



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOCAK WORAK



Vol. XL, Issue 10

Mą h̄itawus hi wira | Earth Drying Moon

May 22, 2026



2026 Graduate Showcase Deadline is June 19

Page 3



Notice of Eligibility for Membership

Page 13



Ho-Chunk Nation Wins Major Federal Decision in Kalshi Case, Reinforcing Tribal Gaming Rights

Page 2

Ruth Decorah Retires from Clan Mothers Role

Kaili Berg

Ruth Decorah, 85, has retired from her role as a Ho-Chunk Nation Clan Mother.

Decorah, who is now living with dementia, was remembered by fellow Clan Mothers as someone who brought warmth and laughter into meetings while carrying strong Ho-Chunk values.

Through stories, humor and life experience, she helped support women, families and young people through teachings about identity, kinship, spirituality, language and relationships.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Clan Mothers program began in January 2001 as a way to revive the tradition of elder women teaching younger generations. Clan Mothers help guide women and families through Ho-Chunk teachings, customs and values while offering support rooted in culture and community.

Fellow Clan Mothers described Decorah as funny, caring and deeply respected among the group.

One Clan Mother, Roberta Decorah, recalled sitting beside Decorah during a meeting when she quietly shared a humorous comment

connected to the discussion.

“She says something relevant, but it was humorous,” Decorah said. “It was a learning tool.”

Another remembered Decorah ending a winter storytelling session by saying, “That’s my story and I’m sticking to it.”

Clan Mothers said Decorah often used humor to make people comfortable while still sharing meaningful lessons. They also remembered her joking about being hard of hearing, saying the Creator may have called her home already, but she did not hear it.

Decorah’s daughter, Lori Krause, said her mother remained independent and strong-willed throughout her life.

“She always took care of herself,” Krause said. “It was always her way or the highway.”

Decorah was born April 18, 1941. Her mother died when she was only a few weeks old, and her father passed away when she was 10 years old. After spending time with her great-grandmother, she later entered foster care and eventually graduated from Baraboo High School.

Krause said those experiences

helped shape the strength and resilience her mother carried throughout her life.

“She always told us everything was going to be alright,” Krause said. “That’s just how she was.”

Even as dementia has affected her memory in recent years, Krause said her mother continues to remain positive and kind to those around her.

Clan Mothers also spoke about Decorah’s deep connection to Ho-Chunk teachings and language. They said she often shared stories from her upbringing and encouraged younger generations to remain proud of their identity and continue learning the Ho-Chunk language.

Krause said attending Clan Mother meetings remained important to her mother, even in recent years.

“When she would come home from that, she always seemed a lot better for a few days,” Krause said. “Like her mind was back, and she was back in action.”

Today, fellow Clan Mothers said Decorah’s humor, teachings and compassion continue to leave a lasting impact on those who knew her.



Sharice Davids Announces Bid for Fifth Term in Congress

Kaili Berg

U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids will remain in the U.S. House of Representatives and seek reelection in Kansas’ 3rd Congressional District.

Davids, a citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the longest serving Indigenous woman in Congress, officially filed for reelection on May 11.

If reelected in 2026, she would serve a fifth term representing the Kansas City-area district she has held since first being elected in 2018.

Davids made national history in 2018 alongside former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland as one of the first two Native American women elected to Congress. Davids also became the first openly LGBTQ Native American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Her reelection decision comes after Kansas Republicans discussed another possible congressional map redraw that many believed would target her district.

Similar efforts during the 2022



redistricting cycle shifted the district to favor Republicans more heavily, but Davids still secured reelection.

Republicans were ultimately unable to gain enough support to move forward with a special legislative session for a new mid-decade redistricting effort.

During her reelection announcement, Davids said her campaign will focus on affordability issues, healthcare and political dysfunction in Washington.

“There are a lot of people so dissatisfied
Continued on Page 11

INSIDE SCOOP...

News.....	2,5,7-8,10,12
Announcements...	2-7,11,14
Elders	3
Health.....	8
Memorials	9
Notices	13-15
Legislative Minutes.....	15
Ads.....	16

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.

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

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

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

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Recognizes House of Wellness with the Wisconsin BigShot Award

Ardith Van Riper, Editor

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services publishes an annual recognition list that celebrates providers who are leading the way in of protecting children’s health by ensuring their pediatric patients are up to date on their vaccinations. The 2026 BigShot winner list includes the Ho-Chunk Nation House of Wellness for Outstanding MMR dose by 24 months category.

There are four categories of awards that spotlights 162 Wisconsin health care providers this year. Those areas include Routine childhood vaccine category, Adolescent vaccine category, One MMR dose by 24 months category, and two doses of MMR vaccine by six years category.

The House of Wellness achieved providers who have 95% or more of their patients who have at least one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months of age.

This is the tenth year of the BigShot awards and is part of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services work to respond to health needs statewide by supporting programs and services that protect the health of entire communities.

Through community partnerships, education, and outreach, award recipients helped make vaccines more accessible and ensured Wisconsin families have the information and support they need to make informed decision about their health.

“We are pleased to recognize the crucial work of these vaccinators in supporting the health of Wisconsin’s children,” said Wisconsin Immunization Program Director Stephanie Schauer. “This is an important achievement, especially as we continue to see childhood vaccinations declining in Wisconsin and a resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases, like measles.”



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



2026 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count

What is the PIT
The PIT Count is a one-day snapshot of the people experiencing homelessness in our communities.

What you will do
Volunteers go into the community unsheltered areas (such as streets, parks, and encampments)—to help identify individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Volunteers respectfully engage with people, explain the purpose of the count, and ask them a brief set of survey questions to collect information on demographics, living situation, and immediate needs.

Locations (Ho-Chunk Tribal Lands)
In Counties of:
Brown, Jackson, Juneau, Monroe, La Crosse, Sauk, Shawano and Wood

Wednesday, July 22–23, 2026
Available Shifts 11 pm–1 am and 4 am–6 am

If you would like to be a volunteer please reach out to Lynnette Henry, Coordinated Entry Lead Specialist at (715) 284-2622 or lynnette.henry@ho-chunk.com or scan QR code.




SCAN ME

ATTENTION
Ho-Chunk Nation Members

The Annual General Council Meeting is on **September 19, 2026.**

The deadline to submit a proposed resolution is **July 21, 2026.**

A fillable resolution form is available on the Ho-Chunk Nation website under the Office of General Council tab.



Submit proposed resolutions to:
Henry.WhiteThunder@ho-chunk.com

Ho-Chunk Nation Wins Major Federal Decision in Kalshi Case, Reinforcing Tribal Gaming Rights

May 12, 2026

BLACK RIVER FALLS, Wis. – The Ho-Chunk Nation announced today that the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin issued a significant ruling affirming the Nation’s authority to enforce the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and protect tribal gaming sovereignty against unauthorized online sports betting operations.

In its May 11, 2026 Opinion and Order, the court denied efforts by Kalshi Inc. and affiliated entities to dismiss the Nation’s core IGRA claims. The court found that the Ho-Chunk Nation sufficiently alleged that Kalshi’s online sports event contracts constitute Class III gaming on tribal lands without

authorization or compliance with the Tribal-State Gaming Compact. The ruling affirms that tribes have the authority under federal law to bring legal action against outside entities conducting unauthorized gaming on Indian lands, including online gaming accessible to individuals located on tribal lands.

“The Ho-Chunk Nation has consistently maintained that tribal governments retain the sovereign authority to regulate gaming within our jurisdiction,” said Jon Greendeer, President of the Ho-Chunk Nation. “This decision confirms that tribal sovereignty and IGRA protections do not disappear simply because private entities attempt to rebrand gambling.

We have followed the rules at every step and will continue to defend our exclusive rights to operate gaming under the IGRA.”

The court also rejected arguments that federal commodities regulations override tribal gaming authority under IGRA – an issue the Nation views as critically important for tribes addressing the rise of online wagering platforms that encroach upon highly regulated tribal gaming. While the court denied preliminary injunctive relief at this stage, it did so solely on the issue of immediate irreparable harm – not on the merits. The court expressly found that the Nation demonstrated a likelihood of success on its IGRA claim.

The Ho-Chunk Nation expressed

appreciation for the many tribal governments and organizations across Indian Country that submitted amicus support, underscoring the national importance of the case.

The Nation will review the decision in the coming days and determine next steps, including whether to pursue an appeal to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals on any aspect of the ruling. “This case is larger than on tribe or one company,” President Greendeer said. “It concerns the future of tribal regulatory authority in the digital age and the continued strength of IGRA as a cornerstone of tribal self-governance and economic self-determination.”

The case will now proceed in federal court on the Nation’s IGRA claims.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRE CAPTAIN

MATTHEW DAVID THUNDERCLOUD

Join us in congratulating Matthew David Thundercloud on his promotion to Fire Captain with the Milwaukee Fire Department!

Matthew began his career on December 10, 2012, and through dedication, hard work, and commitment to serving his community, he achieved this well-deserved promotion on April 24, 2026.

He comes from a proud and supportive family. Matthew is the grandson of David and Lucille Thundercloud, son of Sue Krivitz (Thundercloud), and husband to Brianne Thundercloud. Together, they have four wonderful children: Noah, Ari, Maelyn, and Tenley.

Outside of his service, Matthew enjoys hiking, playing guitar, sports, fitness, and most importantly, spending quality time with his loved ones.

We are incredibly proud of Matthew's accomplishments and wish him continued success in this new leadership role!



June Elders Birthdays



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Ralph Bigsoldier
Barbara Helgeson
Diana Hellerud | 14 Rosanne Alberts
Ann Dittmer
Mann Falcon |
| 2 John Blackdeer
Betty Conley
David Owen
Jody Tipton | Cynthia Hovde
Thomas King |
| 3 Jeffery Lebeck
Lucinda Lonetree
Denise Michalski | 15 Willard Mach
Christopher Rivera
Jeffery Savage
Susan Tuescher
Faye White |
| 4 Robert La Mere
Virginia Raczka | 16 Dane Decorah
Valerie Guimaraes
Dawn Reichhoff
Jon Russell |
| 5 Sirena Bertelsen
Marni Carus
Sharon Casillas
Michael Decorah
Terri Franta
Montgomery Green | 17 Roxanne Johnson
Alfred Snowball, Jr. |
| 6 Jones Decorah
Kyle Funmaker
Joseph Lebeck
Lance Long
Owen Snyder III
Timothy Tebo | 18 Peggy Friske
Tarren King
Jonathan Machyniak |
| 7 Lisa Cabasos
Karen Dorow
Jacqueline Henneha
Sharon Pettibone
Albert Yellowthunder III | 19 Brent Funmaker
Patrick Mallory |
| 8 Bruce Blackdeer
Kathy Blackhawk | 20 Daryll Bird
Elliott Funmaker, Sr.
Mona Garthune
Glenn Lonetree
Kim Stolarczyk |
| 9 Andrea Armendariz
Kay Beverly
Dawn Decorah
Francine Woman Dress
Patricia Youngthunder | 21 Michelle Funmaker
Connie Lokken |
| 10 Roxanne Anderson
Lorinda Bird
Liane Brown
Kenneth De Cora
Tony Redbird
Rita Wolf | 22 Deborah Arnold
Marie Lewis |
| 11 Tina Froeba
Earl Lemieux
Curtis Mallory, Jr.
Terrence Snake | 23 George Lewis, Jr.
Edward Cloud
Terrence Johnson
Bettina Warner |
| 12 Vivian Flitsch
Victoria Ortiz
Jebette Sine
Kathleen Whitewater | 24 Edward Cloud
Terrence Johnson
Bettina Warner |
| 13 Sandra Barta
Amy Clark
Mary Enright
Nettie Kingsley | 25 Dallas White
26 Elizabeth Haller
Vera Hodges
Donald Monegar
Penny Octuck Cole
Eugene Ortiz
Wilson White Eagle
Patricia White |
| | 27 Robin Blackdeer
28 Eileen Funmaker
Rosalie Zeolla
29 Lawrence Kirkwood
Nicodemus Leonard
Minette Joyce
30 Miguel Contreras
Kathy Hannan
Karen Hopinkah-Ramberg
Joanne Mann
Anita Youngthunder |

2026

GRADUATE SHOWCASE



Congrats!

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

Email the following before **June 19:**

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

NEWSLETTER@ho-chunk.com

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

The Hocak Worak encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. All letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content.

The Hocak Worak reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters submitted for publication. The submission of articles, poetry, artwork and photos is encouraged. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the Hocak Worak. The Hocak Worak will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material.

Submissions deadlines for the Hocak Worak are by 4:30 PM. We cannot guarantee the publication of submissions meeting these deadlines if the space is not available. No part of this publication may be produced without express written consent from the Editor.

HOCOK WORAK NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615

• **PHONE:** (800) 472-3089

• **FAX:** (715) 284-7852

EMAIL: newsletter@ho-chunk.com

• **ONLINE:** www.ho-chunknation.com

www.hocakworak.com



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

The Hocak Worak is a member of:
Indigenous Journalists Association



Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be June 5th which will be published on June 12th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

HO-CHUNK NATION & RUTH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

BLACK ASH BASKET WORKSHOP

Join us for a 2-day Ho-Chunk black ash basket making workshop and learn about Ho-Chunk culture, history, and art.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

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

HOUSE OF WELLNESS GYMNASIUM
S2845 White Eagle Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913
June 11-12, 2026
10:00am - 4:00pm
Light breakfast items, lunch and snacks provided.

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

RSVP NOW
QR Code
Mattea.Twinn@ho-chunk.com

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Ho-Chunk Neesh La Contest Powwow

August 11, 12 & 13

Grand Entry Times:
11th, Tues- 7PM
12th Wed- 3PM
13th Thur- 12PM

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

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

Flyer with more details is coming soon!

CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Please join us for the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Cultural Resources Center.

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: N7259 Branched Antlers Avenue
Black River Falls, WI 54615

We welcome you to be part of this special moment as we celebrate the beginning of a space dedicated to preserving and honoring our culture, history, and community for generations to come.

We hope to see you there!

OOP.PR@ho-chunk.com

SAVE THE DATE

2026 HO-CHUNK NATION FAMILY HEALING CAMP

August 4, 5, & 6

Andrew Blackhawk Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds

W8426 WI-54
Black River Falls, WI

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

Ho-Chunk Elders

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

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

End of Fiscal Year

School-Community Relations Division

Pre-K-12 Grant Program Deadline

URGENT

Please have all **COMPLETED** applications (including all back-up paperwork--- i.e. receipts, report cards, etc.) date-stamped into the Education Department

BY JUNE 15TH!!!
for optimal processing time

Requests that come in between June 15-30th will be processed on a "first come, first serve" basis (if funding is available), however requests may not be counted for this current fiscal year.

Please contact your SCR Specialist at the Education Department at (715) 284-4915.

**Please send in requests as soon as you can. Funding is running out!*

Legislature Presents the Alzheimer's Association with Donation

Legislature Presents the Alzheimer's Association with Donation

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature recently presented a \$10,000 donation to the Alzheimer's Association in support of the important work they do for families, caregivers, and community members impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia.

The Legislature is committed to supporting resources that strengthen care for our loved ones.

Pinagigi to the Alzheimer's Association for their dedication and advocacy.



Pictured left to right: Back row: Rodney Rave, former District 1 Representative; Rep. Stephanie Begay; Rep. Kyle White Eagle. Front row: Rob Crampes, Alzheimer's Association; CJ Werley, Alzheimer's Association; Rep. Phyllis Smoke; Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle; and Rep. Paul Fox.

Congratulations Tiffany King on Four Scholarship Awards



On May 7, the Chippewa Valley Technical College hosted a scholarship reception to recognize the generous scholarship donors and all the recipients. Ho-Chunk Nation citizen Tiffany King received four scholarships.

King was awarded a Business Technology Scholarship, a Bob Houser – Northwestern Mutual Financial Network Endowed Scholarship, a Gladys Bramblett Memorial Endowment Scholarship, and a Kathryn Fischer Memorial Endowment Scholarship.

Donation to Wąąksik Waacek Supports Ho-Chunk Student's Activities and Events

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature recently presented a donation to the Black River Falls High School Wąąksik Waacek in support of the club's activities and events.

Wąąksik Waacek provides Ho-Chunk students with opportunities to build

leadership, stay connected, and take part in meaningful school and community activities.

Pinagigi to the students for the work they continue to do and for representing their club with pride.



Tribal Workforce Development & 477 Program

TRAINING WORKSHOP



Mock interviews and Resumes

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

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

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

Training Workshop Includes:

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

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




Wisconsin Native **VOTE**

WE ARE HIRING



Native Vote Content Creator!


We're looking for an innovative content creator to build and engage digital audiences for the Wisconsin Native Vote program.


APPLY NOW
conservationvoices.org/jobs



1. Recovery

My recovery must come first so that everything I love doesn't come last
-Unknown





**Department of Natural Resources
presents:
Tribal Summer Youth Program**

Attention Youth!!! Are you interested in a natural resources career? The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Natural Resources is looking for 2 youth that have a desire to learn about forestry, wildlife and land conservation practices. In order to be eligible, you must be an enrolled tribal member, age 14-19, be self-motivated, and have an interest to work in natural resources. Additional details are as follows:

What: 2026 DNR Tribal Summer Youth Program
When: June 15 - July 30
Where: Main DNR Office @HCN Executive Building
Work day/hours: 6:00am - 4:30pm (Monday - Thursday)
Wage: \$16/hr.

If interested, please write a one-page (minimum requirement) essay which outlines previous work experience, outdoor related experiences and why you would like to work in this field. Essays are due by no later than 4:30pm on May 29th. Essays will be accepted via email to Karen.Green@ho-chunk.com, they can also be dropped off at the HCN DNR Main Office in the Executive Building, or can be submitted via postal mail at (c/o Ho-Chunk Nation DNR) W9814 Airport Rd., Black River Falls, WI 54615. Once all essays are received, interviews will be set up to determine perspective employees. Any questions, please feel free to call our office at (715) 284-2852) or email Karen.



You're Invited!

Scam SINGO
Can you spot the scam?

SINGO, a musical twist on Bingo, merges fun with learning. Enjoy Golden Oldies while gaining insights on scam prevention. Each song cues you to mark your card and offers tips on avoiding scams. This entertaining mix of music and education enhances your awareness and protects your personal information. Come and join us for a memorable, empowering musical journey!

"IN JUNE WE WEAR PURPLE"
to promote a better understanding of Elder Abuse and increase awareness of Alzheimer's Disease

Additional folders will be available at the District Offices, Tribal Office Building, House of Wellness and Ho-Chunk Clinic

Tuesday, June 2, 2026
Tomah Tribal Aging Unit from 11:30am to 12:30pm (Meal Provided)

Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Black River Falls Tribal Aging Unit from 11:30am to 12:30pm, (Meal Provided)

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Wittenburg Tribal Aging Unit from 11:30am to 12:30pm (Meal Provided)

Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Nekoosa Tribal Aging Unit from 11:30am to 12:30pm (Meal Provided)

Friday, June 26, 2026
Black River Falls - Independent Living Apartments from 11:30am to 12:30pm (Meal Provided)

Tuesday, June 30, 2026
Wisconsin Dells Tribal Aging Unit from 11:30am to 12:30pm (Meal Provided)

A DOOR PRIZE AT EACH TAU!!

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

HTWC ALUMNI GALA BANQUET



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

FEEL FREE TO BRING: Sponsor, Support Person, Spouse/Partner, Children

AS WE CELEBRATE

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

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

**HOOCAK HOIT'ERA
CAFÉ**

FRIENDLY GATHERING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CONVERSE IN HOOCAK HOIT'ERA

DESIGNED TO PRACTICE AND IMPROVE LANGUAGE SKILLS, FOCUSING ON REAL-LIFE, IN-PERSON CONVERSATIONS

~ FOOD & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED ~

FRIDAYS 5PM

HOSTED BY TEEJOP COMMUNITY LANGUAGE LEARNERS

TEEJOP HOCIRA ~ MADISON BRANCH OFFICE
 4724 TRADEWINDS PARKWAY
 MADISON, WI 53718

Cher.Laubmeier@Ho-Chunk.com 608-277-9964 ext. 13220
 Mya.Esteban@Ho-Chunk.com 608-277-9964 ext. 13221

HO-CHUNK HOUSE OF WELLNESS

**Medication questions?
Ask a pharmacist in person!**

Multiple questions? CMRs available!

Comprehensive Medication Review

- Pharmacist goes over all of your medications with you
- Identifies any issues
- Answers questions or concerns

What can I bring with me?


1. A medication list or pill bottles, including:
 - Prescriptions
 - Over-the-counter medications
 - Vitamins/supplements
 - Inhalers, blood sugar testing supplies, and other devices
2. Written-down questions and/or concerns
3. Health tracking data, such as:
 - Blood pressure logs
 - Blood glucose logs
 - A1c or other lab values

When/Where?

Tribal Aging Units
 Wednesdays
 10:30am - 1:30pm
 No Appointment Needed!


6/10/26 - Black River Falls
 6/17/26 - Tomah
 7/1/26 - Nekoosa
 7/15/26 - Wittenberg
 8/5/26 - WI Dells
 8/12/26 - Black River Falls
 8/19/26 - Tomah
 9/2/26 - Nekoosa
 9/9/26 - Wittenberg
 9/16/26 - WI Dells
 Future dates TBD

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



Student of the Month
May 2026
Diyami WhiteEagle Jr.

Pioneer Elementary - 4th Grade
Parents: Wynona Deon & Diyami WhiteEagle



Diyami is an exceptional student who excels in academics, leadership, and community involvement. As a Student Advisory Team Representative, he helps share student ideas and guide school decisions. His artwork was selected for the district art show, showcasing his creativity and talent. Diyami is also a dedicated flag football player who attends training camps and works hard to achieve his goals. He is a positive role model who inspires others through his leadership, dedication, and strong commitment to his school, family, and community.



Student of the Month
May 2026
Shane Funmaker
Coonaḱe Hųḱ - Chief of the Bear Clan

University of Wisconsin-Madison - Bachelors Degree
Parents: Robert Funmaker Jr. & Rebecca Evon



Shane Funmaker is a dedicated and impactful leader in academics, community, and culture. He serves as Vice President for Cloud Legacies Inc. and is a member of the Pluralism & Unity Council at UW-Madison. He is a Dreamstarter Grant Recipient and Wisconsin Idea Fellow (2026-2027), and has been a panel speaker for the UW System Board of Regents. Shane contributes to his community as an Artist-in-Residence and ROOTS Gala & Powwow Coordinator. Shane honors his culture through Northern Traditional dance and is currently training for a half marathon, full marathon, and Ironman 70.3. He is pursuing a degree in Social Welfare with minors in Public Affairs and PEPP, with plans to attend law school focusing on Indian Law & Policy.



Student of the Month
May 2026
Victorie Pettibone



10th Grade - Black River Falls High School
Parents: Matthew & Trisha Carriaga

Victorie is an exceptional student who takes pride in her work and consistently gives her best in every class. As the oldest sibling, she leads by example and sets a positive tone for her younger siblings. A dominant force on the volleyball court, her drive, confidence, and dedication truly stand out. Beyond school and sports, Victorie is a kind, respectful, and strong role model for those around her. Her family is incredibly proud of the young woman she is becoming and all she continues to achieve.

Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department Employee Spotlight: Melissa Greyhair

We are proud to recognize Melissa Greyhair, Program and Office Manager for the Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department.

Melissa plays a vital role in keeping our office running smoothly. She oversees daily operations and coordinates all major meetings, ensuring that staff, families, and partners have what they need to stay informed and connected. Her organization and attention to detail help create a welcoming and efficient environment for everyone who walks through our doors.

Each month, Melissa highlights three Students of the Month, celebrating their achievements and recognizing their hard work. Through this recognition, she inspires other students to strive for excellence while fostering encouragement, motivation, and pride throughout our school community.

Melissa is known for her heart and her warm, genuine smile. She brings a positive attitude to her work, and our families directly benefit from the care,



service, and kindness she provides every day.

Thank you, Melissa, for your dedication, positivity, and the meaningful impact you make in our office and throughout our community!

Ho-Chunk Nation Citizen Star Posner Graduates from UNLV with Degree in Journalism and Media Studies

LAS VEGAS, NV - The Indian Nations Gaming & Governance Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) William S. Boyd School of Law is proud to celebrate Star Posner, a citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation, who is graduating this month with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Media Studies with a concentration in Audio and Podcasting. Star's graduation is a milestone not only for her, but for the Ho-Chunk Nation – a reflection of years of dedication, cultural pride, and unwavering commitment to her community.

Throughout her time at UNLV, Star established herself as a dedicated Indigenous student leader. She became an active member of both UNLV's American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) chapter and NASA, UNLV'S Native American Student Association – two organizations at the heart of supporting Indigenous students on campus. Over the past two years, Star served on AIBL's executive board, holding the positions of Vice President and Secretary, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to uplifting her peers and strengthening Indigenous presence at UNLV.

What makes Star's story even more remarkable is the breadth of responsibilities she managed alongside her academics and leadership. What a full-time student, she served as a student worker for the Indian Nations Gaming & Governance Program, worked as a substitute teacher, and served as an on-call babysitter – taking on each role with the same dedication and heart she brought to everything else. Her ability to show up fully across so many areas of her life speaks to the strength of her character.

Star also gained meaningful professional experience through an

internship with 3point0labs, a sports media company, where she developed her skills at the intersection of storytelling and athletics. Her passion for audio journalism came to life at UNLV's campus radio station, where she hosted and co-hosted two podcast shows – *Let's Chat Rebels* and *College Speaks* – giving her a platform to connect with the UNLV community and sharpen her voice as a broadcaster and journalist.

As a citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation pursuing a career in media, Star's work carries meaning beyond the classroom. Storytelling has long been a cornerstone of Indigenous culture, and Star's path in audio and podcasting is a natural extension of that tradition – bringing Native voices to new platforms and new audiences. With every broadcast, she has carried her identity with her, representing her nation and her community in spaces where Indigenous voices are still too rarely heard.

The Indian Nations Gaming & Governance Program congratulates Star Posner on this well-earned achievement and looks forward to watching her continue to lead, inspire, and make history for the Ho-Chunk Nation and Indigenous communities everywhere.

About the Indian Nations Gaming & Governance Program:

The Indian Nations Gaming & Governance Program at UNLV William S. Boyd Law school is dedicated to preparing the next generation of leaders in tribal gaming, governance, and law. The program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to make a meaningful impact in Indian Country and beyond. Email: ingg@unlv.edu

Dane County Board Takes Historic Step to Preserve Mud Lake Basin and Support Return to Ho-Chunk Nation

BLACK RIVER FALLS, WIS. – On May 14, 2026, the Dane County Board of Supervisors approved a historic measure to preserve the cultural and natural landscape of the Mud Lake Basin by acquiring land with the intent to return it to its original caretakers, the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The property, currently owned by Stuart Herro, holds deep cultural, historical, and ecological significance. Herro's decision to support returning the land reflects a thoughtful acknowledgement

of its importance to the Ho-Chunk people. The Ho-Chunk Nation extends its sincere appreciation for his commitment to protecting and restoring this land.

Located along the Yahara River, the site reflects a substantial Ho-Chunk presence and includes six recorded archaeological sites and 22 rare mound groupings. These culturally significant features represent generations of Ho-Chunk history and underscore the need to permanent protection through public ownership

and Tribal stewardship.

The planned transfer will allow the Ho-Chunk Nation to preserve and restore these sites while creating opportunities for public education and responsible recreation. Future plans may include interpretive or educational spaces that highlight the area's cultural and ecological significance.

Prior to the transfer, Dane County will place a conservation easement on the property to ensure long-term protection. The easement will prohibit

development, establish use restrictions, guarantee public access, and secure enforcement rights in perpetuity. Groundswell Conservancy will co-hold the easement with the County, providing additional oversight.

The Ho-Chunk Nation also expresses gratitude to Groundswell Conservancy for its leadership in protecting the property and elevating its ecological and cultural importance.

"Land management isn't just simply changing the

name on a piece of paper," said President Greendeer. "We have a responsibility to care for this land and create opportunities for people to understand its cultural value. We don't get rich with more land. We extend our responsibility to take care of it."

This action ensures the land will remain protected in perpetuity while reinforcing the vital role Tribal Nations play in preserving culturally and environmentally significant landscapes for future generations.

updated 4/26/ KB
HCN Health and Wellness Division

Spring Foraging Walks

Black River Falls & Tomah

with Nicholas WazeoGale

Saturday June 6th, 2026

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

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

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





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

BUILDING BRAIN-HEALTHY HABITS VIRTUAL EDUCATION



Join us for a research-based program grounded in the latest science, including findings from the U.S. POINTER study, that explores how lifestyle choices can support brain health at every age. Participants will be introduced to the 10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain and guided in creating a personalized, practical action plan built around small, sustainable steps for everyday life.


Program includes:

- Learn about brain-healthy habits such as physical and cognitive exercise and nutrition
- Understand why brain health matters at every stage of life
- Build a personalized action plan for long-term brain health

Thursday, June 25th
12:00-1:00PM

Virtual Program

**To Register Call 24/7
Helpline 800.272.3900
or scan QR code**



www.alz.org/wi
24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900
Hablamos Español 414.431.8811

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
Wisconsin Chapter

Rear-facing



Forward-facing



Booster



Have car seat questions?

Questions or More Information
Please call
Lisa Herritz
Ph. 715-284-9851 ext. 35022
Lisa.Herritz@Ho-Chunk.com

Not sure if you have your new car seat in correctly?

Concerned your car seat has expired or recalled?

Car Seat Check Event!

When: June 11th, 2026
Where: District 1 Community Center D1CC,
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

N7261 WARRIOR AVE, Black River Falls,
Open to all Tribal Members, Employees and Families!

Get your car seat questions answered by our Certified Passenger Safety Technicians!



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH




JUNE 2026

HO-CHUNK NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

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

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



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 OPEN BRF	2 OPEN BRF	3 WITTENBERG DISTRIBUTION 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH- KATHY	4 OPEN BRF	5 CLOSED MONTHLY SHIPMENT
8 OPEN BRF	9 OPEN BRF	10 WIS DELLS DISTRIBUTION 10 AM- 1:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH- ALEX	11 REEDSBURG HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF	12 WI DELLS HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF
15 OPEN BRF	16 OPEN BRF	17 TOMAH DISTRIBUTION 12N- 1:00 PM	18 OPEN BRF	19 LA CROSSE PICKUPS OPEN BRF
22 OPEN BRF	23 OPEN BRF	24 NEKOOSA DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00 PM Nutrition Booth – Alex	25 OPEN BRF	26 OPEN BRF
29 OPEN BRF LAST PICK-UP DAY NUTRITION BOOTH- KATHY	30 CLOSED INVENTORY			

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS

Anita Ramona (Salinas) Nevsimal

May 22, 1959 – April 29, 2026

Anita Ramona (Salinas) Nevsimal, Maḡsḡska (White Feather), age 66 of Viroqua, Wisconsin, walked-on, Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 3:08 pm. Place of birth: Wittenberg, WI.

A “celebration of life” will be held by family on Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Bekkum Memorial Library, 206 N Main St, Westby, WI 54467.

Anita was born May 22, 1959, the daughter of Raymond Morin Salinas and Marie Katherine Pettibone. Anita is survived by her loving husband, Mark Nevsimal, and their daughter Melissa Delaney (Brett), and other children. Sisters: Katherine Burgess, Guadalupe Salinas, and Anna Salinas (Ben Shaker), along with many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Amy Salinas, brother Phillip Johnston, nieces Tina and Tammy Burgess, and her very special fur babies (doggies): Habibi, Harley, Riley and Sassy.

With heavy hearts, we celebrate the life of a proud Ho-Chunk and Hispanic woman who was a loving wife, mother, sister, auntie, grandmother, and a friend to many. Ms. Anita spent her career in the health field for many years with the Indian Health Center in Milwaukee, Soldiers Grove Clinic in Soldiers Grove, Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers in Cashton, Ho-Chunk Nation Wellness Center in Baraboo, and the Ho-Chunk Health Care Center in Black River Falls. Anita also worked at Kohls Food for ten years in Milwaukee. Ms. Anita also worked in security for ten years at the Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells. Anita said she always enjoyed working for the Ho-Chunk Nation where wonderful friendships and memories were created. She retired during the covid era.

Ms. Anita purchased her first car from winning \$5,000 on the radio, and her license plate read “5Geez”. Then the next month she won another \$5,000 and split it with her beloved sister Amy. She was blessed that way.

Anita’s spirit was rooted in faith, family, and tradition. She carried herself with strength, grace, and deep love for her tribe and her heritage. Her spirituality guided her through life and gave comfort to all who knew her. She found joy in the simple blessings of life, especially the companionship of her beloved dogs, who brought her endless happiness and comfort.

Through her courageous journey with ovarian cancer this past year, Anita was never alone. By her side with unwavering love and devotion was her husband Mark, who cared for her tenderly every step of the way. Their bond was one of true partnership, loyalty, and enduring love. Ms. Anita (baby sister) was lovingly supported throughout her journey by her forever bestie/twinzy sister Guadalupe, and devoted daughter Melissa, whose compassion and presence brought comfort and support. Anita enjoyed the fun visits from her loving sister Katherine who both shared the love for nature and doggies, and messages of encouragement from her dear sister Anna.



Anita loved all living creatures, especially butterflies, bees, and birds. She knew her birds well and could tell you which deer had fawns each year. She didn’t like killing insects, or for that matter, any living creature. She made sure the birds were fed and looked out for the deer who showed up in their back yard every year. One time she helped a baby squirrel survive by putting food around the tree until it was strong enough to fend for itself. She enjoyed planting and even planted a raspberry bush that produces delicious berries every summer. She was a gentle and kind soul, for sure.

Ms. Anita’s very favorite pastime in the summer was riding with her adored husband on the back of their Harley. They would ride every year until the cold weather settled in. Anita once had a license plate that read “Harleyz.” That was her “happy place.”

Anita will be remembered for her strength, loving heart, spiritual light, gentle soul, and the deep love she shared with those closest to her. Anita’s memory will live in the hearts of all who loved her.

A special thank you to Anita and Mark’s loving neighbors Katie and Andrew who provided enormous support. Additional thanks go out to those who dropped off meals: Cheryl, Chris, Katie, the late Phyllis, and Ken who brought smiles to Ms. Anita by sending her pictures and videos of doggies. And a huge thank you to everyone who sent cards, offered prayers and checked in for updates on our beloved Ms. Anita.

A heartfelt thanks to Kathy DeCamp, Susan Walczak, Elijah Leonard, niece Stacy Vittal and Elizabeth Haller to ensure Ms. Anita was appropriately ready for her final journey to her permanent place in paradise.

A huge thank you for the compassion and support shown by the Ho-Chunk Nation Office of the President and his staff during a most difficult time. And special thanks to RN’s Valerie Decora and Mallika Satish at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and the medical staff for going the extra mile. And the staff at Centerstone Plaza Hotel in Rochester, MN who always accommodated Mark and the family.

On behalf of the family, a heartfelt thank you to those who offered prayers and support throughout this difficult time. Ms. Anita is now at peace and resting in paradise. Pinagigiwi.

Mary Eileen Mullen

June 30, 1941 – May 8, 2026



Surrounded by loved ones, Mary Eileen Mullen (nee: Decorah), the Matriarch of the Mullen family passed away on May 8th, 2026. Mary was born in Chicago, Illinois to Beverly Benjamin Decorah and Bessie Seal on June 30th, 1941. Coming from a life of discriminatory challenges and wealth disparity she never let any of it control her outcome on the way she stood for her Native American Culture and intrinsic Grace for nature and spirituality. Spending her childhood in foster care and in Indian School, she learned the importance of family and always devoted herself to those she loved. Mary’s happiest years as a child were at the Indian School where she experienced her first ‘home life.’ Mary always acted in service to her family.

Mary raised her 5 sons in Buffalo Grove, Illinois before moving to Tinley Park, Illinois to be closer to her grandchildren where she met Ken, her fiancé’. Throughout her life Mary was very active and loved to dance,

run, ski and spend time outdoors. She instilled her values in her children and grandchildren. Mary prided herself in sharing her life and culture with her family and was an amazing teacher. Mary’s dedication to her family is comparable to none. Mary was most proud that her grandchildren were more like siblings than cousins.

Mary was a proud member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and instilled a cultural responsibility in all her children. She served the nation in many capacities She was instrumental in teaching the Ho-Chunk tradition to her children and grandchildren. Most of her sons have served the Ho-Chunk Nation over the years including her late son who served from the time he was 18 and her youngest son who is currently a Legislator for the Nation.

Mary leaves behind her partner of 23 years, Ken Krauklis, four of her five sons, Michael, Daniel, Timothy, Edward; 10 grandchildren, Alexia, Brakell, Michael, Matthew, James, John, William, Abby, Mack and Guy; and one great grandchild, Owen; Siblings Paul, Patricia and Cherry; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Mary is preceded in death by her brother Benjamin, sister Jacquoline and son Matthew (Michelle).

Funeral services will be held at 12:00 pm on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at Torgerson Funeral Home in Black River Falls. Burial will follow at Decorah Cemetery in Komensky Township. Visitation will be held from 4 – 8 pm on Friday, May 15 at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service. Torgerson Funeral Home, Black River Falls is assisting the family with arrangements.

Kathleen "Kathy" A. (Keller) Frasier

September 7, 1956 – May 9, 2026

Kathleen “Kathy” A. Frasier, age 69, of Clintonville, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at her home.

Kathleen Ann Keller was born on September 7, 1956, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, daughter of the late Reginald and Dureen Keller, Sr. She attended school in Sparta and was united in marriage to David Bilek. Together, they were blessed with three sons. Kathy later married Joseph “Smokin’ Joe” Frasier on September 19, 1980, and together they welcomed two more sons, raising a family of five boys.

Kathy was a member of Family of Christ Assembly of God Church in Clintonville. She had a love for country and western music and enjoyed singing the songs that brought her joy. She was also a wonderful cook, known for feeding the people she loved. For a number of years, she operated Kathy’s Restaurant in Bear Creek, where her cooking and hospitality became part of the community. Whether at the restaurant, at church, or during family gatherings, Kathy showed love in practical ways — often through a warm meal, a helping hand, and a generous heart.

Her desire to care for others also led her to work as a CNA at Greentree Health and Rehabilitation in Clintonville. Kathy took pride in helping people while she was able, and she carried that same caring spirit into her relationships with family, friends, and neighbors.

In later years, as her health declined, Kathy spent more time at home. Even so, she found joy in the simple comforts of life — watching her favorite television shows and, most of all, receiving visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her family was



one of her greatest blessings, and she treasured the time she had with them.

Kathy is survived by her five sons: Aaron Bilek and his wife Anna, Jason Bilek and his wife Melissa, Jeremy Bilek, Joey Boothe and his husband Brandon, and Quinton Frasier and his partner Michelle Kelly; her grandchildren: Reginald Bilek, Sara Bilek, Hannah Bilek, Jason Bilek, Jr. and his wife Mikayla, Devin Bilek and his wife Alyssa, Samantha Bilek, Katie Boothe, Frasier Boothe, Quaid Frasier, and Quincy Frasier and his partner Camryn Labarge; her great-grandchildren: Amary, Everett, Eloise, Wrenn, Faith, Cullen, Tate, Owen, Oaklynn, and Atlas; her brothers, Gary Keller and his wife Sharon, and Joey Keller; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Reginald and Dureen Keller; her husbands, David Bilek and Joseph Frasier; and her brothers, Reginald Keller, Jr. and Roger Keller.

A Celebration of Kathy’s Life will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at Eberhardt-Stevenson Funeral Home & Crematory, South Location, 299 S. Main Street, Clintonville, with Rev. Richard Vanman officiating. Inurnment will follow at St. Rose Cemetery in Clintonville. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. until the time of the service.

Rodney Rave Withdraws from Wisconsin 3rd District Race

Kaili Berg

Former Ho-Chunk Nation legislator Rodney Rave has suspended his campaign for Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District and endorsed fellow Democrat Emily Berge in the race to challenge Republican Derrick Van Orden.

Rave announced the decision in a statement released this week, saying he believed stepping aside was the best move for the district moving forward.

The 3rd Congressional District race has drawn attention across western Wisconsin as Democrats look to unseat Van Orden in the state's key battleground districts.

"The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one, and this decision is what I can do personally for the district, and

the country," Rave said in the endorsement statement. "I will be supporting Emily Berge starting today all the way through November, when she will take this seat from Van Orden."

Rave launched his congressional campaign in 2025 and had promoted bringing a Native perspective and rural representation to Washington during his run.

Berge, a former Eau Claire City Council president and small business owner, has centered her campaign on healthcare affordability, economic issues, and opposing Van Orden in the western Wisconsin district.

"As I have travelled the 3rd CD, I have come to know Emily. She shows up," Rave said. "We always have good discussions, and she always centers the people of the district."

He also encouraged his supporters to unite behind Berge heading into both the Democratic primary and general election.

"I humbly ask the folks who were supporting and helping me to support and vote for Emily on August 11th and again on November 3rd," Rave said.

Rave additionally framed the endorsement as an issue of representation rather than party politics.

"This isn't a partisan issue, this is about who best represents the people of Wisconsin," Rave said. "Emily is the only candidate that will truly represent Wisconsinites, not what has become the norm, politicians answering to money rather than people."

The Democratic field in Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District now



narrows as Berge continues her campaign against fellow Democrat Rebecca Cooke ahead of the primary election. The winner will face Van Orden in November.

Flag Ceremony Memorializes the Ho-Chunk Nation's Flag Posted in the Jackson County Board Room

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature would like to thank the Jackson County Board for the invitation to take part in a flag ceremony at the Jackson County Boardroom on May 18. For the first time, the Ho-Chunk Nation's flag will be posted in the Jackson County Board room next to the American flag and the Wisconsin flag.

The ceremony included Representatives Tracy Thundercloud, Paul Fox, and Phyllis Smoke, along with the Black Hawk Legion Post, led by Cara Lee Murphy, who posted

the colors, and the drum led by Jeriah Rave, who also provided an introduction and helped guide the ceremony in a good way. Representative Paul Fox also shared words on the significance of the Ho-Chunk Nation flag and its presence in this public space.

We extend our appreciation to Thomas Cooper for donating the flags and to Rick Poff for helping coordinate the effort. Pinagigi to the veterans, the drum, the Jackson County Board, and everyone who helped bring this moment together in a respectful way.



The American flag, Ho-Chunk Nation flag, and Wisconsin flag now stand together in the Jackson County Boardroom.



From left: Representative Paul Fox, Representative Phyllis Smoke, Jackson County Facilities Director Rick Poff, and Thomas Cooper, who donated the flags.



Representative Phyllis Smoke is pictured with Jackson County Board Chairman Ron Carney.



Representative Paul Fox, retired U.S. Army, is pictured with George Stacy, U.S. Army Infantry, Black Hawk Legion Post member, and former Ho-Chunk Nation Representative.



Jeriah Rave leads the drum and helps guide the flag ceremony.



The Black Hawk Legion Post brings in the American flag, Ho-Chunk Nation flag, and Wisconsin flag during the ceremony.

Gov. Evers Announces Wild Rice Stewardship Council Members

Created by Gov. Evers in 2025, council aims to boost statewide efforts preserving practice of wild rice stewardship

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today announced he has appointed 24 individuals to serve on the state's new Wild Rice Stewardship Council, created by the governor via Executive Order #277 on Indigenous Peoples' Day in October 2025. Members include representatives from each of the 11 federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the Office

of Environmental Justice, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), as well as other individuals appointed by the governor.

"We created the Wild Rice Stewardship Council to preserve the long-established practice of wild rice stewardship in our state and to ensure the state is a strong partner in supporting and respecting Tribal treaty rights, cultural practices, and food resources and those who have been hunting and gathering from

Wisconsin's lands and waters for centuries," said Gov. Evers. "Wild rice is a critical part of food security and culture, and I am confident these 24 members will work diligently to promote the protection of wild rice in Wisconsin and ensure its presence for future generations."

Wild rice, or manoomin, is a culturally significant crop and important food source to the Native Nations of Wisconsin, serving as a central feature in Tribal agricultural practices, as well as community and

culturally based traditions. However, habitat requirements for wild rice are fairly specific, and changing ecological conditions are putting Tribes' ability to grow, cultivate, and harvest the crop on ceded Tribal lands and waters at risk.

The LCO v. Voigt decision, made by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit Court in 1983, upheld the rights of the Ojibwe Nations of Wisconsin to hunt, fish, and gather in the ceded territory, and preserving
Continued on Page 12

House of Wellness

7th Annual Pan Fish Tourney!

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

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

Check-in: 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the boat launch pavilion.

Start/End Time: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

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

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



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

PRIZES:

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



Sauk County Park
 Fees are
 responsibility of
 participant.



© EMILY DANSTRA

PATHWAYS HOMEBUYER CLASS

TUESDAY, JUNE 16TH, 2026
 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
ST. PAUL HO-CHUNK COMMUNITY BUILDING
 1821 UNIVERSITY AVE W, ST PAUL, MN 55104

FREE CLASS!

TOPICS WE'LL COVER

- ✓ Homebuyer Readiness
- ✓ Financial Management
- ✓ Home Maintenance
- ✓ Home Purchase Process
- ✓ Understanding Credit

REGISTER HERE

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8BWBPGX>
Cedar Growth reserves the right to cancel, reschedule, or move a class to a virtual format if minimum registration is not met. Classes with fewer than 5 registered participants may be subject to changes. Participants will be notified in advance of any updates to the class format or schedule.



**HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

SUMMER 2026 BLOCK PARTIES

“A Summer of Mental Wellness”

SAVE THE DATES!

MORE INFO COMING SOON

JUNE 10 - WITTENBERG

JUNE 24 - TOMAH

JULY 8 - BARABOO

JULY 22 - NEKOOSA

JULY 29 - MADISON

AUGUST 12 - BLACK RIVER FALLS

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

CREATED 2-22-26 11M

5th Annual Ho-Chunk Awareness Event

Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

Where: **High Cliff State Park**
 @ **Gathering Space Shelter (Top of the Bluff)**
 When: **10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

Lunch Provided by **@ Noon**

Events Scheduled

HOCAK LANGUAGE CARNIVAL

LACROSSE Demonstration & Games

Art of Hand Drum Making

Moccas in Game wajuje gikok

Drum Protocol, Singing & Dancing

Kaasu

Tour of the Mounds

Continued from Page 1
 with the chaos they see coming out of Washington,” Davids said during a news conference following her filing. “I hope to continue to serve the Kansas 3rd and be a voice of reason.”
 Davids currently serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Throughout her time in Congress, she has focused on infrastructure investment, healthcare, tribal issues and economic development.
 She remains the only Democrat in Kansas’ congressional delegation and continues to be viewed nationally as one of the country’s most prominent Indigenous elected officials. Her reelection campaign is expected to draw national attention heading into the 2026 midterm elections.

NAGPRA ruling brings ‘brings joy to the tribe’

Winnebago Tribe wins federal appeals court ruling, bringing it closer to repatriating the remains of two boys who died at boarding school

Stewart Huntington
Reprint from ICT

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is much closer to bringing Samuel Gilbert and Edward Hensley home.

The tribe filed a federal lawsuit in 2024 against the U.S. Army demanding the return of the two boys, who died at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania more than a century ago.

On Thursday, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed an earlier ruling from Claude S. Hilton, a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The federal court found that the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, applies in the case and that the tribe is entitled to retrieve the boys’ remains and honor them according to its customs and practices.

“The Fourth Circuit’s ruling brings joy to the tribe,” said Winnebago Chairman Coly Brown in a statement. “NAGPRA is an important statute our relatives fought for.”

The suit came after the tribe received notice in December 2023 that the U.S. Office of Army Cemeteries had denied the tribe’s request for the remains to be returned under NAGPRA. The Army took over the school after it was closed in 1918 and asserted that only relatives could seek the return of students’ remains, according to the Army’s protocols. Tribes, including the Winnebago,

have disagreed.

The federal court’s two-to-one ruling Thursday directed the case be returned to the lower court “for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.”

Writing for the majority, federal appellate court judge Pamela Ann Harris wrote, “At the end of the day, the U.S. government kept and buried the remains of two Native American schoolchildren, Samuel Gilbert and Edward Hensley, without their families’ or tribe’s consent after forcing them from their homes and after they died in the government’s care. Nearly a century later, Congress passed a statute that, by its terms, entitles their tribe finally to bring their remains home and to bury them according to their tribal and religious traditions.”

Harris continued, “All signs indicate that the Tribe’s repatriation request is precisely the kind of remedy of historic wrongs that NAGPRA was designed to facilitate.”

Only Judge Allison Jones Rushing dissented.

Native leaders hailed the ruling.

“This is a step forward,” said Ponka-We Victors-Cozad, Tohono O’odham and southern Ponca, director of policy and advocacy for the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. “We are very happy for the Winnebago Tribe to get those boys home. Even if it’s more than 100 years. We have not forgotten.”

The two boys were taken from their Nebraska homes and shipped to the notorious Carlisle Indian Industrial School, the flagship institution of the U.S. government’s failed boarding school experiment, which sought to strip Native children of their lifeways and assimilate them into the dominant society.

The boys arrived together at Carlisle on Sept. 7, 1895, and were expected to remain at the school for five years each.

Gilbert, who was 19, died about six weeks later, on Oct. 24, 1895, of what school officials said was pneumonia. Hensley, 17, stayed for almost four years, mostly working off-site for local families, known as “patrons,” before he also died of pneumonia on June 29, 1899, according to school archives.

Both boys are buried in marked graves in the school cemetery, which the Army now manages.

“Winnebago’s lawsuit demonstrates its commitment to honor its ancestors and its children. Winnebago continues to advocate for its rights under NAGPRA to bring Samuel and Edward home and provide them with the Tribal burials they were denied over 125 years ago,” said Beth Margaret Wright, Laguna Pueblo and a staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, which is representing the tribe in the suit. “The Fourth Circuit recognized that Congress enacted NAGPRA as a remedy for this ‘shameful



Edward Hensley, a citizen of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, is shown in this photo (circa 1895) from the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, where he died in 1899. The Winnebago Tribe filed suit in January 2024 to force the U.S. Army to return his remains and those of another Winnebago student, Samuel Gilbert, who died in 1895, six weeks after he arrived at the Pennsylvania school. (Photo courtesy of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska)

injustice.”

“This is an extraordinarily important decision not only for the Winnebago Tribe, but for tribal nations across the country seeking to ensure that federal agencies finally comply with the laws enacted to help address the profound and multigenerational trauma inflicted by the federal Indian boarding school system,” said Greg Werkheiser of Cultural Heritage Partners, co-counsel

for the tribe.

At least 177 other children died and were buried at Carlisle before the U.S. government shut down the school, which was plagued by reports of children’s deaths, physical and emotional abuse, and rampant financial corruption.

U.S. Army Office of Cemeteries officials did not immediately return ICT’s calls and emails.

Continued from Page 10

Native Nations’ long-established practice of wild rice stewardship in these fixed territories is critical to honoring this agreement. Therefore, Executive Order #277:

- Directs cabinet agencies to work with Tribal governments, GLIFWC, and other appropriate organizations to increase public awareness and education of Tribal Treaty Rights related to fishing, hunting, and gathering, including providing training to state employees;

- Directs the DNR to develop a plan to incorporate Indigenous languages and public education on signage at state parks;

- Creates a new Wild Rice Stewardship Council to help promote the protection of wild rice in Wisconsin and ensure its presence for future generations; and

- Designates the first week of September beginning in 2026 as “Wild Rice Week,” helping to raise awareness for and appreciation of the value of wild rice in the state.

The 24 members appointed by Gov. Evers for the new Wild Rice Stewardship Council include:

- Karen Hyun, DNR secretary (DNR Designee);

- Adam Brok, DATCP administrator of the Division of Food and Recreational Safety (DATCP Designee);

- Katie Rosenberg, director of the Wisconsin Office of Environmental Justice;

- Miles Falck, GLIFWC Wildlife Section Leader;

- Dan Powless Sr., Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa;

- Kjetil Garvin, Ho-Chunk Nation;

- Rosie Gonzalez, Lac Courte

- Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa;

- John Johnson, president, Lac du

- Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa;

- Eric McLester, Oneida Nation;

- Sagen Quale, Red Cliff Band of

- Lake Superior Chippewa;

- Conrad St. John, chairman,

- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of

- Wisconsin;

- Robert Van Zile, chairman,

- Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior

- Chippewa;

- Randall Wollenhaup, Stockbridge-

- Munsee Community Band of

- Mohican Indians;

- Heather Palmquist, Wisconsin

- Land and Water;

- Tracy Hames, Wisconsin

- Wetlands Association;

- Allison Werner, River Alliance of

- Wisconsin;

- Greg Kidd, Ducks Unlimited;

- Peter David, Wisconsin’s

- Greenfire;

- Ben Wojahn, Wisconsin Lakes;

- Gloria Waabigwan Wiggins,

- Wisconsin Conservation Voters;

- Cody Kamrowski, Wisconsin

- Wildlife Federation;

- Wenona Wolf, Office of Gov.

- Evers;

- Terry White, At-Large Member;

- and

- Tina VanZile, Great Lakes

- Intertribal Food Coalition.

There are currently two vacant

council positions designated for the Forest County Potawatomi and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

ADDITIONAL EVERS ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO HELP PRESERVE NATIVE TRADITIONS, HERITAGE, AND LANGUAGE STATEWIDE

Wisconsin is home to 11 federally recognized Tribes, including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians.

In 2019, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #50 to annually designate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day, and Oct. 13, 2025, marked the seventh consecutive year that the state of Wisconsin has formally celebrated Indigenous Peoples’ Day. A copy of the 2025 Indigenous Peoples’ Day proclamation is available Gov. Evers’ website.

In addition to recognizing the annual observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day in Wisconsin, in 2021, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #136, issuing a formal

acknowledgment and apology for Wisconsin’s historical role in Indian boarding schools. The governor’s order also included a formal declaration of support for the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative.

Executive Order #136 built on these previous efforts of the Evers Administration to reaffirm the state’s commitment to respecting Tribal Sovereignty and fostering strong government-to-government relationships by bolstering the education and awareness of Tribal Treaty Rights and sovereignty and promoting stewardship to protect cultural wild rice resources.

Additionally, the Evers Administration, through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), has worked to support Tribal Sovereignty and Indigenous language and cultural preservation through WisDOT’s Dual-Language Sign Program, which launched in 2021 to collaborate with Native Nations in Wisconsin to install road signs on Tribal lands in both English and Indigenous languages. To date, 10 Tribes have installed dual-language highway signs as part of this program. Building upon that work, last July, Gov. Evers signed the 2025-27 Biennial Budget, in which he used his broad constitutional veto authority to ensure that all 11 federally recognized Tribes will receive \$1 million each year for the next two years to help support Tribal programs and language revitalization efforts.

The following individual applicants have met the requirements of the HO-CHUNK NATION CODE (HCC) TITLE 2 – GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7 – TRIBAL ENROLLMENT AND MEMBERSHIP CODE, Enacted by Legislature: October 16, 2007 in accordance with the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Tribal Enrollment and Membership Code. The Enrollment Officer will certify a Notice of Eligibility for Membership and will publish such Notice in the Nation's newsletter and on the Nation's website. Upon publication a sixty (60) Day notice period begins. The Notice of Eligibility for Membership must include the Applicant's name, date of birth, Base Roll ancestry, Ho-Chunk Blood and parent. In cases of adopted Applicants, certain identifying information will be neither published nor released pursuant to Wisconsin and other States' Laws. **This determination may be appealed to the Ho-Chunk Nation Judiciary by any adult enrolled Ho-Chunk Nation Member within sixty (60) Days after the date on which the Office of Tribal Enrollment publishes the Notice of Eligibility for Membership.**

EOPUB 05222026

APPLICANT NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD QUANTUM	ANCESTOR	FATHER	MOTHER
1. Carriaga, Liora Francesca	12/6/2024	9/32	George Funmaker Sr. Wojh Tchaw He Ray Kah 1881 - 00328	Michael Stephen Carriaga	Rebekah Elise Stout
2. Cloud, Leondro Aaron	6/19/2024	1/2	George Cloud Son Nik O He Way Kah 1901 - 00149	Tyler Aaron Cloud	
3. Cloud, Louisa Amare	5/27/2019	1/2	George Cloud Son Nik O He Way Kah 1901 - 00149	Tyler Aaron Cloud	
4. Cloud, Luke Anthony	6/19/2021	1/2	George Cloud Son Nik O He Way Kah 1901 - 00149	Tyler Aaron Cloud	
5. Crowder, Janessa Rose	8/29/2012	1/4	Frank Winneshiek Wau Kon Chaw Jho Noo Kah 1881 - 00395	Lance Edon Crowder	Non-Indian
6. Crowder, Taven Lance	10/19/2011	1/4	Frank Winneshiek Wau Kon Chaw Jho Noo Kah 1881 - 00395	Lance Edon Crowder	Non-Indian
7. Funmaker, Waziya John	2/4/2024	1/4	George Funmaker Sr. Wojh Tchaw He Ray Kah 1881 - 00328	George Israel Funmaker	Non-Member
8. Guerrero, Kayla Alexandria	1/29/2001	1/4	Joe Yellowthunder Ma He Ne Na Gin Kah 1901 - 01143	Non-Indian	Hazel Rene Guerrero
9. Hazel, Judy La Rue	10/23/1965	1/4	1901	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
10. Hopinka, Jaxtin Geovanni	10/6/2018	1/4	George Snowball Smith Coo Noo Kah 1901 - 01259	Dennis Lee Hopinka Jr.	Non-Indian
11. Lewis, Alliyah Janelle	9/13/2008	1/4	Frank Lewis Wau Shin Ga Sa Ga 1881 - 00018	Kenneth William Lewis	Non-Indian
12. Littlegeorge, Grayson Bear	3/12/2025	5/16	Harold Fred Blackdeer Sr. Ha Gah Kah 1901 - 00969	Trenton Hawk Littlegeorge	Jessica Taylor Littlegeorge
13. Little Wolf, Brooklynn Avery	10/29/2013	1/2	Edward John Littlewolf Shunk Chunk Nik Kah 1901 - 01093	Non-Member	Kristina Amelia Little Wolf
14. Mc Andrew, Marceline Monique	7/7/2024	21/64	George Miner Ha Na Kah 1901 - 00237	Dawson Kristopher McAndrew	Isabella Gertrude Louise Blackdeer
15. Merritt, Lennox Kailen	6/16/2024	1/4	John Thompson Sr. Na He Kah 1901 - 00631	Brett Kailen Merritt	Non-Indian
16. Mott-Olberding, Lisa Ann	9/4/1964	1/4	1901	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
17. Terry, Leilani Alaia	4/26/2021	1/4	Edward Smith Mau Shoo Cho Kah 1901 - 01137	Bryce Elijah Terry	Belizia Amaris Diaz
18. White, Thoemas Stewart	3/4/2002	1/4	Ben Decorra Coo Noo Kah 1901 - 00501	Michael William White	
19. White Rabbit-Decora, Noah Neftali	10/5/2022	1/4	Rufus Lute Whiterabbit Hay Nay Kah 1901 - 00070	Garrett Mitchell White Rabbit-Decora	Non-Indian
20. White Rabbit-Decora, Sophia Vanessa	2/22/2024	1/4	Rufus Lute Whiterabbit Hay Nay Kah 1901 - 00070	Garrett Mitchell White Rabbit-Decora	Non-Indian
21. White Wing, Georgianne Rose	3/23/2021	3/8	Elijah Whitewing Ha Ga Kah 1901 - 00195	George Elijah Whitewing	Amber-Rae Sundance White Wing
22. Wolf, Hudson James	9/9/2024	1/4	George Funmaker Sr. Wojh Tchaw He Ray Kah 1881 - 00328	Zachary Donn Wolf	Non-Indian

I, **Eliza Decorah /s/**, Enrollment Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certify that the above Enrollment Eligibility List is an accurate presentation of enrollment applications reviewed and processed by the Office of Tribal Enrollment. Signed and dated this **15th day of May, 2026.**

Lawmakers demand ICE respect tribal IDs in new legislation

Bipartisan push to increase training for immigration agents

By ICT Staff
Reprint from ICT

A bill calling for federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to respect and accept tribal identification as proof of United States citizenship was introduced in Congress Tuesday.

Reps. Sharice Davids, D-Kansas, Don Bacon, R-Nebraska, and Teresa Leger Fernández, D-New Mexico, and Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, D-New Mexico, co-sponsored the bipartisan Respect Tribal IDs Act to improve how Department of Homeland Security personnel recognize and interact with tribal identification documents during immigration enforcement.

The legislation comes amid growing reports of Native Americans being questioned, delayed, or detained after federal officers failed to recognize valid tribal IDs and documentation as proof of citizenship.

“Tribal sovereignty is a legal and constitutional recognition of Tribal Nations and their citizens, and the federal government has a responsibility to respect that,” said Davids, a citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, in a statement. “But lately, we’ve seen troubling reports of Native Americans being questioned or detained because federal officers lacked the training needed to recognize tribal documentation or understand Tribal Nation citizenship. This bipartisan bill is about preventing those failures, improving training and accountability, and making sure all people are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.”

The Respect Tribal IDs Act would require DHS, in coordination with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal nations, to develop standardized training for officers and employees involved in immigration enforcement. The training would include how to identify tribal documents, when tribal IDs qualify as proof of U.S. citizenship, proper protocols for interacting with enrolled tribal members, and the federal government’s trust responsibility to tribal nations.

The bill also requires DHS to create region-specific guidance and reference materials for officers, including examples of tribal IDs used by federally recognized tribes in areas where agents operate. Officers would be required to complete the training annually and whenever they are reassigned to a new region.

Secretary of the Department Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He was confirmed as the first Native American to lead the department in March and the second Native American to lead a federal cabinet-level agency.

ICT reached out to DHS and did not hear back immediately.

“The Respect Tribal IDs Act is a commonsense bill to ensure DHS personnel are properly trained to recognize Tribal IDs and work respectfully with Tribal communities,” said Rep. Bacon in a statement. “Federal agencies have a responsibility to protect and support Tribal citizens, and this legislation helps ensure they do that.”

Rep. Fernandez agreed.

“We’ve seen Trump’s Department of Homeland Security violate the rights of the first Americans countless times. Indigenous people in New Mexico and across the country have been unfairly questioned, harassed, and detained. This bill will require that DHS officers be trained to recognize Tribal IDs and prevent wrongful detentions,” she said. Fernández is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. “All law enforcement officials must respect tribal governments and the documents they provide their citizens. ICE and CBP agents must follow the law and respect tribal sovereignty.”

The bill also has support in the Senate.

“In New Mexico and across the country, our Tribal brothers and sisters deserve to be treated with dignity and respect,”



A federal law enforcement officer stands on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on January 24, 2026, blocking the spot where federal officers shot and killed a Minnesota man earlier. A surge in federal policing in the state has led Native leaders to hear echoes of history. (Stewart Huntington/ICT)

said Sen. Lujan, a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. “Under the Trump Administration, we’ve seen disturbing incidents where Tribal members were stopped, questioned, and harassed by ICE officers simply because of their appearance or because officers failed to recognize their Tribal IDs. That is unacceptable and deeply wrong. To address these failures, my legislation would establish clear standards and ensure DHS officers are properly trained to recognize and accept Tribal IDs. No one should have to fear being harassed because of a failure in training or accountability.”

The legislation follows multiple high-profile incidents and reports involving Native Americans whose tribal documentation was reportedly rejected or questioned during federal enforcement encounters.

Tribal leaders and advocates have raised concerns that inconsistent training and lack of familiarity with tribal IDs have contributed to wrongful stops and confusion involving U.S. citizens, particularly in border states and regions with large Native populations.

The legislation seeks to establish clearer standards and prevent future incidents by ensuring federal personnel are properly trained before conducting enforcement activities.

“The National Congress of American Indians supports this legislation to ensure that federal agents within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are properly trained to recognize and respect Tribal identification documents,” said Larry Wright, who is executive director of the organization.

“Too often, the lack of consistent training has led to confusion, delays, and the improper treatment of Tribal citizens. By requiring comprehensive training on Tribal IDs, this bill affirms the validity of Tribal governments and strengthens the federal trust responsibility. NCAI urges its passage to promote respectful interactions, enhance security, and uphold the rights of Tribal citizens.”

John E. Echohawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, said this legislation is much needed.

“We’ve seen federal immigration agents reject valid Tribal IDs and question the citizenship of Native people — something that should never happen,” he said. “Tribal IDs are official documents issued by sovereign Tribal Nations and must be recognized as such. The Respect Tribal IDs Act provides a common-sense, bipartisan fix by ensuring agents are properly trained to identify and accept these documents and understand the federal trust responsibility. We strongly support Sharice Davids’ leadership on this issue, alongside the National Congress of American Indians. This bill will help prevent unlawful detentions and protect Native citizens.”



JACKSON COUNTY'S
3rd Annual Senior Health Fair

“In June, We Wear Purple”

Thursday, June 4th 2026
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Black River Falls Middle School
1202 Pierce St. | Black River Falls, WI

*** Open to the public, regardless of age or disability ***

- Large Variety of Exhibitors
- Special Presentations
- Light Lunch
- Door Prizes

The goal is to wear purple the day of the event to promote Alzheimer's and Elder Abuse Awareness!

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

10:30 am – Morning Movement
11:15 am – WisTech Assistive Technology Program
12:00 pm – Pebbles of Positivity

2026 SENIOR FAIR TRANSPORTATION
Please call the ADRC to schedule transportation or request assistance to get to the event by May 29th.

FREE EVENT - For more information please call the ADRC at 715-284-3978

Thank you to our sponsors!

GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR **BRONZE SPONSOR**

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION **ASI HOME SAFETY** **Waumandio STATE BANK** **tmg** **Roth Family** **WorkforceConnections** **Atium Centers**

DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE

BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING
Tribal Office Building
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

Twin Cities AREA MEETING
St. Paul Branch Office
1724 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
Thursday, June 18, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

Rep. Paul Fox | paul.fox@ho-chunk.com (715)896-6251
Rep. Phyllis Smoke | phyllis.smoke@ho-chunk.com (715)299-1016
Rep. Tracy Thundercloud | tracythundercloud@ho-chunk.com (715)299-0576

For Webex/e-packet, information please contact:
michelleramberg@ho-chunk.com
(715)284-9343 Ext. 11250

Posted on: 5/14/26



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

DISTRICT 2 AREA MEETING NOTICE

LA CROSSE AREA | THREE RIVERS HOUSE
724 Main Street La Crosse, WI
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026 6:00PM

TOMAH AREA | BLUE WING COMMUNITY BUILDING
324 Epinal Avenue Tomah, WI
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026 6:00PM

BARABOO/M DELLS/MAUSTON AREA | INDIAN HEIGHTS
975 Dyer Street Wisconsin Dells, WI
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026 6:00PM

REP. STEPHANIE BEGAY stephanie.begay@ho-chunk.com (608) 408-0339
REP. DAMIAN THUNDERCLOUD damianthundercloud@ho-chunk.com (608) 606-2644
REP. KYLE WHITE EAGLE kyle.whiteeagle@ho-chunk.com (800)294-9343 x.11276

POSTED 5/14/26



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

NOTICE OF VACANCY

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

Duties:

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

Qualifications:

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

Membership:

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

Term:

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

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

Thank you,
Denise Wright
Executive Director
Department of Housing



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

NOTICE OF VACANCY

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

Duties:

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

Qualifications:

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

Membership:

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

Term:

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

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

Thank you,
Denise Wright
Executive Director
Department of Housing

HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
MAY 5, 2026

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

Roll Call:

- President Jon Greendeer-P
- Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P
- Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
- Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
- Rep. Paul Fox-P
- Rep. Damian Thundercloud-VC
- Rep. Stephanie Begay-VC
- Rep. Kyle White Eagle-VC
- Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC
- Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-P
- Rep. Edward Mullen-VC
- Rep. David Greendeer-VC
(10:02 a.m.)
- Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

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

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

Rep. David Greendeer is online at 10:02 a.m.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda with TABLING under Commission Reports E. Special Finance Commission-April 30, 2026 and F. Special Finance Commission-May 1, 2026. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle.12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-April 21, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the April 21, 2026 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Special Finance Commission-April 22, 2026

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to approve the April 22, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission-April 27, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the April 27, 2026 Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Enter into the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act Agreement between the Ho-Chunk Nation Child Support Agency and the Social Security Administration

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 05-05-26 A**, Authorization to Enter into the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act Agreement between the Ho-Chunk Nation Child Support Agency and the Social Security Administration. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Development Commission-April 28, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to approve the April 28, 2026 Development Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Business Site Fee Land Lease on Ho-Chunk Cinema Property for Culver's Parking

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 05-05-26 B**, Authorization of Business Site Fee Land Lease on Ho-Chunk Cinema Property for Culver's Parking. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Consent for Lynxx Network-BEAD

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 05-05-26 C**, Consent for Lynxx Network-BEAD. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-1(Rep. David Greendeer)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Granting Consent as an Interest Holder for a Right of Way for Brightspeed on the Various Allotment Tracts in Monroe County, Wisconsin

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 05-05-26 D**, Granting Consent as an Interest Holder for a Right of Way for Brightspeed on the Various Allotment Tracts in Monroe County, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Special Finance Commission-April 29, 2026

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to approve the April 29, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 11-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Special Finance Commission-April 30, 2026 - Tabled at approval of agenda

Special Finance Commission-May 1, 2026 - Tabled at approval of agenda

Finance Commission-May 4, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the May 4, 2026 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-1(Rep. David Greendeer) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Resolution-Designating May 5, 2026 as a Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women-Relatives

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 05-05-26 E**, Designating May 5, 2026 as a Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women-Relatives. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Appointment of Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Board of Directors

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 05-05-26 F**, Appointment of Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit to the Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Edward Mullen. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:17 a.m.

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 3:03 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Amendment to the Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to revisit Commission Reports E. Special Finance Commission-April 30, 2026 and F. Special Finance Commission-May 1, 2026. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Special Finance Commission-April 30, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the April 30, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Special Finance Commission-May 1, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the May 1, 2026 Special Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-1(Rep. David Greendeer) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to May 19, 2026 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

30TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebration

JUNE 11 - 13

THREE DAYS. ALL THE ACTION.

Get ready for a full lineup of celebration. From kiosk events and giveaways to live performances, a DJ, photo booth fun, and a can't-miss drone show. Plus a live concert and your chance to win during our Cash Encore drawing. This is more than a celebration...it's an experience!

Ho-Chunk Gaming reserves the right to alter or cancel offers at any time without notice.

JUNE 11	JUNE 12	JUNE 13
 <p>CHEERS TO 30 YEARS KIOSK EVENT 8AM-11:59PM</p>  <p>ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY 2PM-7PM (or while supplies last)</p>	 <p>COOKIES Starting at Noon (until gone)</p>  <p>PHOTO BOOTH 3PM-7PM</p>  <p>MATTHEW TEAGUE 4PM-7PM</p>  <p>DJ ON THE BAR STAGE 5PM-9PM</p>  <p>DRONE SHOW 10PM</p>	 <p>MATTHEW TEAGUE 4PM-7PM</p>  <p>BLUES TRAVELER GATES OPEN AT 5PM SHOW AT 6PM</p>  <p>CASH ENCORE CONCERT DRAWING 10PM (East Rewards Club)</p>

----- THANK YOU FOR 30 INCREDIBLE YEARS! -----