



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOCAK



WORAK

Vol. XL, Issue 8

Ho hiroginina wira | Fish Drying Moon

April 24, 2026



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Tornado Strikes Near Hatfield Affecting Tribal Lands and Homes

Kaili Berg

A confirmed EF-1 tornado that touched down in Jackson County on April 17 caused significant damage near Hatfield, including along Palm Road, impacting lands used by Ho-Chunk Nation members and surrounding communities.

The tornado was part of a larger severe weather system that moved across Wisconsin that evening. According to the National Weather Service, winds reached an estimated 100 mph as the storm moved through rural areas east of Hatfield, bringing down trees, damaging property, and knocking out power lines.

Damage was reported along Palm Road and near County Highway K, where fallen trees blocked roads, driveways, and access to homes. In some areas, large trees were snapped or uprooted, with debris scattered across properties.

Officials reported no confirmed injuries in the immediate aftermath.

A supply drive and warming station was established at the Town of Komensky Hall to support those



affected by the storm. Donations of water, non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, diapers, formula, and blankets are being collected, and volunteers are being asked to assist with cleanup, especially in removing fallen trees.

Additional supplies for workers have been made available near Palm Road to support ongoing recovery efforts.

Recovery efforts remain ongoing as residents work to restore access to their homes and lands in the days following the storm.



Ho-Chunk Water Blessing Welcomes Spring at Sacred Springs

Kaili Berg

Members of the Ho-Chunk Nation gathered April 11 at the Sacred Springs in Pheasant Branch Conservancy for the annual spring water blessing.

Led by Thomas Redbird IV and members of the Water Spirit Clan, the ceremony included a drum circle and tobacco offering as part of the seasonal gathering.

The tradition involves placing tobacco in the left hand, sprinkling it into a bowl, and pouring it into the water as part of the blessing.

Those in attendance were asked to be present and observe respectfully without recording.

The Ho-Chunk Nation partnered with Clean Lakes Alliance to invite community members to witness the ceremony and learn more about the tradition.

Redbird shared that caring for these spaces continues to be a responsibility carried by the clan, with a focus on protecting the water and keeping it for future generations.

"That is our charge, as a family and as a clan, to protect these areas," Redbird said.



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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.

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BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615

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TEL: (800) 472-3089 FAX: (715) 284-7852
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Mystery, Myth and Native Resilience

Submitted by Ryan John Crain, Sr.

Mask of the Deer Woman by Laurie L. Dove is a gripping crime novel that weaves Indigenous storytelling with powerful themes of justice. Intended for adult readers, the story centers on Carrie Starr, a former Chicago detective who returns to her roots as a tribal marshal on her father's reservation. As Marshall Starr investigates harrowing cases of violence against Native women, she is haunted by memories of her daughter Quinn, whose struggles with depression and addiction mirror the pain she encounters in her work.

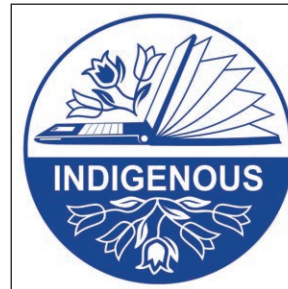
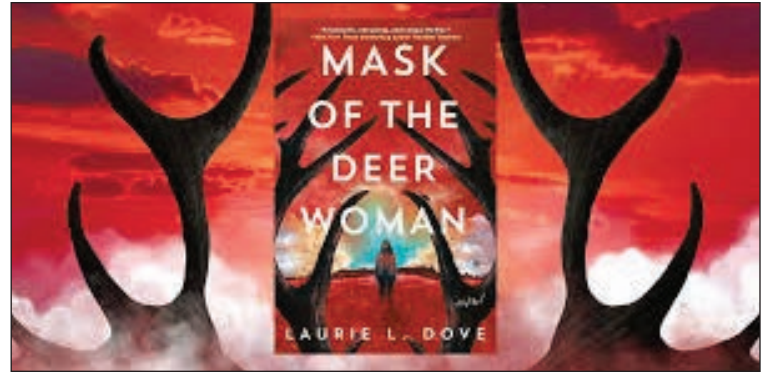
Drawing inspiration from the legend of the Deer

Woman, this novel offers a fresh perspective on the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) by fusing crime fiction with Indigenous spiritual traditions. The Deer Woman, a mystical figure who appears as a striking woman with deer's feet, stands as both a warning and a guardian. Her tales echo with themes of justice, retribution for those who harm women, and guidance for the lost. Dove masterfully intertwines suspense and spirituality, illuminating the resilience and challenges within Native communities and inviting readers on a moving, original journey through these urgent issues.

In addition to addressing the exploitation of Native women, the narrative explores how the community's limited resources are threatened by a local municipality and an oil company seeking access to the tribe's mineral rights.

The novel is available in the MMIW stories section. To reserve a copy or request information about its location, patrons may visit the front desk or contact the library during open hours.

The Ho-Chunk Community Library offers more than 7,000 books and resources, with a particular emphasis on works by Indigenous authors. We are open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 7 pm, and also by appointment.



**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

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.

**Wanaishguni Hikurus Hajawi
15th Annual 5K Run/Walk**

NEW LOCATION!!!

**May 15th, 2026
5pm-7:30pm
Boom Island Park
724 Sibley St NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413**

HIGHLIGHT

- ✓ Free Community Event!!
- ✓ Free Official T-Shirt
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Raffle Prizes

**Founder: Danielle Delong
Co-hosted by Maanico Horuzra
Special Guest: Hoka Hey**

**More Info and Registration Contact:
Vicky Ontiveros 612-426-0605
Alyssa Espinoza 612-801-9224**

In Loving Memory
4th Memorial Gathering

**Dale Louise WhiteEagle
"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

PSA from the HCN Healing to Wellness Court

Rivoli Theatre
INDIGENOUS FILM Series
Thursday, May 14
SHOWTIME 5:00pm
doors open 4:30pm

In partnership with:

May Elders Birthdays

1 Shannon Alderman	18 Tony Delarosa
2 Richard Amble	Wayne Peters
3 Veronica Espinoza	James Rogers
Douglas Maisells	Gloria White Thunder
4 Paul Krause	19 Orval Tipton, Jr.
5 Michael Goodbear	Kevin Vasquez
6 Allen Cloud	20 Wilfrid Cleveland
Jennifer Kearnes	Jayne Dawson
7 Natalie Bird	Louisa Decora
Clyde Blackdeer	Joan Greendeer-Lee
Roberta Funmaker	Joyce Warner
Kent Mallory	21 James Ensley
Clinton Thunderchief	Kate Martin
Charles White Eagle	22 Anita Nevsimal
8 Margaret Hoffman	Valerie Peterson
James Latzke	Anthony Smith, Jr.
Anna Salinas	Casey Whitegull
9 Myra Cunneen	23 Alicia Barker
Carl Hernandez	Marilyn Lowe
Nancy Prescott	24 Trevor Littlesoldier
Lance Tallmadge	Francesca Medina
William Tucker, Jr.	Robert Pilot
10 Patrick Day	25 Cynthia Decorah
Yvonne Delarosa	Anthony Houle
Nellie Peoples	Monica Tipton
Donna Sposito	26 Raymond Armendariz
11 Dawn Campion	Forrest Funmaker
Kelly Wiese	Christine Jendrisak
12 Celia Holliman	Leigh Schulte
Lawrence Littlegeorge, Jr.	Arlene Shegonee
Lisa Stroessner	Patricia Swartling
Raymond Tipton	27 Herbert Cleveland
Carolyn Toews	Colleen Greengrass
13 James Funmaker, Jr.	Kirk Hopinka
Gregory Smith	Rena Hudson
Glenn White Eagle	Nancy Masiello
14 Larry Garvin	Wendy Miller
Kerwin La Mere	28 Duwayne Link
Melissa Olvera Marquez	Sandra Whitewing
Jeremy Rockman	29 Anthony Dick
William Walker	Vance Fontenelle Jr.
15 Pamela Folz	30 Jack Britton
Dawn Velarde	Lawrence Delarosa
Anna Winneshiek	Glenn Prescott
16 Mark Myers	Susan Walczak
Claire Revels, Jr.	31 Sherman Funmaker
Michael Sherwood	Starrise Hausladen-
Pauline Ward	Thomas
17 Linda Goodwin	Linda Johnson
Lita Snake	Lily Lincoln
Mark Stroessner	Lonnie Rich
	John Steindorf

FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

hakikizu naqzi

Now Accepting Applications

A stable place to start again

Family Supportive Housing is a 10-unit housing community near District 1 in Black River Falls.

It offers affordable housing with built-in support for families working toward stability.

You don't have to have everything figured out to start.

What Support Looks Like

This program connects families with:

- Safe, affordable housing
- Support with barriers like childcare, employment, or transportation
- Ongoing guidance as you work toward stability

We work alongside you – focusing on solutions, not judgment.

Who This Program Is For

To be considered, you'll need to meet the following:

- 1 Tribal Affiliation**
You are an enrolled member of:
 - The Ho-Chunk Nation, or
 - Another federally recognized Tribe
- 2 Family Situation**
You:
 - Have children in your care
 - or
 - Are actively working to have your children return to your care soon
- 3 Housing Need**
You are:
 - Currently without stable housing
 - or
 - At risk of losing your housing
- 4 Income Guidelines**
This program follows Dane County low- to moderate-income guidelines.
Most families qualify if household income is around \$100,000 or less, depending on family size.
 - ▶ You do not need to have income to qualify.
 - ▶ The only requirement is that your income is not over the limit.

Background Check Information

Background checks will be conducted on all tenants before lease signing.

Convictions for the following are not eligible:

- Crimes against children or elders
- Violent crimes, including murder
- Sexual offenses
- Methamphetamine manufacturing

If you have questions about your situation, we encourage you to call. We're here to talk it through with you.

Start with a Phone Call to Establish Eligibility

Amy Littlegeorge – Ext. 18829
Rosella Stanley – Ext. 18873
Supportive Housing – Ext. 18830

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be May 1st which will be published on May 8th. 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.

EDITOR Ardith Van Riper
Administrative Assistant Anna Reichenbach
Reporter.....Kaili Berg

The Hocak Worak is a member of:
Indigenous Journalists Association

INDIGENOUS Journalists Association

HOCAC WORAK NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615
• **PHONE:** (800) 472-3089
• **FAX:** (715) 284-7852
EMAIL: newsletter@ho-chunk.com
• **ONLINE:** www.ho-chunknation.com
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WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

Evers Signs Law for Online Sports Betting through Wisconsin Tribes

Kaili Berg

Governor Tony Evers has signed a new law that could bring online sports betting to Wisconsin, marking a major shift in how gaming may operate across the state.

In a recent statement, Ho-Chunk Nation President Jon Greendeer said all 11 federally recognized tribes supported the bill and worked together in the lead-up to its passage.

“Every single tribe supported the Governor’s signature on this bill,” Greendeer said, noting that tribal leaders met multiple times to ensure the legislation reflects their shared commitment to their communities.

The legislation allows people to place sports bets anywhere in Wisconsin using a phone or computer, but only if the bets are processed through servers located on tribal lands.

In its statement, the Ho-Chunk Nation emphasized that the legislation provides “legal certainty and enforceable consumer protections” for Wisconsinites, while also addressing concerns about unregulated or out-of-state betting platforms already operating in a gray area.

Greendeer also highlighted the broader economic role tribal gaming plays across Wisconsin.

More than 80% of gaming employees are non-tribal, along with 70% of health employees and nearly half of government staff. Those jobs, Greendeer said, support families

across the region.

“These jobs support families with health benefits in a time where they are needed most,” Greendeer said. “Moving toward online sports betting only allows us to further expand opportunities to more families.”

While the law opens the door for mobile betting, key decisions still lie ahead.

Evers has said he expects tribes to work together to create an equitable system for sharing both the risks and rewards of online gaming. That includes ensuring no single tribe gains an outsized advantage as the market develops.

The Nation also tied the expansion of gaming to long-term community investments, including education.

For the Ho-Chunk Nation, revenues from gaming have historically supported initiatives like youth education, helping raise graduation rates above the national average.

“Since we started our first bingo hall, our leaders invested in our youth’s education,” the statement said. “We continue to invest in our people and our communities across the state.”

Although the bill has been signed into law, online sports betting will not begin immediately.

Each tribe must now renegotiate its gaming compact with the state, and those agreements must receive federal approval before mobile betting platforms can launch.

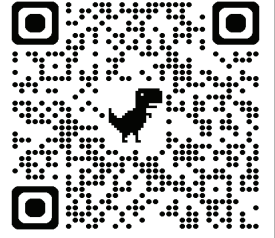


Ho-Chunk DNR/ WI State DNR Home Tree Planting Program



Eligibility: Homeowners and Renters who live on Trust land or on an address considered by the WI DNR to be “disadvantaged.”

Check if your property is eligible here (all trust land is eligible, including allotments and other reservations within Wisconsin:)



Availability: Ho Chunk Nation DNR has over 214 trees for this program this year.

What can you get?: The Ho-Chunk Nation DNR will plant up to 3 trees in eligible yards.

Tree Species Include: White Oak, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Red Oak, Northern Pin Oak, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Miyabe Maple, Paperbark Maple, Buckeye, Serviceberry, Yellow birch, River Birch, Bog Birch, Beech, Chestnut, Native Crabapple, Ironwood, Muscledwood, Basswood, Pecan, Catalpa, Katsura, Redbud, Pagoda Dogwood, Ginkgo, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Tulip Tree, Magnolia, Shagbark Hickory, Tree Lilac, Honeylocust.

How it will work:

1. **Use the online form to request a tree.** (Take a picture of the QR code to the right to access the sign-up sheet.)

2. **Work with HCN DNR to find the best spots to plant the trees.** Using aerial photos, HCN DNR staff will help you choose the appropriate spot for your tree. If you have a specific spot in mind, please mark it. We will contact you by email (preferably) or phone.

3. **HCN DNR will plant your tree.** During May and June Ho-Chunk Staff will transport your tree to your home and plant it for you.

4. **Water Your Trees:** For two years you must be responsible for watering the trees on a regular basis. They will need help, their roots will be weak.

All Trees Supplied by Johnson’s Nursery in Milwaukee.

Check www.jnplants.com to see details about each tree type. They have a great website.

Planting specifications:

Sunlight: Most of the ornamental trees do well in full sun (about 10 hours of direct sun a day. Red and Miyabe maple, bog and river birch, northern pin oak, basswood, catalpa and Katsura also prefer full sun.

Most oaks (other than pin) can handle part shade (About 5 hours of direct sun a day. Same with yellow birch, Pecan, ginkgo, Kentucky Coffee Tree and Hickory. Pagoda Dogwood are ornamentals that can handle some shade.

Beech, Ironwood, Muscledwood, and Sugar Maple are good in full shade. Dappled light or a couple hours of direct sun per day.

Spacing: Large Shade Trees (30-40 feet from homes, buildings or other large trees.)

Medium Shade Trees (20-30 feet away from homes, buildings or other large trees.

Small Shade and Ornamental Shrubs (10-15 feet away from homes, building and other large trees)

Size at planting: most of these trees will be “container trees” (grown in a bucket) and will be 3-4 feet tall at planting. This allows us to plant trees that tend to have big tap roots, such as oak and hickory. Also, many rare native plant species (like the native crabapple and bog birch) are only available in small sizes. Also, we don’t have the same heavy equipment many landscaping companies have, so smaller is easier to transport and plant.

Some trees will be pretty large “Ball & Burlap” style trees (grown in the ground and dug out). These could be up to 8 feet tall. These trees have had 75% of their root system cut when they are dug. They will be bigger, but will be more sensitive to drought for the first two years of their life.

We will discuss with you the planting size of the tree you will be getting once they’re ordered. It will not affect placement of the tree. We plant thinking 30 years into the future. We want your tree to last 100 years. Some of the species we plant (white oak, beech, London plane tree) often reach ages of 400 years in nature.

Planting is a labor intensive activity and we sometimes have to travel three hours to get to our plating site. Between these trees and trees that are part of the Alliant Energy/Ho-Chunk tree program we have almost 500 trees to plant. Please be patient.

Stipulations: -If getting more than one tree, you may have only one of each species.

-if you have gotten a high demand species in the past (like “Tree Lilac”) we will ask that you choose another type of tree for this year.

-only one “ornamental tree” per year. -Generally first come, first served.

-Some trees will only work in warmer areas, and in better soils. We will make that determination based on your locale.



5th annual MMIW&R 5K

(Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives)



Tuesday, May 5, 2026

11:00am-2:00pm

Burns Park - 702 Main St.


La Crosse, WI

Join us for a 5k run/walk to raise awareness and honor our relatives.

Event is FREE and open to the public.

For more information: 608-796-1550





HO-CHUNK NATION
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Press Statement – For Immediate Release
April 9, 2026

Ho-Chunk Nation Welcomes Governor's Signature on Sports Betting Bill

Black River Falls, WI - Governor Tony Evers signed a bipartisan bill that affirms authority for sovereign tribal nations to operate online sports betting throughout the state, even after intense outcry from out-of-state corporations that are already operating dubiously throughout Wisconsin. The legislation will bring legal certainty and enforceable consumer protections for Wisconsinites wanting to put wagers on games.

"Every single tribe supported the Governor's signature on this bill," said President Jon Greendeer. "He took time to consult with tribal leaders and stated his apprehensions. The tribal leaders met several times over the past few weeks to affirm our commitment to our communities."

The Ho-Chunk Nation is appreciative of Governor Evers' leadership in fostering one of the most open and progressive relationships with the 11 federally recognized tribes within the state. Early in his first term, Evers led the effort for all cabinet agencies to enact a tribal consultation policy outlining the necessity and processes to engage tribes on the matters before the agency that impact tribes or tribal members. Still, the Nation tries to remediate a preconceived notion that tribes exist as a monolith, as a 'domestic dependent', or as a corporation.

Gov. Evers insists that tribal leaders find an equitable model for sharing the risks and rewards of mobile gaming. The concept of equity among each of the eleven tribes is still up for discussion.

Wisconsin tribes are not interest groups. When they can host an emerging market, they do the best they can to make sure that the state benefits as well. The Ho-Chunk Nation backs this up with the fact that over 80% of its gaming employees are non-tribal, 70% of its health employees are non-tribal and nearly 50% of its government employees are non-tribal.

Greendeer continued, "These jobs support families with health benefits in a time where they are needed most. Moving toward online sports betting only allows us to further expand opportunities to more families."

There are many positive impacts tribal gaming has brought to the Nation. Since we started our first bingo hall, our leaders invested in our youth's education – raising the graduation rate above the national average. We continue to invest in our people and our communities across the state.

By signing this act into law, the governor has proven his commitment to working with the Sovereign Nations to expand our economic impacts to the state.

####




PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN APRIL 20

Beginning **April 20**, construction will begin on a new parking lot at **Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA)**.



What to Expect

- Temporary changes to parking areas
- Construction crews and equipment on-site
- Minor traffic adjustments near the building

Please use caution when visiting and follow posted signs to help keep everyone safe.

Why This Matters

This project will:

- Add additional parking spaces
- Improve **accessibility for Elders and individuals with mobility needs**
- Create a **safer, more welcoming space for everyone we serve**

A Community Thank You

This project is made possible through the generous support and partnership of Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority (HTA), Brett Blackdeer, and the HTA Team. Your partnership helps us better serve Ho-Chunk families.

Thank you for your patience and care as we complete this work.
Please watch for crews and stay safe.
- **Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA)**
A HUD-funded, nonprofit housing organization serving the Ho-Chunk Nation

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



430 JULIE STREET TOMAH, WI 54660

TOMAH COMMUNITY CENTER

SUNDAY, MAY 17
10 AM - 4 PM


PAAXGE CLASS

TAUGHT BY DANA DEBOER

THIS CLASS IS BEGINNER FRIENDLY AND OPEN TO ANYONE. THE COST TO REGISTER IS \$10 WHICH INCLUDES SUPPLIES. PLEASE CONTACT TO REGISTER, SPOTS FILL UP QUICKLY.

CONTACT:
CAROLE.DECORAH@HO-CHUNK.COM
608-344-3555 • EXT. 13377


Tribal Workforce Development & 477 Program



TRAINING WORKSHOP

Mock interviews and Resumes

Join our workshop designed to equip you with guidance and knowledge for mock interviews & assistance with writing your resume.




June 10, 2026
10:00AM to 2:00PM

District 1 Community Center
N7261 Warrior Ave.
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Training Workshop Includes:

- ✓ Mock interviews
- ✓ Resume writing
- ✓ Supportive services
- ✓ Networking Opportunities

Contact Us Now!
twd@ho-chunk.com or 477@ho-chunk.com
715-284-5877



COMMUNICATION OFFICER
JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BLACK RIVER FALLS


Jackson County is accepting applications for a Full-Time Communication Officer. If you are a person who wants to know that the work you do is important, dispatching will give you great satisfaction. There are few careers you can follow that put you directly in touch with people in need of help and enable you to provide it for them.

But great satisfaction does not usually come easily. The people who seek your help need it at all hours of the day and night. For dispatchers, this means shift work. It will mean staying on for an extra shift if the dispatch center is short-staffed. Sometimes you may want the overtime, other times, although it may be inconvenient for you, it will be a requirement that you stay anyway.

2026 Wage Range: \$23.91 - \$25.95 per hour, newly hired dispatchers will likely be assigned to 2nd or 3rd shift. Dispatchers are on a schedule rotation which may require them to work on holidays.

Learning the skills and receiving training is, of course, essential. However, you must also be able to think clearly under stress, not "burn out" easily and must be able to do several things at once without losing track.

If you think you have these qualities we're looking for and willing to make this commitment to be held to these standards, scan the QR code or visit our Employment Opportunities page at www.co.jackson.wi.us to apply. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent. First review of applications will be March 6, 2026.



Jackson County Human Resources Department
307 Main Street
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

2026 GRADUATE SHOWCASE




NEWSLETTER@ho-chunk.com

Congrats!

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

Email the following before **June 19**:

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

Upcoming Ho-Chunk Closures Apr - June

APRIL 3	Both pharmacies closed for Good Friday
APRIL 6	Both pharmacies closed in observance of Easter Sunday
APRIL 29	Both pharmacies closed for 5th Wednesday Divisional All Staff
MAY 20	HHCC Pharmacy (BRF) closed 8:30am-10:00am
MAY 25	Both pharmacies closed for Memorial Day
MAY 27	HOW Pharmacy (Baraboo) closed 12:30pm-1:30pm
JUNE 17	HHCC Pharmacy (BRF) closed 8:30am-10:00am
JUNE 24	HOW Pharmacy (Baraboo) closed 12:30pm-1:30pm

→ PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY FOR MEDICATION REFILLS

slip 4/13/26

Pace and Pedal



Saturday, May 16, 2026

WAZEE LAKE RECREATION AREA, BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI

8:00am PACE & PEDAL DUATHLON \$30 per person or \$45 per team
4.7 Mile Trail Run & 10.3 Mile Bike (chip timed; helmet required)

8:30am 5K WAZEE COLOR FUN RUN/WALK \$10 per person 12 & under FREE
3.1 Mile Run/Walk (fully paved, strollers welcome, no pets please)

10:00am YOUTH COLOR FUN RUN/WALK FREE for 12 & under
1.0 Mile (fully paved, strollers welcome, no pets please)

*Shirts are not included in the registration price but are available to purchase until April 24, 2025.
NO REFUNDS. All events will take place rain or shine. If lightning occurs, times will be backed up in 30 minute increments. Cancellation will occur after 2 hours.



Healthy Eating. Active Living. Jackson County, WI

All proceeds benefit Jackson in Action, a community coalition promoting healthy lifestyles in Jackson County.

REGISTER ONLINE www.JacksonInAction.org/pace-and-pedal

Gov. Evers Declares State of Emergency in Response to Flooding and Severe Weather Impacts Across Wisconsin

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today signed Executive Order #289, declaring a state of emergency as communities across the state continue to experience and recover from severe storms, power outages, record rainfall, and flooding, all of which are expected to continue throughout the week.

Gov. Evers signed the order today after traveling to Union Center in Juneau County to meet with local neighbors, emergency and first responders, and local partners to see firsthand some of the damage caused by severe weather storms that have affected communities across the state. Gov. Evers is set to continue touring storm damage tomorrow in communities impacted by this week's extreme weather events.

"After severe storms that swept across the state and more still to come, it is critical that we ensure our communities have access to every available resource to help local folks and families in need and secure essential infrastructure," said Gov. Evers. "We are grateful to all of the neighbors, emergency and first responders, local partners, and volunteers, who are already working to support each other, respond to damages, restore essential services, and ensure that homes, buildings, and other important structures are as secure as we prepare for more severe weather to come. I encourage Wisconsinites to be sure to stay alert, look out for your neighbors, and take good care of each other as these storms continue moving across our state."

Storms began moving through the state on April 13, bringing devastating winds, tornadoes, hail, and heavy rainfall, resulting in flooding, structural damage, evacuations, and power outages throughout the state of Wisconsin. The National Weather Service has, as of now, confirmed three tornadoes that occurred across Central and Southeastern Wisconsin.

Currently, multiple fire services, law enforcement, public works, utilities, volunteer organizations, and other emergency response agencies have deployed



to assist the public, and additional personnel and resources from multiple state agencies are needed to expedite the response and recovery operations in the affected areas. The State Emergency Operations Center elevated to a Level 2 on Monday, and Gov. Evers' declaration of a state of emergency will help ensure state agencies, local partners, utilities, and emergency management officials can continue working together and respond quickly to damage and effects caused by recent severe weather, as well as any anticipated severe weather.

Wisconsin Emergency Management, a division of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, has been working with counties to assess damage and determine resources needed to speed recovery efforts.

Executive Order #289 is available on Gov. Evers' website and is effective immediately.

MAY

2026

HO-CHUNK NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

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

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



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
				CLOSED MONTHLY SHIPMENT
4	5	6	7	8
OPEN BRF	OPEN BRF	WITTENBERG DISTRIBUTION 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH - KATHY	OPEN BRF	OPEN BRF
11	12	13	14	15
OPEN BRF	OPEN BRF	WIS DELLS DISTRIBUTION 10 AM- 1:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH- ALEX	REEDSBURG DELIVERIES OPEN BRF	WIS DELLS DELIVERIES OPEN BRF
18	19	20	21	22
BRF OPEN	OPEN BRF	TOMAH DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00 PM	OPEN BRF NUTRITION BOOTH - KATHY	LA CROSSE PICKUPS OPEN BRF
25	26	27	28	29
CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	OPEN BRF	NEKOOSA DISTRIBUTION 12N - 1:00PM NUTRITION BOOTH - ALEX	OPEN BRF LAST PICK-UP DAY	CLOSED INVENTORY

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS

Lawsuit Targets Trump Administration Approval of BP's New Ultra-Deepwater Drilling Project in the Gulf of Mexico, 16 Years After Deepwater Horizon

BP's Kaskida proposal fell dramatically short of legal and regulatory requirements

Washington D.C. — Gulf and environmental groups sued the Trump Administration today over its approval of BP's new ultra-deepwater oil drilling project in the Gulf of Mexico, which endangers the health of Gulf residents, ecosystems, and industries like fishing and tourism.

"Kaskida" is BP's first completely new oilfield approved in the Gulf since the U.K.-based company's Deepwater Horizon disaster — which occurred 16 years ago today. BP's infamous accident killed 11 people, wiped out horrific numbers of marine animals, and caused billions of dollars in damages to the Gulf, including by eliminating thousands of local jobs such as in fishing and tourism. BP's Deepwater Horizon remains the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

Kaskida will be at greater depths than Deepwater Horizon, in riskier waters. BP will drill for oil as far down as six miles below the sea floor, deeper than the height of Mount Everest.

The groups are challenging the approval of BP's development proposal because legally-required information is either missing or significantly flawed. For instance, BP failed to demonstrate it has the experience, expertise, and certified equipment to conduct safe drilling under extreme conditions at Kaskida's location, where a "loss of well control" incident (which caused BP's 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster) is six to seven times more likely compared to typical deepwater oil wells. BP's proposal also underestimated the volume of a worst-case oil spill by at least half-a-million barrels of oil, which the Interior Department unfortunately adopted in its environmental analysis. And BP did not show in its proposals that it will have the necessary containment capabilities in case the company needs to stop a blown-out well from spilling 4.5 million barrels of oil or more across the Gulf.

The groups — Healthy Gulf, Turtle Island Restoration Network, Habitat Recovery Project, Sierra Club, and Center for Biological Diversity — are being represented by Earthjustice.

"The Trump Administration has teed up the entire Gulf region for a Deepwater Horizon sequel with its approval of BP's extremely risky ultra-deepwater drilling project," said Earthjustice senior attorney Brettney Hardy. "The greenlighting of BP's

project sets a dangerously low bar for oil-and-gas companies that want to drill in our public waters. We'll see the Trump Administration in court over its unlawful and insulting approval of Kaskida."

"Once again, BOEM has approved a deep water well in the Gulf of Mexico. Marine wildlife and communities along the Gulf coast were devastated by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill 16 years ago," said Joanie Steinhaus, Ocean Program Director for Turtle Island Restoration Network. "This project is a threat to our fragile ocean ecosystem, will inflame climate change and threatens the health of coastal residents. BP has not adequately demonstrated the capacity to operate and handle an oil spill in the high-pressure, high temperature conditions of this project."

"Kaskida is emblematic of a new era in offshore oil extraction: corporate hoarding of risky, ultra-deep water leases in an attempt to monopolize the future of oil production, with little to no oversight from the Trump Administration. We, as citizens of the Gulf South, are not standing for it," said Martha Collins, Healthy Gulf Executive Director. "BP has shown how they handle oil spills on this anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon disaster - their risky drilling and inexperience at this great depth will ensure their continued legacy of the Gulf never being the same again."

"Offshore drilling is one of the riskiest kinds of oil extraction, but the Trump administration is ignoring the law to allow Big Oil CEOs to endanger coastal communities for the sake of corporate profit," said Devorah Ancel, Senior Attorney at Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program. "This permit would allow BP to develop multiple ultra-deep high-pressure wells, which is already exceptionally risky, and with BP's track record in the Gulf, coastal ecosystems face extraordinary danger. We're suing the Trump administration to ensure the coastal communities that would suffer the consequences of BP's actions get their day in court."

"It's appalling that the Trump administration has authorized this deepwater drilling project without having information critical to preventing harm to marine life," said Rachel Mathews, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "This will put Rice's whales, sea turtles and other Gulf wildlife

at terrible risk. Ultra-deepwater drilling is ultra-dangerous, full stop."

Background

The Trump Administration's approval of Kaskida follows a series of actions that prioritize the oil-and-gas industry in the Gulf at the expense of communities and ecosystems.

Last month, the White House illegally exempted federally-authorized Gulf oil-and-gas exploration, development and production from needing to comply with certain requirements of the Endangered Species Act, even though no Gulf projects have been rejected due to the ESA, and the oil industry is not facing any burdensome requirements under the law that are slowing or halting offshore drilling activities. The U.S. is also already producing more oil than any nation in history, is the world's top producer of gas, and is a net exporter of both.

The Administration has also proposed weakening "well control" rules developed to tighten up safety protocols in the wake of Deepwater Horizon.

It has sought to roll back "financial assurance" requirements that require the weakest oil and gas companies to backstop their obligations to clean up the mess they leave behind, rather than forcing American taxpayers to foot the bill. And, it is now consolidating two federal agencies involved in offshore drilling oversight that were intentionally separated after Deepwater Horizon to root out industry influence over regulators. The White House has proposed a budget cut for the new agency of more than 30 percent in funding and staff that address safety and manage operations.

While such measures may boost oil industry profits, they have done little to nothing to alleviate energy prices or inflation.

In the 16 years since BP's Deepwater Horizon disaster, the oil industry has set its sights on deeper and riskier Gulf waters. In the three most recent oil-and-gas lease sales, 90 percent of company bids are going for deep or ultra-deepwaters, even though the likelihood of uncontrolled oil spills arising from offshore drilling operations increases "exponentially" with depth. Meanwhile, the oil industry is sitting on millions of acres of leases (nearly 80 percent of all leases the industry is in possession of) in the Gulf that haven't begun producing oil or gas.

"Mending Broken Hearts"

Workshop

Healing from Unresolved Grief, Loss & Intergenerational Trauma

Workshop Dates and Times

May 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th 2026
10:00 AM- 3:30 PM

Participants must attend all 5 days of the workshop

Workshop is available up to 20 participants only, must register to attend.

Blue Wing Community Building:
324 Epinal Ave, Tomah, WI 54660

- Limited transportation available.
- Lunch will be provided.
- Feel free to bring your own tools for healing (cedar, sage, etc.)
- Future workshops in other areas.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Behavioral Health division is facilitating this workshop for tribal members, offering culturally based ways of healing from unresolved feelings of loss and grief created by intergenerational and historical trauma.

SCAN TO REGISTER, OR VISIT:
<https://hcn-bh.typeform.com/MendingBH>



Facilitators:
Menissa Powless
Travis Cloud





"Mending Broken Hearts"

Workshop

Healing from Unresolved Grief, Loss & Intergenerational Trauma

Workshop Dates and Times

July 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th 2026
10:00 AM- 3:30 PM

Participants must attend all 5 days of the workshop

Workshop is available up to 20 participants only, must register to attend.

E11046 N Reedsburg Rd. Baraboo, WI. 53913

- Limited transportation available.
- Lunch will be provided.
- Feel free to bring your own tools for healing (cedar, sage, etc.)
- Future workshops in other areas.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Behavioral Health division is facilitating this workshop for tribal members, offering culturally based ways of healing from unresolved feelings of loss and grief created by intergenerational and historical trauma.

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Tribal gaming leaders denounce prediction markets ahead of House Committee hearing on Kalshi

Thursday's congressional hearing is the result of multiple legislative actions taking place in several states to regulate online gambling

Amelia Schafer
April 16, 2026
Reprint from ICT

Tribal gaming industry leaders are demanding Congress reject the idea that online gaming, such as prediction markets, is a form of “investing or hedging” and call it what it is: gaming.

“This is, no exaggeration, the largest and fastest moving threat our industry has ever seen in its 30-plus years of existence,” said James Siva, chairman of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association and citizen of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, during a press conference.

Commodities Futures Tradition Commission Chairman Micheal Selig is testifying before the House Agriculture Committee Thursday morning.

Prediction markets, such as Kalshi, PolyMarket and PredictIt, allow users to bet on real world events such as sporting events, elections and pop culture moments from any device connected to the internet. Users can purchase a share and gain or lose money based on the actual outcome of the event they've selected to bet on. By clicking yes, prediction markets argue the user has entered into a “contract” rather than placed a bet, which industry leaders argue allows for it to be regulated differently than traditional gaming.

These platforms are not regulated the same way that tribes are. Prediction markets don't sign gaming compacts with individual states. Instead, the mediums, which argue they deal in event contracts

like the stock market, are regulated by the Commodities Future Tradition Commission not by state governments.

The commission argues it has exclusive federal power to regulate national prediction markets. However, through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act federal exclusivity in regards to gambling is a right only tribes should be allowed.

Tribal gaming enterprises represent nearly half of the U.S. gaming industry, according to the American Gaming Association.

The tribal gaming industry generated a record \$43.9 billion between the roughly 530 tribally operated casinos nationwide in 2024. It surpassed the National Football League's annual revenue.

“Since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in 1988, tribal gaming has become an integral component of the United States gaming industry,” the association told ICT in 2022.

Several states have taken legislative action against online gambling platforms. Most recently, Wisconsin passed legislation allowing for its 11 federally recognized tribes to control servers operating prediction markets within the states borders, hoping to find a medium that allows for the growth of the services without threatening tribal sovereignty.

Thursday's congressional hearing is the result of a federal judge's barring of Arizona's ability to enforce its state gambling laws against prediction markets. State prosecutors say prediction markets, specifically Kalshi, are operating illegal gambling

services. The judge's order argues Kalshi is operating within its rights as an “events contract” service, which the state can't control.

Prediction markets completely bypass the framework established nearly four decades ago through the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, said David Bean, chairman of the Indian Gaming Association and a citizen of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, during the press conference. They not only challenge tribal sovereignty in regards to gaming exclusivity, but threaten state sovereignty in the case against Arizona.

“[Thursday], the house will hear from CFTC Chairman Selig, we expect him to continue to claim that federal law prevents tribes and states from enforcing our laws and regulations on prediction markets,” Bean said. “He will also claim that prediction markets are financial products and not sportsbooks. But no parent of a teenager with a Kalshi app will fall for this lie that it is investing or hedging.”

The National Indian Gaming Commission, a federal regulatory overseeing Indian gaming within the Department of the Interior, currently lacks a chairperson, something Siva argued has allowed for the continued unregulated spread and growth of prediction markets.

The NIGC chairperson is appointed by the sitting United States president and affirmed by the U.S. Senate. President Donald J. Trump has not appointed a candidate.

Trump was a vocal opponent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory

Act, fearing that it would threaten Atlantic City, New Jersey's booming historical gambling industry where he owned and operated several and several casinos.

At one point in 1993, Trump claimed that the act would pave the way for mass organized crime nationwide during his testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources. During this testimony, he infamously stated, “They don't look like Indians to me,” in reference to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation which operates the Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Connecticut

In the early 2000s, Trump pivoted and opted to embrace Indian gaming. In 2002, he partnered with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians in California to manage its Spotlight 29 casino outside of Coachella. The partnership was short-lived, however, as the tribe purchased the full contract out from Trump for \$6 million in 2004 following his string of corporate bankruptcies.

Donald Trump Jr., the president's son, joined Kalshi as its strategic advisor in January 2025.

“It's not a coincidence that we do not have a new chair appointed at NIGC when we have one of the biggest misuses of regulation in the gaming world that we've seen recently,” Siva said. “So I'm not surprised at all [that there is a vacancy]. [I'm] disappointed 100 percent, but not surprised that these things are happening in conjunction with one another.”

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Following Storm Damage, Wisconsin Consumers Should Use Caution When Seeking Repairs

MADISON, Wis. – This week, thunderstorms, high winds, tornadoes, flooding, and hail have struck communities across Wisconsin. Homes and vehicles may be damaged and in need of repair work. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds consumers that they should practice caution when seeking repairs.

Consumers with homes damaged during the recent storms should avoid hiring a door-to-door home repair crew. These transient crews are known as “storm chasers” because they travel to communities struck by severe weather and solicit business at consumer homes. Despite their tempting promises of quick, cheap fixes, transient repair crews often provide poor quality work or ask for up-front payments, then perform no work at all. They are often not from Wisconsin, so if something goes wrong, it may be impossible for a consumer to get their money back.

Tips for Homeowners Seeking Repair Contractors

- Hire established local contractors.
- Ask for recommendations from trusted sources like friends, neighbors, and insurance agents.
- Check with a local building inspector if permits are needed for the repair job, then have them

inspect the completed work before making final payments to the contractor.

- Make sure there is a written contract which specifies what work will be done, what materials will be used, a start and completion date, and warranty details.
- Receive lien waivers for every payment made for home repairs to any hired contractors.
- Keep copies of all contracts, receipts, communications, warranties, and written materials.

Homes are not the only property that may have sustained severe weather damage. Many consumers rely on their motor vehicles for everyday transportation, and seeking repairs can be a stressful experience. Consumers can protect themselves by knowing their rights, resources, and these auto repair tips:

Tips for Vehicle Owners Seeking Auto Body Work

- Ask for shop recommendations from friends, family, and other local sources they trust. If the work will be covered by insurance, select a shop with the insurance provider.
- Search for online reviews of the company and contact the DATCP Bureau of Consumer Protection to check if a specific shop has a record of complaints.
- Document all transactions and communications, including specific dates, times, expenses, promises

made, and the names of shop employees.

Auto body repair shops cannot make repairs that the owner did not authorize or increase the price of those repairs without authorization after the consumer received an estimate or quote. A shop may hold a vehicle until the consumer pays for authorized repairs but cannot hold the vehicle if they refuse to pay for unauthorized repairs. After work is complete, the shop must provide an invoice describing and listing the cost for all repairs, replaced parts, and labor.

Insurance Tips

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) published an After a Storm Hits Fact Sheet which can help consumers understand their policy options and coverage. After severe weather strikes, consumers should:

- Notify their insurance agent or company right away to begin the insurance claim process.
- Make a list of damaged items, including any damage to the home's structure.
- Take photos of damages, including dented siding, damaged shingles, broken windshields, etc.
- Keep swatches of damaged material like shingles and siding.
- Keep damaged items – they should not be thrown out without the claim adjuster's agreement.

• Retain all receipts for repairs or replacement of damaged property.

State law protects consumers and businesses against insurance fraud. In Wisconsin, contractors:

- Cannot promise to pay any portion of an owner's property insurance deductible.
- Cannot negotiate with an insurance company on behalf of a customer. Contractors can only discuss damages and costs with insurers with the customer's permission.
- Must ask if the work is related to an insurance claim before they enter into a contract.
- Must notify customers of their right to cancel the contract within three business days if their insurer denies any portion of the claim for work.

Contact the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance of Wisconsin at oci.wi.gov or (800) 236-8517 with questions about insurance agents, adjusters, or companies.

For more information and consumer protection resources or to file a complaint, visit DATCP's Consumer Protection webpage at ConsumerProtection.wi.gov or contact the Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 422-7128 or DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov.

Sonja R Walker

September 9, 1940 – April 16, 2026

Sonja Walker, Ahu Skainga – “White Wing”, age 85 of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, walked on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

A funeral service will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 12:00 Noon at the Native American Church in Wisconsin Dells with Kyle WhiteEagle officiating. Visitation will be held on Saturday beginning at 3:00 p.m. Burial will follow the service on Sunday at Spring Grove Cemetery in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Sonja was born September 9, 1940, the daughter of Silas and Jacqueline (Greencrow) Cleveland.

Sonja is survived by her sons, Ronald and Rodney Mallory, Richard Walker, and Dave WhiteEagle. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband David; sons, Chester Mallory,



Steve Mallory, Chester Steven Leonard and Kevin Walker; daughters Pamela Mallory, Rose Walker, Lisa Walker, Jenny Walker, Darlene Walker and Orvilla WhiteEagle.

Truman H. Williams Sr.

May 30, 1945 – April 12, 2026

Truman Howard Williams, Sr., 80, of Sparta, Wisconsin, began his journey into the Spirit World on April 12, 2026 at his home.

He was born on May 30, 1945, to Howard Williams and Marjorie White Eagle – Williams in Mauston, Wisconsin. He grew up in the Mauston area, where he attended school.

He later moved to Iowa where he worked at the John Deere factory in Waterloo, where he worked for 34 years until he retired. He married Christiane LittleSam Swallow and together they raised seven children.

He was a lifelong member of the Native American Church and a respected roadman. He led prayer meetings for his Caddo and Ho-Chunk relatives and many people around the country, supported by his wife until she passed away in 2003.

After the passing of his wife, he moved to Sparta, Wisconsin. He

remarried in 2004 and had two children. He remarried once more in 2015 to Gates Roundstone. He created a warm and loving home with his family, centered on prayer. He built his tipi ground high on a hill, known as the “Top of the World.” He also built a sweat lodge on his property where many ceremonies were held.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Gates Williams; his sons Truman Williams, Jr., Francis Williams, and Michael Williams; daughters Stephanie Swallow, Christie Williams, and Yohnyah Williams; brother Brian Williams, sisters Virginia Williams, Barbara Williams Funmaker, Francina Williams, and Lisa Pond, and many grandchildren, many nephews and nieces, extended family, adopted relatives and friends. He also saw his fourth generation with the birth of eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, wife Christiane, sons Vance Swallow, Tyrone Swallow, Troy Swallow, and Kenneth Williams; sister Betty Querdibitty; one granddaughter, two great grandsons, and a great-granddaughter.

He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and countless memories that will forever resonate in the hearts of those he touched.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, is assisting the family with arrangements.



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SUMMER 2026 BLOCK PARTIES

“A Summer of Mental Wellness”
SAVE THE DATES!
MORE INFO COMING SOON

JUNE 10 - WITTENBERG
JUNE 24 - TOMAH
JULY 8 - BARABOO
JULY 22 - NEKOOSA
JULY 29 - MADISON
AUGUST 12 - BLACK RIVER FALLS

Free event for tribal members and employees of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
This is a drug and alcohol free event.
For more info: Melissa.Govek@ho-chunk.com 715.284.9851 x35052

Spring Foraging Walks

Black River Falls & Tomah

with *Nicholas WazeeGale*
Saturday June 6th, 2026

10:00 am - 12:00pm in Black River Falls
At the State Trail 0.7 miles in on Pettibone Pass, at the bridge.
Park safely on the side of the road.

2:00pm - 4:00pm at Whirling Thunder
16250 Helmet Rd, Tomah WI

Please bring a gathering bag! Also bug spray, your own water bottle and a jacket if appropriate!

Sign-up is requested for planning purposes.
Please RSVP to
Kathy Braaten at 715.284.9851 ext. 35335 or
kathy.braaten@ho-chunk.com



Ho-Chunk Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health

Free Rabies Clinic!

Pet owners: We are having rabies vaccination clinics for your pets! It is very important that your animal be vaccinated to protect its health and the health of your family. Puppies and kittens need to be at least 3 months old to receive the vaccination.

May 13th	Nekoosa TAU 4910 Winneshiek Lane	9:00 A.M. -- 11:30 A.M.
May 13th	Blue Wing Community Center 320 Epinal Lane	1:30 P.M. -- 4:00 P.M.
May 20th	House of Wellness S2845 White Eagle Lane	9:00 A.M. -- 12:00 P.M.
May 20th	Winnebago Heights TAU E8863 Winneshiek Road	2:00 P.M. -- 4:00 P.M.
May 27th	Wittenberg Community Center W17634 Radke Road	11:00 A.M. -- 2:00 P.M.
June 3rd	BRF Sand Pillow Ball Field N7154 Whitehawk Road	9:00 A.M. -- 12:00 P.M.
June 3rd	BRF Indian Mission W8802 Mission Road	1:30 P.M. -- 4:00 P.M.

PLEASE BRING YOUR DOGS ON LEASHES AND CATS IN CRATES.

Distemper/Parvo vaccine available for dogs at \$5.00 per dog.
FVR/FPL vaccine available for cats \$5.00 per cats.
Each area will be allotted vaccine on a first come basis.

Open to all Tribal Members.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ho-Chunk Health Care Center at: 715-284-9851, ext 35062

CONSUMER WARNING: Fraudulent phishing scams continue to target Wisconsin DMV customers

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is warning consumers of another wave of fraud attempts where scammers pretend to be from WisDOT. Some scams duplicate the look of official WisDOT content. The latest phishing scam, often from out of state or out of country phone numbers, warns of a "Driver's License Suspension Pending" or vague "violation details" with a demand for urgent action and payment or "continue for details" button with link that could take you to unofficial websites. The scammers' goal is to get individuals to click on fraudulent links or reveal

personal information. These are not from WisDOT or DMV. Wisconsin DMV continues to take active steps to thwart these efforts with website alerts and outreach through social media and traditional media. But scammers are getting adept at mimicking our webpages so all customers should stay alert. Wisconsin DMV urges consumers to be on the lookout and follow these tips:

- Be suspicious of demands for immediate action, personal information or money.
- Do not share personal information with unsolicited emails or messages.
- If you have not signed up to receive

email or text messages from DMV and receive an unsolicited text message or email from an unknown number or person, do not respond, engage with the caller or click on links.

- Sign up for account activity alerts and renewal reminders by subscribing to Wisconsin DMV's eNotify. Like most bank accounts, you will receive confirmation of transactions on your account which alerts you of any fraudulent activities. Sign up for eNotify here: wisconsin.gov/enotify <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/renew-licens/enotify-default.aspx>

If you are the victim of a scam, you may:

- Consider filing a police report with the local law enforcement agency where you reside.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) www.ic3.gov
- Speak to AARP's Fraud Watch Helpline and find Fraud Victim Support Groups (all ages accepted)
- Request a free credit report and research identity theft prevention: <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>

WisDOT is committed to protecting consumers and they can always initiate their own DMV services online at wisconsin.gov.

10-year-old jingle dress dancer from TikTok aims to inspire other youth

The young dancer from Green Bay, Wisconsin, says 'kids should dance' for their elders, people, tribe and all those who need healing

Amelia Schafer
Reprint from ICT
MILWAUKEE – When 10-year-old Jordan Busse steps into the powwow arena in her jingle dress, the Ho-Chunk girl sets out to honor the dresses tradition by healing herself and those who listen and watch. She's dedicated to dancing, practicing hours a week and often running three miles daily to stay powwow ready.

In late March, one of Jordan's powwow warmup videos went viral, with just shy of 1 million views on TikTok and nearly 74,000 reactions on Facebook as of April 7.

In the video, Jordan steps into frame in an eye-catching blue and silver jingle dress, side stepping to pop-hit "Just the Way You Are" by Milky.

Jordan's confidence and skills caught the attention of many online, and she wants to use that attention to help encourage other kids to dance, she said.

"I think kids should dance

because I feel it would be good for their elders, their people and their tribe and just for everyone that needs healing," Jordan said. "People back then [in the past] couldn't dance so [kids] can dance for them now because they didn't get to do it."

One TikTok comment said the video made them emotional because of "how confident and free feeling little indigenous children should be always."

In 2026, thousands of Indigenous children and people are preparing to participate in powwow season in North America, but this wasn't always the case.

From 1883 to 1933, it was illegal for Native people to dance in public following the passage of the Code of Indian Offenses. The government's ban on Native ceremonies and cultural dances was part of a larger effort to assimilate Native people into mainstream culture.

While the law was mostly focused on preventing

cultural and spiritual dances, it included broad sweeping measures to prevent any dancing. Dances went underground during that time, sometimes breaking free to be showcased as "patriotic" celebrations on holidays like the Fourth of July or Veteran homecomings.

During this time the jingle dress was born. The dress was created in 1920 by an Anishinaabe man in the Great Lakes area, according to community oral tradition. The dress was revealed to the man in a dream, which depicted hundreds of tiny metal cones connected to a dress. The man believed the dress was a way to heal the people amidst the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. Over 100 years later, the dress is still danced, especially in the Great Lakes region but also across North America.

Jordan is honoring that tradition in 2026 by dancing to heal herself, others, and inspire other youth to come out and join her in the circle.

"There's a lot of people out there that can't dance, and there's a bunch of people out there who need healing," Jordan said. "I like to dance for them."

Jordan served as head female youth dancer at the Indian Community School's powwow on April 4. It was her first time holding the position, she said.

To give back, Jordan's family held a special in her honor at the one-day powwow just south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"She just wants to encourage us as much as she can," said Kateri Busse, Jordan's mother. "Whatever tribe you come from, she wants to encourage you 100 percent."

Jordan's dancing routine started off humble. She used to just dance in her family's living room practicing to powwow songs on the television. She was encouraged to start dancing by her parents, and said she's glad she took their advice.



Jourdan Busse dances in a jingle dress special held in her honor at the annual Bear Moon powwow in Franklin, Wisconsin on April 4. (Amelia Schafer/ICT)

"I feel better, I feel stronger and sometimes it heals me too," Jordan said. "My parents have really helped me become the dancer I am today."

Jordan said champion powwow dancer Prairie Rose Jack is her biggest inspiration.

"She started when she was little, just like me," Jordan Busse said. "Everytime she dances in the arena she gets better, there's not one thing that she can't get better at. I want to be just like her."

Debris From Recent Storms And Dry Forecast Increase Risk Of Wildfires

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asks the public to check fire danger and burn permit restrictions before conducting outdoor burning activities, as the spring fire season is underway and recent storms have increased the amount of debris on the landscape across much of Wisconsin.

Even with the heavy rainfall and severe weather last week, there were 50 wildfires that burned over 150 acres across the state. A dry forecast this week with expected low humidity and breezy conditions, coupled with a significant number of downed trees leading to more debris burning can result in increased wildfire risk.

Light fuels and vegetation dry out quickly, and wildfires can easily spread with the amount of natural fuel on the ground.

If recent storms have damaged the trees on your property, take some time to assess the damage and realistically determine if you can handle the cleanup yourself or if it's time to call in some professionals. Watch for damaged branches and bent trees that could fall. Always prioritize your physical safety before attempting any cleanup activities.

Tips To Safely Handle Flood Debris & Storm Cleanup

The DNR recommends taking flood-damaged debris to your local transfer station for proper disposal. In addition,

many communities have brush collection services or a site where you can drop off leaves, pine needles and branches they may have been scattered during the storms. Perhaps there's even enough debris on your property to warrant the rental of a brush chipper.

If your property is large enough, you can create a brush pile away from buildings that could serve as shelter for wildlife. Larger pieces of hardwood can be cut for firewood or for use in campfire pits.

If none of these alternatives work for your situation and your community allows for burning the material, timing the burn around periods of wet weather may be the safer choice.

Before you light that match, take the following precautions:

- Check for burn permit requirements and burning restrictions first. You can find information on the DNR's Burning Restrictions webpage or by calling your nearest DNR office or local fire department.

- Watch the weather forecast. Delay burning if dry or windy weather is predicted.

- Be aware of your county's fire danger by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) or visiting WisBurn.

- Keep debris piles small, *Continued on Page 12*



Recent bouts of severe storms have left broken branches, downed trees and debris across much of Wisconsin. Check fire danger before conducting any outdoor burning activities. Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE



BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING

Tribal Office Building
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

Twin Cities AREA MEETING

St. Paul Branch Office

1724 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104

Thursday, May 14, 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: 4/15/26



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

District 4 Area Meeting Notice



IN PERSON / VIRTUAL DISTRICT 4 AREA MEETING

Chicago Branch Office
4738 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60630
Monday, May 11 2026
6:00pm CST

VIRTUAL DISTRICT 4 AREA MEETING

Available via WebEx
Wednesday, May 13 2026
6:00pm PST

4/20/2026 - 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

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& GAMING FACILITIES
POSITIONS AVAILABLE



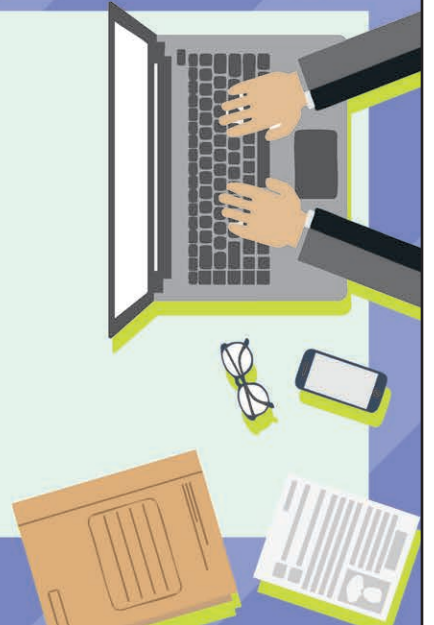
HO-CHUNK GAMING
WISCONSIN

Scan here!

- 1 Scan the QR code.
- 2 Register or Sign in.
- 3 Select a job.
- 4 Apply online!

PHONE:
(715) 284-4361

WEBSITE:
<https://ho-chunknation.com/employment/>



House of Wellness

7th Annual Pan Fish Tourney!

Location: White Mound County Park
www.co.sauk.wi.us/parksandrecreation/white-mound-county-park

Date: WI Free Fishing Weekend – Saturday June 6th,
2026 ONLY! NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED!!

Check-in: 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the boat launch pavilion.
Start/End Time: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Weigh-in: 4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. at boat launch pavilion.

Species allowed for catch: Bluegill, Crappie, Perch and all other pan fish in White Mound Lake (No Bass, Walleye or Northern Pike or other game species).

Entry Fee is: \$30 per person – payable day of at check-in, exact cash only – staff will not have change. Entries are limited to first 25 people.



- Winners will be determined by total weight of their catch.
- Fishing from shore/bank, boat or other legally allowable water craft is allowed.
- Must stay for entirety of tournament – leaving early is disqualification.
- Dead fish WILL NOT be allowed for weigh-in – KEEPING YOUR CATCH ALIVE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Catch may be kept after weigh-in.
- Turning in a gamefish (bass, northern pike, etc.) will result in immediate disqualification.
- Live bait and artificial lures are allowed.
- All State of Wisconsin, Sauk County Parks and other applicable fishing regulations, boating regulations and fishing etiquette will be followed at all times by all participants.

PRIZES:

- 1st Place – Plaque, Lure Pack and Ultralight Rod & Reel Combo.
- 2nd Place – Plaque, Lure Pack and Ultralight Rod & Reel Combo.
- 3rd Place – Plaque, Lure Pack and Ultralight Spinning Reel.
- 4th Place – Plaque and Spincast Reel.
- 5th Place – Plaque and Spincast Reel.



Sauk County Park
Fees are
responsibility of
participant.



© EMILY DANSTRA



SEEKING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY
& DIVERSITY (S.E.E.D)

To discuss educational equity and inclusive practices for the betterment of all students.

SUMMER S.E.E.D RETREAT REGISTRATION

SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 16TH - 18TH, 2026



Questions, please contact:

Michelle Cloud: michelle.cloud@ho-chunk.com
Bethany Redbird: bethany.redbird@ho-chunk.com



Use Smartphone
to Register



PLEASE JOIN US!

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice Seeks Tribal Members 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.

Duties:

- 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.

Composition: The Police Department Advisory Board shall consist of five (5) members with three (3) of the members being enrolled Ho-Chunk Tribal Members. The Board shall consist of three (3) officers and two (2) citizens.

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

- Must be an Officer or a Citizen:
 - Officer** shall mean a current law enforcement officer with at least three (3) years of experience or a former law enforcement officer with at least three (3) years of experience. Any former law enforcement officer considered for a board position must provide proof that he/she left their previous employment in good standing.
 - Citizen** shall mean a 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 HCN Police Department Advisory Board, please contact Jennifer Arms at the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice at 715-284-3170 or by e-mail at DOJHotline@ho-chunk.com by **no later than April 24th, 2026.**

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 Tribal Members 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 and all branches of its government on matters concerning 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 contact Jennifer Arms at the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice at 715-284-3170 or by e-mail at DOJHotline@ho-chunk.com by **no later than April 24th, 2026.**

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

Continued from Page 10

with the area around the pile cleared of any burnable vegetation.

• Have a water source and tools handy – and if the fire escapes your control, dial 911 immediately.

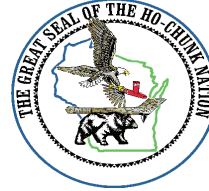
• Stay with the fire until you have completed the burn. Make sure it's out before you leave by dousing the ashes with water and mixing it in. Then, just to be safe, add more water. If any branches or larger pieces of wood remain unburned, check back frequently to make sure this material hasn't

reignited.

In Wisconsin, spring fire season typically lasts from snowmelt to "green up," when the grasses are green and leaves are budding out again.

Fire danger and burn restrictions can change daily this time of year. It's important to check before burning as fire officials will suspend burn permits as needed when fire danger becomes elevated.

Check current fire danger, wildfire reports and burning restrictions on the DNR website.



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

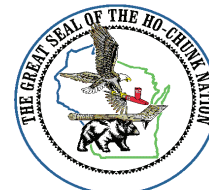
Term:

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 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 TRIAL COURT,		For Official Use
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF <i>Sherry Ann Wilson DOD 10/26/25</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Amended Notice of Hearing on Petition for Probate
By <i>Frederick Lee Young bear</i>		Case No. <i>PR25-08</i>
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:		
1. A Petition for Probate was filed.		
2. The decedent, with date of birth <i>08/10/1952</i> and date of death <i>10/26/2025</i> was domiciled in <i>Jackson</i> County, State of <i>Wisconsin</i> , with a mailing address of <i>105 Maplewood Ct # 48, Black River Falls, WI</i> .		
3. The names or addresses of the following interested person are not known or reasonably ascertainable:		
4. The petition will be heard at Wa Ehi Hoci, W9598 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI, 54615, before Judge <i>Wendi A. Huling</i> , on (Date) <i>March 23, 2026</i> at (Time) <i>10:00am</i> .		
You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.		
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-284-2722 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.		<i>Margaret A. Falcon</i> Deputy Clerk of Court <i>Margaret A. Falcon</i> Name Printed or Typed <i>January 19, 2026</i> Date

Ho-Chunk Nation Land Planning Commission



HO-CHUNK NATION LAND PLANNING COMMISSION – VACANCIES

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

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

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

Qualifications (one or more):

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



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



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

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

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

Ho-Chunk Nation
Healing to Wellness Court

2026 Helping Hand to Recovery

This event aims to foster healing, promote well-being, and support individuals in their recovery journey.

Tomah Community Center
430 Julie Street, Tomah, WI 54660

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
MAY 22 | 2026

Door prizes, food, and beverages.
Open to the public! All are welcome!

For more information:
Call: (715) 284-2722 ext. 13411 or ext. 13402
Email: michelle.oravez@ho-chunk.com or robert.mann@ho-chunk.com



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI APRIL 8, 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, P at 10:14 a.m.
- Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P
- Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
- Rep. Paul Fox-P
- Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
- Rep. Stephanie Begay-P
- Rep. Kyle White Eagle-P
- Rep. Shelby Visintin-EX
- Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-P
- Rep. Edward Mullen-P
- Rep. David Greendeer-VC
- Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

Determination of Quorum: Quorum is established at 10:00 a.m.

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

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda with ADDING under New Business E. Kickapoo Valley Reserve School Buildings and under District Meetings B. D2 Ho'u'nì\ Xu'u'nì\k – March 10, 2026. Second by Rep.

Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-March 17, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the March 17, 2026 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Special Finance Commission-March 18, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the March 18, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-1(Rep. David Greendeer) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Development Commission-March 24, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the March 24, 2026 Development Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Right of Way on Ho-Chunk Village #439 T 2098 for Bright Speed

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 A**, Authorization of Right of Way on Ho-Chunk Village #439 T 2098 for Bright Speed. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Fee Land Lease on the Parmenter Property for Scott & Alexia Devries

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 B**, Authorization of Fee Land Lease on the Parmenter Property for Scott & Alexia Devries. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Fee Land Lease on the Parmenter Property for Pine Giroux

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 C**, Authorization of Fee Land Lease on the Parmenter Property for Pine Giroux. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Lot 24 & 25 of the Indian Heights Property #439 T 2104 for Neeshla Development Solutions Corporation

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 D**, Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Lot 24 & 25 of the Indian Heights Property #439 T 2104 for Neeshla Development Solutions Corporation. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Land Lease on the Wo Gis Na Pi Property Tract #439 T 2161 for Wendell Everson

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 E**, Authorization of

Land Lease on the Wo Gis Na Pi Property Tract #439 T 2161 for Wendell Everson. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Land Lease on the Wittenberg Property Tract #439 T 2157 and 439 T 2148 for Keith Long

MOTION by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 F**, Authorization of Land Lease on the Wittenberg Property Tract #439 T 2157 and 439 T 2148 for Keith Long. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Special Finance Commission-March 25, 2026

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to approve the March 25, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Housing Commission-March 26, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to approve the March 26, 2026 Housing Commission Meeting minutes as presented. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-3(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

President Greendeer arrives at 10:14 a.m.

Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission-March 30, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the March 30, 2026 Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Education to Apply for the Ruth Foundation for the Arts: Wisconsin Special Projects Grant

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 G**, Authorization for the Department of Education to Apply for the Ruth Foundation for the Arts: Wisconsin Special Projects Grant. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health Division of Behavioral Health to Enter into a Field Education Affiliation Agreement with Madison College

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 H**, Authorization for the Department of Health Division of Behavioral Health to Enter into a Field Education Affiliation Agreement with Madison College. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Family Healing Camp 2026 Wooketekjwire Wookixetewire

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution**
Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 13

04-08-26 I, Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Family Healing Camp 2026 Wooketekiwire Wookixetewire with change to the title Wooketekiwire Wookixetewire. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Special Finance Commission- April 1, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the April 1, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 10-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Finance Commission-April 2, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the April 2, 2026 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 10-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment for the Waagax Hakiruxaraxara Hosto Library

President Greendeer chairs the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 J**, Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment for the Waagax Hakiruxaraxara Hosto Library. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

It was mentioned there is a meeting scheduled for next week, and it was asked if this resolution can be tabled until next session.

There was brief discussion on the compact deduct, Department of Education, the Library, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Education and Administration with the Library. Library Board Members Janice Rice, Joann Jones and Hinu Smith were in attendance and each spoke to the importance of the Library.

Resolution-Authorization to Fund and Close Capital Project HCG-Wittenberg – Promotional Kiosks

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 K**, Authorization to Fund and Close Capital Project HCG-Wittenberg – Promotional Kiosks. Second by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Federation of Sovereign Nations of Wisconsin Request

Rep. Tracy Thundercloud mentioned that Larry Littlegeorge reviewed this request at the April 2, 2026 Finance Commission Meeting, and the request was referred to full Legislature. The Federal of Sovereign Nations of Wisconsin is requesting funds

to convene a Tribal Leadership Summit bringing together representatives from the 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations of Wisconsin. The Summit is scheduled for April 25-26, 2026 at the District 1 Community Building. A budget was submitted for the Summit, totaling \$12,160, which includes: hotel rooms, mileage, facilitator compensation, meals and contingency.

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to approve the Federation of Sovereign Nations of Wisconsin Request in the amount of \$12,160.50 to be reconciled by Larry Littlegeorge and funds coming the Charitable Contributions line item. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. **MOTION IS AMENDED TO MAKE THIS AN EMERGENCY MOTION.** Second concurs. **MOTION IS AMENDED** to approve the request, omitting the mileage, for a total of \$10,060.50. Second concurs. 8-3(Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr., Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. stated that he doesn't agree with the hotel rooms and mileage from within the budget.

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Resolution-Per Capita Declaration for May 1, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 L**, Per Capita Declaration for May 1, 2026. Second by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place the Election Code (2 HCC § 6) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 M**, Authorization to Place the Election Code (2 HCC § 6) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. David Greendeer stated the following: *I support moving this redline forward for the 45-day review period; however, I request that a formal legal analysis be conducted concurrently to evaluate alignment with the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution.*

This review should specifically address whether the proposed changes raise concerns related to equal representation, potential disparate impacts on District 4 voters, including voter access and risk of disenfranchisement, the adequacy of the redistricting standard, and overall consistency with the constitutional requirement that elections be fair and proper.

I further request that legislative counsel, in their role as counsel to the full Legislature, provide neutral and objective

legal analysis to all members during the review period, so that any necessary revisions can be made before the code returns for final consideration.

Given that this code may ultimately govern an upcoming election, it is important that these issues are addressed during the review period rather than after adoption.

Rep. Edward Mullen stated the following: *I want to thank my colleagues for the work and determination of tackling election reform. It is important. But I do have some concerns on our constitutional obligation to protect equal participation, equal representation, and direct democracy for all Ho-Chunk people. I will be in support of it going forward and I think we can bridge some gaps, however, there are some concerns. The Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution establishes elections as a direct democracy system, meaning: Legislators elected by majority vote of district voters. President elected by majority vote of the Nation. Judges elected by majority vote of the people. Political authority belongs to the people – not to administrative bodies. Political authority flows directly from voters. Administrative bodies exist to serve elections, not shape them. The Constitution guarantees equal participation of all districts. Legislature enacts procedures to protect voting, not restrict it. District 4 members are uniquely affected because of the high reliance on absentee/mail voting, the greater geographic barriers for participation of in-person voting. This raises equity concerns. District 4 voters depend more on mail ballots, absentee timelines, communication reliability and remote participation safeguards. I'd like to see more voter protections, expanding cure processes and strengthening notification requirements. This proposal expands the administrative authority and maintains a governance structure that may provide unequal representation on the Election Board, particularly affecting District 4 members who rely most on remote participation. District 4, representing thousands of members, receives less than 10% of Board representation. How is that equity? Yet that same Board gains expanded authority over election procedures, voter determinations and election administration decisions.*

While the Constitution allows creation of an Election Board, it does not authorize unequal voter influence through administrative structure. If Board eligibility or participation requirements effectively require proximity to certain location, frequent in-person attendance, and geographic limitations, then District 4 members face structural exclusion. Now, I believe we are on the right track and we can get this right. So, I am in support of a proposal that fully reflects equity, voter access, and our constitutional responsibilities.

Thank you.

Resolution-Authorization to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2026 Summer Tribal Youth Program Grant Funding

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 N**, Authorization to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2026 Summer Tribal Youth Program Grant Funding. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Town of Fairfield, Sauk County, Wisconsin North Reedsburg Road Construction Project

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 04-08-26 O**, Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Town of Fairfield, Sauk County, Wisconsin North Reedsburg Road Construction Project. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Kickapoo Valley Reserve School Buildings

Rep. Damian Thundercloud stated that he sits on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Management Board, and the Board has been discussing what to do with two school buildings on the property.

In 2019, the board pursued a DPI Charter School grant, and were awarded a \$700,000 grant for the Kickapoo Valley Forest School, grades 4K-2nd grade. Those two school buildings were built with money donated from the Fleckenstein Foundation in the amount of \$275,000. The Fleckenstein Foundation also donated \$90,000 towards the Visitors Center. In 2022, the Board approved a third building, an administrative building. In 2023, the Board made a multi-motion, in terms of not renewing the lease for the school and to have the school create an ad-hoc committee to decide where they were going to move. The Board gave them over a year to make those decisions. Rep. Damian Thundercloud met with the Fleckenstein Foundation, and the initial intent of the donations was for the school. The Foundation would like the school buildings moved to an agreed upon location to allow continued use by the Kickapoo Valley Forest School and fulfill the agreed upon initial intention of the grants, and if the buildings are not able to be moved, the Foundation is asking for a proposal from the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Management Board staff on a proposed use that would align with the mission of Prairie Springs and the Trust. The Board asked Rep. Damian Thundercloud to get a recommendation from the Legislature. Rep. Damian Thundercloud outlined three options to move forward: 1) both buildings go back to the school (as the Fleckenstein Foundation would like), 2) split up the buildings, with one going to the Kickapoo Valley

Reserve and one going to the school, and 3) the buildings be transferred to the Ho-Chunk Nation for education purposes.

Rep. Damian Thundercloud also mentioned that the building sit on state land, and there is a process at the state level in terms of how the buildings can be transferred.

No written documentation was received for this agenda item.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to have Legal draft a letter for the Vice President and President's signature, listing the three recommendations and for the letter to be sent to the Kickapoo Valley Board. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. **MOTION IS AMENDED** to request Legal draft that letter and for the letter to be brought back to the Legislature prior to being sent. Second concurs. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Meetings:

D2 Hoxaikeja/Hoguceja/Nizhakisuc – March 17, 2026

No motions.

D2 Ho'uni Xununiik – March 10, 2026

No motions.

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

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 11:46 a.m.

Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. and Rep. Stephanie Begay are excused from the meeting at 1:30 p.m. to attend a Tribal Leaders meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 1:35 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to April 21, 2026 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

OUTDOOR EVENT
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

BLUES TRAVELER



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Rock Legends Live In Concert!**

Blues Traveler brings their signature sound to Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls. With over **10 million** albums sold and decades of hits like **Run-Around, Hook, But Anyway, and The Mountains Win Again**—this is a live show you don't want to miss.



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JUNE 13 | 6PM | \$75

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MAY 23-25, 2026

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Cara Lee Murphy (715)284-2658

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