



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOC AK WORAK

Vol. XXXIX, Issue 2

Huc wiconi na wira | First Bear Moon

January 24, 2025



Special Election is on February 18

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General Primary Election is on March 5

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Southland Center Operations to Cease as of January 20

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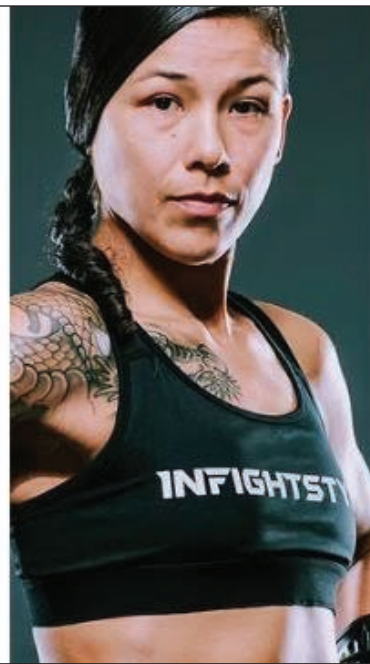
The North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame Announces 2025 Inductees

By Native News Online Staff
Reprint from Native News Online

The North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame (NAIAHF) has revealed its 2025 class of inductees, honoring 71 individuals and four teams for their remarkable contributions to athletics. This year's class features 42 athletes, alongside coaches, trainers, builders, and teams, continuing the Hall of Fame's mission to spotlight the achievements of Indigenous sports figures across North America.

Founded in 2022 by Dr. Dan Ninham (Oneida) and Susan Ninham (Red Lake Ojibwe), the NAIAHF is dedicated to celebrating the diverse and rich Indigenous sport cultures spanning 27 North American countries. The organization recognizes exemplary leadership and achievement, with the goal of inspiring future generations to pursue their dreams in athletics and beyond.

A Celebration of Legacy
The 2025 inductees join an esteemed group of previous honorees. Their stories embody resilience, excellence, and the power of representation in sports. The Hall of Fame will celebrate this year's inductees, along with the 2024, 2023,



Marcus Oliveira (Menominee), Ashley Nichols (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation), Marvin Camel (Salish) and Justina Di Stasio (Cree). (photos/ North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame)

and inaugural 2022 classes, during a banquet on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at the Oneida Conference Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Last year's banquet saw a gathering of 450 guests from the U.S. and Canada, underscoring the growing recognition of the Hall of Fame's

impact.

Highlighting Excellence
This year's class includes standout athletes like Marcus Oliveira (Menominee), Marvin Camel (Salish), Ashley Nichols (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation), and Justina Di Stasio (Cree). Teams being honored

include the Haudenosaunee Nationals Women's Box Lacrosse Team and the North Americans Men's Team.

The full list of inductees, along with more information about their accomplishments, can be found on the NAIAHF website: www.naiahf.org.

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'So, it's real? It's real?'

Leonard Peltier responds with disbelief in learning he would finally be able to leave prison after nearly 50 years

Stewart Huntington
Reprint from ICT

Nick Tilsen and Holly Cook Macarro sat in a rental car outside the Coleman Federal Corrections Complex in Florida, trying to stay calm.

"We were listening to Sundance music and we were smudging and we were praying," Tilsen, Oglala Lakota, the founder and chief executive of the NDN Collective advocacy organization, told ICT.

But time was running out on Monday, Jan. 20, as they watched the White House Briefing Room website for any word that outgoing President Joe Biden would grant clemency to Native activist Leonard Peltier, who has been behind bars for nearly 50 years.

"I think I have PTSD from hitting
Continued on Page 4



American Indian Movement supporters and NDN Collective officials gathered outside of the Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building in Rapid City, South Dakota, to show support for Leonard Peltier's freedom on June 27, 2024. (Photo by Amelia Schafer, ICT/Rapid City Journal)

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

Celebrating Progress, Partnerships, and Community Spirit: A Reflection on Recent Milestones

As we enter 2025, it's amazing to reflect on the progress, successes, and connections the Ho-Chunk Nation has experienced over the past few months in 2024. From groundbreaking events to partnerships, commemorations, and new initiatives, the year has been filled with meaningful moments that highlight our shared commitment to growth, tradition, and community.

A New Chapter: Groundbreaking Ceremony

One of the most exciting and long-awaited milestones this fall was the recent groundbreaking celebration for Ho-Chunk Gaming - Beloit. This event marked the beginning of a significant new economic opportunity that promises job creation, cultural experiences, and economic growth for our own communities and the surrounding state line region. With the experience, drive, and confidence with both the Legislature and President Greendeer's leadership, the Dept. of Business and Treasury were green-lighted to finally bring this project to reality.



The October, 2025 ceremony brought together members of the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Beloit Community, and neighboring communities to share in this inspiring moment. Speeches, cultural performances by the Ho-Chunk dance troupe and the Winnebago Sons, and delicious food from BP's Smokehouse and the Beloit Community added to the joy and optimism of the day. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone whose hard work and dedication made this vision a reality. HCG-Beloit will bring in the revenues to meet the growing needs of our families and communities.

Exploring Culture & History: Emmy Award-Winning Recognition



Our ongoing partnership with Discover Mediaworks continues to spotlight important aspects of Ho-Chunk culture and history. One of their recent short videos from the *Explore Ho-Chunk Nation* series, *Preserving Ho-Chunk Culture: The Impact of the Indian Child Welfare Act*, not only tells an important story but has also earned an Emmy

Award nomination and win. This educational piece sheds light on challenges from the past and underscores the significance of the Indian Child Welfare Act today. Congratulations to all involved in creating this impactful and award-winning video!

Honoring Our Heroes on Veterans Day

Veterans Day was a special time of reflection and gratitude for our Ho-Chunk

community. Celebrations took place on November 8th and 9th with a special



luncheon held at the Tribal Office Building and the Volk Field Powwow in Camp Douglas, WI. Thank you to all who participated in hosting these heartfelt events and ensuring that our veterans, both near and far, were recognized and celebrated for their service.

Every Monday, we gather for Flag Raising and breakfast at the Tribal Office Building to make a genuine reflection of the military services provided by our brave men and women.

While it may seem like a small gesture, this tradition has been revitalized by President Greendeer and continues to serve as a meaningful tribute to their sacrifices and contributions.

Community Connection at Ho-Chunk Day

On November 28th, members of the Ho-Chunk community came together for *Ho-Chunk Day* at the House of Wellness in Baraboo, WI. The day was filled with laughter, fellowship, bingo games, great food, and a social dance to finish out the evening. A special thank you to the Office of the President (OOP) team for making this event a success.



Working Toward the Future: Budget Symposium



On December 5-6, our government leaders came together for a two-day budget symposium between the Executive and Legislative branches. President Greendeer felt it important to bring leadership together to address longstanding challenges with the budget process. "Just about everything we do...or wish to do comes down to needing a budget yet our system has failed to evolve with our changing

government" said President Greendeer. "It's time to roll our sleeves up and do some work so it won't be so difficult for those after us."

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE | WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

Share Your Story

Sisters By Choice: United By Voice

Are you a Black or Native American woman over the age of 18?

Have you experienced domestic violence since the COVID-19 pandemic?

We invite you to participate in a research study to share your experience. Your story supports research and helps other women at who are experiencing or at risk of violence. This study will take 1-2 hours to complete. Your stories will be kept confidential.

Research Team

Principal Investigator: Mkandawire-Valhmu

For more information scan QR code, contact: 414-662-3545 or visit sites.google.com/umn.edu/weather

Ho-Chunk Nation & House of Wellness

MARCH 7, 8, 9

MM23

23RD ANNUAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

9th Annual Roberta Funmaker Womens All-Star Tournament

MEN'S
1ST \$10,000
2ND \$5,000
3RD \$3,000

WOMEN'S
1ST \$10,000
2ND \$5,000
3RD \$3,000

FRIDAY NIGHT 3PT SHOOTOUT / DUNK
SATURDAY LITTLE HOOPSTERS

MUST SHOW PROOF OF TRIBAL ENROLLMENT AND VALID I.D.

TOURNAMENT & HOTEL INFO
CONTACT SGILBECK@HO-CHUNK.COM
608.355.5155 EXT. 15512

BROWN BAG LUNCH CRAFT TIME

Bring in your current projects and spend some time crafting while you lunch.



11:30 am - 1:00 pm

WEDNESDAYS

TOB Cafeteria

For questions: josephine.lee@ho-chunk.com or eliza.green@ho-chunk.com



HUD Awards \$6 Million to HHCDA for Affordable Housing Initiatives

TOMAH, WI – The Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA) is excited to announce it has secured \$6 million in funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive Grant program. This funding will significantly advance HHCDA’s mission to expand affordable housing opportunities in Dane and La Crosse Counties.

The grant will fund land acquisition in both counties for future housing development and support the construction of six duplexes – three in Dane County and three in La Crosse County – providing essential housing solutions for Native families.

“This \$6 million investment is a transformative step toward addressing the housing needs of our community,” said an

HHCDA representative. “We deeply appreciate HUD’s support in helping us create sustainable, affordable housing opportunities for the Ho-Chunk Nation.”

HHCDA acknowledges the exceptional work of Angelina Hindsley, Grant Writer, whose dedication and expertise secured this critical funding.

For more information, please contact Robin Blackdeer, Executive Director, at 608.374.1245 or Robin.Blackdeer@ho-chunk.



Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board

Election Board Report
January 2025

This report includes a summary of the Election Board Office. The Election Board Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:30 pm, when not in the office all calls are forwarded to the Justice Department and emails that are sent to the office are addressed upon the return of the Office Administrator. Also we have a LTE Worker to assist with the Elections this year.

Election Board Members:

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

Congratulations to the New Election Board member there terms will end December 2026.

Election Board Meeting Minutes:

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 11/23/24 | Election Board Meeting – Ratified |
| 12/11/24 | Election Board Meeting – Not Ratified |

On Wednesday, December 11, 2024 the Election Board Vice Chairperson Marsha Smith sworn in Damian Thundercloud, D2, S1 as the New Elected Official, this was located at TOB.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Election Board Meeting
Monday, January 20, 2025 – 2:00 pm
Ho-Chunk Gaming – Wisconsin Dells

If you plan on running in your District, you can pick up forms from your Election Board Delegate or Alternate, the deadline is Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 4:00 pm. I have attached the poster along with the New Redistricting Map.

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

NOTE: ELECTION BOARD MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO THE OPEN MEETINGS



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

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• ONLINE: www.ho-chunknation.com

www.hocakworak.com

The Hocak Worak is a member of:
The Native American Journalists Association



- ## February Elders Birthdays
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Scott Beard | 17. Cleopus Delarosa |
| Pinkah Greengrass | Heather Hendrix Wright |
| 2. Harold Blackdeer III | Steven Pine |
| Mark Krause | Steven Radtke |
| Peter Matter | Dwight Steele |
| Calvin Snowball | 18. Eloise Funmaker |
| Daniel Snowball | Leon Oknewski |
| 3. Georgianna Joey | Lynette Smoke |
| Rebecca Krause | 19. Kenneth Cabasos |
| Laverda Richter | Lisa Hess |
| LeAnn Westbrook | Nadine Hindsley |
| 4. Carlos Cabasos | Jason Smith |
| Sidney Hall Jr. | Helen Whitehorse |
| Matthew Johnston | 20. Darcia Blackdeer-Lent |
| Verdie Kivimaki | Richard Decorah |
| 5. Crystal Herriage | James Webster |
| 6. Daniel Brown | 21. Gloria Decorah |
| John Climer | Vicki Greendeer |
| Janine Houghton | Patricia Matter |
| 7. Pamela Anderson | Rachel Winneshiek |
| Dawn Lopez | 22. Donald Blackhawk, Jr. |
| Robert Mann | Betty Kingsley |
| James Niemi | Albertina Mc Arthur |
| Kevin Niemi | 23. Mary Beeman |
| Celena Twinn | Suzie Coffey |
| 8. Tina Blair | Michael Sallaway |
| Rodney Rave | Patricia Sampson |
| Jean Stopinski | 24. Arlene Keahna |
| Frederick White | Delia Maisells |
| 9. Janet Berg | 25. Ava De Priest |
| Forrest Whiterabbit | Susan Johnson |
| 10. Geneinne Morgan | Gladys Morgan |
| 11. Sharon Bittner | Roger Thundercloud |
| Caroline Koukos | 26. Helene Day |
| Martina Little-Boy | Daryl Lonetree |
| Patricia Provost | Juan Rivera |
| 12. Janet Donelson | 27. Mildred Decorah |
| Ferguson Funmaker | Boye Ladd |
| 13. Kevin Olson | Roy Littlegeorge |
| 14. Charles Brown II | Jeffrey Nelson |
| David White Eagle | Edith Prescott |
| 15. Christopher Allen | Anna Reichenbach |
| Eliza Green | Louise Topping |
| Willow Lawrie | 28. Kathleen Blackdeer |
| Ralph Payer | Carole Buchanan |
| 16. Lori Gamble | Cher Laubmeier |
| Linda Lowe | Kenneth Lemieux |
| Sharon Pierce | 29. Suzette Greengrass |
| Carole Roberts | Dawn Lueth |

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be February 7th which will be published on February 14th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

January is Radon Awareness Month

Have you had your home tested for radon before? Homes with high levels of radon have been found in every state. In fact, radon levels can vary greatly from home to home; even levels next door can be very different.

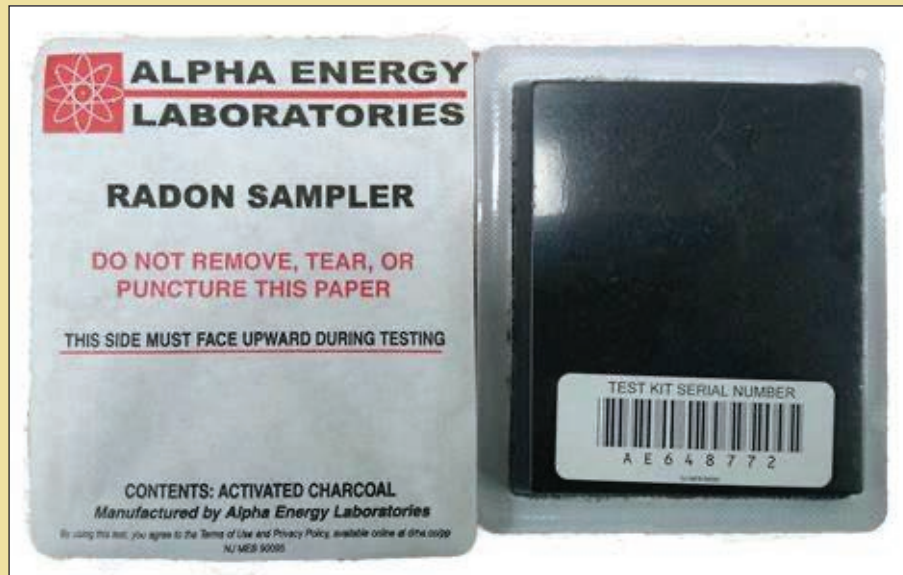
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water that can build up to dangerous levels inside any home; this means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without a basement. Radon gas is odorless and invisible and the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for it.

Breathing radon can increase your

risk of lung cancer. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer for people who do. The EPA estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 deaths from lung cancer each year in the U.S. If you smoke and your home has a high radon level, your risk of lung cancer can increase even more.

For more information regarding radon, contact the HCN Division of Environmental Health.

Matt Malimanek
Tribal Air Quality Specialist
715-284-9851 Ext. 35054



The HCN Division of Environmental Health uses Radon Test-Kits, like the one pictured, to test Tribal Member's Homes

YOU CAN SAVE a LIFE WITH a SPRAY

Narcan (naloxone), given as a nasal spray, can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and **Save a Life**.

Opioids include prescription pain killers like Vicodin, OxyContin, or Percocet, and illegal drugs like heroin. Concerned about someone?



Get free Narcan and learn how to use it

WHEN?

Every 3rd Thursday of the month from 5-6 PM

WHERE?

Sanford WhiteEagle Legion Post 556
E11046 N Reedsburg Rd. Baraboo, WI. 53913

Any questions please contact

Menissa Powless

Menissa.Powless@ho-chunk.com

715-896-3405

Continued from Page 1
refresh over and over," said Cook Macarro, Red Lake Band of Ojibwe, who oversees government affairs for NDN Collective. "It was really very long, maybe the longest day of my life."

On Monday at noon Eastern Time, Donald Trump would be sworn in again as president and the opportunity for Biden to act would evaporate.

"We started getting worried because all of a sudden it's like, one hour left of this administration, and then 40 minutes, and then 30 minutes," Tilsen said. "We felt like the window was closing."

And then?

"Pure joy," said Macarro.

"I just remember bursting into tears and kind of freezing for a minute," Tilsen said. "This day has actually come for Leonard and for our movement and for our people."

The notice arrived with just a few minutes to spare that Biden had commuted Peltier's two life sentences, allowing the 80-year-old American Indian Movement activist to return home to live out his remaining years at the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians reservation in North Dakota.

Peltier, who was convicted of aiding and abetting in the 1975 killings of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, was denied parole as recently as July and wasn't eligible for parole again until 2026.

His commutation comes after decades of grassroots organizing in Indian Country and the presentation of evidence of misconduct and constitutional violations during the prosecution of Peltier's case. NDN Collective has led the effort for years to win Peltier's freedom.

"It was surreal," said Tilsen, who remembered organizing rallies to free Peltier as a teenager in Rapid City, South Dakota. "To get to this point where this could happen ... It's hard to believe. ... I immediately imagined Leonard coming back to his homelands because that's the same thing that any Indian person has ever wanted to do — is to go home."

But Peltier was still behind the walls of the Florida prison, unaware of the news. It was a federal holiday and there was no opportunity for visitations.

And then the phone rang.

"He called at 12:46," Macarro said. "Which was almost exactly one hour after the grant of clemency had been announced on the White House website.

So he had no idea ... He said he'd been awake all night awaiting news. And so he said, 'Well, you know, did it happen?'"

He was nervous, but he'd been through this before, without success.

"We were able to tell him that, yes, President Biden had commuted his sentence and he would serve out the remainder of his sentence under home confinement at the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation," she said.

"He said, 'So it's real?.. It's real?'" said Macarro, "He asked us that a couple of times. We said, 'No, it's real.' ... It is pure joy and love and celebration today for us. And I know we share that with so much of Indian Country."

Macarro said that Peltier asked her and Tilsen to accompany him on his journey home to North Dakota, though he likely will not be able to leave the prison for several more weeks.

"We're both very honored and humbled that we get to play this role after so many decades," she said.

"There are thousands of people and voices who joined in this fight to gain justice and liberation for Leonard Peltier. And so to be able to walk with him as he leaves those prison walls, it's a very emotional thing for me, too, to think about."

For Tilsen, the day was bigger than any one person or one organization.

"This is emotional to think about him coming home," he said. "But also it's an acknowledgment that what was done to him was wrong."

He continued, "It's an acknowledgment of what was done to Indian people and how we were treated throughout history was also wrong. How he was treated in his incarceration and prosecution is consistent with how the United States government has treated Indian people ... treated us that we're less than, that we're not human, that we don't deserve the same human rights that other people do, that we don't deserve the same civil rights that other people do, that our sovereignty doesn't matter, that our self-determination doesn't matter."

"And so, when you look at Leonard Peltier, one of the realities is every Indigenous person sees a little bit about themselves in Leonard Peltier and Leonard Peltier's struggle," Tilsen said. "Because all of us have experienced injustices at the hands of the United States government. That's why the context of this moment is so huge."

Family Game Night!

At the
Ho-Chunk Nation Chicago branch office.

Bring your favorite board game!
Community Members welcome!

Light refreshments will be served
Please **RSVP** by **January 30th, 2025**
When? **Saturday February 8th**
Time? **5:00pm-7:30 pm**



Contact info
4738 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tammy R. Whitewing
Tammy.whitewing@Ho-Chunk.com
715-284-7894
312-995-3745
Mon-Friday
8am-4:30 pm

Southland Center Operations to Cease as of January 20, 2025

Effective January 20, 2025, at 5 PM, operations the Southland Center, located in Lynwood, Illinois, will cease. The Southland Center is a sports and event facility managed through a limited liability company (LLC) wholly owned by the Ho-Chunk Nation.

This decision was made after careful consideration of financial factors and an in-depth exploration of options to sustain the facility's operations. Ultimately, the closure reflects the best interests of the Ho-Chunk Nation and its members.

Since assuming management of the Southland Center in 2004, the Nation has faced ongoing challenges

associated with overseeing the facility in such a remote location. While the Sports Center has provided services to the Lynwood Community, the overall financial return to the Nation has been limited.

The Legislature acknowledges the significance of this decision and is committed to exploring future opportunities for the Southland property that align with the Nation's long-term goals and values.

We appreciate the understanding and support of our tribal members as we move forward in this process.

All inquiries can be directed to SouthlandCenter@ho-chunk.com.



NAC WISCONSIN DELLS
VALENTINE'S DAY BAKE SALE
AND ALL YOU CAN EAT SOUP FUNDRAISER

8 Chocolate Covered Strawberries \$10	All-you-can-eat Soup
6 Chocolate Covered Pretzels \$3	
Box of Cookies \$5	and 1 frybread \$10
Mini Cheesecakes \$3	
Cake \$8	Frybread \$2
Brownie \$3	A bowl \$5
Variety Box \$15	

House of Wellness
11am-sold out

SOUPS:
 VEGGIE BEEF, CHILI,
 ZUPPA, BEAN, CHICKEN
 NOODLE, OTHER

FEB 14
2025

For more info call Becky
 608.402.9548

AREA CONNECTIONS
JANUARY 28TH, 2025
BARABOO, WI

HO-CHUNK TRIBAL WORKFORCE DIVISION
TIME: 11 AM TO 1 PM
HOUSE OF WELLNESS
2845 WHITE EAGLE RD.
BARABOO, WI 53913

- RESUME BUILDING
- MOCK-INTERVIEWS
- FUEL ASSISTANCE
- WORK ATTIRE ASSISTANCE
- TRAINING SERVICES
- CAREER SERVICES
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- PROGRAM REFERRALS

twd@ho-chunk.com
 715-284-5877

Continued from Page 2

This was a key opportunity to collaborate, share ideas from different perspectives, and strengthen partnerships. While budgets may not always seem exciting, they are vital to the continued success of our departments and community. Through presentations, interactive activities, and engaging dialogue, this symposium marked an important step toward increased collaboration and shared vision for the future of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Addressing Twelve Clans Shareholder Questions

On December 7, a Twelve Clans shareholder meeting was scheduled, but unfortunately, quorum was not met. Many community members have raised questions about the role of Twelve Clans, especially following the September General Council vote. While the charter continues to exist under Federal Law, the Legislative Branch is working to determine the next steps. As shareholders, it is important to remain informed and proactive. Twelve Clans representatives are available and open to addressing questions and concerns from tribal members. I encourage everyone to reach out to learn more about how this entity may continue to have an impact.

Upgrades, Challenges, and Commitment: Treasury & Personnel Updates

Our Treasury Department has been navigating challenges associated with the transition to a new software system, Infor. While this process has come with a learning curve, the team continues to make progress, and we appreciate the community's patience as we adapt. Additionally, our Personnel Department is introducing a new classification and compensation system beginning in January. While not every employee will receive a wage increase, this adjustment will position the Ho-Chunk Nation as a more competitive employer overall. We value and appreciate the dedication of all our employees and thank you for the contributions that strengthen our community and businesses.

Wishing You a Great Start to the New Year Ahead of Us

With 2024 behind us, the Office of the President wishes to express our deepest gratitude for the continued support, collaboration, and strength offered from our greater Ho-Chunk community. Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated triumphs, and worked to build a brighter future.

HO-CHUNK NATION & RUTH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS
HO-CHUNK MOCCASIN WORKSHOP

Attention Ho-Chunk Families: Join us for a 1-day Ho-Chunk moccasin-making workshop for the whole family. Learn about Ho-Chunk culture, history, and art.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

- HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE:** Learn how to make Ho-Chunk moccasins from expert instructors. No experience needed.
- HISTORY & CREATIVE EXPRESSION:** Explore various tools, materials, methods and designs.
- DESIGNING AND CREATING:** Understand the process and design layout to create your own pair of Ho-Chunk moccasins.

HOUSE OF WELLNESS
 2845 White Eagle Rd.
 Baraboo, WI 53913

29 MARCH, 2025
 10:00am - 4:00pm
 Lunch and snacks provided

REGISTER HERE
<https://forms.gle/aZ4TFRdJRvzFafSS8>

RUTH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS Funded by Ruth Foundation for the Arts

Protect Wisconsin's Waters By Reducing Your Salt Use This Winter

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Wisconsin Salt Wise invite the public to learn more about the impacts of road salt on our drinking water and freshwater ecosystems during Winter Salt Awareness Week, Jan. 27-31, 2025.

Winter Salt Awareness Week will include a series of YouTube livestreams featuring speakers and topics focused on the true impacts of salt and ways to be a freshwater advocate.

Speakers include Abby Hileman (Izaak Walton League of America), Jess Hua (University of Wisconsin-Madison), public works professionals from across the country and a panel of experts providing salting policy perspectives from New Hampshire, Ohio and Minnesota.

Register in advance or watch afterward on the Wisconsin Salt Wise YouTube Channel.

The Impacts Of Too Much Salt

Although salt keeps Wisconsin roads safe during winter, using more salt than needed comes at a price. In Wisconsin and much of the U.S., chlorides from salt are infiltrating lakes, streams and groundwater. According to Wisconsin Salt Wise, one teaspoon of salt is all it takes to make five gallons of water toxic for freshwater organisms.

The DNR measures chloride levels in Wisconsin rivers over time. Recent studies have shown a steep increase in chloride loads. In the early 2000s, the DNR measured about 600,000 tons of chlorides annually. By 2018, that number increased to nearly 800,000 tons per year. Fifty rivers and streams and one lake in Wisconsin have been designated as impaired by high chloride concentrations, primarily from salt used during winter.

“All 43 of the long-term trend water quality monitoring sites across Wisconsin are showing increases in chlorides,” said Shannon Haydin, DNR Storm Water Section Manager. “Chlorides persist in the environment forever and cause significant

impacts to fish, aquatic life and human health. In Wisconsin we are seeing evidence of Fresh Water Salinization Syndrome which is a condition where our freshwater becomes more like ocean water in terms of its saltiness. Now is the time to make a change and reduce salt use when we can.”

These increased chloride loads are partly due to road salting, but chlorides also enter Wisconsin waters because of water softeners and fertilizers. Find out if your softener is salt wise with this diagnostic tool.

Increased chloride levels have significant impacts on our daily lives, including environmental and economic effects. Nationwide, winter salt causes \$5 billion in damage to infrastructure each year, causing corrosion of bridges, roads and other infrastructure. Road salt can also impact pets by causing irritated paws or other health concerns if ingested.

In Wisconsin, 39% of the community wells exceeded the Wisconsin Department of Health Services’ recommended sodium level for individuals on a low-salt diet of 20 mg/L at least once since 2004. This can mean individuals managing diseases by limiting salt intake may take in more salt than they may be accounting for.

Salt Tips For Wisconsin Residents

Reducing salt use is critical to decreasing chloride loads. Follow these steps to right-size your salt use:

- Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow removed manually, the less salt you will need and the more effective it will be.
- Scatter: When using salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. If you see oversalting, Wisconsin Salt Wise offers some simple steps to help educate others about salt.
- Switch: Salt is much less effective when



Over-salting can lead to chloride buildup in lakes, streams and groundwater. / Photo Credit: iStock/Steven White

pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.

Statewide Reduction Efforts


The DNR works to reduce chlorides at the source through permitting programs for municipalities and industries. These measures include tuning or replacing water softeners, identifying significant chloride contributors and finding reductions, process efficiencies or improvements by instituting sewer use ordinances.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation works with Wisconsin counties to reduce road salt application using brine and pre-wetting road surfaces, significantly reducing salt use.

For more information on the DNR’s efforts to monitor chlorides and reduce their effects, visit the DNR’s Salt and Storm Water webpage.

SAVE THE DATE

HO-CHUNK NATION
**Founder's Day
Powwow**
Saturday, March 29, 2025
La Crosse Center 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI



Details will be released soon!

**SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 26TH-28TH**

2025 TEEN SUMMIT
REVOLUTIONARY ACTS
**Glacier Canyon Conference Center
Wisconsin Dells, WI**

TEEN SUMMIT **DARE 2 KNOW**

Nationwide, the month of February is recognized as TDVAM – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. This year, the Ho-Chunk Nation Domestic Abuse Division, is able to sponsor and support Ho-Chunk Nation tribal teens, along with a parent/chaperone, to attend the 2025 Teen Summit on February 26-28, 2025 at the Glacier Canyon Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

The Annual Teen Summit is hosted by “End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin”, and is a training that brings youth, parents, educators, activists, mentors, and advocates from all over Wisconsin to learn about healthy relationships, teen dating violence, and sexual assault within a larger anti-oppression framework, and will include educational and enthusiastic plenary speakers, youth-led workshops as well as topic-related performances.

If you are interested in attending with your Ho-Chunk Nation tribal teen, please contact us at DVCommunityEducation@ho-chunk.com to request scholarship information. Limited amount of scholarships are available, and will include the registration fee and lodging, depending on the distance to be traveled. Scholarship submission will close on Friday, January 31, 2025.

For more information on the Annual Teen Summit, please visit the website: <https://www.endabusewi.org/training-events/teen-summit/>

Gov. Evers Celebrates Signing of Supporting America's Children and Families Act

Federal legislation championed by Gov. Evers to support over 12 million kids nationwide enacted by President Biden

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today released a statement celebrating the enactment of the bipartisan Supporting America's Children and Families Act (H.R.9076), which was signed by President Joe Biden over the weekend. In July 2024, Gov. Evers led a coalition of 26 bipartisan governors from across the nation in sending a letter to congressional leaders urging them to pass a bill to improve the ability of state, Tribal, and local child support agencies to serve families and their kids and prevent the suspension of child support payments to thousands of Wisconsin families.

"Millions of families across our nation, many of whom already live below the federal poverty line, depend on child support payments to make ends meet and provide for our kids," said Gov. Evers. "I'm grateful to President Biden for signing the Supporting America's Children and Families Act into law and making this legislative fix so we can make sure kids and families here in Wisconsin and across our nation have the support they need and deserve."


"I am proud to have led efforts in the United States Congress to ensure access to child support payments that are ordered to be paid out of federal tax refunds," said U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wisconsin). "This legislation is especially meaningful in that it upholds Tribal sovereignty by allowing Tribes to fully operate their own child support enforcement programs. Passage of this important legislation shows how Congress can work together in a bipartisan manner to meet the needs of the American people."

In more than 40 states, contractors are essential in assisting state and Tribal child support agencies in establishing and enforcing child support obligations. Up until 2023, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the federal Office of Child Support Services allowed contractors access to federal tax information (FTI) beyond what was in the Internal Revenue Code, as long as contractors adhered to strict measures to ensure that confidential information remained protected. The IRS then reversed its

interpretation and put states and Tribes across the nation in a dire position.

In Wisconsin, contractors access FTI to support the Federal Tax Offset Refund program, which allows states to intercept tax refunds of parents who are behind on their child support payments. In federal fiscal year 2023, more than \$1.6 billion in child support obligations was collected via federal tax offset, with \$32.5 million of it going to Wisconsin families.

The Supporting America's Children and Families Act, cosponsored by U.S. Rep. Moore, provides the needed statutory fix for states to use contractors to administer their child support enforcement programs without being in violation of IRS rules. The act also expands direct access to FTI to Tribes and Tribal child support agencies, ensuring they can provide much-needed resources for the families they serve. The legislation was also supported by the four national associations representing state and Tribal child support agencies.



Insurance Open Enrollment 2025

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2025 IS MANDATORY THE ENTIRE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

The benefits you currently have will remain the same for 2025 unless you make changes by January 31, 2025. See below for new updates that you want to consider for 2025:

Enroll/Change the following:

- Health Insurance - Dental/Vision
 - Medical Plan - 2 plan options to choose from in 2025 for Non Ho-Chunk enrolled employees.
 - Option #1 - Medical plan - No changes to benefits
 - Option #2 - Value Plan - Lower employee contributions and plan structure to encourage members to seek medical services at high quality, low cost providers.
 - Dental and Vision Plan - No changes to benefits or employee contributions.
- Open Enrollment provides the opportunity to:
 - Enroll if you previously declined coverage
 - Add eligible dependents*
 - Drop currently covered dependents; or
 - Drop all coverage
 - * No changes in plan elections allowed after open enrollment unless there is a qualifying event as defined by the IRS as a marriage, divorce, death, etc..

LIFE AND DISABILITY APPLY OR MAKE CHANGES

- Short Term Disability
 - Apply for coverage OR change coverage amount
- Life Insurance
 - Apply or change coverage amounts

*If adding any dependents on your major medical health/vision/dental plan, remember to bring their Social Security numbers with you. If the dependent is Ho-Chunk Enrolled, please bring Ho-Chunk Enrollment number. If adding a spouse with a different last name bring a copy of Marriage License.


All paperwork must be in the Black River Falls Insurance Department by 4:30 pm on Friday, January 31st, 2025 or it will be too late and not processed!

DON'T MISS OPEN ENROLLMENT!!

Staff will be at various locations at least once to assist employees with questions, updates or changes. See reverse side for scheduled dates and times.

JANUARY 2025 (Subject to Change)						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6 BRF Executive * 9:00 11:00 1:30 3:30 Cafeteria	7 Dells Gaming * 11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00 Lower Ballroom B/H	8 Dells Gaming 6:00 AM 9:00 12:00 Lower Ballroom B/H	9 Tomah YS Building * 10:00 1:00 3:00 Cafeteria	10	11
12	13 BRF Gaming 8:30 10:30 1:30 3:30 Bingo Hall	14 Wittenberg * 8:30 10:30 1:30 3:30 Siga Pummaker Building	15 Nekoosa * 8:30 10:30 1:30 3:30 Banquet	16 Madison 8:30 11:00 1:30 3:30 Large Conference Room	17	18
19	20 BRF Executive 9:00 11:00 1:30 3:30 Cafeteria	21	22 Dells Gaming 11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00 HOW 11:00 and 2:00	23 Dells Gaming * 6:00 AM 9:00 12:00 Lower Ballroom B/H	24	25
26	27 BRF Gaming * 11:00 1:30 3:30 5:30 Bingo Hall	28 Madison * 8:30 11:00 1:30 3:30 2:00 3:30 Large Conference Room	29 Nekoosa 8:30 11:00 1:30 2:00 3:30 Banquet	30 Wittenberg 11:00 1:30 3:00 Siga Pummaker Building	31	1

*Signifies a 401k representative on sight



2025 HEALTH & WELLNESS ROADMAP

80-90% of New Year's Resolutions fail. This year, take a different path towards health and wellness with...

- In-person and virtual exercise classes
- Coaching on self-care and motivation building
- Community events
- Cooking classes and coaching on nutrition
- Group discussions

The Health & Wellness Roadmap is a 5-week incentive-based program where attending sessions earns you points. The top three point earners and winner of a random drawing will receive a reward at the end of the program.

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

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

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



DNR To Host Career Fairs Across State

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced it will host five career fairs across the state in early 2025. The fairs will be held in Eau Claire, Oshkosh, Milwaukee, Fitchburg and Woodruff starting Jan. 18.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, explore the natural resources field and learn how to apply online as new job postings become available. People of all ages and educational backgrounds are encouraged to attend.

The DNR employs a large, diverse workforce throughout our state, and it typically has job opportunities in natural resources, environmental sciences, engineering, law enforcement, business, customer service, information technology and administrative support, with a variety of full-time and limited-term employment positions.

For more information about these career fairs, visit the DNR Events calendar.

To view current job openings at the DNR, visit the Wisc.Jobs website.

EVENT DETAILS

- Eau Claire: Saturday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Oshkosh: Friday, Jan. 24, 4 – 7 p.m.
- Milwaukee: Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Fitchburg: Saturday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Woodruff: Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2 – 7 p.m.

GOVERNMENT TRANSITION: Reflections from Indigenous federal appointees

President Joe Biden appointed over 80 Indigenous people to various positions across the federal government. Bryan Newland, assistant secretary of Indian affairs, and Charles F. Sams III, director of the National Park Service, talk about their time

Pauly Denetclaw
Reprint from ICT

WASHINGTON — Four years ago, President Joe Biden was getting ready to take his oath of office in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 insurrection. The country’s capital was heavily guarded by 25,000 National Guard troops, who would stay for a five-month deployment. The usual crowds on the National Mall were missing — at the request of the Secret Service it was closed.

The country was in the midst of a global pandemic that had killed thousands of Americans — one of the hardest hit were Indigenous nations. During the inauguration, federal officials, past presidents, and guests donned masks, and social distancing was in full effect.

By the end of 2021, Interior Sec. Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, Bay Mills Indian Community, and National Park Service director Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, would all take their oaths of office.

For the next four years, they would all make historic changes in their respective departments.

“Working with Secretary Haaland, it is hard to put it into words except that she’s just a wonderful person,” Newland told ICT. “Everything that people think, she is in public. She is more in private. She’s warm and genuine and brilliant and tough.”

“I’m leaving this position with an enormous amount of gratitude. I’ve been blessed to work alongside brilliant, dedicated people who want to make life better for Indian people.”

It would take nearly one more year for Chief Marilyn “Lynn” Malerba, Mohegan Tribe, to be sworn in as the U.S. Treasurer. She would stay for just two years before leaving her post in fall of 2024. Despite her short tenure, she would lead historic tax status changes that would solve decades long issues that uniquely impacted tribal nations and their enterprises.

The Biden administration is coming to a

close, and the gains made under his leadership for Indigenous people and nations will be remembered for decades to come. Biden could possibly join the ranks of former Presidents Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy as Indian Country’s favorite heads of state. The dawn of a new era is upon the country with the inauguration of President-elect Donald J. Trump in just a few days.

As Haaland said in her farewell speech: the future is uncertain.

Hope remains strong

The only aspect of politics that’s predictable is there will be change, new administrations come in, different parties take control of the House and Senate, and new policy goals become a priority. Regardless, the mission of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs role remains the same despite who serves in it.

“That’s really what this role is about: to work with Indian people. Not to make decisions about what’s best for Indian people (but) to bring sovereigns together for a common purpose of meeting our trust obligation and helping Indian people,” Newland said. “We’re going to have Republican presidents, we’re going to have Democratic presidents, and years from now who knows what other parties and folks (will) come into office. My hope is that the person who serves in this role understands their place in history and also is working alongside Indian Country.”

One piece of advice Newland has for the person who will be his successor is to stay grounded and not lose sight of the people they serve.

“It’s really easy to come here and be isolated and to lose touch with the everyday experiences of people in tribal communities. People who have to haul water, or people who have to go to fish camp and canned salmon for their food in the winter, or people who are crowded into homes with multiple generations,” he said. “It’s easy to fall out of touch with that, living here in Washington, D.C. And so it’s important to

Continued on Page 11



Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, Bay Mills Indian Community, speaks on a panel at the White House Tribal Nations Summit on December 9, 2024, at the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Taylor Bennett-Begaye)



U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, sits with Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland to hear testimony from Indian boarding school survivors at the Road to Healing hearing at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Oklahoma on Saturday, July 9, 2022. (Photo by Mary Annette Pember/ICT)

Only 6 per class! Sign up now!

Diabetes Management Conversation Maps

January - June 2025

- BRF Community Health - January 15th - 3 pm - 4:30 pm
- Tomah Health Office - February 3rd - 10 am to 11:30 am
- HOW Alberta Day Room - February 19th - 1:30 pm to 3 pm
- La Crosse Three Rivers House - March 10th - 11 am to 12:30 pm
- Nekoosa Health Office - March 14th - 11:30 am to 1 pm
- Wittenberg Siga Center - April 2nd - 1 pm to 2:30 pm
- MSP Branch Office - April 17th - 4 pm to 5:30 pm
- Green Bay Branch Office - May 14th - 10 am to 11:30 am
- Madison Branch Office - May 28th - 3 pm to 4:30 pm
- Milwaukee Branch Office - June 12th - 1:30 pm to 3 pm

A one time, 90 minute session providing information on lifestyle changes such as healthy eating, medication management and physical activity in a supportive group setting.

To sign up please contact one of the Program Recruiters below.

- Rachel Montana Program Recruiter
715-284-9851 Ext 35039
rachel.montana@ho-chunk.com
- Lyndsey Killian Program Recruiter
715-284-9851 Ext 35068
lyndsey.killian@ho-chunk.com

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

<p>February 5th Ho-Chunk Nation Dept of Agriculture Hinu Smith, Executive Director</p>	<p>February 19th Ho-Chunk Nation School Community Relations Bethany Redbird, Ed.D</p>
<p>February 12th Seasonal Depression Jennifer Baird NP</p>	<p>February 26th Exploring Ho-Chunk Woodland Properties Ho-Chunk DNR Staff</p>

[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

‘They are targeting our people’ | Arizona Ignored Warnings as Fake Sober Living Homes Preyed on Native Americans

By Elyse Wild
Reprint from Native News Online

For nearly four years, a multi-billion-dollar Medicaid scam involving hundreds of fraudulent providers in Arizona victimized Native Americans under the guise of addiction care.

Now, advocates are hoping for accountability as the state faces a class action lawsuit representing 7,000 Native Americans affected by the fraud — 2,000 of whom are dead or missing in possible connection with the scheme. The lawsuit alleges the state of Arizona had knowledge of the widespread fraudulent activity as early as 2019, nearly four years before it took action against the perpetrators.

The state should have seen it coming, according to the lawsuit. A 2018 Congressional hearing attended by an Arizona Congressman had already warned about fraudulent sober living homes nationwide, preying on vulnerable individuals seeking addiction treatment. The hearing detailed reports of human trafficking, kickbacks, rapes, house managers trading drugs to residents for sex, and operators exploiting federal laws for profit.

The testimony highlighted the deadly consequences of the fraudulent sober homes. In one case, a 23-year-old man died from an overdose after a facility failed to recognize his symptoms or keep overdose-reversal medication on hand. “In the worst cases, some bad actors do not encourage recovery at all, but exploit vulnerable individuals in order to collect insurance payments,” the testimony notes.

The Scheme

Between 2019 and 2023, thousands of Native Americans in Arizona and as far away as Montana reported being kidnapped — forced into unmarked SUVs and vans under false pretenses — given alcohol and drugs such

as fentanyl or methamphetamine, subjected to fraudulent mental health services, held prisoner, and eventually ejected onto the street or dropped off in remote rural areas with no means of transportation. Victims were enrolled in the American Indian Health Program through the state’s Medicaid Agency, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCS). The homes billed AHCCS for patient care in excess of \$1,000 per day per patient.

Reva Stewart (Diné) runs Turtle Island Woman Warriors, a Phoenix-based nonprofit that offers assistance to Native people who have been victimized by the scam. The group’s website includes a portal where individuals can verify and report sober living homes. People reach out looking for their loved ones whose disappearances or deaths are suspected to be tied to fraudulent homes.

“It’s human trafficking,” Stewart said. “That’s what this is.”

The 230-page complaint, filed in Maricopa County Superior Court by Phoenix-based BrewerWood law firm and Albuquerque-based attorney Brook Laskey, alleges that the state had knowledge of the fraud as early as 2019, when former Gov. Doug Ducey was in office, “according to its own internal documents,” but knowingly continued to make payments to fraudulent sober living home operators.

The mass fraud came to light in May 2023 when state officials held a press conference announcing they would take action against 100 fraudulent providers involved in the scheme. By August, the number grew to 131, and by May 2024, it ballooned to 375 providers.

When Native News Online asked Gov. Katie Hobbs’s office about the allegation that the state knew of the scam and failed to act, her office replied in an email:



Turtle Island Woman Warriors, a Phoenix-based nonprofit run by Reva Stewart, helps people look for their loved ones whose disappearances or deaths are suspected to be tied to fraudulent sober living homes. (photo/courtesy)

“We cannot speculate about what the Ducey administration knew, but as soon as Governor Hobbs became aware of this issue, she took action to identify the root causes of the problem, hold bad actors accountable, and protect vulnerable Arizonans. Governor Hobbs has worked tirelessly to address the exploitation and abuse by focusing on improving and enforcing high standards of care, ensuring state agencies respond quickly to complaints of abuse, and protecting taxpayer dollars. Governor Hobbs is committed to continuing this fight and working with Tribal leaders and communities to support the ongoing response and recovery from this crisis.”

Early Warning Signs

Stewart was among the first to raise the alarm in 2022. She was managing Drum Beat Indian Arts, a Native American craft store near the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, where she saw white vans circling and waiting to pick up patients as they were discharged from the facility. At the same time, a display board outside of the store began to fill with posters of missing people from the state’s various tribal nations.

“I started watching these vans — they would just caravan outside the hospital, by the bus stops, and then through our parking lot,” Stewart told Native News Online. “At that time, I didn’t understand either, but there were so many vans. I also started seeing more missing posters from Navajo Nation coming up, then White Mountain Apache, San Carlos, and so many.”

Months later, when she made contact with a cousin who had fled one of the fraudulent homes, she understood the scope of what was happening. Her cousin had been coerced into a white van in Farmington, New Mexico, with four other people. They were immediately provided with alcohol and left at a house in Phoenix, about six and half hour’s drive from Farmington. After refusing to give staff at the home her social security number, she was given a bus pass and kicked out. Stewart put her cousin’s story on social media and was flooded with messages from people who had the same experience or those with missing relatives who got into a white van and weren’t seen again.

She took information from everyone who reached out, collecting all documents in a banker’s box. She presented her findings to officials from Arizona’s Department of Health Services, AHCCCS, and tribal officials.

“I said, ‘I have all this information. People are going missing. And I believe they’re in these homes, these homes that are picking people up,’” Stewart said. “They said, ‘Thank you, we will look into it.’”

Stewart said none of the officials took the banker’s box.



Reve Stewart (Courtesy photo)

Today, she says, the fraud continues as she hears of fraudulent homes targeting Native Americans opening in other states, such as California and Utah.

“It’s genocide all over again,” she said. “They are targeting our people, and it’s like it’s not important.”

Limited Accountability

After the May 2023 press conference revealing the fraud to the public, the state of Arizona brought criminal charges against some of the fraudsters, but for many, justice is falling short.

Last June, one man whose company made nearly \$21 million while involved in the scam was sentenced to just four years of probation and ordered to pay \$2 million in restitution.

In November 2024, Arizona — home to 22 tribal nations — announced a \$6 million fund for Native communities affected by the scheme. Tribes can apply for grants up to \$500,000 until Jan. 31, 2025. Advocates like Stewart say the amount isn’t nearly enough to make up the humanitarian cost of the fraud.

“What is that going to do? You can’t even build a building for that amount,” she said.

The class action lawsuit against the state doesn’t name a specific dollar amount. Stewart hopes the legal action will bring about accountability.

“I want these families to be able to hear from the government,” she said. “I want them to say, ‘We did this and we messed up, yeah, and we want to apologize to every single person that was affected by this.’ That’s what I want for every single person who has been hurt by this.”

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNSHIPS

The Wisconsin DNR is offering PAID summer internships through the State of Wisconsin Student Diversity Internship Program (SWSDIP).

AVAILABLE POSITIONS



dnr.wi.gov/tiny/2091

OPPORTUNITIES IN:

- Air Quality
- Drinking Water & Groundwater • IT
- Natural Resource Education
- Parks • Policy
- Public Safety
- Waste Management
- Water Resources
- Wildlife
- AND MORE!



Scan for more information, including

- Eligibility Requirements
- Tip Sheets
- Webinars

dnr.wi.gov/tiny/1941

APPLY BY FEB. 7, 2025 at WISC.JOBS




MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Help protect and enhance our natural resources. Provide a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities. Ensure the right of all people to use and enjoy these resources.

Work for the Wisconsin DNR!

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | DNR.WI.GOV



HO-CHUNK NATION

Department of Education

Requesting Bids for Meal
 Saturday, February 22, 2025
 11:30am – 1:00pm
 District 1 Community Center

The meal will be for the Indigenous Arts & Science’s Winter Gathering event. The meal will be for 50 people and should include healthy food and drink options.

Bids should include the following information:

- Menu provided, including paper products such as plates, bowls, forks, spoons, knives, napkins, and cups.
- Name of organization submitting the bid, including the mailing address should the bid be awarded.
- Dollar amount of bid.
- A statement agreeing to set-up and clean-up for the timeframe stated above.

Bids will be accepted through **Monday, February 3rd, 2025**. No exceptions. Bids should be sent to the attention of Mattea Twinn or Angela Ward, Indigenous Arts & Sciences Grant Managers, Education Department, via email at Mattea.Twinn@ho-chunk.com or Angela.Ward@ho-chunk.com.

Organizations will be notified via email on **Tuesday, February 4th, 2025**, whether their bid was accepted. For this reason, please include a contact person and an email address for communication purposes.

Thank you.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
 P.O. Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615
 1-800-362-4476 • 715-284-4915 • FAX 1-715-284-1760




MEETING NOTICE

HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD MEETING

Friday, February 21, 2025
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Eileen Decorah Conference Room
 Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
 N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
 Black River Falls, WI 54615

Virtual Option also available via WebEx
 Please contact Lorinda Bird for Virtual meeting information.
 715-284-9851 ext. 35351
 Email: Lorinda.Bird@ho-chunk.com

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road Black River Falls, WI 54615 Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150	House of Wellness 52845 White Eagle Rd Baraboo, WI 53913 Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643
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HO-CHUNK NATION

TRUST & INVESTMENT COMMISSION VACANCIES

The Ho-Chunk Nation’s Trust & Investment Commission has three (3) vacancies. We seek interested and eligible persons to serve on this Commission as an oversight body of the Nation’s investments.

Qualified individuals are encouraged to e-mail or mail a LETTER OF INTEREST and a RESUME by February 14, 2025.

Eligibility for appointment: Must be an enrolled adult member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and have one or more of the following qualifications:

- Certified Public Accountant or Charter Financial Analyst
- Bachelor’s degree (preferred in accounting, business, finance)
- Possess a Financial Professional Certification: CFP, CFS, CFC, CIC, CIMA, CMT, or PFS
- At least three years proven experience managing investments as a fiduciary on another’s behalf

STIPEND & MILEAGE FOR COMMISSIONERS



EMAIL LETTER OF INTEREST AND RESUME

Legislature@ho-chunk.com



HARD COPY SUBMISSION

Mail to:
 HCN Legislative Branch
 ATTN: T&I
 PO Box 667
 Black River Falls, WI 54615

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 14, 2025

NOTICE

RIGHT TO OBJECT

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

Ho-Chunk Member, FAYE BEGAY, has submitted a Request for Title for Permanent Improvements located at:

W8719 SAND PILLOW RD BRF WI 54615

And more particularly described as: LOT 2 OF THE N 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, TOWN OF BROCKWAY, JACKSON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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

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

By or before February 21, 2025.

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



March 1, 2025

3 VS. 3 OPEN BASKETBALL Tournament



\$100/Team Registration (Due at Sign Up)
 Monetary Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
 3pt. Contest-\$10 Entry (Winner Take All)

This is an open tournament. Teams can be all boys, all girls, or a mix. There is no required time limit for males/females to be on the court. It is up to the teams discretion when to play their team.

MUST BE 17+ YEARS OLD TO PARTICIPATE
NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ON PREMISES. IF YOU ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND FORFEIT THE TOURNAY

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

CONTACT INFO:
 MYSHELL MIKE-808-432-8408
 MYSHELL MIKE@GMAIL.COM

MEETING NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, February 7, 2025
 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Eileen Decorah Conference Room
 Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
 N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
 Black River Falls, WI 54615


Virtual option available via WebEx
 Please contact Lorinda Bird for virtual meeting information.
 715-284-9851 ext. 35351
 Email: Lorinda.Bird@ho-chunk.com

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road Black River Falls, WI 54615 Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150	House of Wellness 52845 White Eagle Rd Baraboo, WI 53913 Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643
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**HOUSE OF WELLNESS
SOUP STOCK
CANNING CLASS**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH
4-6pm at House of Wellness
S2845 White Eagle Rd, Baraboo

Win a Ball Canning Book!



Take home a jar of canned soup stock!

Class provided by UW-Extension
Sponsored by HCN Health & Wellness Division
Contact Nutritionist Kyla Ripp to RSVP for your jar of soup stock
kyla.ripp@ho-chunk.com OR 608-355-1240 Ext 35554

SAVE THE DATE

CSA'S (COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE) SHARE

APPLICATIONS RELEASED FEBRUARY 6TH, 2025
FOR THE 2025 SUMMER GROWING SEASON.

PLEASE WATCH THE HCN HEALTH FACEBOOK PAGE AND HCN E-MAIL FOR CONTACT INFORMATION AFTER FEBRUARY 6TH, 2025.

OPEN TO ALL HO-CHUNK NATION TRIBAL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE RELEASED EARLY - NO EXCEPTIONS.

HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIVISION - 1/13/25 LK

Cooking Class in Wittenberg

At Siga Funmaker Community Building
W17634 Radke Rd., Wittenberg
Tuesday January 28th, 2025
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Featuring:

- Three Sisters Nijpaną (Soup)
- Blue Corn Muffins
- Black Bean Brownies
- Pine Needle Nijtašjak naą'ap (Tea)

RSVP to Jamie Decorah


In conjunction with HCN Dept. of Public Health.

For questions and to sign up, please contact Jamie Decorah at 715.896.1126 or jamie.decorah@ho-chunk.com

Health and Wellness Division/KB/1-25

ATTENTION

All Ho-Chunk Nation Elders



Address Change

Please notify Gloria Ward in the insurance department with any address changes. This will help Gloria in case any notifications are required.

Medicare Reimbursement

It is time again for the Medicare Part B Reimbursement for those that are 65 or older. HCN Insurance will be sending out the applications. You will need to send a copy of your SSA 1099's you receive from Social Security. These normally will come to you in January. The payments will be sent out the third week in April.

New Insurance Cards

In March 2025 we will be getting new insurance cards these will have your name and other information on them. We will no longer be using your Social Security number for your insurance identification.

When you go to the Doctor or any other medical facility you must give them a copy of your Insurance card and Medicare card if you have one.

If you utilize an ambulance you must give them a copy of your Insurance and Medicare cards, the hospital does not share information with them.

Medicare Parts A and B

If you are not working for the Ho-Chunk Nation and your turning 65 you have to sign up for Medicare Parts A and B, failure to sign up will result in consequences. Auxiant will only pay 20% of your bill and you will be responsible for 80%.

If you're drawing Social Security your payment for Medicare B will come out of your check.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the Insurance Division at 715-284-4361.

Continued from Page 8
be on the ground in communities, places where government officials don't often visit, and to just listen."

The Biden-Harris administration made tribal consultation one of its priorities, releasing guidelines that define what tribal consultation is and looks like. Newland hopes this continues into the next administration.

"Consultation shouldn't be a partisan issue. It should be just a matter of course. I think it



Quinault Nation Council Member Ryan Hendricks shows Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland plans for a new climate-resistant village. (Photo courtesy U.S. Department of the Interior)

leads to better policy," he said. "I know from having been a tribal leader myself, and working with tribes, how much I appreciate it when government officials would talk to me about things that affected me. We've set the bar high and I hope Indian Country doesn't expect or allow for anything less."

Before becoming a federal official, Newland was elected to a two-year term as president of the Bay Mills Indian Community in northern Michigan. In taking the role of assistant secretary of Indian Affairs, Newland saw it as an act of public service, and his way of giving back to not just his nation but others across what is now known as the United States.

"I would encourage everyone out there to find ways to give of themselves and to serve," Newland said. "I'm out of energy. I feel like I've left it on the field, but I'm filled with gratitude."

There are many ways to answer the call, Newland said.

"You don't have to serve as assistant secretary or president or senator or what have you," he said. "We can all serve in our own ways, whether it's our family or our communities or the natural world around us, and to do just a little bit to make the world a better place."

"If you had a chance to come into the federal government and serve, there's nothing like it." There were many rewarding parts about being a federal official but one stood out for Newland.

"It's really rewarding to know that you're

shaping the policy of the federal government. As a Native person, it's rewarding to play your part in changing it, to make it better for Indian people," he said.

Charles F. "Chuck" Sams III, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, was tasked with telling the true history of this country by Haaland. Over the last almost four years, he's proud of the work he's been able to accomplish as the first Indigenous person to lead the National Park Service.

The agency has been able to share the stories of Chinese people who helped to build the infrastructure and created the first concessionaires in what would become Yosemite National Park in California, and on a more somber note the torture, lynching and murder of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black boy, by two older white men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, in Mississippi.

"When I was sworn in over three years ago on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Sec. Haaland said, 'Chuck, I'm charging you with being fierce in our storytelling, not to tell just the great stories and the happy stories, but also those that are hard,'" Sams told ICT. "The staff have leaned into telling all of those stories, across the breadth of who we are as Americans, so that we can ensure our future generations understand what it takes to have a vibrant democracy."

The last day for Biden's political appointees is Jan. 20.

DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE



BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING
Tribal Office Building
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

WAUSAU AREA MEETING
Rothschild Village Hall
211 Grand Avenue
Rothschild, WI 54474

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.
IN PERSON

Representative jessika.greendeer@ho-chunk.com
Representative rodney.rave@ho-chunk.com
Representative phyllis.smoke@ho-chunk.com

For WebEx/e-packet, information please contact:
michelleramberg@ho-chunk.com

Posted on: 1/20/25



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

DISTRICT 2 AREA MEETING NOTICE



LA CROSSE AREA | THREE RIVERS HOUSE
724 Main Street, La Crosse, WI

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025 6:00PM

TOMAH AREA | BLUE WING COMMUNITY BUILDING
28370 Epinal Avenue, Tomah, WI

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 6:00PM

BARABOO MI DELLS/ Mauston AREA | IND. HEIGHTS
975 Dyer St, Wisconsin Dells, WI

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025 6:00PM

REP. STEPHANIE BEGAY stephanie.begay@ho-chunk.com (608) 408-0339
REP. DAMIAN THUNDERCLOUD damianthundercloud@ho-chunk.com (715) 896-9321
REP. KRISTIN WHITE EAGLE kristin.whiteeagle@ho-chunk.com (608) 477-3007
HILARY GREEN, LEGISLATIVE AIDE hilary.green2@ho-chunk.com (800) 294-9343 x.11214

POSTED 2/14/2025

DISTRICT 3 AREA MEETING NOTICE



MILWAUKEE | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025 | 5:30PM

WITTENBERG | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025 | 6:00 PM

GREEN BAY | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | 6:00 PM

MADISON | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025 | 6:00 PM

WI RAPIDS | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025 | 5:30 PM

FOR WEBEX INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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



POSTED 1/20/2025

DISTRICT 4 AREA MEETING NOTICE



IN PERSON / VIRTUAL CHICAGO AREA MEETING
Chicago Branch Office
4738 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60630
Monday, February 10, 2025
6:00 p.m.

IN PERSON / VIRTUAL TWIN CITIES AREA MEETING
St. Paul Branch Office
1724 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
Thursday, February 13, 2025
6:00 p.m.

For WebEx information please contact:
paul.fox@ho-chunk.com
robert.pilot@ho-chunk.com
danielle.delong@ho-chunk.com
brianna.tahdoohnippah@ho-chunk.com

For Webex/E-packet information please contact
Jennifer.Adams@Ho-Chunk.com

Posted on: 1/20/25



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI DECEMBER 31, 2024

Call to Order: President Jon Greendeer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call: President Jon Greendeer-P

Vice President Danielle DeLong-P
Rep. Jessika Greendeer-P
Rep. Rodney Rave-P
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
Rep. Stephanie Begay-P
Rep. Kristin White Eagle-P
Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P
Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC
Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-VC
Rep. Robert Pilot-VC
Rep. Paul Fox-P

Rep. Brianna Tahdoohnippah-VC
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

as presented. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 13-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
Legislative Meeting- December 17, 2024
MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the December 17, 2024 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Kristin White

Eagle. 12-0-1(Vice President Danielle DeLong) MOTION CARRIED.
Reports:
HHCDA Quarterly Report
A written report was received.
MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to accept the HHCDA Quarterly Report. Second by Vice President Danielle Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12
DeLong. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Executive Branch Monthly Reports:

Department of Business

A written report was received.

Department of Education

A written report was received.

Department of Housing

A written report was received.

Department of Labor

A written report as received.

Rep. Stephanie Begay mentioned the Legislative Commissions will be starting in January 2025 that is where Executive Branch Monthly Reports will be addressed.

Unfinished Business:

Red Cloud Park

Attorney General William Gardner gave a brief update on preparations and mentioned the meeting scheduled for January 23, 2025. Attorney General Gardner said he will give a full update at the Legislative Meeting on February 4, 2025.

Amendment to the agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to add Founders Day Powwow to the agenda. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Founders Day Powwow

Tracy Littlejohn was in attendance and presented a request and budget of \$89,300 for the Founders Day 2025 Powwow. This year the Powwow would be for only one day, and a meal will be served. Ms. Littlejohn will also be seeking other donations within the City of La Crosse.

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer the Founders Day Powwow request to the Finance Commission. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. **MOTION IS AMENDED** to refer to the next Finance Commission Meeting on January 2, 2025. Second concurs. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business:

Resolution-Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment to Asset Builders of America for the Elevate Wisconsin Program

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to TABLE Resolution-Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment to Asset Builders of America for the Elevate Wisconsin Program until Director Ryan Crain is available. Second by Vice President Danielle DeLong. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Kristin White Eagle is out of the room at 10:44 a.m.

Resolution-Opposition to the Green Light Metals Bend Deposit Mining Project in the Chequamegon National Forest Near the North Fork of the Yellow River in Taylor County

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 A**, Opposition to the Green Light Metals Bend Deposit Mining Project in the Chequamegon National Forest Near the North Fork of the Yellow River in Taylor County. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Victoria Fox to the Election Board as the District 1 Minneapolis/St. Paul Alternate

MOTION by Vice President Danielle DeLong to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 B**, Confirmation of Victoria Fox to the Election Board as the District 1 Minneapolis/St. Paul Alternate. Second by Rep. Rodney Rave. 11-0-1(Rep. Paul Fox) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Mary Lopez to the Election Board as the District 3 Green Bay Member

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 C**, Confirmation of Mary Lopez to the Election Board as the District 3 Green Bay Member. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of David Radtke to the Election Board as the District 3 Green Bay Alternate

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 D**, Confirmation of David Radtke to the Election Board as the District 3 Green Bay Alternate. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Greg Smith to the Election Board as the District 3 Nekoosa Member

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 E**, Confirmation of Greg Smith to the Election Board as the District 3 Nekoosa Member. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Melanie Kasun to the Election Board as the District 3 Nekoosa Alternate

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 F**, Confirmation of Melanie Kasun to the Election Board as the District 3 Nekoosa Alternate. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 11-1(Rep. Jessika Greendeer)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Kristin White Eagle returns to the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Resolution-Confirmation

of Cher Laubmeier to the Election Board as the District 3 Madison Member

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 G**, Confirmation of Cher Laubmeier to the Election Board as the District 3 Madison Member. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Lance Decker-Anwash to the Election Board as the District 3 Madison Alternate

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 H**, Confirmation of Lance Decker-Anwash to the Election Board as the District 3 Madison Alternate. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Alexandria Lange to the Election Board as the District 3 Milwaukee Member

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 I**, Confirmation of Alexandria Lange to the Election Board as the District 3 Milwaukee Member. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Hazel Guerrero to the Election Board as the District 3 Milwaukee Alternate

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 J**, Confirmation of Hazel Guerrero to the Election Board as the District 3 Milwaukee Alternate. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Dane Walker to the Election Board as the District 3 Wittenberg Member

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 K**, Confirmation of Dane Walker to the Election Board as the District 3 Wittenberg Member. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 12-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Caroline Koukos to the Election Board as the District 3 Wittenberg Alternate

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to TABLE Resolution-Confirmation of Caroline Koukos to the Election Board as the District 3 Wittenberg Alternate and move to Executive Session for Legal Advice. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Joann Maney to the Election Board as the District 4 Chicago Member

MOTION by Vice President Danielle DeLong to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 L**, Confirmation of Joann Maney to the Election Board as the

District 4 Chicago Member. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Theodore Whitewing to the Election Board as the District 4 Chicago Alternate

MOTION by Vice President Danielle DeLong to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 M**, Confirmation of Theodore Whitewing to the Election Board as the District 4 Chicago Alternate. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Agriculture to Apply for 2025 Next-Gen Mini Grant

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 N**, Authorization for the Department of Agriculture to Apply for 2025 Next-Gen Mini Grant. Second by Vice President Danielle DeLong. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services to Apply for the 2025 Tribal Elderly Transportation Grant Program

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 O**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services to Apply for the 2025 Tribal Elderly Transportation Grant Program. Second by Vice President Danielle DeLong. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Nation to Enter Internship/Temporary Work Agreements with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 P**, Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Nation to Enter Internship/Temporary Work Agreements with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency for the 2025 Heating Assistance Program

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 Q**, Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency for the 2025 Heating Assistance Program. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Enactment of the Native American Preference in Contracting Act (6 HCC § 10)

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 R**, Enactment of the Native

American Preference in Contracting Act (6 HCC § 10). Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Executive Session:

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. 13-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 11:02 a.m.

Executive Session recessed for lunch at 12:23 p.m. President Jon Greendeer is excused for the remainder of the meeting. Vice President Danielle DeLong called the meeting to order at 1:02p.m. Quorum is established.

Rep. Jessika Greendeer is excused for the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Rodney Rave. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting return to Open Session at 2:15 p.m.

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

New Business: (Revisited)

Resolution-Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment to Asset Builders of America for the Elevate Wisconsin Program

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to TABLE Resolution-Authorization to Deduct Amounts from Annual Gaming Compact Payment to Asset Builders of America for the Elevate Wisconsin Program and have the Elevate Wisconsin agreement included with the resolution at that time. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Caroline Koukos to the Election Board as the District 3 Wittenberg Alternate

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-31-24 S**, Confirmation of Caroline Koukos to the Election Board as the District 3 Wittenberg Alternate. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 9-0-3(Rep. Robert Pilot, Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to January 7, 2025 at Quarles in Madison, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Rodney Rave. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

VOTE JAMIE GOODBEAR

YOUR VOICE. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR FUTURE

DISTRICT ONE SEAT ONE



MISSION

As a proud member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, I have dedicated my life to serving my country and our Ho-Chunk Nation. With my diverse background a passion for public service, I am ready to bring my experience and commitment to Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature as your District One Representative.

Strong Veterans Advocate

Dedicated Service

Successful Track Record

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

- ✓ Marine Corp Combat Veteran
- ✓ Two tours of duty Iraq
- ✓ United States Army Reserves
- ✓ 13 years Wildfire Fighting
- ✓ 18 years Ho-Chunk Nation Employment
- ✓ WI DNR Hunter Safety Instructor
- ✓ Nominated as Millston WI Town Superintendent 2025 Spring Election

VOTE MARCH 5th!!!

As a candidate for District One Representative, I am committed to delivering results and taking a fearless stance against the bureaucratic obstacles that hinder our community's progress. I believe in the power of action over inaction, and I am ready to break down the barriers that have held us back for too long.

With over a decade of service in the Ho-Chunk Nation and extensive military experience, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges our country and our Nation faces. I know that bureaucracy often complicates our ability to respond effectively to issues that matter most to our residents. As your representative, I will prioritize transparency, efficiency, and accountability in government, ensuring that your concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

My background in wildfire management and emergency response has equipped me with the skills to act decisively in times of crisis. I will bring that same urgency to the

legislative process, cutting through red tape and implementing solutions that create real change. Whether it's advocating for our veterans, enhancing youth programs, or supporting local initiatives, I will fight tirelessly for the resources and support our community deserves.

I am not afraid to challenge the status quo. Together, we will dismantle the bureaucratic barriers that stifle innovation and progress. My vision is a District One where every tribal member's voice is heard, every veteran is supported, and every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Join me in this fight for a brighter future. Together, we can create a community that is not only resilient but also empowered to take charge of its destiny. Vote for Jamie Goodbear—let's take a bold step forward, together!

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing by February 25, 2025

General Primary Election Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Vote ✓

EDDIE MULLEN

THUNDER CLAN

*Rooted in Tradition.
Committed to Progress.*

for Ho-Chunk Legislature. District 4, Seat 1

Vision: Elders. Land Protection. Cultural Preservation. Youth Development. Accountability & Transparency. Southland Development. Economic Growth.

Vote on March 5, 2025

request absentee ballot by February 23rd

Together, we can honor our past while building a stronger future for the Ho-Chunk people.

www.Ed4rep4.com



RE-ELECT

TODD R. MATHA

Chief Justice

Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court

Allow Me to Continually Serve the Ho-Chunk Nation

Nearly 28 Years in a Legal Capacity
Over 25 Years on the Ho-Chunk Judiciary
3 Successive Elections to the Supreme Court
(Never Issued an Untimely Decision)

University of Minnesota Law School
Adjunct Professor
Federal Indian Law/Advanced Legal Writing

Author of Nationally Published Articles
on HCN Law

PLEASE VOTE

General Primary Election
March 5, 2025

NOTICE AND RULES OF SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025



Notice is hereby served to all eligible voters of District 4. The Ho-Chunk Nation is calling a Special Election which will be held due to the Residency requirement, Sec. 8, iii, Residency Requirements for Legislative Candidates. A candidate for Legislature shall be eligible to run for office in the District in which the candidate has resided for at least one (1) year immediately prior to filing the petition declaring his or her candidacy. The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board, in accordance with the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation will conduct a Special Election. ARTICLE IX< SECTION 10, Removal, Recall and Vacancies and the Election Code 2 HCC Sec. 6, states in relevant part:

3. Elections, c. Primary Election and Runoff Elections.

- (1) Primary Elections shall be held prior to an Election with three (3) or more candidates in order to ensure compliance with the majority vote requirement as provided for in paragraphs 1c and 1e.
- (2) If no candidate in any Primary Election receives more than 50% of the votes cast in such Election, the two candidates with the highest vote totals from the Primary Election (and any candidates tied with the lower of such totals) shall appear on the ballot in the Runoff Election. When there are two (2) seats vacant in a district, the top two (2) vote getters for any vacant seats, if no candidate has received 50% + 1 vote, shall be on the ballot for the General Election or Runoff Election.
- (3) Primary Elections shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by this Code and in accordance with the timetable adopted by the Election Board.

THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF FOUR (4) YEARS WILL BE VACANT:

- LEGISLATURE:**
District 4, Seat 2
July 2025 – June 2029
- District 4, Seat 3
July 2025 – June 2029

NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

The official candidacy forms may be obtained from the Election Board Office. A candidate for elective office shall submit an Official Nomination Petition, Declaration of Candidacy and a \$5.00 filing fee by hand delivery or U.S. Mail to the Election Board Office before the close of the nomination period on Friday, January 31, 2025 by 4:30 PM. ORIGINAL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED. FILING BY FAX OR COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS:

Any enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation who is at least eighteen (18) years old and who has resided in their respective district for at least three (3) months. See Election Board Code Sec.11 (c).

REGISTRATION:

Each person seeking to vote must register at the polling place. If a person cannot write, that person must sign his/her name with a mark before two (2) witnesses. A Ho-Chunk translator will be available to assist any tribal member who requests assistance.

ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:

Any individual whose name does not appear on the eligible voters list can claim the right to vote by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board. Any eligible voter may challenge the eligibility of an individual's name appearing on the eligible voters list by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board. **The Election Board will rule on all written challenges to the list of eligible voters immediately after the close of the challenge period. Section 11(c) iii, (Deadline Sunday, February 9, 2025).**

Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board
W8801 Mission Road
Black River Falls, WI. 54615
TELEPHONE (715)284-8900
TOLL FREE (800)890-0583
FAX NUMBER(715)284-8600
E-MAIL:
Election.board@ho-chunk.com
After 4:30 pm and the weekend
please call (715)299-6104

Deadline to challenge the candidate(s) list to Election Board is Thursday, February 6, 2025 @ 4:30 pm.

ABSENTEE VOTING:

A voter may vote by absentee ballot provided the Election Board receives the absentee ballot request in writing no later than **Thursday, February 13, 2025 by 4:00 pm.** See Election Board Code, section 13(a), i Requests MUST INCLUDE the eligible voter's name printed or typed (with signature), physical address where the ballot will be delivered (we use UPS next Day Air – UPS Next Day Air will not deliver to a P.O. Box), daytime telephone number and enrollment number.

Absentee Ballots must be received before 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Absentee ballots may be returned by overnight mail, so they may be received at the Election Board Office or the polling places prior to the close of the polls on Election Day. **NOTE THAT FEDEX and UPS NEXT DAY AIR DOES NOT DELIVER IN BLACK RIVER FALLS ON SATURDAYS.**

POSTING ELECTION RESULTS:

The Election Board will certify and post the official election results within three (3) days after the date of election.

Please check eligible voter's lists for your Districts.

CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS:

Any member of the Ho-Chunk Nation may challenge the results of any election within ten (10) days after the Election Board certifies the results. The Trial Court shall hear and decide a challenge to any election within twenty (20) days after the challenge is filed in the Trial Court.

ELECTIONEERING:

There will be no electioneering within fifty (50) feet of any polling places.

SPECIAL ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

POST NOTICE OF ELECTION
Tuesday, January 21, 2025

POST ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST
Friday, January 24, 2025

CHALLENGES TO THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO 4:30 PM
Sunday, February 9, 2025

LAST DAY TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS
Thursday, February 13, 2025
4:00 pm.

POLLING PLACE:
OPEN AT 8:00 AM CLOSE AT 7:00 PM

CHICAGO, IL
CHICAGO BRANCH OFFICE
4738 North Milwaukee Avenue
(715)284-7894

Other Polling Sites will be closed during this Special Election.

Posted 1/21/2025

NOTICE AND RULES OF GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025



Notice is hereby served to all eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation that the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board, in accordance with the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation has called a **General Primary Election**. **ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS** and the Election Code (2 HCC Sec. 6), states in relevant part:

3. Elections, c. Primary Election and Runoff Elections.

(1) Primary Elections shall be held prior to an Election with three (3) or more candidates in order to ensure compliance with the majority vote requirement as provided for in paragraphs 1c and 1e.

(2) If no candidate in any Primary Election receives more than 50% of the votes cast in such Election, the two candidates with the highest vote totals from the Primary Election (and any candidates tied with the lower of such totals) shall appear on the ballot in the Runoff Election. When there are two (2) seats vacant in a district, the top two (2) vote getters for any vacant seats, if no candidate has received 50% + 1 vote, shall be on the ballot for the General Election or Runoff Election. (3) Primary Elections shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by this Code and in accordance with the timetable adopted by the Election Board.

THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF FOUR (4) YEARS WILL BE VACANT:

LEGISLATURE:

District 1, Seat 1
July 2025 – June 2029
Danielle DeLong
Jessika Greendeer
Phyllis M. Smoke

District 2, Seat 2
July 2025 – June 2029
Travis Cloud
Leah M. Walters
Bettina Warner
Kyle White Eagle

District 2, Seat 3
July 2025 – June 2029
Stephanie Begay

District 3, Seat 2
July 2025 – June 2029
Andi Jo Cloud
Fabian Houghton
Shelby Visintin

District 4, Seat 1
July 2025 – June 2029
Eddie Mullen

JUDICIARY:
Supreme Court Chief
Justice
July 2025- June 2031
Todd R. Matha
Supreme Court Associate
Justice 1
July 2025 – June 2029
Tricia Zunker (Hinuk pij)

ELIGIBLE VOTERS:

Any enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation who is at least eighteen (18) years old and who has resided in their respective district for at least three (3) months. See *Election Board Code Sec.11 (c)*.

REGISTRATION:

Each person seeking to vote must register at the polling place. If a person cannot write, that person must sign his/her name with a mark before two (2) witnesses. A Ho-Chunk translator will be available to assist any tribal member who requests assistance.

ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:

Any individual whose name does not appear on the eligible voters list can claim the right to vote by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board. Any eligible voter may challenge the eligibility of an individual's name appearing on the eligible voters list by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board.

The Election Board will rule on all written challenges to the list of eligible voters immediately after the close of the challenge period. Section 11(c) iii, (Deadline Thursday, February 13, 2025).

Ho-Chunk Nation Election
Board
W8801 Mission Road
Black River Falls, WI. 54615
TELEPHONE (715)284-8900
TOLL FREE (800)890-0583
FAX NUMBER(715)284-8600
E-MAIL:
Election.board@ho-chunk.com

After 4:30 pm and the weekend
please call (715)299-6104

Deadline to challenge the candidate(s) list to Election Board is Saturday, January 25, 2025 @ 4:30 pm.

ABSENTEE VOTING:

A voter may vote by absentee ballot provided the Election Board receives the absentee ballot request in writing no later than **Sunday, February 23, 2025 by 4:00 pm.** See *Election Board Code, section 13(a), i*

Requests MUST INCLUDE the eligible voter's name printed or typed (with signature), physical address where the ballot will be delivered (we use UPS next Day Air – UPS Next Day Air will not deliver

to a P.O. Box), daytime telephone number and enrollment number.

Absentee Ballots must be received before 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Absentee ballots may be returned by overnight mail, so they may be received at the Election Board Office or the polling places prior to the close of the polls on Election Day.

NOTE THAT FEDEX and UPS NEXT DAY AIR DOES NOT DELIVER IN BLACK RIVER FALLS ON SATURDAYS.

POSTING ELECTION RESULTS:

The Election Board will certify and post the official election results within three (3) days after the date of election.

Please check eligible voter's lists for your Districts.

CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS:

Any member of the Ho-Chunk Nation may challenge the results of any election within ten (10) days after the Election Board certifies the results. The Trial Court shall hear and decide a challenge to any election within twenty (20) days after the challenge is filed in the Trial Court.

ELECTIONEERING:

There will be no electioneering within fifty (50) feet of any polling places.

**GENERAL PRIMARY
ELECTION DAY
Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**POST NOTICE OF
ELECTION
Monday, November 25, 2024**

**POST ELIGIBLE
VOTERS LIST
Monday, February 3, 2025**

**CHALLENGES TO THE
ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST
MUST BE RECEIVED
PRIOR TO 4:30 PM
Thursday, February 13, 2025**

**LAST DAY TO REQUEST
ABSENTEE BALLOTS
Sunday, February 23, 2025
4:00 pm.**

**GENERAL RUN-OFF ELECTION
Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY
Wednesday, July 2, 2025**

**POLLING PLACES:
OPEN AT 8:00 AM CLOSE AT
7:00 PM**

**BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
INDIAN MISSION
COMMUNITY BUILDING
W8813 Mission Road
(715)299-6104**

**MPLS./ST. PAUL, MN
MPLS./ST. PAUL BRANCH
OFFICE
1724 Selby Avenue
(651)641-1801**

**TOMAH, WI
BLUEWING COMMUNITY
BUILDING
320 Epinal Avenue
(608)377-3787**

**LA CROSSE, WI
LACROSSE BRANCH OFFICE
724 Main Street
(608) 783-6025**

**BARABOO, WI
HOUSE OF WELLNESS
S2845 Whiteeagle Road
(608)355-5155**

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI
CHAK-HAH-CHEE
COMMUNITY BUILDING
916 Chak-hah-chee Lane
(715)886-8411**

**WITTENBERG, WI
SIGA FUNMAKER
COMMUNITY CENTER
W17634 Radke Road
(715)253-4407**

**MADISON, WI
MADISON BRANCH OFFICE
4724 Tradewinds Parkway
(608)277-9964**

**MILWAUKEE, WI
MILWAUKEE BRANCH
OFFICE
3501 S. Howell Avenue
(414)747-8680**

**CHICAGO, IL
CHICAGO BRANCH OFFICE
4738 North Milwaukee Avenue
(715)284-7894**

**GREEN BAY, WI
BRANCH OFFICE
2413 Hazelwood Ln
(920) 490-2774**

Amended Poster 1/20/2025