The Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department celebrated its 35th Anniversary in April. And Erv Soulier, the man who lit the candles on the department’s first 31 birthday cakes, has fond memories of teamwork and achievements.

“There were a number of things that we accomplished that I thought were pretty unique,” said Soulier, a lifelong Tribal member who retired in 2016 after more than three decades as the first director of the department. “We were one of the first departments, nationwide, to have a functional environmental protection office.”

Soulier said the actual birthday for the Natural Resources Department (NRD) was April 1, 1985. His retirement date was Nov. 4, 2016. And he remembers a lot of good things that happened in between.

“We also were one of the few Tribes in the Minneapolis area that had a functional GIS office,” Soulier said, referring to the Geospatial Information System.

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We were one of the first Tribes in the area to get treatment as a state for water quality. And eventually we did for air quality; we had a treatment stated for air quality.

Soulier said his department was cited for its water-quality standards. Soulier spent his first three years of high school at DePadua in Ashland. But when the Catholic school closed in the spring of 1967, he finished up at Ashland High School, graduating in 1968. After a year at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served three years. Then Soulier attended Northland College, earning degrees in business management and financial management.

Before 1985, Soulier said, The Bad River Tribe had depended on the Bureau of Indian Affairs for forestry and wildlife assistance. And when you work a job for 31 years, as Soulier did, you can’t just retire and...
wipe away the memories.
“I kinda miss it,” Soulier said. “I didn’t particularly care for all of the drama. We had a couple of drama queens that were always fighting and always bringing an issue or quarrel over to my office. But in terms of management, I kinda miss that part of it.”

But he knows that he left the NRD in the capable hands for Naomi Tillison, who became Director in December of 2016.
“She was one of the smartest women I ever ran into,” Soulier said of Tillison. “She seemed to be very dedicated to her job, and subsequently to this job.”

Said Tillison, “I appreciate Erv’s mentoring of me and I miss his sense of humor.”

At the time of her promotion, Tillison had been working in the NRD’s Water Program since October of 2007.
“I was honored to accept the Natural Resources Director position after Erv retired,” said Tillison, who is from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan near Marquette.
“I am born and raised a Yooper,” she said. “I have grown up and lived the majority of my life in the Lake Superior basin.”

Tillison has a B.S degree in environmental engineering from Michigan Technological University in Houghton. She also earned a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering and a certificate of Sustainability, also from Michigan Tech.

Today, Tillison runs a department with 30 staff members, which includes some seasonal employees.
“We are a diverse department in many ways, and I think that is one of our greatest strengths,” she said. “I am proud and honored to be part of the team that has built our Indigenous Arts and Sciences Program, which is a collaboration between the Tribe’s Education and Natural Resources Departments.”

Tillison said the NRD partners with University of Wisconsin Earth Partnership and other Tribes (such as Red Cliff) and other partners to engage both educators (such as Ashland High School teachers) and youth in hands-on activities that incorporate the Tribe’s culture and traditional knowledge.
“In the summer, we typically run a five-week program with around 15 Bad River Tribal youth,” Tillison said. “We incorporate time for the youth to shadow Natural Resources staff and time for them to learn about the Bad River watershed, the Sloughs, traditionally-harvested plants, etc.
“We are hoping this experience will inspire some of the youth to go into natural resources-related careers and they may become future NRD employees (perhaps the next NR Director). This is a program that started while Erv was the director, but I have been involved from the early stages. It is an amazing program that is successful because of the team effort and great partnerships.”

She said one of the NRD’s goals for this year is to increase community collabora-
Eugene Bigboy Jr. and his smile brighten up the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department’s Open House held at the Bad River Casino in 2019.

RaeAnne Maday, a former Natural Resources Department staffer, holds her certificate of appreciation as she stands with Erv Soulier, who served as director of the NRD for 31 years.

Anniversary

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tions to better protect and restore manoomin (wild rice) in the Sloughs. “In March 2020, we hired Charles Wiggins as our Manoomin Oshkaabewis, a new position with our Department,” Tillison said. “Charles has been calling Elders in recent weeks to listen and learn from them to help guide our future work related to manoomin. To better protect and restore manoomin in the Sloughs, we need to be mindful of what is happening within the Sloughs itself and what is a happening upstream and in waters connected to the Sloughs. The Department for many years has taken a watershed approach (this started under Erv) as we recognize that the health of the Tribe’s waters, manoomin, fish, wildlife and other earthly gifts (aka: natural resources) can be impacted both by activities within the Reservation boundaries and activities outside of the Reservation boundaries. It’s critical for us to partner with others to protect the headwaters of the Bad River Watershed and it is critical for us to partner with others to protect and restore Lake Superior.”

Tillison has dedicated staff members who share her love of the outdoors and her mission to protect the Reservation’s natural resources. Ed Leoso, a Tribal member, is one of those staffers.

Leoso, the NRD’s Hatchery Foreman/Fisheries Technician, just celebrated 29 years of working for The Tribe. He is second in command of the NRD.

“Well, my duties as second in command is to make sure all the submitted documents that require department head signatures are signed when the boss is absent,” Leoso said.

It was Leoso’s suggestion that brought about the department’s name change to the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department. That change was approved by the Tribal Council in October of 2019.

“The name change was driven by the Tribe’s Strategic Goal No. 1, to

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prioritize the language and culture,” Tillison said.

Of that name change, Leoso said, “Since Bad River is the English translation (or at least that’s what they thought) of Mashkiiziibii and the Tribe has incorporated it into its strategic plan and is encouraging the use of the Ojibwe language, I thought it was only appropriate to start with its governmental body, so I suggested, why not change the name of Bad River Natural Resources Department.”

But by any name, the NRD is near and dear to the heart of Leoso. “I believe I have the best job the Tribe has to offer,” he said. “Who else wouldn’t want to get paid to catch fish? Actually, it’s a little more than that, but that’s the fun part no matter what the weather throws at you.

“I’ve been dedicated to serving the Tribal members for the past 29 years as a fisheries technician and hatchery foreman in the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department. And wouldn’t want to do anything else.”

Clearly, Leoso is dedicated to the land and people of his Tribal home. And his job is much more than work.

“What I like best about working for NRD is the staff, they are dedicated to protecting the natural resources and works closely together to achieve the goals set by the Tribe, they always conduct themselves in a professional manner when interacting with tribal members,” he said.

“But what I really like is the most is capturing the Tribe’s research vessel, R/V Minwaanimaad.”

Edith Leoso, sister of Ed Leoso, has been the Tribe’s Historic Preservation Officer since February of 2005. She began working for The Tribe at age 14 for the Neighborhood Youth Corps, 45 years ago.

She sees the significance of the NRD’s first 35 years in its giant leap forward during that time. “In my opinion, I think it’s in how far the department has progressed in 35 years,” Edith Leoso said.

And to underscore her comment she pointed to the words of Tom Doolittle, who in 1985 became just the third staffer to work for the Natural Resources Department.

“From a dimly lit, tiny office with no windows and three workers in a cigarette-smoke filled, cave-like room with the ambiance of the movie Apocalypse Now, at the old St. Mary’s School,” she said, quoting Doolittle’s description of his terrifying first day of work for the NRD. “To 26 full-time employees in three buildings covering 20+ programs, and that’s not including the seasonal workers, or, seasonal and educational programming that has been incorporated into the Department. Far more people are becoming more educated about our people, place, and history because of the activities of the department.”

In spite of all its accomplishments, Edith Leoso sees the NRD with many miles to log before it can rest, if it ever can. “Although the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department has come a long way, with climate change and a federal administration that is relaxing environmental laws on the daily; we have a much longer way to go to continue to protect, preserve and conserve, our little place in Creation,” she said.

And it has been passion, more than paychecks, that has motivated the NRD staff, first under Erv Soulier, and now, Naomi Tillison’s direction.

“I think one thing that motivates my staff and me the most is that we are passionate about the outdoors — whether its passionate about forestry, our relationship with ma’iingan (wolves), wetlands and all the services they provide to us, etc.,” Tillison said. “I think a lot of us are also motivated by the desire to keep learning and by wanting to be part of that team effort that improves the natural resources for the future generations.”

So it’s cheers, to 35 more years … at least!

Send email to Richard J. Pufall at Newsletter@BadRiver-nsn.gov

A scene from the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department’s 2019 Open House at the Bad River Casino.

Naomi Tillison
Danger in opening too soon

Nurses urge caution on COVID-19

By Richard J. Pufall
For the Bad River Band

In America’s largest cities, the population centers of our country, the economic impact of COVID-19 seems to be growing more fearsome than the ongoing physical threat posed by this deadly pandemic.

As positive cases of COVID-19 and its attendant death numbers rise, the patience of people to accept our closed society appears to be on the decline on the national level. As of this morning, Wednesday, May 13, there have been 1,345,386 positive cases of COVID-19 with 80,557 deaths in the United States. In Wisconsin, 418 people have died and there have been 10,611 positive cases.

And yet, more than half of the states in the U.S. have begun to reopen their economies or have plans to do so in the immediate future. However, most of the reopening states fail to meet criteria recommended by the Trump administration to resume social and business activities.

Nationally, 33 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits since the middle of March. But locally, public health nurses – Pamela Feustel and Tina Gerovac-Lavasseur of the Bad River Health and Wellness Center (BRHWC) – do not see any public pressure to relax social-distancing or “Safer at Home” guidelines. “While I think everyone is interested to see what the ‘new normal’ will be, we have not seen Tribal members becoming impatient,” Gerovac-Lavasseur said. “They have respected the ‘Safer at Home’ guidelines, and perhaps that is why our numbers remain low. It is not a problem here currently, and we don’t anticipate it being one.”

Gov. Tony Evers has extended Wisconsin’s stay-at-home order until May 26. Wisconsin reopened 34 state

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COVID-19

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parks and forests under special conditions to help minimize overcrowding and allow for social-distancing needs.

Some businesses such as stand-alone retail stores, small-engine repair shops, dog groomers, upholstery businesses, outdoor recreational rentals like boats, golf carts, kayaks, ATVs and automatic or self-service car washes will be allowed to do curbside drop-off as long as they operate free of contact with customers.

“I know we have said this before, but if COVID-19 has changed the community at all, it is for the better,” Feustel said. “We are all looking out for and caring for one another. We are all checking in on each other. It has really strengthened the already strong sense of community. We were before and will remain Bad River Strong.”

Like most public health professionals, Feustel and Gerovac-Lavasseur fear that yielding to economic and public pressure in the short term could lead to long-term problems.

“If things were to open up too fast, it could be detrimental to good health, and that is concerning,”Feustel said. “What we can tell you is that we are being very thoughtful and planning according to Governor Evers’ Badger Bounce Back. We will continue to watch for a downward trend in cases (for 14 days) and continue to encourage those that are symptomatic to seek medical care.”

On Wednesday, April 29, researchers released some good news about a possible treatment for COVID-19. It’s the evidence that remdesivir – an experimental drug – might help patients recover more quickly from the infection. The Food and Drug Administration recently approved remdesivir as a treatment of the coronavirus.

“Remdesivir’s greatest value comes into play in situations where patients are seriously ill with COVID-19. Fortunately, on The Bad River Reservation there have been no positive tests for the coronavirus. “Remdesivir is given IV,” Feustel said. “It is most often given in the acute care setting because it is given to patients who are severely ill. We would support access to the medication should one of our Tribal members fall severely ill and end up hospitalized.”

Recently, The Bad River Health and Wellness Center gained the ability to do COVID-19 testing with same-day results for patients with specific situations or symptoms.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 infection are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Less common symptoms include chills, body aches, headache, sore throat, or new loss of sense of taste or smell.

People who are 65 or older, or have health conditions such as uncontrolled diabetes, heart disease, lung disease/asthma, severe obesity, or weakened immune systems due to cancer or other diseases are at higher risk of severe infection, and should be prompt to get evaluated if they have symptoms.

If you believe you might have COVID-19 call the Bad River Clinic for evaluation. Please do not stop by without an appointment.

We do not have the capability to do testing without an appointment.

Call 911 immediately if you experience any of these warning signs:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse (wake) a person
- Bluish lips or face

COVID-19 testing, same-day results at BRHWC

The Bad River Health and Wellness Center is now able to do COVID-19 testing with same-day results for our patients with specific situations or symptoms.

Of the 148 children tested for the COVID-19 virus on Thursday, May 7 at Lake Superior Elementary School in Ashland, all test results were negative, according to a spokesperson for the Ashland County Health & Human Services Department.

Since the first positive case of the coronavirus was reported in Wisconsin on Feb. 5 there have been just two positive cases and no deaths in Ashland County.

Perfect tests at grade school

Of the 148 children tested for the COVID-19 virus on Thursday, May 7 at Lake Superior Elementary School in Ashland, all test results were negative, according to a spokesperson for the Ashland County Health & Human Services Department. Since the first positive case of the coronavirus was reported in Wisconsin on Feb. 5 there have been just two positive cases and no deaths in Ashland County.

“It is great news to know that there are positives coming from all the research being done,” Gerovac-Lavasseur said. “Remdesivir has been around for a while. It was around during SARS and used for Ebola as well. While it isn’t a drug that would be taken unless the patient is severely ill, it is still great news and a step in the right direction. Hopefully, this will open the door to other possible treatments.”

Remdesivir’s greatest value comes into play in situations where patients are seriously ill with COVID-19. Fortunately, on The Bad River Reservation there have been no positive tests for the coronavirus.

“Remdesivir is given IV,” Feustel said. “It is most often given in the acute care setting because it is given to patients who are severely ill. We would support access to the medication should one of our Tribal members fall severely ill and end up hospitalized.”

Recently, The Bad River Health and Wellness Center gained the ability to do COVID-19 testing with same-day results for patients with specific situations or symptoms.

“We feel very fortunate to have the ability to test our community members and give them results that day,” Gerovac-Lavasseur said. “Our reaction? Grateful. We hope to be able to continue this service and provide community members with testing if and when they become symptomatic.”

Send email to Richard J. Pufall at NewsLetter@BadRiver-nsn.gov
Tribal Mission Statement:
To work toward a more progressive, financially stable government; to maintain Tribal Sovereignty; and enable members to progress individually, toward a more fulfilling life culturally, spiritually, and economically.

‘Mino-dibishkaan’ to our Elders
Taking the cake, in May

May 1
Frank Jensen
Loretta Livingston
James (Jake) Parisien
May 3
Wayne Burns
Simon (Andy) Maday
May 4
Grace Lemieux
May 15
Lyle (Mitch) Corbine
May 16
Nixola Cloud
Joe Maday
Anne Rosin

May 18
Pat Berlin
Ken Boulley
May 19
Marvin Vandeventer
May 21
Gary Bigboy
Isabelle (Dolly) Kappeler
May 22
Darla Bigboy
Lenore Plucinski
May 25
Robin Nellis
Michelle Wolfe

May 26
Eldred Corbine
May 28
Christina Ante
May 29
Angela Houle
Gail Lemieux
Janice Madosh Smart

Address
Bad River Tribe
72682 Maple Street
Odanah, WI 54806
Fighters in both corners look strong

If this was a heavyweight fight it might be billed as, “Health vs. Wealth.”
Or maybe “Safer at Home vs. Out There Earning.” Or “Alone Together vs. Feed the Family.”

Truth is, the issue here is much bigger than prize money or a world championship belt. It’s a matter of life and death and it has been since the beginning of the year when COVID-19, the coronavirus cast its grim shadow and backed our world into the ropes.

And this exchange of heavy body punches looks like it will go the full 15 rounds and beyond.

In one corner, we have “Health,” always the crowd favorite. Who doesn’t want good health; for ourselves and our loved ones? We grew up embracing the axiom, “When you’ve got your health, you’ve got everything.” No argument about that, right?

But in the other corner sits the up-and-coming contender, “Wealth.” Perhaps too strong a word, because it implies that this opponent to “Safer at Home” guidelines is looking to get rich. Not the case at all. The good folks in this corner are just looking to go “safely” back to work, open their businesses, earn a decent living, pay the bills, and support themselves and their families.

Too much to ask for? Of course not.

Based on sheer numbers alone, ringside judges have plenty to score this fight in the early rounds. At this writing 4,177,493 people around the world in 212 countries have tested positive for COVID-19 with an alarming 286,328 deaths.

The United States, which has been hardest hit, has had 1,345,386 positive cases and 80,557 deaths. These figures alone suggest we should all seal ourselves in plastic bubbles and live below ground until at least next Groundhog’s Day.

But paying rent underground costs money, too. Since mid-March 33 million people in the U.S. have filed for unemployment benefits. Many of those people were running small businesses that were forced to close or holding jobs that have been ruled “unessential.” As a result, consumer spending dropped 7.6 percent in the last three months. Can’t spend money you don’t have.

The U.S. unemployment rate soared to 14.7 percent in April, the highest since the Great Depression.

Some will tell you that being broke, unable to pay your bills and feeling stressed out to the max, adds up to another form of sickness and death. Hard to argue with.

But here, at the top of Wisconsin we have been lucky. In our four-county area of Ashland, Bayfield, Iron and Douglas there have been just 18 positive cases of COVID-19 and only two deaths. Not to trivialize those deaths, because two is two, too many.

Maybe our COVID-19 numbers are low because so is our population. Or maybe we are fortunate here because we are lucky to be smart enough to practice social-distancing guidelines. It’s sort of a chicken-or-the-egg debate.

The Tribal residents of the Bad River Reservation are a healthy, tiny subset of the U.S. population. There have been no positive cases of COVID-19 on The Reservation. If the roles were reversed and the country was a subset of Bad River, the threat would be gone, the economy would be booming and the coronavirus would be just a bad, fading memory.

When all this began, most people were willing to put their income on hold, back away from family and friends and wait this thing out. But few expected to wait this long. As the days have grown long, patience has grown short.

Government stimulus checks haven’t been enough to pacify a hungry public. Many states are yielding to economic pressure and reopening their economies, flying in the face of sound medical advice.

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers has been criticized and protested against for extending the state’s stay-at-home order to May 26. In the land of the free, Evers’ opponents argue, we must be free to leave the house, work and earn a living. Republican lawmakers have brought a lawsuit against Evers’ plan, taking their case to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Evers argues that he has a responsibility to put the health of Wisconsinites above all else.

So the fighters from both corners are worthy of winning. Both are standing strong and throwing devastating punches. The best we can hope for, it seems, is a draw.

Send email to Richard J. Pufall at NewsLetter@BadRiver-nsn.gov

By Richard J. Pufall
For the Bad River Band

To get “Drum Beats,” the newsletter for the Bad River Band, text your email address to 920-857-4673, or send email to NewsLetter@BadRiver-nsn.gov
The Spencer Family, mom and dad — Amber and Rick — and their children, Preston, 13; Mason, 9; Annalee, 3; and Destiny, just 6 months old, were the first to arrive in the Bad River Casino’s west parking lot on Wednesday, May 5.

The Spencer’s truck was one of 10 vehicles that paraded down Maple Street in the Missing and Murder Indigenous Women and Girls Awareness Parade. Lights flashed and horns honked to honor these women and girls.

Hiedi-Beth Burns, Coordinator of The Bad River Domestic & Sexual Abuse Program, organized and led the parade in her van, below, right.

The message written in Ojibwe on the Spencer Family truck reads: “Protect the women.”

Photos by The Bay City News Service
$2,000 donated to Bad River Food Shelf

For The Bad River Band

The Bad River Women’s Auxiliary raised and donated $1,000 to the Bad River Food Shelf and an anonymous donor matched that figure, bringing the total to a whopping $2,000.

The food that was purchased through the donation was earmarked for Tribal members who recently lost jobs and are unemployed due to the COVID-19, coronavirus pandemic.

Pictured here, from left, are Eli Corbine and David Moore, from The Bad River Maintenance Department, who chipped in to haul goods into the Food Shelf.

Next to the men, from left, are Mary Lou Sala-water, Gail Soulier, and Christina Dzvonkowsk-Burns, of the Women’s Auxiliary, who are shown holding the long grocery receipt from food shopping.

“We want to make sure these members are aware of this donation to help them in their time of need,” said Esie Leoso-Corbine, Director of Social and Family Services. “Gail Soulier contacted me wanting to do something for people who are directly impacted by the virus. Social and Family Services was already preparing for community members that could get laid off by getting Food Shelf up and running, so when Gail called it was a great collaboration!”
Bad River Band Of Lake Superior
Tribe Of Chippewa Indians

CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER          P.O. Box 39 Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT
Information During
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

For the protection of tribal staff and community, the Bad River Tribe is still temporarily limiting person-to-person contact at the workplace to minimize potential exposure.

The Bad River Enrollment Department will accept new applications from people residing within the Bad River service area only.* We are now requiring safe social distancing procedures to process. You must call and make an appointment to schedule.

Bad River Enrollment Office 715-682-7111 ext. 1525

NOTE: Tribal Members may request a Certificate of Membership in lieu of Tribal ID during the COVID 19 Pandemic

*If you have any questions about enrollment or the service area, please call Enrollment Office, miigwech

Telephone (715) 682-7111  Fax (715) 682-7118
Rent-free May added to April!

UPDATED: April 23, 2020

Memorandum Subject to Change

To whom it may concern:

As we continue to closely monitor Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments, the health and wellbeing of our employees, families and community members is our greatest concern.

In this time of hardship, the Bad River Housing Authority (BRHA) will suspend all rent and other payments due for the month of April and May. Suspending such payments during April and May is an important step in helping the community survive this historically difficult time. BRHA hopes this will help provide some peacefulness, as you will need to provide for your family.

BRHA will be cutting back on non-essential services such as modernization work, painting, cabinet repairs, flooring, etc. The BRHA operations will continue during this pandemic; however, our physical location is closed to the public until further notice.

• Home Visits: Home visits are temporarily suspended. If you have any changes in your household composition or your employment, it is important to promptly call 715-682-2271 or email one of the following:
  • Micki Corbine: OccupancySpecialist@badriver-nsn.gov
  • Rae Ann Bender: ResidentSpecialist@badriver-nsn.gov

• Maintenance: The BRHA Maintenance Staff will temporarily be responding only to emergency work orders. Maintenance Staff will be wearing protective gear upon entry. If you have health or safety concerns, please call the On-Call Phone at 715-292-8847.

• BRHA Building: The BRHA Lobby will temporarily be closed. Garbage stickers will be mailed upon request. To make this request, please call 715-682-2271 or email Taylor Rosin HousingRecpt@badriver-nsn.gov

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We will continue to closely monitor this situation and hope these steps will continue to fight the spread of the virus. As more important decisions are made, BRHA will send you additional notices, as necessary.

If you have any questions about this notice, please call the appropriate phone number listed in the above sections. For up to date information, please visit http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/news/

Thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

Miigwech,

Jennifer Toribio-Warren
Jennifer Toribio-Warren
Executive Director
brhaed@badriver-nsn.gov

(The Manomin Restaurant will be closed today, May 13 and will reopen on Thursday, May 14)

Bad River Food Shelf Hours
(Closed until Friday, May 15)

Monday: 9 a.m.-noon
Tuesday: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-noon
Thursday: 11 a.m.-noon
Friday: 9 a.m.-noon

Anyone needing Food Shelf please call ahead before noon, 715-682-7127. If there is no answer leave a message with a return phone number.
BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR
TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER
P.O. Box 39 Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

NOTICE
Bad River Lake Superior Chippewa Indian Reservation and Road Closure

In order to maintain public health, safety, and limit exposure to COVID-19 the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has issued the following order:

NOTICE:
The BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA serves notice that non-tribal access to Bad River Tribally owned FCL or open MFL lands within the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation is hereby revoked. Trespassers to BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA FCL or open MFL lands will be subject to citations for trespass.

And:

Access to all Bad River Reservation roads off of US Hwy 2 State Hwy 169, State Hwy 13 and County A (Road detail below) are closed and will be operating under restricted access until further notice. Access is restricted except to the following:

* All Community residents;
* Bad River Members;
* Tribal Government essential employees;
* Delivery of necessary goods and services, US Post Office, and Food and basic necessities, and other preapproved personnel

Closed roads: Birch, Pine Flat, Falls, Elm Hoist, Potato River, Jolma, Jusala, Albert Mattson, West Fire Lane, Stones, First Landing, Second Landing, Goslin, Kagerville, Kakkagon, Lake, Madigan, Beauregard, Ackley, Government, Graveyard Creek

Miigwech (Thank you),

Mike Wiggins Jr.
Tribal Chairman
(715) 292-2930
Cedar (generously harvested by Abi Fergus) and sage grown by Food Sovereignty is now being distributed to homebound elders and at Elderly meal pick up by Loretta Livingston.

Berthea Olby in Natural Resources put together Earth Day bags and baskets for our community this week. Over 200 bags and 35 baskets are being distributed to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and 35th Anniversary of Bad River Natural Resources!

Brad Bigboy and Sandra Bender are working together to purchase whitefish and trout from one of our Bad River commercial fisherman. These fish will be delivered to homebound and at the Elderly meal pick up as early as Friday.

If you have good news to share text /call 715-292-8142 or email l.bigboy@badriver-nsn.gov

Bad River Recycling & Solid Waste Department

Emergency Notice

Due to the COVID-19 Health Crisis Pandemic the tentatively scheduled (MAY 11th – MAY 22nd) 2020 SPRING CLEAN-UP EFFORTS will be postponed until further notice.
What Tribal Members need to know about COVID-19

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?
Coronaviruses are a type of virus (germ) that can cause cold-like symptoms and sometimes serious problems with lungs and breathing. COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?
Mild to severe respiratory illness, or problems with lungs and breathing. Symptoms include:
• Cough or shortness of breath.
Or at least two of these symptoms:
• Fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.

How does COVID-19 spread?
Person to person by coughing, sneezing, or personal contact like touching or shaking hands. Someone with mild symptoms may spread the disease without knowing they are sick.

Who is most at risk?
Anyone can get COVID-19. Those at risk of severe illness include:
• Elders and adults over 60 years of age,
• People with heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes.

How can I protect myself and my family?
Stay at home. “Social distancing” is recommended. This means keeping your family at home and away from others who may be sick.
• If you must go out, wear a mask or bandana and try to stay 6 feet away from others.
• Avoid gatherings with other people.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
• Do not shake hands, hug, or touch others.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in our state?
Yes, there have been cases in all 50 states.

If someone gets sick, what can they do?
• If someone thinks they have been around someone with COVID-19 and they get a fever and symptoms such as cough or trouble breathing, they should call their healthcare provider or local Indian Health Service unit for medical advice.
• In an emergency, call 911.
• People who are mildly sick with COVID-19 do not need to see a healthcare provider and are able to recover at home.
• Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.
• Stay home and away from others for 14 days to avoid getting others sick.
• Caregivers should keep sick family members away from others in the home and clean and disinfect surfaces and items that are touched often, like door handles, sink handles, toilets, remote controls, etc.

Is there a vaccine or treatment?
There is no vaccine. The best way to reduce the risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is to practice social distancing and healthy habits like washing hands regularly.
There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but medical care can help relieve symptoms. If you are sick, call your healthcare provider for instructions.

For more information: CDC.gov/coronavirus

Effective May 5, 2020
Source: CDC
Bad River Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services are available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please contact Jennifer Sorel at 715.292.1133 to schedule a time to meet.

Bad River Medication Assisted Treatment program uses Suboxone or Vivitrol in combination with counseling to assist persons who use opioids to stabilize and enter a life of recovery.

We are here to offer continued help and support to the community!
BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR
TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER
P.O. Box 39- Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

NOTICE
GRAVEL PURCHASE FOR 2020

The Bad River Roads Department will be offering crushed gravel for individual purchase this year.

There is also a limited amount of fill dirt available. Fill can be found in the field directly north of the casino. If anyone would like to haul this themselves please feel free to take as much as you like. The Roads Program will not be delivering fill dirt.

***Five (5) yard minimum order***

Limit of 5 loads per residence (25 yards) of crushed gravel.

PRICES:
Crushed Gravel per 5 yard load $19.00 per yard = $95.00 per load (5 load max.)

The deadline for ordering will be September 18, 2020.

All payments should be made at the Bad River Tribal Accounting Office. Please make sure you leave a contact name and number when payment is made.

Deliveries will begin in late June to early July or as soon as possible thereafter. Repairs to roadways will take precedence and private order deliveries will not begin until road repairs are caught up.

Any questions please contact:
Ben Connors Sr
roadmgr@badriver-sen.gov
Ph: 715-662-7153 ext 1343
Cell: 715-292-1728

*Telephone (715) 682-7111
Fax (715) 682-7118
BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR
TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

2020
Gill Netting for Bad River
Members
Will be open on the
Kakagon River Complex
Starting
April 29th, 2020 at 10:00am

It is mandatory to bring your catch into
the hatchery for creel survey.

Questions contact MNRD Wardens
Brad Bigboy 715-979-1181
Gerry White 715-292-7822

Updated 4/27/2020

(715) 682-7123 NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
FAX (715) 682-7115
In response to the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department recommends that all fish harvesters engaging in on reservation netting, spearing and dipnetting, adhere to the following precautions/guidelines:

**Netting on Kakagon/ Bad River/Lake Superior Shoreline**
~When fishing in a boat with others, do so with people who live in your household.
~Wear gloves and a mask to reduce the possibility of the spread of disease.
~Limit the overall amount of people in your boat to a maximum of 3 people.

**Spearing at the Bad River Falls**
~When spearing at the Falls, please exercise social distancing protocol by staying 6 feet away from anyone not living in your household.
~Be respectful of an individual’s right to safe distance. Take it upon yourself to not impose on another’s safe space.
~Wear gloves and a mask to reduce the possibility of the spread of disease.

**Dip-netting at Kakagon & Goslin Bridges**
(Handwashing station and portapotty will be provided)
~Wear gloves and a mask to reduce the possibility of the spread of disease
~Maintain social distancing from creel clerks and wardens on the bridge.

The following are requirements that need to be met in order to participate in dipnetting this year:
1) One person per net will be enforced.
2) No one under the age of 18 will be allowed on the bridge.
3) Utilize the hand-washing station and hand sanitizer.
4) Adhere to Warden and Fisheries staff requests for creeling as there will be changes to the normal protocol.
5) Three marked areas of netting per each side of the Bridge Maximum. (6 total per bridge).
6) Stay in marked areas of your netting area while fishing.

We are including these additional rules for dipnetting due to the amount of people on the bridge in past years and the lack of space for everyone to maintain proper social distancing.

If there are any questions about the upcoming fishing season please feel free to call Brad Bigboy at 715-979-1181 or Gerald White at 715-292-7822.

By following these guidelines, you are reducing the spread of this new virus that has been proven to be dangerous to the elderly and immunocompromised.

See the Bad River [http://www.badrivernsn.gov/news/] site for the most current information and recommendations regarding COVID-19.
BAD RIVER AODA
OPEN RECOVERY MEETING
4pm EVERY DAY!!!!

This meeting is available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/130162509

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122

Access Code: 130-162-509

We are here to offer continued help and support to the community!
Wisconsin teleconference/webinar Family Caregiver Support Groups

For Persons Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI):
2nd Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 am

General Family Caregivers:
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 5:30-7:00 pm
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 pm

Family Caregivers for a Loved One with Dementia Living at a Facility:
Fridays, 10:00-11:30 am

Male Family Caregivers:
2nd Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 pm
3rd Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 pm
3rd Thursday, 10:00-11:00 am
4th Thursday, 1:00-2:30 pm

Family Caregivers for a Loved One with Dementia in the Early Stages:
2nd Tuesday, 9:30-11:00 am
2nd Wednesday, 3:00-4:30 pm
4th Tuesday, 10:00-11:30 am

Spanish Speaking Family Caregivers: Grupo de Apoyo en Español:
2nd Tuesday, 10:00-11:30 am
2º Martes de cada mes, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Llame a Virginia Zerpa 414-431-8811

Family Caregivers for a Loved One with Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD):
3rd Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 pm

To attend any of our Support Groups please verify your attendance by calling 800.272.3900
You will receive connection information after you register

www.alz.org/wi 24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900 Hablamos Español, 414.431.8811
Updated 4/20
Wisconsin to Provide Temporary Food Benefits for Children Missing School Meals

In a COVID-free world, more than 400,000 Wisconsin children receive free or reduced price meals through the National School Lunch Program while attending school. To ensure that those same students continue to have access to nutritious meals while staying safer at home during the pandemic, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is providing more than $140 million dollars in food benefits to their families for March, April, May and part of June – to cover the days that schools would usually be in session.

These funds were appropriated under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and provided to states by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. The program is referred to as Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer or P-EBT because the benefits will be put on cards for families to use to purchase food at grocery stores or farmer’s markets, as available.

‘Drum Beats,’ Deadline!
To get your news item in the next edition of “Drum Beats,” send email to NewsLetter@BadRiver-nsn.gov or call 920-857-4673 by noon on: 

**May 21**
Summer Youth Program Application

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Chief Blackbird Center
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861

2020 WI DNR/Bad River Education Summer Youth Program Application

Name: __________________________________________ First

Physical Address: ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _____________________________________________________________

Age: __________ D.O.B. __________ S.S.N. ________________________________

Tribal I.D. # ________________________________

Parent/Legal Guardian(s) (Please Print) ____________________________________________

Sign: ________________________________

Telephone number: ________________________________

Please indicate if youth will be attending a pre-college program or sporting activities:

[ ] I will  [ ] I will not be attending a pre-college program/sporting or other List Dates

List any pre-college program or events attending

NOTICE:
* Youth ages 14-18 years old. Must be 14 years old by May 1, 2020
* Bad River Tribal Member youth living in Bad River
* Bad River Tribal Member youth living in the service area
* other Tribal Member youth living in Bad River

Orientation will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at the THPO Office by appointment

Youth Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________________________

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________________________

** Program Dates: June 28-July 31 - Deadline for Application is May 20, 2020

Application drop off location - Chief Blackbird Center - Front Desk/Ring bell
Or email to Bad River Education Dept. at below email addresses:

For additional information or questions, please contact:
Stephanie Julian - (715) 682-7111 ext: 1530 or EducationDirector@badriver-nsn.gov
Lori Lemieux - (715) 682-7111 ext: 1535 or IAS@badriver-nsn.gov

Education Dept.
Bad River Tribe
P.O. Box 39
72682 Maple St.
Odanah, WI 54861
Phone: (715) 682-7111 ext. 1533
The Latest Research:
Environmental Impacts on Brain Health

Friday, May 15, 2020
1:00 – 2:30pm
Join us virtually!

Link to register:
www.bit.ly/research515

OR call the Alzheimer’s Association
800.272.3900 and ask for “May 15th Research Event in Wisconsin”

Dr. Renee Richer, Assistant Professor, UW-Green Bay

Dr. Renee Richer received her BA in biology from the University of Chicago and her PhD in biology from Harvard University in 2004. She joined the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, Marinette campus in August 2014.

Dr. Richer has spent the last decade researching the relationship between environmental quality and human health. In particular, she studies the relationship between water quality and neurodegenerative diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer’s, and Parkinson’s disease.

There will be a Q&A portion during this presentation, so bring your questions!
CALM
Tips for caregivers from caregivers

We all experience stress in our lives, and everyone reacts to and copes with stress in their own way. What is stressful for one person may not be stressful for someone else. CALM is a method used to minimize stress, anxiety and depression.

Create over Consume
Spend more time creating than consuming. If you are struggling today try to create a new normal until this passes.

Action Focused
Try immediate problem-solving to work on calming down the emotional response in your body. Challenge yourself to focus on what you can control.

Lean in and Learn
Lean in with curiosity to learn. Go to the greater experience of what you are going through.

Move Forward
Move forward by taking incremental steps forward daily. Recreate actions daily that are normal to you. Move your body every day.

Stress overload may cause us to become ill, irritable, depressed and interfere with our daily function. If you’re experiencing any of these symptoms, you may want to seek out additional support and guidance from the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin.

3330 University Avenue, Suite 300, Madison, WI 53705 | 608.232.3400 or 888.308.6251 (toll free) | alzwis.org
THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING

Health and positivity are connected.
Having a positive outlook promotes many health benefits such as...

- Lower blood pressure and improved overall cardiovascular health
- Improved weight control
- Lower rates of anxiety and depression
- Improved blood sugar levels

Positive thinking...
- Protects us from the negative long-term effects of stress on our immune, digestive, cardiovascular, sleep and reproductive systems
- Allows us to take control of our health
- Helps us deal with life’s difficulties
- Encourages others to have a positive mindset

Tips to start embracing positive thinking

- Start a daily gratitude journal
- Practice small acts of kindness daily
- Eat a well-balanced diet and engage in regular physical activity
- Look for opportunities to believe the best about yourself
- Set attainable goals and track your progress
- Create a plan to deal with life stressors in a healthy way

Stay connected to fepblue

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Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield marks and symbols, Federal Employee Program®, BlueEthos®, BlueStar® and HIP® are all trademarks owned by Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

This information is not meant to substitute the advice of your doctor or any other healthcare professional.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
Apply Now for the Summer & Fall Semesters

**Summer Registration**
March 23, 2020 - May 29, 2020

**Fall Registration**
March 23, 2020 - August 28, 2020

Programs & Certificates
- Business
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood
- Human Services
- Legal Studies
- Liberal Arts
- Native American Studies
- Nursing and Allied Health
- Science

**Main Campus**
Lac Courte Oreilles

**Outreach Locations**
- Bad River
- Lac Du Flambeau
- Red Cliff
- St. Croix

Summer Classes Start June 1, 2020
Fall Classes Start August 31, 2020

Call to Learn More | 715-634-4790

lco.edu  f  Instagram  Twitter  LinkedIn  YouTube
Mashkiiziibii News—April 30, 2020

Summer Youth packets can be picked up at Blackbird Building or Youth Building (53872 Oak Street) from 10-3pm daily. Completed applications can be dropped off at the Annex by May 22, 2020. Assignments will follow safe practices.

Bad River Food Shelf Hours:
M/W/F – 9 AM – Noon
T/Th— 11AM – 2 PM
Anyone needing Food Shelf need to call ahead before noon 715-682-7127. If you there is no answer leave a message with a return phone number. They have received a $1000 donation from the VFW Woman’s Auxiliary and an anonymous donor for $1000 as well. Migwetch!

Healing Talking Circle—Thursday, April 30th, outdoors, call Sue @ 715-685-4011 or Gina @ 715-685-4417 to sign up. If you need Peer Support call Brian @ 715-681-0999.

If you have good news to share text/call 715-292-8142 or email l.bigboy@badriver-nsn.gov
Bad River Health and Wellness
Center CLINIC SERVICES

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Bad River Clinic WILL be open for other services. If you have a chronic health condition such as diabetes, hypertension, or are feeling ill, please call the clinic at 715-682-7133 to schedule an appointment.

While the process of entering the clinic has changed at this time, we are still here to serve you. Please call with any questions, or to schedule your appointment today!

Stay safe and be well.
Care for your mental health, too!

During the COVID-19 Crisis, it is just as important to care for your mental health as it is your physical health. If you or someone you know is struggling, REACH OUT. Here are just a few of the resources available. We will continue to share free resources with you during this difficult time.

**Mental Health:**

7 cups: [www.7cups.com](http://www.7cups.com); free online text chat for emotional support and counseling

**Disaster Distress Helpline:** 800-985-5990

Or text TalkWithUs to 66746

**Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 800-273-8255

Or text CONNECT to 741741

**MoodGYM:** moodgym.com.au

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 800-799-7233

**Recovery Resources:**

**Bad River AODA Open Recovery Meeting:** 4pm daily.

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/130162509](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/130162509)

Or call 1-646-749-3122 Access Code: 130-162-509

**In The Rooms:** intherooms.com/home/

Please call the Bad River Health and Wellness Center at 715-682-7133 if you have questions or would like more information.
New Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 seen in children

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:**
- High Fevers (lasting for 5 or more days)
- Rashes on the Torso or Groin
- Blood Shot Eyes
- Red Swollen lips
- Red hands and soles of feet (resembling sunburn)
- Swelling in the lymph nodes
- Peeling skin on hands and feet
- Temporary Hearing Loss
- Low Blood Pressure
- Confusion
- Headaches
- Muscle Aches

*If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, please contact your health care provider ASAP.*
WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME
A POSTER CONTEST
FOR TRIBAL YOUTH

ALL FORMS OF ART ARE WELCOME; HOWEVER, IT DOES NEED TO BE POSTER FRIENDLY. ONCE YOU’VE FINISHED YOUR POSTER, SUBMIT A PHOTO OF YOUR POSTER TO:
WILMANOAH@SEMTRIBE.COM

+ KRYSTALCEDENO@SEMTRIBE.COM

Continued below, on Page 35
Continued from Page 34

WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME
A POSTER CONTEST
FOR TRIBAL YOUTH

ENTER TO WIN A PRIZE!
Accepting Submissions from
April 1- June 30, 2020

All Tribal Communities are Welcomed to Submit! All Posters Must Be
Original Art Work. You May Use: Markers, Paints, Crayons, Colored Pencils,
Beads and Fabric! Get as Creative as you’d like! Create a poster that shows
what home means to you!

All forms of art are welcome; however you submission does need to be
poster friendly. Once you’ve finished your poster or if you have any
questions, submit
to: WilmaNoah@semtribe.com or KrystalCedeno@semtribe.com

3 AGE GROUP WINNERS!
5-10; 11-13; 14-18
Even though the office is closed for regular visits, we are still here for you!

BAD RIVER DENTAL IS OFFERING TELEDENTISTRY!

Teledentistry is a virtual visit between you and your provider. We know that you may have questions or concerns about you or your family’s oral health. We are here to help! This visit is at no cost to you!

Please call (715) 685-7887 and ask for DeAnn @ ext 4413 or Jerelyn @ Ext 4406

We miss you and hope to see you all soon! In the meantime, give us a call!
Boozhoo,

Bad River Health & Wellness Center extends our sincere condolences to those in our community who have lost a loved one.

In our Ojibwe language there is no word to say goodbye, the word we use is ‘giga-waabamin’ ‘miinawaa’ we’ll see you again.

Because of the Covid-19 virus, our Tribal government and surrounding Tribes are practicing guidelines set to keep everyone safe. Following our funeral services guidelines that have been put forth to help families stay safe as they honor loved ones. We share these guidelines in a good way in the hopes that they help our people protect each other while still conducting services for their loved ones journey.

We care for everyone in our community and want everyone to be safe. While supplies last, up to 30 masks can be requested for services.

Remember “Zhwenidig” Take Care Of Each Other.

**Funeral Guidance**

The following are recommendations that should be considered to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and protect the health and safety of all during funeral services.

- Tribal communities have large extended families & friends, we are respectfully asking to consider smaller funerals
- People who feel sick or are at-risk should stay home, we can pray for our loved one or family from home.
- Please consider recommended social distancing guidelines.
- Wash your hands frequently and/or use hand sanitizer.
- Choose a seat that follows social distancing guidelines.
- Please know that while the CDC has said there is no COVID-19 risk posed by the body of someone who has died, it recommends not touching, kissing, or having direct contact with the body of your loved one. If touching occurs, the person should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before touching anything or anyone else.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face masks at funerals.
- Do not place cloth face covering on young children under age 2. Also, do not place a face mask on anyone who has trouble breathing or who is unconscious or unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Some guidelines for a safe funeral service
‘End’ Quote

The Bad River Domestic & Sexual Abuse Program shares this statement for the week. These weekly statements address various issues, concerns and thoughts that we hope you will read and consider why it was written:

“Two things define you. Your patience when you have nothing, and your attitude when you have everything.” ~ be.positive.enjoy.life

Watch for the next statement in the May 27 newsletter. If you have a statement you would like to share, feel free to send it to Hiedi-Beth Burns, Coordinator/DV & SA Advocate & Legal Lay Advocate, Bad River Domestic Abuse Program. Send email to brdap@badriver-nsn.gov

BAD RIVER HOUSING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

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All meetings are held at the Bad River Housing Authority Conference Room at 5:00 p.m.

Electronic Conferencing

“Drum Beats,”

is the newsletter for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Drum Beats is circulated every other Wednesday throughout the year and is produced by The Bay City News Service of Ashland, Wis.

Send email to Newsletter@BadRiver-nsn.gov or call 920-857-4673.