Boozhoo and welcome to the Miisaninawiind weekly newsletter!

The Miisaniinawind brings you important news, announcements and updates, designed specifically for the Red Cliff community. But that's not all. The weekly eNewsletter will also provide news about neighboring tribes, communities and broader issues across Indian Country that matter to you.

If you have photos, news or information you’d like to share, please email submissions to communications@redcliff-nsn.gov.

Check out our website HERE and our Facebook page HERE.

Want to receive the newsletter each week? Sign up HERE.

Click HERE to view this email as a webpage instead.

Red Cliff News & Updates

COVID-19 Community Updates

The Red Cliff Stay at Home Resolution remains in effect until further notice. All Red Cliff Reservation residents should stay at home except to engage in essential activities.

Click HERE to view the signed Resolution, including exceptions to the Stay at Home directive.

An up-to-date list of updates and educational resources can be found on the Red Cliff Band website.
Red Cliff Receives BUILD Grant for New Transit Center, Road Maintenance Equipment

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have been awarded a $5.8M grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD grant program. The Red Cliff Transportation Renewal Project will greatly increase community access to essential services and will better preserve tribal roads.

The grant includes a new multi-purpose transit building, two new snowplows, a new grader, and other much needed road maintenance equipment along with two new Miskwaabekong Transit buses in order to meet community needs for access to medical facilities, schools, and other essential services.

“This award is very exciting as the Tribe will be able to better serve the transportation needs of the community,” said Red Cliff Transportation Director Jeff Benton. “This new transportation center will protect the Tribe’s maintenance and transportation equipment from our harsh winters.”

The transportation center will consist of storage and maintenance bays to contain a road grader, front-end loader, tracked backhoe, plow trucks, and Miskwaabekong Transit buses. As Highway 13 crosses through the reservation boundaries, this grant will also help the Tribe better maintain stretches of the National Scenic Byway for both community members and the general public to access the National Lakeshore.

“This grant will spark a much needed revitalization of Red Cliff’s roads and transportation system,” said Red Cliff Chairman Richard Peterson. “Community members need to be able to access essential services. This transportation center, along with new maintenance equipment, will help the Tribe provide that for its members even in our harsh weather conditions.”

“This project has been a long time coming and will greatly benefit the Tribe’s road system on a long-term scale while increasing the longevity of the current equipment,” said Vice Chairman Nathan Gordon. “We’d like to thank everyone that helped make this happen as well as the BUILD Grant Program for awarding this grant to Red Cliff.”

Questions can be directed to the Tribal Administration Building at 715-779-3700.

For information regarding the U.S. DOT BUILD grants, visit www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants.

Boys & Girls Club Receives Anonymous $50K Donation for Youth Meals

The Boys and Girls Club of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have received a $50K donation from an anonymous source with the
The Boys & Girls Club of America Native Services informed Division Administrator Rebecca Benton and Club Director Paige Moilanen of the donation that will greatly help youth in the community.

“We are very excited to receive this donation as it will allow the Club to provide meals to Club youth, and it will allow the Club to grow and continue to help the youth that come through our doors,” said Moilanen. “It’s always great to have donors like this to help during these tough times, and we would like to thank the donor for this generous gift.”

Red Cliff Boys & Girls Club staff have been assisting the Food Distribution program with meal preparation and distribution for youth in the community since March. Club staff have recently started preparing and distributing meals for the Red Cliff Elderly program while also fulfilling Club duties of virtual programming and planning for the Club’s relaunch.

“We really miss the kids and the Club, and we can’t wait to get back in and open the doors,” said Moilanen. “We want the Club kids to know the following: You are missed. You are important. You are loved. You R.O.C.K. You are Remarkable. Optimistic. Consistent. Kind.”

Red Cliff is thankful for this opportunity to help continue to serve the youth in the community.

Questions can be directed to Red Cliff Family Human Services at 715-779-3706.

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**Virtual Mikwendaagoziwag Ceremony**

"They Are Remembered"

This year’s Mikwendaagoziwag Ceremony hosted by the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission will be held virtually on Treaty Day - September 30 in remembrance of the Sandy Lake tragedy.

View the schedule of events below.

Click [HERE](http://www.glifwc.org) to access the virtual ceremony, or visit [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org).
Red Cliff TNR Employee Appointed to Multiple Line 5 Opposition Committees

Various Ojibwe tribes across Michigan and Wisconsin have gathered in Lac Vieux Desert to discuss Line 5 and the harmful impact it is likely to have on our natural resources. Several intertribal committees have been formed to discuss legalities, technicalities, and community engagement.

Red Cliff Environmental Justice Specialist Noah Saperstein has been appointed to all of the committees.

"It is an honor to represent Miskwaabekong in the ongoing battle to preserve our resources," said Saperstein. "We must continue to stand strong and fight for what is right for our communities and our environment."
environment and culture," Saperstein said. "It will take a constant effort from all Anishinaabeg and Ojibwe tribes to keep our water, land, and air quality safe."

For more information please contact noah.saperstein@redcliff-nsn.gov.

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**Two Tails The Flute**  
*From the Tales of Laughing Fox*

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I want to tell you about this song, but first, we must start with story of the flute. When I was still young in my flute making and playing, I was hired by a friend to teach a class in Hayward, Wisconsin.

At the LCO Casino near by there was a gift shop, and was selling some of my art there—dreamcatchers and flutes—and I wanted to go see them on display. As I was looking around I met a security guard, who happened to be a flute player and maker.

We became fast friends and shared in flute making techniques. One day he showed me his double flute. When he let me try it I was mesmerized. The sound of one flute? Well, that’s magical…but two? The drone of two flutes in the same key seemed to resonate through my soul! I knew I had to have one.

I ordered one from a flute maker and through a series of mix-ups it got shipped all over the country, but finally found its way home to me and Lake Superior. I loved that birch bark flute so much, it didn’t leave my side for many years.

I used to travel with one flute around my hip, like it was an Anishnaabe light saber, while keeping the double flute safe in my backpack. I took it everywhere when I first traveled with it, and people would stop whenever they heard the voice of the double flute.

At an airport once, I was playing the double flute and a crowd gathered. Afterwards, a man approached me and asked if I would sell it. I told him that the flute meant too much to me so he...
said he would double whatever I paid for it. I explained to him that my breath had soaked in the chambers of the flute, that the instrument and I resonated, and so I couldn’t sell it because it was a part of me.

This song in particular brings back memories of a different airport. Since I am self taught, the learning process is really personal. Every place I learned the flute stays with me and all I need to do is close my eyes and I’m there. I remember one Holiday season, when I was visiting my daughter in Philly I was stuck in an airport and I had my eyes closed and was breathings songs with the flute. After a bit, I opened my eyes and there was about 12 people gathered around me, listening. I noticed that they were homeless. I wondered where their families could be this close to the holiday season. One man walked up to me and said, “Hey man, my name’s Curtis. Good flute playing.” I responded, “Why thank you, Curtis, my name’s Laughing Fox!” He gave me a funny look and asked, “Hey, man! How’d you know my name was Curtis?!” That still makes me smile. I don’t know what their situation was, or how they came to be at the airport, but probably to get out of the same storm that delayed my flight.

Before that, I had felt I was all alone there, stranded, and I imagine that maybe they felt the same way. Afterward, I thanked Curtis again, and went back to playing as everyone dispersed and headed to their separate sleeping areas. Some slept on the benches, some under. That night, it felt like we all came together and shared a moment, a space. So when I think back on this song, I remember this night, and I think of it as their song. Sometimes songs have no titles. Sometimes the song and the story become your own, when you listen to it, when you hear it, when you feel it, you understand.

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**Proposed Constitution Changes**

The Red Cliff Constitution Committee is proposing important changes to its Constitution and is seeking feedback from Red Cliff Tribal Members. Please review the proposed changes and information below, then provide feedback by emailing constitutioncomments@redcliff-nsn.gov, or by bringing written comments to the Tribal Administration Building at 88455 Pike Rd. by October 15, 2020. Due to COVID-19, we are unable to listen to in-person comments. Recommendations will be made by the Constitution Committee to the Red Cliff Tribal Council.

[Click here to view the proposed changes and to learn why these changes are being proposed.](#)

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**Community Members Needed To Serve on Government Committees**
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Tribal Council is seeking individuals to serve on the following Committees, Boards, and Commissions

HOUSING BOARD (2) members
Housing Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 5:00 pm at RCHA/Elderly).

HEALTH BOARD (2) members
Health Board meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Red Cliff Health Center at 5:00 p.m.

HUMAN/FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2) members
Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Human/Family Services Building at 4:45 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (5) members
Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Administration Building at 2:00 p.m.

FISHING COMMITTEE (5) members (2) Alternates
Meetings are set when needed and posted.

If you are interested in serving on any of the Committees, please pick up and drop off an application at the front desk of the Tribal Administration Building.

Please keep in mind the times they meet,
so you are able to commit and serve on the Committees.

If you have any questions, please call 715-779-3700.

DEADLINE: September 30th, at 4:00 p.m.

Complete the U.S. 2020 Census

Tribal Members, please respond to the U.S. 2020 Census if you haven’t already! It’s quick, easy, and answers are kept confidential.

Click HERE!
Tribal Members Urged to Vote in November 3rd Election

Dear Tribal Member:

Tuesday, November 3rd is Election Day for state and federal government races, and we want to ensure that every eligible member of our community can cast their ballot. This letter contains information about how to vote in the 2020 election.

These are the steps you need to take to vote:

1. Register to vote online by October 14th. Website is listed down below. You need a proof of residency document. You can also register to vote at the polls on the day of the election which is November 3, 2020.

2. Vote by mail:
   3. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 2[th], 2020 at 5:00p.m. However, we strongly encourage you to request your absentee ballot as soon as possible - ideally by October 14th - so that you receive it on time.
   4. Fill out and return your absentee ballot. Your clerk’s office must receive your ballot by November 3[rd] (Clerk’s contact information is located on the bottom of this letter).

5. OR register and vote in person on Election Day, November 3rd.
Register to Vote
In order to vote, you must first register to vote by providing a proof of residence. This can be 1.) a utility bill, 2.) residential lease, 3.) hunting license, 4.) Conceal Carry license, 5.) paycheck, 6.) IRS check, 7.) bank statement, 8.) student ID and fee receipt, 9.) affidavit from homeless shelter or 10.) driver’s license.

You can register to vote until October 14th here: wcv.votewisconsin.com. If you miss this deadline, you can register in person on Election Day when you vote on November 3rd. If you register in person, you will need to bring your proof of residence to register and a photo ID to vote. A tribal ID will work as well.

Request an Absentee Ballot
Once you are registered to vote, you can request an absentee ballot. This allows you to safely vote by mail so that you don’t have to wait in line at the polling station. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 29th at 5:00p.m. You can request your absentee ballot here: wcv.votewisconsin.com/absentee. You will need to upload a picture of your photo ID. We strongly encourage you to request your absentee ballot as soon as possible so that you receive it in time.

Everyone in Wisconsin needs to show a photo ID when they vote. This could be your WI Tribal ID card, WI driver’s license, WI state ID, or a passport. For a full list of acceptable photo IDs, visit our website: ConservationVoices.org/NativeVote.

Fill Out and Return Your Absentee Ballot
Once you fill out your absentee ballot, you will place it in the envelope provided. You will need to sign the envelope and write your address below your signature. You will also need a witness to sign the envelope and write their address on the envelope.

Absentee ballots must be received by Tue Nov 3, 2020 before 8:00PM. We encourage you to return your ballots as soon as possible. You can return your absentee ballot by mail, at an absentee ballot drop box if your clerk has designated one, or on the day of the election. If you are unsure of local rules, you can find your clerk’s office here: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk.

Vote in Person on Election Day
If you plan to vote in-person on the day of the election, you will need to bring a photo ID. You can use your tribal ID (even if it’s expired), driver’s license, military ID or U.S. Passport. You can find more information about valid ids at: https://bringit.wi.gov/do-i-have-right-photo-id. You can find your polling place here: myvote.wi.gov. Once you search for your home address at this link, you can find out the address and hours of your polling location. This polling location may be different from the polling location you attend when voting in tribal elections.

Questions?
If you have questions about voting or if someone you know needs an ID, please call the non-partisan helpline 608-285-2141 and trained volunteers will call you back. You can also visit the Wisconsin Native Vote web page for updated and detailed information: ConservationVoices.org/NativeVote.

We are working with Wisconsin Native Vote to ensure everyone in our community can vote. Thank you for your participation.

Town of Russell Clerk:
David L Good
35900 State Highway 13
Bayfield, WI 54814
Red Cliff Mentioned in Midwest Travel Book

*Midwest Road Trip Adventures: Highways and Byways*

The book takes travelers along some of the most storied highways and byways in the nation, including The Great River Road and Route 66. Stops include historic lighthouses along the shores of Lake Erie in Ohio, canyons in Kansas, crystal clear springs in Michigan, Underground Railroad history in Illinois, Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and authentic fish boils in Wisconsin's Door County. Movie fans can visit the ballpark from “A League of Their Own” in Indiana or tour the Iowa covered bridges showcased in the “The Bridges of Madison County.”

Dannelle Gay wrote the Wisconsin chapter, which details several of her favorite road trips in the state. Readers can walk in the footsteps of Laura Ingalls Wilder, enjoy the beauty of dozens of state parks, learn the best places to grab a safe bite to eat, experience the Native American lifestyle, explore unique shops, and all while traversing the highways and byways of each corner of Wisconsin.

Dannelle also co-ordinated the anthology by handpicking travel writers for the other 11 Midwestern States - this is the first book of a 4-book series that she instigated, all about the gems of the Midwest.

Click [HERE](#) To Pre-Order the Book.
Red Cliff Health Center
AND Pharmacy
will be CLOSED
Wednesday,
September 30th
For Treaty Day

PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY SO YOU HAVE THE MEDICATION
YOU WILL NEED
September is Recovery Month!
Please join us for a drive-up
Wellness Gift Bag Giveaway
as we celebrate the fact that
Recovery from Addiction is Possible!

When: Tuesday September 29, 2020
from 1:00 – 3:30pm
Where: Mishomis Wellness Center,
37390 N. Bradum Rd, Red Cliff
Why: Receive Wellness gifts and
information from people who care!

Sponsored by: Red Cliff Community Health Center, Behavioral Health Dept.
Red Cliff AODA Program
Noojimo’Iwewin Center
Native Connections
CCS & CST Programs
Also, generously funded by HRK Foundation, Pugsley Fund
Stressed? Feeling out of control? Worried? Frustrated? If you are having a hard time coping and adapting during this time, our behavioral health staff are available to support you, listen to you, offer emotional support and help you develop new ways to cope during this time.

Behavioral Health Support Line

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Direct line: 715-779-3509

“We will get through this together”

24 Hour Support/ Crisis Services
Bayfield County Mental Health Crisis Line 1-866-317-9362
Northland Counseling 715-682-2141
Memorial Medical Center 715-685-5373
911 if threat to harm self or others

Behavioral Health Support Line

715-779-3509
Red Cliff Pharmacy

We are continuing to offer curbside pickup for your convenience and safety during this pandemic.

We are requesting all pharmacy pick ups be curbside unless you are already coming into the clinic for another reason.

Please request your refills like you always have but call the pharmacy at 715-779-3157 and schedule a pickup day/time to let us know your vehicle model and color.

There are signs outside the front of the clinic indicating where to park after you have made us aware you will be here.

If you are receiving a new medication or have any questions at all a pharmacist would like to talk to you. Please call us at 715-779-3157 and ask for a pharmacist.

Please continue to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, disinfect hard surfaces in your home and “Stay Safer at Home”.

If you are quarantined or unable to make it to the clinic, please let us know and we will help you to get your medication safely.

For other Health Center information or general questions call: 715-779-3707 or Email RCHealthCenter@redcliffhealth.org

Click HERE to visit the Red Cliff Community Health Center website.

Click HERE for COVID-19 Updates and Resources.

Family & Human Services
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<td>3 Tomato Basil Soup</td>
<td>4 * No Service*</td>
<td>5 Sack Lunch</td>
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<td>Mashed Potato</td>
<td>Pizza</td>
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<td>Corn</td>
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<td>21 Baked Fish</td>
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<td>Soup/ Ground Bologn</td>
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Red Cliff Food Shelf is open by appointment

The Red Cliff Food Shelf provides an assortment of food items to families in need.

Families may visit the Red Cliff Food Shelf once a month, receiving two to three days' worth of groceries.

This is meant to be emergency and supplemental food.

If you are interested in the Red Cliff Food Shelf, call the Red Cliff Family & Human Services office at 715-779-3706 and set up a time with one of our staff members (usually within 24 hours of call). Any of our staff here at the Family & Human Services office are willing to assist you and/or your family in this time of need.
NOTICE FROM THE RED CLIFF ELDERLY PROGRAM:

Dear Home Delivery Participant:

The Red Cliff Elderly Program would like to sincerely apologize to our Home Delivery Participants for the frozen meals provided to you on September 23rd. These frozen meals were used as an emergency alternative due to issues found with the fresh meal prepared that day. Pieces of plastic packaging were found within the food and was therefore deemed unsafe for consumption.

The alternative meals you received were part of an inventory that the Elderly Program keeps on hand in case of emergencies, holidays, or during times when fresh meals are not possible. These meals have been properly prepared, cooled within the required timeframe, packaged, and frozen the day of.

We received several calls from participants unhappy with the food product and please know we take your concerns seriously. The Elderly Program will be implementing measures to prevent this from occurring in the future so that we can continue to provide a healthy, safe and hot meal to your door. We also welcome your suggestions on how we can further improve this service for you.

Miigwech for your understanding and again we apologize for any unpleasant experience this may have caused.
take steps to improve your family’s health

Fit Families will identify health habits they want to improve for their child and/or family

Parents select 1 of 3 common health goals:
1. Make Every Bite Count…
   More Fruits and Vegetables!
2. Move More…Watch Less!
3. Make Every Sip Count…
   More Healthy Beverages!

- Your efforts to make health changes will be rewarded by incentives or prizes for your participation! Incentives will be given at enrollment, month 3, month 6, month 9, and month 12.
- A Fit Families Coach will provide monthly contacts by phone, email, or in person, to provide support as you make these lifestyle changes.
- You will also receive monthly newsletters.

The Fit Families Program is for families with children between 2-4 years of age.

Enrolling now!
Contact Mercie Gordon

Your Fit Families Coach for Red Cliff is
Mercie Gordon
88430 Pike Road
Bayfield, WI 54814
715-779-3740
mercie.gordon@redcliff-nsn.gov

Click HERE for more information on the Fit Families Program.
Click HERE for information on the enrollment procedure.
Outdoor Experiential Scholarship

Apply by October 1st for the Northern Wisconsin Outdoor Experiential Education Scholarship!

Click HERE for more information and application instructions.

This scholarship pays up to $1000 to Chequamegon Bay area residents in order to participate in outdoor programs through programs like Outward Bound, Wilderness Inquiry or Northland College.

Follow the link above to find out more or contact the Duluth Superior Area Community Grant Program.
Education Department Seeking Graphic Designer and Media Entrepreneur

The Education Department is seeking a graphic designer and a media entrepreneur.

Click HERE to learn more!

Boys and Girls Club of Gitchigami

Virtual Lessons

Boys and Girls Club staff have created Virtual Daily Lessons for youth to follow while the Club is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lessons incorporate fitness and fun, fine arts, virtual field trips, mental workouts, and lessons on character, leadership, and service!

Click HERE to access!
Join us for the

BGCA NATIVE SERVICES
VIRTUAL TEEN SUMMIT
BE THERE

November 2-4, 2020

Spots open for 10 Lucky Teens!

Register with:
Paige Moilanen at paige.moilanen@redcliff-nsn.gov or call 715-209-6222

For a chance to get some
BE THERE SWAG!
Connect with peers, Dynamic Speakers, Team Activities,
prizes, fun, and a Virtual Dance Party!

#NativeClubsTeenSummit2020
Calling all Club Members ages 10-17

Sign up for MyFuture.net!

Young people are drawn to spaces where they can engage with their peers, learn new things, express themselves and earn recognition. Nobody does this better than the Boys & Girls Clubs. With MyFuture, Clubs can reach young people online to provide rich opportunities for fun, learning and positive youth development.

Here’s How It Works for Youth:

- MyFuture is a platform designed to engage youth across BGCA’s program areas. Youth ages 10 and older take part in 21st century learning activities including STEM, leadership, career exploration and much more.

To create a MyFuture account:

Have Club members click the “sign up” button on the top right-hand corner of the screen.

Club Members Self-Registration:

Select “I am currently a member of a Club”

Fill in your First Name, Last Name, Month and Year of Birth, and Gender.

Select the “State” the Club is in and the “City” the Club is located in to find their Club. Staff must approve these accounts for members.

Fill in a password. Remember to write the username and password down. If you forget it, your Club staff will be able to retrieve it for you.

You will not be able to log in until your Club staff has approved your account.

Complete the fields below with your personal info:

Paige, M 01/16/2001

Girls & Boys Club of Gitchigami – 42761

Create your own profile password

Any questions please email Paige at paige.moilanen@redcliff-nsn.gov

Make sure your “Find My Club” section has the Boys & Girls Club of Gitchigami selected, so staff can approve your youth.

Any questions please email Paige at paige.moilanen@redcliff-nsn.gov

Great Futures Start Here.

Boys & Girls Clubs
Of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Treaty Natural Resources
New Business Hours for Red Cliff Transfer Station
Effective October 1, 2020

HOURS OF OPERATION

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If there are any questions, please reach the Environmental Department at 715-779-3650 or Transfer Station at 715-779-0171.
Mino Bimaadiziiwin Farm Stand

*Thursdays and Fridays*

10am—4pm

Fresh vegetables and herbs available!

Self-serve, pay what you can.

Please social distance, wear a mask, and use the hand sanitizer provided.

Questions? Call (715) 779—3782
ATTENTION PATRONS:

To ensure the public health and safety at the Red Cliff Transfer Station, please review the following:

- **ALL BAGS MUST BE TAGGED** Tags can be purchased at the Tribal Administration, Peterson’s Store, and Buffalo Bay Gas Station.
- If you are able, please dispose of **tagged bags** directly into the compactor. See red arrow in photo.
- If you are unable to throw **tagged bags**, please leave your **tagged bags** by the compactor. See red box outlining drop off area in photo.

Please contact 715-779-3650 or 715-779-0171, if there are any questions.

Miigwech!

Red Cliff Environmental Department
The Housing Authority will remain closed to the public from 9/21/2020 – 10/02/2020 (performing only essential services).
CLOSED FOR TREATY DAY HOLIDAY ON 9/30/2020

Emergency Work Orders will be responded to/addressed.
“An emergency is an event that poses an immediate threat to safety or health, or might cause further damage to property if not corrected immediately. The following are considered to be emergency situations:

1. Water-related issues: water pipe break; sump pump issues; plumbing back-up, overflows; consistent running (sinks, toilets); leaks in roof, windows, walls.
2. Lack of electricity or heat in the unit.

Housing Maintenance On-Call Number: 715-209-0200 (Weekends & After Hours)
Housing Maintenance Number – Regular Business Hours: 715-779-3744, ext. 3508

Garbage Pick-Up
Regular garbage pick-up will be done as scheduled. Housing tenants may put an unlimited amount of untagged garbage bags out for pick-up during this time period.

Rent/Deposit Payments & Tenant Documents
Payments can be made electronically – contact Jean Defoe at extension 3504; or via money order by regular mail. A receipt will be mailed back to you. Please mail in or email occupancy documents.

Client Contacts:
➢ Tenant Matters – ext. 3501 or C Hyde@redcliffhousing.org
➢ Homebuyer/Homeowner Matters – ext. 3516 or rbutterfield@redcliffhousing.org

Thank you for your patience & understanding. We apologize for any inconvenience.

September 17, 2020

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**RCCHA Job Openings**

Red Cliff Chippewa Housing Authority is hiring! Click [HERE](#) to view and apply for Housing Authority employment.
Legendary Waters Resort & Casino is temporarily closed in compliance with the Red Cliff Tribal Council Stay at Home Order.

Any persons with campground reservations, hotel reservations, or access to the marina will be contacted by Legendary Waters staff.

Continue to check for status updates on Legendary Water's Facebook page.

Stay safe!

News Across Indian Country


From WPR
By Rich Kremer

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources says it counted more than 1,000 wolves this winter, a 13 percent increase from the winter of 2018 to 2019.
A press release issued by the DNR on Thursday said department biologists, tribal biologists and more than 100 citizen volunteers noted an increase in the state's wolf population, which follows two years of "steady abundance" of the state's top predator.

A minimum count of between 1,034 and 1,057 wolves were recorded during last winter. Throughout the 2018-2019 winter season, a minimum of between 914 and 978 wolves were counted. The DNR also said the number of wolf packs detected by trackers and researchers grew from 243 to 256.

Adrian Wydeven is a retired DNR wolf biologist who now heads the Timberwolf Alliance advisory council. He told WPR that he still volunteers as a DNR wolf tracker and that he's not surprised that the overall population was higher this past winter compared to the two before.

"I know that the packs that I was monitoring number several that were larger than average," Wydeven said. "In fact, I was tracking one pack that had 12 or more wolves in it and (it was) the first time I've ever tracked a pack that big in my area."

The DNR said because of the increased size of the state's wolf population, it will begin using a new method to track it. Since 1979, the DNR has used what is called a "minimum count" to record wolf numbers, which is based on territory mapping, tracking, aerial observations and data recorded by radio and GPS tracking collars.

Now, the DNR is moving toward a new method for counting wolves known as "occupancy modeling," which uses average pack and pack territory sizes to estimate the state's population.

"Unlike the territory mapping method, occupancy models do not require that every pack's territory be fully mapped or that every wolf in a pack be counted," said the release. "Similar to the population modeling tools used for other species, the wolf occupancy model uses statistical tools to estimate likely population levels in areas of the state where data may be lacking."

Wydeven said a minimum count makes sense for keeping track of smaller populations and was useful in the 1980s and 1990s when the populations were a fraction of what they are now.

"But as the populations start to get the higher, and they're spreading out across the landscape and there's more overlap between territories continue, the minimum count becomes more difficult and more challenging," he said.

The DNR said "occupancy modeling" was first used in Montana in 2007 "in response to their rising wolf population." Idaho followed Montana's lead two years later, the DNR said.

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**Congress gave $300 million to help fisheries. The Great Lakes got zero.**

By Lexi Krupp
From Interlochen Public Radio

The nationwide shutdown was especially ill-timed for fishers in the Great Lakes. Many deal in lake whitefish, a species that dwells in cold waters. The first window to catch these fish falls after the ice melts, before the water warms up — just when the pandemic began to overwhelm the nation.

“We had reports of commercial fishermen in Michigan who had a catch with absolutely nowhere to sell it,” says Amber Petersen, owner of The Fish Monger’s Wife, a fish market based
in Muskegon.

“The entire commercial fishery had started to collapse,” adds Whitney Gravelle, tribal attorney for the Bay Mills Indian Community. “Without a market to sell their product to, they were basically stranded.”

Luckily, there was a plan in place to help commercial fishers and charter boats. The COVID relief package, passed by Congress in March, specifically set aside $300 million to bolster the struggling industry, which accounts for $7 billion annually in the Great Lakes.

But when it came time to distribute that funding, most of the Great Lakes states were left out altogether. That came as a shock to many fishers.

“Right up until the final hour, a lot of the Great Lakes fishery participants thought that they were going to be included,” says Gravelle.

Why the Great Lakes were left out

The reason the federal funding skipped over Great Lakes fisheries has to do with the agency controlling the distribution of the aid — the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. While NOAA has jurisdiction over federal waters, which start a few miles offshore in places like the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific coast, the Great Lakes are entirely managed by states.

“NOAA was saying that they do not have jurisdiction over inland bodies of water. They then did not have jurisdiction to provide relief to the Great Lakes fishery,” explains Gravelle.

Some disagree with this assessment.

“You don’t have to have management authority to distribute aid to people who need it,” says Marc Gaden, communications director of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and an assistant professor at the University of Michigan. “There’s no logical reason why that should be the case.”

NOAA did not respond to a request for comment in time for publication.

A blow for tribal fishers

For tribal fishers especially, this decision has been devastating. Commercial fishing is a right guaranteed under treaties with the federal government.

“It was kind of a double slap in the face,” says Gravelle. “Why would you not support that treaty right with federal assistance?”

And many tribal commercial fisherman don’t qualify for other assistance programs, like loans from the small business administration or the Paycheck Protection Program, explains Richard Peterson, Chairman of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, in northern Wisconsin.

“The commercial fishermen got nothing — they couldn’t even get unemployment,” Chairman Peterson says. That’s left many fishers in his community with few options. “I’ve seen one of them cutting grass.”

Will Great Lakes fisheries ever see federal aid?

Members of Congress are lobbying for the Great Lakes fishery to be included in the next round of relief funding. Representatives from both parties have sent letters to Congressional leaders and federal agencies advocating for the region.
“We want to make sure that they get the same attention as the other coasts,” says Ohio Representative Marcy Kaptur, co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force.

But the latest attempt at pandemic relief legislation is at a standstill. Right now, Congressional leaders are just trying to avoid a government shutdown in October.

So no one is holding their breath for a new round of federal relief money. Petersen, of the Fisher Monger’s Wife, says her hopes lie in the water.

“I don’t know a family whose not going, ‘Oh god we hope that fall fishery is good, we hope that fall fishery is good,’” she says.

Once the water cools down again in the fall, whitefish are easier to catch. Then, fishers will have another season to make up some of the money lost this spring — an estimated $50 million, according to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

But if large buyers close again because of another spike in COVID-19 cases, or if there just isn’t a good catch this year, Great Lakes fishers are in big trouble.

“That will be the end financially for some people,” Petersen says.
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From idea conception to marketing, this training will provide both group and individual level guidance to help launch your business. Bring an open mind, willingness to learn, and a real desire to form your business.

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Join us via Facebook Live on September 30th at 10 AM to learn about the employment resources available to you. Organizations presenting include:

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN CEP
OFFICE OF VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
WORKFORCE RESOURCE, INC.

Listen, Ask Questions and Understand how to access services during COVID-19

Community Updates

Interested in upcoming events?

View our Events Calendar.