



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



# HOCOK WORAK



Vol. XL, Issue 6

Wake hikiruxe wira | Raccoon Mating Moon

March 27, 2026



Submit 2026 Graduate Materials Before June 19

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From Family to the Runway

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## Second Annual State of the Ho-Chunk Nation Address Reflects on History and Culture Impacts

Ardith Van Riper, Editor

On March 18, the Ho-Chunk Nation hosted a State of the Ho-Chunk Nation Address event at the Bingo Hall in Ho-Chunk Gaming – Black River Falls. The evening opened with a dinner and a special guest panel discussing the Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee (WWBC) from 1963 and the transformation into the Ho-Chunk Nation in 1994. Representative Stephanie Begay and President Jon Greendeer addressed accomplishments, challenges, and what to expect in the next year.

The panelists, Ona Garvin, JoAnn Jones, and John Steindorf, showcased the sacrifices our leaders and our people made for us during WWBC days and the future of the Ho-Chunk people. Trials and tribulations were shared in such a way that only those who experienced them could express.

Eric Logan led the discussion as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Traditional Chief Clayton Winneshiek offered an invocation.

Representative Stephanie Begay delivered the Legislative Address. She thanked the President and his staff, the event organizers, the caterers, Ryan Greendeer for his equipment setup, Eric Logan, Traditional Chief Clayton Winneshiek, the panelists, and the



Legislative staff.

Representative Begay is also the Tribal Secretary and reported on opportunities, such as having a Legislative Intern last year, Sarah Skrzypczak.

She thanked the Election Board for the unusually high number of elections this past year and for the swearing-in ceremonies.

Stephanie Begay mentioned the two Legislative Citations honoring former Representative Matthew Mullen and Myrtle Long, retiring after 47 years of service to the Ho-Chunk Nation. The Legislature also enacted two laws this past year. One was the Rights of Way Ordinance done by former Representative Jessika Greendeer. The other was the Land Planning Commission Establishment and Organization Act, done by Representative Begay.

She mentioned the lobbying work at the State and Federal levels. Several Representatives focused on a sports betting bill, and it was voted on yesterday in the Wisconsin Senate. This bill allows for tribes to participate in mobile sports betting.



The Legislature also worked with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on projects. One was developing the Ho-Chunk World War II Code Talkers Memorial Highway. Hard work from Donald Greengrass and Sandra Winneshiek was recognized. Another project was the Dual Language Highway Signs that identify Ho-Chunk communities on state highways.

“We filed a Federal Law Suit against Kalshi, which is an online betting platform over illegal gambling,” said Representative Begay. “There are only four other tribes in California, along with us, the Ho-Chunk Nation, that filed suit. This definitely put Ho-Chunk on the map.”

The Legislature collaborates a lot with the Executive Branch. One of the things accomplished this year was providing funding for the 75 Years of Remembrance for Our Greatest Warrior, Corporal Mitchel Red Cloud Jr. They also helped with the Veterans Housing Facility by providing a handicap-accessible van. Mr. Douglas Greengrass was mentioned and thanked for both projects.



The Legislature routinely provides funding for various events and powwows. Not only that, but they also provide funding for things like The Art of Truman Lowe Exhibit at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American Indians in Washington, D.C., and the Riverside International Friendship Garden in La Crosse, WI, where there will be an unveiling of a sculpture of Betsy Thunder later this year.

Funding was also provided to Ahuco Head Start to receive a new playground, a solar project at the District 1 Community Center, and the re-opening of the Ho-Chunk Cinema in Tomah, WI. The Legislature also provided funding for heating assistance, with the process being handled through Cedar Growth Financial.

The Legislature allocated funds to build a Cultural Resources Division Building, which is expected to be completed in about a year.

The Legislative office worked with the Office of the President to create the Ho-Chunk Nation Emergency Food  
*Continued on Page 8*

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## Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department Employee Recognition Spotlight: Barbara Blackdeer-Mackenzie

We proudly recognize Barbara Blackdeer-Mackenzie, Lifelong Learning Director, for her dedication and service to our Education Department and the communities we serve.

Barbara’s work reflects a deep commitment to supporting learners of all ages, families, and educational success. She brings care, professionalism, and cultural understanding to her role,

strengthening our department’s mission and the services we provide. Her leadership and contributions make a meaningful difference every day.

We are grateful for Barbara’s continued dedication and the positive impact she has on our team and community. Please join us in thanking her for her service and commitment to education.



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Want something special placed in the Hocak Worak? Limited space is available so send your request in early. Submissions will be handled on a first come first serve basis.

# Representatives Attend NCAI Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C.

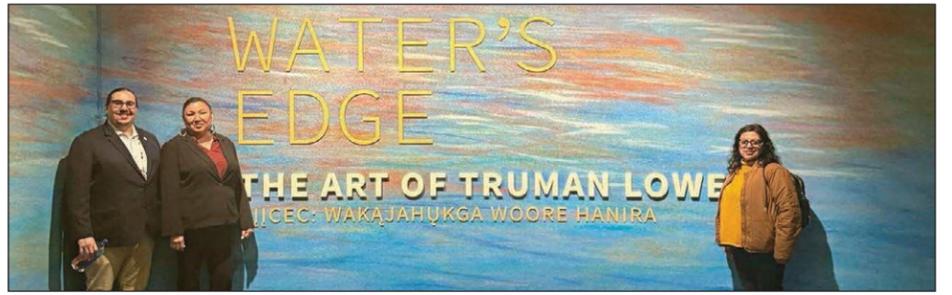
At this year's National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session, Ho-Chunk Nation Representatives had the opportunity to connect with tribal leaders from Nations across the country and join important conversations about the issues facing Native communities. The session was held in Washington, D.C.

The NCAI is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interest of tribal governments and communities.

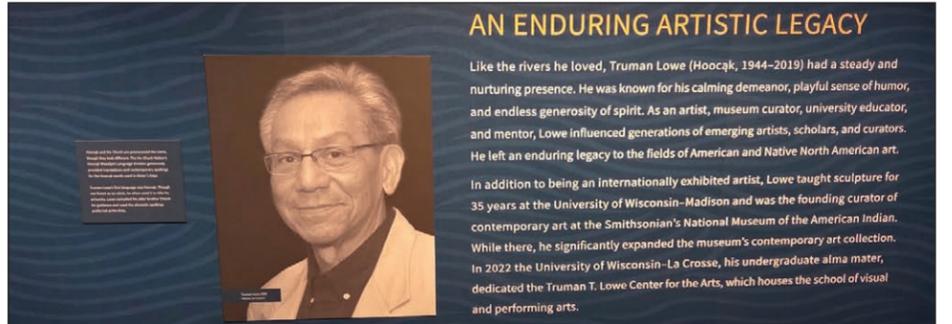
While in D.C., Representatives also made time to visit Water's Edge: The Art of Truman Lowe at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



**Ho-Chunk Nation Representatives met with Congresswoman Sharice Davids during this year's NCAI Executive Council Winter Session. Pictured left to right: Rep. Stephanie Begay, Congresswoman Sharice Davids, Rep. Damian Thundercloud, and Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle.**



**Representatives stand outside Water's Edge: The Art of Truman Lowe at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian while attending this year's NCAI Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C.**



**An exhibit panel honoring the enduring artistic legacy of Hoocąk artist Truman Lowe is displayed inside Water's Edge: The Art of Truman Lowe at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.**

# Vote for the Wisconsin Supreme Court on April 7. Vote for our future

By Anne Egan-Waukau, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Voting in the April 7 Supreme Court race is crucial for Wisconsin's Indigenous people because we can help elect a candidate who will make decisions that protect our family, community, culture, and environment.

"This election is critical for the future of our people because the Supreme Court may decide critical matters including reproductive care, water protection, voting rights and whether our vote will count in the future," said Philomena Kebec, of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court race is also important

because it provides an important check on other branches of government, helping to protect your voice in our democracy and community.

For Andrew Ynnocencio and Guy Reiter, both members of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, voting from your heart is a way to protect Indigenous people's way of life and future.

"Every time I go out and vote, I think of the future. Mainly my daughter, my everything," Ynnocencio said. "I also think about my grandmother, my mom, my community. Vote for your people, your rights, and the people you love."

Reiter agreed. "We must vote from our

hearts, our compassion, and our understanding," he said, adding, "There isn't anyone in this country who understands this land better than we do because of our participation here and our stories."

As Native people, it's important to vote in our elections – Tribal, state, and federal elections – to protect our culture, languages, and ways of life. The people elected have the power to make decisions that impact our Tribal nations and daily lives. When we vote, we choose our leaders and we have a say in our future.

The next election is Tuesday, April 7, and we will have the opportunity to vote for a new justice to sit on the Wisconsin Supreme Court for

the next 10 years. Depending on where you live, there may also be races for circuit court judges, county boards, city councils, school boards, and more.

Our votes have a long-lasting effect on our future generations. When we go to our polling places to cast our ballots, we think of those who came before us and remember that it is a way of protecting our future and our sovereignty. It's important, now more than ever, to uplift one another's voices and encourage one another to vote.

In the same way that we work to maintain traditions within our family, we encourage people to vote as one of those traditions. In

our communities, traditions survive because we practice them repeatedly. Casting your ballot is the same way. When we show up collectively, and repeatedly, our voices and communities are stronger.

Find voting information you need, such as where to vote and what to bring to the polls at [www.conservationvoices.org/vote](http://www.conservationvoices.org/vote). To see nonpartisan candidate information, visit [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) hosted by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. You can also reach out to the team at Wisconsin Native Vote with any questions at [info@conservationvoices.org](mailto:info@conservationvoices.org).

Every single vote is important for our people. Make your voice heard and vote on Tuesday, April 7.

# Grief, Justice, and Community What Broken Fields Reveals

Submitted by Ryan John Crain, Sr.

Broken Fields is the fourth novel in the Cash Blackbear mystery series 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.

While plowing a field in the Red River Valley, Cash notices a vehicle running outside a farmhouse. She senses that something is wrong, but she is not trusting her intuition. Her pulse quickens, a silent warning she tries to ignore, but

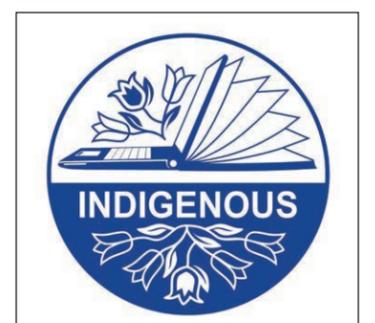
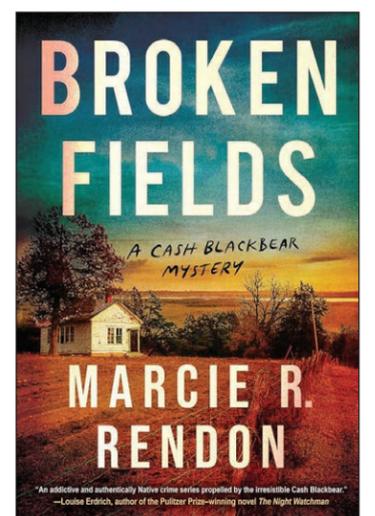
unease coils tightly in her chest. When she decides to go inside, she discovers her employer, Bud Borgerud, has been murdered. A frightened five-year-old Indigenous girl named Shawnee is hiding in the house. Seeing the child's terror, Cash feels old memories claw to the surface: flashes of her own childhood in the foster care system, her siblings scattered, herself often treated as unpaid labor. Determined to protect the girl from similar harm, Cash becomes personally invested in uncovering the truth behind the murder and finding the child's family.

While Cash searches for Shawnee's parents, a parallel crisis unfolds: Sheriff

Wheaton is drawn into investigating a bank robbery. At the same time, the plot thickens as characters from the first three books make appearances, including the dangerous Noodin Brother, Jonsey, who helps Cash stay in touch with her visions, and her love interest, Al, who both unnerves and shelters her.

Though structured as a compelling rural mystery, Broken Fields vividly portrays the historical challenges faced by Indigenous children in foster care. From the novel's opening pages, Rendon introduces the motif of broken soil—turned up by Cash's plow, it symbolizes both disruption and the possibility of renewal. As Cash navigates

dangers and uncovers fragile connections, the memory of the broken earth recurs, echoing her own journey from fragmentation toward healing. Rendon weaves themes of resilience, cultural identity, community responsibility, and healing throughout the story. Cash's strength, intelligence, and growing trust in her cultural intuition make her a powerful and affirming Indigenous protagonist.



**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)

PSA from the HCN Healing to Wellness Court



*April* 

**Elder Birthdays**

1 Darren Brinegar	17 Anita Alderman
Bruce Decorah	Robert Bird
Harold Brooks	Consuelo Contreras
2 Gregory Butterfield	James Greendeer
Thomas Powers	Beverly Inman
John Whitewing	Roger Snake
3 John De Trinidad	Kenneth Whitehorse
Richard Funmaker	18 Ruth Decorah
Sandra Gleason	19 Rae Garcia
Tina Jones	20 Robert Blackdeer
4 Timothy Hanson	21 Kimberly Cloud
5 Gary West	Quinn Sieber
6 Lisa Buttolph	Stuart Taylor
Anthony Mullen	Lawrence Walker Jr.
8 Lee Brown, Jr.	Gina Whiteeagle
Gary Phillips	22 Dale Alderman
Samuel Thundercloud	Rita Gardner
9 Phyllis Big Soldier	Sharon Ornellas
Ira Funmaker	Lori Parker
Ella Powless	Ila Waller
Regina Reel	23 Edith Big Soldier
10 Bonita Clairmont	Ernestine Helgesen
Teala Edwards	Sue Krivitz
Aurelia Hopinkah	Suzanne McComas
Alan Kehe	Dale Prescott
Bryan Lowe	24 Dolly Finn
Dean Whitewater	Caralee Murphy
11 Raymond Cabasos	Betty Preece
Kathy Frogg	25 Roger Allen
Annette Littlewolf	Martin Falcon
Linda Reider	Edward Greengrass
Dean Ryan	Joan Miller
Kurt Winneshiek	Debra Neer
12 Roger Perry	Angela Ringquist
13 Leanne Burnstad	Frank Tudahl
Lori Schmolke	Alan Whitegull
Bonnie Tech	26 Jacob Lonetree
14 Harrison Funmaker	Sandra Sliwicki
Leona Mc Kee	27 Gregory Blackcoon
Kelley Thundercloud	Mark Houghton
15 Sandra Blumer	28 Glen Greengrass
Roger Pettibone	Thomas Lopez
Barbara Whitewater	Lora Poppele
Gary Whitewing	Terry Snowball
16 Lois Behrens	29 Bartola Enright
Ileana Henry	Dean Goodrich
Reginald Pettibone	Gregory Henry
Pamela Wilber	Charles Miner
	30 William Kingswan
	Carolyn Thompson

**DEMO NOTICE**

Demolition of the old D1CC building will begin **March 16, 2026** and is expected to be completed by **April 1, 2026.**

**Please use caution** when traveling in the area. **Thank you** for your patience and cooperation during this process.



**Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be April 2nd which will be published on April 10th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.**

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

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.

**HOCÁK WORAK NEWSLETTER**  
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The Hocak Worak is a member of:

**Indigenous Journalists Association**



**INDIGENOUS Journalists Association**



**WNA** **2016**  
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST AWARD WINNER  
WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

# Submit 2026 Graduate Materials Before June 19

Ardith Van Riper, Editor

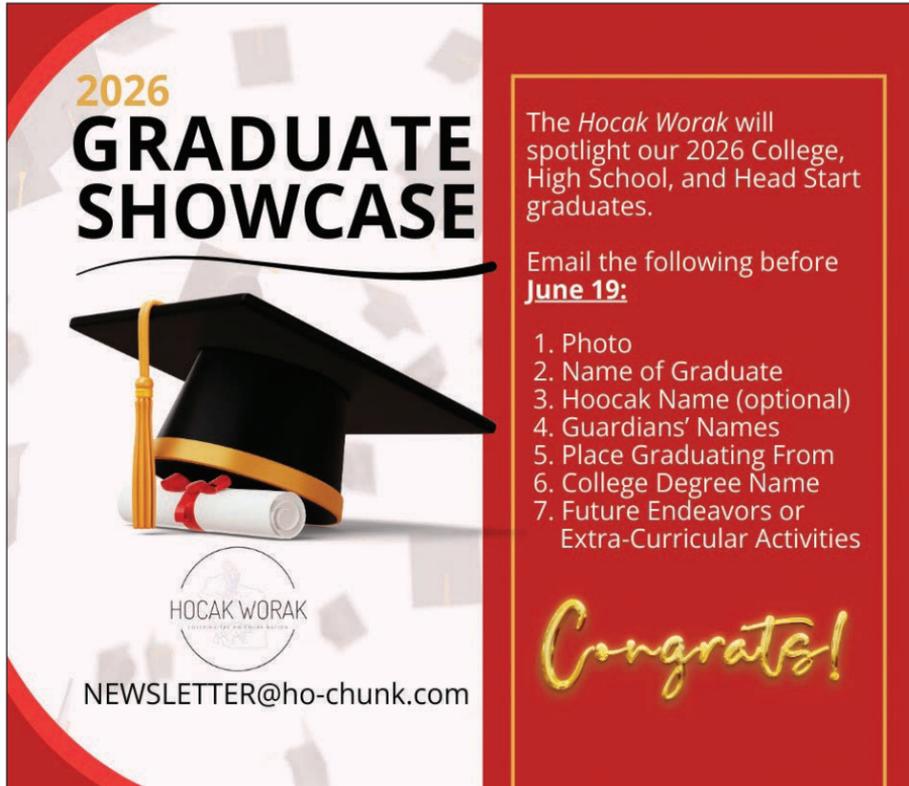
The *Hocak Worak* will feature a special section showcasing our 2026 graduates. The graduates include scholars from College, High School, and Head Start. Families will need to email materials before June 19 to appear in this showcase.

Email Newsletter@ho-chunk.com to submit materials before the June 19 deadline.

The materials include:

1. Photo of graduate
2. Name of graduate
3. Hoocak name (optional)
4. Guardians' names
5. Place graduating from
6. College Degree Name
7. Future Endeavors or Extra-Curricular Activities

The showcase will appear in Issue 12 which publishes June 26.



**2026 GRADUATE SHOWCASE**

The *Hocak Worak* will spotlight our 2026 College, High School, and Head Start graduates.

Email the following before **June 19:**

1. Photo
2. Name of Graduate
3. Hoocak Name (optional)
4. Guardians' Names
5. Place Graduating From
6. College Degree Name
7. Future Endeavors or Extra-Curricular Activities

*Congrats!*

HOCAK WORAK  
NEWSLETTER@ho-chunk.com



**Twelve Clans Shareholder Newsletter**

March 10, 2026

**Second Quarter Activity**

This quarter was marked by quiet progress, coming off our shareholder meeting in December and through the holidays. It has been a reflective period, but we have continued to move forward with our work behind the scenes.

**Annual Shareholder Meeting**

As mentioned, we successfully designed and debuted the shareholder portal at the recent shareholder meeting in December. We wanted a way to interact with all of you when not in person, as well as a way to share important updates and share content immediately on a secure platform. When new content is posted, you will receive a push notification — no need to check repeatedly.

If you have not yet registered for the portal, we strongly encourage you to do so. Going forward, registration for the Shareholder Portal will be required for shareholder meeting attendance. We hope you like this platform as much as we do!

**Shareholder Portal**

**Quarterly Financials**

TCI finished 2025 in a strong position. The total value of everything we manage has grown to \$28.3M — up from \$26.3M at the end of 2024. To put it simply, we grew by about 7.6% over the course of the year.

On the earnings side, our investments generated over \$1.4M in income this year. After covering our operating costs, we finished with just over \$1M in net income meaning the portfolio is not only growing in value, but also generating meaningful returns.

One thing to keep in mind: a portion of our investments are held with outside partners who have not yet provided their final year-end valuations. As a result, some of these numbers may be refined slightly in the coming weeks.

**In Minneapolis**

In light of recent events in Minnesota, we wanted to take the time to share our stance with you. Twelve Clans does not condone the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions taking place in Minneapolis or anywhere else. We want to assure you that Twelve Clans is not engaged in, nor would we ever consider conducting business in connection with ICE or similar endeavors.

Our Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that Twelve Clans conducts itself with integrity, sound moral judgment, and appropriate oversight. If a proposed opportunity ever arises that conflicts with these principles, we will communicate with you

(715) 475-2119 | support@12-clans.com | 12-clans.com | W9814 Airport Road, Black River Falls, WI 54615



# From Family to the Runway

Kaili Berg

The ROOTS Gala & Indigenous Fashion Show held on March 7 in Madison, brought together Indigenous designers, artists, and community members for a night supporting the upcoming ROOTS Pow-wow this April.

Among the featured designers was Waaxu, a Ho-Chunk-owned leatherwork brand that delivered a collection rooted in family, identity, and storytelling.

For Ho-Chunk founder Memphis Cleveland, being part of the gala carried deep meaning.

“Just knowing our line was part of that foundation meant a lot,” Cleveland said.

Waaxu’s collection blended spring colors and plant imagery with Ho-Chunk stories and ancestral connections. One standout piece, a belt inspired by the Seven Maidens and the Big Dipper, quickly became one of the most talked-about designs from the show.

Rather than casting outside models, Cleveland chose to feature family and close friends, those who have helped build Waaxu behind the scenes. From her fiancé modeling workwear pieces to her siblings and loved ones taking the stage, the show became a reflection of the community behind the brand.

“Just having everyone involved who truly believes in the brand made it really emotional,” Cleveland said.

That sense of connection is central to Waaxu.

Founded in December 2023, Waaxu was born out of both necessity and curiosity. After



Photo Credits: Clarissa Friday



Photo Credits: Clarissa Friday

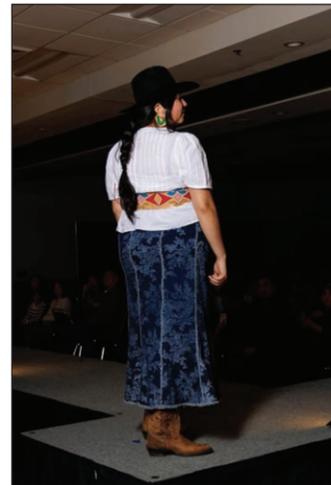


Photo Credits: Clarissa Friday



Photo Credits: Clarissa Friday

discovering that custom rope cans could cost upwards of \$700, Cleveland decided to make one instead.

“I said, you know what, we’re crafty. Obviously we’re Indigenous, we make a lot of our own stuff,” Cleveland said. “I had a lot of the tools, so I said why not take a crack at it.”

What started as a practical solution quickly grew into a business aimed at filling a gap in the Western industry, where Native-inspired designs are common, but Native makers are often underrepresented.

“There’s a lot of Native-inspired work, but there’s not a whole lot of Native people actually in that space,” Cleveland said. “Especially not woodland Native people doing leather craft for work wear or Western fashion.”

The word Waaxu, translates to “leather,” but it also carries a deeper meaning tied to strength and

resilience.

“It also has a double meaning of toughness, like, are you tough?” Cleveland said. “You have to be very tough to make it in the Western world. That same toughness and resilience also shows up in being Indigenous every day.”

While Cleveland leads the design and creative vision, Waaxu is deeply rooted in family.

Her fiancé assists with hands-on production work, from cutting and measuring to painting. Her younger sister plays a key role in shaping the brand’s digital presence, managing social media and contributing to visual decisions like color theory.

Her brothers serve as brand ambassadors, wearing Waaxu pieces at powwows and events across the country. Her mother brings her own expertise in fashion and sewing, helping style runway presentations and refine the brand’s overall look.

“It is my brand and I do a lot of

the design and creative work, but it wouldn’t be what it is without my family,” Cleveland said.

Cleveland hopes to grow the brand into a sustainable business that supports her family while maintaining its cultural integrity. That growth includes investing in better tools, expanding production, and eventually opening a storefront.

“I’d love to eventually open a storefront where we can sell our pieces and possibly do consignment,” Cleveland said.

For now, Cleveland is balancing the business with finishing her bachelor’s degree, with plans to pursue larger shows and opportunities after graduation.

“We’re still a startup, but we have big plans,” Cleveland said.

Those interested in following Waaxu’s journey can find the brand on Facebook under “waaxu,” as well as on Instagram (@waaxu\_) and TikTok (@waaxu.llc).

# Representatives Attend ROOTS Gala & Indigenous Fashion Show

Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Shelby Visintin, and Rep. Ed Mullen were proud to attend the ROOTS Gala &

Indigenous Fashion Show in Madison at the Alliant Energy Center of Dane County earlier this month. The evening showcased Indigenous creativity, culture,

and community, while also supporting the upcoming ROOTS Pow-wow taking place this April. Guests enjoyed a vibrant Indigenous fashion showcase,

meaningful storytelling, and an elegant atmosphere. The event featured designs by Ava Belisle, Audra Two Thunders, Memphis Cleveland, Danielle George,

and Elicia Leonard. It was a good evening highlighting Native artists, honoring cultural expression, and bringing everyone together in a good way.



Representatives attending the ROOTS Gala & Indigenous Fashion Show. Pictured left to right: Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. Ed Mullen, and Rep. Sandra Whitewing. Photo credit: Clarissa Friday / Native Clarity Photography



Models take the runway during the ROOTS Gala & Indigenous Fashion Show, highlighting Indigenous fashion, creativity, and expression. Photo credit: Clarissa Friday / Native Clarity Photography



ROOTS Gala & Indigenous Fashion Show coordinator Shane Funmaker stands with event host Eric Logan during the evening's program. Photo credit: Clarissa Friday / Native Clarity Photography



Legislative table crew enjoying the evening at the ROOTS Gala & Indigenous Fashion Show. Pictured left to right: Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Carmen Redcloud, Janiah Stewart, Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Ed Mullen, Isabella Escamilla, and Shane Yellow Thunder. Photo credit: Clarissa Friday / Native Clarity Photography

*Indian Baptist Church of Wisconsin Dells*  
**Easter Sunday Services**

*Fellowship light breakfast at 8:00 AM*  
*Easter Service at 9:00 AM*

*Come join us, our house of the lord is open to everyone.*  
*God bless us all. Peace!*

*Ewangelium Wakanjank Johnga Wagaxra*  
*Johnga Hoera II - 25 Jesus hinugjega wagena*  
*Wankshig-hakhihara newinena, egi wankshighoira. Hisha harnaixgungishi, d'egishge, niambikjanena. 26 Egi peshe niambjegi egi harnaixgungi, inkaga d'arnikjanena. De'e harnaigushe?*

**Sunday April 5th 2026**

*N460 WI-16 WISCONSIN DELLS*

**cloud village**

**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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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

*In Loving Memory*  
**4th Memorial Gathering**

**Dale Louise White Eagle**  
*"Ahuusgainga"*  
December 3, 1937 – May 23, 2022

Please join us as we come together to honor, remember, and celebrate her life.

**Friday, May 22nd**  
Dinner begins at 5:00 PM  
Lunch will be served on Saturday at 11:30 AM  
Meeting to follow after dinner

**Sanford WhiteEagle Legion Post**  
E11046 North Reedsburg Road  
Baraboo, WI 53913

**Ho-Chunk Elders**

Are you have problems filling your prescription drugs; Benistar or Express Scripts?

We can help, contact the Ho-Chunk Insurance Division  
1-800-232-0086.

# CNA Survey Report Intro

The Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) Survey was sponsored by the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature and led by the Division of Planning and Development. With the assistance of our dedicated field workers, we were able to reach over 1,000 tribal members to gather important feedback that will help guide future planning and decision-making for the Nation. Together, these efforts ensured that the voices of tribal members were heard and reflected throughout the process.

The CNA field surveyors traveled many miles across multiple communities to ensure tribal members had the opportunity to participate in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Through door-to-door outreach, phone calls, and continued follow-ups, they connected with many tribal members and spent many hours assisting individuals with completing the survey. They went above and beyond to reach tribal members who might not otherwise

have had their voices heard. Their dedication, persistence, and commitment to the community helped ensure that valuable input was gathered to help guide future planning for the Nation.

A sincere thank you to Kelly Funmaker, Vanetta Cloud, and Cassandra Rave for their hard work, determination, and commitment to serving the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Below is the final report written by Vanetta Cloud reflecting on her experience as a CNA field surveyor.



**Kelly Funmaker assisting Tribal Member at the Siga Funmaker Community Center near Wittenberg, WI.**

## CNA Survey Report

Written By: Vanetta Cloud  
Planning & Development

Serving as a surveyor for the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) was more than just a month-long assignment it became a journey of personal growth, community connection, emotional strength, and cultural responsibility.

Looking back on the experience, I truly realize how much it pushed me, how much it taught me, and how deeply it connected me to my people. When I officially completed my work on December 9th, 2025, I felt something powerful pride. Real pride. The kind that fills your chest when you know you gave something your all.

On the closing date, December 5<sup>th</sup>, I saw the stack of surveys I had entered, and I honestly couldn't believe it. Every page represented a door knocked on, a conversation started, a follow-up call, a hesitant voice reassured, every signature represented trust. Every checkbox held someone's truth. And I had the honor of being the bridge connecting those truths to the people who will use them to shape our future. It reminded me that hard work adds up, even when the days feel long and the progress feels slow.

### Travels Across Wisconsin: Connecting With Community

During this assignment, I traveled through several communities, each with its own stories, challenges, and strengths. My routes took me through:

- Black River Falls (BRF)
- Tomah
- La Crosse
- Madison
- Wisconsin Dells
- Milwaukee
- Eau Claire

Being on the road so much was not easy I was tired, sometimes lonely, sometimes unsure but every time I reached a new community and connected with a tribal member, it reminded me why I was doing this. Some people recognized me instantly. Others had no idea who I was. Some were welcoming, others were unsure. But every interaction mattered. Every place offered something new faces, new struggles, new opportunities, new strengths. Some communities had tight-knit groups who were eager to help. Others had individuals who were more reserved, more cautious, or unsure if their voice mattered.

Traveling wasn't always easy. Long drives, dark roads, gas station snacks, and

moments when I wondered, "Am I really doing enough?" But every time I reached someone who said yes, who said thank you, who said "I'm glad you came all this way," it reminded me why this work matters.

Traveling became more than a task it became a reminder of how big our community truly is, and how important it is that all voices, from all districts and regions, are heard.

### Stepping Out of My Comfort Zone: Door-to-Door Outreach

I won't lie going door to door was the biggest push outside my comfort zone. It takes courage to knock on a stranger's door with a smile and a clipboard. I felt nervous at first, but as time went on, I learned something important: some of our most valuable voices come from the people who aren't online, who don't attend General Council, who aren't showing up on tribal social media pages.

By going directly to them, I found people who would've never been reached otherwise. And once they knew the purpose of the survey, many opened up with honesty and gratitude. I listened to concerns, hopes, and frustrations each one a reminder that our people deserve to be heard. Some were shy. Some were excited. Some were skeptical. Some were lonely.

But each one reminded me that connection is powerful, and sometimes all someone needs is a person to show up and ask, "Can I hear your voice?"

### Our Elders: Wisdom, Patience, and Heart

Helping our tribal elders was one of the most meaningful parts of this work. I personally assisted five elders with completing their surveys. Some needed help reading questions, writing, others needed help understanding the purpose. What mattered most was giving them the respect, care, and patience they deserved.

Elders shared stories, memories, and worries with me. Sometimes I left their homes feeling emotional honored that they trusted me with their voices and reminded of the generations we are responsible for protecting. Their wisdom repeated in my mind throughout the whole assignment.

### Confidentiality Concerns: Building Trust One Conversation at a Time

One of the biggest barriers tribal members expressed was

confidentiality. Many were nervous, unsure, or afraid that their information wouldn't remain private. When one individual in particular was hesitant, I reached out to Planning & Development Director Darcy Funmaker. Darcy personally explained the confidentiality process, answered questions, and helped reassure the tribal member. After that conversation, they agreed to take the survey with confidence and trust.

Moments like that reminded me that transparency and communication are powerful. It showed me that trust must be earned, and sometimes it takes more than one voice to build that trust.

### Memorable Encounters: The Good, The Surprising, and The "Nice Try" Moments

Throughout this job, I met:

- Tribal members who were excited to participate
- Tribal members who wanted nothing to do with the survey
- Tribal members who wanted to be paid twice (nice try!)
- Tribal members who surprised me with kindness

### A Powerful Moment: The Elder Who Walked to Me With Her Survey

One of the most emotional moments of this entire job happened unexpectedly.

There was a tribal elder who I had followed up with again and again. Every time I asked, she would say,

*"No, I haven't finished it yet... I'll start it soon."*

I never pushed too hard, but I always encouraged her gently. I hoped she would eventually take the step when she felt ready. Then one day, I was outside doing chores nothing special, just an ordinary moment and I saw her walking slowly toward me with her cane. My heart stopped for a second. She smiled and said:

*"Oh, I was getting my steps in and I seen you outside."*

Then she handed me her completed survey. Her effort, her determination, the fact she chose to bring it to me herself.

### Persistence: The Art of Following Up

This job required determination. A lot of it. I made countless follow-up calls and messages:

"Did you start the survey?"

"Are you planning to finish soon?"

"Do you need help completing it?"

So many messages.

So many phone calls.

So many reminders.

So many "not yet," "maybe later," and "I forgot."

Some tribal members were eager. Others avoided me like I was collecting bills instead of surveys. Some said "maybe later," some said "sure," and some said "no." And that was all part of it.

But I never gave up on people. I respected their time, their hesitations, and their boundaries. And some of the people who needed the most reminders ended up being the ones who thanked me the most in the end. But every time someone said yes especially after hesitation it felt like a small victory not for me, but for the community's future.

The outreach efforts required strong teamwork and collaboration among staff, particularly with former surveyors Kelly Funmaker and Cassandra Rave. Due to scheduling conflicts, geographic limitations, Coordination and communication among the team were essential to ensure coverage, share information, and provide consistent messaging to tribal members. Teamwork played a critical role in addressing challenges and maintaining continuity throughout the outreach process.

At various points during outreach, staff encountered demanding or time-sensitive situations. Some tribal members expressed frustration or made immediate requests, related to payment or compensation. These situations required patience, professionalism, and clear communication to manage expectations and provide accurate information. Staff worked collaboratively to respond to concerns respectfully while maintaining program guidelines and procedures.

### Emotional Reflections: What This Experience Meant to Me

This assignment was emotional in ways I didn't expect. There were days I felt overwhelmed, questioning whether my efforts were making a difference. There were moments of frustration, especially when facing rejection or lack of interest. There were times I felt exhausted from traveling long hours, knocking on doors, and following up over and over.

But there were also moments that filled my heart:

- When elders thanked me for taking the time to help them
- When hesitant members finally decided their voices mattered



- When someone said, "Thank you for caring enough to ask"
- When I looked at the final stack of completed surveys and realized I did that. I really did that.

This work reminded me of who I am, where I come from, and what community truly means. It made me proud of my perseverance and proud of the people who trusted me along the way.

### Acknowledgments

A huge thank you and shout-out to:

Darcy Funmaker, Planning & Development Director

The entire Planning & Development Team

Ryan

Every tribal member who participated your voice matters

CNA Board members

Sweet grass consulting

Thank you all for helping make this project meaningful

### Conclusion

Being a CNA surveyor was more than a month of work it was a personal mission. I grew, I learned, I connected, and most importantly, I contributed to something that will help shape the future needs of our people. This CNA assignment wasn't just a job.

It was emotional.

It was powerful.

It was meaningful.

It was healing.

It was challenging.

It taught me courage.

It taught me patience.

It taught me empathy.

It taught me community.

I learned that every voice matters even the quiet ones, even the hesitant ones, even the ones that doubt themselves.

This experience helped me grow in ways I never expected. It made me feel more connected to my people, more aware of our struggles, and more hopeful for our future. I walked away with a stronger sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of what it means to serve your community with heart.

I'm proud of myself, proud of our community, and proud of the work we accomplished together.

SAVE THE DATE



2026 HO-CHUNK NATION

FAMILY HEALING CAMP

August 4, 5, & 6

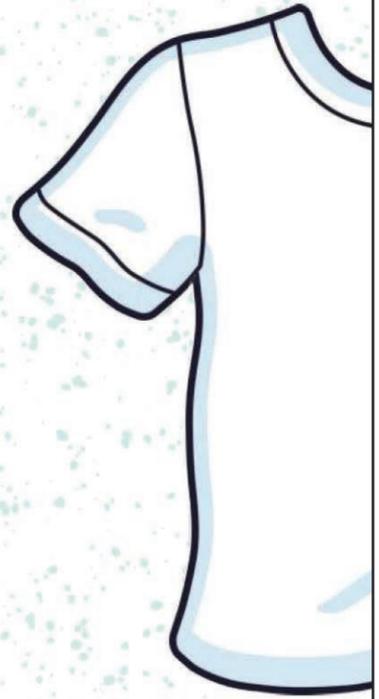
Andrew Blackhawk Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds

W8426 WI-54 Black River Falls, WI



Questions and Updates? FHC@ho-chunk.com facebook.com/groups/familyhealingcamp

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



Ho-Chunk Nation Dept. of Housing

Monday March 30th

Q&A

4pm - 5pm

Mauston

Waaqšik Maq

5826 43rd St. Mauston, WI 53950



Questions? Contact Kaleena Emery at Kaleenaemery@Ho-Chunk.com

HO-CHUNK NATION

Dept. of Housing Q&A

NEKOOSA

4:00PM - 5:00PM

Nekoosa Branch Office 916 Chak Ha Chee Ln. Nekoosa, WI 54457

APRIL 20 2026



Questions? Contact Kaleena Emery at Kaleenaemery@ho-chunk.com

Youth Spring Pow Wow

Open to the public

HEAD DANCER SPECIAL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

April 11th, 2026

Doors open @NOON

Potluck @ 1:00PM \*Bring a dish to pass\*

Grand Entry @ 2:00PM

MC: Matt Mann Arena Director: Corey Hindsley

Drum Groups: Bad Fish Creek Singers / Nioxawani Youth Drum Group

Head Female: Marselena Roth

Head Male: Hudson Bird

Blanket Dance Payout for dancers in regalia



TOMAH YOUTH CENTER 430 Julie Street



PART-TIME CORRECTIONS OFFICER JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jackson County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications to fill current part-time Corrections Officer vacancies. Position is responsible for guarding inmates in the penal institution in accordance with established policies, regulations, and procedures. This is a non-sworn position without arrest powers.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, post-secondary course work and/or knowledge of public safety and security is preferred. Must possess a valid Wisconsin driver's license.

2026 Starting Wage is \$25.34 per hour. These are non-benefited positions.

To apply, scan the QR code or visit our Employment Opportunities page at www.co.jackson.wi.us. Deadline will remain open until filled.



Jackson County Human Resources Department 307 Main Street - 2nd Floor Black River Falls, WI 54615 715-284-0216 www.co.jackson.wi.us

Jackson County is an EEO/AA/ADA Employer Jackson County is a Family Friendly Workplace

# Save the Date - May 16, 2026

Registration Opens January 1



## Duathlon, 5K Color Fun Run/Walk, and Youth Run

[www.jacksoninaction.org/pace-and-pedal](http://www.jacksoninaction.org/pace-and-pedal)



# HEALING CIRCLE

Physical • Emotional • Mental • Spiritual Healing

Healing Circle is an in-person therapy group for adults who are working toward recovery from substance use and navigating mental health challenges. This group provides a safe, welcoming, trauma-informed, and culturally respectful environment focused on healing, balance, and personal growth.

Drawing from 12-Step foundations, Medicine Wheel teachings, and evidence-based therapy approaches, participants are supported in strengthening wellness of the mind, body, spirit, and community.

### GROUP DETAILS

- Location:** Ni Tani Hocira (Three Rivers House) 724 Main Street, La Crosse, WI
- Days:** Thursdays 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
- Start Date:** April 2, 2026
- Duration:** 12-Week Closed Group

### REGISTRATION

- Registration Required
- Space Limited to 10 Participants
- Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2026

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



or visit [hcn-bh.typeform.com/HealingCircle](http://hcn-bh.typeform.com/HealingCircle)

### OPEN TO

- Adults age 18 and older of all genders
- Individuals seeking recovery from substance use
- Those with co-occurring mental health concerns
- Participants at any stage of recovery

**FACILITATED BY**  
Tanya Kessen, MSE, LPC, SAC-IT  
Donald Greengrass Sr., SAC

Continued from Page 1  
Program, also known as tsnap, which operated during the Federal Shutdown when SNAP benefits were cut off for recipients.

Another project, Cloud Village in Baraboo, WI, was named a Top Project by the Daily Reporter, a program that honors the state's top construction projects and showcases the impact and stories behind significant developments.

Lastly, a major project that has been in the works for many years is the topping-off ceremony at Ho-Chunk Gaming – Beloit. The facility is scheduled to open on September 26.

The Ho-Chunk Nation President, Jon Greendeer, then made his address. He began by thanking the drum group, the Veterans, the Auxiliary, the meal preparers, the event planners, Mr. Eric Logan, and Representative Stephanie Begay.

President Greendeer shared a trickster story of the first buzzards. Stories like this were shared to inspire younger ones not to be greedy and to respect elders.

He then thanked the Traditional Chief Clayton Winneshiek for the invocation.

“Wow! A lot has happened in a year,”

said President Greendeer. “And it seems like a pretty short year.”

The President shared his experience with a heart attack and how those around him aided in his recovery. He paid tribute to the late Jean Stacy-Snow and her role within the Ho-Chunk Nation.

“We are, to my knowledge, the only people named from our language and not the other way around,” said Jon Greendeer, and he expressed the importance of the Ho-Chunk language and practicing words in everyday life.

He spoke about our ancestors and the teachings they passed along. The younger ones who repeat or remember these teachings should pass that knowledge on.

“Here’s the deal, we get to be a part of the evolution of people, those of them before us who had less resources, and more expectations and if we knew what they did to get here, we wouldn’t have a single day that we could complain about,” said President Jon Greendeer.

He continued, “It’s important to carve out time to recognize those, and this is what Founders Day and what the

*Continued on Page 13*

NEW

# LIVE WELL, PREVENT DIABETES!

**APRIL 2026 – JUNE 2026**

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM VIA WEBEX OR IN PERSON  
(12:30 PM PST / 1:30 PM MST / 2:30 PM CST / 3:30 PM EST)

The Live Well, Prevent Diabetes! Program is a 12 week program designed for people with prediabetes, or those who are at high risk for type 2 diabetes, and want to lower their risk. The class will be available online and in person. Every other session will be interactive.

Webex Invites will be sent out the day before class, you must have a minimum of a phone and e-mail address to participate. Please reach out to Rachel Montana or Lyndsey Killian to register.

Rachel Montana  
715-284-9851 ext. 35039  
[rachel.montana@ho-chunk.com](mailto:rachel.montana@ho-chunk.com)

Lyndsey Killian  
715-284-9851 ext. 35068  
[lyndsey.killian@ho-chunk.com](mailto:lyndsey.killian@ho-chunk.com)



**Session 1: April 14th - Intro & Prevent T2**

- Kathleen Clemons at Ho Chunk Healthcare Center - Eileen Decorah Classroom or WebEx

**Session 2: April 21st - Intro to Yoga (Interactive)**

- Jessica Artz at the Nekoosa Branch Office - Conference Room or WebEx

**Session 3: April 28th - Getting Active & Tracking Activity**

- Jessica Artz at Nekoosa Health Office - Conference Room or WebEx

**Session 4: May 5th - Roasting and Air Frying Vegetables (Interactive)**

- Kathy Braaten at Ho Chunk Healthcare Center - Eileen Decorah Classroom or Webex.

**Session 5: May 12th - Shopping/Cooking, & Eating Well Away From Home**

- Kathy Braaten at Ho Chunk Healthcare Center - Eileen Decorah Classroom or WebEx

**Session 6: May 19th - Strength Concepts (Interactive)**

- Kathleen Clemons at Ho Chunk Healthcare Center - Eileen Decorah Classroom or WebEx

**Session 7: May 26th - Coping with Triggers/Stress, & Building Support.**

- Heather Jerzak at Ho Chunk Community Health - Conference Room or WebEx

**Session 8: June 2nd - Lean Protein Cooking Methods (Interactive)**

- Alex Richeson at House of Wellness - Cafeteria/Kitchen or WebEx

**Session 9: June 9th - Eating Well & Tracking Food**

- Kyla Ripp at House of Wellness - Alberta Day Room or WebEx

**Session 10: June 16th - Chair Exercises w/Progressions (Interactive)**

- Nick Butchart at House of Wellness - Alberta Day Room or WebEx

**Session 11: June 23rd - Staying Motivated & When Weight Loss Stalls**

- Alex Richeson at House of Wellness - Alberta Day Room or WebEx

**Session 12: June 30th - Salads and Homemade Dressings (Interactive)**

- Heather Jerzak at Ho Chunk Healthcare Center - Eileen Decorah Classroom or WebEx

1/6/25 UK

# APRIL 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 <small>WITTENBERG DISTRIBUTION 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM FOOD DEMOS- KATHY</small>	2 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	3 <small>CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY</small>
6 <small>CLOSED EASTER</small>	7 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	8 <small>WIS DELLS DISTRIBUTION 10 AM- 12:30 PM Nutrition Booth- ALEX</small>	9 <small>REEDSBURG HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF</small>	10 <small>WI DELLS HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF</small>
13 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	14 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	15 <small>TOMAH DISTRIBUTION 12N- 1:00</small>	16 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	17 <small>LA CROSSE PICKUPS OPEN BRF</small>
20 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	21 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	22 <small>NEKOOSA DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00 PM Nutrition Booth - Alex</small>	23 <small>OPEN BRF</small>	24 <small>CLOSED MONTHLY SHIPMENT</small>
27 <small>OPEN BRF FOOD DEMOS -KATHY</small>	28 <small>OPEN BRF LAST PICKUP DAY</small>	29 <small>CLOSED ALL-STAFF</small>	30 <small>CLOSED INVENTORY</small>	

\*\*CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS\*\*

# Jackson In Action's Earth Day Highway Cleanup

## Sat, April 25, 2026 9am-11am

We will be cleaning up the stretch of highway surrounding Wazee Lake Recreation Area, along N Brockway and Castle Mound Rd.

Meet at the intersection of W Bauer Rd and N Brockway Rd at 9am. Trash bags and gloves will be provided.

Questions? Contact Kathleen Clemons 715-299-0870





**HHCDA Board of Commissioners  
February Regular Meeting**

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
12:00 pm

**HHCDA Main Office**  
1116 E Monowua St  
Tomah, WI  
54660

Meeting Minute

**Roll Call:**

Chairperson Missy Red Cloud (p)	Commissioner Kelly LaMere (p)
Vice Chair Mike Goze (p)	Commissioner Cheri Byhre (p)
Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. (p)	Commissioner Ben Krause (p/v)
Commissioner Lucinda Lonetree (p)	Commissioner Rebecca Nambo (p)
Commissioner Fidel Delarosa (p)	Commissioner Wilfrid Cleveland (p)
Commissioner Marlys Whiteagle (np)	

**Opening Prayer:**

Opening prayer provided by Commissioner Mike Goze

**Agenda Approval:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo. **Motion Carried 7-0-0**

**Meeting Minute Ratification:** (October 2025 Regular Meeting, January Regular Meeting, 2026 Annual Meeting)

**Motion** by Commissioner Mike Goze ratify the October 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, January Regular Meeting Minutes, and 2026 Annual Meeting Minutes. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Cheri Byhre. **Motion Carried 7-0-0**

**Phone Poll Ratification:** GLIHA Poll, February Regular Meeting Date Change Poll

**Motion** by Commissioner Mike Goze to ratify the Phone polls with correction to Meeting Change Poll. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. **Motion Carried 7-0-0**  
Commissioner Kelly La Mere arrives at 12:15

**Attendees:**

Stella Kruse is present to discuss a tenant issue.

**Executive Session:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. to enter Executive Session. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo. **Motion Carried 8-0-0**

Board Enters Executive Session at 12:36 pm

Commissioner Ben Krause arrives at 12:45

Board returns from Executive Session at 1:25 pm

**Area Concerns:**

**Executive Director Report:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Cheri Byhre to accept the Executive Directors report. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo. **Motion Carried 8-1-0**

**Budget Modifications:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Ben Krause to approve the budget modification to buy a Toyota crossover. And, that the purchase be tax exempt. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. **Motion Carried 9-0-0**

CRTC Budget Increase:

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. to table the CRTC true budget increase.

**Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Cheri Byhre. **Motion Carried 9-0-0**

**Unfinished Business:**

**Chief Financial Officer:**

**Community Engagement Director:**

**Junior Accountant:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Ben Krause to approve the HHCDA Chief Financial Officer, HHCDA Community Engagement Director, and HHCDA Junior Accountant as long as the jobs are publicly posted for the normal amount of time and reclassified back to non-flex. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Mike Goze. **Motion Carried 9-0-0**

**Organization Chart:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Ben Krause to table the Organization Chart until budget mods are presented to the Board. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Fidel Delarosa. **Motion Defeated 2-5-2**

**Motion** by Commissioner Mike Goze to approve the proposed Organization Chart. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo.

**Motion Carried 7-1-1** Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr., Commissioner Ben Krause

*Note for Record: Commissioner Cheri Byhre wants it noted for record she does not have issues with any staff. Commissioner Cheri Byhre concern is that a position is being created specifically for an individual at HHCDA.*

**Intact Budget Modification:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Cheri Byhre to remove the intact budget modification from agenda. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Lucinda Lonetree. **Motion Carried 9-0-0**

**Essential Needs Policy:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. to approve the HHCDA Essential Needs Policy.

**Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo. **Motion Carried 9-0-0**

**New Business:**

Commissioner Ben Krause leaves at 4:03 pm

**HHCDA Whistleblower Policy:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo to table the HHCDA Whistle Blower Policy. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Wilfrid Cleveland. **Motion Carried 7-1-0** Commissioner Fidel Delarosa

**Credit Card Policy:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. to approve the HHCDA Credit Card Policy. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo. **Motion Carried 8-0-0**

**Supportive Housing Stipend Policy:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass to approve the Supportive Housing Stipend Policy. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Cheri Byhre. **Motion Carried 8-0-0**

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. to approve the Family Supportive Housing budget modification. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Mike Goze. **Motion Carried 8-0-0**

**Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. to ratify the Meeting Minutes via phone poll within 5 days following the completion of the meeting. No reply shall be recorded as affirmative. Meeting Minutes shall be posted 5 days following ratification. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Mike Goze.

**Motion Carried 8-0-0**

**Motion** by Commissioner Cheri Byhre that Regular Meetings that coincide with Quarterly Meeting shall be held on third Wednesday of the month. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Mike Goze.

**Motion Carried 8-0-0**

**Web Ex protocol:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Lucinda Lonetree that Regular Meetings can be attended on via Web Ex. But must keep cameras on **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Cheri Byhre **Motion Carried 8-0-0**  
HHCDA Employees talking to Commissioners and staff:

**Motion** by Commissioner Wilfrid Cleveland that HHCDA staff follow Chain of Command and policy regarding any issue. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Lucinda Lonetree. **Motion Carried 7-0-1**

Commissioner Cheri Byhre

Remote work:

**Motion** by Commissioner Rebecca Nambo that employees must return to work. No more working from home. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Lucinda Lonetree. **Motion Carried 7-0-1** Commissioner Wilfrid Cleveland

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by Commissioner Mike Goze to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Donald Greengrass Sr. **Motion Carried 8-0-0**

Meeting is adjourned at 5:14 pm

**Next Meeting:**

March Regular Meeting

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

12:00 pm

HHCDA Main Office

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Adam M. Kruse*

Adam M. Kruse

HHCDA Board Secretary

**Sandra S. Winneshiek**  
**November 9, 1950 - March 21, 2026**



Sandra Swan Winneshiek (Peč Kere Wiga) “Firekeeper,” 75, of Tomah, WI, was called home on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the Veterans Medical Center in Tomah—the same place where she devoted her career to caring for those who served. She spent her final moments among the veterans she so faithfully supported.

Sandra was born on November 9, 1950, in Neillsville, WI, to Gloria Blackhawk-Rodriguez and was raised by Chief John and Lorraine (Swan) Winneshiek. She graduated from Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids and, at the age of 17, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. She proudly served her country and was a Vietnam-era Veteran. Following her honorable discharge, she worked in Social Services and for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

She later dedicated the remainder of her career to the Veterans Administration, traveling to VA facilities across the country. Through her work, she helped countless servicemen and women access the benefits and support they earned through their military service.

After retiring from the VA, Sandra returned to the Ho-Chunk Nation and served as a Tribal Veterans Service Officer. During this time, she uncovered the stories of 14 Ho-Chunk men who, while serving during World War II, were assigned as radio operators. Through her tireless advocacy, these men were recognized as Code Talkers, whose contributions significantly impacted United States military success. This achievement was among her proudest, and she was deeply honored to bring this recognition to her Ho-Chunk relatives.

Sandra loved to travel and attend powwows with her family while sharing the teachings and values of the powwow circle. She was a champion Women’s Traditional dancer. Wherever she went, she formed lasting friendships with ease and was never without good company.

Sandra married Donald Collins and together they had three children, Michelle, Fletcher and William. She and Donald later divorced.

Sandra is survived by her children, Michelle Winneshiek of Tomah and Fletcher (Adrienne) Collins of Wausau. She is further survived by her eleven grandchildren: Merona Jefferson, Sebastian Jefferson, Tahlin Jefferson,

Gianteo Jefferson, Jasmyne Collins, Donovan (Rita) Collins, Cameryn Collins, Gracelyn Collins, Decklin (Daunte) Youngthunder, Brooklyn Collins, and Jayden Collins; and by her seven great-grandchildren; Addison, Mila, Kyson, Kimber, Oaklee, Rosella and Sushana.

She is also survived by her brother, William Winneshiek, and her sister, Lori Brennan-Almeida of Rhode Island, along with many other relatives and friends.

Lastly, she leaves behind her cherished weiner dog, Lollipop.

Sandra was preceded in death by her son, William Collins; her mother; her parents who raised her; and her siblings, George Winneshiek, Chief Michael Winneshiek, and Pamela Winneshiek.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of the Tomah Veterans Medical Center for their exceptional care of Sandra, and to the many Ho-Chunk relatives and friends who were present or sent their well wishes.

Traditional Ho-Chunk services with Military Honors will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Blue Wing Community Center. Robert Mann and Priscilla (C-Ann) Cleveland will officiate. Burial will follow at Waub Mee Mee Cemetery in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

Visitation will be held on Monday, March 23, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah, and again on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the Blue Wing Community Center.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at [www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com).

**Vanverd Dick, Jr.**  
**October 1, 1946 – March 10, 2026**

Vanverd Dick Jr. “WakajaMaąąñ”, age 79, of Window Rock, Arizona passed away Tuesday, March 10, 2026 in Arizona.

Visitation will be from 2:00-4:00 pm on Friday, March 13, 2026 at the Cex Haci Community Building in Nekoosa, followed by Native American Church Services Friday evening. Commitment services will be at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 14 at Cex Haci. Wilfrid Cleveland will officiate. Burial will be at Dexterville Cemetery with military honors provided by Joseph White American Legion Post 442.

Vanverd was born October 1, 1946 in Wisconsin Rapids to Vanverd Sr. and Emaline (Grizzlybear) Dick. He

was drafted and served his country honorably with the United States Navy in the Vietnam War from 1966 – 1971.

Vanverd worked as an auto body mechanic in Chicago, IL and in security at Rainbow Casino in Nekoosa. He retired as a draftman from General Dynamics in Fort Defiance, AZ.

Vanverd was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a devout lifelong member of the Native American Church and had a strong faith in Creator God. He enjoyed doing Native arts and crafts. He loved to travel with his beloved wife, June Nakai-Dick, who passed away just 8 days prior to Vanverd after 55 years of marriage.

Vanverd is survived by four children, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many extended family and relatives. In addition to his wife, June, he is preceded in death by his parents Vanverd and Emaline Dick Sr. and siblings: Crandall, Lorna, Nathan, Lenora, Elaine, Norbert and Keith.

Herman-Taylor Funeral Home is honored to be assisting the family.



## NOTICE RIGHT TO OBJECT

In accordance with HCC 8 §14 Title Transfer & Recording Act

Ho-Chunk Member, ANGELA MCCABE & CHEYENNE MIKE, has submitted a Request for Title for Permanent Improvements located at: S1030 WINNESHIEK ST WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965

And more particularly described as: LOT 13 WITHIN THE SE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 13 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST, TOWNSHIP 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 20, 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.

### SUMMONS (Fourth 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 **7<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice Seeks Letters of Interest for its Board of Directors

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking qualified and dedicated individuals to serve on its Board of Directors. The DOJ functions as the defender of the sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation for all its branches of government on matters that concern the Nation's interest and welfare. The appointment term will be for a period of two (2) years.

The purpose of the DOJ Board of Directors is:

- To serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Attorney General;
- To participate in the Department's strategic planning;
- To consult during the development of the Department's annual goals and objectives.

**Qualifications:** Board Members are to possess the requisite skills, knowledge, and education to provide professional and expert advice and recommendations to the Attorney General. The Board of Directors will meet at least two times per year, in addition to special meetings as needed. Compensation will be provided for attendance at each Board Meeting at the rate established by the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature.

If interested in serving on the DOJ Board of Directors, please submit a letter of interest, including your qualifications to the address listed below by **no later than April 3rd, 2026.**

For more information, please contact Jennifer Arms at the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice at 715-284-3170 or e-mail at [DOJHotline@ho-chunk.com](mailto:DOJHotline@ho-chunk.com).

#### Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice

PO Box 667, W9814 Airport Rd  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
Phone (715) 284-3170 • (800) 501-8039 • FAX (715)284-7851

### The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice Seeks Letters of Interest for the HCN Police Department Advisory Board

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice is seeking qualified and dedicated individuals to serve on its Police Department Advisory Board. The Police Department Advisory Board serves to advise the Ho-Chunk Police Department and Attorney General on Police Department matters. The Advisory Board will meet no less than quarterly and members will serve staggered terms of one (1) to three (3) years.

The duties of the Police Advisory Board are:

- To serve as an advisory board to the Ho-Chunk Nation Chief of Police pertaining to needs management for the department;
- Provide recommendations to the Attorney General regarding all policies and procedures for the Ho-Chunk Nation Police Department;
- Assist and provide the Attorney General with hiring recommendations for the position of Chief of Police;
- Provide recommendations to the Attorney General for an interim Chief of Police, when the position is vacant and before a permanent Chief of Police is hired;
- Assist the Attorney General in the investigation of any formal complaints against the Chief of Police and issue a recommendation to the Attorney General regarding any appropriate discipline if necessary;
- Assist the Attorney General and the Chief of Police in determining disciplinary actions for officers.

**Qualifications:** A board member must meet the following criteria to be considered for appointment:

- Current or former law enforcement officer with at least three (3) years of experience;
- Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Member;
- At least twenty-five (25) years of age;
- Complete a satisfactory background investigation (no felony convictions);
- Cannot be an employee of the HCN Police Department;
- Cannot be an immediate family member of the Attorney General, an attorney from the Department of Justice, or the HCN Police Department.

If interested in serving on the Police Department Advisory Board, please submit a letter of interest including your qualifications to the address listed below by **no later than April 3rd, 2026.**

For more information, please contact Jennifer Arms at the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice at 715-284-3170 or e-mail at [DOJHotline@ho-chunk.com](mailto:DOJHotline@ho-chunk.com).

#### Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice

PO Box 667, W9814 Airport Road  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
Phone (715) 284-3170 • (800) 501-8039 • FAX (715) 284-7851

## 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](mailto: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**

DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE



BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING
Tribal Office Building
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615 Wednesday,
April 15, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

Twin Cities AREA MEETING
St. Paul Branch Office
1724 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
Thursday, April 16, 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: 3/17/26



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, APRIL 13, 2026 6:00PM

TOMAH AREA | BLUE WING COMMUNITY BUILDING
324 Epinal Avenue Tomah, WI
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 6:00PM

BARABOO/WI DELLS/MAUSTON AREA | INDIAN HEIGHTS
975 Dyer Street Wisconsin Dells, WI
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 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 3/17/26

DISTRICT 3 AREA MEETING NOTICE



MILWAUKEE | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026 | 5:30 PM
WITTENBERG | MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 | 6:00 PM
GREEN BAY | TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 | 6:00 PM
MADISON | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026 | 6:00 PM
WI RAPIDS | THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 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 3/17/26

District 4 Area Meeting Notice



IN PERSON / VIRTUAL DISTRICT 4 AREA MEETING
Chicago Branch Office
4738 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60630
Monday, April 13 2026
6:00pm CST

VIRTUAL DISTRICT 4 AREA MEETING
Available via WebEx
Wednesday, April 15 2026
6:00pm PST

3/17/2025 - 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 HOUSING

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Department of Housing is seeking (1) D-1Housing Board of Director

Duties:

Be involved in the Department's strategic community housing plan
Serve as a consultant during the development of the Department's annual goals and objectives
required pursuant to the Appropriations and Budget Process Act.
Serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Executive Director of Housing.

Qualifications:

Enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation
Shall have the requisite skill, knowledge specific to housing
Provide professional and expert advice and recommendations
Board experience and having a flexible scheduling are beneficial to being appointed

Membership:

Shall not be an employee of the Department of Housing
Shall not be a member of more than two (2) department Boards of Directors
Shall not be appointed nor serve as a member of a subordinate advisory board within the
Department of Housing
Shall not be appointed nor serve as a Commissioner of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community
Development Agency

Term:

Shall serve two (2) year terms and may serve for more than one (1) term. The term shall
be alternated so that two (2) Directors are appointed or re-appointed after the first year
and every two (2) years thereafter

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can reach me at (608)
374-1225 Ext: 15915 or via email Denise.Wright@ho-chunk.com

Thank you,
Denise Wright
Executive Director
Department of Housing



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Department of Housing (1) D-3Housing Board of Director

Duties:

Be involved in the Department's strategic community housing plan
Serve as a consultant during the development of the Department's annual goals and objectives
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Serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Executive Director of Housing.

Qualifications:

Enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation
Shall have the requisite skill, knowledge specific to housing
Provide professional and expert advice and recommendations
Board experience and having a flexible scheduling are beneficial to being appointed

Membership:

Shall not be an employee of the Department of Housing
Shall not be a member of more than two (2) department Boards of Directors
Shall not be appointed nor serve as a member of a subordinate advisory board within the
Department of Housing
Shall not be appointed nor serve as a Commissioner of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community
Development Agency

Term:

Shall serve two (2) year terms and may serve for more than one (1) term. The term shall
be alternated so that two (2) Directors are appointed or re-appointed after the first year
and every two (2) years thereafter

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can reach me at (608)
374-1225 Ext: 15915 or via email Denise.Wright@ho-chunk.com

Thank you,
Denise Wright
Executive Director
Department of Housing



## HCN Election Board Summary

Election Board Summary  
November to March

This report includes a summary of the Election Board Office. The Election Board Office Administrator hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:00am – 4:30pm, Friday, 7:00 am to 11:30am.

When I am not in the office all calls will be forwarded to the Justice Department and emails that are sent to the office are addressed upon the return of the Office Administrator.

### Election Board New Members as follows:

D1: BRF EB Delegate: Devin Funmaker	BRF EB Alternate: Crystal Pettibone
D2: Tomah EB Delegate: Myra Price	Tomah EB Alternate: Deana Mitch
D2: Lacrosse EB Delegate: Marsha Smith	Lacrosse EB Alternate: Ethel Funmaker
D2: Baraboo Delegate: Weeta Montelongo	Baraboo Alternate: Barbara Funmaker
D3: Madison EB Delegate: Cher Laubmeier	Madison EB Alternate: Lance Anwash
D3: Milwaukee EB Delegate: Alexandria Lange	Milwaukee EB Alternate: Hazel Guerrero
D3: Green Bay EB Delegate: Mary Lopez	Green Bay EB Alternate: Dave Radtke
D3: Wittenberg EB Delegate: Dane Walker	Wittenberg EB Alternate: Alana Hansen
D3: Wis. Rapids EB Delegate: Greg Smith	Wis. Rapid EB Alternate: Melanie Kasun
D4: Minneapolis EB Delegate: Patrick Red Eagle	Minneapolis EB Alternate: Victoria Fox
D4: Chicago EB Delegate: Joann Maney	Chicago EB Alternate: Dorothy Ramirez

### Election Board Meeting Minutes:

11/08/25	Election Board Meeting – Ratified
01/31/26	Election Board Meeting – Ratified
03/07/26	Election Board Meeting – Not Ratified

At their November 8, 2026 meeting, the board discussed a range of election-related topics, including updates to the Election Code, preparations for upcoming elections, voter eligibility requirements, absentee voting procedures, nomination processes, and the Election Day guide. Following the discussion, the Election Board forwarded the proposed Election Code revisions, along with their recommendations, to the Legislative Branch.

The District 2 Election Board members were approved by resolution, with their terms set to expire in 2027.

At their January 31, 2026 meeting, the board focused on updates to the Election Code, addressed internal Election Board matters, and emphasized the importance of voter education regarding proposed constitutional amendments. They also highlighted the urgency of handling candidacy denials efficiently and discussed changes to nominee signature requirements to simplify the nomination process. Additionally, the board stressed the need to better inform the public about upcoming constitutional amendments proposed by the Legislature.

Approval of resignation of Chicago Alternate with the vacancy put out a 30 day notice.

Requesting Terry Rainey to attend the next Election Board Meeting.

The District 4 Election Board Alternate, appointed to fill a vacancy, has a term that ends in December 2026.

Meeting on March 7, 2026 was focused on going over the Election Code with changes from the Legislators along with Election Board recommendations. Terry Rainey, Automated Election Service was present to address questions and concerns.

D4 Election Board Alternate Dorothy Ramirez was approved by Resolution 03-17-26 E, Welcome aboard Dorothy Ramirez.

The Election Code will be going on for 45 day comment on April 8, 2026, Please go through Election Code and put in your comments.

Tribal Members can attend by Webex or in person. Our next meeting: TBA

If you have specific questions, please follow up with your Election Board Delegate, Alternate, EB Chairperson Weta Montelongo or call the Election Board Office 715-284-8900.

NOTE: ELECTION BOARD MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

# First American Capital Corporation Awarded \$125,000 to Expand Access to Capital for Small Businesses Statewide

*Hales Corners, Wis.* — First American Capital Corporation (FACC) has been awarded \$125,000 in Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Small Business Development Grant (SBDG) funding to expand access to capital for small businesses across Wisconsin. Historically, FACC funding has focused on Indigenous-owned enterprises located both on and off federally recognized tribal lands. But as a non-profit organization, FACC funds are available to any qualified borrower in WI through the application process.

The SBDG funding will be used to provide equity grants stacked with a FACC loan product to qualifying borrowers, helping small businesses meet owner equity requirements and strengthen their loan applications.

Of the total award:

- • \$100,000 will be allocated to equity grants of up to \$5,000 or 10% of approved loans for businesses accessing FACC microloans.

- • \$25,000 will be allocated to grants of up to \$10,000 for businesses accessing FACC-administered Small Business Administration 7(a) loans and other larger loan products that require owner equity contributions.

These equity grants can cover up to 10% of the total project costs of approved uses of funds in the loan, offering vital support to entrepreneurs who might otherwise struggle to secure financing. This grant will be awarded individually to qualifying prospective borrowers whose projects could benefit from this grant infusion or to assist in meeting 'owners' equity requirements.

In addition to financial support, FACC provides pre-loan and loan-readiness training, along with technical assistance for prospective borrowers who can access SBDG-funded grants. This all-inclusive approach helps entrepreneurs start, grow, and sustain their businesses effectively.

"Access to flexible capital and technical assistance is vital for small business growth," said Gary Mejchar, Co-Executive Director of FACC. "This WEDC

funding enables FACC to lower common financial barriers while providing entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed."

SBDG-funded grants will be available to eligible businesses across the state, boosting local economies and supporting business ownership in communities that have historically faced limited access to traditional financing.

Philanthropic gifts and awards, such as the SBDG grant, in support of FACC are essential for expanding its reach, deepening its impact, and creating additional opportunities.

FACC, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, invites donors to support its efforts to help clients attain greater financial independence and long-term sustainability. Contributions that qualify as gifts are tax-deductible within legal limits. FACC provides tax-exempt documentation for all charitable donations, allowing donors to give with confidence and transparency.

For more information about FACC loan programs and grant eligibility, visit [faccwi.org](http://faccwi.org) or contact Gary Mejchar at [Gary@firstamericancapitalcorp.org](mailto:Gary@firstamericancapitalcorp.org).

### **About First American Capital Corporation**

First American Capital Corporation, Inc. (FACC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (AICCW) in 2002. FACC provides lending and technical assistance to Native, Tribal and underserved businesses and entrepreneurs statewide. FACC was the first in Wisconsin to achieve the Native Community Development Financial Institution certification and is a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Microloan Program designated Intermediary Lender and a Community Advantage Small Business Lending Company (CA SBLC) licensed by the SBA to issue 7(a) loans. The FACC is also pleased to serve as a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Key Strategic Partner. For more information about FACC, visit [faccwi.org](http://faccwi.org).

**HO-CHUNK NATION  
LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR MEETING  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI  
MARCH 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-VC
- Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
- Rep. Stephanie Begay-P
- 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 ADDING under New Business G. Confirmation Hearing for Treasurer Nominee and H. Resolution-Confirmation/Denial of Wallace L. Apland III to the Position of Executive Director of the Department of Treasury, to be placed on the agenda after Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

**Legislative Meeting-February 17, 2026**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie

Begay to approve the February 17, 2026 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**New Business:**

**Confirmation Hearing for Treasurer Nominee**

President Greendeer nominated Mr. Wallace L. Apland III to the position of Executive Director of the Department of Treasury.

The Legislature received the nomination paperwork from the President yesterday, including the nomination letter, Mr. Apland's resume, references, and a background check.

Mr. Apland was present to address the Legislature and is honored for the nomination for the position of the Executive Director of Treasury. Mr. Apland overviewed his expertise in financial policy, his education, and leadership. He first started working for the Ho-Chunk Nation in 2013. Mr. Apland expressed his top priorities to focus on within Department of Treasury, which include: understanding of the global ledger, cross-training, and understanding of grants and how those end up in the ledger.

**Resolution-Confirmation/Denial of Wallace L. Apland III to the Position of Executive Director of the Department of Treasury**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to TABLE Resolution-Confirmation/Denial of Wallace L. Apland III to the Position of Executive Director of the Department of Treasury until after Executive Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Commission Reports:**

**Housing Commission-February 19, 2026**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the February 19, 2026 Housing Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission-February 23, 2026**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the February 23, 2026 Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-2(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Application for Primary Asbestos Company Certification Wisconsin Department of Health Services**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 A**, Application for Primary Asbestos Company Certification Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health Division of Community Health to Apply for and Enter into Agreement with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council for the 2026 Women, Infants and Children Program Grant**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 B**, Authorization for the Department of Health Division of Community Health to Apply for and Enter into Agreement with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council for the 2026 Women, Infants and Children Program Grant. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Development Commission-February 24, 2026**

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to approve the February 24, 2026 Development Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-In Support of**

**Retaining Guedel Strategic Law for Development of Energy Code**

**MOTION** by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 C**, In Support of Retaining Guedel Strategic Law for Development of Energy Code. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Finance Commission-February 26, 2026**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the February 26, 2026 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-2(Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Rep. David Greendeer) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Wittenberg Repave Parking Lot**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 D**, Authorization to Close Capital Project HCG-Wittenberg Repave Parking Lot. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 05-20-25 D Establishment of Department of Agriculture Restricted Account**

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 E**, Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 05-20-25 D Establishment of Department of Agriculture Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization of Funding from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund Restricted Account for the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Family Supportive Housing**

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 F**, Authorization of Funding from the Local Assistance and Tribal

Consistency Fund Restricted Account for the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Family Supportive Housing. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-1(Rep. Edward Mullen)-1(Rep. David Greendeer) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Unfinished Business:** No agenda items.

**New Business:**

**Resolution-Authorization to Place the Confirmation Process of Executive Directors for the Ho-Chunk Nation Act (2 HCC § 9) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 G**, Authorization to Place the Confirmation Process of Executive Directors for the Ho-Chunk Nation Act (2 HCC § 9) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administration Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop**

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 H**, Authorization for Paid Administration Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization to Place Amendments to the Tribal Member Assistance and Charitable Request Act (4 HCC § 8) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment**

Rep. David Greendeer stated that as the Legislature looks to release this for comment, we are doing this for open comment, and more importantly trying to identify fiscal, legal and federal compliance before any action is taken. Rep. David Greendeer expressed concern with the limited number of comments received, and not getting enough feedback from the community. Rep. David Greendeer also *Continued on Page 13*

*Continued from Page 8*

Address is about, to make sure that we recognize that and we start to begin to talk and tell those stories.

“What they’re done is, what I believe, is created one of the most sophisticated and intricate governments, and not just in Indian Country but its incomparable to every political system of Political Science Major, like myself, have seen out there. From the Federal Government to the Counties, to the Municipals, the Ho-Chunk Nation’s elaborate network of governing structure and order will never be compared to any one else that’s out there.

“That was something that was built long before I got here. Our success in governance isn’t because of Judges, it isn’t because of our Legislators, and it’s definitely not because of the President, it’s because of you. You are the People. No one holds us more accountable than our Ho-Chunk People, the people that we work for.”

He went on to explain that leaders cannot please everyone all the time. There will be times when people will be mad at you. That doesn’t mean that the people don’t believe in you. A leader

has to keep working.

He went on to explain the powers of each branch, the beauty of it, and the ability to hold each other accountable.

Next, he touched on the casino in Beloit and the mixed reactions to building it. The goal of Greendeer’s administration does not include Beloit, but it is a means to reach other goals. Goals of better housing, better healthcare, more job opportunities, education, addiction response centers, and language and culture revitalization.

Greendeer believes Beloit has become our best dollar spent, our best investment. He says it won’t fix everything, but it will increase resources.

He discussed the housing issue and brought up the Ho-Chunk Nation Homeless Coalition and the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care. The Ho-Chunk Nation is the first tribal nation to secure that partnership and will now receive funding for rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, and emergency shelter. He thanked the Social Services Department for this accomplishment.

The Language and Culture Division will soon have a home, thanks to the

work of the President’s office, Heritage Preservation, Language Division, Cultural Resources Museum, and the Legislators. This summer, the Ho-Chunk Nation will be breaking ground for an amazing facility across from the District 1 Community Center. The new building will house a learning center, a place to archive and store the most vulnerable pieces of artifacts, and a place for us to meet to protect gravesites and cultural sites.

President Greendeer highlighted the challenges the Ho-Chunk Nation faces today. Leaders are sitting at tables in Washington, D.C. to have tough discussions. The United States Federal Government all but declared war against Indian Country and the Ho-Chunk Nation itself. Grants were cut, and staff were eliminated from State offices. The Ho-Chunk Nation fought and reclaimed the grants. The Federal Government is also cutting back on environmental regulations, and the Ho-Chunk Nation and partners filed lawsuits to counter those reductions.

The Federal Government dispatched the U.S. Military on our own citizens under the guise of immigration control to arrest brown people, poor

people, people of different disabilities, people of different sexualities, to our places of employment, our schools, and our homes without any sense of compassion.

The Federal Government is working to marginalize our rights to vote, our rights of free speech, and the Ho-Chunk Nation is pushing for voter registration.

The Federal Government is deconstructing the Department of Education, and we are working to move anything that was lost over to the Bureau of Indian Education.

“Our goal is to leave something behind for our people,” said President Greendeer. “And this is what I have deduced, you have four options. One, you can do nothing. You do what’s popular. You can do what’s legal. You can do what’s right.”

President Greendeer expressed a desire to break down the district walls and be there for everybody.

He closed with, “Find peace, kindness, with your friends and family, even in disagreement. Take a look at what happened to get us here. Don’t ever forget that. Tell those stories. Share the things that you do. Rely on each other. Be kind.”

*Continued from Page 13*  
stated that the Legislature is looking at this law, and the following three laws on the agenda today because of federal government shutdown.

Rep. Stephanie Begay stated that the laws were already put out for comment. She thought the Legislature would have had an internal discussion on the laws, as the next step after the laws were put out for comment the first time.

Rep. David Greendeer is trying to show an open process. He doesn't want the Legislature to make a decision without having appropriate parties at the table. Rep. David Greendeer expressed there is not enough to have detailed discussion right now.

Rep. Phyllis Smoke mentioned that all four laws went out for public comment, and the Legislature has not reviewed those comments. Now, this is on the agenda again. The Legislature did not even get to review the redline version that is being proposed to put out for comment right now.

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 I**, Authorization to Place Amendments to the Tribal Member Assistance and Charitable Request Act (4 HCC § 8) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 10-0-2(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Phyllis Smoke) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization** to

**Place Amendments to the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment**

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 J**, Authorization to Place Amendments to the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-3(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Kyle White Eagle, Rep. Phyllis Smoke) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization to Place Amendments to the Ho-Chunk Disability Code (4 HCC § 13) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment**

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 K**, Authorization to Place Amendments to the Ho-Chunk Disability Code (4 HCC § 13) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 10-0-2(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Phyllis Smoke) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution-Authorization to Place Amendments to the General Welfare Exclusion Ordinance (4 HCC § 17) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment**

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 L**, Authorization to Place Amendments to the General Welfare Exclusion Ordinance (4 HCC § 17) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 10-0-

2(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Phyllis Smoke) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**District Meetings:**

**D2 Hinukwas- February 16, 2026**

**READ FOR THE RECORD:**

**MOTION** by Donald Greengrass to support the WI Dells motion regarding the \$250 drawings for area meetings.

**READ FOR THE RECORD:**

**MOTION** by Donald Greengrass to increase heating assistance to \$1,000 FY26-27.

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Office of the President, Department of Administration the **MOTION** by Adam Kruse for Andrew Blackhawk American Legion Post 129 to be consulted on the powwow grounds renovations. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Office of the President, Department of Administration and DNR the **MOTION** by Adam Kruse for an RFP for temporary coverings for powwow grounds. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the D2 Representatives the **MOTION** by Melanie Stacy for D2 Representatives give the amounts/percentages available for each county/area at the

March meeting. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. out the room. Rep. Stephanie Begay chairs the meeting.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the Legislature the **MOTION** by Melanie Stacy for the HCN Legislature to create a ten-year strategic plan. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. out the room. Rep. Stephanie Begay chairs the meeting.*

**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. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. out the room. Rep. Stephanie Begay chairs the meeting.*

*The meeting moved to Executive Session at 11:07 a.m.*

*Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. returns to the room at 11:08 a.m., and resumes chairing the meeting.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to return to Open

Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The meeting returned to Open Session at 3:20 p.m.*

*Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle is offline at 2:12 p.m., and is back online at 3:20 p.m.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**New Business (Re-visited):**

**Resolution-Confirmation/ Denial of Wallace L. Apland III to the Position of Executive Director of the Department of Treasury**

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 03-03-26 O**, Confirmation of Wallace L. Apland III to the Position of Executive Director of the Department of Treasury. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-2(Rep. Phyllis Smoke, Rep. Tracy Thundercloud)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to March 17, 2026 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.*

**JUDGE CHRIS TAYLOR SUPREME COURT**

## PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Judge Chris Taylor has spent her three-decade legal career fighting to protect the fundamental rights of every Wisconsinite. Now, she's running to be the fair and impartial justice we need on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

- Protected access to healthcare as the former legal and public policy director for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin
- Represented Wisconsinites in the state legislature protecting victims of domestic violence and keeping our communities safe
- Current Court of Appeals Judge

**ELECTION DAY IS APRIL 7TH**

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# VOTE Nicole Pettibone

**FOR JACKSON COUNTY  
SUPERVISORY BOARD  
DISTRICT 10**

# VOTE APRIL 7th

- ★ Born and raised in Jackson County
- ★ Focused on Common-sense solutions that work for our community
- ★ Committed to open, transparent, and accountable leadership
- ★ Thoughtful and responsible when it comes to budgets and decisions
- ★ Bringing a fresh perspective and steady, positive energy



*Authorized and Paid for by Nicole Pettibone*

# VOTE

for the seventh generation

## APRIL 7

The Wisconsin Supreme Court  
is on the ballot



[conservationvoices.org/vote](https://conservationvoices.org/vote)