

Holiday Healing Community Event Shares Words for the Soul

The Ho-Chunk Nation Social Services hosted a Holiday Healing Community Event on December 20 at the District One Community Center near Black River Falls. This was a drug and alcohol free event with activities, guest speakers, food, social dancing, and photos with Santa.

Traditional Chief Winneshiek offered a welcoming prayer. The drum group rendered appropriate songs.

Guest speakers included players from the Green Bay Packers.

Eugene Robinson spoke about value and taking care of yourself. HaHa Clinton-Dix talked about recognizing your value, cherishing your existence, and embracing your blessings.

Nicole Miliren shared holiday coping skills.

Activities included beading, sound bowl therapy, Labyrinth, Santa Secret Activity, decorating motivational canvas bags, and singing and dancing.

The event concluded with drawings.













FIRST CLASS MAII U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 203 Eau Claire, WI Executive Legislative Budget Symposium

Duuget Symposium

Ho-Chunk Nation President Greendeer called Legislators, Executive Directors, Business, and Treasury staff together to initiate collaborative solution building on our Nation's budget processes. Two days of intensive discussions took place from walking everyone through our annual revenue projections to final Legislative approval.

Exploring each step from everyone's perspective gives an understanding of why and how each part works the way it does. Plenty of areas of disagreement were smoothed out by seeing the benefits and consequences of decision making. The next step is to identify areas where we need to improve our processes, update our policies, or amend our laws so that we can be efficient, responsive, and host the system that evolves with the changing needs of our Nation and its members. This is a work in progress but today we celebrate a first ever collaborative gathering of this kind between these two branches.

Thank you to all who have participated and contributed to this very worthwhile symposium! Good things DO happen when we work together!



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

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

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS



HO CHUNK NATION

Office of the General Council

Office of the General Council Official General Council Resolution Submission Deadline Announcement

To: General Council Members, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branch

From: Nathaniel Longtail Jr. - General Council Advocate NL

Date: November 7, 2024

Re: Office of the General Council Official General Council Resolution Submission Deadline Announcement

Greetings and Salutations members of the General Council, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches,

The Office of the General Council is hereby officially announcing the General Council Resolution Submission Deadline.

November 2024:

1. On November 6, 2024 this office received an email titled "General Council Order 09-20-25.pdf," and within this email was an attachment with the Official Call for the 2025 General Council Date.

Under Article IV, Section 5 Annual Meeting. "The People shall meet in General Council at least one time each year, which shall be called by the President, and at other times as provided in Section 6 of this Article. Notice shall be provided by the President for all Annual Meetings of the General Council.

Therefore, I President Jon Greendeer, under my constitutional delegated authority as President, do hereby officially call the 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Council on September 20, 2025

- On November 1, 2024 the Legislature adopted a resolution of acknowledgement in regard to the adopted 2024 General Council Resolution titled. "HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION A RESOLUTION TO SET TIME PARAMETERS ON GENERAL COUNCIL WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS."
 - Within this resolution it states the following:
 - WHEREAS, the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council hereby requires that members of the General Council submit all future General Council Resolutions 60 calendar days prior to the duly called annual meeting with the following exceptions:
 - 1. That the duly called annual meeting date allows for at least a 90 calendar day grace period which would allow General Council Members with at least 30 calendar days to draft resolutions, and if a 90 calendar day grace period is not provided then all
 - Resolutions will be accepted up to the start of the meeting.
 - 2. Resolutions for the purposes of removing elected officials shall be accepted up to the start of the meeting. ; and

NOW THE REFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council hereby authorizes the Office of the General Council through the General Council Advocate to declare and announce the resolution submission date deadline/time parameters within five (5) business days after the President calls for any future Annual General Council Meetings; and

Now, the official deadline date to submit General Council Resolutions for the 2025 Annual General Council Meeting is **JULY 22, 2025** 60 calendar days prior to the duly called annual meeting.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions please reach out to this office directly.

Office of the General Council Main Number: 715-284-9343 ext. 11237

Nathaniel Longtail Jr. Office of the General Council – General Council Advocate nathaniellongtailjr@ho-chunk.com 715-284-9343 ext. 11075

Henry White Thunder Office of the General Council – General Council Deputy Advocate <u>Henry WhiteThunder@ho-chunk.com</u> 715-284-9343 ext. 11070



HO-CHUNK NATION

DNR Celebrates Successful 2024 Elk Hunting Season

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) celebrates a successful elk hunting season. The state's seventh managed elk hunt opened on Saturday, Oct. 12 and concluded today, Dec. 20.

The 2024 hunt represented a milestone in Wisconsin's elk management. For the first time, hunters had the opportunity to hunt in both the Northern and Central Elk zones. Previous hunts only occurred within the Northern Elk Zone.

"It's exciting hunters have the opportunity to pursue elk in our home state," said Christina Kizewski, DNR Wildlife Biologist. "Each year, every hunter experiences something unique and memorable, but especially this year with the first opportunities to hunt elk in the Central Elk Zone. The fact that the population is



Friday, Dec. 20, marked the close of Wisconsin's seventh managed elk hunt, which allowed hunters to hunt in both elk management zones for the first time since reintroduction. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

now at a level that allows for a limited hunt underscores the successful management of Wisconsin's healthy and growing elk herd." The eight Wisconsin *Continued on Page 5*





Gas Assistance for adults and minors who just got hired. Assist with public transits (taxi, lyft, or uber). Interviews or Orientation

and Emergency cases

Transportation Assistance

Footwear & Safety Shoes

Employer must list specific shoes. Example: non slip, steel toes, or composite boots. Request for shoes every three years or under special circumstances.



(Ÿ)

Work Attire & Outdoor Clothes

Outdoor clothes that are listed by employer. Seasonal work are

PAGE 2



To: HCN Office of General CouncilFrom: President Jon GreendeerDate: November 6, 2024Re: 2025 General Council Date

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Therefore, I, President Jon Greendeer, under my constitutional delegated authority as President, do hereby officially call the 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Council on September 20, 2025.

Thank you

Jon Greendeer Mąąšusga Ho-Chunk Nation President

P.O.BOX 667*BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615 (715) 284-9343*FAX (715) 284-9805*(800) 232-2180*(800) 294-9343



ANNOUNCEMENTS **ELDERS**

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- Mark Young 10. Damon Picotte Melanie Bryant Janice Goldman Douglas Greengrass Avery Lonetree
- 11. Yvonne Chojnacki Patricia Filipowicz
- Melanie Sainz
- 27. Raymond Sprosty Tina Danielski **Muriel Schauer** Jennifer Jones
- 28. Wade Blackdeer Berna BigThunder-Hindsley

- 13. Wendy White Eagle Carson West
- 14. Marvin Leonard, Jr. Gary Thundercloud Susan Moore Roberta Decorah Hattie Walker
- 15. Joanne La Mere Rodney Young
- 16. Sharon Whitebear Joyce White Eagle
- 17. Roberta Crowe

Anthony Winneshiek

- 29. Cindy Funmaker Eugene Notah
 - Frisk Decorah John Houghton, Jr. **Rosalie Two Bulls** Faye Larson
- 30. Cecelia Rave
- 31. Janice Rice **Estelle Whitewing** Cynthia Holloway Ethel Funmaker Kathyleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be January 3rd which will be published on January 10th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

www.JacksonInAction.org/winterhike

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

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

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

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

EDITOR Ardith Van Riper Administrative Assistant Anna Reichenbach

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

Jacksen In Actien



HOCAK WORAK NEWSLETTER

Scan for More Info

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

• PHONE: (800) 472-3089

• FAX: (715) 284-7852 EMAIL: newsletter@ho-chunk.com

 ONLINE: www.ho-chunknation.com www.hocakworak.com

2016

BETTER NEWSPAPER

CONTEST AWARD

WINNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS / HEALTH

Ca He Wakšų wira 27, 2024



Address Change

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

Medicare Reimbursement

It is time again for the Medicare Part B Reimbursement for those that are 70 or older.

HCN Insurance will be sending out the applications. You will need to send a copy of your SSA 1099's you receive from Social Security. These normally will come to you in January.

The payments will be sent out the third week in April.

New Insurance Cards

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

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

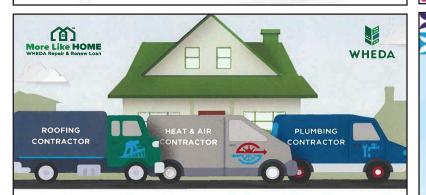
If you utilize an ambulance you must give them a copy of your Insurance and Medicare cards, the hospital does not share information with them.

Medicare Parts A and B

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

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

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



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don't meet the criteria for other

traditional home loans products.

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offers you the opportunity to repair your home, even if you

We're dedicated to helping Wisconsin homeowners bring their beloved homes back to their full potential. We understand that a home is more than just four walls; it's where life happens.

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3%

Find a lender to learn more and get started today. To learn more, find a participating local lender, and start the process, visit morelikehomeloan.wheda.com.

Join us for the 7th Annual

WAZEE WONDERLAND SNOWSHOE RACE Fun Adventure

Congratulations! Student of the Week Jernie Jones

Family: Jernie is the daughter of Carey Link and Jerry Jones. She lives with her grandmother, Charlene Spangler, who has been a strong support in her life. Activities & Hobbies: Jernie stays incredibly busy and involved! She is an active member of Waaksik Wacek, participates in both band and choir, and shines as a student-athlete in volleyball and track and field Outside of School: Alongside her school commitments, Jernie also works part-time, showcasing her dedication and strong work ethic.

What Teachers Say About Jernie:

- Mr. Cassidy: "Jernie is one of the most kind and genuine students I've had the pleasure to teach. I love that she has so many interests, including metalworking!"
- Ms. Dal Cerro: "Jernie is a forgiving and patient person who has high standards for herself and her work. She is so good with her peers, especially younger students."

Congratulations Jernie, on being a true role model and shining example of excellence!

Congratulations! Student of the Week Charlisse Tebo

Family: Charlisse is the daughter of Junior & Marvella Tebo.

Activities & Hobbies:

Charlisse is an active member of Waaksik Wacek, where she participates in organizing youth powwow demonstrations and flag-raising ceremonies. She is a member of the girls' basketball team. Charlisse enjoys staying active, connecting with her peers, and contributing to the school community through various activities.

Other Accomplishments:

Charlisse consistently excels in her academics, demonstrating a strong work ethic and setting a positive example for her classmates. Her leadership, dedication, and positive attitude make her a valued member of our school.

Congratulations, Charlisse, on this welldeserved recognition!



Office of the General Council Official General Council **Resolution Submission Deadline Announcement**





General Council Resolution 09.21.2024N HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION A RESOLUTION TO SET TIME PARAMETERS ON GENERAL COUNCIL WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS

Within this resolution it states the following:

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Now, pursuant to General Council Resolution 09.21.2024N the official deadline date to submit General Council Resolutions for the 2025 Annual General Council Meeting is JULY 22, 2025 60 calendar days prior to the duly called annual meeting.

For more info, contact Kathleen Clemons 715-299-0870.

Self-timed, 3 mile snowshoe race

This is an "at-your-own-risk" event.

FREE event; Awesomeness guaranteed!

Run or walk; it's up to you!

Saturday, January 4, 2025

10:00am @ Wazee Swim Beach Parking Lot



NEWS / MEMORIALS / HEALTH / LEGAL

Commissioning of the USS Beloit

The Ho-Chunk Nation was honored to be part of the commissioning of the USS Beloit, a momentous event recognizing the Beloit community's significant contributions to the U.S. Navy. On November 23, the USS Beloit was officially commissioned along the Milwaukee shoreline, marking a significant moment in naval history.

December 27, 2024

The USS Beloit (LCS-29) is a Freedom-class Littoral Combat Ship named in honor of Beloit, Wisconsin. The ship was named in honor the of the city's contributions to the U.S. Navy over the years, including over 90 years of manufacturing diesel engines for military vessels by Fairbanks Morse Defense.

The Little Priest Drum and Dancers brought cultural significance to this special occasion, celebrating the shared values of service, dedication, and collaboration that unite our communities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this event possible, honoring the hard work and commitment of all involved.

We are proud to stand alongside the Beloit community and the U.S. Navy in celebrating this important milestone.





Jalisa Decorah August 5, 2007 - December 11, 2024

Jalisa E. Decorah "Harac Hire" (the Chosen One) passed away unexpectedly on December 11, 2024, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

Jalisa was born on August 5, 2007, to Angel Littlewolf and Jordan Decorah.

She loved animals, shopping, shoes, and make-up. She enjoyed re-watching Bunked, Disney Channel, and scary movies. She was Northside Baby's biggest fan and other rap. She enjoyed drawing. She liked walking and hanging out with friends or swimming or enjoying rides on roller coasters. She liked attending powwows. She enjoyed her academics and was motivated to accomplish anything she set her mind to.

She is preceded in death by auntie Piggy, sister Alyssa, grandma Nellie and her pet hamster, Hammy.

Jalisa is survived by her parents, Angel and Jordan and siblings, Chenoa, Chontay, Julian, and Jarell.

Chenoa, Chontay, Julian, and Jarell. The funeral service for Jalisa will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the District 1 Community Center in Black River Falls. A visitation will be held on Friday night from 3:00 p.m. until the time of the service on Saturday. Burial will follow in Decorah Cemetery.



PAGE 5

DOD: June 4, 2021

Notice to Newspaper and Personal Representative:

The personal representative is responsible for providing the deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate to all known or reasonably ascertainable creditors.

Case No. PR 24-04

This notice shall be published for three (3) consecutive issues; the first publication date must be within 15 days from the date underneath the Clerk of Court's signature.

Here is the language that should be published in the newspaper:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF: <u>Shelby Lynn Wesho</u> A Petition for Probate was filed in the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court. You have 90 days from the date of the first publication of this notice to present your claims to the personal representative, <u>Christian Fox</u>, or the Clerk of Court at P.O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. The deadline for filing claims is <u>February 22,2025</u> Only those claims so presented may be paid from the estate.

Form completed by: (Name) Atty Christian Fox Address 107 Main Street PO Box 789 Black River Falls, WI 54615 Felephone 715-284-1234 17F-20217C-55

PR 14, 04/16 Notice to Creditors \$8 HCC 13, HO-CHUNK NATION PROBATE CODE This form shall not be modified. It may be supplemented with additional material.



RIGHT TO OBJECT

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

Continued from Page 2 hunters who participated in this year's hunt were randomly selected from a pool of more than 25,500 applicants. The DNR received 17,761 applications to hunt in the Northern Elk Zone and 7,750 applications for the Central Elk Zone. The random drawing ensures that each applicant has an equal chance of selection within the respective management zones. Applicants were required to identify their management zone of choice during the elk hunting application process.

In the Central Elk Zone, all four hunters successfully harvested a bull elk on the third day of the season. Two hunters in the Northern Elk Zone successfully harvested a bull elk, and Ojibwe Tribal hunters met their fourbull harvest declaration. Of interest, a 10-year-old mentored hunter was able to harvest a mature northern Wisconsin bull elk.

Hunters Can Apply For The 2025 Elk Hunting Season Next Spring The DNR's elk management is supported by the revenue received through hunter application fees, which contribute directly to the future of the state's elk population. For each \$10 application fee, \$7 goes directly toward elk management, habitat restoration and research.

The 2025 elk hunt application period for Wisconsin residents is expected to open in early spring and run through May 31, 2025. During the application process, hunters must select which management zone they would like to hunt in.

For more information on elk in Wisconsin, visit the DNR's Elk in Wisconsin webpage. Ho-Chunk Member, EARLY WIND FUNMAKER, has submitted a Request for Title for Permanent Improvements located at: W8839 DECORAH RD BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615 And more particularly described as: LOT 21 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, TOWN OF KOMENSKY, JACKSON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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

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

By or before JANUARY 16, 2025

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

Ca He Wakšų wira 27, 2024



TOMAH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM 430 JULIE ST Meal at 5PM Grand Entry 7PM - Pow-Wow till Midnight

MC: Matt Mann, AD: Moses Cleveland Head Lady Dancer: Autumn White Head Man Dancer: Junior Green Invited Drums: Bearheart, Little Thunder, Eagle Feather Drum split for visiting drums Dancer Payout Specials: Head Man Dance Special, Heady Lady Dance Special, Spot Dance Specials, Potato Dance, Best Dressed NYE's Couple



Sobriety Recognition HCN Behavioral Health Vendor space limited - Jessica Stacy 715-299-5495

Pow-Wow info - Courtnay Blackdeer 608-855-0257

NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR ANYONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SUCH, NO FIREWORKS, ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED NO DROP OFFS, NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURIES, LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.



YEAR IN REVIEW

HCN 2024 Year in Review

JANUARY

Financial Literacy Program Transitions into New Platform

On January 1, 2024, the Financial Literacy Program moved into a new and improved online platform. The Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department hosted a launch event at the Tribal Office Building on January 4. Those in attendance were able to experience the new platform and mobile app.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Financial Literacy Program provides an introduction to financial topics that helps prepare Ho-Chunk enrolled high school juniors and graduating seniors, and those enrolled members who have not yet received their trust funds for a successful financial future. The goal of the proactive approach is to empower our enrolled members to make knowledgeable choices with their finances as adults.

Hoocąk Hit'et'era Nąąwą : Ho-Chunk Language in Song

Stevens Point, WI and the surrounding areas are the ancestral lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation. In recognition of an endangered language, the Stevens Point Area Senior High School Concert Choir has been learning a song cycle in the Ho-Chunk language, and will be performing it in a concert scheduled for March 12, 2024 in the SPASH auditorium at 7:30 PM. We are inviting members of the Ho-Chunk Nation and other First Nations of WI to be in attendance.

The Earth Still Speaks an original cross-cultural musical composition in Ho-Chunk and English. SPASH Choir Director and Composer, Luke Adsit, wrote the music and English lyrics for the song cycle and worked closely with Allen Cloud, Ho-Chunk elder. During the fall of 2019, Allen shared invaluable insight about the Ho-Chunk language and culture, which made it possible for the Ho-Chunk language to be incorporated into the song lyrics. It was an amazing learning experience to work through words and translations because of the differences between English and Ho-Chunk. There are some words in English that simply do not exist in Ho-Chunk. When this happened, Allen worked to find the most similar meaning or idea in Ho-Chunk. This allowed him to draw from his extensive knowledge and understanding of the Ho-Chunk language that he has been hearing and learning since birth.

The song cycle composition project was written in the fall of 2019 and previously taught to students at PJ Jacobs Junior High, though it was unable to be performed due to the pandemic. SPASH Concert Choir's performance will be the first time it is performed for a public audience. The song cycle was the basis for Adsit's master's thesis through the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Luke Adsit (2020) The Pedagogical Value of Learning a Musical Work in an Endangered Language: Ho-Chunk can be found at MINDS@UW website with the link below. http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/80381

Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg Receives Business of the Year Award

Focus on community giving, employee support and retention noted as key points that set them apart



Keshena, Wisconsin. Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg, a premier gaming and hotel facility in north central Wisconsin, was the recipient of the Business of the Year Award for 2023. The award highlights high employee retention, positive economic enhancement and community involvement and support.

"The Team at Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg is grateful and honored to receive this award," said Executive

Manager Fletcher Collins. "The hard work and dedication of the team is what earned us this recognition. I am privileged to work alongside these wonderful people every day."

The award presented by the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce, compared impacts on the community, economy, and enhanced services/ products, commitment to employees, keys to success and overcoming of obstacles.

FEBRUARY

Young Ho-Chunk to be a Published Author

Ho-Chunk Nation tribal member Jessalyn Smith is to be a published author at the age of 13. She penned a mini saga called "The Sickness," and it was about COVID-19. The saga was an assignment from Longfellow Middle School in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and Ms. Raatz, an eighth-grade teacher, submitted the

began in October 2023.

Edward Twinn Harvests Monster Buck

Edward Twinn (Ho-Chunk member) harvested a monster buck of a lifetime! Edward calls him "QuadZilla" because he has four drop tines. He was after the buck all season, and finally caught up to him one day after Thanksgiving during the 2023 Wisconsin gun season. He ended up scoring 201 ³/₄".

Historic Preview of the very first Ho-Chunk Library

On Monday, February 19, the Library Board hosted a Waagax Hakiruxara Hosto (Library) event at the District 1 Community Center (D1CC). The event previewed the newly created tribal community Library, a first for the Ho-Chunk Nation. The



event program included: a welcome, a history of the Library, an introduction to the Board of Directors and the Librarian, viewing the evolving collections on a guided tour, and sharing a luncheon. Ho-Chunk matriarchs JoAnn Jones and Janice Rice spearheaded the project.

Hoocak Academy - Highlighting Hoocąk Language Learners

Hųųchinuknąk

Dana Kinser

Bloomington, Indiana

I was born first daughter during Corn Tasseling Moon 1961 at Round Rock, now known as Janesville, Wisconsin. My naani Helen Whitehorse was born third daughter, seventh of eight children of Ralph and Anne GreenCrow Little Soldier Whitehorse.

I come from people who loved race cars. My teegas, Walter and Harry Whitehorse, both owned race cars. My father drove Teega Walter on the weekends then they worked all week and traveled to different places, mostly around the Midwest. That is also how he met my naani. We followed the races and eventually my naani moved my three brothers and me to Indiana.

John Beaudin (Ho-Chunk/Ojibwe) commits to Hamline University (MN) as Linebacker

On February 7, at the Baraboo High School in Baraboo, Wisconsin, seniors committed to continuing their football careers at the collegiate level. John Beaudin signed with Hamline University in Minnesota. He plans on majoring in Psychology.

Check Your Mailboxes for the Special Secretarial Election Ballots

The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board announced on February 19 that the ballots were mailed out to eligible enrolled Ho-Chunk Nation tribal members. The Election Board encourages everyone to keep an eye out for the ballots.

MARCH

Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg Receives Large Business of the Year Award

Gratitude expressed to a big business that strives to make a difference Wittenberg, Wisconsin. Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg, an exceptional gaming and hotel facility in north central Wisconsin, gratefully accepted the Large Business of the Year Award for 2023. The award called attention to community involvement, generation of economic traffic and local business support.

"Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg is grateful and honored to receive the "Large Business of the Year" award for 2023," said Executive Manager Fletcher Collins. "We are blessed with a team that produces every day to provide an enjoyable Gaming and Hospitality experience. The attraction we provide to this community adds to the Village of Wittenberg's tourism and further adds to our local economy. We have worked hard to establish our facility in a highly competitive gaming industry region. The Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg team, which is made up of over 180-employees, sincerely thanks the Wittenberg Chamber of Commerce for this achievement!"

The Wittenberg Area Chamber of Commerce awarded the accolade. The chamber thought it important to recognize and express gratitude for a large business that has positive impacts on the communities that surround it.

Community and Area Emergency Responders Pull Together during Fire in Tomah

On February 23, at 5:17 pm, a fire reportedly broke out on the 1100 block of Superior Avenue in Tomah, Wisconsin, where the Ho-Chunk Nation Museum is located. Several individuals acted quickly and were able to pull approximately ninety percent of the collections out of the museum facility. Per a Tomah Fire Department Press Release, "suppression efforts took nearly nine hours to contain the fire due to the nature of the buildings and their contents. The fire spread into the adjacent 1104 Superior Avenue buildings. There was significant fire and water damage that occurred, affecting at least four of the buildings. Overhaul continued throughout the early morning hours. Crews were on the scene for twelve hours. There was 88 fire personnel on scene during this incident. The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Tomah Fire Department of Tomah PD."

student stories to the Young Writers contest.

The contest challenged students to write a mini saga, a story in just 100 words, on the theme of hunted. Writers could choose to be the hunter or the hunted. The contest challenged students across the United States, and several winners' stories will appear in a book called *Hunted – Thrilling Tales from the USA*.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg Hosts Local Veteran, Making His Last Wish Come True

Vietnam Army Vet completes his final mission among a rally of support

Wittenberg, Wisconsin. Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg, a community minded gaming establishment in north central Wisconsin, was able to make a final wish come true for local Army Veteran and Iola Resident, Ray Staral and his caretaker wife, Mary Staral.

An inquiry from Compassus Hospice in Stevens Point set in motion a flurry of teamwork to provide Ray and his wife Mary a memorable time for perhaps their last outing together. While providing care and support to patients and their families, Compassus Hospice has the opportunity to work with some patients nearing the end of their life's journey to help grant and coordinate a "last wish". In the case of Ray, his last wish was to visit Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg and have a nice steak and lobster meal with his wife.

Community Canoe Celebration in Madison

On February 1, the community gathered for a meal celebration for the completion of a handmade canoe. Ho-Chunk Nation youth and other tribal youth working under the guidance of Gene Delcourt. The Madison Metropolitan School District Title VI sponsored the event and the project that

Designating and Marking I-90 the 'Ho-Chunk World War II Code Talkers Memorial Highway'

The Wisconsin State Senate approved a historic bill designating a section of Interstate 90 as the "Ho-Chunk World War II Code Talkers Memorial Highway." The stretch of highway will span from the Minnesota-Wisconsin state line in La Crosse to the intersection of I-90 and I-94 in Monroe County. This corridor has the most significant number of Ho-Chunk Members near it, in addition to being part of the Nation's ancestral homelands.

The Ho-Chunk Nation officially has 14 World War II Veterans listed with the Department of Defense as Code Talkers. Sandy Winneshiek worked for nearly five years to get their approval.

Ho-Chunk Present for Kinship Care Bill Signing

March 14, 2024

Today, Representative Kristin White Eagle had the privilege to be present as Governor Evers signed into law SB 520 and AB 557 – legislation that provides *Continued on Page 8*

YEAR IN REVIEW

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for recognition and financial support for kinship caregivers, including those deemed "like-kin." The Ho-Chunk Nation presented oral and written testimony in support of this legislation.

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) listened to the Tribes and their concerns that their traditional and customary familial organizational structures were not being considered within the Wisconsin Kinship system, thus leading to many Tribal caregivers not being recognized or being provided financial support. For example, a relative only went as far as second cousin in the Code at the time. However, there is not even a word in the Hoocak language for cousin. That is a completely foreign concept. While a person that would be deemed a third cousin in western kinship terms may be considered a far off relative through a western lens – that distance is far shorter within a tightknit Hoocak community.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa Wins Investor of the Year Award

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa, a prominent gaming and entertainment destination located in central Wisconsin, has been awarded the prestigious Investor of the Year Award by the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce.

The award was presented to Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the region's economic development and community growth. Through its dedication to providing exciting gaming experiences, topnotch hospitality, and superb customer service, Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa has solidified its reputation as a key player in the local business community.

Ho-Chunk March Madness Basketball Tournament 2024 Results

The Ho-Chunk Nation hosted the 22nd Annual March Madness All Native Basketball Tournament at the House of Wellness on March 8, 9, and 10. The event included a Nelson Funmaker three point shootout, Kuunu Yazzie Slam Dunk contest, Little Hoopsters games, Hand Drum Contest, Ho-Chunk Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Roberta Funmaker All-Star Women's Basketball Tournament, and the All Native Men's Basketball Tournament.

The basketball games were also played at the Just a Game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells and at the UW Platteville-Baraboo Sauk County gym. The basketball tournament included 16 men's teams, 12 women's teams, and was run on a double elimination format.



APRIL

Healing to Wellness Court Program Holds Graduation Ceremony

On Friday, April 5, the Ho-Chunk Nation Healing to Wellness Court Program held a graduation ceremony for Henu Garvin at the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Courts. The Healing to Wellness Program is an evidence-based treatment program that offers alcohol and or drug addicted participants an alternative to extended incarceration and the standard probation model.

The Healing to Wellness Program works with treatment agencies and other rehabilitation services to engage a participant in a holistic treatment program that provides the tools and support necessary to get into recovery, stay in recovery, and lead a productive, alcohol-drug free, lawful, healthy lifestyle.

Governor Evers signs bill designating 'Ho-Chunk World War II Code Talkers Memorial Highway'

On March 25, Governor Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 633, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 216, designating the "Ho-Chunk World War II Code Talkers Memorial Highway" at a bill signing ceremony at the House of Wellness near Baraboo, Wisconsin.

The bill designates a stretch of Interstate 90 that spans from the Minnesota-Wisconsin State line in La Crosse to the



intersection of I-90 and I-94 in Monroe County. This corridor has the most significant number of Ho-Chunk moets heat it, in addition to being part of the Nation's ancestral homelands. The Ho-Chunk Nation officially has 14 World War II Veterans listed with the Department of Defense as Code Talkers. Code Talkers were American soldiers who used native languages to communicate secretly during wartime. The term is now usually associated with the United States soldiers during the world wars who used their knowledge of Native American languages as a basis to transmit coded messages that were indecipherable to enemy forces.

MAY

Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals Honors **Robert Mann with HERO Award**

The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) held their 2024 State Conference on April 24-26 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. WATCP presented the Hero Award to Ho-Chunk Nation Wellness Court Project Coordinator Robert Mann.

The WATCP Hero Award spotlights an individual demonstrating exemplary service to a Wisconsin Problem Solving Court because WATCP recognizes that it takes many professionals to sustain the good work of treatment courts across Wisconsin.

Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature and President Honors Robert Mann with Legislative Recognition

On May 21, the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature and President presented a rare distinction of Legislative Recognition to Robert Mann on behalf of the Ho-Chunk People. The Legislative Recognition honors Woonagire Waaksik's (Robert Mann's) hard work and dedication to the Ho-Chunk Nation Healing to Wellness Court Participants and the broader community.



Robert Mann, a United States Marine

Veteran, has been employed by the Ho-Chunk Nation for roughly 37 years in various roles. In those roles, he devoted his work to the safety, language, culture, and holistic healing of the Ho-Chunk People.

Mini Powwows in the BRF School District

On May 8, the Black River Falls Ho-Chunk Nation community exhibited a mini powwow at the local schools. Ho-Chunk Nation dancers and singers shared their culture at Red Creek Elementary, Forrest Street Elementary Learning Center, Middle School, High School, and at the Tribal Office Building.

JUNE

Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival Activities Explore Indigenous Heritage

Full festival schedule includes cultural presenters, live performances and art demonstrations

The inaugural Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival has announced a full week of events and activities aimed at immersing the community in indigenous tradition, fostering global and cultural connections and celebrating art through the natural beauty of San Damiano Monona and Wisconsin.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa Hosts Co-ed Cornhole Tournament

Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa hosted a fun-filled Co-ed Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, June 8th, 2024, that had participants and spectators alike on the edge of their seats. With 11 teams competing in a double elimination format, the stakes were high, and the excitement was palpable.

In the end, it was Andy Graff & Linda Graff who emerged victorious, taking home the coveted 1st place title. Their precision throws and strategic gameplay were unmatched, earning them a well-deserved win. Mikenzie Khang & Theo Mee Lor put up a strong fight, ultimately securing the 2nd place spot, while Brandon Savage & Mercades Christensen and Tyler Diver & Gwen Moffet rounded out the top four, claiming 3rd and 4th place, respectively.



Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Social Services Hosts Ribbon Cutting Event for the Naagu Pii (Good Road) Childcare Facility

On June 12, the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Social Services proudly hosted a ribbon-cutting event for the Naagu Pij (Good Road) Childcare Facility (NPCF), the first-ever Ho-Chunk-owned and operated site. Located at W9250 Big Bear Street in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, the NPCF, with its capacity of 66 children, fills a crucial need for the Black River Falls community, especially those close to the Nation's government, gaming, and health operations.

The building is approximately 7,200 square feet and has a secured front entry. It has five classrooms and a large multipurpose room for large motor activities. Each classroom has direct access to the fully fenced playground, which features sensory activities and play structures

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Bronson Skills Camp Brings Experience and History to Ho-Chunk Nation Community

Bronson Koenig taught a Basketball Skills Camp on April 6 and 7 at the District 1 Community Center near Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Students in grades 3-7 participated on Saturday, and students in grades 8-12 practiced on Sunday.

Bronson is a former Wisconsin Badger and was a point guard from 2013-2017.

The Good Life Program in the Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department sponsored the basketball camp. Mandy Youngthunder, Student Services Specialist, heard that Bronson was interested in hosting a camp with Ho-Chunk youth, and she reached out to him right away to plan the event. Bronson had hosted other basketball camps before and was really excited to provide that opportunity to his tribal community.

Earth Day Clean Up and Tree Planting

Thank you to employees of the Ho-Chunk Nation who took some time out of their day to help pick up trash and some who learned how to plant trees.

Changes to the General Welfare Payments

On June 18, the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature passed Resolution 06-18-24V titled 'General Welfare Payment for Ho-Chunk Tribal Member Adults and Minors' by an affirmative vote of 13, zero opposed, and zero abstaining.

The purpose of the Program for General Welfare Payments under the Nation's General Welfare Exclusion Ordinance is "to promote the general welfare and provide a social benefit to all Tribal members so as to ensure appropriate access to food, clothing, housing/shelter, utilities, transportation, fuel, healthcare, elder and disabled care, and assistance to promote self-sufficiency.

According to the Resolution, adult members (age 18 and over as of the payment date) of the Nation shall be eligible to receive a monthly General Welfare Payment in the amount of \$1,000 during the next fiscal year. Adults shall receive a July 2024 and August 2024 payment but must complete and submit a General Welfare Program Application by August 15, 2024, in order to continue to receive monthly payments.

2024 Graduate Showcase

Each year, the Hocak Worak publishes a special section dedicated to graduates.

JULY

Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature selects Representative Danielle **DeLong as Vice President**

NĮOXAWANĮ, Black River Falls, Wisconsin – The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature selected a new Vice President, District 4 Representative Danielle Continued on Page 9

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DeLong. Former Vice President Karena Thundercloud resigned July 6, 2024, and the Legislature voted Rep. DeLong to fill the position. This is the first time the Ho-Chunk Nation has voted for an At-Large representative as Vice President.

Congratulations on Retirement Carol Garvin

Carol Garvin has been employed with the Ho-Chunk Nation since 1978. On Wednesday, July 3, we celebrated her 33 years of service!

Good Life Program Summer Update

The Good Life Program in the Education Department has summer courses and events in progress! Staff is busy holding online classes, in person classes, and events for Ho-Chunk enrolled, descendants, and other federally recognized nations students who are in grades K-12. Leslie Falcon (Education Materials Director) kicked off our summer with a teach-the-teachers Woven Bag class taught by Jebette Sine. We invited students who have been active in our art club and other adults to learn the technique. Jebette was taught by her grandmother as a young girl and was eager to share her knowledge and skills with us. It was a wonderful weekend, and we hope to have her back soon for part two!

General Welfare Application

The General Welfare Application must be completed by August 15, 2024. This application can be completed by the following link https://avf.ho-chunk. com/GWEAlogin.aspx or a pdf format form is located on the Ho-Chunk Nation website and submit the completed form to Treasury by email at tribalmembersupport@ho-chunk.com.

Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Members will still receive July and August payments. This General Welfare application must be completed by August 15, 2024 to receive payments for September and the rest of the fiscal year payments. Minors do not need to complete an application unless they are turning 18 this 2024/2025 fiscal year. If you already completed this application you do not need to re-submit.

Hudson St. Croix RiverFest Celebrates Ho-Chunk Nation's Cultural Heritage

On Saturday, July 20, the Hudson St. Croix RiverFest celebrated community and culture with a special contribution from the Ho-Chunk.

This year's event featured the Ho-Chunk Drum & Dance Troupe and Anne Thundercloud of Wild Bearies, who shared traditions through song, dance, cooking, and storytelling.

Green Bay's ArtFest: A Celebration of Art, Culture, and Community



Green Bay's ArtFest, held from July 20-21, was a lively celebration that brought together artists and the community for a weekend of creativity and fun. This year, the Ho-Chunk Nation played a significant role, adding a special touch to the event. Members of the Ho-Chunk Nation shared traditions and culture with festival-goers.

Information about clans were displayed along a path leading to a color-bynumbers mural created by artist Ken Lewis. This mural was a popular attraction, allowing people of all ages to participate and learn about Ho-Chunk heritage.

The mural featured vibrant colors and intricate designs symbolizing unity and community spirit. The mural depicted the river and feathers representing the 12 Ho-Chunk Clans. Attendees enjoyed adding their personal touches to the mural, creating a beautiful, collective artwork.

2024 TAU Elder Picnic: A Day of Reunion and Celebration

On July 17th, 2024, Winnebago Park in Tomah, Wisconsin, hosted the 2024 TAU Elder Picnic. The weather was perfect, and the event brought together many Ho-Chunk elders, families, and friends for a day of connection.

AUGUST

Meet Vincent Blackdeer: Your New Ho-Chunk Nation Newsletter Reporter

Greetings, Ho-Chunk Nation! We are excited to introduce Vincent Blackdeer, also known as Wox'jahiirega, as our new newsletter reporter.

Vincent, 25, was raised in the vibrant community of Black River Falls. After graduating in 2017, he pursued a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) Associate Degree at Western Technical College in La Crosse, where he continues his education today. In addition to his PTA studies, Vincent earned his EMT Technical diploma in 2019 from Eau Claire.

A Bear Writes Poetry

explored traditional practices, wellness strategies, and cultural teachings.

The event also included camping opportunities, allowing attendees to connect with nature and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the powwow grounds.

Neeshla 3-on-3 Tournament Brings Community Together for a Day of Basketball

On Tuesday, August 20th, basketball fans headed to the House of Wellness in Wisconsin Dells, not for the usual water parks and amusement rides, but for the Neeshla 3-on-3 Tournament.

Ho-Chunk Nation Awarded \$5.2 Million Grant for Housing Development

The Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA) has secured a significant boost in its mission to improve housing conditions for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded HHCDA a \$5.2 million grant through the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive program.

This funding will pave the way for the construction of 17 new homes in the Winnebago Heights area near Wisconsin Dells, aiming to enhance the quality of life for numerous families within the community.

The development project will include a diverse array of housing options to meet the needs of the Ho-Chunk community.

The planned construction features two ADA-compliant duplexes, four additional duplexes, three four-bedroom single-family homes, and two three-bedroom single-family homes.

SEPTEMBER

First Nations Community Financial Is Now Cedar Growth

Black River Falls, Wisconsin (8.28.2024) – First Nations Community Financial rebranded to Cedar Growth, a name and logo more reflective to the mission of the business. The word Cedar also serves as



an acronym - Community, Education, Development, Accountability, Resources. Established in 2006, the 501(c)3 Non-Profit Native Community Financial Institution (CDFI) serves the state of Wisconsin. First Nations Community Financial, (FNCF) was created to build the strength and wholeness of the Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN) and Native communities.

To date, FNCF has assisted over 5,000 clients with this type of service in the past 5 years. Developmental services are provided to all loan clientele as part of the loan closing process. Since July 1, 2012 we have received a total of 10,000 loan applications, of those applications we approved 7342 loans totaling \$13.35 Million. For those clients that were not approved, FNCF offers the services to get them to the point of approval.

New Legislative Chief Financial Officer Kirsten Betancurt

Kirsten Betancurt is the Legislative Chief Financial Officer for the Legislative Branch with four years' experience in the Department of Health Finance Division, where she worked as the Senior Grants Manager specializing in grants compliance. Prior to her time at the Health Department, she worked for the Ho-Chunk Language Division as a Language Apprentice. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Viterbo University and will be graduating from Viterbo University a second time in December with her Masters of Business Administration with an emphasis in health care leadership.

New Legislative Public Relations Officer Shane Yellow Thunder

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature would like to welcome our new Public Relations Officer, Shane Yellow Thunder.

Twelve Clans Makes Splash with First Real Estate Investment

Ho-Chunk Nation's Sovereign Wealth Funder, Twelve Clans, Has Ambitious Plans for Future in the Upper Midwest

Twelve Clans, in partnership with Monarch Holding Company and Sentinel Management Company will develop a 303-unit multifamily complex in Golden Valley, Minnesota. Last week, the team successfully closed on financing for the apartment complex, marking the start of the final phase of development. Last year, the development team constructed a new, smaller, Wells Fargo branch to make way for the apartments.

Ho-Chunk Nation Special Run Off Election District 1 Results

The September 4 Special Run Off Election results in Jessika Greendeer with 160 votes to George O. Stacy's 88 votes. The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board certified that this election was conducted in accordance with the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Ho-Chunk Nation on September 5.

Ho-Chunk Nation Annual General Council Addresses 18 Proposed Resolutions

Who, What, when, Where, Why

Ho-Chunk Author Sherman Funmaker held a poetry reading at the Tomah Community Center on August 1st.

Residents of the area were asked to tap into their creative mindsets and generate one of oldest forms of Japanese poetry. Brainstorming 17-syllable Haikus of various subject matter brought before them as well of their own interest.

Ho-Chunk Nation Hosts 4th Annual Family Healing Camp

The Ho-Chunk Nation successfully hosted its 4th Annual Family Healing Camp, a three-day event dedicated to fostering healing, learning, and community connection from August 6-8, 2024, at the Andrew Blackhawk Powwow Grounds.

This year's theme, "A Safe Place to Learn, Share and Heal," reflected the camp's core mission: to offer a



nurturing environment where families and individuals could connect with their Ho-Chunk culture, share their stories, and find pathways to healing.

The Family Healing Camp featured a wide range of activities designed to cater to all age groups. Participants engaged in learning circles, where they

The 2024 Ho-Chunk Nation Annual General Council meeting was held on September 21 at the Kalahari Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. The General Council retains the power to set policy for the Ho-Chunk Nation. The quorum requirement was 1,277 tribal members. This total was met and exceeded at 12:15 PM, when registration reached 1,819 voting members. Quorum is twenty percent of the eligible voters of the Nation.

Removal of District 2 Legislator, Representative Robert Funmaker Jr.

Today's (September 18) removal hearing for Robert Funmaker Jr. has exceeded the threshold required to consider his continued service as a Ho-Chunk Nation District 2 Legislator. The Legislature voted 11-0-0, to adopt the resolution for his removal. Article IX, Section 3 of the Constitution states, "the Legislature may remove a member of the Legislature for good cause." The charges outlined in Resolution 9-18-24A detail the unlawful actions and lack of propriety that placed our Nation at risk.

Congratulations Attorney Martha Simmons

September 24, 2024

Congratulations to Attorney Martha Simmons for passing the Wisconsin Bar exam and being sworn in yesterday! The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature paused today's session to celebrate the achievement of one of our very own Legislative Attorneys. We are proud to have a newly licensed Hoocąk attorney serving our Nation. Well done, Mookie!

Celebrating Green Corn with Hands on Experiences

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health hosted a Green Corn event at *Continued on Page 10*

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the Tribal Office Building on Thursday, September 12. The Community Health and Wellness Division began preparing a delicious meal prior to the start of the celebration.

The Second Annual All-Abilities Stroll Promotes Community Fun



It was a beautiful day for the second Annual All-Abilities Stroll. The event was held on September 7, and about 75 people came out to enjoy the Stroll. The Stroll was hosted by Ho-Chunk Health and Wellness, Jackson in Action, and District 1 Community Center.

The event was created to encourage people who can't complete standard event distances (5k) to be

able to complete a course. This includes people with disabilities, families with young children, and those who can only walk short distances. The District 1 Community Center has been the ideal place for this due to the flat, smooth surface to walk or roll on.

We had great support from the community with 17 rest station sponsors this year. We are very grateful to all of them! Each rest station had chairs so participants could sit and rest until ready to move on to next station – about one tenth of a mile apart. The first year is always a "learning" year, so we encouraged the stations to just promote fun, fun, fun this year. We had music, bubbles, beads, fanny packs, color, Hawaiian leis, sunglasses, snacks, water, funny signs, and games that were out on the course.

OCTOBER

Judiciary Branch Dedicates Walking Trail in Memory of Mark Thomas Gawron

On October 4, 2024, the Ho-Chunk Nation Judiciary Branch held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Gawron Walking Trail dedication. The walking trial is in memory of Mark Thomas Gawron (September 3, 1962-August 20, 2018), who was an employee of the Ho-Chunk Nation as a Forester with the Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Natural Resources. The trail is located near the Wa Ehi Hoci courts building on Highway 54 outside of Black River Falls.



Mark Gawron worked closely with Robert Mann to get this walking trail started. The inspiration for this walking trail was based on how the Ho-Chunk culture deeply values the natural world. This trail is an outdoor space for the Healing to Wellness participants to reflect on the natural environment to the outdoors, which could be seen as essential for healing and restoration.

This ceremony was on a beautiful fall day where many guest speakers shared their experiences of working alongside Mark and explained his passion for the outdoors and fondness of trees. The Gawron family was present and his son told how his dad loved working for the Ho-Chunk Nation and was impressed with the Ho-Chunk basket makers.

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation Welcomes Ho-Chunk Nation People with Tours of Portage Property

On October 3, 2024, the Ho-Chunk Nation was welcomed to Galena, IL by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. This foundation is wholeheartedly committed to conserving the land and water, with respect for the heritage of people, past and present. They offered tours of the 316 acre Portage property where at least 40 mounds are documented today; there once was probably many more.

A Legacy of Indoctrination

Not long after the mass removals of Ho-Chunk people, a small mission school was built three and a half miles west of Wittenberg, Wisconsin. The first group of students were four young Indian boys. The Bethany Indian Mission chool, also operated as the Wittenberg Indian School, was one of 417 official Federal Indian boarding schools and one of 1,442 known institutions devoted to the assimilation of American Indians. The school, built and operated by the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, became the home to hundreds of Indigenous youths and the final resting place for many. Carlisle Indian Industrial School was the first federal boarding school. It was established by U.S. Army Cavalry Captain Richard Henry Pratt in 1879 with the intent to separate Indian children from the rest of the family, so that they can grow without tribal language and cultural influences. Captain Pratt said the system will "kill the Indian in him, and save the man." The concept grew in popularity. While the federal government had limited capacity, religious organizations were seen as an essential partner. As the schools became established, the government would pay a small sum per student as well as appropriations for things like transportation, books and materials, and even to pay police to help administrators find and capture children/escaped students. The schools would feed, clothe, and house the students though the cost can never be quantified. Students were stripped of their clothes, belongings, and the hair. They were forbidden to use their own language, perform their own customs, or practice their own religion. Classes in reading, writing, and mathematics were taught, but priority was given to classes in religion and at least half of each day was spent learning and working in industries (gardening and homemaking for girls; agriculture, blacksmithing, carpentry, etc. for boys). Fifty-nine religious organizations operated 210 of the 417 official Federal Indian boarding schools. Church-assigned clergy were appointed as superintendents in addition to their typical pastoral duties. Superintendents were responsible for the strict

enforcement of the school's policies and was central to the indoctrination of the Native youth.

Jessika Greendeer (Gisarasarac Mąąnįwįga) Joins the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature as a District 1 Legislator

Black River Falls, WI — The Ho-Chunk Nation proudly welcomes Jessika Greendeer, Gisarasarac Mąąnįwįga, to the Legislature as the newly elected District 1 Seat 1 Legislator. Sworn into office on Oct. 2, 2024, Greendeer brings over 20 years of leadership experience in both the civilian sector and the U.S. Army, stepping into her role with a vision to represent future generations and uphold the traditions of the Ho-Chunk people.



City of La Crosse and the Ho-Chunk Nation Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebrations Centers on Histories and Cultures

On October 14, 2024, the City of La Crosse and the Ho-Chunk Nation came together to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, highlighting the significant contributions, culture, and history of Indigenous communities.

The day's events took place across several key locations, including the La Crosse Center, Riverside Park, and the Pearl Street Walkway. The celebration provided a mix of traditional performances, educational talks, and a lacrosse tournament, emphasizing the importance of reclaiming Indigenous history and fostering community connections.

Ho-Chunk Nation Set to Break Ground on Major Casino Development in Beloit

In a monumental step toward economic development and regional partnership, the Ho-Chunk Nation will officially break ground on the highly anticipated \$405 million casino project at a 32-acre site on the southeast corner of Willowbrook and Colley Roads in Beloit on Friday, October 25.

The event marks the beginning of a multi-year development that promises to transform the local economy while boosting tourism and entertainment opportunities in southern Wisconsin.

The project will begin with the construction of the casino itself, with additional plans for a hotel and convention center to follow, according to Collin Price, a consultant for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

When fully completed in 2026, the 240,000-square-foot casino will feature a range of amenities, including 1,500 to 1,800 slot machines, 44 table games, a sportsbook, four restaurants, and a casino bar.

New Addition to La Crosse's International Friendship Gardens to Honor Ho-Chunk Nation

Plans for a significant addition to La Crosse's International Friendship Gardens are moving forward.

The city's park board recently approved the creation of a new garden area dedicated to honoring the Indigenous people of the Ho-Chunk Nation, a move that will bring a local cultural perspective to a space traditionally reserved for celebrating La Crosse's international ties.

The existing gardens at Riverside Park currently honor the cultures of La Crosse's sister cities, which represent countries from around the globe. With the upcoming development of the Ho-Chunk garden, a new chapter will begin, highlighting the area's Indigenous history and contributions.

New Sculpture Stands as Tribute to Chief Yellow Thunder



On October 13, we celebrated the installation of Ho-Chunk artist Chloris Lowe III's sculpture at Wakajazi Mąągexeja, near Baraboo, with great pride. The sculpture's installment was made possible by the support of the Sauk County Historical Society and tribal members.

The Fourth Central Wisconsin Indigenous Peoples Day Powwow & Native American Art Market Celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day

The 4th Annual Central Wisconsin Indigenous Peoples' Day Pow Wow & Native American Art Market was in Rothschild, WI on October 12 and 13. Grand Entry was at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Masters of Ceremonies were Dylan Prescott and Sonny Smart. Paul Roberts served as Arena Director. Honor guards were Andrew Blackhawk American Legion Post 129 and Veterans of Menominee Nation. The committee provided a feast for all attendees at 5 p.m. on Saturday, which was prepared by Myrna Littlewolf and her helpers. American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting services were available for the Saturday 1 p.m. session. Eleven drum groups participated with Eagle Feather (Tama, IA) as Host Drum. The City of Wausau proclamation declaring Monday, October 14, 2024 as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City of Wausau was read at the Sunday session.

Wendell Pettibone Receives Prestigious Entrepreneur Grant Award at the Indigenous Business Con 2024

Wendell Pettibone, a proud Ho-Chunk Tribal Member and business owner, was recently honored as a recipient of the prestigious Entrepreneur Grant Award during the Indigenous Business Con 2024, held at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino in Milwaukee on October 14-15, 2024. Pettibone, the founder of Sanity Adjacent Candles and RURLDK Clothing, which operates from the bottom of the bridge on Main Street in Black River Falls, received the grant in recognition of his entrepreneurial efforts and dedication to building Continued on Page 11



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Indigenous-owned businesses in the community.

The event, co-hosted by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation WEDC) and the Wisconsin Indigenous Health & Economic Development Corporation (WIHEDC), celebrated 10 Indigenous-owned businesses from across Wisconsin.

These awards are part of a larger initiative to support and uplift Native entrepreneurs by providing financial backing and mentorship opportunities.

Wyeville Elementary Playground Receives Renovations

The Ho-Chunk Nation is proud to be among the many wonderful organizations, businesses, and families that contributed to the renovation of the Wyeville Elementary playground, benefiting all students, including the 20-25% Native American and Ho-Chunk youth who attend every year.



NOVEMBER

Trump's Return to Office: What It Could Mean for Indian Country

Donald Trump has been projected by The Associated Press to win enough Electoral College votes to win a second term and become the 47th president of the United States.

With Trump's return to the presidency, Indian Country faces uncertainty across key areas, including sovereignty, land rights, and federal policy. Many tribal leaders and advocates are concerned about possible impacts on tribal lands, resources, and self-governance.

Tribes may face renewed challenges in maintaining control over their lands and sacred sites. In his previous term, Trump's administration reduced protections on lands sacred to many tribes, such as Bears Ears National Monument, and emphasized resource development over preservation.

If these trends continue, tribes could see more federal efforts to open lands for oil, gas, and mining-activities that may disrupt sacred sites and natural resources.

Environmental protections could be at risk as well. Trump's prior policies rolled back many regulations that helped safeguard tribal lands from industrial pollution. Without these protections, tribes may see changes in water and air quality, affecting health and traditional practices.

Climate change impacts, such as wildfires and water shortages, continue to hit tribal lands hard, so many tribal communities are deeply concerned about losing crucial environmental protections.

Trump's administration may also make changes to federal funding for essential tribal services, including healthcare, education, and housing. Programs like the Indian Health Service (IHS) provide critical support to Indigenous communities.

If funding decreases, tribes could struggle to meet healthcare needs, maintain schools, and support families.

A Journey of Resilience, Representation, and Revitalization Through Food

In the world of culinary arts, Chef Elena Terry stands as a trailblazing Ho-Chunk woman, bringing Native American food traditions and resilience to the forefront of mainstream media.

As the Executive Chef and Founder of Wild Bearies, Terry has not only crafted a platform for Indigenous food sovereignty but has also captured audiences nationwide through her appearances on prominent television shows.

Her recent feature on Discover Wisconsin highlighted her journey, her mission, and her powerful dedication to community healing through food.

Halloween Elder Bingo and Shenanigans at the Waksikxete Wittenberg TAU

On Thursday, October 31, 2024, elders from the Wittenberg area dressed up in stume for bingo. Those who participated received ten dolla

With over 600,000 hunters typically taking to the woods each year, gun deer season is a cornerstone of Wisconsin's outdoor culture, bringing families and communities together.

However, safety must remain the top priority to ensure that everyone can enjoy a successful and incident-free hunt.

Hunting accidents in Wisconsin have decreased over the years, thanks in large part to an emphasis on education and awareness. In 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported five firearm-related incidents during gun deer season.

Competition of Ellsworth Road in Tomah

On November 11, 2024, the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Town of La Grange celebrated the completion of the newly reconstructed Ellsworth Road in Tomah, Wisconsin! This vital project was made possible through the strong partnership, and the Ho-Chunk Nation is proud to have contributed to the revitalization of this key roadway.

Ellsworth Road provides access to the Ho-Chunk residents in La Grange Hills, ensuring better connectivity and safety for our community.



DECEMBER

Damian Thundercloud Takes Oath of Office

On Wednesday, December 11, Damian Thundercloud was sworn into office as the Legislature District 2, Seat 1 Representative. The ceremony took place in the Tribal Office Building near Black River Falls.

Governor Evers Recognizes Lily Lincoln with 2024 Outstanding Foster & Adoptive Family Award



On November 21, 2024, Ms. Lilv Lincoln was awarded the 2024 Governors Outstanding Foster and Adoptive Family Award by Governor Tony Evers. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made a difference in the lives of Wisconsin's children and families. Recipients are chosen based

on their: Support for shared parenting, Cultural and community connections, ensuring the well-being of children in their care, Leadership, and Adapting and implementing Family First Initiatives. Nominations for the awards come from child welfare professionals, community organizations, and others across the state of Wisconsin.

Decorating the Governor's Residence

The window ornaments displayed here are handcrafted by members and staff of the Ho-Chunk Nation, each representing the richness of Native American culture. These ornaments showcase the art of applique, a cherished tradition in Ho-Chunk designs that embodies storytelling, personal expression, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

The Governor's Residence stands on the ancestral land of the Ho-Chunk Nation, whose deep connection to this region spans generations. This display highlights their enduring traditions, creativity, and the vital role they continue to play in Wisconsin's cultural landscape.



Veteran Day Luncheon at the Tribal Office Building

The Veterans Day Luncheon was held on Friday, November 8, 2024 at the Tribal Office Building. The Veterans Affairs Office did a wonderful job hosting the event in honor of our Veterans.

Veterans Powwow at Volk Field in Camp Douglas, WI

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, DORA - Descendants of the Red Arrow and Friends sponsored a powwow in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.

Sharice Davids: A Spotlight During Native American Heritage Month



November is Native American Heritage Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Native American communities across the United States.

This year's theme, "Recognizing 100 Years of Citizenship and the Right to Vote: 1924-2024," commemorates a century since the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act, which granted U.S. citizenship to Native Americans. The theme also acknowledges the ongoing journey toward equity and representation.

Gun Hunting Safety: Tips for a Safe Hunting Season

As the highly anticipated opening weekend of gun deer season approaches in Wisconsin, excitement builds among hunters eager to take part in this timehonored tradition.

Waagax Hakiruxaraxara Hosto Hoocak Community Library's Second Book Review: We Are Water Protectors.

This December you might consider purchasing this book for your young reader. We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom. Carole Lindstrom is Anishinaabe/Metis and has written several young reader books. This book is the 2021 Caldecott Medal Winner and as the title of the book suggests, it is written to express concern for the environment. It is about much more than the environment as it written from the viewpoint of a young Indigenous girl and a recent incursion upon Indian lands.

The illustrator, Michaela Goade, is enrolled with the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska. The book is filled with brightly colored watercolor pages showing the beauty of nature and the menacing black snake.

Hocak Worak Seeks Freelance Writers

The Hocak Worak is currently seeking Ho-Chunk Nation freelance writers to contribute and become a part of solutions and inspirations that reach 4,000 plus readers across the United States. Email Newsletter@ho-chunk.com for details.

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NOTICES

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 12272024

APF	PLICANT NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD QUANTUM	ANCESTOR	FATHER	MOTHER
1.	Andrus, Kendall Allison	09/21/1986	1/4	1881		Christie Hale Machala
2.	Antone, Isabella Angel	01/29/2010	1/4	George Storm Naw Mau Chee Nau Kee Kaw Wey Ree Kah 1881 - 00681	Joseph Israel Antone	
3.	Antone, Mary Ethel	03/03/2011	1/4	George Storm Naw Mau Chee Nau Kee Kaw Wey Ree Kah 1881 - 00681	Joseph Israel Antone	
4.	Antone, Ruben Joseph	07/05/2012	1/4	George Storm Naw Mau Chee Nau Kee Kaw Wey Ree Kah 1881 - 00681	Joseph Israel Antone	
5.	Bourdon, Jiraiya Nicholas	08/30/2022	3/8	George Funmaker Sr. Wojh Tchaw He Ray Kah 1881 – 00328	Spencer Thomas Bourdon Sr.	Non-Indian
6.	Carriaga, Etta Louise	09/11/2016	5/8	Howard Whitethunder Sr. Wau Kon Chaw Skaw Kah 1901 – 00335	Michael Stephen Carriaga	Alexandria Paige White Thunder
7.	Cherwenka III, Jay David	04/06/2016	1/4	George Bud Blackdeer Garvin Ma Choo Zhoo Na Gin Kah 1901 – 00967	Jay David Cherwenka Jr.	Non-Indian
8.	DeNasha, William Charles	07/16/2022	81/256	George Walker Smith N1910 – 00885	Non-Member	Non-Member
9.	Downey, Curtis- Michael Roger Russel	09/15/2004	1/4	Fred Kingswan Ma He Ha No Gin Kah 1901 – 00975	Forrest Michael Downey	Non-Indian
10.	Funmaker, Adam Bear	02/19/2021	1/4	George Funmaker Sr. Wojh Tchaw He Ray Kah 1881 – 00328	Adam Martin Funmaker	Non-Indian
	Johnson, Leroy Wayne	03/05/2023	699/2048	George Bud Blackdeer Garvin Ma Choo Zhoo Na Gin Kah 1901 – 00967	Non-Indian	Kiara Angel Jett Johnson
12.	Kearnes, Cruz Morocco	11/20/2018	7/16	David Hill N1910 – 00053	Non-Member	Non-Member
13.	Lindow, Makiah James	07/22/2014	1/4	Will Greendeer Chaw Nauk He Cho Kah 1901 – 00080	Michael Steven Mc Arthur	Non-Indian
14.	Littlejohn, Alaeryck William Montgomery	02/03/2023	91/128	Grant Green Littlejohn Ha Na Kah 1901 – 01206	Heath Douglas Littlejohn	Allie Azalia Hopinkah
15.	Littlejohn, Aurelia Eliza Celeste	07/29/2021	91/128	Grant Green Littlejohn Ha Na Kah	Heath Douglas Littlejohn	Allie Azalia Hopinkah

16. Ochoa, Melina Estelle	11/07/2022	1/4	Thomas Prescott Hoo Noo Kah 1901 – 01294	Non-Indian	Cheyenne Rose Ochoa
17. Prado, Aiden Carmelo	10/22/2012	1/4	Billy Whiterabbit Wauk Chun Kah 1901 – 00480	Ricardo Tim Prado	Non-Indian
18. Richard, Ta Maza Sica Reeshaw	11/17/2014	1/2	Henry Greencrow Coo Noo Zee Kah 1901 – 01105		Crystal Jolie Cleveland
19. Smith, Everleigh Mae	06/16/2022	1/4	Edward Smith Mau Shoo Cho Kah 1901 – 01137	Non-Indian	Brittany Mae Smith
20. Walker, Norah Moon	12/04/2021	1/4	William Decorie Hay Nun Kah 1881 – 00486	Alan Lamont Walker	Non-Member
21. White Eagle, Kimberlee Rose	04/17/2013	5/8	Floyd Thomas Whiteeagle Hunk Nik Cha Kah 1901 – 01085	Elan Grover Whiteeagle	Non-Member
22. Whiteeagle, Marie Georgaline	12/03/2019	3/8	Floyd Thomas Whiteeagle Hunk Nik Cha Kah 1901 – 01085	Sanford White Eagle	Rayvonne Lynne Blackhawk
23. White Eagle, Sanford Alexander	12/10/2016	3/8	Floyd Thomas Whiteeagle Hunk Nik Cha Kah 1901 – 01085	Sanford White Eagle	Rayvonne Lynne Blackhawk
24. Yellowbank, Emilia Judy Marie	06/13/2017	1/4	James Yellowbank N1910 – 00955	Non-Member	Non-Member
25. Zarate, Gabriel Niizu	07/18/2018	1/4	Paul Spear Smith Ha Na Kah 1901 – 00581	Non-Indian	Shawntel Lee Zarate

I, <u>Eliza Decorah /s/</u>, 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 <u>20th</u> day of <u>December</u>, 2024.



BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING Tribal Office Building W9814 Airport Road Black River Falls, WI 54615 Wednesday, January 8, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. IN PERSON/VIRTUAL



LA CROSSE AREA | THREE RIVERS HOUSE 724 Main Street, La Crosse, WI MONDAY, January 13th, 2025 6:00PM

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

WAUSAU AREA MEETING Rothschild Village Hall 211 Grand Avenue Rothschild, WI 54474 Tuesday, January 14, 2025 | 5:30 p.m. IN PERSON

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

For WebEx/e-packet, information please contact: hilary.green2@ho-chunk.com

Posted on: 12/16/24

HO-CHUNK NATION

PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE



TUESDAY, January 14th, 2025 6:00PM

BARABOO/WI DELLS/MAUSTON AREA | IND. HEIGHTS

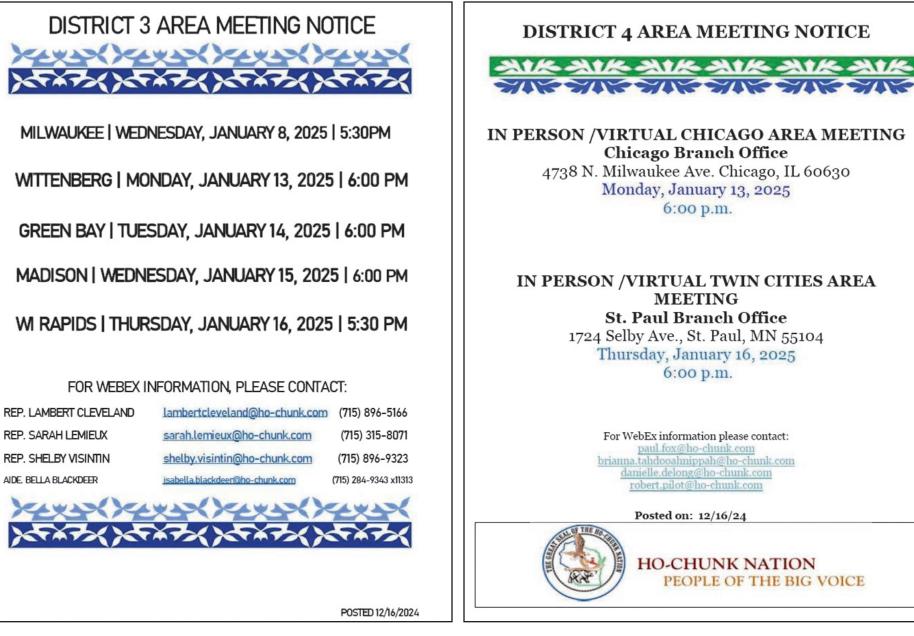
975 Dyer St, Wisconsin Dells, WI

WEDNESDAY, January 15th, 2025 6:00PM

REP. STEPHANIE BEGAY	stephanie.begay@ho-chunk.com	(608) 408-0339
REP. KRISTIN K. WHITE EAGLE	kristin.whiteeagle@ho-chunk.com	(608) 477-3007
REP. DAMIAN THUNDERCLOUD da	(800) 294-9343, Ext. 11151	

POSTED 12/16/2024

NOTICES / LEGISLATIVE MINUTES



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE **REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

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

Roll Call:

President Jon Greendeer-P Vice President Danielle DeLong-P Rep. Jessika Greendeer-P Rep. Rodney Rave-P Rep. Phyllis Smoke-VC D2 Vacancy Rep. Stephanie Begay-P Rep. Kristin White Eagle-P Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-P Rep. Robert Pilot-P Rep. Paul Fox-P Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah-P

Payment for Ho-Chunk Tribal Member Adult and Minors: New Business: Y. Ho-Chunk Nation Award; New Business: Energy Management Ζ. Manager. Second concurs. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Previous Meeting <u>Minutes:</u>

Legislative Meeting-November 19,2024

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the November 19, 2024 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 11-0-1(Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah) MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Branch Monthly Reports:

Department of Business A written report was received.

Department of Education A written report was received.

Department of Housing

Nation Health Plan. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing Data Sharing and Use Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with Ferris State University

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to adopt 11-26-24 Resolution **B**. Authorizing Data Sharing and Use Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with Ferris State University. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 10-2(Rep. Jessika Greendeer, Rep. Rodney Rave)-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Dan Bearheart-Medicine Lodge Property #439 T 5260-A for Clarence Pettibone

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution** 11-26-24 C, Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Dan Bearheart-Medicine Lodge Property #439 T 5260-A for Clarence Pettibone. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

of Greg Blackdeer to the Department of Labor Board of **Directors**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 E, Confirmation of Greg Blackdeer to the Department of Labor Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Rodney Rave. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Confirmation of Lance Decker-Anwash to the Department of Labor Board of **Directors**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 F, Confirmation of Lance Decker-Anwash to the Department of Labor Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Confirmation of Leah Walters to the Department of Labor Board of **Directors**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Resolution-Appointment Begav to adopt *Resolution*

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 I, Confirmation of Kimberly Lonetree to the Department of Labor Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

of **Department** Housing **Diversion Program**

Executive Director of Housing Denise Wright gave an overview of the Department of Housing Diversion Program.

Rep. Kristin White Eagle is out of the room at 10:48 a.m.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer the Department of Housing Diversion Program to the Finance Commission. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-**0 MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Rodney Rave is out of the room at 10:50 a.m.

of Aaron Durfee to the Trust &

VC-Video Conference

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. MOTION IS AMENDED to add under New Business: W. Resolution-Authorization of Land Lease Modification on the Village West Parcel #439 T 2186 to Assign Lease to Village West LIHTC, LLC; New Business: X. Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 06-25-24 B. General Welfare A written report was received.

Department of Labor A written report was received.

Unfinished Business:

Red Cloud Park

General William Attorney Gardner mentioned this matter is scheduled for the La Crosse Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting in January 2025.

New Business:

Resolution-Amendment to the Ho-Chunk Nation Health Plan

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 A, Amendment to the Ho-Chunk **Resolution-Authorization** for the Department of Agriculture to Partner with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council to Apply for the Agriculture Apprentice Sub-Award

MOTION by Rep. Jessika Greendeer to adopt *Resolution* 11-26-24 D, Authorization for the Department of Agriculture to Partner with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council to Apply for the Agriculture Apprentice Sub-Award. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation

11-26-24 G, Confirmation of Leah Walters to the Department of Labor Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Confirmation of Roberta Funmaker to the **Department of Labor Board of** Directors

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 H, Confirmation of Roberta Funmaker to the Department of Labor Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Kimberly Lonetree to the Department of Labor Board of **Directors**

Investment Commission

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 J, Appointment of Aaron Durfee to the Trust & Investment Commission. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Confirmation of Rebecca Nambo – District 2 – Monroe County Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Board Member

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 K, Confirmation of Rebecca Nambo – District 2 - Monroe County Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Board Continued on Page 15

LEGISLATIVE MINUTES ADS

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Continued from Page 14 Member. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Kristin White Eagle returns to the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Rep. Rodney Rave returns to the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah is out of the room at 10:53 a.m.

D2 Tomah Ahuco Fundraiser Match

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the Tomah Ahuco Fundraiser Match of \$1,201 out of District 2 Community Improvement Fund with reconciliation and any remaining funds returned. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 10-0-1(Rep. Rodney Rave) MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay that the previous motion Tomah Ahuco Fundraiser Match be on an Emergency Basis. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 10-0-1(Rep. Rodney Rave) MOTION CARRIED.

D2 Tomah Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the D2 Tomah Christmas Party request in the amount of \$4,000, made payable to Andrea McCaskey from the D2 Community Improvement Fund with reconciliation on an Emergency Basis. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

D2 Wisconsin Dells Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to TABLE the D2 Wisconsin Dells Christmas Party request until after Executive Session hoping a budget will be received. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

D3 Wittenberg Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to TABLE the D3 Wittenberg Christmas Party request until after Executive Session, still waiting on a budget. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

D3 Wisconsin **Rapids** Christmas Party Requests

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve on an Emergency Basis for the amount of \$2,500 coming from the D3 Community Improvement Fund with reconciliation and made payable to Carmen Redcloud. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED**.

NOTED FOR THE **RECORD:**

The check for Green Bay will be made to Pam Wilber.

Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah returns to the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

D4 Twin Cities Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve on an Emergency Basis the Holiday Party in the amount of \$1,600 for the Twin Cities area from the D4 Community Improvement Fund to be payable to Libby Fairchild and to be reconciled. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve on an Emergency Basis for a Holiday Party for the Twin Cities from the D4 Community Improvement Fund for \$3,400 payable to Sandra Garzon and reconciled by Sandra Garzon. Second by Vice President Danielle DeLong. MOTION IS AMENDED to make check payable to Vicky Ontiveros. Second concurs. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D4 Chicago Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve on an Emergency Basis for a Holiday Party for Chicago area from the D4 Community Improvement Fund to be payable to Tammy Whitewing and reconciled for \$2,300. Second by Vice President Danielle DeLong. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Virtual Benefits Showcase Agreement Flimp **Communications**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to Virtual STRIKE Benefits

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to adopt Resolution 11-26-24 M, Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 06-25-24 B General Welfare Payment for Ho-Chunk Tribal Member Adults and Minors. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Ho-Chunk Nation Award

Rep. Kristin White Eagle attended Indigenous the Cannabis Industry Association Summit in Washington, D.C. The Ho-Chunk Nation was nominated and won the award for Tribal Cannabis Partnership of the Year Award recognizing the Nation's dedication to cannabis advocacy, policy reform and sustainable growth. Rep. White Eagle presented President Greendeer with the award during the Legislative Meeting.

Energy Management Manager

MOTION by Rep. Robert Pilot to STRIKE the Energy Management Manager. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Session:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal

Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Law Land, Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Rodney Rave. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 11:15 a.m.

The Executive Session recessed for lunch at 12:13 p.m., and the meeting was called back to order by President Greendeer at 1:00 p.m. Quorum was established.

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 4:14 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Vice President Danielle DeLong. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Release to Open Session:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke for Legislative Legal to assist Legislators with preparing findings from the CFS Investigative Hearing and provide those for the next executive session and release

this motion to Open Session. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-1(Rep. Rodney Rave) MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Rodney Rave said that he abstained as Rep. Phyllis Smoke asked him to recuse himself from the hearing.

New Business: (Re-Visited)

D2 Wisconsin Dells Christmas **Party Request**

D3 Wittenberg Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer the D2 Wisconsin Dells Christmas Party request to the Finance Commission, and to include D3 Wittenberg Christmas Party as well. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to December 17, 2024 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.



D3 Green Bay Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the request on an Emergency Basis in the amount of \$2,500 from the D3 **Community Improvement Fund** with reconciliation. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

D3 Madison Christmas Party Request

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve on an Emergency Basis for the amount of \$3,000 coming out of the D3 Community Improvement Fund with reconciliation and made payable to Cher Laubmeier. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin.

Showcase Agreement Flimp Communications. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 MÔTION CARRIĔĎ.

Resolution-Authorization of Land Lease Modification on the Village West Parcel # 439 T 2186 to Assign Lease to Village West LIHTČ, LLC

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to adopt *Resolution* 11-26-24 L, Authorization of Land Lease Modification on the Village West Parcel #439 T 2186 to assign Lease to Village West LIHTC, LLC. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 MÔTION CARRIĔĎ.

Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 06-25-24 B General Welfare Payment for Ho-Chunk Tribal Member Adults and Minors

THUNDER CLAN

Progress.

for Ho-Chunk Legislature. District 4, Seat 3

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

Vote on March 5, 2025

request absentee ballot by February 23rd

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



www.Ed4rep4.com

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



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

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

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

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

LEGISLATURE: District 1, Seat 1 July 2025 – June 2029

District 2, Seat 2 July 2025 – June 2029

District 2, Seat 3 July 2025 – June 2029

NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

The official candidacy forms may be obtained from the Election Board Members or the Election Board Office. A candidate for elective office shall submit an Official Nomination Petition, Declaration of Candidacy and a \$5.00 filing fee MUST be hand delivery or U.S. Mail to the Election Board office before the close of the nomination period on <u>Sunday, January 19,</u> <u>2025 by 4:30 pm.</u> ORIGINAL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED. FILING BY FAX OR COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS:

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

REGISTRATION:

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

ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:

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

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

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

Election.board@ho-chunk.com

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

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

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

Please check eligible voter's lists for your Districts.

CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS:

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

ELECTIONEERING:

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

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION DAY Wednesday, March 5, 2025

POST NOTICE OF ELECTION Monday, November 25, 2024

POST ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST Monday, February 3, 2025

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

LAST DAY TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amended Poster 12/11/2024

District 3, Seat 2 July 2025 – June 2029

District 4, Seat 1 July 2025 – June 2029

<u>District 4, Seat 2</u> July 2025 – June 2029

<u>District 4, Seat 3</u> July 2025 – June 2029

JUDICIARY: Supreme Court Chief Justice July 2025- June 2031

Supreme Court Associate Justice 1 July 2025 – June 2029 After 4:30 pm and the weekend please call (715)299-6104

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

ABSENTEE VOTING:

A voter may vote by absentee ballot provided the Election Board receives the absentee ballot request in writing no later than **Sunday**, <u>February 23</u>, <u>2025 by 4:00 pm</u>. See *Election Board Code, section 13(a), i* Requests MUST INCLUDE the eligible voter's name printed or typed (with signature), physical address where the ballot will be delivered (we use UPS next Day Air – UPS Next Day Air will not deliver to a P.O. Box), daytime telephone number and enrollment number. Sunday, February 23, 2025 4:00 pm.

GENERAL RUN-OFF ELECTION Tuesday, June 3, 2025

SWEARING IN CEREMONY Wednesday, July 2, 2025