



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOCOK WORAK

Vol. XXXIX, Issue 1

Hųc wiconį ną wira | First Bear Moon

January 10, 2025



General Primary Election is on March 5

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Twelve Clans Shareholder Update

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Ho-Chunk Garden Honors Culture and Betsy Thunder

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature is proud to support the creation of the Ho-Chunk Garden at the Riverside International Friendship Gardens near Riverside Park in La Crosse, WI. This garden is dedicated to Betsy Thunder, a respected Ho-Chunk healer with a legacy that continues to inspire. It is incredible to see her story and the beliefs of the Hocok people brought to life in this meaningful space.

The garden will include native plants and the medicines that Betsy used in her healing practices. These medicines reflect her vast traditional knowledge. The garden will be a living reminder of her contributions and the connection the Hocok people have with the land we live on.

This project is made possible through the collaboration of the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Riverside
Continued on Page 9



From left to right: Michael Martino, Sculptor, Martino Studios, working on the Betsy Thunder statue; Sarah Arendt-Beyer, Riverside International Friendship Gardens Board Secretary; Chuck Hanson, Riverside International Friendship Gardens Board President; Representative Damian Thundercloud, Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature, District 2 Legislator; Sami Meyer, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, City of La Crosse; Jud Steinback, Owner, Coulee Region Escapes; Henry Greengrass, Center Director - La Crosse at Ho-Chunk Nation. Not pictured but also involved: Tracy Littlejohn, Deb Fabian, Sculptor; Val Schute, Principal, River Architects.



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Please notify the Newspaper of any address changes or corrections

New Year's Eve Pow-Wow Encourages Sobriety

Ardith Van Riper
Editor

The Ho-Chunk Nation's 2025 New Year's Eve pow-wow took place on December 31, 2024, at the Tomah Community Center Gym in Tomah, WI. The pow-wow committee wanted to recognize, support, and encourage those living in recovery and those who want to.

The festivities began with a meal at 5:00 pm. Matt Mann was the master of ceremonies and Moses Cleveland was the arena director. The head lady dancer was Autumn White and the head man dancer was Junior Green. The invited drums were Bearheart, Little Thunder, and Eagle Feather. Grand Entry was at 7:00 pm. Merchant vendors were set up near the walls of the gymnasium.

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INSIDE SCOOP..

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

ON THIS DAY: A SHIP NAMED FOR A BRAVE AMERICAN WAS PLACED IN SERVICE

Submitted by James Heinz and the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society

There are soldiers, and there are warriors. This is the story of a true American warrior, and of the ship that is named for him.

On This Day in 2000, the U.S. Navy placed into service a ship named the USNS RED CLOUD (T-AKR 313). She displaces 62,970 tons, and is 951 feet long and 106 feet wide. Her two gas turbine engines can drive her at 24 knots for a distance of 12,000 miles. She is part of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.

Navsource.org describes her function as "A non-combatant Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR) vessel, *Red Cloud* and other ships of her class are used to pre-position tanks, trucks, various wheeled vehicles and supplies needed to support an army heavy brigade. She is assigned to Afloat Prepositioning Ship Squadron Four at Diego Garcia."

The man she is named after was a true American warrior.

Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. was born in 1925 in Hatfield, WI. He was a full blooded member of the Ho-Chunk Nation. He dropped out of high school at age 16 to join the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mitchell joined the elite of the elite, the 2nd battalion of the Marine Raiders. He fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal, where he participated in the famous "Long Patrol", during which he and his unit spent 28 days behind Japanese lines.

After the Long Patrol was over his entire unit was declared unfit for duty due to tropical disease. The enemy could not bring Mitchell, down but the malaria that he contracted did, causing him to lose 75 pounds. He refused the offer of a medical discharge and requested re-assignment to a combat unit.

The Marines assigned Mitchell to the 29th Marine regiment. He then participated in the largest and bloodiest battle of the Pacific War, the Battle of Okinawa. Mitchell was wounded in the shoulder and evacuated to Guam. He was discharged at the end of the war as a sergeant.

That would have been enough war for most men, but in 1948 Mitchell enlisted in the 19th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army. In 1950 he and his unit were sent to Korea, where Mitchell's previous combat experience was invaluable, and he was promoted to corporal.

By November 1950 they had advanced to within 50 miles of the Chinese border. They thought the war was almost over and that they would be home for Christmas when on November 25 Communist Chinese armies launched a surprise attack on United Nations forces along the Ch'ongch'on River.

The best explanation of what happened next can be found in the words of Mitchell Red Cloud's Congressional Medal of Honor citation:

"Cpl. Red Cloud, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity

above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. From his position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post he was the first to detect the approach of the Chinese Communist forces and give the alarm as the enemy charged from a brush-covered area less than 100 feet from him. Springing up, he delivered devastating pointblank automatic rifle fire into the advancing enemy. His accurate and intense fire checked this assault and gained time for the company to consolidate its defense. With utter fearlessness he maintained his firing position until severely wounded by enemy fire. Refusing assistance, he pulled himself to his feet and, wrapping his arm around a tree, continued his deadly fire again, until he was fatally wounded. This heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded. Cpl. Red Cloud's dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflects the highest credit upon himself and upholds the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army."

Mitchell's body was recovered and buried with traditional Ho-Chunk ceremony in the Decorah Cemetery in Black River Falls WI. An Army camp in Korea, and an American Legion post, a park, and a section of state highway 54 in Wisconsin are named for him.

And every July 4, the Ho-Chunk Nation observes Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. Day.



Tribal Workforce Development



Transportation Assistance

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

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.





Work Attire & Outdoor Clothes

Outdoor clothes that are listed by employer. Seasonal work are considered. Work attire is up to three (3) outfits as listed by supervisor.

Essential Tools & Personal Safety Equipment

Items that are minimal requirements to the job and specified by the employer. *Does not include specialized tools, equipment, power tools, or computers.*





Training, Educational, Lodging, & Certifications

Training to improve employability, maintain, or advancements. Assist with technical diploma. Also, assist with college courses and Certifications if approved by TWD.

Contact staff for eligibility requirements:
715-284-5877 ext. 11135
twd@ho-chunk.com

Krohn Clinic and Black River Memorial Hospital Announce Unification to Form Black River Health

Black River Falls, WI – Krohn Clinic and Black River Memorial Hospital (BRMH) have officially joined and created **Black River Health (BRH)**, effective today, December 30, 2024. This exciting new partnership promises to usher in a new era of healthcare to Jackson County and surrounding communities.

"**Black River Health** promises to continue delivering exceptional, patient-centered care as we work together to meet the evolving healthcare needs of our community," said Dr. Michelle Clark-Forsting, Chief Physician Executive of Black River Health, "This partnership represents our shared vision for a healthier future."

The decision to combine comes in response to growing health challenges with Jackson County faring worse than the average county in Wisconsin for health outcomes. Black River Health is committed to addressing these issues by ensuring that healthcare remains local, high-quality, and comprehensive.


The new logo represents and reflects both the natural surroundings of the communities Black River Health serves, as well as the people in it. The icon captures the essence of our vibrant environment, with flowing lines

symbolizing the river, trails, and waterfalls, as well as the seamless connection between the two organizations. It represents unity within our health system.

The color palette blends the familiar blues of both organizations, with the addition of a bright yellow that was evolved from Krohn Clinic's gold color to signify a fresh, forward-looking vision. The word "Health" stands out in a different color to emphasize our core mission and to set us apart as a distinct and dedicated healthcare provider for our community.

We are excited to introduce this new symbol of our partnership," said Carl Selvick, CEO of Black River Health. "It encompasses the rich history of our organizations and communities while serving as a visual representation of our shared vision towards building a healthier future, together."

Both organizations will retain their names and identity, they will simply operate under the Black River Health umbrella. The new logo will be gradually rolled out over the course of 2025. For more information about Black River Health, visit www.blackriverhealth.com.



Brand Name

The Icon

Color Palette



Elder Luncheon

January 25th, 2025 at the Ho-Chunk Nation Chicago Branch office

Noon-1:30pm

Bring a prize bingo!!

Bring a prize to share for **FREE MINI BINGO**
2 Cash prizes.

MENU: Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Salad, Fruit.

Elders are allowed to bring a caretaker with them if needed.

Please RSVP by January 20th, 2025

Contact: Tammy Whitewing
Tammy.whitewing@ho-chunk.com
4738 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
715-284-7894
Work Cell: 312-995-3745

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 26TH-28TH

2025 TEEN SUMMIT
— WE DARE YOU —
REVOLUTIONARY ACTS
Glacier Canyon Conference Center
Wisconsin Dells, WI



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

The Annual Teen Summit is hosted by “End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin”, and is a training that brings youth, parents, educators, activists, mentors, and advocates from all over Wisconsin to learn about healthy relationships, teen dating violence, and sexual assault within a larger anti-

oppression framework, and will include educational and enthusiastic plenary speakers, youth-led workshops as well as topic-related performances.

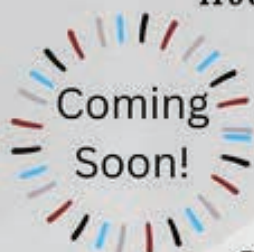
If you are interested in attending with your Ho-Chunk Nation tribal teen, please contact us at DVCommunityEducation@ho-chunk.com to request scholarship information. Limited amount of scholarships are available, and will include the registration fee and lodging, depending on the distance to be traveled.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

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

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be January 17th which will be published on January 24th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.



Hoocak Language Winter 2025 Course Offerings



ONLINE REGISTRATION
JANUARY 6-10, 2025

Classes run Jan 20 - April 11, 2025

ISWM

It Starts With Me

By the end of this 9 week course, learners will have an understanding of what it takes to learn a language, proficiency levels and will have a language learning plan. Classes are In Person or Online.

OPP 1A

Introduction & Kinship

By the end of this 12 week course, learners will be able to introduce themselves including their name, age, Clan, Where they live and their immediate family members.

OPP 1B

Time\Weather & Traveling

Prerequisite: Successful completion of OPP 1A or test out. By the end of this 12 week course, learners will be able to add time and weather to their language and begin using Hoocak Traveling Verbs.

OPP 1C

Daily Life - Mealtime & In the House

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pathways 1B or test out of 1A & 1B. By the end of this 12 week course, learners will gain a vocabulary in "daily life" areas of Mealtime, In the House, and Everyday Phrases.

OPP 1D
NEW!

Body, Characteristics & Personality Traits

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pathways 1A 1B, and 1C or test out. By the end of this 12 week course, learners will gain a vocabulary and every day language about the body.

OPP 2A

Online Pathways 2A - Getting Ready & Clothing

Prerequisite: Successful completion of OPP 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D This course is for learners who have a strong vocabulary foundation and understanding of how the language works.

OPP 2B

Online Pathways 2B - Daily Routines & Current Events

By the end of this course, learners will be able to talk about their daily routines and be able to use spontaneous language to talk about current events.



Online Pathways Program

Registration NOW Open!

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

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

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

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

HOCOK WORAK NEWSLETTER

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





Twelve Clans Shareholder Newsletter

December 17, 2024

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to thank you for your continued engagement and support. Last week, we had the pleasure of hosting our annual shareholder meeting at the D1 Community Center in Black River Falls. We want to extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who joined us, both in person and online, as we reviewed the past year's milestones and achievements. Although we didn't reach a quorum, the meeting was a valuable opportunity to share insights and updates on our progress.

As we continue to operate under new leadership, we are exploring the best locations for future meetings to maximize shareholder participation. Our ultimate goal is to engage meaningfully with you, our shareholders, and we are committed to going wherever that may be.

Meeting Highlights

The meeting covered of important topics, including an overview of the company, shareholder rights, last year's accomplishments and financial performance, ongoing projects, and future opportunities. Fractional CFO Steve Baklund presented financial highlights, emphasizing the progress made under new leadership. Notably, the company has reduced operational costs by nearly half compared to the previous fiscal year.

Our financial progress has revealed a promising trend: an increase in investments and a decrease in cash reserves, signaling that our private equity investments are beginning to mature and yield returns. Most of these investments were initiated between 2019 and 2020.

As we consider the future, we see two possible paths for expansion, each offering its own potential:

- Status Quo:** Assuming no new investment from the ownership and seeing an average of a 12% minimum annual return, we will use our current asset base to invest in new opportunities as soon as free cash flow becomes available from our existing investments. With this approach, we will have the potential to grow to \$100 million by 2036. At this size, Twelve Clan would have significant flexibility to divert funds to the tribe as an annual distribution while continuing to grow our asset base at a reasonable rate of growth.
- Additional Funding:** If we were to acquire additional funding while seeing an average of a 12% minimum annual return could allow us to achieve the \$100 million milestone as early as 2031. This option underscores a strategic investment strategy, prioritizing resource growth, and active business development

These scenarios demonstrate the immense potential Twelve Clans holds as a driver of economic growth for the Ho-Chunk Nation. They also emphasize the critical role of shareholder participation in shaping our future. We have a unique opportunity to transform our shared vision into reality, leveraging both our current investments and future operations to create long-lasting economic benefits.

While private equity investments currently dominate our portfolio, our long-term vision is centered on developing active business operations. This shift will enable us to achieve sustained economic growth and diversification, reinforcing our role as a key driver of the Nation's prosperity.

The Mission of Twelve Clans

Twelve Clans was established in 2013 through a legislative resolution, reflecting the Ho-Chunk Nation's recognition of the need for a dedicated business arm separate from political influence. This initiative aimed to diversify revenue sources and reduce dependence on gaming and casinos. The pandemic's impact on gaming revenue underscored the importance of this mission, revealing the necessity of a broader economic base.

Under new leadership, we have made significant strides in improving transparency and shareholder engagement. Past leadership faced challenges in these areas, but our current team has prioritized openness, accountability, and a focus on fostering meaningful connections with shareholders. By bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to the table, this leadership team is steering Twelve Clans toward a stronger, more prosperous future.

We invite you to review the results achieved under this leadership and to reflect on the noticeable improvements in governance, investment strategy, and shareholder engagement. The progress we have made is not just a step forward; it's a turning point highlighting what we can accomplish. This is our company, our legacy, and our future.

Looking to the Future

We ask for your continued trust and support as we work toward realizing our shared vision. The journey to becoming a \$100 million company is well underway, and with your backing, we can achieve this goal even sooner.

Let's move beyond merely envisioning a brighter future for the Ho-Chunk Nation and recognize that we are already on our way. This company is actively making that future a reality with its current asset base. Together, we can honor the original intent behind Twelve Clans' establishment: to serve as an economic driver insulated from political gamesmanship and solely dedicated to the Nation's success.

With your trust and support, there are no limits to what we can achieve for the Ho-Chunk Nation.



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|--|--|--|--------|
| | | Closed 01 | Wittenberg Siga Center 11am-12:30pm 02 | 03 |
| 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
| 13 | Green Bay Branch Office 11am-12:30pm | Wisconsin Dells NDN Heights Building 11am-1pm w/Food Distribution | La Crosse 3 Rivers House 11am - 1pm | 17 |
| 20 | Tomah TAU Building 11am - 1pm | 22 | Twin Cities Branch Office 11am - 1pm | 24 |
| 27 | Baraboo House of Wellness 11am - 1pm | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Tribal Workforce Division
Area Connections
[Career Building Services](#)
 Resumes, Applications, Mock-Interviews

[Training/Education Services](#)
 Training, Education Courses, & Certificates

[Supportive Services](#)
 Work Attire, Fuel Assistance, Outdoor Attire

TWD Contact:
 715-284-5877 ext. 11135
 Facebook:
 Tribal Workforce Development

Native American All-Star Football Game at the Frisco Star set to showcase top athletes from across the country on Tuesday, January 7

Fifty athletes from 35 tribal communities and reservations take the field for a free exhibition following a four-day camp and leadership program

FRISCO, Texas – Top Native American high school football players from across the country will take the field for a free exhibition game on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at the Star in Frisco, Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys. The Ford Center at The Frisco Star opens at 6 p.m., and kickoff is at 7 p.m. The Native American Athletic Foundation (NAAF) All-Star Football Game features 50 athletes from more than 20 states and 35 tribal communities and reservations nationwide. These athletes represent a rich cross-section of Indian Country from Alaska, North Carolina, California, and even Canada. Along with their athletic abilities, each athlete brings the best of their communities and traditions in a cultural exchange with one another.

The all-star game is the highlight of a four-day camp and leadership program organized by the NAAF in partnership with the NFL and Nike. Players arrive at the Dallas Metroplex on Friday, January 3. They immediately begin receiving four days of high-quality coaching from experienced coaches, and programs on leadership and character development. The NAAF and its dedicated volunteers provide mentorship, college preparation, and leadership training, emphasizing mentorship, communication skills, and positive coping mechanisms to prepare athletes for future challenges on and off the field.

“The Native American Athletic Foundation was established to help Native American students and high school athletes better understand recruitment at the next level, both in football and baseball,” said NAAF Executive Director Michael Stopp, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. “What makes this camp different is we incorporate non-traditional exercises and activities like professional mentorship and behavioral health techniques. These practices help

young people transition from what is often a very rural area to a collegiate-level environment.”

According to federal data, tribal communities suffer from the highest rates of poverty, self-harm and mental distress. At the same time, educational attainment is the lowest compared to other major racial/ethnic groups.

“I’m often asked if our programs are only about sports. Quite frankly, sports is the tool we use to engage with kids and bring people together. The organization’s underlying mission is to provide education, life skills and the inspiration to do bigger and better things. We want every student in this program to reach their full potential and take those lessons back to their communities,” Stopp said. “We encourage coaches, scouts, the media and anyone in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who enjoys sports and supporting young people to attend this free exhibition game and cheer on these incredible athletes.”

On January 6, the evening before the all-star game, the NAAF will host the Native All-Star Banquet at Frisco Hall to honor these exceptional athletes. Former Dallas Cowboy and NFL legend Raghieb “Rocket” Ismail will deliver the keynote address, sharing his journey and the importance of sports in developing leadership and character. Doors at Frisco Hall open at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7 p.m. The banquet is open to the public, and corporate sponsorships are available.

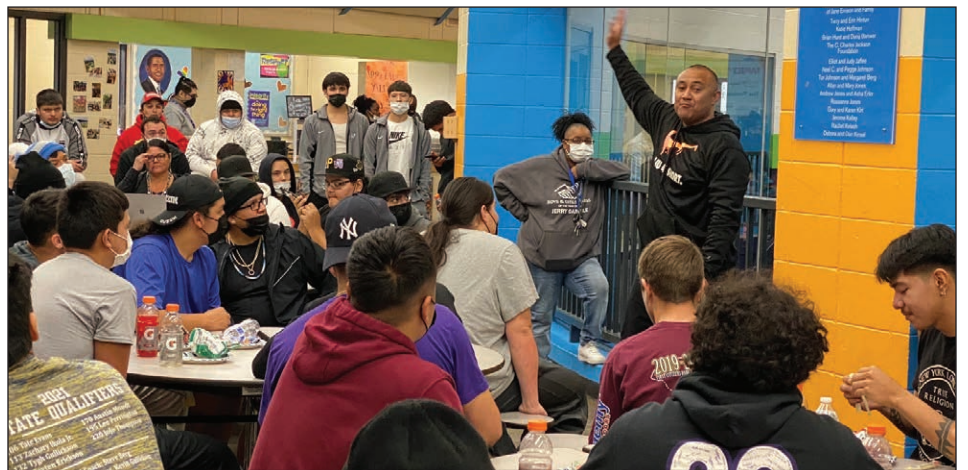
Tribal Nations and Communities represented:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- American Samoa
- Blackfeet Nation
- Catawba Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

- Cheyenne River Sioux T
- Chickasaw Nation
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy
- Choctaw Nation
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- Eastern Band Of Cherokee Indians
- Hopi Tribe
- Kainai Nation (Canada)
- Kewa Pueblo
- Laguna Pueblo
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Native Village of Barrow
- Navajo Nation
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Osage Nation
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Quapaw Nation
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Seminole Nation
- Tlingit & Haida
- Tule River Tribe of California
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
- White Earth Nation
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Wyandotte Nation



“Rocket”: Former Dallas Cowboy and NFL legend Raghieb “Rocket” Ismail will deliver the keynote address at the Native American All-Star banquet, sharing his journey and the importance of sports in developing leadership and character.



“naaf allstar game”: Following the NAAF leadership camp this weekend, Native American athletes from Tribal Reservations across the country will compete against one at a free exhibition game on Jan. 7th at the Frisco Star.

Visit Bald Eagle Watching Days In Sauk Prairie Jan. 18

All Events Are Free And Open To The Public

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites the public to participate in the annual Bald Eagle Watching Days happening on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 in Sauk Prairie. All Bald Eagle Watching Days events are free and open to the public.

Bald eagle lovers can watch eagles soar above the Wisconsin River from a newly renovated overlook located at 490 Water St. in Prairie du Sac. Volunteers will be available at the overlook to answer questions and help visitors spot eagles from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visitors can also enjoy live raptor shows in the River Arts Center of the Sauk Prairie High School, featuring educational birds and trainers from the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee, a screening of a recently recorded rehabilitated bald eagle release with a live expert Q&A session and more family-friendly activities. Full details are available on the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council website, including self-guided tours.

“Every once in a while, we need to take stock of how far we’ve come in the effort to conserve bald eagles,” said Sumner Matteson, DNR avian ecologist. “In 1974, there were only 107 breeding pairs in a handful of northern counties in Wisconsin. Fifty years later, we have around 1,700 pairs with bald eagles nesting in all 72 counties.”

Bald Eagle Watching Days celebrates eagles as they gather in winter areas, providing fantastic viewing opportunities as eagles from northern Wisconsin, Canada, northern Michigan and Minnesota move south in search of food. These raptors have a diet that includes both carrion and fish. When hunting for fish, they congregate in open water areas below dams along the Wisconsin, Mississippi and Fox rivers,



The public is invited to participate in Bald Eagle Watching Days on Saturday, Jan. 18 to celebrate the magnificence and resilience of bald eagles in Wisconsin. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

where their growing presence has turned the sites into birdwatching destinations and inspired community events.

This event is cosponsored by Ferry Bluff Eagle Council, the Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, the DNR and the Tripp Museum in Prairie du Sac.

Eagle Watching Tips

The best time to see foraging eagles will be in the early morning (8-10 a.m.) as they depart their nighttime communal roosts to feed along the river and two hours before dusk as they return to their roosts.

When viewing eagles at these events or on your own, biologists advise onlookers not to venture too close as it will cause the eagles to fly off. Guests are encouraged to stay in their cars unless they are at a staffed viewing site.

To learn more about bald eagle watching, visit the DNR website.

DNR Investigating Spill Of Enbridge Line 6 Pipeline

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is investigating a spill of crude oil from a pipeline along Enbridge Energy’s Line 6 in the town of Oakland, about four miles east of the village of Cambridge in Jefferson County.

On Nov. 11, the DNR received a report from Enbridge of a two-gallon spill of crude oil at Enbridge’s Cambridge Station. Enbridge also notified the National Response Center (NRC) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA).

In immediate response to this notification, the DNR conducted a site visit the same day the spill was reported, Nov. 11, which continued through Nov. 12. The DNR followed up again onsite on Dec. 6 to ensure appropriate response actions were being taken by Enbridge.

On Nov. 14, Enbridge revised the estimated spill quantity from two gallons to three barrels (126 gallons).

On Dec. 13, Enbridge again revised

the estimated spill quantity from three barrels to 1,650 barrels (69,300 gallons) based on field investigation, observations and data available at the time. The DNR plans to conduct another site visit within the next week.

Under Wisconsin law, entities that cause environmental contamination are responsible for reporting and remediating the contamination. Enbridge is providing weekly updates to the DNR regarding the investigation and cleanup progress.

As investigation and cleanup is an iterative process, the DNR continues to evaluate appropriate next steps, including any potential enforcement actions such as a corrective action order.

The DNR will share additional information, including technical reports, communications between the DNR and Enbridge, and Enbridge’s weekly updates, online as they become available via the DNR’s Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) in case 02-28-595980.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

We wanted to inform everyone that the child support payments from the General Welfare allotment for January will be delayed this month due to technical difficulties and the Holiday break.

Please allow until January 10th for the payments to be processed. If your payment has not arrived by then, we kindly ask that you contact the Child Support Agency at 715-284-1052 (Option 1) for assistance.

Thank you for your understanding and patience!

CIRCLE OF SECURITY

Understanding yourself, partner, children and colleagues more deeply

1-day training

applying circle for caregivers, providers and the community. This training is an opportunity to shift your practice when dealing with challenging behaviors.

Presenter: Nicole Milliren, M.S LPC

Ho-Chunk Nation
N7261 Warrior Avenue,
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Tuesday January 21, 2025, 9:00-3:30

In person or Virtual is available

Email Jacqueline M. Moen-Kadlec
Jacqueline.Moen-Kadlec@ho-chunk.com

to register today
Cost \$ FREE

HEALTH KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD BY HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIV.

2024 FINAL SCOREBOARD

| DECEMBER TOP 10 | OVERALL POINTS |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Susan DeLeeuw | 1. Kari Mould 765 |
| 2. Michelle Strange | 2. Michelle McPherson 758 |
| 3. Tish Larson | 3. Lily Lincoln 738 |
| 4. Kelly Funmaker | 4. Liz Lund 730 |
| 5. Wanda LaBar | 5. Ryan Crain 724 |
| 6. Lily Lincoln | 6. Melissa Gall 686 |
| 7. Jodel Greendeer | 7. Christie Becker 590 |
| 8. Sherri Larsen | 8. Lynette Hopinka 583 |
| 9. Gloria Ward | 9. Wanda LaBar 556 |
| 10. Kari Mould | 10. Leslie Ast 548 |

NOVEMBER TOP 10

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Liz Lund | 11. Michelle Strange | 37. Susan DeLeeuw |
| 2. Kari Mould | 12. Susan DeLeeuw | 38. Sara Pomeroy |
| 3. Michelle McPherson | 13. Chris Dreves | 39. Angelica Rodriguez |
| 4. Sara Pomeroy | 14. Jodel Greendeer | 40. Bridgette Schulz |
| 5. Wanda LaBar | 15. Olivia Rave | 41. Jasmine Gourd |
| 6. Chris Dreves | 16. Gloria Ward | 42. Pamela Gearing |
| 7. Christie Becker | 17. Tiffany Tousey | 43. Sheryl Nichols |
| 8. Stacy Pagel | 18. Jeffrey Ray | 44. Sabrina Aguilar |
| 9. Michelle Strange | 19. Alexandra Mucek | 45. Sherri Larsen |
| 10. Leslie Ast | 20. Melissa Clary | 46. Kelly Jo Funmaker |
| | 21. Michelle Samphere | 47. Adam DeNasha |
| | 22. Tina McArthur | 48. Alora Thundercloud |
| | 23. Nicole Girth | 49. Tracy Beversdorf |
| | 24. Nicole Kimpton | 50. Matthew Conway |
| | 25. Fredricka Miner | 51. Crystal Miner |
| | 26. Tiana LaFortune | 52. Jamyn Thundercloud |
| | 27. Tish Larson | 53. Melissa Worden |
| | 28. Pamela Gearing | 54. Erin Rave |
| | 29. Eric Herman | 55. Jim Lambert |
| | 30. Naomi Rich | 56. Stephanie Schneider |
| | 31. Jean Wall | 57. Alicia Lucero |
| | 32. Stacy Pagel | 58. Evelyn Funmaker |
| | 33. Susan Wilcox | 59. Jodeane Diercks |
| | 34. Samantha Thomas | 60. Toni Lopez Garcia |
| | 35. John Stacy | 61. Lana Downing |
| | 36. Karen Green | 62. Cynthia Cloud |


SCORING

Your score is tallied each month. On top of that, the number of submissions each month and your submission rank garners additional points towards your overall score.


2025 crossword to start on Monday the 6th of January.



AREA CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 28TH, 2025
BARABOO, WI




- RESUME BUILDING
- MOCK-INTERVIEWS
- FUEL ASSISTANCE
- WORK ATTIRE ASSISTANCE



HO-CHUNK TRIBAL WORKFORCE DIVISION

TIME: 11 AM TO 1 PM
HOUSE OF WELLNESS
2845 WHITE EAGLE RD.
BARABOO, WI 53913



- TRAINING SERVICES
- CAREER SERVICES
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- PROGRAM REFERRALS

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

DHS Encourages Homeowners, Property Owners, and Schools to Test for Radon

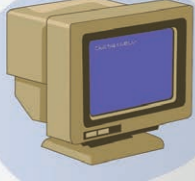
Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking

Radon, a colorless, odorless gas, can seep into homes through their foundation and be deadly at high levels. In Wisconsin, 1 in 10 homes has elevated levels. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and approximately 962 Wisconsinites have radon-induced lung cancer. Fortunately, radon is easy to test for and leaks can be fixed. This National Radon Action Month, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging home and building owners, and schools,


to understand their risk and test their buildings for radon. "Knowing about radon and testing radon levels in your home can save lives," said DHS State Health Officer Paula Tran. "In Wisconsin, we have 17 Radon Information Centers around the state where experts are available to answer your questions and offer low-cost test kits. Indoor radon levels tend to increase during the colder months, so now is the perfect time to test your home or building for radon if you haven't before."



AREA CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 16TH, 2025
LA CROSSE, WI




- RESUME BUILDING
- MOCK-INTERVIEWS
- FUEL ASSISTANCE
- WORK ATTIRE ASSISTANCE



HO-CHUNK TRIBAL WORKFORCE DIVISION

TIME: 11 AM TO 1 PM
THREE RIVERS HOUSE
724 MAIN ST
LA CROSSE, WI 54601




- TRAINING SERVICES
- CAREER SERVICES
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- PROGRAM REFERRALS


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



AREA CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 23RD, 2025
ST. PAUL, MN




- RESUME BUILDING
- MOCK-INTERVIEWS
- FUEL ASSISTANCE
- WORK ATTIRE ASSISTANCE



HO-CHUNK TRIBAL WORKFORCE DIVISION

TIME: 11 AM TO 1 PM
ST. PAUL BRANCH OFFICE
1724 SELBY AVE.
ST. PAUL, MN 55104



- TRAINING SERVICES
- CAREER SERVICES
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- PROGRAM REFERRALS

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

AREA CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 15TH, 2025
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI



- RESUME BUILDING
- MOCK-INTERVIEWS
- FUEL ASSISTANCE
- WORK ATTIRE ASSISTANCE






HO-CHUNK TRIBAL WORKFORCE DIVISION

TIME: 11 AM TO 1 PM
INDIAN HEIGHTS BUILDING
975 DYER ST.
WISCONSIN DELLS, 53965




- TRAINING SERVICES
- CAREER SERVICES
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- PROGRAM REFERRALS


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



AREA CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 21ST, 2025
TOMAH, WI




- RESUME BUILDING
- MOCK-INTERVIEWS
- FUEL ASSISTANCE
- WORK ATTIRE ASSISTANCE




HO-CHUNK TRIBAL WORKFORCE DIVISION

TIME: 11 AM TO 1 PM
TOMAH TAU
358 EOS AVE
TOMAH, WI 54660



- TRAINING SERVICES
- CAREER SERVICES
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- PROGRAM REFERRALS


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



Maura Lee Alvarez
Caaxšepgaj

Parents: Yvette & Francisco Alvarez
Graduated December 14, 2024
UW-Stevens Point
Bachelor of Science - Math Education
Summa Cum Laude (G.P.A. 3.9 or above)
Maura will be a teacher in the Wisconsin Dells School District this coming semester.

COMMUNITY HEALTH JANUARY 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---|---|--|---|
|  | | 1 CLOSED New Years Day | 2 BRF & Wittenberg WIC | 3 |
| 6 Nekoosa Yoga 10:00 AM | 7 BRF Fitness Class 4:00 PM | 8 Wittenberg Tailgate 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Food Demo w/ Kathy Balancing Your Life & Diabetes WEBEX - 1 PM | 9 Native Food For Life WebEx 1:00 PM Nekoosa Sr. Stretch 10:30 AM | 10 Wittenberg Yoga 11:00 AM |
| 13 BRF Cooking Demo 2:00 PM BRF Foot Clinic 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM BRF Fitness Class 4:00 PM | 14 Tomah Foot Clinic 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Nekoosa Cardio Core 9:30 AM | 15 WI Dells Tailgate 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Food Demo w/ Alex Wittenberg Sr. Stretch 11:30 AM BRF Conversation Map 3:00 PM | 16 Native Food For Life WebEx 1:00 PM WI Dells Foot Clinic 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Nekoosa Sr. Stretch 10:30 AM | 17 WI Dells Home Deliveries |
| 20 Nekoosa Yoga 10:00 AM | 21 BRF Fitness Class 4:00 PM La Crosse, Madison, Wittenberg Foot Clinic 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Nekoosa Cardio Core 9:30 AM | 22 Tomah Tailgate 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | 23 Native Food For Life WebEx 1:00 PM Nekoosa Foot Clinic 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Nekoosa Sr. Stretch 10:30 AM | 24 La Crosse FD Pick Ups Wittenberg Yoga 11:00 AM |
| 27 BRF Foot Clinic 10 AM - 2 PM Food Distribution Food Demo w/ Kathy 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM | 28 Wittenberg Cooking Class - 4:00 PM BRF Fitness Class 4:00 PM Nekoosa Cardio Core 9:30 AM | 29 Nekoosa Tailgate 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | 30 Native Food For Life WebEx 1:00 PM Nekoosa Sr. Stretch 10:30 AM | 31 |

Cooking Class in Wittenberg

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

Featuring:

- Three Sisters Nijjpaṅa (Soup)
- Blue Corn Muffins
- Black Bean Brownies
- Pine Needle Nijjtašjak naṅ'ap (Tea)

RSVP to *Jamie Decorah*

In conjunction with HCN Dept. of Public Health.

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

Health and Wellness Division/KB/1-25

Partners in Parenting:

Black River Falls area **Specific to parents and grandparents of infant to school-aged children**

When:
Wed. January 15
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Where:
District 1 Community Center
Black River Falls, WI

GUEST SPEAKER:
Kim Parker
Social Services

Difficult Conversations:
How to get your child or teen to open up

Event includes free lunch and raffle!

MUST ATTEND PRESENTATION TO RECEIVE RAFFLE AND INCENTIVES

To sign up for your lunch reservation: Contact

KATHY BRAATEN
REGISTERED DIETITIAN
PHONE: (715) 284-9851 EXT 35335
KATHY.BRAATEN@HO-CHUNK.COM

HO-CHUNK HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HO-CHUNK HEALTH CARE CENTER
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI

Updated 1/25 - KB

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health
Division of Public Health

Wažookj woo'ehi

family conversations

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

Wednesday January 8th 1pm-2pm
Traditional Tobacco and Commercial Smoking Cessation
Randall Blackdeer & Holly Rodenberg RN

Wednesday January 22nd 1pm-2pm
Observing National Day of Racial Healing:
With a focus on land acknowledgement
TBD


[JOIN NOW](#) 

If you have a topic you'd like to learn about, a topic you'd like to present, and to learn more contact:

Jamie.Decorah@Ho-Chunk.com 715.896.1126
Ronelle.McKernan@Ho-Chunk.com 715.896.2570

Frank Wesley Big Soldier

Dec 28, 1961 - Dec 25, 2024



Big Soldier family members thank you for expressing your condolences, for your sympathy and for your prayers to God to comfort us during this difficult part of our life.

Also, we express warmly our gratitude to John Funmaker, his son George, (Kunu), his nephew John, (aka Little John), for doing their part of the Ho-Chunk tradition services for our Naxunu.

Appreciation to all, thank you so much.

From the Big Soldier Family

Brenda Joyce Fisher July 20, 1948 - December 27, 2024



for life was infectious. In Brenda's later years, she was employed by CCLS, dedicating the majority of her time to caring for people who couldn't care for themselves. Brenda had a deep love and passion for this work, and she had a special talent for providing care and comfort to those in need. Her compassion was boundless, particularly for those who were suffering or in need of support. Brenda often worked tirelessly, putting in endless hours, including overnights and double shifts, until she could no longer work.

Brenda is survived by her best friend and sister, Jessie Rae Bible, her loving children, Darcy Joyce Alice Funmaker and Roger W. Taylor Jr., and her treasured grandchildren: Desiree, Cassandra (Mason Deon), Dontay, Vanetta (Brandon Anderson), and Leilani. Her legacy continues through her four great-grandchildren: Eliyas, Honey, Jeremiah, and Auburiella.

She is preceded in death by her parents; Archie and Joyce Fisher, brother Roger "King Fish" Fisher, and grandson Dalton Taylor.

Brenda's life was a testament to hard work, creativity, and love. She touched the lives of everyone she met and will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and community. Her memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew her and, in the stories, shared over a piece of Brenda's Fry Bread. As Brenda would say "Brenda's been there and done that".

Brenda lived with joy and embraced the good times, and she has requested that her loved ones celebrate her life and not be sad. A celebration of Brenda's life will be held on Monday, December 30, 2024, at the Buswell Funeral Home in Black River Falls. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Burial will take place immediately after at the Riverside Cemetery. The family invites all who loved her to join in honoring her remarkable legacy and would also like to welcome all to a meal at the District One Community Building (N 7261 Warrior Ave, Black River Falls, WI) afterward.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for an act of kindness to another on behalf of Brenda's Fry Bread.

Brenda Joyce Fisher, beloved daughter of Archie and Joyce (Rand) Fisher, passed away on Friday, December 27, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Born and raised in Black River Falls, Brenda graduated from Black River Falls High School, where she began building the foundation for a life filled with hard work, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Brenda was a true trailblazer, known for her unwavering determination and passion. She was a successful entrepreneur, owning two restaurants: The Bread Line and the Wildflower Café. Her culinary creations brought joy to many, but it was Brenda's Fry Bread that truly made her famous. Known far and wide, Brenda's Fry Bread became a staple at events like Country Fest, Warren's Cranberry Fest, the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, the Monroe County Fair, and her cherished Jackson County Fair. People would wait in line for hours for her famous fry bread. She was also a familiar and friendly face at the Hatfield flea markets, where her talent and warmth endeared her to countless visitors.

Beyond her culinary achievements, Brenda was a woman of many interests. She loved thrifting, rummage sales, crocheting, knitting, and staying busy with her hands and heart. Whether creating something new or finding treasures in unexpected places, Brenda's energy and enthusiasm were unmatched. She always had to be doing something, and her joy

Edward Fredrick Topping, Jr. August 5, 1964 - December 26, 2024

Edward Fredrick Topping Jr., 60, of Madison, Wisconsin, walked on peacefully on December 26, 2024. He was born on August 5, 1964, to Edward Topping Sr. and Corrine Decorah in El Paso, Texas.

JR is survived by his wife, Lisa; sons Ares, Robert, and Cole and daughter Sera. He is further survived by a brother Dennis Lewis Sr.; sisters Vicki BrownEagle, Tina Topping, and Louise (Lulu) Topping; and three grandsons and two granddaughters. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews and extended family, who will cherish his memory. JR was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Karen, Sharon, and Edna, and his nephew Justin and niece Corinna. He was also preceded by his brother Kenny and sister Bernie Fleury.

He was deeply loved by his family and friends. His humor, warmth, and generosity will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A memorial service to honor JR's life will be held at Siga Funmaker Community Center in Wittenberg,

Wisconsin on Monday, December 30, 2024 at 12:00 Noon. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 12:00 noon. Burial will be at John Stacy Memorial Cemetery following the service.

The Conway-Picha Funeral Home and Crematory of Lyndon Station, Wisconsin assisted the family with arrangements. For On-Line Condolences and information, go to www.pichafuneralhome.com.



DECODING BEHAVIORS

February 18, 2025

9:00-3:30

Virtual or in person

Ho-Chunk Nation

N7261 Warrior Avenue,
Black River Falls, WI 54615

*I don't know what she needs from me? "

*He is so confusing"

*I don't understand"

Being able to decode and understand each other is critical in all relationships. Yet we are often at a loss of how to accomplish these goals. This training will give you tools to increase your skills in decoding yourself and others.

To register, email:

Jacqueline M. Moen-Kadlec

Jacqueline.Moen-Kadlec@ho-chunk.com

Cost: \$ **FREE**

Trainer: Nicole Milliren

Brave Spaces Counseling & Wellness



Community Health Foot Clinics



January 2025

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Tomah - 1/14

Tribal Aging Unit
358 Eos Road
(608) 372-5202

A Registered Nurse, certified in foot care, will clip/file your nails, and dremel if necessary.

Wisconsin Dells - 1/16

Tribal Aging Unit
E8863 Winneshiek Drive
(608) 253-2185

Madison - 1/21

Branch Office
4724 Tradewinds Pkwy
(608) 277-9964

Black River Falls - 1/16 & 1/30

Community Health Office
W9850 Airport Road
(715) 896-9524

Wittenberg - 1/21

Siga Funmaker Center
W17634 Radke Road
(715) 348-4711

La Crosse - 1/21

Three Rivers House
724 Main Street
(608) 783-6025

Nekoosa - 1/23

Nekoosa Health Office
1021 County Road G
(715) 886-5444


No walk-ins - appointment is now needed.

MH 12/30/24

Continued from Page 1
International Friendship Gardens Board, the City of La Crosse Parks Department, and Bluff Country Master Gardeners, working together to honor Betsy Thunder and Ho-Chunk culture.

Construction tentatively begins in April with completion in August or early September. If the project progresses as planned, the opening dedication would take place in October 2025 on Indigenous Peoples Day.





**Ho-Chunk Nation
Department of Labor**



**MEETING NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Friday, January 17, 2025
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

TOB Department of Labor Conference Room
W9814 Airport Rd
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Agenda:
- Officer Selection
- By-law Review

For more information contact:
HCN Dept. of Labor
Phone: 715-284-5877 ext. 11154
Email: chester.dick@ho-chunk.com



**HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**




**MEETING NOTICE
HEALTH ACCREDITATION
BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, January 17, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Eileen Decorah Conference Room
Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Ho-Chunk Health Care Center N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road Black River Falls, WI 54615 Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150 | House of Wellness S2845 White Eagle Rd Baraboo, WI 53913 Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643 |
|--|---|



**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK RIVER FALLS
Inspiring Excellence**

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK RIVER FALLS
NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to electors of the School District of Black River Falls that there is a current vacancy on the School Board. The School Board intends to attempt to appoint a qualified elector of the District to fill the vacancy under a term of office that shall expire on April 25, 2027.

An eligible elector who desires to be considered for the appointment to this public office must file the following materials at the District Office, which is located at 301 N. 4th Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615:

- A letter of application that identifies the potential appointee's name, residential address, email address and telephone number, and that also addresses the individual's qualifications and the reasons he/she is interested in serving on the School Board.

To ensure consideration, the materials listed above must be received in the District Office prior to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. The materials may be hand delivered to the District Office or sent by U.S. Mail. It is the sole responsibility of the individual who is submitting the materials to verify that the District has received the materials by the deadline.

Inquiries regarding this Notice may be directed to Marti Herzberg by telephone at 715-284-4357 ext. 1002 or by email at marti.herzberg@brf.org.

Date of Notice: Monday, December 30, 2024



MONTHLY MEETING

When: January 15, 2025 / Time: 5:30pm

**Where: Tomah Youth Center
430 Julie Street, Tomah, WI 54660**

We are accepting parent reimbursement requests. Please fill out required form and bring original receipts.

Contact: Andrea McCaskey • Call: (608) 343-1171
• Email: Andrea.mccaskey@ho-chunk.com



ATTENTION

**All Ho-Chunk
Nation Elders**

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

Medicare Reimbursement
It is time again for the Medicare Part B Reimbursement for those that are 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.**

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI DECEMBER 17, 2024

Call to Order: Rep. Kristin White Eagle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

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

VC-Video Conference

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. MOTION IS AMENDED to add under New Business: Y. New Year's Eve Pow-Wow. Second concurs. 11-0-1(Rep. Brianna Tahdoohnippah) MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting- November 26, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the November 26, 2024 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke.

12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Commission Reports:

Finance Commission- December 4, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the December 4, 2024 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Establishment and Funding of Healing to Wellness Court Opioid Settlement Restricted Account

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 A, Establishment and Funding of Healing to Wellness Court Opioid Settlement Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Establishment and Funding of Child and Family Services Opioid Settlement Restricted Account

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 B, Establishment and Funding of Child and Family Services Opioid Settlement Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Establishment and Funding of Behavioral Health Opioid Settlement Restricted Account

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 C, Establishment and Funding of Behavioral Health Opioid Settlement Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Establishment and Funding of Comprehensive Needs Assessment Restricted Account

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 D, Establishment and Funding of Comprehensive

Needs Assessment Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Establishment and Funding of Jobs Restricted Account

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 E, Establishment and Funding of Jobs Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-18-24 Q, Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for Additional Jobs

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 F, Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-18-24 Q, Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for Additional Jobs. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-18-24 Q, Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Department of Administration Division of Information Technology Software Licenses and Subscriptions

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 G, Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-18-24 Q, Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Department of Administration Division of Information Technology Software Licenses and Subscriptions. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-18-24 P, Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Enterprises (Gaming & Non-Gaming) Budget Bill

for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Black River Falls Health Care Center Information Technology Software Licenses and Subscriptions

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 H, Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-18-24 P, Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Enterprises (Gaming & Non-Gaming) Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Black River Falls Health Care Center Information Technology Software Licenses and Subscriptions. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Acceptance of Reconciliation from the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency for District 3 Housing, Veterans Supportive Housing, Heating Assistance, and COFA

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 12-17-24 I, Acceptance of Reconciliation from the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency for District 3 Housing, Veterans Supportive Housing, Heating Assistance, and COFA. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Gaming Commission Report

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to accept the Gaming Commission Report. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Reports:

Enrollment Report

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to accept the Enrollment Report. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Ho-Chunk Transportation

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to accept the Ho-Chunk Transportation Report. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-

0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Branch Monthly Reports:

Department of Administration A written report was received.

Department of Health A written report was received.

Department of Personnel; Insurance A written report was received.

Department of Social Services A written report was received.

Department of Heritage Preservation A written report was received.

Department of Justice A written report was received.

Department of Natural Resources A written report was received.

Department of Agriculture A written report was received.

Amendment to the agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to add under New Business: Z. BIA Bison Grant. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Department of Treasury A written report was received.

Unfinished Business:

Red Cloud Park

Attorney General William Gardner mentioned the City of La Crosse Parks and Recreation has Red Cloud Park on the agenda for the January 2025 meeting. This Thursday, a few staff members of Department of Justice will be in La Crosse meeting with some department individuals to consider infrastructure around Red Cloud Park.

New Business:

Resolution-Support for Adam Meinerz to Participate as a Representative to the Midwest Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 1

There were head dancer specials, intertribal spot check dances, a swan dance, a fish dance, a potato dance, and honor songs. "The Best Dressed Couple" competition was introduced this year. Any two people dressed alike or their dress could be categorized into a couple had a chance to win a prize.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Behavioral Health recognized community members who

are in active recovery with flowers, gifts based on length of recovery, and an honor song. Regina HB Funmaker shared her recovery story, encouraging others to find their strength and move forward in a clean, positive way.

Song and dance brought in the New Year for those in attendance and party favors were distributed.

The event concluded with a traveling song.



Continued from Page 11
Tribal Energy Resource Association (MTERA)

MOTION by Rep. Robert Pilot to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 J**, Support for Adam Meinerz to Participate as a Representative to the Midwest Tribal Energy Resource Association (MTERA). Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Nation Head Start to Apply for the Head Start Federal Grant

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 K**, Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Nation Head Start to Apply for the Head Start Federal Grant. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 L**, Authorization to Place the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7) out for Forty-Five Day Public Comment. Second Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Department of Personnel Board of Directors By-Laws

Executive Director of Personnel Jeriah Rave recommended a minor amendment to the submitted bylaws to Section 2. Purpose: Strike the words "along with matters" to be replaced with the word "when".

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve the Department of Personnel Board of Directors By-Laws with changes mentioned by the Executive Director of Personnel. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 11-0-1(Rep. Brianna Tahdoahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Establishment of District 1 Community Center Restricted Account

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 M**, Establishment of District 1 Community Center Restricted Account. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 11-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the School District of Onalaska for Tutor Services

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 N**, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the School District of Onalaska for Tutor Services. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Sauk Prairie for Tutor Services

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 O**, Authorizing

a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Sauk Prairie for Tutor Services. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Adoption of Amendments to the Adult Guardianship and Spendthrift Ordinance (4 HCC § 14)

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 P**, Adoption of Amendments to the Adult Guardianship and Spendthrift Ordinance (4 HCC § 14). Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority La Crosse County, WI County Highway XX Construction Project

MOTION by Rep. Rodney Rave to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 Q**, Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority La Crosse County, WI County Highway XX Construction Project. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Monroe County, WI County Highway "ET" Bridge Engineering Project

MOTION by Rep. Rodney Rave to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 R**, Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Monroe County, WI County Highway "ET" Bridge Engineering Project. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Granting a Temporary Limited Construction Easement to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Road Construction on the Maa Wakacak (Sacred Earth) Property

MOTION by Rep. Rodney Rave to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 S**, Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority Granting a Temporary Limited Construction Easement to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Road Construction on the Maa Wakacak (Sacred Earth) Property. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Appointment of Presiding Officers and Members to Standing Commissions of the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 T**, Appointment of Presiding Officers and Members to Standing Commissions of the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 08-29-24 D Ho-Chunk Signature Authority

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 U**, Rescission and Restatement of Resolution

08-29-24 D Ho-Chunk Signature Authority. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Twelve Clans, Inc. Liaison Appointment

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to appoint Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. as the Legislative Liaison to the Twelve Clans Inc. Corporate Board under Article XI, B. 4 of the Charter, and have Legislative Legal notify the Twelve Clans Board. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-1(Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr.) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Enter into Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Inventory License Agreement and Security Protocol

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 V**, Authorization to Enter into Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Inventory License Agreement and Security Protocol. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Approval to Enter into Memorandum of Understanding for Air Quality Monitoring with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 W**, Approval to Enter into Memorandum of Understanding for Air Quality Monitoring with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Administration to Apply for the Department of Energy-Tribal Clean Energy Planning and Development Grant

MOTION by Rep. Robert Pilot to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 X**, Authorization for the Department of Administration to Apply for the Department of Energy-Tribal Clean Energy Planning and Development Grant. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Devin Funmaker to the Election Board as the District 1 Black River Falls Member

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 Y**, Confirmation of Devin Funmaker to the Election Board as the District 1 Black River Falls Member. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Confirmation of Crystal Pettibone to the Election Board as the District 1 Black River Falls Alternate

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 Z**, Confirmation of Crystal Pettibone to the Election Board as the District 1 Black River Falls Alternate. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION**

CARRIED.

Consideration of Quick Passage to Enable Child Support Garnishment of General Welfare Funds

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle for Consideration of Quick Passage to Enable Child Support Garnishment of General Welfare Funds. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-2(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Brianna Tahdoahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Quick Passage Procedure to Amend the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7)

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 AA**, Quick Passage Procedure to Amend the Child Support Code (4 HCC § 7). Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-2(Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Brianna Tahdoahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services Child and Family Services Division to Enter into the Tribal/State Agreement on Access to eWISACWIS with the State of Wisconsin

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 BB**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services Child and Family Services Division to Enter into the Tribal/State Agreement on Access to eWISACWIS with the State of Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Creation of Workgroup Appropriations and Budget Process Act, Finance Ordinance, Materials Management Policy

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 12-17-24 CC**, Creation of Workgroup Appropriations and Budget Process Act, Finance Ordinance, Materials Management Policy. Second by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Exempt/Non-Exempt Status Update-Personnel Department

Rep. Stephanie Begay mentioned an update was received from the Department of Personnel stating this item does not need to be addressed. Any further action will be referred to the Government Administration Commission.

New Year's Eve Pow-Wow

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the New Year's Eve Pow-Wow request in the amount of \$14,993 to be made payable to Courtney Blackdeer with reconciliation on an Emergency Basis. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Paul Fox is out of the room during the vote.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay for the New Year's Eve Pow-Wow funding to come from the Pow-Wow Line Item. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

BIA Bison Grant

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to TABLE BIA Bison Grant until after Executive Session. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Damian Thundercloud is out of the room at 11:12 a.m.

District Meetings:

D1 Niioxawani – December 11, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer the Finance Commission and Executive Session the MOTION by Justina Hindsley to approve \$5,000 from D1 Community Improvement Funds for cancer treatments with check made out to Justina Hindsley. An itemized budget must be submitted and a full reconciliation of funds will be required after funds are depleted. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Damian Thundercloud returns to the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

D1 Howasa – December 10, 2024

No motions were made.

NOTED FOR THE RECORD:

Prior to the area meeting, an informal meeting with the community was held with the City of Wausau; Brad Lenz and Michael Thomasgard. This in regards to a proposed marker for a Land Acknowledgment. The community voiced their idea and concerns. Tricia Zunker is taking the lead on coordinating this endeavor within the local community.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to have Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for the next Legislative Meeting for the opposition of the drilling at the proposed mine in Taylor County, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Rodney Rave is offline at 11:17 a.m.

D2 Hinukwas– December 9, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer the Election Code Workgroup the MOTION by Melanie Stacy to request Legislative Election Code Workgroup to consider adding referendums to the code. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer the Election Code Workgroup and Legislative Counsel the MOTION by Adam Kruse to request Legislation to update Election Code to count all votes postmarked by due date. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-1(Rep. Jessika Greendeer) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer Election Code Workgroup the MOTION by Adam Kruse to request that

Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12

Legislation amend the Election Code to increase the filing candidate fees. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Marsha Smith to nominate Adam Kruse to Housing Board of Directors.

Rep. Rodney Rave is back online at 11:21 a.m.

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to the Office of the President, Behavioral Health, Department of Health, Social Services, Kijire Naagu and Legislature the MOTION by Adam Kruse to support Legislation in purchasing, acquiring, in building a treatment center which provides wrap-around services that cover areas of sober living as a priority. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to the Finance Commission the MOTION by Adam Kruse to have Legislation so support and allocate funds (\$600.00) for a filing fee for 501(c) 3 start up for the Lacrosse area. Goal is to have this initiative accomplished by mid-January. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Melanie Stacy to have Tracy Littlejohn attend the 12/31/24 Legislative Meeting with District II sponsoring to present the final budget.

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to the Office of the President and Department of Business the MOTION by Marsha Smith to require the Ho-Chunk Cinema in Tomah, WI to operate similar to that of gaming operations. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOTED FOR THE RECORD:

The previous motion was in reference to closures and winter delays, that the cinema remains open.

D2 Ho'uni Xununik – December 10, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer the Office of the President, Department of Justice and Department of Housing the MOTION by Myra Price to allow Roberta Decorah (Law Enforcement Commissioner) to work with the City of Tomah to obtain police incident reports for the Housing Director on the Sime Avenue apartment complex. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to the Office of the President and Department of Administration. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. MOTION IS AMENDED and refer to Heritage Preservation

MOTION made by Liza Green to have follow up from Mike Rave (Director of Administration) on the status of the Ho-Chunk Museum facility. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to Legislature and Legislative Counsel for consideration of a resolution regarding the MOTION by Tara Chapman to have Legislature put together a workgroup to establish a more accessible election code for the people. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to the Legislative Public Relations Officer the MOTION by Deana Mitch to have the Legislative Public Relations officer create content which further explains the General Council resolutions. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to Legislative Counsel and the Attorney General for an opinion regarding the MOTION by Myra Price to dissolve the General Council Agency and reinstate a new GCA under a justified ruling of position. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-1(Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer Legislature and Legislative Counsel for an opinion and to include the Attorney General the MOTION by Tara Chapman to have legislature challenge the Office of General Council in court to conduct a ruling on general council employees being placed within their positions unlawfully. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-1(Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer to Legislative Legal, HHCDA Interim Executive Director Robin Blackdeer for comment and Legislature the MOTION by Myra Price to request the legislature to review the charter for HHCDA and specifically in regards to the board's composition. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D2 Hoxaikeja/Hogucejal/Nizhakisuc – December 11, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer the Energy Workgroup and Office of the President the MOTION by Christine Funmaker to obtain representation from the Wisconsin Dells area for the strategic energy planning. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the Finance Commission the MOTION by Becky Davis to assist with Bryan Powless' request in full amount of \$4,000. Second by Rep. Kristin

White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer Legislative Legal the MOTION by Christine Funmaker to look at all Timber Run properties and look into putting lands into trust; requesting a follow up report. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Lands and GIS the MOTION by Barb Funmaker to request the lands division to bring a report for all of the Wisconsin Dells area to the next area meeting, so concerns and questions can be addressed; have lands division attend next area meeting. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. MOTION IS AMENDED to include the Office of the President. Second concurs. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer Department of Personnel the MOTION by Christine Funmaker to have an individual from the Personnel that's knowledgeable on the Employee Relations Act (ERA) address the process on how to properly file complaints. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. MOTION IS AMENDED to include the Office of the President. Second concurs. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Legislature the MOTION by Becky Davis to have legislators remove Rep. Robert Pilot for violating the code of ethics 7. Standards of Conduct a, c, & d for his statements at the Chicago area meeting on November 12, 2024. Release the vote to open session. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. MOTION IS AMENDED to include Legislative Legal. Second concurs. 9-0-3(Rep. Robert Pilot, Rep. Paul Fox, Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer Legislature and Legislative Legal the MOTION by Becky Davis to have legislators remove Vice President Danielle Delong for violating the code of ethics 7. Standards of Conduct a, c, & d, and Conflicts of interest and nepotism prohibited for her statements at the Chicago Area meeting on November 12, 2024. Release the vote to open session. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 9-0-3(Rep. Robert Pilot, Rep. Paul Fox, Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer Legislature and Legislative Legal the MOTION by Becky Davis for a vote of no confidence in Vice President Danielle Delong for her statement made at the Chicago area meeting on November 12, 2024 and to have her replaced as Vice President. Release the vote to open session. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 9-0-3(Rep. Robert Pilot, Rep. Paul Fox, Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah) **MOTION**

CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer Legislative Legal the MOTION by Barb Funmaker to have District II Legislators have Legislative Attorneys look into the disbandment of Twelve Clans, Inc. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. 9-1(Rep. Robert Pilot)-2(Rep. Jessica Greendeer, Rep. Brianna Tahdooahnippah) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer Legislature the MOTION by Becky Davis to have a Ho-Chunk representative from Twelve Clans, Inc. to attend next Wisconsin Dells Area Meeting in January. Second by Rep. Kristin White Eagle. MOTION IS AMENDED to include Legislative Liaison. Second concurs. MOTION IS AMENDED to include Twelve Clans. Second concurs. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Rep. Kristin White Eagle to refer MOTION by Barb Funmaker to have Wisconsin Dells area not support or fund Twelve Clans, Inc. moving forward.

NOTED FOR THE RECORD:

Rep. Stephanie Begay was excused from the area meetings last week as she has been homebound since her accident.

D3 Pac cinak – December 9, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for the next Legislative Session for Dane Walker as the Election Board Delegate and Caroline Koukos as the Alternate in regards to the MOTION by Caroline Koukos to accept Dane Walker as Delegate and the MOTION by Fran Littlewolf to accept Caroline Koukos as Alternate. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to Department of Justice the MOTION by Caroline Koukos to accept Lanette Walker as the Law Enforcement Commissioner. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to the Office of the President and Department of Housing for a background check regarding the MOTION by Lanette Walker to accept Fabian Houghton for Housing Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Tee hoikšek – December 10, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for Dave Radke as the Election Board Alternate and Mary Lopez as the Delegate for the next Legislative Session in regards to the MOTION by

Pamela Wilbur to accept the nominations. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Tešišik – December 4, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer the Election Board Alternate Hazel Guerrero and Delegate Alex Lange nomination and vote to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution to accept them on the Board. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Tejop – December 11, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. for Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for the next Legislative Session for Cher Laubmeier as the Election Board Delegate and Lance Decker as the Alternate in regards to the MOTION by Brenda Neff to nominate Cher Laubmeier as Delegate and the MOTION by Chelsea Thompson to nominate Lance Decker as Alternate. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to Legislature, Department of Education and Office of the President the MOTION by Saresa Ryckman that Legislature does not fund this program until the program is designed properly, including all MOU's in place, SOP's, operated policies, definition of tutor responsibilities. MOTION IS AMENDED to service area definition. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland to refer to Legislature and Finance Commission the MOTION by Saresa Ryckman to find funding to keep the high school math specialist on to assist students. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to the Department of Business and Office of the President the MOTION by Miriam Whiteagle to have somebody come and bring a land plat and where they intend to put the additional landfill up. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. MOTION IS AMENDED to include Legislative Legal. Second concurs. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to Legislative Legal the MOTION by Saresa Ryckman for the Legislature to pursue this Code of Ethics violation against Ryan Crain through the procedures in the Ethics Code to include filling a complaint in Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Court. MOTION IS AMENDED for Legislature to have Legislative Attorney Mike Murphy to file complaint on Ryan Crain for violation of the Code of Ethics Act by attending a Packer game. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Cexhaci – December 12, Continued on Page 14

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MOTION by Rep. Lambert Cleveland, Jr. for Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for the next Legislative Session for Greg Smith as the Election Board Delegate and Melanie Kasun as the Alternate. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D4 Guuŝgonak – December 9, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to the Racism Taskforce the **MOTION** by Sunshine Thunderchief to have the racism taskforce publish the results of the survey within the Ho-Chunk Nation public that is legally appropriate. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Stephanie Begay is offline during the vote.*

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for the next Legislative Session regarding the **MOTION** by Tammy Whitewing to select JoAnn Maney as the Chicago TAU Board Member. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Stephanie Begay is offline during the vote.*

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for next Legislative Session regarding the **MOTION** by Tammy Whitewing to select Theodore Whitewing as the Alternate Election Board member for

Chicago District. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Stephanie Begay is offline during the vote.*

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for next Legislative Session regarding the **MOTION** by Dolly Finn to select JoAnn Maney to the Election Board Delegate for Chicago District. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for next Legislative Session regarding the **MOTION** by Ben Krause to select Sunshine Thunderchief for the Health Accreditation Board Member for the Chicago District. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Sunshine Thunderchief to have Legislature to return the 3rd party reserve interest account to the Health Department oversight financial officer.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Ben Krause to request \$2,000 for the 12U traveling baseball team for the sponsorship which include banners and use of the Ho-Chunk Nation logo and advertising through the D4 Community Improvement Funds to have the Legislature make the donation in memory of former Rep. Matthew Mullen

along with a memorial citation. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Legislative Branch the **MOTION** by Theodore Whitewing to bring back the district meeting payout. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D4 Maanico Horuzra – December 12, 2024

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to the Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for the next Legislative Session regarding the **MOTION** by Libby Fairchild to select Victoria Fox as the Alternate Election Board Member for the Twin Cities area. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Legislative Legal to prepare a resolution for the next Legislative Session regarding the **MOTION** Reta Littlegeorge to have Rosetta Hunt selected as the TAU Board Member for the Twin Cities area. Second by Rep. Robert Pilot. 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, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 12:08 p.m.

The Executive Session recessed for lunch at 12:09 p.m. until 12:50 p.m. Rep. Kristin White Eagle called the meeting to order at 12:51 p.m. Quorum was established.

President Jon Greendeer is online at 12:51 p.m. Rep. Kristin White Eagle continued to chair the meeting.

Rep. Rodney Rave is online at 1:02 p.m.

Rep. Stephanie Begay is excused for the remainder of the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle is excused for the remainder of the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 4:26 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Released to Open Session:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to release the CFS investigative hearing findings report to Open Session. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business: (Revisited)

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Agriculture to Apply for the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Inflation Reduction Act-Habitat Restoration Bison Project.

No action taken.

Amendment of the agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to add under New Business: AA. ARPA Funding for Department of Administration. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

ARPA Funding for Department of Administration

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to authorize and obligate ARPA funds, moving them from Sound Buffer to Systems Security in the amount of \$32,945.73 to purchase additional collaboration equipment. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to December 31, 2024 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Jessika Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



Vote ✓

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(Never Issued an Untimely Decision)

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Adjunct Professor
Federal Indian Law/Advanced Legal Writing

Author of Nationally Published
Articles on HCN Law

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General Primary Election
March 5, 2025



THE FRONTMEN

LIVE

COUNTRY'S
HOTTEST
SUPER GROUP

**RICHIE
McDONALD**

Formerly of
LONESTAR

**LARRY
STEWART**

Of
RESTLESS HEART

**TIM
RUSHLOW**

Formerly of
LITTLE TEXAS

AMAZED
MY FRONT PORCH LOOKING IN
I'M ALREADY THERE
WHAT ABOUT NOW
MR. MOM

I'LL STILL BE LOVING YOU
THE BLUEST EYES IN TEXAS
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE (WRONG
OR RIGHT)
THAT ROCK WON'T ROLL
FAST MOVIN' TRAIN

GOD BLESSED TEXAS
AMY'S BACK IN AUSTIN
WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING
KICK A LITTLE

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BLACK RIVER FALLS

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

District 3, Seat 2
July 2025 – June 2029

District 4, Seat 1
July 2025 – June 2029

District 4, Seat 2
July 2025 – June 2029

District 4, Seat 3
July 2025 – June 2029

JUDICIARY:
Supreme Court Chief Justice
July 2025- June 2031

Supreme Court Associate Justice 1
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 **Sunday, January 19, 2025 by 4:30 pm.** ORIGINAL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED. FILING BY FAX OR COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS:

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

REGISTRATION:

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

ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:

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

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

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

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

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

ABSENTEE VOTING:

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

Requests MUST INCLUDE the eligible voter's name printed or typed (with signature), physical address where the ballot will be delivered (we use UPS next Day Air – UPS Next Day Air will not deliver to a P.O. Box), daytime telephone number and enrollment number.

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

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

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

Please check eligible voter's lists for your Districts.

CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS:

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

ELECTIONEERING:

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

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

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

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

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

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

GENERAL RUN-OFF ELECTION
Tuesday, June 3, 2025
SWEARING IN CEREMONY
Wednesday, July 2, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amended Poster 12/11/2024