Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg dazzles guests with elaborate grand opening

Katrina M. Wychesit  
Senior Public Relations Manager, Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg

After twenty-one months of construction, Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg hailed the opening of their major 33-million-dollar Project Forward expansion on Wednesday, July 11, 2018. Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg was one of three Ho-Chunk Gaming establishments aboard the $153 million dollar casino expansion project.

Project Forward has contributed to establishing nearly 90 permanent employment opportunities, aiding in boosting tourism throughout Wittenberg and Shawano County and providing additional amenities and services for guests visiting on business and leisure. The first phase of Project Forward consisted of the creation of a tasteful, contemporary 86-room exterior, an expansion of the existing Forest Edge room; renovations to the building floor, the construction of the exterior, an expansion of the existing Forest Edge Gaming establishments aboard the $153 million dollar casino expansion project.

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Katrina M. Wychesit, HCGW Senior Public Relations Manager and Master of Ceremonies, provides attendees with an enthusiastic welcome prior to the day’s introductions. Songs as 150 Guests made their way to their seats.

Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg’s Executive Manager, Mr. Fletcher Collins greeted Guests with the Ho-Chunk language and offered his gratitude to those who brought the project to fruition and to those in attendance during his Welcome Address. “Today it is with great pleasure to be hosting this Grand Opening at the completion of Project Forward. All casino staff, Miron Construction, Contractors, Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Managers; we’ve all worked diligently since our Ground Breaking on September 21, 2016 to get to this point. For those of you that remember, we used to look like a little log cabin, now you pull in here and see a modern casino which is great for this community and for Shawano County area as well. We are honored to have you all here as our guests. We are thankful to the Nation for investing in us and in this community.”

Mr. Fletcher Collins, HCGW Executive Manager, presents Executive Director of Heritage Preservation, Mr. Jon Greendeer with a stunning, fully beaded medallion of the Great Seal of the Ho-Chunk Nation as symbol of gratitude. The intricate medallion was carefully beaded by Mrs. Sharon Cloud.

Continued on Page 7
It’s time to take control of Indian Country’s narrative

By Michael E. Roberts
Reprint with permission from Indian Country Today

Janet Jackson, in her song “Control,” begins with the following:

“This is a story about control
My name is Janet Jackson and
Control of what I say
Control of what I do
And this is my story, and
This is my way (my way)
I hope you enjoy this as much as I do

Are we ready?

It’s a song about who gets to tell the story and the way in which it is told, which is exactly what the Reclaiming Native Truth project is all about – taking control of Indian Country’s narrative.

As a thought partner in the Reclaiming Truth Project, First Nations Development Institute is pleased to be a full-throated critic of “deficit frames” when it comes to narratives of Indian country, and the pervasive negative narratives about Indian people that are used by others, but nonetheless dangerous in their ability to cement or otherwise reinforce deficit frames.

By deficit frames I am talking about narratives that are needs driven, problem focused, or that squander government supports and, therefore, are undeserving of private philanthropy. These are the stories that our opponents, the general public and the social- equity lunatic fringe’s communities tell about us. And those who claim to be our allies aren’t doing us much better. Take organizations like Saint Joseph’s Indian School, which recently wrote in its fundraising appeal authored by a made-up Indian student, who supposedly said “like other kids here, the reservation isn’t a safe place for me to be. Sometimes my dad drinks and hits me. Not long ago my mom left me at my Grandpa’s house... she choose drugs over me.”

These folks raising money to help. And Indian Kids – Indian Country’s future – are doing so by saying that this is a group that is totally helpless, and only you (non-Indians) can save them. This negative narrative succeeds to be very effective in getting individuals to write checks, but it does little to raise self-esteem of these same Indian students, or Indian people as a whole. And we in Indian Country have taken on this narrative of our oppressors, or in the case of the St. Joe’s Indian Schools, of the world, our experiences.

First Nations has been a grantmaker in Indian Country for the past 25 years, making more than $30 million in grants to almost 1,500 organizations during that time. And year after year we receive grant requests where the requesters have learned the game well – and they begin their ask by citing the negative stereotype of what they feel defines Indian Country. And they do so – we do so – because it has been demonstrated by the few foundations that fund Indian Country, or by federal agencies where this method, this use of negative narratives, has proven effective for fundraising.

But here is where the subtitle of our research comes in – the “A Project to Dispel America’s Myths and Misperceptions.” In our research we learned or confirmed that people in general react more favorably to non-deficit narratives, “including amplifying assets, using a tone of hope, and portraying Native Americans as likable and relatable.”

When we sit back and think about it a bit, it’s pretty easy to see that to be the case. How many Philadelphia Eagles fans have jumped on the bandwagon since the team won the last Super Bowl? We don’t have to work that hard to imagine. As well, I spent a few years before returning to First Nations in venture capital where we invested in startup companies. I can say unequivocally that we never had a company come ask us for money while trading on talk of how poor the management team was or how much of our money they were going to lose or misuse. Positive frames are effective. The focus groups in our research recognized the enormous contributions that Native Americans have made to American culture and society. And even though there is some misguided stereotyping going on with folks’ belief that Indians are America’s best hope for environmental repair, their frame is not a negative one.

We as Indian people need to take control of what we say and take ownership of the story we tell about ourselves. And the Reclaiming Native Truth research demonstrates that when we do, we can achieve spectacular results. Not only that, but as part of this extraordinary effort, the Native Truth team also authored a couple of messaging guides to help folks create and use positive frame narratives.

Michael E. Roberts (Tlingit) is President & CEO of the First Nations Development Institute.

What is loneliness?

Who gets lonely? Who likes to talk about it? Not many. At least it seems hard for us to express it. We are stubborn, we are proud, we are bussed. We are used to it? We are taught to be kind to ourselves? We do more next time. You do it a little, then you can do a little more. It is like a muscle or a skill.

Loneliness is a response to a lack of connection to others and a lack of communication with others. People who are lonely are often not able to express it. People are experiencing loneliness. Sometimes medication is even needed. If you just can’t get it, then you can’t get out of it, you can’t get out of it on your own.

So, who gets lonely? Else’s get lonely. Youth get lonely. Women get lonely. Men get lonely. Married and single people get lonely too. Some of us feel lonely sometimes. Some of us are lonely most of the time. Yet, as human beings, we desire to interact with others and have friends. Some of us have many friends. Some of us have only a few. Yes, we all have relatives, but sometimes they are distant or simply not enough. Could it be that the grudges we hold on to keep us from breaking out of our loneliness?

The Nation does have people to help you get rid of your loneliness. Talking with a professional can help. Sometimes medication is even needed. If you just can’t get out of it on your own, then ask them for help. But what can we do to help ourselves?

Our culture can help us. We can make ourselves get out and attend meetings, wow events, sporting events, meals, ceremonies, even bingo! We need to fight against that inner urge to stay home and isolate. That place we are “use to.” We can visit others.

We need to get out of our comfort zone. That means we need to do even just a little bit more than we feel comfortable with. We need to make ourselves stretch out and try new experiences. Taking small steps, if we are uncomfortable. We need to reach out and try to connect with others, even just a little bit more. It is like a muscle or a skill. You do it a little, then you can do a little more. That is one of the reasons we are taught to be kind to others, because others are experiencing loneliness too. If we are open to some one else, they have an opportunity to be open to us too. We can help each other with this called loneliness.

Like so many other things in life, prayer and meditation can help. As and many others believe and tell about us. Indian Country today has many students, or non-Indians, who supposedly believed and told about us to American culture and society. And only you (non-Indians) can save them. This negative narrative succeeds to be very effective in getting individuals to write checks, but it does little to raise self-esteem of these same Indian students, or Indian people as a whole. And we in Indian Country have taken on this narrative of our oppressors, or in the case of the St. Joe’s Indian Schools, of the world, our experiences.

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Ho-Chunk Nation Higher Education Division updates processes and adjusts policy

Ardith Van Riper
Editor

New and exciting changes for Ho-Chunk college students are happening within the Higher Education Division. The Ho-Chunk Nation Higher Education Division has updated a few processes to meet and adjusted their Funding Policy to meet changing needs of Ho-Chunk college students.

On Monday, July 9, 2018 the Higher Education Division launched its new online student portal. The new platform developed by Sam Bristol from Informational Technology enables Ho-Chunk scholarship applicants to manage their information and upload required documents online. Ho-Chunk college students also have access to Higher Education Division’s support programs via this platform.

Dr. Marcus Lewis, Higher Education Division Manager, in a letter to Ho-Chunk Higher Education students stated, “This initiative (online student portal) is new territory for us, but we are hopeful that it will reduce our time in the process, provide you better information about where you are in the scholarship process, and manage your information more efficiently.”

Ho-Chunk Scholarship applicants from academic years 2015 through 2018 already have a profile created by Advisor, Erin Roberts. New applicants and applicants before the academic years mentioned, must create a profile. Instructions on accessing your profile or creating a profile can be found at https://education.ho-chunk.com or students can be found at https://education.ho-chunk.com.

A new scholarship policy has published on August 17th. Please contact Hoca Worak at ext. 1006 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

We’re Back!

Attention: The Next Deadline of the Ho-Chunk Scholarship and Support Program applicants now able to manage applications, update information, and upload required support documents.

The Native American Journal Association
The Ho-Chunk Nation
Ardith Van Riper
Editor

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WEB SITES AWARD WINNER
Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature selects redistricting scenarios for special election submission

Lynette LeGarde, Public Relations Officer, HCN Legislature
The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature met for a Special Legislative Meeting on Monday, July 16, 2018 at the District 3 Branch Office in Green Bay, Wisconsin which was chaired by President Wilfrid Cleveland.
All resolutions were passed at the Special Legislative Meeting. Resolution 07-16-ISA was passed which postponed the Legislative Meeting scheduled for July 17, 2018.
Resolution 07-16-1BB was also passed which proposes redistricting scenarios 4, 6 and 10 as the final selection and proposal which will be submitted to the Election Board. The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature directed their constituents about this recent decision at the upcoming District Meetings. Ho-Chunk Nation District 2 Representative Carly L. Imdol commented, “Redistricting is an important component that will define areas of the Nation for the next 10 years. I am very relieved the Legislature held another meeting to revisit and discuss the redistricting options; yet, I still feel more time is needed to determine what needs to occur about this important task in front of us.

I was hoping for a larger ballot and more diversity for the public to choose from. That being said, I would have preferred 5 options but I’m glad the final 3 scenarios at least offer more diversity than what was originally proposed. No matter the outcome, we are still ONE NATION no matter where various lines fall!”

For more information, please contact Lynette LeGarde at 920-429-9343 or email at Lynette.Legarde@ho-chunk.com.

Ho-Chunk Nation Redistricting Map - Proposed Scenario #4

Statistics

Tribal Members per District: 1481
Members per Legislator: 455
Deviation Range: 13.82%

Redistricting Update

The Ho-Chunk Nation continues to move forward in the Redistricting Process. The Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature met on Monday, July 16, 2018 for a Special Legislative Meeting at the Green Bay Branch Office in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This meeting was specifically devoted to Redistricting. The Legislature adopted Resolution 07-16-1BB which approved scenarios 4, 6 and 10 as the final redistricting proposal for submission to the Election Board to conduct a Special Election later this year, where eligible tribal members will have the opportunity to select new legislative district boundaries. This process is carried out according to Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Redistricting scenarios 4, 6 and 10 were selected by the Legislature for a variety of reasons. For example, in pursuit of the constitutional concept of “one-person, one-vote,” the Legislature chose these scenarios based on their percentages of tribal member representation in each new district, as compared to the number of Legislators representing each district. The Legislature had in mind the interest of representation of tribal members by ensuring that no single district would have only one Legislator. These proposed scenarios also help to sustain Ho-Chunk culture, tradition, and community affiliations by promoting boundaries that encourage such connections. Moreover, these scenarios were also chosen because they feature districts that are internally contiguous.

The Legislature has undertaken a diligent, serious and continuous effort in the Redistricting Process. It has taken many steps to inform tribal members of the process and requirements and what will happen under the Nation’s Constitution. As such, this included the creation of a Redistricting Workgroup in 2017. There were 17 monthly meetings that were held for planning. Information about redistricting was provided on the Nation’s website and at Legislative District meetings. Tribal members were informed of the opportunity to provide ideas and proposed scenarios to the Legislature by mid-April 2018. The Legislature hosted a Redistricting Forum, held at the District 1 Community Center in Black River Falls, Wisconsin on April 30, 2018. The Forum was also accessible on Facebook Live and it was video conferenced to two HSN Nation Branch Offices. Tribal members were encouraged to participate and attend in person, or at their local Branch Offices or stream on Facebook Live. The 17 Redistricting scenarios were printed in the June 15, 2018 edition of the HSNC Worak, along with an overview of the process up to that point.

There were two Special Legislative Meetings on May 21, 2018 and July 16, 2018, where the various scenarios were discussed. The Legislature also sought feedback regarding redistricting at several District Meetings. This process has been unique in that it has been more inclusive to tribal members than previous redistricting efforts.

The next steps include a Special Election for the People to vote on one of the three proposed redistricting scenarios. The Nation’s Election Board will hold the Special Election later this year. The Legislature wishes to thank all who participated in this important process. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to share with the Legislative Office or the Legislators at your next district meeting.
Ho-Chunk Nation Redistricting Map - Proposed Scenario #6

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<th>District</th>
<th>Legislators</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Deviation</th>
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<td>D2</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>D5</td>
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Statistics
- Tribal Members per District: 1185
- Members per Legislator: 417
- Deviation Range: 27.90%

Ho-Chunk Nation Redistricting Map - Proposed Scenario #10

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Legislators</th>
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<th>Deviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>D4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>2.19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Statistics
- Tribal Members per District: 1481
- Members per Legislator: 455
- Deviation Range: 7.68%
What is a Probate? Why is it so important?

Submitted by Michelle M. Greendeer-Rave

Probate is the process by which a court determines an estate’s value and distributes property and assets. Back in the old days, when our ancestors used to pass away, the court would help us with simple estate issues, for example, when the burlap was cut and who would inherit the day-to-day belongings of the deceased during the wake and funeral 4 day process, but what happens when a tribal member passes away without a will and nobody knows what to do?

We already know that there are few things more difficult as dealing with the death of a loved one. It is a reality that we will all face at some point in our lives, and when we do, the pain experienced is often manage and the legal issues death can onset. Surviving relatives have to then deal with the mess, locating and reading the will (if there even is one), and then they have to come to a fair process to get through the steps to close the deceased’s estate. Add in money, assets, investments, and contentious family members, and it is no wonder that many people are overwhelmed by this life event and want to avoid it like the plague. No one wants to talk about it as it is the shadow known as probate, a process that few people understand, but is required to close out and distribute by either sale or gift, the deceased’s financial assets and other belongings. Complain all of that with our traditional teaching of not to speak of one’s death and we have a perfect storm for probate failure. Chronic probate failure is happening on a daily basis at the Ho-Chunk Nation and we are seeing estates that are at several layers of probate to clear out, meaning death upon death upon death of estates that need to be addressed. Through our work, we all have seen what happens when people die and no one knows what to do so nothing gets done.

I am not writing this article to defy our ascribed way of life. It is merely an educational and informational snippet, at the most, one of the basics levels of probate education, so that each you can have a foundational understanding of what probate does entail and so that you can realize that the responsibilities you have, as negatives, to do proper estate planning, to hopefully execute a will and to guide your files to probate your family or friends for fingering estates that have not been handled properly. I just wanted to take a moment and let you know how important it is to have a will, as after a tribal member or relative dies, it is important to manage the estate as soon as possible and resolve who will inherit the home and who will live in the home while the probate is happening and when the probate is closed. If not, I have seen homes remain vacant and abandoned and become eye-sore to the community as well as nothing grounds for mold and other deterioration. I have also seen such homes become a bunkhouse for unauthorize family members or friends to encroach or squat in an attempt to own, care for, or leave, because no one has filed probate.

It is essential to help families make estate planning a priority for the execution of documents like wills, Transfer On Death deeds (also known as TODs) or designates, etc. If you are on tribal trust or heirship lands (if you are on tribal trust or heirship lands) to help along the probate process. In addition to these documents, will require two signatures, witnesses to sign, not notarized, and the witnesses must not be related to the deceased. This is merely an educational session to bring police and neighbors to the community exclusively and its tribal Departments, special service organization based non-profit pro bonolegal service to the Ho-Chunk community and nothing expressed on this site are not the opinions of the Tribal Community. ©2018. All rights reserved.
was unable to attend the Ceremony yet it was her wish to express her sentiments as she played an intricate role in two ground breaking events. “I would like to start out by saying, I am nothing, I am nobody. That’s usually how these things start out. We ended up being nothing and nobody, alone. But when you come together like this, these are the kinds of things that can happen. And for those of you that know the history of our people in the area, this is a long stretch from when we use to sell black ash baskets by the road side,” said Mrs. Walker.

Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce’s Executive Director, Nancy Smith offered a few words on behalf of Shawano County. “I would like to thank the Ho-Chunk Nation and Fletcher Collins.” Mr. Murphy gave props to his Project Managers and staff for another job well done.

Keynote Speaker, Mr. Jon Greendeer took Guests on a journey from start to finish placing recognition where it was due, recognizing Ho-Chunk Tribal Leaders who have fought to bring Project Forward to existence.

Mr. Greendeer said, “Back when you guys were real young, there were some rocks here, there were some trees here, and some of our people were laid to rest out here. This land has always been Ho-Chunk land, it’s always been taken care of by our residents here. Our old ones saw something better for us, they asked for something more for their people. We take a look at all of what’s around us.

Today, what you see behind you, is the accomplishment of a lot of work and a lot of people coming together. But make no mistake, that what you see here isn’t the result of the work of the people that you see around you. It’s the work of people that started this a long time ago. We could NEVER have come to this day without the work that they have done before us. And the things that we’re doing today, we probably will never see the benefit of because those are for people that aren’t even here yet. This is the Ho-Chunk way of life. This is how we survive, this is why we survive.”

Following the Ceremony, the Ho-Chunk hospitality continued as Guests were treated to a massive spread of culinary creations on behalf of Miron Construction and Fletcher Collins.

Miron Construction was represented by Mr. John Murphy, Project Executive who said, “We would like to thank the Ho-Chunk Nation and Fletcher Collins.”

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Following the Ceremony, the Grand Opening celebration progressed and neared the 30-minute show. As the show progressed and neared the highly anticipated Grand Finale, so did the impact.

Mr. Jerry Baumke, Owner of Fireworks Country on Hwy 29 said, “After 20 Years, this is the BEST show we've ever done! I’ve been talking about doing a show for Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg for quite some time now. We’ve received numerous phone calls since the show and guests are saying that was one of the greatest shows they’ve EVER seen!”

Mr. Fletcher Collins, HCGW Executive Manager, greets Ribbon Cutting Ceremony attendees in the Ho-Chunk Language during his Welcome Address.

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Lake Delton Singers, led by Mr. Allen Cloud, adds a traditional touch to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Wogi-xette Song. The song represents respect and love for one another.

“Our Grand Opening celebration was a success. Thank you to all community members, our loyal Guests, our five supporting Chambers of commerce, contributing vendors and our staff for making this event a memorable one. We are looking forward to contributing to the growth of tourism and attraction in the Wittenberg and Shawano County areas,” said Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg’s Executive Manager, Mr. Fletcher Collins.
Native Journalists gather in Miami for the 2018 NAJA Conference and examine journalism challenges

Ken Luchterhand
Staff Writer

In recent times, the media has been under attack. Those attacks were the subjects of the 2018 Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) Conference, held July 18-21 at the InterContinental Hotel in downtown Miami, Florida. With social media and other electronic sources, journalism has more competition than ever. Also, the media’s credibility has been under attack for some time, lending to a popular phrase of “fake media.” Journalists around the world have been attacked and imprisoned to prevent the truth from being reported to the public.

Other subjects at the conference were, “Accountability Journalism for Native Communities”; “What’s Happening with Indian Country Today?”; “Reclaiming Native Truth: A Project to Dispel America’s Myths and Misconceptions”; “Reclaiming Native History through Tribal Produced Media”; “Data and Accountability: Education in Indian Country”; “Farm Bill: Covering the Impact on Indian Country”; “Solutions Journalism in Indian Country: Developing and Telling the Whole Story”; “Transitioning to an Independent Tribal Press”; “Native Vote: Voting Rights in the 2018 Election”; and “Preparing for a Changing Climate: Impacts, Costs and Tough Decisions in Battling Rising Seas.”

NAJA combined forces with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) for sessions that concern professionals in the fields of print, television, radio and electronic media.

Reporter Ken Luchterhand from the Hocak Worak attended and represented the Ho-Chunk Nation at the event.

The conference was concluded Saturday evening with the NAJA National Native Media Awards Banquet and President’s Reception. Awards were presented at the banquet for excellence in print, online, television and radio fields.

Former Hocak Worak reporter Tim Wohlers received first place for Environmental Coverage for his article, “Sioux tribes seek injunction to stop oil flowing through DAPL.” Wohlers also took second in Environmental Coverage for his article, “Greendeer gathers fellow activists at US Rights of Nature.”

Wohlers took third in Health Coverage for “Health Dept. makes coordinated care calls,” a first place in Sports Coverage for “Badgers defeat Vil- lanova in second round,” and first place for Sports Photo for “Kromy defends against the drive.”

Also, “Sioux tribes seek injunction,” earned Wohlers a third place in News Photo. Ken Luchterhand took first place for Best Elder Coverage with “France park dedica- tion,” and a third place for Best Environmental Coverage for his article, Rights of “Native examined.” The Best Elder Coverage award was sponsored by AARP (Ameri- can Association of Retired Persons).

During the conference sessions, an increasing emphasis was given to electronic digital journalism, which includes social media, digital video, and podcasts.

“Now more than ever, the readers, viewers, and digital users are turning to multiple platforms to get their news of the day, hour, and minute. Our industry has changed since NAHJ first started in 1984 and we must change and learn the different technologies,” said NAHJ President Brandon Benavides.

One of the main sessions that drew a large crowd was “Violence Against Journalists,” in which journalists from many countries, including the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, and Colombia, told stories how the government constantly attacked the press in attempts to suppress the truth from being told.

“The worst thing that can be done to a journalist, aside from killing, is to silence him or her, to keep from telling the truth,” said a journalist from Venezuela. “Journalists live in fear because they have been attacked and live with the threat of being attacked and silenced.”

Many times, journalists have been threatened to be harmed by public officials if there is a chance their illegal acts will become public.

“It’s more dangerous to in- vestigate a crime than to com- mit a crime,” she said.

Representatives from Smoke Signals, a publication of the Grande Ronde tribe in Washington State, told about their efforts to produce a newspaper that was indepen- dent of the tribal government. They told about their strug- gles and successes in develop-
Former Mayor Joe Hunter hands out free flags to the public on Saturday, June 23 at the Black River Falls Fire Department.

Free Flags

Submitted by Margaret “Muggs” Garvin
Ho-Chunk Nation Veterans Service Officer
Joe Hunter – formerly Mayor of Black River Falls, Wisconsin donated several boxes of flags to the Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Veterans Affairs. If you want a FREE FLAG, please call 715-284-4563 to make an appointment. Veterans will be given priority. Thank you Joe Hunter, Administration, and the maintenance crew.

Elliott L. DeCora was killed in action 50 years ago this August. He was the only Wisconsin enrolled Ho-Chunk member to be killed in combat action in the Vietnam War.

Elliott L. DeCora was Killed In Action 50 years ago

“Never Forgotten”

Submitted By:
Colonel Kirk DeCora
Hopinka

16 August 2018 marks 50 years ago that my brother, Elliott L. DeCora was killed in combat, giving all on the battlefield in Vietnam. He was the only Wisconsin enrolled Ho-Chunk member to be killed in combat action in the Vietnam War.

In military terms, he was “Killed In Action” (KIA), which resulted in my family being designated a “Gold Star Family.” Elliott’s immediate family members include: Father, Herman Decorah WWII (1912-1952), Mother, Elvina (Hopinkah) DeCora a.k.a. Alvina Decorah (1915-1995), and siblings: Shirley Lonetree, Cleo Mountain, Pearl Mrotek, Elwood DeCora (USMC Vietnam 66-67, Desert Shield/Storm in the Gulf with DOD), Tennyson DeCora, Nora Pemberton, half-brother: Kirk Hopinka, Elvina DeCora legally adopted her oldest granddaughter: Alana DeCora-Ayesh.

Elliott entered active duty in the U.S. Army in August 1967. His tour of duty in Vietnam began in January 1968 as a combat engineer. On 16 August 1968, at the age of 20, Elliott was killed in action in Quangtri in the Republic of Vietnam while engaged in a hostile firefight against the enemy. Due to his valiant actions, he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. This year, Elliott would have been an elite Ho-Chunk elder. He’s missed out on a lot of life and living over the past 50 years. The family has missed his presence every day. Whenever I see any combat veteran, but especially a Vietnam combat veteran, I give thanks that they were able to make it home, to enjoy life, be a part of their family, be honored and revered as a warrior and yet at the same time, I mourn the loss for our family.

For me, every day is Memorial Day and every day is Veterans Day. For me, I “represent” so that Elliott’s and my families sacrifice is not forgotten. In support of various communities efforts to honor veterans I have solely funded the purchase of commemorative bricks with Elliott’s name and his “Killed in Action” (KIA) status at the following locations:

- As a founding sponsor of the National Museum of the United States Army, a commemorative brick will be permanently inlaid along the “Path of Remembrance”, as a lasting way to honor Elliott’s service and sacrifice.
- I have also had his information included in the National Museum of the U.S. Army’s “Registry of the American Soldier”.
- Tomah Area Veterans Memorial
- Tuscania WWI Memorial
- Baraboo (Nov 2018)

Some of the other places Elliott is also honored and memorialized are at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC, Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville WI and the Anderson-DeCora Island, New Lisbon, WI.

Thank you to the Ho-Chunk Nation for honoring and supporting all Veterans and their families, one of the greatest casualties is being forgotten.

Ho-Chunk Member Killed In Action - Vietnam 16 Aug 1968

“Never Forgotten”
What is Hepatitis?

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E are caused by liver-infecting viruses. Hepatitis A, B, and C are more commonly heard of.

What is Your Liver?

Your liver is a large organ, about the size of a football. It stores energy in the form of a sugar called glycogen. It produces an important digestive liquid called bile. It stores energy in the form of a sugar called glycogen.

Is there more than one type of Hepatitis? Yes, there is Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E. Although Hepatitis A, B, and C are more commonly heard of, there are an estimated 500 million people in the world infected with Hepatitis B and C.

What are symptoms? They are similar for all types and can include one or more of the following:
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Grey stools
- Jaundice
- Joint pain

What’s Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a virus that causes a liver infection. It can be spread through the consumption of undercooked meat, raw shellfish, or contaminated water or food. The most common way to prevent Hepatitis A is through vaccination.

What’s Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a communicable disease that occurs when the hepatitis B virus infects the liver. It can be spread through sexual activity, sharing intravenous needles, or exposure to contaminated body fluids. The most common way to prevent Hepatitis B is through vaccination.

What’s Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. The most common way to prevent Hepatitis C is through vaccination.

What’s Hepatitis D?

Hepatitis D is a virus that can infect people already infected with Hepatitis B. It is transmitted through the same routes as Hepatitis B. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis D.

What’s Hepatitis E?

Hepatitis E is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through contaminated water or food. The most common way to prevent Hepatitis E is through vaccination.

What’s Hepatitis F?

Hepatitis F is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis F.

What’s Hepatitis G?

Hepatitis G is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis G.

What’s Hepatitis H?

Hepatitis H is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis H.

What’s Hepatitis I?

Hepatitis I is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis I.

What’s Hepatitis J?

Hepatitis J is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis J.

What’s Hepatitis K?

Hepatitis K is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis K.

What’s Hepatitis L?

Hepatitis L is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis L.

What’s Hepatitis M?

Hepatitis M is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis M.

What’s Hepatitis N?

Hepatitis N is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis N.

What’s Hepatitis O?

Hepatitis O is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis O.

What’s Hepatitis P?

Hepatitis P is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis P.

What’s Hepatitis Q?

Hepatitis Q is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis Q.

What’s Hepatitis R?

Hepatitis R is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis R.

What’s Hepatitis S?

Hepatitis S is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis S.

What’s Hepatitis T?

Hepatitis T is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis T.

What’s Hepatitis U?

Hepatitis U is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis U.

What’s Hepatitis V?

Hepatitis V is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis V.

What’s Hepatitis W?

Hepatitis W is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis W.

What’s Hepatitis X?

Hepatitis X is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis X.

What’s Hepatitis Y?

Hepatitis Y is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis Y.

What’s Hepatitis Z?

Hepatitis Z is a virus that causes liver disease. It is most commonly spread through injecting drug use, sexual contact, or from a mother to her baby at birth. There are currently no vaccines for Hepatitis Z.
Sjaa Kikere: Standing Strong
Prevention Incentive Program

Did you know Native Americans have a higher rate of diagnosis for certain preventable cancers AND higher rates of death due to these cancers? Annual physicals increase the likelihood of early detection and better outcomes.

RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ENTRY INTO QUARTERLY DRAWINGS TO WIN TICKETS TO SPORTING AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR HAVING A PHYSICAL AT HCN CLINICS AND COMPLETING RECOMMENDED SCREENINGS!

PURPOSE: Cancer is a leading cause of death for Native Americans. Cancer death rates have increased in this population over the last 20 years while the rates decreased for whites. Yearly physical exams increase early detection and improve outcomes.

Who is eligible? Anyone enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, 18 years and older seen at a Ho-Chunk Nation Clinic.

How do I participate? Make an appointment for your annual physical, that’s it! You will automatically be entered into the program once you have your visit.

How do I get entries? You will receive one entry for your visit. You will receive another entry if you are up to date with all of your recommended screenings. If you are not up to date you can receive another entry by completing all of the screenings that your provider recommends.

What are the prizes? Prizes include, but are not limited to professional and college sporting events and special event tickets. Drawings held quarterly.

How do I get the WI State Parks Pass? If you complete a colon cancer screening recommended by your provider. If you opt to do a colonoscopy you are eligible for a gas voucher.

How will I be notified when I win? We will contact you using the contact information listed in your medical record, you will have 10 days to respond.

Call for your appointment today!

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumber Jack Guy Rd
Black River Falls, WI 54615

House of Wellness
S2845 White Eagle Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913

Open to Native Americans enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, ages 18+ years
One of the reasons the editor of Glamour magazine chose the Eagle Dance to perform is because of the sweeping movement and bold visual aspects.

Ria tells of her love for dance, native perceptions in ‘Glamour’ magazine

Ken Luchterhand

Ria Thundercloud recently gained national and international attention for her expressive style of dance.

A feature article on Ria was published in the June/July issue of Glamour magazine, a magazine that highlights women’s fashion and beauty.

The article tells about her love of dance and her dedication to portraying Native Americans accurately in the media.

Ria, 27, is the daughter of Roger Thundercloud and Jessica Bearskin. She has a daughter, Cyra Thundercloud, who just turned 3.

She goes to school in Santé Fe, New Mexico, where she is a senior at the Institute of American Indian Arts with an emphasis in liberal studies major. After she graduates in May, she plans to attend University of Riverside, California, to get her Ph.D. in Indigenous Dance.

“That’s my focus, my passion, and my dream,” she said. “I hope to open a dance studio one day and own a dance company and be the creative director for a dance company, I would really like to be all indigenous people. That’s my dream – to have an all indigenous dance company something like Alvin Ailey (American Dance Theater), but not African American based, but indigenous based dance company.”

She began her interest in dancing when she was 13.

“I went to one of my brother’s shows. He was a professional model and a performer. During the performance, a contemporary dancer came out and did this beautiful dance in a white dress – a dance I’ve never seen in my life. I told my mom that’s what I want to do when I grow up,” she said.

“For my 18th birthday, my mom took me to my first dance class and ever since then this whole idea has been evolving since I was 13, like what I wanted to do and how I wanted to dedicate my life to dance,” Ria said. “I told myself this is what I’m going to do. It makes me happy.”

It was through her courage and determination that she was able to gain attention on a national level.

“I had a showing in Santé Fe with Wind Dancers and we performed for several editors-in-chief of fashion magazines, including Glamour, Elle, Cosmopolitan, and Marie Claire,” Ria said. “After the show, I introduced myself to all of the editors-in-chief, who are very powerhouse women. It was an awesome opportunity to be in the same room with other amazing women.”

She didn’t think the opportunity would happen again, so she thought it was up to her to introduce herself to the Glamour magazine editor.

“When I was talking to the editors, one specific one really liked my story, so she reached out to me shortly after that,” Ria said. “I was telling her that indigenous ingenuity, fashion, these things are appropriated so horribly through the social media and media in general.”

“I encouraged them to use indigenous women to our good role models as people who represent themselves in a positive way. I think those are the women who represent Indigenous country, like real native women. There are authentic native women out there, I was thinking those are the women who never get work, never get called on. Their stories are never told from their own point of view. Their stories are always being told through media, through screenwriters, through other actors portraying natives who are nonnatives. I feel it would be a very bold statement to use actual native people in their magazines,” she said.

Submitted by DANIELLE ROBINSON
Sharice For Congress

Sharice Davids, front runner for the Democratic nomination in Kansas’ Third District Congressional race, has released her new television ad.

The 30-second spot, which began airing on both cable and broadcast networks today, focuses on the idea of improving life story. From Johnson County Community College to Cornell Law School. From a waitress to the White House. Davids has overcome significant odds to sit at the highest levels of our federal government.

Too many people today have the odds stacked against them and Republicans in Washington aren’t working to change that,” Davids said. “I’m running for Congress because I deserve an opportunity - and that starts away from powwow performance and immerse herself completely into contemporary dance. She believes the outside world views native people as all one type and image instead of individual people from separate nations.

“It’s really hard to portray natives in such a positive form and it’s hard for nonnatives to understand. I feel that dance is such a powerful expression and an amazing way to story-tell through movement, so that’s what I want my company to do,” Ria said.

“That’s what I’m trying to do is tell my stories and tell Ho-Chunk stories and tell Sandia Pueblo stories through movement and through dance and expression and through breath. So, that is my main focus at the moment,” she said.

From a waitress to the White House: Sharice Davids’ new TV ad focuses on life story

Sharice Davids, if elected, will be the first Native American congresswoman in the country. Election day is Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

career on bringing equality to under served communities and providing more opportunities to help middle-class families get ahead. She’ll work to expand access to affordable health care, strengthen our public schools, make college more affordable and invest in our infrastructure to create more good-paying jobs.

The ad chronicles Davids’ upbringing by a single mother through her time as a White House Fellow in the Obama administration, overcoming many barriers along the way.

As a recent endorser said, “Davids’ life story has all the hallmarks of the dreams our country has for all our children.”

Davids’ primary election will be held on Aug. 7.

About Sharice Davids: A proud Kansan, Sharice Davids was raised by a single mom. After graduating from Johnson County Community College, she earned an Ivy League law degree from Cornell. She went on to work for President Barack Obama as a White House Fellow. Sharice has focused her career on bringing equality to underserved communities and providing more opportunities to help middle-class families get ahead. She’ll work to expand access to affordable health care, strengthen our public schools, make college more affordable and invest in our infrastructure to create more good-paying jobs.
Anyone 21 years or older is welcome to play in the Casino. Those 18 years or older are welcome to play Bingo.

Ho-Chunk Gaming reserves the right to cancel or alter promotions at any time.

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Just be playing slots during the Hot Seat Picks every Wednesday, from 9am - 9pm. Each winner drawn wins $150 Cash with the opportunity to win another $100 by playing our Strike A Match interactive game.

Anyone 21 years or older is welcome to play in the Casino. Those 18 years or older are welcome to play Bingo.
Ho-Chunk Gaming reserves the right to cancel or alter promotions at any time.
MONTHLY DUMPSTER SERVICE FOR MISSION / SANDPILLOW RESIDENTS

Starting on June 29, 2018 there will be a dumpster available to Ho-Chunk Nation members on a monthly basis for one weekend per month. The Dumpster will be located on Winneshiek Circle, Black River Falls (former Housing Mobile Home Park in the Mission). The dumpster will be delivered on the last Friday of every month and picked up on the following Monday. You may use these dumpsters to dispose of large items and trash.

Delivery Dates for 2018:
- July 27th – July 30th
- August 31st – September 4th
- September 28th – October 1st
- October 26th – October 29th
- November 30th – December 3rd
- December 28th – January 3rd

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:
- Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, TV's, Computer Monitors,
- Wet Paint, Oil, Hazardous Materials, Car Batteries, Tires or any type of compost or Yard Debris (leaves, trees, shrubs, plants, etc.)

Waxoc wira 27, 2018

JERRY CLEVELAND JR. MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Sunday, July 29, 2018
@ Coldwater Canyon Golf Course
2501 Chula Vista Pkwy
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Registration Time: 12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
Shotgun: 2:00 p.m.
Entry Fee: $50 Includes green fees, cart, skins and meal to follow golf.
Must show proof of membership.
$25 Membership Fee

Contact person: Courage Cleveland
Phone: 608-844-3440

WIN A 2018 RMEF WISCONSIN ELK TAG!

Order your tickets online
https://events.rmef.org/shop/wiselnktaggraffle
Or contact: Nicole Schaefer 920-251-2252

Wisconsin residents only. RMEF elk hunter education course required of winner. All Wisconsin DNR elk hunting regulations apply to the Elk and Hunt. Winners of the plate or previous elk tag holders will not be eligible to win.

Drawings: 8/11/18
Location: 2018 Wisconsin State Banquet
Hilton Garden Inn, Wausau, WI
Elk Hunt: 10/13-11/1 & 12/13-12/21

HO-CHUNK NATION TAU ELDERLY ADVISORY BOARD 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

August 15, 2018
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Wisconsin Dells

Drawing: 8/11/18
Location: 2018 Wisconsin State Banquet
Hilton Garden Inn, Wausau, WI
Elk Hunt: 10/13-11/1 & 12/13-12/21

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Waxoc wira 27, 2018
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ALL youth
golfers

CLEVELAND OPEN

SAT 2018
AUGUST 4
DRUGAN’S GOLF COURSE
HOLMEN, WI

$50 PER PLAYER
Includes green fees, cart, skins, & lunch

Registration: 8:30 - 9:30
Shot gun start: 10:00

CONTACT: Wilbert Cleveland
608.343.2553

August
Elders Birthdays

1 Diane Lonetree
2 Gary Cramer
3 Greg Whitehorse
5 Bradford Funnemaker
6 Muriel Whiteagle-Lee
7 Karen Martin
8 Vicki Johnson
9 Gary Whitehorse

10 Daryl DeCora
11 James Beverly
12 Paul Cassiman
13 Denis Rockman
14 Brenda Peotter
15 Gladys Ebata

16 Kathryn Brown
17 Coleen Finn
18 Jeanette Decorah
19 Louis Costello
20 Jojita Orozco
21 Charles Hopinkah Sr.
22 Quentin Thundercloud
23 William Browne
24 Lenore Sweet
25 Paula Goulet
26 Richard Mann
27 Royce Blackdeer
28 Sharan Green

28 Jeoff Smith
29 Connie Radtke
30 Deborah Palonis
31 Jeffrey Harrison
32 Kenneth Whitewater
33 Bradly Yewhik
34 William Browne
35 Sherry Dalton
36 Mary Whiteagle
37 Howard Bell

38 Darlene Denny
39 Jacob Green
40 Jeffrey Harrison
41 Annette Pidgeon
42 Sharron Prussia
43 Rodney Thundercloud
A great year for Cherelle Gunderson, 2017-2018 Karner Blue Butterfly Princess

Submitted by Jacqueline Gunderson

Cherelle Gunderson had so much fun representing Black River Falls this past year. During her farewell speech, she thanked the Black River Falls Downtown Association for sponsoring the Karner Blue Princess program. She thanked Emily and Chris Stewart for their hard work in being representatives for Karner Blue (they set up the parades and everything else), Deb and John Marg for making the sashes, and M&M Sports for making their signs. She also said in her farewell speech that her favorite memories was meeting Miss Wisconsin at Cranfest. During Cranfest she also had a broken ankle, however, she still attended every parade and event. At the end of each event or parade she would often get tired of walking with her crutches, so her dad would carry her back to her float. She also mentioned the 4th of July parade in Melrose. Cherelle and her first attendant Ava Gilberg were walking back to their float from meeting the new BRF Court and other Royalty when a baby bird literally fell at their feet and was hurt. So they picked it up and carried it until the parade started. They put it back on the ground in some grass near a tree. They were afraid it couldn’t fly because of how hard it fell, but once the parade started, the bird flew away into the tree it was near. They felt better after that, and they were happy they helped it out of the road and comforted it.

Lastly, her most memorable moment was in Osseo at their parade. Cherelle and I were walking to the Queen’s Tea at the school, only to find out it was at least a mile walk. A parade official offered us a ride in her golf cart. While crossing HWY 53, the cart broke down in the middle of the intersection! We laughed but were also afraid of the traffic. We were able to get the cart to the side of the road, but had to wait about 20 minutes for someone to come get us and take us to tea. We made it to the tea with about 10 minutes to spare.

Cherelle is very proud of herself, she is a very outgoing person and has a big heart. During her reign, she kept up her sports, education, and volunteer work. She was awarded the Presidential Education Excellence Award on May 1st, she had a 3.8 GPA within the first 3 quarters of the school year, and scored 85th percentile or higher in her math or reading in the STAR Math and STAR Reading assessment. She kept up her volunteering at the Jackson County Animal Shelter. She continued to play volleyball, county softball and traveling team softball leagues, traveling basketball league, and figure skating. She did more than requested for Karner Blue such as, attending the Gross Motors ground breaking ceremony, donating a birthday gift to Ilo – the BRF K9 dog, and other local events.

Cherelle did her duty and more during her time as Karner Blue Butterfly Princess. Cherelle’s parents are Steven and Jackie Gunderson, maternal grandparents are Rodney and Barb Rave, and paternal grandparents are David and Teresa Gunderson. Cherelle would like to give thanks the community for all of their support and encouragement this year. She had so many kids that liked to talk to her and take pictures with her. When she first ran for Karner Blue, there were 10 girls that ran. This year there were 16! She loves how much the program is growing and wishes luck to Ashley Greengrass and Anna Phillips!

Ashley Greengrass (left), 12, daughter of Ariana Youngthunder, was selected as the 2018-2019 Karner Blue Butterfly Princess. Anna Phillips, 10, daughter of Tony and Kate Phillips, was named Karner Blue Butterfly attendant. The coronation was held Saturday, July 21, among a host of other activities during the festival, hosted by the Black River Falls Downtown Association.