

LITTLE RIVER CURRENTS



LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

GAACHING ZIIBI DAAWAA ANISHINAABEK

TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

WAABGONII GIIZIS | JUNE 2026

-Blossom Moon-

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**Cover Art By
Sky Gonzalez**

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ISSUE**



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Sky Gonzalez
Communications Officer
SkyGonzalez@lrboi-nsn.gov



ELECTED OFFICIALS

Our newly elected officials were sworn in June 11, 2025

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 (R)	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	ronaldwittenberg@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	Outlying	2025-2029	231-398-6820	susanthull@lrboi-nsn.gov
Connie Waitner	9 County	2025-2029	231-398-6836	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.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



From left to right | Al Metzger, Connie Waitner, Susan Thull, Julie Wolfe, Shannon Crampton, Gary DiPiazza, Ron Wittenberg, Tammy Burmeister, and Misty Silvis

Meetings occur Wednesdays at 10am (eastern)

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.

Tribal Council Regular Meeting Schedule for 2026

Regular Meetings have been scheduled for the following Wednesdays at 10:00 AM EST.

All regular meetings shall be held at the Government Center Lodge and via Zoom and are open to members.

Department Reports & minutes of various entities of the Tribe will be accepted during the third meeting of the month.

June 03

July 01

October 07

June 10

July 08

October 14

June 17

July 15

October 21

June 24

July 22

October 28

August 05

November 04

August 12

November 11

August 19

November 18

August 26

November 25

September 02

December 02

September 09

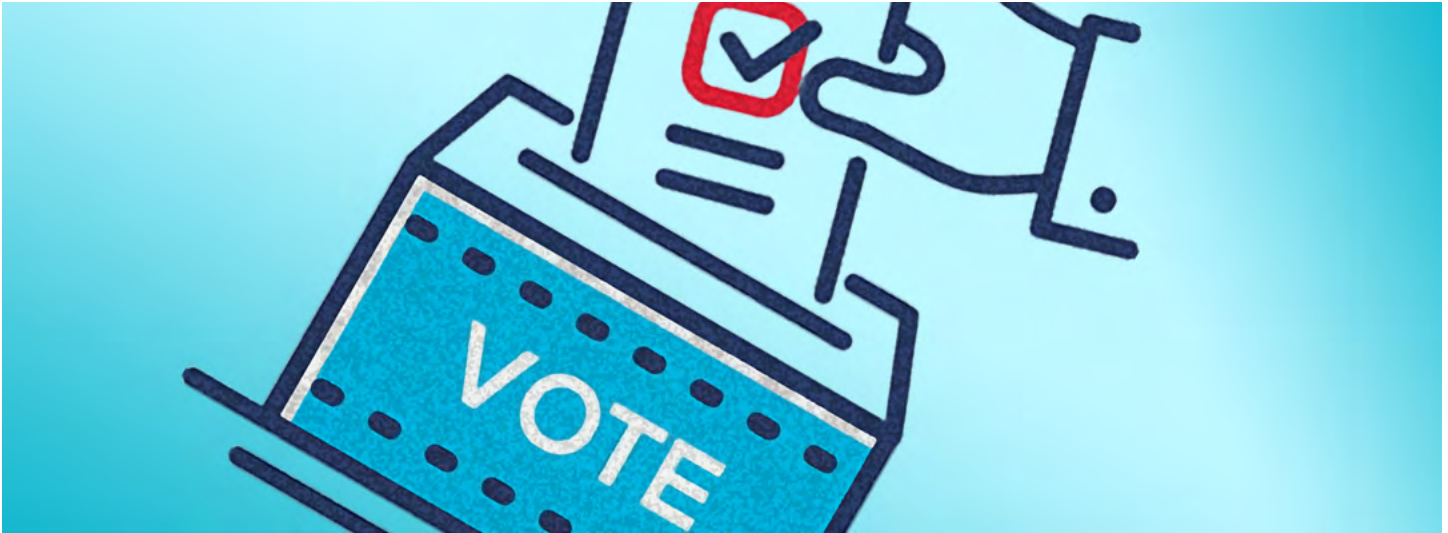
December 09

September 16

December 16

September 23

ELECTION BOARD MEETINGS



Election Board Open Meeting Schedule

Open Session Meeting Dates

May 21	August 20	October 15
June 18	Sept 17	November 19

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.

2026 Calendar

Natural Resource Commission



June 08, 2026

June 13, 2026 (Bear and Elk Draw 12pm)

July 13, 2026

August 10, 2026

September 14, 2026

October 12, 2026

November 09, 202

December 14, 2026

Meetings Begin at 5:00 p.m.
Government Center or Zoom

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 McCollum

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.



LRBOI Service Department Contacts continued

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
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: 231-398-6853

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

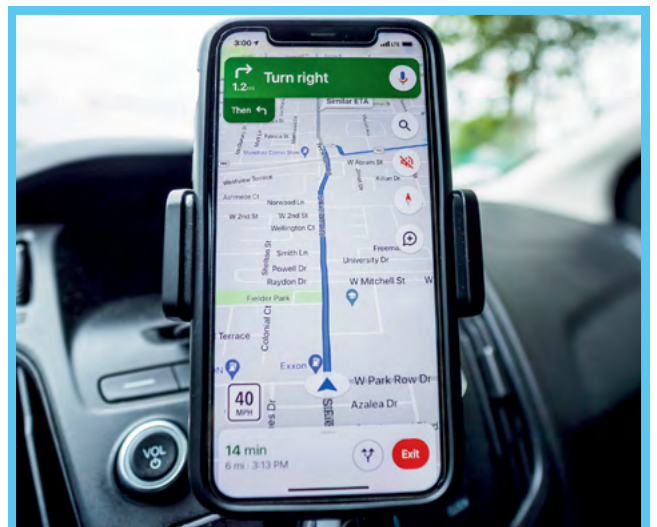
4905 S. Harvey St.
Norton Shore, MI 49441
Main: 231-723-8299 / 888-382-8299
Office: 231-398-6601
Pharmacy: 231-398-6853
Services include Family Medicine,
Pharmacy and Radiology.

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: 231-398-6853
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



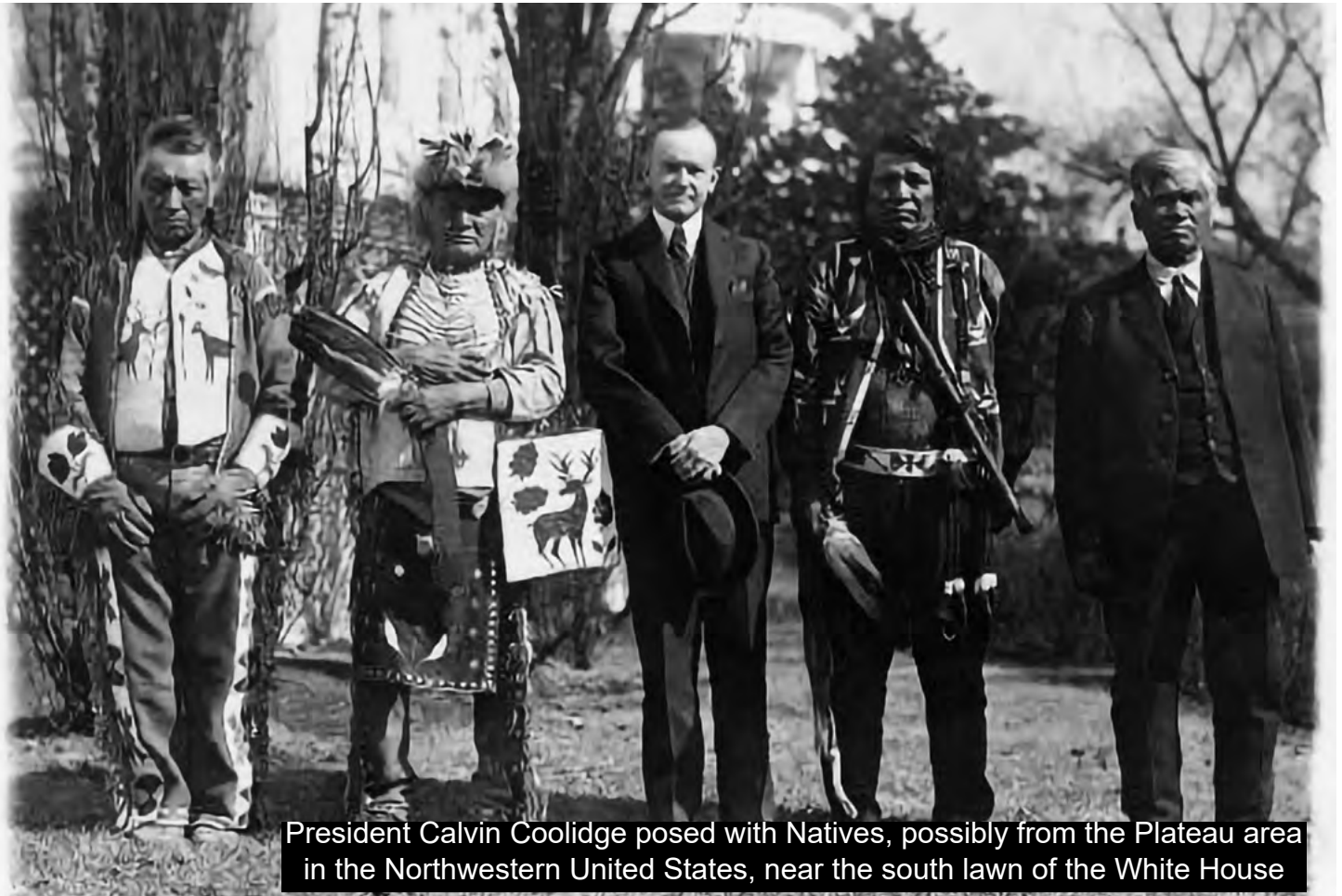
LACTATION ROOM

Tribal Member and employee Amber Peterson entered a sweepstake to win a lactation room upgrade with the [Healthy Horizons Corporate Lactation Services](#) based in California. She submitted an entry about how the need for a lactation room at the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians would make a tremendous impact in the rural city of Manistee, bringing to light the importance of a workplace providing a safe, clean space to pump breastmilk for mother's returning to work. "The Tribal Government is setting a positive example for the community to follow and this lactation room will hopefully spark other organizations to prioritize mamas returning to work by creating their own welcoming spaces", states Amber who is a first time Mother.

The lactation room includes a comfy chair, a pump, fridge for milk-only storage, milk storage bags, cubbies for each woman's personal items, breastfeeding pillow, drying rack for parts, cleaning items and a sterilizer for breast pump attachment kits. It is open to employees and Tribal members during business hours.



The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924



President Calvin Coolidge posed with Natives, possibly from the Plateau area in the Northwestern United States, near the south lawn of the White House

On June 2, 1924, the United States Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act, a law that granted U.S. citizenship to many Native Americans born within the United States. The legislation marked an important moment in the history of Native peoples, but it also revealed the complicated relationship between Native nations and the federal government.

Before the Act, citizenship was not automatically granted to all Native Americans. Some Native people had become U.S. citizens through treaties, military service, marriage, land allotment policies, or other specific laws. However, many Indigenous people remained recognized primarily as citizens of their own tribal nations rather than citizens of the United States.

The Indian Citizenship Act stated that all non-citizen Native Americans born in the United States were now citizens. The law was introduced in part because of the service of Native soldiers during World War I, where thousands of Native men served in the U.S. military despite not always having U.S. citizenship.

While the Act granted citizenship, it did not immediately provide equal access to voting. Voting rights were controlled by states, and many states continued to prevent Native Americans from voting through laws, residency requirements, and other barriers. In some places, Native people were not able to fully exercise their right to vote until decades later.

The Act also did not erase tribal citizenship. Native people continue to hold citizenship in their tribal nations, which are sovereign governments with their own laws, leaders, and communities. For many Native Americans, tribal identity and citizenship remain central parts of who they are.

The story of the Indian Citizenship Act is not only about a law passed in 1924 — it is about resilience, advocacy, and the continued fight for Native rights. Native communities have continued to strengthen their voices through voting, cultural preservation, language revitalization, and protection of tribal sovereignty.

More than 100 years later, June 2 serves as a reminder that citizenship, rights, and sovereignty have a complex history. The generations who came before helped shape the path for Native people today, and the work of protecting Indigenous rights continues.



Conversations with Commerce (6/9/26) - With Little River Holdings

The Commerce Department hosts a monthly, evening, online townhall meeting to publicly share updates on program activities, economic development, and facilitate dialogue on critical development issues. This month the Band's economic development enterprise, Little River Holdings, is the invited guest. Listen to their update on business and job opportunities. Ask your own questions about where they are headed and what they have accomplished on behalf of our Tribal Nation.

We invite Tribal Members to join us next week (and every second Tuesday of the month) for an interactive hour of updates and conversation. Our townhall is designed to share information about the Tribe with members. By making staff available after regular working hours, (7:30pm ET, 6:30pm CT, 5:30pm MT, 4:30pm PT) members have direct access to get their questions answered and to accurate tribal information.

Pre-register for the 60-minute June 9, 2026, Townhall - 7:30-8:30 pm ET
Use QR code below to register.





38th Annual

Michigan Indian Family Olympics

Friday, July 17, 2026

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



Food Distribution

June 2026 Closure Dates

- June 8th: Closed for USDA truck
- June 11th: Closed for deliveries
- June 29th: Closed for inventory
- June 30th: Closed for inventory



JUNE 27TH

LITTLE RIVER CASINO'S EVENT CENTER

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.

WELLNESS WALK 2026

**SUPPORT SOBRIETY AND WELLNESS WITHIN THE
LITTLE RIVER COMMUNITY.**

**JOIN US FOR A HOT BREAKFAST, AN INSPIRING SPEAKER,
AND A WALK FROM LRGR TO THE GATHERING GROUNDS.**

**PUBLIC
WELCOME**



DOROTHYBATCHELDER@LRBOI-NSN.GOV



231-398-6741

SPONSORED BY BE DA BIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



RAMPS AVAILABLE!

The LRBOI Natural Resources Department has acquired wild leek (ramp) bulbs that were confiscated from an illegal harvest operation.

These bulbs are now available to LRBOI Members and Staff. Bulbs can be picked up from LRBOI Food & Nutrition (valid LRBOI ID card required, and must be picked up in-person).

Location: 2967 Dontz Rd., Manistee, MI

Hours: 7:30am to 4:00pm

The NRD has also planted many of these bulbs on Tribal properties to be available for gathering in the future!



Call or email
Caitlin to sign-up:
caitlinlorenc@lrboi-nsn.gov
231-655-9579

**THURSDAY
JUNE 11TH
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Starting Your Food Garden

Ellis Building (behind the clinic)
1478 E. Ellis Rd.,
Muskegon, MI



FREE class FREE food FREE giveaways



REGISTER T

TOGETHER

**JOIN US FOR A WEEKLY SUMMER PROGRAM FOR YOUTH
(UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE WITH NO JUVENILE
SUPERVISION.) LEARN FROM NATURAL RESOURCES**

WEDNESDAYS, 1 - 4 PM

**FOOD & NUTRITION CENTER
(2967 DONTZ RD.
MANISTEE, MI 49660)**



Questions
call O

caitlinlorence

231-65

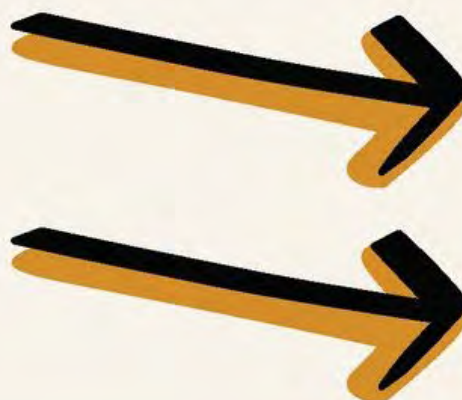
TODAY FOR:

WE GROW!

**AGES 10-18. (YOUNGER KIDS WELCOME WITH ADULT
SUPPORT, FAMILY SPIRIT, EDUCATION, AND OTHERS!)**

**JUNE 17 & 24
JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5 & 12**

**SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER**



? Email or
textline:

@lrboi-nsn.gov

55-9579

PLEASE FAMILY SPIRIT INVITES
EVERYONE TO JOIN US FOR A

FATHER'S DAY



craft

17 | JUNE | 5-7 PM

**PAINTING ON PRE-MADE
GOAT-SKIN CHILDREN'S
DRUMS**



**AKI MAADIZIWIN COMMUNITY CENTER,
2953 SHAW BE QUONG
MANISTEE, MI 49660**

**ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED
POTLUCK DINNER**



**QUESTIONS? TEXT HOLLY AT
(231) 655-9391**



Come enjoy lunch and a game of
BINGO with the Family Services
Department

ELLIS BUILDING
(BUILDING BEHIND CLINIC)

**JUNE
12TH**

**1478 E. ELLIS RD.
MUSKEGON, MI.**

12:00 P.M.



 janeengannon@lrboi-nsn.gov

 231-398-6737

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





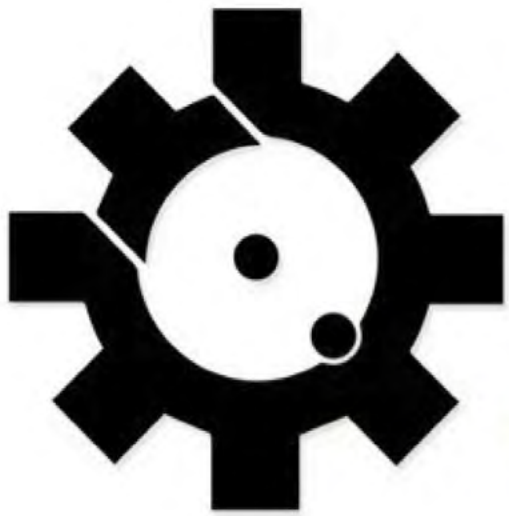
Harper Lou's Bowtique

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.





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

OR CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE TacticalTreats.COM

OR FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL, (231)220-5207

Online Shopping

Authentic
Native
American Made

- Beaded Earrings
- Dream Catchers
- Smudge wands
and more

Anishinaabe
Homestead
Victoria Wells
Owner/Artist
P. 231-655-1773



photo by Canva

Please visit me online at
[etsy.com/shop.AnishinaabeHomestead](https://etsy.com/shop/AnishinaabeHomestead)





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**