



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOC AK WORAK

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Ca Ma Hinaḡo wira | Deer Pawing Moon

October 24, 2025



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and the Fall Harvest

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to Ho-Chunk Casino in
Baraboo

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Ho-Chunk Nation Celebrates Major Milestone with Topping-Off Ceremony in Beloit

Kaili Berg

October 16, 2025 marked a historic moment for the Ho-Chunk Nation as leaders, workers, and community members gathered to celebrate the Topping-Off Ceremony for Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit, the placement of the final steel beam that brings the structure one step closer to completion.

The event celebrated years of planning, collaboration, and determination that have gone into making this long-awaited project a reality. Attendees from across the Nation joined representatives

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Ho-Chunk Community Honors Chief Blue Wing on Indigenous Peoples Day

Kaili Berg

On Monday, October 13, Ho-Chunk families and community members came together in Reedsburg to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day and honor Chief Aahucooga (Blue Wing) and the enduring Ho-Chunk presence in Sauk County.

The event featured a walking path lined with interpretive signs sharing the story of Chief Blue Wing and the history of the Ho-Chunk Nation in the area. Attendees also visited a nearby creek where Aahucooga's camp once stood, providing a moment to connect physically and spiritually with the land their ancestors once called home.

Having descendants of Chief Blue Wing present made the day especially meaningful, as families reflected on his legacy and the continued strength of Ho-Chunk

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Celebrating Green Corn and the Fall Harvest

Kaili Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation came together on October 9 for the annual Green Corn Celebration held behind the Tribal Office Building.

The event brought community members together to celebrate the year’s harvest and give thanks for the foods and medicines that continue to sustain the people. The celebration included traditional dishes, games, social dances, and demonstrations.

Community members brought traditional dishes such as corn soup, venison, and squash. The event reminded people about the value of traditional foods and how they connect to health and identity.

President Jon Greendeer said gatherings like this should be open and welcoming to everyone.

“When we do this together, we’re all learning from each other,” Greendeer said.

Greendeer shared that the Green Corn celebration has deep roots in Ho-Chunk culture. Years ago, he began learning from elders about the ceremony’s meaning and how it honors the harvest and the survival of the people.

He said the celebration represents a return to old ways that were almost lost after the boarding school era. “We didn’t lose this tradition,” Greendeer said. “It went to sleep, and now it’s awake again.”

The event ended with dancing and drumming and shared meals.

“The Green Corn reminds us to be grateful for what we have today,” Greendeer said. “We are still here, speaking our language, singing our songs, and keeping our ways alive.”



Letter to the Editor

By Barb Blackdeer-Mackenzie and Sadie Winneshiek

We want to extend thanks to all who came to the MMIW Event, September 25. Thanks to Lucas Quackenbush for curating and hosting the event—the self-care bags were really cool, thanks to the helpers (Tina and Leslie, you rock!), the facilities folks, and to all who came for the talk and film screening.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) is only the tip of a much deeper iceberg of problems. The underpinnings of missing or murdered indigenous people are based in drug abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, poverty, homelessness, racism, disconnection with traditional culture, sexism, legacy of colonization, disruption of the family unit, historical- and lifetime- trauma caused by the abuses under the US boarding school system.

I (Barb) delivered a quick message about our history, and sadly, time ran out. It is one thing for the non-Native crowd hearing our history for the first time: it is hard for them. **But it definitely hits different when you are a tribal member.** Lots of feelings churned up, and Sadie (who is also our Social Services Executive Director) and I wished there had been more time for something like a talking circle to alleviate

some of the sadness, anger and frustration for the many feelings the knowledge and film evoked. Some things we wished had gotten across, but probably didn’t:

- **One, we need our true history taught in schools.** Our history is one of cascading trauma. See the Ho-Chunk Resilience reprint elsewhere in this issue. The short list is
 - Colonization with disease and first contact that may have been well-intended with Jean Nicolle and his party (c. 1634), or not with the subsequent land speculators searching for riches and resources to exploit (c. 1634 to present).
 - Then peace treaties were made to make borders “safer” for settler colonizers as land cession took place on our eastern and southern borders from 1816 - 1865.
 - After that, our Ho-Chunk ancestors were the people in negotiation for land cession from 1830 – 1870, particularly since the US Congress passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830 that required all Native people east of the Mississippi River move to the west of it.
 - With the Peace Act of 1869, a new tactic in Indian policy of assimilation was adopted, and the Boarding School (US)/ Residential School (Canada) model was used to make our ancestors and elders “not Indian.” At first, they took children far

away from their homes— places like Carlisle in Pennsylvania, and Hampton Institute in Virginia. Later, the children (now the children and grandchildren of those who attended boarding school earlier in their lives). According to the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, around 1900, about 20,000 Native children had been taken to boarding schools. By 1926, 83% (60,988) of Indian school-age children were attending boarding schools. The entire American Indian population at that time was only 1 million people across the Americas, or 237,000 in the United States according to the US Census Bureau. Calculating that number, just over 25% of all US Native Americans (finally given citizenship in 1924) were in Boarding Schools. Boarding schools lasted until 1970 in the US, and 1996 in Canada. Every single one of us as survivors or descendants of survivors has been touched by the Boarding Schools and that era in our history.

- We have also experienced forced removals through the federal Indian Urban Relocation Act of 1956. Buses were brought to reservations. Whole families were moved to urban areas like Milwaukee and Chicago with no support systems. Families did not have the connections (AKA social capital) with local business

owners and dignitaries to secure jobs. Worse, they had their contact cut off from their original home communities due to lack of telephones, transportation, time (to come home for ceremonies- or if they did, high potential of losing their jobs). And at home, community members felt like the government “culled a herd” where social and family supports and neighbor relations were all felt as losses in the home communities.

- In order to curb the number of children taken away from Native parents, Indian Child Welfare Act was passed in 1978, and Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act was passed in 2012.

Second, despite all of this, it is possible to work through the trauma, so that it doesn’t control us. The process of growth and change is a natural one. Feel the hard feelings. Grieve as you must. And then grow from the experience. Whatever you used to cope (hopefully it was a positive healthy coping skill), is no longer critically needed. If it was a negative, unhealthy coping skill like drinking or drugging, you can get sober. It is possible.

Third, our ancestors suffered and survived a lot! They prayed hard for us as the future generations that they might not even see. They wanted our lives “better

than what they had”, “easier times”, with peace, love, laughter, and light. Bring the joy and be the joy our ancestors prayed for!

Last and most important: Wokixete! Love and care for one another. Mend broken hearts. Get well. Give support where you can. Love and respect one another. Stop judging—it only poisons you. Accept people where they are at and how they are. Lift one another up. Sadie has been doing this for years, and others are certainly welcome to join in—sobriety, wellbriety, cultural mentorship, dancing, storytelling, singing, and worldview. Like any great teacher, she will take you as far as her knowledge goes. And if you have more questions, she’ll refer you to someone who might or does know the answers. This kind of knowledge “should” be going through families. But if there has been some kind of disconnect, please do not take offense at someone asking a question out of turn or out of family or clan. We are all doing the best we can with what we have and are all at different stages of learning. We live in the era of recovery and revitalization—our language, values, attitudes, beliefs, stories, geography, all of it. Learn as much as you can, and live it as much as you can as well.

Elders Birthdays

November

1 Violet Gardiner

Inez Littlegeorge

Dawn Littlejohn-Gohre

Antonio Olivas

2 Stanley Decorah

Roger Garlow

Anita Naquayouma

Ruth Whitehorse Burns

3 Sandra Banuelos

Wesley Brockhaus

Kerry Funmaker

Christian Mach

Diane Wallace

Pamela Sue

4 Edward Decorah

Carol Garvin

Dale Littlejohn

Gertrude Rusu

Anthony Whitehorse

5 Susie Melendez

Francis Rave, Sr.

Christine Romano

Pamela Stott

6 Lorna Loken

Clayton Lonetree

7 Leona Davenport

Maureen Kachnowski

Kirk Matcha

9 Rosemarie Adams

Stanley Blackdeer

William Kemp

Sandra Lanier

Tammy Whitewing

Sandra Winneshiek

10 Delphine Blackcoon

Barbara Goodbear

Michael Greengrass

Bryon Lonetree

Christine Webster-Steele

11 Daniel Blackdeer

Ruth Denny

David Hammer

Lori Houghton

Rosetta Hunt

Steven Owen

Ernest Roybal

Charlotte Tipton

13 Lisa Blackdeer

Regina Lowe

Matthew Mc Kee

Robert Rockman

14 Gerald Blackhawk

Geraldine Blackhawk

Brenda James

Scott Rabyor

15 Alvin Greengrass

Gregory Johnson

Lois Lonetree

Davey Lowe

Janet McKee

16 Jeffrey Ranta

Richard Walker

Lorrie Lungstrum

Jo Ann Maney

Margaret Pardini

Shirley Petersen

Robert Whitewing

18 Mary Jo Brooks Hunter

Anna Leonard

Jon Miner

Daniel Sine

19 Phillip Blackhawk

Joan Dolesy

Karen Michel

Marjorie Raisbeck

20 Gail Funmaker

Johnny Smith, Sr.

21 Sharon Johnson

Robert Mudd

22 Betsy Falcon

Scott Funmaker

Kenneth Littlegeorge Jr.

Dale Lonetree

Mary Ness

Errol Whitewing

23 Helene Bean

Stephanie Kauffman

Anna Thompson

Readona Wilson

Annie Winneshiek

24 Senlin Good Voice

Kenneth Smith

Muriel Swan

25 Mary Anwash

Louise Redcloud

Carol Smith

27 Sheryl Cook

Nadine Houghton

Leah La Mere

28 Ida Ermenc

Myrtle Long

29 Kenneth Funmaker, Jr.

Leola Rockman

30 Kevin Knudsen

Jo Deen Lowe

Continued from Page 1

from the City of Beloit, law enforcement, construction crews, and architectural teams.

“Not every day out here looks like this or feels like this. Some days are absolutely inclement and managing folks and making sure that they’re safe on site is a job that I couldn’t even take on myself,” President Jon Greendeer said. “I want to say thank you to not only the workers and management team that has been facilitating this.”

Before the final beam was lifted into place, guests and workers signed their names across the steel as a

symbol of unity and shared accomplishment.

The ceremony also included remarks from members of the Executive Branch and Legislature, and other officials who reflected on the teamwork and perseverance that have guided the project forward.

“Everyone here had some kind of part in all of this,” Vice President Lambert Cleveland said. “I just want to thank all of you for making this happen.”

Special appreciation was given to the construction teams and early planners whose dedication laid the foundation for this achievement.

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be November 7th which will be published on November 14th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

First Signs of Memory Loss:
What one may first forget?

Recent conversations and events, the names of places and objects, and the words to use when speaking. These initial memory lapses are often minor but can involve misplacing items, asking repetitive questions, and having difficulty

with word-finding. As the disease progresses, more severe confusion, disorientation, and challenges with planning and decision-making develop.

If you have questions or concerns contact:

Tribal Memory Care Coordinator

Supporting Ho-Chunk Elders, Families and the Tribal Community

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Social Services

808 Red Iron Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Contact for Tribal Memory Care Coordinator

Phone: (715)-284-2622
Ext: 15138
Toll Free: (855)-659-8820

IMPORTANT:

Updates to the Financial Literacy Program

The Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department is excited to announce that we will be rolling out new online financial literacy courses.

Starting January 1, 2026 we will be adding four additional courses to our award-winning Ho-Chunk Financial Literacy Program.

What this means for Ho-Chunk Youth

If you have not completed your program before the new roll out, you will be required to complete the additional four courses. Ho-Chunk youth are required to complete the program in order to receive their trust prior to age 25.

	Complete Program in 2025	Complete Program in 2026
# of courses	14	18
Final exam questions	70	90
Meets NEW State of Wisconsin Standards	NO	YES

(Please contact your school regarding Act 60 for personal financial literacy. Our program may be able to fulfill that .5 credit requirement)

NEW: Money Explained: From Coins to Crypto

NEW: Making a Major Purchase

NEW: Debt Management

NEW: How your Trust Fund Works

If you or your student has any questions regarding the roll out, please contact the Department of Education at 1.715.284.4915 or email honoryourfuture@ho-chunk.com

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

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

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

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

HOCÁK WORAK NEWSLETTER

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The Hocak Worak is a member of:

Indigenous Journalists Association

INDIGENOUS Journalists Association

Scan for the Survey



Link to Survey:
https://sweetgrassconsulting.formstack.com/forms/ho_chunk_cc_na

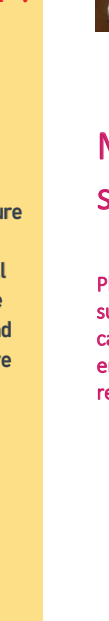


The People's Plan

Community Needs Assessment



The Survey Closes on Nov 14th!



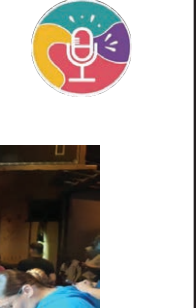
General Council 2025

Why You Should Participate:

Your input helps shape the future of Ho-Chunk programs and services. Your participation will help create a collective picture that guides future decisions and shapes the programs that serve us all.

Members who complete the survey receive \$20!

Please screenshot 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. Those that are emailed will receive a \$20 electronic gift card.



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All Responses Will Remain Strictly Confidential!

Contact:
Ryan.Zaroudi@ho-chunk.com
Darcy.Funmaker@ho-chunk.com



Citizen Participation Meeting

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

All Ho-Chunk tribal members and American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) families are invited to help shape the future of our community!

Date: Monday, November 3, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: HHCDA Office, 1102 E Monowau St., Tomah, WI

Topic: Proposed CDBG Public Facility and Community Development Project

Purpose: Your feedback is essential to ensure this project reflects the needs, values, and priorities of our Nation and its members.

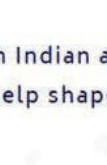
Why Your Voice Matters:

- Helps direct resources where they're most needed
- Ensures community projects reflect cultural values
- Supports transparency and accountability

Meal Provided ● Families Welcome

Can't attend in person?

Join by WebEx: QR Code Or by phone:



Meeting number: 2498 870 8369

Meeting password: mMPuqCmf263.

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0002 Toll

Access code: 24988708369

Want more information? Contact:

Angelina Hindsley – Angelina.Hindsley@ho-chunk.com

Melanie Stacy – Melanie.Stacy@ho-chunk.com

HHCDA reserves the right to modify, reschedule, or cancel any activities, events, or programs at its discretion. Such changes may be made without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances, safety concerns, or operational requirements. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health
Division of Public Health

Ważookj woo'ehi
family conversations

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

Wednesdays 1pm-2pm

November 5th
Healing to Wellness Court
Robert Mann - Wellness Court
Project Coordinator

November 12th
Ho-Chunk Cultural Awareness
Rita Kingswan

November 19th
Ho-Chunk Heritage, History & Culture
Ho-Chunk Nation Heritage Preservation Department

11/19
HYBRID
PRESENTATION:
WEBEX & IN-PERSON, AT D1CC

JOIN NOW

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

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

Created 11.12.24RM

Keya Luta Win Hunt Leads St. Thomas Volleyball Into a New Era

Kaili Berg

Keya Luta Win Hunt, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, has earned a spot on the NCAA Division I University of St. Thomas volleyball team in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Hunt is the daughter of Shawnee Hunt and Aquila Tapio-Hunt, and the granddaughter of Rosetta and Melvin Hunt. She is also Leech Lake Ojibwe and Oglala Lakota.

Under the steady leadership of longtime head coach Thanh Pham, now in his 23rd season, the Tommies continue to climb the ranks of Division I competition. There are only two NCAA Division I volleyball programs in Minnesota, one at the University of Minnesota and the other at the University of St. Thomas.

Standing 5 feet 11 inches tall, Hunt is also Leech Lake Ojibwe and Oglala Lakota. Her presence on and off the court have defined her journey since her high school days at Breck School in Golden Valley, Minnesota, where she earned IMAC Player of the Year honors.

Hunt joined the Tommies



Senior setter Keya Luta Win Hunt. (Photo courtesy of the Tommies.)

as the program transitioned from Division III to Division I. Over the past three seasons, she has become a cornerstone of the team's progress. Last season, the Tommies achieved a third-place finish in their conference.

Off the court, Hunt has found balance through academics. She is majoring in Public Health and plans to graduate in spring 2026 before pursuing graduate studies in Healthcare Administration.

As one of the few Native athletes in Division I volleyball, Hunt also carries a deep sense of cultural responsibility. She uses her platform to inspire younger Indigenous athletes to take pride in their identities and remain open to growth.

How Does Nature Help Our Health?

- Class 1 - November 12th, 2025
 - 3:30 to 4:30 pm
 - Strengths and the benefits of nature.
- Class 2 - November 19th, 2025
 - 3:30 to 4:30 pm
 - Tools that nature offers to improve health & peace.
- Class 3 - December 3rd, 2025
 - 3:30 to 4:30 pm
 - The benefits of sound & animals.
- Class 4 - December 10th, 2025
 - 3:30 to 4:30 pm
 - What about winter? Ice project.

"Our very essence, health & happiness depend on Mother Earth."

— David Suzuki

These classes are online to reach as many people as possible. However there will be homework in nature and will be discussed in classes.

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

Upcoming Ho-Chunk Closures

Oct-Dec

OCTOBER 13	Both pharmacies closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day
OCTOBER 29	Both pharmacies closed for Health Department Meeting
NOVEMBER 11	Both pharmacies closed for Veteran's Day
NOVEMBER 19	HHCC Pharmacy (BRF) closed 8:30am-10:00am
NOVEMBER 27	Both pharmacies closed for Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 28	Both pharmacies closed for Ho-Chunk Day
DECEMBER 17	HHCC Pharmacy (BRF) closed 8:30am-10:00am
DECEMBER 17	HOW Pharmacy (Baraboo) closed 12:30pm-1:30pm
DECEMBER 24	Both pharmacies closed for Christmas Eve
DECEMBER 25	Both pharmacies closed for Christmas Day
DECEMBER 31	Both pharmacies closed for New Years' Eve

PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY FOR MEDICATION REFILLS

SANDPILLOW TRUNK OR TREAT

2025

FRIDAY OCTOBER 31ST

Sandpillow Ballfield Parking Lot

3:30PM - 5:30PM

This is a Community Event, not responsible for most usual mishaps, come out and have a safe and fun time.

4 Mi. East of Black River Falls on Hwy 54

To sign up your car/trunk up contact:
KJ at 708-269-6343 or kjfunma@gmail.com

Tribal Capital Access, Native Housing Solutions To Take Center Stage at Wisconsin Conference

LAC DU FLAMBEAU, Wisc. — When Daniel Doyen launched his construction company four years ago with \$2,000 and his late father’s tools, traditional banks weren’t an option. He found financing through Native-owned Bay Bank that helped him build D&T Construction into a company now working on homes and commercial buildings across the Green Bay area.

Access to capital — the challenge Doyen faced and ultimately solved — will be central to WIHEDC’s second annual Housing and Economic Development Conference on Nov. 5-6 at the Lake of the Torches Resort and Casino in Lac du Flambeau. The two-day forum brings together Native entrepreneurs, tribal leaders, housing experts, and policymakers to address capital access, housing shortages, and business growth across the state and the broader Great Lakes region — an expansion from last year’s Wisconsin-focused event.

“We want to expand this into more of a regional presence,” said Fern Orie, CEO of WIHEDC and a member of the

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. WIHEDC expects Native business owners from tribes across Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan to attend.

WIHEDC operates as a collaboration of four Native Community Development Financial Institutions: Cedar Growth, First American Capital Corporation, Wisconsin Native Loan Fund, and Woodland Financial Partners. These Native CDFIs provide capital access and technical assistance to Native entrepreneurs and tribal enterprises that have historically struggled to secure financing through conventional banks.

The conference addresses both immediate business needs and emerging economic opportunities. Sessions will cover clean energy opportunities for tribes, hemp and cannabis initiatives in tribal communities, tribal agricultural development, and the creation of small business hubs on reservations. Breakout sessions for Native business owners include business planning workshops and a pitch contest awarding cash prizes to entrepreneurs.

Between July 1, 2023, and

June 30, 2024, WIHEDC’s member CDFIs dispersed nearly \$7.9 million in loans, including \$4.4 million in business loans and \$1.5 million in housing loans. The lending directly created 38 full-time jobs and retained 217 positions. During that period, WIHEDC served 433 businesses and hosted 1,184 attendees at 153 workshops and events.

Research released at last year’s inaugural conference, which drew 160 attendees, documented the economic impact of Native businesses beyond gaming. The study surveyed 177 non-gaming businesses across 64 industries and found they generated \$776.8 million in economic output and supported more than 45,000 jobs in Wisconsin during 2023.

Housing will also feature prominently. The Wisconsin Native Homeownership Coalition, led by WIHEDC, will present sessions on addressing housing shortages in Native communities, where overcrowding remains persistent. The coalition is expanding from Wisconsin to other Great Lakes states.

For tribal enterprises looking



Recipients of Small Business Grant Awards at the 2024 Wisconsin Indigenous Housing and Economic Development Corporation conference in Bowler, Wisconsin. Thirty-two Native-owned businesses received grants at the inaugural event. This year’s conference, which includes a pitch contest with cash prizes, takes place Nov. 5-6 in Lac du Flambeau. (Photo: WIHEDC)

to diversify beyond gaming or individual entrepreneurs seeking capital and technical support, the conference offers direct access to lenders, technical assistance providers, and peers navigating similar challenges.

The conference is supported by Federal Home Loan Bank

of Chicago, Bay Bank, Native CDFI Network, Oweesta Corporation, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Associated Bank, Baker Tilly, Wisconsin Department of Administration, *Tribal Business News*, and others. Additional sponsorship opportunities remain available.

Michigan Tribes Tell Supreme Court: Don’t Bail Out Enbridge

Ten Michigan Tribal Nations have filed an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to reject Enbridge’s “underhanded procedural tactics” in the ongoing legal fight over the Line 5 oil pipelines.

The lawsuit, filed by Michigan Attorney General in 2019, seeks to shut down the aging Line 5 dual pipelines that run through the Straits of Mackinac, citing the state’s public trust responsibility. After Michigan secured an initial favorable ruling in



Native Americans and allies gathered at the “Pipe Out Paddle Up Flotilla” at the Straits of Mackinac to call for the shutdown of Line 5. (Photo/Levi Rickert for Native News Online)

state court, Enbridge attempted to move the case to federal court more than two years after the legal deadline. While a federal district court accepted the case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit sent it back to state court. Enbridge has now asked the Supreme Court to intervene.

The Straits of Mackinac, located in the heart of the Great Lakes, are sacred to Anishinaabe people who have lived in Michigan for generations. Tribes warn that an oil spill from Line 5 could devastate Tribal lifeways and contaminate drinking water for more than 40 million people.

“The continued operation of Line 5 puts my Tribal Nation in grave danger,” said Whitney Gravelle, President of the Bay Mills Indian Community. “These waters are the heart of creation for the Anishinaabe — where our stories begin and our ancestors still speak. Enbridge’s deployed stall tactics threaten all that is sacred. Michigan made the right choice to end this pipeline, and we stand with the Attorney General to defend our rights, our waters, and the future of the Great Lakes for the next seven generations.”

The Tribes, represented by Earthjustice, include Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

“Enbridge missed a court deadline by more than two years, without excuse, and now they want to change the rules,” said Earthjustice Supreme Court Counsel Caroline Flynn. “The Supreme Court should see through Enbridge’s transparent attempt at gamesmanship.”

The brief also draws on lessons from the 2010 rupture of Enbridge’s Line 6B, which spilled 840,000 gallons of crude oil into the Kalamazoo River, causing over a billion dollars in cleanup costs. Experts warn that the older, riskier Line 5 pipelines could threaten more than a thousand miles of Great Lakes shoreline if a spill occurs.

Ho-Chunk Nation secures \$610M financing for Beloit casino resort

The Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin has closed \$610 million in senior secured credit facilities to finance construction of its new flagship casino resort in Beloit.

The facilities include a \$305 million revolving credit facility and a \$305 million delayed-draw term loan, supplemented by about \$95 million in tribal equity, according to a deal summary by KeyBanc Capital Markets, which served as left lead arranger, joint bookrunner, and administrative agent on the transaction. The deal closed Sept. 26, 2025.

Proceeds will fund development of the \$705 million destination casino, as well as fees and expenses associated with the project. The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature authorized the financing, with the Nation’s Department of Business overseeing management of its gaming enterprises.

The Beloit project will expand the Nation’s Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin brand, which currently operates six casinos across the state. The new property will feature more than 1,500 slot

machines, 40 table games, a 312-room hotel, multiple dining venues, a 2,000-seat convention center, and parking facilities. Construction began in October 2024, with the casino set to open in September 2026 and the hotel and convention center following a year later.

The project represents a major economic development initiative for the federally recognized Ho-Chunk Nation, which has approximately 7,800 citizens and trust lands across 14 Wisconsin counties.



Ho-Chunk Gaming’s planned \$705 million casino resort in Beloit, Wisc. is expected to open in 2026. (Rendering: Ho-Chunk Gaming)

Veterans Powwow Moves to Ho-Chunk Casino in Baraboo

Kalli Berg

Due to the ongoing government shutdown, the annual Veterans D.O.R.A. Powwow will no longer be held at Volk Field. Instead, the event will take place at Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells in Baraboo on Saturday, November 15, starting at 11 a.m.

The powwow, sponsored by Descendants of Red Arrow (D.O.R.A.) and Friends, continues its longstanding mission to honor Native and non-Native veterans whose service has left a lasting legacy for their families and communities.

The event 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.

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 heart of the gathering each year.

A special ceremony will raise 25 flags, one for

each of those men, and direct descendants of the World War I veterans are encouraged to attend to receive their relatives’ flags.

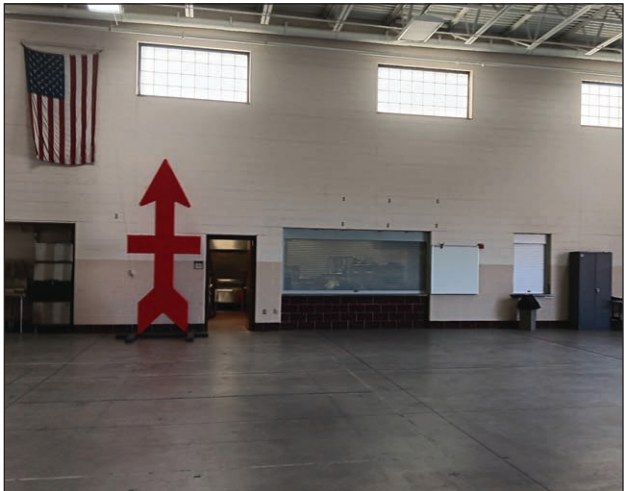
The day will begin with a flag raising at 11 a.m., followed by a lunch meal, keynote speaker, and grand entry at 1 p.m. The Thundercloud Singers will serve as host drum.

For the Day family and other organizers, keeping the powwow alive is a labor of love that began in 1978 as a way to thank and honor veterans, especially Ho-Chunk relatives who served before being recognized as U.S. citizens. After a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was revived in 2024.

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.

“The powwow has always been about family and honoring those who came before us,” organizer Michael Day said. “It’s something we do ourselves, from the heart. That’s what sovereignty means to

us.”
The Veterans D.O.R.A. Powwow is free and open to the public. All veterans, families, and community members are welcome to attend this day of remembrance, song, and celebration.



Owamni to relocate to Guthrie Theater in spring 2026

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Owamni, the James Beard Award-winning restaurant operated by the nonprofit North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS), will move to the Guthrie Theater’s main floor restaurant space in spring 2026.

Founded in 1963, the Guthrie Theater produces classic and contemporary plays and operates three stages, along with classrooms and public spaces at its downtown Minneapolis facility.

Chef Sean Sherman,

founder of Owamni and NATIFS, said the new location along the Mississippi River will double the restaurant’s size and expand its capacity to serve diners while maintaining proximity to St. Anthony Falls, a site of cultural significance to the Dakota people.

“We outgrew our original location almost from the moment we opened,” Sherman said. “The Guthrie space gives us the opportunity to share the space with more diners.”

Sherman noted that the move builds on Owamni’s

foundation at the Water Works Pavilion, where the restaurant first opened in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. He said the Guthrie site will allow NATIFS to continue reconnecting communities with Indigenous food traditions and supporting Native cultural revitalization.

Sherman founded NATIFS in 2017 to address health and economic disparities in Native communities. Its initiatives include the Indigenous Food Lab and Owamni.



Chef Sean Sherman, left, founder of Owamni and North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems, stands with Guthrie Theater Artistic Director Joseph Haj in the theater's restaurant space where Owamni will relocate in spring 2026. (Photo: Guthrie Theater Instagram)



PITCHING for success

A virtual workshop created to set you up for success for the **Business Pitch Competition** at **WIHEDC's Housing & Economic Development Conference** in **Lac du Flambeau, November 5th, 2025 @4pm.**

MONDAY OCT 27TH	1 pm - 4 pm
TUESDAY OCT 28TH	5:15 pm - 8:15 pm
WEDNESDAY OCT 29TH	1 pm - 4 pm
THURSDAY OCT 30TH	5:15 pm - 8:15 pm

6 PRIZES – 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD IN EACH CATEGORY

1ST

\$3,000

2ND

\$1,500

3RD

\$750

Compete as a **Start-Up OR Existing Business**

REQUIREMENTS FOR PITCH CONTEST

- Register online under “Pitch Contest”
- Native Entrepreneurs in WI (new or existing)
- Existing Business Owners MUST Provide ownership
- Business Pitch Must Be Original

- Past winners are not eligible to participate in contest
- Must attend Pitch for Success or Be Real workshop

ATTENDEES MAY QUALIFY FOR GAS CARD FOR TRAVEL
PLEASE ATTEND ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING SESSIONS
(2:00PM) DURING CONFERENCE TO QUALIFY





We've Been Dying To ~~Eat~~ Meet You

ZOMBIE OUTBREAK

in CEEX HACI

TRUNK OR TREAT CONTEST

1ST PLACE \$50

PRIZES FOR 3 CATEGORIES
YOUTH & ADULT •
SCARY, FUNNY & GROUP

OCTOBER 30TH 2025

5PM-8PM

CEEXHACI COMMUNITY CENTER, 916 CHAK HA CHEE WANE NEKOODSA

Partnerships Propel the Growth of Native-Owned Businesses in Wisconsin

Hales Corners, WI — For more than 20 years, First American Capital Corporation (FACC) has fueled the growth of Native-owned businesses throughout Wisconsin. Established in 2002 with seed funding from the State Tribal Gaming Compacts, managed by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce (DOC), FACC launched as a nonprofit Indigenous Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Those early investments built the foundation for a long-standing partnership with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), the DOC’s successor.

From 2002 to 2016, WEDC and its predecessor provided ongoing funding to recapitalize FACC’s RLF, helping Native entrepreneurs start and grow businesses and, more recently, finance Tribal enterprises. In 2017, WEDC elevated FACC from a grant recipient to a Key Strategic Partner (KSP), allowing FACC to operate as an extension of WEDC and contribute directly to the state’s economic development goals. Through this partnership, FACC helps meet Wisconsin’s performance objectives by supporting startups and expansions, creating and retaining jobs, and delivering technical assistance and business education to Native and underserved entrepreneurs.

“Access to capital is vital to entrepreneurs as their

businesses progress from idea to reality and then continue to grow,” said Sam Rikkers, deputy secretary and COO of WEDC. “FACC’s ability to connect with and serve Native businesses helps WEDC fulfill its mission of building an economy for all, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.”

FACC’s work is strengthened by partnerships with organizations that bring complementary expertise and resources. Financial institutions such as Bay Bank and Town Bank frequently collaborate with FACC to structure loans that drive growth. FACC also works with the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (AICCW) to identify entrepreneurs who can benefit from its services. Together, these efforts build an entrepreneurial ecosystem grounded in collaboration, cultural respect, and shared prosperity.

“Some businesses benefit from FACC’s support and then are ready to graduate into a traditional banking relationship with us,” said Will Mathee, vice president and relationship manager at Town Bank, N.A. “Together, we build a pipeline of sustainable business growth. Access to capital and financial education remain two of the biggest hurdles for Native entrepreneurs. That’s why our partnership with FACC

is so important. We’re both committed to making an impact.”

A growing partnership with the Ashland Area Development Corporation (AADC) extends that support to northern Wisconsin. Together, FACC and AADC provide entrepreneurs with the training, mentorship, and capital needed to transform ideas into successful businesses.

Education is central to this work. In the past year, the two organizations have offered programs including “Profit Mastery,” “The Truth About Entrepreneurship,” and “Ready Vet Grow” for military veterans and their spouses. “Everything we do is about relationships,” said Carver Harries, AADC executive director. “The bridge we’ve built with FACC has been critical in helping our clients feel supported and ready to launch their businesses.”

AADC also hosts a semi-annual Funders Roundtable, bringing together banks, CDFIs, and lending partners to share resources and collaborate. FACC’s involvement helps strengthen this network, giving small businesses the best chance to succeed.

Some of FACC’s partners are themselves Native-owned businesses committed to building local economies. Brian Holmes, a member of the Bad River Band of Lake



Superior Chippewa and owner of B&D Contractors, is driven by personal experience to support the next generation of Native entrepreneurs. Having faced challenges in launching his company, he now prioritizes hiring Native employees and contracting with Native-owned businesses. “It’s simply the right thing to do,” he said.

Through WEDC’s strategic investment, FACC’s culturally grounded expertise, support from businesses like B&D Contractors, financial resources from Bay Bank and Town Bank, and AADC’s educational programs, Native-owned businesses across Wisconsin gain access to essential resources to succeed. This collaborative network not only promotes business growth but also strengthens

communities and broadens economic opportunities statewide.

FACC Partners:
Certified Native CDFI
SBA Intermediary Lender
Wisconsin Economic Development – Key Strategic Partner
Town Bank – A Wintrust Community Bank
Bay Bank
AICCW – American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin
Kiva
Wells Fargo

FACC Collaborators:
AADC – Ashland Area Development Corporation
WPI – Wisconsin Procurement Institute
The Development Association
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

HCN LEC

HALLOWEEN

COSTUME CONTEST

House of Wellness

OCTOBER 22, 2025 CONTEST: 5 PM ~ 7 PM

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4 PM

CATEGORIES: ORIGINAL, FUNNY, SCARY

AGE GROUPS: 6-12, 13-17, ADULT

PRIZES FOR TINY TOTS (0-5) IN COSTUMES WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

LIGHT SNACKS: ground flesh with bloody sauce - if you dare!

CASH PRIZES!!!

SPONSORED BY JUNEAU COUNTY AND SAUK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Contact: Cindy 608-678-0025 or Clariss 608-477-3822

October 2025

HEALTH KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD
BY HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIV.
Topic of the Month: Calcium & Vitamin D

CROSSWORD COMPLETION SPOTLIGHT
Email submissions to HCN Nutritionist Alex Richeson at alex.richeson@hcn-chunk.com. For your email, the subject should read "Crossword - TOB". Your email should contain your first and last name and the words in the puzzle. Partial submissions still get points! Monthly points and end-of-year scores will be seen here through TOB email.

Food sources of vitamin D include (8) _____ yolks, (3) _____ fish, (15) _____, and (1-Across) _____.

(1-Down) _____ is a nutrient that the body needs in order to effectively use calcium and vitamin D. About 60% of people do not get enough of this nutrient from their diet.

(2) _____ exposure allows the body to produce Vitamin D.

Common food items that are fortified with vitamin D include milk (4) _____, (13) _____ juice, some (17) _____, and (12) _____.

Food sources of calcium include dairy products, (18) _____, (10) _____, (6) _____, (7-Down) _____ and some fish.

A diet low in calcium can increase the risk of a condition called (9) _____, wherein bones become more porous. This condition increases the risk of bone fractures.

Bones and teeth are made from (11) _____.

Orange (16) _____, (7-Across) _____ cereals, and (5) _____ products are fortified with vitamin D.

Calcium is also important for the expansion and contraction of muscles and (14) _____ vessels.

Vitamin (19) _____ is an important nutrient that helps the body maintain bone health.

Fun fact: The term "fortified" refers to when nutrients are added to foods. Processed foods like white bread lose nutrients during processing, therefore nutrients are added back into them. Some foods like orange juice are fortified with calcium and vitamin D, which are nutrients that do not naturally occur in these foods.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CALCIUM & VITAMIN D...

When you submit this month's crossword puzzle answers, include the word "CALCIUM" in your email and HCN Nutritionist Alex Richeson will send you a copy of this month's nutrition information packet on Calcium & Vitamin D.

DNR Highlights Importance Of State Revolving Fund Programs For Clean, Safe Water In Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) highlighted the importance of the State Revolving Fund programs at the Natural Resources Board meeting today. Financial assistance is available to municipalities throughout Wisconsin for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects that protect and improve public health and water quality.

The State Revolving Fund includes the Clean Water Fund and Safe Drinking Water Loan programs. Since 1991, those programs have provided over \$7.3 billion in financial assistance to municipalities across Wisconsin for over 2,000 projects. There continues to be a high demand for financial assistance from communities across the state.

“Communities are required to meet wastewater and drinking water standards to protect water quality and public health. The projects that the communities have to do to meet those requirements are often very expensive,” said Jim Ritchie, DNR Bureau Director of Community Financial Assistance. “With the lower

interest rates the DNR can provide through these loans, it can really save a lot for the communities, which is a direct savings to the homeowners who are paying those bills.”

The State Revolving Fund combines federal capitalization grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with state funding and repayments from previous loans. Funding is provided as low-interest loans, and portions of loans may be awarded as principal forgiveness for eligible applicants with no repayment required. As local communities repay loans to the state, those funds become available for new loans.

Wisconsin’s State Revolving Fund is administered jointly by the DNR’s Bureau of Community Financial Assistance and the Department of Administration’s Capital Finance Office.

Demand for loan and principal forgiveness has spiked over the past few years, largely due to the increased funding and amounts of principal forgiveness available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding has allowed the DNR to fund projects beyond what could have

been previously funded. Demand is expected to remain strong through the remaining years of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, through 2027.

The 2025-27 Wisconsin state budget signed into law by Gov. Tony Evers also increases borrowing for the State Revolving Fund by \$731.6 million to secure federal clean water and safe drinking water capitalization grants and meet the demand from local communities over the next four years.

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program provides subsidized loans to municipalities for public drinking water systems and infrastructure projects to improve drinking water quality for Wisconsinites. The funding helps municipalities across the state construct necessary water infrastructure projects, including replacing lead service lines and addressing emerging contaminants such as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

In South Milwaukee, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program is helping to fund the removal of all lead service lines in the city, including over

2,700 public and private lead service lines over three years. The program has also funded a PFAS well water treatment project in West Bend in Washington County.

The 2026 Safe Drinking Water Loan Program funding list will be announced soon.

Clean Water Fund Program

The Clean Water Fund Program provides subsidized loans to municipalities for publicly owned wastewater treatment and collection system infrastructure projects. It includes projects for compliance with a municipality’s Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

In Dodge County, the Clean Water Fund Program helped the Burnett Sanitary District address its aging lagoon system for treating wastewater. The system was leaking and unable to meet phosphorus limits, creating a risk for E. coli in nearby drinking water sources. The funding helped the Burnett Sanitary District connect their wastewater to the city of Beaver Dam’s wastewater treatment plant, providing a long-term solution for the district. The project was co-funded by USDA Rural Development.



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



October 22, 2025

Subject: FDPIR Food Benefits

For: Tribal Members within the Food Distribution service area

With the current uncertainty surrounding the FoodShare program, the Ho-Chunk Nation Food Distribution Program (FDPIR) would like to provide information on how we may be able to assist.

To qualify for food assistance through our program, applicants must first cancel their FoodShare benefits and provide documentation confirming the cancellation. Please be advised that if you choose to cancel your FoodShare benefits, you will need to reapply should you decide to return to that program once funding resumes. Be aware that delays may occur in reinstating your FoodShare benefits upon reapplication.

If canceling FoodShare benefits is not an option you wish to pursue, we encourage you to contact local food pantries in your area for assistance. In Wisconsin, you can dial **2-1-1** to receive a comprehensive list of local food pantries and their hours of operation. You may also visit the **Feeding America** website or the **Hunger Task Force** website for additional resources and information.

If you would like to apply for certification with the Ho-Chunk Nation Food Distribution Program or have questions about eligibility requirements, please contact our Food Distribution Community Specialist, **Shelena Brown**, at (715) 284-9851 ext. 35038 or by email at **Shelena.Brown@ho-chunk.com**.

We are here to support you during these challenging times.

Ho-Chunk Nation Food Distribution Staff

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150

House of Wellness
52845 White Eagle Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913
Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Food Distribution Guidelines

Monthly Income Standards					
Household Size	SNAP Net Monthly Income Standards		SNAP Standard Deduction	FDPIR Net Monthly Income Standards	
1	\$1,305	+	\$209	=	\$1,514
2	\$1,763	+	\$209	=	\$1,972
3	\$2,221	+	\$209	=	\$2,430
4	\$2,680	+	\$223	=	\$2,903
5	\$3,138	+	\$261	=	\$3,399
6	\$3,596	+	\$299	=	\$3,895
7	\$4,055	+	\$299	=	\$4,354
8	\$4,513	+	\$299	=	\$4,812
Each additional member				\$459	

Required Documents

- ❖ Last (4) paystubs for each working member in the household
- ❖ Social Security Award Letter
- ❖ Utility Bill in participant's name
- ❖ Phone number of head of household
- ❖ Completely filled out application

Counties we serve: Adams, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Portage, Sauk, Shawano, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
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Gov. Evers Urges Trump Administration to Protect Food Assistance for Nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites

Kailli Berg

On October 22, Gov. Tony Evers called upon the Trump Administration to take immediate action to prevent nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites from losing access to food assistance through the state’s FoodShare program as the federal government shutdown continues.

With federal funds set to run out in just nine days, Evers sent a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins urging the agency to use existing authority under federal law to

extend Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits into November. The USDA has previously used similar authority to sustain other nutrition programs during funding lapses, such as the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, FoodShare is entirely funded by the federal government. The Trump Administration recently informed states that there would be insufficient funds to pay full November benefits for approximately 42 million people nationwide and

directed states to delay processing payments.

Evers warned that failing to act would leave families, veterans, seniors, and children across Wisconsin without access to essential groceries. He called on USDA to use all available administrative tools to ensure continuity of benefits and maintain food security during the shutdown.

The governor also encouraged residents to contact their congressional representatives to urge an end to the shutdown and protect critical programs like FoodShare.

Going to get tougher’: Tribes grapple with ongoing government shutdown

The United States is 21 days into the third-longest federal government shutdown in history and Indian Country is bracing for an unstable future ahead as reserve funding for many tribes could begin to dry up.

“Folks that had rainy day funds set aside for this, they’re going to see problems,” said Michael Stopp, Cherokee and Muscogee and the president and chief executive officer of Seven Star Holdings. “We saw in the beginning of the shutdown that many tribes had learned from 2018 and made some adjustments in their budgets, but now we’re going into one of the longest shutdowns in history, and unless the Senate makes a significant change today or tomorrow, you’re going to start seeing heavier impacts.”

On Oct. 20, the U.S. Senate failed for an 11th time to advance a House-passed measure and end the shutdown. The bill has continuously fallen short of the 60 needed votes needed to advance.

“It feels as if there’s this lack of urgency to get a spending bill done,” said Holly Cook Macarro, Red Lake Ojibwe and a tribal advocate and political strategist. Cook Macarro is also a Democratic pundit. “To me, it lacks some of the urgency that we’ve seen in past shutdowns.”

The shutdown began on Oct. 1 as a result of a failure between Republicans and Democrats to agree on passing a new funding bill. Both chambers of the U.S. Congress are controlled by Republicans, but the Senate is short of the 60 votes needed to pass the 2026 spending bill.

Democrats are refusing to pass the Republican-introduced bill unless it restored cuts to Medicaid made in President Donald Trump’s so-called “Big, Beautiful Bill” and also requested a permanent extension of subsidies for people who use the Affordable Care Act, informally referred to as “Obamacare.” Congressional Democrats also opposed proposed cuts to spending for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Health.

Right now, tribes are looking at their budget and determining what funding is available and if they can access it, said OJ Semans executive director of the Coalition of Large Tribes, an advocacy group for large land-based tribal nations that exceed 100,000 acres.

“(They’re looking at) what funding they might have to take from underfunded programs in order to provide food for tribal members, if we don’t end this before November 1,” Semans, who is Sicangu Lakota, said.

The last shutdown from Dec. 22, 2018 to Jan. 25, 2019 was the longest in history at a total of 25 days. If an agreement isn’t made by Nov. 5, the current shutdown will match that record.

Last week there were real discussions between Senate leaders, Stopp said. Two quick votes could be taken to end the shutdown, one for a clean continuing resolution and one to continue the Affordable Care Act subsidies, which are set to expire at the end of 2025.

“We do know that the new rates are going to be published at the beginning

of November, which is really going to hit some elected leaders because they’re going to hear from the constituents,” Stopp said. “It’s going to be hard. It’s a hard pill to swallow for either party and so, and I think a lot of members recognize that, especially the senators, and we’re going to see some kind of movement on that in the next week or two.”

he only thing the Senate can do to act immediately is vote to approve a cleaned continuing resolution. After its approval, President Trump will need to approve the resolution to get money flowing back into the government and end the shutdown.

“It’s going to be tough, and it’s going to get tougher,” Semans said. “Take care of the poor first. I mean, don’t try to win a battle on their backs, our stomachs. I should say.”

Shutdown continues to violate treaty obligations

“You can’t get anybody on the phone, you can’t get anybody to answer an email, and we have issues that need to be addressed,” said Peter Lengkeek, chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in central South Dakota.

Lengkeek said recently he’s been inundated with calls from non-Native cattle ranchers who lease tribal land. During the shutdown, these non-Native farmers have been unable to pay for their leases, and are concerned that they’ll face late-payment penalties.

“No where in our treaties does it state that communications and resources stop when the government shuts down,” Lengkeek said. “I have yet to find that clause.”

Without a continuing resolution, tribes will continue to suffer, Semans said. Right now a major concern is the potential of a block on funding to the funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program if a continuing resolution isn’t passed by Nov. 1.

“We find it disheartening that the basis for senators to oppose the (continuing resolution), is because they want to see extensions of pandemic tax credits for premiums under the Affordable Care Act, but in doing so, it is precisely the populations they seek to protect that will suffer the most,” Semans said in a letter to In a letter to Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, Democrat, shared with *ICT*.

SNAP provides food to 24 percent of all American Indian and Alaska Native households, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. On top of that, the USDA funds the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations Program commonly called “commodities.”

Aside from SNAP funding, Head Start, WIC and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, funding is at risk if the shutdown doesn’t end soon.

“We continue to monitor these operations,” said Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. “Thankfully, our health system is forward funded to carry us through to serve our citizens’ health needs in the coming weeks.”

As government funding halts, tribes, especially large land-based tribes, are going to have to start laying off employees, Semans said.

“This shouldn’t be on the shoulders



The Capitol is seen under gray skies on the thirteenth day of the government shutdown, in Washington, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

of tribes who basically gave up everything already and now are going to be the ones to suffer the most,” Semans said.

Since the start of the shutdown, some tribes like the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in central South Dakota have been unable to issue new tribal ID cards or Certificate Degree of Indian Blood cards, said Chairman Boyd Gournau.

“As a tribe we are taking other measures and have contingency plans in place should these weeks turn into months,” Hoskins said. “While we stand ready to do our part, implementing such plans comes at a real cost to the Cherokee Nation, one that should never fall on tribes fulfilling the federal government’s Treaty and Trust responsibilities.”

For the first time, Indian Health Service continued to operate like normal during the shutdown with advanced appropriations allowing the health service to weather the shutdown.

Stopp said that’s something important to recognize and work towards obtaining for all programs servicing Indian Country.

“I’d like (tribal leaders) to see how effective the advanced appropriations have been for IHS,” Stopp said. “We should start looking to have those same advanced appropriations for any 638 contracts between the federal government and a tribe like we have with the IHS. I think that’s an easier lift than to say all tribal programs should have advanced appropriations.”

For many the pueblos and tribes in New Mexico, leaders initially expressed concern regarding funding delay, but so far have fared well, said Josett Monette, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Indian Department and a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

“We are keeping conversations open so that we are aware and that the state can help for if they do become affected and how they feel is appropriate,” said Monette in a statement to *ICT*.

Right now, many tribes are confident reserve funding will last at least 30 days from the start of the shutdown, but tribal leaders are stressed, Semans said.

“When you have the ship sinking or

the canoe sinking you take care of the big holes first, and then let the little ones kind of creep up on you,” Semans said. “They (leaders) have their hands full. That’s why we need the (continuing resolution) to end, not just because of SNAP or the (Affordable Care Act), we need it to end because we need to run our governments, and they need to fund us our treaty obligated funds.”

A significant amount of Native people work for the federal government – roughly 30,600 people or 1.5 percent of the federal workforce, according to 2023 data from the Office of Personnel Management Diversity Equity Inclusion and Accessibility Report. Now, over three weeks into the shutdown, those employees have gone without their first full paycheck. And as of Oct. 15, many enlisted members of the U.S. military stopped receiving pay.

“The public outcry is going to drive Congress back to the table to get this thing moving,” Cook Macarro said.

There may be an end in sight, hopefully, she said.

“Yesterday John Thune sent a message that it may be time for the members of the House to come back to Washington and pass a new bill for them to consider in the Senate,” Cook Macarro said. “Which is a strong indication that they are truly at an impasse in the United States Senate, and that Thune needs a New bill.”

This move could signal the beginning of negotiations around the Affordable Care Act and other provisions that the Democrats have been holding out for, Cook Macarro said.

Overall, tribal leaders said they hope for collaboration between Senate Democrats and Republicans.

“The right wing and the left wing have to work together for the eagle to fly,” Lengkeek said, discussing a recent consultation with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. “Right now the eagle can’t fly because the right wing is not working with the left wing, or vice versa. So you’re causing a lot of undue stress and unique situations and problems.”

HO-CHUNK NATION
presents the first
NATIONAL LIVING TREASURE

 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The Ho-Chunk Nation is proud to honor and celebrate the recipients of the 2025 National Treasure Living Treasure Awards – individuals whose extraordinary contributions have preserved, enriched, and uplifted our cultural lifeways, language, and traditions.

2025 NATIONAL LIVING TREASURE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Wilbert Cleveland
Kimberly Crowley
Aurelia Lera Hopinkah
Richard Mann
Robert Mann**

Each of these distinguished individuals has dedicated their life's work to strengthening the spirit and legacy of the Ho-Chunk people. Through their teachings, artistry, leadership, and cultural stewardship, they have ensured that our ancestral ways continue to thrive in the hearts of future generations. We are deeply grateful for their wisdom, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the Nation.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Rita Kingswan **Jerod Stacy**

We also recognize and uplift these individuals for their notable contributions and cultural dedication. Their efforts are vital to the continued vitality of Ho-Chunk Nation's heritage.

To all honorees: You are truly treasured! May your paths continue to inspire and guide us all!



Ho-Chunk Nation
National Living Treasure Awards & Gala
Saturday, November 8, 2025
District 1 Community Center



Stay tuned for more details to come.

Threads of Tradition

Tuesday Craft Night 10/28/25
5-7:30PM
D1CC Community Education Room

Georgianna will be teaching the Ho-Chunk applique design process using paper and scissors. Focusing on layout, symmetry and creativity. All experience levels welcome.

Registration

Limited to 20 participants. First come, first served.
Reserve your spot today.

To Register

Contact Tasha King
Email: tasha.king@ho-chunk.com
(D1CC Fitness Specialist)

Light snacks and beverages provided

Gary C. Climer

August 1, 1945 – October 10, 2025

Gary Charles Climer, age 80, of Black River Falls, passed away peacefully in his home on October 10, 2025.

Gary was born in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on August 1st 1945, to Susie Climer and Harry Straight. When his mother passed away in 1950, Gary and his sisters were placed in foster homes. It was during those early years that Gary learned the meaning of hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance—values that shaped the man he became.

After graduating high school, Gary enlisted in the United States Army, he answered the call to serve his country. A proud member of the Ho-Chunk Nation Gary carried the warrior spirit of his ancestors into his service. He was deployed twice to Vietnam between 1964 and 1967 as a machine operator and mechanic with the 1st Cavalry Division, 62nd Engineer Battalion. His unit played a historic role as the first to construct a major air assault base in Army history. Gary often spoke of his time in Vietnam — of the brotherhood, and all those close calls that only those who've seen battle can truly understand. He returned home with several service medals, commendations, and stories that reflected both the humor and hardship of his service—including a brief extra scene appearance in a John Wayne film while on R&R.

Following his honorable discharge, Gary returned home to La Farge, Wisconsin, where fate led him to meet the love of his life, Millie Whiteaker. Together, they built a beautiful life rooted in love, hard work, and family. From the tobacco fields of Vernon County to the woodlots of Jackson County, Gary and Millie worked side by side for over five decades.

Gary was a devoted husband and a proud father who dedicated his life to providing for his family. He ensured his daughters grew up knowing the values of love, loyalty, and hard work—even through difficult times. He found joy in the simple things: hunting, cutting wood, woodcarving, tinkering with antique farm equipment, and telling a good joke



to make others smile.

Gary was a proud veteran who carried deep respect for all who served. He never missed a Memorial Day ceremony and always stood tall in honor of his fallen brothers and sisters in arms. His pride was quiet but unwavering—a reflection of the humble strength that defined his life.

Gary is preceded in death by his mother, Susie Climer; father, Harry Straight; infant son, Quentin; infant daughter, Crystal; grandson, Trent Stubrud; sisters, Patricia Boyles and Jean Climer; and aunt, Bertha Thompson.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Millie Climer; daughters Larinna (Curtis) Chandler; April (Tom) Dodte, and Sara (Jamie) Goodbear; sister Betty Conley (Joe); grandchildren Gabriel, Matthew, Asuka, Mia, Alizabeth, Blake, great-grandson Weston; granddaughter-in-law Madison; and foster sisters Pam Riddle and CaraLee Murphy

Gary's life was one of quiet strength, devotion, and honor. He will be remembered not only for the life he built and the love he gave, but for the example he set—a proud, veteran, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend whose spirit will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at the Torgerson's Funeral Home. Visitation will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with services beginning at 11.

Rochelle "Rocky" Decorah

March 28, 1974 – October 18, 2025



at 12:00 P.M. at Waksikma Community Building in New Lisbon, with Henry White Thunder officiating. Burial will be at Decorah Heights Cemetery in Lemonweir Township, WI. Visitation will be held at Waksikma Community Building on Monday beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Rocky was born March 28, 1974 in Chicago, Illinois the daughter of Joseph and Lona (Frogg) Decorah. She had a reputation of defending her friends and family along with having a heart of gold.

Rochelle “Rocky” Decorah - Caxsep Horupinii ga – “Circling Eagles Woman”, age 51, of New Lisbon, Wisconsin walked on Saturday, October 18, 2025.

Funeral services will be held
Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Notice of Vacancy and Deadline
For Districts 2
Election Board Delegate and Alternate
Term ending December 2027

Districts	Number of Election Board Members	Alternate
Tomah	1	1
Lacrosse	1	1
Wisconsin Dells	1	1
Baraboo	1	1

TERMS: Election Board members may serve more than one term. This term ends December 2027.

NOMINATIONS: Each District must vote to select **one (1) Election Board Delegate** and **one (1) Alternate** during their **November or December 2025 monthly meeting**.

The District’s meeting minutes must include the nominations for **Election Board Delegate** and **Alternate**. Minutes must be emailed to the **Election Board Office** no later than

4:00 PM on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

HO-CHUNK NATION ELECTION BOARD OFFICE
W8801 Mission Road
Black River Falls, WI. 54615
Email: election.board@ho-chunk.com
715/284-8900 • 800/890-0583

Posted October 20, 2025

★

★

TEEJOP GAGA
BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT



Begins 6 Pm

FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 21

Announcer: Matt Mann Tournament will be live streamed

PARTICIPANTS MUST WEAR A WAJE AND CARRY A BAG OR PURSE. MUST STAY ON DURING GAME

OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

TEAMS MUST CONSIST OF AT LEAST FIVE PLAYERS

MVP WILL BE DECIDED STRICTLY ON MOST POINTS THROUGHOUT TOURNAMENT

MUST REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH



ON-SITE
FRYBREAD
TACO SALE

FIRST PLACE \$500 & TROPHY
MVP \$150 & TROPHY
BEST DRESSED \$50

4724 TRADEWINDS PARKWAY
MADISON, WI 53718

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION :
CAROLE (608) 344-3555 • CAROLE.DECORAH@HO-CHUNK.COM
OR
MYA (608) 277-9964 EXT 13221 • MYAESTEBO@HO-CHUNK.COM



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



MEETING NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

Friday, November 7, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Eileen Decorah Conference Room
Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

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

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150

House of Wellness
S2845 White Eagle Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913
Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643

MEETING NOTICE

FINANCE
COMMISSION

Thursday
October 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Executive Offices
Legislative Conference Room
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI

Agenda Items are due no later than noon on Monday, October 27, 2025.

Posted: 10/21/2025



HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



MEETING NOTICE
HEALTH ACCREDITATION
BOARD MEETING

Friday, November 21, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Eileen Decorah Conference Room
Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

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

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150

House of Wellness
S2845 White Eagle Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913
Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643

DISTRICT 1 AREA MEETING NOTICE

BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA MEETING
Tribal Office Building
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

Twin Cities AREA MEETING
St. Paul Branch Office
1724 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
Thursday, November 13, 2025 |6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON/VIRTUAL

paul.fox@ho-chunk.com (715)896-6251
phyllis.smoke@ho-chunk.com (715)299-1016
tracythundercloud@ho-chunk.com (715)299-0576

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

Posted on: 10/17/25



HO-CHUNK NATION
PEOPLE OF THE BIG VOICE

DISTRICT 3 AREA MEETING NOTICE

GREEN BAY | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 | 6:00 PM

MILWAUKEE | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 | 5:30 PM

WITTENBERG | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 | 6:00 PM

MADISON | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025 | 6:00 PM

WI RAPIDS | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | 5:30 PM

FOR WEBEX INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

REP. LAMBERT CLEVELAND lambertcleveland@ho-chunk.com (715) 896-5166
REP. SARAH LEMIEUX sarah.lemieux@ho-chunk.com (715) 315-8071
REP. SHELBY VISINTIN shelby.visintin@ho-chunk.com (715) 896-9323
AIDE BELLA BLACKDEER isabella.blackdeer@ho-chunk.com (715) 284-9343 x11313



POSTED 10/20/25



Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board

WebEx/Election Board Meeting
Saturday, November 8, 2025
Election Board Meeting - 9:00 AM
Oneida Casino & Hotel – Green Bay, WI

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

Post 10/20/2025

Notice

HOOCAK WAAKSIK XETE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Elder Advisory Board Meeting

November 19, 2025 10am

In person at Tomah Tribal Aging Unit

Webex will also be available

Please contact 715-284-0811 for Webex invite the day before scheduled meeting.

HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
OCTOBER 7, 2025

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

- Roll Call:**
President Jon Greendeer-P
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-EX
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
Vacant
Rep. Paul Fox-P
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
Rep. Stephanie Begay-VC
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-VC

VC-Video Conference

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

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

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to approve the agenda with ADDING under New Business K. Green Corn. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-September 23, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the September 23, 2025 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Health, Education, Insurance and Social Services Commission-September 29, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve the September 29, 2025 Health, Education, Insurance and Social Services Commission Meeting minutes

with corrections. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Health Department to Apply for FY25 Injury Prevention Grant Under the U.S. Department of Health Service

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-07-25 A**, Authorization for the Health Department to Apply for FY25 Injury Prevention Grant Under the U.S. Department of Health Service. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-07-25 B**, Authorization for the Department of Health to Enter into an Affiliation Agreement with Chamberlain University. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for

the Health Department to Pursue a Memorandum of Agreement with the Indian Health Service for the 2025 Bemar Project Funding

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-07-25 C**, Authorization for the Health Department to Pursue a Memorandum of Agreement with the Indian Health Service for the 2025 Bemar Project Funding. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Nation to Apply for an Enter into the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources 2025-2026 Grant Agreement for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-07-25 D**, Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Nation to Apply for an Enter into the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources 2025-2026 Grant Agreement for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing

a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-07-25 E**, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of West Salem

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-07-25 F**, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of West Salem. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of Wisconsin Dells

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-07-25 G**, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with School District of
Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 13
Wisconsin Dells. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Execute U.S. Department of Agriculture Form CCC-866 Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage for Hartmann Farms

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 H***, Authorization to Execute U.S. Department of Agriculture Form CCC-866 Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage for Hartmann Farms. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Development Commission-September 30, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to approve the September 30, 2025 Development Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Agriculture Lease on the MaaWakacak Property Tract #439 T 2170 for Josh Ballweg

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 I***, Authorization of Agriculture Lease on the MaaWakacak Property Tract #439 T 2170 for Josh Ballweg. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 9-1 (Rep. David Greendeer)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Rescission of Resolution 08-07-18W on Winnebago Heights Lot 10 for Jacqueline Prescott-Funmaker

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 J***, Rescission of Resolution 08-07-18W on Winnebago Heights Lot 10 for Jacqueline Prescott-Funmaker. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization of Land Lease Modification on the Village West Property #439 T 2186 for Village West LIHTC, LLC

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 K***, Authorization of Land Lease Modification on the Village West Property #439 T 2186 for Village West LIHTC, LLC. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: This lease modification went through the Land Development Team.

Finance Commission-October 2, 2025

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to approve the October 2, 2025 Finance Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business:

Red Cloud Park-Standing Agenda Item

Attorney General Gardner gave a brief verbal update of the last meeting with the City. Attorney General Gardner recommended to move this discussion into executive session because of the bargaining and inter-governmental relations involved.

Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 07-06-22 I, Signature Authority for Grants Entered into on Behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 L***, Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 07-06-22 I, Signature Authority for Grants Entered into on Behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Joint Resolution of the Legislature and President Establishing a Joint Clearinghouse Process for Federal Grant Oversight and Accountability

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 M***, Joint Resolution of the Legislature and President Establishing a Joint Clearinghouse Process for Federal Grant Oversight and Accountability. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Chief Judge Lowe expressed concern that the Court runs on grant funding, therefore the Court should be included within this resolution, too. President Greendeer noted that all will be included.

New Business:

Resolution-Per Capita Declaration for November 1, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 N***, Per Capita Declaration for November 1, 2025. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Legislative Resolution 09-24-24 B Designation of Tribal Officials Authorized to Conduct Business with the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 O***, Rescission and Restatement of Legislative Resolution 09-24-24 B Designation of Tribal Officials Authorized to Conduct Business with the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Housing & Community Development Agency to Apply for the Indian Housing Block Grant 2025 Competitive Grant Program

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 P***, Authorization for the Ho-Chunk Housing & Community Development Agency to Apply for the Indian Housing Block Grant

2025 Competitive Grant Program. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Ho-Chunk Housing & Community Development Agency’s 2025 Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages Public Facilities and Infrastructure Project

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 Q***, Ho-Chunk Housing & Community Development Agency’s 2025 Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages Public Facilities and Infrastructure Project, authorizing correcting the title of the grant from ICDBG to CDBG. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 R***, Hoocak Waaziija Haci Language Division Memorandum of Understanding with the Baraboo District for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Judiciary to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Justice 2026 Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Grant

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 S***, Authorization for the Judiciary to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Justice 2026 Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Grant. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Rescission of Resolution 06-04-25 X Authorization of Funding from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund Restricted Account for the Mother Earth’s Young Protectors Woogus Hirakara Youth Summit

Rep. Phyllis Smoke mentioned that since this was approved, it was decided that the event will not place during the designated dates. The event will take place in the future, and a new funding request will be sent at that time.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 T***, Rescission of Resolution 06-04-25 X Authorization of Funding from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund Restricted Account for the Mother Earth’s Young Protectors Woogus Hirakara Youth Summit. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Water’s Edge: The Art of Truman Lowe

Rep. Edward Mullen stated that

there will be a Truman Lowe exhibition opening reception at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen for any interested Legislator to attend the Truman Lowe Exhibition Opening Reception event in Washington, D.C. on EMERGENCY BASIS due to time constraint. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Limited Sale of Ho-Chunk Nation Land in Cook County, Lynwood, Illinois

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt ***Resolution 10-07-25 U***, Authorization for Limited Sale of Ho-Chunk Nation Land in Cook County, Lynwood, Illinois. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 6-4(Rep. Kyle White Eagle, Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Sandra Whitewing)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Rep. David Greendeer stated for the record: “Wazaniwina, hizankisana, hinikaragiwi, I want to speak firmly but respectfully against this resolution authorizing the limited sale of our Lynwood properties in Illinois. At face value, it may seem reasonable, we’re holding land that’s not currently producing revenue. But when we step back and look through a strategic and long-term lens, this action would be a serious mistake. First, once we sell this land, it’s gone forever. We lose leverage, we lose future opportunity, and we lose geographic presence in one of the most economically powerful regions in the Midwest. Cook County is not declining, it’s evolving. Industrial logistics, renewable energy infrastructure, and land-use opportunities are expanding every year. Selling now would lock us out of that future value permanently. Second, this approach converts a fixed and appreciating asset into short-term operational money. That’s not sound financial stewardship. Land is capital. It should be leveraged, not liquidated. When we deposit proceeds into the General Fund, that money will get spent, not reinvested. We’d be trading long-term growth for temporary relief. Third, the resolution provides no valuation criteria, no buyer qualifications, and no strategic reinvestment plan. We’re being asked to approve an open-ended sale process without parameters or accountability, that’s risky, and it’s not how we should handle national assets. Fourth, from a sovereignty standpoint, our Constitution directs us to prevent the sale or disposition of Ho-Chunk lands except when absolutely necessary for the Nation’s long-term benefit. There’s no long-term benefit shown here, only short-term convenience. And finally, this sale would send the wrong message that the Ho-Chunk Nation is retreating from Illinois, rather than preparing to re-enter that market through new development, renewable energy projects, or partnerships. Once we sell, we have no seat at that table again, and again

this is our traditional territory. I recommend instead that we pause this action and direct Legislative Counsel to prepare a comprehensive land asset strategy, one that includes leasing options, valuation thresholds, and reinvestment plans for all off-reservation properties. We can act with discipline, protect our sovereignty, and ensure our assets serve future generations, not just the next budget cycle. Thank you.”

Indian Country Times Sponsorship

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to approve \$1,428.57 out of Charitable Contributions for the Indian Country Times sponsorship. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Green Corn

Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle stated that Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. requested for this to be added today, as the Legislature had agreed to fund hotel rooms for out-of-town guests for the October 9, 2025 Green Corn event at the Tribal Office Building.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve \$1,200 from Charitable Contributions for the Green Corn event. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. **MOTION IS AMENDED** that the motion be emergency basis motion. Second concurs. 9-0-1(Rep. Phyllis Smoke) **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. Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:51 a.m., and Rep. Stephanie Begay is excused for the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Paul Fox to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 1:45 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to October 20, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

NATIVE AMERICAN

Song & Dance Showcase

Free Event | Public Welcome | Family Friendly

Celebrating Culture in Motion at Ho-Chunk Gaming Nekoosa

Saturday, November 15

Native American Dance Performance 1PM & 3PM

Native American
Craft Vendors and
Food Stand **11AM - 4PM**

Hand Drum Contest: (21+) 2PM

1st \$500 | 2nd \$300 | 3rd \$200

Specials (21+)

Best Moccasins

Best Ribbon Shirt/Skirt

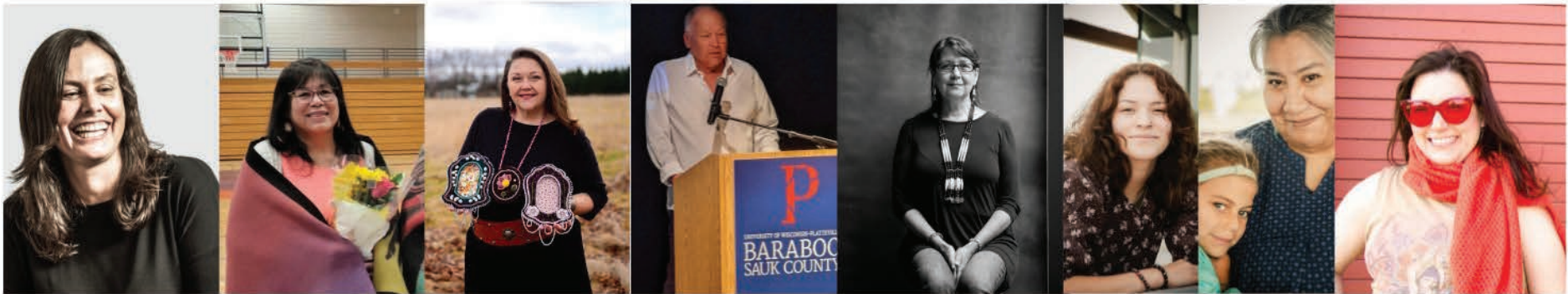
Vendor Contact: karen.roy@ho-chunk.com (715) 886-4560 ext. 28232





TEEJOP & BEYOND: Celebrating Native Nations

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025



Teejop & Beyond at Madison Public Library welcomes a variety of Native artists, storytellers, and community leaders for a series of programs celebrating Indigenous people in and beyond Teejop. We invite you to attend programs!

Let's Make a Friendship Bracelet

Nov 4, 2-4pm | Pinney Library

This hands-on workshop is an introduction to the use of beads, both natural materials like porcupine quills, bones, and shells and manufactured beads made in European countries. Participants will view a variety of beaded objects made by Melanie Sainz. The hands-on activity includes creating your own bracelet using natural deerskin, natural and dyed porcupine quills, and variety of beads.



Oneida Bead Ornament Workshop

Nov 7, 6-8:30pm | Sequoya Library

Interested in learning how to bead, but don't know how to begin? Please join instructor Jennifer Jordan to create a beaded ornament! You will receive basic beading instruction including education on working with beads, selecting beads, and the history of beads and beadwork in Native American culture.



Registration required for all programs. Learn more and sign up at: madpl.org/teejopandbeyond

Past/Present/Future: The Artistic Legacy of Truman Lowe

Nov 12, 7-8pm | >>Online<<

Tonia Lowe will introduce you to the life and work of her father and Hoocąk artist, Truman Lowe. Truman's artwork is currently the subject of a new retrospective, "Water's Edge: The Art of Truman Lowe", at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C., on view through January 2027.

Making Communal Black Ash Baskets

Nov 22, 1-2:30pm | Hawthorne Library
Dec 6, 1-2:30pm | Alicia Ashman Library

Join basket maker Kimberly Crowley and her apprentice as they teach workshop attendees to make two communal Black Ash baskets that will be displayed later at the library. Additionally, attendees can make a personal paper basket as a parting, take-home gift.

