



Covering the Ho-Chunk Nation



HOC AK WORAK



Vol. XL, Issue 17

Hųwąžuk wira | Elk Calling Moon

September 11, 2026



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2026 is Sept. 19 at
Kalahari Convention
Center**

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2026 Ho-Chunk
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**Notice of Rules of
Secretarial Election,
Saturday, Sept. 19**

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Thundermaker Offers Culturally Grounded Path to Recovery

Kaili Berg

For people arriving at Thundermaker Wellness Center, treatment begins with being welcomed as a relative rather than processed as a client.

Located in Prescott, Arizona, Thundermaker is a Native-owned, licensed dual-diagnosis treatment center serving Native people with substance-use and mental-health conditions. Its program combines clinical care with Indigenous culture, ceremony and community.

Relatives arriving from other states are picked up at the airport and brought to the center, where staff assess their behavioral health and medical needs. Those requiring detoxification are first connected with a nearby partner facility.

Relatives then move into one of three shared homes maintained by Thundermaker. The homes feature Native artwork and communal spaces intended to feel less institutional than a traditional treatment facility.

Arrow Funmaker and Hunter Thundercloud, both Ho-Chunk, co-founded Thundermaker. Funmaker said the term “relative” reflects the community they are working to build.

“We’re creating a community here, like an old village style,” Funmaker said. “Everybody here is equal, and we’re all going to be better people.”

The need for treatment remains urgent. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native people had the highest age-adjusted drug overdose death rate of any racial or ethnic group in 2023, at 65 deaths per 100,000 people.

In Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services reported 85.1 drug-poisoning deaths per 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native

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Ho-Chunk Nation Sets to Convene for General Council 2026

Ardith Van Riper

Each year, the Tribal Membership meets to set policy for the Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN) at what is called the Annual Meeting of the General Council. The meeting is one of the largest and most important annual events. All eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation are entitled to participate in General Council. This year, General Council is scheduled to convene at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center near Wisconsin Dells on September 19, 2026.

The meeting can be overwhelming or confusing for Tribal Members who have never attended. Here is what attendees can expect to participate in this vital tribal function.

1. PARKING: Parking is Free.

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

locating a registration table.

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

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

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

6. VENDORS: Vendors selling goods and crafts will have booths as well.

7. OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS: There will be an Emcee for the early portion

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

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BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615

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Please notify the Newspaper of
any address changes or corrections

Carrying identity, memory, and community through generations of hardship

Submitted by Ryan John Crain, Sr. MASL

The beautiful thing about books and storytelling is that they are powerful tools that let us escape into our imaginations, learn about the histories of different people, or a million other things.

The Devil Three Times starts on a slave ship, and the matriarch of the family the book follows wakes

up in chains, surrounded by darkness in the bow of the ship. The darkness and pain in her head make it hard to see anything. She is having a conversation with her sister before noticing her sister’s lifeless body next to her and realizes she is speaking with her spirit. The novel reminded me that survival is more than staying alive—it’s carrying identity,

memory, and community through generations of hardship. That perspective felt familiar because many Native stories are rooted not only in enduring violence and displacement, but in preserving culture, values, and relationships despite those forces.

The story follows multiple generations of a

Continued on Page 6



The Devil Three Times, an audacious debut spanning eight generations of a Black family in West Tennessee as they are repeatedly visited by the Devil, has been longlisted for the the 2026 PEN/Hemingway Award for Fiction.

Nation marks 25 years since September 11 attacks

Kaili Berg

Twenty-five years have passed since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but the lives lost and the actions of those who responded continue to be remembered.

That morning, terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes. Two struck the World Trade Center towers in New York City, one crashed into the Pentagon and another crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and crew members attempted to regain control.

The attacks killed 2,977 people, including

passengers, office workers, military personnel and first responders.

Many who worked in the rescue and recovery efforts later developed illnesses linked to hazardous conditions at the World Trade Center site.

The attacks also changed life across the United States. Airport security increased, new federal security measures were enacted and American military forces were sent overseas.

Native American service members were among those who served during the wars that followed.

For younger generations, Sept. 11 is now an event learned about through classrooms, photographs and stories from relatives.

The anniversary is observed as Patriot Day and the National Day of Service and Remembrance. Flags are flown at half-staff, memorial ceremonies are held and Americans are encouraged to honor the day through service.

As the country marks the 25th anniversary, the day remains an opportunity to remember those who were lost, recognize those who responded and reflect on the unity shown afterward.



General Council 2026

Bus Schedule

September 19, 2026



Route	La Crosse	St. Paul	Green Bay	Chicago	Witten berg	Milwau kee
Stop	Valley View Mall	1724 Selby Ave	2413 Hazelwood Ln	4738 N. Milwaukee Ave	HCG - Witten berg	3501 S. Howell Ave
Loading	6:30 AM	5:00 AM	6:30 AM	5:00 AM	6:00 AM	6:00 AM
Depart	6:45 AM	5:30 AM	6:45 AM	5:15 AM	6:30 AM	6:30 AM
Stop	WTC - Tomah	HCG - BRF	Park & Ride #44-01 Randalph Dr	HCG - Madison	WTC - Nekoosa	HCG - Madison
Loading	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	7:45 AM
Depart	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	7:30 AM	7:45 AM	7:45 AM	8:00 AM

Kalahari Convention Center, Lake Delton, WI

ELDER PREFERENCE

Call 715-284-7891 with questions

GENERAL COUNCIL WORD LISTS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

WE WILL BE PLAYING HOOCĀK LANGUAGE GAMES IN THE MEETING ROOM BEFORE THE QUORUM IS MET.

STUDY ON QUIZLET PRIOR TO THE DAY

Kinship – Formal Terms

12 Clans

Emotions

Towns

Simple Phrases



QUIZLET SETS FOR STUDY

HOOCĀKACADEMY@GMAIL.COM



Continued from Page 1

of the meeting and this person will be making important announcements that all Tribal members should know.

8. QUORUM: Once quorum is established through Registration and electronic vote. Quorum is twenty percent of the eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The meeting will proceed with the first item of the day which is to nominate and select a chairperson. This will be the first official action of the General Council Meeting. When announced, you can pick up a voting device. It will come with a lanyard or wristlet so you can keep it attached to you. PUT IT ON IMMEDIATELY AND KEEP IT WITH YOU DURING THE ENTIRE MEETING. You will need this device

to participate in the voting and collect the payout after adjournment. Bear Clan Security has been instructed to collect all devices that are left unattended and/or if you are found to be in possession of more than one voting device. All confiscated voting devices will be returned to the Registration Booth. If you need any help setting up your voting device please proceed to the Office of General Council Table.

9. AGENDA: Next will be to set the agenda. If you would like to present a Resolution to be voted on you must present it at the podiums that will be located in the meeting area. The chairperson will recognize (you) the speaker. Tribal member will give their name and last four digits of their

Tribal Enrollment Number. REMEMBER: you must have a person designated to second your motion. Get to the mic quick if you want your resolution to be put on the agenda.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT: At any point during the day, a Tribal member can make a motion to adjourn the meeting with a verbal second. Once that is done, there will be a vote. If the vote is an affirmative for adjourning

then the meeting will be concluded. This will end the business of the day.

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

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

The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board is also currently holding a Secretarial Election with the deadline of September 19, 2026, to amend

the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Details of this election are also published in full.

The Election Board mailed out ballots for this election on August 5, 2026. Voters can return completed ballots by the U.S. Postal Service, in person to the Election Board office, or in person at the Annual Meeting of the General Council

The Election Board is scheduled to be posted in the African Ballroom the day of the Annual Meeting of the General Council. The polls open at 8:00 am and close two hours after the meeting adjournment.

Look for up to date announcements from the Office of General Council on the Hocak Worak social media.

Student Shines in Tribal Health Experiential Internship Seminar (THESIS)

Oklahoma City, OK – September 2, 2026

Sophie Anderson, a Ho-Chunk Nation descendant and recent health management graduate from Saint Louis University, made a significant impact during the eight-week Tribal Health Experiential Internship Seminar (THESIS) program. THESIS is a virtual internship focused on promoting Tribal public health and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office of Science through its Lewis Scholars Program.

As one of seven organizations in the Lewis Scholars Program, THESIS operates under the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board in Oklahoma City. Interns delve into Native American culture, resilience, and various aspects of public health, including epidemiology and research. Their intensive eight-week journey culminates in the creation of research posters, which they presented at the THESIS Showcase in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Sophie Anderson’s research topic was Influence of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Cultural Practices on the Acceptability of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Among AI/AN Adults in California. Reflecting on their THESIS experience, they shared,

“Participating in the Tribal Health Experiential Student Internship Seminar (THESIS) program was an incredibly rewarding experience that expanded my knowledge and perspective on Tribal public health. Throughout the 8 week program, I attended virtual seminars led by experts on topics such as historical trauma, traditional healing, epidemiology, professional development, and more. I also created a digital story, a multimedia presentation that allowed me to reflect on my personal motivations for pursuing a career in public health. The program culminated in the completion of a literature review based

research poster, which brought together the knowledge and skills I developed throughout the internship.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the program was learning directly from Tribal leaders, researchers, and public health professionals whose perspectives extended beyond what I could have gained through textbooks or journal articles. Their knowledge reinforced the importance of culturally responsive, community-centered approaches to improving health outcomes. The THESIS program strengthened my interest in health equity, enhanced my research and professional skills, and inspired



me to continue pursuing opportunities to support underserved communities.”

For more information about THESIS and the Lewis Scholars Program, visit <https://thesis.spthb.org>.

HO-CHUNK NATION CHICAGO
BRANCH OFFICE

Craft/Rummage Sale September 26, 2026

Rummage, Repurpose, Reimagine!
“Craft your story one treasure at a time”
Your happy place for happy finds!
Handmade Magic, Without Breaking the Bank!!
“The BEST art comes from the HEART!”

Vendors, please call to reserve
Tables are limited

11am-5pm

HO-CHUNK NATION
Chicago Branch Office
4738 N Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago IL 60630
(715) 284-7894
Please RSVP by 09/21/26

FUNDASIER
COME FOR
CHILI AND
FRYBREAD

Ho-Chunk Nation
Office of Tribal Enrollment

Tribal ID Notice General Council 2026
Notice from the HCN Office of Tribal Enrollment

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

❖ Requirements for Adult TID Cards*

➢ Current mailing & physical address

➢ The following valid identification documents must be provided (non-expired)

- Driver’s License, State ID, Temporary License (temporary paper print out)
- Passport
- Certified Birth Certificate
- Tribal ID (expired or non-expired)

❖ Fees

➢ Tribal ID Cards: Fee currently waived

❖ Hours

➢ First come, first serve basis (Elders Prioritized)

➢ Friday, September 18, 2026: 1:30 PM – 6:30 PM

- Minors and Adults (Contact email listed below for Minor tribal ID requirements)

➢ Saturday, September 19, 2026: 8 AM – until quorum is met

- Adults (18+) ONLY*

❖ Location

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

❖ Verification forms

➢ Only provided on the day of General Council 2026

➢ Provided before and after quorum is met

➢ Can be used to register

➢ Existing form of ID needs to be provided to receive a verification form

➢ Cost: Free

➢ Closes when registration has ended

❖ Questions? Contact Info

➢ Email: enrollmentinfo@ho-chunk.com

➢ Phone: 715-284-7824

*Tribal IDs will not be processed for minors or those with name changes the day of General Council 2026.

SAVE THE DATE

GREEN CORN
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 2026



ARTS & CRAFTS
TRADITIONAL FOODS
HO-CHUNK SINGING & DANCING
FOOD PRESERVATION DEMONSTRATIONS
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

LOCATION | BEHIND THE TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING



Attention: The Next Deadline of the Hocak Worak will be September 18th which will be published on September 25th. Please contact Hocak Worak at ext. 11004 if you have a change of address or would like to be placed on the mailing list.

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.

HOCAC WORAK NEWSLETTER

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

• PHONE: (800) 472-3089

• FAX: (715) 284-7852

EMAIL: newsletter@ho-chunk.com

• ONLINE: www.ho-chunknation.com

www.hocakworak.com

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BETTER NEWSPAPER
CONTEST AWARD
WINNER
WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

The Hocak Worak is a member of:

Indigenous Journalists Association

INDIGENOUS
Journalists Association

Annual Meeting General Council 2026

Kalahari Convention Center
1305 Kalahari Drive
Lake Delton, WI

September 19, 2026



Five Proposed Resolutions

- 1.Remove District One Legislative Representative Paul Fox for Malfeasance.
- 2.Endorse the Ho-Chunk Nation and Its Members as Official Alpha and Beta Testers for the ccUlator App and to Recognize the Project as an Ongoing Initiative Associated with the Tribe and Its Members.
- 3.Authorize Michael Patrick Mullen, Jr. to Give a Short (20-Minute or Less) Presentation on the ccUlator App to the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council.
- 4.Set Virtual Participation in General Council Meetings as the Official Policy of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
- 5.Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution to Elect the General Council Advocate.

More Information

715-284-7891
Henry.WhiteThunder@ho-chunk.com

Tennative Timeline for Sept. 19

8:00 am - Registration Opens
9:00 am - Colors Posted by Sanford White Eagle Post #556

Enrollment Onsite for Tribal IDs

- Friday, 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm
 - for adults and minors
- Saturday, 8:00 am until quorum is met
 - for adults only
- Setup in North Hallway
- Fee currently waived for ID Cards
- First come, first served with Elders Prioritized

Outside Hallway Setup

- Vendors in the West Hallway
- Departments in the North Hallway
- Health Dept. in the East Hallway

Setup can begin around 3:00 pm on September 18. No security will be provided for materials left out overnight. The Office of General Council will not reserve any tables for departments or vendors.





Hoocak Academy
"Revitalizing Hoocak Speaking in all Communities"

Online Pathways Program Fall 2026

FALL 2026 CLASS TIMES



Registration Week of September 8–13, 2026
Orientation week of September 14–18, 2026
Classes begin the week of September 21, 2026
Sections must have a minimum of 3 students

OPP 1 Series

OPP 1A – Intro | Kinship
Mon 11:00 a.m.
Tues 11:00 a.m.
Wed 5:00 p.m.
Thur 2:00 p.m.
Fri 11:00 a.m.

OPP 1B – Time | Weather | Travel
Mon 10:00 a.m.
Tues 5:30 p.m.
Wed 2:00 p.m.
Thur 2:00 p.m.

OPP 1C – Mealtime
Mon 2:00 p.m.
Tues 10:00 a.m.
Wed 5:30 p.m.

OPP 1D Body | Personality | Phys. Characteristics
Mon 2:00 p.m.
Tues 11:00 a.m.
Thur 5:30 p.m.

OPP 2 Series

OPP 2A – Clothing | Getting Dressed
Mon 2:00 p.m.
Wed 6:00 p.m.
Fri 10:00 a.m.

OPP 2B – Daily Routine | Chores
Tues 11:00 a.m.
Tues 1:00 p.m. Wed 6:00p.m.

OPP 2C – Daily Life | Work
Wed 11:00 a.m.
Wed 1:00 p.m.
Wed 4:45 p.m.

OPP 2D – Personal Info | Žuura
Wed 7:00 p.m.
Thurs 11:00 a.m.
Thurs 1:00 p.m.

OPP 3 Series

OPP 3 – Culture of the Language
Thurs 2:00 p.m.
Thurs 5:00 p.m.
Fri 10:00 a.m.

NĀWĀ HINEKJAWI
“LET’S SING”

With Instructor:
Sedrick Hindsley

Come together to learn Ho-Chunk songs & dance, while honoring our ways.

Youth, families & community members welcome!



BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 17
EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Wisconsin Dells Youth Center
S2845 White Eagle Rd.
Snacks and refreshments provided

Questions?
Fabian Houghton
(608) 355-1240 ext. 15553

FREE!

Save the Date!
CAREER + EDUCATION FAIR
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY & STUDENTS

Sponsored By:



Northcentral
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



SANFORD HEALTH
Marshfield Clinic



Ho-Chunk Nation
SAND COUNTY
Department of Social Services



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

September 24, 2026
[9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.]

Siga Funmaker Community Center W17634 Radke Rd, Wittenberg, WI



Northcentral Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in employment, admissions or its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies: Equal Opportunity Officer, Northcentral Technical College, 1000 W. Campus Drive, Wausau, WI 54981, Phone: 715.853.1197

Community Opportunity Inclusion Program

Homeownership support for eligible Ho-Chunk Nation members



Down Payment Assistance
\$60,000
per household
★ 3 awards available



New Construction Assistance
\$75,000
per household
★ 2 awards available



For enrolled Ho-Chunk Nation members age 18+ who are first-time homebuyers, meet income and affordability limits, have no outstanding debts to the Ho-Chunk Nation, Department of Housing, or HHCA, and qualify for a mortgage loan.



Homes must be in Madison, WI and used as a primary residence.
New construction lots available at 4307 Crested Owl Drive and 4308 Valor Way.



Interested in learning more?
Contact the Home Ownership Division for eligibility and application details.

Assistance is provided as a deferred, zero-interest loan, not a grant.
Awards are subject to eligibility and approval.

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VOLK FIELD - CAMP DOUGLAS, WI
VOLK FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE - 100 INDEPENDENCE DR, CAMP DOUGLAS, WI 54618

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2026

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

11:00 AM **SPECIAL FLAG RAISING**
ANDREW BLACKHAWK
AMERICAN LEGION POST 129
WELCOME TO POST: TBA

NOON **LUNCH MEAL**

1:00PM **KEY SPEAKER: TBA**
GRAND ENTRY

THUNDERCLOUD SINGER
HOST DRUM

OPEN DRUM
FAMILY VETERAN SONGS
TRADITIONAL GIVEAWAYS
D.O.R.A. AUCTION
FUNDRAISERS

FREE ADMISSION • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MIKE DAY 608.434.7790 or JIM DAY 262-637-9046
Alcohol & Drug Use Is Strictly Prohibited. Organizers & Event Hosts Are Not Responsible For Lost Or Stolen Items.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Augusta / Fairchild	8 Merrillan / Hatfield Hixton	9 Neillsville/DellsDam	10 BRF/Brockway Maplewood	11 BRF/BROCKWAY CONTINUED*	12
13	14 BRF CONTINUED*	15 BRF CONTINUED*	16 BRF CONTINUED*	17 Tomah/Cataract Blue Wing	18 Bangor/Onalaska La Crosse	19
20 New Lisbon/Mauston	21	22 Indian Heights/Wis Dells Lyndon Station	23 Christmas Mountain Baraboo/Reedsburg	24 Rapids/Nekoosa ChakHaChee	25 Wittenberg/ PotchCheeNunk	26
27	28	29				

HO-CHUNK NATION ENROLLED HOMEOWNERS: FALL COMMUNITY CLEANUP SEPT. 2025
CONTACT VERDIE KIVIMAKI or FRONT DESK @ (608)374-1225 FOR PUBLIC SANITARY SERVICES.
PLEASE HAVE ALL ITEMS READY FOR PICK-UP AT THE END OF YOUR DRIVEWAY ALONG WITH CLEAR ACCESS TO THE ITEMS BEING DISPOSED. LIMIT 6 MATTRESSES
SCHEDULES ARE TENATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN ADVANCE !!
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & PUBLIC WORKS

FALL COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP FORM

Department of Housing

This form is for curbside pick-up only. See the list of areas that have curbside community clean-up.

Applicants in communities with curbside pick-up need to fill out and return this application at least three business days prior to your area’s scheduled pick-up date.

IMPORTANT: Place all items at the beginning of the driveway, road, or curbside. Housing staff will not drive onto the property or go into the backyard or enter the house, garage, or shed to pick-up items and will leave any items not listed on the application or not allowable under this program. Only allowable items will be picked up.

Allowable: appliances, computers, TVs, air conditioners, tires (limited to 10), batteries, lawn mowers, grills, bicycles, mattresses (limited to 6), and other bulk items.

Not Allowable: household trash, clothing, lawn clippings, tree branches, oil or other automotive fluids, roof shingles, building or construction demo or waste, and items that pose a hazard, such as chemicals, paint, fuel, aerosol containers, etc....

Applications missing information will not be scheduled for pick-up.

Please print ALL information

First & Last Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Items to be picked up:

Item	Qty	Item	Qty
Air Conditioner		Batteries	
Computer		Freezer/Refrigerator	
Furniture		Microwave	
Range		Tires (10 Limit)	
TV's		Washer/Dryer	
Mattresses (6 Limit)			

List other items: _____

*Department of Housing will NOT make a return to an address for items not left out on scheduled date.

By signing below, you agree that you have read and understand the terms for Community Clean-up.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

HO-CHUNK NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

Attention ALL HOP, HRL, & Rental Tenants

Effective July 1, 2026

The Ho-Chunk Nation DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & PUBLIC WORKS mailing address has changed. Please send **ALL** mail to:

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Housing

27374 Hwy 21 E

Bldg. #5

Tomah, WI 54660

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at

608-374-1225

or

housing@ho-chunk.com

Thank you,

The Department of Housing

* ATTENTION HO-CHUNK TRIBAL MEMBERS*

That live outside of the 16 counties of
Purchase Referred Care Delivery Area (Also known as Contract Health)

The At-Large Health Management Program (ALHMP) will be at General Council

Services offered by the ALHM Program

Co-pay / Deductible

Limited Dental

Limited Optical

Limited Durable Medical Equipment

Limited Prescriptions

Premium Payments

The Application is now fillable on-line
<https://health.ho-chunk.com/alhmp.html>
Feel free to call 715-284-9851 ext. 35315

Continued from Page 2

single family, and each character’s struggles highlight how trauma can echo across generations while also showing the strength people find in family, resilience, and the determination to keep moving forward. Rather than seeing survival as an individual achievement, I appreciated how the story suggests that survival is deeply connected to the people who came before us and the responsibility we have to those who come after. It made me think about the resilience of

Native communities and the ways our ancestors endured so future generations could continue to exist, remember, and thrive.

The Devil Three Times is ultimately a powerful meditation on resilience. It challenges readers to consider not only what people survive, but what they choose to protect and carry forward. The Ho-Chunk Community Library has many books, and the author of this review is donating The Devil Three Times so it will be available to check out soon.

Glimpses of the 2026 Ho-Chunk Nation Labor Day Powwow at the Andrew Blackhawk Powwow Grounds Near Black River Falls



2026

SAVE THE DATE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

LACROSSE & DOUBLE BALL TOURNAMENTS

OCT 11, RIVERSIDE PARK

CRAFTS, TRADITIONAL GAMES, VENDORS, BUS TOURS,

SPEAKERS OCT 12, MYRICK PARK

In collaboration with:

Interested in sponsorship, vendor, or partnership opportunities?
Contact: ipdplanning.lacrosse@gmail.com

CALL FOR VENDORS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 2026

Interested in being a vendor at the La Crosse area Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration? We are seeking Indigenous Merchandise Vendors from 10am to 6:30pm and licensed Indigenous Food Vendors from noon to 6:30pm

SEPTEMBER 29th DEADLINE

Email: ipdplanning.lacrosse@gmail.com

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health

The Key to Mold Control is Moisture Control

Mold... no one wants it in their home. Mold produces allergens and can cause health problems. Although mold is naturally found in the indoor environment, it won't grow without moisture.

Take steps to control mold and moisture indoors:

Reduce humidity: use exhaust fans or open windows in kitchens and bathrooms, and use air conditioners or dehumidifiers as needed.

Prevent condensation by reducing humidity, increasing ventilation, or raising the indoor air temperature.

Completely dry any damp or wet surfaces within 24-48 hours, and fix the source of the water problem or leak.

If mold grows in your home...

Promptly fix the source of any water problems or leaks.

Clean mold off of hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely.

Absorbent materials that have had mold growth may need to be replaced, e.g. ceiling tiles, carpet, furniture.

If you are experiencing symptoms you think are caused by mold, consult a medical professional.

Visit epa.gov/mold to learn more about protecting yourself from mold in your home.

Contact: Matt Malimanek
Ho-Chunk Nation Air Quality Specialist

Matthew.Malimanek@ho-chunk.com
715-284-9851 ext. 35054

Edited 8.18.2026 KD

HUUWA ZUUK WIIRA
Elk Calling Moon
September

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

Haazniñu
Sumac

About Sumac

- Sumac was historically used for medicinal, culinary, and dyeing purposes. It was often used in traditional beverages and as a spice in Middle Eastern and Native American cuisine.
- The plant is known for its bright red fruit clusters and fall foliage, and species like smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) and staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) are common in the eastern and central United States.
- About 14% of sumac is made up of fiber, which helps to support digestion and blood sugar control.
- Provides small amounts of essential vitamins, including vitamins C, B1, B2, and B6.
- Contains many antioxidants (tannins, anthocyanins, flavonoids), which may help reduce inflammation and protect against chronic disease.
- Clinical studies show sumac may help lower blood sugar levels and improve insulin sensitivity in people with type 2 diabetes

For more info:

1) <https://www.britannica.com/plant/sumac>

2) <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/sumac-benefits-uses-and-forms#benefits>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This material was funded by USDA's supplemental nutrition assistance program- SNAP.

Sumac Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 medium Roma tomatoes
- 1/2 large English cucumber
- 1/2 medium red onion
- 1/2 cup chopped, fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon ground sumac
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups packed fresh arugula (or dandelion greens)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil (or sunflower oil)
- 2-3 tablespoons sunflower seeds or crushed walnuts

Steps:

- Cut tomatoes lengthwise into quarters. Gently squeeze to remove seeds and excess liquid. Thinly slice and place in a large bowl.
- Cut cucumber into 1/2-inch pieces and add to the bowl. Slice onion into thin slivers and add, along with the parsley.
- Sprinkle with sumac and salt. Toss gently and let sit for at least 15 minutes to allow flavors to blend.
- Add arugula (or other greens), lemon juice, and olive oil. Toss to coat evenly.
- Sprinkle with sunflower seeds or nuts just before serving.

Homemade ground sumac:

Rinse fresh berries and spread out on parchment-lined tray to air dry for 3-7 days. Once dry, grind berries using blender, spice grinder or mortar and pestle. Sift ground berries through fine mesh strainer.

Recipe inspired by: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/285638/iraqi-sumac-salad-summag-salad/>
www.carefocusdaily.com/nutrition/sumac

For more Information Contact a HCN Registered Dietitian/ Nutritionist:

BRF, Tomah, Wittenberg areas:
(888) 685-4422, ext. 35335

BRF, La Crosse areas:
(888) 685-4422, ext. 35340

Dells, Nekoosa, Madison areas:
(888) 552-7889, ext. 35554

HCN HEALTH & WELLNESS DIV.
<http://health.ho-chunk.com/>
Created 9/25 MB

PARTNERS

in

PARENTING

Wittenberg Area & Black River Falls Area

A free educational class specific to parents, grandparents & guardians of infant to school-aged children, to learn practical parenting skills, connect with resources, and strengthen your family's health and well-being.

WHEN:
September 29, 2026
Lunch at 12:00p
Presentation at 12:30p

WHERE:
Siga Funmaker Community Center & Wittenberg, WI
Eileen Decorah Classroom HHCC BRF, WI

Guest Speakers:

Lanette Walker
Tutoring Services

Salena Lemieux
Behavioral Health

BreeAnna Walker
Virtual Student Parent

Join us for a panel discussion on:

BEYOND THE BACKPACK:

Virtual Learning and Mental Health

EVENT INCLUDES
FREE LUNCH AND RAFFLE!

Must attend presentation in person to receive raffle entry and incentives.

To sign up for your lunch reservation:

Claudia Yaeger
Public Health Worker

(715) 253-2382 EXT. 33140

claudia.yaeger@ho-chunk.com

This class is open to Ho-Chunk Tribal Members & HCN Employees

created by JD 07/13/26

Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center Awarded Grant for Tribal Land Restoration Project

The Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center (GLILC) at University of Wisconsin Law School has received a 2026 Reilly-Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment grant to help Native Nations navigate tribal land acquisitions and donations.

The \$116,024 one-year award for “Tribal Land Restoration Project: Addressing Legal Barriers to Acquisition in Wisconsin” will cover research and community engagement toward the effort.

“Restoring ancestral lands to Native Nations represents not only a recognition of treaty rights but also a step in reaffirming sovereignty,” said GLILC Director Amanda White Eagle. “In collaboration with interested tribes and tribal land organizations, the center will develop the first comprehensive handbook tailored to the legal landscape of tribal land acquisition and donation in Wisconsin.”

This print and online resource will provide guidance across a range of topics, including land and resource

rights; governance and trust models; and funding and acquisitions.

The center is partnering with multiple organizations: The Ho-Chunk Nation, Indian Land Tenure Foundation, Wilderness Society, Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition and Native Nations Institute.

GLILC was established in 1992 to improve the practical legal skills of all students interested in the fields of Indigenous law, including federal Indian and Tribal law. The center serves as a legal resource for Native Nations, including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians.

The initiatives and programs sponsored by the center connect UW Law School’s commitment to law in action with Native Nations and tribal communities across the state.

The endowment honors the legacy of Ira Baldwin and Ineva Reilly Baldwin and their deep commitment to the Wisconsin Idea, the principle that education should influence people’s lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom. All UW–Madison faculty and staff are eligible to apply for awards.

“Honoring the legacy of the Reilly-Baldwin Endowment means translating legal scholarship into meaningful real-world application,” said White Eagle. “By addressing legal barriers to land acquisition, we support Native Nations in exercising sovereignty and long-term land stewardship. We are equally excited that Tribal Land Restoration Fellow Nico Crocetti and six dedicated law students will gain hands-on experience driving this project forward.”

Timothy N. Gamble August 28, 1985 – August 30, 2026

Timothy Nathaniel Gamble, “Cjigihap”, age 41, of Black River Falls, WI, formerly of San Diego, California, passed away suddenly on Sunday, August 30, 2026.

Timothy was born on August 28, 1985, in San Diego, California, to Gregory Michael Gamble and Lori Jeanne (Brown) Gamble. The youngest of five children, Timothy was born and raised in California, where he spent much of his life surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones.

Timothy had a great love for the arts and a passion for singing. His courage and charisma even led him to try his hand at a run on American Idol. He was ambitious, charming, generous, and had a giving heart that drew people to him.

He also had a deep love for travel and adventure. Timothy visited many states and countries, creating memories that he treasured with the people he loved among them, treating his mother to a trip to Hawaii and taking his beloved Auntie Joy to Nice, France. His generosity was not simply something he spoke about, it was something he lived.

Timothy earned an associate degree in Social Work and continued his education at Viterbo University, where he was working toward a bachelor’s degree in Social Work. His dedication to his education reflected his genuine desire to serve others and make a difference in the lives of those around him.

Although California would always be home, Timothy made the selfless decision to leave the place he had known all his life and move to Wisconsin to help care for his mother. It was a sacrifice he accepted wholeheartedly, putting family and love above his own comfort.

During his time in Wisconsin, Timothy grew close to an entirely new side of his family and community: the Ho-Chunk Nation. There, he received his Ho-Chunk name,

Cjigihap (chi-Gee-homp), meaning “lights up the room” a perfectly beautiful reflection of the person he was. Timothy’s Native heritage became a deep and defining part of his identity, and he carried it with pride.

Above all, Timothy had a heart for helping others. Whether through volunteering, his work, quietly showing up for someone in need, becoming a single foster parent, or simply being present, Timothy was the kind of person others could count on. He gave of himself freely and often without seeking recognition.

Timothy had a way of bringing light into a room simply by being there. His ambition, humor, compassion,



charisma, and generous spirit will be deeply missed. Though his life was far too short, the love he gave, the people he helped, the places he traveled, and the memories he created will remain with those who were blessed to know him.

He leaves behind his mother, Lori Jeanne Gamble; his siblings, Gregory “Michael” (Sandra) Gamble II, Vennetta Gamble (friends, Charity, Khristi, and Zimika), Benjamin (Michelle) Gamble, and Lydia “Buffy” Gamble, Kwamar “Kwame” (Jefflyn) Brown, Thomas “Tomee” (Lisa) Brown, Trey O’Connell, Ray Chatman, Amber Chatman, Sammy Chatman, Turquoise Chatman, Michael Chatman, Jade Chatman, Sapphire “Tyler” Kingswan, and Roy “J.R.” Hence; his seven nieces and nephews, Johnell, Isaiah, Naomi, Zaria, Azriel, Gabriel, and Benjamin; and his great-nephew, Bishop Gamble. He is also survived by caring aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and many others whose lives he touched and who knew and loved him dearly.

Timothy was preceded in death by his grandparents, Vivian (Kingswan) and Clarence Brown, and Naomi (Williams) and James Gamble; his aunts, Cheryl Gamble and Mari Brown; his uncle, Jon Brown; and his loving father, Gregory Michael Gamble.

Traditional Ho-Chunk services will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, beginning at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at the Blue Wing Community Center. Bobby Bird Sr. will officiate. Burial will follow at the Blue Wing Cemetery in Tomah.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah, and again on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the Blue Wing Community Center.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

May the light Timothy carried within him continue to shine on in all of us he touched.

Joanne Mann June 30, 1950 – September 1, 2026

Joanne Lee Falcon Mann, 76, passed away on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at her home in Black River Falls.

She was born to Emanuel and Rose (Dixon) Falcon in Black River Falls, on June 30, 1950. She grew up and attended Black River Falls Schools.

Joanne was united in marriage to John R. Mann in 1971. They lived in Gary, Indiana and later moved to Cincinnati, OH. After John got injured, Joanne took care of him through recovery, rehabilitation, and throughout the rest of his life.

Throughout Joanne’s life she was a homemaker and traveled throughout the United States and Canada with her husband as a Native food vendor. She showed her children the Native American Church ways and teachings, she put the creator God first. Joanne later moved home to the Falcon Homestead to care for her parents and the upkeep of the Falcon Homestead. Joanne’s greatest accomplishments were her parents, grandchildren and great-grandchildren aka Gaga Llama.

Joanne lived her life to the fullest, always willing to help anyone in need. She was a mother to all children, caring and creating a safe place.

Joanne is preceded in death by her husband, John, parents, Emanuel and Rose Falcon, her brother, Wayne Falcon; sister, Marilyn Wynos; sister-in-law, Cindy Radtke; brother-in-law,

Randall Mann; son, Jordan Miller; nephew, Anthony Falcon, grandsons Atreyu Ortiz and Nelson Funmaker, and great-granddaughter, Ariyah Wolfe.

She’s survived by her children Manda Mann, Rosann (Wilfrid Cleveland) Mann, Matthew (Jesse) Mann, Clariss Funmaker, Piggy (Dannielle WhiteThunder), Mildred Decorah; goddaughter Lisa (Zane) Flick; adoptive children, Lisa Young, Robyn Two Crow, James Two Crow and Asa Two Crow; 24 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and siblings, Mann (Arlene) J. Falcon, Martin Falcon, and Betsy Falcon along with many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Joanne will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026, at the Falcon Homestead (W9455 US Hwy 12, Black River Falls).



Duwayne Link May 28, 1961 – September 5, 2026



Duwayne A. Link, 65, passed away on September 5, 2026, at his home.

He was born on May 28, 1961, to Mildred (Hall) and Norman Link in Tigerton, WI.

He loved spending time with his grandchildren. He worked in human

resources at Ho-Chunk Gaming in Black River Falls. He was always driving around and randomly stopping at people’s homes to check up on them.

He is preceded by his parents; siblings, Jeff and Reggie Link; niece, Ashley Funmaker, and nephew, Mitchell Link.

Duwayne is survived by his significant other, Anita Youngthunder, children, Alicia Youngthunder, Ardell Link, Destinee Link, Duana Link, Taylor Link, and Styles Link; 15 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild; siblings, Eileen Funmaker, Diane Wallace, James Link, and Gary Hall, along with a host of friends and family.

Funeral services for Duwayne will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at Buswell Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Decorah Cemetery.

September

2026

HO-CHUNK NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

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

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



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 OPEN BRF	2 WITTENBERG DISTRIBUTION 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH - KATHY	3 OPEN BRF	4 CLOSED MONTHLY SHIPMENT
7 CLOSED LABOR DAY	8 OPEN BRF	9 WIS DELLS DISTRIBUTION 10 AM - 1:30 PM NUTRITION BOOTH - ALEX	10 REEDSBURG HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF	11 WI DELLS HOME DELIVERIES OPEN BRF
14 OPEN BRF	15 OPEN BRF	16 TOMAH DISTRIBUTION 12N - 1:00 PM	17 OPEN BRF	18 LA CROSSE PICKUPS OPEN BRF
21 OPEN BRF	22 OPEN BRF	23 NEKOOSA DISTRIBUTION 12N-1:00 PM NUTRITION BOOTH - ALEX	24 OPEN BRF	25 OPEN BRF
28 OPEN BRF NUTRITION BOOTH - KATHY	29 OPEN BRF LAST PICK-UP DAY	30 CLOSED INVENTORY		

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY FOR TAILGATE DAYS

Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board Update

The Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board has been busy preparing for upcoming elections and working to make election information easier for our members to understand.

We have been reviewing changes to the Election Code, creating voter education information, organizing election files and materials, and preparing for the upcoming **Secretarial Election**.

We are also working on keeping track of ballots as they are sent out and returned, making sure elections records are organized and accurate throughout the process. We are currently at **12.9% ballots returned** and are continuing to encourage eligible voters to return their ballots and make their voices heard.

Another focus has been getting our Election Board booth ready for General Council, where members can stop by, ask questions, get election information, and learn more about the voting process.

Please remember you can still vote at General Council in-person on Saturday, September 19, 2026. Polls open at 8am till 2 hours after adjournment of General Council.

Overall, our goal is to keep our office organized, keep members informed, and continue finding simple ways to make the election process easier to understand and participate in.

Election Board:
Phone: 715-284-8900
Office Hours: M-F 8:00-4:30
Melissa Olvera Ext.11309
Tiffany King Ext. 11310
W8801 Mission Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615



Addressing Family Violence and Abuse®

Separate 14-Session Virtual Groups

Addressing Family Violence and Abuse® is an adaptation of Fatherhood Is Sacred®/Motherhood Is Sacred® designed to address domestic violence in Native American families. It helps fathers and mothers understand and overcome the cycle of violence and abuse while reconnecting with Native American heritage and the sacred responsibilities of being a parent.

Content focuses on the three pillars of self-worth, identity, and purpose across 14 sessions.

Women's Group

- Mondays
- 6:00 PM
- Virtual via Webex
- 14 sessions
- Starts: September 14, 2026
- Ends: December 21, 2026

No group on October 12, 2026 in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day

Register for either group using the Typeform link or QR code.

Men's and Women's groups are held separately.

During registration, participants will choose whether to pick up a hardcopy workbook at Ho-Chunk Health Care Center in Black River Falls or have it mailed.

Men's Group

- Wednesdays
- 6:00 PM
- Virtual via Webex
- 14 sessions
- Starts: September 16, 2026
- Ends: December 30, 2026

No group on November 4, 2026 in observance of Veterans Day



<https://hcn-bh.typeform.com/HCN-AFVA>

For questions, contact:
Valerie Carrimon, CSAC
Substance Abuse Counselor
Ho-Chunk Health Care Center
N6520 Lumberjack Guy Rd.
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Phone: 715-284-9851 Ext. 35044
Email: valerie.carrimon@ho-chunk.com

Francis Rave Sr.

November 5, 1963 – September 1, 2026

Francis P. Rave, Sr., 62, passed away on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Francis was born to Henry and Irene (Whitegull) Rave on November 5, 1963, in Black River Falls, WI.

He worked over 20 years for Ho-Chunk Nation, as a bingo caller. He also worked as a Manager at Kwik Trip for many years. He enjoyed playing pool and scrabble. He could play for countless hours. He loved going to church (NAC) services, singing, and running meetings. He enjoyed and loved being around his grandchildren, he would spend time taking them to parks, skate parks, and taking them out to eat. He was very encouraging to others. He loved watching Star Trek and Bruce Lee movies.

He is proceeded in death by his parents, Henry and Irene sisters, Justine, Gale, Joyce, brother Ted and daughter Tara.

Francis is survived by Francis Peter Rave Jr., Raena Marie Rave, Darienne Johnson, and Tyler Rave. He had 10 grandchildren; Jevon Rave, Jayla Banuelos, Jazlyn White Eagle, Harmonystar Walker, Jesse Walker, Melody Boyd, Azrael Boyd,



Jayvion Williams, Jovonni Williams and Joleesa Williams along with 1 great granddaughter J'lanni Banuelos. Plus, many other family members who he loved dearly.

Visitation will be at Rave Round house, N7257 Rave Trail Black River Falls Wi, 54615 from 2pm -5pm. Followed by a comfort meal and NAC meeting.

The funeral service for Francis will be held at noon Friday at Rave Round house N7257 Rave Trail, Black River Falls, Wisconsin, 54615.

Ho-Chunk Nation Healing to Wellness Court

2026 5k/10k Fun Run/Walk

Everyone's participation in our event added to its success.

“THANK YOU”

We came together to celebrate recovery, honor those we have lost, support those still struggling, and remind our communities that recovery is possible by participating in this event.

Wii Te'e Waagax Hajara Ee
Warupj Wa'ujee



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

NOMINATE A STUDENT OF THE MONTH

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

Who Can Be Nominated?

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

What We Celebrate

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

Where Will They Be Featured?

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

How to Nominate

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

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

Questions? Email us at:

StudentSuccess@Ho-Chunk.com



9 Indigenous Congressional Candidates Move Forward to General Election

More than half of the candidates running for Congress in the 2026 midterm election are women

Pauly Denetclaw
Reprint from ICT
An Indigenous woman has never been elected to the U.S. Senate.

Mary Peltola, Yup'ik, in Alaska, and Peggy Flanagan, White Earth Nation, in Minnesota could change that. Both have made it to the general election on Nov. 3.

They are two of nine Indigenous candidates who have made it past the primaries onto the final ballot, according to the ICT and Advance Native Political Leadership database. (Despite best efforts, the database doesn't capture the complete count of Indigenous candidates nationally, but is updated regularly.)

Nine Indigenous candidates made it to November races for federal offices, according to the databases since ICT has been keeping track from 2018 to 2026. There were also nine candidates in 2018. In 2020, there were 15 Indigenous candidates running for federal offices that made it to the general election, in 2022 there were 13, and there were 12 in 2024.

This is the highest number of Indigenous candidates to run for federal offices in an election year since 2018. There were a total of 25 candidates running for Congress in 2026 alone. The previous record was 21 candidates during the 2020 election.

This general election 55 percent of the Indigenous congressional candidates are women.

As of Sep 2, there were nine Indigenous candidates from eight federally-recognized tribes on November ballots. Only three are incumbents.

In Alaska, Democratic socialist, David Leslie, Iñupiaq, did qualify as the fourth candidate to head to the general election in the state's rank-choice voting system. He withdrew on Aug. 31.

In no particular order, here are the nine Indigenous candidates vying for federal office:

Peggy Flanagan
Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, White Earth Nation, is running for the U.S. Senate. She won the Democratic primary on Aug. 11 against four other candidates. Flanagan garnered nearly 400,000 votes, which translates to a comfy 59 percent of the total.

The Republican challenger Michele Tafoya got around 202,000 votes. The Cook Political Report has this race as "Likely Democrat." If Flanagan wins in November, she would become the first known Native American woman to be a U.S. senator, and only the fifth known Native American to serve in

the Senate. She graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2002 with a degree in American Indian studies and child psychology. Flanagan's political career started three years later, in 2005, when she was elected at 25 as the youngest person to serve on the Minnesota School Board. Flanagan was elected to the state legislature during a special election in 2015 and served until 2019. She left the state legislature to serve as lieutenant governor alongside Democratic Gov. Tim Walz. She served two terms. Previously, Flanagan had planned to run for Minnesota governor but instead chose to run for the U.S. Senate.

She is running on a platform of affordability for families and an economy that allows people to live the life they want.

Claire Valdez
Claire Valdez, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, is running to represent New York's 7th Congressional District. If elected she would be the first Native American to represent New York state in Congress. She won the Democratic primary on June 23, over four other candidates. Valdez received 56 percent of the votes.

In November, she will face four other candidates. Her biggest challenger is Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, who won the Working Families primary on June 23. Reynoso also ran to be the Democratic nominee but lost to Valdez by almost 13,000 votes.

Valdez has been endorsed by Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-Vermont, and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. Given her heavily Democratic district, she is likely to win in November.

Mary Peltola
Mary Peltola, Yup'ik, was the first Alaska Native elected to Congress. She served in the U.S. House in Alaska's at-large district, meaning she was the only House member and represents the entire state. Peltola held that seat from 2022 to 2025, losing reelection.

Peltola is running for an open U.S. Senate seat and if elected would be the first Alaska Native to serve in the Senate. Alaska has a non-partisan primary election and uses ranked-choice voting. She won the primary with 48 percent of the votes with just under 71,000 ballots, according to an Aug. 18 election summary report by Alaska's election office. She is running against incumbent Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, who is married to Julie Fate Sullivan, Koyukon Athabascan. They have three children who are also Koyukon Athabascan. Sullivan received a little over 62,500 votes.

This is going to be a close race. Cook Political Report has this race as a "Toss Up."

Peltola was first elected to the state legislature in 1998 at the age of 24. She was sworn into office in 1999 and served for a decade. From 2011 to 2013, she was on the city council for Bethel, Alaska.

Her platform focused on making life affordable for Alaskans by lowering gas prices, increasing wages and lowering taxes.

Jonathan Nez
Jonathan Nez, Navajo, is running for the U.S. House as a Democrat. He is seeking election to Arizona's 2nd Congressional District. He advanced from the Democratic primary on July 21, running unopposed. He garnered a little over 53,000 votes. He is up against the Republican incumbent, U.S. Rep. Eli Crane.

Arizona's 2nd Congressional District crosses the sovereign lands of the Navajo Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, White Mountain Apache, San Carlos Apache, Havasupai, Hualapai and Hopi Tribe. From 2012 to 2020, the congressional map strengthened the Native vote but this was dismantled during redistricting in 2021.

Nez served one term as Navajo Nation president and one term as vice-president. His political career started in 2004, at 29, when he was

elected vice-president of Shonto Chapter House, one of the biggest communities on the Navajo Nation. Then, Nez was elected to the Navajo Nation Council in 2007. He was reelected three times. Nez left the legislative branch of the Navajo government when he was elected vice-president of the nation — joining the executive branch.

Nez was elected as Navajo Nation president in 2018 and led the Navajo Nation through the Covid-19 pandemic. This is his second time running for Congress.

Nez's "Warrior Up Agenda" focuses on four pillars: "supporting families by lowering cost of healthcare and housing, water is life and food is medicine, building sustainable long-term rural infrastructure, and tackling corruption and holding Washington accountable," according to his campaign website.

Sharice Davids
U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk, is running to secure her fifth term as the U.S. representative for Kansas' 3rd Congressional District. As of 2026, she is the longest-serving Native American congresswoman and the first openly LGBTQ+ Native American elected to Congress.

Davids, a Democrat, made history as one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress. She was sworn-in alongside then-Rep. Deb Haaland, D-New Mexico.

Davids advanced from the Democratic primary on Aug. 4, winning over one other candidate, with nearly 73,000 votes. As of August 25, Cook Political Report has her race as "Likely Democrat."

Davids will face two other challengers, Eric Jenkins, Republican, and Steve Hohe, Libertarian.

Davids went from Johnson County Community College to the prestigious Cornell Law School located in upstate New York. From there she worked with Native nations to address economic and community development needs on sovereign lands. This work motivated her to apply for

Continued on Page 12



Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan could be headed to the U.S. Senate. (Photo courtesy of Peggy Flanagan for Minnesota)



Claire Valdez (Courtesy of Kara McCurdy)



Mary Peltola with a supporter during an August 16 canvass launch in southcentral Alaska. (Photo courtesy of Alaskans for Mary)



Sharice Davids is the longest serving Native American woman in Congress. (Photo courtesy of Sharice for Congress)



Oklahoma Republican Rep. Tom Cole speaks with reporters following a closed-door meeting of the House Republican Conference inside the Capitol on Jan. 10, 2024. (Jennifer Shutt, States Newsroom)



Jonathan Nez poses with children holding his campaign signs during the Central Agency Fair in Chinle, Arizona. (Photo courtesy of Jonathan Nez for Congress)

COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

We're excited to share the results of our Comprehensive Needs Assessment at General Council!

Stop by our table

Come visit us at our table to learn more about what we heard from our districts and what the results tell us about our needs, priorities, and future direction.



At General Council, we will:

Present the Results

Join us for a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the key findings from the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.

Get a copy emailed

Want to review the results later? We'll email you a copy after you provide an email address.

Watch the Close-Out Video

We'll also be sharing our Comprehensive Needs Assessment close-out video at General Council.

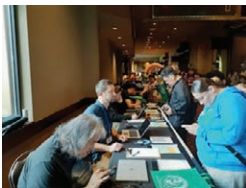
Your participation, feedback, and voices helped make this assessment possible. We look forward to sharing what we learned with you!

COME SEE US AT GENERAL COUNCIL!

Stop by our table. Ask questions. Learn about the results.

Hope to see you there!

Contact: Darcy.Funmaker@ho-chunk.com



Archery And Crossbow Deer Hunting Seasons To Open Sept. 12

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds deer hunters that the archery and crossbow seasons open this Saturday, Sept. 12, and run through Sunday, Jan. 3, 2027. (*Archery/ crossbow seasons will continue through Jan. 31, 2027 in select Metro subunits and select Farmland Zone counties.)

As hunters head out to the woods, be sure to make safety the number one priority and always use a harness, haul line and maintain three points of contact when getting in and out of a tree stand.

The DNR also reminds hunters that there were updates to several Deer Management Units (DMUs) in 2025. Refer to the updated Season Structure and Management Zone maps to see if the unit you hunt in has changed. Hunters will need to know their management zone and DMU number/county when purchasing an authorization/license and registering their deer.

Bonus antlerless harvest authorizations remain available in many units. Bonus antlerless harvest authorizations may be filled using any weapon type during the appropriate season with the appropriate license but must be filled in the designated zone, unit and land type (public or private).

The 2026 Deer Forecast provides chronic wasting disease (CWD) program updates, volunteer opportunities and district forecasts.



Stay safe and enjoy the hunt this fall. Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

For more information on how to purchase a deer license, finding places to hunt and other hunting programs, please visit the DNR's Deer Hunting webpage.

Around 95% of the funding for the DNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management comes from the fees from hunting, trapping and fishing licenses and a federal tax on weapon and ammunition purchases. These funds directly support wildlife population surveys, habitat restoration projects, wildlife disease monitoring efforts, running of the hunting and trapping seasons, and the maintenance for 650,000 acres of public land managed for hunting, trapping and other outdoor recreation activities. Thank you to everyone who purchases a license each year and supports wildlife management in Wisconsin.

Continued from Page 11 the highly sought after White House Fellowship. She was one of 16 selected.

She worked in the Department of Transportation under the Obama, and then Trump administrations. Davids went from being a White House fellow to campaigning to represent Kansas' 3rd Congressional District.

Davids is running on a platform that centers her constituents by focusing on being a voice for Kansans. Her priorities include lowering cost of living, and supporting the growth of good-paying jobs.

Tom Cole
U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, Chickasaw, is the longest-serving Native American member of Congress and is seeking his 13th reelection. The Republican was first elected to represent Oklahoma's 4th Congressional District in 2002 and is influential within the GOP. He was chair of the House Rules Committee and currently chairs the House Appropriations Committee — one of the most powerful committees in Washington.

Cole has an extensive history in politics, beginning with his time as a staffer for former U.S. Rep. Mickey Edwards, R- Oklahoma, in 1982. He was chairman of the Oklahoma Republican Party in 1985, later being elected to the Oklahoma state legislature as a senator. He chaired the National Republican Congressional Committee from 2006 to 2008. He was also chief of staff to the chairman of the Republican National Committee at the turn of the century.

It was no surprise that Cole advanced from the primary to the general election. He won with 71 percent of the votes.

He is likely to win again this November in heavily Republican Oklahoma.

Cole has been endorsed by President Donald J. Trump.

His platform focuses on supporting a strong national defense, advocating for tax payers and small businesses as well as his firm support of tribal sovereignty and tribal governments.

Josh Brecheen
U.S. Rep. Josh Brecheen, Choctaw, was first elected to represent Oklahoma's 2nd Congressional District in 2022. As a freshman representative, he made headlines after joining a group of other Republican House members who opposed California Rep. Kevin McCarthy's bid for House speaker. It took 12 rounds of voting before Brecheen changed his vote in favor of McCarthy.

Brecheen secured the Republican nomination with 79 percent of the votes on June 16, over one other challenger.

Brecheen will likely secure his third term this November in his heavily Republican district.

He first served in the Oklahoma State Senate with a campaign promise to do a self-imposed two term limit — meaning he would voluntarily pledge to step down from his seat after serving two terms. In 2018, Brecheen kept this promise by not seeking reelection. Brecheen is a fourth-generation rancher. His wife is Kacie Brecheen and together they have four children, and reside on their ranch in southeastern Oklahoma.

Brecheen has been endorsed by Trump.

His priorities include "draining the swamp," enacting federal term-limits, protecting Medicare and

Social Security and supporting a strong national defense.

N'kiyla "Jasmine" Thomas
N'kiyla "Jasmine" Thomas, Chickasaw, made headlines this year as a Democratic socialist who progressed to the general election. She is running to serve in the U.S. Senate to represent Oklahoma and replace incumbent U.S. Sen. Kevin Hern, Republican, who is her biggest challenger.

Oklahoma is a very conservative state, making this a tough race for Thomas. In 2024, Trump won in every single county. In total, he got 66 percent of the votes.

Thomas was one of two winners for the June 16 Democratic primary. Oklahoma election law requires candidates to receive over 50 percent of the votes to avoid a runoff.

During the runoff election on Aug. 25, she won over a more moderate Democrat with a lot more campaign funding. Thomas is a licensed practical nurse and has never before run for office.

The 31-year-old said she faced institutional headwinds as a nursing student in Tennessee at a for-profit college that were stressful and emotionally taxing. She said in a social media video that the episode led to depression.

Her experience prompted her to advocate strongly for herself and — after years — she was able to have some of her nursing school credits transferred and recognized by the state of Oklahoma. She eventually became a licensed practical nurse.

Her platform focuses on addressing health care issues from understaffing of nurses to accessing autism therapies. She also supports LGBTQ+ and women's rights to ensure equality.

Sean McCann

Sean McCann, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is running to represent Michigan's 4th Congressional District. He advanced from the Democratic primary on Aug. 4. Winning with 67 percent of the votes over Diop Harris, a citizen of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi.

McCann currently serves in the Michigan legislature as a senator.

He is facing two other candidates in the general election. As the Cook Political Report has this race as competitive for Democrats with only a 3 point Republican margin, Michigan could elect its first Native American member of Congress.

McCann's political career began at age 28, when he was elected to the Kalamazoo City Commission in 1999 and held that seat for nine years. Then, McCann was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2011 and served four years.

He's been a Michigan state senator for three years. As a state legislator, he has been the majority and minority vice-chair for several committees including Natural Resources and Agriculture, Appropriations, and the decommissioned Energy and Technology.

McCann's campaign

platform focuses on making healthcare affordable, protecting Medicaid and lowering the cost of living.



N'kiyla "Jasmine" Thomas (Photo courtesy of N'Kiyla for OK)



Michigan State Sen. Sean McCann. (Photo courtesy of Michigan Legislature)



Josh Brecheen at an event. (Photo courtesy of Josh Brecheen for Congress)



Name Printed or Typed
08/10/26

HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
REGULAR MEETING
BELOIT, WI
AUGUST 18, 2026

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

Roll Call:

- President Jon Greendeer-P
Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-EX
Rep. Phyllis Smoke-VC
Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
Rep. Paul Fox-VC
Rep. Damian Thundercloud-EX
Rep. Stephanie Begay-P
Rep. Kyle White Eagle-EX
Rep. Shelby Visintin-P 10:01 a.m.
Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-P
Rep. Edward Mullen-VC
Rep. David Greendeer-VC
Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

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

Opening Prayer: Shane Yellow Thunder offered a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Rep.

Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Legislative Meeting-August 4, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the August 4, 2026 Legislative Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Phyllis Smoke. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commission Reports:

Gaming Commission Report

Gaming Commissioner Toni Funmaker is online. A written report was submitted.

Government Administration Commission-August 6, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve the August 6, 2026 Government Administration Commission Meeting minutes with corrections. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Support and Consent to Contract BIA Tribal Court Programs

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 08-18-26 A**, Support and Consent to Contract BIA Tribal Court Programs. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

General Council Payout Master

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to request Legislative Legal draft a resolution for the General Council Payout Master for next session. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business: No agenda items.

New Business:

Resolution-Approval of Amendments to the Worker’s Compensation Plan

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to adopt **Resolution 08-18-26 B**, Approval of Amendments to the Worker’s Compensation Plan. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution-Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Fatherhood is Sacred, Motherhood is Sacred Conference

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adopt **Resolution 08-18-26 C**, Authorization for Paid Administrative Leave for Fatherhood is Sacred, Motherhood is Sacred Conference. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Meetings:

D1 Nįjoxawanį – August 12, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by JoVanna White Eagle to donate \$20,000 for the Jackson County Humane Society Animal Shelter to assist with the purchase of a new vehicle. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Ho-Chunk Police Department and Department of Justice the **MOTION** by JoVanna White Eagle to have Ho-Chunk Nation Police Department provide more detail on their reports. Reports should include drug related, alcohol related and overdoses incidences within the community. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Attorney General, Office of the President, and the Ho-Chunk Nation Police Department the **MOTION** by Darcy Funmaker to formally request information from the Attorney General about data usage and access related to Flock cameras and provide information back to the community. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to Legislature the **MOTION** by Wilfrid Cleveland for Legislature to

oppose data centers on Ho-Chunk Nation properties. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Darcy Funmaker to add \$30,000 to the Education PreK-12 program. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D1 Maqnįco Horuzra – August 13, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Abel Martinez to renew the Language Instructor’s contracts an increase payment up to \$10,000 each for this year. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Libby Fairchild to donate to the Peggy Flannigan campaign in the amount of \$3,500. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Phyllis Smoke to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Libby Fairchild to donate \$7,000 to the Amy Klobuchar campaign. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D2 Hįnųkwās– August 10, 2026

Continued on Page 15

Continued from Page 1 residents in 2021, compared with 27.2 among white residents. A typical day at Thundermaker begins with relatives making their beds, preparing meals and eating together. They generally arrive at the center around 9 a.m. and greet one another, sometimes using introductions in their tribal languages. Cedar, sage or sweetgrass may be used before the day’s activities begin. Mornings are generally dedicated to clinical group sessions. Afternoons may include individual counseling, case management, cultural activities, vocational training, hiking or fishing. Relatives also lead peer groups and support one another. Thundermaker offers intensive outpatient treatment, counseling, psychiatric support, medication management and case management. Each relative receives an individualized treatment plan addressing substance use and co-occurring mental health needs. The center also offers educational and vocational opportunities. Some relatives have enrolled at Yavapai College, while others receive construction and job training. Thundercloud said the goal is to address the issues underlying addiction while helping relatives develop the stability and skills needed after treatment. “We don’t want people to only think of themselves as addicts,” Thundercloud said. “There’s some problems that we’ve had in life. Let’s figure out what the core issues are.” Cultural programming is incorporated throughout treatment rather than treated as

an occasional activity. Relatives participate in weekly sweat lodge ceremonies and may learn songs, work with traditional medicines, make beadwork and regalia, prepare Indigenous foods or attend powwows and gatherings. “Ceremony is treatment. Culture is prevention,” Funmaker said. Although some ceremonies offered at Thundermaker are Lakota-based, Thundercloud said the purpose is not to lead every relative toward the same traditions. Instead, the center introduces relatives to ceremony and encourages them to reconnect with their own nations and teachings when they return home. Funmaker said many relatives arrive without access to elders, language speakers or cultural teachers. Thundermaker gives them space to ask questions and learn without being judged for what they may not know. “We can’t truly learn if we don’t have a sober mind,” Funmaker said. A Hopi relative who has spent the past year at Thundermaker described the experience anonymously as a journey of growth and healing. “I chose to come to Thundermaker Wellness Center because I wanted a place where I could continue my healing and recovery while also connecting with culture, community and spirituality,” the relative said. “I believe recovery is more than just staying sober, it’s about healing the mind, body and spirit.” The relative said traditional and agricultural programs, counseling, wellness practices and group support helped them work on recovery in different

ways. “Group support has also helped me realize that I am not alone, and that healing can happen through a connection with others,” the relative said. Preparing relatives to return home begins before they leave. Staff members help connect them with counseling, recovery meetings, behavioral health providers, sober housing and other resources in their communities. Treatment length depends on each person’s needs. Thundermaker leaders said they generally recommend at least three to six months of intensive treatment, followed by longer-term housing, employment or educational support when needed. “What we’re doing isn’t curing anyone,” Thundercloud said. “We hopefully stay sober forever, but sometimes people go home and have a slip-up. But if you plant good enough seeds, they’ll be able to recover.” Ho-Chunk citizens may contact Thundermaker directly to inquire about treatment. Center leaders emphasize that Thundermaker is a licensed treatment facility and encourage interested tribal members to ask whether it is available as a treatment option. For more information, contact Thundermaker Wellness Center at (928) 531-1930, email admissions@thundermakerwellness.com or visit www.thundermakerwellness.com. Thundermaker will also have a booth at this year’s Ho-Chunk Nation General Council, where tribal members can meet representatives and learn more about its services.



Continued from Page 14
MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the next Finance Commission Meeting the **MOTION** by Donald Greengrass to request \$12,100 made payable to Tracy Littlejohn with complete reconciliation within 30 days of the event. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Note: The request is for the Indigenous Peoples Day Event.

D2 Hoxaikeja/Hoguceja/Njzhakisuc – August 13, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the Election Board and Department of Justice the **MOTION** by Cindy Tack for the Election Board to not accept ballots without the proper postage. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Note: Attorney General Gardner stated ballots without proper postage will be sent to the sender for the sender to pay for postage and resend.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the Legislature the **MOTION** by Christine Funmaker-Romano Legislators draft a working plan with the goal of attaining monies that support a structure for housing that supports the individuals returning from inpatient/outpatient/incarceration. First draft to be completed by the next area meeting for review by the area. Second by Rep. Tracy Thundercloud. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to District 2 Representatives the **MOTION** by Cindy Tack for D2 Representatives to vote against the \$100 gas voucher for D4 area meeting. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 5-1(Rep. Tracy Thundercloud)-3(Rep. Sandra Whitewing, Rep. Edward Mullen, Rep. David Greendeer) **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Tešišik – August 5, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to Department of Administration and Office

of the President the **MOTION** by Cheri Byhre to get the fax machine at Milwaukee Branch Office looked at by IT as soon as possible. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Ashley Vergara to get \$3,500 for the Milwaukee Christmas Party. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Shelby Visintin to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Ashley Vergara to get \$1,500 for the Milwaukee Halloween Party. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Pac cinqk – August 10, 2026

No motions.

D3 Tee hoikšek – August 11, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to the Department of Housing and Office of the President the **MOTION** by Pam Wilber due to the emergent need of the community, bring back the construction worker position to the Green Bay area and post it immediately. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D3 Tejop – August 12, 2026

No motions.

D3 Cexhaci – August 13, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to TABLE the D3 Cexhaci meeting minutes until after Executive Session. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D4 Guųšgonqk – August 10, 2026

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to refer to the Legislature/Election Code Workgroup, Attorney General, and the Election Board the **MOTION** by Ben Krause that Legislature clarify and amend the Election Code in haste and have Legislature require

that a candidate’s residency be required for 1 year. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to refer to Office of the President, Department of Education and Legislature the **MOTION** by Ben Krause that Legislature give a true increase to the scholarship division so they can award all Ho-Chunk students that are currently getting their degrees, in haste, to cover the \$1.6 M deficit in Department of Education. Second by Rep. Sandra Whitewing. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D4 Virtual Meeting – August 12, 2026

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to refer to Office of the President and Department of Business the **MOTION** by Victoria Stacy Goodthunder to request that the Ho-Chunk RV park pond be safe and accessible for tribal members to utilize the pond, and to request the Department of Business, Ho-Chunk RV Park/9 Eagles present for our next virtual meeting and provide a presentation. Second by Rep. Edward Mullen. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

READ FOR THE RECORD:

MOTION by Reta Littlegeorge to rescind the July 15 motion for a gas stipend for 100 dollars.

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to refer to Office of the President and Legislature the **MOTION** by Victoria Stacy Goodthunder to request making an online member portal, intranet access for tribal members as this is an ongoing matter and needs to be resolved to help our members participate and vote, streamline communication with tribal members, services and voting in the Nation. Second by Rep. Edward Mullen. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to refer to Office of General Council the **MOTION** by Victoria Stacy Goodthunder that General Council food distribution have a cap of \$60,000 for food. Second by

Rep. Edward Mullen. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to refer to Office of the President and Department of Business the **MOTION** by Victoria Stacy Goodthunder to request the Department of Business (or delegate) present on Beloit casino and what’s going on there, at the next virtual area meeting for D4. Second by Rep. Edward Mullen. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

D2 Ho’ųņi Xųņųņik – August 11, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the Finance Commission the **MOTION** by Marie Lewis to approve \$1,920 funding request for the Halloween Party payable to Deana Mitch with full reconciliation within 30 days of the event. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to refer to the D2 Representatives the **MOTION** by Alicia Blackhawk for the D2 Representatives to look into a new community/youth building for the Tomah Community. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Department of Administration and Office of the President the **MOTION** by Leah Walters for the Department of Administration to do building maintenance report. Second by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

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

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 10:33 a.m.

The meeting recessed for lunch and a tour of Ho-Chunk Gaming Beloit at 11:35 a.m., and was called back to order at 12:30 p.m. Quorum is established.

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 2:25 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. David Greendeer to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Stephanie Begay. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Meetings (Re-visited):

D3 Cexhaci – August 13, 2026

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Department of Justice the **MOTION** by Ona Garvin to nominate Carmen Redcloud to be the Law Enforcement Commissioner for Wood County. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle to refer to Office of the President and Behavioral Health the **MOTION** by Ona Garvin that the Behavioral Health Division of Ho-Chunk Health Department inform tribal membership of services, locations, transportation, and professional staff in an article in the Ho-Chunk Worak. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Legislative Meeting to September 9, 2026 at the Tribal Office Building in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Second by Rep. Shelby Visintin. 9-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Legislative Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

**HO-CHUNK NATION
LEGISLATURE
EMERGENCY SPECIAL
MEETING
QUARLES
MADISON, WI
AUGUST 25, 2026**

Call to Order: Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr. called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

Roll Call:

- President Jon Greendeer-EX
- Vice President Lambert Cleveland, Jr.-P
- Rep. Phyllis Smoke-VC
- Rep. Tracy Thundercloud-P
- Rep. Paul Fox-VC
- Rep. Damian Thundercloud-P
- Rep. Stephanie Begay-P

- Rep. Kyle White Eagle-P
- Rep. Shelby Visintin-VC
- Rep. Sarah Lemieux-White Eagle-EX
- Rep. Edward Mullen-VC
- Rep. David Greendeer-VC
- Rep. Sandra Whitewing-VC

VC-Video Conference

Determination of Quorum: Quorum is established at 2:40 p.m.

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Executive Session (Business

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

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

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 2:42 p.m.

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 3:45 p.m.

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to ratify all action taken in Executive Session. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 10-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.** *Rep. Tracy Thundercloud is out of the room; Rep. Shelby Visintin is not online.*

Amendment to the Agenda:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to add under New Business A. Public Relations Item. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business:

Public Relations Item

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to approve \$3,290 payable to Christine’s Creative Screen Printing for General Council t-shirts, with funding coming from the Public Relations line item. Second by Rep. Damian Thundercloud. 7-1(Rep. Edward Mullen)-3(Rep. Shelby Visintin, Rep. David Greendeer, Rep. Phyllis Smoke) **MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjournment:

MOTION by Rep. Stephanie Begay to adjourn the Emergency Special Legislative Meeting. Second by Rep. Paul Fox. 11-0-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Emergency Special Legislative Meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

NOTICE OF RULES OF SECRETARIAL ELECTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026



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

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

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

Mail and in person procedures:

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

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

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

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

LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

To amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, would be as follows, with underlined text as new language added to Article II, to add Section 1(b) of the Constitution as follows:

“(b) All descendants of persons listed in Section 1(a), provided, that such persons are at least one-fourth (1/4) Ho-Chunk blood. All persons who were duly enrolled as Ho-Chunk Nation members as of December 31, 1999, will be considered full blood or 4/4 Ho-Chunk Blood.”

g. Challenges to Results; Amendments.

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

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

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

ELIGIBLE VOTERS: Any enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation who is at least eighteen (18) years old and who has resided in their respective district for at least three (3) months. See Election Code Sec. 11 (a) (b).

ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES: Any individual whose name does not appear on the eligible voters list can claim the right to vote by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board. Any eligible voter may challenge the eligibility of an individual’s name appearing on the eligible voters list by presenting a written challenge to the Election Board.

The Election Board shall rule on all written challenges to the list of eligible voters immediately after the close of the challenge period. Section 11. c. ii. (August 30, 2026, at 4:00 p.m).

Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board
W8801 Mission Road
P.O Box 247
Black River Falls, WI. 54615
TELEPHONE (715)284-8900
TOLL FREE (800)890-0583
E-MAIL: Election.board@ho-chunk.com

Ballots may be returned by overnight mail, so they may be received at the Election Board Office or the polling places prior to the Election Day. NOTE THAT FEDEX and UPS NEXT DAY AIR DOES NOT DELIVER IN BLACK RIVER FALLS ON SATURDAYS.

POSTING ELECTION RESULTS: The Election Board shall certify and post the official election results within three (3) days after the date of election.

CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS: Any member of the Ho-Chunk Nation may challenge the results of any election results within ten (10) days after the Election Board certifies the results. The Trial Court shall hear and decide a challenge to any election within twenty (20) days after the challenge is filed in the Trial Court.

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

SECRETARIAL ELECTION

Saturday, September 19, 2026

POST NOTICE OF ELECTION

Monday, June 22, 2026

POST ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST

Thursday, August 20, 2026

CHALLENGES TO THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS LIST MUST BE RECEIVED

SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2026 PRIOR TO 4:00 PM

All MAIL BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED BY

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

LAST DAY TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT BALLOT

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

By 4:00 pm

ALL BALLOTS DUE TO POST OFFICE BOX BY

Saturday September 19, 2026

OR WILL ACCEPT AT GENERAL COUNCIL UNTIL POLLS ARE CLOSED

Ballots will be accepted in-person at the Election Board Office till closing day Friday, September 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

CERTIFICATION WILL BE HELD on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at HCG- Wisconsin Dells starting at 9 a.m.

Amended Post 08/04/2026