

LITTLE RIVER

CURRENTS



LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
GAACHING ZIIBI DAAWAA ANISHINAABEK

TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

ZIISIBAAKADAKE GIIZIS | April 2024
-Sugar moon-



SAVE THE DATE
JULY 6TH & 7th, 2024

Tribal Leadership

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**Regular Tribal Council Meetings are
Wednesdays at 10:00AM via Zoom**

Tribal Council's Meeting Room

Join The Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99705796129?pwd=OWY5SVVnUis4Y0d1aGdqMXBjRjdxZz09>
Meeting ID: 997 0579 6129
Passcode: 1836

Zoom Tutorial

A Guide to Using Zoom!

The following excerpts were sourced at <https://support.zoom.com>

How do I sign up for Zoom?

You can sign up for a free Zoom account at <https://zoom.us/signup#/signup>

How to download the Zoom client.

You can download the Zoom Desktop Client for macOS, Windows, Linux, and ChromeOS. Download the Zoom Mobile App for iOS and Android, from our Downloads page or your app store.

Create your own account.

To sign up for your own free account, visit the Zoom sign-up page and enter your email address. You will receive an email from Zoom (no-reply@zoom.us). In this email, click Activate Account.

How to sign into your Zoom account on the web

You can sign into your Zoom account on the web at any time, at zoom.us/signin. Once you're logged in, use the panel on the left side to navigate the Zoom web portal. You can update your profile, schedule a meeting, edit your settings, and more.

How to update your profile

You can update your profile by adding a profile picture, set your time zone, update your password and more. To access your Zoom profile, sign into the Zoom web portal and click Profile.

How to join another user's meeting

There are many ways to join a meeting, but the easiest way is to click the join link that the meeting host provided. You can also click Join in your Zoom client and enter the meeting ID. You may also be prompted for a meeting passcode, so keep the meeting invite information available. You can join a meeting by clicking the meeting link or going to join.zoom.us and entering in the meeting ID. Learn more about joining a meeting.

Does Zoom have video tutorials?

There are many topics such as joining a Zoom meeting, basic in-meeting navigation, downloading & updating the zoom desktop client, and much more are available for viewing at: <https://learn-zoom.us/show-me>

Tribal Council Meetings

Tribal Council Meeting Schedule for April through December

Meetings occur Wednesdays at 10am (eastern) on the following dates.

April 3	July 10	October 2
April 10	July 17	October 9
April 17	July 2	October 16
April 24		October 23
May 1	August 7	November 6
May 8	August 14	November 13
May 15	August 21	November 20
May 22	August 28	November 27
June 5	September 11	December 4
June 12	September 18	December 11
June 26	September 25	December 18

Tribal Council Meeting & Work Sessions

Tribal Council publishes to the website, a weekly calendar of upcoming work sessions. Tribal Council uses the same On-Line Zoom link for their meetings and work sessions. All citizens are encouraged to attend meetings and work sessions.

Attend a Tribal Council Meeting

In-Person: 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI 49660
in the lodge located on the 2nd floor.

On-Line: Zoom Web Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2dobwevj>

Zoom Call-In Number: 1-929-436-2866
Zoom Meeting ID: 997 0579 6129
Zoom Passcode: 1836

Etiquette for On-Line Attendance

Identify Yourself: When asked to do so, share your first and last name along with your tribal ID number.

Mute Your Device: When you join the meeting, please mute your device. Mute again after you've spoken.

Raise Your Hand: When you want to be placed in the queue to speak, use the Zoom control to virtually raise your hand.

View PDFs of the weekly calendar here: <https://tinyurl.com/2763ve74>

View past weekly council meetings here: <https://tinyurl.com/27ja6coq>

Education

Critical Issues of Native American Education

Education is a fundamental right and a critical issue for all communities, including Native American communities. Native American education is marked by a complex interplay of challenges and opportunities. From the classrooms to the offices of policymakers, various stakeholders are grappling with critical issues that impact the educational journey of Indigenous students. In many schools, Native American history has been taught for decades. However, teachers and tribal leaders have expressed concerns that the history taught is often incomplete or inaccurate. There is a growing movement to broaden and improve the curriculum to better reflect Indigenous history and culture. One challenge lies in equipping educators with the cultural fluency necessary to engage effectively with Indigenous students. Too often, the historical and cultural contexts of Native communities remain obscured, leading to disconnections in the classroom. The call resounds for comprehensive teacher training programs, fostering cultural sensitivity, and infusing Indigenous perspectives into curricula.

At the policy level stands the urgent need for reform to dismantle systemic inequalities faced by Native American students. It's imperative for policymakers to coalesce with Indigenous communities, crafting culturally responsive policies that foster educational equity and embolden Native students to excel academically. In Michigan, the Title VI, Part A - Indian Education Services provides resources and information necessary for individuals at all levels of the system to support the ongoing education of Indigenous learners throughout Michigan. The Michigan Indian Education Council (MIEC), formed in 1977, is concerned with Native American education throughout the state and hosts an annual Native American Critical Issues Conference. Indian Education Act programs stand as beacons of support for Native American students. Yet, hurdles such as funding limitations and bureaucratic red tape often impede their effectiveness. Advocacy emerges as a critical tool, ensuring adequate resources and tailored initiatives to meet the diverse needs of Indigenous communities statewide.

There are several tribal schools in Michigan, including Kitchi Minogining Tribal School, Nah Tah Wahsh PSA, the Hannahville Indian School, and Saginaw Chippewa Academy. These schools provide a culturally relevant curriculum and are a critical part of the educational landscape for Native American students. Michigan is also home to three Tribal colleges: Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, and Bay Mills Community College. Tribal schools and colleges serve as sanctuaries of Indigenous education, nurturing culturally affirming environments. However, they grapple with funding shortages that threaten their efficacy. Strengthening support for these institutions becomes paramount, safeguarding Indigenous educational attainment and preserving cultural heritage within academic realms.

Tribal communities have established a variety of different educational options to help ensure ongoing sovereignty for education within their communities. States interact with tribes on a government-to-government basis. Tribal education departments wield significant influence in orchestrating educational initiatives and championing Indigenous needs. Constrained by limited resources, their potential remains curtailed.

Education

Native American studies programs offer invaluable avenues for exploring Indigenous histories and contemporary issues. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University offer Native American Studies programs. These programs allow students to explore the history and culture of American Indians while learning problem-solving and communication skills that promote change and innovation. Despite their significance, these programs often contend with underfunding and institutional neglect. Elevating their stature within academic institutions and broadening access to interdisciplinary coursework fosters greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous perspectives.

Native American education is a complex and multifaceted issue. As we grapple with the critical issues surrounding it, it is evident that collaborative action and concerted efforts are essential to driving meaningful change. By prioritizing teacher training, advocating for policy reform, bolstering support for tribal institutions, and strengthening Native American studies programs, we can work towards creating more equitable and inclusive educational opportunities for Indigenous students. It is only through collective engagement and commitment that we can truly honor the educational aspirations and cultural heritage of Native communities.



Election Board Meetings

Election Board Open Meetings

Engage with the Election Board

Open Election Board meetings provide an opportunity for tribal citizens to engage with the election board, ask questions, and stay informed about the electoral process within our community. All open meetings will begin at 7:15pm. If no one joins the meeting by 7:30 pm, the open session will adjourn and transition into a closed session. To participate in the open meetings, please ensure your questions are submitted by Monday of the week of the meeting you plan to attend. This allows the election board ample time to prepare and address inquiries effectively. Stay engaged and informed about the process in our community by attending the LRBOI Election Board open meetings. Your participation matters!

Contact the LRBOI Election Board

Submit questions, additional inquiries, and concerns to the Election Board via email at electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov.

Attend an Election Board Open Meeting

On-Line: Zoom Web Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2clx653y>

Zoom Call-In Number: 1-929-436-2866

Zoom Meeting ID: 9998 0833 8390

Zoom Passcode: 743234

Election Board Open Meeting Schedule

Meeting Dates	Submit Questions Deadline
April 18	April 15
May 16	May 13
June 20	June 17
July 18	July 15
August 15	August 12
September 19	September 16
October 17	October 14
November 21	November 18

Enrollment Department

Ensuring Accuracy with Tribal Citizen Addresses

The Enrollment Department plays a crucial role beyond the issuance of tribal identification (ID) cards. One of its primary responsibilities involves the meticulous handling of address corrections, a process integral to the smooth functioning of most tribal communication systems. There is much significance of maintaining accurate addresses on file with the Enrollment Department.

The Enrollment Department is the central hub for managing individual records within the tribe. This includes not only the issuance of tribal ID cards but also the critical task of updating and correcting addresses. Why is this so important? The answer lies in the efficient dissemination of most tribal information, particularly through mailings such as per capita checks.

When tribal mail is sent out to tribal citizens the accuracy of addresses becomes paramount. If a piece of mail is returned from the United States post office, it signals to the tribe that the contact information is outdated or inaccurate. In such cases, to prevent unnecessary expenses, the tribe refrains from sending any further mail until the citizen corrects their address.

Having the correct address on file with the Enrollment Department is not merely an administrative formality; it directly affects your ability to receive most communications and benefits from the tribe. Per capita checks, for instance, are a vital component of tribal support, and any disruption in their delivery can impact you and your family.

The decision to withhold further mailings until the member corrects their address is not just a measure to maintain accuracy; it also has financial implications. By avoiding unnecessary expenses associated with returned mail, the tribe can allocate resources more efficiently, directing funds towards other essential services.

You are encouraged to take an active role in this process, utilizing the forms available on the tribal website under Enrollment to update your address when it changes.

Link to forms: <https://tinyurl.com/2yjtvscg>



LRBOI Department Contacts

Department	Person	Telephone	Email
<u>Accounting</u>	Angela Rabb	231-398-6844	angelarabb@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Education</u>	Yvonne Parsons	231-398-6735	yvonneparsons@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Enrollment</u>	Mary Carpenter	231-398-6720	mcarpenter@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Facilities</u>	De-Ahna Underwood	231-299-7491	de-ahnaunderwood@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Family Services</u>	Dottie Batchelder	231-398-6741	dorothybatchelder@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Food Distribution</u>	Melanie Ceplina Jaime Friedel	231-398-6716 31-655-1041	melanieceplina@lrboi-nsn.gov jamiefriedel@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Health Clinic</u>	Janice Grant Gina Dahlke Clinic Office Health Service Main #	231-398-6624 231-398-6620 231-398-6601 231-723-8299	janicegrant@lrboi-nsn.gov gianadahlke@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Housing</u>	Tara Bailey Michelle Pepera	231-398-6879 231-398-6875	tarabailey@lrboi-nsn.gov michellepepera@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Human Resources</u>	Alicia Goff	231-398-6859	aliciagoff@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Members Assistance</u>	Jessica Steinberg	231-398-6739	jessicasteinberg@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Members Legal Assistance</u>	Mary Witkop	231-398-2234	marywitkop@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Natural Resources</u>	Frank Beaver Archie Martell	231-398-2191 231-398-2193	williambeaver@lrboi-nsn.gov archiemartell@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Pharmacy</u>		231-398-6853	
<u>Tax Office</u>	Valerie Chandler	231-398-6874	valeriechandler@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Tribal Historic Preservation</u>	Jay Sam Kenny Pheasant	231-398-6893 231-398-6892	jonniesam@lrboi-nsn.gov kennypheasant@lrboi-nsn.gov
<u>Utilities</u>	Gary Lewis	231-398-2285	garylewis@lrboi-nsn.gov

Election Board

Person	Telephone	Email
Kathy Gibson	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.org
Laura Echelburger	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.org
Lee Ivinson	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.org
Janine Sam	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.org
Shawna Gonzalez	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.org

LRBOI Service Location Information

MANISTEE AREA

Tribal Government Center

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI 49660
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288

Little River Health Service Center

2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI 49660
Main: 231-723-8299 / 888-382-8299
Office: 231-398-6601
Pharmacy: 231-398-3853

Food Distribution

2690 Dontz Rd
Manistee, MI 49660
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288
Office: 231-398-6716 / 231-655-1041

Housing Department

2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung
Manistee, MI 49660
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288
Office: 231-398-6875 / 231-398-6789

Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung
Manistee, MI 49660
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288
Office: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288

Justice Center

3031 Domres Road
Manistee, MI 49660
231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288

Natural Resources

310 Ninth St
Manistee, MI 49660
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288
Office: 231-723-1594 / 866-723-1594

MUSKEGON AREA

Tribal Office

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
1101 West Hackley
Muskegon, MI 49441
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288

Little River Health Service Center of Harvey

4905 S. Harvey St.
Norton Shore, MI 49441
Main: 231-723-8299 / 888-382-8299
Office: 231-398-6601
Pharmacy: 231-398-3853

*Services include Family Medicine,
Pharmacy and Radiology.*

Little River Health Center of Ellis

1478 E. Ellis Rd
Muskegon, MI 49444
Main: 231-723-8299 / 888-382-8299
Office: 231-398-6601
Pharmacy: 231-398-3853

*Services include Behavioral Health,
PRC Dept., Admin Center, Dictation Center,
Laboratory Facility, and Foot & Ankle Clinic.*

Education Department

LRBOI Education Department Programs

LRBOI offers several educational programs to assist citizens. Whether the citizen is college bound, or somewhere in between elementary school and being a high school senior, the Education department has programs available to assist students of all ages.

College/Vocation Bound

Higher Education Scholarship (HES)

The HES is available to any LRBOI citizen who is attending a non-profit accredited college or university, has applied for all other available financial aid, and shows unmet need. The award can provide a maximum of \$3500 per semester. Summer semester is not an eligible semester for this scholarship. The HES application is accessible here: <https://tinyurl.com/24ou9ryh> (If the unmet need is less than \$3500, the award will be less)

Vocational Education Assistance (VEA)

The VEA is available to any LRBOI citizen who is attending a state agency-approved or accredited vocational/technical program, has applied for all other available financial aid and shows unmet need. This award can provide a maximum of \$4,000 per semester/term/program. Please contact the Education Department to determine if the school you are considering will qualify. The VEA application is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2c7hoy2h> (If the unmet need is less than \$4000, the award will be less)

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW)

Tribal citizens in Michigan can utilize the MITW. The MITW is not a tribal program, but the Education Department, in combination with the Enrollment Department will process the MITW Waiver application for eligible tribal members. Those eligible are ¼ or more blood quantum, 12-month residents of Michigan, and attending a public college or university in Michigan. The MITW covers tuition only. Make sure to include a copy of your Michigan Driver's License or State of Michigan ID, Tribal ID, and if you choose, a copy of your Social Security Card. The MITW application is accessible at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2dospssvr>

College Book Stipend (CBS)

LRBOI citizens attending a non-profit accredited college or university, depending on the number of credits for which they are enrolled, may receive \$300, \$400, or \$600 to assist in purchasing college textbooks and supplies per semester. This program should be viewed as a reimbursement program as it is not always possible for a student to receive a CBS check before they need to purchase their books. Access the CBS application at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/22657y7k> (Print the application in color and submit the original application, photocopies are not accepted)

Education Department

LRBOI Student Services – Elementary, Middle and High School

Driver's Training Assistance

\$250 is available for assisting with driver's training expenses. Send a letter with the student's name, address, and tribal ID number, indicating you are seeking reimbursement or payment for Driver's Training. Must include a receipt for reimbursement or invoice for us to pay the vendor. This is available one-time only.

School Clothing & Activities (SC&A)

Student citizens enrolled in pre-school through 12th grade in January of a given year, are eligible for SC&A assistance, which is currently \$500, to be spent on either activity such as sports, camps, band, regalia, or other activities in which students participate, and/or school clothing.

This program is available from January 1 of a given year to December 1 of the same year. When you send the application, please attach receipts from the previous year's funding. In 2023, you may have already submitted your 2022 receipts. If so, please note that when you send in the application. When you receive your 2024 funding, hang on to the school clothing receipts to submit with the 2025 SC&A application.

If you are using part or all the funds for activities, you will need to submit a receipt to receive reimbursement or a bill or invoice for us to pay the vendor. The receipt or invoice must be submitted with the request. Funding used for school clothing, receipts are due when you reapply for the next calendar year funds, so between January 1 and December 1. The application link is: <https://tinyurl.com/233nuphb>

Tutoring Assistance

This program provides up to \$500 to assist with the costs of a qualified and approved tutor for tribal citizens that meet program eligibility requirements. The limited number of tutoring assistance grants per year are distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis to eligible applicants. The Education Department encourages tribal citizens to access free tutoring programs available in your area through the school, and other agencies.

Program eligibility requirements: Elementary students must be functioning at one grade level or more below grade level in reading and/or math. Middle school and high school students must be failing two or more classes.

Tutor qualification requirements: Tutors for tutees in elementary school must have completed one year of full-time college-level courses that must include a math course and a teaching reading course. Tutors for tutees in high school and middle school must have completed one year of full-time college-level courses that must include at least one college-level course in the subject area for which they will be tutoring.

Documentation for program eligibility requirements and tutor qualification requirements must be submitted with the application. The Tutoring Assistance application is accessible here: <https://tinyurl.com/25c3tt3v>

Education Department

High School Seniors

Senior Pictures

\$200 toward senior pictures. Send a letter with the student's name, address, and tribal ID number, indicating you are seeking reimbursement or payment for senior pictures. Must include the receipt for reimbursement or an invoice for us to pay the vendor.

Graduation Cap & Gown

\$125 toward cap, gown and announcements. This typically is the Josten's order, it may contain additional items such as extra tassel, class key, hoodie, etc. Receipt for reimbursement, or an invoice for payment to the vendor must be included. These items are available one-time only.

Class Ring

\$100 toward a class ring. Send a letter with the student's name, address, and tribal ID number, stating you are seeking assistance for a class ring. Include receipt for reimbursement, or an invoice for us to pay the vendor. This is available one-time only.

Computer

\$1000 for a computer and accessories. This program is not available to Seniors until January of their senior year. Submit a letter with the student's name, address, tribal ID number, indicating you are requesting the 12th Grade computer funds. You must attach something that verifies enrollment in 12th grade can include grades, or a letter from the school, or something that shows the student is enrolled in 12th grade. After the request, the student will receive a check. Receipts for purchases must be returned within 30 days to LRBOI Education Department, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee MI 49660



Education Assistance

Making Education Affordable: A Guide to Assistance with Education Costs

Education is a powerful tool that opens doors to opportunities, but the cost of obtaining it can often be a barrier. Fortunately, there are numerous resources available to assist students in making education more affordable and accessible. From federal aid to scholarships and textbook rental services, here's a guide to help you navigate the financial aspects of pursuing higher education.

Federal Student Aid

One of the primary sources of financial assistance for college students in the United States is Federal Student Aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the gateway to various forms of aid, including Federal Pell Grants. Pell Grants are awarded to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need, helping to cover tuition and other education-related expenses. Pell Grants provide financial assistance that doesn't require repayment. Link to application: <https://tinyurl.com/vvv7ke8>

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver

For tribal citizens in Michigan, the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver provides an opportunity to attend public colleges or universities in the state with tuition coverage. Eligible applicants must have a blood quantum of 1/4 or more, be 12-month residents of Michigan, and be enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the state. Apply for the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver by visiting this link to the application: <https://tinyurl.com/2dospsvr>

Scholarships

Scholarships are another valuable resource for students seeking financial assistance for education. Platforms like Fastweb simplify the scholarship search process by providing personalized recommendations based on students' profiles. Additionally, there are specific scholarships available for Native American students, such as those offered by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and American Indian Services (AIS). Explore a few scholarship opportunities at the links below:

Fastweb: <https://www.fastweb.com>

Scholarships.com: <https://tinyurl.com/you6gmla>

American Indian Science and Engineering Society: <https://tinyurl.com/26j28nzs>

American Indian Services: <https://tinyurl.com/26ujq8uh>

Indian Affairs Native Scholarship: <https://tinyurl.com/2barw4qq>

American Indian Education Fund: <https://tinyurl.com/29fegd5x>

Healthcare Career Scholarships: <https://tinyurl.com/26eltez2>

Education Assistance

Textbook Rental

Textbooks are essential for academic success, but they can also be costly. Textbook rental services offer a cost-effective alternative to purchasing textbooks outright. Companies like Chegg and Campus Books provide flexible rental options, free shipping, and refund guarantees, making it easier for students to access the materials they need for their courses. To rent textbooks for your classes, visit the websites of Chegg and Campus Books to browse their selection and rental terms.

Chegg: <https://tinyurl.com/24f7chaf>

Campus Books: <https://tinyurl.com/23agt84a>

Financial challenges may come with pursuing higher education, but there are resources available to help alleviate the burden. Whether through federal aid, scholarships, or textbook rental services, students can find assistance to make their educational goals a reality. Feel free to explore the provided links and take advantage of the available resources. Be proactive in exploring these options and don't hesitate to reach out to your college or institution's financial aid office for additional support. Remember that this list isn't exhaustive. With determination and access to resources, the path to education becomes more attainable for all. Best of luck on your educational journey!



Line 5 Pipeline Update

Support for the Bad River Band of Chippewa Indians

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians stands in solidarity with the Bad River Band of Chippewa Indians in their ongoing battle against Enbridge, a Canadian energy giant, over the Line 5 oil pipeline that traverses their tribal lands near Lake Superior. In a resolute show of support for their fellow tribal nation, the Little River Band's Tribal Council voted on February 21, 2022, to sign onto a letter being sent to President Biden, expressing unwavering support for the Bad River Band's rights and their demand for Enbridge to remove both themselves and their pipeline from the sacred tribal lands. The dispute between the Bad River Band and Enbridge has its roots in the expiration of easements in 2013 that permitted the operation of the Line 5 pipeline across a dozen parcels of the tribe's land. Concerned about the risk of an oil spill into the Bad River – their namesake – due to erosion along its banks, the Bad River Band rightfully refused to renew these easements. Despite Enbridge's proposal for a costly reroute of a 41-mile segment of the pipeline around the reservation, the Bad River Band remains steadfast in their rejection, citing valid concerns regarding the potential environmental hazards and the protection of their ancestral homeland. In a significant legal development, a U.S. District Court Judge ruled in June that Enbridge had been trespassing on the Bad River Reservation since the expiration of the easements in 2013. The judge ordered Enbridge to remove its Line 5 pipeline from those lands within three years. However, Enbridge has since appealed this decision, citing a 1977 treaty between the United States and Canada that they argue prohibits any disruption in the flow of oil between the two countries. Contrarily, the Bad River Band asserts that their tribal treaty rights from 1854 take precedence over the 1977 pipeline treaty.

The Little River Band's support for the Bad River Band echoes the sentiments of other Native American tribes across the continent who have stood up against Enbridge's pipeline projects. In Minnesota, native nations have vehemently opposed the Line 3 pipeline due to concerns about exacerbating the climate crisis, Enbridge's history of oil spills, and the infringement upon treaty rights. Similarly, the Bay Mills Indian Community in Michigan, along with other tribal nations, has contested Enbridge's Line 5 tunnel project beneath the Straits of Mackinac, advocating for their rights and environmental preservation. From the perspective of federally recognized tribes, opposition to Enbridge is rooted in fundamental concerns about treaty rights, land sovereignty, environmental conservation, and cultural heritage preservation. Enbridge's pipelines pose significant risks to tribal communities, their lands, and the ecosystems upon which they rely. The fight against Enbridge represents a broader struggle for indigenous rights, environmental justice, and the protection of our planet for future generations. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' unequivocal support for the Bad River Band of Chippewa Indians underscores the importance of tribal solidarity in the face of corporate interests that threaten indigenous sovereignty and environmental well-being. As the legal battle rages on, it is imperative that we continue to stand with indigenous communities like the Bad River Band in their fight for justice, dignity, and the preservation of our shared planet.

Snow Snake

Celebrating Tradition: Snow Snake Winter Fun

In the heart of winter, amidst the glistening snow and frosty air, the LRBOI community gathered once again to celebrate a cherished tradition: the Snow Snake competition. On Saturday, February 17, 2024, participants of all ages showcased their skill and camaraderie in this time-honored game, embodying the spirit of unity and joy.

Hosted by Natural Resources, Family Services, Bedabin, Native Connections, and Little River Casino Resort, the Snow Snake event brought together families and friends for a day filled with excitement and friendly competition. This gathering not only fosters a sense of community but also serves as a tribute to the rich heritage.

Snow Snake holds a special place in the history of indigenous communities, originating as a traditional game played during the winter months. Historically, it was a way for the men of the villages to lift their spirits upon returning from arduous hunting trips. The game, characterized by its skillful throwing of hand-made wooden snakes along snow troughs, has evolved into a cherished pastime, blending athleticism with cultural significance.

Everyone takes turns tossing the snow snake along a smooth trough carved into the snow, with the objective of achieving the greatest distance. The competition is fierce yet friendly, with participants reveling in the thrill of the game and the bonds formed through shared experience.

The 2024 Snow Snake competition saw participants of all ages showcase their talent and prowess. From the youngest competitors in the Tiny Tots category to the seasoned Elders, each participant left their mark on the snow-covered terrain. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, whose impressive throws exemplify the spirit of tradition and excellence.

Tiny Tots (0-4 years old)

- Jesse Blanton: 15' 3"
- Rae Wakemup: 9' 4"
- Benjamin Blanton: 6' 8"

Junior Adult (20-36)

- David Ni: 115' 8"
- Richie Bigford: 114' 1"
- Kaylee Ni: 108'
- Miranda Blanton: 83' 8"

Senior Adult (37-54)

- Corey Wells: 114' 7"
- Stormie Wakemup: 102' 1"
- Kim Hinmon: 75' 3"

Kids (5-12)

- Charlotte Wells: 61' 1"

Teens (13-19)

- Emily Stevens: 102' 3"
- Benjamin Sanchez Hinmon: 64' 2"
- Zoe Wells: 63' 1"
- Jelly Hinmon Sanchez: 36' 2"

Elders (55+)

- Roger Shalifoe: 121' 4"
- Jim Medacco: 112' 4"
- Gary DiPiazza: 73' 11"
- Ponce Zamborowski: 52' 8"
- Alice Battice: 44'

Snow Snake



Photos by Kimberly Hinmon and Joanne Green

Tight Lines For Troops

Celebrating Michigan Veterans Tight Lines for Troops Annual Fishing Tournament Returns in 2024

In a heartwarming tradition that continues to resonate deeply with both participants and spectators alike, the Tight Lines for Troops Annual Fishing Tournament for Michigan Veterans is set to make its triumphant return in 2024. This cherished event, born out of a desire to express gratitude to our military veterans, has grown into a profound testament to community support and appreciation.

The journey of Tight Lines for Troops began in 2010, when Captain Bob Guenthardt envisioned a day of fishing as a heartfelt gesture of thanks to those who have served our country. Little did he know then that his idea would evolve into an event that touches the lives of thousands of men and women, forging lasting memories, friendships, and bonds of camaraderie.

The impact of Tight Lines for Troops extends far beyond a day of fishing. For many veterans, it serves as a lifeline, rekindling a connection to life and offering hope for the future. The outpouring of support from the local community is evident in the Flag Welcome on the Riverwalk, a moving procession that honors returning veterans, some of whom never received a proper welcome home.

While the fishing tournament itself is reserved for registered participants, the entire community is invited to participate in the Flag Welcome, demonstrating their appreciation and support for those who have served. This collective effort is made possible through the dedication of over 50 Boat Captains, numerous sponsors, financial donors, volunteers, businesses, and citizens who contribute their time, resources, and enthusiasm to make the event a success.

At its core, Tight Lines for Troops is driven by a profound mission to unite organizations, businesses, sponsors, and communities in providing a free fishing tournament for Michigan veterans of all eras. Beyond the joy of fishing, the event aims to build relationships, share experiences, and foster a sense of patriotism and awareness of the ongoing need to support and honor our veterans.

Over the years, Tight Lines for Troops has welcomed over 2,300 veterans from more than 145 Michigan communities, donated over \$135,000 to Michigan veterans organizations, and reinvested 100% of funds raised back into the event. The dedication of over 50 Boat Captains and approximately 300 volunteers annually underscore the unwavering commitment of the Manistee area community to honoring its veterans.

In 2024, Tight Lines for Troops is proud to support three beneficiaries: the Michigan Veteran Homes, the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight, and the Manistee County Veterans Endowment Fund. These organizations play vital roles in providing care, support, and recognition to veterans and their families, embodying the spirit of gratitude and service that defines the tournament.

The highlight of this year's event is the Fishing Tournament for Michigan Veterans, scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. Participants and spectators are invited to line the Manistee River Channel from the harbor to the Maple Street Bridge, creating a moving salute to welcome back our American Heroes.

As Tight Lines for Troops prepares to cast its lines once again, it serves as a poignant reminder of the power of community, compassion, and gratitude. In honoring our veterans, we honor their service and sacrifices are never forgotten.

Join us in celebrating Michigan veterans and expressing our deepest gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Tight Lines for Troops welcomes all who wish to be part of this meaningful tribute to our American Heroes.

For more information about the Tight Lines for Troops Sponsorship Program or to participate in other opportunities to help, contact Bob Guenthardt by email at renegade22@att.net.

We need
YOU....



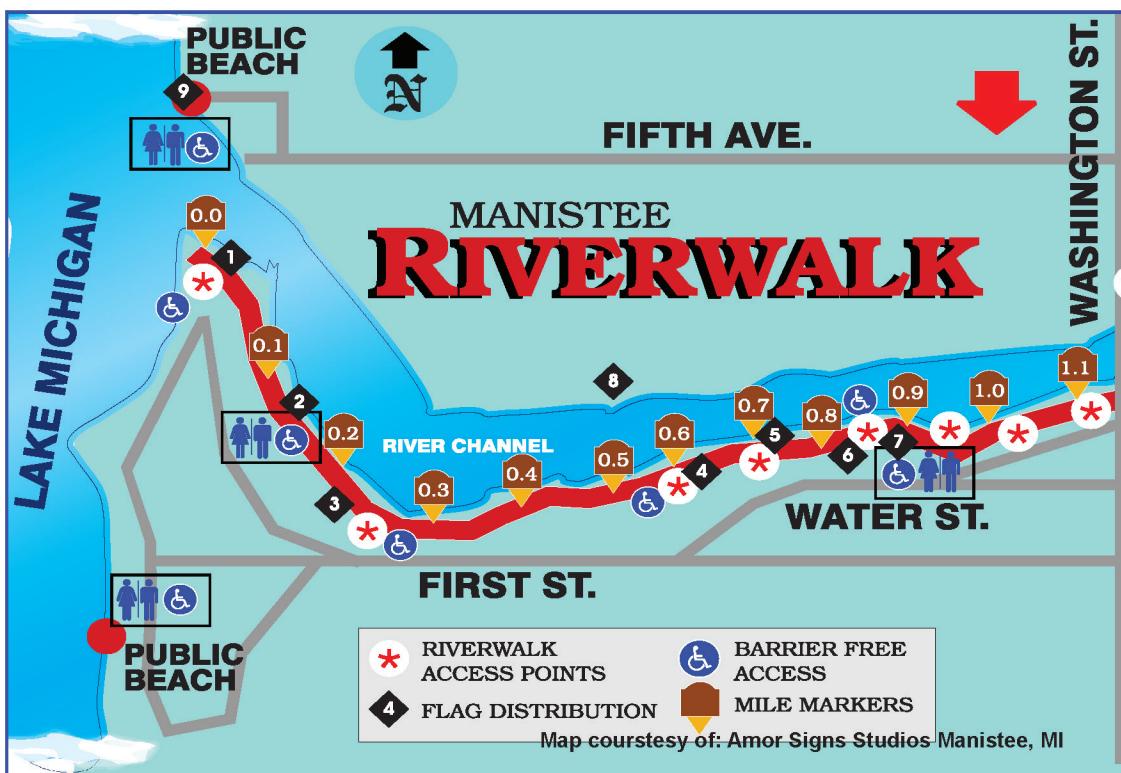
ANNUAL
**TIGHT
LINES**
FOR TROOPS

...to help Welcome Our Troops!

FISHING TOURNAMENT FOR MICHIGAN VETERANS

Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.

Help us line the Manistee River Channel from the harbor to the Maple Street Bridge to join in a very special moving salute to our American Heros!



1. First Street Beach
Stub Pier (Lions Pavilion)
2. West Side of First Street Boat Launch
3. East Side of First Street Boat Launch (Riverwalk)
4. Cedar St. Marina
5. Cedar St. Marina (West side of River Side Motel)
6. Elm Street (Waters Edge Dentistry)
7. Spruce Street (Johnson Funeral Home)
8. Ship Watch Marina
9. Fifth Avenue Beach/North Pier

◆ Denotes Tight Lines for Troops Flag Distribution Points #1-9 on map & listed to the right of the map. Look for a Rolling Thunder member at these locations to obtain a loaner flag or bring your own.

Please help us welcome these veterans back from their trip by lining the riverwalk along the Manistee River Channel!

Native American Critical Issues Conference

Native American Critical Issues Conference: A Celebration of Heritage and Unity

The 54th annual Native American Critical Issues conference, themed “Honoring All of Our Relations,” unfolded at the Little River Casino Resort from February 29 to March 2, 2024, drawing participants from across the region. Hosted under the guidance of Dr. Martin Reinhardt, President of the Michigan Indian Education Council (MIEC), the conference served as a poignant reminder of the enduring legacy and connection of Native American communities.

In his greeting, Dr. Martin Reinhardt, MIEC President, stated, “Our theme this year focuses on honoring all of our relations. As we gather here in Naaminitigong (Land Under the Trees), we will be thinking about how our actions honor the sacrifices our ancestors made on our behalf, as well as how we are impacting the future generations. Honoring All of Our Relations, from our position in time, we look back and say miigwech to our ancestors who sacrificed so much that we might enjoy mino-bimaadiz—the good life. We look forward and strive to make the world a better place for subsequent seventh generations. We look around us in all directions and acknowledge that we are part of a spiritual ecology that requires our adherence to long held principles regarding our relationships with each other and more than human relatives. We are reminded that ceremony is necessary to mark new beginnings as we commit to healing Mother Earth and in this way, we honor all of our relations.”

Throughout the conference, attendees engaged in a rich tapestry of discussions and presentations, delving into diverse topics central to Indigenous life and heritage. Among the highlights was a session on Anishinaabek “Coming of Age” Traditions and Protocol, offering profound insights into the rites of passage and cultural significance surrounding puberty and transitioning into adulthood for Indigenous youth. Grounded in Anishinaabe teachings, this session underscored the importance of preserving ancestral wisdom and fostering cultural continuity.

Further enriching the conference experience, Tribal Councilors Gary DiPiazza and Pam Johnson captivated the audience with a captivating exploration of the tribe’s history and culture. Their presentation not only honored the tribe’s past but also celebrated its vibrant traditions, weaving a narrative of resilience and heritage. The culmination of the presentation Dr. Martin Reinhardt led attendees in a spirited round dance, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of a hand drum.

As the curtains drew on the 54th Native American Critical Issues conference, its legacy echoed far beyond the confines of the venue. With hearts brimming with newfound knowledge and spirits uplifted by shared experiences, participants departed, carrying with them a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to honoring all of our relations. In a world marked by rapid change and uncertainty, gatherings such as these serve as beacons of hope, illuminating pathways towards understanding, unity, and cultural preservation.

Save The Dates

Save the Dates for Upcoming Tribal Events

Check the LRBOI Government Facebook page for more details and updates.

Elder's Meetings meet the first Saturday of every month, beginning at noon with luncheon at the Aki-Maadiziwin Community Center, unless otherwise scheduled. Elder's watch your mail for updates.

April

- April 5 & 6, 2024 – LRCR Spring Membership Yard Sale
- April 5, 2024 - Ogema's Spring Meet & Greet
- April 6, 2024 - Spring Membership Meeting
- April 7, 2024 - Elder's Meeting (10am)

May

- May 4, 2024 - Elder's Meeting

June

- June 1, 2024 - Elder's Meeting in Muskegon
- June 6, 2024 - Elder's Bus trip to Mt. Pleasant Industrial School Healing Event

July

- July 5, 2024 - Youth Dance
- July 6 & 7, 2024 - Jiingtamok
- July 26, 27 & 28, 2024 - Anishinaabe Family Language & Culture Camp

August

- August 3, 2024 - Elder's Meeting
- August 3, 2024 - Annual Budget Hearing

September

- September 7, 2024 - Elder's Picnic at the Gathering Grounds
- September 7, 2024 - Sturgeon Release

October

- October 4, 2024 - Ogema's Fall Meet & Greet
- October 5, 2024 - Fall Membership Meeting
- October 6, 2024 - Elder's Meeting (10am)

November

- November 1, 2 & 3, 2024 - Elder's Conference & Christmas Party

December

- December 5, 2024 - Children's Christmas Party

Tribal Government Holiday Observances

As valued tribal citizen, it's essential to stay informed about upcoming holidays and closures affecting LRBOI government offices. To assist you in planning accordingly, here's a comprehensive list of observed holidays and closures for the year 2024:

LRBOI Treaty Recognition Day

When: March 28.

Observed: Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Memorial Day

When: Last Monday in May.

Observed: Monday, May 27, 2024.

Independence Day

When: July 4.

Observed: Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Labor Day

When: First Monday in September.

Observed: Monday, September 2, 2024.

LRBOI Reaffirmation Day

When: September 21.

Observed: Friday, September 20, 2024.

Veteran's Day

When: November 11.

Observed: Monday, November 11, 2024.

Thanksgiving

When: Fourth Thursday in November.

Observed: Thursday, November 28, 2024.

Native American Heritage Day

When: Friday after Thanksgiving.

Observed: Friday, November 29, 2024.

Christmas Eve Day

When: December 24.

Observed: Tuesday, December 24, 2024. Half day closure. Closed Noon-5pm

Christmas Day

When: December 25.

Observed: Wednesday, December 25, 2024.



Holidays that fall on a Saturday are observed on Fridays and those falling on Sundays are observed on Mondays.

Additionally, our Ogema may declare additional holidays and closures. Updates will be shared on our government Facebook page and in the Currents newsletter, whenever possible.

If you need to contact someone during holiday closures, please consider reaching out via email or leaving a voicemail. Our government team members will respond at their earliest convenience upon returning to the office.

HAND DRUM MAKING CLASS

Please register supplies are limited

A photograph of a hand drum and two drumsticks resting on a log. The drum is made of a light-colored wood with a dark drumhead. The drumsticks are made of wood with dried, frayed ends. The background shows some greenery and a log.

April 28th
1-4 pm at AKI

Education Department
Contact Info
Debra 231-398-6724
Venus 231-398-6845

POLLINATOR PARTY



Join us in Celebrating Earth Day on April 13th.

We have a special presenter.

Kim Wood

Joining us to tell us about a pollinator.

The Bee

April 13th, 2024, 10-1:00

A Bee inspired lunch to Bee served.

For more info contact the Education Department

Yvonne 231-398-6735 or Debra 231-398-6724

NAME OUR QUEEN BEE CONTEST



We are adopting a Queen Bee and she will need a name. Do you have a name you would like to share with us for our special Bee.

Let us know at yvonnaparsons@lrboi-nsn.gov or debradavis@lrboi-nsn.gov . We will be awarding a prize to the person whose name is used for our Queen Bee

Join us for a special Pollinator Party where the winner of our Queen Bee naming contest will be announced, on April 13th, 2024, 10-1pm at the government center.

For more info contact Education Department:



Yvonne 231-398-6735 or

Debra Davis 231-398-6724



American Indian Health & Family Services



POW WOw IN THE

A large, stylized yellow 'D' logo is centered within the outline of the state of Michigan, which is filled with a light gray color.

Save The Date
**August
3rd
2024**

For more info
313-846-3718

All Dancers Welcome | No Drugs or Alcohol Allowed
No Pets Allowed, Except Service Animals
Organization Website: www.aihfs.org

Annual Powwow and Health Fair

DANCERS

MUST PRE-REGISTER BY AUGUST 1ST!

Use this QR code to pre-register online.
Each dancer will need their own
registration for honorarium.



VENDORS

Use this QR code to download the vendor
form. Contact Natalie for any additional
questions at 313-846-3718



Invitation Drums

Host Drum \$5,000

2nd Drum \$2,000

MC and Arena Director

MC-\$2,000

Arena Director-\$2,000

Dancers

\$200 for Adult

\$150 for 12-17yrs

\$50 11 and under

Please Contact

Salli Wabsis, Director of Community Wellness
313-900-8262