

NEWSLETTER

ICWA encourages tribal citizens to consider becoming foster families



The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) department with the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is encouraging local tribal households to consider fostering children or to become a resource parent.

"Individuals who choose to foster or serve as resource parent(s) are typically open-minded, compassionate community members who want to make a meaningful difference in a child's life," explains Sharon Romanelli, case manager for ICWA. "They are everyday people, committed and willing to help care for another young soul."

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The Wabanaki Youth in Science crew recently visited youth at the Boys & Girls Club of Maliseets to teach the traditional game of "Snow Snake."

Using a smooth piece of wood, they youth slid the wood along a snow-packed path, to see who could send it the farthest.



Tribal News

Upcoming Community Socials

A Full Moon Social "Piyatokonisawi Kisuhs" (February) – Moon of the Spruce Tips Falling will be held Sunday, Feb. 1, from 1-5 p.m. at the HBMI Community Center.

Included in the social will be the Peskotomuhkati-Wolastoqey Latuwewakon (Passamaquoddy-Maliseet) Dictionary Book Launch second edition.

In addition, guests will learn how to harvest traditional tobacco Nespihqamk (Red Willow) and enjoy:

- Family games – learn how to play cribbage
- Poison Board Game.
- Bring a craft to work on or work on regalia.
- PM Dictionary Book Launch.

The next Full Moon Social Toqaqskoni Kisuhs (March) will be held Tuesday, March 3, from 5-7 p.m. at the Community Center. Bring an ingredient for stone soup for the March Full Moon social.



Foster parents

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According to the ICWA department there are several common misconceptions about these programs.

*Foster/resource parents do not need to be perfect.

*Foster /resource parents provide stable, nurturing homes and do not overindulge self or kiddos

*Foster/resource parents benefit greatly from support within their communities

*Foster/resource parents must have independent means of employment

"If you have considered making a difference in the life of a young one, please stop by the ICWA office," Romanelli said.

"Join us for coffee or tea and let's have a conversation. Please don't count yourself out. Instead come talk and allow us the opportunity to work for you. Together we can likely overcome many hurdles. The community is strong and together we can help one another."

The ICWA department can be reached at 207-532-4273.

YEARS OF SERVICE -- The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians recently recognized staff celebrating anniversaries with the tribe. Lisa Matthews was recognized for 25 years of service; Danya Boyce and Andrew Magnus were recognized for 20 years of service; and Leona Alvarado, Sakoya Blackwell, Rhonda Cochran, Dolores Crofton-Macdonald, Jocelyn Haney and Isaac St. John were recognized for five years of service. Pictured are, from left, Danya Boyce, Leona Alvarado, Dolores Crofton-Macdonald and Jocelyn Haney.

Elders' Calendar

February 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
	2 	3 Chicken Breast Patties Buns, Cheese, Mayo Macaroni Salad Cook's Choice Dessert	4	5 Spaghetti & Meatballs Green Salad Garlic Bread Ice Cream	6	7
9	10 Baked Pork Chops Mashed Potatoes Green Beans, Rolls Applesauce	11	12 Shepherd's Pie Carrots Dinner Rolls Brownies	13	14 	
16 Office Closed 	17 Taco Tuesday! All the fixings Fruit/Veggie Juice Fruit Salad Cool Whip	18	19 Baked Beans Hot Dogs Potato Salad Rolls Jello w/ Cool Whip	20	21	
23	24 Meatloaf w/ Gravy Mashed Potatoes Stewed Tomatoes Cookies	25	26 BINGO DAY! Build your own Sandwich! Chips Tomato Soup Cake	27	28	
2	3	4	5	6	7	



General Membership Meeting



REMINDER: There will be a General Membership meeting on Sunday, Feb. 22, at 12 noon at the Maliseet Community Center (568 Foxcroft Road)

Food Distribution on Indian Reservations Program (FDPIR)  **FEB2026**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CLOSED	1 7-5 P.M.	2 7-5 P.M.	3 7-5 P.M.	4 7-5 P.M.	5 7-5 P.M. PRODUCE DELIVERY	6 CLOSED
CLOSED	8 7-5 P.M.	9 7-5 P.M.	10 NUTRITION CLASS 1-2:30 P.M.	11 7-5 P.M.	12 7-5 P.M.	13 CLOSED
CLOSED	15 CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY	16 7-5 P.M.	17 7-5 P.M.	18 7-5 P.M.	19 7-5 P.M.	20 CLOSED
CLOSED	22 7-5 P.M.	23 7-5 P.M.	24 NUTRITION CLASS 1-2:30 P.M.	25 CLOSED WAREHOUSE DELIVERY	26 CLOSED FOR INVENTORY	27 CLOSED
						28 CLOSED

Call Carrie Peterson at 207-532-8919
for more information

Winter Family Fun Weekend

Join us for a full weekend of winter fun! Snowshoeing, Ice fishing, Traditional Hide Tanning and Crafts.

WHEN: February 6th-8th

TIME: 2/6 4:00pm - 2/8 2:00pm

WHERE: Wilderness Pines Campground- Monticello, ME

We have FOUR cabins reserved for families to stay in if they choose. This is a first come first serve basis.

To register email
cfitzpatrick@wabanakiphw.org

FREE TAX PREP - IRS CERTIFIED VOLUNTEERS

SAVE MONEY at Tax Time

File your taxes for **free** and get information about **classes, savings, and other resources**.

- ✓ If your household income was less than \$69,000 in 2025, you likely qualify
- ✓ Learn if you qualify for the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits
- ✓ Learn about new tax credits and deductions for 2025
- ✓ Use direct deposit for a faster refund
- ✓ Explore ways to make the most of your money
- ✓ Prepare and file your taxes online for free at myfreetaxes.com

Wabanaki CA\$H

Date:
March 27th, 2026 from 10-3
March 31st, 2026, from 9-3

Housing Authority/Entrepreneurial Center
13 Clover Court
Houlton Maine 04730

Call... 207-866-6545

to schedule an appointment
Contact us to learn about options for filing your taxes for free online

CA\$H Maine is a statewide collaboration of eight coalitions, comprised of 50 non- and for-profit partners, working together to help empower Maine individuals and families to achieve long-term financial stability.



FIND US ONLINE AT [CA\\$HMAINE.ORG](http://CA$HMAINE.ORG)

Come join us!

WALKING CLUB

**4PM-5PM ON THURSDAYS
11AM-12PM ON FRIDAYS**

During February

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(207) 532-2240 ext. 151
mgardiner@maliseets.com
jhaney@maliseets.com