

LITTLE RIVER CURRENTS



LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

GAACHING ZIIBI DAAWAA ANISHINAABEK

TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

MIIN GIIZIS | JULY 2025

-Berry Moon-

Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians 29TH ANNUAL JIINGTAMOK

HOST DRUM

Sharp Feather

CO-HOST DRUM

Young Tribe

MC Joel Syrette

ARENA DIRECTOR

Jace Whitehouse

HEAD VETERAN

Walker Stonefish

HEAD FEMALE DANCER

Picked Each Session

HEAD MALE DANCER

Picked Each Session

Grand Entry

Sat: 1pm & 7pm

Sun: 12pm

VENDOR CONTACT

Julie Wolfe: JulieWolfe@lrboi-nsn.gov

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

Venus: 231-398-6845

JULY 5th & 6th, 2025

FREE ADMISSION - PUBLIC WELCOME

Dancer Payouts

Drum Split

Spot Dances

Dance Competitions

Men's Traditional	1st Place	\$600
Women's Traditional	2nd Place	\$400
Jingle Dress 18+	3rd place	\$200
	4th Place	\$100

2596 Loon Drive, Manistee Michigan

LRBOI Pow Wow Grounds behind the tribal gas station

Free camping with showers and bathrooms *First come, First served*

This is a drug/alcohol free event No violence or politics No dogs LRBOI is not responsible for lost or stolen items

Joanne Green

Press Secretary

JoanneGreen@lrboi-nsn.gov

Sky Gonzalez

Communications Officer

SkyGonzalez@lrboi-nsn.gov



ELECTED OFFICIALS



Ogema	District	Term	Phone	Email
Larry Romanelli	At Large	2023-2027	231-398-6824	ogema@lrboi-nsn.gov
Council	District	Term	Phone	Email
Tammy Burmeister	9 County	2023-2027	231-398-6833	tburmeister@lrboi-nsn.gov
Al Metzger	Outlying	2023-2027	231-398-6869	almetzger@lrboi-nsn.gov
Misty Silvis	9 County	2023-2027	231-398-6838	mistysilvis@lrboi-nsn.gov
Ron Wittenberg	Outlying	2023-2027	231-398-6828	ronwittenberg@lrboi-nsn.gov
Shannon Crampton (S)	Outlying	2025-2029	231-398-6885	shannoncrampton@lrboi-nsn.gov
Gary DiPiazza	9 County	2025-2029	231-398-6825	garydipiazza@lrboi-nsn.gov
Susan Thull (R)	Outlying	2025-2029	231-398-6836	susanthull@lrboi-nsn.gov
Connie Waitner	9 County	2025-2029	231-398-6802	cwaitner@lrboi-nsn.gov
Julie Wolfe	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6834	juliewolfe@lrboi-nsn.gov

(S) = Tribal Council Speaker

(R) = Tribal Council Recorder

Election Board	District	Term	Phone	Email
Kathy Gibson	At Large	2023-2027	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Shawna Gonzalez	At Large	2023-2027	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Kristi Fowler	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Jo Jo Green	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
Lee Iverson	At Large	2025-2029	231-398-6709	electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov

Chief Judge	District	Term
Angela Sherigan	At Large	2021-2027

Associate Judge	District	Term
Caroline LaPorte	At Large	2025-2031

Appellate Judge	District	Term
Bernadene Crampton	At Large	2021-2027
Melissa Pope	At Large	2021-2027
Bernie Darrow	At Large	2023-2029



Voting Districts

At Large means all registered voters shall have the opportunity to vote for the seat.

9 County means all registered voters who reside within the 9 County district shall have the opportunity to vote for the seat.

Outlying means all registered voters who reside outside of the 9 County district shall have the opportunity to vote for the seat.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Education

Yvonne Parsons

E: yparsons@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-398-6735

Services:

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver
Vocational Education Assistance
Higher Education Scholarship
College Book Stipend Program
Tutoring Assistance
Student Services School Clothing/Activities
Student Services Driver's Training Assist.
Class Ring Assistance
Senior Pictures Assistance
Cap, Gown & Announcement Assistance
12th Grade Computer Assistance



Enrollment

Dianne A Lonn

E: diannealonn@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-398-6713

Services:

Enrollment Process
Tribal Identification (ID)
Judgment Funds
Address Changes
Tribal Directory Information
Bereavement Program
Per Capita Beneficiary Form
Notary Services
Per Capita Information Services
Direct Deposit Form
Tax withholding on Per Capita

Housing

Tara Bailey

E: lrboihousing@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-398-6879

Services:

Low Income Rentals
Elder designated housing,
elder designated ADA housing,
family housing, family ADA housing
Fair market housing
Section 184 Indian Home Loan Assistance
Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance



Family Services

E: familyservices@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-398-6707 or 398-6651

Services:

Individual Self-Sufficiency Education
& Assistance
Family Self-Sufficiency Education
& Assistance
Indian Child Welfare Intervention
& Reunification Services
Elder Support Services
Family Violence Protection,
Education, Advocacy and Counseling
Trauma Based Counseling
Positive Indian Parenting Program

Food & Nutrition Center

Jamie Friedel

E: jamiefriedel@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-655-1041

Services:

USDA Commodities Distribution – The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations provides a variety of Commodity Foods to low-income households living on or near Indian reservations. Foods include fresh and canned vegetables, frozen meats, breakfast cereals, cheese, and butter. The FDPIR is an alternative to the Food Stamp Program.



Health Services



O: 231-723-8299

O: 231-398-6601

Pharmacy: 231-398-6853

Services:

Family Medicine
Foot and Ankle Clinic
Community Health Nurse
Diabetic Educator
Purchase & Referred Care (PRC)
Extended Health Assist. Program (EHAP)
Pharmacy
Fitness Center

Members Assistance

Gina Crotteau

E: ginacrotteau@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-723-8288

Services:

Low Income Energy Assistance - LIHEAP
Food Assistance
Rental & Mortgage Assistance
Elder Meal Program
& Elder Chore Service
Emergency Transportation Assistance
Referral Assistance Service - help with finding assistance organization/agencies to assist with unmet needs.
Interdepartmental Referral Services - help to provide coordination and collaboration with tribal service departments.

Victim Services

E: victimservices@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-398-6719

Web: www.victimservicesprogram.org

Services:

Advocacy and various other supportive services for victims and survivors of intimate partner domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, trafficking, and child sexual abuse.



Tax Department

Valerie Chandler

E: valeriechandler@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-398-6874

Services:

Tax-exempt Motor Fuel Program
Tribal Certificates of Exemption for Resident Tribal Members
Tribal Certificates of Exemption for Tribal Entities
Tribal Tax Licenses
Tribal Business Licenses
Commercial and Subsistence Fishers

Members Legal Assistance

Mary Witkop

E: marywitkop@lrboi-nsn.gov

O: 231-398-2234

Services:

Estate Planning, Trust Preparation & Wills
Probates of Estates
Durable Power of Attorney
Durable Power of Medical Attorney
Real Estate
Land-Lord Tenant Matters
Divorce, Custody and Support
Criminal and Civil Matters
Paternity & DNA Testing
Birth Certificates
Guardianships & Conservatorships
Driver's Licenses
General Legal Advice

The attorney cannot appear in court with a tribal member or assist with issues that involve the Tribe. Attorney can assist with providing legal advice and drafting of documents.

LRBOI Service Department Contacts continued

Manistee

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 & Nutrition Center

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 / 231-398-6879

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
Main: 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

Victim Services

2840 Orchard Hwy., Suite D
Manistee, MI 49660
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288
Office: 231-398-6719

Muskegon

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

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.

Victim Services

1101 W. Hackley Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49441
Main: 231-723-8288 / 888-723-8288
Office: 231-398-6719



UPCOMING EVENTS

Obtain more information and a comprehensive list of events and meetings on the **LRBOI Calendar**. The Calendar is on the main page of our website at the following address <https://lrboi-nsn.gov> under the Recent News section, in the Upcoming Events. It is also accessible from the Citizen Communication page under Legislative.



Note

If you have not already done so, please create a new account on our new website to access private content. Some content is available only to registered users of the site including some news and events. Our new website launched August 2024.

July

- July 5 - Wellness Walk
- July 5 - Jiingtamok
- July 6 - Jiingtamok
- July 7 - Citizen Advisory Board Meeting for the Little River Holdings (EDC)
- July 18 - Michigan Indian Family Olympics

August

- Aug 2 - Elder's Meeting Picnic

September

- Sept 6 - Elder's Meeting
- Sept 8 - Citizen Advisory Board Meeting for the Little River Holdings (EDC)

LRBOI 2025 Holiday Closures

We want to keep you informed about upcoming holidays and office closures for LRBOI government offices in 2025. Below, is the full list of observed holidays and closure dates.

A few things to note:

- Holidays falling on a Saturday will be observed on the preceding Friday, while those on a Sunday will be observed on the following Monday.
- Occasionally, our Ogema may declare additional holidays or closures. When that happens, we'll do our best to share updates on our website, government Facebook page and in the Currents newsletter.

Observed Holidays in 2025

New Year's Day

When: Wednesday, January 1

Observed: Wednesday, January 1

LRBOI Treaty Recognition Day

When: Friday, March 28

Observed: Friday, March 28

Memorial Day

When: Monday, May 26

Observed: Monday, May 26

Independence Day

When: Friday, July 4

Observed: Friday, July 4

Labor Day

When: Monday, September 1

Observed: Monday, September 1

LRBOI Reaffirmation Day

When: Sunday, September 21

Observed: Monday, September 22

Veteran's Day

When: November 11.

Observed: Tuesday, November 11

Thanksgiving

When: 4th Thursday in November.

Observed: Thursday, November 27

Extended Thanksgiving

When: Friday after Thanksgiving.

Observed: Friday, November 28

Christmas Eve Day

When: December 24.

Observed: Wednesday, December 24

Half day closure. Closed Noon-5pm

Christmas Day

When: December 25.

Observed: Thursday, December 25



enjoy
every
moment.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



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

July 9	August 6	September 10	October 1	November 5	December 3
July 16	August 13	September 17	October 8	November 12	December 10
July 23	August 20	September 24	October 15	November 19	December 17
	August 27		October 22	November 26	

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://zoom.us/j/99705796129>
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.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



Below are links to recently approved Tribal Council Meeting Minutes.

If you have not already done so, please create a new account on our new website to access the meeting minutes, as they are private content. Private content is available only to registered users of the site. Our new website launched in late August 2024.

Links to Meeting Minutes - - each blue date below is a link

[April 9, 2025 Minutes](#)



Please note, you must download the Currents for the links to work. Links do not work on the enewspaper site.

When on the enewspaper site, click the down pointing arrow icon above the Currents to download the Currents.

ELECTION BOARD MEETINGS



Election Board Open Meeting Schedule

Meeting Dates | Submit Questions Deadline

July 17 | 15

August 21 | 19

September 18 | 16

October 16 | 14

November 20 | 18

Engage with the Election Board

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 partake in the open meetings, please ensure your questions are submitted by Tuesday of the week of the meeting you plan to attend (48 hours in advance of the meeting) to electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov. This allows the Election Board ample time to prepare and address inquiries effectively.

Attend an Election Board Open Meeting

On-Line: Zoom Web Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99808338390>
Zoom Call-In Number: 1-929-436-2866
Zoom Meeting ID: 9998 0833 8390
Zoom Passcode: 743234

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.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI 49660
 Election Board office (231) 398-6709
 electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
ELECTION BOARD

Official Election Results for the 2025 Regular Election
April 25, 2025

To: Tribal Ogema-Larry Romanelli
 Tribal Council
 Tribal Court

Total Number of Registered Voters:	1245
Number of Ballots Issued:	1245
Number of Replacement Ballots Issued:	9
Number of Ballots Received:	860
Number of "Undeliverable" Official Election Ballot Envelopes:	7
Number of Spoiled Ballots:	1
Number of Rejected Ballots:	0
Number of Unidentifiable Ballots:	0
Number of Ballots received from prior elections:	2
List of Ties and final results of the tie:	0

This Election Board certifies the total votes cast for each candidate for the April 25, 2025 Regular Election

OFFICE OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE		OFFICE OF TRIBAL COUNCIL-AT LARGE	
Caroline LaPorte, J.D.	458	John Jerome Pabami	321
Jimmie Mitchell	191	Melinda Smith	178
(Thunder)Salli Renee Wabsis	197	Julie Wolfe	342

OFFICE OF TRIBAL COUNCIL-9 COUNTY		OFFICE OF TRIBAL COUNCIL-OUTLYING	
Michael J. Ceplina	90	Shannon Paul Crampton	177
Debra Davis	107	Gina Marie Crotteau	129
Gary Paul DiPiazza (Sees-Bak-Tunse)	233	Brian G. Gibson	117
Don Koon	85	Pam Johnson	106
Jessica Steinberg	143	Susan Thull	164
Connie L. Waitner	162	Patrick D. Wilson	100

OFFICE OF ELECTION BOARD	
Chelsea Densmore	370
Kristi Fowler	516
JoAnne "Jo Jo" Green	487
Lee A. Iverson	507
Valerie McDonnell	316

The Election Board certifies that this is the Official Election Results for the April 25, 2025, Regular Election. The report is being provided as required pursuant to the Election Board Regulations. Part II.Voting & Elections, Chapter 3. Conducting Elections, Section 11. Reporting Election Results , C. Certification.

2025 ELECTION SWEARING IN CEREMONY



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE
NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**



**OFFICE OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE
CAROLINE LAPORTE, J.D.**



**OFFICE OF ELECTION BOARD
JOANNE "JO JO" GREEN**



**OFFICE OF ELECTION BOARD
LEE A. IVINSON**



**OFFICE OF ELECTION BOARD
KRISTI FOWLER**

FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN DENTIST DR. GEORGE BLUE SPRUCE



Dr. Blue Spruce Jr, DDS at the 2023 SAID meeting

Article submitted to LRBOI by Jessica A. Rickert, DDS
Anishinaabe Dental Outreach
jrickert@deltadentalmi.com; jarickert@charter.net

Article written by Levi Rickert
Native News Online
levi@nativenewsonline.net

The Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID) announced the passing of Dr. George Blue Spruce Jr., DDS, MPH - a groundbreaking figure in Native American health care. Of Laguna and Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo heritage, Dr. Blue Spruce made history in 1956 as the first American Indian dentist. He passed away on June 3, 2025, at the age of 94.

"As we approach our 35th anniversary next week, SAID members and students honor the enduring legacy established by Dr. Blue Spruce. We are deeply appreciative of his contributions, which include founding the organization in 1990, and leading initiatives such as scholarship, networking, and mentorship opportunities for future American Indian dental students," the SAID said in a statement.

In his autobiography, *Searching for My Destiny*, Dr. Blue Spruce remarked, 'I spoke about the critical need for American Indian dentists to serve our people and encouraged Indian students to consider this career path... I believed that an organization like SAID, once it gained visibility and credibility, would have more influence than a single person in persuading more American Indians to become dentists' (*Searching for My Destiny*, University of Nebraska Press, 2009)," the statement continued.

Dr. Blue Spruce's path to dentistry began with an early dental experience under the care of a skilled and compassionate dentist.

That pivotal encounter inspired him to dedicate his life to serving others through dentistry, despite the cultural and racial barriers he faced throughout his life.

A high school valedictorian, Dr. Blue Spruce went on to earn his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1956. His DDS was followed by a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of California, Berkeley.

His career began with the Indian Health Service (IHS), where he witnessed firsthand the lack of dental care in Native communities. In a past interview with *Winds of Change*, he described how dental services were often tucked away in remote corners of medical facilities and rarely prioritized. “Dental care was not an integral part of the Indian Health Service before it became part of the Public Health Service,” he said. “Most American Indians never had an opportunity to receive any dental care at all.”

As a most respected figure in the dentistry, Dr. Blue Spruce remained the sole Native American dentist in the country until 1975, when Dr. Jessica A. Rickert (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) became the second—and the first Native American woman—to enter the profession. Dr. Rickert remembered her mentor and friend, sharing a tribute with *Native News Online*: “His ready smile brought joy wherever he traveled. His warm personality put everyone at ease—babies, teens, kids, grandparents, chiefs, senators, even presidents. His true compassion touched all his patients, staff, family, community, and colleagues.”

She also recalled how, while founding the Society of American Indian Dentists, Dr. Blue Spruce tracked her down from Arizona to Michigan in 1992 to invite her to join the SAID. “As the first and second American Indian dentists, Dr. George Blue Spruce and I faced dreadful challenges,” Dr. Rickert said. “As a consummate professional, his intelligence always impressed. Yet, Dr. Blue Spruce’s quick wit, humor and perfect timing brought us all together.”

Throughout his life, Dr. Blue Spruce remained a passionate advocate for Indigenous representation in health professions. His enduring legacy lives on through generations of Native health care professionals and the ongoing mission of the SAID. Today there are approximately 450 American Indian dentists, according to the SAID. Thanks in part to Dr. Blue Spruce’s tireless advocacy, any AIAN can learn how to become a dentist with a SAID mentor.

[Click here to purchase the book *Searching for My Destiny* by George Blue Spruce and Deanne Durrett](#)

[Click here to access the SAID Organization website](#)

[Click here to access the Harvard Perspective of Change website - George Blue Spruce Jr. DDS](#)

INDIAN PIPE



Indian Pipe, also known as Ghost Plant or Corpse Flower, is one of the most unusual and hauntingly beautiful plants found in the northern woodlands of Michigan. Pale white, waxy, and shaped like a bent stem or a ceremonial pipe, Indian Pipe stands quietly in the shadows of beech and oak forests. It does not turn green with sunlight because it lacks chlorophyll entirely. Unlike typical plants that survive by converting sunlight into energy, Indian Pipe lives through a complex relationship with fungi in the soil. It draws its nourishment by connecting to underground fungal networks, which themselves are linked to the roots of surrounding trees. In this way, it lives in darkness and thrives in silence.

Indian Pipe typically emerges after a good rainfall in summer or early fall. It grows best in damp, undisturbed forests like those found in the Manistee National Forest. Though it appears fragile and ghostlike, it has adapted in extraordinary ways to survive without the sun. Its presence in the forest often stops hikers in their tracks, prompting quiet reflection. Its form resembles a pipe with its head bowed low, a posture that connects directly to its deeper meaning in Native stories.

Among many tribes of the Eastern Woodlands, including the Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi peoples of northern Michigan, Indian Pipe is connected to an old story. Long ago, before there were states or roads, when people still walked softly on the land, tribal leaders gathered to resolve a growing dispute. They came together not to fight, but to speak. Yet as the council progressed, their words turned to arguments, their voices raised, and their pride grew stronger than their wisdom. The Great Spirit watched with sorrow as peace was pushed aside. Instead of finding unity, the leaders let anger dominate their gathering.

To teach them a lesson, the Great Spirit cast a mist over the council circle. When it cleared, the leaders were gone, and in their place stood white, pipe-shaped flowers where each of them had sat.



These flowers hung their heads in shame, and from then on they were known as Indian Pipes. They grew where pride had silenced peace and where angry voices had drowned out reason. The story passed down through generations reminds us that the Indian Pipe is not just a flower—it is a symbol. It tells of what happens when we let ego take the place of listening, and it shows us the power of quiet reflection.

In addition to its spiritual symbolism, Indian Pipe was once used in small amounts in traditional medicine. Elders and medicine people would sometimes prepare it to ease pain or calm the nerves, particularly in moments of mourning or transition. It was never used lightly. Like the flower itself, its effect was subtle, inward, and intended to bring balance in moments of difficulty.

Indian Pipe continues to grow in our forests today, rising from the quiet earth like a whisper. It asks nothing and makes no sound. But it carries a powerful message: peace, once broken, is hard to restore—and humility is a strength, not a weakness. For those who walk the woods with respect and memory, the flower still speaks. It reminds us of our responsibility to listen to one another, to the land, and to the quiet teachings all around us. In its silent way, Indian Pipe tells the story of who we are, and who we could be, if we choose peace.

A close-up photograph showing a person's hands holding a check over a black laptop. The check is from "COMPANY INC." and is payable to "The Sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS". The person's right hand has a gold ring. A white computer keyboard is visible in the background.

The Enrollment Department is your go-to source for anything related to per capita payments. Whether you're changing your address, updating your beneficiary, requesting direct deposit, or replacing a check, the Enrollment team, Dianne and Jessika, help to ensure everything runs smoothly and your payment gets to you correctly and on time.

Per capita payments are mailed four times a year: April 1, July 1, October 1, and December 15. If you get a check in the mail, it will be sent to the last known address on file with the Enrollment Department. If your address is out of date, your check may be delayed, returned to sender, or even held entirely until you submit an Address Correction Form. It's that simple; if your address is wrong, your check doesn't move. That's why it's so important to update your information every time you move. Even if you only plan to move or are temporarily living somewhere else, reach out to Enrollment. Keep in mind that changing your address with another department will not update your official LRBOI records. Only Enrollment can do that.

If you don't receive your check on time, the Enrollment Department can help, but you must wait ten days after the regular distribution date to report a missing check. After that window, they can begin the process of canceling and reissuing the check.

Your per capita payments may be subject to federal taxes, and possibly state taxes too, depending on where you live. Each January, you'll get a tax form in the mail that shows your total payments. You'll need this when you file your tax return.

There are several forms available to help you manage your per capita account. These include the Direct Deposit Form, the Voluntary Tax Withholding Form, the Check Cancellation and Reissue Form, and the Beneficiary Designation Form. All of these can be requested through the Enrollment Department or found on the LRBOI website under the Enrollment section.

Don't overlook your beneficiary form. This is the document that names the person who will receive your payments if something happens to you. Major life changes—such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, or the loss of a loved one—should prompt a review of your beneficiary details. If it's been more than two or three years since you last checked this information, it's time. Taking a few minutes now can prevent major complications later.

Also, be aware that per capita payments can be garnished to satisfy court-ordered obligations, such as unpaid child support or civil judgments. They may also affect your eligibility for income-based public assistance programs. If you're unsure how per capita payments may affect your benefits, reach out to your assistance caseworker for guidance.

When mail is returned to the Tribe because of a bad address, all future mail is paused until you provide a correction. That includes your check. This helps reduce waste and saves tribal funds for important services like healthcare, education, elder support, and more.

So if you need help with a form, have questions about a payment, or need to make an update, contact Dianne or Jessika in the Enrollment Department. They're friendly, professional, and ready to assist. You can reach them at 231-723-8288 or toll-free at 888-723-8288. Staying in touch with them ensures your payments are processed correctly and your tribal records remain current.

Keeping your Enrollment information updated is one of the simplest ways to protect your payments and support the tribe's efficiency. Make it a habit to check in now and then. A quick phone call or form update can go a long way.



LEARNING TO CREATE RIBBON SHIRTS

Ribbon Skirts were worked on too



PIC NIC IN THE PARK



PIC NIC IN THE PARK



STUDENT WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITY



If you're a proud Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) student enrolled in a wildlife or natural resource program, you don't want to miss this opportunity! The Native Student Professional Development (NSPD) Program is now accepting applications for its 2025 class, and it's designed especially for Indigenous students like you—those who are passionate about protecting our lands, wildlife, and cultural values through meaningful conservation careers.

This is more than a conference trip—it's a chance to grow, connect, and be inspired. The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals in North America. This year, it's taking place in Edmonton, Alberta, and up to ten Indigenous students will be selected to attend. Imagine traveling to Canada alongside peers and mentors who share your commitment to conservation and Indigenous knowledge, all while expanding your academic and professional horizons.

What's in it for you? If selected, you will receive:

- Complimentary registration to the full conference
- Paid travel grants to get you there
- A year-long membership to The Wildlife Society and the Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group
- Mentorship and guidance throughout the conference
- Exclusive educational sessions just for NSPD participants
- Access to networking events with leading professionals across North America

To be eligible, you must currently be enrolled—or be a graduating senior—in an undergraduate or graduate program in the U.S., and have a minimum GPA of 2.5 (though 3.0 or higher is preferred). You must identify as a Native American, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander, and provide documentation of your tribal affiliation or a descendant from a tribally enrolled parent or grandparent.

This program values students who are passionate about preserving natural resources, supporting Indigenous communities, and uplifting Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) in today's world.

You don't need to be fluent in your Native language to qualify - but a deep respect for your culture and a willingness to bring that strength to the table is definitely welcomed. Good communication skills, a commitment to ethical conduct, and a strong desire to grow professionally are musts.

Your application must include your contact details, your school info and transcripts, proof of tribal affiliation or descendency, and a 500–750 word essay. This essay should explain why you want to join the program, how it will benefit your career, and what personal and cultural strengths you bring to the wildlife profession.

Applications are due by August 1, 2025, so don't delay! The process is straightforward, and the experience could be life-changing. You'll gain insights, make friends, and open doors for your future that you didn't even know existed.

Let your journey begin - [click here to apply](#)

Whether you dream of becoming a wildlife biologist, environmental educator, tribal environmental planner, or advocate for Indigenous stewardship - this program is your chance to take a big step forward. Make your mark in the world of wildlife, carry your culture proudly, and apply today!



Share Your Achievements



Our community is filled with incredible achievements. It's time we celebrate them together. Whether it's Robert Russ (Bobby) stepping into the world of acting with *Skinwalker Island* or Michelle Lucas shining at ArtPrize with her top 100 finish, or you graduating, there are so many examples of talent and success within our tribe and community.

We want to hear your story! Every achievement, big or small, has the power to inspire others and spread positivity. Your journey could be the next one to uplift and motivate our people.

Let's come together and showcase the strength and creativity of our community. Reach out to Jo Jo at joannegreen@lrboi-nsn.gov to start the conversation.

Let's make sure your story gets the spotlight it deserves!





Vacancy

Little River Holdings is currently seeking one Tribal Citizen to fill a vacant seat on the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)

📌 About the Citizens Advisory Board:

The CAB serves as a vital connection between Tribal Citizens and Little River Holdings, the Economic Development Arm of the Tribe. Board members provide feedback, insight, and recommendations on business matters and are also available to assist fellow Tribal Citizens by answering questions and addressing concerns related to Tribal economic initiatives.

✅ Eligibility:

- Must be an enrolled Citizen of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- 18 years of age or older
- Able to attend bi-monthly meetings and actively engage in discussions and community outreach
- Must pass a background check

How to Apply:

If you're interested in serving, please contact Little River Holdings at (231) 299-1295 or submit your resume and cover letter via email to

admin@lrhedc.com

Application Deadline: July 30, 2025

Support your people. Strengthen our economy.

Be a voice for the Tribe — apply today to join the Citizens Advisory Board.

EMPOWER *The Future*

BUILD A LEGACY FOR THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS!

Join us in building a vibrant legacy for the next seven generations by working for your tribe.

As a tribal member, you have a unique opportunity to contribute to the sustainable development and cultural preservation of our people, our tribe, and our nation.

Your skills, passion, and dedication can make a significant impact on our tribe's future, ensuring that our traditions, values, and prosperity are passed down to future generations.

By working together, we can create a thriving, self-sufficient community that honors our heritage while embracing innovation and growth.

The future of our tribe is bright and full of potential, shaped by our collective efforts to preserve our cultural heritage, promote sustainable development, and ensure the well-being of our community.

Be a part of this transformative journey and help secure a bright future for our next seven generations.

**LOVE, RESPECT, WISDOM,
TRUTH, HONESTY
HUMILITY, BRAVERY**

THE FUTURE *of Our People*

Government Careers

Accounts Payable Clerk
Payroll/Finance Clerk
Staff Accountant
Workforce Development Specialist
Mental health Counselor
Peer Recovery Coach
Prevention Work Specialist
Food Distribution Assistant
System Security Administration
EVS Technician - Maintenance
Maintenance Tech - Housing
Environmental Technician
Director of Commerce
Executive Assistant
Receptionist
Legislative In-house Counsel
Court Clerk/Recorder
Victim Services Program Manager

Little River Holdings Careers

Marketing & Communications Specialist

APPLY TODAY

Click this [LINK](#) for our online application

eMail: apply@lrboi-nsn.gov

Phone: 231-398-6859

Fax: 231-331-1233

Web: www.lrboi-nsn.gov

Questions or concerns contact
Alicia Goff at aliciagoff@lrboi-nsn.gov





Team Member Perks

Team Member of the Month, Quarter, & Year. Team Member Recognition Committee. Safety Committee. Meal Discounts. Gift Shop Discounts. Gas discount at the C-Store. Golf Membership Discounts. Holiday parties for Team Members. Summer cook-outs. Ice Cream Socials. Company Picnic. Community Service Opportunities and more!



Fast Track Thursdays

Get an instant interview every Thursday from 10am to 4pm. Visit the Human Resources office using the employee entrance near the outer entrance of the River Rock!



Little River
CASINO RESORT

Apply in person at
2700 Orchard Hwy
Manistee, MI
Ph: 231-723-4530



Why Choose us?

We're conveniently situated at the corner of the US31 and M22 in the charming town of Manistee, Little River Casino Resort is one of the most exciting entertainment destinations in northwest Michigan.

If you are passionate about doing your best work, making a difference, and having fun while doing it, apply to one of our open positions. We offer all types of positions: permanent, seasonal, intermittent, full time and part time.

Suite of Benefits

Full Time Team Members Enjoy a Suite of Benefits! Benefits include: Medical, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, AD&D, Flexible Spending Account, Voluntary Life Insurance, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, 401K match up to 4 percent, and Holiday Pay including Your Birthday. Up to 3 weeks of Paid Time Off can be earned in the first year and we offer Flexible Scheduling.

Open Positions

Bus Person
Cage Supervisor
Receiving Clerk
Bartender
Retail Associate
Hotel Bellman
Food Cashier
Table Games Dealer Level 1
House Person
Groundskeeper
Maintenance Technician I
Security Level II
Customer Service Associate
Guest Room Attendant
Banquet Server
Marketing Representative
F&B Server
Pantry Cook
Cage Cashier
High Lift Floor Care Cleaner
Porter

Visit www.LRCR.com for current available positions

CALLING CRAFTERS

Interested in teaching craft classes?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PASSIONATE CRAFTERS TO SHARE THEIR SKILLS BY TEACHING CLASSES. SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO FILL OUT AN INTEREST FORM.



POSSIBLE CLASSES

- basic sewing skills
- paper piecing
- mending e
- mbroidery (hand
- stitching, cross stitch)
- beading classes
- and more; we're open to
- suggestions

WHY TEACH WITH US?

- \$20/hour for teaching + bonus if class sells out
- instructors are able to use employee discount (restrictions apply)
- supportive teaching environment
- teaching is a great way to learn your craft at a new level!

Interested in teaching craft techniques in the shop or via Zoom? Let us know by filling out our form. If you don't have experiencing teaching art, we offer smaller class sizes and mentorships to help you.

[Form Link](#)



Bead &
Powwow Supply
powwowsupply.com



37th Annual

Michigan Indian Family Olympics

Friday, July 18, 2025

**Central Michigan University's
Bennett Track & Field**

Registration opens in May | www.sagchip.org/mifo/

For more information, please contact: Seth Pifer at 989.775.4694



Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
"Working Together for Our Future"

7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
989-775-4000
www.sagchip.org



Baby Blanket Class Taught by Vera Hinmon

LEARN TO MAKE A FLEECE
BABY BLANKET
BEGINNERS AND EXPERTS
WELCOME!

September 3rd and 10th

4:30-7pm

Potluck Dinner

Aki Maadiziwin Community Center
2953 Shaw Be Quo ung (off Dontz Road)
Manistee, MI 49660

Call Holly at (231) 655-9391 to Register

FAMILY SPIRIT AND MSU EXTENSION INVITES YOU TO

COOKING CLASS FRUIT DESSERTS

LEARN SOME RECIPES
FOR SUMMER FRUIT

AUGUST 6TH AND 13TH

5-7 PM

FOOD AND NUTRITION CENTER,
2967 DONTZ RD., MANISTEE MI
49660



ALL SUPPLIES
PROVIDED



CALL HOLLY AT (231) 655-9391 FOR MORE INFO



Family Spirit and
MSU Extension
presents



* Cooking Class

ALL SUPPLIES
PROVIDED

Join our Cooking Class and uncover the secrets behind
the flavorful and simple applesauce recipe!

OCTOBER 22 AND 29TH
5-7 PM

Food and Nutrition Center, 2967 Dontz Rd.,
Manistee MI 49660

Call Holly at (231) 655-9391 for more info



SUMMER BREAK CRAFTS

AUGUST 6TH & 13TH

FROM 2-4 PM

FREE SNACKS AND BEVERAGES



ACTIVITIES

DANCE, GAMES, PAINT, MAKE A
RAINSTICK AND MORE!

LOCATED AT AKI MAADIZIWIN COMMUNITY CENTER
2953 SHAW BE QUO-UNG (OFF DONTZ ROAD)
MANISTEE, MI 49660

RSVP WITH HOLLY AT (231) 655-9391



FAMILY OWNED  AUTO REPAIR

Gremore Garage is a family owned and operated business that offers a small town feel. Both Dylan and wife Tianna are committed to providing the highest quality of automotive services.

Owner and lead mechanic Dylan Gremore is master certified, and ASE certified with over a decade in the trade. He started his career here in Manistee and is excited to be back and service the fine people of this community once again.

Stop by or give us a call to schedule your vehicle for an inspection.

We are located at 1200 28th St. Manistee, across the street from the Filer Credit Union on the south side of town.

Present your Tribal ID and receive 10% off on parts.

For more information, please visit <https://www.gremoregarage.com>

Brakes 

Suspension 

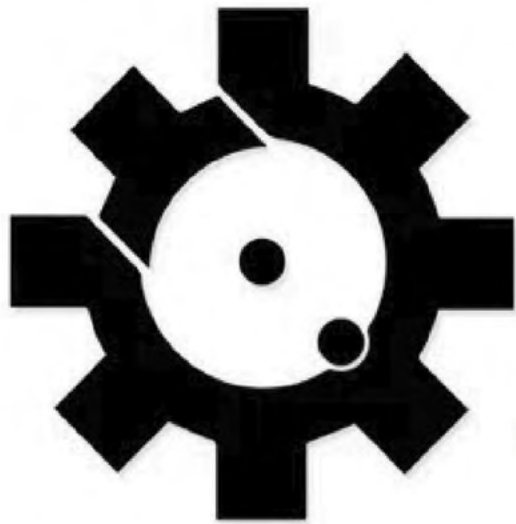
Steering 

A/C Repair 

General Maintenance 

Suspension 

**BOOK NOW
231-299-1355**



TACTICAL TREATS

USCCA Accredited CPL Instruction

Weekly Classes

1. Basic Hand Gun knowledge & Cleaning

This class will show the student the differences in Hand Gun calibers, their uses & effectiveness. There will be no live ammunition in class! (snap caps only) Basic mechanics of how most hand guns function.

We will also be covering types of Holsters, Hand Gun cleaning & effective Storage,

2. Dry Fire Laser Training

This class will help improve Handgun accuracy & Trigger control using Snap caps, Striker caps & Lasers in conjunction with an elite shooting performance system designed to increase consistency by recording shot by shot analysis. The student will see in real time their subtle hand movements & learn "Proper Grip" "Avoiding Recoil Anticipation" "Trigger Press Movement" "Follow Through" Just to name a few.

3. CPL Certification Class

Successful completion of this class will allow you to apply for a Concealed Carry Permit (CCW). See MI state laws.

4. CPL RENEWAL Certification Class

Successful completion of this 4 hr. class will allow you to re-apply for a Concealed Carry Permit (CCW). See MI state laws.

**TO SIGN UP FOR A CLASS GO TO: [USCCATRaining.COM](https://usccatraining.com)
OR CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE [TACTICALTREATS.COM](https://tacticaltreats.com)
OR FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL, (231)220-5207**



Harper Lou's Bowtique

When in doubt put a bow on it



Aanii, My name is Sara Crampton and I am a LRBOI tribal member. I'm a stay at home Mother to three beautiful children and recently I've turned a hobby of mine into a small business. I started making hair bows for my Daughter because I wanted her to have bows that matched every single outfit, sport, or event she did. We got so many compliments everywhere we went that I decided to start making them for everyone to enjoy. I use vegan leather and love to make polymer clay accessories to make my bows unique. I strive to take custom orders and to make sure you have a bow for every outfit and occasion. We can be found on Facebook and Instagram at Harper Lou's Bowtique and reached at ThatBowThough23@gmail.com for any inquiries.



Kequom's Crafts

Native Made

- Turtle bags
- Chokers
- Dream catchers
- Medicine bags
- Beaded earrings
- Feather earrings
- Bracelets
- Beaded necklaces

Email Steve at
terriebrodock@yahoo.com

