



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ

Ermineskin Newsletter September 8, 2023

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Opaskâskwehowipisim Nistômitanaw

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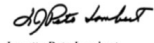
ERMINESKIN CREE NATION
AUGUST 30, 2023
COUNCILOR ELECTION
STATEMENT OF RESULTS

CANDIDATE	No of Votes
BUFFALO Kaylin	142
COYOTE Richard	112
CROSS Alfred	90
ERMINESKIN, Craig Stephen	221
ERMINESKIN Earl Jr.	111
LIGHTNING Inez	178
LITTLECHILD Earl Rene	77
LITTLECHILD Josh Marvin (Josh)	198
LITTLECHILD Neil Wilton	115
LITTLECHILD TERRY (Bear)	176
MAKINAW Jason	367
MAKINAW Nina	266
MONTOUR (LITTLECHILD), Cheryl	269
MORIN Allen Wayne (Elvis)	97
WHITEBEAR Trudy	277
WILDCAT Collin	232
WILDCAT Daniel	134

To the position of councillor for a three year term. **EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2023**

1. JASON MAKINAW
2. TRUDY WHITEBEAR
3. CHERYL MONTOUR
4. NINA MAKINAW

Posted this 30th day of August, 2023 at the Ermineskin Cree Nation in the Province of Alberta


Loretta Pete Lambert
Chief Electoral Officer
T: 1-306-227-3373
E: loretta@petelambert.ca



JASON MAKINAW



TRUDY WHITEBEAR



CHERYL MONTOUR



NINA MAKINAW

COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

On August 30, 2023 members of our nation had the opportunity to vote for our upcoming four (4) council positions. Polling stations were open from 9am to 6pm at the N.O.K. Building. This years election had seventeen candidates nominated for these positions. The results for our newly elected leaders goes as follows; Jason Makinaw (367 votes), Trudy Whitebear (277 votes), Cheryl Montour-Littlechild (269

votes), and Nina Makinaw (266 votes). Congratulations to winners who were voted in. Their three year term commences October 1, 2023. An inauguration ceremony will be hosted for our new council and chief within the next few weeks, please be sure to download our new mobile app to receive updates within our community! As well as follow our Facebook Page: Ermineskin Cree Nation.

E.E.T.F AWARDS NIGHT

Kinanaskomitin to all students and caregivers for coming out and celebrating with the Ermineskin Education Trust Fund at the Child and Youth Awards Night Celebration on August 28, 2023. The EETF Awards night is a staple within the Ermineskin community and so glad to begin this celebration annually again, after the Covid-19 pandemic halted our in-person events.

This year's awards night aimed to celebrate Ermineskin kindergarten-to-grade 12 students for their academic achievements as well as the grade 12 graduates for the 2022-2023 school year.

Each and every one of you who worked hard last year and will be transitioning into the next grade. EETF Trustees and staff wish you a fruitful school year. Also, for this past year, EETF recorded 32 high school graduates! Wonderful! We encourage all of you graduates to continue to higher your education because you are our future leaders.



E.C.N Youth Serez Janvier

“ I want to extend our gratitude to Chief Randy Ermineskin for coming out and speaking to our students. I also want to thank our elder Brain Lee for our opening prayer. Others I would also like to thank that made our Awards night successful: MESC Cooks, EETF Office Manager, EETF Trustees and our Sponsors. Ay hay!”
- Brayden Omeasoo-Steinhauer Chairman of Trustees



BOARD OF TRUSTEE's (LEFT TO RIGHT)
Maureen Cassie-Ward, Brayden Omeasoo-Steinhauer,
Danika Lightning, Josephine Small



CREE CORNER

Smudging Prayer

May your hands be cleansed, so that
 they can create beautiful things,
 May your feet be cleansed, that they
 take you were you most need to be,
 May your heart be cleansed, that you
 might hear it's message clearly,
 May your throat be cleansed, that
 you might speak rightly when words
 are needed,

May your eyes be cleansed that you
 might see the signs and wonders of
 the world,

May this person and space be
 washed clean, by the smoke of these
 fragrant plants,

And may that same smoke, send our
 prayers spiralling to the heavens
 Unknown Author

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Takwâkin Pîsimwak

Autum/Fall Months

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Asocikana Kîsikâw

TREATY DAY

**kahkiyaw awâsis
 kihcêyihtâkosiw**

Every child matters.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



SUBMITTED BY:
TOMMY WHITEBEAR

Enjoying a lovely sunset on a
horseback ride!



STAFF FAREWELL



A farewell dinner for long time employee took place for Maureen Wildcat on Wednesday August 30, 2023. Maureen has worked for Ermineskin Cree Nation Administration for over ten (10) years.

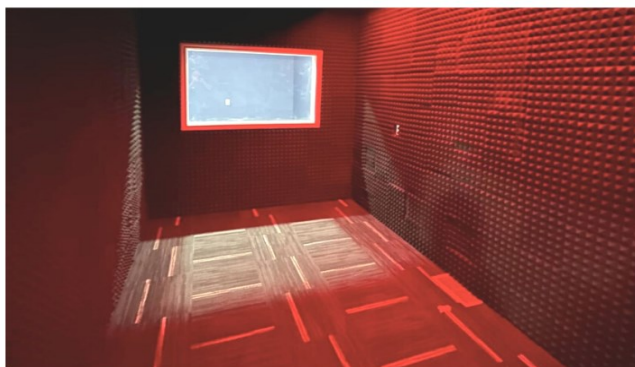
Great leaders, like yourself, impacted the workplace and your commitment to our nation will not go unnoticed. Your leadership guided us through many challenges and it's hard to say farewell to a colleague who has become such an essential part of the office.

We thank her for her dedication and service and wish her well in her future endeavours.



LOCAL RECORDING STUDIO OPENS IN MASKWACIS

The Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre has recently opened a new recording studio here in Maskwacis. "Our recording studio is almost complete and is located on the west wing of the HBMC. Looking to be operational September 2023. We want to thank all those involved in helping this project come to life. Jaime Buffalo for the financial collaboration, Cory Smallboy for the mural and Allen Nepoose Sr & Gary Crier for the carpentry. With permission we are dedicating this to my cousin who helped pave the wave along with others in the fine arts. Unofficially we have decided to call this the "Shane Yellowbird Studio For The Arts" announces Kacey Currie-Yellowbird.

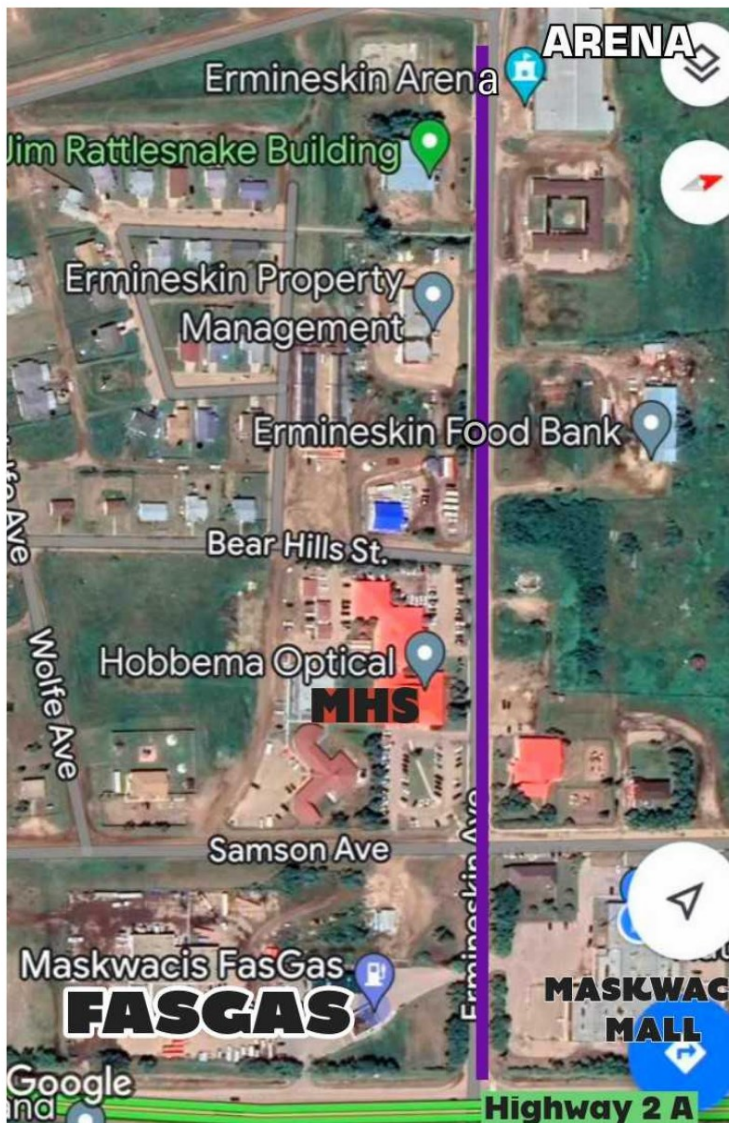


TRAFFIC DISRUPTION NOTICE FOR ERMINESKIN

Starting September, a portion of the Ermineskin Avenue will be paved from Highway 2A to the Ermineskin Arena. There will be lane closures and traffic delays during the paving process.

We ask that everyone please obey all posted signage and use caution around workers in the area. Road may be reduced to one lane only, expect delays to local businesses/ organizations along the construction zone. The road will remain open during construction.

Updates will be made available as work commences. Duration of construction is estimated to be one month. Local traffic only advised, to avoid delays we ask other travelers to take alternate routes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



PAVING CONSTRUCTION INDICATED IN PURPLE

For more information or questions you may contact Ermineskin Public Works: 780-585-3814

WAR AGAINST DRUGS WALK 2023

Cree grandmothers in Maskwacis are fighting to make the central Alberta community safer after what they say are hundreds of drug-related deaths in their community. On Thursday, the grandmothers – kokums – led a 'war on drugs walk' through the Maskwacis townsite, joined by a crowd that included, parents, children, RCMP officers, Redrum Motorcycle Club bikers, and front-line workers.

The women said they had to take action in the wake of all the community members who have died since the onset of the pandemic due to unnatural causes including overdoses, suicide and homicide. In the past three weeks, they say, four young mothers died from toxic drugs on Montana First Nation-smallest of the four First Nations that make up Maskwacis, 100 kilometres south of Edmonton.

"We're losing our young women who are supposed to be the future kokums but they're leaving us too soon and they're leaving their children and we need to stand up," said Ethel Currie-Reindeer, one of the organizers of Thursday's event.

In April, toxic drugs killed 182 people in Alberta, the most deaths in any month since 2016, according to statistics from the province. The Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations declared a state of emergency in July due to the opioid crisis.

"I'm a mother and the Grim Reaper knocks on my door because I'm affected by this," Montana First Nation kokum Joan Currie told dozens gathered at Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre in Maskwacis following the walk. "We've got to give our people hope and inspiration that there's a better way," Currie said.



Photo provided by: Mike Lake

"Leaders encouraged substance-users to seek support from local therapists and the mobile mental health team. "We're not here to judge anybody but let us try to find a way to help you," said Montana First Nation councillor Chase McDougall.

Canadian Conservative MP, Mike Lake was also in attendance to show his support to the community. "Was honoured to have been invited to join in a walk today, organized and led by Maskwacis grandmothers and mothers who are taking action to address the devastating impact of drugs on their community. Both sad and inspiring."

DRUG AWARENESS FACTS:

- Alberta is the third province in Canada that has the highest rates of death from drug abuse.
- In 2022, more than 7,300 Canadians died from apparent opioid overdoses with 87% of the deaths occurring in AB, BC & Ontario
- Among First Nations people, from 2016-2019 the annual rate of apparent accidental deaths per 100,000 person years increased on average by 16%. However, the rate increased by 60% from 2019 to the first six (6) months of 2020.

FOR ANYONE SEEKING HELP OR ASSISTANCE, BELOW ARE SOME LOCAL RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

M.H.S Counselling & Support Services: (780) 585-2268
Nayoskan Detox & Treatment Centre: 780-585-2268



Addressing his community, Ermineskin Chief Randy Ermineskin had more tragic news to deliver- a mother who had overdosed was being taken off life support. Ermineskin praised members for their show of courage. He pledged to build on their work by hosting a town hall before his term ends in September.

"A treatment centre is vital and critical for our area so our parents can be near their children as they are healing and dealing with their addictions," Ermineskin said.

"The Kokums War on Drugs Walk was on August 31, 2023. Regardless of the weather, everyone came out to support and walk for drug awareness and prevention. There was M.H.S, Maskwacis Mobile Mental Health, R.C.M.P, and leadership from the 4 nations. Great job to the organizers for the walk and everyone that participated." said Delorna Buffalo-Makinaw

Article Provided by: Andrea Huncaar (CBC NEWS)



SAFETY
FIRST

ROAD SAFETY & ETIQUETTE



School Bus Safety - Know what the lights mean!



With the 2023-2024 school year starting and recent notices of construction within our community we want to inform all residents, children, and community members of traffic safety. It is important to follow all traffic signs and obey speed limits to keep pedestrians and children safe.

For school zones, allow yourself extra time for precautionary measures as there will be many children and pedestrians. Also, when travelling in school zones, you as a driver must pay attention to all posted signs. The speed limit for school zones in Alberta are 30 km/h. Which means, that this speed limit is mandatory and must be obeyed during posted times. Hours vary for different towns and cities according to municipal bylaws, so be sure to check traffic rules in your community.

Use caution and be alert when driving near buses and in school zones. Look out for alternating flashing amber lights, which indicates a school bus is slowing to stop where students will either be getting on or off the bus.. You must stop whether you are approaching an oncoming bus or following one. You are able to proceed only when the red lights on the bus have stopped flashing. Be sure to watch for school buses loading and unloading children, even if the lights aren't flashing. The fine for passing a school bus with its red lights flashing is \$402.00 and six demerit points.

We would also like to remind the nation that the road construction for Ermineskin Avenue has begun. Please, expect delays to local businesses/organizations along the construction zone such as; Jim RS Sports Building, Ermineskin Arena, Ermineskin Property Management, N.E.P. Shop, the Food Bank, the ECN Daycare, and Maskwacis Health Services as well. Drive with caution and obey all posted signage to avoid possible accidents with road workers, flaggers, and other pedestrians/drivers.

Each year, numerous workers and pedestrians are injured, sometimes even killed, in construction zones. Many of these collisions are PREVENTABLE by slowing down and being more attentive while driving. We understand that this may affect your regular commute to work/school, but please have patience and plan accordingly. Accidents can be caused by not being focused out of anger or frustration.

Drivers convicted of speeding through construction zones will be subject to double the fine. If there are workers present, fines for speeding in construction zones are doubled as well. Vehicles ahead of you may have to stop unexpectedly, so be sure to keep space between you and the vehicle in front and be prepared to stop. This is to keep ourselves and those around us safe. Stay alert, drive smart.

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS



Reminder

NEXT ISSUE:

SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2023

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2023

NEWSLETTER@ERMINESKIN.CA

ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES PRESENTS:

WĀPAN ACĀKWAK YOUTH GROUP

Art, Cree Language, and Land Based Education
For Youth Ages 13+

Fall Sessions



Every Thursday Evening
5-7 PM
Begins September 14, 2023

youth.ebf@hotmail.com
780-585-2000
Supper and Transportation provided



Nehiyawewin

Fall 2023 Online Evening Classes

MESC Learning Services is pleased to offer the following Nehiyawewin online evening programming to engage participants in Cree syllabics, SRO and conversational Cree.

13 Weeks of online classes

Levels of Cree to Register in:

- 1 **NISTAM (Introductory):** Little to no written or oral knowledge of the Cree language.
- 2 **MĀCI (Beginner):** Basic written and oral knowledge of the Cree language.
- 3 **TĀPITAW (Intermediate):** Strong understanding of Cree, with the ability to engage in conversational Cree.
- 4 **NESTAW (Advanced):** Fluent in Cree, but want to strengthen oral/written knowledge.

Fall 2023 Classes:

Registration opens August 28, 2023, and closes September 8, 2023

Classes start: September 11, 2023 - December 4, 2023

Register at:

<https://bit.ly/F23CREE>

Please note: programming will be offered online and participants are required to have a valid Gmail address and internet access

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ Nistam Nehiyawewin Introductory Location: Online Time: 5 pm - 6 pm</p>	<p>ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ Tapitaw Nehiyawewin Intermediate Location: Online Time: 5 pm - 6 pm</p>
<p>ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ Māci Nehiyawewin Beginner Location: Online Time: 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm</p>	<p>ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ Nestaw Nehiyawewin Advanced Location: Online Time: 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm</p>

For more information, contact Jolene Rain at (780) 585-2879 or jolenerain@maskwacised.ca

Try something NEW & FUN!

ERMINESKIN RECREATION

GAME Night

EVERY FRIDAY AT JIM RS SPORTS BUILDING
5:00PM - 7:00PM

Enjoy BOARD GAMES - CARD GAMES - MUCH MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(780) 585-3088
river@ermineskin.ca

PIGEON LAKE DOG FOOD

DISTRIBUTION



SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2023
1PM - 3:30 PM
**PIGEON LAKE
RECREATION CENTRE**

DOG FOOD IS FOR REGISTERED DOGS ONLY IN ORDER TO GET DOG FOOD YOU NEED TO APPLY BEFORE THE DAY OF THE DISTRIBUTION.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PICK UP A REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE CALL ECN SECURITY TO FILL OUT THE FORM OVER THE PHONE 8AM-4PM



(780) 585-2004

DOG FOOD

DISTRIBUTION



SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2023
1PM - 4PM
**ECN SECURITY
COMPOUND**

DOG FOOD IS FOR REGISTERED DOGS ONLY IN ORDER TO GET DOG FOOD YOU NEED TO APPLY BEFORE THE DAY OF THE DISTRIBUTION.



(780) 585-2004



“MY GIFTS” FOR YOUTH

AGES 16 - 25
WITH LORRAINE CUTARM

SEPTEMBER 9TH AND 10TH 2023



STARTS AT 9 AM - 3 PM



WAYSIDE INN, WETASKIWIN, AB



TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL OFFICE @780-585-2000 OR EMAIL FUTURESBRIGHTER@YAHOO.COM



HOME MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

Traditional Past and Present, Why Home Maintenance?

Reactive vs. Proactive, Grade/Slope, Roof & Exterior Elements, Doors & Windows, Interior Elements, Minor Plumbing, Mechanical Components, Mold & Identifying Moisture Causes, and Workshop Safety.

Light Lunch will be provided
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
(Limited Seating)
(Call to register)

Attention: Home Occupants
Saturday September 9, 2023 – NOK Bldg.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Bruce Littlechild – EPM (780) 585-3886 Ext. 237

Presented by
Nicholas Kootenlayoo

WAXASE 2023

Certificate upon
Completion



JOB OPPORTUNITIES: SEPTEMBER 6TH



Apply at ECN Personnel Dpt.
780-585-3741

Position	Closing Date	Required Documents
Director with the Ermineskin Personnel department	September 19th	Resume, Cover Letter, Three (3) Letters of Reference and updated Criminal Record Check.
Programmer with the Ermineskin Arena, Parks and Recreation Department	September 11th	Application/Resume, copies of Certificates, updated Criminal Record Check and Child Intervention Check
Manager with the Ermineskin Land & Resources department	September 11th	Resume, Cover Letter, Three (3) Letters of Reference and updated Criminal Record Check.
Manager with the Ermineskin Neyaskweyâhk Employment Program (NEP) department	September 19th	Resume, Cover Letter, Three (3) Letters of Reference drivers abstract and updated Criminal Record Check.
Administrative Assistant with the Neyaskweyâhk Employment Program (NEP) department	September 6th	Application/Resume, Three (3) Letters of Reference and updated Criminal Record Check
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Mentor/Support Workers with the Ermineskin Brighter Futures department	September 7th	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check, Child Intervention Check and Copies of Certificates
Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) Aide with the Ermineskin Brighter Futures department	September 7th	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check, Child Intervention Check and Copies of Certificates.

Ermineskin Brighter Futures presents:

WORKING THROUGH ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES



FOR YOUTH AGES 13-17



SEPTEMBER 15-17 2023 STARTS AT 9AM



WAYSIDE INN WETASKIWIN, AB

Register now:

780-585-3000

FUTURESBRIGHTER@YAHOO.COM



Maskwacis Employment Center

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 11 - 22, 2023

APPLICATION CRITERIA

- Unemployed or Underemployed
- 18 Years or older
- Needs assistance finding employment
- MUST have own working email address
- MUST Attend classes in-person at MEC
- MUST be motivated to work

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2023
1:00 PM

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Personal Development
- Professional Development
- Safety Tickets
- Career Development
- Interview Preparation

APPLY NOW

To apply or for further information please contact:



Email
shannon@maskwacisemployment.ca



Office Phone
780-585-4450



Visit Our Website
www.maskwacisemployment.ca



Tawaw

Diabetes Conference

September 22, 2023

Join us for the Tawaw Diabetes Conference, open to all four nations members. There will be a ton of program activities, information booths, breakfast and lunch. Featuring special guests like Actor, Singer, Legend Tom Jackson, Celebrity Chef Shane Chartrand Amber Williams Band - Big Valley Award Winner and Dr. Toth, Dr. Winterstein, Dr. Rose Yeung, and Dr. Darren Lau. Free event.

Event schedule

- Pipe Ceremony 7:30am
- Registration 8:00am
- Breakfast 8:30am
- Programs 9:30am - 4:30pm
- Evening show - Doors - 6:00pm - 6:50pm
- Tom Jackson 7:00pm - 8:15pm
- Live Music 8:30pm - 10:30pm

If you any questions please visit our website



www.mymhs.ca

Location

Ermineskin Hockey Arena

Come Early Space Is Limited!

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TREATY DAYS ERMINESKIN FIRST NATION

DATE: September 25, 2023

LOCATION: Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik Building

TIME: 9:00AM – 4:00PM

- **Provide PICTURE identification for Adults (Indian Status Card, Driver's License, Passport, Band Membership Card)**
- **Parents need identification for children (status card, birth certificate, Health care card or Student ID)**
- **Notes will not be accepted**
- **No third party payout**
- **Money for children in care will not be paid**



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

G2DOCS # 44897890
G2DOCS # 41454911

ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES PRESENTS:

Iskwêwak Sessions

WEEKEND WELLNESS SESSIONS
TAILORED TO WOMEN
3X A MONTH

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16TH 2023

TOPICS INCLUDE: YOGA, BEADING, MEDITATION, SEWING,
COOKING/BAKING, TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS, NATURAL REMEDIES

TO REGISTER, CALL OFFICE @ 780-585-2000
TO LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER
OR EMAIL FUTURESBRIGHTER@YAHOO.COM

TRANSPORTATION/SNACK PROVIDED

