



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



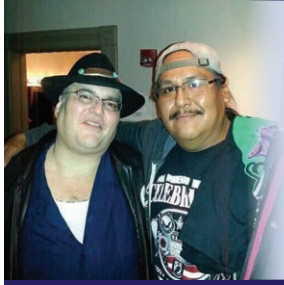
HOCAK WORAK



Vol. XL, Issue 9

Mą h̄itawus hi wira | Earth Drying Moon

May 8, 2026



Thundercloud Singers Reunite with Blues Traveler to mark 30th anniversary of Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls

Page 2



HCN Education Department Employee Spotlight: Dr. Bethany Redbird

Page 3



New Wisconsin Law Ensures Native Students Can Wear Tribal Regalia at Graduation Ceremonies

Page 5

UW-Madison Honors Janice Rice with 2026 Distinguished Achievement Award

Kalli Berg

Janice Rice, an Elder and member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, was recently recognized with the 2026 Distinguished Achievement Award from the School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences at University of Wisconsin-Madison for her decades of work in librarianship, education, and advocacy for Indigenous communities.

Rice said receiving the award came as a surprise.

“I just did what I do and never thought about it,” Rice said. “Especially from the information school where I got my degree. I didn’t even think they noticed much of what I’ve been doing over the years.”

Rice’s path into librarianship began long before her time at UW-Madison. Growing up in Tomah, she worked at the Tomah Public Library through a Neighborhood Youth Corps program connected to the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. Seeing Native leadership connected to that opportunity left a lasting impression on her.

Rice said access to books was limited while growing up in a rural country school, where collections were small and rotating. That experience later inspired her to help create access to books and information for others.

“I felt like I really missed a lot by being in a rural area,” Rice said. “So, I thought, why don’t I stay with that so that others can benefit from books and learning.”

Rice originally studied education before eventually finding her way into library science. While attending University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, an advisor encouraged her to explore library science as a minor.

Later, through encouragement from educators and recruitment efforts connected to Native education organizations, she moved to Madison to continue her studies.

According to a university profile on Rice, she later earned her master’s degree in Library & Information Studies and a specialist degree in American Indian librarianship at UW-Madison.

Over the years, Rice worked in multiple areas of librarianship, including public libraries, reference services, and academic collections. After returning to Madison while her husband attended law school, she joined College Library at UW-Madison, where she spent decades helping build Indigenous and multicultural collections for students.

Since the late 1970s, Rice has helped acquire Native-authored books, tribal



newspapers, and Indigenous publications for university collections. She said the rise of Native authors and Indigenous-led publications during that era was especially meaningful.

“The newspapers, Indigenous newspapers, were covering the stories about our people, not in a way that a non-Native teaches it, but the way that we perceive ourselves and what we want to promote,” Rice said.

Rice’s work also helped support tribal librarianship throughout Wisconsin. Earlier in her career, she worked as a library consultant serving multiple counties across northern Wisconsin, where she connected with tribal libraries and Native communities including the Mole



Lake and Potawatomi tribes.

The university also recognized Rice for helping lay the foundation for the Tribal Libraries, Archives & Museums (TLAM) program at UW-Madison through collaborations with former iSchool Director Louise Robbins and outreach efforts supporting tribal libraries and Indigenous communities.

In addition to her work in libraries, Rice has remained active in national Indigenous libraries and cultural organizations. She previously served as president of the American Indian Library Association and later co-chaired the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. In 2009, she received the UW System Outstanding Women of
Continued on Page 13

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 518
Twin Cities, MN

HOCAK WORAK NEWSPAPER
P.O. BOX 667
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615

HOCAK WORAK NEWSPAPER
TEL: (800) 472-3089 FAX: (715) 284-7852
Please notify the Newspaper of any address changes or corrections

Tiffany King Shares Her Story at Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals Conference as Graduate Speaker

Ardith Van Riper

The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals held their statewide conference April 22-24, at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center near Wisconsin Dells with over 650 in attendance. They were celebrating 30 years of Wisconsin Treatment Courts and over the years have invited graduate speakers. Ho-Chunk Nation citizen, Tiffany King, was one of three graduate speakers who had the honor of sharing their stories with Attorney General Josh Kaul.

The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) is an organization representing the interests of treatment courts in the State of Wisconsin and membership includes judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys,



court administrators, treatment providers, probation and community corrections officers, social service caseworkers, and other stakeholders in the field of treatment courts.

Continued on Page 5

INSIDE SCOOP...

News.....	2-3,5-6,9-11
Announcements.....	2-5,8-9,12
Health.....	6-7
Memorials.....	8
Notices.....	13
Legislative Minutes.....	14-15
Ads.....	16

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

District 2 Helps Fund a New Fire Truck for Lyndon Station

At the Community Building on April 23, in Indian Heights, District 2 Representatives Stephanie Begay, Damian Thundercloud, and Kyle White Eagle joined Lyndon Station Fire Chief Troy Madland and tribal member Christine Funmaker-Romano for a special presentation. This effort began when Christine

brought the need forward at an area meeting, helping get the conversation started and the support in motion. Funding will go toward a new, updated fire truck for the Lyndon Station Fire Department. Pinagigi to everyone who helped move this forward.



SAVE THE DATE

2026

Ho-Chunk Neesh La

Contest Powwow

August 11, 12 & 13

Grand Entry Times:

11th, Tues- 7PM
12th Wed- 3PM
13th Thur- 12PM

DAY PASS - \$5.00
3 DAY PASS- \$10.00
5 AND UNDER- FREE
60 PLUS- FREE
HCN TRIBAL MEMBERS- FREE

Vendors contact Mayta Montelongo 715-340-1824
???? Courage Cleveland 608-472-1011

Flyer with more details is coming soon!

DARING TO SET BOUNDARIES IS ABOUT HAVING THE COURAGE TO LOVE OURSELVES

EVEN WHEN WE RISK DISAPPOINTING OTHERS

- BRENE BROWN

Thundercloud Singers reunite with Blues Traveler to mark 30th anniversary of Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls

Submitted by Anne Thundercloud
Thirty-two years ago, a group of young Ho-Chunk men took the stage at The Rave in Milwaukee, WI. The crowd expected east coast garage band turned multi-platinum band Blues Traveler but witnessed a combination of cultures - and the forging of two families.
The beat of the Ho-Chunk drum echoed through the

concert hall as the rising voices of the Thundercloud Singers united to sing in the language of their forefathers. Blues Traveler drummer Brendan Hill joined, following the beat of the Ho-Chunk drum as the Thundercloud Singers faded out, forming a harmonious segue into the contemporary sounds of rock and blues. The crowd erupted in applause as the young Ho-Chunks left the stage.

This event marked the beginning of a long relationship between the Grammy award-winning band Blues Traveler and the Ho-Chunk drum group, the Thundercloud Singers. "We came to know the Thundercloud Singers in the early 90s," said Blues Traveler frontman John Popper, "hearing them in their element, gathered around a big drum, we like most who hear for the first time, were captivated by the raw power of simply voices and a drum."
The Beginning of a Brotherhood

Joel Thundercloud, the eldest of this group of brothers, recalled the night the two groups met in May of 1994. He and his younger brother Jon both recollected attending multiple Blues Traveler shows until the band had risen in popularity and the brothers missed a sold-out show at Madison's Barrymore Theater. "Luckily, I ended up working security at that show and the band members recognized me from attending their previous



Marquee currently on display at Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls.



Blues Traveler front man John Popper and Jon Thundercloud. Photo courtesy of Thundercloud Singers.



Blues Traveler make a special appearance in Florida for their brother Jon Thundercloud. Photo courtesy of Thundercloud Singers.

shows. They asked me where my brothers were and I told them they couldn't make it because the show sold out," Jon Thundercloud said. Upon meeting the band backstage, Jon said, "we clicked instantly." That night the members of the band invited the Thunderclouds on their bus and the brothers sang Ho-Chunk songs for the band members. Two nights later, the Thunderclouds along with their extended family Nathan "Koonzie" Decorah,

William Miner III, Percy Miner, and Scott Weigel, appeared on stage with the band. From there, the Thundercloud Singers joined the rock and blues band on stage several times, including a national tour called the H.O.R.D.E (Horizons of Rock Developing Everywhere) Festival. The Thundercloud Singers joined the tour, which opened the door to other collaborations with mainstream artists. During interviews, Joel, Continued on Page 14

Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department Employee Spotlight: Dr. Bethany Redbird

We are proud to recognize Dr. Bethany Redbird, School Community Relations Division Manager for the Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department, for her outstanding leadership and dedication to student success.



Dr. Redbird oversees both the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program and our PreK-12 initiatives, ensuring that students and families receive comprehensive support throughout their educational journey. Her commitment to academic achievement and student well-being is evident in every aspect of her work.

One of her most impactful efforts is leading our annual Back-to-School Bashes. Through her coordination and vision, students begin each school year equipped with the supplies and resources they need to feel confident and prepared for success.

In addition to program oversight, Dr. Redbird provides professional development (PD) to school districts, strengthening cultural understanding and educational practices that better serve our students. She collaborates closely with the Disabilities Division and Tutor Services to ensure wraparound support for learners across grade levels.

Dr. Redbird also extends her leadership into higher education by supporting doctoral students as they prepare to defend their dissertations — demonstrating her commitment not only to PreK-12 education but to lifelong learning and academic excellence.

Her leadership, collaboration, and dedication continue to make a lasting difference for students, families, educators, and scholars alike. Thank you, Dr. Redbird, for your vision and unwavering commitment to education and community!

**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

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be May 15th which will be published on May 22nd. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

WAAGAX WAA'E HII BOOK CLUB

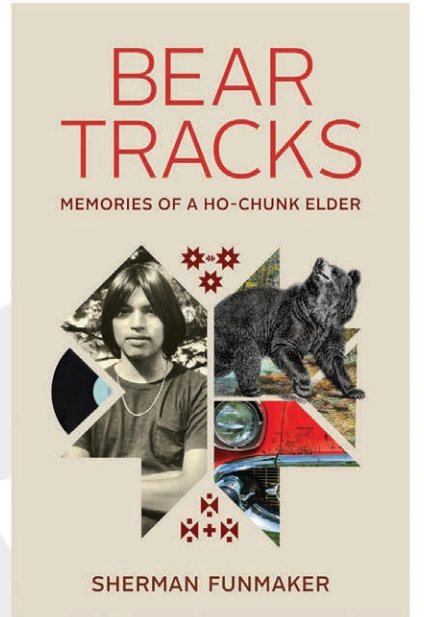
IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

- May 14th 6-8pm
- May 21st 6-8pm

Pre-Registration Required

Contact Lucas Quackenbush for more information:

- Lucas.Quackenbush@Ho-Chunk.com
- 715-284-0905 x 15230



IN THE CITY OF MADISON WISCONSIN

NEW PROJECT COMING SOON

APPLICATIONS OPEN 06/01

Down Payment Assistance (City of Madison)

- Up to \$60,000 per household
- Covers down payment and closing costs
- 3 awards available
- Provided as a deferred, zero-interest loan (not a grant)

New Construction Assistance (City of Madison)

- Up to \$75,000 per household
- awards available
- Deferred loan (not a grant)
- Site Preparation: up to \$10,000
- Energy Efficiency / ENERGY STAR®: up to \$10,000

Contact for more info/requirements

KaleenaEmery@Ho-Chunk.com
Elaina.Daugherty@Ho-Chunk.com

608.374.1225 PO BOX 170 TOMAH, WI 54660

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.

HOCOK 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

www.hocakworak.com

2016
BETTER NEWSPAPER
CONTEST AWARD
WINNER

WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

The Hocak Worak is a member of:

INDIGENOUS
Journalists Association

LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR COMMUNITIES—
TOGETHER

HHCDA SPRING CLEAN-UP 2026

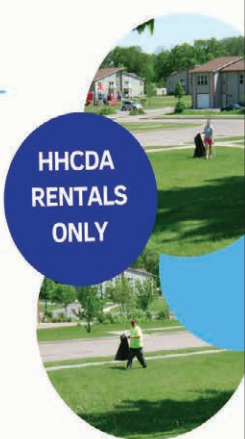
HHCDA Tenants, A simple way to clear out unwanted items and keep our neighborhoods safe, clean, and cared for.

Pick-Up Dates: Every Thursday in May

- May 7 (Morning) - Nekoosa
- May 7 (Afternoon) - Blue Wing
- May 14 - Sand Pillow & Mission
- May 21 - Dells Area
- May 28- Wittenberg

By Appointment Only

- LaCrosse & Madison



Special Handling
Electronics (TVs, computers, etc.) must be placed in a separate pile.

✓ SET ITEMS OUT BY 9:00 AM
END OF DRIVEWAY ON YOUR SCHEDULED DAY.
ITEMS PLACED OUT LATER MAY NOT BE PICKED UP.

Accepted items include:

- Mattresses (5 max)
- 1 Washer
- 1 Dryer
- 1 freezer
- Tires (10 max)
- Microwaves

NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Batteries
- Pesticides
- Paints
- Hazardous Materials
- No regular trash or Recycling
- Motor Oil
- Yard Waste
- No Refrigerator
- Stove

HHCDA reserves the right to modify, reschedule, or cancel this event, program, or offering at any time as needed.



Where Compassion Meets Actions!

Questions & Scheduling Pick up

Call 608.374.1245 Ken McAndrew 608-387-1043



HHCDA Wellness Wednesdays

Wellness & Staff Development Days

HHCDA offices will be closed on scheduled Wellness Wednesdays to allow staff to participate in wellness and development activities.

2026 Closure Dates:

- April 29, 2026
- July 29, 2026
- September 30, 2026
- December 30, 2026

Normal operations will resume the following business day.

About Wellness Wednesday

Wellness Wednesday is an HHCDA initiative designed to support employee well-being, professional growth, and cultural connection. These dedicated days strengthen our team, enabling us to better serve the Ho-Chunk Nation and our communities.

Powered By ENGAGE (EEC)

HHCDA Employee Engagement Committee
Empower. Nurture. Grow. Appreciate. Gather. Elevate.



No matter where you are,
We will meet you there.

No matter where you are in life—in addiction, grief, recovery, or anywhere along your journey—you are welcome here. This gathering creates space for connection, reflection, and belonging. Together we will hold talking circles centered on **cultural identity, community, and healing**. Through we will listen, learn, and share testimony from our lived experiences as we walk our paths forward.

Women, Children & Community Gathering

Stories of Strength & Resilience



Saturday, May 23, 2026
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Heights Community Building
Potluck-style grill out – bring something to share!

RSVP encouraged but walk-ins welcome

As part of the Living Heritage initiative.

Sponsors:



Contact info:

Beth Bridges •
(608) 408-3257
bethbridges88@gmail.com

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



New Wisconsin Law Ensures Native Students Can Wear Tribal Regalia at Graduation Ceremonies

Kailli Berg

Wisconsin Native students will now have the legal right to wear tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies and school-sponsored events under a new state law signed by Gov. Tony Evers earlier this month.

The new law, known as Wisconsin Act 222, prevents public school districts and charter schools from prohibiting Native students from wearing traditional tribal regalia during graduation ceremonies and other school events.

The law applies to students who are enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe, descendants of tribal members, or those eligible for enrollment.

Gov. Evers signed the legislation into law April 9, marking what many tribal leaders and advocates say is an important step toward protecting Native identity, cultural expression, and religious freedom in schools across the state.

The law comes after years of conversations nationwide surrounding Native students being told they could not wear eagle feathers, beadwork, moccasins, ribbon skirts, traditional stoles, or other culturally significant items during graduation ceremonies.

According to the Oneida Nation, the legislation “clarifies earlier protections that were often unclear and led to uncertainty for Indigenous students and families.” The Nation noted that schools can no longer prohibit students from wearing traditional dress, beads, feathers, and other culturally significant regalia.

Tribal leaders across Wisconsin say the law is about more than graduation attire, it represents visibility, healing, and cultural



survival.

“I think this is a monumental moment for tribal children all over the state,” said Araia Breedlove of Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in an interview with WXPR and WAOW Television.

Breedlove said the law is especially meaningful for Native students living outside reservation communities who may not have previously felt supported in expressing their identity publicly.

“To just walk across that stage representing their culture and their identity, it’s huge,” Breedlove said.

She also connected the legislation to the legacy of boarding schools and generations of cultural suppression faced by Native people.

“Now we’re taking culture on a bigger stage,” Breedlove said.

Some Wisconsin school districts have already allowed students to wear tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies, but supporters of the bill said statewide protections were needed to ensure Native students had equal rights regardless of where they attended school.

Calling on all Ho-Chunk Nation Healing to Wellness Court Graduates for the 1st annual

HTWC ALUMNI GALA BANQUET

Wednesday May 27th, 2026
6 PM
Comfort Inn & Suites
Black River Falls, WI

FEEL FREE TO BRING:

- Sponsor
- Support Person
- Spouse/Partner
- Children

AS WE CELEBRATE

- Sobriety
- Healing
- Wellness
- Encouraging Others
- Connecting Alumni with the newly sober
- Mentoring
- Alumni establishment
- Monthly Meetings

For more information:
Phone: (715) 284-2722 (Ask for Wellness Program)
Email: HTWCourtfilings@ho-chunk.com

You can't go back & change the beginning,
but you can start where you are & change the ending.

C.S. Lewis

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

Continued from Page 1

Tiffany King was the first graduate from the Jackson County Family Treatment Court.

“When people ask me how treatment court helped me,” King said, “the honest answer is that it did not magically fix me. But it did give me something much harder than that, it gave me structure, accountability, and a group of people who refused to give up on me, even when I was very close to giving up on myself. I did want to quit. A lot. There were many times I felt like things were unfair.”

Tiffany did not quit and went on to share, “finishing that program is one of the greatest accomplishments of my life. At first, it was hard to believe that the people in the courtroom where there to support me because I was so used to thinking that everyone was against me. It took time to realize they were actually all for me.

“One of the things that I looked forward to most was something simple, and that was being asked how many days sober I had. Hearing that number grow, and hearing people clap for me. It meant so much. It reminded me that I was doing something right. That I was moving forward. But most importantly, that I knew it was in my power to not have that number go back down to zero.”

King struggled with addiction since she was 18 years old and began with heavy drinking. She occasionally mixed in cocaine. By the time she was 27, she became addicted to meth. Tiffany was in and out of jail and attended four different treatment centers.

“At one point,” King said, “I even tried our tribes healing to wellness court, but I ran from the treatment center they

had sent me to. I ran from what my ATR was. While I was on the run, I found out I was pregnant with my oldest daughter. I wanted to be a mom, so I turned myself in and as a result I spent most of my first pregnancy in jail.”

Tiffany King revealed that becoming a parent didn’t fix her addiction because she wanted to continue getting high. She kept using during her second pregnancy and lost custody of her two daughters.

“Throughout these years,” Tiffany King explained, “I had many tries and many fails at sobriety. Each time it felt like I was falling further from who I wanted to be. Eventually, I got married and had my third child with this person I love very much. My active addiction did not care. I relapsed when my son was just 5 weeks old. I put myself at risk for losing my husband and my son.”

King went on to describe the grief she carried. Her dad passed away in 2021, her grandma passed away in 2022, and her brother passed in 2023. She refused to deal with the sorrow and instead, used it as an excuse to continue getting high. She tried to run from her troubles but her road would soon change.

“When I got sober,” she continued, “all of that came back to the surface. The grief, the guilt, and the regret. CPS once again became involved in my life on June 11, 2024. This day was my turning point. This is when I had to face not just legal consequences but also myself.

“I asked to go to treatment because I knew what the hair follicle test would show. I was given this chance and I went to my fourth treatment center in Michigan. I was even able to bring my son along with me.

Continued on Page 10

Wisconsin sues Lac Du Flambeau over non-member fishing regulations

The state is suing the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe for restricting fishing of at-risk walleye and musky populations to tribal citizens only

Amelia Schafer
Reprint from ICT

In an effort to protect dwindling walleye and muskellunge, or “musky,” populations, the Wasswaaganing Anishinaabeg, or Lac Du Flambeau Band of Ojibwe, in the Wisconsin Northwoods elected to restrict fishing starting April 16 in the 19 lakes on its tribal lands to tribal members only. By the end of April, the state of Wisconsin filed a lawsuit that claims the tribe is violating its own treaty and on May 1, the United States District Court of Western Wisconsin issued a temporary restraining order against the tribe.

As a result of the restraining order, the tribe will lift its ban on non-tribal members fishing for walleye and musky on reservation lakes. Wisconsin’s walleye and musky fishing season begins May 2.

The tribe is preparing for a full hearing on the matter before the court on May 29.

The state claims the tribe does not have authority to restrict fishing rights on its lands and cites public safety concerns that could occur as a result of doing so. It also claims the tribe’s restrictions violate the Treaty of 1854.

“The 1854 Treaty did not grant the Chippewa Indians, including the Band, any authority to regulate fishing by non-Indians in Wisconsin’s navigable waters, including those State waters located within the boundaries of the Band’s reservation,” the lawsuit says. “The Band’s Resolutions ... violate the limited powers granted to the Chippewa under the 1854 Treaty, as interpreted by this Court and the Seventh Circuit in Baker.”

But the resolution doesn’t ban non-Native people from fishing, said Araia Breedlove, Waaswaaganing Anishinaabe and the public relations director for the tribe. The resolution simply prohibits non-tribal members from harvesting the fish, she said.

If a non-tribal member accidentally catches a walleye or musky, they won’t be charged with a crime, they just need to put it back. The resolution doesn’t restrict catch-and-release fishing, it’s just an attempt to help protect the culturally important animals from over-harvesting and poaching, and it’s specifically targeted at the practice of sport fishing, Breedlove said.

Wisconsin’s fishing season begins May 2.

Walleye, or Ogaa, and musky, or Maashkinoozhe, are immensely important to Anishinaabe people, who have safely harvested them since time immemorial.

“A lot of people are frustrated, but I need to emphasize this is not a political statement. It’s not us versus them,” Breedlove said. “This is all about conservation. We completely encourage non-tribal members and tribal members alike to still go fishing. We’re asking fishermen to not at all target walleye and musky.”

All of the reservation’s lakes are stocked by the tribe’s own hatchery, for which the tribe does not receive state assistance, Breedlove said.

“All of our resources are manned by us,” she said. “It is frustrating, having this litigation, because we know what we’re doing and we know how to take care of these lakes better than anyone else.”

On April 16, the tribe announced its council had passed a resolution limiting walleye and musky fishing to just tribal citizens. It also announced forward-facing sonar would be banned, saying the practice contributes to over-harvesting. Forward-facing sonar allows anglers to see moving images of fish up to 100 feet ahead of their boat.

The council made the decision after hearing from the tribe’s fish hatchery manager, Breedlove said.

The decision was met with

controversy, she said, as the lakes hadn’t been closed entirely. However, if tribal members were not allowed access to the lakes, it would result in a direct breach of treaty obligated fishing rights provided to Ojibwe people, she said.

Two state representatives, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Karen Hyun and Secretary’s Director James Yach, met with tribal officials on April 27 to request the resolution be rescinded. State representatives said Gov. Tony Evers feared threats to public safety as a result of the resolution, Breedlove said.

“My obligation and my commitment to the Tribal Nations in Wisconsin remains the same,” Evers said in a statement emailed to ICT. “I have deep respect and appreciation for Tribal sovereignty, Tribal leaders and elected officials, and the government-to-government relationships we share, and I will always be a governor who supports self-governance and the rights of the Nations to make decisions for their citizens.”

Evers said he remains committed to working with tribal nations, but must also continue to advocate for all Wisconsin residents regardless of whether they are a tribal citizen or not. He said his administration spent weeks attempting to get more information from the tribe, including insight into how the decision would be implemented, but ultimately did not come to an agreement.

“Unfortunately, the lack of communication and transparency about this decision, coupled with outstanding safety concerns caused by generations of tension and violence that have surrounded Tribal rights and fishing on these lands for centuries, has the potential to unnecessarily sow division, stoke tension, and further entrench animosity between neighbors where it need not and should not



Lake Pokegama sits within the Lac Du Flambeau reservation and is one of 19 lakes at the center of a lawsuit between the state of Wisconsin and Lac Du Flambeau tribe regarding fishing regulations. Credit: Amelia Schafer, ICT



Flambeau Lake on the Lac Du Flambeau Reservation in Wisconsin has previously been subject to fishing regulations by the tribe in an effort to help at-risk musky and walleye populations. (Photo by Amelia Schafer, ICT)

exist,” the statement said. “This has left the state no other choice but to intervene and take additional legal steps.”

Breedlove said it wasn’t clear how the tribe’s decision was a threat to public safety.

The area, along with much of Wisconsin’s Northwoods, was the site of the Walleye Wars in the 1980s and

Continued on Page 7

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health
Division of Public Health

Wažookj woo’ehi

family conversations

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

Wednesdays 1pm-2pm
May 6th

Building Brain-Healthy Habits
Heidi Neely, Alzheimer’s Association
May 13th

Tribal Identity
Curtis Caaxsepga Redbird,
Elder Workforce Division Manager
May 20th

WI Well Woman Program (WWWP) & Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Recommendations
Sarah Wanek, MPH Madison/Dane Cty Public Health

[JOIN NOW](#)

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

HO-CHUNK NATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH

CONGRATULATIONS
2026 SOBER PROM KING & QUEEN

Eric Sturdevant & Mandi Jaehnke



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

MAA HITAWUS WIIRA
May: Earth Drying Moon

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

Ceenjxa Morels





About Morels

- Morels are prized wild mushrooms known for their unique flavor and are often called "Dry Land Fish" or "Hickory Chickens" in parts of the U.S.
- Used in traditional medicine for centuries, morels are known to support immune health, reduce inflammation, and help protect the liver.
- Morels are nutrient-dense, providing protein, fiber, vitamin D, B vitamins, iron, potassium, and antioxidants.
- Morels must be thoroughly cooked before eating to remove natural toxins, never eat them raw. Many people pre-cook them before adding to recipes.
- Morels grow wild, and identifying them correctly is important. Some lookalikes, like Verpa species, can be toxic. Always check the stem and cap attachment to tell them apart.
- When harvesting, cut morels near the base with a knife, and store them in paper bags, not plastic. Clean them in the field to avoid dirt in the pits.

For more info:
<https://www.naturallygrows.org/an-overview-of-morel-mushrooms/>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's supplemental nutrition assistance program-SNAP.





Steak with Morel Cream Sauce

Ingredients:

- 4 small bison steaks (or venison/elk/beef, ~1/2 inch thick)
- 1/2 lb fresh morels, or 15g dried morels soaked in 1 cup boiling water for 30 min
- Salt & pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

Steps:

- Prep the morels:
 - If using fresh, clean thoroughly and cut any large ones in half.
 - If using dried, soak in 1 cup boiling water for 30 minutes, then drain well and remove any grit.
- Season the steaks with salt and pepper.
- In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon butter and 1 teaspoon olive oil over medium-high heat.
- Sear the bison steaks for 1-2 minutes per side (medium-rare to medium). Remove from pan and cover loosely with foil to rest.
- Reduce heat to medium. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon butter to the same pan.
- Sauté the onion for 2-3 minutes until soft.
- Add the morels and cook for:
 - 6-8 minutes if fresh
 - 8-10 minutes if rehydrated
 - Stir occasionally until tender and fragrant.
- Pour in the heavy cream and simmer for 2-3 minutes, just until the sauce thickens slightly.
- Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Return the bison steaks to the pan briefly, or serve them hot topped with the creamy morel sauce.

Recipe inspired by: <https://ediblemarinandinwinescountry.ediblecommunities.com/recipe/recipes-morel-mushrooms-and-steak-la-cr-me/>

For more Information Contact a HCN Registered Dietitian/ Nutritionist:

BRF, Tomah, Wittenberg areas: (888) 685-4422, ext. 33335
BRF, La Crosse areas: (888) 685-4422, ext. 35340
Dells, Nekoosa, Madison areas: (888) 552-7889, ext. 35554

HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIV.
<http://health.ho-chunk.com/>
Created 9/25 MB

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



On the Road for Better Women's Health

Committed to better health

As a part of its commitment to providing better health service to everyone in Wisconsin, Marshfield Clinic is proud to sponsor the Mobile Mammography Unit.

Marshfield Clinic's Mobile Health Screening Unit, a credentialed, 40-foot screening van, accommodates medical staff to perform digital mammography screening services for women in a confidential manner.

The Mobile Mammography Unit is coming here to serve you.

Date: **May 21, 2026**



Location: **Rainbow Ho-Chunk Casino Nekoosa**

Time: **9:00-3:00**

For more information or to schedule a mammogram call:
715-221-6086

Please have your insurance info when scheduling
Prevention is the key to good health - and now Marshfield Clinic is making it more convenient for you.

In the fight against breast cancer, Marshfield Clinic is proud to partner with

Don't just live. Shine.

Continued from Page 6

1990s in which non-Native residents protested, often violently, laws that allowed Ojibwe fishermen to practice spearfishing but prohibited non-Native people from doing so. Spearfishing is a traditional Indigenous fishing practice in which fishers, guided by torches, spear fish from the water at night.

The state's lawsuit seemingly alludes to this history, citing concerns of confrontation between Wisconsin-licensed anglers, tribal law enforcement, and

members of the public, both tribal and non-tribal.

"For example, many Wisconsin anglers are aware of Wisconsin's anti-harassment law for hunters, anglers, and trappers, Wis. Stat. § 29.083," the lawsuit says. "That law prohibits "[i]mpeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping."

That law was created as a result of the racism and violent behavior Ojibwe fishermen experienced during the Walleye Wars.

According to the lawsuit,

the state of Wisconsin argues that the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians v. State of Wisconsin*, often referred to as the "Voight case," affirmed that the state, not tribes, has exclusive sovereignty over navigable waters within the boundaries of reservations within lands designated in the Treaty of 1854.

Because of this ruling, the state is arguing that the tribe cannot exclude non-tribal citizens from fishing on lakes within its reservation.

However, according to the band's Tribal Conservation Code, the council does have the authority to protect and preserve tribal property, including wildlife and natural resources, in an effort to protect the health, security and general welfare of the tribe.

Additionally, the tribe restricted fishing in a similar manner in 2022 but only to one lake, Flambeau Lake. As a result, the walleye and musky populations increased tremendously, Breedlove said, and the state never voiced any concern about the measure. The state lawsuit claims the

fish population was already on the rise prior to the tribe's 2022 resolution.

"We still encourage anyone and everyone to still come up here and fish," Breedlove said. "We have to take care of our resources."

The ban will continue indefinitely, Breedlove said, until tribal fish hatchery officials indicate the population levels have stabilized.

"We're hoping the litigation process will go in our favor so we don't have to worry about back tracking on this issue," she said.

Nina Greengrass-Starr

January 5, 1980 – April 27, 2026

Nina Greengrass-Starr, age 46 of Milwaukee, Wisconsin walked on Monday, April 27, 2026.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 12:00 Noon at Congregation of Great Spirit (1000 West Lapham Blvd.



Milwaukee, WI 53204) with John Cloud III officiating. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Milwaukee, WI. Visitations will be held at the Native American Church in Wisconsin Dells on Wednesday, April 29 beginning at 3:00 p.m. and on Thursday at Congregation of Great Spirit from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Nina was born January 5, 1980 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the daughter of Neil and Cynthia (Greengrass) Starr.

She is survived by her sons Bobby Clayton, Phillip Robinson, Jerome Starr, Devin Starr; daughters Lashina (Tiny) Hoye, Alina Hicks, Lareli Starr; brothers Neil Greengrass-Starr, Jeremiah Lloyd and Marlon Starr. She is preceded by her parents and sister Lucy Funmaker.

2026

GRADUATE SHOWCASE



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

Email the following before **June 19**:

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



Congrats!

NEWSLETTER@ho-chunk.com

Ho-Chunk Cinema

Thursday & Friday 1:30pm – 11pm

Saturday 9:30am – 11:30pm

Sunday 9:30am – 10pm

Tickets and showtimes available at:
Hochunkcinema.com

EXPERIENCE OUR STATE OF THE ART SIX PLEX EQUIPPED WITH HIGH END LASER PROJECTORS, DOLBY SURROUND SOUND, ZERO GRAVITY RECLINERS WITH HEATED LOWER LUMBAR AND SWIVEL TRAY TABLES. CLEAN COMFORT. A NATIVE OWNED AND OPERATED INDEPENDENT CINEMA.

2026 NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR MMIWR



Native women are murdered at 10x the national average
THIS IS NOT IN THE NEWS

niwrc.org



Online Pathways Program 2026 Important Dates

SAVE THE DATE

Winter 2026

Registration Week of January 12-16, 2026

Orientation week of January 19-23, 2026

Classes begin the week of January 26, 2026

Summer 2026

Registration Week of May 11-15, 2026

Orientation week of May 18-22, 2026

Classes begin the week of May 26, 2026

Fall 2026

Registration Week of September 8-13, 2026

Orientation week of September 14-18, 2026

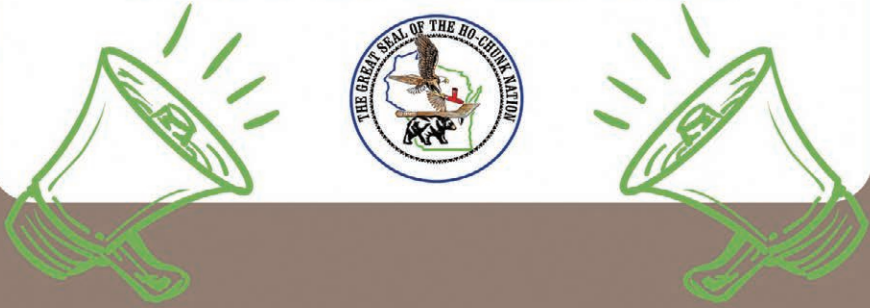
Classes begin the week of September 21, 2026

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

Betsy Thunder Sculpture Arrives at the Riverside International Friendship Garden

The La Crosse area supported this project that was brought to them from the Riverside International Friendship Garden to include the Ho-Chunk Nation. The collection of public gardens celebrates La Crosse's sister-city relationships with communities in China, Germany, France, Russia, Norway, Ireland, and Cameroon.

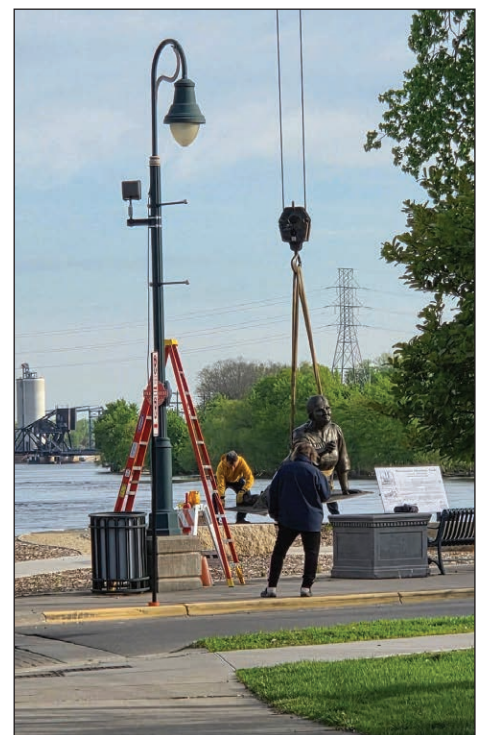
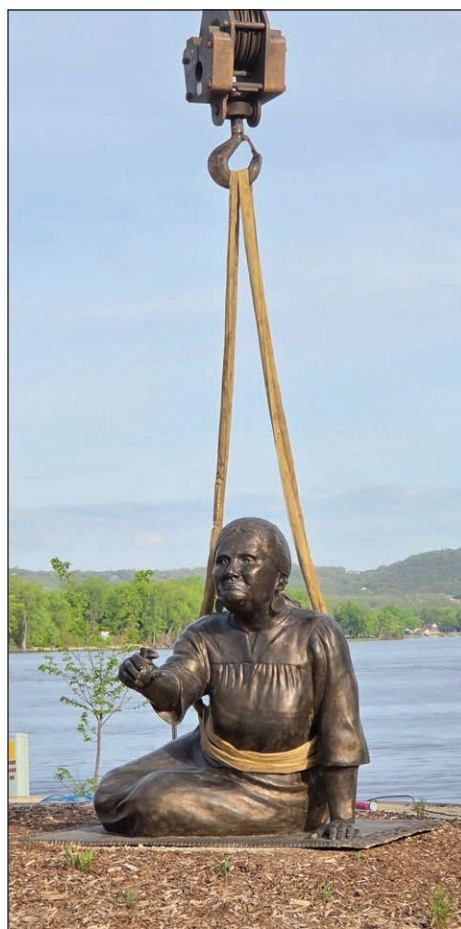
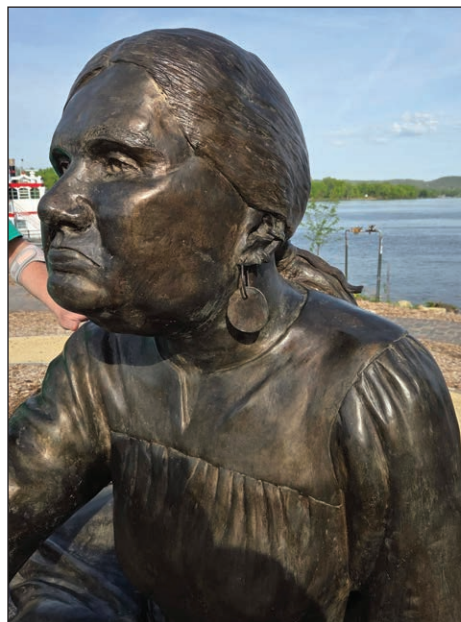
With the work from multiple community members like Tracy Littlejohn, Henry Greengrass, former Ho-Chunk Nation Representative Kristin White Eagle, Representative Stephanie Begay and Ho-Chunk artist Ken Lewis with his design on the stone benches. Without that

support for the La Crosse area this would not be possible

May 4, Betsy Thunder was installed and the formal dedication will be July 30, 2026, with many more in attendance so please put that in your calendar.

The Friendship Gardens are a unique partnership between the Riverside International Friendship Gardens Board of Directors, City of La Crosse Parks Department, and the Bluff Country Master Gardeners.

Again, thank you to the La Crosse community, International Friendship Garden and all the helping hands that made this project a success for future generations to experience.



Stay alert on the road as deer crashes spike in late spring, early summer

In Wisconsin, we typically see an increase in deer activity in May and June as they look for places to give birth and young deer separate from their mothers. In turn, this means more deer crossing the roads and a greater chance for crashes.

"Drivers should have their full attention on the road ahead to avoid deer crashes," Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. "Deer are unpredictable, often changing directions and freezing as they cross the road. Motorists should be alert and prepared to respond at all times."

According to preliminary data, there were 17,795 crashes involving deer in Wisconsin in 2025, causing six fatalities and 720 injuries.

Motorcyclists are at greater risk of injury in a deer crash. In 2025, 223 of the deer crashes involved a motorcycle, resulting in four fatalities and 80 serious injuries. This means 38% of motorcycle deer crash resulted in a fatality or serious injury, compared to less than 0.1% in auto or light truck deer crashes.

The following counties had the most deer crashes last year:

- Waukesha - 1,010
- Washington - 857
- Sheboygan - 830
- Dane - 792
- St. Croix - 769
- Manitowoc - 711
- Fond du lac - 704
- Walworth - 642
- Outagamie - 590
- Winnebago - 566

How to avoid hitting a deer
Deer can be seen any time of day,

but they are most active in early morning and evening hours. Be sure to use your headlights, especially at dusk and dawn. Deer movements can be unpredictable, so drivers should slow down and proceed with caution when approaching deer on and near the road. If a deer crosses the road, be prepared for others to follow.

Be sure to buckle up and avoid distractions to stay safe on the road. Crash injuries are less severe or can be avoided when everyone wears a seat belt.

If you cannot avoid hitting a deer with your vehicle, brake firmly and stay in your lane. Avoid sudden swerving, which can result in a loss of control and a more serious crash. On motorcycle, if you cannot avoid hitting a deer and there is enough space to swerve around it without leaving your lane, brake and adjust course as needed.

What to do after a deer crash
If you hit a deer, get your vehicle safely off the road as soon as possible.

- If someone is hurt or the deer is in the active portion of the road, call 911.
- If no one is hurt and your vehicle and the deer are off the road, report the crash or contact local law enforcement.
- Stay buckled up inside your vehicle and wait for help. Getting out of your vehicle and walking along a road is always dangerous.
- Never attempt to move an injured deer.
- For disposal of car-killed deer, call your county highway department or sheriff department non-emergency line.

Gov. Evers Travels Across the State to Highlight Evers Administration's Continued Efforts to Build Clean Energy Future, Advance Wisconsin's Nuclear Energy Potential

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers this week met with clean energy stakeholders, utility partners, and conservation groups across the state to highlight his administration's efforts to bolster clean energy and sustainability, advance Wisconsin's nuclear energy potential, and build a 21st-century clean energy economy and workforce in the state. Gov. Evers last week blasted the Trump Administration for efforts to roll back clean energy progress, sending a letter urging the administration to reverse course on forcing multiple aging and expensive coal-fired power plants in the Midwest to remain open past their scheduled retirement dates, causing utility costs to rise that will be shouldered by Wisconsin families.

Gov. Evers kicked off "National Apprenticeship Week" in Wisconsin this week by highlighting the Evers Administration's work to ensure the workforce can meet the needs of the 21st Century, including investing in job training and apprenticeship programs in innovative industries and technologies to ensure a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future in Wisconsin. Additionally, the governor announced that Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship program for high school students saw record-high enrollment for the fifth year in a row. During the 2025-26 school year, a record 12,141 students enrolled in the program, a seven percent increase from the prior year.

"This week, I was glad to visit folks across our state who are proving that here in Wisconsin, we're embracing a future where we don't have to choose between mitigating climate change and protecting our environment or creating good-paying jobs and having a strong economy — we are doing both," said Gov. Evers. "As energy costs and demand continue to go up, we're focusing our efforts on lowering costs, reducing our reliance on out-of-state resources, and investing in the clean energy workforce and economy to support our 21st-century needs."

On Tues., April 28, Gov. Evers, together with Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE) Director Maria Redmond, visited The Nature Place in La Crosse. Located in Myrick Park, The Nature Place provides community access to open green spaces and prairies, outdoor recreation, and environmental educational programming. During the visit, Gov. Evers and OSCE Director Redmond toured the facility and heard about the organization's sustainability efforts, including the 120-panel solar array installed on the roof of The Nature Place building. This investment in renewable energy

saves the organization around \$12,000 each year, freeing up resources for environmental education programs, land stewardship, and summer camp scholarships that benefit kids, individuals, and families in the greater La Crosse community.

Following this, Gov. Evers and OSCE Director Redmond visited the Superior Solar Garden in Superior, which is owned by Superior Water, Light & Power, where they heard about the shared solar array and how community subscribers receive a credit for the amount of solar energy produced by their share of the 470-kilowatt array. Electricity produced by the community solar garden feeds into the local power grid, and customers receive credit for the energy on their monthly bill. The solar garden also includes a pollinator garden, which includes native plants that create habitats for bees, butterflies, and other insects that are essential to the local ecosystem.

Finally, on Wed., April 29, Gov. Evers visited the Point Beach Nuclear Plant in Two Rivers, which is owned by NextEra Energy Resources and is the only nuclear power plant in operation in Wisconsin. During the visit, the governor toured the facility, heard about the processes of the power plant, and saw their reactor simulator, which is used to ensure operators are adequately trained for any situation, as well as the growing benefits of nuclear energy. Photos of the visit are available from the governor's office upon request.

STUDYING THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN WISCONSIN

Nuclear energy generates safe, reliable, carbon-free electricity to power Wisconsin homes and businesses and remains an important part of Wisconsin's existing energy infrastructure, accounting for 16 percent of the state's energy generation, according to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's (PSC) most recent Strategic Energy Assessment.

In recent years, advancements in nuclear technology and increased demand for energy have led to renewed interest in nuclear energy nationwide, which is why, in July 2025, Gov. Evers signed 2025 Wisconsin Act 12 to launch a nuclear power siting study, supported by \$2 million in funding provided by the 2025-27 Biennial Budget, that will bolster knowledge and understanding of how Wisconsin's nuclear energy potential can help meet the state's growing need for carbon-free energy.

The overarching goal of the siting study is to provide foundational information and a thorough evaluation of potential nuclear energy development opportunities in Wisconsin to help guide future actions. The study scope encompasses

traditional nuclear power, small modular reactors, and advanced technologies, including fusion energy. It will identify various siting opportunities and analyze site characteristics, suitability, regulatory, and permitting requirements, as well as impacts to local economies and the power grid. Information from industry experts at the Oak Ridge and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories will be incorporated into the study, as will feedback from recent experiences with the construction and operation of nuclear projects. Act 12 requires the study to be completed by the start of 2027.

As announced by Gov. Evers in his 2026 State of the State address, the siting study will be conducted by PSC and the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison Department of Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics, as UW-Madison has one of the nation's few remaining teaching and research nuclear reactors and is a national leader in fusion energy research.

In addition to the nuclear power siting study, in July 2025, Gov. Evers also signed 2025 Wisconsin Act 11, creating a Nuclear Power Summit Board designed to help advance nuclear power and fusion technology and development, and to showcase Wisconsin's leadership and innovation in the nuclear industry through the hosting of a nuclear power summit in the city of Madison.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON GOV. EVERS' EFFORTS TO BUILD A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE IN WISCONSIN

Since Day One, Gov. Evers and the Evers Administration have been committed to promoting climate resilience and building a clean energy economy in the state. In his first year in office, Gov. Evers joined the U.S. Climate Alliance, of which he is now the first Midwest governor to serve as an executive board member. The governor, along with his fellow U.S. Climate Alliance governors, is committed to collectively achieving the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement to combat climate change and has established an ambitious goal of ensuring 100 percent carbon-free electricity consumption in Wisconsin by 2050. In 2019, Gov. Evers also created the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, which advised and assisted the governor in developing strategies to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change for the benefit of all Wisconsin communities.

In addition to joining the Alliance in 2019, in his first year in office, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #38 to create the OSCE, charging the office with developing the Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan to promote the development and use of clean



and renewable energy across the state, advance innovative sustainability solutions that improve the state's economy and environment, and diversify the resources used to meet the state's energy needs.

In accordance with Gov. Evers' Executive Order #38, the state's first-ever Clean Energy Plan was released in 2022, providing a roadmap for the state to lower energy bills and prices at the pump for Wisconsin families, promote energy independence by reducing reliance on out-of-state energy sources, create an estimated more than 40,000 jobs by 2030, and invest in job training and apprenticeship programs in innovative industries and technologies. Since creating Wisconsin's Clean Energy Plan four years ago, OSCE has released annual clean energy progress reports to outline the strides the state is making to meet our clean energy goals.

Additionally, in 2023, Gov. Evers created the Green Ribbon Commission on Clean Energy and Environmental Innovation to advise on creating the state's first-ever Green Innovation Fund. The Green Innovation Fund and its partners work to leverage public and private financing to invest in projects that provide environmental and clean energy solutions to businesses, reduce pollution, lower energy costs for families, and expand access to clean, affordable energy options.

Gov. Evers has also long championed efforts to promote climate resilience through innovative transportation infrastructure and clean energy initiatives. As co-chair of the U.S. Climate Alliance, Gov. Evers announced last year that Wisconsin would be joining the Alliance's Affordable Clean Cars Coalition. This multi-state initiative is aimed at sustaining America's transition to cleaner and more affordable cars, supporting U.S. automotive manufacturers and workers, and improving air quality for all.

Further, the PSC announced in March that Wisconsin is now a national leader in enrollment for the Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebate programs, which have helped residents statewide reduce energy use and lower utility bills. Since launching the programs in 2024, nearly \$9 million in rebates

have been paid to Wisconsin households to install popular energy-efficient measures, including air sealing, insulation, heat pumps for cooling and heating, and electric panels and wiring.

Wisconsin was the very first state to make energy efficiency upgrades available under the Home Energy Rebates (HOMES) Program in August 2024 and remains one of only a handful of states in the country to offer both the HOMES Program and the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Program, which was launched a few months later. More about the state's efforts through the HOMES and HEAR programs to help Wisconsin households save energy and money with energy-efficient home upgrades can be found on Gov. Evers' press release page.

Finally, Gov. Evers announced in his 2026 State of the State address that the state is taking the first steps to continue efforts to purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) from Wisconsin utilities and renewable energy projects for the next two decades, continuing the state's long-standing practice of leading by example and ensuring Wisconsinites have access to in-state renewable electricity and building on his administration's efforts to help bolster clean energy in Wisconsin. The state plans to purchase approximately 225,000 RECs every year for the next 20 years, representing 225,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of renewable electricity each year, which is enough energy to power more than half a million Wisconsin homes.

Since 2007, the state of Wisconsin has purchased over 1.8 million RECs from Wisconsin utilities. Each REC represents the equivalent of about one MWh of renewable energy. By purchasing RECs, state agencies support Wisconsin-based jobs, local economic development, clean air, and clean water, while offsetting their net greenhouse gas emissions. The RFP seeks proposals capable of delivering RECs starting in January 2031 for a 20-year term, helping position state agencies and universities to achieve Wisconsin's goal of 100-percent carbon-free electricity by 2050.

Bringing Awareness to MMIW&R in La Crosse

Ho-Chunk Nation District 2 Representatives Damian Thundercloud, Kyle White Eagle, and Stephanie Begay were in Hinuk Waseja (La Crosse) today in support of the MMIW&R 5K, standing with community members to bring awareness to our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Relatives.

The alarming rates of abduction and murder of Native women and relatives represent one of the most devastating issues facing Tribal communities. The Day of Awareness calls for honoring the lives of our missing and murdered relatives, shedding light on the countless tragedies impacting Native women and communities, highlighting the need for ongoing

grassroots advocacy and organizing for change of laws, policies, protocols, and allocation of increased resources at the Tribal, federal, and state levels to end these injustices, and sharing information needed to understand a drive legal reforms and change.

The gathering brought people together with good feelings and a promise to never forget our loved ones. Rep. Begay, delivering words from the heart about the need for awareness, accountability, and community support.

Pinagigiwi to the La Crosse Youth Learning Center, Taanj Hoocira, Singers, La Crosse Parks & Recreation Department and City of La Crosse Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey.



Federal judge rules in favor of tribes, halting drilling at Black Hills

Exploratory graphite drilling at Pe' Sla, a sacred site, was ordered to temporarily stop Monday evening

Amelia Schafer
Reprint from ICT

RAPID CITY, South Dakota – Exploratory graphite drilling less than a mile north of Pe' Sla, a sacred site in the Black Hills, must pause following a federal judge's ruling Monday evening.

"This is what we wanted, this is what we asked for," said Wizipan Little Elk Garriott, president of NDN Collective and who is Sicangu Lakota, during a livestream following the ruling. "This is a huge victory, this is a big win for the people, for Unci Maka mother earth, for our continued fight for LandBack, for our continued fight to protect mother earth and to ensure a just world for all people."

U.S. District Judge Camela C. Theeler ruled in favor of a temporary restraining order banning drilling by Pete Lien & Sons until the court hears the full case arguments. The ruling in favor of the nine Oceti Sakowin (Lakota, Dakota and Nakota) tribes over the U.S. Forest Service means all drilling must stop for now.

The forest service granted Pete Lien & Sons its initial permit to drill 18 boreholes on the property on Feb. 27.

The nine tribes — the Oglala, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, Yankton, Sisseton Wahpeton, Santee, Spirit Lake, Crow Creek and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes — joined an ongoing lawsuit filed by in early April by three non-profit organizations — NDN Collective, Earthworks and the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance.

Pe' Sla is a unique "bald spot" of natural prairie in the center of the Black Hills. The site is

innately tied to Lakota people's creation story and has been used for thousands of years as a site of prayer. A large portion of the northern most part of Pe' Sla was purchased by several tribes and entered into trust land in 2016. While the drilling itself is not occurring directly on this trust land, it's within a 2-mile buffer zone created around the tribal trust land by the U.S. Forest Service.

Additionally, the area is full of cultural artifacts and sites. A study of the Pe' Sla area by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and several other Oceti Sakowin nations identified 484 traditional cultural properties, five historic sites, three archeological sites, and four disturbed cultural sites within Pe' Sla, said Little Elk Garriott during his testimony at the hearing.

The area is rural and the few roads that would allow access to the drilling site cut directly through Pe' Sla. Increased traffic could disrupt ceremony, affect the area's buffalo herd and elevate fire risk, Little Elk Garriott testified.

The decision comes on day five of an Indigenous-led occupation at the drilling site. Following the start of the occupation on April 30, all drilling stopped at the site.

"It only happened because people were willing to stand up, because people were willing to be brave," Little Elk Garriott said.

The ruling came after three hours of arguments between attorneys representing the tribes and non-profit organizations and U.S. forest service attorneys.

"We know that this is bigger than Pe' Sla... we know this is happening all over the nation," said Valeria Big Eagle, Ihanktonwan Dakota



Rapid City High School students walked out of school to speak up about their opposition to drilling at Pe' Sla. They marched to the courthouse during school hours "to demand Pe' Sla be protected, access to clean water, and the ability to pray on the land where their ancestors have for thousands of years." (Angel White Eyes via NDN Collective)

and the director of HeSapa Initiatives for NDN Collective. "So this is a huge win for all of us."

An evidentiary hearing in the case is scheduled for May 20 and 21 in Rapid City at the Andrew W. Bogue Federal Courthouse.

"The next step is to ensure with monitoring that there is no further drilling activity during this two week period, until we can get to that injunction hearing," Little Elk Garriott said.

Continued from Page 5

"Even after all this, I was still charged with child neglect. Working through that meant pushing through the negative thoughts telling me that I wasn't good enough or that I had already messed up too much anyway, why even keep going?"

"I was also afraid of what people would think or say about me because of these new charges. But I reached a point where I chose my children over that fear. I wanted to be their mom. A present mom. A good mom."

Tiffany credited her mom, her husband, her sisters, and her kids as her support system. She refuses to take them for granted.

"One of the things I am most proud of is my last pregnancy," she said, "It was my first and last pregnancy completely sober. I embraced every moment of it because what a beautiful gift it is that they picked me to be their mom. My daughter was born on November 24, 2025. I entered treatment court in August of 2024 and graduated October 8, 2025. The first graduate of this court."

Tiffany King accomplished goals she never thought possible. She gained full time employment, returned to school and maintained placement on the President's list, obtained her driver's license, purchased automobile insurance,

and rented an apartment. She would go on to getting a home, where her family now lives together.

"My CPS case was closed eventually," Tiffany explained, "I also successfully completed probation, which was one of the requirements after being sentenced for child neglect. Today, I work as a tenant support specialist helping other families that struggle with housing and, in some cases, recovery."

"I'd also like to share that I do not have custody of my daughters yet, but I am taking the steps to get them back. I am taking my time with it because I want to be able to stand in front of a judge and confidently say,

I have at least two years sober."

Tiffany King concluded, "Let me be very clear about something, none of this would have happened if I didn't want it for myself. Treatment court gave me many tools, support, and accountability-But I had to decide I was ready. I had to stay when it was hard, especially when it was hard. Recovery isn't easy. It's uncomfortable. It forces you to face things you've spent years trying to avoid. But it's worth it. I am now someone my children can count on with the help of Jackson County Family Treatment Court. That means everything to me."




2026 HO-CHUNK NATION

MEMORIAL DAY

POW-WOW

MAY 23-25, 2026

**Andrew Blackhawk
Pow-Wow Grounds**

W8426 State Highway 54 | Black River Falls, WI

Honoring 250 Years of Warrior History

Dance Specials ▪ Daily Pay ▪ Camping Available

GRAND ENTRIES

SATURDAY
1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

SUNDAY
1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

MONDAY
1:00 PM

FLAG RAISING
MONDAY
10:00 AM

DRUM & DANCE
REGISTRATION
SATURDAY
10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

**MC'S-Jon Pettibone
& John Teller**

Vendor Information:
Sheila Cleveland (715)896-2583



General Information:
Cara Lee Murphy (715)284-2658

Not responsible for accidents, injuries or thefts. No alcohol or drugs allowed on grounds.



MEETING NOTICE



Hoocak Waaksik Xete Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Wittenberg TAU & Virtual meeting

Call 715-284-0811 on Monday, May 18, 2026

DISTRICT 3 AREA MEETING NOTICE



MILWAUKEE | WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 | 5:30 PM

WITTENBERG | MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 | 6:00 PM

GREEN BAY | TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | 6:00 PM

MADISON | WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 | 6:00 PM

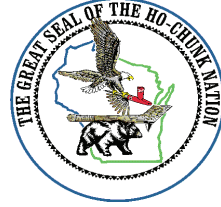
WI RAPIDS | THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 | 5:30 PM

FOR WEBEX INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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



POSTED 5/4/26



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
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

Continued from Page 1

Color in Education Award.

Even after retiring in 2015, Rice continued working with museums, archives, and cultural preservation efforts. She said language revitalization and Indigenous literature remain important focuses moving forward.

"We can translate some of the things that maybe are classics and wish they would have been in Ho-Chunk," Rice said while discussing future collaborations surrounding language and books.

Rice also emphasized the importance of encouraging younger Native students to pursue opportunities in librarianship

and related fields. She noted the profession now includes pathways connected to technology, science, agriculture, medicine, law, environmental work, and digital resources.

"There's a space for everything in librarianship," Rice said.

Reflecting on her career and the recognition, Rice said she hopes younger generations continue pursuing their goals while staying connected to their communities and culture.

"Read aloud to someone," Rice said. "Whether it's a poem or a chapter from a book. Or a quote from someone or even homework. Just ways of connecting with each other and stimulating the mind."



Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board

WebEx/Election Board Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Election Board Meeting - 9:00 AM

Ho-Chunk Gaming, Wisconsin Dells, WI

The public will be allowed to observe in person or through WebEx

Repost reminder 05/04/2026

**HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
APRIL 21, 2026**

Call to Order: Tribal Secretary Rep. Stephanie Begay called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call:

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

VC-Video Conference

Determination of Quorum: Quorum is established at 10:02 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 G. Resolution-Consent to BIA Fiscal Year 2026 Tribal Priority Allocations and under Commission Reports D. Special Finance Commission-April 7, 2026. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-April 8, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the April 8, 2026 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 7-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Gaming Commission Report

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to accept the Gaming Commission Report. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Government Administration Commission-April 9, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the April 9, 2026 Government Administration Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Special Finance Commission-April 16, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the April 16, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Special Finance Commission-April 7, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the April 7, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 7-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Beloit Health System Foundation Board

Rep. Shelby Visintin stated that the Beloit Health System Foundation Board reached out to her and asked her to be on the Board.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the appointment of Rep. Shelby Visintin to be on the Beloit Health System Foundation Board. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Tribal Leadership Conference, June 1-4, 2026-Phoenix, AZ

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the gold sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000 from Charitable Contributions. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. **MOTION IS AMENDED** to include approving travel for any interested Legislator to attend the conference. Second concurs. 7-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

It was mentioned that three complimentary registration passes are included within the gold level sponsorship, however more passes can be purchased if more than three Legislators would like to attend the conference.

Resolution-Adoption of Amendments to Ho-Chunk Nation Occupational Safety and Health Program Act,

Subsections 6 HCC § 8-1 through 6 HCC § 8-15 and Subsections 6 HCC § 8-19 – 6 HCC § 20

MOTION by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud to adopt **Resolution 04-21-26 A**, Adoption of Amendments to Ho-Chunk Nation Occupational Safety and Health Program Act, Subsections 6 HCC § 8-1 through 6 HCC § 8-15 and Subsections 6 HCC § 8-19 – 6 HCC § 20. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 7-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Apply for Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 04-21-26 B**, Authorization for Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to Apply for Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop in Blue Wing

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 04-21-26 C**, Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop in Blue Wing. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

CEDs

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke that the Legislative CFO update and expand the CEDS to include a current economic analysis and identification of business and economic development opportunities. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Consent to BIA Fiscal Year 2026 Tribal Priority Allocations

Executive Director of Education Ryan Crain stated that every year the Nation receives an allocation, and the first item that we are supposed to take care of is the tribal resolution on where the funds need to be allocated. This is the reason for adding this to the agenda today.

The Executive Director of Education was reminded to follow the process of getting resolutions on the Legislative Meeting agenda.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis

Smoke to adopt **Resolution 04-21-26 D**, Consent to BIA Fiscal Year 2026 Tribal Priority Allocations. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Meetings:

D1 Nijoxawani – April 15, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Forrest Funmaker to approve the sponsorship request for the Alzheimer's Walk in the amount of \$10,000 to be referred to Department of Business for consideration. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Note: Rep. Phyllis Smoke mentioned the request was forwarded to Department of Business, and Department of Business does not have funds for this request.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Wendell Pettibone to approve the matching funds request in the amount of \$1,340 for the Puzaki Pei Cinak end of the year celebration. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Jalisa Smith to approve the matching funds request in the amount of \$1,267 for the end of the year celebration for Ho-Chunkgra Head Start. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Jovanna White Eagle to approve matching funds request in the amount of \$2,973.10 for the Waasik Wacek Senior's celebration dinner and social dance event. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to HHCDA the **MOTION** by Regina Funmaker to nominate Leland Bird as the HHCDA Jackson County Board Member. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Wilfrid Cleveland for Legislature to approve \$1,500 to support this initiative, recognizing its importance for community representation

and empowerment for Native Women in Trades night out event and alternate funding sources. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to HHCDA the **MOTION** by Regina Funmaker to accept Leland Bird as the HHCDA Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by Gina White Eagle to nominate Brook Funmaker for the District 1 Housing Board member. Second by Melissa Olvera. 24-4-3 Motion Carried.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislative Legal and the Attorney General the **MOTION** by Darcy Funmaker to table the nomination process until legislative legal provides feedback due to a prior nomination of Nate Longtail. **MOTION IS AMENDED** to also refer the previous motion to Legislative Legal and Attorney General. Second concurs. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD: **MOTION** by Darcy Funmaker to close nominations for Housing Board. Second by Kelly Jo Funmaker. 12-7-2 Motion Carried.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority, Legislature, D1 Reps and Rep. Kyle White Eagle the **MOTION** by Isaiah Funmaker to create a memorial foundation walking trail with solar lighting along Highway 54, utilizing gaming compact deduction funds. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 7-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Planning & Development, DNR, Department of Agriculture and LDT the **MOTION** by Nate Longtail to have the Legislature consider recognizing the ad hoc committee named Cetok and Company as the designated 7871 entity through the Intertribal Buffalo Council and reserve the Muscoda lands temporarily for buffalo reintroduction. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the Black River Falls Capital Project in relation to the **MOTION** by Nate Longtail to have Legislature allocate funding

Continued on Page 15

Continued from Page 2
Jon, and Josh Thundercloud all spoke of their deep relationship with not only the band, but the production and management family of Blues Traveler.

"We've been through a lot together," said Joel. The eldest Thundercloud brother mentioned the loss of the original Blues Traveler bassist Bobby Sheehan and members of the Thundercloud Singers. "We've been through a lot

of loss, births, celebrations, and milestones with these guys. They're our brothers," he remarked.

Marking a Celebration

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls. Blues Traveler will be the headlining act in an outdoor concert June 13, featuring a reunion with the Thundercloud Singers. The Ho-Chunk drum group is expected to perform one full set before the main attraction takes the

stage.

"This one means a lot to us, especially as we celebrate thirty years," said Sr. Mgr. of Public Relations Melissa Porter, "it's more than just a concert, it's about bringing people together for something that feels special. Having Blues Traveler alongside the Thundercloud Singers will create an exciting night that celebrates great music with culture that's part of our community."

"I am so thrilled to perform in the Ho-Chunk Nation, although I will admit every time we hit WI, MN or IL, I imagine I kind of am in Ho-Chunk land," said harmonica player John Popper, "of the vast native peoples I have encountered, the Ho-Chunk Nation has shared with me the most personally."

Tickets are available at the Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls Rewards Club (cash only) or through Ticketmaster.

Continued from Page 14
to the Executive Branch on an emergency basis to provide shade for spectators at the Andrew Blackhawk and Neeshla pow-wow grounds. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. MOTION IS AMENDED to refer this to the next Finance Commission meeting, special meeting or regular meeting. Second concurs. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Note: It was mentioned that District 2 will champion the Neeshla pow-wow ground shade coverings.

D1 Maanico Horuzra – April 16, 2026

READ FOR THE RECORD: MOTION by Libby Fairchild to have Legislature allocate funding to the Executive Branch on an emergency basis to provide shade for spectators at the Andrew Blackhawk and Neeshla pow-wow grounds. Second by Rosetta Hunt. 18-0-0 Motion Carried.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to the Department of Education the MOTION by Rosette Hunt to support the continuing Higher Education funding for all college students and to increase the allocation funding due to the increase cost of education. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

READ FOR THE RECORD: MOTION by Libby Fairchild for Legislature to approve \$1,500 to support this initiative, recognizing its importance for community representation and empowerment for Natives Women in Trades night out event. Second by Rosetta Hunt. 17-0-1 Motion Carried.

READ FOR THE RECORD: MOTION by Libby Fairchild to accept the nomination of Brook Funmaker as the District 1 Housing Board member. Second by Rosetta Hunt. 19-0-0 Motion Carried.

D2 Hijnukwas – April 13, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to Office of the President and Department of Administration the MOTION by Adam Kruse to reaffirm the February 16, 2026 for an RFP for temporary coverings for pow-wow grounds. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to Office of the President the MOTION by Donald Greengrass for Office of the President to construct and arbor with pine boughs for the Andrew Blackhawk Pow-wow grounds. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

D2 Ho'unij Xunujik – April 14, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to the next Finance Commission and TAU the MOTION by Roberta Decorah to allocate funding for a walk-in freezer for Tomah TAU. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 7-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) MOTION CARRIED. Rep.

Stephanie Begay abstained as her mother made the area meeting motion.

D2 Hoxaikeja/Hoguceja/Nizhakisuc – April 15, 2026

EMERGENCY MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve \$1,200 payable to Kurt Greendeer for the Hulburt Creek Garden Beds Enhanced LiDAR Project, and reconciliation, in relation to the district meeting MOTION by Weeta Montelongo for Kurt Greendeer to receive \$912 for Hulburt Creek Garden Beds Enhanced LiDAR Project at next Special Finance meeting. Second by Roberta Funmaker. Motion is amended to \$1,200. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 7-1(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud)-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to Ho-Chunk Transportation and Rep. Kyle White Eagle to follow-up to the MOTION by Cynthia Tack for a memorial 6 feet wide wood chip nature trail with solar power lighting on the south side of Hwy 54 from Red Iron Road to the pow-wow grounds utilizing a gaming compact deduction. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the Finance Commission and Office of the President the MOTION by Weeta Montelongo for Legislators to consider a spending limit for department's attending General Council with the exception of essential departments including Enrollment and IT. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 7-0-1(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud) MOTION CARRIED.

D3 Tešišik – April 1, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to HHCDA the MOTION by Yvonne Delarosa to change the Rental Assistance Policy so you do not need to exhaust other resources to apply for the rental assistance. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 7-0-0 MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Phyllis Smoke out of the room.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority and Rep. Kyle White Eagle the MOTION by Sam Funmaker for a memorial 6 ft wide wood chip nature trail with solar powered light on the south side of Hwy 54 Red Iron Road to the pow-wow grounds using a gaming compact deduction. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 7-0-0 MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Phyllis Smoke out of the room.

D3 Tee hoiksek – April 14, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to HHCDA and Legislature the MOTION by Pamela Wilber that Green Bay is represented on the HHCDA Board for inclusion and fair recognition. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 7-0-0 MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Phyllis Smoke out of the room.

D3 Tejop – April 15, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to the Finance Commission the MOTION by Brenda Neff to fund \$28,000 for the Harry Whitehorse Festival. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 7-0-1(Rep. Phyllis Smoke) MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to the ERA Workgroup, Department of Personnel and Office of the President the MOTION by Saresa Ryckman for the Ho-Chunk Legislature to address the Ho-Chunk preference in the ERA and ensure that there is no loophole. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to HHCDA the MOTION by Miriam Whiteagle for Shane Funmaker to represent Madison as an HHCDA Commissioner. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

D3 Cexhaci – April 16, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer after Executive Session today for consideration of a resolution to be put on the agenda regarding the MOTION by Ona Garvin to adopt the resolution to support the building of a new Chek Ha Chee Community Building. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer the next Finance Commission the MOTION by Ona Garvin to donate \$2,500 to the Hiles family for the clearing of plots in the Dexterville Cemetery from the heart of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Chak He Chee, Nekoosa, WI. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Ona Garvin that the pile of dirt on the TAU property be considered for Sandra Beneulo's daughter's property issue. Second by Janis Pesek. 3-0-0 Motion Carried.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Department of Housing and DNR the MOTION by Ona Garvin that the Housing Department's lumberjack do a survey of the properties in Wood County for the elders because of the deadfall on their lawns. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

D4 Guuşgonak – April 13, 2026

No motions.

D4 Virtual Meeting – April 15, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Legislature the MOTION by Sunshine Thunderchief for increasing board member stipends to \$200. Second by

Rep. David Greendeer. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Legislature the MOTION by Sunshine Thunderchief for board stipends to be increased every 2 years by at least 15%. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Office of the President, Treasury, Legislature and the Attorney General the MOTION by Angela Tijerina for the Ho-Chunk Nation to consider prioritizing financial assistance for descendants of enrolled tribal members who are pursuing college or continuing educating before extending financial support to other tribal nations. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Office of the President and Department of Education the MOTION by Sunshine Thunderchief for descendants of tribal members should be eligible for the individual education program. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Finance Commission the MOTION by Victoria Stacy Goodthunder for up to \$3,000 and 3 bid process for metal storage unit to be placed on her property. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Amendment to the Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to amend the agenda ADDING under New Business H. Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Education to Apply for the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Johnson O'Malley Grant and ADDING after Executive Session Resolution-Request for Nekoosa Community Building Capital Project Timeline. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

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

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 11:01 a.m.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 12:39 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second

by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Amendment to the Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to amend the agenda ADDING under New Business I. Town of Komensky Tornado Disaster. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

New Business (Continued):

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Education to Apply for the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Johnson O'Malley Grant

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 04-21-26 F**, Authorization for the Department of Education to Apply for the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Johnson O'Malley Grant. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Request for Nekoosa Community Building Capital Project Timeline

Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle stated that the Legislature allocated money for the construction of a new Nekoosa Community Building in June of 2024, and there has been no movement on the project. This resolution lays out timelines for the project.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 04-21-26 G**, Request for Nekoosa Community Building Capital Project Timeline. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Town of Komensky Tornado Disaster Relief

Rep. Phyllis Smoke stated that the Town of Komensky sent a letter to the Nation requesting assistance after the April 17, 2026 tornado near County Road K. The letter did not detail specific monetary or supply information. Rep. Tracy Thundercloud added that the Town of Komensky would also like heavy equipment assistance from Department of Housing and Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority to clean up debris.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer the Town of Komensky Tornado Disaster Relief to the next Finance Commission. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. MOTION IS AMENDED to also include disaster relief for the Wittenberg area. Second concurs. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to May 5, 2026 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 8-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

OUTDOOR EVENT
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

BLUES TRAVELER



**Grammy-winning, Multi-platinum
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.



Featuring The Thundercloud Singers

JUNE 13 | 6PM | \$75

\$25 REWARDS PLAY WITH PURCHASE

HO-CHUNK GAMING
BLACK RIVER FALLS

Tickets available at the Rewards Club booth (cash sales only) or online at Ticketmaster.com. Must be 21+ to play or attend events. Ho-Chunk Gaming reserves the right to alter or cancel events at any time.