



HBMI

NEWSLETTER

Candidates announced for upcoming Tribal election

The list of candidates for Tribal Chief, Tribal Representative and Tribal Council were announced Friday afternoon.

Previous chiefs were Brenda Commander, Clair Sabattis (Clarissa's father), Jim Tomah and Terry Polchies.

The election will be held Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the HBMI Community Center, located at 568 Foxcroft Road.

There are three seats open for four-year terms on the Tribal Council, with eight individuals stepping forward to be candidates.

Incumbent Chief Clarissa E. Sabattis is running unopposed for a four-year term as Tribal Chief. Sabattis has served as the Maliseet Chief since 2017. She is just the fifth chief in the tribe's 45-year history as a federally-recognized tribe. On Oct. 10, 1980, the federal government officially classified the Houlton Band of Maliseets as a Native American tribe.

The candidates, in alphabetical order, are: Kristin Anderson (Hardy), Beth Aucoin, Michelle Barrows, Danya Boyce, Ashley Foster-Kinney, Darcy Gentle, Allison Sabattis and Crystal Tucker. Tucker and Aucoin are incumbents seeking re-election.

One individual, Brian Reynolds, has expressed interest in serving as the Tribal Representative. The role of tribal representative in the Maine State Legislature is a non-voting position, though the representative can introduce and sponsor legislation. **see page 2**

New housing units coming to Tribal lands

The tribal chief and council recognizes the shortage of rental properties locally that impact our community.

In an effort to offer more affordable housing options, they have purchased some additional lots, as well as six, three-bedroom modular buildings and a small log cabin.

These units will be available to those who may not traditionally qualify for housing on the reservation for various reasons. The Housing Authority will manage these rentals, however they are not subsidized, and they won't fall under any of the housing programs.

Chief and council will be sending out an announcement for the application process in the coming days.



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Maliseet Advocacy Center lights it up for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

HOULTON, Maine -- The Maliseet Advocacy Center kicked off April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a tree-lighting ceremony Tuesday, April 1.



A small group of around 14 people attended the service, which featured a prayer from Tribal Elder Dayna Boyce; words of support from Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis and information from Maliseet Advocacy Center Director Cathy St. John.

“The Maliseet Advocacy Center staff want to thank the Chief and Tribal Council for the support that they give our program,” St. John said. “April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month -- a time to bring attention to the widespread issue of sexual violence and to empower communities to take action.”

This year’s theme of “Together We Act, United We Change,” highlights the power of working together to create safer, more respectful environments for all, St. John added.

Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact – including sexual assault and rape. This can include words and actions like sexual harassment, street harassment --sometimes called “catcalling” -- and nonconsensual sharing of private images, which is sometimes called “revenge porn.”

“As artificial intelligence (AI) has become more popular, some have used it to create ‘deep fake pornography,’ which is false, nonconsensual sexual imagery of real people,” St. John explained. “This is also a sexual violation. Sexual violence may or may not involve force, and the types of sexual violence considered a crime vary from state to state. Regardless of whether a form of sexual violence is considered a crime, everyone deserves to be treated with respect and have their boundaries respected.”

She offered the following statistics that sexual assault is a crisis that disproportionately impacts Native communities, with more than four out of five (84%) of American Indian and Alaskan Native women experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime. Native women are 2.5 times more likely than non-Native women to experience rape or sexual assault, and at least 86% of perpetrators are non-Native men, she explained. **see page 7**

Election

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Who is qualified to vote?

Any enrolled member of the Tribe who is 18 years of age or older and resides within the United States is eligible to vote. Prisoners incarcerated shall not be eligible to vote. Persons on parole shall not be deemed prisoners.

Any elector duly qualified to vote under Section 301 of the Tribal Election Ordinance, unable to vote in person may request an absentee ballot by a written request to Honest Ballot that he/she expects to be absent from Houlton, Maine on the day of the election, who is the resident of another state, or who is physically incapacitated so as to be unable to go to the polling place, or who is a member of the United States Armed Forces stationed away from Houlton, Maine, may vote by absentee ballot.

How to Obtain an Absentee Ballot

An elector, eligible to vote by absentee ballot, must request an absentee ballot from Honest Ballot Association, no later than April 6th, 2025 in one of two ways: by mailing to Honest Ballot Association, North Shore Towers, 27246 Grand Central Parkway, Floral Park, NY 11005 or by email to elections@maliseets.com

All voted absentee Ballots must be received by close of business (4:30 P.M.) Friday, April 25, 2025 the day prior to the election. Ballots may be cast at the HBMI Community Center, 568 Foxcroft Road, Houlton, ME on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tribal News & Announcements

Indian Child Welfare Act

On Your Own

Serving on Juries

Juries are an important part of our system of justice. People accused of serious crimes have a guaranteed right to a trial by jury of citizens like themselves. In a civil lawsuit, parties can generally choose between a jury trial or a judge. Jurors are picked from randomly selected from lists of licensed drivers and from a list of registered voters.

You may be excused from jury service if the court finds this would put you under undue hardship or extreme inconvenience because of public necessity, or because of mental or physical disability preventing you from serving. If you think you should be excused from jury service, contact the clerk of courts office well in advance of your date.

Not every one called will be selected for jury duty. Some things that you may be excluded for:

If you are related to someone involved in the case.

If you are related to one of the lawyers.

If you have a financial interest in the case.

If you have an opinion of how the case should be decided.

If you are bias or prejudice opinion stops you from deciding the case impartially.



**EVERY
CHILD
MATTERS**

Staff Spotlight

Blackwell completes certification

The Maliseet Health and Wellness Center is pleased to recognize and congratulate Sakoya Blackwell on the successful completion of her Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician/Community (MHRT/C) certification and the attainment of her full credential.

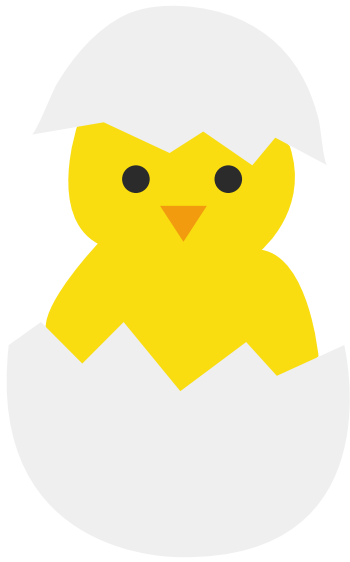


Sakoya Blackwell

The MHRT/C certification signifies a high level of expertise in supporting adults with mental health diagnoses within community-based settings. This rigorous program encompasses comprehensive training across eight domains, including community integration, trauma and resilience, vocational support, and the mind-body connection. The curriculum also emphasizes practical experience, ensuring professionals are well-prepared to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios.

MHRT/C professionals are invaluable assets to our community, providing essential support to individuals facing mental health challenges. Their holistic approach -- integrating psychosocial rehabilitation and community integration -- empowers individuals to achieve greater autonomy and confidence through personalized treatment plans and effective coping strategies.

Sakoya has demonstrated exceptional dedication in completing her training, gaining valuable work experience, and consistently delivering outstanding service to our tribal citizens and families. We are proud to have her as a vital member of our Behavioral Health Clinic.



Elders' Calendar

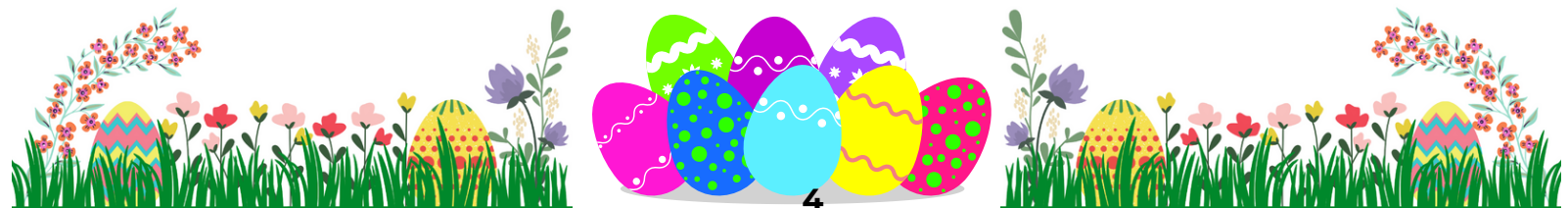
April 2025

Elder Center phone # -- 532-7780
 Elder Coordinator -- Danya Boyce
 Cook -- Mark Lewis

All regular meals begin at 11 a.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Shepherd's Pie Green Salad w/choice of dressing Whole Wheat Bread Jello w/topping	2	3 Breaded Fish Patties w/tartar sauce Tater Tots Coleslaw/Roll Applesauce (plain, blueberry, strawberry)	4	5
6	7	8 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Stewed Tomatoes Rolls Assorted Ice Cream Bars	9	10 Beef Stew Cornbread 100% Fruit Juice Yellow Cake w/ Frosting	11	12
13	14	15 Baked Pork Chops Stove Top stuffing Potatoes Carrots Wheat/Oat Bread Pudding w/ topping	16	17 Baked Ham Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Dinner Roll Choice of pie Easter Candy!	18	19
20 	21  Offices Closed	22 Spaghetti & Meatballs Tossed Salad Italian Bread Cookies	23	24 BINGO! Finger Roll Sandwiches (egg/chicken salad) Veggie Platter Fruit Platter Cupcakes	25	26
27	28	29 Chicken Tenders Oven Fries Macaroni Salad Wheat Rolls Brownies	30	1	2	3



HBMI's Crofton-Macdonald elected president of Wabanaki Alliance

HOULTON, Maine – The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Wabanaki Alliance now have an even stronger bond following the election of Osihkiyol “Zeke” Crofton-Macdonald as its new president.

Crofton-Macdonald joined HBMI in 2022 as its first Tribal Ambassador and has worked diligently to educate and foster relationships with many organizations across the state. The purpose of the Tribal Ambassador is to strengthen the Maliseet Nation’s relationships with the other Wabanaki Nations and the people of Maine alongside tribal leadership.

“The Wabanaki Alliance is proud of the support and accomplishments we have garnered since 2020,” Crofton-Macdonald said. “With the 132nd Maine Legislature now in session, we will continue to educate and advocate for sovereignty and work in a bipartisan manner to advance other tribal priorities including laws pertaining to commercial fishing, tribal utilities, and eminent domain.”

He takes over the president role from Maulian Bryant, who was recently named as the executive director for the Wabanaki Alliance.

As Tribal Ambassador for HBMI, Crofton-Macdonald represents the Maliseet Nation in Maine’s stance and intention to assert our inherent right to self-determination as a federally recognized sovereign nation. For the past two years, he has worked to honor relationships with the other Wabanaki Nations in Maine, strengthen the kinship ties with the rest of the Maliseet Nation in New Brunswick, and worked to improve relationships with the state of Maine.

As the elected president of the Wabanaki Alliance, Crofton-Macdonald will take on a larger role in advancing tribal initiatives and education throughout the state.

“We are extremely proud of Zeke,” Maliseet Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabbattis said. “He has a firm grasp on all the issues impacting our people. I appreciate his ability to provide tribal information to a variety of partners in a way that is engaging.”

Also elected were Vice President Donna Loring, Elder, Penobscot Nation; Secretary Aaron Dana, Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative in the Maine House of Representatives; Treasurer Rena Newell, Citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik; and Board Member Richard Silliboy, Vice Chief of the Mi’kmaq Nation.

The board also appointed Monica Castellanos as the new Associate Director. Monica joined the Wabanaki Alliance in late January. A longtime supporter of tribal sovereignty, Castellanos managed a 2018 statewide gubernatorial campaign prominently featuring support for tribal sovereignty and other Wabanaki priorities and has been a supporter of Wabanaki Alliance in both a personal capacity and as a small business member of the Wabanaki Alliance.

“This is an experienced and dedicated Board of Directors,” Crofton-Macdonald added. “We are excited grow the organization to the next level.”

The Wabanaki Alliance was formed in 2020 by the four tribes in Maine (Mi’kmaq Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseets, Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation) to educate people of Maine and advocate for recognition of the inherent sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations.





SAAM

continued from page 2

“Victims often know the person who sexually assaulted them,” St. John continued. “People who commit sexual abuse can be family members, friends, romantic partners, or other trusted individuals, which can further complicate the trauma experienced by the survivor. The perpetrator may use coercion, manipulation, threats, or force to commit sexual violence.”

Victims should never take the blame for violence toward them. “It doesn’t matter what someone was wearing, how they were acting, if they were drinking, or what type of relationship they had with the person who abused them,” St. John said. “Everyone deserves autonomy, dignity, respect, and safety.”

This is how You Can Support Survivors: Chances are you know someone who has experienced sexual violence, even if they haven’t told you. Your words and actions can help survivors feel seen and supported and can help to shift the attitudes and beliefs of others. Sexual violence thrives when it is not taken seriously and victim blaming goes unchecked.

However, through culturally grounded healing, trauma-informed advocacy, and community-led solutions, survivors can begin to reclaim their strength, dignity, and safety. We must work together to ensure that all Native relatives are safe in every community and every circumstance. “Together We Act, United We Change”

The Center will next host a Community Brunch on Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Maliseet community Center. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Door prizes will be drawn, but you must be present to win.



The Easter Bunny invites you!

Bunny Breakfast + Easter Egg Hunt

\$5 per Person or \$20 per Family
Benefits go toward BGC Youth

Time: 8am-10am **Location: Boys & Girls Club**
Date: April 19th, 2025 **618 Foxcroft Rd.**

Contact Info: manderson@maliseets.com

Job Opening!

HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS
Job Description Revised by Tribal Council 3/4/2025

Services Navigator

STATUS: Temporary Part Time (through the end of 2026); **20-30 hours**
SALARY: \$16.00
SUPERVISED BY: Social Services Director

ROLE: The Navigator serves as an advocate and resource for individuals experiencing the effects of Covid-19. The Navigator will work on behalf of the local community as defined by HBMI to provide a range of supports and services. The Navigator works within a multidisciplinary team to provide a variety of administrative duties. Some evening and weekends may be required.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Respond to all telephone and email inquiries regarding programs, services and activities offered by HBMI.
- Working with individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness during COVID-19 to create comprehensive plans to ensure they will be successful in finding a home, job training, employment, schooling, treatment etc.
- Provides a range of supports and services including:
 - Guidance to service providers and community members about programs and services available.
 - Development, dissemination or posting of communication materials regarding COVID-19 designed for specific local HBMI populations, with tailored information about local services and supports
 - Oversight and advocacy related to the quality and equity of services being offered by non- Indigenous providers.
 - Linking clients to programs within HBMI that provide assistance for housing, education, employment, mental health services, food, etc.
 - Linking clients to programs outside of HBMI that provide assistance for housing, education, employment, mental health services, food, etc.
- Supports enhanced care and services in the community including:
 - Linking clients to networks for those who are in addictions treatment supports.
 - Linking clients to education department
- Maintain a clean, safe environment in an effort to demonstrate basic life skills
- Attend all mandatory trainings per HBMI employee policies.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule and willingness to change schedule

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma or GED.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.

- Ability and willingness to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.
- Ability to provide safe and compassionate services.
- Must possess the ability to work with limited supervision.
- Must possess the ability to interact with clients and community.
- Consent and ability to successfully pass a State and Federal criminal background check.
- Consent and ability to successfully pass a Department of Human Services background check.
- Consent and ability to successfully pass a urine drug screen
- Available for hours outside of HBMI regularly scheduled hours

Responsibility for Safety and Health:

Every employee is responsible for safety and the prevention of accidents and injuries. Successful job performance depends on attention to safety issues.

Physical Requirements:

Physical Abilities

Bending	F	Sitting	O	<i>N (Not Applicable)</i>
Carrying	F	Standing	F	<i>O (Occasionally) up to 2 hours a day</i>
Driving	F	Talking	F	<i>F (Frequently) 2-6 hours a day</i>
Handling	F	Walking	F	<i>C (Constantly) over six hours a day</i>
Hearing	F	Lift/Carry		
Keyboarding	F	50 lbs. or less	O	
Kneeling	F	Push/Pull		
Reaching	F	50 lbs. or less	O	

Application are available for download at our web site maliseets.net, at the front desk of the Administration Building or have one mailed to you by contacting the HR Coordinator at 532-4273 or e-mail hr@maliseets.com. **If selected for employment you will be subject to Alcohol and Drug testing. If you fail the Alcohol or Drug testing any offer of employment will be withdrawn by HBMI.**

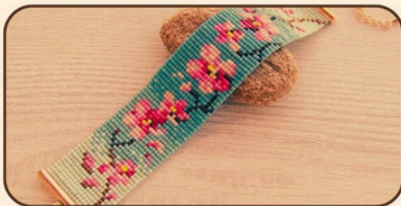
Applications will be accepted until close of business April 16th, 2025

TO APPLY:

Submit an application to:
 Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
 Attn: Jessica Huff
 88 Bell Road
 Littleton, Maine 04730

The HBMI practices Indian Preference to qualified Native Americans in accordance with Public Law 93-638 and is an Equal Opportunity/At-Will Employer.

SPRING CRAFT FAIR



JOIN US FOR A VARIETY OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE CRAFTS AS WELL AS TASTY TREATS. SEE YOU THERE!

**APRIL
19**

**MALISEET COMMUNITY
CENTER
568 FOXCROFT RD,
HOULTON**

**9 AM
- 4 PM**



CARNIVAL

Strengthening Families: Protecting Kids

ICWA & THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MALISEETS ARE TEAMING UP TO HOST A FUN-FILLED CARNIVAL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! ENJOY FREE ADMISSION, EXCITING GAMES, FOOD, AND BOUNCE HOUSES WHILE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS LEARN VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION. JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN AND LEARNING. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

YOUTH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES

**APRIL 25,
2025**

**568 FOXCROFT RD,
MALISEET COMMUNITY
CENTER**

3PM-6PM



**Call Us
207-521-5898
207-532-4273**



For More Information

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ljewell@maliseets.com**