



# LITTLE SHELL VOICES

Official Little Shell Tribal Newsletter - April 2026

Aanii (Hello),

I am pleased to share several important updates that show the continued growth and strength of the Little Shell Tribe.

This month, the Tribe successfully entered into a Tribal Transportation Program Agreement (TTPA) with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This is an important step forward in our self-governance. Being approved for a TTPA shows that the Tribe has built strong administrative and financial systems that meet federal standards.

With a TTPA, the Tribe has more direct control over transportation funding than under a Title I agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This means we can move projects forward more efficiently, reduce delays, and focus on the transportation needs that matter most to our community.

The Transportation Department also recently published amendments to the Tribe's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to incorporate new priorities. Visit the Tribe's website to review the proposed amendments and provide feedback. Your input helps guide which projects we prioritize and ensures our work reflects the needs of our people.

In addition, Tribal Council has approved a request to participate in the Title IV Tribal Self-Governance Program with the Department of the Interior. This transition would allow the Tribe to manage federal programs through a more flexible, long-term funding agreement. Title IV provides greater certainty in funding and reduces administrative hurdles, giving the Tribe more control to plan ahead and deliver services in a way that best serves our members.

These accomplishments reflect the hard work of our staff and leadership, and our shared commitment to building a stronger future for the Little Shell Tribe.

Miigwech (Thank you),  
Chairman Gerald Gray



# APRIL EVENTS

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## LITTLE SHELL CULTURE CLUB



April 8th & 22nd  
6pm-8pm | Elders Center

### Connect, Learn, Belong

Allot going on in the Culture dept. We host a culture class every other Wednesday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. Culture class includes traditional and non-traditional drumming, dance and storytelling. We often offer traditional and non-traditional crafts in addition to drumming and dancing. For March we made dreamcatchers and braided sweetgrass. We hope to offer some old-time favorites for April. Stay tuned to the Little Shell Community Health Facebook page for details. We were also able to provide a few bonus cultural events in March 2026, brought to you by Council Alisa Herodes and the Culture Dept. We were able to create ledger art and offer a Trade Dance with Guest Speaker/Host Awanigizhik Bruce. We will be continuing our work of teaching traditions involving respect for Elder's and hope to continue building knowledge of protocols for Ceremonies, Celebrations and Pow Wows and learning our Ojibwe language. Culture Classes for April are April 8th and April 22nd, 2026.

Sacred Circle for ages 12-21 (some exceptions may be made for age group upon request). We took the Little Shell transport bus and took a group of Little Shell young adults and enjoyed a night of Pizza, movies and snacks. The movie was Avator Fire and Ash. The movie series is a newer spin on showcasing traditional values of culture, earth, wind, fire water, etc. It also opens the conversation about self-harm and support in those situations. We will be following up on the movie with trivia on regarding the culture referenced in the movie and actual Indigenous culture of the Little Shell.

Space is somewhat limited on some of the Sacred Circle events, so please watch the Little Shell Community health Facebook page for times, dates and details.

## BINGO



April 2nd, 16th and 30th  
6pm -8pm

Tobacco, Alcohol, & Substance Prevention Bingo – to include encouragement of health & wellness of self, spirit, and family. Bingo is offered every other Thursday from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and we try to create an atmosphere of fun, culture and family. Encouraging respect for Elder's and Unity. Bingo attendance has increased in attendance, and we hope others will come join in the fun and sense of community within our tribal community and beyond. The old bingo system (machine and sound system) had become unreliable. We welcomed a new bingo system with display and sound system, which has been well received by participants and Elder's.

## MEAT & GREET



April 11th  
10am-11am

Meat & Greet Community Event  
We invite all eligible tribal citizens to join us for our upcoming Meat & Greet event on Saturday, April 11 at 1301 Stuckey Rd. Participants will receive a box of essential food items, and it's also a great opportunity to stop by, visit with staff, and learn more about the program and services we provide.

We look forward to seeing everyone and continuing to serve our community.

# COMMUNITY CORNER COMMUNITY CORNER

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION



### APRIL HEALTH AWARENESS

April is a time that highlights several important health awareness topics that impact our communities. It is recognized nationwide as Stress Awareness Month, Alcohol Awareness Month, and National Minority Health Month. These observances remind us how important it is to take care of both our physical and mental health.

Taking small steps like eating healthy foods, staying active, and connecting with family and community can make a big difference in overall well-being. Awareness months also help bring attention to health challenges that affect many families and encourage people to learn more about prevention, support, and healthy lifestyles.

### SUPPORTING HEALTH THROUGH FOOD

The Little Shell Food Distribution Program through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) continues to provide nutritious food options to help support the health of our tribal citizens. Many of the foods available through the program—such as fruits, vegetables, grains, and proteins—can help families create balanced meals and maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Our goal is not only to provide food assistance but also to help promote healthier eating habits and improve food access for our community.

## HOUSING



### The Tribe is Offering Two Appliance Replacement Programs

#### HUD Appliance Program

- Open to those **living in Cascade County**
- Little Shell Tribal Member **Elders 62 years+**
- Appliances replaced if not energy efficient
- Low Income Household
- Funding for program is not limited

#### Appliances Offered:



#### Pembina Appliance Program

- Open to those **living in Montana**
- Little Shell Tribal Member **Elders 62 years+** or Members with **long-term disability**
- Appliances replaced only if not working or member does not have the appliance
- Low Income Household
- Funding for program is limited

#### Appliances Offered:



#### GET IN TOUCH

(406) 315-2400 Office  
(406) 315-2401 Fax

LittleShellHousing@lstribe.org  
www.montanalittleshelltribe.org

511 Central Ave. W.  
Great Falls, MT 59404

## CHRONIC DISEASE AWARENESS



### APRIL IS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH, TESTICULAR CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, AND WORLD AUTISM MONTH!

Parkinson's Awareness Month is the perfect time to brush on Parkinson's facts such as:

- Nearly 90,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with Parkinson's every year.
- Scientists believe a combination of environmental and genetic factors cause Parkinson's Disease.
- A person with Parkinson's can experience both movement and non-movement related symptoms.
- Symptoms can be managed through treatments like medications, lifestyle changes, exercise and in some cases, surgery.
- Early onset Parkinson's disease occurs in people younger than 50 years of age.

#### April is Testicular Cancer Awareness Month

A time dedicated to raising awareness about the most common cancer in men 15-44.

Early detection is key, often eliminating the need for additional surgeries, chemotherapy, or radiation. It also eases the financial and emotional burden on patients and their families.

#### April is World Autism month.

To find lots of information and resources go to [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)

## HEALTH TEAM

WE HAVE NEW FACES TO WELCOME TO THE LITTLE SHELL HEALTH CLINIC TEAM DURING THE 1ST QUARTER:

Teri Horn - Coder

Daniel Kaspari - IT Specialist

Wendy Page - HR Coordinator

Patricia Russette - Health Worker

Valerie Werk - Financial Assistant

Mirayah Hanway - Pharmacy Technician

Victoria George - Certified Medical Assistant

Joshua Wingate - IT Specialist

WELCOME ABOARD!

## KYIYO POWWOW

Community Health Worker Sam Lamere will have a table set up at the Kyiyo Powwow in Missoula April 17th and April 18th. Please stop in and say Hello to her!

Sam will also be at the Sweetgrass Society Powwow at MSU-N in Havre on April 24th and April 25th. If you are able, please stop in and say Hello!