderson	37. Jeffrey Nelson
22. Dawn Lopez	38. Edith Prescott
23. Robert Mann	39. Anna Reichenbach
24. James Niemi	40. Louise Topping
25. Kevin Niemi	41. Carole Buchanan
26. Celena Twinn	42. Cher Laubmeier
27. Tina Blair	43. Kenneth Lemieux
28. Rodney Rave	44. Suzette Greengrass
29. Jean Stopinski	45. Dawn Lueth
30. Frederick White	
31. Janet Berg	
32. Forrest Whiterabbit	
33. Arnold Cloud	
34. Geneinne Morgan	
35. Sharon Bittner	
36. Caroline Koukos	
37. Martina Little-Boy	
38. Patricia Provost	
39. Janet Donelson	
40. Ferguson Funmaker	
41. Kevin Olson	
42. Charles Brown II	
43. David White Eagle	
44. Christopher Allen	
45. Eliza Green	
46. Hazel Guerrero	
47. Willow Lawrie	
48. Ralph Payer	
49. Lori Gamble	
50. Linda Lowe	
51. Sharon Pierce	
52. Carole Roberts	

**Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be February 6th which will be published on February 13th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.**

## Teejop Hocira invites you to FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Free for everyone! Join us for a fun game night with family, friends, and neighbors. Bring your favorite table game or come learn something new! Snacks and drinks will be provided.

**THURSDAY JANUARY 29, 2026**  
**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Teejop Hocira - Madison Branch Office  
4724 Tradewinds Parkway  
Madison, WI 53718

For more information: (608)-277-9964  
Mya.Estebo@Ho-Chunk.com  
or  
Cher.Laubmeier@Ho-Chunk.com

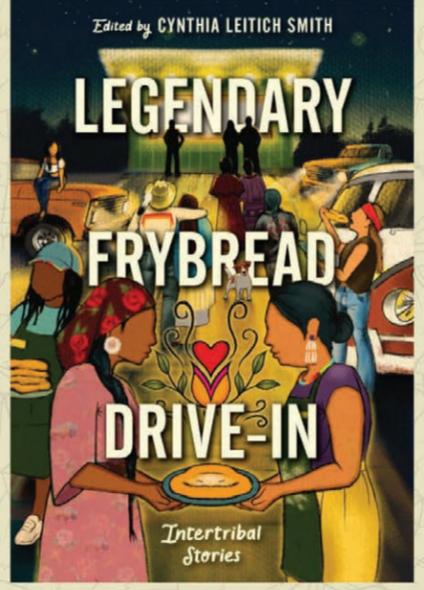
# WAAGAX WAA'E HII BOOK CLUB

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
**BOOKS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**  
**DUE TO BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS**  
**IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL**

- JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>
- JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>
- FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

**CONTACT LUCAS QUACKENBUSH FOR MORE INFO:**

- [LUCAS.QUACKENBUSH@HO-CHUNK.COM](mailto:LUCAS.QUACKENBUSH@HO-CHUNK.COM)
- 715-284-0905 x 15230





Waaagax Haa'ee Hii  
Ho-Chunk Community Library

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The Hocak Worak encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. All letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content. The Hocak Worak reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters submitted for publication. The submission of articles, poetry, artwork and photos is encouraged. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the Hocak Worak. The Hocak Worak will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material.

Submissions deadlines for the Hocak Worak are by 4:30 PM. We cannot guarantee the publication of submissions meeting these deadlines if the space is not available. No part of this publication may be produced without express written consent from the Editor.

### HOCOK WORAK NEWSLETTER

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# ‘Full Circle’: AIM patrols back on Minneapolis streets as tensions rise

## Supporters are pouring in from across Indian Country to protect the Minnesota community from ICE

Stewart Huntington  
Reprint from ICT

The wave of federal immigration agents swarming the Minneapolis area might be unprecedented in law enforcement history, but the response in the Indigenous community is not.

Half a century ago, the American Indian Movement was founded on Franklin Avenue, the heart of the urban Indian diaspora in South Minneapolis, to counter overzealous municipal policing.

Today, AIM patrols are back, watching over elders, youths and aunties along the same avenue in what is now known as the city’s American Indian Cultural Corridor.

“History shows us time and time again, it doesn’t repeat, but it rhymes,” said Heather Bruegl, an activist, historian and Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin citizen who has studied the American Indian Movement. “So you can look throughout history and see different examples of what we see today happening in the past.”

And if the history rhymes, some of the names do even more. Some are the same.

Crow Bellecourt, Bad River Band of Chippewa, has been out on the recent patrols. His father, the late Clyde Bellecourt, was among the founding members of AIM in 1968.

“I grew up in the movement,” said Bellecourt, executive director of the Indigenous Protector Movement, a group with AIM roots. “I always like to say, ‘I’m second-generation American Indian Movement.’ It’s, like, full circle for me.”

The confrontations between law enforcement and protestors in Minneapolis – including the shooting of 37-year-old Renee Good – have brought reports that Indigenous people have also been swept into custody.

A cohort of Indigenous patrollers has now reached close to 100, Bellecourt said.

“We’re running from seven in the morning to seven in the evening,” he said. “And even more. We still have some patrollers going out until like 11 or 12 at night.”

And just like in 1968, the patrollers are on the street to help community members feel safe.

“It’s really scary here,” said Mary LaGarde, executive director of the Minneapolis American Indian Center, which operates from its base on Franklin

Avenue.

Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have surged into the Twin Cities area to counter what the Trump administration has called corruption and criminality in area immigrant populations. At this point, there are more federal law enforcement officers in Minneapolis than metropolitan police.

The dramatic presence has prompted widespread protests and rebukes from state and local officials. There have been at least two shootings involving the federal officers.

“We woke up and we had all these ICE agents everywhere,” said Bellecourt. “They’re all over our neighborhood. I’m scared for our old people and the young ones who just wanted to catch the city bus to go to the grocery store. ... I worry about them getting picked up from ICE.”

LaGarde, White Earth Band of Chippewa, knows the feeling.

“It’s like you don’t want to leave the house,” LaGarde told ICT. “That’s how most of our people are feeling right now. Our elders are scared. Our young people, too. This is really impacting our kids.”

LaGarde said the patrols — by AIM members and other groups such as the Many Shields Warrior Society — are needed.

“it’s really important that we’re out protecting,” she said.

The numbers of volunteers out patrolling are growing.

“We have relatives coming in from South Dakota, Wisconsin and neighboring states,” Bellecourt said. Some have come from as far away as Oklahoma, he said.

Just like in the old days, AIM members are gathering along Franklin Avenue just as they gathered for occupations of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco in 1969, the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters in 1972, and the Wounded Knee massacre site in 1973.

AIM members also turned out in force in Minneapolis in 2020 after the death of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement.

What’s different from the early years? Modern communication tools.



AIM members are showing up in force in Minneapolis to protect the community in the 2026 unrest. Here, an AIM members attends a demonstration in 2020 in Minneapolis after the death of George Floyd at the hands of police. Credit: Photo by John Arthur Anderson

“We didn’t have these cell phones and all this social media back in them days,” Bellecourt said. “Everybody called on house phones and it was amazing how many people would show up. My dad called it the ‘moccasin telegraph’ and people would just call one another and, wherever they needed people to be, everyone would show up.”

They came to help the people. Then and today. “One of the first acts that AIM did when they were forming was patrolling the streets and making sure that if their community members were stopped or pulled over by the police, that their rights were being followed, like, you know, ‘Hey, you have the right to this, you have the right to that,’” Bruegl said.

“And we see that now happening again [because] people’s rights are being violated. We see Indigenous folks, tribal members being detained,” Bruegl said. “It’s important that groups like AIM and other groups are coming out again, working in community and making sure that we’re protecting each other.”

### Attention Rental Management Applicants Reminder



All applicants with the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Housing – Rental Management Program are required to:

**Resubmit a New Application Every Year**

Applications do not automatically renew. To stay active on the housing waiting list, you must submit a new application annually.

#### Why this is important

- Keeps your information current
- Ensures we can contact you when a unit becomes available
- Prevents removal from the waiting list

If you have any questions, contact the Department of Housing Rental Management Office (608) 374-1225 or [Housing@ho-chunk.com](mailto:Housing@ho-chunk.com)

Rental Management Office  
27374 HWY 21 East Bldg. #5  
P. O. Box 170, Tomah, WI 54660  
Phone : (608) 374-1225 Fax: (608) 374-1233



## Student of The Month January 2026 Colin McAndrew "Naisanaji"



**11<sup>th</sup> Grade - Baraboo High School**  
**Parents: Kenneth McAndrew & Kayree Funmaker**

Colin exemplifies academic excellence, discipline, and leadership. He maintains a strong 3.7 GPA, earning placement on the High Honor Roll, while balancing the demands of being a dedicated cross country athlete - Demonstrating endurance, focus, and resilience. Colin also serves as Treasurer for Model United Nations, where he shows responsibility, organization, and trustworthiness in managing finances and supporting team initiatives. Beyond school, he plays an important leadership role at home as the oldest of seven siblings, setting a positive example through maturity, accountability, and perseverance. Across academics, athletics, extracurricular involvement, and family life, Colin consistently leads by example and demonstrates outstanding character and initiative.

# Vincent Hamilton Receives 2026 MLK Jr. Leadership Award

Kailli Berg

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration was held January 19 at the Viterbo Fine Arts Center in La Crosse, bringing together community members, students, and leaders to honor Dr. King's legacy.

The evening opened with a welcome from Rick Trietley, President of Viterbo University, followed by warm-up music from The Mayfield Experience and an invocation by Shaundel Washington Spivey.

Ho-Chunk Nation member, Tracy Littlejohn, 2020 MLK Jr. Leadership Award recipient, served as the evening's host.

Several leadership awards were presented, including the Lynda Blackmon Lowery Youth Leadership Award to Amaya Emler of Central High School, presented by Quartell Roberson, and the William "Bill" Coleman College Leadership Award to Courtney Chambers of Western Technical College, presented by the William "Bill" Coleman Family.

The 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award was presented to Vincent Hamilton, Youth Coordinator for La Crosse Youth Services, for his work supporting Indigenous and Black youth in the La Crosse area.

The award was presented by Henry Greengrass, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the 2025 MLK Jr. Leadership Award recipient.

"Growing up in a formerly segregated school, he experienced prejudice and change firsthand," Greengrass said. "Guided by his parents, he learned early that adversity should never divide us, but



**Henry Greengrass presents the 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award to Vincent Hamilton.**

instead can bring people together through understanding and respect."

Hamilton thanked the many people who supported him throughout his journey.

"You never knew I would be standing on this stage. First and foremost, I thank the Almighty, the Great Spirit, for this connection," Hamilton said.

The program also featured the St. Francis Prayer, performed by the Viterbo University Concert Choir, composed by Margaret Bonds and directed by Dr. Michael Sauer, with Judy Stafslie on piano.

The keynote address was delivered by Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, president of Sojourners and author of A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community.

The celebration closed with "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," performed by soloists Estelle Harris-Eyo (age 8) and Emira Harris-Eyo (age 7).



## Student of The Month January 2026 Dennis Thompson Jr.



**Central Michigan University - Bachelor's Degree**  
**Parent: Anna Contreras**

Dennis Thompson Jr. returned to college nearly ten years after starting his undergraduate degree, inspired by United Wholesale Mortgage's partnership with Central Michigan University. While balancing a full-time career and family, he is completing a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership through CMU Online. Dennis applies what he learns directly to his leadership at work, strengthening his team through emotional intelligence and adaptability. His journey reflects perseverance, growth, and a commitment to lifelong learning.



## Student of The Month January 2026 Syrah Brown



**6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Black River Falls Middle School**  
**Parents: Cierra Woof & Presly Bird**

Syrah is a smart, strong, and brave student who brings positivity and heart to everything she does. She is an excellent reader and an active athlete who loves playing volleyball and will soon begin basketball. Syrah is also a caring volunteer, helping at Ho-Chunk Gra Head Start for her little sister and always stepping up to support her family, especially as her Gaga's trusted sidekick. Known as a protector of her family and friends, she is kind, dependable, and always willing to help. In her free time, Syrah enjoys drawing, being creative, making others laugh, and learning about animals and ocean life. She dreams of becoming a Marine Biologist one day.

# SAVE THE DATE



## 2026 HO-CHUNK NATION FAMILY HEALING CAMP

**August  
4, 5, & 6**

Andrew Blackhawk Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds

**W8426 WI-54  
Black River Falls, WI**

Questions and Updates?  
FHC@ho-chunk.com  
[facebook.com/groups/familyhealingcamp](https://facebook.com/groups/familyhealingcamp)





IT IS POSSIBLE.  
Long term recovery from addiction is possible. OUR ANCESTORS ARE PROOF.



# What to do if ICE approaches you

## The Native American Rights Fund released a fact sheet for those who are approached and detained by ICE, depending on the situation

Kalle Benallie  
Reprint from ICT

With continued unrest and protests against United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Minneapolis and elsewhere across the country, tribal nations are issuing guidelines to tribal citizens on how to deal with ICE.

The Native American Rights Fund published a "Know your rights" document and some tribes are issuing free Tribal IDs in response to the increasing scrutiny of the federal law enforcement agency.

Faron Jackson, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe chairman, released a statement about issuing free tribal ID's to citizens and has opened communication with the Minnesota Governor's office and Homeland Security.

He advised those who are detained to contact the RBC Tribal Council Administration at (218) 335-8200.

"We all have concerns with the safety of our children, family members, and friends. I am holding firm on the position that Homeland Security ICE Agents could have been more effective if they met with community leaders, elected leaders, and sought community support with the illegal immigration crisis facing our country," Jackson said.

The Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians posted on their Facebook page an announcement saying they do not support or cooperate with ICE.

"We are deeply concerned by reports coming out of Minnesota involving the detention of Tribal members, as well as ICE activity being reported in areas near our community," the tribe said in the post. "As Indigenous people to this land, our identity should never be questioned, challenged, or used as a reason for detention."

The Native American Rights Fund released a fact sheet for those who are approached and detained by ICE, depending on the situation. Generally, NARF advises on recording Interactions if it's safe to do or ask someone else to record, while not interfering with the ICE operation. Don't panic and be calm if approached. If you're not allowed to leave, ask if you're being detained. If not, then you have a right to remain silent.

You don't have to answer questions about another person's identification or for information pertaining to another person's whereabouts.

Do not sign anything without consulting an attorney.

The organization can be reached for Native Americans who believe ICE has violated their rights and the full details provided by NARF for individuals and nonprofits can be found on its website.

### Differences in administrative and judicial warrants

Administrative warrants are signed by ICE officers and do not allow entrance into home without permission.

Judicial warrants are signed by a non-immigration judge and names a

person in the residence and/or specific areas that can be searched.

The National Immigration Law Center has more information on how to determine the type of warrants.

### Public and private spaces

ICE can enter a public space without a warrant like an office lobby, a supermarket, retail store, or dining area of a restaurant. An example of a private space is an employee-only area.

### At home

Do not open the door to receive the warrant, ask ICE to slide it under the door.

If ICE enters a residence, without permission or a valid judicial warrant, don't physically resist because of potential criminal charges. Express there is no consent to enter or search the home. There is a right to remain silent.

### At work

ICE cannot enter private space unless from the permission of the employer of a judicial warrant.

### If ICE approaches a minor

Minors have the right to remain silent and not answer questions about their immigration status, where they were born, their parents' immigration status and their address.

Minors don't have to legally carry identification unless operating a vehicle.

Access and communication to parents is a right.

### Detainment

You have the right to make phone calls to family, friends, or a lawyer. You have the right to remain silent and consult with a lawyer. Do not say anything, sign anything, or make any decisions without a lawyer. If you are a U.S. Citizen, you should say: "I am a U.S. Citizen" and ask why you are being detained.

You can tell ICE you have medical issues or need to arrange for childcare. You can request an interpreter for any conversation with ICE if they do not speak your language.

Depending on specific detention facility rules, family, friends and lawyers can visit. You can request a list of free or low-cost legal service providers to seek representation.

An ICE Online Detainee Locator System can be found here.

### Tribal ID

Request to speak to a supervisor if Tribal ID is not accepted due to some ICE agents not being aware that a Tribal ID is a legal form of identification in the United States.

### Safety Plans

Memorize emergency contacts. Keep important papers like birth certificates, medical records, children's medical records, in a safe place where someone knows where they are. A copy/photo of your birth certificate or proof of citizenship may be helpful. A sample safety plan can be found here.

If there is guardianship of a child, identify emergency contacts that have authorization to make medical and legal decisions for the child. Provide the child's school or day care with an emergency contact to pick them up.

## ATTENTION Ho-Chunk Nation Members

The Annual General Council Meeting is on **September 19, 2026.**

The deadline to submit a proposed resolution is **July 21, 2026.**

A fillable resolution form is available on the Ho-Chunk Nation website under the Office of General Council tab.



Submit proposed resolutions to: [Henry.WhiteThunder@ho-chunk.com](mailto:Henry.WhiteThunder@ho-chunk.com)

# COMMON GROUND DAY TREATMENT

Volunteers invited to participate with Development and Movement.

Indian Heights Community Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

N975 Dyer Street  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Monday

February 2, 2026

5:00 pm

We, the People helping the people and families.

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health  
Division of Public Health

## Wažookj woo'ehi

*family conversations*

We invite you to gather, learn, and share at our virtual education series on Ho-Chunk culture, resources, services, and connection to health.  
**Wednesdays 1pm-2pm**

**February 4th**  
Tribal Identity **HYBRID @D1CC RM 204**  
Elder Workforce Division Manager: Curtis Caaxseppa, Redbird

**February 11th**  
Move Your Body, Ease Your Mind  
Jess Artz, Exercise Physiologist

**February 18th**  
Beyond Medication: Diet, Supplements, and Alternative Approaches in Mental Health  
Amber Hanna, Clinical Psychiatric Pharmacist



**JOIN NOW** >

If you have a topic you'd like to learn about, a topic you'd like to present, and to learn more contact:  
Jamie.Decorah@Ho-Chunk.com 715.896.1126  
Ronelle.McKernan@Ho-Chunk.com 715.896.2570

HO-CHUNK HOUSE OF WELLNESS

### Have questions about your medications? Want a refresher on what they do?

**Join a pharmacist for a CMR!**

**What is a CMR?**

Comprehensive Medication Review

- Pharmacist goes over your medications with you
- Identifies any issues
- Answers questions or concerns

**When/Where?**

Tribal Aging Units  
Wednesdays  
10:30am - 1:30pm  
No Appointment Needed!

3/4/26 - Black River Falls  
3/11/26 - Tomah  
3/18/26 - Nekoosa  
4/1/26 - Wittenberg  
4/8/26 - WI Dells  
4/15/26 - Black River Falls  
5/6/26 - Tomah  
5/13/26 - Nekoosa  
5/20/26 - Wittenberg  
6/3/26 - WI Dells  
Future dates TBD

**What can I bring with me?**

- A medication list or pill bottles, including:
  - Prescriptions
  - Over-the-counter medications
  - Vitamins/supplements
  - Inhalers, blood sugar testing supplies, and other devices
- Written-down questions and/or concerns
- Health tracking data, such as:
  - Blood pressure logs
  - Blood glucose logs
  - A1c or other lab values

**Contact Us** 608-355-5177 Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health  
Division of Pharmacy

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health  
Division of Public Health

## Wažookj woo'ehi

*family conversations*

We invite you to gather, learn, and share at our virtual education series on Ho-Chunk culture, resources, services, and connection to health.  
**Wednesdays 1pm-2pm**

**January 7th**  
New Year's Resolution Culture  
Rachael Dozer; LCSW, CSAC, CS-IT

**January 14th**  
Mending broken hearts: what's happening at the workshop?  
Menissa Powless Substance Abuse Counselor - In training

**January 28th**  
Hostopi Hoci and Wiinige "She Recovers" Support Day programming.  
Karie Decorah and Hera Lonetree-Rindal



**JOIN NOW** >

If you have a topic you'd like to learn about, a topic you'd like to present, and to learn more contact:  
Jamie.Decorah@Ho-Chunk.com 715.896.1126  
Ronelle.McKernan@Ho-Chunk.com 715.896.2570

**HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIV.**

## HEALTH & WELLNESS ROADMAP

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SUPPORT PROGRAM

**JAN 20TH - FEB 17TH 2026**

- In-person and virtual exercise classes
- Coaching on building healthy routines & habits
- Community events
- Cooking classes and nutrition coaching
- Group discussions

**Earn points towards a prize by participating in coaching and exercise sessions, cooking classes, and other activities.**

**Top 3 point earners and winner of a random drawing will receive a reward at the end of the program.**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OR TO REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM, CONTACT:**

Alex Richeson MS, RDN, CD  
608-355-1240 Ext. 35511  
alex.richeson@ho-chunk.com

Jess Artz BS, CPT, CGEI/T  
715-886-5444 Ext. 38764  
jessica.artz@ho-chunk.com

# JANUARY 2026

## HO-CHUNK NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

**OFFICE HOURS: 8:00AM - 11:45AM  
1:00PM - 3:45 PM**

**SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
PHONE: 715-284-7461 EXT. 35038**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 OPEN BRF
5 OPEN BRF	6 OPEN BRF	7 OPEN BRF	8 WITTENBERG DISTRIBUTION 10:30 AM-12:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH KATHY	9 OPEN BRF
12 OPEN BRF	13 OPEN BRF	14 OPEN BRF	15 WIS DELLS DISTRIBUTION 10AM-130PM NUTRITION BOOTH ALEX	16 REEDSBURG & WIS DELLS HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF
19 OPEN BRF	20 OPEN BRF	21 OPEN BRF	22 TOMAH DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00 PM	23 LACROSSE PICKUPS CLOSED SHIPMENT
26 OPEN BRF NUTRITION BOOTH KATHY	27 OPEN BRF	28 OPEN BRF LAST PICKUP DAY	29 NEKOOSA DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00PM NUTRITION BOOTH ALEX	30 CLOSED INVENTORY

\*\*CLOSED ON THURSDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS\*\*

# Millions in mental health funding for Indigenous communities restored

## The federal government cut \$2 billion in mental health and addiction services, impacting Indigenous programs from Wisconsin to Montana. Funding was restored on Jan. 15, but the impact remains

Pauly Denetclaw  
Reprint from ICT  
January 16, 2026

On Tuesday night, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cut \$2 billion in mental health and addiction services.

“Let me make myself clear when I say that politics should never impact the work that we’re doing with our kids, and that’s what it did,” said Michelle Mitchell, director of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ education department.

Mental and behavioral health programs that primarily serve Indigenous people, from across the country, received emails stating that their grant funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration had been rescinded.

A handful of tribal nations received federal grant funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the 2025 fiscal year.

Nearly half a million was awarded to Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government in Wisconsin, Two Feathers Native American Family Services in California was awarded \$3.6 million, Chinle Unified School District on the Navajo Nation in Arizona was awarded just over \$3.5

million, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in Michigan was awarded a little over a \$1 million, and the Pueblo of San Felipe in New Mexico was awarded \$1.5 million.

This sent a shockwave through the Confederation Salish and Kootenai Tribes in western Montana and St. Francis Indian School in South Dakota who rely on these grants to provide mental health services to their nations’ children and teens.

On Thursday morning, they received an email that their grant funding had been restored, but staff remain worried about the future.

Mitchell described the whole experience as “traumatic.” Her department was informed by email that two grants, amounting to \$2.75 million, had been rescinded.

“It was one of the hardest days of my career,” Mitchell, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said. “To get the termination notice late at night without any warning. It was so unexpected. And then to have to come in (the next day) and tell staff that not only do we not have the funding, they don’t have jobs.”

The tribes’ Project Aware and Partnership for Success programs rely on federal grant funding. Project

Aware contracts with tribal knowledge keepers, and has partnerships with three local public school districts. The Partnership for Success collaborates with the Boys and Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation.

Mitchell spent Jan. 14, personally calling all the program partners and contractors to tell them they would no longer be able to work with them or provide services to students.

“It broke a little piece of me doing that,” she said.

Five years ago, Mitchell wrote the grant proposal for Project Aware. It was a way to bring her three-tiered system of support rooted in Salish, Kootenai and Kalispel language and culture to the children in her community. Prior to Project Aware, she had applied for two other federal grants but wasn’t selected.

“This idea is putting culture into the school system,” Mitchell said. “It’s not to add beads and feathers to something. It’s to make sure that our tribal kids are thinking of other content areas (like math and science) through a tribal lens.”

The project is in its fifth year and has met every annual goal since it started, a point of pride for Mitchell.

“Our goal is to help our



The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana receive \$1.8 million annually from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for their Project Aware, that’s goal is to increase resiliency and wellness through cultural programming. Credit: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

kids strengthen their sense of who they are, so that they’re healthy, well and resilient,” she said. “Then we just pull the rug out from underneath them, when we take that away. If I sound a little angry, it’s because I am. But, I’m so cognizant of the impact that we’re making, and this work is so important. We can’t let it stop.”

She has spent a lot of time creating strong partnerships with the local school districts and traditional knowledge

keepers. The project is in a unique position to bring hands-on cultural learning to three different school districts in rural, western Montana.

Students who were at-risk of not graduating high school participate daily in cultural activities through their immersion school. Some of the students said it was one of the only reasons they came to school. They looked forward to tanning hide, learning how to sew ribbon skirts, beading, Continued on Page 10

# Donation to the Town of Lyndon Strengthens the Wisconsin River Shoreline

Ho-Chunk Nation has made a donation to the town of Lyndon—strengthening the Wisconsin River shoreline and adding a new ADA-accessible pier that makes the river safer and usable for elders, families, and anyone with mobility needs.

This isn’t just a public project. It’s also a practical boost for Ho-Chunk interests in the area.

Improved river access helps

bring more visitors, more activity, and more reasons to stay local—supporting nearby Ho-Chunk businesses like Ho-Chunk RV Resort & Campground (formerly Crockett’s). When the riverfront is improved, the whole corridor benefits, including the places our Nation owns and operates.

Thank you to Town of Lyndon leadership for the partnership.



# MISSING

**Kenneth Lewis**  
**Humbird, Wisconsin**  
**Last seen: January 13, 2026**



Kenneth Lewis was last seen on January 13, 2026, in the Humbird area of Wisconsin. His vehicle was later located on January 16, 2026, on Gilbertson Road south of County Road D in Eau Claire County. Authorities are asking residents in the area of Gilbertson Road to check their residential and trail cameras for any possible sightings or information.

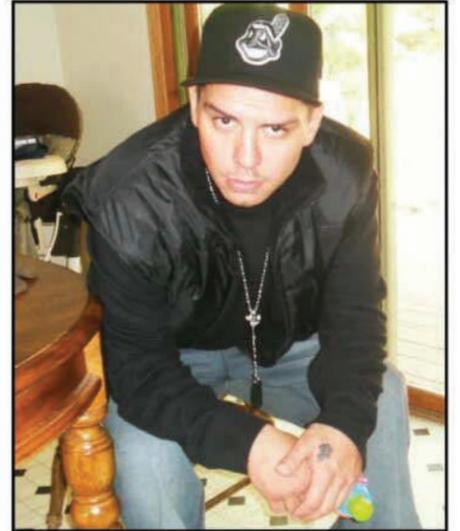


**Eau Claire County Sheriff**  
**715-839-4972**      **Case#**  
**26S000294**

# MISSING

**KEN LEWIS JR.**

**Age:** 41  
**Race:** Native American  
**Hair:** Brown, short  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Height:** 5'10"  
**Weight:** 204 lbs.  
**Wearing:** Gray shirt, dark blue jeans, white Jordan shoes, glasses  
**Last Known:** 1/13/2026 in Humbird, WI



Ken was last known to be in Humbird, WI on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. His last contact was around 11:00 PM, when he shared his location with a friend. His car was found on Gilbertson Rd in Augusta, Saturday 1/17/2026. Ken may be at a motel or bar in the Greater Eau Claire, Chippewa or Augusta areas. Please contact the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department with any information or sightings.

**CALL: 715-839-4972**

**HO-CHUNK NATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

WAŽA HIGIRAWI  
 (We care)



**Our At-Home Test Dropbox is now available!!**

If you have taken a self-test and are unsure what to do next, our Public Health team can connect you to resources and next steps.

**What's next?** Speak to our Public Health Nurse about your self-test result, positive or negative.

- Discuss treatment options, symptoms, and questions
- Be connected to other resources like housing, food, or mental health support
- Receive fact sheets or other educational resources about your test results



Scan me to connect to our **At-Home Test Dropbox**

**FAQS:**

- **I didn't get my home test from Ho-Chunk. Can I still talk to you about my results?** Yes, we will follow up with you regardless of where your home test is from.
- **Do you have home tests?** Yes, we offer free home tests in our Public Health vending machines, 24/7 (pregnancy tests, STIs, & hepatitis C), and in our Pharmacy (COVID).
- **How do I access the Dropbox?** Scan the QR code on this flyer or visit our HCN DOH website under "Helpful Links" (<https://shorturl.at/Mf23B>)

**Questions?** Please contact Public Health Nurse, Ronelle McKernan: [Ronelle.Mckernan@ho-chunk.com](mailto:Ronelle.Mckernan@ho-chunk.com) | 715-896-2570

## Inez Laverne Littlegeorge

November 1, 1960 – January 16, 2026

Inez Laverne Littlegeorge, age 65, of Racine, WI, passed away on January 16, 2026, at home, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born on November 1, 1960, in Black River Falls, WI. She was born to Edna Marie Wesho and Jesse Littlegeorge Jr.

Majority of her career she worked for the Ho-Chunk Nation in gaming and healthcare. When she wasn't working in her spare time she was an avid reader, enjoyed sewing, and loved doing beadwork. Later in life she moved to Racine to help with her grandsons.

Inez is survived by her daughter, Janice Littlegeorge; grandsons, Kunu Littlegeorge-Norton, Isaac Littlegeorge-Norton, Leo Littlegeorge-Norton, and Steven Littlegeorge- Brooks; sister, Judy (Paul) Youngthunder; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Steven Littlegeorge and Anthony Littlegeorge; sisters, Janice Littlegeorge, Vera Littlegeorge, Donna Littlegeorge, Cleo (Jeff) Goodbear, and Mary (Edward)

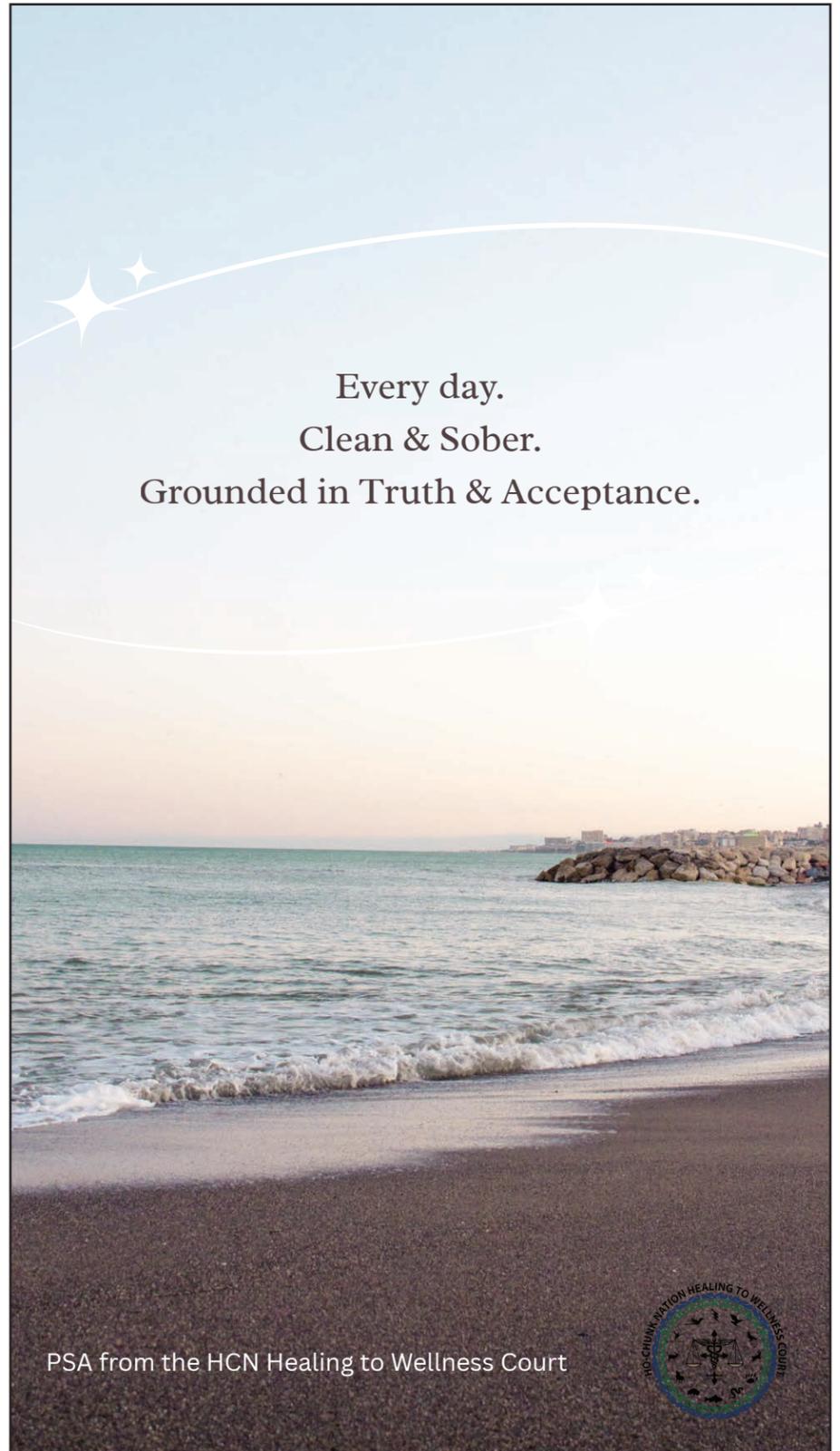
Youngthunder.

Funeral services for Inez will take place Monday, January 19, 2026 at the Mission Community Center at 12:00 p.m. Friends and family are invited to visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Immediately following the services will be a burial at the Decorah Cemetery.

The Buswell Funeral Home is assisting the family with final arrangements, 715-284-2231.



Every day.  
 Clean & Sober.  
 Grounded in Truth & Acceptance.



PSA from the HCN Healing to Wellness Court



## FAQs

## Ho-Chunk Nation Heating Assistance Program

**Important Disclaimer** Updated 1/20/26

Receiving heating assistance is not guaranteed.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to continue paying their heating and utility bills on time and not rely on this assistance as their sole source of payment. Failure to do so may result in service interruption, regardless of application status.

**Please refrain from contacting or calling our office with questions. All updates and information will be communicated directly through our application software.**

**1. What is the Ho-Chunk Nation Heating Assistance Program?**

The Heating Assistance Program provides \$750 per household to help eligible Ho-Chunk Nation tribal member households offset winter heating costs. All funding is paid directly to vendors. This assistance is intended to support households with heating-related utility expenses during the heating season.

**2. Who is eligible to apply?**

Applicants must be:

- An enrolled Ho-Chunk Nation adult tribal member, and
- Responsible for heating or utility costs at their primary residence.

**3. What does "one per household" mean?**

If multiple adult Ho-Chunk Nation tribal members live at the same address, the household may only receive one \$750 payment total. Multiple applications from the same household will not result in multiple payments.

**4. What heating costs are covered?**

Heating assistance may be applied toward:

- Natural gas or electric heat
- Propane, wood, or pellets

**5. What documents are required to apply?**

All required documents must be uploaded for your application to be considered complete. Required documentation includes:

- Proof of Ho-Chunk Nation tribal enrollment
- Current utility or heating bill showing:
  - Applicant's name
  - Service address
  - Vendor or utility company information
  - Account Number

Incomplete applications will not be funded.

**6. What if my utilities are included in my rent?**

If utilities are included in your rent, you must upload:

- A signed lease agreement clearly stating that utilities are included
- Landlord contact information
- Information on how rent is paid - payment method and payee (this will help get the funding to your landlord faster)

Failure to provide this documentation will result in an incomplete application.

**7. What if my Tribal ID is expired?**

We are now accepting expired Tribal IDs as a valid form of Ho-Chunk Nation tribal enrollment.

**8. What if my name is not on the utility bill?**

You are still able to apply. The utility bill does not need to be in the applicant's name. To verify residency, applicants must upload a valid driver's license, state-issued ID, or a signed lease that shows the same address listed on the utility bill.

**9. When should I apply?**

Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Apply as soon as possible
- Funding is limited
- The program will close once funds are exhausted
- Only APPROVED applications will be considered for funding

**10. How will I be notified of my application decision?**

- All applicants will be notified in the "Decision" section of their application and will state APPROVED.
- **Do NOT call or contact our office to inquire about your application or payment status.**
- Please allow up to 30 days for payments to be applied to your account.
  - Monitor your utility accounts for updates
- Please disregard the progress indicator shown in the application. This indicator will only update after your documents and information have been reviewed by our staff. If you have completed all required forms and uploaded the correct documents, your application will remain in pending review, even if the progress indicator does not change.

**11. How long does it take to receive a decision?**

Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Processing times may vary depending on application volume and whether all required documents have been submitted. Only complete applications will be reviewed for a decision.

**12. How is payment issued?**

Payments are made directly to the heating or utility vendor on the applicant's behalf. Funds are not issued directly to applicants.

**13. If my utilities are shut off or past due, will I be prioritized?**

No. This program does not prioritize applications based on shut-offs, emergencies, or past-due status.

Please do not contact our office regarding prioritization requests.

**14. What if I'm an elder that needs assistance completing the application?**

Ho-Chunk Nation Community Centers and TAU may assist with application submission. *\* We request all elders (aged 60 or older) to try and work with TAU to submit electronically prior to using a paper application as this will be your fastest way to get approved.*

We will supply the TAU Centers with a paper application ONLY for elders. All supporting documents must be included with paper application to be considered. Applications along with supporting documents can be emailed to us directly at: cedargrowth@ho-chunk.com

**15. What happens if I submit incorrect or false information?**

Submitting false, misleading, or incomplete information may result in:

- Denial of assistance
- Disqualification from current or future program

**16. What if I do not have a phone number for the Lenderfit application?**

If you do not have a cell phone, you may exit the phone verification page after creating your account and go directly to <https://app.lenderfit.io/>. From there, log in using the email address and password you just created to continue your application.

**17. Are Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood Accepted?**

Yes, as of January 19, 2026, CDIBs are accepted. We do still ask that applicants provide a valid driver's license or state-issued ID that matches the address on the utility bill, lease, or other required documents.

**18. Do I have to live in Wisconsin to receive funding?**

No, you can apply for funding even if you live out of state.

**19. Do I need an email to apply?**

Yes. An email address is required to create an account in Lenderfit and submit an application. This does not need to be your personal email; however, only one account can be created per email address. If you would like to receive updates by text message, please be sure to add your phone number to your profile.

**20. When will I know payments are made?**

As of January 20, 2026, Cedar Growth has not yet received funding from the Tribe to distribute payments to vendors. Updates will be shared with the public through social media and/or email announcements once the first round of payments has been distributed.

**21. Where is the submit button?"**

Lenderfit does not have a "submit" button or a confirmation message after documents are uploaded. Once all required documents are uploaded, your application is automatically placed under review. After the review is completed and your application is approved for funding, you will receive an APPROVED message through Lenderfit. Please be sure to monitor your account for updates.

*Continued from Page 8*  
going outside to learn about traditional plants, and speaking their language.

Every year, they have Culture Camp on Flathead Lake. Last year over 600 students and their family members participated. Every day, there are up to 30 different cultural activities participants can choose to do. There's no time limit and the curriculum is self-directed.

"We were right, when we help our kids strengthen that sense of who they are as tribal people, then they're more likely to choose things that cause less harm for themselves or help encourage their friends to," Mitchell said. "When they learn how to do something that's culturally or tribally-related, then they can lean into that in times of

trouble."

The St. Francis Indian School in rural, southern South Dakota also received funding to create a Project Aware. The school's population is 98 percent American Indian or Alaska Native. The project serves more than 600 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. They receive a little over \$1 million a year to provide culturally relevant programming and mental health services.

Nearly six years ago, a student at St. Francis Indian School died by suicide, and since the school has been working diligently on suicide prevention. One of the main aspects of the school's Project Aware is suicide prevention.

Over the last three years, the project has been able to

create a strong mental health response team.

"They are able to connect with students and make sure that each student is able to explain and express the needs that they have, whether it's in the classroom or at home," Beckey Eddie-Moosman, director of the school's mental health department, said.

On Jan. 14, Eddie-Moosman and Maria Valandra, one of the school's counselors, were trying to figure out what grants could pay for at least the rest of the school year. These services are vital for the health of students.

"Still having kids that need to come to you while you're trying not to literally panic," Valandra said. "(On Wednesday) we had school and we had kids who still,

we're like, 'Hey, I come to school because this is my safe place. This is where I get my routine and structure. These are the people who usually are right here for me,'" After a stressful day,

Valandra was doomscrolling on social media when she came across an article that said mental health grant funding would be restored. This led to another restless night worrying about whether it was true.

On Thursday morning, Eddie-Moosman and Valandra waited for an email stating their grant money had been restored. At 10 a.m., they got the "good news." It was a relief.

The school administration had affirmed they were committed to keeping the mental health services

available to students.

This is not the case for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. If their federal grant funding gets rescinded, those programs will no longer be available. This has caused a lot of stress for staff who are worried about having stable employment.

"We're on guard now. Could this happen again? Could they figure out how to do it in a way that doesn't have to be rescinded?" Mitchell said. "That is a scary way to do your work every day, because of it I actually have one of my employees who works on Project Aware that has an interview for a different job on Friday. They can't live like this and I don't blame them."

# Snowmobile Riders: Stay On Marked Trails, Off Closed Trails

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds snowmobile riders to operate only on marked trails, routes or other areas with permission and to stay off closed trails.

Wisconsin snowmobile clubs work hard all year to secure one of the best riding experiences in this country. Remember – operating a snowmobile off a designated trail can be dangerous and can damage private property. Operation on closed snowmobile trails is also illegal.

“Wisconsin has thousands of miles of well-maintained trails that are managed by dedicated club members,” said Lt. Jake Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. “Please respect their lands, and ride safe and sober.”

Trails do not open at the same time. Check Travel Wisconsin’s Snow Report to make sure trails are open before heading out.

The DNR also urges snowmobilers to ride sober and be aware of unsafe ice.

Alcohol affects your risk perception and reaction

time. If you choose to consume alcohol, wait until after you’ve safely returned home – it could save your life.

Additionally, monitor ice conditions by consulting with local experts, such as outfitters, bait shops and fishing clubs. Remember that the DNR does not monitor ice conditions. Be aware that several factors determine ice quality; follow ice safety tips. Float coats, life jackets and rescue ropes can be lifesavers.

Here are more safety tips:

- Remember that ice is never completely safe under any conditions.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or float coat, should you fall through the ice and to help retain body heat.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas.
- Slow down when traveling at night.
- Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows that have currents that can thin the ice.
- Watch for pressure ridges or ice buckling. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water.

Visit the DNR’s Snowmobiling webpage for additional information on snowmobile safety classes, regulations, safety tips and how to register your snowmobile.



Operating a snowmobile off-trail can be dangerous and cause damage to private property. / Photo Credit: Travel Wisconsin

# 2025 Elk Hunting Season Wraps Up

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) celebrates the completion of the 2025 elk hunting season. The state’s eighth managed elk hunt opened on Oct. 18 and concluded Dec. 19.

“This elk season marks another rewarding hunt for 13 lucky state hunters,” said Christina Kizewski, DNR Central Elk Zone biologist.



The state’s eighth managed elk hunt opened on Oct. 18 and concluded Dec. 19, 2025. Photo credit: Thomas Yarrington

“The opportunity to establish a close relationship with the elk hunters and witness the excitement each one had was very special.”

The 13 Wisconsin state-licensed hunters who participated in this year’s hunt were randomly selected from a pool of more than 26,000 applicants. The DNR received 17,737 applications to hunt in the Clam Lake (Northern) Elk Range and 8,452 applications for the Black River (Central) Elk Range. An eight-bull quota was established for the Clam Lake Elk Range. Four licenses were awarded to state hunters, and, per treaty rights, the Ojibwe Tribes declared a harvest of four bull elk. In the Black River Elk Range, five antlerless and four bull licenses were issued to state hunters, up from a four-bull quota in 2024.

The random draw process ensures that each applicant has an equal chance of selection within the respective

management zones. Applicants were required to identify their management zone of choice during the elk hunting application process.

State-licensed hunters found success in both elk ranges, in which a total of seven bulls and five antlerless elk were harvested statewide. In the Black River Elk Range, nearly all license holders found success, filling five of five antlerless tags and three of four bull tags.

“All five antlerless elk were harvested in areas where the reduction of a few elk was intended, making it a successful harvest for the hunters as well as meeting harvest objectives,” said Kizewski.

Some hunters found success during the first opportunity to hunt elk, from mid-October to mid-November, while others filled their tags in the December timeframe. In the Clam Lake Elk Range, all four state-licensed hunters

harvested bull elk in the first two weeks of the season. Tribal hunters have until Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, to complete their pursuit of elk within Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory.

Hunters Can Apply For The 2026 Elk Hunting Season Starting In March 2026

The DNR’s Elk Management Program is driven by the revenue received from hunter application fees, which contribute directly to the future of the state’s elk population. For each \$10 application fee, \$7 goes directly toward elk management, habitat restoration and research.

The 2026 elk hunt application period for Wisconsin residents is expected to open with the new license year on March 1 and run through May 31, 2026. The 2026 elk hunting season will open on Saturday, Oct. 17.

For more information on elk in Wisconsin, visit the DNR’s Elk webpage.

## NORTHERN WISCONSIN TRACKING CLUB

- ARE YOU INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW TO IDENTIFY WILDLIFE TRACKS?
- DO YOU WANT TO INTERPRET WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS AND BEHAVIORS?
- ARE YOU A HUNTER OR TRAPPER WHO WANTS TO TRAIL WILDLIFE?

JOIN THE HOOCĀK DNR WILDLIFE DIVISION  
ONCE A MONTH  
BRING AN OPEN MIND  
USE THIS QR CODE TO ANSWER  
A QUICK SURVEY

### 2025 TAX DOCUMENT MAIL SCHEDULE

The Ho-Chunk Nation Treasury Department is striving to mail all 2025 tax documents as soon as possible.

Projected Mailing timeline:

- W-2 Forms – Postmarked by Friday, January 30
- 1099 Forms (MISC & NEC) – Postmarked by Friday, January 30
- 1098 Forms (Mortgage Interest Statement) – Postmarked by Friday, January 30

Documents may be mailed sooner if the review process allows.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR TAX DOCUMENT

If your tax document has not been received by the end of February, please contact Treasury for next-step options.

IRS Mailing Requirement

The IRS requires employers and businesses to mail tax documents (including Forms W-2, 1099-NEC, most 1099-MISC, and 1098) postmarked by January 31 of the following year. A document is considered “furnished” on time if it is properly addressed and mailed on or before the due date.

USPS Delivery Timeframe (Bulk Mail)

- USPS Standard (Bulk) Mail delivery can take 1–27 days
- There is no guaranteed delivery timeframe
- First-Class Mail is always prioritized over Standard Mail
- Typical delivery is 3–15 days, though delays may occur

*Continued from Page 1*

**Dyani’s studio practice?**

It’s very multi-generational. She has her in-laws, her nephew, her daughter, and her husband’s mother working there. It’s like a family. And that’s how beadwork used to be, it was never just one person. People would take turns. That community aspect is really important.

**What do you hope people understand when they see the murals?**

Through all the struggles we’ve gone through with assimilation and genocide, we’re still practicing our sacred symbolism. We’re still here. Being able to elevate our designs in

ways our ancestors would have hoped for, that’s what’s most important to me.

**What are you working on now?**

I just got an art residency where I’ll be teaching one to two beadwork classes. I’m also working on creating a pattern booklet using designs from the archives. I want higher-resolution photos and to have community discussions around them.

**Why is Ho-Chunk representation in these spaces important to you?**

It shows that we’re still here. We’re creating, collaborating, and being recognized. Art is another way we pass on knowledge, it’s another way we speak our language without words.

# Gov. Evers, DATCP Announce \$5 Million to Support Local Farmers and Bolster Statewide Hunger Relief Efforts

**Funding provided by 2025-27 biennial state budget to connect local nonprofit food assistance programs with local farmers and producers to keep shelves stocked**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), today announced that \$5 million in funding is being awarded for statewide hunger relief efforts through the Food Security and Wisconsin Products Grant Program, which the governor secured continued funding for through a \$10 million investment in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget. The Food Security and Wisconsin Products Grant Program was created by Gov. Evers in 2020 to connect local nonprofit food assistance programs, such as food pantries, with local producers to keep shelves stocked with nutritious, locally produced food.

“With all the uncertainty coming from the federal government regarding food security and supporting the most vulnerable—including kids, veterans, and seniors—these grants will help provide reliable food for Wisconsin communities, ensure secure funding for food service organizations, and provide steady business for Wisconsin’s farmers, producers, and processors,” said Gov. Evers. “These funds will ensure Wisconsin’s kids, families, and communities have healthy, nutritious food throughout the year.”

Two Wisconsin food assistance organizations, Hunger Task Force Inc. and Feeding Wisconsin, will each receive a total of \$2.5 million to purchase food to be distributed to individuals and families in communities across the state at no cost to consumers. Under the program, funding can only be used to purchase food that meets a minimum standard of Wisconsin food product, which means that at least 51 percent is produced or processed in Wisconsin.

“With the creation of this grant program, Gov. Evers has shown that food security is a top priority in Wisconsin,” said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski. “Through this program, food assistance organizations will have the ability to extend their reach and strengthen their ability to provide Wisconsin-grown and processed foods to those who need them most.”

The funding was provided by the 2025-27 Biennial Budget signed

into law by Gov. Evers last summer, which built upon the governor’s and the Evers Administration’s efforts to support Wisconsin’s agricultural industries and proud heritage as America’s Dairyland. In addition to the \$10 million investment to continue the Food Security and Wisconsin Products Grant Program, the final 2025-27 Biennial Budget included \$3 million to continue the Tribal Elder Community Food Box Program that helps Tribal elders access nutritious, culturally-relevant food while supporting Wisconsin producers, increased funding for the successful Dairy Processor and Meat Processor Grant Programs, and continued investments to support farmers and their families’ mental health, among other priorities.

“The Wisconsin Food Security Grant Program was a critical legislative priority for Feeding Wisconsin and our network of food banks in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget,” said Executive Director of Feeding Wisconsin Jackie Anderson. “We are deeply appreciative of the bipartisan support this initiative received, as well as the Evers Administration’s leadership in ensuring the program’s successful implementation. This program not only strengthens food security for individuals and families across Wisconsin but also ensures that locally grown and produced Wisconsin foods are invested back into our communities.”

“Hunger Task Force is grateful for the leadership of Gov. Evers and the Wisconsin State Legislature and their shared commitment to supporting local agriculture and families facing hunger in our state,” said CEO of Hunger Task Force Matt King. “In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Hunger Task Force will use 100 percent of these funds to purchase foods from small and mid-sized Wisconsin farmers and producers, and will provide these foods absolutely free of charge to hunger relief programs across the state.”

**ADDITIONAL EFFORTS BY THE EVERS ADMINISTRATION TO BOLSTER WISCONSIN’S FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

Amid the longest government

shutdown in U.S. history, the Trump Administration delayed critical food assistance for the nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites—including nearly 270,000 kids—who depend on Wisconsin FoodShare for basic food and groceries. Gov. Evers spent weeks urging the Trump Administration to use readily available federal funding and levers to prevent millions of Americans from losing food assistance, and hours after a federal court ordered the Trump Administration to stop withholding SNAP payments to states and directed the administration to use billions of dollars in readily available federal funding to provide food assistance payments to millions of Americans, Gov. Evers announced the Evers Administration immediately moved to pay full November payments for all Wisconsin FoodShare members.

Over the past seven years, Gov. Evers has also secured critical investments for farmers, producers, and their families, including supporting the state’s meat and dairy producers, investing in farmer mental health resources, and bolstering Wisconsin’s exports worldwide. Gov. Evers recognizes that Wisconsin’s \$116 billion agricultural industry is as critical to the state economy as it is to Wisconsin’s heritage and culture, and ensuring its continued growth and success for generations to come will be critical to ensuring Wisconsin’s continued growth and success.

In addition to \$10 million to continue the Food Security Initiative in the most recent 2025-27 Biennial Budget signed by Gov. Evers in July, this budget builds upon efforts of the Evers Administration to date to support Wisconsin’s agricultural industry and proud heritage as “America’s Dairyland,” by providing:

Ongoing funding for the Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports (WIAE) program to continue to support farmers and producers wanting to expand into new markets and increase output and help Wisconsin navigate international markets for agriculture, forestry, and food products;

Under Gov. Evers’ leadership, according to the WIAE, Wisconsin is currently ranked 12th in the nation for

agricultural exports by state, up from 13th in 2021. Today, under Gov. Evers’ leadership, Wisconsin is well on its way to becoming a top 10 state in the country for agricultural exports.

\$150 million to continue support for the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program, created by Gov. Evers in the 2023-25 biennium, ensuring the ongoing improvement of Wisconsin’s rural roads to help farmers and producers and the state’s agricultural and forestry industries move products to market safely and efficiently;

\$30 million of the \$150 million secured for ARIP will be specifically targeted to bridge and culvert repair to help improve and repair deteriorating bridges across the state.

\$20 million to create a new state program designed to support dairy and agriculture resilience;

\$3 million to continue the Tribal Elder Community Food Box Program that helps Tribal elders access nutritious, culturally relevant food while supporting Wisconsin producers;

\$800,000 to increase the available funding for the successful Dairy Processor Grant Program;

\$1 million to bolster and support the Meat Processor Grant Program;

Over \$2.4 million over the biennium for the Meat Inspection Program to ensure meat products are produced safely and match nutrition labels;

\$200,000 to support farmers and their families’ mental health;

\$500,000 to increase funding for the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program, which helps enable producers and producer-led groups to implement nonpoint source pollution abatement strategies to improve Wisconsin’s soil and water quality;

\$2 million to continue the commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program, which aims to protect vital soil and water resources; and

An additional \$1.6 million to support the cover crop insurance program, which helps assist farmers with rebates of \$5 per acre of a cover crop planted for crop insurance premiums paid on those acres.

Gov. Evers also exercised his broad, constitutional veto authority to partially veto aspects of the budget that were outside of the bipartisan budget negotiations.

*Continued from Page 1*

Greendeer emphasized that the Ho-Chunk Nation will not allow its citizens’ identities or rights to be questioned.

“As a sovereign Nation, our identity will NOT be in question. Our tribal identification will not be insufficient, and we have the affirmative responsibility to seek accountability for any actions that violate the Indigenous or Constitutional rights of our members or their families,” Greendeer said.

Some tribal members in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas have reported being asked to prove their citizenship. In response, tribal leaders are encouraging members to carry both tribal and state identification when traveling.

To help protect Ho-Chunk citizens, the Nation is offering assistance for replacing tribal IDs.

“Whether your tribal IDs are lost, damaged, or expired, Executive Order 1.30.25 allows tribal members to fill out a form, notarize it, and send it in. Their tribal ID will be

processed with urgency and sent to the address listed, free of cost,” Greendeer said.

The Nation is also helping families obtain U.S. passports if needed.

“As well, if a member and his/her family wish to secure a US Passport, the Ho-Chunk Nation will fully reimburse you for the cost of the basic, standard mail passport(s),” Greendeer said.

Community organizations in Minneapolis have also stepped up, providing food, support, and safe spaces for people impacted by ICE activity.

Tribal leaders continue to monitor the situation and will share updates as they become available.

“We will continue to seek on-the-ground resources and will remain vigilant to our communications as the landscape or circumstances change,” Greendeer said. “Ho-Chunk members, we see you and we are here for you! Haizo une (Take care!).”

## TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tomah High School  
Tomah, WI 54660  
(608) 374-7961

Please print this notice in the next January Hocak Worak. Thank you!

## NOTICE OF TITLE VI PUBLIC HEARING TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT !!RESCHEDULED!!

The Tomah Area School District will hold two public hearings during one meeting time scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, at the Tomah Youth Center, 430 Julie St., Tomah, Wisconsin. The Title VI meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. with the JOM/IEC meeting to follow.

The first part of the meeting will allow parents/guardians of Native American children the opportunity to provide input concerning Public Law 81-874. The second part of the meeting will inform parents of the Needs Assessment process for the district’s 2026-27 Title VI Application of the Indian Education Act. In addition, parents will participate in a discussion of the application’s provisions and given the opportunity to provide suggestions regarding the application.

Bonnie Bird  
Title VI Indian Education Coordinator-Teacher  
Tomah Area School District

DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE



BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING
Tribal Office Building
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615 Wednesday,
February 11, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

Twin Cities AREA MEETING
St. Paul Branch Office
1724 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

paul.fox@ho-chunk.com (715)896-6251
phyllis.smoke@ho-chunk.com (715)299-1016
tracythundercloud@ho-chunk.com (715)299-0576

For WebEx/e-packet, information please contact:
michelleramberg@ho-chunk.com
(715)284-9343 Ext. 11250

Posted on: 1/13/26



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

DISTRICT 2 AREA MEETING NOTICE



LA CROSSE AREA | THREE RIVERS HOUSE
724 Main Street La Crosse, WI
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026 6:00PM

TOMAH AREA | BLUE WING COMMUNITY BUILDING
324 Epinal Avenue Tomah, WI
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 6:00PM

BARABOO/M DELLS/MAUSTON AREA | INDIAN HEIGHTS
975 Dyer Street Wisconsin Dells, WI
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 6:00PM

REP. STEPHANIE BEGAY stephanie.begay@ho-chunk.com (608) 408-0339
REP. DAMIAN THUNDERCLOUD damianthundercloud@ho-chunk.com (608) 606-2644
REP. KYLE WHITE EAGLE kyle.whiteeagle@ho-chunk.com (800)294-9343 x.11276

POSTED 1/20/26

DISTRICT 3 AREA MEETING NOTICE



MILWAUKEE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 | 5:30 PM
WITTENBERG | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 | 6:00 PM
GREEN BAY | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM
MADISON | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 | 6:00 PM
WI RAPIDS | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | 5:30 PM

FOR WEBEX INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

REP. LAMBERT CLEVELAND lambertcleveland@ho-chunk.com (715) 896-5166
REP. SARAH LEMIEUX sarah.lemieux@ho-chunk.com (715) 315-8071
REP. SHELBY VISINTIN shelby.visintin@ho-chunk.com (715) 896-9323
AIDE BELLA BLACKDEER isabella.blackdeer@ho-chunk.com (715) 284-9343 x11313



POSTED 1/20/26

District 4 Area Meeting Notice



IN PERSON / VIRTUAL DISTRICT 4 AREA MEETING
Chicago Branch Office
4738 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60630
Monday, February 9 2026
6:00pm CST

VIRTUAL DISTRICT 4 AREA MEETING
Available via WebEx
Wednesday, February 11 2026
6:00pm PST

1/20/2025 - updated



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

For WebEx information please contact:
Rep. David Greendeer david.greendeer@ho-chunk.com (715)-896-9192
Rep. Edward Mullen edward.mullen@ho-chunk.com (715)-896-9180
Rep. Sandra Whitewing sandra.whitewing@ho-chunk.com (715)-896-9183
Aide: Jennifer Adams jennifer.adams@ho-chunk.com (715)-284-9343x11284
D4@ho-chunk.com



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



MEETING NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

Friday, February 6, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Eileen Decorah Conference Room
Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Virtual option available via WebEx

Please contact Lorinda Bird for virtual meeting information.

715-284-9851 ext. 35351

Email: Lorinda.Bird@ho-chunk.com

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150

House of Wellness
52845 White Eagle Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913
Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



MEETING NOTICE
HEALTH ACCREDITATION
BOARD MEETING

Friday, February 20, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Eileen Decorah Conference Room
Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Virtual Option also available via WebEx

Please contact Lorinda Bird for Virtual meeting information.

715-284-9851 ext. 35351

Email: Lorinda.Bird@ho-chunk.com

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150

House of Wellness
52845 White Eagle Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913
Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643



*Continued from Page 14*

**Emergency Budget Mod (Department of Business)**

Rep. Phyllis Smoke explained the reason for the budget mod is due to a failing water heater at Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls.

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the budget mod 210.780.122325.D1 in the amount of \$18,000 on an **emergency basis**. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

**Resolution-Per Capita Declaration for February 1, 2026**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 01-06-26 F**, Per Capita Declaration for February 1, 2026. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

**Resolution-Confirmation of Marsha Smith to the Election Board as the District 2 La Crosse Member**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 01-06-26 G**, Confirmation of Marsha Smith to the Election Board as the District 2 La Crosse Member. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

**Resolution-Confirmation of Ethel Funmaker to the Election Board as the District 2 La Crosse Alternate**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 01-06-26 H**, Confirmation of Ethel

Funmaker to the Election Board as the District 2 La Crosse Alternate. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

**Resolution-Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations Community Financial for the 2026 Heating Assistance Program**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to TABLE Resolution-Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations Community Financial for the 2026 Heating Assistance Program until after Executive Session. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

**Madison Pow Wow**

Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle stated that there will be a pow wow in Madison April 25, 2026. The security deposit needs to be paid.

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve funding of \$125,000 out of the Pow wow line item for the April 25, 2026 Madison pow wow, with reconciliation and the check made payable to Shane Funmaker on an **emergency basis**. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 8-0-4(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud, Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. Sandra Whitewing) **MOTION CARRIED**.

**July 31, 2025 Finance Commission Meeting Motion (Language Instructors)**

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to superseded the July 31, 2025 Finance Commission motion regarding the language instructors, and clarify the funding coming from D4 Community Improvement fund. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 3-8(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr., Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. Damian Thundercloud, Rep. Kyle White Eagle, Rep. Edward Mullen)-1(Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle) **MOTION DEFEATED**.

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to request a legal opinion to compose a neutral amendment, that works for all districts in regards to the restricted funds and for Resolution 02-23-16 H. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

**Executive Session (Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being:**

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

*The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:47 a.m.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

*The meeting returned to Open Session at 12:13 p.m.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Phyllis Smoke is out of the room.

**Release to Open Session:**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 01-06-26 I**, Indian Gaming Association Membership for 2026 and release to Open Session. Second by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 9-0-3(Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Sandra Whitewing) **MOTION CARRIED**.

**NEW BUSINESS (RE-VISITED):**

**Resolution-Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations Community Financial for the 2026 Heating Assistance Program**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 01-06-26 J**, Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations Community Financial for the 2026 Heating Assistance Program, and request Legislative Legal and the Legislative Finance team to follow up with Cedar

Growth. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Phyllis Smoke is out of the room.

**Amendment to the Agenda:**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to add HHCDA to the agenda. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Phyllis Smoke is out of the room.

**HHCDA**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to request Legislative Legal draft a resolution for next session adding Green Bay to the HHCDA Charter. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. **MOTION IS AMENDED** for the resolution also to include the revisions from the December 9, 2025 Legislative Meeting, excluding the composition of the board. Second concurs. 8-2(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud, Rep. David Greendeer)-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Phyllis Smoke is out of the room.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to January 20, 2026 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**. Rep. Phyllis Smoke is out of the room.

*The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.*

# MEET JUDGE CHRIS TAYLOR

## CANDIDATE FOR

# WI SUPREME COURT

SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 7  
1:00-3:00 PM

@

THE BLACK RIVER  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE



*paid for by Jackson County Democratic Party*



ASAD MECCI  
MASTER HYPNOTIST

COLIN MOCHRIE  
WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?

"YES, IT'S REAL"  
TOUR

# HYPROV

IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS

**FEB 14 | 7PM | \$40**

**INCLUDES \$15 REWARDS PLAY**

Get ready for an unforgettable night of laughter and amazement! Starring the hilarious **Colin Mochrie from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*** and the phenomenal **Master Hypnotist Asad Mecci**, HYPROV is the ultimate blend of hypnosis and improv comedy. **Described as "hilarious and fascinating" by *Time Out New York***, this live show promises a unique and side-splitting experience you won't want to miss. **Tickets available at the Rewards Club booth—cash sales only, or get them Online at Ticketmaster.**

HO-CHUNK GAMING RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR ALTER EVENTS AT ANY TIME. MUST BE 21+ TO ATTEND EVENTS OR PLAY IN THE CASINO.

HO-CHUNK  GAMING  
BLACK RIVER FALLS