



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation

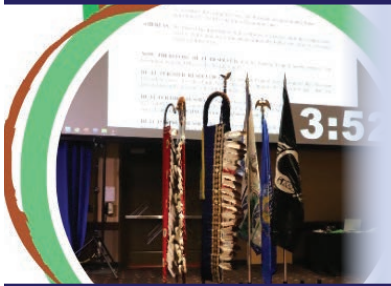


# HOCAL WOKAK

Vol. XXXIX, Issue 17

Hųwążuk wira | Elk Calling Moon

September 12, 2025



General Council is Sept. 20

Pages 9-11



Notice & Rules of  
Secretarial Election

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## Ahuco Head Start Celebrates Grand Opening of New Playground

On August 25, the Tomah community celebrated the grand opening of a brand new playground with a special ribbon cutting ceremony at the head start in Blue Wing! The event was filled with gratitude and excitement as the students took their first steps into a space designed just for them to grow, explore, and play.

Speakers at the ceremony included Laurel Meek, Head Start Director; Ryan Crain Sr., Executive Director of Education; and Stephanie Begay, District 2 Legislator.

Andrea Haashoni McCaskey had the honor of cutting the ribbon. Andrea has been an incredible parent advocate for Ahuco Head Start, and the community deeply thanks her for her dedication and hard work.

Additional gratitude goes out to the Ahuco Head Start Staff, Department of Education, Ahuco Parent Committee, and the Ho-Chunk Legislature for your unwavering support. This beautiful new playground is a gift to our students and a symbol of what we can accomplish together.

What a joyful way to kick off the first day of school at Ahuco Head Start!



## Aquinas High School Inducts Bronson Koenig Into Athletics Wall of Fame

Kaili Berg

Former Wisconsin Badgers basketball standout Bronson Koenig was officially inducted into the Aquinas High School Athletics Wall of Fame on Saturday, August 30, as part of the Class of 2025.

Koenig, a 2013 Aquinas graduate, joined eight other individuals and two football teams in this year's class, which was introduced Friday night during the Blugolds' football game against Columbus at UW-La Crosse. The induction ceremony and dinner followed on Saturday at the Aquinas High School gym.

Other honorees included Tom Deters ('69), Greg Mathy ('80), Julie (Kakuska) Pichler ('85), Michael Nockels ('87), Ross Moline ('98), Claudia (Castro) Whipple ('98), Coach Barb Stanke, and the 1960 and 1961 Aquinas football teams.

In his speech, Koenig opened by greeting the audience in the Ho-Chunk language, acknowledging his heritage and thanking coaches, teachers, family, and friends for their support.

"It's really good to be back," Koenig

said. "Seeing new faces and old faces is very nostalgic, and it's so good to share this space and good energy with all of you."

Koenig reflected on his time at Aquinas, noting that he entered as a shy middle schooler who often felt out of place. He credited his coaches and mentors with helping him gain confidence and stay on track during difficult times.

"I wasn't always the best student or the best kid, but I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today without Aquinas," Koenig said.

Koenig also emphasized that while basketball success defined much of his public career, he wants to be remembered for more than athletics.

"Everything happens for a reason. This place molded me into the person I am today. For that, I'm forever grateful," Koenig said.

Koenig now speaks to Native youth across Indian Country and makes a point to talk about his struggles as well as his

*Continued on Page 13*

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

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# Ho-Chunk Nation Sues Online Betting Platform Kalshi Over Alleged Illegal Gambling

Kaili Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation has filed a federal lawsuit against Kalshi, an online prediction market, arguing that the company is running an illegal sports-betting business that violates state, federal, and tribal law.

The case, filed last month in U.S. District Court, centers on Kalshi’s platform, which lets users wager money on the outcome of real-world events through an app and website accessible nationwide, including within Ho-Chunk tribal lands.

While Kalshi markets itself as a regulated financial exchange, the Ho-Chunk Nation officials say the system is nothing more than unlicensed sports gambling that siphons revenue from tribal casinos.

In Wisconsin, sports betting is tightly restricted. Under state compacts, only tribal nations may operate sports books, and only within their casinos.

The Ho-Chunk Nation operates several gaming facilities across the state and argues that Kalshi’s activities directly cut into tribal revenues.

The lawsuit also highlights what the Nation calls deceptive advertising, pointing to Kalshi’s promotional claims that it is the “first nationwide legal sports betting platform” and that “sports betting [is] legal in all 50 states.”

App store descriptions and posts from the

company’s leadership on TikTok are also cited as evidence that Kalshi is intentionally presenting itself as a sportsbook.

The Wisconsin case follows a similar suit brought by three California tribes earlier this summer, also targeting Kalshi for alleged illegal gambling. Both cases are being handled in part by the law firm Rapport and Marston, alongside Quarles and Brady in the Ho-Chunk Nation’s filing.

The complaint seeks both financial damages and an injunction that would bar Kalshi from operating on or near Ho-Chunk lands.

Tribal leaders argue that every dollar diverted from their casinos through unregulated wagering undermines their ability to fund essential services and programs for citizens and residents on tribal lands.

Kalshi, launched in 2021, lets users buy and sell contracts on yes-or-no outcomes, whether it’s a sports game, a political race, or even the weather. The company expanded into sports event contracts in early 2025 after filing a self-certification with regulators.

The platform has partnered with Robinhood Markets Inc., which was also named in the lawsuit. Robinhood maintains that Kalshi’s products are not gambling but rather futures contracts regulated

by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

The firm says the so-called “event contracts” offer retail customers access to prediction markets in a safe, compliant manner.

Kalshi representatives have not publicly commented on the Wisconsin lawsuit. However, in recent months the company has continued to promote its offerings as innovative financial products.



## ATTENTION HOP CLIENTS

IF YOU ARE BEHIND ON YOUR PAYMENTS OR DO NOT KNOW YOUR PAYMENT STATUS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU REACH OUT

FAILURE TO MAKE TIMELY REQUIRED PAYMENTS, OR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN ACCELERATION OR FORECLOSURE OF YOUR MORTGAGE

**NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT**

Call - (608) 374-1225 X 15902 ° KALEENAEMERY@HO-CHUNK.COM

IF YOU ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN OWNING YOUR HOME, PLEASE COMMUNICATE THAT WHILE THERE ARE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO YOU AS WELL

OCTOBER is DVAM  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**SAVE THE DATE** #Every1KnowsSome1

#Ho-ChunkDVAM25

## 5K Color Run/Walk

Saturday, October 4, 2025  
10:30 am

Chak Ha Chee Community Center  
916 Chak Ha Chee Lane, Nekoosa

Pre-Registration Opens  
Friday, September 5

For more information or to Volunteer contact:  
DVCommunityEducation@ho-chunk.com

# Snapshots of Neesh-La Powwow

The Ho-Chunk Nation hosted the Neesh-La Powwow from August 22 until August 24 near Baraboo, WI.

The weekend festivities were filled with singing, dancing, craft vendors, and delicious food.





# Ho-Chunk Nation Announces Legal Action to Protect the Nation’s Interests

Black River Falls, WI, - The legal counsel for the Ho-Chunk Nation filed a procedural filing in the Western District of Wisconsin Federal Court on the Nation’s behalf. The Ho-Chunk Nation, a federally recognized Indian tribe headquartered in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, has filed a federal lawsuit in Madison against Internet “prediction markets” KalshiEX LLC (Kalshi) and Robinhood Markets, Inc. (Robinhood). The lawsuit alleges that Kalshi and Robinhood’s “event contracts” – contracts which allow users to “predict” the outcome of sporting events – are actually just unregulated class III sports gambling that violates federal, state, and tribal law.

The suit alleges that Kalshi flaunts its sports betting activity in the face of state and tribal gaming regulators by framing their operation as “event contracts” rather than sports betting. “When you use the app, it’s obviously sports betting,” said Les Marston, attorney for the Tribes, including the Ho-Chunk Nation. “You can put money on which team is going to win the game you are watching or the championship next year. What Kalshi is doing couldn’t be clearer,” he continued.

The Ho-Chunk Nation’s complaint alleges that Kalshi is interfering with the Ho-Chunk Nation’s sovereign authority to regulate gaming on its

Indian lands in violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Commodities Exchange Act. The complaint also alleges that Kalshi and Robinhood are engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity in violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, and that Kalshi has engaged in false advertising by marketing its contracts as sports betting.

“We’re not a for-profit casino owned by private interests. We are a sovereign tribal government conducting highly regulated governmental gaming to provide essential services to our tribal members, who desperately need them. In contrast, Kalshi is engaged in sports betting, from which billionaires and other well-connected individuals benefit,” said Lambert Cleveland, Vice President of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

This legal action has the intention of upholding regulatory integrity, and of safeguarding the wellbeing of tribal members and their communities. The filing addresses the actions of non-tribal corporate parties, including Kalshi and Robinhood, which may have a negative impact on the Ho-Chunk Nation’s interests.

Because this is an active legal matter, the Ho-Chunk Nation cannot release further details at this time. Updates will be provided when appropriate.

TRADITIONAL COURT  
SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2025

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Monday, September 8, 2025

Monday, September 15, 2025

Monday, September 22, 2025

Monday, September 29, 2025

For more information, email [traditionalcourt@ho-chunk.com](mailto:traditionalcourt@ho-chunk.com)

Leave voice mail 715.284.2722 Ext. 13410

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be September 19th which will be published on September 26th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

PHAB  
Public Health  
Performance

What you need to know

Ho-Chunk Nation  
Department of Health

What is measles?

- Measles is a very contagious, airborne disease caused by a virus.
- Measles is spread through coughing, sneezing, and breathing.
- Measles can cause serious complications such as blindness and brain damage and in some cases death.

Signs and symptoms :

- Rash
- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes

When should children be vaccinated?

- 1st dose of MMR 12-15 months old
- 2nd dose of MMR 4-6 years old

Do I need a measles booster?

- Maybe. If you were born between 1963-1967 you may need a booster. If you have questions about your immunization status contact your provider

Updated 8.20.25 KD MG

NATIVE  
ARTS & CULTURE  
OF TEE WÁKĄČĄK

Join us for a FREE event that embraces the arts and culture of Tee Wákąčąk and the Ho-Chunk people.

Elliott Funmaker, Sr. (Ho-Chunk) and his group will provide a family-friendly cultural performance featuring the music and dance of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Elliott will also explain the symbolism and meaning of objects such as the drum and regalia worn by each dancer.

DATE  
AUGUST 29, 2025

TIME  
6:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

Join us on for this authentic cultural arts presentation that showcases the original inhabitants of the area including, Tee Wákąčąk, (Ho-Chunk place name meaning Sacred Lake), renamed to Devil’s Lake.

Meet behind **Rock Elm Shelter**, on the park’s North Shore, near the boat launch. Your own blanket and/or chairs are encouraged!

This program was made possible by an Incentive Grant from The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks and funding provided by The Friends of Devil’s Lake State Park, The Little Eagle Arts Foundation, and the Sauk County Arts, Humanities, and Historic Preservation grant.

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.

HOCÁK WORAK NEWSLETTER

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2016  
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CONTEST AWARD  
WINNER

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Reporter.....Kaili Berg

The Hocak Worak is a member of:

Indigenous Journalists Association

INDIGENOUS  
Journalists Association



# Ho-Chunk Youth Attend Basketball Academy with Bronson Koenig

Kaili Berg

Ho-Chunk youth filled the District 1 Community Center on September 7 for the Hoocąk Manape Mind, Body & Spirit Basketball Academy, led by professional basketball player Bronson Koenig.

Koenig, a former Wisconsin Badger standout who went on to play with the Milwaukee Bucks and Chicago Bulls, returned home to inspire the next generation of Ho-Chunk athletes.

The daylong camp brought together students from 3rd through 12th grade. Younger players (grades 3–7) kicked things off in the morning, working on fundamentals like dribbling, footwork, and shooting.

After a community lunch, high school athletes (grades 8–12) took

the court for advanced drills and scrimmages in the afternoon.


For many youth, it was a rare chance to learn directly from someone who has walked the same paths they are on now.

Koenig shared his experiences as a Ho-Chunk athlete navigating Division I basketball and the NBA, reminding students that their heritage is a strength they can carry into any arena.

The Hoocąk Manape academy capped the day with smiles, tired legs, and renewed confidence.

For Koenig, it was another step in giving back to his community and showing that success in sports and in life comes from nurturing the whole self, mind, body, and spirit.





## Wii Te'e Waagax Haraja Ee Warupį Wa'ųjee

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH

#### NOMINATE A STUDENT OF THE MONTH

We are proud to recognize **three** outstanding Ho-Chunk students each month in our Student Spotlight!

**Who Can Be Nominated?**

All Ho-Chunk students — any age, any grade, any level of education (Head Start, Elementary, Middle School, High School, Home School, and Post-Secondary).

**What We Celebrate**

- Academic achievements (Honor Roll, Dean's/President's List), Student-athletes & extracurricular achievements.
- Volunteer work & community service.
- Leadership & contributions to school or family.
- College acceptances & future goals.
- Everyday efforts that inspire others.

**Where Will They Be Featured?**

- \*Ho-Chunk Nation Social Media.
- \* Education Department Spotlight Wall.
- \*Hocąk Worak (monthly feature).


**How to Nominate**


It's quick and easy! Fill out our form here:

<https://form.jotform.com/250025400580038>

**Questions? Email us at:**

[StudentSuccess@Ho-Chunk.com](mailto:StudentSuccess@Ho-Chunk.com)





## Student of The Month September 2025

### Aralyn WhiteEagle



12th Grade - Black River Falls High School

Aralyn's determination, teamwork, and commitment make her a true role model on and off the court! Aralyn is a senior at BRF High School who took on a new challenge this year by joining the BRF Volleyball team. Her grit, passion, and positive attitude quickly earned her a spot on both the JV and Varsity teams.

**Sports & Leadership:**

- Natural leader for the JV team.
- Valuable asset to the Varsity team.
- Made her first Varsity "kill" in her very first match!

Aralyn asks thoughtful questions about the game, positions, and stats, showing her drive to keep improving. That same motivation carries into the classroom, where she works hard to succeed.





## Student of The Month September 2025

### Kera'co Frasier




5<sup>th</sup> Grade - King Elementary  
Parents: Regina Wolfe & Jared Frasier  
Grandmother: Patricia Ward

Kera'co received the 2024–2025 Student Success Award from the Green Bay School District for Excellence in Education.



He was also honored by King Elementary School with a Proclamation designating May 14, 2025, as "Kera'co Frazier Day" in celebration of his remarkable transformation and bright future as he transitions to middle school.

Beyond his academic achievements, Kera'co is a creative and curious learner who enjoys drawing, building with Legos, and solving 3D puzzles. His favorite color is blue, and he has a great passion for soccer.



## Student of The Month September 2025

### Aubrey Pidgeon



11th Grade - Lincoln High School  
Parents: James & Nicole Pidgeon

Aubrey is an exemplary student and athlete whose dedication and positive spirit shine both in and out of the classroom.

**Athletics & Achievements**

Aubrey represented Lincoln High School at the National Showcase, the premier competition for showcase figure skating, where she competed against 133 athletes at the preliminary character level. Aubrey is a member of the Wisconsin Rapids High School Figure Skating Team, which proudly earned the title of State Champions. Aubrey serves as the manager for the Lincoln High School Football Team, contributing to the team's success behind the scenes.

**Character & Leadership**

Aubrey is known for her kindness, inclusivity, and leadership. She goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone feels welcome and included, making her not only a strong athlete but also a role model among her peers.



### CAREER DAY

### REAL ESTATE & RELATED FIELDS

Hosted by Twelve Clans & Ho-Chunk Labor Department

**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025  
**Time:** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
**Location:** The Winn, Golden Valley, MN

**Why Attend?**

- Guided site tour of The Winn
- Hear directly from industry professionals
- Explore careers in
  - Real Estate & Development
  - Commerical Construction
  - Architecture
  - Interior Design
  - City Planning
- Learn, ask questions, and network with experts

**Who Should Apply?**


Students and community members interested in the fields

**How to Apply**

Attendance is limited - apply today!  
Scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://forms.gle/gNlyMyQifxP5AXeA9>







## Balancing Your Life & Diabetes

**Glasses Starting: October 7th, 2025**  
**5:30 pm Virtual - Via Webex**  
(3:30 pm PST / 4:30 pm MST / 5:30 pm CST / 6:30 pm EST)



This curriculum provides basic information about type 2 diabetes, diabetes self-care and general health care practices.

Phone number and e-mail address are required to participate. Class webex link will be sent out by e-mail the day before class. Classes are interactive and you will be assigned a Lifestyle Coach to assist with your personal goals.

Session 1 - October 7th, 2025 - Basics of Diabetes  
Session 2 - October 14th, 2025 - Better Nutrition for Better Numbers  
Session 3 - October 21st, 2025 - Improving Your Numbers with Exercise  
Session 4 - October 28th, 2025 - Navigating the Numbers  
Session 5 - November 4th, 2025 - Accounting for Complications

Contact Rachel Montana or Lyndsey Killian at 715-284-9851 ext. 35039 or ext. 35068 or by e-mail: [rachel.montana@ho-chunk.com](mailto:rachel.montana@ho-chunk.com) or [lyndsey.killian@ho-chunk.com](mailto:lyndsey.killian@ho-chunk.com) to sign up!

12/19/24 KB



### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

### RABIES AND YOUR PETS

**What is Rabies?**

Rabies is caused by the *Lyssavirus rabies* virus. Rabies transmission can occur by exposure to an infected animal's saliva.

**Course of the Disease.**

Following the bite:

- The virus slowly moves through the muscle and into the nervous tissue. In the nervous tissue it is hidden from the immune system.
- It can take up to a year for the virus to enter the brain, but averages three to eight weeks.

Stage 1: (The first two to three days after symptoms have started)

- Animal's personality changes.
- Their larynx begins to spasm.

Stage 2: (Next one or two days)

- This is the "mad dog" phase.
- The animal has no fear and will attack cage bars.

Stage 3: (Next two to four days)

- The larynx is paralyzed, resulting in an inability to swallow.
- Excessive drooling and "foaming at the mouth" will be apparent.
- The virus will be present in body secretions.
- Death occurs when the breathing muscles are paralyzed.

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/13848-rabies>

**Signs of Rabies in Wild Animals.**

- Wild animals may not appear shy or afraid of people.
- Nocturnal animals are out during the day.
- Bats make unusual noises or have difficulty flying.
- Animals bite without being provoked.
- Animals are weak or agitated and vicious.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CIDPH%20Document%20Library/RabiesBrochure.pdf>

**Rabies in the U.S. (2022)**

- Bats – 1,218
- Raccoons – 1,014
- Skunks – 660
- Foxes – 269
- Cats – 222
- Dogs – 50
- Cattle – 42

<https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/mcm-world-rabies-day-infographic-792x1224-2024.pdf>



**WORLD RABIES DAY**

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

**Rabies Worldwide:**

Over 99% of human rabies cases are attributed to bites from infected dogs, particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/rabies#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/rabies#tab=tab_1)



**Rabies Prevention:**

- Never approach animals who appear injured or sick, especially if you see nocturnal animals during the daytime.
- Keep your pets up to date on rabies vaccinations.

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/index.html>

**What you should do if you have been scratched or bitten by a wild animal or unfamiliar animal:**

- Wash any wounds immediately with soap and water for 15 minutes.
- Talk with a healthcare provider, explaining what happened.
- If the animal is a pet, request proof of vaccination.

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/index.html>

**Signs of rabies in bats:**

- Are active during the day.
- Are found in unusual places (inside a home or on the ground.)
- Are unable to fly or you can easily approach.
- Have contacted you as the usually avoid humans.

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/bats.html>


**What to do if you encounter a bat:**

- Avoid touching bats.
- Bat bites can be tiny, and you may not even know if you were bitten.
- If you know that you were bitten or scratched by a bat, wash the wound with soap and water, and get medical help right away.

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/bats.html>

**Good News:**

- Awareness of rabies disease engages communities and empowers people to save themselves by seeking care they need.
- Appropriate wound management and prompt access to medical treatment is almost 100% effective in preventing human rabies deaths.
- Vaccination of pets, especially dogs is a proven cost-effective way to save human lives.



**Ho-Chunk Environmental Health Department**  
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road  
Black River Falls, WI 54611

**Steve M. Schwanebeck, RS**  
715-284-9851, ext. 35062  
[steve.schwanebeck@ho-chunk.com](mailto:steve.schwanebeck@ho-chunk.com)

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715-284-9851, ext. 35011  
[pam.thunder@ho-chunk.com](mailto:pam.thunder@ho-chunk.com)

## HUWAZUKWII

September

# HARVEST OF THE MONTH

## Hicocox


(Elderberries)


### About Hicocox

- Elderberries are valued in many Indigenous cultures for use in ceremonies, medicine, and as a food.
- The plant is often called the "tree of music" because it has a hollow stem which can be used to make flutes and whistles. In addition it has been used in craftwork and for making hunting equipment.
- Elderberries have been an important food source for many Indigenous people. They are a good source of Vitamin A, Vitamin C and potassium, as well as contain antioxidants and fiber, making them an important part of a healthy diet.
- The berries are collected in late summer and early fall, and are often dried for storage or turned into sauces, jams, or jellies.
- Please Note: The seeds, unripe berries and raw elderberries contain a harmful substance that can lead to nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, so it's important to pick when ripe, remove the seeds, and to cook them before consuming.

For more info:  
(1) <https://tribaltea.com/the-history-of-elderberries-in-indigenous-lives-and-native-america/>  
(2) [https://www.adkinshortum.org/programs\\_events/ppelderberry.html](https://www.adkinshortum.org/programs_events/ppelderberry.html)  
(3) <https://wxnermedical.osu.edu/blog/what-to-know-about-elderberries>

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





## Elderberry Syrup

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups water
- 1 cup fresh elderberries
- 1 cinnamon stick or ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 whole cloves or ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup honey or maple syrup (adjust to taste)

### Steps:

- In a saucepan, mix water, elderberries, ginger, cinnamon stick, and cloves. Heat over medium until it starts to boil. Then, lower the heat and let it simmer for 30 minutes.
- Use a potato masher or fork to mash the berries and release the juices.
- Pour the mixture through a fine sieve to separate the juice from the seeds, pulp, cinnamon stick, and cloves. Discard the solids and let the liquid cool for 30 minutes.
- Stir in the honey.
- Store in the refrigerator.

Elderberry Syrup recipe adapted from All Recipe - <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/228528/elderberry-syrup/>


**For more Information**  
**Contact a HCN Registered Dietitian/ Nutritionist:**

BRF, Tomah, Wittenberg areas:  
(888) 685-4422, ext. 35335  
BRF, La Crosse areas:  
(888) 685-4422, ext. 35340  
Dells, Nekoosa, Madison areas:  
(888) 552-7889, ext. 35554

HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIV.  
<http://health.ho-chunk.com/>  
Updated 8/25/11



Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health  
Division of Public Health





light snacks

educational tables

Group walk at Noon or come and go




**WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025**  
10AM - 2PM  
House of Wellness - Baraboo  
Limited T-shirts available  
Reserve yours today

Contact:  
Wendy Lonetree  
608-355-1240 Ext. 35600  
wendy.lonetree@ho-chunk.com



### How Does Nature Help Our Health?

- Class 1 - September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm
  - Strengths, benefits of nature, exploring environments, Forest Bathing.
- Class 2 - September 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm
  - Earthing/Grounding; what is it and what are the benefits? Using the power of photographs.
- Class 3 - September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm
  - Sounds - wind, water, birds. The benefit of animals.
- Class 4 - September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm
  - Leaf project, mindfulness, gratitude journals, joy bubbles.




"The most beautiful gift of nature is that it gives one pleasure to look around and try to comprehend what we see."

— Albert Einstein

These classes are online to reach as many people as possible, however there will be homework in nature and will be discussed in subsequent classes. Classes will be no longer than 45 minutes.

Contact to register:  
kathleen.clemons@ho-chunk.com  
715-284-9851 ext. 35308



## NATIVE FOOD FOR LIFE ONLINE

**THURSDAYS: SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2025**  
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM VIA WEBEX  
(9 AM PST/ 10 AM MST/ 11 AM CST / 12 PM EST)

A 7–WEEK “PLANT–BASED” PROGRAM WITH A FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS FOODS FOR NATIVES TO HELP PREVENT AND MANAGE DIABETES.

September 25th- Prevent and Reverse Diabetes

October 2nd- The Power of the Plate

October 9th- The Magic 8 Indigenous Foods

October 16th- Meet the Power Plate!

October 23rd- A Tale of Two Sisters

October 30th- Putting It All Together

November 13th - Virtual Potluck: plant-based recipes

Please reach out to Rachel Montana or Lyndsey Killian to sign up.

Rachel Montana  
715-284-9851 ext. 35039  
rachel.montana@ho-chunk.com

Lyndsey Killian  
715-284-9851 ext. 35068  
lyndsey.killian@ho-chunk.com

Past Participants said: “I lost weight”, “lowers blood sugars”, “better digestion”, “more energy”, “feeling better about food choices”, “good recipes” and “I feel fuller longer”.

1/24/25 LK

## Upcoming Ho-Chunk Closures

Sept-Nov

SEPTEMBER 1	Both pharmacies closed for Labor Day
SEPTEMBER 17	Both pharmacies closed for Annual All Staff Meeting
OCTOBER 13	Both pharmacies closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day
OCTOBER 29	Both pharmacies closed for Health Department Meeting
NOVEMBER 11	Both pharmacies closed for Veteran's Day
NOVEMBER 19	HHCC Pharmacy (BRF) closed 8:30am-10:00am
NOVEMBER 26	HOW Pharmacy (Baraboo) closed 12:30pm-1:30pm
NOVEMBER 27	Both pharmacies closed for Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 28	Both pharmacies closed for Ho-Chunk Day

PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY FOR MEDICATION REFILLS


SLP 9/3/25

## September 2025

HO-CHUNK NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

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

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




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

\*\*CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS\*\*

## Community Health Foot Clinics

Sept. 2025

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



**Black River Falls - 9/8 , 9/22**  
Community Health Office  
W9850 Airport Road  
(715) 896-1343

**Tomah - 9/9**  
Tribal Aging Unit  
358 Eos Road  
(608) 372-5202

**La Crosse - 9/16**  
Three Rivers House  
724 Main Street  
(608) 783-6025

**Wisconsin Dells - 9/23**  
House Of Wellness  
S2845 White Eagle Road  
(608) 355-1240 x35509

**Madison - 9/23**  
Branch Office  
4724 Tradewinds Pkwy  
(608) 277-9964

**Wittenberg - 9/23**  
Siga Funmaker Center  
W17634 Radke Road  
(715) 701-2069

**Nekoosa - 9/25**  
Nekoosa Health Office  
1021 County Road G  
(715) 886-5444

A Registered Nurse will clip/file your nails, and dremel if necessary.

Open to Tribal Members - No walk-ins - Appointment is now needed.

8/28/25 MH



## Brooklyn Peterson

August 26, 1989 - August 30, 2025



Brooklyn Kay Peterson was born on August 26, 1989, in Eau Claire, WI, the beloved daughter of Levi Thunder Jr. and Dawn Peterson. As a young child, she suffered the loss of her father, a loss that deeply affected her. During this time, she lived between Fairchild and Arcadia.

She attended Osseo-Fairchild High School before graduating from Arcadia High School in 2008. Following high school, Brooklyn worked in cleaning services and retail. Most importantly, she devoted herself to being a stay-at-home mom to her son, Dayton, and daughter, Ciara.

Brooklyn loved being outside regardless of the weather. She was always up for a round of golf, going for a walk, or spending the day at the beach. She loved animals, cheering on the Milwaukee Bucks, and Green Bay Packers. She also had a love for art, creating various paintings and doing pottery, which she shared a special bond with her

daughter, Ciara. Birthdays were always special, especially with her custom made cakes! She was full of jokes and pranks, making a room light up with her infectious laugh! She was someone who made sure you never went hungry, often bringing food with her when visiting relatives and ensuring you had enough on your plate to last you a week. Brooklyn was a great mother and would do anything for her kids – making sure their hair was always perfect and dressed in the nicest clothes.

Brooklyn’s time with us was cut short when she passed away on Saturday evening, August 30, 2025, just 4 days after celebrating her 36th birthday.

She was deeply loved and will be deeply missed, especially by her children, Dayton Noble and Ciara Emerson; mother, Dawn Caballero-Perez of Arcadia; sisters, Jazmyn Thunder of Fairchild, Haylie Peterson of Osseo, Paige Peterson of Spokane, Washington, Lauralee Calindo of La Crosse, and Emily Caballero-Perez of Independence; brother, Dashell (Erica) Thunder of Bismarck, North Dakota; and her uncle, Kevin Peterson of Osseo.

In addition to her father Levi Jr., she was also preceded in death by her grandparents, Sandra Johnson, Levi Sr. and Susan Thunder.

Native American Services will be held Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, at noon at the Fairchild Community Center in Fairchild, with burial in the Fairchild Cemetery.

A public visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until noon at the center on Tuesday.

Anderson Funeral Home in Augusta, assisting the family.

# Legislature Supports the Tiger Youth Basketball Association with Contribution

The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature is proud to support the Tiger Youth Basketball Association (TYBA) with a \$10,000 contribution to help fund programming for local youth in grades K–8.

TYBA has organized youth basketball in the Black River Falls area for eleven years and continues to serve as a foundational program for student athletes, many of whom go on to compete at the varsity level. This contribution covers fees, uniforms, equipment, tournaments, camps, and

more, ensuring all Ho-Chunk youth can participate.

On August 22, Representative Phyllis Smoke met with TYBA coaches and players to deliver the check and show support for our young athletes. Her message, “We’re happy to support TYBA and help make sure every Ho-Chunk youth has the opportunity to play.”

Thank you to the TYBA board, coaches, and families for your dedication to our youth.



## Ronald K. Decorah

July 23, 1941 - August 26, 2025

Ronald Kenneth Decorah, 84, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2025. Ron was born on July 23, 1941, in Tomah, Wisconsin. He grew up and attended school in Wittenberg, Wisconsin.

Ron joined the Army and served in the 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper from 1957 to 1962. Just before he was to head home, the Army decided they still needed him as a radio repairman so off he went to Vietnam.

Ron boxed in the Milwaukee Golden Gloves in 1967. He always told the story about sparring with Muhammed Ali and getting in trouble for hitting Ali in the face.

Ron learned to weld at a young age. He loved welding and after a year of retirement he decided to go back to welding for another two years. He was proud of his work.

He lived with his wife in Black Earth, Wisconsin until they decided to move to Emigrant, Montana, to be closer to the place they loved, Yellowstone.

Ron is survived by his wife of 32 years, Linda; his sons, Travis (Sue) of Muskego, WI and Damon (Sarah) of Port Washington, WI; five grandchildren, Monica, Logan, Reece, Toby and Jessica

and two great grandchildren, Caden and Asher.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather Nathaniel Decorah; his grandmother, Annie Decorah; his Mother Theresa; his brother, Stuart; Mother of his children, Sharon Decorah and his daughter, Shawnee Kay.

Services are being planned. Please check back for updated service information.

Franzen-Davis has been honored to care for Ronald and his family.



## Lot (Choch) Smith

April 25, 1966 – September 7, 2025

Lot L. (Choch) Smith II “Caajišgacga”, age 59, of Vesper passed away Sunday, September 7, 2025 at his residence.

Commitment services will be at 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at the Cex Haci Community Building in Nekoosa. Travis Cloud will officiate. Burial will be next to his beloved parents at the Hemlock residence. Visitation for relatives and friends will be from 10:00 A.M. until the time of services on Wednesday at Cex Haci. Herman-Taylor Funeral Home, Wisconsin Rapids, is honored to be assisting the family.

Lot was born April 25, 1966 in Wisconsin Rapids to Rev. Anthony M. and Hope B. (Thunder) Smith Sr. He served his country in the United States Army. He was a handyman and carpenter and held several different positions over the years including being general manager for Ho-Chunk Construction and owner/operator of ECM Enterprises. He also sold automobiles for Rapids Ford, Greg Ellious Motors, and Zahn’s Auto. He was also a caretaker for the Dexterville Cemetery.

Lot was a faithful member of the Native American Church. He was always offering prayers for friends and relatives, would run funeral meetings, perform baptisms, and blessed people’s homes. He was a strong advocate for tribal rites.

Lot enjoyed cooking and taking



care of relatives. He was an avid disc golfer.

Lot is survived by his children: Danielle Smith (husband Michael) and their children Bradlee and Jack, Isaac Smith and his daughter Aurora, Taylor Smith Sr. (wife Joan) and their children Taylor Jr., Pauline, and Willow, Summer Smith and her children Lotate and Yakonah, and Brooke Matoxen-Smith and her son Easton; his brother, Anthony Smith Jr. (wife Carla); sisters: Mary Smith (husband Babe) and Isabel Maisells (husband Brandon); his dog Soup; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter Fawn.



# ‘Lasting Legacy’: Graham Greene opened the door for other Indigenous actors

*Tributes pour out for the Oscar-nominated Oneida actor who died Sept. 1*

by Miles Morrisseau  
Reprint from ICT

The man I encountered was a magnificent-looking fellow.

Those were the words used to describe Graham Greene after he walked onto the movie screen in his iconic Oscar-nominated role as Kicking Bird in “Dances with Wolves.”

It is one of the great entrances in movie history and a showcase of Greene’s talent and artistic range. At first viewers see the epitome of Indigeneity in Kicking Bird with fantastic hair, glorious beadwork, buckskin and feathers, at one with nature and horse whispering.

Moments later he is falling all over himself in comedic slapstick when he is yelled at by a naked Kevin Costner, who uttered the memorable line in the film. Greene is the stoic face of drama and the grinning smile of comedy all in one scene. He would be nominated for an academy award as best supporting actor for the performance.

But it was not only his acting skills in such iconic productions as “Dances with Wolves,” “Reservation Dogs,” and “Thunderheart” that drew tributes after his death Sept. 1 at age 73 in Toronto after a long illness. His impact as an Indigenous actor was remembered by fans, famous and otherwise, who mourned the loss.

“A few things come to mind when I think of Graham Greene and our time together on ‘Dances With Wolves,’” Costner posted on social media after news of Greene’s death.

“I think of how willing he was to learn the Lakota language. I think of my joy when I heard that his work on the film was recognized with an @theacademy awards nomination,” Costner wrote. “He was a master at work and a wonderful human being. I’m grateful to have been witness to this part of his lasting legacy. Rest in peace, Graham.”

Cherokee actor Wes Studi also appeared with Greene in “Dances with Wolves” early in both their careers and later in “Reservation Dogs.”

“I had the distinct honor of first working with Graham Greene in 1990 as we filmed ‘Dances With Wolves,’” Studi posted on his official Facebook page. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with him and knowing him off screen since. The world has lost a true talent and advocate. It’s a sad day indeed. Rest in peace, great warrior.”

Greene died in a Toronto hospital Monday, Sept. 1, surrounded by close friends and family. He is survived by his wife 34 years, Hilary Blackmore, daughter Lilly Lazare-Greene, and grandson, Tarlo.

Greene was nominated for an Oscar for best supporting actor for “Dances with Wolves,”

and he has won a host of other awards over the years, including receiving the Order of Canada, the highest civilian award in the country, in 2025. He also won a Grammy for best spoken word album for children in 2000

**Early years**  
Greene was considered among the most accomplished and awarded Indigenous actors of his or any generation.

Born on the Six Nations of The Grand River on June 22, 1952, Greene was a proud member of the Oneida Nation. He began his career on the stage, working with the Centre for Indigenous Theatre and performing with the Native Earth Performing Arts theatre company.

He was part of an incredible ensemble cast in Tomson Highway’s play, “Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing,” which included Billy Merasty, Ben Cardinal, Kenneth Charlette and Doris Linklater. Greene would win best actor in Toronto’s 1989 Dora Mavor theatre awards for his performance as Pierre St. Pierre.

Gary Farmer, Greene’s cousin and a fellow member of Six Nations of the Grand River, was also a cast member in the play. He remembers how hard Greene worked from an early age.

“He grew up with nothing and he had to go out and work, and he became ... an iron worker at 14 in Rochester, New York,” Farmer told ICT. “I swear, he started really young. And then he became a wonderful sound man, right?”

Indeed, Greene became a respected sound man and worked at the rock-and-roll shows that would tour in the area including Hamilton, Toronto and Buffalo, New York. He also continued to do community work, providing sound for recitals on Six Nations and performing in comedic partnership with Farmer.

“I’ll never forget this skit that Graham and I did,” Farmer recalled. “It was his idea, where he would put his boots on his hands and he would come next to me ... like he’s a child, a child with big cowboy boots. And his face [would have] a blanket over it so you couldn’t see his body. ‘We’d do this little skit for the crowd and, oh, you know, we had a lot of fun.’”

**Award-winning performances**

One of Greene’s first notable performances on film was in the cult classic, “PowWow Highway,” with Farmer in 1990.

It was a small role but indelible to anyone who has seen the film. Greene plays a Vietnam veteran who is suffering from post traumatic stress who provides important life advice to protagonist Buddy Red Bow played by A.Martinez.

He followed up that performance with his role in Costner’s epic film, “Dances with Wolves,” about a suicidal soldier who seeks redemption among the Sioux. “Dances with Wolves” would go on to be for 12 Academy awards and win seven, including Best Picture and Best Director for Costner. Greene was edged out by Joe Pesci for his role in “Goodfellas.”

Greene then took the lead in the 1991 independent film, “Clearcut,” in a groundbreaking role that is perhaps unmatched in the canon of Canadian film. The anger of Indigenous people who have been dispossessed of their rights and watch helplessly as government and corporations destroy the natural world comes into frightening focus when Greene’s character captures a representative of a forestry company and proceeds to skin him alive, just as the corporations are doing to the earth.

The film was referenced in the 2024 film “Seeds,” in a wonderfully meta performance with Greene as a spirit helper. Greene won the best supporting actor award for that role in the 2025 Canadian Screen Awards.

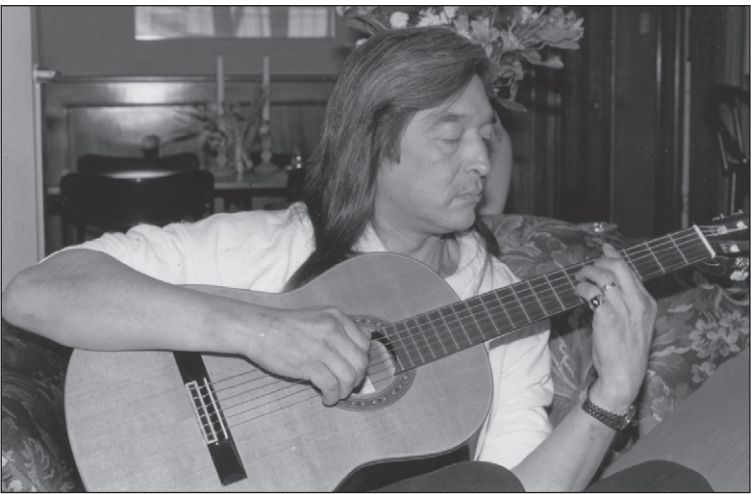
In 1992, he starred opposite Val Kilmer in the Wounded Knee-inspired film, “Thunderheart,” as savvy local police officer Walter Crow Horse. And in 1994, he stole the movie, “Maverick,” from its star Mel Gibson in the hilarious role of Joseph.

Greene was an international star and a star for Indigenous people around the world, but in Canada he was omnipresent for Indigenous people, being one of the only Indigenous faces on television. He was a regular on the “Red Green Show,” which was a popular comedy series that ran from 1994-2006 and was in syndication on Canadian television. The show aired daily with , Greene playing the loopy dynamite-loving Edgar K.B. Montrose on the show and in the 2001 movie, “Duct Tape Forever.”

He was the host and narrator for “Exhibit A: The Secrets of Forensic Science,” a series that probed into murders and re-enacted crimes in from 1997-2001. That show was also on syndication for years and connected with all the true-crime addicts who didn’t have anything else to watch.

And for the children, he played Mr. Crabby Tree in the series, “The Adventures of Dudley the Dragon,” from 1994-1997. That series, too, went on to syndication and was available for years on Canadian television. Greene won the Gemini award for Canadian television in 1994 for the best performance in a children or youth series or program.

He continued to work until very recently, and a



**Graham Greene, shown here in 1991, was a noted sound producer in the music industry before becoming an actor. Perhaps best known for his role in "Dancing with Wolves," Greene died Sept. 1, 2025, in Toronto. In this photo, Greene picked his guitar at home while being interviewed by Miles Morrisseau for Nativebeat newspaper. Credit: Miles Morrisseau, ICT**

number of projects will be released posthumously, including an autobiographical documentary and the latest project from “Reservations Dog” creator Sterlin Harjo, “The Lowdown,” which is premiering in September at the 50th annual Toronto International Film Festival.

**Mourning the loss**  
Greene had gravitas; his presence immediately grounded viewers in reality. If he was there, then what was happening in that world on that screen became real.

His death hit hard across Indigenous communities. Kelly Boutsalis, Mohawk from Six Nations of the Grand River who is a programmer for this year’s TIFF, grew up with pride knowing Greene was from her home community. She credits him for breaking the path for those who followed.

“He knocked down those doors for so many of these films that are being made today, and we have him to thank for it,” Boutsalis told ICT. “He was showing up in super Indigenous films. He was showing up in ‘Die Hard With a Vengeance.’ He was in roles where he wasn’t playing an Indigenous person, he was just playing a cop.

“He’s played so many roles, and he was on those sets, and he was representing for Indigenous people in spaces where there weren’t that many there,” she said.

Jason Ryle, Anishinaabe Lake St. Martin First Nation, is the international programmer for Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Global Indigenous Cinema at the Toronto festival. He said he last spoke to Greene at the Imaginative Film Festival in July when the actor was awarded the August Schellenberg Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in film and television.

“Anytime we lose an icon – and he truly was an icon – there’s sadness, but also there’s that sort of looking with love, with pride at what he

accomplished,” Ryle told ICT. “Because that shines really brightly on us all.”

Elaine Bomberry, also from Six Nations and a long-time producer and promoter of musicians and live music, posted to Facebook. She remembered the joy that seemed to surround Greene.

“The news about the passing of legendary Actor & Friend Graham Greene has been very difficult to absorb,” she wrote. “As I reflect on all the different shows and premieres I got to work with him on over the decades, one thing I will always remember was everyone around him always cracking up with laughter at his jokes & antics.”

Actor Gil Birmingham, who recently appeared as Tribal Chairman Thomas Rainwater on the Paramount Network series Yellowstone, was among those who had worked with Greene who took to social media to mourn his loss.

“My heart is broken,” Birmingham wrote. “We have lost a man of incredible talent who made a positive impact on Native representation in film, inspiring a new generation of Native actors. His great heart was only matched by his wickedly funny sense of humor. My prayers are with his family and friends. Journey on, Graham, R.I.P.”

Actor Ethan Hawke worked with Greene in Harjo’s “The Lowdown,” in which Greene will appear this season in several episodes.

“I had the pleasure of working with Graham Greene earlier this year,” Hawk said. “His career is legendary: ‘Dances with Wolves,’ ‘Thunderheart,’ ‘Reservation Dogs,’ to name a few. He has always possessed extraordinary grace, wisdom, wit, & depth. Working with him was shockingly fun. He improvised brilliantly and infused every moment with spontaneity & humor. I even got to break bread with him- and share some fries. I am shocked to hear of his passing. Blessed travels, friend.”






**HO-CHUNK NATION**  
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

# Annual Meeting of the General Council 2025

Kalahari Convention Center  
1305 Kalahari Drive  
Lake Delton, WI

 Date:  
September 20


 Registration Opens:  
8:00 am

Send Your Questions to:

715-284-7891



\$150 Tribal Member Payout





**General Council 2025**

**BUS SCHEDULE**

September 20, 2025

Route	LA CROSSE	ST. PAUL	GREEN BAY	CHICAGO	WITTEN BERG	MILWAU KEE
Location	Valley View Mall	1724 Shelby Ave.	2413 Hazelwo od Ln.	4738 N. Milw. Ave.	HCG- Witten berg	3501 S. Howell Ave.
Loading	6:30 AM	5:00 AM	6:30 AM	5:00 AM	6:00 AM	6:00 AM
Depart	6:45 AM	5:30 AM	6:45 AM	5:15 AM	6:30 AM	6:30 AM
Stop	WTC- Tomah	HCG- BRF	Park & Ride #44- 01 Randolph Dr.	HCG- Madison	WTC- Nekoosa	HCG- Madison
Loading	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	7:45 AM
Depart	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	7:30 AM	7:45 AM	7:45 AM	8:00 AM

Kalahari Convention Center, Lake Delton, WI



**ELDER PREFERENCE.**  
There will be no sign-up sheets.  
Call 715-284-7891 with questions.





**General Council 2025**

**Meals**

September 20

**BREAKFAST**  
8:00 am - 10:00 am

- Fresh-cut fruit muffins
- Breakfast breads, fruit-filled danish
- Scrambled eggs
- Corned beef hash
- Smoked bacon
- Hash brown potatoes
- Beverages: orange juice, apple juice, regular coffee, decaffeinated coffee & hot tea

**LUNCH**  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

- Garden greens with Ranch & Italian Dressing
- Southern-style potato salad with crumbed bacon
- Green bean casserole
- BBQ roasted chicken breast & thighs
- Low and slow pulled pork
- BBQ sauces: Bold Texas Style & Honey Chipotle
- Wisconsin cheddar cornbread muffins
- Seasonal fruit crisp
- Beverages: coffee, hot & iced tea

**BOXED-TO-GO**  
4:45 pm - 5:30 pm

Each box contains:

- cookie, pasta salad, fresh whole fruit, potato chips, dill pickle
- choice of soda or bottled water

Roast beef sandwich boxed lunch


- pretzel roll, horseradish cheese spread, shaved red onion, lettuce & tomato

Smoked ham sandwich boxed lunch

- rye, smoked ham, boursin cheese, swiss, red onion, brandy mustard sauce, lettuce & tomato

Turkey sandwich boxed lunch

- whole wheat, swiss cheese spread, dijonnaise, sharp cheddar, sundried tomato, roasted turkey breast, lettuce & tomato



**THE PEOPLE'S PLAN**  
2025 COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

IT'S BEEN A DECADE—SINCE WE'VE HEARD FROM YOU.

The Ho-Chunk Nation hasn't conducted a comprehensive needs assessment since 2015, and much has changed since then.

Our communities have faced a pandemic, economic shifts, and increasing challenges in housing, health, and cultural preservation.


To understand our current needs, we invite you to share your stories by completing the **2025 Comprehensive Needs Assessment survey**.

**GENERAL COUNCIL 2025**


- The 2025 CNA survey will launch at the General Council.
- Participants who complete the survey will receive \$20.
- Surveys will also be available online after the General Council.

Want to get involved or learn more?  
**Contact Planning and Development:**  
[LOA.PORTER@HO-CHUNK.COM](mailto:LOA.PORTER@HO-CHUNK.COM)


Your participation will help create a collective picture that guides future decisions and shapes the programs that serve us all.




Everyone has




a story



to tell.



**Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health**



# Let's Get VACCINATED!

Saturday, September 20th  
8:30am until Quorum is reached


Flu Vaccinations available  
(for adults 18+)


General Council Kalahari Resort  
and Conventions Room Africa 90

Please have your ID for quick check in.

For more information: [Kandyyce.Dunlap@Ho-Chunk.com](mailto:Kandyyce.Dunlap@Ho-Chunk.com)  
Call 715.284.9851 x35042

Updated 8.21.25 MGS





**Ho-Chunk Nation**  
Office of Tribal Enrollment

**Tribal ID Notice General Council 2025**  
**Notice from the HCN Office of Tribal Enrollment**

Previously, Wisconsin law allowed for an identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe to be used as proof of identification for voting purposes. On April 3rd, 2018, *Wisconsin Senate Bill 488* was enacted effectively adding to the list of valid forms of identification that of one issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe or band in the state of Wisconsin. These may be used, without penalty, in the purchase of: alcohol, nicotine or tobacco products, the sale of nonferrous scrap or metal articles to scrap dealers, the sale of secondhand articles or jewelry to pawnbrokers and, additionally, for dispensing certain prescribed controlled substances. The Division of Tribal Enrollment will be implementing the following *Tribal ID Card Issuance Policy* in an effort to protect the integrity of the Tribal Enrollment Card and of our tribe the Ho-Chunk Nation.

**Requirements for Adult TID Cards**

- Current mailing & physical address
- The following valid identification documents must be provided (non-expired)
  - Driver's License, State ID, Temporary License (temporary paper print out)
  - Passport
  - Certified Birth Certificate
  - Tribal ID (expired or non-expired)

**Fees**

- Tribal ID Cards: Fee currently waived

**Hours**

- First come, first serve basis (Elders Prioritized)**
- Friday, September 19, 2025: 1 PM – 6:30 PM**
  - Minors and Adults (Contact email listed below for Minor tribal ID requirements)
- Saturday, September 20, 2025: 8 AM – until quorum is met**
  - Adults (18+) ONLY\*

**Location**

- Kalahari Convention Center, 1305 Kalahari Dr., Baraboo WI 53913

**Verification forms**

- Only provided on the day of General Council 2025**
- Provided before and after quorum is met
- Can be used to register
- Existing form of ID needs to be provided to receive a verification form
- Cost: Free
- Closes when registration has ended

**Questions? Contact Info**

- Email: [enrollmentinfo@ho-chunk.com](mailto:enrollmentinfo@ho-chunk.com)
- Phone: 715-284-7824

\*Tribal IDs will not be processed for minors or those with name changes the day of General Council 2025.



# GENERAL COUNCIL

## 2025 SURVIVAL GUIDE

The Annual Meeting of the General Council is one of the biggest and most important events of the Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN). Every year the Tribal Membership meets to set policy for the Ho-Chunk Nation. For those of you that have never attended it can be overwhelming and confusing.

The following is a list of must do’s and tips to assist you throughout your General Council day. The hope is that the event is enjoyable for you and thank you for your participation in this vital Tribal function.

1. **PARKING:** Parking is Free!

2. **REGISTRATION:** Opens at 8:00 AM. Tribal members will need a Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal ID to register. If you do not have this you will need to locate the HCN Enrollment Division. They will be providing picture ID’s or verification forms for most of the day and the cost is currently waived. Register as soon as possible.

3. **VOTING CARD:** At Registration, you will be assigned a voting card. You will need this card to participate in the voting and collect the payout after adjournment. You will use this card when voting devices are handed out closer to when quorum is being reached. The card will be inserted into the voting device.

4. **FOOD:** Feeling hungry? Breakfast will be provided for those early risers. Lunch will be served mid-day. All meals will be served buffet style to all non-elder/disabled Tribal members. There will be a “Snack Pack” provided at the end of the day. Water and coffee will be provided and located throughout the meeting area.

5. **FREE STUFF:** Be sure to check out the HCN Department Informational Booths. Some booths provide items which may include pens, bags, umbrellas, T-shirts, etc.

6. **OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There will be an Emcee for the early portion of the meeting and this person will be making important announcements that all Tribal members should know.

7. **QUORUM:** Once quorum is established through Registration and electronic vote, the meeting will proceed with the first item of the day which is to nominate and select a Chairperson. This will be the first official action of the General Council Meeting. When announced, you can pick up a voting device. It

will come with a lanyard or wristlet so you can keep it attached to you. PUT IT ON IMMEDIATELY AND KEEP IT WITH YOU DURING THE ENTIRE MEETING. You will need this device to participate in the voting and collect the payout after adjournment. Bear Clan Security has been instructed to collect all devices that are left unattended and/or if you are found to be in possession of more than one voting device. All confiscated voting devices will be returned to the Registration Booth. If you need any help setting up your voting device please proceed to the Office of General Council Table.

8. **AGENDA:** Next will be to set the agenda. If you would like to present a Resolution to be voted on you must present it at the podiums that will be located in the meeting area. The Chairperson will recognize (you) the speaker. Tribal member will give their name and last four digits of their Tribal Enrollment Number. REMEMBER: you must have a person designated to second your motion. Get to the mic quick if you want your resolution to be put on the agenda.

9. **RESOLUTIONS:** All presented resolutions will be addressed following a motion to close the agenda, a second, and an affirmative vote. Now the agenda is set for the day. All proposed resolutions will be displayed on the projections screens in the order that they were presented to be voted on by the General Council.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** at any point during the day, a Tribal member can make a motion to adjourn the meeting with a verbal second. Once that is done, there will be a vote. If the vote is an affirmative for adjourning then the meeting will be concluded. This will end the business of the day.

11. **VOTING DEVICE:** Please turn in your voting device at the stations located near each of the exits.

12. **PAYOUT:** Following adjournment of the meeting you will proceed to a payout station to receive your \$150 Administrative Fee for participating for the day. At the payout station you will be asked to present your HCN Tribal ID, voting card, and sign the payout verification form. Please sign legibly. If any one of these criteria are not met you will NOT GET PAID.



HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL  
*The People of the Ho-Chunk Nation hereby grant all inherent sovereign powers to the General Council*

### HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION A RESOLUTUION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW DESCENDANT ENROLLMENT WITH HO-CHUNK NATION AFTER RELINQUISHMENT FROM ANOTHER TRIBE

09.21.2024- G

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 1994, the Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation (“Constitution”), formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation (“Nation”) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, the People of the Ho-Chunk Nation hereby grant all inherent sovereign powers to the General Council; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, all eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation are entitled to participate in General Council; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 (c), the General Council retains the power to propose amendments in accordance with Article XIII, including those which reverse decisions of the Judiciary interpreting this Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 (e), the General Council retains the power to call a Special Election; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 (f), action by the General Council shall be binding; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5, and Article VI Section 2 (j), an Annual meeting has been duly called and notice duly given by the President; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, twenty (20) percent of the eligible voters of the Nation present in General Council shall constitute a quorum; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7, each action of the General Council shall require the presence of a quorum; and

**WHEREAS**, Article XIII, sec. 2 requires the Election Board to have a secretarial election upon a request of the General Council.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Council proposes the following amendment to the Constitution to add Section 1. (e) as follows:

(e) Beginning the date this amendment is approved the Ho-Chunk Nation will permit the enrollment of persons at least 18 years old, who were enrolled in another Tribe as a minor child, to enroll with the Ho-Chunk Nation upon relinquishment of enrollment in that other tribe. The Descendant must meet all other qualifications as identified in Article II, Section 1 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the General Counsel asks the Election Board to call a Secretarial Election pursuant to Article XIII Sec. 2 of the Constitution to be run in accordance to the ELECTION CODE Section 21; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that effective upon affirmative results of a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution as stated above, the Legislature shall amend the HCN Enrollment & Membership code to be consistent with the Constitution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, pursuant to Article IV Sec.3(a) if action is needed to enforce this resolution, the General Council herby delegates authority to the tribal member proposing this resolution, Rita A. Gardner, to bring all actions on behalf of the General Council.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary for the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council, hereby certify that the General Council of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of ~~187~~ members, of whom ~~137~~ constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held on the 21st day of September, 2024, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of ~~98~~ members, ~~34~~ opposed, and ~~135~~ abstaining, pursuant to the authority of Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

*Danella Ch. Spicker* *September 21, 2024*  
Secretary Date

Ho-Chunk Nation General Council P.O. Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615 • Office of General Council  
27374 State Highway 21, Suite 2 Tomah, WI 54660•Phone 715.284.7891 ext-11070, or 11075



### HO-CHUNK NATION

#### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

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

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

Thank you,  
*Jon Greendeer*  
Jon Greendeer  
Maąšusga  
Ho-Chunk Nation President

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



Attention Ho-chunk Tribal Members that live outside of the 16 counties of  
Purchase Referred Care Delivery Area

(Also known as Contract Health)

The At-Large Health Management Program (ALHMP) will be at General Council  
Stop by to learn more on how to apply

The Application is now fillable on-line

<https://health.ho-chunk.com/alhmp.html>

#### Services offered by the ALHM Program

Co-pay / Deductible  
Limited Dental  
Limited Optical  
Limited Durable Medical Equipment

Limited Prescriptions  
Premium Payments

Feel free to call 715-284-9851 ext. 35315





# New Election Process Brings Greater Access and Transparency to Upcoming General Council

Kaili Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board is rolling out a new voting process this year, designed to increase participation and transparency in a key constitutional amendment vote during the annual General Council meeting in September.

This information is meant to ensure that all tribal members are aware of the upcoming vote, which focuses on an amendment that would allow individuals who were enrolled in other tribes as minors, but who meet Ho-Chunk descendency requirements, to enroll in the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The vote will take place at General Council, and for the first time, members will also have the option to vote by mail.

William Gardner, Attorney General, said the board wanted to get this information out as widely as possible.

“The main point of the special edition is to give as much notice as possible,” Gardner said. “We want everyone to know about this new opportunity to vote and how the process will work.”

The push to create this hybrid voting process came after a resolution passed at last year’s General Council, which called for constitutional amendments to be voted on at the following year’s General Council meeting.

That resolution set the wheels in motion for the Legislature and Election Board to develop a system that allows members to cast their votes either in

person or through the mail, making it easier for more members to take part in the Nation’s decision-making.

In addition to the constitutional vote, the special edition also includes information about a District 1 special election. This election reflects recent redistricting changes, which now include the Minneapolis–St. Paul area as part of District 1.

Attorney Erik Shircel, who advises the Election Board, explained that the new process is possible because of an amendment to Section 21 of the election code.

Under the revised code, every eligible tribal member will automatically receive a ballot in the mail at least 30 days before General Council. These ballots no longer require notarization but must be witnessed by a U.S. citizen at least 18 years old.

For those attending General Council in person, polling stations will be set up at the site. Voting hours will run from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., or two hours after adjournment if the meeting ends earlier.

Shircel also reassured members that election integrity remains a priority. If a member votes by mail but later decides to attend General Council and vote in person, only the in-person vote will be counted. The mailed ballot would be set aside, ensuring no one votes twice.

“This new process gives tribal members who can’t make it to General Council an opportunity to still have their voices heard,” Shircel said. “At

the same time, it maintains election integrity and ensures no one votes twice.”

The change is especially important because amending the Constitution requires approval from at least 30 percent of eligible voters, while quorum at General Council requires just 20 percent.

The hybrid system is designed to close that gap by allowing more members to participate, even if they cannot attend in person.

Looking ahead, this hybrid approach is expected to become the standard for future constitutional amendment votes.

While other pending resolutions, including those on procedural rules, transparency, and governance, are also being discussed, Gardner emphasized that the main focus this year is ensuring the proposed enrollment amendment remains clear and at the forefront.

Tribal members are encouraged to watch their mailboxes in the coming weeks for ballots. Those who plan to attend General Council in person may vote at the meeting if they prefer.

Leadership hopes this new process will make it easier for everyone to have a say in shaping the Nation’s future.

For questions about the election process or ballots, members are encouraged to contact the Election Board office via telephone at 715-284-8900 or via email at [Election.Board@ho-chunk.com](mailto:Election.Board@ho-chunk.com).

# Low Wild Rice Production Continues In Northern Wisconsin; Some Harvesting Opportunities

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that this year’s wild rice crop in northern Wisconsin remains low, continuing a pattern of low production in recent years.

Annual wild rice production across the region is strongly linked to climate and weather events over the previous year.

“The 2025 season has brought a mix of conditions, including several notable storm systems,” said Kathy Smith, Ganawandag manoomin (she who takes care of wild rice) with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. “A fast-moving windstorm in mid-June produced widespread wind damage and heavy rainfall across the upper Midwest. In late June, some areas saw 6-7 inches of rain in a short period, contributing to temporary high-water levels on seepage lakes.”

Remote sensing using satellite imagery is a new tool for evaluating annual wild rice abundance across the region. According to the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, the imagery suggests that, across northern Wisconsin, the surface area coverage of wild rice is 18% less this year than last year’s crop.

These tools do not provide insights into local wild rice production, bed densities or seed production. Early scouting reports for known wild rice waters show a mixed bag of production, with some top-producing lakes seeing declines in the crop from last year, while others appear to be rebounding.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission maintains the Annual Harvest Outlook webpage, which includes helpful information for harvesters and wild rice production conditions for some historic wild rice waters in Wisconsin. Wild rice harvesters may notice a new look to this year’s webpage. The webpage may offer some insights on relative wild rice production for certain waters, but the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the DNR advise harvesters to explore different waters to find the most productive rice beds each year.

Wild rice harvesting is open to all Wisconsin residents with a wild rice harvester license and provides the opportunity to forage a highly nutritious, natural food source unique to the upper

Midwest. Wild rice maturity typically ranges from late August through mid-September across the state and varies by waterbody and rice bed.

Jason Fleener, DNR wetland habitat specialist, stresses the importance of waiting to harvest wild rice until it falls with relatively gentle strokes while “flailing” or “knocking” using ricing sticks. If little to no rice is falling, it is best to try harvesting a few days later. Kernels toward the top of the seed head tend to mature and fall first. Harvest efforts on immature beds inhibit the maturation of the rice kernels, negatively impacting the harvest experience for others and the long-term sustainability of wild rice production.

“Some lakes might be ready to harvest up to two weeks before other lakes,” Fleener said.

In addition to climate-related factors, wild rice production can be hindered by several human-induced factors. One of the most impactful activities is boating from late spring through the summer. Waves created by boats will uproot growing rice plants during vulnerable stages of growth when they are just below or above the surface of the water. Boaters on known wild rice lakes are encouraged to practice slow/no wake near shallow areas that might have wild rice growing.


More information on harvesting wild rice, licensing and harvest regulations is available on the DNR’s Wild Rice Harvesting webpage.



**Wild rice harvesting is open to all Wisconsin residents with a wild rice harvester license and provides the opportunity to forage a natural food source unique to the upper Midwest. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR**

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Log in to create your payment portal now at [hhcda.com](https://hhcda.com).

Congratulations, Warchiefs!



Congratulations to the Warchiefs, the Back-to-Back Men’s Upper Champions at the 52nd

Annual United Tribes Technical College Legends Softball Tournament.



# Avoid Ash Trees When Placing Deer Stands

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds hunters to avoid placing deer stands in or near ash trees as they start scouting properties ahead of the coming deer hunting season.

Most ash trees in the southern two-thirds of Wisconsin are dead or dying due to the emerald ash borer, and infestations in the northern part of the state are rapidly expanding. Emerald ash borer has been confirmed in all 72 Wisconsin counties, and unreported infestations are also likely to be present.

It is important to place and maintain tree stands carefully, as trees infested with emerald ash borer may unexpectedly snap or drop large branches. Hunters should also be cautious around ash trees when on the ground, especially in windy conditions, as infested trees are susceptible to branch and stem breakage.

“Dead and dying ash trees are structurally weaker than healthy trees, so they are not safe places to put deer stands,” said Bill McNee, DNR Forest Health Specialist. “In many cases, it can be hard to tell if a tree has been infested by emerald ash borer, so hunters should place deer stands in other types of trees instead.”

Tree stand accidents are the leading cause of serious injury to deer hunters. Research shows that one in four bowhunters has experienced a fall or near-fall from an elevated stand. Hunters can help keep themselves safe by following some basic rules and best practices, regardless of the type of tree selected.

**Basic Rules Of Tree Stand Safety**

No matter the type of tree stand, basic safety rules should always be observed:

- Always wear a full-body harness (also known as a fall-arrest system). Connect to your tether line and keep that line short. The tether is designed to keep the hunter in their seat, not to catch them after they fall.
- Always have three points of contact while climbing into and out of the tree stand, whether it’s two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand.
- Always use a haul line to raise and lower an unloaded firearm or bow into and out of the stand. The haul line can also be used to haul other things, such as a heavy backpack.
- Use a lifeline when climbing up and down, being sure to remain connected from the time you leave the ground to the time you put your feet on the ground.

The DNR offers a webpage with additional tree stand safety information, including a brief tree stand safety course.

**How To Identify Ash Trees**

Ash trees can be identified by looking for two key features:

- Opposite branching patterns, with two branches coming off the main stem directly across from one another.
- Compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets.

More information on ash trees and how to identify them is available on the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Entomology’s Emerald Ash Borer webpage.

**Avoid Spreading Forest Pests And Diseases**

When traveling for hunting season, obtain firewood close to where it will be burned to reduce the chance of spreading tree-killing insects and diseases such as emerald ash borer, spongy moth and oak wilt.

Dry firewood with loose bark has the lowest risk of spreading harmful insects or diseases. Purchasing certified firewood is another option, as it is widely available and is seasoned or treated to eliminate pests and diseases. Bundles of certified firewood have a printed label showing certification.

More information about emerald ash borer, signs and symptoms of infestation and where this pest has been found is available on the DNR’s Emerald Ash Borer webpage.



Hunters are reminded to avoid placing deer stands in or near ash trees, as trees infested with emerald ash borer may unexpectedly snap or drop large branches. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

# ‘Always in our hearts’: September is an important month for boarding school survivors

## The National Day of Remembrance coincides with Congressional consideration of the boarding school healing bill

by Mary Annette Pember  
Reprint from ICT

For Ponka-we Cozad, the National Day of Remembrance for Indian boarding school survivors is personal.

Members of her family attended boarding schools and shared hurtful stories about their days in the schools.

“In some way, shape or form, as Native peoples, we all have a story to share about the Indian boarding school era,” said Cozad, director of policy and advocacy at the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Cozad is Tohono O’odham Nation of Arizona and the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

“This is why I’m doing this work; when we talk about something always being in our hearts, it’s personal,” she told ICT.

The annual National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian boarding school survivors on Sept. 16 in Washington, D.C., with a special event sponsored by the coalition, known as NABS, from 5-7 p.m. EST at the Indian Gaming Association building.

The theme of this year’s event is “Always in our hearts.”

A number of other gatherings are scheduled across Indian Country to commemorate the Day of Remembrance with vigils, prayers, and other events in museums, churches and local communities.

September is an important month on both sides of the U.S. border. September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, known as Orange Shirt Day, in memory of the residential school students and the harsh conditions they endured. It became a national holiday after more than 1,000 unmarked graves were found at residential schools, including at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

In the U.S., where thousands of Native children died in boarding schools, the National Day of Remembrance provides an opportunity for tribal leaders, survivors, descendants of survivors as well as congressional members and the public to come together to honor and recognize children who never returned home from the schools.

This year, the event coincides with the National Congress of American Indians Tribal Unity Impact Days, Sept. 16-18, also in Washington, D.C.

During the Impact Days, NCAI organizes sessions in which tribal leaders can meet with members of Congress and federal agency officials in order to advocate for priorities such as fiscal year 2026 appropriations, public safety, economic development, housing, self-determination and other issues.

The Day of Remembrance also coincides with the fall session of the U.S. Congress, which convened on Sept. 2, giving lawmakers another opportunity to consider passing the Truth and Healing Commission on the Indian Boarding School Policies Act (S.761). The act would establish a commission to investigate, document and report on the histories of Indian boarding schools, develop recommendations for federal efforts based on those findings and promote healing for survivors and descendants.

Although the bill passed the Senate with a unanimous vote in December 2024, the House of Representatives did not bring the bill up for a vote before the legislative session ended.

In March, 2025, U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican from Alaska, and Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat from Massachusetts, reintroduced the bill. It is now awaiting further consideration and a full vote in the Senate.

At the event in Washington, a light reception and candlelight vigil will be held, and will include remarks from Deb Parker, the chief executive officer of NABS and a citizen of the Tulalip Tribe and descendant of the Yaqui and Apache tribes.



James Nells, Navajo, a U.S. combat veteran, carries an eagle staff as part of the color guard presentation beginning the "Road to Healing" hearing at Riverside Indian boarding school in Anadarko, Oklahoma, on Saturday, July 9, 2022. Survivors of boarding schools told then-U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, of the abuses they sustained at the schools. Credit: Mary Annette Pember/ICT

# Black River Health Announces Opening of Black River Health Pharmacy

Black River Health is excited to announce the launch of its newest service to the community: Black River Health Pharmacy. Beginning October 1, 2025, the pharmacy will begin operations at the current location of Black River Falls Clinic Pharmacy.

“Since 1973, Black River Falls Clinic Pharmacy has been proud to serve our community,” said Barb Hagenbrock, RPh, owner and pharmacist of Black River Falls Clinic Pharmacy. “I’m confident that Black River Health will carry on our tradition of excellent customer service. As one of your hometown pharmacists, I look forward to continuing to care for our patients at Black River Health Pharmacy and ensuring a smooth transition together.”

Black River Health Pharmacy will seamlessly integrate with the healthcare services already offered by Black River Health to continue providing comprehensive, accessible, and patient-centered care for the community.

“As a physician, I know how important it is for patients to have consistent, trustworthy access to their medications,” said Dr. Michelle Clark-Forsting, Chief Physician Executive of Black River Health. “I’m confident that this transition will maintain the high standard of care our community deserves.”

Together, Black River Health will continue to serve the community and ensure access to local pharmacy services.



October 9th,  
2025

Save the Date  
Green Corn  
Celebration

Come spend the day reconnecting with friends, family, and community!  
Enjoy tasty traditional foods, browse hands-on arts & crafts stations,  
and take in music and dancing from Ho-Chunk and visiting tribes.  
It's a great day to learn, share, and celebrate together.  
More details coming soon—hope to see you there!

LOCATED:  
BEHIND THE TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING





Save the Date  
**Green Corn Event**  
THURSDAY SEPT. 25, 2025  
Let us celebrate the harvest together

Maa Pij Preserve (Portage Property)  
1221 FERRY LANDING RD. GALENA, IL

A Green Corn event is a harvest festival that is accompanied by traditional games, food and dancing to the songs of a Native drum group. This includes the Green Corn Dance itself. The Ho-Chunk Nation is revitalizing this traditional celebration after forced removals, boarding schools, and other traumas caused unspeakable loss of life and damage to culture and lifeways. In their ancestral homelands of what is now northwest Illinois, indigenous groups will gather together to reconnect with Mother Earth through the Green Corn Dance ceremony.

1 PM - 4PM  
Traditional Ho-Chunk Games, Educational Opportunities, Environmental and Cultural tours given throughout the day that include viewpoints overlooking the confluence of the Galena & Mississippi Rivers. Food and Drinks are available throughout the Event.

4 PM - 4:30PM  
Maa Pij Preserve naming ceremony

5 PM - 9PM  
Traditional Green Corn feast followed by dancing and socializing

Please RSVP to attend by Sept. 15th to Hillary Holt at [hholt@jdcf.org](mailto:hholt@jdcf.org)

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# PBS Wisconsin announces new 3D video game, *Powwow Bound: A Menominee Homecoming*

PBS Wisconsin and Nebraska Public Media are excited to announce the launch of *Powwow Bound: A Menominee Homecoming*, a 3D narrative-driven adventure game sponsored by Vision Maker Media.

*Powwow Bound: A Menominee Homecoming* is available to play for free online at [pbswisconsin.org/powwow-bound](https://pbswisconsin.org/powwow-bound).

Led by Nebraska Public Media game producer/developer Jacob Schwitzer and PBS Wisconsin interactive media producer Angelina Shi, this immersive story is set in and around the Menominee Reservation in northeastern Wisconsin. Play as Deborah Jo (DJ), a teenage girl reconnecting with her Menominee roots during her family's return to the reservation for the annual contest powwow.

During the annual contest powwow, the family prepares for a special dance honoring their deceased grandfather and helps their mother rejoin the dance circle along the way.

"What is spectacular about this project is that there is Menominee representation at all levels of development," said Nicholas Schwitzer, character concept artist. "To have this project pitched by [my brother] Jacob, a Menominee first descendant, sets a new standard of active Indigenous engagement. He employed Menominee people throughout the development process but also collaborated with other tribal entities to make use of local resources like the College of Menominee Nation's Digital Media Lab to record the voices."

The goal of the game is to authentically present the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin as it exists today and allow players to learn about the culture and traditions of the tribe through the lens of the annual contest powwow.

"Authentic representation in this game is strengthened through a people- and

place-based approach," writer Justin Eagle Gauthier said. "The team has been very intentional in how the story, characters and world are portrayed to a larger gaming public. At its core, this approach has involved many members of the Menominee community representing an array of experiences and belonging to that community."

The game is playable on both Mac and Windows computers, but is not available on tablets or mobile devices.

The game is also available on the Wisconsin First Nations website — [wisconsinfirstnations.org](https://wisconsinfirstnations.org) — along with an educator guide from PBS Wisconsin Education. The guide includes background information, state standards, guiding questions and a Menominee glossary.

Funding for *Powwow Bound: A Menominee Homecoming* is provided by Vision Maker Media, Steven Vedro and Beverly Gordon, the Focus Fund for Wisconsin Programs and Friends of PBS Wisconsin.

PBS Wisconsin is a service of the Educational Communications Board and The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

PBS Wisconsin is a place to grow through learning on WHA-TV, Madison; WPNE-TV, Green Bay; WHRM-TV, Wausau; WLEF-TV, Park Falls; WHLA-TV, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV, Menomonie-Eau Claire.

Nebraska Public Media has connected citizens with news, sports, education and entertainment since 1954. Providing global and compelling stories from PBS and NPR, the statewide public media network also produces award-winning local content. Its programs and services reach Nebraskans on television, radio, online, social media and mobile apps. Visit [nebraskapublicmedia.org](https://nebraskapublicmedia.org) for more information.



Check it out!

Data updates available for our annual public/environmental health report! Includes Ho-Chunk data like population, death, and ER/hospitalization statistics, community conditions, and health outcomes like maternal/child health, STIs, asthma, water quality, and more!

Ho-Chunk Nation  
Department of Health  
View online at  
<https://health.ho-chunk.com>

Health Profile Report

Public Health & Environmental Health 2025



The Department of Health's Annual Public Health Report is

available! Now including updates for 2025. View the report on our webpage

or access the report at <http://bit.ly/4mdM2bv>.

Continued from Page 1

triumphs. "I used to say failures, but an elder told me there are no failures, only lessons. That really stuck with me," Koenig said. "I want to be remembered not just as a basketball player, but as someone who dedicated his life to service and helping people."

The Aquinas Athletics Wall of Fame

was established in 2005 to honor athletes, coaches, and teams who made significant contributions to the school's sports programs.

The Class of 2025 continues that tradition by recognizing both historic teams and individuals whose accomplishments represent the breadth of Aquinas athletics.



HO-CHUNK NATION  
LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR MEETING  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI  
AUGUST 19, 2025

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

**Roll Call:**

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

VC-Video Conference

**Determination of Quorum:** Quorum is established at 10:02 a.m.

**Opening Prayer:** President Jon Greendeer offered a word of prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:** **MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda with ADDING under District Meetings J. D4 Gu\u\\šgonak and K. D4 Virtual Meeting. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

**Legislative Meeting-August 5, 2025**

**MOTION** by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to approve the August 5, 2025 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 9-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Commission Reports:**

**Government Administration Commission-August 7, 2025**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the August 7, 2025 Government Administration Commission meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Gaming Commission Report**

The Gaming Commission is online. Chairwoman Cori Blaschke overviewed the report.

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to accept the Gaming Commission report. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Unfinished Business:**

**Red Cloud Park-Standing Agenda Item**

Attorney General Gardner gave a brief verbal update. There will be a meeting next Tuesday with the City.

**New Business:**

**Resolution-Adoption of Amendments to the Legislative Organization Act (2 HCC § 11)**

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 08-19-25 A**, Adoption of Amendments to the Legislative Organization Act (2 HCC § 11). Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-1(Rep. David Greendeer)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**District Meetings:**

**D1 Maqničo Horuzra – August 14, 2025**

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to the Office of General Council the **MOTION** by Rosetta Hunt that the Office of General Council develop a system for bus riders to receive a colored bracelet or special designation so Bus Riders will receive priority in payout lines. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to D1 Representatives the **MOTION** by Libby Fairchild to keep the Black River Falls and Twin Cities separate district meetings and have representation on all boards and committees that have more than 4 people representing each area. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**NOTED FOR THE RECORD:** Perception in the community is students living in St. Paul are receiving more services than the students that live in Minneapolis. Requesting a final report on the school supplies distribution on numbers to ensure fairness.

**NOTED FOR THE RECORD:** For the chosen Housing Board Member for District 1 to provide a written or verbal report at both Black River Falls District Meeting and also the Twin Cities District Meeting.

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Libby Fairchild to donate \$2,000 to the Spirit Care Elder Picnic event from the Twin Cities Community Improvements. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Department of Health the **MOTION** by Rosetta Hunt to have the Ho-Chunk Health Department provide classes on Diabetes Prevention, Nutrition and Exercises classes at least once per month at the Twin Cities Branch Office. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to refer to Department of Education the **MOTION** by Rosetta Hunt to revisit the possibility of hiring a Twin Cities tutor through the

Education Department and requesting the Department to seek grant funding for this service. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**D2 Hınyıkwas– August 11, 2025**

No motions.

**D2 Ho’ųni Xųnyųnik – August 12, 2025**

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to the HHCDA Board of Commissioners the **MOTION** by Steve Eades for the HHCDA Board of Commissioners publish meeting minutes in the Worak. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Carole Decorah to approve the funding request in the amount of \$1,688. (Native Women Run Funding). Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to D2 Representatives the **MOTION** by Conroy Greendeer, Jr. that no charitable contributions come out of the D2 community improvement funds. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Jayce Sallaway for Youth Services to be considered a higher priority in the next funding cycle. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to Office of the President and Department of Social Services the **MOTION** by Roberta Decorah to have a forum with parents and Youth Services prior to the next funding cycle. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to Legislative Legal the **MOTION** by Conroy Greendeer, Jr. for Legislative Staff to calculate current legislative work group expenses to include Legislators and Legislative aide salaries current workgroups and past outcomes to include ordinances and codes and future expectations of the workgroups as well. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Rep. Stephanie Begay suggested for Legislative Legal to give guidance on how to respond to this. Rep. Shelby Visintin would like it noted that legislative workgroups are just one part of the work Legislators and Legislative staff complete.

**D2 Hoxaikejal/Hogucejaj/ Nįzhakisųc – August 13, 2025**

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Clariss

Funmaker to approve \$5,000 for a donation to Sauk County Historical Society Board of Directors. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Office of the President and Personnel the **MOTION** by Reiss Blackhawk for his concerns regarding employment issues to be heard and acknowledged by Personnel and HR and for D2 Reps to follow through. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**D3 Pac cinąk – August 11, 2025**

No motions.

**D3 Tee hoikšek – August 12, 2025**

No motions.

**D3 Tešišik – August 6, 2025**

**MOTION** by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Ashley Vergara to sponsor the St. Thomas Moore Football team in the amount of \$4,500 contingent on the 10% or \$500 fundraising portion. Second by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**D3 Tejop – August 13, 2025**

**MOTION** by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to the Office of General Council the **MOTION** by Marlys Whiteagle to give elite elders an extra \$100 to attend General Council. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Stephanie Begay out of the room.**

**MOTION** by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. to refer to Office of the President and Department of Business the **MOTION** by Lashina Hoyer for Robert Mudd to attend the Madison area meeting. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Stephanie Begay out of the room.**

**D3 Cexhaci – August 14, 2025**

No meeting. No quorum.

**D4 Guųšgonąk – August 11, 2025**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Ben Krause that the Legislature reinstate Legislative Website with Information and Resolutions As soon as possible. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Stephanie Begay out of the room.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature and Office of the President the **MOTION** by Ben Krause that the Legislature coordinate with the OGC Branch, Executive Branch, and Judiciary to establish a Hoocak Nationwide Emergency Prep Plan for US Federal and State interference. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION**

**CARRIED. Rep. Stephanie Begay out of the room.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Sunshine Thundercheif to have a current business assessment done on Southland due before November 1, 2025. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Stephanie Begay out of the room.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Legislature and Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Sunshine Thunderchief to allocate \$10,000 to come out of the D4 community improvement fund for the Starved Rock Powwow. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Stephanie Begay and Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. out of the room.**

**D4 Virtual Meeting – August 13, 2025**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to D4 Representatives the **MOTION** by Benjamin Gamble for \$2500 for a mail out sent to tribal members for up to date contact information. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Stephanie Begay and Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. out of the room.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to D4 Representatives the **MOTION** by Benjamin Gamble for D4 Legislators to host coffee talks. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED. Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. out of the room.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to D4 Representatives the **MOTION** by Benjamin Gamble for D4 reps to do preliminary research/ feasibility study on a branch office in California due by the next area meeting. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to D4 Representatives the **MOTION** by Benjamin Gamble for a D4 incentive program for tribal members to attend the area meetings. To improve the area meeting attendance numbers. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Office of the President the **MOTION** by Victoria Good Thunder Stacy that D4 has the same amount of representatives for elder programs, elder conferences (NICOA) and events. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Executive Session (Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being:**  
*Continued on Page 15*



Continued from Page 14

**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. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:35 a.m.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Phyllis Smoke out of the room.*

*The meeting returned to Open Session at 12:37 p.m.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 8-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Sandra Whitewing and Rep. David Greendeer are not online.*

Amendment to the Agenda:

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to add under New Business B. Consideration of Quick Passage to Adopt the Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney Fee Ordinance (2 HCC § 10) and C. Resolution-Quick Passage Procedure to Adopt the Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney Fee Ordinance (2 HCC § 10). Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Sandra Whitewing not online.*

**Consideration of Quick Passage Procedure to Adopt the Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney Fee Ordinance (2 HCC § 10)**

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to consider Quick Passage Procedure to Adopt the Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney Fee Ordinance (2 HCC § 10). Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 8-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Sandra Whitewing not online.*

**Resolution-Quick Passage Procedure to Adopt the Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney Fee Ordinance (2 HCC § 10)**

*12:41 p.m. Rep. Sandra Whitewing is online.*

Rep. David Greendeer read the following clauses from the resolution: WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the enactment of legislation such as an Attorney Fee Ordinance is proper because: (1) it addresses a matter that is integral to the operation of the Nation’s government, in that it supports the self-determination and sovereign authority of the Nation, while also providing a financial support for the operation of the Nation’s government; and (2) adherence to the Normal Legislation Process would result in undue delay that would adversely impact the Nation, as it seeks to solidify its rights to such fees where an adverse party is engaging in activity that adversely affects the economic well-being of the Nation; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, the Legislative Organization Act, adopts the Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney Fee Ordinance (2 HCC §10), by Quick Passage, as reflected in the attached draft of the Attorney Fee Ordinance.

**MOTION** by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt **Resolution 08-19-25 D**, Quick Passage Procedure to Adopt the Ho-Chunk Nation Attorney Fee Ordinance (2 HCC § 10). Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 8-0-1(Rep.

Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Sandra Whitewing did not respond during vote count.*

Adjournment:

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to September 3, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. **MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

Amendment to the Agenda:


**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to add Libby Fairchild to the agenda. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Libby Fairchild thanked the Legislature for the donation towards the All Nations Indian Church and offered to host a Legislative Meeting at the All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis.

Adjournment:

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to September 3, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.*



Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board

Ho-Chunk Nation Oath of Office

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – 10:00 am

HCN Tribal Office Building –Black River Falls, Wisconsin

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

Post notice 09/08/25

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT,

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
Jalisa Decoran 12/11/24  
By Angel Littlewolf

☐ Amended  
**Notice to Creditors**  
Case No. PR 25-01

For Official Use

Notice to Newspaper and Personal Representative:

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

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF: Jalisa Decoran  
A Petition for Probate was filed in the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court. You have 90 days from the date of the first publication of this notice to present your claims to the personal representative, Angel Littlewolf, or the Clerk of Court, at P.O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. The deadline for filing claims is 11/08/2025. Only those claims so presented may be paid from the estate.

Mary Shumach  
Clerk of Court  
Mary Thunder  
Name Printed or Typed  
08/08/25  
Date

Form completed by (Name)  
Angel Littlewolf  
Address  
9000 City Place Blvd  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
Telephone  
(605) 900-6733  
Bar Number (if any)

PR 14, 04/18 Notice to Creditors

§8 HCC 13, HO-CHUNK NATION PROBATE CODE  
This form shall not be modified. It may be supplemented with additional material.

**HO-CHUNK NATION  
LEGISLATURE  
EMERGENCY SPECIAL  
MEETING  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI  
AUGUST 22, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

President Jon Greendeer-VC  
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-VC  
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-VC  
Vacant  
Rep. Paul Fox-VC  
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-VC  
Rep. Stephanie Begay-VC  
Rep. Kyle White Eagle-VC  
Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC  
Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-VC  
Rep. Edward Mullen-VC  
Rep. David Greendeer-VC  
Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC (1:05 p.m.)

VC-Video Conference

**Determination of Quorum:** Quorum is established at 1:02 p.m.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** **MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**New Business:**

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

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The meeting moved to Executive Session at 1:05 p.m.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

*The meeting returned to Open Session at 2:03 p.m.*

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. David Greendeer and Rep. Sandra Whitewing are not online during the vote.*

Adjournment:

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adjourn the Legislative Meeting. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. David Greendeer and Rep. Sandra Whitewing are not online during the vote.*

*The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.*



NOTICE OF RULES OF SECRETARIAL ELECTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025



Notice is hereby served to all eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation that the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board is calling an Election to amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation,

Article XIII of the Constitution provides: “Section 1. Requirements. This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation voting at an election called for that purpose by the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board, provided, that at least thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election.

Article XIII of the Constitution provides: “Section 2. Requests for a Secretarial Election. It shall be the duty of the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board to call and hold an election on any proposed amendment to this Constitution at the request of two thirds (2/3) of the entire Legislature, at the request of the General Council, or upon presentation of a petition signed by thirty (30) percent of the eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation.”

Mail and in person procedures:

The Election Board will mail out ballots no later than 30 days before General Council. The Voter will mark the ballot and place it in the ballot secrecy envelope and seal it. The Voter will then place the ballot secrecy envelope inside the return envelope and seal it. The return envelope will be signed by the Voter as his or her name appears on the return envelope, and signed by a witness who is a U.S. Citizen 18 years or older along with the address of said witness, and he or she will then return it by mail to the location designated by the Election Board pursuant to Section 14.a.(2).(a), in-person to the Election Board Office or in person at the annual General Council meeting if applicable.

A voter may make a request to replace a lost ballot no later than ten (10) days before the Election. Upon the request of the voter, the Election Board will replace the lost ballot within twenty-four (24) hours by sending a new ballot by overnight shipment. The Election Board will not be held responsible for ballots which are received beyond the deadline for receipt of ballots. It will be the voter’s responsibility to ensure the ballot is returned by the due date.

The Election Board will also make available the ability to vote at General Council in accordance with Section 21.e.(3). The Election Board will set up a number of voting locations in and around the location of General Council as the Board deems necessary to allow voting to occur with a reasonable wait time. Such in-person elections will be done consistent with the procedures listed in Section 13.g, j, and k of the Election Code.

Hours for voting at General Council will be from eight a.m. until seven p.m., unless quorum is not achieved or if General Council adjourns before the close of polls, then the polls will close two hours after adjournment or failure to achieve quorum, but no later than seven p.m. Any voter still in line at close of polls shall be allowed to vote.

LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

To amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, Article II, to add Section 1(e) as follows:

“(e) Beginning the date this amendment is approved the Ho-Chunk Nation will permit the enrollment of persons at least 18 years old, who were enrolled in another Tribe as a minor child, to enroll with the Ho-Chunk Nation upon relinquishment of enrollment in that other tribe. The Descendant must meet all other qualifications as identified in Article II, Section 1 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution.”

g. Challenges to Results; Amendments.

(1) Challenges to the results of the Election may be made pursuant to Section 18 of this CODE.

(2) The Election Board is not responsible for the legality or constitutionality of any amendments. If a member believes that an adopted amendment is in violation of the CONSTITUTION, or applicable federal law such as the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 25 USC Ch. 15, such suit will be brought against the proponent of the Amendment, either the petitioner, Legislature, or General Council.

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XIII SEC 1 AND THE ELECTION CODE, THIRTY PERCENT (30%) OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS MUST CAST A VOTE EITHER FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT TO BE VALID. IF LESS THAN 30% OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS PARTICIPATE, THE AMENDMENT SHALL BE DEEMED TO NOT PASS.

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 Code Sec. 11 (a) (6).

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 shall rule on all written challenges to the list of eligible voters immediately after the close of the challenge period. Section 11. c. ii. (August 31, 2025, at 4:00 p.m).

Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board  
W8801 Mission Road  
P.O Box 247  
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](mailto:Election.board@ho-chunk.com)

Ballots may be returned by overnight mail, so they may be received at the Election Board Office or the polling places prior to the 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 shall certify and post the official election results within three (3) days after the date of election.

CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS: Any member of the Ho-Chunk Nation may challenge the results of any election results 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:

The Election Board will make attempts to prevent electioneering on the issues of the Secretarial Elections from occurring within fifty (50) feet of the locations where voters are queued to receive their ballots, so long as those attempts do not interfere with the Board’s ability to timely assist voters. Advocacy of the issues for consideration for a Secretarial Election does not carry the same concern as a candidate electioneering for their own office. Therefore, such advocacy in and of itself within fifty (50) feet of the voting location shall not be sufficient to challenge the results of a Secretarial Election.

SECRETARIAL ELECTION

Saturday, September 20, 2025

POST NOTICE OF ELECTION

Saturday, July 26, 2025

POST ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST

Thursday, August 21, 2025

CHALLENGES TO THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST MUST BE RECEIVED SUNDAY AUGUST 31, 2025 PRIOR TO 4:00 PM

DAY MAIL BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED

Monday, July 28, 2025

LAST DAY TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT BALLOT

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

By 4:00 pm

ALL BALLOTS DUE TO POST OFFICE BOX,

BY

Saturday September 20, 2025

at 12:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION WILL BE HELD

on Sunday, September 21, 2025

at Kalahari Resort

starting at 9 a.m.