



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOCAL WORAK

Vol. XXXIX, Issue 21

Ca Hikiruxe wira | Deer Mating Moon

November 14, 2025



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Announcements
from HCN
Legislature

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HCN Launches
Emergency Food
Program as SNAP
Funding Stalls Amid
Federal Shutdown

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HCN Celebrates
Veterans Day

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Reclaiming Wellness the Native Way

Kaili Berg
ThunderMaker Wellness, founded by Ho-Chunk tribal member Hunter Thundercloud, is helping to reshape the way recovery and mental health care are delivered in Indian Country. Based in Arizona, ThunderMaker Wellness focuses on substance use and mental health healing through a holistic lens. The program ranges from six months to two years, beginning with a stabilization phase before transitioning into apprenticeships that teach life and vocational skills.

“Our goal is more than just treating the symptoms,” Thundercloud said. “We want to instill pride, cultural identity, and real-life skills that can be carried with them long after they leave.”

Thundercloud’s vision for ThunderMaker was shaped by his own recovery journey. After battling addiction for several years and facing incarceration, he entered treatment eight years ago.

“I had three DUIs by 25 and did nine months in jail. I realized I couldn’t keep drinking,” Thundercloud said. “I got into heroin after that and struggled for six years before my parents sent me out here for treatment. My dad said, ‘I’m not going to let my son die.’”

What began as a personal

transformation became the foundation for ThunderMaker Wellness.

“When I got clean, I started a sweat lodge at my house. That’s where I found my spiritual awakening,” Thundercloud said. “Culture saved my life.”

Over time, he and co-founder Arrow Funmaker, who was also working in behavioral health, built a program rooted in both clinical and cultural practices.

Today, ThunderMaker operates as a long-term recovery program offering psychiatric and medical care alongside cultural programming like sweat lodge, drum circles, and medicine harvesting. The center also partners with local farms to provide traditional foods through a food sovereignty program.

“Lots of people in addiction don’t have stable lives,” Thundercloud said. “We focus on teaching basic skills, how to cook, clean, and maintain a home, while surrounding them with ceremony and community.”

The facility currently has 17 beds, with renovations underway to expand to more than 30. All of ThunderMaker’s upper management and clinical leadership are Native, ensuring that the program remains grounded in Indigenous worldviews.

“The culture stuff we do, we don’t have to ask anyone for permission,”



Photo Credits ThunderMaker Wellness

Thundercloud said. “Everything we do is through a Native lens.”

ThunderMaker also hopes to launch a women’s program soon.

“The way women experience addiction and trauma is very different from men,” Thundercloud said. “We want to make sure that program is 90 percent women-run and built specifically for their needs.”

ThunderMaker Wellness stands as proof of what’s possible when recovery is guided by identity, ceremony, and love for community.

“If no one knows we exist, how can we help anyone?” Thundercloud said. “My goal is to build something that works, and then bring it home to our people.”

Congratulations to the Wisconsin Dells High School Girls Golf Teams!

Both Varsity and JV went undefeated in conference this season. Not only that, but the Varsity team made school history as Regional Champs and qualified for State as a team, which was held October 13 and 14 at University Ridge in Verona, WI. The Varsity team was led by head coach, Moses Alvarez, and the JV team was led by his

younger sister, Maura Alvarez, both Ho-Chunk tribal members.

They both would like to thank all the parents, families, students, and community members who supported them and came to watch them. They’d also like to thank Karl Lastrup and Seth Neilsen for all of their help.



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HO-CHUNK NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Executive Order November 7, 2025-1

Emergency Declaration for Temporary Food Assistance Program

WHEREAS, the Ho-Chunk Nation has a Constitutional responsibility to advance the general welfare and safeguard our interests, along with the inherent responsibility to protect the health, welfare, and well-being of its tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the Ho-Chunk Nation recognizes that the upcoming disruption in access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and FoodShare Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) services, beginning in November 2025, will cause immediate hardship to families who rely on these benefits for essential food security; and

WHEREAS, many Ho-Chunk tribal members, their families, and other eligible Native households residing within the Nation's service areas depend upon these benefits as their primary source for purchasing groceries and essential nutrition; and

WHEREAS, the Ho-Chunk Nation finds it necessary to take immediate action to prevent food insecurity, malnutrition, and undue hardship among its members and residents impacted by this disruption; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Ho-Chunk Nation, under the authority granted by the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Article VI, Section 1(a) and Section 2 is empowered to issue Executive Orders in times of emergency to safeguard the welfare of the Nation and its citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Maąšusga (Jon Greendeer), President of the Ho-Chunk Nation, do hereby declare the following:

Section 1. Declaration of Emergency
An emergency is hereby declared due to the suspension or disruption of SNAP/FoodShare benefits, which threatens the food security and welfare of affected citizens and households.

Section 2. Establishment of the Ho-Chunk Nation Emergency Food Assistance Program
A temporary emergency assistance program and a Special Restricted Account is hereby established to provide direct grocery support to individuals and families currently receiving SNAP/FoodShare benefits who are unable to access their federal benefits.

Section 3. Eligibility
Eligibility for this emergency program shall be subject to the following requirements:

- Must be an enrolled Ho-Chunk Nation tribal member who is a current recipient of SNAP/FoodShare benefits
- Applicants **MUST** be able to provide verification of SNAP/Foodshare participation through documentation from their MyAccess account Certificate of Eligibility and/or other verifiable benefit statements.
- Applicants must complete a short application form to ensure verification, accountability, and administrative/fiscal tracking of disbursements.

Section 4. Distribution of Assistance

- Eligible applicants will be issued a direct deposit as a General Welfare supplement in the same process as the GW monthly payments are administered. Payments will be equivalent to the program schedule contained within this Order and designated as unreportable income for tax purposes.
- The card value shall be **based on the individual's verified household dependents SNAP/FoodShare benefit amount** based on the following schedule:

Registered SNAP Household Dependents	Amount Supplement
1	\$200
2	\$300
3+	\$500

- Recipients must reconcile their assistance by **submitting their grocery receipts totaling the amount provided** within 30 days of receiving the assistance.
- Funds may be used only for the purchase of eligible grocery and household food items.

Section 5. Administration
The Ho-Chunk Nation Office of the President along with designated departmental staff shall verify program eligibility through properly submitted documentation. Once verified, **ONLY** the applicant's name and payment amount will be forwarded to the Department of Treasury for processing. Only information necessary to process payment will be shared outside of applicant verification.

Section 6. Funding
Funds to support this program shall be allocated from the Nation's emergency reserve established by this Executive Order of the Declaration of Emergency and Legislative Resolution.

Section 7. Duration
This Executive Order and the emergency program established herein shall remain in effect for **60 days** from the date of issuance, unless the following take place:

- The US Federal Government takes action to provide full restoration of SNAP/Foodshare benefits through the use of unutilized program contingency funds
- The US Federal Government resumes *regular* SNAP benefits by function of resolving the government shutdown and reinstating operation(s) and timely distribution of benefits
- This Order is extended by further Executive Order or Legislative action

Section 8. Effective Date
This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signature.

Jon Greendeer
Maąšusga (Jon Greendeer)
President, Ho-Chunk Nation

W9814 AIRPORT ROAD | BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615 | (715) 284-9343

Ho-Chunk Nation Celebrates Veterans Day

Kaili Berg
The Ho-Chunk Nation celebrated Veterans Day this week with ceremonies that honored tribal members who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The event brought together Veterans, families, and community members to recognize the courage, sacrifice, and enduring spirit of Native warriors.
Across Indian Country, Veterans Day carries deep meaning. Native people have

served in every major U.S. conflict, often at higher rates than any other group. The Nation's celebrations included Ho-Chunk color guards, the sound of the drum echoing, and songs dedicated to Veterans.
While Native Veterans continue to face challenges such as limited healthcare access and higher rates of post-traumatic stress, ceremonies like these remind the community of their resilience and unity.





Hocak Woga

It is that time of year again, where Child and Family Services provides Christmas presents to the children that receive services through our division.

This year Children and Family Services have 70 children/youth which we are hoping to locate sponsors for Christmas gifts. This can be an individual project donation or a group project for a department. Each tag represents an individual child and designates the age and whether the gift is for a boy or a girl. We are requesting gifts that are valued between \$20 and \$25.

Child and Family Services request that you **return the present unwrapped and return the gift to the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Social Services-Division of Child and Family Services offices in Black River Falls by December 1, 2025.**

Child and Family Services thanks you for your continued generosity. Thank you in advance for helping to make Christmas special for our children.

CONTACT LUANN KRPATA #15190 OR JACKIE MOEN-KADLEC AT #15134

Attention Tribal Members



The **Department of Housing** has recently made **policy changes**. We encourage all members to stay informed and review these updates at the Ho-Chunk Nation Website, ho-chunknation.com

This will help you understand how they may impact current and future housing opportunities.

Your voice matters – stay informed and involved in your community's housing future!



Department of Housing
608-374-1225
Housing@ho-chunk.com



Annual Shareholder Meeting

You are invited to the upcoming shareholder meeting of Twelve Clans.

When:

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Time:

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where:

Serenity Room at Potawatomi Casino, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

(715) 475-2119 | 12-clans.com | support@12-clans.com | W9184 Airport Road, Black River Falls, WI 54615

You're invited!

We are pleased to invite all **18+ tribal members** to the upcoming Annual Shareholder Meeting.

At this year's meeting, we will share important financial and economic development updates from the past year, connect with shareholders, answer questions, and hold the **Board of Directors election**.

Enjoy breakfast, light refreshments, and a chance to win **Native-made prizes** for those attending in person.

We look forward to connecting with you and sharing our progress and future economic development plans.

Sincerely,

Joe Brown Thunder, CEO & Chairman

New Shareholder Portal:

You can now access reports, attend virtually, and vote online in our new portal. Register with your tribal enrollment info at: www.12-clans.com

For More Information:

www.12-clans.com/events



Placement and Respite Homes Needed

Do you have room in your home for children? Are you currently not able to make a long-term commitment for placement of a child? Are you looking to make a difference in the life of a child? Here's your opportunity!

The Ho-Chunk Nation Child and Family Services is looking for respite care providers in all areas near Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Nekoosa, La Crosse, Green Bay, Wittenberg and Black River Falls. Respite care is short-term care (one day to two weeks) provided to children who are in out-of-home placement. Respite providers are reimbursed \$50 per day per child and are also provided gift cards for food. For emergency respite, the respite rate may be increased. You do not have to be an enrolled tribal member to become a licensed Placement or Respite Home provider!

Respite providers are an integral part of a team of individuals who are looking out for the best interest of children. Relative Placements, Respite Providers and Placement Parents are required to have Federal Criminal Background Checks (fingerprints) (25 U.S.C. "Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act").

If you are interested in becoming a Respite Provider, Relative Placement or a Placement Parent, please contact the Ho-Chunk Nation Initial Response Program at: (715)-284-7749 for further details.

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

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be November 21st which will be published on November 28th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

Twelve Clans Shareholder Newsletter

October 14, 2025

Reflecting on the Past Year.

Same Newsletter, Upgraded Format

Closing out the fourth quarter, we reflect on a strong fiscal year marked by significant financial milestones. In September, Twelve Clans leadership met with the owner's representatives in a hybrid format, combining both in-person and virtual participation.

During this update, we were pleased to welcome and congratulate Representatives Kyle White Eagle, Sandra Whitewing, Edward Mullen, and David Greendeer on their recent appointments, as well as Representative Lambert Cleveland, Jr. on his appointment as Vice President.

Our New Website.

Take a look

During the fourth quarter, we launched our newly design website at 12-clans.com. Our newly designed website features included enhanced user experience, refreshed company story and background, stronger SEO, marketing, and branding, and an integrated shareholder portal.

While we have not yet launched the shareholder portal yet, we believe this will improve shareholder relations, communication, and outreach. In this portal, we are designing it to be all-encompassing platform where shareholders can read updates, find financial audits, attend shareholder meetings and elections, and communicate on a secured platform. We will provide more details on the portal in the coming months.

Shareholder Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6, at the Potawatomi Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The meeting is open to all 18+ tribal members.

At this year's meeting, we will share important financial and economic development updates from the past year, connect with shareholders, answer questions, and hold the Board of Directors election.

We are also pleased to introduce a new and convenient way to participate through our Shareholder Portal. The portal allows you to access reports, attend virtually, get important updates. Stay tuned for more details on the portal launch and meeting registration.

For all event details, please visit www.12-clans.com/events.

Venture Updates.

The Winn

Joining the meeting for this update, Brian Woosley, Co-Founder and Principal at Monarch Commercial Real Estate, presented key updates on Twelve Clans' recent real estate investment, informally known as the Golden Valley Apartments.

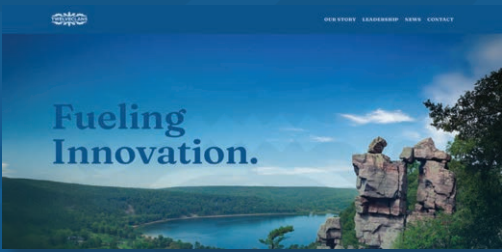
The project is ahead of schedule and is set to open its doors to tenants in spring 2026. Woosley reported that the project has secured \$1.8 million in cost savings through vendor and subcontractor negotiations, and only deploying \$141,872 of the contingency fund demonstrating strong financial management by the development and construction teams.

Financial Updates.

End of Year Portfolio

TCI ended the fiscal year with total assets of \$27.5 million and generated net income of \$2.38 million. Our annual asset growth was 9.5%, and we achieved a return on assets of 9.5%. Although we fell just short of our growth targets, this was primarily due to modest performance within our existing private equity investments, which comprise 54% of our asset base

Ongoing uncertainty surrounding higher interest rates and tariff policies also contributed to slower growth. Despite these headwinds, we achieved several successful outcomes within our private equity portfolio



Fueling Innovation.

Annual Shareholder Meeting.

Save the Date

We are excited to announce that this year's Annual

(715) 475-2119 | support@12-clans.com | 12-clans.com | W9184 Airport Road, Black River Falls, WI 54615

HOCOK WORAK NEWSLETTER

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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



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Ho-Chunk Nation Launches Emergency Food Program as SNAP Funding Stalls Amid Federal Shutdown

Kaili Berg

The Ho-Chunk Nation has declared an emergency to ensure tribal members relying on federal food assistance don't go hungry during the ongoing government shutdown.

President Jon Greendeer issued an Executive Order on November 7, 2025, creating a temporary food-assistance program after the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in Wisconsin as FoodShare, was disrupted by the shutdown.

The move allows the Nation to use its own emergency reserve funds to provide direct grocery support for enrolled members currently on SNAP/FoodShare.

"An emergency is hereby declared due to the suspension or disruption of SNAP/FoodShare benefits, which threatens the food security and welfare of affected citizens and households," the order states.

Under the new Ho-Chunk Supplemental Assistance: SNAP FoodShare program, enrolled tribal

members who are current recipients of SNAP/FoodShare may apply for limited grocery support through the Nation's website.

Applicants must verify participation in the federal program using their MyAccess account documentation and complete a short application. The Nation will issue direct deposits as general welfare supplements in the same process used for its monthly payments.

Households with one dependent will receive \$200, those with two dependents will receive \$300, and families with three or more dependents will receive \$500.

Funds must be used for groceries and essential food items, and recipients are required to submit receipts totaling the amount provided within 30 days. The program will remain active for 60 days or until federal benefits are restored.

The urgency behind this action comes as nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including about 270,000 children, depend on FoodShare each month.

The state typically distributes about

\$125 million in benefits monthly, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. But with the shutdown freezing federal payments, many families have been left uncertain about how to cover their basic needs.

Governor Tony Evers condemned the federal government's handling of the situation, emphasizing that Wisconsin acted lawfully and compassionately by ensuring families still received their FoodShare benefits.

"Pursuant to and consistent with an active court order, Wisconsin legally loaded benefits to cards, ensuring nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including nearly 270,000 kids, had access to basic food and groceries," Evers said. "After we did so, the Trump Administration assured Wisconsin and other states that they were actively working to implement full SNAP benefits for November and would 'complete the processes necessary to make funds available.' They have failed to do so to date."

President Greendeer's executive

order notes the Ho-Chunk Nation's constitutional duty to safeguard the welfare of its citizens, saying the disruption to SNAP would cause immediate hardship to families who rely on these benefits for essential food security.

By creating its own emergency program, the Nation is demonstrating a strong example of tribal sovereignty and community care, one that other tribal governments may look to replicate if the shutdown continues.

Food insecurity in Wisconsin affects roughly one in ten residents, with Native households often experiencing even higher rates due to limited grocery access and increased food costs. About 40 percent of FoodShare recipients statewide are children, while seniors make up around 12 percent of those receiving assistance.

"Whether the funding is restored or not," the Nation's public announcement read, "we want you to know we are here for you."

Legendary Frybread Drive-In Book Review by Janice Rice

For teenagers and those who are young at heart, I invite you to read a collection of short stories and poems. The book is entitled *Legendary Frybread Drive-In: Intertribal Stories* and is edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith (*Muskogee Nation*). If you love frybread and hanging out with friends and relatives, you will enjoy this book.

Each story tells of young men and women who meet the challenges of adulthood. We gain insights into their dreams of the future and ways of staying connected to those that they love and admire. The road isn't always easy, but there are places where feelings of loneliness and isolation melt away. We can walk to a place where friends and relatives, past and present, can meet on common ground.

Seventeen short stories are

written by indigenous authors. Each have captured family issues, kinship, and the rewards of connecting and growing. Indigenous ways are covered through subtleties, depth, and humor. The inclusion of a glossary and brief biographies are helpful tools to enhance the stories.

Food is love. Food is medicine. The fictitious frybread drive-in has created a space where we all can feel involved and included. Teachings are revealed as we meet new people, revive family connections, and live life on life's terms. The shining lights of the frybread drive-in have made a place where we may meet, grow, mature, and learn.

Come to Waagax Hakiruxaraxara Hosto at DICC to find this book and more!

Ho-Chunk Supplemental Assistance

SNAP Foodshare

Enrolled Ho-Chunk Tribal Members CURRENTLY on SNAP/FoodShare may be eligible for limited grocery assistance

APPLY NOW



<http://tsnap.ho-chunk.com/>

WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Announces Families Supporting Families Awards

(Madison) -- The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), congratulates Living Our Visions Inclusively (LOV Inc.) for receiving one of nine statewide grants to community-based organizations to expand their efforts partnering with the Ho-Chunk Nation to support tribal communities and families who have school-aged children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LOV, Inc. is a family-led organization based in Dane County working to unite people with disabilities to engage and build their best lives through innovative services focused on empowerment, independence, and community integration. Since 2019, LOV and the Ho-Chunk Nation have partnered to provide education and support to more than 50 tribal youth with disabilities and their families. Their grant activities will bring tribal families together for events to

connect, learn about resources, and engage in activities that help them plan for the future. They aim to expand awareness of disability issues among Wisconsin's tribal communities and involve more tribes in their programming.

The Families Supporting Families grants began in recognition that community-based organizations run by community members know best how to support their families. By providing grants to support these organizations in expanding their services,

BPDD and DPI believe more families and their children with disabilities will connect with the people, activities, and community resources they need to live the lives they want.

"We are excited to invest in these groups that are trusted community resources and already are making important impacts on families' lives through both group education and individualized supports. We know that when families have the information and support they need, they and

their children succeed," explains Beth Swdeen, Executive Director for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

"We are proud to partner with BPDD and these remarkable organizations to support families in their communities," said Wisconsin State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly. "We know that investing in families and communities to support access to services is integral to student success."



Tevin Dempster (Certified Lab Technician, HOW) Fundraiser
(Sponsored by HOW)

Recently, our very own Tevin Dempster, a proud Jamaican national has seen his family, friends, and community in Kingston, Jamaica, devastated by Hurricane Melissa. In light of these catastrophic losses, the House of Wellness family is coming together to support Tevin during this difficult period. Once his family has evaluated their situation and identified their greatest needs, we will provide a list of helpful items for those who wish to contribute.

We are currently accepting donations in both cash and electronic form. All monetary contributions will be used to purchase the essential items being sent to Tevin's family and community in Jamaica. Electronic or monetary donations can be sent to Tevin Dempster or Kathleen Bucher, and cash donations in Black River Falls can be brought to Charmaine Brandt, Lab Supervisor.

Tevin Dempster
\$TevinDempster





venmo

The House of Wellness Clinics would like to express our sincere gratitude for any and all support. Tevin is extremely appreciative of the kindness and thoughtfulness shown by our team toward him and his family.

DNR Asks Public To Report Black Bear Den Locations For Research Study

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages the public to report any black bear den locations across the state to help with an ongoing study on black bear reproduction.

The Black Bear Litter and Diet Survey will generate new estimates of black bear reproductive rates within each of the state's bear management zones. These estimates will improve the accuracy of the population models used in each zone. Additionally, researchers are investigating a connection between consumption of human food sources and bear reproduction, since diet can affect cub survival rates and litter sizes.

The study will be entering its fifth year of surveying occupied dens in the Wisconsin bear range. The research team will accept a den report anywhere in the state. However, the team is particularly interested in finding dens in bear management zones C, E and F, which cover central and southern Wisconsin. Having collared bears in every zone will improve population estimates for each respective zone and support management decision making.

The public's assistance is essential to this project, and anyone who happens upon an occupied black bear den is encouraged to report as much information as possible without approaching or disturbing the animal. Reporting dens helps the DNR meet the sample size requirements for our study and will increase the accuracy of the black bear population estimates.

If you believe you have found a black bear den, please collect the following information quickly and quietly while remaining a safe distance of at least 30 yards from the den at all times:

- GPS coordinates: You can use a mobile



Cubs cannot yet regulate their temperature and have delicate immune systems, so den survey participants wear protective gear and keep them warm while DNR staff members fit a GPS collar on the mother bear during den surveys. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

phone's pre-installed map app, such as Google Maps or Apple Maps. For best results, first go to your phone's Settings and turn on the option to improve location accuracy.

- Photos of the den: Maintaining a safe distance, take an image or two showing the den in relation to its surroundings.
- Description of the site and surrounding area: Take some notes on the size of the entrance, the direction it faces and whether there are notable landmarks nearby.
- Description of any bear activity in general area: Make a note of anything you observe, including pawprints, scat, fresh scratch marks and even, in late winter, the squeals and grunts of hungry cubs.

Before the research team surveys a
Continued on Page 8



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

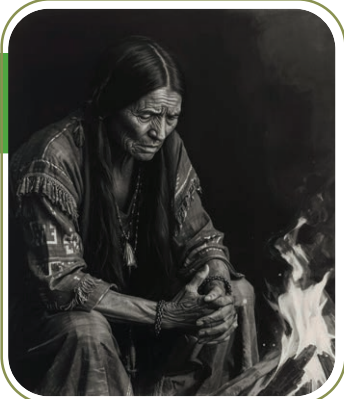
Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150

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

NEXT CIRCLE
STARTS
JANUARY 2026

HONORING THE WHOLE SELF

A CHRONIC PAIN HEALING CIRCLE



Chronic pain affects more than the body — it can touch the heart, mind, spirit, and relationships. In this group, we come together to share stories, learn new ways of caring for ourselves, and reconnect with what helps us feel rooted when pain removes us from living well. Through mindfulness, movement, and collective support, we'll honor our bodies' wisdom and explore pathways toward balance and peace.

NEXT CIRCLE
IS VIRTUAL

CIRCLE IS WEEKLY
FOR 12 WEEKS

To screen and register with the Behavioral Health Division, call
715-284-9851
x35014

CALL FOR NATIVE AMERICAN POWWOW, DANCE & VETERAN REGALIA

FOR THE NEW WISCONSIN HISTORY CENTER

The new Wisconsin History Center is set to open in 2027 in Madison, WI. The Center will feature a cultural gallery featuring a powwow section that will showcase Native dancers of our region. The display will feature four dancers including a veteran carrying a flag—all dance styles and categories—both worn and/or new—will be considered.

Selected regalia will be part of the permanent collections and able to be used for the exhibition in the inaugural display in the History Center.

There is a project budget to support commissions of regalia. Donations will be considered as well.

Scan the QR code to the complete submission form or visit:
<https://form.asana.com/?k=7G3KaGkMDc-MR1wXMC3g&d=15023677151882>



QUESTIONS & KEY DATES

Contact Tribal Liaison Rachel Byington at 608-265-7492 or rachel.byington@wisconsinhistory.org

OPTIONAL VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION October 23, 2025, 12PM-1PM CST ENTRIES DUE November 21, 2025	SELECTION COMMITTEE December 2025 ARTIST NOTIFICATION January 2026 ARTWORK COMPLETED January 2027
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DATCP and DHS Urge Wisconsin Retailers to Continue to Accept FoodShare

Businesses should not refuse service, DATCP is prepared to enforce against price gouging

MADISON, Wis. – Retailers and grocery stores play an important role in ensuring FoodShare members can access healthy, nutritious food to feed their families. Today, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) remind Wisconsin businesses who have signed up for the FoodShare program that FoodShare recipients have had funding legally loaded onto their cards and businesses cannot turn away members using QUEST cards at registers.

“It’s been a really difficult and scary time for a lot of people because of the federal government shutdown and economic uncertainty, especially for families, kids, and seniors who rely on FoodShare. Wisconsinites are helpers by nature—it’s part of our DNA. When things get tough, we always look out for and support our neighbors, and that’s especially important now more than ever,” said Gov. Tony Evers.

On October 31, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #278, which prohibits price gouging due to the loss of FoodShare funding. It also calls on grocers and retailers to ensure relevant resources are readily available for Wisconsinites and the state, and state agencies can utilize every available tool and resource to support Wisconsinites through impacts of the federal government shutdown. The governor’s executive order can be found here.

“While there haven’t been reports of people being turned away or of price gouging thus far, we want to make sure everyone is clear on the expectations. No one in Wisconsin should have to worry about their next meal,” said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski.

FoodShare members receive benefits on a QUEST card, similar to a debit card, that allows them to pay for food at any business that has agreed to participate in the program. Current federal guidance states that consumers may continue to redeem the existing balance issued to their QUEST card at any authorized retailer. If FoodShare members are wrongfully denied the ability to use their QUEST cards to purchase food when they have a balance remaining, they should take the following steps:

- Tell store staff, “I have a balance on my QUEST card, and I am able to use it.”
- Call Wisconsin’s Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 422-7128 or email DATCPHotline@wi.gov.

“FoodShare is essential for Wisconsinites of all ages, whether they are working a low-income job, live on a fixed income, or are facing unemployment. Members rely on these benefits to keep them from having to choose between using money for food, or their rent, heating bills, or medicine,” said DHS Secretary Kirsten Johnson.

FoodShare in Wisconsin provides basic food access for nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including nearly 270,000 kids.

At this time, full November FoodShare benefits continue to be available on all QUEST cards. Any Wisconsinite who needs additional food or infant formula for their house or family can reach out to 211 for information and referrals to local services. Anyone can use 211 to get help by:

- Dialing 211 or (877) 947-2211.
- Visiting their website at communityos.org. Through the website, people can search for services or chat with someone online who can help.
- Texting their ZIP Code to 98211.

You're Invited

HO-CHUNK NATION

presents the first

NATIONAL LIVING TREASURE AWARDS & GALA

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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025
5PM – DOORS OPEN
6PM – DINNER

DINNER TICKETS
ADULT: \$20
TABLE: \$150 (SEATS 8)

DISTRICT 1 COMMUNITY CENTER
N7261 WARRIOR AVENUE, BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615

All proceeds will go towards the Ho-Chunk Nation Museum and Cultural Center.

HO-CHUNK NATION MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE HO-CHUNK NATION

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!

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 basket that will be later displayed at the library. Additionally, attendees can make a personal paper basket as a parting, take-home gift.

Registration required for all programs. Registration opens two weeks prior to the program date. Learn more and sign up at: madpl.org/teejopandbeyond

Layers of Nature: Learn to Make Collage Animals

Dec 6, 1-3pm
Goodman South Madison Library

Join Charlotte Easterling and learn to make detailed collages of animals using layers of cut paper. We'll start with cut outs of various animals and explore shapes and colors to give them depth and texture. Make your designs realistic, whimsical, abstract, or a little of everything! This workshop will have you using scissors/Xacto knives, glue, and paper. It's open to all ages, but younger kids may need a little help with some of the cutting.

Beaded Earrings

Dec 13, 1-4pm | Hawthorne Library

Indigenous Beadwork is an art form that carries deep cultural and historical significance. Indigenous people express their traditions and stories through vibrant colors and intricate bead patterns. In this intergenerational workshop, participants will have the option to create a pair of Beaded Ladder Stitch Hoop Earrings or Beaded Fringe Earrings.



Making Communal Black Ash Baskets

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.



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

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FRIENDS Madison Public Library

HO-CHUNK GAMING MADISON

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.



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 Hoocak 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.

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.



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.



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

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FRIENDS Madison Public Library

HO-CHUNK GAMING MADISON

Upcoming Ho-Chunk Closures

Nov-Jan

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
JANUARY 1	Both pharmacies closed for New Years' Day

SLP 11/3/25

PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY FOR MEDICATION REFILLS

CAIKIRUXEWII
(November)

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

CEEXJI
(Bison)



BISON CHILI

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs. ground bison
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cans tomato sauce, no salt added (15 oz. each)
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cumin
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 ½ cups kidney beans, cooked, drained

STEPS:

- In a large skillet, over medium-high heat, cook ground bison and onions until meat is brown and onion is translucent.
- Drain any excess fat.
- Add tomato sauce, spices, and beans.
- Let simmer on low for at least 20 minutes. Bison should reach a final internal cook temperature of at least 160°F, measured with a food thermometer before serving.

Recipe from - <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/FrozenGroundBisonRecipeCard.pdf>

For more Information
Contact a HCN Registered Dietitian/ Nutritionist:

BRF, TOMAH, WITTENBERG AREAS:
(888) 685-4422, EXT. 35335

BRF, LA CROSSE AREAS:
(888) 685-4422, EXT. 35340

DELLS, NEKOOSA, MADISON AREAS:
(888) 552-7889, EXT. 35554/35511

Updated 10/2025 HJ.
Sources: <https://www.eatright.org/food/planning-and-prep/snack-and-meal-ideas/bison-a-healthier-red-meat>;
<https://www.berkeleywellness.com/healthy-eating/food/article/bison-meat-better-beef>;
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/meat/bison-farm-table>;
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/meat/beef-farm-table#26>;
<https://www.wabees.org/recipes/recipe/6301/beef-and-mushroom-burgers><https://happyforks.com/analyzer/result>

ABOUT

- Ceexji is a very lean and nutritious source of protein.
- Because it is so lean, bison has fewer calories than beef.
- As with many meats, the nutrition depends on the cut of meat and if it was fully grass-fed or grain-finished.
 - An example of a 3 ounce grass-fed bison burger is 152 Calories, 7g fat, 3g saturated fat, and 60mg cholesterol.

PREPARING

- Because it is a lean meat, it can overcook easily: slow cooking, braising or stewing are great options for bison meat.
- Ground bison should be cooked to 160°F, and steak and roasts should be cooked to 145°F.

STORING

- As with any meat, for best quality, cook ground, raw meat within 2 days and raw roasts or steaks within 3-4 days.
- After cooking, eat or freeze within 3-4 days.

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

Student of The Month
November 2025
Landon Littlegeorge



Jack Young Middle School - 7th Grade
Parent: Lori Littlegeorge

Landon is an exceptionally kind and thoughtful student who consistently goes above and beyond to help others. He works diligently with staff to ensure his assignments are completed with care and excellence, always demonstrating responsibility and respect. Landon is also great at trivia and loves figuring out how things work—his curiosity and creativity make learning exciting for everyone around him. His positive attitude and friendly spirit brighten the day of all who meet him.

Student of The Month
November 2025
Marlena Tepiew



Red Creek Elementary - 4th Grade
Parents: Arnold Tepiew Jr. & Stacey Sky

Marlena is a kind, hardworking, and enthusiastic student who always gives her best effort. She completes her homework, participates in class, and sets a positive example for her peers. Outside of school, Marlena stays active with the BRF Swim Team and Flag Football, and she loves appliqué dancing. Her positive attitude and love of learning make her a wonderful role model for everyone around her!

Student of The Month
November 2025
Christian “Bo” McClure



Associate Degree - Chippewa Valley Technical College
Parents: Mike McClure & Lisa Decorah

Christian “Bo” McClure pursued his passion in culinary management. His hard work, creativity, and unwavering dedication to his studies were immediately recognized, earning him a spot on the President's List for his very first term. This achievement speaks volumes about his commitment to following his dreams and his intrinsic drive for excellence. This has inspired everyone around him. The true measure of his dedication lies in how he balances his intense academic schedule with a demanding family life. He is an amazing dad of three children and a loving foster parent to his niece. He consistently dedicates his time and heart to creating a safe, nurturing, and stable home. Outside the classroom, he exemplifies a well-rounded, passionate life. He is a provider and a creator. He finds joy in spending time with his kids, foraging for mushrooms, hunting, and of course, cooking. Despite the distance, he maintains strong ties with his friends and family back home in California. Whether through video chats or a quick game of Fortnite. We proudly celebrate Bo for his determination, compassion, and for proving that with passion and perseverance, anything is possible.

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT



The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature has approved the **2025 Economic Assistance Program, providing direct payments to support tribal members**

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

TRIBAL MEMBER PAYMENTS 2025 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE:

Adults (18 & over): \$1,000
Minors (17 & under): \$400

These payments are part of the Ho-Chunk Nation's ongoing commitment to promote general welfare, including assistance for food, housing, healthcare, transportation, and essential needs.

Eligibility: All enrolled Ho-Chunk Nation Members as of **November 14, 2025**.

Payment Date: Payments will be on or before **November 21, 2025**.

Opt-Out Option: Members may opt out of receiving payment by contacting the Ho-Chunk Nation Treasury Department before the payment date.

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT



HO-CHUNK NATION EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PAYMENT

HONORING OUR EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SERVICE
The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature and Executive Branch have approved Employee Appreciation Payments to recognize the dedication and hard work of employees across all programs, enterprises, and partner agencies. This one-time distribution reflects gratitude for your continued service and contributions to the Nation's success.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Employees of the following entities employed as of November 14, 2025:

- Ho-Chunk Nation Government and Enterprises
- Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA)
- Cedar Growth
- Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

- Full-Time, Appointed, Contracted, Elected, and Exempt Employees: \$500
- Permanent Part-Time, Quarter-Time, and LTE Employees: \$200

PAYMENT DETAILS

- Payments will be made on or before November 21, 2025
- Employees who work for multiple Ho-Chunk entities will receive only one payment, at the higher amount
- Payments will be issued the same way as regular payroll
- Treasury will not deduct any debts, insurance, or benefit contributions from this payment
- If an employee is no longer employed at the time payments are processed, they are not eligible for this distribution

NOVEMBER

2025

HO-CHUNK NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

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



SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PHONE: 715-284-7461 EXT. 35038

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 OPEN BRF	4 OPEN BRF	5 WITTENBERG DISTRIBUTION 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH- KATHY	6 OPEN BRF	7 OPEN BRF
10 OPEN BRF	11 CLOSED VETERAN'S DAY	12 WIS DELLS DISTRIBUTION 10 AM- 12:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH- ALEX	13 REEDSBURG HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF	14 WI DELLS HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF
17 OPEN BRF	18 OPEN BRF	19 TOMAH DISTRIBUTION 12N- 1:00	20 OPEN BRF	21 LA CROSSE PICKUPS OPEN BRF
24 OPEN BRF NUTRITION BOOTH - KATHY	25 NEKOOSA DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00 PM NUTRITION BOOTH - ALEX	26 CLOSED INVENTORY	27 CLOSED THANKSGIVING	28 CLOSED HOOCAK DAY

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS

Partners in
Parenting:



Black River Falls
area

Specific to parents and grandparents
of infant to school-aged children

When:
Wed. November 19
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Where:
Eileen Decorah Classroom
at Ho-Chunk Health Care Center

GUEST SPEAKER:

Leslie Falcon

.....

Ho-Chunk Nation
Library

.....

Event includes free lunch and raffle!

MUST ATTEND PRESENTATION TO RECEIVE RAFFLE AND INCENTIVES

To sign up for your lunch reservation: Contact

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



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



Updated 11/25 KB

Continued from Page 5

den, they will work with the den reporters and landowners to determine whether it is safe, accessible and in use. Den reporters, landowners and/or land managers are typically invited to help if there is a planned survey for the reported den. The research team may not be able to visit every reported den location this season; they will prioritize dens that are confirmed to be occupied.

What Data Will Be Collected

DNR staff will collect biological data from these dens, including sex, age, weight and body

measurements. Mother bears, or sows, will be outfitted with a GPS collar, one of the most important pieces of equipment for the study. Collars help staff learn more about bear foraging behavior and locate the sows in the future. Revisiting the sows will help staff determine the reproductive success of each sow, such as how often she has a litter, litter size and the survival rates of the cubs.

During a survey, bear health and safety are a top priority. Designated staff monitor the sow's breathing and heart rate while the rest of the team quickly gathers the needed samples and

measurements. Any cubs present at the den are carefully weighed and sexed. Cubs are tucked into team members' coats to keep them warm because the cubs cannot yet regulate their own temperature. Once researchers finish collecting samples and fitting the GPS collar, the sow and cubs are put back into their den. This process can be seen in a 2024 episode of PBS Wisconsin's "Wisconsin Life" series.

To report a known black bear den, visit the DNR's Black Bear Den submission form.

Union Builder and Ho-Chunk Leader Rodney Rave Launches Campaign for Congress in WI-03

BLACK RIVER FALLS, Wis. — November 12, Rodney Rave, a lifelong western Wisconsin resident, union operating engineer, and former Ho-Chunk Nation legislator, announced his campaign for Congress in Wisconsin’s 3rd District. Rave is running to lower costs for working families, expand healthcare access, and bring common-sense, results-oriented leadership back to Washington. Rave will kick off his campaign with a community launch event today in western Wisconsin.

“I’m not a career politician, I’m a builder,” said Rodney Rave, a proud member of the Ho-Chunk Nation’s Bear Clan. “I grew up in an old shack with a dirt floor and spent 31 years in highway construction. I’ve seen what families, veterans, and

farmers are up against. The rules feel rigged and the costs keep climbing. I’m running to fix what’s broken so government finally works for the people again.”

Rave’s candidacy centers on affordability with accountability, fair treatment for rural and Tribal communities, and a focus on practical solutions over partisan theater. As a former Ho-Chunk Nation legislator, he worked to expand access to addiction treatment and strengthen Tribal-state partnerships. As a union member and heavy-highway worker, he helped build the roads and bridges that keep western Wisconsin connected.

Rodney’s Day-One Priorities

- **Lower Costs You Can Feel:** Crack down on price-fixing

- and junk fees, fight for fair competition that actually lowers grocery, utility, and prescription costs, and raise the minimum wage.
- **Build Wisconsin, Build the Middle Class:** Cut red tape to accelerate housing, roads, and broadband, creating good union jobs across western and northern counties.
- **Healthcare & Recovery:** Protect Medicare and Social Security, expand access to affordable care, including mental health and addiction recovery, so families can get help close to home.
- **Respect for Veterans & Farmers:** Protect family farms and deliver the benefits and services our veterans have earned.
- **Government That**

Works: End the gridlock, ban congressional stock trading, and put people ahead of special interests.

“Western Wisconsin deserves a representative who knows what it means to punch a clock, raise a family, and serve the community,” Rave added. “We’re going to build a coalition that brings people together, rural and small-town neighbors, union families, Tribal communities, independents and Democrats alike, to deliver real results.”

About Rodney Rave

Rodney Rave was raised in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. He is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation (Bear Clan), a union operating engineer with 31 years in heavy-highway construction, a husband of 44



years, a father of four, and a grandfather of 15. He previously served as a Ho-Chunk Nation legislator, where he worked to reform access to addiction treatment and strengthen Tribal relations. Rodney is a Christian and traditional Ho-Chunk spiritual practitioner who lives by a simple principle: **look out for everyone, love for all, and help others without asking for payment.**

Sherry Ann Wilson August 10, 1952 – October 26, 2025



Sherry Ann Wilson, age 73, died at the Black River Memorial Hospital on October 26, 2025, in her hometown of Black River Falls, Wisconsin. She was born on August 10, 1952, to Rachel Funmaker. She was later adopted by Earl and Margaret Wilson.

Sherry lived a life dedicated to giving a voice to the marginalized and advocating for equality, particularly for Native Americans and women. Sherry was not only a gifted writer but also a talented radio host and voiceover artist for the Ho-Chunk Nation. Her commitment to her roots and her people led her to co-found MIGZI Communications- a program to help support indigenous youth. Sherry was known for her independent spirit and her unique sense of humor. She was not just a journalist; she was a human rights activist whose voice resonated with many, inspiring change and fostering understanding. Just a few of the many movements Sherry participated in in creating a voice for the others included: In 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya Global Conference on Women, Lac du Flambeau in support of Treat Right and sovereignty and

AIM and WAMM (Women Against Military Madness), Central American for the March for the Peace, NYC demonstrations for denouncing Columbus Day, Support for Political Prisoners at home and abroad, Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp in England, 1992 Superbowl mascot protest in Minneapolis, the march in Ottawa in support of Innu/ Nitassinan and further militarization and impacts, 1990 actions in solidarity with people of Kahnewake and Kahnsetake during the siege of Oka in Minneapolis, and many conferences and meetings for WARN and INCITE! in Chicago. Whether writing or organizing or acting in solidarity, she was always concerned about human rights. Especially indigenous & women’s rights, and land-based struggles, whether at home, or Ireland or Palestine, were dear to her heart.

Sherry is preceded in death by her mother, Rachel Funmaker; adopted parents, Margaret and Earl Wilson; brothers, Marvin and Melvin Twinn; and grandparents, Harold Jones and Elenore (Whitewater) Funmaker.

She is survived by her brothers, Fred Youngbear and Ken Twinn, and her sisters, Sally Youngbear and Susan Twin Bear.

A visitation for Sherry will take place at the Buswell Funeral Home from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on October 29, 2025. Immediately following will be the burial at the Decorah Cemetery.

The Buswell Funeral Home is assisting the family with final arrangements, 715-284-2231.

Lisa Kay Aaracgejga Bridges September 27, 1989 - November 2, 2025

Lisa Kay Aaracgejga Bridges started her journey on Sunday, November 2, 2025. Lisa was the youngest of three beautiful daughters born to Candace Wiiragušgejga Cloud of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, and Kevin Bridges of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on September 27, 1989. Lisa loved crafts of all kinds, traveling, reading, time with family, but most of all, being Mom to her son Hudson Bird. She reveled in Hudson’s never-ending giggles, jokes, pranks, and laughter, which were always abundant. She often said he was her life, her joy, and her happiness.

Nobody could love another like Lisa. She took great care in planning special events and visits – making custom gifts like ornaments, mementos, spa treatments, and hand-made cards. Lisa celebrated loved ones by cooking for them and baking beautiful and tasty desserts. She always looked forward to Christmas cookie-making time, putting extra love and joy into shaping each cookie and adding thoughtful and precise decorations.

With her striking beauty and charming posture, Lisa often surprised others with her relentless witty humor. Lisa wove sarcasm, praise and pure love into her jokes and messages, always extending deep gratitude to those that touched her life. She was a kind, old soul, full of life and perspective. Lisa always looked for the light and good in every situation and prayed often for others.

Gene, Christopher, Arnold, and George Cloud, Teegas Jon-Jon Maašusgaga Greendeer, Marcus Greendeer, and Jesse Blackdeer, Naanjs Kimberly and Diane Cloud, Naanjs Michelle Greendeer-Rave, Verna Blackdeer and Cherokee Greendeer, and beloved Hocak children Owen, Emmitt, Annalisa, Cambria, Jeffrey, and Lyric.

Lisa is preceded in death by her mother Candace Wiiragušgejga Cloud, father Kevin Bridges, angel baby Serena Jessenia, grandparents Edward and Barbara Pond, Kaka Elena Maašu hakarapei Greendeer, Cooka George Greendeer, Cooka Harry Cloud, Naanji Cecelia “Sissy” Cloud, Naanji Cynthia Cooraminaḱwiga Cloud, sister Rachel Wiḱa Greendeer, Little Teegas Wesley Cloud and Naanji Arnalda Cloud.

Traditional Hocak wake services will be held at sunset on Monday, November 3 and Tuesday, November 4, at W9264 Taintsville Rd., Black River Falls, WI.

Funeral Services will be officiated by Traditional Chief Clayton Winneshiek and will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at Buswell Funeral Home, 106 S. 2nd St, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Lisa’s final resting place will be Trempealeau Public Cemetery in Trempealeau, Wisconsin.



Lisa attended South Mountain Community College in Phoenix, Arizona, working towards her Associates degree in Business Administration. She enjoyed sharing her Hocak culture in SMCC’s Native American Club.

Lisa is survived by her son Hudson MaaNak Sucga Bird and his father Leland Nacgepi Bird, sisters Kandace Maaḱisgaḱga Bridges, Beth Keeracowiga Bridges, and Alex Hūḱchinḱwiga Stacy, as well as Kaka Delphine (Blackcoon) Cloud. She is further survived by her parents Cory and Samantha Ciinaḱmaḱḱiga Skenandore, many Hocak brothers and sisters, Teegas Foster, Todd,

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT,

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Honored Walker Jri DOD: 01/11/2022
By: Francis DeCora

☐ Amended
**Notice of Hearing on
Petition for Probate**

For Official Use
FILED
IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION
TRIAL COURT
OCT 21 2025
[Signature]
Clerk of Court / Assistant

Case No. PR 25-06

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. A Petition for Probate was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 02-22-2024 and date of death 4/25/37 was domiciled in 16231 15th Ave New Lisbon Wisconsin County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 16231 15th Ave New Lisbon 53950
3. The names or addresses of the following interested person are not known or reasonably ascertainable:

4. The petition will be heard at Wa Ehi Hoci, W9598 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI, 54615, before Judge Michelle Greendeer-Rave on (Date) Dec. 4th 2025 at (Time) 10:00 AM

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-284-2722 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Mary Swindle
Clerk of Court
Mary Swindle
Name Printed or Typed
10/21/25
Date

Gov. Evers Demands Trump Administration Release Late School Aid Payments for 20 Wisconsin School Districts

Governor blasts Secretary McMahon for firing staff, efforts to dismantle Department of Education resulting in late school aid payments for school districts across Wisconsin

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers sent a letter to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Linda McMahon demanding that she immediately release federal Impact Aid payments for 20 school districts across Wisconsin that serve over 21,000 Wisconsin kids. Schools were supposed to receive the first round of payments in October for federal school funding, known as “Impact Aid,” which is used by schools for basic operations, such as payroll, transportation, programs, and new positions, among other critical areas.

“I was shocked to hear from several eligible school districts in Wisconsin that October Impact Aid payments have yet to be issued. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education has provided no guidance or timeline for when school districts can expect to receive these payments,” Gov Evers wrote to Secretary McMahon. “Less surprisingly, this delay seems to be completely unnecessary and entirely self-inflicted by the Trump Administration, as you have apparently terminated nearly all staff in the Impact Aid Program as part of your

illegal efforts to completely dismantle and eliminate the U.S. Department of Education without Congressional approval. “Wisconsin schools waiting to receive funding that has been inexplicably delayed is just the latest in a long list of examples of the real and harmful impacts you and your administration are inflicting on Wisconsin’s kids and schools, particularly those in our rural communities,” the governor continued. Federal Impact Aid is one of the most flexible sources of funding allocated to eligible schools, enabling

school districts to hire and pay teachers, purchase instructional materials, and support student transportation needs. This is especially critical for eligible Wisconsin school districts, as many of these schools are in rural areas of the state and face unique transportation challenges. Twenty school districts located across Wisconsin, from Bayfield to Seymour to Black River Falls, received Impact Aid payments in federal fiscal year 2025, totaling over \$23 million. Most but not all eligible schools are operated by federally recognized Tribal

Nations located in Wisconsin. “This funding is critically important to many school districts in Wisconsin that receive reduced or no property tax revenues due to being located on federal lands. Refusal to fulfill your legal and statutory obligations by providing these payments to schools that support core operations is unacceptable and requires your urgent attention,” Gov. Evers concluded. “Please take immediate action. Wisconsin kids rely on the resources provided by our schools and funded by this program.”



HO-CHUNK NATION DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Department of Housing is seeking (1) D-IHousing Board of Director

Duties:
Be involved in the Department’s strategic community housing plan
Serve as a consultant during the development of the Department’s annual goals and objectives required pursuant to the *Appropriations and Budget Process Act*.
Serve in an advisory capacity on matters referred by the Executive Director of Housing.

Qualifications:
Enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation
Shall have the requisite skill, knowledge specific to housing
Provide professional and expert advice and recommendations
Board experience and having a flexible scheduling are beneficial to being appointed

Membership:
Shall not be an employee of the Department of Housing
Shall not be a member of more than two (2) department Boards of Directors
Shall not be appointed nor serve as a member of a subordinate advisory board within the Department of Housing
Shall not be appointed nor serve as a Commissioner of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency

Term:
Shall serve two (2) year terms and may serve for more than one (1) term. The term shall be alternated so that two (2) Directors are appointed or re-appointed after the first year and every two (2) years thereafter

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can reach me at (608) 374-1225 Ext: 15915 or via email Denise.Wright@ho-chunk.com

Thank you,
Denise Wright
Executive Director
Department of Housing

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/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



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



Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Labor



MEETING NOTICE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, December 10th, 2025

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Agenda items:
Executive Director’s report

WebEx

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

For more information, contact:
HCN Dept. of Labor
Phone: 715-284-5877 ext. 11162
Email: thorn.whiteeagle@ho-chunk.com

SUMMONS
(First Publication)

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

In the Interest of Minor Child: M.M.M, DOB 07/07/2024

Case Nos.: CS 25-08

TO THE PARENT, GUARDIAN, LEGAL OR PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN AND/OR TRADITIONAL RELATIVE(S): Isabella Blackdeer

You are hereby informed that you have been deemed an interested party in the above-entitled juvenile protection case. This legal notice of the filed *Child/Family Protection Petition* 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 a *Plea Hearing* in accordance with HOCĄK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.41. Any parent(s), guardian(s) and/or person(s) having legal or physical custody of the child must personally appear along with the child at the *Hearing* described below.

The Court shall commence a proceeding at **11:00 a.m. CDT** on the **9h** day of **December 2025** for the following purpose Initial Child Support Hearing. Pursuant to HOCĄK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.35, 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.

Legal Notice
INVITATION FOR BID

BID # 2025DWS01
Ho-Chunk Nation – Armored Carrier Services

c/o Ho-Chunk Nation Treasury Department
Procurement Division
Attn: Dakota Walton-Smith
W9814 Airport Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615

The Ho-Chunk Nation is inviting sealed electronic bids for the above referenced project. Only firms with the capability, experience, and expertise with similar projects should obtain the Invitation for Bid document and submit bids.

Sealed bids must be submitted by **2:00 PM CST on December 2, 2025**. Any bids received after this date and time will be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

Documents may be obtained by downloading it at <http://ho-chunknation.com/Procurement> . Search on the bid number and bid title.

Please call Steve Sallaway at 800-779-2873, Ext. 11227 or Dakota Walton-Smith at 800-779-2873, Ext. 11271 for response to any questions or requests for additional information.

Published this **14** day of **NOVEMBER**, 2025.

Dakota Walton-Smith, NIGP-CPP
Procurement Agent
Ho-Chunk Nation
The Ho-Chunk Nation reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

SUMMONS
(First Publication)

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

In the Interest of Minor Child: A.H.W., DOB 7/23/2020, L.H-W., 7/19/2022

Case Nos.: JV 25-06, JV 25-07

TO THE PARENT, GUARDIAN, LEGAL OR PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN AND/OR TRADITIONAL RELATIVE(S): Daniel Hernandez White

You are hereby informed that you have been deemed an interested party in the above-entitled juvenile protection case. This legal notice of the filed *Child/Family Protection Petition* is now served upon you by publication. A proceeding concerning the above-named children is pending in the Court, and an adjudication will be made. The Court shall convene a *Plea Hearing* in accordance with HOCĄK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.41. Any parent(s), guardian(s) and/or person(s) having legal or physical custody of the children must personally appear along with the children at the *Hearing* described below.

The Court shall commence a proceeding at **1:00 p.m. CDT** on the **30th** day of **October 2025** for the following purpose Probable Cause Hearing. Pursuant to HOCĄK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.35, 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.

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SUMMONS
(First Publication)

IN THE HO-CHUNK NATION TRIAL COURT

In the Interest of Minor Child: A.R.W., DOB 10/18/2024

Case Nos.: PA 25-08

TO THE PARENT, GUARDIAN, LEGAL OR PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN AND/OR TRADITIONAL RELATIVE(S): Elan WhiteEagle

You are hereby informed that you have been deemed an interested party in the above-entitled juvenile protection case. This legal notice of the filed *Child/Family Protection Petition* 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 a *Plea Hearing* in accordance with HOCĄK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.41. Any parent(s), guardian(s) and/or person(s) having legal or physical custody of the child must personally appear along with the child at the *Hearing* described below.

The Court shall commence a proceeding at **2:00 p.m. CST** on the **18** day of **December 2025** for the following purpose Paternity Hearing. Pursuant to HOCĄK NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILY ACT, Para. 3.35, 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.

**HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI
OCTOBER 20, 2025**

Call to Order: Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call:
President Jon Greendeer-EX
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-P
Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
Rep. Paul Fox-P
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-P
Rep. David Greendeer-VC
Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

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

Opening Prayer: Rep. Paul

Fox offered a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the agenda with ADDING under New Business R. Resolution- Authorization for the Department of Social Services Division of Child and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to Apply for the Tribal Primary Prevention Grant and under District Meetings C. D3 Tešišik – October 8, 2025, D. D3 Pac cinąk – October 6, 2025, E. D3 Tee hoikšek – October 13, 2025, F. D3 Cexhaci – October 16, 2025, G. D2 Ho’ųnj Xųųnjik – October 14, 2025, H. D2 Hoxaikeja/Hoguceja/ Nįzhakisųc – October 15, 2025, I. D1 Maąņico Horuzra – October 16, 2025, J. D4 Virtual Meeting – October 15, 2025. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-October 7, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the October 7, 2025 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke.

12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Gaming Commission Report

A written report was received. Rep. Tracy Thundercloud requested the Commission to include deadline of projects within their report.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to accept the Gaming Commission Report. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Resolution-Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 07-02-25 E, Ho-Chunk Signature Authority

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 A**, Rescission and Restatement of Resolution 07-02-25 E, Ho-Chunk Signature Authority. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Nation Legislature

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 B**, Appointment of Presiding Officers and Members to Standing Commissions of the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-National Congress of American Indians Tribal Membership Delegate-Alternate Designation

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 C**, National Congress of American Indians Tribal Membership Delegate-Alternate Designation. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization to Place Proposed Repeal of Ho-ChunkNationInsuranceReview Commission Establishment and Organization Act (1 HCC § 13) out for Public Comment

Rep. David Greendeer requested to list out what is functioning and what is not, in order to get better feedback from the public.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 D**, Authorization to Place Proposed

Repeal of Ho-Chunk Nation Insurance Review Commission Establishment and Organization Act (1 HCC § 13) out for Public Comment. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. **MOTION IS AMENDED** to include 30-day public comment. Second concurs. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services to Participate in a Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment Funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration on Aging

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 E**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services to Participate in a Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment Funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration on Aging. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Drug Take Back Day Funding Request

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to approve \$300 from the Shawano County for the Drug Take Back *Continued on Page 12*

Continued from Page 11
Day, with check made payable to Myrna Littlewolf. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services Domestic Abuse Division to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services State Victim Services Grant

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 F**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services Domestic Abuse Division to Apply for the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services State Victim Services Grant. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was brief discussion why this resolution became before the Legislature, as Resolution 10-07-25 L restated signature authority for grants that do not require matching funds. Attorney General Gardner stated that he will work with Office of the President on relaying this information to executive departments.

Resolution-Acceptance of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Indian Housing Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 G**, Acceptance of the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency Indian Housing Plan for Fiscal Year 2026. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 H**, Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Mending Broken Hearts Workshop. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Legislative Request to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, and Conduct a Secretarial Election, Consistent with General Council Resolution 09.16.2023 G regarding the Modification of Blood Degree of Ho-Chunk Enrolled Members, to 4/4 Blood-Degree

Rep. Phyllis Smoke stated that this Resolution is a request to the Election Board to conduct a Secretarial Election to amend the HCN Constitution, to add language that reflects the policy direction of General Council Resolution 09.16.2023-G, which was adopted in 2023 and entitled “Resolution to Modify Blood Degree of Each and Every Person of Ho-Chunk Nation Indian Blood who was Duly Enrolled in the Ho-Chunk Nation on December 31, 1999, will now be considered a Full-Blood, or 4/4 Blood Degree.” Rep. Phyllis Smoke mentioned a few points about this GC Resolution:

- The 2023 GC Resolution did not ask the Legislature to seek a Secretarial Election
- Rather, the GC Resolution mandated that the Legislature change the Enrollment and Membership Code to reflect the change to 4/4 blood degree
- The Attorney General issued an Opinion finding that this change to the Enrollment Code could not be done, without violating the HCN Constitution.
- The Attorney General indicated that the Constitution would have to be amended first, to allow for such a change to be implemented.

In light of constitutional concerns, the Legislature did not take the action outlined in the 2023 GC Resolution. Rather, the Legislature adopted Resolution 10.31.23P, acknowledging the GC Resolution and referring it to a Legislative Workgroup to review the impacts of such an enrollment change on the Nation’s finances and programs. The Legislative Workgroup did discuss this and even went through an RFP process to select a vendor to do demographic and impact research. Although a vendor was unofficially selected, no contract was entered into. Thus, the effort was stopped.

Rep. Phyllis Smoke continued with points about the proposed Legislative Resolution/Request:

- The Request asks the Election Board to conduct a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution, at a meeting of the General Council. This is an option under Section 21.e(3) of the Election Code.
- The Request is made pursuant to Article XIII, Sec. 2 of the Constitution. Here, the Legislature does have the right to make such a request to the Election Board. Two-thirds of the entire Legislature must approve such a request.
- The Request is also made under Section 21.c and 21.e(3) of the Election Code. The Code request that the actual text of the proposed amendment be stated in the Legislative Resolution. (This is on page 3 of the Legislative Resolution.) And the Certification must list the full vote total of the Legislature, indicating who was in favor, opposed, or abstained.
- The Request must also specify how the Secretarial Election should be conducted (i.e., mail ballot, in conjunction with a General Election, or in conjunction with an Annual GC meeting). Here, it has been drafted to be at the same time as a GC meeting.

Rep. Phyllis Smoke noted one correction to the Resolution in front of the Legislature today would be to add that the secretarial election would take place at the 2026 Annual General Council Meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 I**, Legislative Request to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, and Conduct a Secretarial Election, Consistent

with General Council Resolution 09.16.2023 G regarding the Modification of Blood Degree of Ho-Chunk Enrolled Members, to 4/4 Blood-Degree. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Jackson County

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 J**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Jackson County. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Monroe County

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 K**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Monroe County. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Sauk County

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 L**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Sauk County. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Juneau County

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 M**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Juneau County. Second by Rep. Kyle White Eagle. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Shawano County

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 N**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Shawano County. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Paul Fox out of the room.

Resolution-Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Wood County

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 O**, Approval of the CY2026 County/Tribal Law Enforcement Agreement for Wood County. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 11-0-0

MOTION CARRIED. Rep. Paul Fox out of the room.

Resolution-Renewal of Ho-Chunk Nation Stop Loss Insurance Coverage

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 P**, Renewal of Ho-Chunk Nation Stop Loss Insurance Coverage. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for the Department of Social Services Division of Child and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to Apply for the Tribal Primary Prevention Grant

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 Q**, Authorization for the Department of Social Services Division of Child and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to Apply for the Tribal Primary Prevention Grant. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 11-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Meetings:

D1 Njioxawanj – October 8, 2025

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Henrietta Funmaker to approve paid administrative leave for all employees to attend the Mending Broken Hearts on October 21-27, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Tina McArthur to approve the Jackson County Law Enforcement Agreement.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Department of Business, Office of the President, Department of Health, and Environmental Health, the **MOTION** by Karena Thundercloud to go with Whitetail Crossing location option 2 with environmental studies to be done prior to and with regular monitoring. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** Rep. Kyle White Eagle out of the room.

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Nathaniel Longtail to have District 1 Legislators support Rep. Tracy Thundercloud from excluding him from Executive Session for his refusal to sign the oath of confidentiality form in Legislature.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislature and the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Lori Pettibone to have Legislature provide her with an attorney to take this General Council resolution to tribal court. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 10-0-2(Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. Kyle White Eagle) **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by JoVanna White Eagle to have Legislature come

back next month on the decision to provide an attorney for Lori Pettibone at the next District Meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Office of the President and Department of Treasury the **MOTION** by JoVanna White Eagle to change the irrevocable consent form from General Welfare until their debt to the Nation is paid in full, since you can’t change this form, then allow tribal members to apply for the tribal loan without this form. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Office of the President, Department of Housing, the Housing Commission, and for review of the Housing Rental Code, the **MOTION** by Henrietta Funmaker to have a forgiveness plan for housing, this would be for people in recovery to be able to obtain housing. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Nathaniel Longtail for the District 1 Legislators to not support the sale of any lands in state or out of state based on constitutional grounds Article V Section 2 (m). Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Legislature and Office of the President the **MOTION** by Nathaniel Longtail to enforce the confirmation act to be followed to a “T” like how it was enforced on President White Eagle’s administration. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D4 Guųšgonąk – October 14, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Sunshine Thunderchief for Casey and Tonia for HCN to cover expenses for the Truman Lowe exhibition at the National Museum of American Indian. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Casey Brown District 4 implores the Legislature to uphold the will of the General Council, the body that grants power to the Legislature. The General Council voted for the Ho-Chunk Nation to not sell land we steward and own. Second by Rep. David Greendeer. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Rep. Phyllis Smoke mentioned General Council Resolution 09-27-14-02 Binding Policy Recommendation to Review and Reverse Actions of the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature to Immediately Sell Chicago Properties Known as Southland passed.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting the **MOTION** by Casey Brown *Continued on Page 13*

Continued from Page 12
\$3,000 for the Chicago BO party. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Sunshine Thunderchief to nominate Victoria Stacy-Goodthunder.

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the MOTION by Ben Krause for the legislative body to support the Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago HHCDA Board Members in retaining their seats and the preservation of tens of millions in financial assistance. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the HHCDA Board of Commissioners the MOTION by Sunshine Thunderchief for Kelly Jo Funmaker to be removed as Chairperson for HHCDA due to actions that are unconstitutional and disenfranchisement for tribal members that should be covered under federal law. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Tešišik – October 8, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to Legislature and HHCDA the MOTION by Kayla Meyer for HHCDA to do all programs for representation for Milwaukee. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Pac cinąk – October 6, 2025

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Fran Littlewolf to approve the Law Enforcement Agreement with Shawano County.

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Department of Administration, Planning and Ho-Chunk Transportation Authority the MOTION by Caroline Koukos for the Robin Road signs changed and new signs put up for safety of head start and community members entering on Robin Road from Radtke Road, Siga Funmaker Community Center and from Morajega Road. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Tee hoikšek – October 13, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Department of Housing the MOTION by Pamela Wilber for any remaining homes, vacant in the future in Green Bay, be for Green Bay residents only. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Cexhaci – October 16, 2025

No motions.

D2 Ho’ųnį Xųnųņįk – October 14, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting the MOTION by Desirae

Pettibone to reaffirm the August funding request for Native Women Run of \$1,688. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Kyle White Eagle to refer to Office of the President the MOTION by Rachel Winneshiek for Office of the President Personnel to come down to give the Tomah Community answers regarding HCN Department of Housing at the next area meeting. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D2 Hoxaikeja/Hoguceja/ Nižhakisųc – October 15, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Office of the President and Department of Health the MOTION by Christine Funmaker-Romano for Environmental Health Director report to the next area meeting to discuss safety and wellbeing. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps the MOTION by Christine Funmaker-Romano for District 2 Representatives to inquire with Department of Housing & HHCDA on solar panels to be fixed or removed and have a viable plan. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps the MOTION by Robert Funmaker for District 2 Representatives to inquire with HHCDA Board Secretary regarding absences of the Juneau and Sauk county commissioners’ absences. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Robert Funmaker would like more information given at area meeting reports. Also the community feels they are not receiving adequate information given all the meetings occurring and the absences by commissioners at area meetings.

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Legislature, TAU and Elder Advisory Board the MOTION by Christine Funmaker-Romano for all elders to be eligible for \$25,000 lifetime benefit for elder homeowners be available for all elders. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 11-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps the MOTION by Robert Funmaker for the Legislature to schedule a tour of the Foremost Building for the community and to start to have discussions or options for the community’s usage plan with treatment centers and community. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to the District 2 Reps and Legislative Legal the MOTION by Robert Funmaker for HCN Legislature to take appropriate action up

to removal regarding HHCDA Board of Commissioners. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Office of the President and Department of Justice the MOTION by Christine Funmaker-Romano for Legislature present this to Executive branch for Department of Justice and HHCDA to come up with a plan for surveillance cameras in the areas. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Damian Thundercloud to refer to Legislature and Office of the President the MOTION by Barb Funmaker in the entirety of the HCN we should wholly reject to sell Southland. As it goes against financial, cultural and traditional. Southland is valuable piece of property with 120 acres. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to add that Joyce Warner was the second to the motion on the second page of the October 15, 2025 D2 Hoxaikeja/Hoguceja/Nižhakisųc meeting minutes. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D1 Maąņico Horuzra – October 16, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting and Department of Business the MOTION by Libby Fairchild to approve the Holiday party request on an expedited basis, in the amount of \$1,600. This event is scheduled for December 2025. The check will be made out to Victoria Fox and reconciled through Treasury. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Edward Mullen out of the room.*

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislature, HHCDA and Housing Commission the MOTION by Rosetta Hunt to have HHCDA create a program to purchase land with a goal to build housing for tribal members in the Chicago, Milwaukee and Twin Cities areas. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Edward Mullen out of the room.*

D4 Virtual Meeting – October 15, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to the Finance Commission the MOTION by Priscilla Constancio for the D4 legislators to travel to California for tribal member outreach. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-1(Rep. Shelby Visintin) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the MOTION by Rachel Cloud for legislative body to support the Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago HHCDA Board Members in retaining their seats and the preservation of tens of millions in financial assistance. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 12-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Edward Mullen to refer to Legislature the MOTION by Rachel Cloud for Legislature use their legislative power to act on; intervention to investigate and apply applicable laws to the HHCDA board and chairperson. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 12-0-0 **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. Rep. Paul Fox to move to Executive Session for Business Matters, Criminal Matters, Inter-governmental Relations, Land, Law Enforcement, Legal Advice, Personnel Matters, Public Safety or Well-Being. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 11:38 a.m., and Rep. Kyle White Eagle is excused for the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to return to Open Session. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 3:19 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.**

Release to Open Session:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 10-20-25 R**, Funding of Department of Business Cinema Capital Project and release to Open Session. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. SECOND IS WITHDRAWN. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 6-2(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud, Rep. David Greendeer)-4(Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. Phyllis Smoke, Rep. Sandra Whitewing) **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to release all the financial information on the Lynwood properties, from legal fees, maintenance, reimbursements, utilities, taxes, contracts, vendors, etc., released from executive session to be placed in the Worak for all tribal members to see the cost of Lynwood. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 3-7(Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr., Rep. Tracy Thundercloud, Rep. Damian Thundercloud, Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Shelby Visintin)-0 **MOTION DEFEATED.** *Rep. Stephanie Begay is out of the room.*

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to release the above motion to Open Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-1(Rep. Stephanie Begay) **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Tracy Thundercloud out of the room now.*

NOTED FOR THE RECORD: Rep. Stephanie Begay stated

she abstained because she was out of the room during the last motion.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to release both of the Rep. Phyllis Smoke motions related to Lynwood from the October 7, 2025 Executive Session to Open Session. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Stephanie Begay out of the room.*

The following motions were made at the October 7, 2025 Legislative Executive Session, and were released to Open Session during the October 20, 2025 Legislative Executive Session:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to have Legislative Legal to start the process of eviction of individual residing at 1840 Glenwood Dyer Road under the laws of the State of Illinois and local rules of Cook County and authorize working with Quarles as needed; this includes authorization to work the Lynwood Police if necessary; release to appropriate parties. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to have Quarles complete an appraisal of 1840 Glenwood Dyer Road done after the eviction process is complete and release to appropriate parties. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 8-0-1(Rep. Edward Mullen) MOTION CARRIED.

Amendment to the Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to re-visit the D1 Maąņico Horuzra – October 16, 2025 district meeting minutes. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Meetings (Re-visited):

D1 Maąņico Horuzra – October 16, 2025

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the next Finance Commission meeting the MOTION by Rosetta Hunt to request Legislature to donate \$10,000 from Charitable Contributions to Western Alaskan Disaster Relief Fund. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to November 4, 2025 at the All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 5-6 (Rep. Stephanie Begay, Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr., Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle, Rep. Damian Thundercloud, Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Shelby Visintin)-0 **MOTION DEFEATED.**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to November 4, 2025 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-1(Rep. Paul Fox)-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

OUR PEOPLE, OUR RECOVERY

THUNDERMAKER

CULTURE * HEALING * SUBSTANCE USE & MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS*

A SOLUTION AS BIG AS THE PROBLEM

Culture is Healing

In a time when mainstream behavioral health systems have failed to reflect our cultural ways, Thundermaker Wellness rises as a powerful force for change, challenging the norms and reshaping the care our people deserve.

Rooted in the belief that healing must honor tradition, identity, and experience, Thundermaker Wellness offers behavioral health services specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals. Their approach blends contemporary clinical practices with ancestral wisdom, where Indigenous values—storytelling, language, food sovereignty, and ceremony—are not just included, but foundational.

Thundermaker isn't just a name, its a powerful vision of two Ho-Chunk changemakers: Hunter Thundercloud and Arrow Funmaker. The creation of Thundermaker emerged from a serendipitous meeting and discovery that they shared a deeply aligned vision of changing the landscape of treatment for our people. Taking action on their vision, Thundermaker Wellness was created, honoring their names, strength, and hope for the future of care.

"We know that our culture is healing," says Hunter Thundercloud, Founder and longtime advocate for culturally informed behavioral health systems. "We're not just treating symptoms—we're building leaders through cultural identity."

Thundermaker supports individuals with substance use and mental health challenges through a holistic lens. Every relative who walks through their doors is met with dignity, respect, and support for their cultural integration. Healing is defined by the individual, and Thundermaker provides the tools and guidance to help each person reach their full potential in recovery.

"We know what it's like to carry the weight of intergenerational trauma," shares Arrow Funmaker, Co-Founder and Chief Cultural Integration Officer. "But we also know the power of becoming living examples of intergenerational healing and knowledge."

Thundermaker Wellness remains steadfast in its mission, serving tribal nations as a resource for culturally grounded care. As behavioral health systems grow, and cases of substance use and mental health issues continue to rise, Thundermaker offers a solution as big as the problem.



The road to healing begins now and you deserve to define what healing means to you. If you or someone you love is struggling with substance use or mental health issues, Thundermaker is here to help.

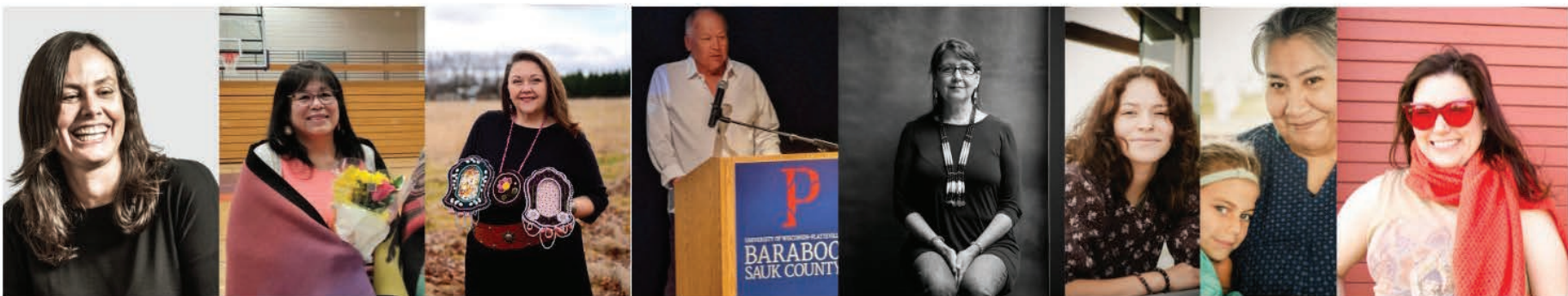
For more information or to connect with Thundermaker Wellness, tribal members and providers are encouraged to reach out directly to the contact information below.
www.thundermakerwellness.com
admin@thundermakerwellness.com
(928) 493-4300

“It is time to stop talking about the problem & start working towards a solution.”

WWW.THUNDERMAKERWELLNESS.COM

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!

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 basket that will be later displayed at the library. Additionally, attendees can make a personal paper basket as a parting, take-home gift.



Registration required for all programs.
Registration opens two weeks prior to the program date. Learn more and sign up at:
madpl.org/teejopandbeyond



LAST CHANCE

COMPLETE THE SURVEY FOR \$20

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

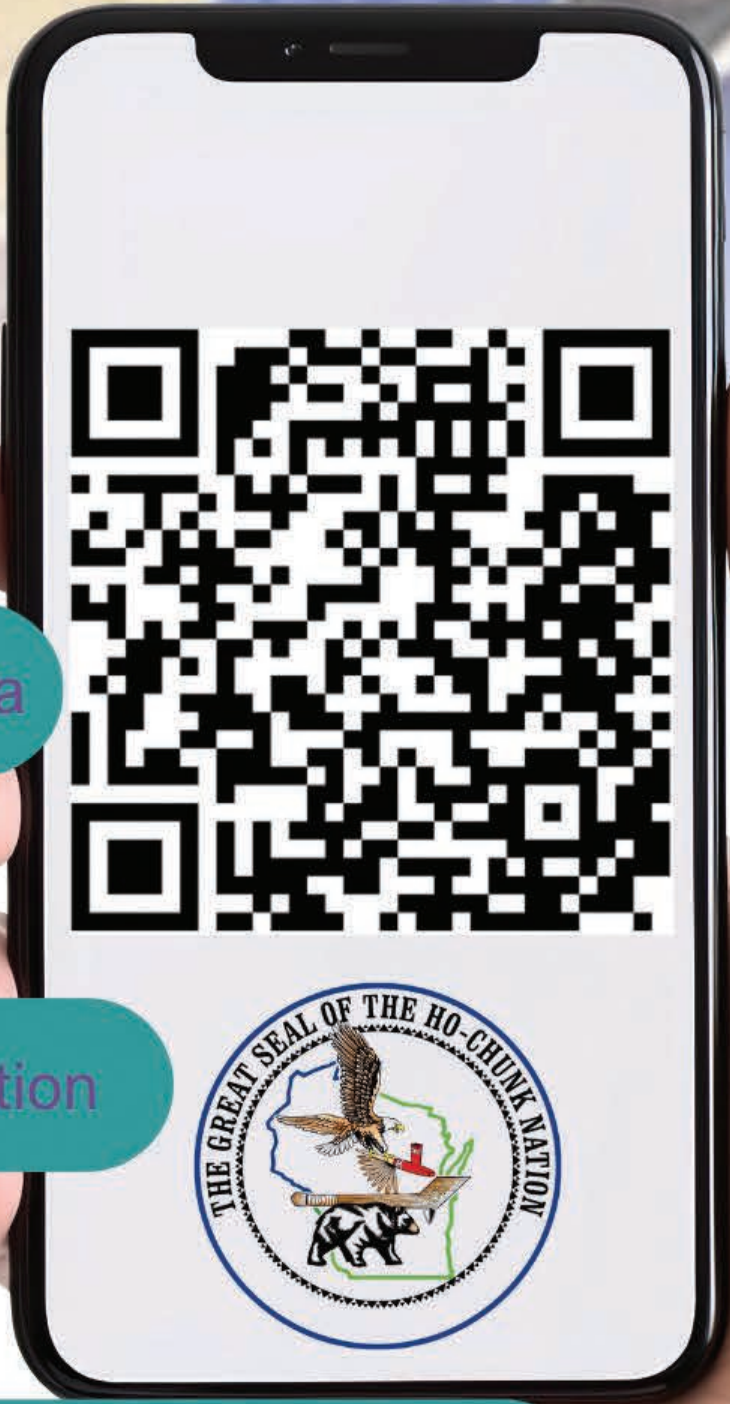
✓ Open your phone's camera

✓ Point it at the code

✓ Tap on the pop up notification

✓ Complete the survey

✓ Screenshot the fireworks at the completion



Take a picture of your HCN Tribal ID. Email the fireworks screenshot, your Tribal ID photo, and your address to one of the contact emails below to receive a \$20 electronic gift card.

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

The People's Plan
Community Needs Assessment

