

# Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



# HOCAK WORAK

Vol. XXXIX, Issue 18

**Veterans Powwow** Return to Volk Field to Honor Service and Sacrifice

Page 2

Huważuk wira

Elk Calling Moon

**Trial Court Lay** Advocate Training

Page 3



**Green Corn** Celebration is October 9

September 26, 2025

Page 16

# No New Policy Set at the 2025 Ho-Chunk **Nation General Council Annual Meeting**

Ardith Van Riper Editor

The Ho-Chunk Nation Annual Meeting of the General Council convened on September 20 at the Kalahari Convention Center near Wisconsin Dells, WI. The General Council branch of government retains the power to set policy for the Ho-Chunk Nation. All eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation are entitled to participate in General Council. The quorum requirement was 1,290 tribal members. Quorum is twenty percent of the eligible voters of the Nation.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board rolled out a new voting process this year, designed to increase participation in a key constitutional amendment vote. The vote took place at this Annual Meeting of the General Council and, for the first time, members also had the option to vote by mail.

The amendment, Resolution 09.21.2025-G, that was being voted on would have allowed individuals who were enrolled in other tribes as minors, but who are meeting Ho-Chunk descendancy requirements, to enroll in the Ho-Chunk Nation. Continued on Page 3







# FIRST U.S. Po

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

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

# **Ho-Chunk Nation Launches First-Ever National Treasure Awards**

Kaili Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation is introducing a new way to honor cultural leaders and tradition keepers with the first-ever National Treasure Awards.

The awards will highlight individuals who safeguard practices at risk of being lost, from storytelling and language preservation to traditional arts and lifeways.

Nominations are now open for Ho-Chunk citizens who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to cultural preservation. Nominees must be at least 50 years old or have made significant contributions for at least 20 years toward perpetuating Ho-Chunk culture.

Applications must include a biography of the nominee's work, such as their years of service, classes or workshops taught, exhibitions, awards, and recognition, along with a copy of their Ho-Chunk Tribal ID or Certificate of Indian Blood.

Letters of support are also encouraged, with personal stories and endorsements

strengthening the nomination.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, September 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Award recipients will be announced on October 17, 2025, and will be formally honored at a ceremony on November 1, 2025.

The Honoring Ceremony will serve as both recognition and celebration, uplifting those who have ensured that Ho-Chunk cultural practices remain strong.

Too often, recognition comes only after these individuals have passed away. By establishing this award, the Nation hopes to celebrate and support these leaders during their lifetimes, ensuring that their knowledge and practices remain central to Ho-Chunk life.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Museum and Cultural Center is coordinating the program and encourages community members to participate.

For questions or to submit applications, individuals may contact josephine.lee@ ho-chunk.com or rosalind.cleveland@hochunk.com.

# **INSIDE SCOOP...**

News2,4,9-12	
Announcements 2-7,9,11,16	
Elders3	
Health5-6	
Memorials7	
General Council8	
Notices12	
Legal13	
Legisative Minutes14-15	
Ads15	

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.

# Veterans Powwow Returns to Volk Field to Honor Service and Sacrifice

Kaili Bero

The Veterans D.O.R.A. Powwow will return to Volk Field on Saturday, November 8, in honor of Native and non-Native veterans whose service has left a lasting legacy for their families and communities.

The event, sponsored by Descendants of Red Arrow (D.O.R.A.) and Friends, pays tribute to the 128th Infantry Company D of the 32nd "Red Arrow Division" and the many Ho-Chunk and Wisconsin veterans who served in World War I and beyond.

"It started in 1978 with my grandfather and others," Michael Day, one of the powwow organizers said.

"They wanted a way to thank and honor veterans, especially our Ho-Chunk relatives. Many weren't even U.S. citizens at the time, yet they still served. That's a mark of who we are as a people."

The powwow traces back to the sacrifices made by 25 Ho-Chunk men who joined the Red Arrow Division during World War I. Their names, histories, and flags remain at the center of the event each year.

Day said organizers are preparing to raise 25 flags, one for each of those men, during a special ceremony. Among them is his grandfather's flag, carried forward by the family. Direct descendants of the World War I veterans

are encouraged to attend for the issuance of their relatives flag.

The program begins at 11 a.m. with a flag raising led by Andrew Blackhawk American Legion Post 129, followed by a lunch meal. A keynote speaker and grand entry are scheduled for 1 p.m., with the Thundercloud Singers serving as host drum.

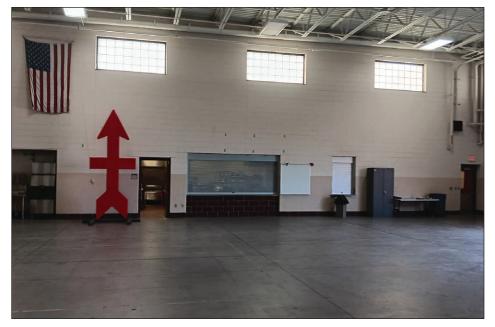
For the Day family, keeping the powwow going has been a generational effort. After several years off due to COVID-19, relatives helped bring it back in 2024.

"This isn't funded by grants or outside groups," Day said. "It started with family, and it's always been about family. That's sovereignty too, deciding for ourselves how we honor our people."

The day will include veterans' songs, dancing, traditional giveaways, and a silent auction to support future powwows. Special recognition is planned for the eldest Native veteran in attendance.

Day said the powwow creates space for all veterans to feel honored. One particular memory stood out to him.

"A Vietnam veteran came up to me and said he hadn't been to a veterans' event since coming home, because he was spit on and called names," Day said. "But he said this powwow made him proud to be a veteran again. It made



him cry. That's why we do this."

The powwow will take place at the National Guard Armory at Volk Field, a new building on the left as attendees enter the base.

"It's the headquarters of the Red Arrow Division, and it feels right to honor them there," Day said. As Ho-Chunk youth take on greater

As Ho-Chunk youth take on greater roles in cultural revitalization, from language teaching to event organizing, Day said he hopes the powwow continues long into the future.

"We're bringing the past into the present to build the future," Day said. "If we don't continue honoring these men and all veterans, we lose part of ourselves. But when we gather in this way, we keep our culture, our respect, and our care for family alive."

The Veterans D.O.R.A. Powwow is free and open to the public. Organizers invite families, veterans, and community members from all backgrounds to join in a day of remembrance, song, and celebration.



The Planning and Development Division was present at General Council 2025.

During this event, the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) survey was launched for Ho-Chunk Nation members, giving everyone the opportunity to use their voice to share their needs, concerns, and priorities.



General Council 2025

The CNA is a vital project that helps the Nation better understand what matters most to our people across all areas of life—housing, health care, education, language preservation, employment, elder services, youth programs, and more.

This survey is our way of gathering information directly from you—the HCN members—so that future programs, services, and funding decisions truly reflect the priorities of our communities.

Participation is easy! You can complete the survey:

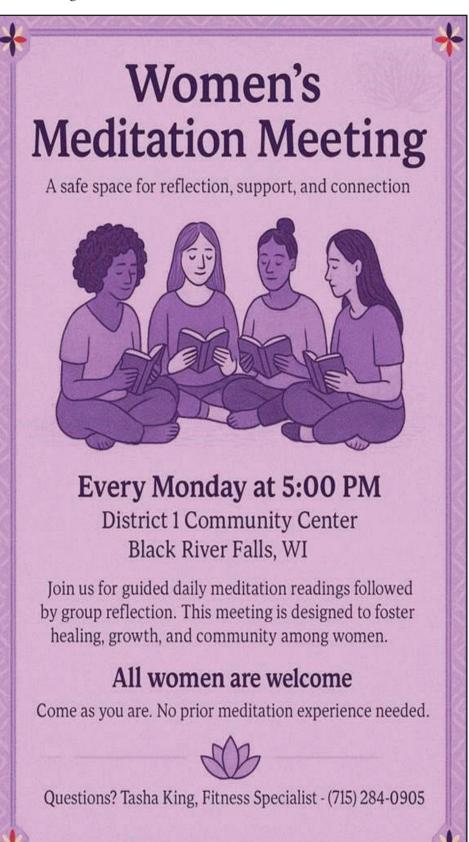


Scan the QR Code for Survey

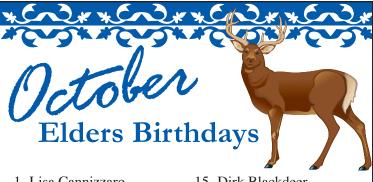
Please screen shot your fireworks at the end of the survey along with a copy of your HCN Tribal ID and you can either pick up \$20 in person at HCN Headquarters or email us your address.

Contact: Ryan.Zaroudi@ho-chunk.com

Darcy.Funmaker@ho-chunk.com



# **ELDERS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**



- 1 Lisa Cannizzaro Mona Cole Vanverd Dick, Jr. Frank Johnson, Jr. Serena Yellow Thunder
- Joseph Keller
- Kay Decorah Maynard Funmaker Wallace Greendeer Sandra Martin Angelo Perry Conant Sanford Alice Wood
- Steven Cleveland Bebe Lee Clarence Pettibone Terry Tipton Rebecca Weise
- William Hindsley Foster De Cora
- David Klauser Deborah Modjeska Paul Rogers Randy Snowball Andrew Thundercloud Juanita Tracy
- 8 Roxanne Metoxen
- Sherry Lonetree-Gray
- 10 Carson Funmaker
- 11 Ramona Godsby Linda Hopinkah Reta Littlegeorge
- 12 George Garvin Cleland Goodbear Theresa Hartman Loa Porter James Russell Diane Tallmadge
- 13 Cindy Labadie Candace Ringham Marjorie Whitman
- 14 Lisa Banuelos Lona Decorah Vickie Hindsley Elizabeth Miller Carol Pounds John Tudahl

- 15 Dirk Blackdeer Richard Reise Gerald Savage
- 16 Wayne Decorah Sarah Gilreath-Ford Harvey Holst, Jr. Terri Kipp Frances Little Wolf Duane Prescott
- 17 Robert Johnson
- 18 Vanessa Carriaga Kellie Gillenwater Sophie Paremski Rose Saylor Tamara Lee
- John Funmaker Dennis Hopinka Joyce Williams
- Kevin Day Daryl Thundercloud
- Todd Stroessner Patricia Thunder Hawk
- Kathy De Camp 23 Errol Hill
- 24 Sherry McKinley
- Vivian Anderson Charles Hindsley Ernest Wilson Jr.
- Peter Camacho David Esau, Sr. Tina Hindsley Crystal Young
- Lynette Bird Paulina Brandes Lana Deere Casey Fitzpatrick Lawrence Geyer Beth Yoesel
- Donald Cholka, Jr. George Kearnes Jon Pettibone Cynthia Yellowcloud
- Nancy Bush Lisa Ortiz Paul Youngthunder
- 30 Kim Blackdeer
- 31 Judith Buffalo

# Michael Day

Continued from Page 1

The Election Board held the polling stations open at the General Council meeting from 8:00 am until two hours after the adjournment.

However, the amendment did not meet the thirty percent threshold and was therefore defeated.

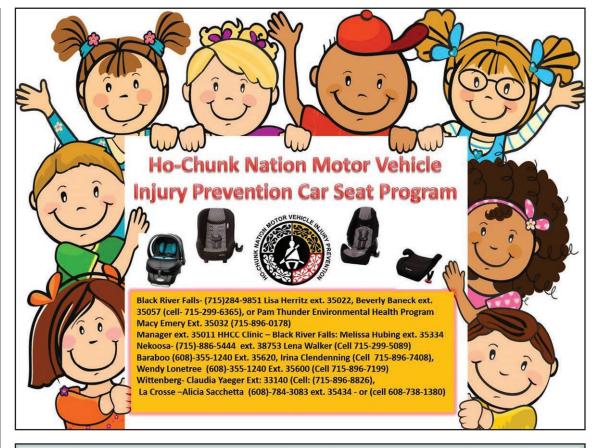
Registration for General Council members began at 8:00 am. The Master of Ceremonies Nathaniel Longtail, Jr., made

announcements. The **Enrollment Division was** on hand to produce Tribal Identification Cards. The Information Technology Division assisted with registration. Various programs, departments, and craft venders exhibited booths in the hallways surrounding the meeting room.

Buses originating from La Crosse, St. Paul, Green Bay, Continued on Page 8



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



# Protect

Serve. Advocate.

# **Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court Lay Advocate Training 2025:**

The Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court is offering a unique training opportunity to prepare individuals to represent people in tribal court.

Lay Advocate training will be held from 9:00am to 4:30 pm on October 6 — October 9, 2025.

A lay advocate helps people who have cases or matters in tribal court. Lay advocates should have a basic understanding of trial skills and legal principles in order to assist individuals in tribal justice systems.

Lay Advocates are **not** licensed attorneys.

Contact Senior Staff Attorney Naomi Whitehead at Naomi.Whitehead@ho-chunk.com for more information or to apply.

Attendees must apply by October 1, 2025.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court is charged with admitting qualified individuals to the Ho-Chunk Nation Bar Association. Upon completion of this training, Lay Advocates shall be required to apply for admission to the bar and will be evaluated on an individual basis.



# 4 Day Lay Advocate **Training:**

Monday, Oct. 6 -

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025

9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MTW & 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. TH

\*All 4 days mandatory & TH in person attendance required.

## **Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court**

W9598 Hwy. 54 East P.O. Box 70 Black River Falls, WI 54615

Phone: (715) 284-2722 Fax: (715) 284-3136 http://www.ho-chunk



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

The Hocak Worak encourages the submission of letters to the Editor. All letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content. The Hocak Worak reserves the right to reject any advertising, material, or letters submitted for publication. The submission of articles, poetry, artwork and photos is encouraged. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the Hocak Worak. The Hocak Worak will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material.

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

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

The Hocak Worak is a member of:

Association

**Indigenous Journalists** 



# HOCAK WORAK NEWSLETTER

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

• **PHONE**: (800) 472-3089

• FAX: (715) 284-7852

EMAIL: newsletter@ho-chunk.com ONLINE: www.ho-chunknation.com



# Indigenous Peoples' Day 2025

# To be held at the Sauk County Farm, Reedsburg, WI

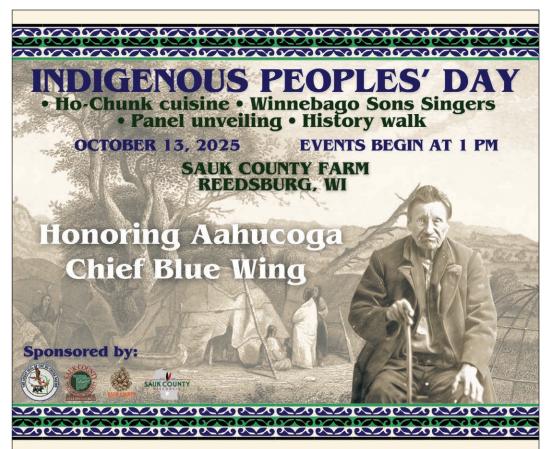
Reedsburg, WI - Indigenous Peoples' Day of Sauk County will be held on Monday, October 13 south of Reedsburg, Wisconsin at the Sauk County Farm located at S4555 Co Rd CH. The program will begin at the farm at 1 pm but the public is encouraged to come early to sample Ho-Chunk cuisine and go on a history walk before the unveiling of a new interpretive panel honoring Chief Aahucoga. His life and legacy and the culture and history of the Ho-Chunk will be celebrated this year just a few miles from his village at the Sauk County Farm.

Indigenous Peoples' Day in Sauk County was established in 2018 by a resolution passed by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors after introduction by then Supervisor Kristin K. White Eagle who also served as a Ho-Chunk Nation Legislator. The day was set aside to acknowledge the resilience and cultural contributions of Native Peoples, especially the Ho-Chunk.

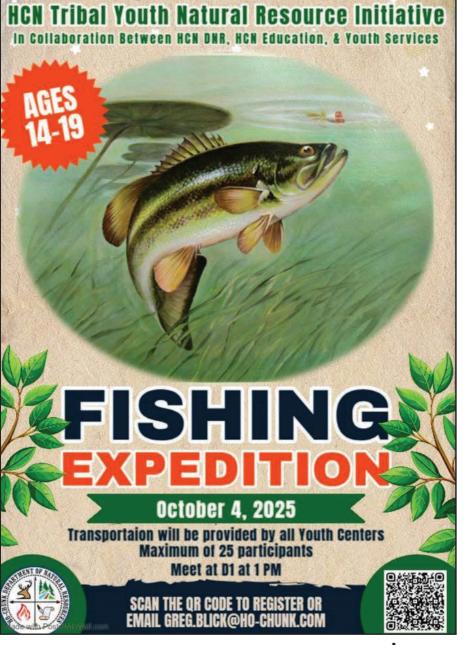
The seventh annual Indigenous

Peoples' Day in Sauk County will celebrate the life and legacy of Ho-Chunk Chief Aahucoga, known in English as Chief Blue Wing. Aahucoga was a leader in the resistance to the forced removal of his people from their ancestral homelands in Wisconsin from 1840 to 1874. In 1851 he purchased forty acres of land a few miles south of Reedsburg that contained the village that his band of Ho-Chunk had inhabited for years. Tucked into the hills of the driftless area, the village was built near powerful natural springs and where wild game was plentiful. Due to leaders such as Aahucoga, the Ho-Chunk retained a foothold on their ancestral lands despite 34 years of removal efforts. The Ho-Chunk Nation of today was built upon the efforts of people like Chief Aahucoga.

Indigenous Peoples' Day in Sauk County is supported by Sauk County, the Ho-Chunk Nation, Sauk County Land, Resource and Environment Department, and the Sauk County Historical Society.







# Gov. Evers, Microsoft Officials Announce New \$4 Billion Investment in Mount Pleasant Datacenter

Microsoft's \$7 billion total investment will help make Wisconsin home to the world's most powerful AI datacenter

RACINE — Gov. Tony
Evers today joined
Microsoft officials and
local leaders to announce
that Microsoft is investing
an additional \$4 billion to
further expand its planned
datacenter campus in
Mount Pleasant, raising
Microsoft's total investment

in Wisconsin to more than \$7 billion.

"Throughout our history, innovation has been the key to Wisconsin's success, championing ideas of discoveries that have transformed people's lives the world over, and this announcement is no

different," said Gov. Evers. "Microsoft's investment puts Wisconsin on the very cutting edge of AI power, not just in the U.S., but throughout the world, while creating good, family-supporting jobs, growing our communities, and bolstering our critical

biohealth, personalized medicine, and advanced manufacturing sectors here at home. We are grateful for Microsoft's continued investment in our state and look forward to continuing to partner together to support Wisconsin's workforce, economy, and

communities."

This comes as, in 2023, Gov. Evers announced Microsoft would invest billions of dollars to expand its datacenter footprint in Mount Pleasant, a move that would bring significant benefits to both the local Continued on Page 12



#### HO-CHUNK NATION GENERAL COUNCIL

The People of the Ho-Chunk Nation hereby grant all inherent sovereign powers to the General Council

GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION
A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW SECRETARIAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT GENERAL
COUNCIL MEETINGS

09.21.2024-H

WHEREAS, The GC has proposed a number of Constitutional changes which have failed due to the lack of voter participation.

WHEREAS, it is our Constitutional right and responsibility as tribal members to participate in our Government, which requires that we look at why these constitutional amendment elections have failed.

THEREFORE IT SHALL BE RESOLVED, that it shall be the Policy of the General Council to review all proposed Constitutional Amendments presented at the Annual General Council meeting. A vote shall be taken to approve the Resolution for a Secretarial Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, In order to promote informed decision making by the General Council regarding Constitutional Amendments, the Legislature shall amend the HCN Election Code to include a section allowing the Election Board to schedule all Secretarial Elections, including those which seek to amend the Constitution, at the next duly called General Council meeting.

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 1919 members, of whom 1979 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 1979 members, 1990 opposed, and 1979 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.





# 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 RESOLTUION 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.

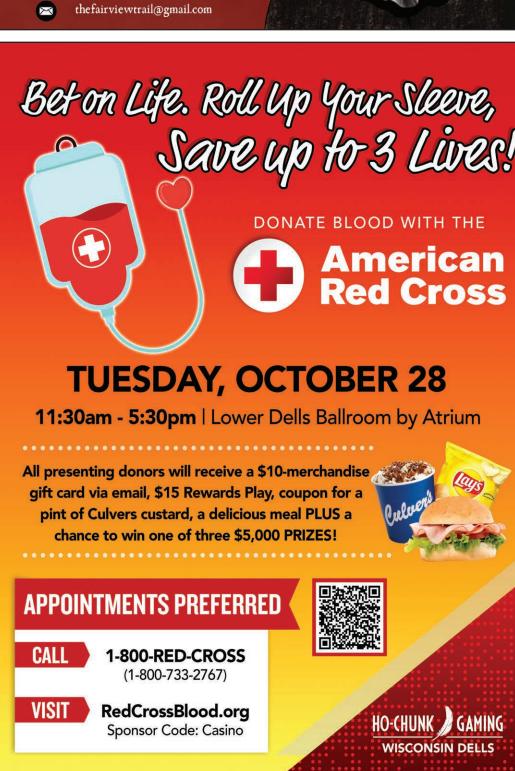
## CERTIFICATION

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 \$\mathbb{B}{\sqrt{n}}\$ members, of whom \$\mathbb{B}{\sqrt{N}}\$ 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 \$\mathbb{B}{\sqrt{N}}\$ members, \$\mathbb{D}{\sqrt{n}}\$ opposed, and \$\mathbb{B}{\sqrt{n}}\$ bastaining, 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 I, 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.

Numela Ch. Jilher Systinger 31, 2024

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





# IN REMEMBERANCE

Twenty-five Wisconsin Winnebago men volunteered for the First World War in the 128th Infantry, Company D, 32<sup>nd</sup> Red Arrow Division, Mauston, Wisconsin. The fine example set by these men iw worth of exceptional praise because they were not even considered full-fledged citizens of this country at the time of their military service. Foster DeCorah and Robert DeCorah gave their lives on the battlefield on August 5, 1918. Their deaths were not in vain. This Nation exists today only because of the willingness of these men to preserve and protect their country by giving their lives for freedom.

Their unselfish dedication to the preservation of freedom was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Wisconsin Winnebago Warriors and the United States Military Service.

In remembrance and with the utmost gratitude, this Memorial is humbly dedicated to the following Winnebago Veterans of World War One:

Robert Bigthunder Andrew Blackhawk James Brown Allen DeCorah Arthur DeCorah Foster DeCorah (KIA) Henry DeCorah Robert DeCorah (KIA) Russius DeCorah William DeCorah Nelson B DeLaRonde Andrew Funmaker James Greengrass James Haynka Sam Little Soldier Nett Longtail George Miner John Miner William Miner Mike Standing Water Jesse Thompson Sam Thunder Cloud Archie White Eagle John White Eagle

Martin White Bear

\*Lyle Wright (Lyle Wright was considered a Miner family member by the Miner family)

The following article was used in the presentation of a monument to the Wisconsin Winnebago Veterans who served in World War I. This monument is located at headquarters Volk Field, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.

The certificate reads:

"To all whom presents shall come greetings;

The thanks of the Nation is extended through the President, Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States to the people of the Winnebago Tribe of Wisconsin;

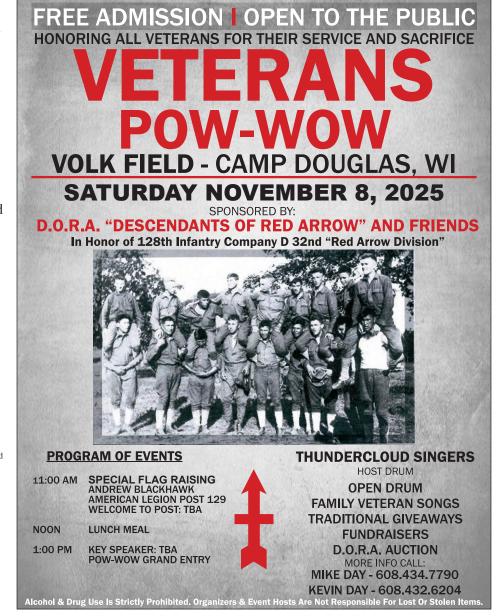
For their unswerving loyalty and patriotism, the splendid service rendered, the willing sacrifices made, and bravery of their sons in the military and naval service of the United States when the Nation was in peril during the World War of 1917-1918.

July 4, 1924 Signed; Calvin Collidge President"

History of the 128th Company D 32nd Red Arrow Division

The 32<sup>nd</sup> D Division was organized under the War Department order of July 18, 1917, of the National Guard units from both Wisconsin and Michigan. Units began leaving state camps in Wisconsin and Michigan bound for Fort McArthur, near Waco, Texas in early August 1917. The last units arrived at Camp McArthur by late September 1917.

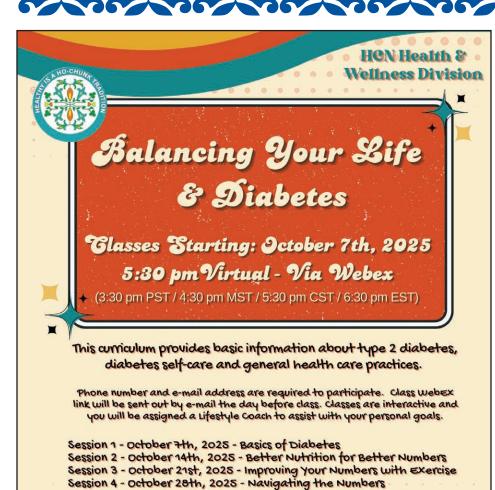
The Division served in the Front Line during WWI from May 18 to the end of the war on November 11, 1918. It was the first American Division to pierce the Hindenburg line, fought in four Major offensives and earned the name "Les Terribles" by the French, for their open bravery and courage.



The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was the only American Division to be bestowed with a nom-de-guerre by an Allied nation during the war.

The colors of all four Infantry Regiments, Three Artillery Regiments and three Machine Gun Battalions we decorated with the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. They were the only National Guard units bestowed with the highest order of the Croix de Guerre during WWI.

Returning home, the Division was demobilized in May 1919 and returned to National Guard status a year later.

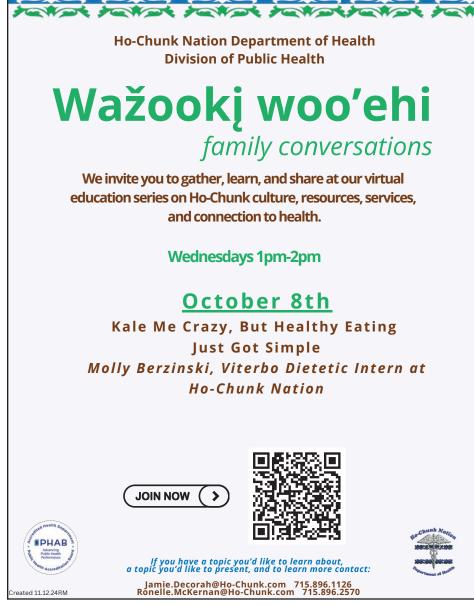


Session 5 - November 4th, 2025 - Accounting for Complications

Contact Rachel Montana or Lyndsey Killian at 715-284-9851 ext. 35039 or ext. 35068 or by e-mail: rachel.montana@ho-chunk.com or

lyndsey.killian@ho-chunk.com to sign up!

12/19/24 KB



# **MEMORIALS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **Gordon Thunder** August 29, 1939 - September 18, 2025

Mąkųha hojąp – Looks Upon the Earth Maaxi Hoikara - Drifting Cloud Gordon Thunder, 86, of Fairchild, WI, passed away peacefully and prayerfully at his home in Fairchild on Wednesday, September 18, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was the Kunu, or first born son, to Frank B. and Mary (GreenCrow) Thunder, on August 29, 1939. He had five sisters -Faith (Jim) Matter, Myrtle (Doug) Long, Hope (Tony) Smith, Charity, and Faye (Erwin) Begay - and two brothers, Levi Sr. (Susan nee Garvin) and Josiah Sr.

His early years began in Hunters Bridge, WI, but the family would often travel throughout the state, picking berries, cherries, or other crops to earn money to help sustain the family. He said even though some would say that was hard work, his Dad always made it seem like fun. His early educational experiences included attending Indian Day school in Neillsville. While he was a student there, he read the Bible, cover to cover, six times. Their parents moved the family to Fairchild where they all lived in a wigwam and their parents ran a basket stand next to Hwy 12. When he was 13, Gordon was involved in a hunting accident that changed the trajectory of his life. He was hospitalized for many months in Madison, WI, recovering from a reconstructed left arm and surgery on his left lung and ribs. He had minimal use of his left arm and hand, as well as a partial left lunch and shrapnel that remained in his body, for the rest of his life. His mother advised him to make the most of his abilities because no one was going to feel sorry for him, and he had to make a way for himself. After high school, he succeeded in doing just that, having a long, impressive work life of 58 years.

Gordon married Beverly Cleveland on February 12, 1966, and they settled in Fairchild. Gordon worked at Presto in Eau Claire from 1966 to 1974, then to construction jobs from 1975 to 1980 (where as part of the GLITC ITAC project, the crew who built the new Sand Pillow housing), with few being aware he had any physical limitations. From there, he moved on to administration and leadership roles. He served as Director of the WWBC Food Distribution Program, then became the Chairman of the Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee in 1987.

During his tenure as Tribal Chairman, the tribe experienced pheaval as it entered the Indian gaming era. He and his administration did their best to help the tribe navigate this period of clashes between external and internal forces, which continued after his term drew to a close in 1991. He returned to work with the tribe, the newly named Ho-Chunk Nation, as the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERÔ) Director for four years before moving to the Division Manager position in the Language & Culture Division in the Education Department. After three years, he returned to TERO as the Director, and then served the rest of his work life as a Language Instructor then Eminent Speaker in the Language Division.

Throughout his life, he held fast to his faith and strong belief in God. He served as a Roadman and officer in the Greater Eau Claire Chapter of the Native American Church, State of Wisconsin, officiating



at hundreds, if not thousands, of namings, baptisms, graduations, weddings, housewarmings, homecomings, doctorings, funerals, and encouragement prayer meetings. He was equally a strong believer in our Hoocak way of life, sharing stories told to him by his grandfather, Wakwaxopiniga Henry Thunder, and practicing and teaching our kinship and responsibilities, as well as teaching our Hoocak language. He enjoyed dancing fancy feather and men's traditional throughout his youth and into his older adult years, and he also sang with the drum group, The Renegades, in his younger years. He gave presentations throughout his life on spiritual and cultural matters for both Native and non-Native groups and served on numerous boards, committees, and associations on the state, regional and national levels. Like many men of his generation, he loved hunting, fishing, and trapping. He played basketball in his youth and, in his older years, loved watching the Badgers and Packers play but any football in general was good.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Frank B. and Mary GreenCrow Thunder, his brother, Levi Sr., his sisters, Faith, Hope and Charity; his sons Jonathon, Levi Jr., Timothy, and his daughters Darlene and Cynthia; his granddaughter Brooklyn Kay; nephew Lot Smith II; and close relatives, his uncle Henry J. GreenCrow Sr., and his nephews, David (Wanahay) Walker and Larry (Haga) Walker.

He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Beverly (Cleveland) Thunder, and daughters, Mary F. Thunder, Adrienne (J P Leary) Thunder, Nyree (Nick) Kedrowski, and Nicole Thunder; his son, Frank B. Thunder; 12 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Myrtle (Douglas) Long and Fay (Erwin) Begay; and one brother, Josiah Sr.

Native American Church funeral prayer services will be held on Saturday evening into Sunday morning at the Fairchild Community Center, 121 Farmers St., Fairchild, WI. The commitment service will begin at 1:00 pm on Sunday, September 21, with NAC funeral rites and burial taking place immediately following at the Fairchild Cemetery.

A visitation will be held from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the Anderson Funeral Home in Augusta, and then from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday at the Fairchild Community Center.

The family is grateful to the nurses and CNAs of St. Croix Hospice and the Anderson Funeral Home in Augusta for their kind, compassionate assistance.

# Daniel Ralph "Dan" Whitehorse May 19, 1949 - September 15, 2025



MCFARLAND - Daniel Ralph "Dan" Whitehorse, age 76, of McFarland, passed away on Monday, September 15, 2025. He was born on May 19, 1949, in Madison, Wis., the son of Walter and Marie (Stoffel) Whitehorse. Growing up in the Nazarene church, he enjoyed Sunday School and Bible studies. He was an avid reader of the Scriptures and was always checking out crime story books from the library.

Dan grew up loving sports, starting with racing go-karts with his three brothers and the Whitehorse family cousins. He enjoyed trap shooting, fishing and hunting. He especially enjoyed playing city league football and fast pitch softball. His softball team, Chief Auto Parts, won state championships throughout the years. Later in life he got hooked on playing

golf and was an avid golfer in various golf leagues. You could always find him on the golf course. Dan loved watching Packers and Badgers games along with NASCAR and Indy races.

Dan was a skilled craftsman, working with aluminum, wood and fiberglass. He exhibited those skills while working at Chief Auto Parts. He was active in the Ho Chunk Nation activities, along with golfing in the HAGA golf tournaments. But what he enjoyed most in life was his dearly loved daughter, Amy, and his grandchildren, Miles and Rylee.

Daniel is survived by his father, Walter Whitehorse; three brothers, Dennis (Kathy Purcell) Whitehorse, Ken (Sue) Whitehorse, and Jim (Marilee) Whitehorse; sister, Ruth Ann Whitehorse-Burns; daughter, Amy (Brodie Seaton) Whitehorse-Seaton; grandchildren, Miles Noreus and Rylee Seaton; former wife, Cheri Kelly; and many nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Marie Whitehorse; brother-in-law, Tom Burns; grandfather, Ralph Whitehorse; and grandmother, Annie Greencrow Whitehorse.

A Christian burial service will be held at CROSSPOINT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, 5011 Commercial Ave., Madison, at 11 a.m. on Friday September 26, 2025, with Lance Long presiding, followed by a luncheon at the church where visitation will take place. A private family burial will be held at Roselawn Memorial Park.

# Percy J. "Ruhii" Miner November 4, 1973 - September 20, 2025

Percy J. Miner, age 51, of Tomah, Wisconsin, passed away Saturday, September 20, 2025, at his home. He was born, November 4, 1973, to William and Alma (Greendeer) Miner.

Percy loved cooking and turned his passion into a career, working at many local restaurants and establishments. He also enjoyed time spent with family and friends.

He is survived by his brother, Charles Miner, special friend, Nicole Gebhardt, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Alma, a sister, Mary Kay Miner, brother, William Miner III, and an infant sister.

Traditional Ho Chunk services will be held Monday, September 22, 2025, 12:00 p.m. at the Blue Wing Community Center. Richard Mann will officiate. Burial will follow in the Blue wing Cemetery, Ioman,

Wisconsin. Family and friends are invited for visitation Monday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the Blue Wing Community Center. Online condolences are available at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.



"Threads of Tradition"

Every Tuesday Evening Beginning September 30<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm – 7:30pm

Hosted By District One Community Center & Ho-Chunk Artisans

Community Education Room 204

Water, coffee & light snacks provided Supplies for these three nights provided. Feel free to bring your own supplies also.

For more information, to register or to become a co-host to showcase your artistic talents or call 715-284-0905 Small stipends may be available for co-hosts



1st Three Tuesdays Learn PAAXGE

September 30th October 7th October 14th All participants completing final project will receive a mystery gift!

Space Limited to 15 Pre -Registrants

# 2025 General Council Annual Report Addition

**Education Department** 

Hoocak Ee Cooni Wažiperes Hocira

The early childhood program successfully secured licensing compliance, modestly increased enrollment, and expanded Hoocaklanguage instruction for both children and parents through classes, books, and assessments that showed steady improvement. Major achievements included delivering books to the D1 Library, providing language classes, upgrading facilities, strengthening family engagement with adjusted schedules, and securing new funding opportunities while joining statewide grant and training cohorts. Overall, the program made measurable progress in language revitalization, parent involvement, and child care quality. Continued growth, data tracking, and timely distribution of materials remain priorities.

#### Waakšik Pji Hirušja Kji

The Good Life Program opened the Ho-Chunk Public Library & Maker's Space at the D1 Community Center, with about 6,000 books and games. With IMLS grants it delivered broad inperson and virtual culture, language, arts, and college and career programming; its clearest outcome was Money Path financial-literacy at General Council, where 100% of age-eligible youth reported increased college and career awareness, and all federal grant reports were accepted. Participation remained strong and relationships with schools improved. Major risks are federal refusal of no-cost extensions prompting program shutdown and service transitions to other DOE divisions, the need to sustain the Library and transfer two IMLS grants to DOE/Library management, Treasury financial data delays, and staff continuity loss during handoff.



George Greendeer with Family Healing Camp Children

#### **Head Start**

The Head Start Division operated six centers with 42 staff (34 full-time, 8 quarter-time), and served 115 children (about 62% Ho-Chunk), including 20 with identified special needs. Services covered 159 instructional days, 100% family participation in orientation, two home visits and three conferences per family, active governance (Policy Council, local committees, HSAC), and broad family support for job skills, budgeting, taxes, and healthy meals. Health compliance was strong: 112 immunized (3 waivers), 103 up-to-date with 9 in progress, 103 dental and 103 physical exams, 109 vision, 101 hearing (1 refusal, 3 unable).

Major accomplishments included implementing new federal Program Performance Standards and passing the FA2 review, simplifying the application process, demonstrating child growth, securing the 2025–26 federal continuation grant (level funding; no COLA) and submitting the 2025–26 state grant, expanding staff professional development, sustaining monthly volunteer literacy (9 new books per child per year), updating emergency plans, and advancing facilities work for the Ahuco playground and the Mission facility's parking, and bus inspections. Key challenges are flat federal

funding amid rising costs, contractor delays for, and ongoing regulatory changes.

Long-range goals focus on increasing parent involvement including center-level tracking and biannual reviews, ensuring 100% medical and dental coverage and exams in partnership with the Nation's Health Department, addressing the opioid crisis with parent education and child prevention, and maintaining full compliance (licensing, CACFP, audits, CLASS).

#### **Disabilities Division**

The Division supports HCN families through IDEA-driven special education services, parent advocacy, and transition-to-adulthood guidance. 2024–25 shows 110 IEPs, with typical annual service levels reported as serving roughly 51–74% of eligible students. The Division provides comprehensive case support including IEP and \$504, evaluations, placement changes, transition referrals. The Division also delivers staff and family trainings, and presents statewide on culturally responsive practices. Since 2017 the Division has leveraged \$415,000 in external funds but notes recent changes may affect this component.

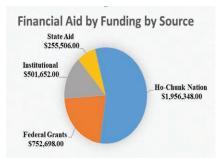
#### **School-Community Relations (SCR)**

SCR delivers liaison, advocacy, and professional development while administering Johnson O'Malley and the PreK–12 Grant Program. The Division processed over 750 PreK–12 requests under a \$2,000 per-student cap. The Division plans direct outreach to 1,397 enrolled Ho-Chunk students ages 3–18. Across the 11 Johnson O'Malley areas, Indian Education Committees met and funded reimbursements and cultural programming; July 2024 Back-to-School events supplied backpacks and supplies to 800 students. SCR maintained wide district outreach, advocacy (including

IEP/504 support), equity meetings, and cultural presentations and tours for over 400 elementary students; the Director also facilitated SEED cohorts.

IEC Location	JOM Students
Black River Falls	310
Baraboo-Wisconsin Dells	150
Tomah	92
Dane County	62
Nekoosa-Pittsville	55
La Crosse	54
Wittenberg	42
Wisconsin Rapids	26
Osseo-Fairchild	8
Stevens Point	6
Eau Claire	5

Higher Education awarded 421 scholarships to 218 students totaling \$1,956,348 in 2024–25, coordinated with FAFSA to maximize aid, and saw 51 degree completions (34 undergraduate and 17 graduate). Staffing is being rebuilt via a BIA-funded advisor. Tutor Services ran 19 tutors across 11 areas serving 327 students under 14 MOUs, expanded district partnerships, standardized interim data tracking while awaiting Skyward. Top PreK-12 requests underscore household cost pressures including internet access, extracurricular fees, equipment, and school meals. Overall, services and collaboration are strong, but a functioning student data system, stable multi-year funding, and added staffing are the most urgent needs.

















Rosalind Cleveland Virginia DeFord

John Steindorf

John Stacy

Ryan Crain

Sadie Garvin



**Department Executive Directors** 

Division of Planning and Development would like to sincerely apologize for our oversight in mistakenly leaving out the Department of Education in the 2025 GC Annual Report. We fully recognize the importance of the Department of Education and the valuable services they provide to our HCN members.



Office of the President Staff

We regret this error and will work to adjust the electronic copy to ensure the Education Department is properly included. Thank you for your understanding, and we truly appreciate the work of the Department of Education and all the work and services that you provide for the Nation.

Continued from Page 3 Chicago, Wittenberg, and Milwaukee delivered and returned individuals.

The Sanford WhiteEagle Legion Post 556 and Andrew Blackhawk Post 126 were the Honor Guards. The Wisconsin Dells drum group rendered songs throughout the day.

The registered tribal members voted John Stacy to chair the meeting. Mr. Stacy then requested Margaret Garvin to be the meeting Secretary and Harrison Funmaker to be the Sergeant at Arms. Traditional Chief

Clayton Winneshiek offered an opening prayer.

Verbal and video reports were given after quorum was established.

The agenda was then established with one proposed resolution.
The sole resolution was submitted before the deadline. The deadline was established by the HCN GC Resolution 09.21.24N titled, 'Resolution to Set Time Parameters on General Council with Limited Exceptions.'

In part, Resolution 09.21.24N reads, "the Ho-

Chunk Nation General Council hereby requires that members of the General Council submit all future General Council Resolutions 60 calendar days prior to the duly called annual meeting with the following exceptions: 1. That the duly called annual meeting date allows for at least a 90 calendar day grace period which would allow General Council Members with at least 30 calendar days to draft resolutions, and if a 90 day grace period is not provided then all Resolutions Continued on Page 13



# La Crosse Area Walk to End Alzheimer's Inspires Hope and Raises Critical Funds, Uniting the Community in the Fight Against Alzheimer's

The annual event is the world's largest gathering to end Alzheimer's, supporting local programs and global research.

LA CROSSE, WI, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 – The La Crosse community came together in a wave of purple pride and determination for this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's. Fueled by the energy and generosity of more than 300 walkers, the event is expected to raise more than \$150,000. These funds will directly support families across the La Crosse area with education, care, and support services, advocacy efforts, and the Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900).

"This year's Walk to End

"This year's Walk to End Alzheimer's in La Crosse was nothing short of extraordinary. To see thousands of people come together, each with their own story and their own reason to walk, was incredibly moving. The joy, the energy, and the determination of this community give us strength and bring us closer to the day when we end Alzheimer's for good. I am so grateful to every walker, volunteer, and supporter who made this celebration of hope and progress possible," said Dave Grams, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin

Chapter.

More than 7 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's, one of the nation's leading causes of death. Over 11 million family members and friends provide unpaid care for those affected. In Wisconsin, more than 110,000 people are living with Alzheimer's, and tens of thousands of caregivers are supporting them every day. In La Crosse County alone, over 2,826 residents age 65 and older are living with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association encourages continued support, as donations can still be made to the Walk to End Alzheimer's through December 31 at act.alz.org/lacrosse. Mail-in donations should be directed to our regional mail-processing hub at:

Alzheimer's Association Attn: WTEA La Crosse 4600 American Pkwy, Ste. 103 Madison, WI 53718

**Sponsors** 

The Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter thanks the numerous volunteers and sponsors of the Walk to End Alzheimer's, including National Presenting Sponsor Edward Jones, Local Presenting Sponsor WalzCraft, and many other local sponsors including Ashley, Associated Bank, Emplify Health by Gundersen, ENDALZ Fest Foundation, J.F. Brennan Company Inc., Mathy Construction Co., O'Brien Physical Therapy & Wellness, S&S Distributing, and Small Towns Doing Big Things, as well as our local media partner Mid-West Family Broadcasting, and statewide media partner Hearst.

# Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.

## Alzheimer's Association®

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.











Presented by WI Balance of State

Community Presentation & Discussion

October 2, 2025 | 2:00 PM

**Jackson County DHHS** 

Main Conference Room 421 Cty Rd R, BRF

Save your spot! Email: Brandy.Cobb@JacksonCountyWl.gov

The Jackson County Homeless Coalition is dedicated to assisting individuals facing housing instability by addressing their essential needs while broader, systemic solutions are being developed. Secure housing is fundamental to fostering a vibrant community and we believe every resident in Jackson County is entitled to a home. We aim to increase awareness and unite community supporters to enhance outreach efforts with creative collaboration, open-mindedness, and compassion.



# Actor and Indigenous film champion Robert Redford dies at 89

Actor, director and activist founded the Sundance Institute, which has launched the careers of many Native filmmakers through its Indigenous programs

by Sandra Hale Schulman Reprint from ICT

Robert Redford charted a diverse path through the film industry as an actor, producer and founder of the Sundance Film Institute and Festival. He was a champion of Indigenous stories, never shying away from the hard truths.

He died Tuesday, September 16, at his home at Sundance, Utah.

Born Charles Robert Redford Jr. on August 18, 1936, he studied art before turning to acting — landing at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. During a career that spanned five decades, Redford became an Oscar-winning director and activist. Redford elevated independent film, building the Sundance Film Festival from the ground up. It began as a training ground for new filmmakers in the scenic mountains of Park City, Utah - where Redford initially planned to open a ski resort - and then soon transformed into the most important independent film festival in the world.

"For me, the word to be underscored is 'independence," Redford told the Associated Press in 2018. "I've always believed in that word. That's what led to me eventually wanting to create a category that supported independent artists who weren't given a chance to be heard. The industry was pretty well controlled by the mainstream, which I was a part of. But I saw other stories out there that weren't having a chance to be told, and I thought, 'Well, maybe I can commit my energies to giving those people a chance.' As I look back on it, I feel very good about that.'

On a personal note, I met Redford in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2001. He was in town directing "The Castle," when he was honored for both his movie career and political causes by the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University and the Nashville Independent Film Festival. They presented Redford with the 2001 Freedom in Film award. I sat in the front row with my sister, awed by his presence and inspired by his brave

I also attended Sundance in 2017 when the film "Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World" premiered as I had been a consultant on the folk singers segment. I did not see him that week, but the energy of the festival, even during a blizzard, was electric as so many important films premiere there.

Praise for Redford has been pouring out from colleagues and those whose careers he supported.

The Sundance Institute

said in a statement: "We are deeply saddened by the loss of our founder and friend Robert Redford. Bob's vision of a space and a platform for independent voices launched a movement that, over four decades later, has inspired generations of artists and redefined cinema in the U.S. and around the world. Beyond his enormous contributions to culture at large, we will miss his generosity, clarity of purpose, curiosity, rebellious spirit, and his love for the creative process. We are humbled to be among the stewards of his remarkable legacy, which will continue to guide the Institute in perpetuity."

Film producer Jhane Myers premiered her latest film, "Free Leonard Peltier," in January at Sundance. She told ICT: "It's with great sadness to wake to the news of Robert Redford's passing. His accolades are many, filmmaker, actor, philanthropist, humanitarian, active land steward and activist, but it all sums up to a true visionary. He is defined through his allyship as he promoted and championed underrepresented filmmakers, through his landmark Sundance Institute, such as myself to authentically tell our own stories. He made it possible for so many Native filmmakers to enter the studio world as directors, producers and writers to redefine our narratives and history. He had stellar support and advice for us as we tackled the new documentary 'Free Leonard Peltier' as his own 'Incident at Oglala' was groundbreaking for its time.'

"I'm grateful to have worked with him on 'Words from A Bear,' the N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa) documentary for American Masters here in one of his hometowns, Santa Fe, NM. He entered our set with a sweep of his hair and a flash of his boyish grin, we knew a star had arrived. Journey well and fly high Mr. Redford. Creator just added a well-earned new star to continue to watch over us all."

Bird Runningwater, director of Sundance's Indigenous Program for two decades, said in a parting statement: "During my 20 years at the Sundance Institute, I've tried to imbue my work with inflections of my own Cheyenne and Mescalero Apache cultures. I've always believed our artists needed a culturally grounded support model in order for their stories to become their strongest and to make the long journey to the screen. It seems to have worked, launching so many careers and creating a body of work that previously didn't

"When I arrived at the



Robert Redford with "Trudell" producer Heather Rae at her Sundance Film Festival screening. (Courtesy of Heather Rae)

Institute in 2001, Sundance had already supported two generations of artists through the work of the first two Native Program staffers, Stephen Lewis and Heather Rae. They built a sturdy community supporting the early works of the founders of a Native American film movement."

"This investment built on the earlier work of our founder, Robert Redford, extending from when he personally supported Native filmmakers before he started the Institute. He also made sure to include Native filmmakers at the founding meetings of the Institute and in our first labs. Thanks for everything Bob. We all owe you so much for the family of #Sundance that you created."

Heather Rae, director of "Trudell," said: "It's hard to explain, but also important to explain, how important Bob Redford was to me. And to so many of us. He changed something in the world for storytellers; he created something extraordinary in the space that Sundance presents for artists. He was an incredible storyteller himself. But of the most generous spirit. I met my husband at Sundance. We premiered the #TrudellFilm at Sundance, a pivotal moment for me as a filmmaker. Bob came to that screening. He was a person of high notoriety that saw people. He saw artists .... I love his children. I am holding Bob's family in my heart. All who loved him ... what a legacy and I'm so grateful to have been so impacted by the grace of this

legacy."
Actor Ethan Hawke who appeared in "Reservation Dogs" said in a post: "Robert Redford, our ultimate champion of independent film, relentless advocate for authentic storytelling

and fiercely passionate environmentalist. Robert's legacy remains ingrained in our culture, transformed by his artistry, activism and the founding of Sundance Institute and Film Festival."

"Rumble" film producer
Stevie Salas told ICT: "When
I was a kid watching Robert
Redford in films even though
he was playing different
characters, I always felt like I
was watching someone who
might understand the way I
felt about life and the earth.
When I first met him I felt
like he was a friend. I never
got to work with him but I
know he helped a lot of my
friends out and I'll always be
grateful to him for that."

Sterlin Harjo, director of "Reservation Dogs," told an amusing story on social media of an encounter with Redford on set: "RIP Mr. Redford. My career and path as a young man was defined by his commitment to supporting independent cinema and especially his commitment to empower Native film and storytellers. I went to the Sundance Filmmakers labs at 23 years old. The support from Sundance made me feel like I belonged in an industry that most times felt so unreachable. He personally taught me things about story, shooting, and editing that I take with me today.

"One day I was sitting outside of my editing trailer smoking an American Spirit and a dirt bike came pulling up. It was Redford. He was wearing a bandana and looked like an all-around badass. He walked up to me and started talking to me about my script. Then he said, 'Oh, you're smoking my brand. Can I get one?' I said, 'Of course,' and I gave him a cigarette and offered him a light. He said he'd save it for later and put it behind his ear. Then he rode off on the dirt bike

and disappeared behind a mountain."

"The next day I was at lunch, and someone slapped a pack of American Spirits down on my lap. It was Redford. I offered to take one out and give him the pack. He said, 'Oh, no. Take the whole pack. I want you to go back to Oklahoma and tell them all what a generous guy I am."

"So. Oklahoma, I wanted to tell you — Bob Redford was one of the most generous men I've ever met. Journey Well."

Actor Gene Brave Rock, who appeared in the first season of "Dark Winds," told ICT: "The world has lost not only an extraordinary artist but also a visionary whose legacy will forever ripple across film, storytelling, and the human spirit. I had the profound privilege of meeting Robert Redford while working as a cast member of 'Dark Winds' and later within the art community of Santa Fe. Those encounters left me deeply moved, not just by his talent, but by his humility, wisdom, and genuine passion for the stories that shape us.

"Robert Redford's presence was unmatched, he carried a quiet power that elevated everyone around him. His artistry was never confined to the screen; it lived in the landscapes he cherished, in the communities he uplifted, and in the storytellers he inspired. His legacy reminds us that storytelling is not simply entertainment — it is a force that can heal, awaken, and transform."

"Robert Redford will be greatly missed, yet his spirit endures in every story that dares to be told with honesty and courage. Thank you, Robert, for everything you've given to cinema, to art, to humanity. Your work, your vision, and your heart will never be forgotten."

# Black River Falls Area Walk to End Alzheimer's Inspires Hope and Raises Critical Funds, Uniting the Community in the Fight Against Alzheimer's

# The annual event is the world's largest gathering to end Alzheimer's, supporting local programs and global research.

BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 – The Black River Falls community came

together in a wave of purple pride and determination for this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's. Fueled by the energy and generosity of Walkers from across the Black River Falls area, the event is expected to raise more than \$35,000. These funds will directly support families across the Black River Falls area with education, care, and support services, advocacy efforts, and the Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900).

"This year's Walk to End Alzheimer's in Black River Falls was nothing short of extraordinary. To see thousands of people come together, each with their own story and their own reason to walk, was incredibly moving. The joy, the energy, and the determination of this community give us strength and bring us closer to the day when we end Alzheimer's for good. I am so grateful to every walker, volunteer, and supporter who made this celebration of hope and progress possible," said Dave Grams,

Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter.

More than 7 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's, one of the nation's leading causes of death. Over 11 million family members and friends provide unpaid care for those affected. In Wisconsin, more than 110,000 people are living with Alzheimer's, and tens of thousands of caregivers are supporting them every day. In Jackson County alone, over 583 residents age 65 and older are living with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association encourages continued support, as donations can still be made to the Walk to End Alzheimer's through December 31 at act.alz.org/ blackriverfalls. Mail-in donations should be directed to our regional mail-processing hub at:

Alzheimer's Association Attn: WTEA Black River Falls 4600 American Pkwy, Ste. 103 Madison, WI 53718 **Sponsors** 

The Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter thanks the numerous volunteers and sponsors of the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

including National Presenting Sponsor care, support and research. Its mission Edward Jones, Local Presenting Sponsor Ho-Chunk Nation, and many other local sponsors, including S&S Distributing, Theisen's, Black River Falls Lions Club, Black River Healthcare, and Walmart Supercenter Black River Falls. The Association also thanks local media partner WWIS Radio and statewide media partner Hearst for helping to share the message and inspire communities to join the fight against Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's Association®

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.







# **How To Test Your Deer For CWD This Hunting Season**

MADISON, Wis. - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds hunters that they play an important role in the continued efforts for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance and management in Wisconsin. One of the most effective tools for monitoring CWD is testing your harvested deer, and testing is available statewide.

The DNR is especially interested in receiving more samples from the 2025 Fall Priority Areas near recent CWD detection locations. Additional samples in these areas will help the DNR better understand disease levels and distribution.



The DNR offers convenient testing options statewide for hunters to test their deer for CWD. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin **DNR** 

CWD is a contagious, fatal neurological disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk, moose and caribou. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or prion diseases. Prions are misshaped proteins that can spread the disease through direct animal-to-animal contact or in the environment through bodily substances or the carcass of infected deer.

Prions are extremely resilient and capable of remaining in the soil for years, potentially infecting several deer from a single source. Common signs of infected deer in the later stages of the disease are drastic weight loss, drooped head and ears, loss of coordination, excessive salivation and reduced fear of humans.

## **How To Test Your Deer**

Any hunter in the state may choose from the following testing options:

- Self-service kiosks, open 24/7: Kiosks contain supplies for hunters to drop off a deer head with 5 inches of neck attached.
- A helpful video tutorial is available to show you how to submit your sample information using the online form.
- In-person with cooperating partners: Meat processors and other businesses can collect the deer head for sampling Continued on Page 14



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NOTICE

September 24, 2025

Due to a recent incident and the abundance of mushrooms on all D1CC property, Ho-Chunk Nation Environmental Health has issued an informational memo regarding the danger of some mushroom spores, and provided the facility with recommendations for guests using D1CC grounds.

- Be Aware of the growing season (typically Aug early October)
- Be Aware of growing conditions (grows rapidly with heavy rains in open grass)
- Be Aware if you have sensitivity to spores/allergies/asthma or other underlying breathing conditions. Exposure to spores could cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis
- Stay away from close contact with mature mushrooms during the growing season/peek growing season conditions
- Post signage near the field informing users/visitors of the presence of mushrooms
- Refrain from use of the field during the peak growing season

For questions, concerns or more information please contact Ho-Chunk Nation Environmental Health via email Pam.Thunder@ho-chunk.com or phone (715-284-9851 ext. 35011)

D1CC management will ensure changes to scheduled outdoor events, post signs, and provide educational information announcements for the safety of all our community and guests.

Respectfully,



## Nagcgepi

Tina Brown | General Manager Administration | District One Community Center N7261 Warrior Avenue | Black River Falls, WI 54615 Office: 715-284-0905 ext: 15207 Work Cell: 715-896-7192 Tina.Brown@Ho-Chunk.com

# Boundless a treasure trove of Native art and literature

By Michael Tidemann
Boundless: Native
American Abundance in
Art and Literature
Lisa A. Crossman and
Heid E. Erdrich, editors
Amherst College Press
ISBN 978-1-94-94320883-8

For eons, Native art has held the fascination of all cultures. Lisa A. Crossman and Heid E. Erdrich have compiled a stunning volume of indigenous work in the book Boundless, based on an exhibition by the same name at Amherst College's Frost Library and Mead Art Museum at Amherst College.

Lavishly illustrated with Native artwork from the collection, Boundless is named for the archetypal influences within indigenous art and literature, with far more commonalities than differences.

Crossman is director of curatorial affairs at Mead Art Museum at Amherst College and Erdrich is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota and lives in Minnesota. Erdrich served as 2020-2024 Amherst College Mead Museum guest curator.

As the editors note, sense of place is a critical aspect of the Boundless exhibition and resulting volume.

"The Boundless project is grounded in the importance of place – and human relationship to place. Throughout the project, water describes the curatorial methodology and a connection to the Northeastern regions of North America."

While Boundless focuses on the Northeast, the collection includes Native work from throughout North America, including Salish and Inuit peoples from the Northwest and Lakota and Dakota of the Upper Midwest. The exhibition and resulting volume are a thoughtful reflection of how Native cultures view time and place.

"Rather than reinforcing a linear notion of time or designating one spatial center of gravity over another, Boundless calls us to reject the divisive hold of settler boundaries imposed between us, toward

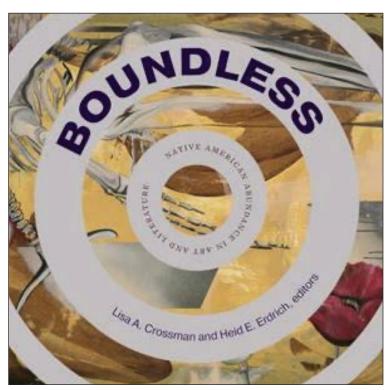


Michael Tidemann writes from Estherville, lowa. His Facebook page is Author Michael Tidemann.

a transnational and diasporic framework of Indigeneity and a deeper understanding of our shared histories."

Such a motif is reflected in Erdrich's interview with artist Sierra Henries regarding her meticulous pyrography on birch bark.

"I feel like in many ways, there's not much separation between art and place. The



materials come from the land, the inspiration comes from the world around me, much of the energy I have comes from being with places like the woods and ocean. And when that energetic well starts to run dry, those are the places where I return to refill

it."

Boundless is an essential resource for anyone interested in Native art and literature. It also makes a handsome conversation piece for any home or office. Its beauty is, well – boundless.

# DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE



# BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING Tribal Office Building

W9814 Airport Road Black River Falls, WI 54615 Wednesday, October 8, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

> Twin Cities AREA MEETING St. Paul Branch Office

1724 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104

Thursday, October 16, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

paul.fox@ho-chunk.com (651)338-9693 phyllis.smoke@ho-chunk.com (715)299-1016 Tracy Thundercloud (715)284-9343

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

Posted on: 9/23/25



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

Continued from Page 4 community and the entire state. Last May, Microsoft officials confirmed that it will invest \$3.3 billion by the end of 2026 in the Mount Pleasant datacenter, bringing thousands of union construction jobs to the area, as well as providing long-term employment opportunities over the next several years. The company is on track to complete construction and bring this first artificial intelligence (AI) datacenter online in early 2026 and has begun

hiring full-time workers for the operation.

According to Microsoft officials, the company has also committed to building a second datacenter, which will be similar in size and scale and in the same area at a cost of approximately \$4 billion by the end of 2028, raising Microsoft's total investment in Wisconsin to over \$7 billion. The datacenter campus in Mount Pleasant is part of a distributed training supercomputer spanning multiple locations.

"In the heart of the American Midwest, a modern marvel is rising," said Microsoft Vice Chair and President Brad Smith. "We're in the final phases of building the world's most powerful AI datacenter in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin—part of a region forged by generations of hard work and ingenuity. This facility is more than a technological feat. It's a promise to grow responsibly, invest deeply, and create opportunities for Wisconsin and for the nation."

Construction of the first Microsoft datacenter has already provided familysustaining jobs for almost 10,000 Wisconsin workers, including more than 3,000 construction workers during peak operations. Those workers have included electricians, plumbers, carpenters, pipefitters, structural iron and steel workers, concrete workers, and earth movers. The company indicated the second data center is expected to require a similar workforce.

In addition to the datacenter in Mount Pleasant, Microsoft has established a Microsoft AI Co-Innovation Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where hundreds of owners of small- and medium-sized businesses are learning how to use AI to improve productivity and remain competitive. The Wisconsin Economic **Development Corporation** (WEDC) is providing a \$500,000 grant to support capital improvements Continued on Page 13

# DISTRICT 3 AREA MEETING NOTICE



WITTENBERG | MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 | 6:00 PM

MILWAUKEE | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025 | 5:30 PM

GREEN BAY | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 | 6:00 PM

MADISON | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 | 6:00 PM

WI RAPIDS | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025 | 5:30 PM

# FOR WEBEX INFORMATION. PLEASE CONTACT:

REP. LAMBERT CLEVELAND
REP. SARAH LEMIEUX

REP. SHELBY VISINTIN

AIDE BELLA BLACKDEER

lambertcleveland@ho-chunk.com (715) 896-5166

sarah.lemieux@ho-chunk.com

shelby.visintin@ho-chunk.com isabella.blackdeer@ho-chunk.com (715) 315-8071 (715) 896-9323 (715) 284-9343 x11313

POSTED 9/22/25





#### **Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Aging**

W8825 Decorah Road Black River Falls, WI 54615 715-284-0811

### **Notice of Vacancy**

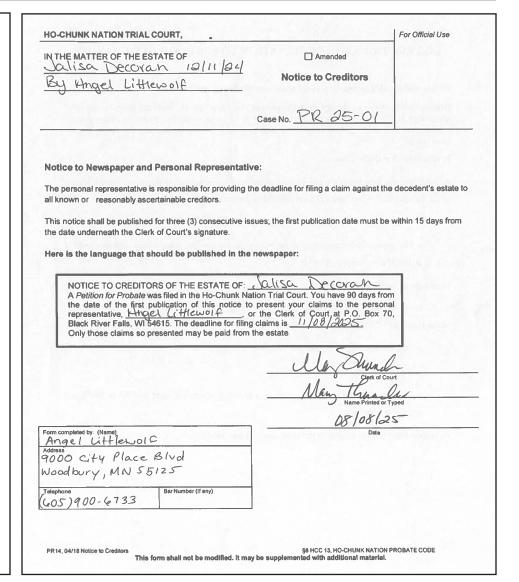
The Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Aging Division is currently seeking (1) applicant from the Milwaukee area to fill a vacant position on the Hoocak Waaksik Xete Advisory Board.

Board members are elected to a three year term. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis as current conditions allow.

Interested candidates should contact the Black River Falls Tribal Aging Unit at <u>715-284-0811</u> OR Jeanette Decorah at the Milwaukee Branch Office at <u>414-747-8680</u> by October 3, 2024 to complete the Hoocak Waaksik Xete Advisory Application.

Elections will be held on October 15, 2025 at the Milwaukee TAU from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Phone: 715-886-5416 Fax: 715-886-4890



Continued from Page 8

will be accepted up to the start of the meeting. 2. Resolutions for the purpose of removing elected officials shall be accepted up to the start of the meeting."

The Office of General Council announced the deadline date of July 22, 2025, to submit resolutions for the 2025 Annual Meeting. The announcement noted that all proposed resolutions should be submitted via email to Henry. Whitethunder@ho-chunk.com. This announcement appeared in the Hocak Worak and on social media.

The agenda with one resolution was approved with 1,066 yes votes, 209 no votes, and 89 abstain votes. Then a vote was called for amending the agenda to add in additional four resolutions that did not meet the 60 calendar days prior to General Council deadline. The motion was not carried by 576 yes votes, 760 no votes, and 103 abstain votes.

The meeting moved forward with one resolution on the agenda titled, 'A Resolution to Begin

Constitutional Reform Procedures' authored by Nathaniel Longtail, Jr.

Mr. Longtail made a motion to pass the Constitutional Reform Procedures. The resolution was not carried by 522 yes votes, 662 no votes, and 226 abstain votes.

Nathaniel Longtail, Jr., moved to adjourn with a second by Valerie Kempen. The voting was 855 yes votes, 507 no votes, and 71 abstain votes. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM.







SUMMONS

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

In the Interest of Minor Child: K.L.C., DOB 12/10/2021

Case Nos.: TG 25-08

TO THE PARENT, GUARDIAN, LEGAL OR PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN AND/OR TRADITIONAL RELATIVE(S):  $\underline{Divana\ L.\ Yellowcloud}$ 

You are hereby informed that you have been deemed an interested party in the above-entitled guardianship case. This legal notice of the filed *Petition for Temporary Guardianship* is now served upon you by publication. A proceeding concerning the above-named child is pending in the Court, and an adjudication will be made. The Court shall convene an *Guardianship Hearing* in accordance with HOCAK NATION THIRD PARTY GUARDIANSHIP ACT, Para. 11.13a. Any parent(s), guardian(s) and/or person(s) having legal or physical custody of the child must appear along with the child at the *Hearing* described below.

The Court shall commence a proceeding at 10:00 a.m. CST on the 23rd day of October 2025 for the following purpose: Guardianship Hearing. Parties may seek to appear by telephone by submitting a written request and accompanying Certificate of Service to the presiding judge. See Ho-Chunk Nation Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 5(B). Pursuant to HOCAK NATION THIRD PARTY GUARDIANSHIP ACT, Para. 11.13c, the parties have a right to counsel at their own expense; a right to confront and cross-examine those appearing against them; a right to present and subpoena witnesses; a right to substitution of judge; and a right to a jury trial.

NOTICE – VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO PROCEEDINGS FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT. SUBPOENAS: 'THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA SHALL SUBJECT THE PERSON FAILING TO COMPLY TO THE CONTEMPT POWER OF THE COURT.' THE COURT MAY FIND ANY PARTY TO THIS MATTER IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A COURT HEARING OR FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW COURT ORDERS.

The Trial Court is physically located at Wa Ehi Hocira, W9598 Highway 54 East, Black River Falls, (Jackson County) Wisconsin. The Trial Court's mailing address is P. O. Box 70, Black River Falls, WI 54615. The telephone number is (715) 284-2722, or toll free 800-434-4070, and the facsimile number is (715) 284-3136.

Continued from Page 12

necessary for the success of the lab. WEDC has led the state's efforts to bring Microsoft to Wisconsin and ensure it has the trained workforce, site development, and community resources needed to grow.

"Microsoft's commitment to Wisconsin demonstrates that our state can attract and support the most innovative, forward-looking businesses in the world," said WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes. "This is a huge win, not just for the communities directly involved in this project, but for our entire state."

In response to Microsoft's commitment to make significant investments in Wisconsin, Gov. Evers signed bipartisan legislation in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget designed to put the state in a more competitive position for datacenter investments. In addition, Wisconsin's designation as a Regional Tech Hub also acted as a catalyst for Microsoft's decision to

develop in the state. Additionally, earlier this year, Gov. Evers signed a bipartisan bill that creates exceptions for Tax Increment District (TID) Number 5 in the city of Port Washington and TID Number 10 in the city of Beaver Dam to support attracting new datacenters to these communities and to continue growing this multi-billion-dollar industry in the state.

Gov. Evers also previously signed an executive order creating the Governor's Task Force on Workforce and Artificial Intelligence to study how AI will transform business, education, and other key sectors of the state economy. This task force submitted its final report and action plan in July 2024. Building on this work, the final 2025-27 Biennial Budget Gov. Evers signed into law in July invests \$2 million to provide grants to technical college district boards to support the adoption and use of AI to prepare our workers to be ready for the future of AI.

# LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

**HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE OFFICES BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI SEPTEMBER 3, 2025** 

**<u>Call to Order:</u>** 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-P

Rep. Edward Mullen-VC

Rep. David Greendeer-VC

Rep. Sandra Whitewing-P

VC-Video Conference

**Determination of Quorum:** Quorum is established at 10:00 a.m.

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

## **Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** 

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** 

Legislative Meeting-August 19,

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the August 19, 2025 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

**Emergency Special Legislative** Meeting-August 22, 2025

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the August 22, 2025 Émergency Special Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** 

### **Commission Reports:**

Health, Insurance, Education Social **Services** and Commission-August 25, 2025

Rep. Sarah **MOTION** by Lemieux-White Eagle approve the August 25, 2025 Health, Insurance, Education and Social Services Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 MÔTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Education to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Hunter R3 (Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation) Grant

**MOTION** Rep. Thundercloud Damian to Resolution 09-03adopt 25 A, Authorization for the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Education to Apply for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Hunter R3 (Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation) Grant. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with Bay Path University

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 09-03-25 B, Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with Bay Path University. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION** CARRIED.

Resolution-Rescission Restatement of Resolution 06-09-15A Regarding Ho-Chunk Nation Pharmacy Compliance with the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration 340 Drug Pricing Program

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 09-03-25 C, Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 06-09-15A Regarding Ho-Chunk Nation Pharmacy Compliance with the U.S. Health Resources Services Administration Drug Pricing Program. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-

White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION** CARRIED.

Development Commission-August 27, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the August Development 2025 Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Maawakacak #439 T 2170 for SpecPro Professional Services,

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 09-03-25 D, Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Maawakacak #439 T 2170 for SpecPro Professional Services, LLC. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTIÓN** CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Maawakacak Property #439 T 2170 for Badger History Group

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt Resolution 09-03-25 E, Authorization of a Business Site Land Lease on Maawakacak Property #439 T 2170 for Badger History Group. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Finance Commission-August 28,2025

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the August 28, 2025 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Greendeer. 11-0-0 David MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-20-25 E Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Department of Social Services Tribal Aging Unit

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle adopt Resolution 09-03-25 **F**, Approval of True Increase to Resolution 06-20-25 E Adoption of Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Branch Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Department of Social Services Tribal Aging Unit. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Amendment to the Ho-Chunk Nation Health Plan

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Eagle Lemieux-White adopt Resolution 09-03-25 G. Amendment to the Ho-Chunk Nation Health Plan. Second by Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. 10-1(Rep. Edward Mullen)-0 MOTION CARRIED.

**Unfinished Business:** 

Red Cloud Park-Standing Agenda Item

Attorney General Gardner stated that there was a meeting last week with the City of La Crosse. The Mayor was in attendance and the Board of Park Commissioners President Jennifer Trost. Overall, the meeting went well. Ms. Trost will be forwarding a draft public announcement of the transfer and documentation for a partnership with the Nation for the park.

#### New Business:

Resolution-Hoocak Waaziija Haci Language Division Memorandum of Understanding with the Black River Falls School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution **09-03-25** *H*, Hoocak Waaziija Language Division Memorandum of Understanding with the Black River Falls School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 MÔTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Hoocak Waaziija Haci Language Division Memorandum of Understanding with the Tomah School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt Resolution **09-03-25 I**, Hoocak Waaziija Division Haci Language Memorandum of Understanding with the Tomah School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION** CARRIED.

Resolution-Hoocak Continued on Page 15

Waaziija Haci Language Division Memorandum of Understanding with the Wisconsin Dells School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

**MOTION** by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt Resolution **09-03-25 J**, Hoocak Waaziija Language Division Memorandum of Understanding with the Wisconsin Dells School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Hoocak Waaziija Haci Language Division Memorandum Understanding with the Nekoosa School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt *Resolution 09-03-25 K*, Hoocak Waaziija Haci Language Division Memorandum of Understanding with the Nekoosa School District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with Concordia University

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 09-03-25 L, Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with Concordia University. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION** CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with North Dakota State University

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt Resolution 09-03-25 M, Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with North Dakota State University. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with University of Iowa

#### Vage Vage V Vacable Vacable 705 705 705 705

Continued from Page 8 or remove the lymph nodes at the time of drop-off. This is a convenient option for hunters who intend to mount their deer.

- o If a taxidermist is not a cooperator, ask for the capedout head back to submit at a
- At-home lymph node extraction: Hunters may pick up a kit from a kiosk ahead of time, extract the retropharyngeal lymph nodes using the provided instructions and return the lymph nodes to the DNR or a kiosk for testing.
- Follow the printable stepby-step instructions to extract lymph nodes and prepare them for testing.
- By appointment with local DNR staff: Hunters can contact their local wildlife management

staff to schedule an in-person appointment. Please note, the availability for these appointments is limited.

CWD results will typically be available within 1-2 weeks. Hunters can find the nearest location using the DNR's CWD Sample and Disposal Locations

**Replacement Harvest Authorizations** 

A reminder, if a hunter receives a CWD-positive test result, a replacement authorization will be issued to their Go Wild account within 2-4 days from notification. A positive result from an antlered harvest authorization will result in a replacement antlered harvest authorization for the hunter (valid statewide). If the positive result was

received for an antlerless harvest registration, an eithersex replacement harvest authorization will be issued for the same DMU and land type.

The replacement authorizations aren't weaponspecific and are valid for the remainder of the current hunting season and next year's hunting seasons (starting in September 2026).

Carcass Disposal Reminders

Proper disposal of deer carcasses can reduce the chance of CWD being introduced to a new area. Several disposal resources are available for hunters, including deer carcass waste disposal dumpsters, landfills or transfer stations. These options can be found on the DNR's CWD Sample and

Disposal Locations map, and the DNR encourages hunters to check the map again throughout the season.

More dumpsters will be added closer to the nine-day gun hunting season. Hunters may also be able to dispose of carcass waste in curbside pickup for residents. Contact your local solid waste provider or municipality to check carcass waste acceptance policies before disposal.

**Baiting And Feeding** Hunters should also be

aware of current baiting and feeding bans by visiting the DNR's Baiting and Feeding webpage. There are two counties with new bans in place since last year's hunting season: Manitowoc and Clark counties.

The DNR's Chronic Wasting

Disease webpage provides more information about baiting and feeding bans, testing options and disposal options.

**Consuming Venison** 

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization all recommend against consuming meat from deer that test positive for CWD. Infected deer typically appear healthy for many months after contracting the disease, so DHS encourages testing for the disease regardless of the physical condition of the harvested deer, especially in areas prevalent with CWD. To date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans.

# LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

Continued from Page 14

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt *Resolution 09-03-25 N*, Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with University of Iowa. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:24 a.m.

2:19 p.m. Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. and Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle are present via video conference. MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 2:40 p.m.

**MOTION** by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** 

**Amendment to the Agenda:** 

**MOTION** by Rep. Sarah

Lemieux-White Eagle to add Resolution-Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Indian Health Service to the agenda. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution-Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Indian Health Service

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt *Resolution* 09-03-25 *P*, Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Indian Health Service. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** 

**Adjournment:** 

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to September 23, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL MEETING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

<u>Call to Order:</u> President Jon Greendeer called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

### **Roll Call:**

President Jon Greendeer-P Vice President Lambert Cleveland,

Jr.-VC

Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P Vacant

Rep. Paul Fox-P

Rep. Damian Thundercloud-VC

Rep. Stephanie Begay-VC

Rep. Kyle White Eagle-VC

Rep. Shelby Visintin-EX

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 1:32 p.m.

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

### **Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda with ADDING under New Business C. Starved Rock Pow wow Request. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 9-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

**New Business:** 

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Health Division of Environmental Health to Apply for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Priority Allocation Funding for Water Resources

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis

Smoke to adopt **Resolution 09-11-25 A**, Authorization for the Department of Health Division of Environmental Health to Apply for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Priority Allocation Funding for Water Resources. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** 

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Natural Resources to Apply for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Priority Allocation Funding for Natural Resources

**MOTION** by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt *Resolution 09-11-25 B*, Authorization for the Department of Natural Resources to Apply for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Priority Allocation Funding for Natural Resources. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** 

Starved Rock Pow wow Request

MOTION by Rep. Edward

Mullen for an emergency basis motion approving the Starved Rock pow wow request in the amount of \$10,000 with funds coming from the D4 Community Improvement funds; check to be payable to Gerald Savage - LĈHS/IV Intertribal with the funds to be reconciled. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 4-5(Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr., Rep. Phyllis Smoke, Rep. Damian Thundercloud, Rep. Stephanie Begay, Rep. Kyle White Eagle)-0 **MOTION** DEFEATED.

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

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** 

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 1:44 p.m.

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 2:06 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to adjourn the Special Legislative Meeting. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.



Empowering Indigenous Entrepreneurs.

Strengthening Wisconsin's Indian Country.

At First American Capital Corporation (FACC), we believe in the power of Indigenousowned businesses to drive economic growth, create jobs, and build wealth in Wisconsin's Indian Country. As a mission-focused lender, we provide access to capital through business loans, expert technical assistance, and advocacy to ensure Native entrepreneurs have the resources needed to succeed—on and off the reservation.

Our goal? To be a stepping stone—helping our borrowers strengthen their financial position so they can graduate to mainstream banking. When one business thrives, it lifts an entire community.

Let's build the future together. Partner with FACC and grow your business today.

Inquire today at faccwi.org.









10710 W. Scharles Ave., Hales Corners, WI 53130 414.604.2044 | info@faccwi.org | faccwi.org





October 9, 2025

# Green Corn Celebration

PLOCATED: BEHIND THE TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING W9814 AIRPORT ROAD BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615



# Join Us for a Community Celebration! Noon – 8:00 PM

Lunch at Noon: Share a dish for the Potluck

Demos: Cooking, Crafts, & Games

Social Dance begins at 3:00 PM

Snacks throughout the afternoon

Dinner at 5:00 PM

Green Corn Dance begins at 6:00 PM

Please bring your own chairs, as this is an outdoor event.

Traditional attire is encouraged.

Wash stations available for personal dishes/utensils.

Volunteers are welcome! Contact: OOP.PR@Ho-Chunk.com

We look forward to celebrating together!



# Step Challenge!

The person with the most steps at the end of the night receives a prize! Keep track on your personal phone or fitness watch.





