



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOCAK



WORAK

Vol. XL, Issue 4

Hųc wiihiraagnira | Last Bear Moon

February 27, 2026



Ho-Chunk Legislature Visits Beloit Casino Site as Road Project Nears Start

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HHDA Hosts Family Supportive Housing Open House

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Grateful for Winter Woosawa Gathering

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State of the Tribes Address focuses on water, safety, and partnership

Kailli Berg

Tribal leaders, state officials, and community members gathered at the Wisconsin State Capitol on February 10 for the 2026 State of the Tribes Address, delivered by Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Chairwoman Nicole Boyd.

“My first message today is that wealth is not defined solely by monetary values and material items,” Boyd said.

Boyd emphasized the responsibility to protect natural resources, especially water, and called on state leaders to take tribal knowledge and consultation seriously.

“As a mother, an Anishinaabe woman, I beg you to join us in protecting the very resource that brought you, me, our children, our grandchildren, and future generations into this world,” Boyd said. “We cannot survive without it.”

She pointed to ongoing concerns over major infrastructure projects, including the proposed reroute of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline around the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation.

Tribal leaders have long warned



Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President Lambert Cleveland Jr. attends the 2026 State of the Tribes Address.

about the risk of an oil spill in the Bad River watershed, which feeds into Lake Superior and includes one of the most sensitive wetland ecosystems in the region.

“Why is it wrong to expect that the feasibility of projects of this magnitude be studied and ensure the water will be protected?” Boyd said.

Boyd also urged lawmakers to recognize manoomin, or wild rice, as Wisconsin’s official state grain.

“Wild rice has seen a significant decline over the last many years and

promoting it will allow us a platform to continue our efforts to restore and protect this resource,” Boyd said.

On economic development, Boyd highlighted the role tribal nations play across the state, employing thousands of people through gaming, healthcare, education, and other enterprises.

Tribal governments also contribute revenue back to the state through gaming compacts, totaling more than \$60 million last year.

She pointed to large-scale partnerships like the 2025 NFL Draft

in Green Bay, hosted in collaboration with the Oneida Nation, as an example of that impact.

“This event brought in an astronomical \$105 million to the state,” Boyd said.

Boyd also called for approval of mobile sports betting under tribal-state compacts, noting that many Wisconsin residents currently use unregulated platforms that provide no consumer protections and generate no in-state revenue.

Continued on Page 12



Red Cliff Chairwoman Nicole Boyd delivers the 2026 State of the Tribes Address at the Wisconsin State Capitol

Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department Employee Spotlight: Michelle Cloud

We are proud to recognize Michelle Cloud, Culture and Community Division Manager for the Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department, for her exceptional leadership and dedication to preserving and strengthening our community.

Michelle played a key role in bringing the SEED initiative to the Ho-Chunk Nation, expanding opportunities and creating meaningful impact for our people. In addition to this accomplishment, she oversees multiple grants with diligence and strong organizational leadership, ensuring programs are implemented effectively and aligned with community needs.

Her ability to build and sustain strong partnerships with schools and universities is truly outstanding. Michelle fosters collaborative relationships that open doors for students, families, and the broader community, strengthening educational pathways and cultural connections.

Michelle is also known for her remarkable attention to detail—especially her thorough and thoughtful note-taking. Her documentation serves as an invaluable



record of conversations, decisions, and milestones. In many ways, she serves as a true historian for the Ho-Chunk Nation, helping preserve the work, progress, and stories that shape our future.

We are grateful for Michelle’s vision, dedication, and steadfast commitment to culture and community. Thank you, Michelle, for the lasting impact you continue to make!

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Wisconsin's Unfolding Energy Crisis

Data centers, artificial intelligence, and fossil fuels dominated headlines in 2025. Across the United States, more than \$350 billion was invested in AI and data-center infrastructure, with tens of billions of dollars proposed in Wisconsin. Investment and economic development are often framed as unequivocal wins, but energy infrastructure is different. If built without foresight, the consequences will reshape the future.

Growth is certain; however the balance between positive and negative growth is yet to be determined.

I have worked in Wisconsin's energy sector since 2019, beginning in residential and commercial solar. Over the years, I've seen energy debates around renewable energy become increasingly politicized, even as their original purpose remains unchanged: to produce reliable electricity, reduce dependence on fragile infrastructure, and give communities more control over their energy supply. Yet, the existing industry stakeholders have blocked deployment and ownership

for everyone but themselves. While homeowners, farmers, Tribal Nations, and small businesses face mounting restrictions on deploying their own power systems, the state has moved quickly to approve massive new energy loads for data centers. These agreements are also accompanied by preferential rate structures, infrastructure guarantees, and the ability to negotiate.

That contradiction should concern all of us.

Wisconsin residents have grown accustomed to electric rate increases justified by grid maintenance, system upgrades, and long-term reliability. According to federal energy data, Wisconsin already ranks among the top 15 states for electricity costs, and utilities have signaled additional increases in the years ahead. At the same time, power reliability has deteriorated in both rural and urban areas.

In parts of Milwaukee, aging poles lean precariously, and low-hanging lines form tangled webs that look untouched for decades. In rural Wisconsin, the impacts are more similar.

Tribal Nations such as the Sokaogon Chippewa and the Menominee Nation have experienced long-duration outages lasting days or even weeks, disrupting healthcare, food systems, and economic activity. These are not isolated incidents; they are symptoms of an overstretched and unevenly maintained grid.

Against this backdrop, Wisconsin is welcoming some of the most energy-intensive facilities on the planet. A single large data center can consume as much electricity as a small city, operating around the clock, every day of the year. The rise of AI only accelerates this demand. Unlike the rest of the state, these facilities do not proceed without firm assurances of power availability, reliability, transmission access, and cost certainty.

Data centers operate under a different set of rules.

Utilities and regulators are willing to negotiate specialized rate structures, accelerate infrastructure investments, and prioritize reliability. Meanwhile, everyday ratepayers, who collectively use far less power and have far less leverage, are

asked to shoulder rising costs and accept declining service quality.

This is not a free market. Wisconsin's energy industry has become an unregulated monopoly. Large utilities control generation, transmission, and distribution, and they largely determine who is allowed to produce power and under what terms. While utilities have invested heavily in renewable energy they own, they continue to restrict external ownership and community-scale generation knowing that distributed energy can reduce peak demand, improve resilience, and lower long-term system costs.

If utilities can justify new power plants, substations, and transmission lines for data centers, they must also explain why a similar urgency does not apply to grid reliability, ownership opportunities for distributed energy systems, and lower rates for Wisconsin residents. Why is Wisconsin able to deliver gigawatts of electricity to data centers, yet unable to address persistent grid failures in communities that have been struggling for Decades?

This moment calls for accountability, not ideology. Wisconsin deserves transparency into how data center energy deals are structured, who bears the costs of new infrastructure, and how reliability risks are distributed. Ratepayers deserve to know why the largest electricity users receive the greatest assurances, while households, businesses, and communities are told to accept less for more. Economic growth should not come at the expense of affordability, resilience, or fairness. If Wisconsin is going to power the future of AI and digital infrastructure, it must also protect the people and communities that power Wisconsin itself.

This energy crisis is not inevitable. It is the result of choices. And those choices will determine whether Wisconsin's energy future delivers reliable power for all, or a system defined by higher costs, more frequent outages, and growing divides between communities.

Isaiah Ness
Chief Executive Officer
Sun Bear Industries

EPA Erases Climate Safeguards

The Trump administration has repealed the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas "endangerment finding." In 2009, the EPA formally concluded that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health, giving the agency its legal authority to limit pollution from cars, power plants, and oil and gas facilities.

The new rule strips away that foundation, and it is hailed by President Trump as "the single largest deregulatory action in American

history." It is, in reality, the deliberate blinding of our primary public health and environmental watchdog at the very moment the alarms are sounding loudest.

Climate scientists now warn that global warming is accelerating, possibly pushing Earth toward a "hothouse" trajectory. They describe a world in which ice sheets melt, forests die back, and oceans lose their capacity to buffer heat, triggering feedbacks that could lock in catastrophic levels of warming

for centuries or more. There is no historical guide for what comes next because humanity has never before forced the climate system so far, so fast.

Scientist and author Jeffrey A. Lockwood, in his essay "The Fine Art of the Good Guest," reminds us that we are "uninvited, but not unwelcome, guests of the planet." A good guest, he says, asks little, accepts what is offered, and gives thanks. This decision does the opposite: it demands much, takes more, and denies any

obligation to future generations who will live with the consequences.

If we took Lockwood's ethic seriously, we would be strengthening climate protections, not dismantling them. A decent guest leaves a place better—or at least not worse—than they found it. Right now, our government is breaking that most basic rule.

Terry Hansen
1601 Gateway Dr.
Grafton, Wisconsin 53024
414-308-0131

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- ✓ Disaster Preparedness
- ✓ Home Maintenance & Safety



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WEDNESDAY
MARCH 25
9 AM - 1 PM CDT
VIRTUAL



Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Housing
HOD Home Ownership Division
QUESTIONS? CALL 608-374-1225

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

**DECOLONIZE
FROM THE
ALCOHOL &
DRUG GENOCIDE**

PSA FROM HCN HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT



**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



March
Elders Birthdays



1 Matthew Amberg	16 David White Eagle
Veronica Brown	17 Anne White
Janice Harrison	18 Elva Brown
2 Betty Krause	Harlan Hendrix
Byron Thundercloud	Dawn Newman
3 Dolores Greendeer	Virgil Pettibone, Jr.
4 Romona Chevalier	Howard Pettibone
Debra Morgan	19 Levi Lincoln, Sr.
5 Mary Brockhaus	Curtis Prescott, Jr.
David Decora	Maureen Sanford
David Hanson	Vilas Whiteeagle
Gary Keller	Dennis Whitehorse
Kelly La Mere	Jodie Wikstrom
Suzanne Shegonee	21 Daniel Blumer
James White	Perry Carrimon
Fredrick Yellow Thunder	Paula Cleveland
6 Brenda Freehill	Byron Green
Cheryl Schoper	Stacy Kehrwald
7 Wayne Johnson	Debra Orth
William Payer	William Youngthunder
Curtis Penland, Jr.	22 Leroy Big Soldier
Laurette Pettibone	David Lewis
Sheila Ryan	Gerald Whitewater
Jilleen Scott	Algie Wolters
8 Leonard Friday	Laurie Zimmerman
Jennifer Gauthier	23 Fidel Delarosa
George Youngthunder	Daniel Green
9 Leroy Goodbear	Melanie Henschell
Debra Sturdevant	Rana Moser
10 Patricia Ennis	Lance Nikrasch
Theresa Lerma	Mary Roddy
George Plamann	24 Foster Cloud
Lyra Thorp	Glen De Cora
11 Mary Bird	Loren Payer
Kevin Decorah	Nola Smith
Dennis Lewis	25 Jeanine Catron
Janice Stott	27 Frieda Blackcoon
Mary Whitegull	Gregory Blackdeer
12 Mark Ensley	Todd Snyder
Janice Savage	28 Phyllis McCloud
Marsha Smith	Gloria Ward
Daniel Topping	Walter Whitehorse
13 Rodney Alderman	29 Francis De Cora
Karen Ellis	Maureen Decorah
Bernadette Jannusch	Stephanie Higgins
Anthony Lonetree	Paul Stott, Jr.
Chloris Lowe, Jr.	30 Linda Casper
Andrea Storm	Lionel Cloud
15 Garland Decorah	Priscilla Gakin
Delores Krause	Debra Lozano
Eileen Meers	31 Phillip Carroll IV
Paul Smith	Cherylene Long
Francis Steindorf	Ronald Perry
Leslie Thompson III	Robin Stone

3RD ANNUAL HO-CHUNK NATION

Saturday
MARCH 14
2026

FOUNDERS DAY

POWOW

La Crosse Center
300 HARBORVIEW PLAZA
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

Grand Entries: 1PM & 7PM

Head Staff

Emcee: Matt Mann & Silas Cleveland
Arena Director: Kunu Dave
Drum Judge: Hoki Clairmont
Head Woman Judge: Callista Stumblingbear
Head Male Judge: DJ Scott

Drum Contest

VISITING DRUMS	HO-CHUNK DRUMS
1 st - \$8,000	1 st - \$8,000
2 nd - \$6,000	2 nd - \$6,000
3 rd - \$4,000	3 rd - \$4,000
4 th - \$3,000	4 th - \$3,000

Dance Contest

WOMEN'S ADULT	AGES: 18-54	TEEN GIRLS	AGES: 13-17
APPLIQUE	1 st - \$800	TRADITIONAL	1 st - \$500
TRADITIONAL	2 nd - \$600	JINGLE	2 nd - \$400
JINGLE	3 rd - \$400	FANCY	3 rd - \$300
FANCY	4 th - \$200		4 th - \$200

MEN'S ADULT	AGES: 18-54	TEEN BOYS	AGES: 13-17
WOODLAND	1 st - \$800	TRADITIONAL	1 st - \$500
TRADITIONAL	2 nd - \$600	GRASS	2 nd - \$400
GRASS	3 rd - \$400	FANCY	3 rd - \$300
FANCY	4 th - \$200		4 th - \$200

Day Pay

TINY TOTS (6 & UNDER)
JR GIRLS & BOYS (AGES 7-12)
GOLDEN AGE (AGES 55+)

Specials MORE SPECIALS TO COME!

FREE ENTRY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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BOYS FANCY DANCE SPECIAL
Ages 17 & Under
1st - \$500 2nd - \$400
3rd - \$300 4th - \$200

Powwow contact: Waylon Pettibone 715.299.5508
Vendor Contact: Lori Pettibone 715.896.0190
Native American vendors only.

Ho-Chunk Nation or event organizers are not responsible for injuries, theft loss or damaged property. Alcohol, drugs, firearms, or anyone under the influence are prohibited.




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

The Hockak Worak is a periodical published twice monthly by the Ho-Chunk Nation. Editorials and articles appearing in the Hockak Worak are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the Hockak Worak staff or the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The Hockak 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 Hockak 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 Hockak Worak. The Hockak Worak will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material.

Submissions deadlines for the Hockak 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.

HOCKAK WORAK NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615

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- EMAIL:** newsletter@ho-chunk.com
- **ONLINE:** www.ho-chunknation.com

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Indigenous Journalists Association



INDIGENOUS Journalists Association



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WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

Waagax Hakiruxaraxara Hosto Book Review

Submitted by C-Ann Cleveland

This month's book review is entitled *Charles Round Low Cloud, Voice of the Winnebago*. Charles was born near Millston in November 1872. He was raised on a 40-acre homestead near Shamrock, south of Black River Falls, WI.

He remembered going to school in a red schoolhouse for a few terms. He was one of the young Winnebago to be sent to the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. He attended for six years, 1893-1899. They listed his official reason for leaving was a "Time Out," probably to do farm work nearby.

After returning home, Frank Johnson mentioned that Charles was somewhat of an interpreter for the local Winnebago near Black River Falls. He wrote an "Indian News" column, 1931-1949, for the *Banner Journal*, the local newspaper for Black River Falls. Some of his topics were about his local people, white and Indian relationships, the weather, religion, politics and tribal affairs. He wrote over 700,000 English words within the 18 years of writing the "Indian News."

One excerpt that caught my eye was on January 5, 1949, "Last Sunday afternoon Jesse Mike had a accident to shoot by a gun through his leg knee cap

at his own homes Dells Dam."

Jesse Mike was my grandfather!

This book is a fast must-read. Charles spoke the truth, was quite humorous using the English language and kept the people abreast of the local happenings around Black Rivers Falls. Charles Round Low Cloud died, of stomach cancer, on August 25, 1949 at the young age of 76.

The Hooçak *Waagax Hakiruxaraxara Hosto* is serving all our communities with weekly library hours. For library hours, call (715) 284-0905.

Please stop by and check out all the interesting books from our collection.

Youth Spring Pow Wow

Open to the public

April 11th, 2026
Doors open @NOON
Potluck @ 1:00PM *Bring a dish to pass*
Grand Entry @ 2:00PM

HEAD DANCER SPECIAL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MC: Matt Mann Arena Director: Corey Hindsley
Drum Groups: Badfish Creek Singers / Nioxawani Youth Drum Group
Head Female: Marselena Roth
Head Male: Hudson Bird
Blanket Dance Payout for dancers in regalia

TOMAH YOUTH CENTER
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PSA from HCN Healing to Wellness Court

"Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces"

"Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces" was produced by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). This exhibit will be at The Highground Welcome Center April 10 – July 6, 2026.

The exhibit tells personal stories of Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Native veterans who have served in the U.S. armed forces and brings long overdue recognition to those who have served their country selflessly and with honor for more than 250 years.

Visitors will learn

about the origins of Native American military service, how Indigenous languages were used to win battles, the service of Native women during World War II, and the heroics of Native Americans from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War and through the conflicts in the Middle East.

Why We Serve honors the Native Americans who have served in the U.S. military, often in extraordinary numbers, since the American Revolution. The exhibition asks, "Why would a culture serve a country that overran
Continued on Page 6



HOUSE OF WELLNESS
Fitness | Aquatic Center

HO-CHUNK NATION PRESENTS

MM24

ALL NATIVE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

10TH ANNUAL ROBERTA FUNMAKER'S ALL STAR WOMENS SHOOTOUT TOURNAMENT
- 2 NON NATIVE WOMEN PLAYERS

MARCH 6th, 7th, 8th

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FEE JUMPS \$100 AFTER JANUARY 20TH

SAVE NOW!! REGISTER EARLY!!!

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24 MENS TEAMS & 16 WOMENS TEAMS

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A sober celebration

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4/18/2026 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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BARABOO, WI 53913

Scan the QR Code to RSVP for adult Sober Prom! RSVP's help us in our planning efforts. You can also nominate King and Queen, voting will take place at Prom and winners announced at 8pm.

For more information Ronelle.McKernan@Ho-Chunk.com 715-896-2570

Ho-Chunk Legislature Visits Beloit Casino Site as Road Project Nears Start

Kailli Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature held its regular session on February 17 at the Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit construction site, giving representatives a chance to see the progress of the project up close.

Before the meeting, legislatures toured model hotel rooms to get a sense of what guests can expect. They looked at the layout, furniture, and overall design before heading to the main casino floor for a walk-through of the active construction area.

The scale of the project is becoming more visible as work continues. The casino and parking structure are currently on track to open in September 2026, with the hotel and convention center expected to follow in 2027. Once complete, the development is projected to bring around 1,500 permanent jobs to the area.

Plans for the casino include about 1,500 slot machines and 44 table games across roughly 170,000 square feet of gaming space, along with a 1,500-space parking garage.

At the same time, the City of Beloit is preparing for increased traffic around the site with a major road construction project expected to begin in May. The Willowbrook Road Reconstruction Project will cover about 2.9 miles and is aimed at improving access to the casino and surrounding area.

The project includes expanding Willowbrook Road to four lanes, adding roundabouts at several key intersections, including the casino access road, and realigning Colley Road to better connect with Interstate 90.

The plan also includes bike lanes, a multiuse path on one side of the road, and sidewalks on the other.



From left to right: Reps Sandra Whitewing, Edward Mullen, Paul Fox, Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Kyle White Eagle, Damian Thundercloud, Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Rep. Stephanie Begay, and Rep. Shelby Visintin stand along the highway side of the Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit construction site.

Construction will happen in phases. Work on Colley Road is expected to start this year, followed by Willowbrook Road from Colley to Milwaukee Road in 2027 and from Colley to Stateline Road in 2028.

Originally estimated at \$17 million in 2022, the project is now expected to cost \$22.8 million and take about three years to complete. Most of the funding will come from federal grants, including a \$13.45 million award through the RAISE program. The Ho-Chunk Nation is contributing \$4.5 million, and the City of Beloit will contribute \$2 million.



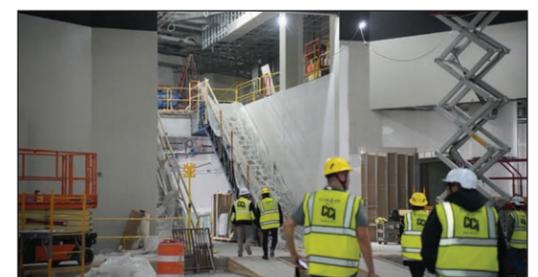
An underground service tunnel that will act as a vital pathway for Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit, giving workers a behind-the-scenes route to move people, supplies, and equipment that keep the casino running.



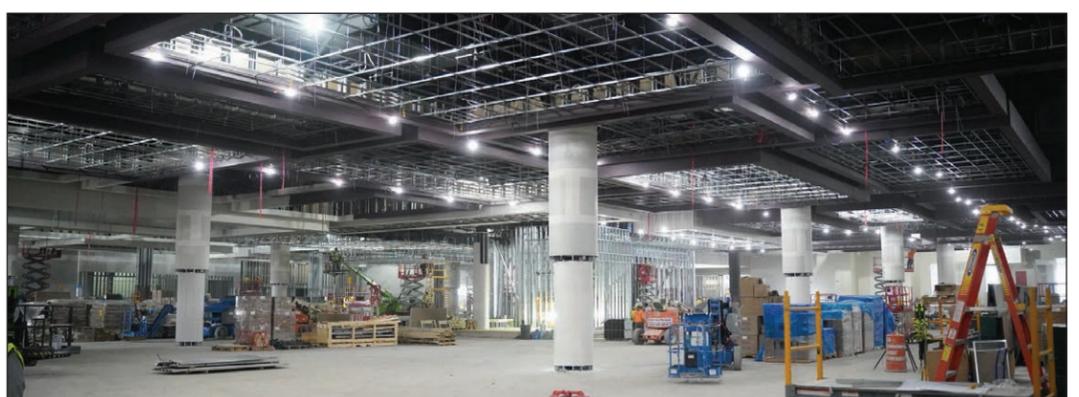
Rep. Kyle White Eagle studies blueprints for the section of Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit the group is touring, connecting the plans on paper to the work happening on site.



A look at the guest room bed layout planned for the Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit hotel, giving future visitors a comfortable place to rest between games and events.



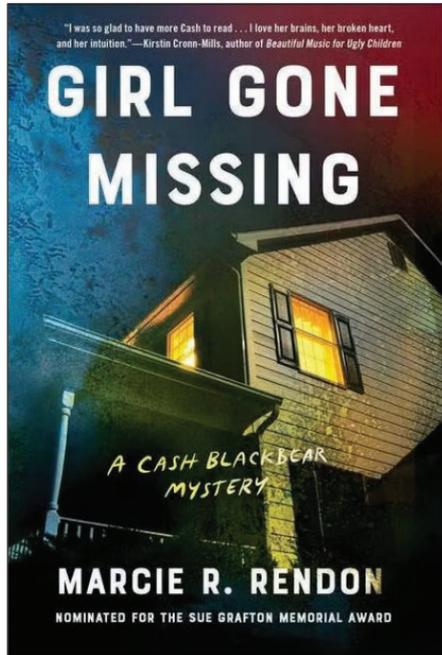
Temporary stairs stand in for the future stairway that will bring guests down from the parking garage onto the main casino floor once Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit is complete.



A look at the main casino floor at Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit, with construction in full swing as the space starts to take shape.

Rendon's Second Installment in Cash Blackbear Mystery Series Holds Interest

Submitted by Ryan John Crain, Sr.
Girl Gone Missing, the second book in the Cash Blackbear mystery series, is written by Marcie R.



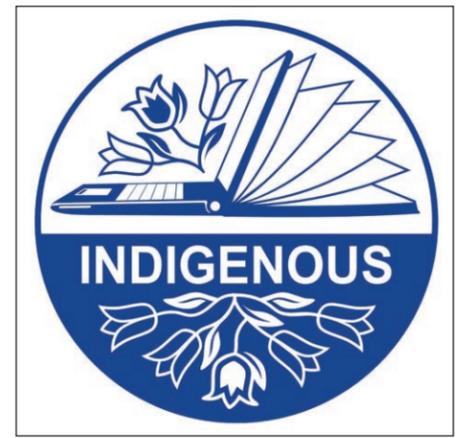
Rendon, an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation. Rendon's Ojibwe heritage deeply informs the story, infusing it with cultural nuance and an Indigenous worldview often underrepresented in mainstream fiction.

This gripping narrative picks up right where we left off with Cash. She is attending college at Moorhead State because Sheriff Wheaton filled out an application for her. Sheriff Wheaton is still looking out for Cash, and she, in turn, is helping him with her unique ability to solve crimes with creator-gifted intuition. Cash's recurring dreams of young women in distress



are grounded in Ojibwe traditions that recognize the importance of dreams and spiritual insight. When a classmate of hers goes missing, Cash begins to investigate. Unexpectedly, Cash's long-lost brother shows up after a tour in Vietnam. He brings with him her only connection to her Ojibwe family and helps make her apartment feel more like a home, but he also brings his own traumas from his time at war. Cash again puts herself at considerable risk to find the missing young ladies.

While the book's suspense pulls us along in the search for answers, it compassionately explores the realities that Indigenous women often face. Cash's world is shaped by ongoing trauma, but also by the enduring strength of her community. The novel invites readers to reflect on challenging themes—including PTSD, trafficking, racism, abuse and assault, and kidnapping—in a way that honors resilience and hope as much as it acknowledges pain. Beyond the mystery plot, Cash Blackbear's perspective is especially resonant



because she navigates contemporary issues while drawing upon her cultural identity, offering valuable insight into the lived experiences, resilience, and traditions of Indigenous women.

The Ho-Chunk Community Library houses a collection of over 7,000 books and resources, with a significant emphasis on works by Indigenous authors. Hours currently are Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm, and by appointment.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cloud Village Announces Availability of Affordable 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments in Baraboo, WI

Baraboo, WI — Cloud Village, a thoughtfully designed residential community in Baraboo, Wisconsin, is pleased to announce the availability of its spacious and modern 1, 2, and 3-bedroom apartments. Proudly built by the Ho-Chunk Nation, Cloud Village reflects a deep commitment to quality housing, community connection, and long-term sustainability.

On Tuesday, February 10th, Cloud Village will be hosting an event to apply for an apartment. If you are interested in setting up an application appointment, please call 608-963-1238.

Situated in a peaceful, scenic part of Baraboo, Cloud Village blends contemporary living with cultural pride. The community was developed with residents in mind, offering abundant amenities, comfortable floor plans, and a welcoming environment for families, professionals, and community members of all ages.

Each home features modern finishes, energy-efficient appliances, ample natural light, and open-concept living spaces. Utilities, heated, underground parking, and additional storage are available at no cost to the residents.

Cloud Village offers a wide range of community amenities for residents to enjoy, crafted to enhance quality of life, including:

- Basketball Court
- Pickleball Court
- Playground
- Large Community Room

Cloud Village is currently accepting applications for all floor plans. Those interested in joining this growing residential community. Cloud Village is an affordable housing community; income restrictions apply.

For leasing information, tours, or questions:

Phone: 608-963-1238
Email: cloudvillage@horizondbm.com

2026 FAMILY HEALING CAMP T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

The Scoop

Event Theme

Wooxetekjwire. Wookixetewire
"Love yourself. Love Each Other"

Contest Open to All
Winner receives \$100.00 Gift Card

Submit Entries by:
April 1, 2026



Any questions and entry submissions send to:
FHC@Ho-Chunk.com



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 02/12/2026
Phone: (715) 839-4701
Authority: Captain Travis Holbrook

25SO00294-Missing Person

On February 11, 2026, investigators with the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office located missing person Kenneth W. Lewis in a wooded area of eastern Eau Claire County. Mr. Lewis was found deceased.

An autopsy has been scheduled to determine the cause and manner of death.

Although Mr. Lewis has been located, the investigation remains ongoing. No additional information will be released at this time pending the results of the autopsy and toxicology reports.

The Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office extends its sincere condolences to Mr. Lewis's family and friends during this difficult time.

Continued from Page 4
their homelands, suppressed their ways of life, and confined them to reservations?" What is revealed is that Native people have served for many of the same reasons as others: to demonstrate patriotism, pursue employment, education, or adventure. Yet tribal warrior traditions, treaty commitments, and responsibility for defending Native homelands have also inspired military service.

Why We Serve is a comprehensive look at Native military involvement and explores Native American military service from its origins to the modern day. Through compelling, free-standing displays and extra

content, visitors will discover the little-known but outsized contributions Native Americans have made to the U.S. military throughout our country's history.

We are inviting Native American Veterans and Tribal Members to share veteran stories, tribal history and memorabilia within this exhibit while it is at The Highground. For more information, please contact Theresa at The Highground at museum@thehighground.org 715-937-2947.

The Highground is located at W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville WI 54456. More information about The Highground can be found at thehighground.us

From Hesitation to Education: How FACC Helped One Native Entrepreneur Find Her Way Forward

February 12, 2026

For years, the idea of walking into a bank felt out of reach for April Stone, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and owner of Stone House Weavers. I grew up believing that having access to money just wasn't possible," she says. "Because of my background and my lack of financial knowledge, growing my business felt like a step I'd never be able to take.

That changed when she started developing a business plan through the Ashland Area Development Corporation (AADC). What was initially an exercise in possibility quickly became something real. Through AADC, she discovered grant opportunities for women-owned Native businesses—and suddenly, doors began to open.

When it was time to contact potential lenders, FACC was second on the list. But it didn't take long to realize it was exactly where she belonged.

"If there was ever a place to find a banker who understood my situation and one who understood Native entrepreneurs, this was it," she says. "I needed someone I could connect with, someone who actually listened."

That person was Kara Gunderson, FACC Small Business Capital Access and Advising Manager.

From the very first conversations, Kara made time. She answered questions, explained unfamiliar terms, and carefully guided me through each step without judgment or pressure. "She was approachable. Honest. Not afraid to put herself into the situation with me and help me figure it out," she recalls. "She made it easy—and that eased so much of my anxiety."

The process wasn't easy. Developing a business plan involved venturing into unfamiliar areas: insurance, technology, and financial systems. It was uncomfortable. Challenging. And, as she describes it, "a difficult, yet beautiful experience."

With FACC's support and flexibility, it became easier to manage.

Today, her work is more than just a business—

it's a legacy. Through her basketweaving craft, she shares culture, history, and the stories of her ancestors with audiences across the country as a traveling cultural educator. "That's an empowering feeling," she says. "Because of this support, my work is out in the world."

Her passion for promoting Native entrepreneurship stems from a shared sense of collaboration and empowerment. "When you work with FACC staff who truly understand your needs, it makes a difference," she says. "It's not just transactional, it's collaborative. We work together to reach our goals."

She also recognizes the broader challenges Native-owned businesses continue to face: fear of financial institutions, gaps in financial education, limited access to technology, and a lack of awareness about available resources. While times are changing, she knows many talented Native people still hesitate to take that first step.

That's why organizations like FACC are important," she says. "They're on the ground in Indian Country, doing the work to help businesses like mine truly succeed."

Regarding her future... As studio spaces change and new questions come up like "Where do I go next? Do I build a studio at home?" she knows she isn't navigating the future alone.

For donors, partners, and funders, her message is clear: "Investing in Native entrepreneurship is about more than just economics. It's about preserving culture, creating opportunities, and paving the way for the next generation."

"Because of FACC," she says, "I'm allowed to continue the work and stories of my ancestors. And now, those stories are being heard."

Philanthropic gifts supporting FACC's progress are crucial to accelerating business growth.

This support enables FACC to expand its reach, boost its impact, and offer more opportunities to entrepreneurs across Wisconsin.

To learn more about how FACC can help you build your business, please visit www.faccwi.org.



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

PSA from the HCN Healing to Wellness Court

Woogixete

Couples Workshop

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Facilitated by Joseph White Eagle Sr, SAC and Stephanie White Eagle, LMFT, GSAC

Reconnecting Hearts: A Holistic Couples Workshop

is a community-based experience for couples who want to strengthen their connection in a meaningful and supportive way.

The workshop offers a calm, respectful space to slow down, listen deeply, and reconnect through practices that honor mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being, with the goal of supporting happy and safe relationships.

Couples will take part in guided conversations and experiential activities that encourage communication, understanding, and mutual respect.

To preserve the integrity of the space and allow for deeper connection, participation is limited to 8 couples.

6 - 8 Sessions, Beginning On:
TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH
5:00PM-6:30PM
HOUSE OF WELLNESS
Alberta Day Room, 2nd Floor

Pre-Registration Is Required - Scan the Code or Visit:
<https://hcn-bh.typeform.com/CouplesWorkshop>

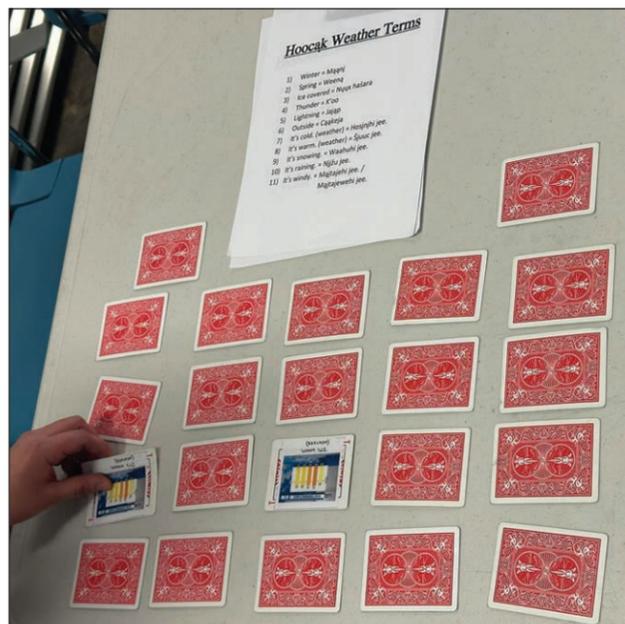
Grateful for Winter Woozawa Gathering

Winter Woozawa was held on February 21, 2026, and although we were concerned about the possibility of no snow, it turned out to be a beautiful winter day.

The day was filled with activities including snow snake, kasu, language games, and demonstrations of sunflower bread, hominy, and maple syrup. It was wonderful to see so many community members in attendance to enjoy the day together.

The Office of the President sincerely thanks everyone who assisted in making this event possible, Heritage Preservation – Language, Cultural Resources, Community Health, Agriculture, Housing and Maintenance, as well as those who joined us to participate and learn. We ended the evening with a delicious meal and waika (storytelling), with stories shared by Winter Smith, Samson Falcon, and John Lee.

Our elders have left us traditions to carry forward, and waika will always be one we cherish and continue for generations to come. We are grateful that this gathering was able to take place.



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

March 4th
Lets talk woreke, and how to increase your fiber intake!
Dietetic Intern

March 18th
National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
Jennie Steele, Vivent Health
Special Session to be live streamed at Community Centers, swag bags available for participants!

March 25th
Together We Can: Suicide Prevention Information for Veterans, Families and Caregivers
Chelsea Van Gundy, LCSW
Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator
Tomah VA Medical Center

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

PHAB
Ho-Chunk Health

Created 11.12.24RM

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

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

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

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

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health

DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES:

A sober celebration

Free Formal Wear Closet!

- Dresses and Dress Shirts
- Tuxes

Donations also accepted

Available for pickup: 8:00am-4:30pm

- House of Wellness
02/23/2026 - 02/26/2026
- Siga Funmaker Community Center
03/02/2026 - 03/06/2026
- Nekoosa Health Office
03/09/2026 - 03/13/2026
- BRF-TBD
03/16/2026 - 03/20/2026

Contact: Ronelle.McKernan@ho-chunk.com

HHCDA Hosts Family Supportive Housing Open House

On February 5, HHcDA hosted an open house event for HAKIKIŽU NAAŽI Family Supportive Housing in Black River Falls—an important step toward stable housing paired with supportive services for Ho-Chunk families. The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature was represented by Rep. Phyllis Smoke, who attended to show support for the housing work and the families it will serve.

This project connects back to Wisconsin’s Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF), a grant program launched by Gov. Tony

Evers on August 24, 2021 to support recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Wisconsin Department of Administration received funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to be used in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

With an extremely short turnaround, HHcDA’s Director at the time, Neil Whitegull, and grant writer Paul Tysse were able to complete and submit the NIF application before the deadline—resulting in receiving the

largest grant the agency had received at the time.

The scope of work includes 22 small homes (8 – Black River Falls, 2 – Baraboo, 2 – Cex Hacia, 8 – Wisconsin Dells, and 2 – Shawano County), along with a 10-unit Family Supportive Housing project. Supportive Housing is a model HHcDA is expanding—bringing together property management and supportive services in one approach.

The Family Supportive Housing is located on Golden Eagle Street near Black River Falls, WI.



Pictured left to right: Lori Pettibone (HHcDA Executive Director), Rosella Decorah-Stanley (HHcDA Supportive Housing team), Missy Redcloud (HHcDA Chairperson, Board of Commissioners), D1 Rep. Phyllis Smoke (Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature), and Amy Kay Littlegeorge (HHcDA Supportive Housing Director).



These new homes are designed to support Ho-Chunk families with stability and care.



A look at the courtyard playground at HAKIKIŽU NAAŽI Family Supportive Housing—space for kids to play and families to spend time together.



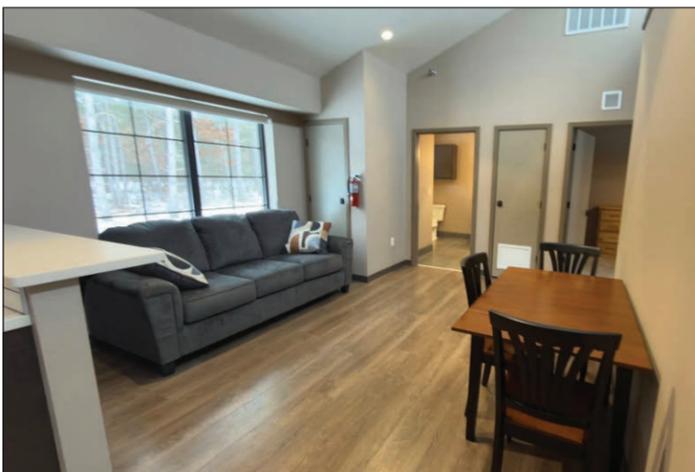
Amy Kay Littlegeorge, HHcDA Supportive Housing Director, shares background on the project during the open house and answers questions from guests.



Inside one of the family units: a bedroom with a bunk bed and an attached private bathroom—designed with comfort, dignity, and everyday family needs in mind.



The kitchen includes modern amenities and a clean, functional setup—built to make every day cooking and family routines easier.



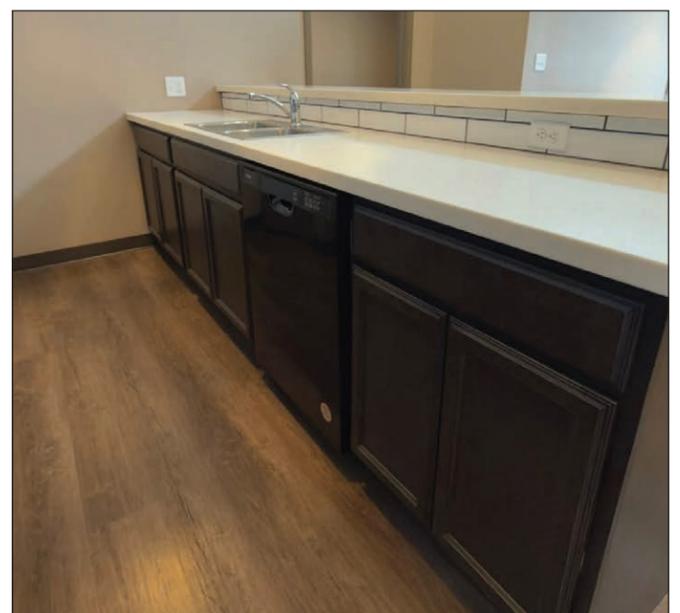
A cozy living area with space for a couch and a small table—an everyday spot for meals, homework, and winding down together.



A spacious bathroom with plenty of room to move around—designed for comfort, accessibility, and everyday ease.



A dedicated laundry area on-site—giving families a convenient place to wash and dry clothing right at home.



A closer look at the unit kitchen—featuring a sink, ample countertop space, and a built-in dishwasher for everyday convenience.

SUMMONS
(Second Publication)

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

Ho-Chunk Nation Child Support Agency and HCN Child and Family, Petitioner, v. Sierra Mckee, Respondent.

Case No.: CS 25-02

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED: Garrette T. Montanye

You are hereby informed that you have been deemed an interested party in this child support action. This legal notice of the filed *Petition for Child Support* is now served upon you by publication. A proceeding concerning the above-named child is pending in the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court, and an adjudication will be made.

You have twenty (20) days from the date of service to respond to the *Petition for Child Support*. Failure to do so will cause the Court to proceed without your participation, which may result in the entry of a *Default Judgment* against you. An *Answer* (response) shall be filed with the court at the address given below, and must be served on all parties to the action. The Court shall convene an *Initial Child Support Hearing* as permitted by CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT CODE, 4 HCC § 7.28.

The court shall commence a proceeding no sooner than twenty-five (25) days from the date of service. The *Initial Child Support Hearing* shall be held at **2:00 p.m. CDT** on the **7th** day of **April, 2026**. The Court also provides notice of the potential of being held in contempt of court:

NOTICE- VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO PROCEEDINGS FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT. SUBPOENAS: THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA SHALL SUBJECT THE PERSON FAILING TO COMPLY TO THE CONTEMPT POWER OF THE COURT. THE COURT MAY FIND ANY PARTY TO THIS MATTER IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A COURT HEARING OR FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW COURT ORDERS.

The Trial Court is physically located at Wa Ehi Hocira, W9598 Highway 54 East, Black River Falls, (Jackson County) Wisconsin. The Trial Court's mailing address is P.O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. The telephone number is (715) 284-2722, or toll free 800-434-4070, and the facsimile number is (715) 284-3136.

Cynthia Yellowcloud

October 28, 1943 – February 20, 2026

Cynthia Whitewater Yellowcloud, “Haja piga”, 82, passed away at home on Friday, February 20, 2026.

She was born on October 28, 1943, to Fred Whitewater and Marie Big Hawk Whitewater in Black River Falls, WI.

Cynthia was united in marriage to Donald Lee Yellowcloud Sr. She worked for the Ho Chunk Nation in different positions throughout the years.

She collected numerous items and loved listening to Elvis. She loved playing Bingo, doing crosswords, beading, and watching Packer games. She liked spending time with all her family. She enjoyed driving around the countryside and reminiscing about the good ole days. She enjoyed playing computer games like Bejeweled and Solitaire. Pokeno was her jam.

She is preceded in death by husband, Donald Lee Yellowcloud Sr., significant others, John R. Mann and David F. Harrison, infant siblings, Carlisle, Clyde, and Mercedes Whitewater, adopted brother, Calvin Whitewater, infant son, Clayton Daniel Whitewater, son, Donald Lee Yellowcloud Jr., granddaughter, Laleen Marie Whitewater, and great-granddaughter, Caxsepconiwigwa.

Cynthia is survived by her

children, John L. Whitewater, Elaine M. Yellowcloud, Theodore F. Yellowcloud, Stacy A. (Donna) Yellowcloud, Russell J. Mann (Fonda Zimmerman), and Cyndi D. Mann, Manda Mann, Rosann Mann (Wilfrid Cleveland), Matthew (Jessie) Mann, 54 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren on the way.

The funeral service for Cynthia will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, at her residence, N8995 Sandpillow Road, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Visitation will be held at her home from 10:00 a.m. until time of service. Burial will continue in Winnebago United Church.



Jean Marie Stacy-Snow

June 1, 1954 – February 23, 2026



Social Services, Division Manager for Supportive Education services, Elder Division Manager, and most recently, Executive Director of Labor. Her work spanned child protection, domestic violence advocacy, education, adoption support, youth programming, and workforce development. Whether she was supporting families through crisis or guiding staff through complex community needs, Jean's presence was steady, honest, and deeply rooted in compassion.

Her ministry was just as powerful. She served as a pastor and confirmation teacher at Ho-Chunk United Church of Christ and shared her voice as a guest preacher at the Indian Baptist Church in Wisconsin Dells. Her sermons carried humor, humility, and truth, always grounded in her lived experience, her faith, and her love for the people she served.

Jean's story is one of faith, love, resilience, and profound impact. Those who knew her carry pieces of her; her words, her laughter, her strength, and the way she believed in people until they learned to believe in themselves. Her memory will continue to guide and uplift her family, her community, and all who were blessed to walk beside her.

Jean Marie Stacy-Snow is survived by her daughters, Stacy Pieters, Tisha Pieters, and Mariah Blackhawk; her son, Justice Blackhawk; and the many grandchildren she loved and adored, including the grandchildren she lovingly raised, Arrayah Blackhawk-Link and Mitchell Blackhawk-Link.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Barry L. Blackhawk, and her special friend Ralph Lopez.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Buswell Funeral Home in Black River Falls. The funeral service will follow at 1:00 PM, with burial at the Ho-Chunk United Church of Christ Cemetery at 2:15 PM. An online memory and photo-sharing tribute book will begin printing on March 5.

The Buswell Funeral Home is assisting the family with final arrangements, 715-284-4321.

Jean Marie Stacy-Snow, age 71, began her journey peacefully at her home in Black River Falls on February 23, 2026, surrounded by the family who loved her deeply.

Born on June 1, 1954, Jean was an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and a woman whose life was defined by service, faith, and a fierce love for her people. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Metropolitan State College in 1987 and her Master of Divinity from the Iliff School of Theology in 1995, grounding her life's work in compassion, understanding, and unwavering belief in the dignity of every person she served.

Jean's professional path carried her through many meaningful roles within the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Denver Indian Center. One of her proudest accomplishments was helping create the Elder Community Work Program, known today as the Elder Workforce Division. At the time it began, it was only a pilot program, an idea rooted in her belief that Elders deserved meaningful opportunities to remain engaged, share their teachings, and contribute to the wellbeing of the Nation in ways that honored their gifts. She helped shape that program from the ground up: advocating for its development, building its structure, ensuring Elders had respectful placements, and nurturing it until it became a fully established division. Her vision created a lasting space where Elders could continue to lead with purpose, dignity, and cultural strength. It remains one of her most enduring contributions to the Nation.

Beyond that, Jean served as a Social Worker, Assistant Director of

SUMMONS
(Second Publication)

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

Ho-Chunk Nation Child Support Agency And Carli Roth, Petitioner, v. Corwin Roth Jr, Respondent.

Case No.: CS 25-07

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED: Corwin M. Roth Jr.

You are hereby informed that you have been named as an interested party in the above-captioned child support action. The publication of this legal notice satisfies the service requirements under the *Ho-Chunk Nation Rules of Civil Procedure*, Rule 5. This case is pending in the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court, and a judgment will be issued.

You have twenty (20) days from the last date of service by publication to file an *Answer* to this *Summons* and the *Petition for Child Support*. Failure to respond to this action will cause the Court to proceed without your participation, which may result in the entry of a *Default Judgment* against you. Your *Answer* (response) must be filed with the court at the address given below and must be served on all the opposing parties listed above or their attorney of record.

The Court shall convene an *Initial Child Support Hearing* as permitted by CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT CODE, 4 HCC § 7.28, no sooner than twenty (20) days from the date of service. The *Initial Child Support Hearing* shall be held at **1:30 p.m. CDT** on the **12th** day of **March, 2026**.

The Trial Court is physically located at Wa Ehi Hocira, W9598 Highway 54 East, Black River Falls, (Jackson County) Wisconsin. The Trial Court's mailing address is P.O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Documents may also be filed electronically at courtfilings@ho-chunk.com. The telephone number is (715) 284-2722, or toll free 800-434-4070, and the facsimile number is (715) 284-3136.

SUMMONS
(Second Publication)

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

Ho-Chunk Nation Child Support Agency And Jaime A. Lopez, Petitioner, v. Jody F. White Eagle, Respondent.

Case No.: CS 25-11

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED: Jody F. White Eagle

You are hereby informed that you have been deemed an interested party in this child support action. This legal notice of the filed *Petition for Child Support* is now served upon you by publication. A proceeding concerning the above-named child is pending in the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court, and an adjudication will be made.

You have twenty (20) days from the date of service to respond to the *Petition for Child Support*. Failure to do so will cause the Court to proceed without your participation, which may result in the entry of a *Default Judgment* against you. An *Answer* (response) shall be filed with the court at the address given below, and must be served on all parties to the action. The Court shall convene an *Initial Child Support Hearing* as permitted by CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT CODE, 4 HCC § 7.28.

The court shall commence a proceeding no sooner than twenty-five (25) days from the date of service. The *Initial Child Support Hearing* shall be held at **10 a.m. CST** on the **31st** day of **March, 2026**. The Court also provides notice of the potential of being held in contempt of court:

NOTICE- VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO PROCEEDINGS FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT. SUBPOENAS: THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA SHALL SUBJECT THE PERSON FAILING TO COMPLY TO THE CONTEMPT POWER OF THE COURT. THE COURT MAY FIND ANY PARTY TO THIS MATTER IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A COURT HEARING OR FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW COURT ORDERS.

The Trial Court is physically located at Wa Ehi Hocira, W9598 Highway 54 East, Black River Falls, (Jackson County) Wisconsin. The Trial Court's mailing address is P.O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. The telephone number is (715) 284-2722, or toll free 800-434-4070, and the facsimile number is (715) 284-3136.

Florida Man Sentenced for Misrepresenting Indian Produced Goods

Jose Farinango Muenala falsely told customers jewelry he sold was handmade by Pueblo Indians

MADISON, WIS. – Chadwick M. Elgersma, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jose Farinango Muenala, 47, Casselberry, Florida, pleaded guilty on January 28, 2026, to misrepresenting Indian produced goods. Following the guilty plea, Farinango Muenala was sentenced by U.S. District Judge William M. Conley to 3 years of probation and a \$25,000 fine.

In January 2023, the Indian Arts and Crafts Board received complaints that a man with the business name Southwest Expressions was going to art shows and misrepresenting that the jewelry he was selling was handmade by Pueblo Indians. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service subsequently launched an investigation and identified the man as Farinango Muenala.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that since 2012, Farinango Muenala had attended dozens of art shows as a vendor, including the 2023 Loon Day Festival in Mercer, Wisconsin. At these shows, Farinango Muenala misrepresented himself as a Pueblo or a Native American from New Mexico. He also misrepresented that the jewelry he sold was handmade by himself or other Pueblo Indians, when in fact, the jewelry was mass produced and imported from the Philippines. Between 2012 and 2023, Farinango Muenala's business Southwest Expressions made 40,905 individual sales, and grossed over \$2,686,000.

At sentencing, Judge Conley emphasized that for years, Farinango Muenala profited by regularly and intentionally misrepresenting the jewelry that he sold. Judge Conley also acknowledged the significance of the statute Farinango Muenala violated,

noting it was meant to protect Native Americans.

"The Indian Arts and Crafts Board, U.S. Department of the Interior, administers and enforces the Indian Arts and Crafts Act (IACA), a truth in marketing law," said the Board's Director Meridith Stanton. "The IACA is intended to rid the Indian arts and crafts marketplace of counterfeits to protect the economic livelihoods and cultural heritage of Indian artists, craftspeople, and their Tribes, as well as the buying public. Authentic Indian art and craftwork is an important tool for passing down cultural traditions, traditional knowledge, and artistic skills from one generation to the next. The defendant in this case falsely claimed to be a third-generation jewelry maker from the Taos Pueblo in New Mexico while he sold imported Philippines jewelry as authentic Indian made across several states. These sales of fake Indian art tear at the very fabric of Indian culture and undercut the marketability of the creative work of federally recognized Tribes."

U.S. Attorney Elgersma and Director Stanton praised the collaboration between IACA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thanked all those who helped bring Farinango Muenala's conduct to light. Both stressed that his prosecution sends a strong message that violators of the IACA will be held accountable.

The charges against Farinango Muenala were the result of an investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board. Assistant U.S. Attorney Taylor L. Kraus prosecuted this case.

Shanna Rae Sommer Breeze Harrison

May 13, 1982 – February 20, 2026

Shanna Rae Sommer Breeze Harrison (Rudy) "Hųcminąkwiga", 43, of Black River Falls, WI died unexpectedly on Friday, February 20, 2026.

She was born on May 13, 1982, to Crystal Pettibone and Jeff Harrison in Black River Falls.

Shanna graduated from Black River Falls High School in 2001. She liked playing kickball, volleyball, watching movies, swimming, going for walks, cooking, and so much more. She loved all of her nieces and nephews. Most of all she loved her own Coon babies, she thought of them as her own. She was always joking around. She was really loving, caring, dependable, helpful, and so much more. She will surely be missed. She will live on through her family, relatives, and friends.

Shanna is survived by her parents, Crystal Pettibone and Jeff Harrison, siblings, Jeffery Allan Harrison II, Gavvonna Mustache, Jameson Harrison, Devin Funmaker; Lyniah, Cashis, Taylor, Kendrick, and Nola Coon, all the children she took care of like her own. Also survived by Reggie (Marca) Pettibone, Clarence Pettibone, Melissa (Luis) Olvera, Gina (Vilas) White Eagle, Robyn Two Crow, and Janice Harrison.

She is preceded in death by



grandparents, Gavin Pettibone, Vaughn Pettibone, Sharon Harrison, and Victor Harrison, aunts and uncles, Clayton and Greg Harrison, Lionel Pettibone, Shari and Tari Pettibone, and Ho Chunk sister, Kathleen Funmaker.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. until time of service, which will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, at Torgerson's Funeral Home, officiating is Paula Cleveland. Burial will follow in Decorah Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Henry Greengrass, Harrison Funmaker, Rob Mckee, Alden Youngthunder, Vern White Eagle, Sheldon Cloud.

Kenneth William Lewis

January 7, 1984 – 2026

Kenneth William Lewis was born on January 7, 1984, to Kenneth Lewis and Angela Fischer. He was raised in the Foster, Augusta, and Eau Claire areas, attending school in each community before graduating from McKinley High School in Eau Claire.

Ken was blessed with the steadfast support of his grandmother, Sandy Fischer, along with his Fischer aunts, all of whom played an important and cherished role in his upbringing and their help was well appreciated by his mother.

He held tremendous admiration for his mom, grandma and aunts, and that respect showed in the way he spoke of them and cared for them. His love for family and friends was overwhelming and genuine, expressed not only in words but in the time he shared and the memories he created.

A true "gearhead" at heart, he loved fast, flashy cars and took pride in dressing sharp. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially riding his ATV's and crotch rocket motorcycles. Traveling to spend time with those he loved was something he treasured deeply.

He had many friends throughout the western Wisconsin area and

took great pride in being a member of the Bear Clan of the Ho Chunk Nation and also his involvement with his Cloud Ho-Chunk family.

Throughout his life, Ken faced challenges and did not always make the best decisions. Yet those who truly knew him understood that, at his core, he was a good-hearted person who simply walked a different and sometimes unorthodox path. His life was complex, but it never defined the depth of who he was inside.

During his time of incarceration, Ken used the opportunity for reflection and personal growth. He was an intelligent man who found comfort and inspiration in reading and music. He was also a gifted artist, a talent clearly reflected in the many detailed and meaningful drawings he created. Through his art, he expressed thoughts and emotions that words often could not capture.

Ken will be dearly missed by his four children who he adored, Jordan and Alliyah Lewis, and their mother, Jodi Mattice, and Kendrick and Kenessa Lewis, and their mother, Brittany Cloud, all of Eau Claire; father Kenneth Lewis of Black River Falls; brother Bryan Lewis of Tomah and brother Leon Blackcoon; aunt Jackie (Brad) Dejno of Independence, Melissa Fischer of Chippewa Falls; and many other family members and a host of friends.

Ken was preceded in death by his deeply loved grandma, Sandy Fischer; mother Angela Fischer; sister Kim Fischer-Dahl; and aunts Jodi Krizan and Jessie Johnson.

A visitation will be held March 6, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Anderson Funeral Home in Augusta, with 2:00 burial at Rest Haven Cemetery in Eau Claire. The family is assisted by Anderson Funeral Home in Augusta, WI.



DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE

BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING
Tribal Office Building
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615 Wednesday,
March 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, March 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: 2/16/26



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, MARCH 9, 2026 6:00PM

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

BARABOO/W DELLS/MAUSTON AREA | INDIAN HEIGHTS
975 Dyer Street Wisconsin Dells, WI
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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 2/25/26

DISTRICT 3 AREA MEETING NOTICE

MILWAUKEE | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 | 5:30 PM
WITTENBERG | MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 | 6:00 PM
GREEN BAY | TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM
MADISON | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 | 6:00 PM
WI RAPIDS | THURSDAY, MARCH 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 2/16/26

District 4 Area Meeting Notice

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

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

2/24/2025 - updated



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

For WebEx information please contact:
david.greendeer@ho-chunk.com (715)-896-9192
edward.mullen@ho-chunk.com (715)-896-9180
sandra.whitewing@ho-chunk.com (715)-896-9183
jennifer.adams@ho-chunk.com (715)-284-9343x11284
D4@ho-chunk.com

NOTICE

RIGHT TO OBJECT

In accordance with HCC 8 §14 Title Transfer & Recording Act
Ho-Chunk Member, NELLIE PEOPLES, has submitted a Request for Title for Permanent
Improvements located at: S1020 WINNESHIEK ST WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 54615
And more particularly described as: LOT 14 WITHIN THE SE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 15,
TOWNSHIP 13 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST, TOWN OF DELLONA, SAUK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Any objections must be filed in person at Executive Office Building / W9814 Airport Road or received by
mail at:

Ho-Chunk Nation Realty Division
Attn: Register of Deeds
P.O. Box 310
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Phone: (715) 284-9343 Ext 11032

By or before APRIL 8, 2026

Absent any objections the Ho-Chunk Nation Register of Deeds shall issue Title for
the above described Permanent Improvements to the named individual(s) within 10
days following the deadline.

Continued from Page 1

“By allowing a legal framework for mobile sports wagering, the state will see increased revenue through the state gaming compacts and consumers will have the legal protection needed to ensure that they receive fair play,” Boyd said.

In healthcare, Boyd pointed to expanded services through tribal nations, including 11 federally qualified health centers that serve both Native and non-Native patients. She also highlighted new investments, such as the 36-bed adolescent recovery and wellness center in Bowler, aimed at addressing substance use and mental health challenges among youth.

“There is a severe mental health crisis, which is resulting in an increase in suicides and the unnecessary loss of life,” Boyd said.

Boyd noted that while harm reduction efforts have helped decrease overdose deaths in some communities, new challenges are emerging, including increased vaping addiction among youth and ongoing impacts of substance use and gun violence.

She also raised concerns about limited law enforcement resources in northern Wisconsin, where the number of state narcotics investigators has steadily declined over the years.

“In 2025 there are zero. Yes zero, narcotics investigative agents,” Boyd said.

Boyd called for stronger action on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives, emphasizing that current task forces and offices are

not enough without meaningful policy changes and resources.

“We must invest in the resources needed to prevent violent crimes against women and children,” Boyd said.

Boyd stressed the need for prevention, improved protections, and long-term support for survivors, noting that tribal communities continue to face disproportionate rates of violence.

Boyd also advocated for expanded access to medical cannabis, pointing to its potential to address chronic pain, PTSD, seizure disorders, and opioid recovery. She noted that neighboring states like Michigan and Minnesota have already legalized cannabis, while Wisconsin continues to lag behind.

“For centuries, Indigenous peoples have used this plant medicine for various medical and ceremonial purposes,” Boyd said.

Education remained a central focus of the address, including expanding access to higher education for tribal students and strengthening language and cultural programs.

“Finally, I believe with every ounce of my soul that education is crucial for personal growth, wellness, and transforming our society,” Boyd said.

Boyd closed the address with a message of resilience and unity.

“Not everyone in this room may agree that we are in very unprecedented times, but Indigenous people, sadly, we have seen this before. We are better together,” Boyd said. “Wisconsin is our home.”

Ho-Chunk Nation Land Planning Commission



HO-CHUNK NATION LAND PLANNING COMMISSION – VACANCIES

The Ho-Chunk Nation's Land Planning Commission has four (4) appointed positions. The Commission advises the Legislature on land use planning matters, including land use plans, zoning, leases, land acquisition, and development proposals.

Terms: Initial appointments are staggered (2-year, 4-year, and two 6-year terms). After initial appointments, terms are generally 4 years. No term limits (subject to removal under the Act).

Eligibility: Must be a federally recognized tribal member. The Commission includes a minimum of three (3) Ho-Chunk Nation tribal members. Background check is required.

Qualifications (one or more):

- Relevant Bachelor's degree, OR
- 3 years of relevant experience (planning, zoning, realty/leasing, construction/permitting, roads/ROW, water/stormwater, surveying, historic preservation), OR
- Professional licensure/certification (surveying, planning, engineering, GIS, architecture, EIA, real estate)



Email letter of interest and resume:
Legislature@ho-chunk.com



Hard Copy Submission
Mail to:
HCN Legislative Branch
ATTN: LPC
PO Box 667
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Scan to read the Act, terms, and qualifications in full.

Interested tribal members are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and a resume for consideration.
Submission Deadline: March 27, 2026

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT, For Official Use

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Brandon Thundercloud Amended
Personal 5112 **Notice of Hearing on**
DOB 9/25/2022 **Petition for Probate**

Case No. PR 24-01

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. A *Petition for Probate* was filed. 3/25/22
2. The decedent, with date of birth 09/25/1972 and date of death 01/25/2022 was domiciled in McIntosh County, State of North Dakota, with a mailing address of PO Box 1158 Newtown ND 58763
3. The names or addresses of the following interested person are not known or reasonably ascertainable.

4. The petition will be heard at Wa Ehi Hoci, W9598 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI, 54615, before Judge Michelle Greendeer-Rave on (Date) March 19, 2024 at (Time) 11:00AM

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-284-2722 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Mary Thunder
Clerk of Court
Name Printed or Typed
01/20/26
Date

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT, For Official Use

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Sherry Ann Wilson DOD 10/26/25 Amended
By Frederick Lee Young bear **Notice of Hearing on**
Petition for Probate

Case No. PR 25-08

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. A *Petition for Probate* was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 08/10/1952 and date of death 10/26/2025 was domiciled in JACKSON County, State of WISCONSIN, with a mailing address of 105 Maplewood Ct # 48, Black River Falls, WI
3. The names or addresses of the following interested person are not known or reasonably ascertainable.

4. The petition will be heard at Wa Ehi Hoci, W9598 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI, 54615, before Judge Wendi A. Huling on (Date) March 23, 2024 at (Time) 10:00am

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-284-2722 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Margaret A. Falcon
Deputy Clerk of Court
Name Printed or Typed
January 19, 2026
Date

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT, For Official Use

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Marc A. Anderson U.R. Amended
by Justina C Hindsley **Notice of Hearing on**
Petition for Probate

Case No. PR 25-09

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. A *Petition for Probate* was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 8-6-08 and date of death 8-17-25 was domiciled in JACKSON County, State of WISCONSIN, with a mailing address of 12871 Debrah Road BRF WI, 54615
3. The names or addresses of the following interested person are not known or reasonably ascertainable:
NA

4. The petition will be heard at Wa Ehi Hoci, W9598 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI, 54615, before Judge Jadeen B. Lowe on (Date) February 19, 2026 at (Time) 10:00am

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-284-2722 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Mary Thunder
Clerk of Court
Name Printed or Typed
12/19/25
Date

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT, For Official Use

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Terrell August Lightfeather Amended
Notice of Hearing on
Petition for Probate

Case No. PR 25-05

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. A *Petition for Probate* was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11-30-1916 and date of death 01-04-2025 was domiciled in St. Louis County, State of MINNESOTA, with a mailing address of N1075 JOHNSON AVE WIDELLS WI 53965
3. The names or addresses of the following interested person are not known or reasonably ascertainable.

4. The petition will be heard at Wa Ehi Hoci, W9598 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI, 54615, before Judge Michelle Greendeer-Rave on (Date) Feb. 26, 2026 at (Time) 10:00am

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-284-2722 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Margaret A. Falcon
Deputy Clerk of Court
Name Printed or Typed
January 9, 2026
Date

DO NOT PRINT the following text when publishing this notice.

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Call to Order: Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call:
President Jon Greendeer-EX
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
Rep. Paul Fox-P
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-VC
Rep. Stephanie Begay-VC
Rep. Kyle White Eagle-P
Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC
Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-VC
Rep. Edward Mullen-VC
Rep. David Greendeer-VC

Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

Determination of Quorum: Quorum is established at 10:01 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Rep. Paul Fox offered a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-January 20, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the January 20, 2026 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Housing Commission-January 22, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the January 22, 2026 Housing Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission-January 26, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the January 26, 2026 Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Appointment of Rose Adams as Department of Treasury Representative to the Wazee Wastewater Commission

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis

Smoke to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 A**, Appointment of Rose Adams as Department of Treasury Representative to the Wazee Wastewater Commission. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Appointment of Darcy Funmaker as Department of Administration Representative to the Wazee Wastewater Commission

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 B**, Appointment of Darcy Funmaker as Department of Administration Representative to the Wazee Wastewater Commission. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Delegation of Signature Authority to Pharmacy Director for Eli Lilly Agreement

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 C**, Delegation of

Signature Authority to Pharmacy Director for Eli Lilly Agreement. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with the University of Minnesota

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 D**, Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with the University of Minnesota. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Development Commission-January 27, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the January 27, 2026 Development Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Continued on Page 14

Ho-Chunk Youth MUSIC is Medicine Workshop

Scan QR Code Or visit online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R7P69ZB>

Take Survey for your Chance to Participate!
Contest Entry - Only 20 spots available - Ho-Chunk Youth ages 11-18

SUBMISSION DEADLINE MARCH 2, 2026 Noon

MUSIC IS MEDICINE WORKSHOP | MARCH 06-08, 2026
Native Music Artists L-R Nataani Means, Lonnie Begaye, Jared Soseeah "Keyz"

The 'Music is Medicine Workshop' consists of 3 mentors and spans over the course of 3 days, focusing not only on music alone, but also includes the aspects of storytelling through various mediums music, mound design, writing, film-making and at the end a performance to wrap it all up. March 6-8 at the District 1 Community Building N7261 Warrior Ave Black River Falls.

This youth program is brought to you by the Ho-Chunk Nation Social Services
E-mail FHC@ho-chunk.com for survey information

Celebrating 75 Years of State Natural Areas

The Wisconsin Legislature created the State Natural Areas (SNA) Program in November 1951, to protect the best examples of Wisconsin's native "natural communities" – distinct groupings of plants, animals, soils, geology and climate that include different types of grasslands, wetlands and forests. State natural areas prioritize education, scientific research and the long-term protection of Wisconsin's biological diversity for future generations.

Wisconsin has nearly 100 distinct natural communities. Many, including tall grass prairie, pine barrens, and oak savanna, are considered globally rare.

More than 230 animal and plant species are listed as endangered or threatened in Wisconsin; 90% of those listed plant species and 75% of the listed wildlife species are found within state natural areas.

Then And Now
Parfrey's Glen was designated as the first state natural area in 1952, and the program has since grown to include sites owned by the DNR as well as many partners,

including other government agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, and land trusts like The Nature Conservancy and The Prairie Enthusiasts.

Much has changed in the last 75 years as these places experience new invasive species, changing climate, encroaching development and other stressors that threaten their ecology. However, the State Natural Areas Program continues to preserve and protect Wisconsin's unique natural heritage for the people of the state.

Volunteer At Your Local State Natural Area

Nearly all SNAs are open to the public for hiking, hunting, bird-watching, nature study and photography, but most are largely undeveloped. Visitors are asked to enjoy these ecologically sensitive sites responsibly.

One of the best ways to connect with nature at an SNA is through volunteering. Volunteers clear brush, collect seed, control invasive species and more. No experience is necessary, and training and equipment are provided on-site.

To get involved and receive



Wisconsin's State Natural Areas Program celebrates 75 years of preservation in place, including Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area. / Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

notifications about upcoming workdays, sign up for email invites on the DNR's State Natural Areas Volunteer Program webpage.

Give To The Endangered Resources Fund

The DNR's work at SNAs is made possible, in part, by donations to the Endangered Resources Fund. To make a donation, look for "endangered resources" in the "donations" section of your Wisconsin income tax form. For tax year 2025, the Endangered Resources donation is the first line in the Financial Donations section.

Continued from Page 13

Resolution-Cancellation of Lease #4587 on Lot #27 of Chakh Hah Chee North #439 T 2137 Recission of Resolution 11-15-22 F

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 E**, Cancellation of Lease #4587 on Lot #27 of Chakh Hah Chee North #439 T 2137 Recission of Resolution 11-15-22 F. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Cancellation of Lease #4560 on Lot #6 of Blue Wing East #439 T 2163 and Rescission of Resolution 08-23-22 B

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 F**, Cancellation of Lease #4560 on Lot #6 of Blue Wing East #439 T 2163 and Rescission of Resolution 08-23-22 B. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Finance Commission-January 29, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the January 29, 2026 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Elder #2280 Exterior/Storm Doors

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve Elder #2280 request of exterior storm door in the amount of \$8,000 out of the Elder Home Repair line item, and if the elder goes with the higher bid, the elder is responsible to pay the difference. Second by Rep. Edward Mullen. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to

Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment for Contribution Toward District 1 Community Center Solar Project

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 G**, Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment for Contribution Toward District 1 Community Center Solar Project. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Nekoosa-Enrollment Kiosks

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 H**, Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Nekoosa-Enrollment Kiosks. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Nekoosa-HVAC Units

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 I**, Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Nekoosa-HVAC Units. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Nekoosa-Kitchen Roof

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 J**, Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Nekoosa-Kitchen Roof. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-20-25 E Adoption of Ho-Chunk

Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Department of Education Division of Higher Education

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 K**, Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-20-25 E Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Department of Education Division of Higher Education. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-20-25 F Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Legislative Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the General Fund Heating Assistance

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 L**, Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-20-25 F Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Legislative Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the General Fund Heating Assistance. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budgetary Spending Limits

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 M**, Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budgetary Spending Limits. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

District 1 Twin Cities Indigenous Protectors Movement

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the Indigenous Protectors Movement funding request for food, water, fuel cards, hat, mitten, coats in the

amount of \$10,000 with funding coming from the District 1 Community Improvement Fund, on emergency basis. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 7-4(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Kyle White Eagle, Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. David Greendeer)-1(Rep. Sandra Whitewing) **MOTION DEFEATED.**

Pursuant to the Legislative Organization Act, 2/3 affirmative vote is required for emergency action.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the Indigenous Protectors Movement in the amount of \$9,000 out of the District 1 Community Improvement Fund. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 5-5(Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. Kyle White Eagle, Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Shelby Visintin)-2(Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.) **TIE VOTE. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Resolution-2026-2029 Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 N**, 2026-2029 Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Approval of Animal Control Contract with Town of Wittenberg

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 02-03-26 O**, Approval of Animal Control Contract with Town

of Wittenberg. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 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. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 11-1(Rep. Edward Mullen)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 1:23 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle is not online.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to February 17, 2026 in Beloit, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle is not online.

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



The poster features a vibrant, stylized illustration of a classic Volkswagen van parked on a beach at sunset. The van is decorated with a large white flower on its side and a cat's face on the front. A surfboard is mounted on the roof rack. In the foreground, a folding chair and a cooler sit on a beach towel. The background shows palm trees and a sunset sky with birds flying. In the top left corner, there is a red square containing a white feather. The band's name, 'Blues Traveler', is written in a large, stylized, outlined font across the top. A yellow banner in the bottom right corner contains the text 'With Special Guests The Thundercloud Singers'.

*With Special Guests
The Thundercloud Singers*

JUNE 13 | 6PM | \$75

OUTDOOR | GATE OPENS AT 5PM

\$25 REWARDS PLAY WITH EACH TICKET SOLD

Formed more than 30 years ago in a Princeton, NJ basement, **Blues Traveler** has become one of rock's most iconic bands. With **13 studio albums**, multiple gold and platinum releases, and **over 10 million albums sold worldwide**, their impact is undeniable. They've performed **2,000+ live shows** for **30+ million fans** and earned a **Grammy® Award** for their record-breaking hit "Run-Around."

Now get ready to rock—**Blues Traveler** is bringing their legendary sound to **Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls!**

See the Rewards Booth for more information. Must be 21+ to play or attend events. Ho-Chunk Gaming reserves the right to cancel or alter promotions/events at any time.

HO-CHUNK GAMING
BLACK RIVER FALLS



JASON SCHEFF
(CHICAGO)

JAY DEMARCUS
(RASCAL FLATTS)

APRIL 17 | 8PM | \$75

INCLUDES \$20 REWARDS PLAY

Experience the powerhouse sound of *Generation Radio*, a super-group built by some of music's most iconic legends. This all-star lineup brings the heart and soul of '80s rock and classic hits back to life with unmatched energy and musicianship.

Two-time Grammy Award-winning writer and producer Jay DeMarcus of Rascal Flatts unites with **Jason Scheff, the longtime lead vocalist and bass player for the multi-platinum band Chicago**. They're joined by **Steve Ferrone of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers**, along with elite studio greats **Chris Rodriguez and Tom Yankton**.

Get ready to feel the music, relive the legends, and experience the soundtrack of a generation—live. **Tickets available at the Rewards Club booth—cash sales only, or get them Online at Ticketmaster.com.**

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