



JULY 2026

HBMI

NEWSLETTER

4TH OF
July

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Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis speaks to those gathered Sunday, June 21, for Native American Veterans Day at the Maliseet Cemetery.

Celebrating our Veterans

HOULTON, Maine – Veterans Day is traditionally held every Nov. 11, but that is not the only time Native servicemen and women are honored.

On Sunday, June 21, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians paid tribute to its tribal citizens who served their country during a Native American Veterans Day celebration. A small gathering of about 30 people attended Sunday morning's salute to tribal veterans, both past and present.

Held at the Maliseet Veterans Cemetery – the only Native American cemetery east of the Mississippi River -- the ceremony featured an opening prayer by Tribal Elder Danya Boyce, as well as singing and drumming by the Four Winds drum group.

Members of the Chester L. Briggs American Legion Post No. 47 also participated in the ceremony, with bugler Jerry Riley performing "Taps" and the Legion's Honor Guard providing a gun salute for the fallen. In addition, a veterans group from New Brunswick attended this year's event.

Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis also thanked those in attendance for their service and support of those Native Americans serving in the armed forces, while Cemetery President Margaret Sabattis.

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The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians celebrated tribal citizens in the Class of 2026 with a ceremony Friday, June 19 at Wilderness Pines Campground. Taking part are, seated from left, JOM/Home-School Liaison Sean Lamkins, Mya Dixon, Emma Giffard and Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis; and standing, Education Director Amber Wire and Tribal councilors Sue Desiderio, Allison Sabattis, Beth Ford, Crystal Tucker, Joshua Toner and Cathy St. John. Absent from photo is Robert Suitter.

Maliseets salute graduating seniors

MONTICELLO, Maine – The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians saluted its graduating high school Class of 2026 Friday evening with a special ceremony and dinner at the Wilderness Pines Campground.

“I am honored to welcome our 2026 High School graduates, families and friends,” said Amber Wire, Education Director for HBMI. “We are here to recognize and celebrate your high school achievements.”

Joining the graduates and family were Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis and members of the Maliseet Tribal Council. Sean Lamkins served as the guest speaker for the evening. Lamkins was hired in April as the Johnson O’Malley Home-School Liaison worker for the tribe.

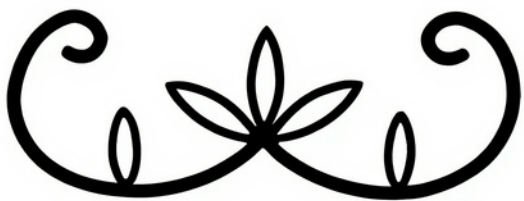
“Too often we let our surroundings shape our futures,” Lamkins said. “Not everyone has the resources to explore the world or understand how it even works, even though we all know it is constantly changing.”

Lamkins added that when he was in high school, he did not have a clear idea of what he wanted to do with his life. “I was discovering who I was in real time, rather than setting a defined goal from the start. Like many, I struggled with getting good grades, paying attention and even getting out of bed. I struggled until I found support through the Maliseet Education Department and with their added push I was able to overcome those challenges.”

He encouraged the group to continue their pursuit of knowledge, regardless of what form that may take.

“Whether you choose to pursue college, take a year off to recharge or join the workforce, remember you have already conquered the first step toward a prosperous future and laid the foundation for a successful life,” he said. “A vast world of possibilities awaits you, but it is up to you to explore everything it has to offer. This moment is not the finish line, but a checkpoint in your life’s journey.”

The graduates were presented with an eagle feather, certificate and honorarium for their accomplishments.





Elders' Calendar

July 2026

Elder Center phone # -- 532-7780

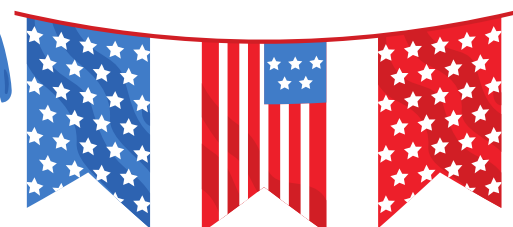
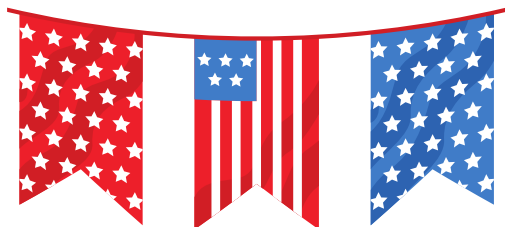
Elder Coordinator -- Danya Boyce

Cook -- Mark Lewis

All regular meals begin at 11 a.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
				No Meal Tribal Offices Closed		
5	6	7 Meatloaf w/gravy Mashed Potatoes Peas & Carrots Wheat Roll Yellow Cake w/ frosting	8	9 Chop Suey Broccoli Grands Biscuits Assorted Cookies	10	11
12	13	14 Taco Tuesday w/ all the fixings Mexican Corn Chips Cook's choice bread Fruit Cups	15	16 Cheeseburgers Hot Dogs Sauted Onions, tomatoes, lettuce Macaroni Salad Chips and Brownies	17	18
19	20	21 Chicken Nuggets w/ dipping sauce Oven Fries Cook's choice veggie Oatmeal Bread Ice Cream	22	23 BINGO Soup N' Sandwich Assorted fixings Coleslaw Watermelon Cupcakes	24	25
26	27	28 Breaded Fish Patties w/tartar sauce Tater Tots Green Beans Dinner Roll Fruit Salad	29	30 Baked Beans Hot Dogs Potato Salad Sadies Rolls Assorted Pies	31	1



Veterans

About 15 percent of Maine's Native American population is currently serving on active duty or are veterans. There are 86 members of the Houlton Band of Maliseets who are veterans, either living or deceased.

Signed into Maine law on June 21, 2022, Native American Veterans Day is a time to honor the rich history tribal members have played in serving in the armed forces. The date for Native American Veterans Day has an historical significance, harkening back to the Tribe's effort during the American Revolution.

According to the Maine proclamation, on June 21, 1775, soon after the Battle of Bunker Hill in the early stages of the American Revolution, Penobscot Chief Joseph Orono met with General George Washington at Watertown and agreed that his tribe's warriors, as well as others in the Wabanaki Confederacy, would join forces with the Continental Army to fight a common enemy in the struggle for freedom.

Members of 33 tribes served as code talkers in World War I and World War II; and more than 44,000 Native Americans served with distinction between 1941 and 1945, including members of Maine's Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Mi'kmaq tribes.

During World War II, Native American men and women were also an integral part of the war effort, with more than 40,000 leaving their communities to work in ordnance depots, factories, and other war industries.

Following the ceremony, a brunch was held at the Maliseet Community Center.



Rose Tomah, left, of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Leonard Canam of the Woodstock Unit #95 Anavets of Canada place a wreath at the Maliseet Cemetery in Houlton Sunday, June 21 as part of Native American Veterans Day.



Margaret Sabattis of the Cemetery Committee speaks during the veterans ceremony.

SAVE THE DATE!

46th annual Metaksonekiyak Community Days

TWO FULL DAYS! SEPT. 5-6

Drumming, Dancing, Bingo, Food, Games, Vendors and More!

For more information, contact Joe Cyr at jcyr@maliseets.com





The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Head Start program held its graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 4. Receiving their diplomas were: front from left, Norah Swallow, Myles Flewelling, Nolan Smith, Carson Tingley, Clayton Quint, Billy Davenport, Crue Caron, Jason Raymond, Aiden Rogers and Caliece Lorom; back, Dolores Crofton-Macdonald, Jaxson Hanning, Silas Bridges, Ronin Frederick, Liberty Lewis, Ivy Aguirre, William Duffy, Mason Connors, Braylon Cummings, Waylon Polchies, and Kaycee McClure. Not pictured is Peyton Tingley.

Maliseet Head Start graduates 20

LITTLETON, Maine – Youngsters enrolled in the Maliseet Head Start program earned their diplomas Thursday, June 4, with a special ceremony at the HBMI Community Gymnasium.

The group of 20 children marched into the gym to the sound of Native American drumming and were welcomed by Head Start Director Tracie Botting. Tribal Elder Danya Boyce provided the blessing and Tribal Chief Clarissa Sabattis shared how excited she was for the future of the tribal community.

The youths then sang several numbers, including counting to 10 in Maliseet, the Wolastoq Song, the Dream Song and the Welcome Song.

After presenting each student with a gift bag and certificate, a slide show highlighting some of the many activities held throughout the year was shown. and cake.

Children receiving their certificates were: Ivy Aguirre, Silas Bridges, Crue Caron, Mason Connors, Braylon Cummings, Billy Davenport, William Duffy, Myles Flewelling, Ronin Frederick, Jaxyn Hanning, Liberty Lewis, Caliece Lorom, Waylon Polchies, Clayton Quint, Jason Raymond, Aiden Rogers, Nolan Smith, Norah Swallow, Carson Tingley and Peyton Tingley.

Following the graduation ceremony, guests enjoyed a catered lunch



Health Fair draws large turnout

HOULTON, Maine – It was another stellar showing for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians' Health Fair Saturday, June 6, as 262 people turned out for health screenings or to learn important health-related information.

The Maliseet Health and Wellness Center hosts a health fair each year to raise awareness about healthy lifestyles and just how important it is to receive certain screenings, maintaining a good diet and exercise, and how prevention is key to healthy longevity.

"Overall, I think everything went well," said Health Center Director Michelle Barrows. "We had an excellent turn out of both participants and vendors. We had a much higher number of folks who received screenings as well. The energy was great and I received positive feedback from everyone who attended."

Of the 262 people who attended, 147 were Maliseet Tribal citizens; 14 were from other Tribes; and 101 were non-native participants. The fair featured a smudging ceremony, health screenings, fitness program activities, and included booths for domestic violence, education, Indian Child Welfare, Aroostook County Action Program, Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness, Maliseet Behavioral Health and Wellness, the National Weather Service, and the Boys and Girls Club of Maliseets.

One vendor, The Monarca Group, traveled from Colorado just to attend the event, while WHOU attended with a free live-remote broadcast. Another new vendor was the Wabanaki Public Health Food Distribution Mobile Unit, which featured a variety of fresh vegetables for people to take home.

Allison Gooding of the Aroostook County Action Program was one of the many vendors in attendance Saturday and said she was impressed with the turnout. "It was great for staff members of Community Action in Aroostook, Washington and Hancock Counties to participate in the Annual Maliseet Health Fair on Saturday. We shared information about commercial tobacco prevention, oral health, vision and hearing with hundreds of our neighbors in the Houlton area."

This year's event was held in memory of Amy Joseph, a beloved tribal member and longtime Health Center employee, who passed away in January after a long battle with cancer. The t-shirts that were given to guests were purple (her favorite color) and the sleeve featured a commemoration of her life.

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians' Health Fair was another resounding success this year. Helping to make the event possible are members of the Health and Wellness Center, from left, Beth Ford, Carolyn Chapman, Krystal Caron, Rosemary Ivey, Stacy Austin and Michelle Barrows.



◆ BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF MALISEETS ◆
PRESENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Kick off the school year with fun, friends, and festivities!

- ✓ Signup for Fall BGC
- ✓ Club Tour
- ✓ Games & Prizes
- ✓ School Supply Giveaway
- ✓ Teacher Supply Table
- ✓ Hair Cut Voucher

AUGUST 15TH 10AM-12PM
618 Foxcroft Rd, Houlton, ME.

Register here!





2nd Annual Golf Scramble

Saturday, July 18, 2026
1:00 PM Shotgun Start
JATO Highlands Golf Course
175 Town Farm Rd, Lincoln, ME

Join Us for a Day of Golf, Fun & Community Impact!

WE ARE SEEKING SPONSORS!

 Eagle Sponsor - \$2,000	 Birdie Sponsor - \$1,500
 Golf Cart Sponsor - \$500	 Hole Sponsor - \$300

Great visibility, community recognition, and youth impact!

Register Your Team or Become a Sponsor Today!

 **Jon Solomon**
+12207-930-0657

 jsolomon@bggbordertowns.org

Building Great Futures Starts Here

WABANAKI COMMUNITY SURVEY

Interested in participating?

START BY FILLING OUT A SHORT INTEREST FORM.

WHAT is the survey?

- A community survey about food systems & community health
- 30-60 minutes to complete
- \$50 gift card for participants

WHO can participate?

- Wabanaki community members 18 years or older

HOW does it work?

- Scan the QR code to fill out our short interest form or call (207) 401 - 6843 to schedule a time to take the survey
- We'll contact you to complete the survey online or by phone

SCAN TO GET STARTED



OR CALL
(207) 401-6843

Questions About the Survey?
Contact Dr. Leigh Neptune at Ineptune@wabanakiphw.org

Questions About Your Rights as a Participant?
Contact Washington State University at irb@wsu.edu



Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness
Center for Wabanaki Research, Knowledge, and Innovation

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH EQUITY



IREACH
INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY HEALTH