

LITTLE RIVER CURRENTS



LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

GAACHING ZIIBI DAAWAA ANISHINAABEK

TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

WAABAGAA GIIZIS | SEPTEMBER 2026

-Changing Leaves Moon-

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**Cover Art By
Sky Gonzalez**

**THIS
ISSUE**



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.

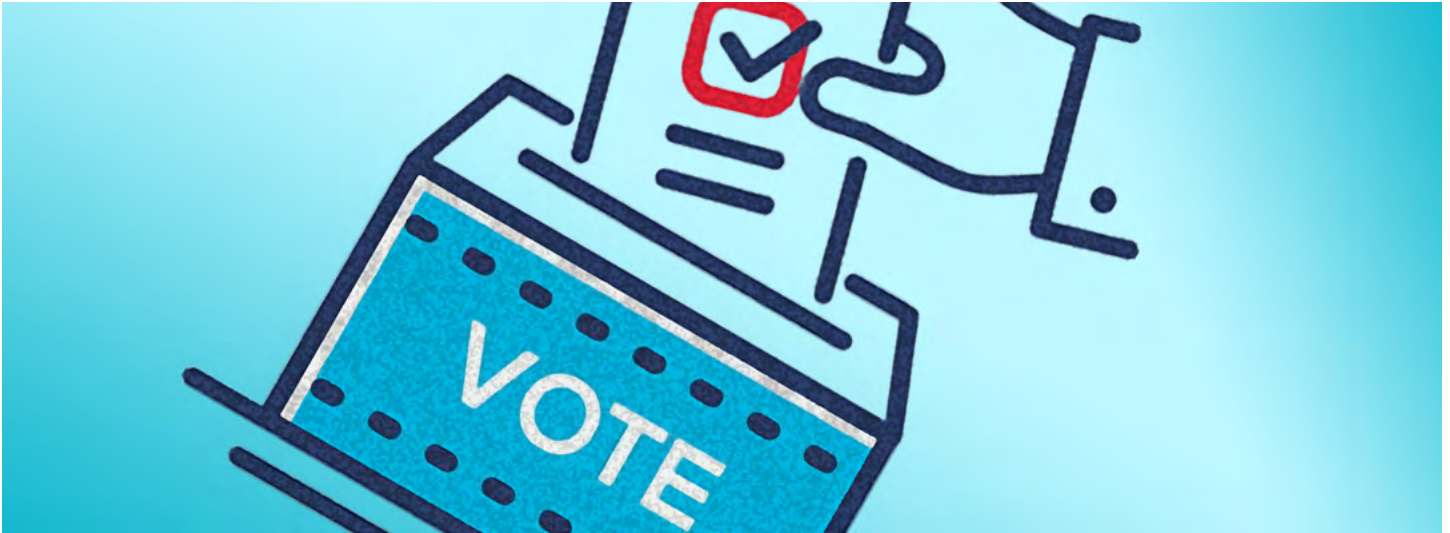
All regular meetings shall be held at the Government Center Lodge and via Zoom and are open to members.

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

September 02 September 09 September 16 September 20



ELECTION BOARD MEETINGS



Election Board Open Meeting Schedule

Open Session Meeting Dates

	October 15
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



September 14, 2026

October 12, 2026

November 09, 2026

December 14, 2026

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



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Election Board

2027 Regular Election Announcement

Regular Election April 30, 2027

Offices to Be Elected	
Ogema	1 seat
Tribal Council Outlying	2 seats
Tribal Council Nine County	2 seats
Election Board	2 seats
Chief Judge	1 seat
Appellate Judge	2 seats
At least (1) Licensed Attorney	

Procedures for Establishing Candidacy Packet

An individual who is running for elected office must obtain, complete, and submit a “Declaration of Candidacy Packet.” Any incomplete packets received or not completed before the deadline will result in ineligibility to run in election. Background investigation fee must be submitted by Declaration Packet due date. Background fee is non-refundable.

Procedures for maintaining Voting Eligibility

When current voter registration is up to date with the Election Board, there is no requirement to re-register to vote in any election. Otherwise, when a tribal member is not registered to vote, a complete Voter Registration Form must be submitted for processing and must be current, not later than 50 days prior to any scheduled election.

Voter Registration Deadlines

November 26, 2026, is the voter registration deadline for both the Primary and Regular Election. Tribal members who miss this deadline may still register to vote in the Regular Election until March 11, 2027.

Election Calendar

Election Board Declared 2027 Regular Election	August 28, 2026
Candidate Packets available online and by email	August 28, 2026
Packets available in person at the Government Center & Ellis Bld.	September 15, 2026
Declaration Packet due by 5:00pm via email or in person	October 5, 2026
Slate of Candidates certified posted by 8:00 pm	October 21, 2026
Last day to Withdraw Candidacy by 5:00 pm	October 23, 2026
Ballots mailed out for Primary Election	December 16, 2026
Deadline to request Primary Replacement Ballot	December 24, 2026
Deadline for Disputes	December 31, 2026
Primary Election Day	January 15, 2027
Deadline for withdrawal of Candidacy after Primary Election	January 19, 2027
Deadline for Primary Election Challenges	January 22, 2027
Ballots mailed out for Regular Election	March 31, 2027
Deadline to request Replacement Ballot	April 9, 2027
Deadline for Disputes	April 16, 2027
Deadline for Primary/Regular Election Campaign Financial Report	April 23, 2027
Regular Election Day	April 30, 2027
Deadline to Withdrawal from Regular Election by 5:00pm	May 4, 2027
Deadline for Regular Election Challenges	May 7, 2027

Every LRBOI Vote Counts!

The Primary Election will be conducted by secret mail-in ballot only. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. Ballot counting for the Primary will begin at 12:30 pm, on January 15, 2027, held in the Lodge at the Tribes Government Center, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI.

The Regular Election will be conducted by secret mail in ballot as well as in person voting. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for mail-in voting purposes. Ballot counting for the Regular Election will begin at 12:30 pm, on Friday, April 30, 2027. The ballot counting will be held in the Lodge at the Tribes Government Center, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI. In person voting for the Regular election is available from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Voting in person requires a valid Tribal ID to be presented.

Candidacy Packet Pick Up and Drop Off

Packets can be downloaded from the LRBOI website, on the Election Board page. Packets can be requested by email at Electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov or by calling 231-398-6709. Candidate packets may be returned via email to the Electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov. Candidate packets will be reviewed and verified by the Election Board. If there are any issues or missing information, the Election Board will contact the potential candidate to correct deficiencies, if time permits. The background check fee is required as part of the candidate process and may be mailed to the Election Board or dropped off. **The non-refundable payment of the background check fee must be received by the submission deadline. All packets must be submitted complete no later than 5:00pm on October 5, 2026. Incomplete candidate packets are unacceptable and will result in not meeting the candidate requirements to run for election.**

Election Board Office Hours – Candidate Packet Pick Up

Manistee: **September 15, 2026, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm**
Government Building - Center 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI 49660
Election Board Office

Muskegon: **September 15, 2026, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm**
Ellis Building - 1478 E. Ellis Road. Muskegon, MI 49444
Inside the Main Door

Election Board Office Hours – Candidate Packet Drop Off

Manistee: **October 5, 2026, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm**
Government Building - Center 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI 49660
Election Board Office

Muskegon: **October 5, 2026, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm**
Ellis Building - 1478 E. Ellis Road. Muskegon, MI 49444
Inside the Main Door

Voter Registration forms are available via:

- LRBOI-nsn.gov website on the Election Board page
- Pick up in Manistee at the Government Building
- Pick up in Muskegon at the Ellis Building
- Email request at electionboard@lrboi-nsn.gov
- Phone 231-398-6709

Every LRBOI Vote Counts!

Mackinac Bridge Walk



Clear skies over the Straits of Mackinac greeted thousands of walkers on Labor Day as an estimated 34,000 people participated in the 68th annual Mackinac Bridge Walk on Monday, Sept. 7.

For Michigan's Anishinaabe Tribal Nations, however, this year's walk carried a significance that went far beyond the annual Labor Day tradition.

Leaders and citizens from Michigan's 12 federally recognized Tribal Nations came together as part of a collective call to action through the ancestral Three Fires Confederacy, gathering at the Straits to stand for the protection of the Great Lakes and voice their concerns about the continued operation of Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline.

Tribal leaders called on native people throughout the Great Lakes region, along with allies and water protectors, to join them for what organizers described not simply as a demonstration, but as a ceremony and water walk.

"This is not just a demonstration. It is a ceremony," organizers stated in announcing the gathering.

The Three Fires Confederacy Bridge Walk for Water began before the public bridge walk with gatherings on both sides of the Straits. A water ceremony was held before participants joined the thousands of people making their way onto the Mackinac Bridge.

Organizers described the gathering as an opportunity for Anishinaabe people to honor their responsibilities to the water while demonstrating their continued presence and commitment to protecting their homelands, treaty rights and future generations.

"It's an opportunity to remind the world that Anishinaabe people are still here, still protecting our homelands, and still carrying our responsibilities to the generations who come after us," organizers said.

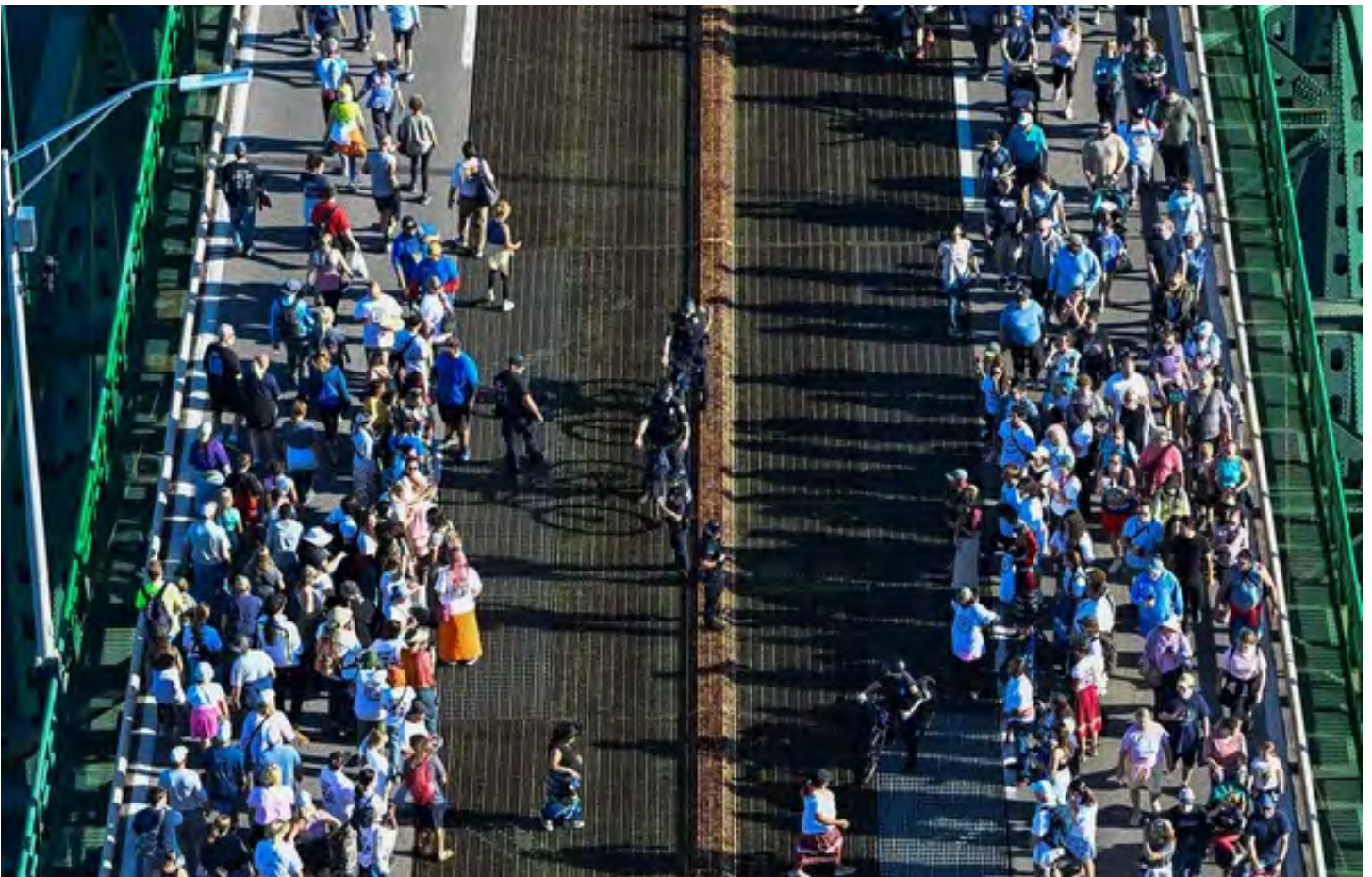
Many participants walked in ribbon skirts, traditional clothing and other attire representing their communities. Native and non-Native water protectors were invited to participate in the gathering, which was organized in partnership with groups including the Anishinaabek Caucus and Michigan Climate Action Network.

The location carried particular meaning. Beneath the Mackinac Bridge are the Straits of Mackinac, where Lakes Michigan and Huron meet and where Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline crosses the lakebed.

For Tribal Nations throughout the region, the Straits are not simply a geographic landmark. The waters are part of the traditional Anishinaabe homelands and remain culturally, spiritually and historically important to Native communities throughout the Great Lakes.

The gathering comes amid continuing legal and regulatory disputes surrounding Line 5 and Enbridge's proposed Great Lakes Tunnel. Tribal Nations have raised concerns about the pipeline and tunnel project because of potential impacts to the Great Lakes, treaty-protected resources and culturally significant areas. In August, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a federal permit for the tunnel project, prompting objections from Tribal Nations. The Michigan Supreme Court also recently overturned a key state permit for the tunnel and sent the matter back for further review.

Monday's gathering brought the issue directly to one of Michigan's most recognizable landmarks. Organizers estimated that nearly 1,000 representatives from Michigan's 12 federally recognized Tribal Nations participated in the effort to stand together for the water.



The Tribal gathering took place alongside one of Michigan's largest annual traditions. According to the Mackinac Bridge Authority, approximately 34,000 people participated in this year's Bridge Walk, up slightly from about 33,000 in 2025. Participation since 2018 has generally ranged between 21,000 and 35,000 people.

The Mackinac Bridge Walk has been held annually since 1958, with the exception of 2020, when it was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's event marked the 68th walk.

Participants were able to begin from either St. Ignace or Mackinaw City, a format that eliminates the need for buses to transport walkers across the bridge. The bridge was closed to public vehicle traffic from 6:30 a.m. until noon.

For the Anishinaabe participants who gathered at the Straits, the morning represented something different from the thousands of individual journeys traditionally made across the Mighty Mac each Labor Day.

It was a collective journey — one centered on water, responsibility and the generations still to come.

As Tribal Nations gathered together above the waters connecting Lakes Michigan and Huron, their message was one that Anishinaabe people have carried for generations: the water connects us, and protecting it is a responsibility shared with those who will come after us.





Food Distribution

September 2026 Closure **Dates**

- Sept. 3rd: Closed for food drops
- Sept. 7th: Closed for LRBOI holiday
- Sept. 10th: Closed for food drops
- Sept. 14th: Closed for USDA truck
- Sept. 21st: Closed for LRBOI holiday
- Sept. 29th & 30th: Closed for inventory

The Gathering Table

September 2026



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Food & Nutrition Center

Food of the Month:

Eggplant

Eggplant is a vegetable with shiny purple skin and a mild flavor. It can be grilled, roasted, baked, sautéed, or added to stir-fries. Eggplant is used in dishes like baba ganoush and eggplant parmesan. It provides fiber for digestion and nutrients that support the immune system, heart, and bones. Choose smaller eggplants that are firm, shiny, and have a green stem. Store in the refrigerator and rinse before using. Pick up an eggplant and try a new recipe this month.



Movement of the Month:

Baseball

Baseball is a fun way to get active and enjoy the outdoors. Hitting, throwing, catching, and running can be adapted for all ages and abilities. Visit a local park or make a field at home using items like paper plates for bases. Even a simple game of catch helps build skills and keeps the body moving. Get outside this September and give baseball a try.



National Family Meals Month

#familymealsmovement

September is National Family Meals Month! Sharing meals with others can support mental, emotional, and physical health. Family meals are a great time to slow down, connect, and enjoy food together. Make meals more fun by letting someone choose the music, planning a meal around a favorite book, or having a picnic indoors or outside. Simple moments around the table can create lasting memories. Plan a family meal this month and try a new way to make it special!

Cheesy Baked Eggplant

Serves: 4

Recipe from the First Nations
Development Institute

Ingredients:*

- 1 large eggplant
- Low-fat or lite mayonnaise
- Low-sodium lemon pepper seasoning
- Grated Parmesan cheese

*Items in **bold** can be found at Food Distribution. Please note that some fruits and vegetables are only seasonally available.

Directions:

1. Wash hands with soap and warm water. Clean cooking area.
2. Preheat oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Rinse eggplant under cool, running water.
4. Peel the eggplant and cut into 1-inch slices.
5. Coat each side of the sliced eggplant with mayonnaise.
6. Dust each side with lemon pepper and Parmesan cheese.
7. Place prepared eggplant on a baking sheet.
8. Bake for 8 - 10 minutes or until cheese has and has browned slightly.
9. Serve immediately.

UPCOMING CLOSURES

September

- September 3rd: CLOSED for food drops
- September 7th: CLOSED for LRBOI holiday
- September 10th: CLOSED for food drops
- September 14th: CLOSED for USDA truck
- September 21st: CLOSED for LRBOI holiday
- September 29th & 30th: CLOSED for inventory

October

- October 8th: CLOSED for food drops
- October 12th: CLOSED for USDA truck
- October 15th: CLOSED for food drops
- October 29th & 30th: CLOSED for inventory

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 10th, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Decoding Food Labels (Muskegon - Ellis)
- September 11th, 12 PM - 1 PM: LAST 2026 Monthly Client Lunch (Manistee)
- September 15th, 2 PM - 4 PM: Spice, Slice & Preserve Canning Class (Manistee - Aki)
- October 8th, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Fueling with Fiber (Muskegon - Ellis)
- October 10th, 10 AM - 12 PM: Putting the Garden to Bed (Manistee)

References:

CalFresh. "Eggplants." Eatfresh.Org, 2026, <https://eatfresh.org/discover-foods/eggplants/>.

The Food Industry Association Foundation. "Infographics." <https://www.fmi.org/family-meals/toolkits/infographics>.

United States Department of Agriculture. "Eggplant." 2025. <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/resources/nutrition-education-materials/seasonal-produce-guide/eggplant>.

Eggplant on cutting board by foodphotographer.puglia via Canva
Catch by USDA SNAP-Ed Connection
Family Meals infographic by FMI Foundation
Eggplant graphic by irasutoya via Canva

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations is funded by the USDA. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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Questions?
Contact Caitlin at:
231-655-9579
caitlinlorenz@lrboi-nsn.gov

SPICE, SLICE, & PRESERVE: FREE CANNING CLASS

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!
REGISTER TODAY.



Tues. Sept. 15th
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Presented in partnership
with MSU Extension

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Aki Maadiziwin
Community
Center

CAITLINLORENC@LRBOI-NSN.GOV | 231-655-9579



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

Decoding Food Labels



A free class to learn about reading food labels and what they mean for your health!

Thursday, September 10th
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Call or email to sign-up:

231-655-9579

caitlinlorenc@lrboi-nsn.gov

Please join the
Little River Band of
Ottawa Indians
Natural Resources
Department



STURGEON Release CEREMONY



10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Sturgeon viewing,
rearing facility tours
& yard games



~12:00 pm:
**STURGEON
RELEASE CEREMONY**



Fish released after
ceremony



LOCATION:
Rainbow Bend
US Forest Service
Manistee River Access



SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Please contact the LRBOI NRD
for more details: (231)723-1594



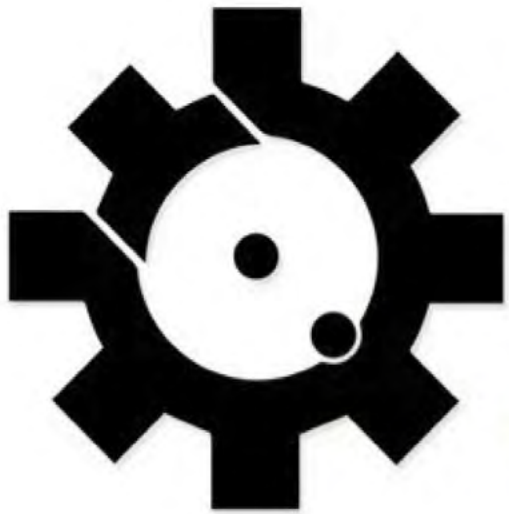
Harper Lou's Bowtique

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

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



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)

