

NOVEMBER 2024

HBMI

NEWSLETTER

Autumn on the Meduxnekeag River ...



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Maliseet Advocacy Center lights it up purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

HOULTON, Maine – Tribal buildings at the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, as well as local law enforcement, are now aglow with purple in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Maliseet Advocacy Center placed Trees adorned with purple lights were placed in front of the Houlton Police Department and Aroostook County Sheriff's Office, as well as the HBMI administrative building, Housing Authority and Maliseet Health and Wellness Center.

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Advocacy Center ...

Also Tuesday evening, the Maliseet Advocacy Center held a tree-lighting ceremony to kick off the month-long celebration. Other events planned for the month of October to raise awareness include a Paint and Sip event at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Maliseet Community Center (568 Foxcroft Road); and the 27th annual Candlelight Vigil and Meal at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, also at the Community Center.

"The purpose of the purple-lit trees is to raise awareness for domestic violence and honoring all of those individuals who have lost their lives," said Allison Sabattis, shelter-transitional housing coordinator/advocate.

The tree-lighting ceremony was held in conjunction with the tribe's sister sites at Mi'kmaq Nation Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center; Indian Township Advocacy Center; Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations; and Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center.

"Tonight, we gather around this tree decorated with purple lights to symbolize our support of survivors; in remembrance of those who have lost their lives to domestic violence; and unity in the mission to end domestic violence in this Maliseet community," said Tawoma Martinez, community educator/advocate. "We are gathered in unity with our Wabanaki relatives to acknowledge that many of our people are living lives impacted by domestic violence."



HBMI WELCOMES NEW STAFFF!



Kelly Drake
Administrative Planner



Richard Tompkins
FTA Transportation Driver



Sheila LeBlanc
FTA Transportation Driver



Gwydion Griffeth
Digital Navigator



Paul Gamble
Case Manager
ICWA



Kelli Shannon
Family Support Worker
ICWA



April Reynolds
Law Enforcement
Planner in Maliseet
Police Department



Tristina Blake
Law Enforcement Assistant
Planner in Maliseet Police
Department



Our Tribal Staff wore purple on Wednesday, Oct. 16, as we were treated to lunch by the Maliseet Advocacy Center. The luncheon was to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Elder Expo

Join us for an Elder Expo at Maliseet Community Center on Thursday,
November, 7th. from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

● ACTIVITIES ● RESOURCES ● INFORMATION

For any questions please contact:
Margaret Sabatis at msabatis@wabanakiphw.org



Wabanaki Public
Health & Wellness





Elders' Meals

November 2024


Elder Center phone # -- 532-7780

Elder Coordinator -- Danya Boyce

Cook -- Mark Lewis



*We are holding an Honor the Elders dinner on Nov. 7 at 4 p.m. in the Maliseet Community Center.
All regular meals begin at 11 a.m.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Fall Back 	4	5 Election Day! Boiled Ham Dinner Cabbage, carrots, potatoes Whole grain bread Cook's choice dessert	6	7 Honor the Elders meal 4 p.m. Maliseet Community Center	8	9 
10	11	12 Chicken Tenders Oven Fries Coleslaw Rolls Cookies	13	14 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Corn Rolls Brownies	15	16
17	18	19 Pizza party! Juice Soda Fruit	20	21 BINGO Day! Soup & Sandwich Soup of the Day Assorted Sandwich fixings Cake	22	23
24	25	26 Bruschetta Stuffing Casserole Mixed Vegetables Crescent Rolls Ice Cream	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving!	29 Native American Heritage Day	30



Happy Thanksgiving



Tribal News & Announcements

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

General Membership meeting has been scheduled for Sunday November 17, 2024 from 12-3 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Maliseet Community Center located on 568 Foxcroft Road, Houlton, ME 04730

Meeting will be followed by a potluck. Please bring a dish to share. An Agenda will be shared later.

Maliseet Health & Wellness Center

The Maliseet Health and Wellness Center is pleased to announce the hiring of Tiffany Sirois as its new Medical Assistant.

Tiffany has been a medical assistant for about two years, but have only been working in the field for close to one. She started her career working in Internal Medicine at Houlton Regional Hospital.



Tiffany Sirois

"I absolutely love doing what I do, I love being able to help people the best I can and care for all the patients," Sirois said.

She lives in Littleton with her husband Shane, and their four children. In her spare time she is watching her three boys play football, and playing with my daughter. She likes to do crafts, play basketball in the yard and play pass with the football. They like to have movie nights together at least once a week and try to have camp fires in their backyard when possible. She also enjoys taking her boys hunting one on one just to be able to bond with them.



Courtney London

Peer Recovery Advocate

Maliseet Healing to Wellness Court announces staff updates



James Boyce

Peer Recovery Advocate

Dear Tribal Members and families,
I hope this letter finds all of you well as we are approaching the winter season. My name is Courtney L. London, and I am excited to have recently joined the Maliseet Nation Healing to Wellness Court as one of your Peer Recovery Advocates. I would like to take this moment to introduce myself and share with you a bit about my background.

I come to the Wellness Court with 15 years of experience in recovery. In my previous role at Advance Recovery Center, I was responsible for implementing M.A.T. services to those that are in recovery from substance use disorder alongside the treatment provider Dr. Annabelle Lipsett. I myself have been in recovery from substances for more than 10 years, and I am passionate about my work and eager to bring my skills and experience to you and support you so that you as well can become successful in your journey of recovery. I am the daughter of Mary (Joseph-Sabattis) Tomah of Monticello and John London (deceased) also of Monticello as well as Anthony (Tony) Tomah (deceased) of Monticello. I have four siblings all girls and I am second born. I grew up in Monticello just outside of Houlton where my parents raised us to the best of their ability with their wisdom, knowledge, love, and support. I left home the year I graduated (1998) and attended Southern Maine Community College, where I would later succumb to a catastrophic event that forever changed my life course. I have two children my daughter Ciara Lorom of Orono and my son Quinton Kobylarz (deceased). I reside at our community village here in Houlton.

Outside of work, I enjoy fishing, swimming, traveling, and spending time with my family at the lake. I believe that our Wellness team is one of the strongest built on mutual respect and positive open communication, and a handful of some of the smartest most dedicated people in the world and I am looking forward to working with all of you in an effort to support and assist on your road to recovery.

Please feel free to reach out to me at clondon@maliseets.com or by calling the Healing to Wellness Court at (207) 532-4273 or my cell at (207) 694-5647 if you have any questions or just want to say hello. I am excited to get to know each of you and to work closely with each of you as you work toward your goals on your path of recovery.

Woliwon

Greetings, my name is James Boyce, and I am a proud Maliseet Nation citizen and Peer Recovery Advocate with the Maliseet Nation Healing To Wellness Court. My Recovery journey began in September 2022, following years of personal experience with substance use and the criminal justice system. My lived experience has given me a unique understanding of the struggles and challenges my peers face. I know the pain, isolation, and complexities of addiction and how overwhelming the path to recovery can feel. This first-hand knowledge fuels my work and helps me connect with my peers on a level that goes beyond words – it is a shared experience and understanding.

After six weeks of residential treatment at St. Francis Recovery Center in Auburn, I transitioned to a sober living environment -- A Hand Up Recovery & Re-Entry Housing, in Lewiston -- where I engaged in intensive outpatient therapy at Recovery Connections of Maine. I discovered early on that service to others would be essential in sustaining my own recovery, as it gives purpose to my past struggles and enables me to support others with empathy and insight.

In early 2023, I earned my Recovery Coach certification through the CCAR Recovery Coach Academy with Healthy Acadia. Returning to Houlton in July, I saw the pressing impact of the opioid crisis on my community, motivating me to build my support network through another round of intensive outpatient therapy with the Aroostook Mental Health Center.

Since pledging my Recovery to the Wellbriety Movement in October 2023, I have taken on the role of a Wellbriety Fire Starter/Facilitator, leading talking circles in Houlton and Caribou. My goal is to use my experiences to offer a safe, non-judgmental space where my peers can share openly and feel understood. I understand the challenges that come with leaving behind a lifestyle deeply tied to substance use, and I intend to use this insight to guide my peers toward stability, healing, and lasting recovery.

Together, we create a foundation of trust and respect, knowing that each step forward strengthens not only our individual recoveries, but our community as a whole.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

NOVEMBER 2024 Subject to change without notice



- TO DO
- ☐ Inform staff by Monday morning at 9am if your child will be attending & require transportation home
 - ☐ Youth need to come with their backpack & homework, as we have an hour designated for homework

- NOTES
- Please be aware that while we have an hour designated for homework time, there may be occasions when this period is shortened due to programs/ activities. We highly encourage youth to do their homework during this time. However, if they choose not to, they will still participate in an educational activity such as HYL or STEM.
 - Transportation starts at 5:30pm. Youth need to be picked up by 5:45pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 E-Sports 3p-5p- pre sign up required	2
3	4	5 Community Health Education	6 Dolores Language	7 Project Venture WPHW 4pm-5pm	8	9
10	11 HBMI Offices closed; Holiday	12 Community Health Education	13 Dolores Language	14 Project Venture WPHW 4pm-5pm	15	16
17	18 Kindness Curriculum WPHW	19 Community Health Education	20 Dolores Language / Club Store	21 Professional development; Club Closed	22	23
24	25	26 Early Release Family Thanksgiving	27 HBMI Offices closed; Holiday	28 HBMI Offices closed; Holiday	29	30 



Boys & Girls Club Field Trip to Treworgy Family Orchards

Boys and Girls Club family of Quarter 4
Family of Reed Merritt
We appreciate you!
*names are chosen at random





TAMING THE TRAIL -- Workers with the Trail Crew program of Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) were busy this month clearing trails and brush along sacred tribal land in the Maliseet Village. The WaYS Trail Crew is the first of its kind for WaYS and possibly on a national level as it relates to trail crew pedagogy. Working on the Tribe's Medicine Trail are, from left, George Bailey, Wambli Martinez, Awuwes Dana, Logan Dana, Connor Lola and Jayden Dana.

Toqaq nutalosuwikuwam 2024 -- A special spirit-naming ceremony was held in October with nearly 30 people participating. The event was led by Dolores Crofton-Macdonald, James Boyce and Courtney London.



VENDORS WANTED FOR 2024 GIFT & CRAFT FAIR

Being held November 29th and 30th, 10am to
4pm at the
Maliseet Community Center.
Must stay both days until end.

10x 10 space fee-\$25 for both days
*fee to benefit Maliseet Youth Council

Join us for a vibrant craft fair
and showcase your creativity
to the community!

Contact Cathy St John at
cstjohn@maliseets.com
or call at 207-532-8619
to register



HBMI hosts 27th annual Candlelight Vigil to raise awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

HOULTON, Maine — Domestic and sexual violence affects people from all walks of life, including tribal citizens with the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

Abuse can be emotional or financial, leaving the person feeling trapped, with nowhere to go. Four out of five Native American women experience violence in their lives, according to a report by the National Congress of American Indians.

Thankfully, there are services to help those in need.

The Maliseet Advocacy Center is available to anyone affected by domestic and sexual violence, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking. The program offers support, assistance and information about options available to both native and non-native individuals.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Maliseet Advocacy Center held the tribe's 27th annual candlelight vigil on Oct. 24 to offer support and raise awareness for the cause. About 50 people turned out for this year's vigil, which featured ceremonial tribal drumming by the Four Winds drum group; lighting of candles in memory or honor of victims; and a community meal.

Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis welcomed those in attendance and urged a call to unity for supporting those impacted by domestic violence.

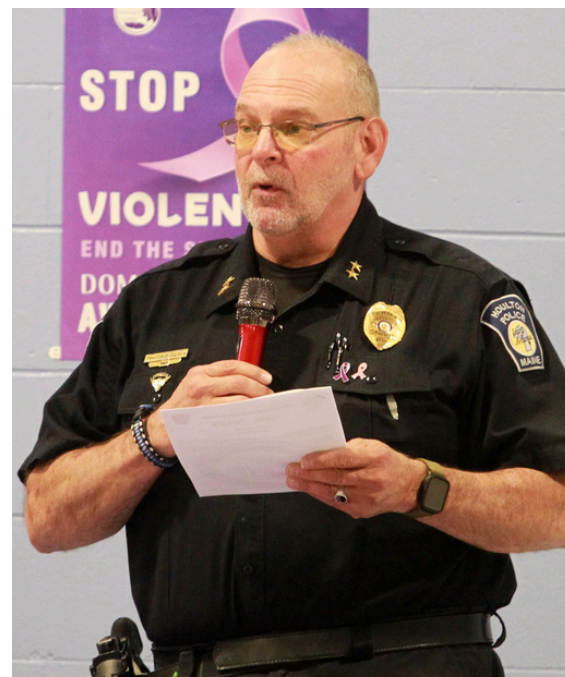
"Tonight's ceremony is something special that we all hold dear (to our hearts)," Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis said. "It is important that communities are united in embracing our culture and this (ceremony) is a way we can all help heal together. It is a way to celebrate and support our survivors, but more importantly it is a way to honor those that we have lost to domestic violence."

Sabattis said that the rate of domestic violence, for both women and men, was significantly higher for native Americans, compared to the general population. More than 83 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native adults have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, according to the National Institute of Justice.

"Ninety-six percent of our Indigenous female survivors experienced sexual violence at the hands of a non-native man," she added. "Plus, Native American women are murdered at 10 times the national average."



Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis (left) lights a candle in honor of victims of domestic and sexual violence during the 27th annual Maliseet Advocacy Center's Candlelight Vigil Thursday, Oct. 24. Joining Sabattis is Lilly Shaw.



Houlton Police Chief Tim DeLuca speaks to the audience.

Continued on next page



Members of the Maliseet Tribal Council were presented gifts at the 27th annual Maliseet Advocacy Center's Candlelight Vigil Oct. 24. Taking part are, from left, Beth Aucoin, Chief Clarissa Sabattis, Crystal Tucker, Tribal Elder Danya Boyce, Sue Desiderio and Joshua Toner. Not pictured are John Flewelling and Cathy St. John.

Vigil continued -----

Houlton Police Chief Tim DeLuca once again served as the guest speaker for Thursday's event.

"The Houlton Police Department takes domestic violence and sexual assault crimes seriously with our response," DeLuca said. "However, a reactive response is not enough. As I like to say, reactive is late and proactive is early and domestic violence is no exception."

He said crimes typically happen in a person's home with the victim feeling trapped and helpless, with little to no support.

Cathy St. John, program director for the Maliseet Advocacy Center, conducted a shawl ceremony as a reminder to why they are gathering. The shawls serve as a reminder of providing safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, sex trafficking and murdered or missing Indigenous relatives. The purple shawl represents the victims and survivors of domestic violence; the red shawl represents missing and murdered Indigenous relatives; the teal shawl represents the victims and survivors of sexual assault; the rainbow shawl represents the LGBTQ and two-spirit relatives who often experience violence and stigma;

the white shawl represents the child survivors and victims; and finally the orange shawl honors residential school survivors and those who did not make it home via the foster care program.

The Maliseet program offers unconditional/confidential support; crisis intervention; safety planning; emergency shelter and related assistance; a support group; hospital accompaniment; court advocacy; assistance in filing for orders of protection from abuse; assistance in filing for divorce and parental rights/custody; legal assistance; information and referrals; and education and training.

The mission of the Maliseet Advocacy Center is to effect change within the tribal community, where equality, respect and nonviolence become cornerstones of all relationships.

The Maliseet Advocacy Center has an anonymous 24-hour crisis line at 207-532-6401 to offer support to any tribal member experiencing abuse.
