

Trying times for our government and people



**LANA CAUSLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Trying times as usual for our government and its people. We are in the midst of our election cycle and I watch all the items tribal members have to weigh through to get to a decision. I'm confident that all of you who do vote can make

informed decisions, and I trust that. As a leader, I would like to acknowledge all the candidates who stepped up because they felt and feel strongly about our future, everyone who does, whether it's in an election or just our members showing support and pride for our people, shows an act of courage and that should be recognized. I'm actually prohibited from saying much more but I can say I'm confident and trust the members.

I was asked to speak about the survey published in the last edition of our paper, I will refrain from speaking about any person's intent, but I will state facts. This was NOT a survey that was sent out by our government as a whole, I'm not aware of who received it, how many had been sent, how the process worked or the contents. As a member, I was not afforded a survey to

complete. The governing body was not notified or given any consultation about it. I will say that I look forward to a discussion about a real factual tribal-wide survey that will be structured and will hear the input from our entire membership.

I was additionally asked to speak about the draft constitution also placed in the recent papers. Again, no intent will be offered but this was NOT the original document that the Constitution Committee drafted and wanted presented to the membership. Confusion is very hard on our members and giving you the facts is the responsible thing to do. If you would like a copy of the original draft presented from the committee of tribal members, please call Joanne Carr at (906) 635-6050. It is actually too sacred of a document to be used for playing out political agendas.

As far as our tribal business, we have been informed that our 2014 budget this far is steady, we have an amount of about \$37,000 on the governmental that is in the black and that is extremely low, so stability and caution on any spending is crucial. We will be facing more reduction of funds from our funding sources so that will mean proper planning and prioritizing. It's difficult but I'm at the table for these discussions and debt reduction and increasing revenue are my priorities. Our casinos continue to see a small decline and that's a mix of many items, our gaming authority has met bi-weekly on plans for marketing, increasing revenue and team member moral, but it's getting stagnant and that's frustrating. I know members have spoken to me about this, I've asked for the input and have received it. Know that we are

attempting to make changes that will be prosperous for our people. This is the most difficult part of our job, changes and holding people accountable are not easy.

I choose my words very carefully in the report because I truly know how everyone feels about the mudslinging, mis-truths, attacks and looking in the past. It is simply not my style (I have learned many lessons and have grown this last decade and will continue to learn and lead). Let me deal with that as your leader, and I sincerely appreciate all of you who trust me and respect that I can and do handle it for the future of our people.

As always, please contact me if you would like to meet to discuss any ideas, concerns or participation in which you would like to get involved, lcausley@saulttribe.net (906) 484-2954 or 322-3818. Baamaapii.