

Win Awenen Nisitotung

"One Who Understands"

Ode'min Glizis: "Strawberry Moon"

The official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

June 1, 2007 • Vol. 28 No. 6

Tribe's board of directors to get proposed draft of new constitution

By BRENDA AUSTIN

A new constitution for the Sault Tribe is coming nearer to completion as the final draft is being readied to present to the Sault Tribe Board of Directors.

After an 18-month process, the Constitution Committee has completed its membership meetings, reviewed membership suggestions and is currently waiting for attorney Robert Little to put the finishing touches on the final draft.

At a recent board meeting in Manistique, attorney Richard Monet, who was under contract with the tribe to help with the constitution process, was fired by the board for some comments he made during a meeting. His partner, Robert Little, will continue working with the Constitution Committee until after the final document is presented to the tribe's board of directors.

Brought up during the same meeting by a board member were three resolutions, which were referred to the constitution committee after the board decided not to take action on them. The three resolutions proposed a constitu-



Constitution Committee Chairman John Causley

tional amendment establishing a recall; separation of powers and the establishment of an independent judiciary; and a constitutional amendment eliminating the chief executive officer.

"Everybody on the Constitution Committee agreed that these issues had already been addressed within the new Constitution. It was a surprise to me when those resolutions were brought up at the board meeting," Constitution

Committee Chairman John Causley said. "This proposed document will give tribal members accountability from the judicial, executive and legislative branches, which I believe is what members are looking for."

Causley said once the board of directors reviews the final draft and the committee reviews the board's comments and suggestions, a final draft copy of the constitution has been provided in this issue for your review. (See Special Pull Out Section.)

The final draft will also be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for their review and approval.

"Once the BIA reviews the final document, there will be a Secretarial Election in the near future," Causley said.

As in the recent Secretarial Election for the issue of double dipping, tribe members must register with the BIA to vote. Voter registration materials will be mailed to tribe members at a later date.

The fate of the proposed constitution rests in tribe member's

hands. Nearly two years will have passed by the time the project nears the last step — a vote of the tribe's membership. The vote will determine if the tribe will adopt the new Constitution into law.

Causley said the Constitution Committee, with the help of attorneys Little and Monet, were very aware of the wording used while developing the new document and made every effort to make it as easy to read and understand as possible.

"We discussed every issue and its wording, which was important to get right. It is not a perfect document but it is the consensus of the committee; sometimes we have to agree to disagree in a process as large as this one," Causley said. Of the original 29 committee members, about 14 remained to see the process through to the end. "We lost a lot of knowledge and insight when some of the committee members quit coming but we had a lot of good discussion. We had some strong personalities in the group that was left."

In an effort to get tribe members involved in the process, the

Constitution Committee held membership meetings throughout upper and lower Michigan giving members an opportunity to have their voices heard. Causley said, "We had about 45 to 50 questions or recommendations of changes to the proposed constitution. We had a good turnout from members below the bridge. We are happy to report that once we listened to the membership and heard their concerns, the committee itself supported many of the issues brought up. As a committee, we took four days to discuss and review membership suggestions."

Suggesting members take time to read and study the document, Causley said, "There are good words in there. My goal as chairman of the committee was to complete the project as directed by the board. I have enjoyed it and have learned a lot about the people who work for the tribe. One thing we can be proud of as a committee is that at the end of the day we all walked away with a smile. There was never any animosity, it made my job easier," he said.

Tribal hunting for 17 and under requires permit

SAULT STE. MARIE

— Youngsters of the Sault Tribe who wish to go hunting or trapping on ceded lands in Michigan must obtain permits through the Sault Tribe Police/Conservation Department.

Tribal Code Chapter 21: Hunting and Inland Fishing has a subsection 21.512 titled **Age Requirement** which notes, **Hunters under the age of 17 actively engaged in hunting and trapping must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone 18 years of age or older designated by their parent or guardian. "Accompanied" means the adult must be able to come to the**

immediate aid of the other person and staying within a distance that permits unaided verbal communication and an unaided visual line of sight.

(1) The legal hunting age for taking whitetail deer, bear, fur bearing animals or elk with a bow and arrow shall be 10 years of age.

(2) The legal hunting age for taking a whitetail deer, bear, fur bearing animals or elk with a firearm shall be 12 years of age.

(3) The legal hunting age for the taking of small game and for trapping shall be 10 years of age.

More details can be learned by calling (906) 635-6063.



Sault Tribe hosts United Tribes of Michigan annual summit

By CORY J. WILSON

The Sault Tribe hosted the latest United Tribes meeting on May 25 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

The United Tribes is a relatively new committee of tribal delegates consisting of tribal chairs, elected tribal officials and program directors from federally recognized tribes in Michigan, who meet periodically in a joint effort to address vital issues affecting all tribes in Michigan. According to the United Tribe's mission statement, they are "committed to join forces, advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty and cultural way of life of the sovereign tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations."

Over 30 delegates were in attendance representing six of Michigan's tribes.

This spring's meeting was scheduled to include a visit by

Governor Jennifer Granholm; however, a last minute cancellation was unavoidable, according to statements issued on behalf of the governor. Several key officials from the governor's office, however, were still able to attend the summit on the governor's behalf and were called upon by various tribal delegates to have the governor address and alleviate concerns of possible tax increases related to Indian gaming, funding cuts to the Family Independence Agency and other proposed cuts that would reduce funding to health and social services.

The most popular topic on the agenda, however, was the status of the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW), which still remains in limbo due to the passing of Proposal 2 that eliminated affirmative action and race-based programs. Michigan's tribes have formed a united front, arguing that the waiver is not a race-based program but rather a trust respon-

sibility that must be continued and honored by the state.

The United Tribes issued a statement in December 2006, which supports their claims as it relates to the waiver, stating, "Pursuant to multiple treaties between Michigan Indian tribes and the federal government, which ceded all of the territory that was to become the state of Michigan, the federal government accepted the trust responsibility for the education of Indians residing in Michigan. In the 1836 Treaty alone, over 18.5 million acres of land was ceded. Land cessions agreed to in these treaties prepaid the education for Indians residing in Michigan in perpetuity. The State of Michigan, through multiple land acquisitions and agreements, assumed a portion of the federal government's educational trust responsibility. The Supreme Court recognizes

See "United Tribes," page 4

The STHC Blood Drive & Bone Marrow Registry

will be held on Friday, June 15 from 11-5 p.m. in the Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium.

You must be 18 to donate and register.

Contact Janice Pittman at (906) 632-5283 to obtain an appointment time or walk-ins welcome.

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Membership Q&A



Q: Many tribes were removed from their homelands and forced west during President Andrew Jackson's administration. How did our ancestor's avoid this fate?

A: Many factors contributed to our ancestors being able to avoid removal. To begin with, the Treaty of 1836 was not a typical "Jacksonian" removal treaty. The treaty has no language that would allow for a forced removal but there are some interesting words in Article Eight. It states "When the Indians wish it, the United States will remove them, at their expense, provide them a year's subsistence in the country to which they go, and furnish the same articles and equipment to each person as are stipulated to be given to the Pottowatomies in the final treaty cession concluded at Chicago"

Well, I'm sure it comes at no surprise that our ancestors never wished to leave the Great Lakes area, let alone to have to pay for their own removal. This, of course, did not stop those who wanted them out. The treaty's stipulation that the reservations would only last five years was added by the Senate unbeknownst to them after they had left Washington to return to their villages and this ultimately resulted in the tribes having no land base. Without a land to call their own, they were in real danger of being

sent on their own Trail of Tears so they, with the help of others, took action.

There were many citizen groups and missionary leaders in Michigan who aided them by lobbying Congress on their behalf along with assisting the tribes by drafting petitions and correspondence. This helped lawmakers in Washington who were sympathetic to their plight put some political muscle on those pushing for removal.

There was also the issue of where would the troop strength come from if forced removal was chosen by the government? The United States was in a very bloody war trying to remove the Seminoles from Florida around this time and, if they attempted to remove our ancestors by military means, they also took the chance of sparking a border war with Great Britain. There were lingering tensions between that country and the U.S. in the upper Great Lakes and many leaders amongst the tribes would have fled to Canada and allied themselves with Great Britain if troops were sent in. Ultimately, a repeat of the War of 1812 was a chance the U.S. was not willing to take.

Also, it can't be overlooked that the government needed a work force if they were going to harvest the natural resources of Michigan. Our ancestors provided labor in the logging camps and copper mines along with tribal commercial fishing operations that helped to feed the growing populations of the mid-western cities. This was very helpful as our ancestors were more than willing to work, if, in the end, they were allowed to stay.

Much more detail could be added to the above information but my space is limited. What matters is that we are still here.

Respectfully, Clarence Hudak

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS COMMITTEE VACANCIES

HOUSING AUTHORITY
1 Vacancy Unit IV

HEALTH COMMITTEE
2 Vacancies (different units)

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE
1 Vacancy

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE
1 Vacancy

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
1 Vacancy for a non-commercial fisherman

JOM COMMITTEE
3 Vacancies (different units)

Send one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (tribe members only) to:

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Board of Directors, Attn: Joanne Carr
523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

(906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, or email: jcarr@saulttribe.net

Win Awenen Nisitotung THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS

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Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes submissions of news articles, feature stories, photographs, columns and announcements of American Indian or non-profit events. All submissions are printed at the discretion of the editor, subject to editing and are not to exceed 400 words. Unsigned submissions are not accepted.

Please note the distribution date when submitting event information for our community calendar. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed. The distribution date is the earliest the newspaper can arrive in the seven county service area.

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Safety Supervisor 06/07/07
Youth Running Club Coach (2) Until Filled
Youth Program Group Assistant Until Filled
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Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and is published 13 times a year by the Communications Department. Its mission is to inform tribe members and non-members on the activities of the tribal government, membership programs and services and cultural, social and spiritual activities of tribe members.

Our name: Win Awenen Nisitotung, in our native language means, "he/she/or one, who well or fully understands." The complete Ojibwe spelling is Wūn Weweni Nestatung. The name is pronounced, Ween Wewe-ni Nes-ta-tongue.

Visit us online: This newspaper can be viewed online in its entirety via the Internet at www.saulttribe.com the date the

newspaper is distributed.

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George Snider hosts Saturday morning live radio show

SAULT STE. MARIE — "Hello, everybody, this is George Snider broadcasting live from Northern Hospitality in downtown Sault Ste. Marie." Every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Snider's faithful listeners from both sides of the border are tuned in to WSOO 1230 AM in the Sault or WIDG 940 to hear his mix of live interviews and music.

The *Sault Tribe This Week Saturday Morning Show* has been running since April 28, 2001. Snider interviews guests from the Sault Tribe organization or membership who want to promote coming events, new programs or services.

"It's an opportunity to access one more medium of communication to Sault Tribe members," said Snider. He can be reached by calling the Sault Tribe Communications Department at (906) 632-9368, extension 26098

or by emailing him at geosnider@yahoo.com.

Snider also has musicians on the show for those many listeners who have an appreciation for live acoustic music. The signal reaches as far as Garden River in Ontario.

Snider hosted a similar show

on WEHB in Grand Rapids, called *Voice of the Original People*, through the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Inc. He did the show for a couple of years before coming back to the Sault, he said.

Snider, 61, is retired from the tribe and works as a program manager for Consolidated Community School Services (CCSS), which works cooperatively with the Sault Tribe to provide adult education. He plays bass and vocals in the Gentleman George Band with Barry Glenn (steel guitar and vocals), Dave Stanaway (lead guitar and vocals), and Don Trainor on drums.

He and his lovely wife, Mary Kay Snider, who retired last year, live on Sugar Island in his great-grandfather's house. They have four grown children and three grandchildren.

Sault Tribe's two radio shows —

While George Snider hosts the Saturday morning show, Tom Ewing hosts *Sault Tribe This Week Radio Show* on the weekdays. Ewing's show airs on Tuesday: WSOO-AM at 9:35 a.m., WNBX-FM at 12:37 a.m. and 5:38 p.m., and WIDG-AM at 9:04 a.m.; Wednesday: WNBX-FM at 12:37 p.m. and 5:38 p.m.; Thursday: WSUE-FM at 10:25 a.m. and 4:25 p.m.

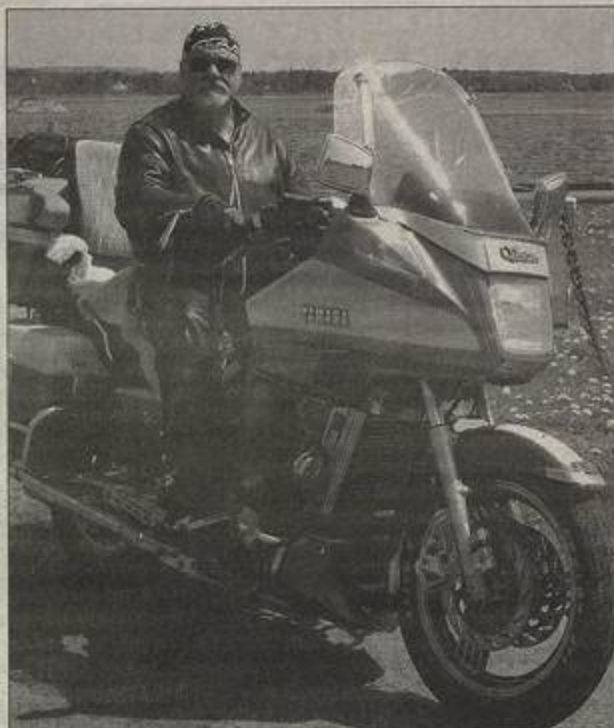


Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Radio show host George Snider, pictured above on his motorcycle, hosts "Sault Tribe Saturday Morning," a live show that broadcasts on WSOO in the Sault.

Handful of members challenge Secretarial Election

By CORY WILSON

SAULT STE. MARIE — According to the local Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office in Sault Ste. Marie, three challenges to the recent Secretarial Election were officially submitted.

All three challenges were unique and submitted by Sault Tribe members. One protest was submitted by tribe member Mary Locke and challenged whether or not the 30 percent voter turnout requirement was met, which makes the election valid under federal regulations. The other two submissions focused on the definition of eligible voters.

A challenge focusing on whether or not tribe members who are descendants of the Mackinac Band were allowed to vote was jointly entered by William Bouschor and Betty Freiheit. The

Mackinac Band debate, which was previously a topic of discussion prior to the election, still remains an issue for some members despite a publicly announced legal opinion justifying their voter eligibility. It should also be noted that the Secretarial Election Board and the BIA were not in opposition with the ruling and did not issue any official statements refuting the legal opinion relating to voter eligibility.

A legal opinion issued in February concluded, "Because the members of the Mackinac Band are entitled to enrollment as members of the Sault Tribe, ALL enrolled members of the Mackinac Band who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote in the tribe's elections, and therefore, they are eligible to register for and vote in the Secretarial

Election."

The third challenge was submitted by a Secretarial Election Board member. Joanne Carr challenged the eligibility of voters on a different front, by questioning whether members residing outside of the service area should have been allowed to vote to amend the Constitution.

There is no speculation at this time regarding the outcome of the written protests. The BIA has indicated all challenges have been forwarded to the regional office. The regional office has 45 days from the date of the election to make a determination on all three challenges; however, local BIA officials have indicated they anticipate a more timely response. Results of the contests review will be announced when they become available.

Despite multiple challenges

to the election regarding voter eligibility, those who did vote were overwhelmingly in favor of eliminating board members' right to serve as both an elected official and tribal employee by more than a six-to-one margin.

Any invalidation of the election results at this juncture due to voter eligibility could create a contentious environment that will most likely subject members to segregation by lineage or residency, or both.

The voting rights of those members living outside of the service area and the rights of descendants from the Mackinac Band could be at stake, if the BIA rules the protests regarding voter eligibility have merit. Currently, tribe members residing outside of the service area and Mackinac Band descendants are eligible to vote in tribal elections. A recent popula-

tion study shows that 62.3 percent of Tribe members live outside of the service area, totaling 21,111 members.

At least one board member who is currently in conflict with the new amendment has verbally acknowledged and accepted the results of the Secretarial Election. Unit III representative Fred Paquin issued a public statement days after the election stating that he has no problem with the Constitutional amendment and will respect the will of the voters. Paquin serves as the tribe's Chief of Police and also represents the St. Ignace area as a member of the Sault Tribe's Board of Directors.

For more information regarding this media release please contact Cory Wilson, Communications Director, at (906) 440-6330 or (906) 635-6050, or by e-mail at cwilson@saulttribe.net

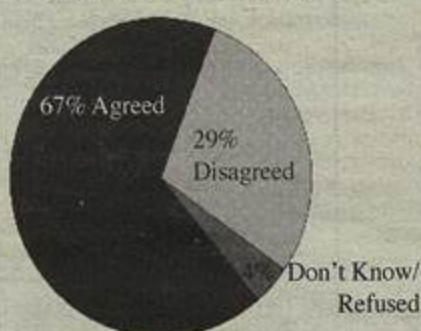
Casino revenue shows steady growth over year, decade

DETROIT — Greentown Casino revenues rose nine percent in April compared to the same month in 2006, the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) reported.

Greentown posted total revenues of \$30.1 million in April compared to \$27.6 million in April of 2006.

Year to date, Greentown's revenues are up three percent from 2006, the MGCB said.

CASINOS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES



"Within reasonable limits, legalized casino gambling is a good way for cities and states to generate revenue without having to raise everybody's taxes."
(From AGA 2006 Survey, Source: Lantz, Maslansky Strategic Research and Peter D. Hart Research Associates.)

For 2006, casino revenues continued with steady growth over the last year, with a 6.8 percent increase from 2005. Michigan stayed astride of the trend, increasing 6.1 percent, according to the American Gaming Association's (AGA) 2007 Survey of Casino Entertainment.

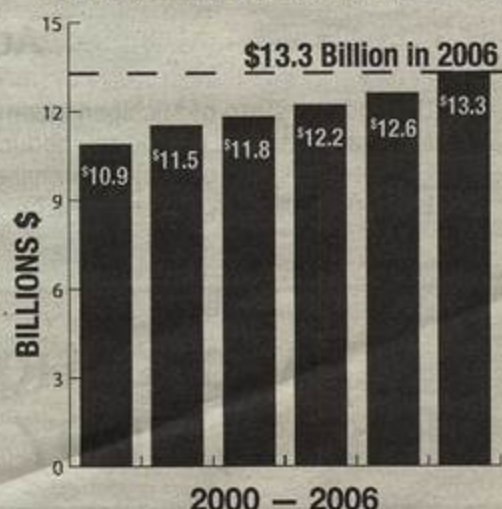
In 2006, gross gaming revenues across the states rose to \$32.42 billion, with more than \$5 billion of that paid back to local units of government as tax. The number of casino employees in 2006 was 366,197, with \$13.3 billion in salaries spread across 11 states, according to the survey. That's a 5.6 increase in salary from 2005.

According to Harrah's Entertainment/TNS polling data, more than a quarter of the U.S. adult population visited a casino in 2006. Further, the AGA survey showed that "overall acceptability of casino gambling remained high in 2006, with 82 percent of Americans saying it is acceptable for themselves or others." It further stated that overall, Americans view casinos as "engines of economic development and sources of state and local tax revenue" and gambling a "matter of personal choice."

Detroit was pegged fifth in the nation in AGA's survey of the Top 20 U.S. Casino Markets for 2006, generating \$1.303 billion in gross revenues, employing 7,000 people with a total payroll of \$379.6 million (with tips and benefits), not including Michigan's tribal casinos.

Detroit was one of five across the country to gross over \$1 billion.

U.S. Casinos Revenues 2000-06



Casino revenue across the country has grown steadily, last year increasing 6.8 percent, with Michigan increasing 6.1 percent. Detroit is one of the "Top 5" money makers in the country to take in over a billion dollars last year, according to the AGA. (Graph based on AGA figures.)

Ken Ermatinger: A man of many hats

By Rick Smith

How do you cram 159 years of accumulated service into 25 years? In a word — multi-tasking, just ask Sault Tribe member Ken Ermatinger, Sr., how it's done.

A look at his resume shows, at one time, Ermatinger was simultaneously on six different boards and committees. It all started in 1979 when he signed on to the Sault Tribe Election Committee; a year later, he did a two-year stint on the tribe's board of directors. In 1982, he became more vigorous by stepping up to help out the tribal committees on zoning, health, enrollment as well as getting on board our tribe's housing Utility Authority and the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Along the way, Ermatinger also held jobs as a business partner and later in managerial positions with the Sault Tribe Housing Authority and Chi Chuk Construction.

Today, Ermatinger remains on four of the original entities and was added to the tribal Constitution Committee in January of 2006. He has 25 years of continuous service on each of the four bodies; those are the tribal Health Committee, Utility Authority, Enrollment Committee and Housing Authority Board of



Ken Ermatinger, Sault Tribe Gaming Commission Executive Director

Commissioners.

In addition to all that, he is the executive director of the Sault Tribe Gaming Commission where he defends our sovereign rights and assets through a variety of roles from responsibilities for the daily management of gaming resources to representing our tribe before various state, tribal, inter-tribal and federal authorities.

"He helps us make the most of our gaming enterprises," said Meghan Kelly Powell, our tribe's federal liaison in Washington, D.C., while commenting about Ermatinger. "He always puts the tribe first."

As one of seven members of the Joint Federal-Tribal Class II Game Classification Standards Advisory Committee, one of the federal bodies Ermatinger sometimes has to deal with is the National Indian Gaming Commission, a regulatory agency established within the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1988 under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Knute Knudson, International Gaming Technology vice president for Native American development, described a Dec. 5 meeting between the advisory committee and the commission in *Indian Gaming*. He noted developing significant and strong disagreements at several stages. He called the discussions taxing and tense at times. He said the advisory committee should be commended for their willingness to frankly exchange views with the commission and staff in the tension-filled meetings.

"Those are seven men who have stood up to the National Indian Gaming Commission again and again," said Powell.

"The commission would completely undermine our sovereignty if they could. Ken and the others were under pressure to buckle under and not create waves, but they were never swayed."

We get into more multi-tasking — Ermatinger is also the Midwest area and task force representative for the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners and Regulators, chair of the Michigan Indian Gaming Communications Network, delegate of the National Indian Gaming Association, alternate Sault Tribe representative to the National Congress of American Indians and a member of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and the North American Gaming Regulators Association.

"It seems he's been with the tribe forever," said Mike McCoy, our tribe's legislative director, speaking about Ermatinger. "He has a thankless job. He's traveling all the time, giving up his home life because he's representing the tribe in places all over the United States, keeping up on issues and participating on behalf of our tribe. He is the epitome of the selfless tribal staff member as he represents us."

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Michigan tribes query state on tuition waiver

— Continued from "United Tribes," front page

this trust relationship and has reaffirmed that this unique government-to-government relationship is based on tribal status; it is not a race-based classification."

Despite a favorable opinion issued by the governor's office in a special report on the effects of Proposal 2, several legislators continue to work to eliminate the program. A bill has been presented to the Michigan House of Representatives that specifically promotes the elimination of the waiver, which is still pending an outcome. The more threatening issue also in progress, is a request by yet another legislator to have the Michigan's attorney general investigate the issue and formulate a legal opinion on the matter, which to some, if it is unfavorable, could prove to be more damaging. Sentiments heard from other Michigan's Indian Tribes indicate they don't plan to give up if things turn for the worse. Any adverse action taken against the waiver will most likely initiate litigation, and then the issue would be left for the courts to decide.

Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment, who also serves as Vice President of the United Tribes, specifically asked state officials in attendance, "If the bill against the MITW passed, would she (Governor Granholm) veto the bill?" The response given, however, did not portray a clear cut answer given that possible scenario.

ROGUE BOARD MEMBERS THREATEN TO ELIMINATE TRIBAL CHIEF AND CREATE GOVERNMENT INSTABILITY



Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson

A minority faction on the Sault Tribe Board wants to eliminate the Tribal Chief and run the Tribe themselves. Without an empowered Chairperson/CEO, Tribal employees would report to the Tribe's 12 member board — and two political appointees the Board would choose, thereby, circumventing the Tribe's hiring policies. The action, if successful, would make our Tribe the first in the nation without an elected Chief Executive Officer. The radical restructuring of the Tribe's government was scheduled to be voted on at the 5-15-07 Tribal Board meeting at Manistique, Michigan. This action would have eliminated the Tribal Chairperson/CEO's Constitutional authority to manage the operations of the Tribe and change the Tribe's long-standing interpretation of Chairperson/CEO role as the lead executive.

Currently, the Sault Tribe Constitution and Bylaws defines the Chairperson role as:

'perform[ing] all the duties consistent with the office of the chief executive officer of the tribe.'

Director Causley's draft resolution read,

'that the seated Chairperson shall not serve in the position of Executive Director...the duties for the position of executive director shall be divided between the two Deputy Executive Directors, whose titles shall change to "Co-Executive Directors"...the Co-Executive Directors shall report directly to the Board of Directors.'

This legislation would have had the entire administrative structure (2,200 team members) report directly to an elected Board of politicians and would cost at least a new \$100,000 to replace the Chairperson's salary as Executive Director. Team members at all levels have rejected this proposal as there is simply no practicable way for a board of twelve to manage and supervise this many team members. Who provides daily supervision? Who evaluates performance? As daily decisions

need to be made, how do team members determine the will of their supervisor when there are twelve different bosses?

Federal indirect funding provides for the compensation of the Chairperson/CEO as Executive Director. The former Chairperson was paid \$856,275 while also serving as Greentown Casino CEO (prior to this, the position was compensated at a quarter of a million dollars \$105,000 as Chairperson and \$145,000 as Executive Director). As your Chairperson, I perform the role of Chairperson/CEO and Executive Director overseeing a payroll of \$56 million, and a programs and services budget of \$79 million as one responsibility with one compensation at \$100,000 — well below that of C.E.O.'s with similar levels of responsibility.

Tribal Members are questioning how an angry minority faction of Board members can undo the will of the Tribal voters. A record 8,218 votes were cast in the last Tribal Chairperson election with decisive victories in units 2, 3, 4, 5 and with members outside of the seven county service area while edging out the incumbent in unit 1. It seems politically irresponsible that a Unit Board member would now vote to undo what their constituent voters put in place.

Below is a sample of input I received from division directors, program managers, and line level staff who clearly did not support the proposal to eliminate the Chairperson's authority.

1. I currently do not have any concerns regarding my position. Maybe I am more naïve and trusting of others to be professional, work as a team for the greatest good for our tribal members, and follow the 7 Grandfathers guiding principles that I do not know if my position is in jeopardy. I want you to know that I have enjoyed and feel very blessed that I was selected for this position and I work very well with the structure as it is. I enjoy your input and support of the division and I am in favor of a change from an at will employment status to a right to work status. In my mind we seem to spend a lot of valuable time and energy pulling apart instead of pulling together to tackle all of the challenges that we face as a tribe.

2. I am sure you are extremely busy doing the Tribe's work and most of us appreciate it. Regarding the legislation proposed for two "Associate Executive Directors", two things to consider here (from my point of view), adding another layer of management is not only expensive and unnecessary, but also inefficient, it circumvents the best practice of "unity of command". That is where each employee reports to only one person. Plain and simple and proven effective. This is surely a non issue and

obviously pertains to only one or two people and hardly affects the employee body as a whole. Bad idea. Thanks again for all you do.

3. I can tell you that I have never heard anything of this sort from anybody at the executive level whether a contract team member or not have never felt any threat nor fear of employment since you have been the tribal chairman. In fact I have felt just the opposite that I have your support and that you have allowed me to perform my assigned duties to the fullest extent. You have shown me that you are in no way selfish or of self interest at all, unlike the previous administrator before you. I believe that the executive level staff that work below me would say they are much more comfortable now that at anytime as like you I have tried to be up front with people and fair to all regardless of relationship, affiliation, friendship or other variables.

4. I am against splitting the job duties of the Chairman and CEO. It doesn't make sense to me. If the Chairman is removed from the oversight and management of the tribe then what is would be the role and responsibility of the Chair. I agree that we need a real remedy for employee labor rights. There are two many loop holes in the current policies and procedures that do not often protect employees that need it. From the experience that I had from the last budget cycle, that employees can be targeted and eliminated through an arbitrary process because of political reasons certainly has convinced me.

5. You have never personally fired anyone. I would certainly feel more apprehension knowing the fate of my job would be in the hands of the Board of Directors. They can't agree on anything as it is now. I saw this myself while attending a BOD meeting recently. They definitely should not be handling employment disputes. You are saving the Tribe money by not having to pay for the position of Executive Director, which I believe was your original plan when you first came into office. I believe this has been working just fine so far.

6. I'm not sure where she [Director Causley] is getting this idea of stripping your responsibility as CEO. I agree that her proposal is not efficient. I am against this idea of reporting to the board directly on a day to day basis. Management by consensus would be way to taxing on the board and the managers. Making timely decisions would be nearly impossible and would bog down the task of running Tribal programs. Politics in the work place would not be reduced, it would be out of control. Managers would be lobbying board members for votes all the time to get what they want. Unless the board wants to work an 8-5 shift every day, and even then it wouldn't work. You are the CEO and

Chairman as you should be.

7. I think it is wrong the board is allowed to say whatever they want regarding employees. This still happens...at meetings and in board reports. Harassment from board members still happens and no one should have to go through it. No one likes to work an environment that has continuous threats and questions your actions daily.

8. Everyone in the office and some others that I have talked to think these latest shenanigans are ridiculous and will not fly. I just want to encourage you to appeal to what common sense exists on this BOD and don't give an inch.

9. Well the BOD is certainly creating more work for itself with these insane resolutions regarding the creation of two deputy Executive Directors. This may be one of the dumbest things that I have seen in recent history. It does make us look like a bunch of backwoods members. This is a perfect example of a lay, unprofessional board and how personal agendas come into play. The result would be another additional \$200,000 or so in operational costs. The move would be great for those BOD members that want to further their personal agendas, but disastrous for operations. The CEO position is the focal point needed for an orderly transfer of information to and from the BOD.

10. This is yet another attempt by board members to exclude the "elected" chairperson's authority. Thank God we have an elected chairperson such as Aaron! He has proven his authority by protecting the rights of tribal employees. Shame on any board member who would support such actions that Lana is trying to introduce. It's a good thing to see what actions board members try to do now because it helps tremendously to have a better insight to the next election. They may try to take away and hurt the rights of the people, but the people "will have" the final vote. Continue the great job you are doing Aaron, keep fighting, you are not alone!

11. Thanks you for your diligence. I suppose it is not a stretch of imagination to surmise that the behind the scenes dealings are not only reprehensible - but serve a select few. The tribe's resources have for too long been the personal piggy bank of a select few dozen that were (and some still are) allowed to abuse them under the guise of "doing the tribe's work". Frankly, many of us are so disappointed in the on-going sagas that we tend to tune out. This only further enables the abusers to duck and sneak around without fear of accountability in a public forum. If there ever was a time for a fresh bunch of new BOD, this is it. Miigwech for all you do, I hope you don't lose too much sleep over these messes.

12. Organizations have an execu-

tive officer/director for reasons, many of which allow for the direct, efficient managing of the key operations of that organization. To eliminate this essential administrative position and then to relegate its functions to a board would cause the organization to suffer the burden of a bureaucratic process that, in the best of working boards, cannot keep up with daily tasks, personnel matters, and projects to be planned, discussed and "executed" throughout the organization.

FACTIONS' EFFORTS THWARTED

This attempt by a minority faction of the Sault Tribe's Board of Directors was thwarted as a majority of the Board removed several items from the agenda and stripped Director Causley's legislation to make it irrelevant. As the only elected Tribal official representing all units and those who live outside of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I challenged the Board by stating: if they were confident in their proposed actions, would they make their decisions subject to judicial review including a judicial determination if their actions would constitute a removable offense? When faced with the prospect of a court hearing, these Board members relented. Now more than ever, I am convinced we need a separation of powers. Thus, fundamental changes to the Constitution could not be made by a minority faction but would be challengeable to a judge. Please support the entire Constitution being put to a vote of the people and don't let the Board piecemeal the process.

Contact me by Email at: apayment@saulttribe.net or call (906) 632-6578 or toll free at (888) 94-AARON.

2007 MEMBER MEETINGS

Unit	1	Time	Location
Jun	18	6 pm	BMCC—Room 110
Jul	16	6 pm	Sugar Island Culture Camp

Unit	2	Time	Location
Jun	20	5 pm	Hessel Tribal Center
Jul	18	5 pm	Nauyasaw Pavilion

Unit	3	Time	Location
Jul	25	6 pm	McCann School, St. Ignace

Unit	4	Time	Location
Jul	11	5 pm	Escanaba Herman Center Room 961

Unit	5	Time	Location
July	21	11 am	NMU - University Center, Marquette

		Time	Location
Jun	23	12 pm	Greektown—Olive Room
Jul	15	12pm	Greektown—Olive Room

		Time	Location
Jul	22	12 pm	Nokomis Center—Okemos, MI

		Time	Location
Jun	24	6 pm	Inverness Twp. Hall

Locations are subject to change. Call to confirm: 1-888-94-AARON

"Legislation such as that proposed for the 5-15-07 Tribal Board meeting, drafted out of spite, threatens the very stability of our Tribe. This minority faction paints a very unsophisticated and irresponsible picture to our Members, the general public, to other levels of government, to those who regulate our gaming operations in Detroit under State law, and to those institutions who hold our financial notes and debt. Instead, they should focus on how to improve and expand services and how to stabilize our economy." - Chairperson Aaron Payment

May board meetings briefs

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors met at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center on May 2. Board members Cathy Abramson, Joe Eitrem and Fred Paquin were absent.

Approved resolutions: Voting is not noted on unanimous decisions. An application was approved for a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Community Development Block Grant of \$600,000. The funds would be used to replace windows and boilers in tribal housing units in St. Ignace.

A second HUD grant application was approved to obtain \$300,000 to go towards building new homes in Mackinac County.

An application was approved for a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant to support a program for employment services to be developed by Anishnabek Community and Family Services (ACFS).

Approval was given for a tribal grant to continue the ACFS emergency assistance program.

Renewal of a federal grant supporting child care was approved for fiscal year 2007.

The board requested the tribe's chief financial officer to determine if Northern Hospitality or Sault Tribe Construction qualify for small disadvantaged business certification.

A five-year lease renewal for the JKL Bahweting PSA was approved.

The Election Code was amended to read, "Residency shall mean the address at which a member has his or her true, fixed home and principal establishment, and to which he or she has the intention of returning whenever absent. Residency therefore requires two elements: (a) physical presence in a unit and (b) the intent to make that unit home. For the purposes of the Election Code, a member has

only one residency, regardless of the number of houses maintained. In determining which of a member's houses is their true residence, attention must be given to the member's intent, which requires an examination of the entire course of the member's conduct." Board member Shirley Petosky abstained from voting on this measure.

The board directed the Forensic Audit Committee to appear before them at the next regularly scheduled meeting and in open session report the results of the forensic audit along with total costs.

The board met for a meeting on May 9 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center. Board members Fred Paquin and Lana Causley were absent.

Approved resolutions: The board resolved that "any qualified tribe member may be issued a turkey permit to hunt in those areas of the ceded territory that are open to tribal hunting and where the hunting of turkey in those areas does not pose a biological threat to the applicable turkey population." Permits will not be issued for hunting turkey in Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties. Board member DJ Hoffman opposed the measure.

The Tribal Code was amended to lessen restrictions for temporary licensing of alternate captains effective 30 days from adoption of the resolution.

The board met again on May 15 in Manistique. All board members were present.

Approved resolutions: An application was approved for a grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service to support home improvement services for low income tribe members.

Certification was approved of citizen participation required in the development of a federal Indian Community Block Grant.

The citizen participation requirement was met through a community meeting in St. Ignace on May 7. The grant will provide funds for rehabilitating tribal homes with concentration in the St. Ignace housing site.

The money penalty section of the Hunting and Inland Fishing Code was amended to change fines for violations from \$500 to "up to \$500."

A budget modification policy was adopted to formalize the Budget Department to provide a report of all budget modifications at financial review meetings where tribal support is requested. Board member Todd Gravelle opposed the measure.

A fiscal year 2007 budget modification was approved to transfer \$2,875,860 of tribal funds from operations to a new account named Debt and to the Cultural Department. The new account will receive \$2,858,266 with the Cultural Department receiving the remaining \$17,594.

The board approved submission of an application to enable continuation of Head Start and Early Head Start services for children and families in Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties.

The board formally pronounced that the organizational position of executive director shall not be held by the seated chairperson and the duties of the executive director shall be divided between the two current deputy executive directors whose titles change to "co-executive directors." The co-executive directors shall report directly to the board of directors. Board members Denise Chase, Tom Miller, Paquin and Gravelle opposed the move.

The board meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month for general meetings and members are invited to attend.

Testimony given, work to be done



Tom Miller

**Unit IV Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors**

Spring has sprung. As the summer months draw ever closer, the board of directors has increased the amount of work and meetings that are being held.

I have been on the run with education and testimonies and this is why I decided not to turn a Unit IV report in for the April 27 deadline.

In the third week of April, I presented at the Bureau of Indian Education/Department of Education (BIE/DOE) tribal consultation on No Child Left Behind (NCLB) education held in Nashville, Tenn., and in the fourth week of April, I testified before the House Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education on the NCLB reauthorization. This hearing was held on the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona.

This tribal consultation testimony was concerning (BIE/DOE) No Child Left Behind and how this law may have possible conflicts with other laws such as P.L. 100-297 — the Tribally Controlled Schools Act, J.O.M., Title VII, Title VIII, P.L. 93-638 — Indian Self-Determination Act. The testimony in Arizona was to address suggested changes to the NCLB law in its coming reauthorization. Testimonies such as this must be done each and every year if the United States government is to continue to fund its trust responsibility to the tribes.

The board is becoming more of a politically active board that will affect the direction of legislation, instead of just reacting to what comes out of Washington, DC.

On May 24 and 25, the tribe is hosting a tribal summit in the Sault for the tribes in Michigan. This is more of the board and its efforts to be politically active.

The recent referendum vote regarding "double dipping" seems to have voiced the tribal members' opinions quite clearly. With a positive vote of 84 percent, this requirement takes place immediately for board members seeking a board position in the 2008 election. The two sitting board members affected by this vote have until the next election (2008) to make their choices.

We are also drawing closer to

the time that the draft Constitution will be ready for review by the board and presentation to the tribe members for approval. At the May 15 board meeting in Manistique, one of the two attorneys we had hired for the constitutional convention process was fired by the board. I was not in favor of this firing at this time as we are near the end of a long process. Hopefully, we can complete the rest of the convention task properly with the one attorney. The process for this closing portion of the constitutional convention is being worked on.

I would like to take this time to voice a concern of mine with a practice of the board concerning resolutions. Other than those necessary for operational type activities, resolutions should be introduced only after great consideration and deliberation. We have developed a shotgun mentality regarding the submission of resolutions. You can see it by the number and quality of many resolutions placed upon the agenda and subsequently tabled for further deliberation. If a board member gets an idea, it seems that some immediately want a resolution on it. This detracts from the board's ability to operate as an efficient legislative body with a constantly changing field of rules and regulations depending on how many of these resolutions are passed. It inhibits our role as elected board members to address policy, oversight and political responsibilities. I am working to control the number and quality of resolutions submitted and hopefully, we will do this in a manner of cooperation.

In our practical work, we are working on the budgeting process for next year (2008). This will be our tight year, with revenues predicted to increase significantly in 2009. We are focusing our oversight on this process and make sure we continue the highest level of member services possible, while being fiscally responsible.

All two percent requests are in and Denise Chase will address these in her unit report.

We are working diligently to keep up on the massive expansion project taking place on the Greentown Casino, which will result in increased revenues to the tribe.

The St. Ignace Casino situation is also being addressed to allow us to increase gaming revenues. Regardless of what you may hear on the rumor trail, the board has a pretty firm grasp of all the major items that are affecting the tribe. We all do the best job that we can on programmatic oversight, but never forget that our main responsibility is to you our tribe members.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 644-3334 or my cell (906) 322-3827.

Getting back on the right track



Cathy Abramson
**Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors**

A resolution was introduced and passed that clearly divides the roles of the chairperson and the executive director. Some people have the impression that this is an attempt to strip the chairperson of powers. This is simply not true. It is a step towards bringing clarity to the tribal chain of command/organizational structure. The chairperson still holds all of the powers originally granted by our tribal Constitution. Under the By Laws of our tribal Constitution, Article II, Sec. 1., "The chairperson shall... perform all duties

consistent with the office as chief executive officer of the tribe, and exercise any other lawful authority delegated the chairperson by the board of directors..."

When our Constitution was first recognized, we elected a tribal chairman/chief executive officer and hired an executive director. These were two separate positions. This may seem trivial but it's very important. We can no longer afford to mix our elected positions with our hired positions. It creates instability, which breeds chaos for employees and members. This weakens our chain of command and our tribal structure as a whole. The elected position as a member of the board of directors answers to the people. The hired executive director answers to the board of directors and is subject to our H.R. policies and procedures. Without this distinction, the tribal chairperson is merely an employee. A Secretarial Election was just held that passed a constitutional amendment prohibiting board members from serving as employees of the tribe. This was a necessary move to eliminate the conflicts that exist in our tribal organization.

In the past, a dangerous trend developed of only a few key

people wearing multiple hats within our organization. As time progressed, members became unhappy with the bottleneck of power that was our tribal structure. That is when the membership started to cry out for change. Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. The chairperson serving as both CEO and executive director is still part of the old mindset that one person can do everything. I respect the hard work and dedication all of our tribal chairs have given us, but our management style needs to improve. We were on the right track in the beginning. The new amendment helps to put us back there and now we can begin to move forward.

In closing, I would like to leave you with these words from Maya Angelou: "We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate thereby making the present comfortable and the future promising."

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (906) 322-3823 or (906) 635-3054. I look forward to hearing from you.

Check out the Community Calendar on page 27 for information on a variety of classes, meetings and special events happening all over our service area.

War of words — truth and perception



DJ Hoffman
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Recently multiple "media releases" drafted by the chairperson were e-mailed to thousands of tribe members, as well as all of the tribal employees. Excerpts of the "media releases" were also broadcast on local radio airwaves.

Before I elaborate on the content of these "media releases," I would like you to read the following paragraphs which are excerpts from the New York Times on Oct. 31, 1938:

"A wave of mass hysteria seized thousands of radio listeners between 8:15 and 9:30 o'clock last night when a broadcast of a dramatization of H. G. Wells's fantasy, *The War of the Worlds*, led thousands to believe that an interplanetary conflict had started with invading Martians spreading wide death and destruction in New Jersey and New York.

"The broadcast, which disrupted households, interrupted religious services, created traffic jams and clogged communications systems, was made by Orson Welles, who as the radio character, 'The Shadow,' used to give 'the creeps' to count-

less child listeners. This time at least a score of adults required medical treatment for shock and hysteria.

"In Newark, in a single block at Heddon Terrace and Hawthorne Avenue, more than twenty families rushed out of their houses with wet handkerchiefs and towels over their faces to flee from what they believed was to be a gas raid. Some began moving household furniture.

"Throughout New York, families left their homes, some to flee to nearby parks. Thousands of persons called the police, newspapers and radio stations here and in other cities of the United States and Canada seeking advice on protective measures against the raids."

When *War of the Worlds* was broadcast on the radio, it caused a public panic because it was in such a realistic style that people thought that it was a news broadcast describing current real events.

The same can be said of the "media releases" that were widely distributed to our membership and team members. The public panic and concern should have never taken place. The facts are quite different than the fictional characterization depicted in the "media releases."

First and foremost, the releases cite the actions of a minority faction of the board of directors. The actions in question were passed by eight members of the board of directors, which constitutes a MAJORITY of the tribal board.

The "media releases" also state, "When faced with the prospect of a court hearing, board members relented." This is what is called political spin. All board members were collaborating and compro-

promising on the legislation at hand to work out any/all issues for the betterment of the tribe. The "judicial review" commentary of the chairperson was only brought up after everyone had agreed to work on the issues at hand. For all political purposes, it was a great attempt at political spin. However, the video tape does not lie. The "judicial review" remarks were made after everyone had agreed to work together on the respective legislation.

The releases also cite the termination of a tribal attorney. Once again, an exaggeration of the truth. The attorney in question was not one of our tribal attorneys, nor was it an employee. They were disrespectful, and unprofessional with our staff, as well as several of our members. The individual attorney's consultant agreement was discontinued. However, in the release it posed yet another opportunity to propagate a political item, employment rights.

Finally, it is important to always know the source of the information. I find it extremely strange that the third party content depicted in the releases was actually that of their author. Wouldn't you find it strange if I started out this unit report depicting the activities of DJ Hoffman? After all, I am the one writing the information.

In 1938, radio listeners, apparently, missed or did not listen to the introduction of the radio program: "The Columbia Broadcasting System and its affiliated stations present Orson Welles and the Mercury Theatre on the Air in *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells." It is important that people realize when they are listening to fact and when they are

listening to fiction.

At this time, I would like to personally apologize to all of our tribal employees who have been and are being bombarded with this type of information in the workplace. You have jobs to perform. Tribal politics should not be intruding on those activities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In the past few months, I have been working on legislation to establish a short and long term strategic plan that will be tied directly to our budgetary process. This legislation has been drafted for review by the tribal board. I am hoping that by working together to address all issues related to this legislation, we will finally require planning, forecasting and fiscally responsible behavior.

CODE OF ETHICS

In addition to strategic planning, I will be working with all board members interested in drafting legislation to establish an enforceable code of ethics and conduct for the board of directors.

EDC

While there have been a few set backs with the re-establishment of the Economic Development Commission, we are progressing. The meeting times, and dates will be published in the next edition of the tribal paper. Any tribe member interested in participating is welcomed to attend. In addition, if you cannot attend, please feel free to e-mail me, or call me with thoughts, concepts or any ideas or questions. Your input is needed and welcomed.

GREEKTOWN

Greentown Casino is thriving. Over the past two months, our revenues have increased significantly. While we still have

a mountain of debt attached to the new construction, we are progressing. Construction is continuing at a rapid pace, although I would like to see it moving faster. We still have obstacles to overcome and many construction deadlines to meet, but we are getting closer to the finish line. At the last Greentown Management Board meeting, I made a motion to have a "shareholder" meeting for the tribal membership on July 7, 2007, (Powwow weekend). This motion passed unanimously, so get your questions ready.

In conclusion, I would like to apologize for having to utilize most of this report on clarifying the truth, however, the membership deserves nothing less.

Lots of politics are being portrayed. Some are attempting to villainize others by distorting reality. Some are campaigning. Soon items such as nationwide health care and revenue sharing (that one already started) will be feverishly promoted to garner votes. There is a difference between substance and fluff. The reality is that we have a job to do. We should be concentrating on that.

"The test of any leader is not what he or she accomplishes. It is what happens when they leave the scene. It is the succession that is the test. If the enterprise collapses the moment these wonderful, charismatic leaders leave, that is not leadership. That is — very bluntly — deception." — Peter Drucker

Sincerely, DJ Hoffman, Unit I representative, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors, Home (906) 635-6945, Cell (906) 322-3801, toll free (866) 598-5804, e-mail djwhoffman@hotmail.com, Web site www.membership-first.com

Constitutional reflections — then and now



Robert LaPoint
Unit II Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

This report is a reprint from Oct. 11, 2005. I am having this reprinted to show where we were then and to reflect the progress we have made. Much of what I said then is true. I hope the board will respect the achievement made by the Constitutional Committee and all the members who participated in this historical change. As of this writing, the first final draft of the constitution is complete. Now it will come before the BOD.

Before the last election, there was not even a discussion of a constitutional convention, today, we need to start this process moving. I hate to say it, but sometimes politics is all talk and no action. With the speed of change today,

we have to be swift as well and we need to protect our sovereignty. The common opinion is that a constitutional revision will be highly politicized. The longer we wait to move on this campaign promise, the more politicized it could become. The idea of a constitutional convention was not raised by me in the last election but I endorsed the idea. I think it is a good idea, one that can bring us together. Members should not be excluded from a constitutional convention. What we don't want to become is a bureaucracy or a room full of politicians.

I think revising the Constitution is a good thing, and the right thing to do. I have confidence in this chairman and this board to do a good job on this. Members voting in the next election should be looking for candidates who favor a constitutional convention. The purpose of our tribe is to improve the life of our people. We are here to serve you, the members.

We still hold "Indian title" to this land. It was the Indian tribes that granted rights to the U.S. This is very straight forward and it is sometimes confusing for non-Indians to understand. We can't afford to give away any more sovereignty, we have given away too much already. We are giving the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan 34 percent of the gross daily, that

is \$300,000 daily. We have been coming up on the short end of the stick with our deals with these governments.

The treaties gives us "the right of occupancy" and we are supposed to be granted peace and protection, lands, annuities, rations, manufactured goods and services. Our treaties with the federal government are all that we have.

Our grandfathers who signed these treaties were very smart people. A brief quote from the milestone Supreme Court case of *United States v. Winans* (1905) summarizes the point, "The treaty was not a grant to the Indians, but a grant of rights from them..." The frequently used term "treaty rights" refers to the rights explicitly and implicitly retained by the tribe and not rights granted by the United States. Indian tribes are a social and economic phenomenon. We need to start going directly to the U.S. The terms and conditions the state is strapping us with is not giving us economic protection and is taking away our leverage in the market place.

We are a micro-state, as a federally recognized tribe, we don't need to prove it to the federal government, we need to prove it to ourselves. We need to stop talking and take action even if it takes having all 12 members to be on

the constitutional committee.

We might only get one chance at retrieving history, it will be at least a three-year process. Before I leave office, I would like to see this process get started. I have a few proposals that I would like to make, I'm sure the other board members do as well, and the members will be the most important participants of all. Rewriting our constitution is no little undertaking, I'm feeling good about the membership lately, the outside areas are showing good

support for the chairman and the board. Rebuilding our economy and the constitutional convention should be our main priority.

I favor equal voter registration, all adults should automatically be registered to vote. This will make our tribe stronger. Someday there may be no services from the federal government, what are we going to do then? The future is just around the corner.

Thank you for your support, your phone calls and e-mail are appreciated.

When disabled children become adults

BY ED DWYER, SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGER, ESCANABA

National Family Month is from Mother's Day (May 13) to Father's Day (June 17). This Family Month, we would like to focus on how Social Security can help disabled children.

You probably know that a child can receive Social Security benefits on a parent's record if the parent is receiving disability or retirement benefits or as the survivor of a parent who is deceased. But did you know that while most Social Security benefits for children end when a child reaches age 18, a child — if blind or disabled — may qualify for benefits as a "disabled adult child" well past that age?

Disabled adult children may

include biological and adopted children, and sometimes even a stepchild, grandchild or step-grandchild. To qualify for disabled adult child benefits, the child must be unmarried, at least 18 years old and must have a disability that began before reaching age 22. As long as the adult child was disabled before age 22, continues to be disabled and did not work, the child may be eligible.

If there's an adult child in your life who you think may qualify for Social Security benefits because they are disabled, what better time than National Family Month to look into applying? To learn more, visit our Web page on the subject at www.socialsecurity.gov or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Do you want a one person show?



Dennis McKelvie
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Recently, Director Causley introduced a resolution to clarify the position of executive director of the tribe as separate from that of the chairperson. The position of executive director is listed as a key **employee** by an established board resolution from 2004.

In the past, the position of executive director has been held by three individuals. One of those individuals became chairman while holding the position. The other two individuals became executive director in 2001, and 2003 respectively. In fact, current Chairman Payment pushed to have the first individual as execu-

tive director, Mike Lumsden.

Coincidentally, at the same, then Director Payment became deputy executive director. **The chairman is not an employee, but an elected official.**

Instead of working with the board to once again clarify the two distinct positions, Chairman Payment sent out a barrage of e-mail messages to tribe members and staff condemning the actions of "rogue" board members. In fact, during the meeting that the legislation was introduced, he threatened Director Causley and stated this would end her political career (ALL ON VIDEO).

After Chairman Payment's initial e-mail, he began issuing self-written press releases filled with misinformation to the membership and employees. These were not official press releases of the tribe, yet were portrayed as if they actually were.

The chairman's press releases also cited the termination of an attorney during a board meeting. During the meeting Director Eitrem requested input from two staff members who were offended by comments made by one of our **constitutional attorney consultants. They were not the only individuals to voice their concerns or complaints about this consultant's behavior.** The board

voted to terminate their relationship with this particular consultant. The other consulting attorney was retained to complete their retained task. During the meeting, one of the tribes "membership liaisons" interjected on multiple occasions and was eventually directed to leave for the conduct. This is not the first time that this individual has been asked to leave a meeting.

The employees who provided input, when asked by the board, at the meeting were transferred the following day. **THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME.** While press releases are issued urging the membership and team members to push for employee rights, even political buttons have been handed out on this topic, here we have the chairman doing the very thing by transferring individuals who may have offended the membership liaison. Does the membership liaison run the tribe? The employee who was transferred has filed a retaliation complaint. Will this be self investigated? I wonder what the results will be?

This is not the first employee related incident regarding the chairman's office. In fact, recently, there was an employee complaint filed against the chairperson. This complaint was brought before the board and the board

directed it to an outside investigator to keep it impartial. The chairman worked on a few board members and, lo and behold, the investigation stayed in-house. It was conducted by the staff who report directly to the chair. It's kind of impossible to remain impartial while investigating your immediate supervisor. This type of "self" investigation is ridiculous. The results of the complaint could not clear the chair of the complaint, as they are **not an employee, but an elected official.** If this is the case, what recourse do team members have if the chairperson/CEO retaliates against them?

4+2 LITIGATION

I realize you are probably confused by the header above. I am sure you are accustomed to seeing 7 + 2 litigation. We have all seen it in just about every chairman's report for the past three years. The fact is, there are three less litigants than in the past. The tribe has agreed to settle with Jolene Nertoli, Joe Paczkowski and Paul Shagen. The total amount to be paid back by these individuals is \$45,000. There are no typos — \$45,000. We were told by our attorney that there was a gag order that forbid us from speaking on the topic. Upon further questioning it was found that it was a self-imposed gag order. I am

assuming that the chairman did not want the public to know that he supported, and voted via consensus, to settle. Once again, no typo here — **THE CHAIRMAN THAT WAS ADAMANT TO PROSECUTE ALL INDIVIDUALS AND RECOUP ALL OF THE TRIBES FUNDS AGREED TO SETTLE FOR LESS THAN 10% OF WHAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE PAID.** At the same time we have paid our attorneys nearly \$600,000 in legal fees. The \$600,000 in legal fees bought us a legal recommendation to settle with the three individuals listed above.

As I have said before: An old saying in the military is, "Lead, follow or get out of the way." This might sound cold, but we have members counting on us to do what is best for the tribe. What is best for the tribe might not be best for certain units or certain groups. That is what leadership is, making the hard decisions, standing up for what you believe in; even though others may not feel this way, I do! I believe people were put in office to serve the people; it's not just a popularity contest.

Dennis McKelvie, Unit I board of directors representative, (906) 632-7267.

Let's celebrate the new constitution



Todd K. Gravelle
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

First, I would like to thank all tribe members for their recent participation in the Secretarial Election to amend our constitution. It is clear from the results with nearly 86 percent of the members approving the amendment to end employees from serving on the board that the members overwhelmingly wanted this change. The greatest challenge is still ahead.

The constitutional convention committee has completed the work on the new Constitution and will present it shortly to our board of directors. The committee has worked over a year and a half to complete this project. The committee met with the membership and took their comments and concerns into consideration when drafting the new Constitution. It is truly a document created by our people for our people. The tribe has showed its commitment to this project by expending nearly \$250,000 towards the creation and completion of this remarkable document. I want to personally thank the committee and the membership for all of their hard work and dedication.

When I first decided to run for office in 2003, the first campaign promise that I made was to bring to the membership structural changes to our government to solve some of the huge problems that we faced internally. I have fulfilled that promise. We now have a document that would solve most of these problems.

Our present form of govern-

ment is unitary in structure; it vests all power in a single board of directors. Think about it, we have a corporate board of directors that runs our government. It was imposed upon us by the BIA back in 1975 and it was a "cookie cutter" constitution with no separation of powers or checks and balances. Although it may have served our purposes when we first became federally recognized, it no longer serves our purpose now.

I would argue that the great bulk of the internal problems that plague our tribe are the result of a defective and flawed constitution. It breeds corruption, sets-up competing factions, and creates animosity amongst the board members and the membership in general. The reason for this is simple; there are no clearly defined roles of either the board members or the chairperson and no independent judiciary. There is constant friction as board members compete for power and influence on the board to the detriment of the membership. We now have the opportunity to correct that.

The new Constitution sets-up a

government with clearly defined roles for each of our three branches of government. The board of directors will now become the legislative branch of government and their job will now be to make the laws of our tribe and to pass the budget. The executive branch (with the chairperson as the chief executive) will be charged with enforcing the laws and implementing the budget. The judicial branch will now be independent and you will be able to go to court to enforce your constitutional rights. The new Constitution creates the essential elements of separation of powers with checks and balances — this is how a government should be structured to ensure stability.

Under our present structure, the board of directors passes the law, enforces the law and interprets the law — a clear recipe for disaster and dysfunction. Change is nothing to fear but should be embraced and we now have an extraordinary opportunity to create a better system of government. I have never been more excited than I am now.

We have seen that members, when presented with the opportunity to make changes, will participate in huge numbers. Change can be accomplished with a little persistence and patience. There will be huge resistance to these changes. As it presently stands, the members of the board of directors hold all power within our tribe. They will be reluctant to give up that power, unless you, the member, demand that they give up this power for the greater good. I am willing to give up that power for the greater good. As you examine the document, ask yourself this simple question: Is this document better than our current constitution? If it is, then please consider voting yes to approve the new Constitution when presented to you by our board of directors. If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at: Todd K. Gravelle, 713 Maple Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. My phone number is (906) 322-3822.



Shirley Petosky
Unit V Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Petosky updates constituents

My dear friends, this is going to be short and sweet. I must have the flu because I ache all over and it feels like a carpenter's convention going on in my head.

I have been asked many times about the "gas station." Right now, Bill Connley is working hard to get a station that will take the tribal people and will meet all of the state guidelines.

Lincoln School is going great! I had another workshop there and an elder's meal.

Promotions are being doubled

on Mondays for tribe members at the casinos.

School will be out this week — all the graduates will be marching to get their diploma while the rest of us pop our buttons in pride.

Little kids will be darting across the streets and just plain being kids — we need to watch very carefully so that they won't get hurt.

Powwow season is here! Lots of notices being put out. Manistique will be having one on June 16 and 17. Munising will have one on Sept. 22. Lets all get out and

attend.

The Constitutional Convention should be about ready for final workshops. A lot of hard work on everyone's part.

Guys, I am going to stop now — I am just too miserable.

Get to the cemetery for the services this week. Remember poppies still grow in Flander's Field. Be a blessing for someone and fight nice.

Shirley Petosky, Unit V representative, (906) 387-2101 or shirleypetosky@yahoo.com.

**The next
deadline for
submissions
to the annual
powwow
edition of Win
Awenen
Nisitotung is
June 19
at 9 a.m.**

Contracted attorney fired for foul statements



Joseph Eitrem
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

At our May 15 board meeting in Manistique, I introduced a motion to fire one of our contracted attorneys who serves on the Constitution Committee. Mr.

Monet was frustrated because the schedule had been changed by Mr. Causley because of varying circumstances. Mr. Monet vented his frustration in front of seven different tribal members, employees and representatives of our tribe.

Our tribal people who were offended by Mr. Monet's foul statements DID NOT, and I repeat, DID NOT come directly to me with their complaints. I heard them second hand from other tribe members. After hearing their complaints, I went directly to them and asked them if what I heard was true. They then told me what had happened.

When I was elected to the board by the people of this tribe, I believe that one of my duties was to protect the assets of our tribe and I believe that our employees and administrators are part of that

asset.

If an outside contractor comes on our land and shows disrespectful behavior to our people, behavior that offends and embarrasses, then those people should not be here, much less us paying them to be here.

Some have said that perhaps I was being too harsh. Seven members of our board voted to remove Mr. Monet. Consider this scenario: If Mr. Monet, a highly trained professional was working for a large corporation, such as General Motors, and he acted in the same un-professional manner, would they condone his behavior and continue paying him? I think not.

Within a media release dated May 16 titled *Tribal minority factions efforts thwarted constitutional convention attorney fired* the author, Mr. Payment, says, and I quote, "There was no appeal,

no due process, and this action was taken without speaking to the individual who was terminated, this only serves to underscore the need to enact tribal labor laws to protect employees from being fired on a whim by an elected body."

Mr. Monet is not an employee of the tribe. He is an outside contractor. However, Mr. Payment is right when he states that this only serves to underscore the need to enact tribal labor laws to protect employees. The seven tribe members who spoke out are now afraid for their jobs.

I have not disclosed the names of these individuals for fear of retaliation to these employees. A sad day for the tribe.

I also want to make it clear that by firing Mr. Monet that it will not interrupt the Constitutional

Committee function. Our Constitution Committee has been working very hard for the past 18 months. Mr. John Causley is the chairman of this committee and I respect and admire his dedication to this project. I respect and admire all of the individuals on this committee for their hard work (without compensation) and dedication to this project.

There are some individuals out there who are saying that a handful of people are going to somehow circumvent the voting or somehow defeat the hard work this committee has done. I believe this is ridiculous, that a few people can circumvent the will of the people.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (906) 632-8567.

Bi-national group forms to settle sewage dispute

SUGAR ISLAND MONITORING WORK GROUP SEEKS EXPANDED EFFORTS OF CITIZENRY

By Rick Smith

After years of complaints and denials surrounding sporadic masses of sewage found floating, beaching and stinking up the river and north shore of Sugar Island, a group formed last February aims to determine once and for all the exact nature and origin of these dangerous developments.

Sugar Island residents and others claim the sewage is coming from the Sault, Ont., East End

Sewage Treatment Plant out-flow pipe. The pipe was plugged after another pipe was built and placed farther down stream and deeper into the river last August. Canadian officials have long denied the sewage is emanating from their treatment plant.

Islanders also point out that heavy rains cause overflows from tanks at the sewage plant.

Monitoring by the Chippewa County Health Department of

the pollution in the river last year found alarmingly high counts of harmful bacteriological contamination.

An advisory to make no physical contact with the water was issued on June 15, 2006, and remained in effect until October 31, 2006 — the longest such advisory on record.

The Sugar Island Monitoring Work Group is made up of representatives from the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Chippewa County Health Department, Algoma Public Health, Health Canada, Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian Community.

Sault Tribe members Dan Tadjerson and Mike Ripley will be working as representatives on the group. Tadjerson is the environmental manager for our tribe and Ripley is the environmental coordinator for the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program.

According to information made available at a recent symposium, the group drafted a work plan to be used this summer that draws on lessons learned from past years. For example, the group will take a more aggressive, rather than reactive, approach to monitoring this year and working protocols were established to eliminate gaps between agencies.

The plan was designed by scientists with the intent to determine the nature of the solid floating material; ease international cooperation and sampling to ensure data consistent, high quality and comparable; assess current water quality conditions and compare with existing water quality standards; assess the final effluent quality of discharges at selected points which have the potential to impair water quality; identify

authorized or unauthorized sources of discharges; and assess any other sources.

If the monitoring confirms impaired water quality along the northern shore of Sugar Island and identifies a source or sources responsible for the impairment, the group will report their findings to the "four-agency managers" and the "four-agency" work group for appropriate actions. The "four-agency managers" are representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

All of the parties involved in using the monitoring plan intend to report on the 2007 results once the monitoring is finished for the year and all data is ready.

Christine Daley, environmental health sanitarian for the Chippewa County Health Department, said the Sugar Island Monitoring Work Group needs the continued support of citizens who report instances of sewage debris on beaches. This year, the group has kits available to aid citizens in collecting samples to be tested through the Chippewa County Health Department or Algoma Public Health.

For kits and more information, contact Christine Daley at (906) 635-1566 or send e-mail to cdaley@chippewahd.com; or Sherri Cleaves, program director for Algoma Public Health, at (705) 541-3747 or e-mail scleaves@algomapublichealth.com.

Sault Tribe top contributor

SAULT STE. MARIE — After seven months of campaigning, Chippewa County United Way fund raising wrapped mid-April. If not for the final \$10,000 gift from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the \$365,000 goal would not have been reached, according to Heather Smith, Sault Tribe's United Way workplace coordinator. This much needed support will allow 19 Chippewa County agencies to continue to operate.

For the tenth year in a row, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians was the top contributor in this county — Sault Tribe employees pledged \$1,000 over the previous year for a total of \$16,717. Once the corporate portion was added, the final total came in at \$35,717, according to Smith.



Photo by Rick Smith

Back left: Sault Tribe Unit I Representative DJ Hoffman with United Way 2006 campaign chairs, Karen and Scott Shackleton. Front left: Sault Tribe United Way workplace coordinator Heather Smith with 2006 campaign president, Lee Baatz. The tribe was the top contributor in Chippewa County for the tenth year.



Photo by Rick Smith

HONORED — Betty Smith (holding plaque) is shown surrounded by family, friends, coworkers and tribal board members after she was recently presented with the 2007 Human Resources Team Member of the Year Award at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie. The group enjoyed a luncheon and camaraderie in Smith's honor.

Tribe's Housing Authority receives grant to plant trees

By Brenda Austin

SAULT STE. MARIE — Community property between homes at the Tribe's newest housing site, Odenaang, will soon boast new landscaping in the form of conifer and deciduous trees.

The trees are being purchased with a \$2,000 grant from DTE Energy Foundation and the Department of Natural Resources Renewable Energy grant.

Trees will also be planted

along sidewalks and entrances to provide shade and curb appeal for the new site, located between Seymour and Shunk Roads in Sault Ste. Marie. Sault Tribe Housing Authority construction and maintenance staff will provide labor and equipment for planting, lawn mowing, staking and snow fence installation the first year and assume entire tree maintenance at the end of the one-year nursery contract.

Students at Rudyard School learn about past and present Native American culture

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

Rudyard, Mich., for those of you not living in the Upper Peninsula, is located about an hour's drive north of the Mackinac Bridge. It's a small, rural community surrounded by farm land with Sault Tribe reservation land nearby.

Sault Tribe member Cathy DeVoy teaches Native American culture at Rudyard Middle and High School and is the Indian education coordinator for Title VII programs.

DeVoy is inspired by her cultural upbringing to pass on Native culture and traditions to her students, both Native and non-Native. "Students are learning to understand that what we have today, whether it be casinos, tuition waiver, fishing rights, hunting and gathering rights, have a basis in what came before us. They are learning what tribal people suffered and sacrificed for us to have what we do today," she



said.

DeVoy guides her classes through Michigan Indian history including the treaties, the Indian Reorganization Act, WWII which spurred the civil rights movement for Native Americans and other minorities, and the Indian Tuition Waiver. They also talk about prejudice and the fact that, in today's modern world, it still exists.

"A lot of the prejudice we have

today is different from when I was a kid. Then, it was because we were too poor and too brown, we were looked down on. Today, often the experience is the same because of our casinos and the services generated from their income. The same attitude is there with a different excuse for prejudice," DeVoy said. "I always say that prejudice is born of ignorance, and ignorance is born of not understanding. My goal here is to help students understand that the rights tribes have today have a basis in history."

Diversity is also an important theme in her classroom. "I want my students to come away from this class understanding that, sometimes, people come from different beliefs, backgrounds and histories. I want them to understand and appreciate that diversity is good, because this is a diverse world outside the classroom," she said.

DeVoy and her students began

a newsletter at the beginning of this school year as a means of keeping parents informed about what was going on in the Indian Education programs while giving students a chance to practice their writing skills.

When her students were studying traditional story telling, they chose a traditional story and re-wrote it with the same story line but in a more modern setting for the newsletter. "Storytelling is still an important tradition. It has been the vehicle to preserve the history about ourselves for thousands of years. Today, we have modern technology, but our tradition stood us very well and it should be continued. It is good for students to be able to have verbal and listening skills. In order to be a good storyteller, you first must be a good listener," DeVoy said.

DeVoy said her students are learning cultural traditions and some basic Ojibwe language skills that are part of a living culture

and who they are today, not just in the past. "We have a big population of Native kids out here, I work really hard to make sure that this place isn't forgotten. We have 320 tribal kids in this school system, about 35 percent, which is a higher percentage than the Sault

Vertz, Gravelle get academic kudos



Stephanie Gravelle

Stephanie Gravelle was chosen as Student of the Year by the Title VII staff and Parent Committee. Gravelle is an eighth grade student at Escanaba Middle School. She is an honor roll student and is active in baseball, basketball, cheerleading and band. She is also involved in 4-H and she



Brittney Vertz

enjoys attending the summer program at Clear Lake and Northern Michigan University. We wish Stephanie the very best next year at Escanaba High School.

Escanaba Area Public Schools Title VII Parent Committee awarded a \$150 scholarship to graduate Brittney Vertz.

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Win Awenen Nisitotung is June 19 at 9 a.m.
Questions? Call (906) 632-6398.

Higher Education report

By JANICE M. LEWTON,
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Higher Education Self-Sufficiency Fund Program (incentive award program): When submitting your winter or spring session 2007 grades, please note if your mailing address has changed. Send them to Sault Tribe Higher Education, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Please make sure you have a 2006-07 higher education assistance application on file before turning in your grades or you will not be eligible for the incentive award. If you do not, you can file one online at www.saulttribe.com.

This is a first-come, first-served basis, which means as grades come in, we award stu-

dents until our funds run out.

We realize a lot of schools are no longer sending grades to the student's mailing address and the student has to retrieve them from the Internet. Before sending these in, please make sure the identifying information includes your name, school and the session. If anything is handwritten on it, we cannot accept it.

2007-08 School year applications: It is only necessary to complete one application per school year and it's good for both the Higher Education Self-Sufficiency and grant programs. Students are now required to have a W-9 form on file with us.

Important notice: If you are

planning to attend a Michigan state-supported school full-time during the 2007-08 school year and want to also be considered for the Higher Education Grant Program, please make sure that we have an application with your signature and not an e-mail application.

Also, if you did not complete a Free Application for Federal Financial Aid form (FAFSA), you will not be considered for the Higher Education Grant Program.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at any time. Call us at (906) 635-7784 or (800) 793-0660 (ask for Higher Education) or e-mail jl Lewton@saulttribe.net.

JKL Bahweting School celebrates reading month

SUBMITTED BY JKL BAHWETING SCHOOL

SAULT STE. MARIE — Each March, students around the nation celebrate Reading Month and each school celebrates in its own way. This year, Bahweting School decided to do something a little different by raising money for the Read to Feed Program offered through Heifer International.

Many local individuals and businesses donated just over \$1,800 to Read to Feed. The students raised money by getting pledges reading books. The more books they read, the more people donated. As an added incentive, second grade teacher Brian Motyka promised the students that he would eat an inch of worm for every \$500 raised for Read to Feed. Lori Jodoin, after school and parent activity coordinator, volunteered to be taped to the wall. Because the school, as a whole, read over 2,900 books during March, every student received a piece of duct tape to tape Mrs. Jodoin to the wall.

With the funds, Bahweting School purchased two sheep, two llamas, two ducks, two geese, a bee hive, a heifer, four rabbits, a



Above: JKL students taped after school and parent activity coordinator Lori Jodoin to the wall. Right: Second grade teacher Brian Motyka eats a worm for Read to Feed.

water buffalo, a pig, two chicks and some tree seedlings to send to a needy community.

Heifer International works to end world hunger and save the earth. For close to 60 years, Heifer International has helped more than 4 million impoverished families in 128 countries lift themselves out of poverty and achieve self-reliance. For more information about Read to Feed, go to www.readtofeed.org.



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Tidbits from Munising



Photo by Kim Swanberg

Munising Schools senior graduation dinner was held recently at Sydney's Restaurant in Munising. The Title VII Native Education Parent Committee has hosted the special event for over 15 years to honor all graduating students. Top (L-R) Steven Costello, Adam Carpenter, Ashley Sullins, Pam McNally, Amber Sullins, Andrea Buggy, Kailynn Paquette, and Kipp Vaughn. Bottom, from left, Kyle Storm, Valerie Cook, Tricia Howard, Maria Strand. Munising graduates not pictured are Becky Kinney, Kathleen Nino-Corp, Malorey Matson, Angela Schierschmidt and Mike Schierschmidt.

Students honored at powwow

By RICK SMITH

A student recognition ceremony on May 16 was featured in a mini-powwow organized by the Unit II Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities Program and the DeTour Public School Title VII Indian Education Parent Committee.

The ceremony honored 61 tribe members from kindergartners to high school seniors who attend schools on Drummond Island and in the DeTour Village area.

The awards acknowledged either academic excellence or other positive student attributes as nominated by teachers.

All 15 of the kindergarten through fifth grade students from Drummond Island were honored for academic excellence. Those honored were Pearl Seaman, kindergarten; Jillian Socia and Sarah Bailey, first grade; Jordan Bailey, second grade; Zachary Kelly and Wilson Goudreau, third grade; Sean Kelly, Katelyn LaPoint, Blake Melvin, Holly Burton, Michael Bailey and Bruce Bailey, fourth grade; and Jesse Fravala, Joseph Seaman and Nicholas Newell of the fifth grade.

DeTour teachers nominated 20 students for academic recognition. Honorees were Brandon Kiczinski and Leo Dudeck, kindergarten; Zane Warner, Travor Warner, Christy Papin and ValJean LaTour, first grade; Kaalin Goetz and Kendra Berger, second grade; Jake Dudeck and Tyler Soule, third grade; Kyle Kostoff and David Hokenson, seventh grade; Bailey Miller and Ashlyn Bosley, eighth grade; Jesse Kelleghan and Ashley LaPoint, freshmen; Morgan Fierek and Korin Goetz, juniors; and graduating seniors, Jordan Barbeaux and Melissa Ellis.

An additional 26 DeTour students were recognized. These honorees were Ashley Kiczinski and Alora Barbeau, first grade; Matthew Berger, second grade; Tracey Mitchell and Alysa Wilson, fourth grade; Lauren Goetz, fifth grade; Kaden Barbeau and Robert Green, sixth grade;



Photo by Rick Smith

Dancing at the mini-powwow honoring students of American Indian lineage are (L-R) head female dancer and Unit II Youth Education & Activities coordinator Lisa Burnside, head male dancer Jay Memengos, Bay Mills Indian Community, and DeTour Public School Title VII Indian Education Parent Committee Chair Debbie Fountain and sons Gunnar, on her right, and Grant, left.

Darci Wilson, Jordan Warner, Alyson Bosley, Avery Mitchell and Nate VanAlstine, seventh grade; Derek Anderson, Amanda Hokenson and Ian Burton, eighth grade; Samantha Bailey and Kiah Barbeaux, freshmen; Teryn Miller, Joshua Wilson, Kaleb Barbeaux and Zack Melvin, sophomores; Matthew Green, junior; and graduating seniors, Amber Burton, Casey Kelleghan and Thomas Munro.

This was the first such event organized in DeTour Village for the students.

Sault Tribe members Lisa Burnside, Unit II Youth Activities and Education coordinator, and Debbie Fountain, DeTour Public School Title VII Indian Education Parent Committee chair, expressed hope that it is to become an annual event.

"The community is pleased we're finally doing some cultural events influenced by American Indian traditions," said Fountain. "So now, obviously, we'll do what we can with the funds we get."

Burnside added, "It's such a thrill to work with a parent committee that is so interested in our culture and traditions, their willingness to bring that out is commendable. I'm looking forward to working with them next year."



Photo courtesy of the Mining Journal

Munising Public Schools Native American Education Program staff, Kim Swanberg and Francie Wyers and Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities Program coordinator Cindy Blank, and Sault Tribe Cultural Historian Art Leighton, provided a "Face in the Rock" presentation and a quilling project for students participating in the seventh biennial Lake Superior youth symposium on May 12. The Lake Superior watershed symposium is held for students in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Ontario.



Students from Tom Derwin's sixth grade class at Munising Central Elementary School put the finishing touches on the permanent construction of a wigwam. Coordination between Kim Swanberg, Cindy Blank, Derwin, and his sixth grade class, made the concept of a permanent wigwam located at the school a reality. Derwin's students designed, constructed and built the fixture as authentically as possible. Using their math skills, students constructed a model wigwam and learned what materials were needed. In February, Kim and Cindy took the children into the forest to gather saplings.

Outgoing seniors honored

Hillary Pine is the daughter of Laurie and Kevin Pine of Munising. She is also the granddaughter of Unit V Board Member Shirley and Paul Petosky, and Marion Pine. Hillary will attend University of Michigan in the fall. Miss Pine was also the TV6 Academic Athlete of the Month for March. Congratulations, Hillary.



Chantel Sorrel, daughter of Mary Sorrel, has been accorded the Joe Rose Award at Rudyard High School, as well as a score of 26 on her ACT. She plans to attend Ferris University dental program.



Missy Ellis, a senior at DeTour High School and a member of the Sault Tribe, has been awarded the Bert Price four-year, full tuition scholarship from Grand Valley State University. Missy will be majoring in nursing. She also received the Drummond Island Lion's Scholarship, the Robert W. Glasser Scholarship and the Michigan Promise Scholarship. Daughter of Gerald and Darlene Ellis of Drummond Island.



Joshua L. Skilton, a junior at Pellston High School, was inducted into the National Honor Society on Jan. 28. On May 3, he was elected president of his chapter. Membership in the National Honor Society is based on leadership, service, character and a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Joshua was also elected vice president of his senior class.

Blue Harbor Fish and Seafood shows colors

By Rick Smith

You're cruising leisurely down the highway alone one fine morning, the boredom only just starting to set in and you have some kind of big, white truck in your rear view mirror. Traffic is very light as you notice the truck shifting lanes to overtake you. Without even realizing it, force of habit really, you take extra care in watching your position in your lane as you track the approaching truck in your mirrors.

The truck gradually moves along side of you and as it pulls ahead, you glance over and read, "Blue Harbor Fish and Seafood" emblazoned on the side of the truck's cargo hold. You're just beginning to ponder the difference between fish and seafood when, suddenly, you spot it — an unmistakable, meticulously faithful reproduction of the Sault Tribe flag painted on the back of the truck.

You find yourself wondering, "Gadzooks! Has Sault Tribe branched out in its business holdings?" Then, in a flash, you realize that — thanks to the big, white truck with its cryptic fish and seafood riddle and mysterious Sault Tribe colors — boredom won't be accompanying you on this trip.

Actually, Blue Harbor Fish and Seafood is owned and operated by a Sault Tribe member and her husband in Green Bay, Wisc. Lori Parkinson is the president of the company and her husband, Mike, "does everything else." The company has 11 employees and grossed \$7 million distributing fish and seafood throughout Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan last year.

Parkinson's husband was a commercial fisherman in Garden, Mich., for 15 years while her own family had fished for three generations. "We started in July of 1999," Lori said. "We grossed \$140,000 our first year... We are a preferred vendor with the Oneida and Ho-Chunk tribes, we service 17 casinos each week as well as 150 restaurants and grocery stores."

Parkinson said that although our tribe has no programs to help a member with a business, Blue Harbor is recognized and



Photo by Rick Smith

ANISHINABE PRIDE — Delivery driver Shawn MacRae poses in Sault Ste. Marie with one of the Blue Harbor Fish and Seafood trucks that bears a Sault Tribe flag shown prominently on the cargo door. MacRae had just arrived from St. Ignace and would soon be en route to Brimley after the Sault deliveries were concluded.

allowed to bid on things. "Sault Tribe buys from us weekly and is one of our oldest customers. The Bay Mills tribe has always been more than fair because we are Native-owned and operated. We think it should mean something and so do they. We have a good relationship with them and are very thankful for their business."

The Parkinsons also sell to the Potawatomi nations of Milwaukee and Escanaba, the Menominees and Lac du Flambeau.

The business owner said that the Oneida tribe invites Blue Harbor to take part in their business community. "They let us work with other tribal companies and we even have a tribal phone book with native

businesses listed," she said. "They feel that the business community is very important to lifting the standard of living of their people. We meet together to help each other and visit."

Parkinson added that the Oneida have a grant program to help tribe members start businesses, and they have ties to an education program that is free for American Indians.

Marj Stevens, director of the Oneida of Green Bay Indian Preference Department, characterized Mike and Lori as an earnest couple who proved to be a fine asset in a mutually rewarding working relationship. The couple even served on an Oneida

board designed to help members with businesses. "They're very good," said Stevens.

Parkinson said that Blue Harbor employs 11 American Indians and has programs for them that help them raise their standard of living. "We care about each family and each person," Parkinson said. "After an employee has been here a year, he or she can borrow money at no interest from the company this helps them buy cars and furniture and other things. Also, we have profit sharing at the end of the year, 25 percent of the company's profits get divided among our employees. We consider every employee a member of our family."

Detroit legislative leader praises Greektown's commitment to city and state

REP. TOBOCMAN: CASINO JOBS PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY TO RESIDENTS

State Rep. Steven Tobocman understands the benefits of casino gaming to the City of Detroit. The House majority floor leader knows constituents in his southwest Detroit district who work at each of the three Detroit casinos. Win Awenen Nisitotung recently spoke with Tobocman about casino gaming, the state budget and other issues.

Q: How to fix the state budget continues to dominate the Legislature's agenda. Sault Tribe members rely, in particular, on several state-funded programs, most notably the Medicaid program, the Indian tuition waiver, and environmental programs and services that help to protect lakes, streams and wildlife. As the Legislature works to solve the worst budget crisis facing Michigan since World War II, what are your priorities?

A: The biggest priority is whether or not we are going to be making investments into the future of the state or whether we are going to cut our services in effort to achieve the lowest tax rate possible. We've stated a preference in our [Democratic] caucus about

protecting health care. That's critical, and I think that any actions you see us moving on will show that it is a top priority as well as the investments that will make this state great in the future. Education and the 21st Century Jobs Fund are priorities. We also have to make sure our local governments can provide adequate police and fire protection.

Q: Talk about the importance of the three Detroit casinos to your city's economy. Without question, the three combined are probably the largest taxpayers in the entire city. They also employ more than 7,000 people (which will increase to 9,000 or so) and attract more than 30,000 people a day into the city.

A: The casinos benefit Detroit and Michigan in many ways. They represent significant job opportunities that pay a living wage and have health care and other benefits associated with them. So there's the immediate benefit for people who work in the casinos. But, in addition, casino gaming and the new hotels that are being developed by the casinos make

Detroit an attractive and more viable destination for conventions, for night life and those kinds of recreational activities that are growing parts of the world economy of the 21st century. The casinos are playing major positive roles in helping Detroit become a destination for recreation, entertainment, sporting events, new hotels and those types of things.

Q: In 2004, the governor and Legislature raised the state gaming tax paid by the three Detroit casinos to the highest level for land-based casinos in the entire nation. When the governor and Legislature raised the tax, they pledged to roll it back a few percentage points once the permanent casinos were built and open. This was a promise made to the casinos. Will you urge your colleagues to keep this promise?

A: Well, term limits come into play here. In the Legislature today, it would be hard for us to find more than 17 people outside the people who represent Detroit who are even aware that deal was made. In addition, we have a budget crisis that is far more severe

than most people realize. The casinos are to be commended for keeping their end of the deal. But I would never say it's off the table because right now everything is on the table in terms of trying to fix the budget crisis. Having said that, I have not personally seen anyone seriously put the proposal on the table so it really does not have much, if any, momentum right now.

Q: In your opinion, what must the Legislature and governor do to address the state's budget crisis? What are the three or four actions that simply must be taken for a solution to really work?

A: We need to do a better job of working together. We should be faulted for not working together to identify cuts, reforms and revenues that are all needed to reach a solution that will pass the Legislature and be signed by the governor. I know that this caucus is trying hard to do that. The leadership of this caucus brought everyone in on a Monday for a closed-door working exercise in solving the budget.

Q: When do you envision a budget solution getting done?

A: I think we are only a couple weeks away. In mid-May, I think we're all going to hear that the budget crisis is even worse than we have believed up to now. Right now, we have about a \$3 billion budget shortfall for this year and next year combined. I think we soon will hear (from state economists and budget officials) that the shortfall is probably \$300 million bigger than that. At that time, the budget crisis will be so loud that people will not be able to walk in their neighborhood stores without hearing about the budget crisis.

Q: What are the toughest challenges facing the City of Detroit?

A: The budget is clearly one of them. The school system is another. We are grateful that the Sault Tribe, the other casino owners and some others still have the confidence to invest in the city. That's the solution. We need more investments. We need more businesses and more people to move back and to make investments so we can grow our way out.

Head Start graduation ceremonies

Photos by Brenda Austin



Teacher Amie Lawson's Head Start graduates. The children in the yellow robes will be going on to kindergarten in the fall and the red robes will be returning for one more year of Head Start. Back row, left: Parent Eric Clement, teacher's Aide Mandy Vert and teacher Amie Lawson.

Amie Lawson's Head Start class in Sault Ste. Marie graduated on May 3 outside their classroom with family and friends watching. In addition to Lawson's class, there were two other graduating Head Start classes, teacher Kimberly Suggitt, teacher's aide Terri Tadjerson and bus aide Ruth Clow and, in St. Ignace, teacher Terri Allan, teacher's aide Liza Peters and bus aide Denise Horn.



Left: Hailey Clement and Ciara Clement play with alphabet puppets prior to getting ready for graduation ceremonies.



Hailey Clement hugs bus aide Micah Clement who was wearing dark glasses to hide his watery eyes according to his co-workers.



Jenna Gravelle smiles in anticipation of the graduation ceremonies.



Bailey Leask, Malik McLeod, holding his certificate, and Jacey Leask.



Nicholas Passage and teacher Amie Lawson.

Volunteers refresh facilities with spring clean up



Photos by Rick Smith

SPRING CLEANING — Above, Paula Carrick, Bay Mills Indian Community History Department, applies a protective coating onto the roof of one of the spirit houses at the ancestral burial grounds memorial in Sault Ste. Marie's Brady Park as part of the May 9 spring cleaning by staff and members of Sault Tribe and Bay Mills. Left, Sault Tribe repatriation specialist Cecil Pavlat mows grass on the grounds.

Friends of Niigaanagizhik scoured the tribe's cultural center May 18, steamcleaning the upholstery, scrubbing the sweatlodge, washing the windows and swabbing the decks. They also cleaned out the gardens, put in flowers and mulch. The Friends have been at work on the building for some time. To finance their projects, they have conducted fundraisers, and have received money from Greektown, Joanne Carr said. They have added an entrance to the eastern end of the building. This is so that there can be a proper entrance from the eastern direction for traditional funerals. They have also installed an exterior safety door for the kitchen, in case of fire. The next project is to install a pergola over the back deck to ward off the summer sun. Volunteers that day were Tara Benoit, Amy Brigman, Gail Carr, Joanne Carr, Wendi Clement, Ed Cook, Ron Franklin, Rachel Mandelstamm, Carol Montie, Diane Moore, Kari O'Gorman, Cecil Pavlat, Ilene Semasky, George Tessier, Josh Wall and Liz Wall.



Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton

CLEAN SWEEP — These friends got swept away by their various tasks cleaning up the cultural center. Clockwise from right, Tara Benoit steams the upholstery, Cecil Pavlat puts the finishing touches on the birdbath, Ron Franklin hits the deck with some sealant, Ilene Semasky waters her newly created flower gardens, and Rachel Mandelstamm, YEA coordinator who wandered over from Big Bear to help, puts in a beautiful border of hostas and mulch.



Editor hired for tribal newspaper



Jennifer Dale-Burton has joined the Sault Tribe's Communications Department as its new copy editor.

She comes full circle since working for Communications from 1993 to 1997, when she left to found a tribal newspaper for the Bay Mills Indian Community. At the same time, Dale-Burton was responsible for the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority Public Information and Education Program. Her duties eventually evolved from the newspaper to

full-time work with the fishery program.

"I missed the newspaper business, and when this position opened — in my field, in my hometown — I had to apply," she said. She started May 7.

Dale-Burton began as a staff writer in 1993 and was promoted to editor in 1995. She brought more hard news and updates of the printing process that saved space, time and money. After founding the *Bay Mills News* as a one-person monthly, Dale-Burton grew it into an award-winning biweekly publication that could pay for its own printing, distribution and some programming costs while giving jobs to three tribe members.

Dale-Burton herself is an award-winning journalist, having been accorded "Best News Story" twice in her career, along with other writing, photo and layout awards. Dale-Burton has also written for the *Tribal College Journal*, worked on various media projects with a number of agencies, tribal organizations, universi-

ties, and is an active community volunteer.

Dale-Burton hopes to bring the experience and perspective she has accumulated over the years back to Win Awenen Nisitotung and looks forward to working with all the Communications staff.

Dale-Burton and her artist husband, Michael L. Burton, live in Bay Mills Township next to Spectacle Lake with their three dogs and four cats. They enjoy hunting, gathering wild edibles and fishing.

Dale-Burton also serves on the Boys and Girls Club of Bay Mills Board of Directors, the Michigan Whitefish Marketing Steering Committee and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Mercury Product Phase Down Team.

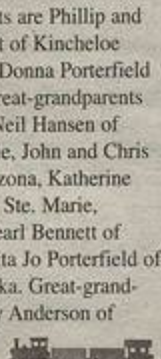
"Jennifer has tremendous talent along with a track record for success when it comes to the newspaper business. I look forward to working with her to further improve our newspaper and expand our news coverage," stated Communications Director Cory Wilson.

Stork Report...

Proud parents Timothy and Heather Pavlat would like to announce the birth of their son, **Ayden Daniel Pavlat**, on March 7, 2007. He was born at Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center in Alamogordo, N.M., weighing six pounds six ounces and was 19 inches in length.



Grandparents are Phillip and Deborah Pavlat of Kincheloe and Larry and Donna Porterfield of Rudyard. Great-grandparents are Sally and Neil Hansen of Sault Ste. Marie, John and Chris Spencer of Arizona, Katherine Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie, Wallace and Pearl Bennett of Kinross and Nita Jo Porterfield of Trumann, Alaska. Great-grandmother is Mary Anderson of Rudyard.



Eric Moran and Lisa Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie are the parents of a son, **Treyce Erik Moran**, born March 28, 2007.



at Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Mich. He weighed seven pounds, 11.1 ounces and was 19.75 inches in length.

Grandparents are Christina Sams, Hulda Moran, and Karen and Donald Corbiere. Great-grandparents are William Sams, Marguerite Allen, and Carol and Elmo Smith, all of Sault Ste. Marie.



Woman builds homes for the broken bayou

WYANDOTTE — Sault Tribe member Laurie Cable of Wyandotte and her huge Newfoundland dog, Sophie, packed up their tools and headed to Slidell, La., in April to build houses.

"I spent a small fortune on Milk Bones and chew treats for the Newf, so her bag is packed and ready," Cable said the day before she left for "the broken bayou" in Louisiana.

It was Cable's second trip to the hurricane-ravaged area, where she worked on Habitat for Humanity homes.

This year, she was part of an effort called "Womenbuild '07" — an all-female work crew that put up five houses in five days.

Cable was able to take notes and send e-mail each day from the First Presbyterian Church of Slidell to report on the crew's progress and on her trip, which she dubbed "A Big Dog's Journey."

The church's common room also served as a gathering place for the volunteers — "a room for TV, pizza, Chinese food and loads and loads and loads of laundry and laughter," Cable said.

The more than 50 women participating in the effort came from 11 U.S. states as well as Calgary and Alberta, Canada, to work together. Cable called them "the human toolbox."

"We are a big and colorful bunch and have been working endlessly on a five-day project," she wrote Feb. 13. "At the end of the day yesterday, I looked around and felt a little sense of completion, as we have footings and floors in five houses that were just scraps of land a week ago."

And then she and Sophie took a drive along the banks of Lake Pontchartrain and she realized how much more work is left to be done to help the residents more than a year and a half after Katrina and flood waters destroyed their region in August 2005, she said.

At the end of the trip, Cable

expressed her awe and admiration for the people of the area. "I just returned from a second trip down to the broken bayou, and what I witnessed was resilience and strength," she said.

"The residents, no matter what Mother Nature thrusts at them, refuse to give up and leave their deeply rooted homes, and the volunteers — well, there just aren't enough ways or words to describe what they have and continue to accomplish."

Cable said she worried at first that her lack of formal building skills would make her more of a "hindrance" than a help to the work.

"I could not have been more wrong," she said.

"As I chatted and worked alongside these incredible women, I found that not a single one of them had structured or formal training, yet several of them were master carpenters or home-improvement specialists."

Cable kept a journal (which was later published) about her experience and explored the



Photo by Larry Caruso

Tribe member Laurie Cable and her Newfie, Sophie, helped rebuild New Orleans.

motives and talents of each woman on her team. The one volunteer who got the most attention of all was "my travel companion, my 140-pound Newfoundland named Sophie," Cable said.

The giant dog wore a pack and carried water bottles and towels to the work crews, "wandering

among the volunteers, offering up a back to scratch or a big body to hug," Cable said.

"At any given time, I would catch a volunteer walking over to her water bowl to make sure it was fresh and full of ice. To say it touched me would be a gross understatement."

Sophie, too, was rewarded by her volunteer work, Cable said. "She, like the rest of us, got back so much more than she was able to give — and she tried hard to give to everyone," she said. "We are all healers in a sense, everyone having something to offer this wounded area."

Cable said she left realizing that she got so much more back than she gave. "So I will return and keep returning until everyone has a home to return to," she promised.

Reprinted and abridged with permission. Read the full-length story by Paula Evans Neuman at Wyandotte's *The News-Herald* at: http://www.thenewsherald.com/stories/031807/loc_20070318008.shtml

Free poetry contest

The International Library of Poetry has announced that over \$100,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the Sault Ste. Marie area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is June 30, 2007. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free.

To enter, send one original poem, any subject and style to The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19925, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by June 30, 2007. You may also enter online at www.poetry.com.

The International Library of Poetry is the largest poetry organization in the world.



SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

This postcard is being sent to every Sault Tribe household in order to ensure that every tribal home is receiving a subscription to the Sault Tribe News.

If you are an enrolled Sault Tribe member and would like to receive, or continue to receive, a subscription to the Sault Tribe News at NO COST to you, please print your name and address below, sign the bottom of the form, and return it to us by mail.

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EUP Special Olympians take first place at LSSU

SAULT STE. MARIE — EUP Special Olympians placed first with a total of 361 points at the U.P. regional swim meet held at the LSSU Norris Center pool on April 21. There were 114 athletes competing. Second place with 270 points went to Marquette/Alger and third place with 220 points went to the Manistee area. Dickenson placed fourth followed by Roscommon, Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw, Presque Isle, Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Cheboygan, Emmet, Charlevoix, Schoolcraft, Menominee, Delta, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella and Gratiot.

Athletes attended a dinner and dance held at the high school,

with YES-FM and the Rotary Club providing entertainment.

The U.S. Coast Guard presented the colors and Bahweting Singers performed a flag song and an honor song for the athletes. Volunteers from Smith and Company Realty, Alexis Burke and Sault High swim coach Mark Hutchins, the Sault High swim team and the LSSU student body and the Kiwanis Medals helped make the event a success.

Local athletes participating were Kamalia Munz and Mitchell Ross from Brimley; Dawn Oberle, Robbin Codling, Marty Manitowabi, Stacey Postma and Amanda Shoberg from Rudyard; Christina Paquin and Ashley St.

Andrew from St. Ignace; and, Christopher Panik, Joan Aikens, William Landreville, Judy Rexstrew, Cher-Tom and Tasha Turner from the Sault.

The EUP relay team division two with members Munz, Aikens, Paquin and Postma, took first place; and the EUP relay team division five with members Oberle, Shoberg, Tom and St. Andrew also took a first.

Special sponsors were Hulbert Haulers and the Great Tug Boat Race.

Anyone wanting more information about volunteering or donating to our local Special Olympic program, please contact Laura Aikens (906) 635-5680.

GLADWIN MITES PLACE SECOND IN SHAMROCK HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



Left: Gladwin Mite hockey team with their second place trophies and team trophy with their coaches at the Shamrock Tournament. Left: Assistant coaches Jon Dantzer, Dallas Gerow, Dennis Cantrell and Head Coach Carl Bell. Team members, Left (back): Caleb Ostrander, Gatlin Mansfield, Drew Cantrell, Brendan Coslow, Keagan Hover, Will Lang, Devon Augustine. Front, Alyssa Dantzer, Brayden Ehlers, Sam Gerow, Kolby Bell, Brendan Baker, Dylan Ostrander, Mac Markiewicz and Kaleb Clayton.

Baker receives 2006-07 hockey awards

Brendan Baker, son of Nick and Dawn Baker, grandson of Roger and Elaine Horn of St. Ignace, was recently awarded several hockey awards for the 2006-07 season.

He was five years old at the start of the season and the youngest player, but made the Gladwin Mite travel team and wore number six on his jersey and was six years old when he played in team tournaments.

Brendan played defense, right winger, center and goalie with five assists, the winning assist at the Shamrock Festival which allowed Gladwin to go on to the championship game as well as an assist at the Get into the Cold Tournament in Mt. Pleasant.

Coach Carl Bell said, "Brendan is an all-around good player and will play whatever position that I ask of him. He works hard and has really improved."



Congratulations Brendan on a great hockey season!

At the Shamrock Mite Hockey Tournament at the Glacier Ice Complex in Port Huron, Mich., on March 16-18, the Gladwin Mites defeated the Flint Ice Mountain Maple Leafs 4-1, the Lapeer Tornados 7-0 and went on to compete at the semi-finals. On Sunday, March 18, the Gladwin Mites played the Mt. Clemens Wild Team at a semi-final game which tied 4-4 and went into

over time. Brendan Baker got the puck and made the winning assist with Drew Cantrell getting the winning goal with the Mites winning 5-4 earning them a place in the championship game that day. The Gladwin Mites and the Flint Mountain Blackhawks, with a tie of 4-4 after going back and forth for three periods ended the game with a shoot-out putting the Blackhawks in first place and Gladwin winning second.

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Manistique Kewadin Casino

A Night in Paradise 13th Anniversary June 9th, 2007

Beginning at 5:30pm

- Free Entry Draws
 - Random Draws
 - Table Draws
 - Souvenirs & hors d'oeuvres
 - Drink draws in Team Spirits Bar
- Come Make a Night of it!

Upcoming Events

Kewadin Gold Rush!

Every Northern Rewards Customer will receive \$5 in Kewadin Gold Tokens!

No Points Required!

9 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Mondays - Christmas

Tuesdays - St. Ignace

Wednesdays - Sault & Hessel

Fridays - Manistique

Summer Barbeque Giveaway

Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, & Hessel
June 1st - July 4th, 2007
Grand Prize Draw - July 4th, 2007
For Barbeque Grills

Earn Entries

June 1 - July 4th

Grand Prize winners NOT present - He/She wins \$100.

Weekly Random draws off active play

June 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

For All-In-One Picnic Baskets

Active Slot Players could win the

Grand Prize if winner's off Earned

Entries are not present!

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OUTDOOR CONCERT
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Drawing July 7th at 9pm.

Earn Entries from:

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Entry Doors

First 7 customers thru the doors

Tables

Three 7's on a hand of Bl

Tables

7 minutes past every hour during table hours.

New Northern Rewards Card Holders

The First 7 customers to sign up with receive an entry.

Gift Shop & Restaurant

For every \$14.00 purchased.

Bar & Grills

Daily drink specials and purchases

Bingo

(Manistique Only) one winner

will be drawn for an entry.

JKL Bahweting School receives first place award

SAULT STE. MARIE — JKL Bahweting School received a first place award from the Michigan Surgeon General's Healthy School Environment Recognition Program. Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, Michigan's Surgeon General recognized the school for helping to shape healthy families and a healthy community.

The staff of Bahweting School realizes the importance of healthy students in the classroom in order to maximize learning. The JKL Bahweting coordinated school health team has worked very hard to give the students, staff and parents the information and tools to develop healthy lifestyles to last a lifetime.

Greg Chromy, physical education teacher at JKL Bahweting provided the following "success story," documenting the



The JKL Bahweting health team, back row, from left, Greg Chromy, Teresa Tadgerson, Betty Noland, Leslye Atkins, Carolyn MacArthur. Front, Brandi Reno, Sarah Kwiatkowski, Leah Radar, Kim Schutz and Donna Norkoli are shown with a banner announcing the accomplishment of their award.

school's achievements towards attaining the first place level of

the award program. "Due to our new wellness policy, our school

decided to mandate an extra 30 minutes of physical education each week. Most teachers were on board right away and implemented walking while they read as well as extra gym time into their plans. We received a Dance Dance Revolution system donated from the Sault Tribe Community Health and Steps to a Healthier Anishnabe program. This system is used for class parties instead of pizza and a movie. The teachers as well as the students have started to enjoy the activities and when surveyed, the teachers have indicated that on average their students are getting an extra 39 minutes of physical activity a week!

It makes us proud that we were able to work together to improve the lives of our students. Our

team, the faculty, staff and parents were all vitally important to achieving our goals and making this endeavor a success."

"Sault Tribe Community Health is proud of the accomplishments of all the members of the team and other staff, administrators and students. We are thrilled to be a part of the team and provide assistance and resources to ensure a healthy school environment for students and staff at Bahweting School," said Donna Norkoli, Sault Tribe Community Health educator.

For more information about the Healthy School Action Tool or the Healthy School Environments Recognition Program, go to www.mihhealthtools.org or call Donna Norkoli at Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 635-8844.

Let's Get Moving Kewadin! program is going strong

Participants of the Let's Get Moving Kewadin! Program are logging physical activity miles, having fun, enjoying health benefits and winning prizes — all at the same time. "In 2006 this program was offered to Kewadin Casinos team members but we realized that other Sault Tribe employees, Sault Tribe members, spouses and children wanted to get in on the fun," said Donna Norkoli, Sault Tribe Community Health educator. "Community and family support is essential for making and sustaining healthy lifestyle choices. It is much easier to maintain a physical activity program if you have friends, family or co-workers to participate with you. It makes activity fun and not a chore that has to be done."

Some simple ways to add

activity to your day are:

- Circle around the block or around your driveway when you go to get your mail.
- Walk around the outside aisles of the grocery store before you do your shopping.
- Park your car and walk into the bank or restaurant instead of going to the drive-thru window.
- Stroll the halls or waiting room when you are waiting for a doctor's appointment.
- Pace around your house when you are talking on the phone.
- Designate 10 minutes of your lunch hour for a brisk walk.
- Catch up on the day's events with your family by taking an after-dinner walk.

This program started on May 1 but it is not too late to participate. The program runs for three months until Aug. 8. Research

shows that after three months of a lifestyle change, the behavior is more likely to become a lifelong pattern.

People who have registered for the Let's Get Moving Kewadin! Program may turn in their mileage coupons in drop boxes at tribal health centers in Manistique, Munising, St. Ignace and at the Sault Tribe Health Center. There are also drop boxes at the Little Bear East in St. Ignace and the Chi Mukwa Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Anyone turning in coupons will be eligible for prize drawings.

For more information about the Let's Get Moving Kewadin! Program or to register and obtain a log book, call Donna Norkoli at Sault Tribe Community Health, (906) 635-8844.

Community Health visits Kewadin Casinos



Donna Norkoli, Sault Tribe Steps to a Healthier Anishnabe Program coordinator, provides information on healthy eating and physical activity to Manistique Casino team member, Terry Jasmin. Sault Tribe Community Health promoted National Employee Health and Fitness Day at all five Kewadin Casinos. Participants joined in to play a "Bingo for Health" and spun the prize wheel to receive a healthful snack.

Men's Health Week celebrated June 11-17

Men's Health Week is celebrated each year during the week leading up to Father's Day. It is used to create awareness of problems that could cause disease in men and boys and to spot signs of disease early so they can be treated.

The average American man lives on average 5.3 fewer years than the average woman. This is due to increased body fat distribution, risk taking, aggressive behavior and an increased likelihood to engage in smoking, drinking and illicit drug use.

The leading causes of death among men are heart disease, cancer and unintentional injuries.

Experts are always working to understand why men die younger than women. Recognizing what is threatening to your life is the first step in reducing your risks of dying too soon.

For more information, call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210. For a complete list of health screenings men should get, visit the site online at www.menshealthnetwork.org.

Diabetics: Check your blood pressure

BY CHARLA GORDON, RD, HEALTHY HEART PROJECT

The staff of the Healthy Heart Project would like to remind all people with diabetes to get their blood pressure checked. High blood pressure and diabetes often go hand in hand — as many as four out of five people with diabetes have high blood pressure.

If your blood pressure is high, it means that your heart has to pump harder than it should to get blood to all parts of your body. Both diabetes and high blood pressure can greatly increase your risk for heart disease.

If your blood pressure is not managed well, there can be more complications from diabetes. We are concerned about an increased risk for stroke, heart attack and loss of circulation in arms and legs. High blood pressure can also lead to blindness, kidney disease,

nerve damage and amputation.

To help protect your health there are a few basic questions you can ask your health care provider:

- Is my blood pressure at or below 130/80?
- If not, what medicines am I on to manage my blood pressure?
- Do I need to change any of my medicines to manage my blood pressure better?
- Should I make an appointment with the nutritionist to learn more about the DASH diet and decreasing my salt and sodium intake to lower my blood pressure?
- Is it time for me to get my cholesterol checked?
- In addition to my heart healthy food plan and daily physical activity, do I need to be on any medicine to help get my "lousy" or LDL cholesterol below 100?

• How can you help me quit smoking?

Make sure your blood pressure is checked every time you visit one of your health care providers. At your next visit, ask your doctor if it is time for your lipids (cholesterol and triglycerides) and A1C (your average blood sugar) to be drawn. Also, as part of your diabetes self-management plan, we recommend you have a dilated eye exam, dental exam, blood drawn to check kidney function and foot exam at least once per year.

If you would like to learn more about the Healthy Heart Project, please contact Sarah Willey, diabetes program manager at (906) 632-5210. (Source: *Living Healthy*, Spring 2007; Honoring the Gift of Heart Health Program, STHC.)

Prostate cancer is 90 percent curable

Many men will do anything to avoid the "finger test" during their annual physical. It's a simple test that can tell a doctor so much about a man's health.

Cancer is one of the country's leading causes of death. Prostate cancer affects one out of every six men. Sounds scary, but if it is caught in its earliest stages, it

is over 90 percent curable and most men will not experience any symptoms at all.

The prostate gland, found only in men, is important for helping to maintain sexual health. When things go wrong with the prostate, some men may notice changes or difficulties urinating. Other symptomatic warnings may include

pain during intimacy and frequent pain or stiffness in the lower back, hips or upper thighs.

Most men find it awkward to talk about their personal health but isn't your life and your family worth it? For more information, go to www.prostatecancerfoundation.org or call the Sault Tribe Health Center at (906) 632-5200.

Men's health check-ups and screenings	When?	Age 18-39	Age 40-49	Age 50+
Regular physical	Every 3 years	X		
	Every 2 years		X	
	Every year			X
Blood pressure test	Every year	X	X	X
Cholesterol test	Every 3-5 years	X	X	X
Blood tests and urinalysis	Every 3 years	X		
	Every 2 years		X	
	Every year			X
EKG (Electrocardiogram)	Baseline	Age 30		
	Every 4 years		X	
	Every 3 years			X
Flu vaccine	Every year	X	X	X
Tetanus booster	Every 10 years	X	X	X
Rectal exam	Every year	X	X	X
PSA blood test (Prostate specific antigen test)	Every year			X
Colorectal exam	Every 3-4 years			X
Self exams (Testicles, oral, and skin)	Monthly by self and at regular physicals	X	X	X

Art Leighton offers look into tribe's past with history series

By BRENDA AUSTIN

Tribal historian Art Leighton has an extensive background teaching history at Bay Mills Community College, Defiance College and the University of St. Francis. For the past three years, he has planned cultural events, written grants and led the tribal planning effort to establish an interpretive center.

With the conclusion of the interpretive center grant, Leighton has been able to focus on developing educational PowerPoint presentations about the tribe's history. The lecture series has been offered each month during lunch hour in the Sault to tribal members, team members and the general public.

The historian's first opportunity to teach tribal history in his home community came last fall when the Michigan Indian Elders Association meeting was held at Kewadin Casino in the Sault.

"Holly Kibble asked me to speak, so with the help of Kim Green, we put together a PowerPoint presentation and it was well received," Leighton said. "From there Kristi Little asked if I wanted to start teaching classes using the vacated space at the old American Café. Once that started, we were off and running."

Leighton's presentations are rich in historical images and are presented to about 60 people a month. Past presentations have included information on the history of Sugar Island, treaty rights, and the Village Series, which showcases different aspects of village life: clan history, seasonal



History can be a unifying force for the tribe; a shared history is something we can all draw upon."

— Art Leighton
Tribal historian

life ways, home life and the seven grandfathers. Leighton hopes to develop historical presentations about the many communities that make up the Sault Tribe.

"I want to show who we were originally and to demonstrate how we have changed through time. Today, I think a lot of our people feel disconnected from their history through no fault of their own, and that's unfortunate. History is an important part of our identity as Anishinaabeg. We have a rich heritage that is a legacy from our ancestors," he said.

Leighton has taken his presentations on the road to Munising and will be in Marquette in June.

"The intention was to be able

to take the classes out into the service area and local schools upon request. "I would like to do more with the different elder committees as well," he said. "History can be a unifying force for the tribe; a shared history is something we can all draw upon."

The next presentation will be on June 7 at 531 Ashmun Street, in the administration annex (American Café) 12-1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend the free class.

For more information or to reserve a spot in the class, call Art Leighton at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26151, or Kim Green ext. 26059.

Rabies clinics for pets of Sault tribe members slated for June

Rabies clinics for pets owned by members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians are scheduled throughout June. Rabies shots are free and optional shots and medicines are also available (see below).

A responsible pet owner must be present to control the animal being vaccinated or the vaccination will not be administered. All animals must be on a leash or be in a carrier. An animal control officer will be on site at all locations to offer reduced rates for licenses.

The clinics will take place at the following nine locations:

Newberry Tribal Health Center — 4935 Zeez-Ba-Tik Lane, June 11, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Shirley Kowalke, CHT 293-8181.

Munising Health Center — 622 W. Superior St., June 11, 7:30-9 p.m., Nancy Beauchaine, CHT 387-4614.

K.I. Sawyer (Gwinn) — 250 Voodoo Ave., June 12, 2007, Time: 8-9 a.m., Joy Pages, 346-3919.

Escanaba YEA Building — 1226 Wigob, June 12, 2007, Time: 1-11 a.m., Diane Williams, CHT, 786-9211.

Lambert Tribal Health Center — 225 WaSeh Dr., St. Ignace, June 12, 5-6:30 p.m., Angie Gilmore, CHT 643-8689.

Manistique Tribal Health Center — 5698 W. Hwy 2, June 12, 1-2 p.m., Kelly LaKosky, CHT 341-8469.

Sault Tribe Housing Office — 10 Woodlake (Kincheloe), June 19, 1:30-3 p.m., Tom Sauro, CHT 632-5210.

Hessel Community Health Center — 3355 North 3 Mile Rd., June 19, 10-12 p.m., Helen Beacom, CHT 484-2727.

Chi Mukwa Recreation Center — Two Ice Circle Dr. Sault Ste. Marie, June 19, 4-6:30 p.m., Ann Pollman, LPN, CHT 632-5210.

Rabies shots for cats and dogs are free. Other shots and medicines available are:

Cats — Distemper: \$14 (includes: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia and chlamydia); feline leukemia: \$14; Front Line: \$35/box of three.

Dogs — Distemper: \$25 (includes: distemper, hepatitis/adenovirus type 2, parainfluenza, leptospirosis, parvovirus and coronavirus); bordatella: \$14; Lyme disease: \$14; Front Line (0-22lbs): \$38/box of three; Front Line (23-44lbs): \$41/box of three; Front Line (45-88lbs): \$43/box of three; Front Line (89-132lbs): \$45/box of three.

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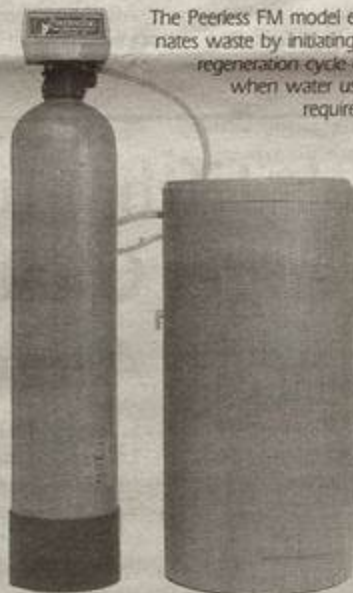
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Father-Daughter Dance announced for June 15

In honor of Father's Day and Men's Health Month this June, Sault Tribe Public Awareness is planning a father-daughter dance. The event is scheduled for Friday, June 15, at the Chi Mukwa Recreation Center at 2 Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie. The dance is a community event that is open to anyone.

Several programs have helped plan for the success of the dance: ACFS Fundraising Committee, Sault Tribe Housing, Sault Tribe Community Education, Sault Tribe Head Start, Chi-Mukwa Recreation Center, Youth Education and Activities and the Maagweijig volunteer program. Please feel welcome to join the opportunity for fathers and daughters to enjoy an evening together.

For more information, contact Julie at Anishnabek Community and Family Services (906) 632-5250.

ACFS Notice

ACFS is applying for funds from the Department of Agriculture Rural Development for Housing Preservation Grants (HPG). Funds would be used for home improvement for tribal members living within the seven-county service area. HPG requires following the HUD low-income guidelines which can be found at USDA Rural Development offices.

Funds could be used independently for projects or be combined with funding from Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Indian Health Services to provide a variety of home improvements for energy efficiency, weatherization, home safety,

handicap accessibility, hazards, overcrowding, sanitation and so forth. *Funding from sources other than the HPG have more restricted income guidelines based on poverty level, which could limit services.*

Rural Development requires a public notice for the pre-application of the Housing Preservation Grants to allow community members to comment on the intended statement of activities.

At this time, there is no announcement for funds.

If you are interested in more information about the Housing Preservation Grant application that ACFS has submitted, contact Julie Menard or Kelly Smart at ACFS, (906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

Tribe's fifth annual Scavenger Challenge coming in August

FROM SAULT TRIBE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER

A "Survivor" themed fifth annual Scavenger Challenge is planned by the tribe's Advocacy Resource Center staff, who tentatively scheduled the event to occur on Aug. 24, 2007.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Tahquamenon Room of Kewadin Casino in the Sault, with the race to follow at 6:30 p.m.

"This year, we are adding a 'Survivor' theme, incentives for advance ticket purchases and we are holding the Scavenger Challenge much earlier than last year," said Lori Jump, Advocacy Resource Center program manager.

She explained that, like the popular television series, participants will be offered an immunity idol that will exempt them from a challenge of their choice. For example, food challenges are, by design, horrible in taste. The idol could be used to bypass that particular event.

The immunity idols will be hidden somewhere in our community. To find the idol, a number of clues will be given to participants depending on how early they register. Tentatively, participants who register three weeks

in advance will receive three clues. Likewise, registering two weeks in advance will garner two clues and one week in advance one clue.

"We'll still offer participants the option to 'buy out' of challenges they simply don't want to do or cannot do," added Jump. "We're also holding the event earlier in the year to ensure water challenges are more fun to do."

Last, but surely not least, staff is considering upping the cash prize amounts. Last year, winners took home \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place.

"We are celebrating our fifth annual Scavenger Hunt," concluded Jump. "It's going to be bigger, better and more fun than ever."

Advance tickets will be \$25 for a team of two, which includes entry into the after challenge party and \$20 in Kewadin tokens. Tickets at the door will be \$35.

All proceeds benefit the Women's Lodge, also known as the Advocacy Resource Center for Victims of Crime. Contact the ACFS Advocacy Resource Center at 632-1808 or 1-877-639-7820.

Selecting a babysitter is an important responsibility

BY ACFS STAFF

As a parent it is your responsibility to know to whom you are entrusting your children. You need to know you can depend on these individuals to give the best possible care. After all, children are the single most important gift in our lives and nothing is more important than their safety and well being. As parents, we cannot always be around to look after them.

Whether it's for a few hours, or on a regular basis, finding the right daycare or babysitter can be a difficult task. Finding a qualified babysitter requires time and effort, but your reward is assurance that your child is in capable hands.

There are steps you can take to ensure your children are well cared for. The recommendations of people you know and trust are your best bet for finding a reliable and capable babysitter. Interviewing prospective sitters and checking their references will help you narrow down your sitter choices. You want to find out about their experience caring for children and the bottom line is, a babysitter needs to be



responsible, patient and level-headed.

Check references and be prepared with specific questions such as:

"Did the sitter arrive on time?"

"Have they ever failed to come?"

"How did the sitter handle stressful situations? Discipline?"

"How did the children feel about the sitter?"

All these questions will help you make an informed choice about how reliable and responsible your potential sitter may be.

If you are considering a daycare center, ask about the child-to-staff ratio, what type of activities are planned and, if possible, observe the caregiver

with your child or other children.

Always make sure that the sitter has a safety plan for emergency situations and leave telephone numbers where you can be reached and emergency numbers. Before you walk out the door, prepare the sitter with the following information: General house rules; where you will be and how to reach you at all times; what to do in an emergency; and an emergency phone list.

Let the sitter know of any special problems your child may have, such as allergies or the need for medication. Show the sitter where first-aid items are kept. Let your sitter know your child care expectations before you leave your home and don't hesitate to discuss restrictions.

Ask your children how they spent their day and take the time to get to know your childcare provider.

The right babysitter or daycare can provide safety for children and a sense of security for parents.



Photos from ACFS

HAPPY MEMORIES — Above, Mike Pins and Bob Marchand (L-R), from the Sault Tribe Police, were the first to win the event in 2003. Below, 2006 entries found themselves making barnyard friends at Candace Blocher's farm.



Youth Education and Activities unit updates



Children and adults enjoyed a drum-making workshop held April 14 in DeTour Village. Tony Grondin from St. Ignace taught the class and incorporated traditional teachings into the all-day workshop. Different families from DeTour Village and Drummond Island made a total of 10 hand drums. Tony makes the drum rings by hand from cedar and processes deer hides himself to make the drum skins. Above, George Leonard helps Jake Dudeck in stringing the rawhide through the drumhead.

Submitted by Lisa Burnside



The Manistique tribal youth council held a drawing contest with some of the art students in Ms. Mulligan's class on "Don't be a Victim of Drugs and Alcohol." From left, Patty Teeple with winners, Colt Walter, Travis Wood, Kelly Aldrich and Janet Krueger Title VII coordinator for Manistique High School.

Hurry and sign up today!

SUBMITTED BY PATTY TEEPLES, YOUTH SERVICE COORDINATOR, UNIT IV MANISTIQUE

The Anishinabe Nimmki Tribal Youth Council did a survey, sixth to twelfth graders at Manistique High School on "Don't be a Victim of Drugs and Alcohol." The results are unbelievable and it's quite the eye opener. Of 82 sixth graders, 27 surveyed, three have used alcohol.

Of 85 seventh graders, 20 surveyed, nine have used alcohol.

Of 101 eighth graders, 22 surveyed, 10 have drunk alcohol, three have used street drugs.

Of 94 ninth graders, 76 surveyed, 21 have smoked marijuana, 53 have drunk alcohol and 26 have used street drugs.

Of 71 tenth graders, 57 surveyed, 14 have smoked marijuana, 34 have drunk alcohol, 11 have used street drugs.

Of 89 eleventh graders, 28 surveyed, 13 have smoked marijuana, 21 have drunk alcohol, seven have used street drugs.

Of 73 twelfth graders, 33 surveyed, seven have smoked marijuana, 24 have drunk alcohol, two have used street drugs.

The tribal youth council, Title VII coordinator Janet Krueger and myself, spent the lunch hours on May 21 letting the students know about the results. They passed out candy bars, with the result on them along with an 800 phone number for teens who need help.

I could tell on the looks of some of the students faces that they were surprised to see how bad it is here. I hope this survey will make a difference now that they all know the results. Our youth need to be doing better things.

The tribal youth council also held a drawing contest with some of the art students in Ms. Mulligan's class on "Don't be a Victim of Drugs and Alcohol." The winners are pictured above.

The Anishinabe Nimmki Tribal Youth Council would like to thank Ms. Mulligan for all her help.

This is our last week of school, "The Hang Out Zone" hours will

be from 11-3 Monday-Fridays.

For a schedule of activities or more information, call us at (906) 341-3362

For the Circle of Life Program, call by June 15, the spots are filling up fast.

SUBMITTED BY TIM HALLER, KINROSS YOUTH SERVICE COORDINATOR

The Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities Circle of Life Summer Recreation Program in Kinross runs from July 5 to Aug. 5, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fun activities, crafts, field trips, camping and traditional teachings are offered.

You may pick up your permission slip from Tim Haller at the Kinross Recreation Center.

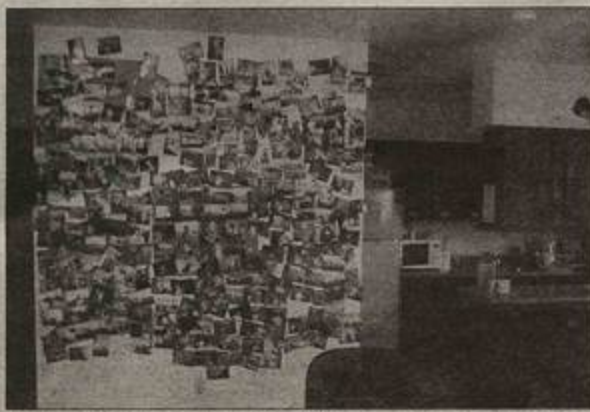
Ten spaces are available, first come, first served.

Your permission slip must be signed by a parent or guardian in order to participate.

For questions call (906) 495-1082.

Friends of Anishinaabe Youth BY PAT BISSELL

Teens looking for a great place to hang out this summer will want to spend some time at the youth drop-in center at the Shedawin Building at 2154 Shunk Road. There are always lots of things to do at "The Shed", like shooting some hoops, playing football, crafts, computers, Frisbees, food and fun.



The wall of pictures, just off the kitchen at "The Shed" sports memories of all the kids who hang out there.

The drop-in center is a great place where teens can go to hang out, socialize and play. It's a safe place where they can help themselves to free nutritious food, have some good clean fun and stay out of trouble. There is only one rule in "The Shed," and that is respect. Respect is the one simple rule that covers everything, yet gets broken most often. We are trying to teach the children to appreciate that this is their special place and to respect it as well as the adults who give of their time and energy for them.

When young people walk in the door, they are greeted by volunteer Sharon Downs, who, like a nurturing family member, asks them how their day was and what they want to eat. She knows them all and her friendly chatting with them makes it obvious that she cares. The first thing they usually do is look around to see who else is there, then they use the bathroom, raid the refrigerator, sit down and phone a friend, turn on the radio or the TV to play the X-Box, and most importantly, socialize. It's a home away from home with a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere that reminds me of a lived in family room.

The program began over a year ago as a group-mentoring center. A grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, an okay from Chairperson Aaron Payment to use the empty space at "The Shed," and dedication and time devoted by many caring adults all contributed to making this center a fun, safe haven for our youth. Tribal entities and concerned and generous volunteers are now supporting it.

We are currently outfitting a game room with some computers networked together for multiplayer games. JKL Bahweting School and the tribe's Youth Education and Activities program donated the PCs. We can conduct media training sessions and, if there is enough interest, we will organize LAN game parties. If you have any suggestions of good software, please let us know.

The focus of Friends of Anishinaabe Youth has always been on mentoring. If you have time you could spend with youth, or a skill you would like to share, we encourage you to become a mentor. For more information and current hours of operation, contact Youth Education and Activities at (906) 635-7010.

Kids at the center
At the Tribal Center kids are having fun learning, sharing, and playing. The kids play connect-four and checkers. They play all sorts of games. When they go home they ride the bus. The bus rules are...

No Fighting
Buckle up
No Food
No Drinks
No Shouting
Leave your hands to yourself

They come to the center on Tuesdays after school. They leave at 5:00. The kids enjoy it at the center. Kids from K-3 are aloud to come. They have snack before they start or after they start.

Daeshawna Nye 9 3rd
March 27th 2007 grade
cedarville school

SUBMITTED BY KELLY CONSTANTINO

In Escanaba, we have such great youth with whom to spend our time. We not only get to work in the culture, craft and education areas we also enjoy our time we spend with every one of them. They are all little blessings from our Creator and we are so blessed to have been chosen to spend our days with them.

We have had another wonderful month. It is always nice to see new faces. Our doors are open to all and we would love to have you come in and join us. Mother's Day was a huge success. We made cards and the children made stepping stones for their moms and decorated them. Great job girls and boys. We are so proud of each and every one of you.

Our Hang Out Zone includes home work, computer lab, educational games, culture and crafts and so much more. Our students

have been bringing in their homework and we are here to assist them in any way we can.

The Circle of Life Program will start soon and we are so excited. There is no cost to be in the program. The program runs July 6 to Aug. 5 for Sault Tribe members aged 10 years to high school seniors. The participants in the program will be given the unique opportunity to learn more about the medicine wheel including the four directions, the four seasons and the four sacred medicines, all while having a fun time! The summer program includes camping trips, day trips, environmental lessons, hiking, computer games, dance clothing lessons, nutrition activities, swimming and so much more. Space is limited so please register now.

For more information, please call Kelly Constantino at (906) 789-0976, or (906) 322-0832, or kconstantino@saulttribe.net.

First class entertainers in your own backyard

From the 1,500-seat DreamMakers Theater in Sault Ste. Marie or the 30,000 square foot entertainment area in St. Ignace to the smaller entertainment venues, there is something for everyone when it comes to top notch entertainment at Kewadin Casinos. In addition to the larger venues, Kewadin offers three lounge areas featuring entertainment, the Rapids Lounge in Sault Ste. Marie, the Northern Pines Lounge in St. Ignace and the Team Spirits Bar in Manistique. Call the box office today at 800-539-2346 or visit Kewadin.com to purchase tickets for these great coming entertainers:

June 1: Montgomery Gentry performing at DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$45.

June 19: CCR performing at DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$35.

June 25: Weird Al Yankovic performing at DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$26.50.

June 30: Night Ranger & Survivor outdoor performance in St. Ignace beginning at 8 p.m. Ticket price is \$32.50.

July 6: Rick Springfield performing at DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$35.

July 11: Engelburt Humperdinck performing at the St. Ignace casino. Ticket price is \$42.50.

July 20: KISS outdoor performance in Sault Ste. Marie. At 9 p.m. Ticket price is \$100 reserved and \$75 general.

August 10: Travis Tritt performing at DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$34.

September 3: Scorpions performing at DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$35 and go on sale May 29.

Good news from...



WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY MICHELLE BOUSCHOR

June events bring cash and prizes to guests

Looking to spice up your summer? Then visit any of the Kewadin Casinos during the month of June for a chance to win more cash and prizes than ever! Kewadin Casinos in Manistique is celebrating their 13th Anniversary on June 9. Don't miss the celebration!

Visit Kewadin Manistique or Christmas during the month of June for a chance to win a Ford Mustang! One car will be given away at each site on July 7. Customers can earn entries multiple ways beginning June 2.

Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Hessel would like to give you a new grill to start your summer season off right! Earn entries into the drawing June

1 through July 4 by earning 21 points on a Northern Rewards Club card. There will be weekly random drawings for all-in-one picnic baskets with the grand prize barbeque grill drawings on July 4 at 9 p.m.

And if you still need more June excitement, stop in Kewadin St. Ignace June 29-30 for the annual antique car show weekend. After spending a day admiring hundreds of the world's most fascinating antique cars in downtown St. Ignace, enjoy a fulfilled evening at our new St. Ignace casino!

For more information on how to register for the above promotions, visit Kewadin.com or call 1-800-KEWADIN.

Kewadin tournaments are the best in the business

All five Kewadin locations offer a variety of tournaments including slots, craps, video poker, keno and blackjack. Annually, nearly \$200,000 is paid out in tournament winnings.

Prices for each tournament vary. Participants can register for tournaments at all casinos on the first day of the month, one month prior to the month of the tournament date. Tournament packages include lodging, gold tokens, a registration reception, meals, tournament gift, cash coin package and a chance to win a free tournament entry. To register for any Kewadin Casino tournament, call 1-800-KEWADIN.



Winners from Kewadin Christmas \$15,000 video poker tournament in May

Kewadin Casinos honor five team members for 2006

Hard working, dedicated, successful, understanding, knowledgeable, accurate and exceeding expectations are just some of the words used to describe Kewadin Casinos 2006 Team Member of the Year. The team members chosen to receive this award each received a personal plaque, \$100, entertainment tickets, dinner and a hotel stay along with a plaque that is located in each casino. Winners for the Christmas and Manistique sites have not yet been released.

ST. IGNACE TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Congratulations to Jim Green for being chosen as the Team Member of the Year at Kewadin St. Ignace!

Jim has been working with Kewadin for three years in the Maintenance department. During this time, he has received praise for his knowledge in the field and creative solutions.

In Jim's spare time, he watches the Detroit Tigers play and loves to golf. Congratulations Jim, keep up the great work!

SAULT STE. MARIE TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

At a ceremony in the Upper Deck Cafeteria, Vicki Quinn was named Kewadin Casino Sault Site Team Member of the Year.

Vicki has been working in the cafeteria for the last three years and is considered one of the best customer service givers by management and team members alike.

While her mother, Ruth McCoy, and son, Ken Quinn, proudly looked on, Robert Captain, Upper Deck manager said, "She consistently goes above and beyond what is expected on a daily basis. Vicki is always friendly with customers and can be counted on to work extra shifts, even on her days off."

"I am so surprised!" Quinn said. "I had no idea I was even in the running for this! Thank you so much."

HESEL TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Hessel's Melissa Andress received the 2006 Team Member of the Year award. Melissa started working with Hessel in 2004 in



At a ceremony in the Upper Deck Cafeteria on Monday, March 19, Vicki Quinn was named Sault Kewadin Casino Team Member of the Year. She is shown here with her supervisor, Robert Captain and Food and Beverage Director, Janice Frye.



Hessel Team Member of the Year Annette Andress, center, with her sister, Melissa, left, and mother Cora Andress, right.



Congratulations to Jim Green (center) for being chosen as the Team Member of the Year at Kewadin St. Ignace!

the slot department. Her team members describe her as very outgoing, with a positive attitude and fun to work with. By the customers, she is described as happy and always on the go. She can be very helpful to other departments as she is often seen cleaning the gaming floor by picking up glasses and emptying ash trays. Along with being a hard worker you can count on her upbeat attitude when

on and off the clock. "Melissa is consistently doing more than what is expected and has a great work ethic," said Tel Fox, casino manager.

According to team members, when you first meet Melissa, you get the impression she is shy and quiet. But, she is also known to everyone in Hessel as the Wild and Crazy Karaoke Singer. Congratulations Melissa!



January Sault Ste. Marie \$15,000 slot tournament participants.

To register for any Kewadin Casino tournament call 1-800-KEWADIN.

Billy Mills Fun Run & Walk coming soon

The Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center has scheduled this year's race on Saturday, July 28. Facility staff are hopeful that Billy Mills will return to the Sault for this year's race.

At the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, in a stunning come-from-behind victory, Billy Mills became the first, and is still the only, American ever to win the 10,000-meter run. He also set a world record in the six-mile run that same year. Since then, he has been elected into four halls of fame. These successful achievements are what many people associate the name Billy Mills with, but his accomplishments do not stop with the acquisition of an Olympic Gold Medal.

The race begins at 8 a.m. with the youth one-mile and tot trot. Following at 9 a.m. sharp are both the 5K run and walk and the 10K competition.

This year's race will include

Tribal Youth Development Fund criteria

Tribal youth may request funding for a variety of purposes to be expended outside of tribal programming, including:

- Sport fees (registration, equipment, shoes).
 - Music, dance and theatre lessons.
 - Instrument purchases and rental.
 - Language lessons.
 - Camps (sports, band, art, academic) and related travel fees.
 - Educational, cultural and class trips.
 - Testing fees.
 - Driver's education.
 - Senior pictures.
 - School supplies and book deposits (school clothes not included).
 - Regalia and youth drum.
- Applicant qualifications:
- Must be a tribe member newborn to twelfth grade living within the seven-county service area. (Seven county service area is Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette and Schoolcraft counties).
 - Applicants may receive fund-

a flat and winding 5K run/walk course through the reservation housing complex, while the 10K will continue after that beyond Shunk Road. The one-mile youth run for ages six to 12 will run from the facility past the powwow grounds and back, and a short tot trot for youth five and under will take place on the east side of the building. Free T-shirts are available for the first 150 to register.

Awards will be presented to the top male and female in the 5K and 10K runs. Awards will also be presented for both youth races. Plaques will also be given to the male and female winners in the master's category (runners over age 40). Entry fees for the 5K run/walk and the 10K run are \$10 before July 20, and \$15 thereafter. Registration for the youth one-mile is \$5 and tot trot is \$2. For more information call Tammy Graham at (906) 635-4758.

ing, up to \$150 once per academic year (Aug. 1-July 31).

- Qualifying categories for funding are based on tribal strategic directions of medicine wheel: academic/intellectual, physical, emotional and cultural/spiritual.
 - Applicant requirements:
 - Applicant must submit current copy of tribal membership card with application.
 - Applicant must submit copy of invoice, registration, brochure/literature with organization's name and costs or receipt of payment with application. (Check will be made payable to the organization, unless receipt of payment is provided.)
 - Applicant must submit proof of household income (recent check stub, tax forms, W-2, etc.).
 - Income guidelines are based on 300 percent of the 2007 HHS poverty guidelines.
- Applications available at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or by calling Jessica Dumbach at (800) 588-7465 or (906) 635-7770.

Calling All Sault Tribe Families!

You are needed to represent the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians at the

20th Annual Michigan Indian FAMILY OLYMPICS

Friday, July 20th
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Gather your family members of all ages and show off your athletic ability in such events as the Baby Crawl, Jump Rope, Football and Softball Throw, 50M Run, 100M Run, Team Relays, Team Tug of War and *much MUCH more!*

The first 75 participants to return completed packets will receive:

- * Motor Coach Transportation to and from Mt. Pleasant
(we will be leaving the afternoon of July 19th, returning on July 20th)
- * Overnight accommodation in Mt. Pleasant on July 19th
- * Registration Fees
- * Team T-shirt
- * Dinner provided both nights, Continental Breakfast, Lunch while at Games

Ages 0 to 100+ eligible to participate

All Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Please Contact:

Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center
Attn: Rex Marchinski
2 Ice Circle Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-RINK
rmarchinski@saulttribe.net

2006 Michigan Indian Family Olympics



Sault Tribe participants in the 2006 Michigan Indian Family Olympics.

Free Laker camps

Limited space available
for Sault Tribe youth

Girls Volleyball Camp
June 11-13, entering grades 8-12

Boys Basketball Camp
TBA

Girls Basketball Camp
July 16-19, entering grades 4-12
Monday - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

To register, call Jessica at (906) 635-7770.

SUMMER REC 2007
A Bear Necessity
Licensed Child
Care Program
Ages 6-12

Activities include: Sports, Arts & Crafts,
Ice Skating, Water Activities, Field Trips
Weekly Themed Activities

June 18 - August 24

Camp Bear Cub
MONDAY-FRIDAY
8:00-12:00pm

Camp Grizzly
MONDAY-FRIDAY
1:00-5:00 pm

SUPERVISION PROVIDED FROM
12-1 PM for participants enrolled
in both the AM and PM programs

Limited space is
still available for
AM and PM
Sessions. First
Come, First Served

Enrollment Information:
Camp Bear Cub - \$300
Camp Grizzly - \$300

Tribal Member and Family
Discounts available

SUMMER SPECIAL

Enroll in both the Bear Cub and
Grizzly camps for a flat rate of
\$500 per child or \$425 per
Sault Tribe Member

Credit card and payroll deduct payments are available!!!

Community Members
only pay \$1.15 an hour
for care!

Tribal members only
pay \$0.94 an hour
for care!

Income Assistance
Available through
DHS or CCDF

Please contact Christina Wilkins at 906-635-4777 for more details.

Behavioral Health Program accredited by CARF

On April 1, 2006, the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health program was placed under the auspices of the Sault Tribe Health Division by tribal administration.

At that time, the program had begun a rigorous improvement process to become nationally accredited.

The process for accreditation preparation can be difficult and extremely time consuming and may take many months, even years, for programs to achieve a substantial level of standard compliance prior to applying for survey.

During the difficult preparatory process, the Behavioral Health program's number one priority remained client care.

The process mandates a large commitment and a lot of hard work which included many extra hours from all staff to be ready for the survey process.

In July of 2006, the program formally applied to be surveyed by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, best known as CARF.

The survey date was set at March 7-9, 2007, the survey lasted for two and a half days and visited various facilities to examine continuity and quality of care

issues across the organization and to interview staff and clients.

The survey team consisted of two surveyors who were very active surveyors and still active in the behavioral health field with numerous years of experience.

Finally, the official results are in and the Health Division's Behavioral Health Program has been awarded a full three year accreditation from CARF.

This was the first accreditation that the international accrediting commission has awarded to Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Program.

CARF is an independent, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote quality, value and optimal clinical outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served.

Founded in 1966, CARF establishes consumer focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

This accreditation outcome is awarded only to organizations that demonstrate persons served are benefiting from the services.

An organization that receives a three year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an "on site" visit that it is committed to conforming to CARF's international set of conditions and standards.

Further, an organization accredited for three years shows substantial compliance to CARF's standards and it is to be commended in its quest for quality.

Survey highlights

Throughout the arduous survey process the survey team noted numerous strengths of the Sault Tribe Behavioral Program, some of the strengths noted in the survey report are summarized below:

- Staff members are motivated, soulful, and passionate in providing services.

- Persons served take pride in the culturally relevant services provided and the vast differences the program has made in their lives.

- The heart of the organization is reflected in its mission, which is to provide holistic care by addressing mind, body and spirit using education, empowerment and healing that strengthen American Indian ways.

- The organization provides excellent culturally based behavioral health services in seven counties in the Upper Peninsula. Both leadership and staff members provide a spiritually based program that includes alternative/traditional healing and western behavioral health practices.

- The tribal council, Health Division and department administrators and management have a strong commitment to providing high quality integrated services to Native populations in the service

area.

- Administrative leadership is dedicated to meeting CARF standards, advocating for the accreditation process as a guideline for the services provided.

- The organization has expanded its service delivery into several community and medical sites to provide additional access to the

rural populations.

- There is evidence of team work, mutual respect, cooperation, and open communication demonstrated throughout the organization. This is especially evident since its recent merger with the tribal Health Division.

CHS supplemental health program works

TINA FOX,
CHS UTILIZATION MANAGER

We just wanted to give the membership an update on how the changes implemented to Contract Health Services (CHS) with the addition of the Supplemental Health Program Jan. 1, 2007, has fared. As you know, a task force was assembled with members from CHS, the Health Division administrative team and the Health Committee who worked with the tribal board to bring about changes to CHS that allow us to meet the needs of our neediest members.

For the first six months of this fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2006, to March 31, 2007, we have used just slightly under 50 percent of the combined budgets of CHS and our Supplemental Health Program budgets and are not over spent at this time. In comparison to last year for the same time period, we had already spent 70 percent of the entire CHS and tribal support budgets with six months to go. We were projecting to be over budget last year about \$800,000 at this time of the year.

We want to thank you, the

membership for your patience and assistance as we have implemented these changes.

Thanks to you for using our tribal health clinics and the many services provided such as provider visits, lab, X-ray, ultrasound, mammography, diabetic and nutrition counseling, dental, optical and pharmacy to name a few.

CHS's highest expense has always been in pharmacy. We appreciate all who are using the pharmacies at our tribal health clinics.

Your help in using prescriptions we carry on our drug formulary saves CHS dollars to purchase the needed Priority 1A medications that are unavailable. We appreciate all the members who are able to afford health insurance. You have saved CHS dollars by having a primary insurance to bill before CHS. This has saved dollars for our neediest members who cannot afford, or who are not offered, health insurance. If you should have any questions regarding the changes in CHS or would like more information, please contact CHS at (906) 632-5220, or (800) 922-0582.

T-shirts
Native designs
from the E.U.P.



rapidpilot.com
credit cards accepted

COMING MICHIGAN POWWOWS

June 16-17: Sault Tribe Manistique Area Powwow, Manistique Tribal Center, highway US-2, Manistique, Mich. Free of charge. For more information, call (800) 347-7137.

June 16-17: 8th annual Riverbank Traditional Powwow, Louis Adado Riverfront Park, Lansing, Mich. For more information, e-mail www.riverbankpowwow.org.

June 16-17: 14th Two Worlds Lodge Spring Gathering Traditional Powwow, Finkbeiner Farm, Reed City, Mich. For more information, contact (218) 924-4018 or (231) 832-5584.

June 16-17: Place of our Ancestors Traditional Powwow, Showboat Park, Chesaning, Mich. Information, call (800) 255-3055.



Join Team Greektown ...

Greektown Casino Job Openings:

Assistant Engineering Manager, Full-Time • Barback, Part-Time • Cocktail Server, Part-Time
Cook I • Director of Food & Beverage, Full-Time • Emergency Medical Technician, Full-Time
EVS Attendant, Part-Time • Food Cart Attendant, Part-Time • Sous Chef, Full-Time
Surveillance Operator Trainee, Full-Time • Systems Engineer, Full-Time • Valet Attendant, Part-Time



Current vacancies are subject to change.

For up-to-date listings visit our
Web site at www.greektowncasino.com
or call 1-888-771-4386

Sign up for Little Learners free summer program

Little Learners Summer Program is a free summer program running from July 16-Aug. 15 for members of the Sault Tribe between first and fourth grades.

The program runs Monday through Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and is available to the first 15 children who sign up! Limited transportation is available within the Sault Ste. Marie city limits to the first 12 who request it.

The participants in the Little Learners Summer Program will be given the unique opportunity to learn more about the medicine wheel, traditional language, traditional medicines, traditional crafts, storytelling, traditional music,

dancing and regalia all while having a fun time.

The summer program includes environmental teachings, hiking, computer games, regalia teachings, nutrition activities, swimming and so many fun activities we can't even list them all. We have activities to interest anyone and everyone. Have your children learn more about their culture and have an amazing summer all at the same time.

For more information please call Laura Porterfield or Merran Behling at (906) 635-7010 ext. 52202 or e-mail at Lporterfield@saulttribe.net. Hurry and sign up today!

GRAND OPENING

Soo Boat Works

June 8th from 3-7pm

Ribbon Cutting at 4:00

June 9th from 12-3pm

Boat Wash/Car Wash Sat. from 11-4pm

Given by Soo High Pom Pom girls.

The cost is by donation, all proceeds go to squad.

Coast Guard inspections from 1-4pm.

Refreshments Served

1160 E. Portage Ave. (906)632-8112

Prevention, detection, treatment are the weapons women have in the battle against breast cancer

By Amanda Leonard,
Sault Tribe Health Center
Kinoownaakwe

Second only to lung cancer, breast cancer ranks as one of the leading causes of cancer related deaths for women in the United States, how unfortunate.

So what are our options as women; to take control, change the statistics, and fight the battle that one out of every eight women will experience at some point in their lives. Our options are simple, they are proven and they are obtainable. Prevention, detection and early treatment are the weapons women have in the battle to overcome breast cancer through breast wellness.

Prevention begins by recognizing the risk factors one may have for developing breast cancer and making the appropriate life choices to reduce these risks as much as possible. So what are the risk

factors for developing breast cancer? First and foremost, being a woman and growing older are the leading risks for developing cancer. Unfortunately, these are also risks we are unable to change. Other risks, such as a family history of breast cancer, previous personal history of breast cancer, early first moon/menarche, late menopause and hormone replacement therapy also attribute to the risks of developing breast cancer.

Some risk factors that may possibly increase one's chances of developing breast cancer are life style behaviors such as poor nutrition, alcohol and tobacco abuse, lack of physical exercise, and lack of breast feeding. Here is where prevention comes into play, by making positive lifestyle choices like eating healthfully, avoiding alcohol and tobacco abuse, increasing physical exercise and choosing to breastfeed, a woman

may decrease her risk of developing breast cancer.

The second weapon that I encourage each and every woman to grasp is detection. Knowing your body, becoming familiar with your breasts and receiving the necessary screenings appropriate for your age is detection. It is recommended that women do a breast self exam once a month. This helps a woman become familiar with how her breasts normally look and feel. Doing self exams gives a woman an advantage — to detect potential problems early. A good breast exam involves looking at your breasts, feeling your breasts and reporting changes to your health care provider.

The next components involved with detection are screenings, such as clinical breast exams and mammograms. Starting at age 20 and continuing on throughout

life, a woman should receive a clinical breast exam yearly from her health care provider. This is an opportune time to discuss with your provider any concerns about your breasts. You may even want to show your provider how you do your breast self exams to ensure proper technique. Women without a family history of breast cancer should begin annual mammograms at age 40. If a woman has a family history of breast cancer, then a screening mammogram should begin 10 years earlier than the age the breast cancer was detected. For instance, if your mother was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 40, then you should begin screening mammograms by age 30. These detecting measures are simple, proven, and obtainable.

The next step in fighting breast cancer is early treatment.

Receiving early treatment is beneficial in the fight to overcoming breast cancer. Each individual's journey through breast cancer will be unique. This is also true when it comes to treatment. Your provider will inform you of various treatment options available, and individualize your treatment needs. The earlier you begin your treatment the more likely you are to have a positive outcome.

With options like prevention, detection and early treatment, women can stand together, take control, change statistics and win the battle between breast cancer and breast wellness. Join the army of breast wellness women; it's simple, proven and obtainable.

Make the commitment to yourself, to be healthy and prevent, to make time to detect and to face breast cancer with courage and early treatment.

Bohlen urges, "Tell your story!"

By Rick Smith

Stacey Bohlen is a Sault Tribe member and the executive director of the National Indian Health Board, a non profit advocate agency based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to obtaining quality health care for American Indians.

Bohlen recently spelled out for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors the role our tribal government and tribe members must play in order to relieve the deplorable state of American Indian health care provided through guarantees of the U.S. government.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) only gets about 60 percent of needed funding to distribute to its 12 geographic areas. Sault Tribe is supported by the IHS Bimidi Area Office in Minnesota. According to the IHS, the Bimidi office provides health care and funding to American Indians in five states with tribal facilities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana; and urban centers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois. Currently, there are 34 federally recognized tribes in the Bimidi geographical area, with more tribes seeking recognition by the federal government.

The total population served by the Bemidji Area IHS exceeds 90,000 individual patients. The population is based on the official 2001 Headquarters User Population data of federally recognized Indians who use IHS services.

Bohlen said the Bimidi office generally receives about 37 percent of the funds it needs to adequately support tribal health services in its area of responsibility.

"Tell your story," she told them. "We are a nation of storytellers and we don't do that in Washington, D.C. Communicate, tell them your story." Bohlen indicated the tribal government as well as members should build relationships with their U.S. Congressional and Senate representatives to demand the U.S. government honor its guarantees to American Indian nations.

Bohlen indicated tribes must also become active on the national level by working with American Indian organizations such as the National Indian Health Board, the National Congress of American Indians and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. "Bring your voice to the national

arena," she said. "We are many tribes, but we must speak with one voice. It's not enough to expect to be heard, we have to expect to win. Refuse to be invisible."

Other ideas Bohlen mentioned included preparing youth to take up the causes of Indian Country by means such as developing government courses for tribe members in high school and internship programs for congressional offices, national American Indian organizations and federal agencies.

It would be a tremendous asset for a tribe to develop a strong grassroots network that can be activated whenever the need arises, Bohlen added.

The board learned that the U.S. Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort is currently making a goodwill tour providing medical services to countries in South America at a cost of \$1 billion.

"We cannot accept this perpetual miraculous finding of funding for everyone's health care but ours," Bohlen said.

More information about the National Indian Health Board can be found at www.nihb.org.

Speak up for safety

By Anne Stadler, War Memorial Hospital
Community Relations

This is the second in a series of articles designed to promote patient safety, sponsored by War Memorial Hospital, and focuses on paying attention to your care.

There are four things you can do to prevent infection.

The first is to make sure your own hands are clean. Use soap and water and rub your hands for at least 15 seconds. It helps to count off to yourself. Clean your hands before eating, after you use the bathroom, take out trash, change a diaper, play with a pet or visit someone who is ill.

Make sure that your health care provider cleans their hands and wears gloves. Your provider comes in contact with a lot of bacteria and viruses. Don't be afraid to remind them to wear gloves.

Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough. Germs can travel three feet or more. Use a tissue, throw it away and wash your hands.

If you are sick, avoid contact with others. Stay home from school or work. When you go for medical treatment, avoid others in the waiting room.

There are many communicable diseases which are easily spread, including pneumonia, chicken pox, whooping cough and strep throat. Preventing infections involves a proactive approach.

The best way to prevent medication mistakes is to educate yourself about your medications and the names of them, possible side effects and why you are taking them.

At the doctor's office and pharmacy, have a list of your medications with you. If a new medication is prescribed, remind your healthcare provider about

current medications, allergies and any negative reactions you have had in the past. Ask if it is okay to take a new medication with those you are already taking. Be sure to mention any over the counter medications you are taking, including vitamins, minerals or dietary supplements.

Read the label on your prescription and make sure it has your name on it, as well as the dosage and method of taking the medication, that is, with or without food, etc. Ask if it is safe to drink alcohol and if you're supposed to swallow or chew the medication. If the medication looks different than one you're currently taking, be sure to ask before taking it.

If you are in the hospital, make sure the doctor or nurse checks your wristband and asks your name before giving you a medication. If a new medication is given, ask about the reason and possible side effects. Don't be afraid to say, "I think this may be the wrong medication."

If you normally take a medication at a certain time and don't receive it, ask why. If you receive a new medication and don't feel well, tell your doctor or nurse immediately.

If you don't feel well enough to ask questions, ask a friend or relative to make sure you get the correct medications.

If you receive IV medications, read the contents of the bag or ask your advocate to do it for you.

Ask how long it will take for the IV to run out. Ask if it appears to be running too fast or too slow.

Before you leave the hospital, get a written list of the medications you should be taking and the manner in which you should be taking them.

Remember, all medication mistakes can be prevented by asking questions.

Employee Assistance Program Q&A

Submitted by Brandi MacArthur, Mental Health Services Clinical Administrative Secretary

What is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)?

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians values each one of their team members and they have made this program available to employees, at no cost, to help deal with personal problems that may be affecting job performance or overall well being. Each employee is offered up to three program sessions.

Is the program confidential?

It is completely confidential! It is also completely voluntary. That means that only the employee can initiate a contact to the program. No one, except for the EAP, will know you have contacted or used the program services. All information is strictly confidential. However, you may sign a consent to release information to allow for

communication with someone else such as for a referral to another service.

What kind of personal problems are addressed by working with the program?

Program counselors are available to help employees with concerns including health, marital/relationship, family, financial, alcohol, drug, legal, emotional, stress and grief.

Where are the services offered and who provides the EAP service?

The EAP services are offered by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Behavioral Health Staff. Staff are highly trained professionals and may be located at the following tribal facilities:

Sault Tribe Health Center,
Behavioral Health Program
2864 Ashmun Street,
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Lambert Health Center,
225 WaSeh Drive,
St. Ignace, Mich.

Munising Office,
622 W. Superior Street,
Munising, Mich.

American Indian Substance Abuse
1022 East Portage Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Manistique Health Center
5698 W. Highway US 2
Manistique, Mich.

How do I make an appointment with EAP or who do I call for more information?

Contact for all confidential inquiries and appointments is Jen Hentkowski at (906) 632 5200 ext. 23240. If Jen is not available be sure to include in your message that you are calling for EAP.

Charter Cable televises Sault Tribe general board meetings

Marquette & Alger Counties
6:30 to 11 p.m., Channel 8,
Fridays

Sault Ste. Marie
3 to 5 p.m., Channel 2,
Mondays and Thursdays

St. Ignace
9 a.m., Channel 12,
Mondays

Escanaba and Manistique
3 to 5 p.m., Channel 8,
Wednesdays

THEODORE LEASK

Theodore Leask, 82, of Crown Point, Ind., passed away Friday, April 27, 2007, after a lengthy, courageous battle against colon cancer. He died peacefully at St. Anthony Hospice surrounded by his family. Ted was born on September 5, 1924, in Sault Ste. Marie. He graduated from Sault Ste. Marie High School in 1942, served active duty in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946, and then graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1952. Upon graduation, he began a successful engineering career eventually establishing a partnership and operating the firm, Superior Engineering Corporation in Hammond, Ind., from where he retired in 1995. Ted was above all, a devoted family man, and enjoyed watching his children grow as individuals. He and Lorraine moved from Munster, Ind., to Lake of the Four Seasons in 1986 where they enjoyed country living. Ted enjoyed traveling with his children and grandchildren. Two years ago, he and Lorraine took the entire family on a cruise to the Gulf of Mexico to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Ted Leask was a member of the Knights of Columbus Monsignor Ryder Council, American Legion Crown Point Post, American Society of Civil Engineers and 75th Infantry Division - Veteran's



Association. He was also a member of Keenagers of Lakes of the Four Seasons and an elder member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Lorraine (nee Gernick); sisters, Lorraine Rutledge, Joyce McCoy, Carol Smith, Wilma Cairns and Gayle Belleau and brother Gordon, all of Sugar Island; daughters Patricia (Paul) Jefferys of Chillicothe, Ill., Barbara (Jim) Waters of Adrian, Mich., and Judi (David) Pikula of Naperville, Ill.; sons Dave (Kim) Leask of Munster, Ind., and Tom Leask of Hammond, Ind. Other survivors include grandchildren, Cody, Leah, Tyler, and Arielle Waters; AJ, Samantha and Jake Pikula; Nicholas (Tom Leask); and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ted was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Edgar Leask (1955), mother Bernice (McCoy) (1966), sister, Linda (1959), and brother Leo (Tuff) (1994).

A funeral service was held at Burns Funeral Home, with a mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church with Rev. David Gosnell officiating. Donations may be made to St. Anthony hospice, 203 Franciscan Drive, Crown Point, IN 46307, Share Foundation, or a charity of your choice.

LEE JOSEPH AUBE

Lee Joseph Aube, age 47, of Sault Ste. Marie, walked on Sunday morning, May 6, 2007. He was a Sault Tribe member who was born in Sault Ste. Marie. Lee was very proud of his heritage. Lee enjoyed fishing, hunting, carpentry, and home renovation.

He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, family and friends. Whenever Lee was around, he had a special way of making people smile. Lee was always there to help when his family needed him. He will be greatly missed. Lee is survived by his fiancée, Sarah Gardner; daughters, Jami Lee (Kevin) Parr, and Brandi L. (Frank Parr III) Aube; step-sons, Robert Payment and Michael (Meco) Gardner; and grandchildren, Steven Graper, Frank Parr IV, Thomas Parr, Seth Parr, and Alivia Parr. He is also survived by his mother, June Aube; sisters, Kim Aube, Jill Alexander, and Lynn (Gene) Wicks; mother-in-law, June Gardner; sister-in-law, Suzette (Rick) Plummer; brother-in-laws, Samuel (Tina) Gardner, Conrad Gardner, Daniel (Ronni) Gardner, William (Debra) Gardner; a very special friend, Mike Beaudoin; and other close friends, Ron (Irene) Franklin, Jan Aube, Randy Franklin, Rick Franklin, Raymond Franklin, and Ross Franklin. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nicole Lee Aube; his father, Albert Joseph Aube; father-in-law, Fred Gardner; brother-in-law, Rick Dadeau; and close friends, Rodney and Robert Franklin. Visitation will be held from 2 p.m. through the night on Wednesday, May 9, 2007; at 7 p.m. there will also be a prayer service and pipe ceremony at the Sault Tribe Niigaanagizhik Building (Cultural Center). Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 10, at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church with Brother John Hascall as celebrant. Burial was at Wilwalk

Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the family of Lee. Arrangements were handled by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home.

BEVERLY JEAN PERKINS

Beverly Jean Perkins of Clio, age 72, died Monday May 7, 2007 at McLaren Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 10, at the O'Guinn Family Funeral Home in Clio. Pastor Douglas Kennedy officiating with burial at Flint Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Beverly was born Nov. 4, 1934 in Flint to the late William and Roselyn (Keyser) Hudson. She was a resident of Clio since 1972. Beverly married Robert Perkins February 7, 1953 in Mt. Morris.

Surviving are: beloved husband, Robert; three children, daughter Vicky (Dale) Anderson of Clio, sons Don (Wendy) Perkins of Clio and Bob (Julie) Perkins of Flushing; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three sisters, Betty (Luke) Lucas of Mt. Morris, Madelon (Ted) Tolsen of Clio, Pat (Shorty) Robson of Clio; several nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Orville and Mervin Hudson and mother and father-in-law, Ethel and Newell Perkins.

O'Guinn Family Funeral



Homes, Clio Chapel helped the family.

CHARLES A. MASTAW

Charles A. Mastaw passed away in Dearborn, Mich., on May 18, 2007. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on March 29, 1932, to Alphonse and Agnes (Ford) Mastaw. Charlie enjoyed baseball, football, hockey, playing cards and spending time with his family and friends.

Surviving Charles Mastaw are his loving wife Mary of Detroit, Mich.; his sons, Steven Mastaw of St. Louis, Mich., Robert Mastaw of San Antonio, Texas, Robert James M. Wood of Detroit, Charles Joseph Mastaw of Melvindale, Mich., and William John Mastaw of Detroit; his daughter, Carol Anne Mastaw of Detroit; his grandchildren, Amy, Ian, Chicksa, Ashleigh, Billy, Chaz, Joey, Madison, Chris, Chelsea, Autumn, Hunter and Nolan; his brothers, Brian Mastaw of Northville, Mich., Gerald Mastaw of Port Huron, Mich., Richard Mastaw of Redford, Mich., Johnny Mastaw of Sault Ste. Marie, Franklin Mastaw of Wisconsin, and Daniel Mastaw of Sault Ste. Marie; his sisters, Elaine Faragher of Walled Lake, Mich., Terri Barr of Sault Ste. Marie, Patsy Cox of Jacksboro, Texas, Darlene Mastaw of Sault Ste. Marie, and Nancy Evans of Glen Allen, Ill.

Services were held at the Tribal Cultural Center with Brother John Haskell officiating, followed by burial at Sacred Heart. Memorials may be left to the Lion's Club of Michigan. Hovie Funeral Home made the arrangements.

Omega-3s from fish crucial from womb to tomb

By JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Including enough omega-3 fatty acids in our diet is key to fetal development in the womb and to lifelong health, researchers have determined. Including enough omega-3s in our diet provides relief for some conditions and prevents others.

Mothers pass omega-3 fatty acids on to their developing children during pregnancy and breastfeeding. As life goes on, omega-3s are needed for brain development and brain health, protection against cardiovascular disease, inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, as well as an array of health issues surrounding obesity, diabetes and even Alzheimer's. In fact, the American Heart Association recommends that adults with cardiovascular disease get a daily 1,000 mg dose of omega-3s.

Scientists have been studying the health benefits of omega-3s for some time, and have found a number of beneficial uses, such as stroke and heart attack prevention. They later found that omega-3s in the diet were important for those at risk for depression, arthritis, and Alzheimer's. At a recent symposium, scientists' findings show clear evidence that omega-3s are so important in the human diet, that lacking them can have an adverse effect on health. In fact, researchers at the symposium felt that the evidence presented is compelling enough for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make recommendations regarding omega-3 fatty

acids, arguing that omega-3 fatty acids are "important from womb to tomb."

What are Omega-3 fatty acids?

Most people have heard that saturated fats (red meat) and "transfats" (margarine) are unhealthy, causing a high cholesterol level that in turn heightens risk of heart attack. Also, most people have heard that polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats (olive oil) are good for our bodies.

Omega-3 fatty acids are essential polyunsaturated fatty acids that are used by the human body, but cannot be manufactured by the human body.

There are two basic kinds of omega-3s. One kind of omega-3 fatty acid is plant-based. Walnuts and flaxseeds are abundant in this type of omega-3. The other kind is marine-based. It is mostly found in fish oils, and fatty cold-water fish are especially abundant in these oils.

The marine-based omega-3 fatty acids are a more complex form made out of a longer molecular chain. This is the kind of omega-3 fatty acid our bodies can use — about 60 percent of the human brain is made up of these complex omega-3s, called DHA,



and it is especially abundant in brain and eye tissues.

The plant-based omega-3s are less complex, and our bodies use them to make the more complex omega-3s, although not efficiently. Only about 5 percent of plant-based omega-3s we ingest are converted. This is not to say we should not eat them — it's a lot better to eat plant-based omega-3s than it is to eat other fats.

Omega-3 vs. omega-6

Most people eat way too many omega-6 fats and not enough omega-3s. When omega-3s are not available, the body replaces it with a substitute from the omega-6 class of fatty acids. This replacement fatty acid cannot

replace all of the functions of the marine-based omega-3, DHA.

Health professionals know there should be a balance between omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids, but disagree on the exact ratio — it should be in the range of 1:1 to 4:1. The typical American diet is usually a ratio of 11:1 to 30:1. The richest source of omega-6 fatty acids is safflower oil. Sunflower, corn and sesame oil also have a lot of omega-6s.

Some medical research has suggested that excessive levels of omega-6 fatty acids, relative to Omega-3 fatty acids, may increase the probability of a number of diseases. Several medical conditions are associated

with substantially lower levels of omega-3 fatty acids compared with healthy people. While it has not been conclusively proven that low levels of omega-3s are responsible, replenishing them is associated with significant improvements in several instances. Examples of these conditions include depression, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Omega-3s and healthy babies

Also reported at the symposium was the importance of omega-3s for a healthy pregnancy. The expert panel at the Symposium decided to recom-

mend 300 mg a day of DHA omega-3.

Researchers found that women who experienced recurrent miscarriages were helped by omega-3 supplements. There was an 86 percent improvement in miscarriages over a 3-year period.

Other studies have shown that postpartum depression is associated with low levels of omega-3s in the diet. The researchers determined this is because expectant mothers' omega-3s go to their developing baby and later the breastfeeding baby. This leaves mothers with low levels, which impacts their own health.

The United States has some of the lowest levels of DHA omega-3s in human milk, while the highest levels are found in Japan, where people eat much more fish. Although scientists acknowledge the need for more studies in this area, they reason that DHA is essential in cognitive and visual development because DHA is concentrated in the brain and eyes.

Research discussed how children benefit from early DHA supplementation. They have higher IQ scores and better neurological development, body control, coordination and fine motor skills.

(Sources: Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Recommendations for Therapeutics and Prevention Symposium, Institute of Human Nutrition, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; University of Maryland; American Heart Association)

April 17-Dec. 18: Anishinaabemowin Language Class Tuesdays at the Kinross Recreation Center, 43 Woodlake Road. Bring a dish to pass from 6 to 7 p.m. The language class will start at 7 and go until 8 p.m. For more information, please call Nancy Debassige at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26143.

June 1-July 4: Summer barbecue giveaway at the Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Hessel Kewadin Casinos. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

June 1-July 7: Manistique and Christmas Kewadin casinos must-have Mustang car giveaway. One Ford Mustang convertible in Manistique and one Ford Mustang convertible in Christmas! Earn entries from June 1-July 7. Drawing is July 7 at 9 p.m. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

June 2: Regalia sewing at the Niigaanaagizhik Building, 11 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. LifeSkills positive parenting materials provided free. You must pre-register and children must be accompanied by an adult sewing helper. Space is limited to the first 30 who sign up. Materials for girl's/women's traditional, and boy's/men's grass dance regalia will be provided. Volunteers needed to help sew.

Please contact Karen Howell at (906) 635-6075 or sskarenh@saulttribe.net to pre-register. Please bring a dish to pass for a potluck lunch. Sponsored by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the State of Michigan.

June 4 & 18: The Unit V Munising Elderly Committee holds monthly meetings at 4 p.m. at the Comfort Inn the first and third Monday of every month. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 5: ACFS Fundraising Committee will hold a breakfast sale from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Sault Tribe Health Center. To volunteer for Anishnabek Community and Family Services fundraising activities or for more details, call (906) 632-5250.

June 5 & 7: Move More - Feel Better, Honoring the Gift of Heart Health, June 5, 1-3 p.m. and June 7, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium, 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie. Have you ever wondered, "What is a healthy body weight and how do I get there?" or thought, "I workout everyday and I never lose a pound." Physical activity is an important ingredient in the recipe for good health. It has the power to shape your insides and outsides. We will share many ideas for keeping active and keeping a healthy weight. Heart health is a gift you can give yourself anytime. This series is part of our Healthy Heart Project. Open to the public. For questions or to register, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

June 5: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Escanaba at 6 p.m. Open community hour is from 5-6 p.m. For further information, call Joanne or Tara at (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660.

June 6: The Unit I Sault Ste. Marie Elderly Committee holds monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center 2076 Shunk Road. For questions, please call

the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 7: The Unit V Marquette Elderly Committee holds monthly meetings at 6 p.m. at Walstroms Restaurant on the first Thursday of every month. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 8: The Unit III St. Ignace Elderly Committee holds monthly meeting on the second Friday of every month after the noon meal at the McCann School. For questions, please call Linda or Mike Wilkins at (906) 643-7710.

June 8: Registration deadline for the Chi-Nodin Running Club 2007 Season. For youth ages 10 through 18. Free to Sault Tribe members, a \$150 fee for community members. Available in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Kinross (pending participation). Limited spaces available, first come, first served. Call Rex Matchinski at (906) 635-RINK.

June 8-9: Soo Boat Works grand opening, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 1160 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie. On June 8, boat wash and car wash by Sault High pom pom girls. The cost is by donation. All proceeds go to the squad. On June 9, Coast Guard inspections are from 1-4 p.m. Refreshments available. For more information call (906) 632-8112.

June 9: A Night in Paradise, Manistique Kewadin Casino 13th anniversary. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. Free entry draws, random draws, table draws, souvenirs and hors d'oeuvres, drink draws in the Team Spirits Bar. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN.

June 11: Rabies clinic at the Newberry Health Center, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the Munising Health Center, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Rabies vaccines are free for tribe members' pets (dogs and cats). Other vaccines are available for a reduced cost per request. Licensing will be available upon request. Please bring your animal on a leash or a cat carrier to ensure the safety for your pet and others. For questions, call a CHT at a Sault Tribe Community Health Center or call Tom Sauro, CHT at (906) 632-05207.

July 11: Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Conservation Committee meeting, 6 p.m., Little Bear East, St. Ignace. For further information, call Joanne Carr at (906) 635-6050.

June 12: Rabies clinic at KI Sawyer housing, 8 to 9 a.m., Escanaba housing, 10 to 11 a.m., Manistique Tribal Health Center, 1 to 2 p.m., and St. Ignace Tribal Health Center, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Rabies vaccines are free for tribe members' pets (dogs and cats). Other vaccines are available for a reduced cost per request. Licensing will be available upon request. Please bring your animal on a leash or a cat carrier to ensure the safety for your pet and others. For questions call your CHT at your local Sault Tribe Community Health Center or call Tom Sauro, CHT at (906) 632-5207.

June 12: JKL Bahweting Public School Academy Board of Education meeting in the school cafeteria, 1301 Marquette Avenue, at 5:30 p.m. For questions, call (906) 635-5055.

June 13: Unit IV Manistique Elderly Committee holds monthly meeting on the second Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. after the noon meal at the Manistique Tribal Center.

For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 13: Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Conservation Committee meeting, 6 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center. For further information, call Joanne Carr at (906) 635-6050.

June 14: Inflammation: How the Heat Affects Your Health, 2-3:30 p.m., Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. For questions or to register, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

June 14: The Unit IV Escanaba Elderly Committee holds monthly meetings at the Terrace Motor Inn on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 15: The Sault Tribe Health Center blood drive and bone marrow registry, 11-5 p.m., in the Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium. Contact Janice Pittman at (906) 632-5283 for appointments or walk-ins welcome.

June 15: ACFS Fundraising Committee will hold an ice cream social, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Sault Tribe Health Center. Proceeds go towards youth and family events. To volunteer for Anishnabek Community and Family Services fundraising activities or for more details call (906) 632-5250.

June 15: Father-Daughter Dance at the Chi Mukwa Recreation Center from 7 to 9 p.m. Sault Tribe Public Awareness is planning the dance in honor of Father's Day and June is Men's Health Month. No charge. Open to the public. For more information, contact Julie at Anishnabek Community and Family Services (906) 632-5250.

June 16-17: Sault Tribe Manistique area powwow, Manistique Tribal Center, highway US 2, Manistique, Mich. Free of charge. For more information, call Viola Neadow, Denise Chase or Sharon Hutchinson at (800) 347-7137 or e-mail mbderwin@chartermi.net.

June 18: The Unit II Hessel Elderly Committee holds monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month after the noon meal at the Hessel Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 18: Tribal chairperson open office hours are held one Monday a month. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson during open membership hours. These meetings are by appointment only. To make an appointment, contact Sue Stiver-Paulsen at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26640.

June 18: Unit I monthly chair meeting, Bay Mills Community College, room 110, Brimley, Mich., 6 p.m. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson to hear your issues, answer questions and give updates. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

June 19: Rabies clinic at the Hessel Community Health Center 10 to 12 p.m., Sault Tribe Housing, Kincheloe, 1:30 to 3 p.m., and Chi Mukwa Recreation Center, 4 to 6:30 p.m. Rabies vaccines are free to tribe members' pets (dogs and cats). Other vaccines are available for a reduced cost per request. Licensing will be available upon request. Please bring your animal on a leash or a cat carrier to ensure the safety for your pet and others. For ques-

tions call a CHT at a local Sault Tribe Community Health Center or call Tom Sauro, CHT at (906) 632-5207.

June 19 & 21: Enjoy Living Smoke-Free - Yes, You Can! Honoring the Gift of Heart Health, June 19, 1-3 p.m. and June 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium, 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie. Tobacco is a powerful medicine. Just like any medicine, if used properly it has the power to heal. Store bought tobaccos are dangerous and the way they are used is not part of the prescription. Smoke-free living may not be easy for some but it can be done. To end the session we will review the basics of keeping your heart healthy with a fun and informative bingo game. This series is part of our Healthy Heart Project and this new six-session series explores the many things you can do to keep your heart beating strong. Open to the public. For questions or to register, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

June 19: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Marquette at 6 p.m. Open community hour is from 5-6 p.m. For further information, call Joanne or Tara at the administration office, (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660, extensions 26337 or 26338.

June 19: C.C.R. performing, 7 p.m. in the DreamMakers Theater, Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

June 20: HIV/AIDS in rural communities conference, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Kewadin Casino Convention Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. For more detailed conference information e-mail Mary Rose Forsyth at forsyth@sun.science.wayne.edu. For hotel information e-mail Stacey Roy at radstace@saulttribe.net. There is no registration fee for this program. Space is, however, limited. Registration ensures breakfast, lunch, snacks, continuing education credits and handouts.

June 20: ACFS Fundraising Committee spaghetti luncheon, 11-1:30, Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. To volunteer for Anishnabek Community and Family Services fundraising activities or for more details, call (906) 632-5250.

June 20: Unit II monthly chair meeting at the Hessel Tribal Center, Hessel, Mich., 5 p.m. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson to hear your issues, answer questions and give updates. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

June 22: The Unit II Newberry Elderly Committee holds monthly meetings on the fourth Friday of every month after the noon meal at the Newberry Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 22-24: Keno tournament at Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie. The Sault Keno Department will be hosting a \$17,000 keno tournament. Player registration packets will be available on the Friday of the tournament between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. during a registration reception. For more information, call Ina at 1-800-KEWADIN ext. 53612 or visit www.kewadin.com.

June 22-24: Video Poker Pizzaz at Kewadin Casino Manistique. The Manistique Marketing Department will be hosting an \$8,000 Video Poker

Pizzaz Tournament. Player registration packets will be available on Friday between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. at a registration table in front of the Northern Rewards booth. For more information, call Becky at 1-800-KEWADIN ext. 29040 or visit www.kewadin.com.

June 22-24: Blackjack Blowout Tournament at Kewadin Casino Christmas. The Christmas Gaming Department will be hosting an \$8,000 Blackjack Blowout Tournament. On Friday player registration packets will be available between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. For more information, call Vicki at 1-800-KEWADIN ext. 32018 or visit www.kewadin.com.

June 23: Little Black Box promotion at Kewadin Casino Manistique. There will be two random draws a day beginning May 7 to become searchers of the boxes! Participants must earn at least 25 points to be eligible for the draws. For more information call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

June 23-24: Teen wellness camp. Learn about good health. Compete in outdoor activities. Meet other teens like you. Practice team building. For youth middle school or high school. To sign up or for more information, call Karen Howell at (906) 635-6075, (800) 726-9105. Space is limited so sign up now! Funded by the Sault Tribe American Indian Substance Abuse Program.

June 24: Northern lower Michigan monthly chair meeting at the Inverness Township Hall, Cheboygan, Mich., 6 p.m. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson to hear your issues, answer questions and give updates. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

June 25: The Elderly Advisory Board meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 12:30 p.m. at the Newberry Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 25: Weird Al Yankovic performing at 7 p.m. at the Kewadin Casino, DreamMakers Theater, Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN.

June 26: Escanaba Area Diabetic Support Group, Escanaba Health Center conference room from 10-11 a.m. For questions, call the Escanaba Tribal Center at (906) 786-9211.

June 26: Mediterranean Heart Health, 3:30-5 p.m. Can we eat a Mediterranean diet in the U.P.? Food items will be available for sampling during the slide presentations. For questions or to register, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

June 27: Unit II Naubinway Elderly Committee holds monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of every month at the Naubinway Pavilion at 6:30 p.m. For questions, call Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

June 27: Unit III Board of Directors Representatives Fred Paquin and Keith Massaway are pleased to invite you to attend a Unit III meeting at 6 p.m. at the McCann Center, 399 McCann Street, St. Ignace, Mich. Please come share your ideas, questions and concerns with your tribal board representatives. For questions, please call Lona Stewart at (906) 635-6050.

June 30: Nightranger and Survivor performing outdoors at Kewadin Casino, St. Ignace. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN.

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PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION OF THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

PREAMBLE

We, the Baaweting Anishinaabek of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa, in order to provide for the perpetuation of our Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin, provide for the welfare and prosperity of our People, protect our property and resources, preserve our inherent sovereignty in accordance with the teachings of our Seven Grandfathers, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I - SOVEREIGNTY

Section 1. Source of Sovereignty. The People shall be the source of all governing authority and power vested in the Tribe by this Constitution.

Section 2. Supremacy. This Constitution shall be the supreme law over the government and all the People of the Tribe. All treaties, laws, compacts, and actions of the government shall be consistent with this Constitution. All laws of the Tribe existing at the time of adoption of this Constitution shall remain in effect so long as such laws are consistent with this Constitution.

Section 3. Delegation of Sovereignty. The government shall exercise only the authority and powers granted by the People in this Constitution.

Section 4. Reserved Powers. Powers not granted to the government shall be reserved to the People.

ARTICLE II - BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 1. Bill of Rights. The government of the Tribe shall not make or enforce any law which:

(a) infringes upon religious or cultural beliefs or prohibits the free exercise thereof nor any law which establishes religion;

(b) prohibits the freedom of speech, expression, or of the press, or the right of the People peaceably to associate or assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances;

(c) infringes upon the right of any person otherwise eligible at any time to seek and hold elective public office;

(d) violates the right of the People to be secure in the privacy of their persons, houses, papers, electronic and telecommunications information, vehicles, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, nor issue warrants but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation signed by a Judge and particularly describing the place, person, house, or things to be searched, the object and scope of such search, and the person or thing to be seized, nor execute an arrest without probable cause, nor exercise a detainment without reasonable suspicion, nor conduct any custodial interrogation of a suspect unless recorded visually and by audio;

(e) subjects any person to search without probable cause or

The Constitutional Convention Committee has finalized a revised Constitution, which is now ready to complete its next phase, which is presenting the final document to the Board of Directors, in a board workshop. The following document was produced with input from tribe members in numerous communities across the state and country. The committee has addressed many issues and concerns while also taking numerous recommendations and

has created this document based upon tribe member input.

The board of directors will have an opportunity to review the document, address their concerns, and offer recommendations prior to its submission to the Secretary of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs, at which time a Secretarial Election will be conducted to gain a vote of the membership to adopt a new Constitution.

to interrogation while in custody without informing the person of their right to remain silent, to have access to an attorney, and to be advised that anything they say can be held against them in a court of law;

(f) subjects any person to criminal prosecution or punishment more than once for the same offense arising out of the same incident, nor compels any person in any criminal case to be a witness against himself or herself;

(g) discharges any person from employment without due process, or takes any private property or possessory interest in private property for public use, without due process and just compensation;

(h) discharges any person from employment or takes any other retaliation against an employee who makes public any information of misconduct by officials or employees of the Tribe;

(i) denies to any person in a criminal or civil proceeding the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him or her, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his or her favor, and in a criminal proceeding to have the assistance of counsel for his or her defense subject to income guidelines;

(j) requires excessive bail, imposes excessive fines, or inflicts cruel and unusual methods of interrogation or punishment;

(k) denies to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection, application, or opportunity under the law or deprive any person of liberty or property without due process of law, provided, that the government shall have the power to enact and implement laws that provide employment preferences;

(l) directs a criminal proceeding against a specific individual or group, or punishes conduct after the fact through the enactment of laws or resolutions which criminalize such conduct;

(m) denies to any person accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment the right upon request, to a trial by an impartial jury of not less than six persons, and all persons shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law;

(n) denies to any person the access to his or her own personal information maintained by the Tribe;

(o) denies to any Person the right to own, bear, and use arms subject to regulation by the Tribe by law.

Section 2. Pardon Panel. There shall be a Pardon Panel comprised of the Ogema, the Speaker of the Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or their designees, and two Members selected by the Ogema, the Speaker of the Legislature, and the Chief Justice. Upon submission of an application for a pardon, the Pardon Panel shall have the power to issue a pardon if three of the five Members vote to pardon in a public hearing, provided that no pardon may be issued until the passage of three years from the date of conviction.

ARTICLE III - TERRITORY

Section 1. Territory. The Territory of the Tribe shall encompass all lands which are now or hereafter owned and held by the Tribe or owned by the Tribe and held in trust for the Tribe or Members by the United States, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent or right-of-way in fee or otherwise existing now or in the future. The Territory shall include lands and waters ceded by the 1836 Treaty or any other treaty entered into by the Tribe for purposes of exercising, regulating, and protecting reserved rights of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and cultural activities. The Territory shall include but not be limited to, the environment, air, airspace, all surface and subsurface land and water, and any resource severable from the land, minerals, and natural resources. No Territory shall be ceded or conveyed unless authorized by law subject to the approval of the voters in a Special Election. No real property, tangible property, or intellectual property, of the Tribe, shall be transferred, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered unless authorized by law.

Section 2. Jurisdiction. The Jurisdiction and governing authority of the Tribe shall extend to all persons, property, and activities within the Territory and shall include exercising, regulating, and protecting reserved rights to fish, hunt, trap, and other usual rights and privileges of occupancy over all lands and waters ceded by the Treaty of Washington of 1836 or any other treaty entered into by the Tribe. The Tribe shall have the power to assert the Sovereignty and Jurisdiction of the Tribe over all matters that affect the interests

of the Tribe. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit the ability of the Tribe to exercise its Jurisdiction based upon law or its inherent sovereignty.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements. All persons shall be entitled to membership in the Tribe who possess Indian blood and:

(a) who are validly enrolled as Members of the Tribe as of the date of the approval of this Constitution, which includes members of the Original Bands, and their lineal descendants; or,

(b) who can trace their ancestry to any historical annuity or census roll of the seven historical bands, which shall include Sugar Island, Grand Island, Point Iroquois, Sault Sainte Marie, Garden River, Drummond Island, and Mackinac; or,

(c) Any minor child legally adopted by a Member of the Tribe and their lineal descendants.

Section 2. No Dual Membership. No person shall be a Member of the Tribe who is also a member of any other tribe or band of North American Indians.

ARTICLE V - SEPARATION OF POWERS

Section 1. Branches of Government. There shall be one Legislative branch, one Executive branch, and one Judicial branch. There shall be a system of separation of powers and checks and balances between the branches of government. No branch of government or official of any branch of government shall exercise any power granted in this Constitution or properly delegated by law to any other branch of government except as expressly directed or permitted by this Constitution and each branch shall act as a check and balance upon the actions of the other branches as permitted by this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI - JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1. Composition of the Judicial Branch. There shall be one Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch shall be made up of one Trial Court which shall be called the Court of Gweyakwaadziwin, one Supreme Court which shall be called the Court of Nbwakawin, a Judicial Commission, and court staff including a Chief Administrator of the Judicial Branch, staff attorneys, a Chief Clerk of each

Court, and appropriate subordinate clerks of court. The Judicial Branch shall also include trial level courts of special jurisdiction as established by law.

(a) **Composition of the Trial Court.** The Trial Court shall be made up of one Chief Judge, one Associate Judge, and any other Associate Judges or Substitute Judges as authorized by law. The Chief Judge shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of all trial level courts including the employment and discharge of Court personnel.

(b) **Composition of the Supreme Court.** There shall be five Justices on the Supreme Court. There shall be one Chief Justice and four Associate Justices. The Chief Justice shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of the Supreme Court.

(c) **Composition of Courts of Special Jurisdiction.** Courts of Special Jurisdiction shall be made up of judges or peacemakers, including appropriate staff, as established by law.

Section 2. Election and Selection of Justices and Judges.

(a) **Election of Justices and Judges.** All Justices and Judges, except substitute Judges, shall be elected directly by the voters.

(b) **Selection of Substitute Judges.** Upon recusal of the Chief Judge and all Associate Judges, the Chief Judge shall select a Substitute Judge, subject to any restrictions imposed by rules of the Courts or by law.

Section 3. Terms.

(a) The term of office for each Judge of the Trial Court or any other trial level court shall be four years and each Judge shall remain seated, unless removed, until an oath of office is administered to a successor. The terms of office for each Justice of the Supreme Court shall be six years and each Justice shall remain seated, unless removed, until the oath of office is administered to a successor.

(b) The terms of office for Justices and Judges shall be staggered.

Section 4. Qualifications.

(a) The Chief Judge shall be a Member of the Tribe, an attorney, and reside within a fifty mile radius of Baaweting upon election to office. All Associate Judges shall be Members of the Tribe, at least thirty-five years old or an attorney, and reside in any voting District upon election.

(b) The Chief Justice shall be a Member of the Tribe and an attorney, and at least two other Associate Justices shall be Members of the Tribe. All Justices shall be of voting age and Native American. At least one Associate Justice shall be an attorney.

(c) No person shall be eligible to serve as a Judge or Justice who has ever been convicted of a

felony in any jurisdiction unless pardoned by the Pardon Panel of the Tribe, or by the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred as long as such pardon is consistent with the constitution and laws of the Tribe.

(d) A Judge or Justice cannot be an elected or appointed official of any other government.

Section 5. Jurisdiction of the Courts.

(a) The Trial Court shall have original jurisdiction over all cases and controversies, both criminal and civil, in law or in equity, arising under the Constitution, treaties, laws, and customs of the Tribe, including cases in which the Tribe or its officials and employees shall be a party, except for an appeal of a final decision by the Election Commission on any election protest or challenge including challenges to a redistricting and reapportionment plan filed in the Supreme Court. Any such case or controversy arising within the jurisdiction of the Tribe shall be filed and exhausted in the Judicial Branch before it is filed in any other court or in any other jurisdiction. This grant of jurisdiction shall not be construed to be a waiver of the Sovereign Immunity of the Tribe.

(b) The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction over any case on appeal from the Trial Court or any other trial level court. The Supreme Court shall also have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any final determination of an election dispute by the Election Commission or on any approved plan to redistrict or reapportion, and such jurisdiction shall include the power to make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and to issue all remedies in law and equity. The Supreme Court shall hear and decide all election disputes within thirty days of filing, and if no decision is rendered within thirty days then the decision of the Election Commission shall be final.

Section 6. Powers and Duties of the Courts.

(a) **Healing.** The primary duty of the Judicial Branch shall be to promote community and individual healing and forgiveness in all matters which come before the Courts in accordance with the laws, customs, and traditions of the Tribe.

(b) Trial Court.

(i) The Trial Court shall have the power to make findings of fact, interpret the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the Tribe, make conclusions of law, and issue all remedies in law and in equity.

(ii) The Trial Court shall have the power to declare the laws of the Tribe void if such laws are not consistent with this Constitution.

(iii) The Trial Court shall have the power to review and determine if actions of the Executive, including any Department, Board, Committee, or Executive Branch official are consistent with this Constitution, and to order an appropriate remedy for actions which violate this Constitution.

(iv) All proceedings of the Trial Court or any other trial court shall be recorded for purposes of appellate review.

es of appellate review.

(c) Supreme Court.

(i) The Supreme Court shall have the power to interpret the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the Tribe, make conclusions of law and make findings of fact in election disputes, and issue all remedies in law and in equity. Decisions of the Supreme Court shall be final.

(ii) The Supreme Court shall have the power to declare the laws and Executive actions of the Tribe void if such laws are not consistent with this Constitution.

(iii) The Chief Justice shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of the Supreme Court including the employment and discharge of Court personnel and the preparation and presentation of an annual budget request for the Judicial Branch. The Supreme Court shall have the power to adopt Rules and Court Procedures governing the Judicial Branch subject to the Rules of the Judicial Commission and the laws of the Tribe.

(d) **Rules of Court.** Each Court shall have the power to make its own rules of court, procedure, evidence, and other judicial matters, subject to the power of the Chief Judge to make or modify such rules, and any rule established by any Court, the Chief Judge, or the Judicial Commission shall be subject to the power of the Legislature to make or modify any rule by law.

(e) **Written Decisions.** All orders, judgments, opinions, or final decisions of any Court shall be written and published in a timely manner.

(f) **Final Disposition.** The Courts shall render a final disposition in all cases properly filed.

(g) **Right to Appeal.** Any party to a civil action, or a defendant in a criminal action, who is dissatisfied with the judgment or verdict of a Trial Court shall have the right to file an appeal to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall have the right to accept or deny any appeal from a Trial Court. All appeals that are accepted for review by the Supreme Court shall be heard by the full Supreme Court.

(h) **Precedent.** The Courts shall develop rules regarding precedent. The Courts shall require all parties to a case to present arguments regarding the customs and traditions of the Tribe. In the absence of an applicable written law of the Tribe, the Courts shall separately consider and explain in writing the application of the customs and traditions to the disposition of the case.

Section 7. Conflicts of Interest.

Judges and Justices shall disclose and recuse when they have a conflict of interest. Any party to a case shall have the right to request a Judge to recuse, and every decision on recusal shall be accompanied by a written explanation for the decision.

Section 8. Judicial Commission.

(a) **Establishment.** There shall be a Judicial Commission in the Judicial Branch.

(b) **Composition of the Judicial Commission.** The Judicial Commission shall be comprised of five seats to be filled by Members of the Tribe, three seats which shall be selected upon public nomination by the Ogemaa and two seats which shall be selected upon public nomination by the Chief Justice, all nominations to be subject to confirmation by the Legislature. Members of the Judicial Commission shall serve four year staggered terms of office.

(c) **General Powers of the Judicial Commission.** The Judicial Commission shall have the power to adopt Rules of Court governing the Judicial Branch subject to the Laws of the Tribe.

(d) **Specific Powers to Regulate the Conduct of Judges, Justices, Attorneys, Advocates, and Officers of the Courts.** The Judicial Commission shall have the power to establish Rules of Ethics for the Judicial Branch to hear any complaints regarding Judges, Justices, attorneys, advocates, or any other Officer of the Courts, subject to law. The Judicial Commission shall have the power, after providing due process, to make recommendations to the Supreme Court to conduct a disciplinary or removal hearing.

Section 9. Compensation. Judges and Justices shall be paid a reasonable compensation by law.

ARTICLE VII - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1. Composition. The Legislature shall be comprised of fifteen Legislators elected from the eight voting Districts as follows:

(a) The Upper Peninsula shall be divided into five voting Districts with a total of twelve Legislators.

(i) Unless the boundaries of the voting Districts are modified pursuant to the terms of this Constitution, the respective boundaries of the Districts shall continue as they existed at the time of ratification of this Constitution except the boundary of District Five shall be expanded to include the remainder of the western Upper Peninsula.

(ii) Unless the number of Legislators in each District is modified pursuant to the terms of this Constitution, the number of Legislators in each District shall continue as existed at the time of ratification of this Constitution.

(b) The Lower Peninsula shall be divided into three At-large voting Districts, with one Legislator per voting District as follows:

(i) The Northern At-large Voting District shall include Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, and all counties in the Lower Peninsula north of those counties.

(ii) The Western At-large voting District shall include Crawford, Roscommon, Gladwin, Midland, Gratiot, Clinton, Ingham, Jackson, and Hillsdale, and all Michigan counties west of those counties.

(iii) The Eastern At-large voting District shall include all Michigan counties east of those counties listed in subparagraph (ii) and not listed in subparagraph (i).

(c) **Redistricting and Reapportionment of the Upper Peninsula Districts.**

(i) After the next census in 2010 and every ten years thereafter, the Election Board shall make Findings of population patterns and demographics for purposes of redistricting or reapportioning. The Election Board shall prepare a proposed Plan to redistrict or reapportion the five voting Districts in the Upper Peninsula to achieve an equitable redistribution of Legislators based on the Findings, but each District shall have at least one Legislator.

(ii) The Election Board shall present the proposed redistricting or reapportionment Plan to the Legislature for approval or disapproval. The Legislature shall have the authority to modify the Plan submitted by the Election Board by law. If the Legislature fails to approve or disapprove the Plan by law within sixty days of submission to the Legislature, then the original plan proposed by the Election Board shall be deemed final for purposes of judicial review.

(iii) Any Member of the Tribe shall have standing to challenge in the Supreme Court any redistricting or reapportionment Plan adopted by either the Election Board or the Legislature within thirty days of approval, and any approved plan shall be subject to review by the Supreme Court which shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction, and a decision by the Supreme Court shall be final, provided that if the Court does not make a decision within sixty days of filing of the challenge, then the Plan as approved shall be final and no further judicial review shall be permitted.

(iv) Any redistricting or reapportionment plan approved pursuant to this Section shall be implemented prior to the beginning of the 2012 election cycle, and each ten years thereafter.

(d) At-large voting Districts shall not be subject to redistricting or reapportionment.

(e) **Eligible Voters of the Tribe.** The Tribe shall be permitted to vote exclusively in the voting District in which they maintain their primary residence; provided, that active duty military personnel shall continue to be residents of their respective Districts. Eligible Voters of the Tribe who do not maintain their primary residence in any of the voting Districts shall be permitted to register to vote and vote in any one of the three At-large voting Districts; provided, that once registered to vote in an At-large voting District voters shall not be permitted to change voting Districts unless they establish their primary residence in a voting District.

Section 2. Terms. The term of office for each Legislator shall be four years. The terms of office for all Legislators shall be staggered.

Section 3. Selection. All Candidates for District Legislator shall be named by District on the same ballot and elected by receiving the highest number of votes in descending order cast by eligible

voters of the District.

Section 4. Qualifications.

(a) Every Legislator shall be a Member of the Tribe and of voting age.

(b) No persons convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction shall serve as a Legislator, unless pardoned by the Pardon Panel of the Tribe after holding a public hearing, or by the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred so long as such pardon is consistent with the laws of the Tribe as determined by the Pardon Panel.

(c) Every Legislator shall physically reside in the District which they represent for at least one year immediately prior to the election and for the duration of their term.

Section 5. Compensation. Legislators shall be paid a reasonable compensation by law commensurate with a full-time job. No Legislator shall be employed in any other capacity.

Section 6. Powers. Legislative power shall be vested in the Legislature.

(a) The Legislature shall have the power to make laws, raise revenue, borrow money, and enact an annual balanced budget for the entire Tribe by law, and take any other action as provided in this Constitution. The Legislature shall not have the power to make a private law.

(b) There shall be one fiscal year and one comprehensive annual balanced budget for the entire Tribe. The annual budget shall include all revenue and funds controlled by the Tribe and all revenue and funds received by the Tribe from any and all sources. The Legislature shall have the power to conduct one semi-annual budget assessment and make appropriate modifications to the annual budget by law. Upon request of the Executive, the Legislature shall have the power to make the requested modification to the annual budget at any time. No money shall be drawn from the Treasury unless it has been separately and previously authorized by law and included in an approved budget.

(c) If the Legislature fails to approve an annual budget by the start of the fiscal year, then the entire Tribe shall continue to function at the level of the previous year's budget, and no Legislator shall be paid any compensation until a new budget is enacted and Legislators shall not receive any retroactive compensation for the period of time when the previous year's budget was in effect.

(d) The Legislature shall follow a public Legislative Process to enact laws and budgets.

(i) Each proposed law and budget of the Legislature shall be embodied in a written Bill, unless otherwise indicated in this Constitution. Each Legislator shall have the power to introduce a Bill which shall be read into the public Legislative Record and placed on the public Legislative Calendar. The name of the Legislator who is the primary sponsor of each Bill shall be indicated on the Bill. Every Bill shall include a section ex-

plaining how the law derives from, comports with, or affects the customs and traditions of the Tribe. Every Bill shall include a statement identifying the specific law, if any, to be amended, superceded, or repealed.

(ii) The Legislature or a Legislative Committee shall be required to conduct at least one public hearing in any District held outside the time of a Legislative Session which shall include time for public comment on a Bill prior to passage by the Legislature. The Legislature shall have the power to compel evidence, Records, and witnesses by subpoena. Members of the Tribe shall be afforded the opportunity to address the Legislature privately regarding a personal matter; however, the Legislature shall not be permitted to take any action at such time.

(iii) The Legislature shall be required to publish every introduced Bill in the Tribe's newspaper, website, and in other public places at least thirty days prior to a vote by the Legislature, unless the Bill proposes a budget modification made upon the request of the Executive to meet a time-sensitive requirement for securing funding from a source other than the Tribe.

(iv) A majority of the whole number of seated Legislators shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum shall be required to convene a Regular Session or Special Session of the Legislature. The Legislature shall have the power to enact a Bill by a majority vote of Legislators present. The Legislature shall vote on each Bill in public by separate roll call votes. A Legislator shall be present to cast a roll call vote, and the names and votes of each Legislator on each Bill shall be recorded and published.

(v) All Bills enacted by the Legislature shall be presented to the Ogemaa for signature or veto. The Ogemaa shall have ten days from presentment to sign the enactment into law or to veto the enactment with a written explanation of objections, and if the Ogemaa takes no action on an enacted Bill, then it shall become law. The Legislature shall have the power to override an Executive veto by a vote of at least three-fourths of the seated Members of the Legislature.

(vi) No law or budget, whether enacted by the Legislature and signed into law by the Ogemaa or enacted by veto override by the Legislature, except a budget modification, shall be valid until it has been published in the Tribe's newspaper and a period of at least ninety days has passed. All laws shall be compiled into one Code which shall be published annually.

(vii) Unless otherwise permitted by this Constitution, any action by the Legislature which does not follow the Legislative Process shall be deemed void and shall not be implemented or enforced by the government, Ogemaa, or any official or employee.

(e) Beginning two years after the effective date of the Constitution, a permanent interest-bearing trust fund shall be established and the principal of such fund shall remain unencumbered, unappropri-

ated, and unspent. At least 7.5% of that part of the Tribe's annual net profit derived from the Tribe's businesses shall be budgeted and deposited into the permanent trust fund. In each annual budget, the Legislature may include up to ninety percent of the available interest from the permanent trust fund for services to Members and reasonable and customary fund administrative fees, and the remaining interest shall become principal of the permanent trust fund.

(f) The Legislature shall select a Speaker from among its Members. The Legislature shall have the power to create internal rules and procedures for the Legislative Branch including the power to establish Legislative Committees comprised exclusively of Legislators. The Legislature shall have the power to employ legislative staff including legislative counsel. The Legislature shall have the power to employ both political staff and career staff.

(g) The Legislature shall have the power to establish executive Departments, Commissions, Boards, Offices, and other subordinate entities by law. All Commissions, and Boards shall be established in the Executive Branch. The powers and duties of all Commissions shall be regulatory. No Legislator may be elected, appointed, or employed in the Judicial Branch, in the Executive Branch, or in any other government or its political subdivisions in any capacity including as a consultant, contractor, or otherwise unless specifically authorized by this Constitution, except that the Ogemaa and Legislators who are otherwise qualified may serve as unpaid members of the business board of any gaming enterprise owned by the Tribe and operated outside the Territory.

(h) The Legislature shall not have the power to enact, adopt, authorize, or otherwise approve any cession, diminishment, or relinquishment by law, agreement, or by any other means any treaty rights reserved to the Tribe. The Legislature shall not have the power to pass any law or to negotiate any agreement prohibiting or abridging the exercise of any reserved treaty right to hunt, fish, or gather except for temporary conservation purposes which shall be subject to the approval of the voters in a Special Election.

(i) The Legislature shall have the authority to establish by law a process for the extending Full Faith and Credit to the judicial orders and judgments of other jurisdictions.

(j) The Legislature shall have the authority to establish limits on campaign spending by law.

Section 7. Legislative Sessions.

(a) **Regular Sessions.** The Legislature shall convene in Baawetung in a Regular Session during the first full week of the month for up to seven consecutive days.

(b) **Special Sessions.** The Ogemaa shall be permitted to call a Special Session of the Legislature. A Special Session may be held in any District and the date and location of the Special Session shall be made by public notice. The pur-

pose of the Special Session shall be explained by public notice and only that purpose shall be considered during the Special Session. A Special Session shall last no longer than one day.

(c) Every Regular Session and Special Session shall be open to the public, unless otherwise permitted by this Constitution.

(d) Legislators may vote on matters only during a Regular Session or a Special Session.

(e) The seat of government shall be Baawetung, the traditional gathering place.

ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1. Composition.

(a) The Executive Branch shall be comprised of one Ogemaa, one Vice Ogemaa, a Department of Administration including Offices of Property and Supply, Records Management, Personnel, Grants and Contracts, and Procurement, a Department of Culture and Tradition, a Department of Business, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Housing, Department of Treasury, Department of Natural Environment, Department of Labor, and any other Departments established by law.

(i) The Department of Business shall govern and regulate all business activity within the Jurisdiction, provided that the management, including any board of directors, of each separate business entity owned by the Tribe shall make the day to day decisions, including personnel decisions, on the entity's business management and operations subject to law.

(ii) The Office of Records Management within the Department of Administration shall be located at the government headquarters in Baawetung. The Office of Records Management shall secure and maintain all Records of the Tribe. The Office of Records Management shall develop systems to index and access all Records maintained in the Office of Records Management or any other office. The Office of Records Management shall make public the pay scale for every position by classification. Members shall have the right to inspect any Record and shall have the right to obtain copies of any Record for a reasonable fee as may be set by law. The Legislature shall have the power to impose by law reasonable restrictions on access to records relating to private health records, private personnel files, and private information contained in enrollment records.

(iii) There shall be a Department of Public Safety comprised of a Division of Law Enforcement and an Office of Prosecutor, an Office of Compliance, and an Office of Conservation Enforcement. The Office of Prosecutor shall have the sole discretion to prosecute on a case by case basis.

(b) There shall be one Director to head each Department.

(c) The Ogemaa shall be in charge of the Executive Branch of government. The Office of Vice Ogemaa shall be subordinate to the Office of Ogemaa. The Ogemaa shall be subject to the laws of the Tribes.

Section 2. Terms. The term of office for the Ogemaa and Vice Ogemaa shall be four years.

Section 3. Selection. The Ogemaa and Vice Ogemaa shall be named together on the same ballot and shall be elected by receiving the highest number of votes cast by eligible voters of the entire Tribe.

Section 4. Qualifications.

(a) The Ogemaa and Vice Ogemaa shall be Members of the Tribe of voting age.

(b) No persons convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction shall serve as an Ogemaa or Vice Ogemaa, unless pardoned by the Pardon Panel of the Tribe after holding a public hearing, or by the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred so long as such pardon is consistent with the laws of the Tribe as determined by the Pardon Panel.

(c) The Ogemaa and Vice Ogemaa shall physically reside in any District for at least one year immediately prior to the election, and within thirty days of taking the oath of office, shall physically reside within a fifty mile radius of Baawetung for the duration of their terms.

(d) The Ogemaa and Vice Ogemaa shall not hold another job in any capacity.

Section 5. Powers. Executive power shall be vested in the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch shall execute, enforce, and administer the laws and budgets of the Tribe.

(a) The Executive Branch shall present a proposed balanced annual budget to the Legislature no later than first day of June of each year.

(b) The Ogemaa shall serve as the official representative of the Tribe.

(c) The Ogemaa shall have the power to veto a Bill within ten days of presentation to the Ogemaa. A veto shall include a written explanation of any objections to the Bill.

(d) The Ogemaa shall have the authority to introduce a Bill to the Legislature for consideration.

(e) The Executive Branch shall not have the authority to spend money unless previously authorized by law and appropriated in a budget.

(f) The Ogemaa shall be authorized to hire staff in the Office of Ogemaa. Such positions shall serve at the pleasure of the Ogemaa and shall be vacated to coincide with the expiration of the Ogemaa's term. Funding shall be included for four such positions. Any funding for additional political staff in the Office of Ogemaa shall be authorized by law.

(g) No person shall make or participate in making an executive decision if such person has a direct and personal financial interest in the outcome of the decision.

(h) The Ogemaa shall present an annual state of the Tribe address.

Section 6. Compensation. The Ogemaa and Vice Ogemaa shall be paid a reasonable compensation by law.

ARTICLE IX - RECALL, REMOVAL, AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Recall of a Legislator.

(a) A Legislator shall be subject to recall.

(i) A Recall Election shall be initiated by petition signed by at least ten percent of the total number of eligible voters in the District of that Legislator.

(ii) A separate recall petition shall be required for each Legislator subject to recall.

(iii) A recall petition shall be submitted only to the Election Commission. The Election Commission shall determine within fifteen days whether all requirements for the petition are met. If all requirements are met, the Election Commission shall hold a Recall Election after thirty days but no more than sixty days.

(iv) All eligible voters of the District shall be entitled to vote in the Recall Election. A Legislator shall be recalled and removed from office if at least a majority of the votes cast in the Recall Election vote in favor of recall.

(v) A recall petition shall not be initiated or submitted to the Election Commission until at least six months has passed since the start of each new term of a Legislator. A recall petition shall not be initiated or submitted to the Election Commission if six months or less remain in the term of the Legislator. Once a petition is initiated, the petitioners shall have no more than sixty days to collect the requisite number of signatures. A Legislator subject to an unsuccessful recall vote shall not be subject to another Recall Election during their term unless the basis for the recall is a conviction of a felony in any jurisdiction.

(vi) A Legislator who is successfully recalled from office shall not be eligible to run for any elected office until the original term of the Legislator would have expired.

Section 2. Removal of a Legislator. A Legislator shall be subject to removal for good cause as established by law.

(a) At least one hundred eligible voters of a District may present to the Trial Court a signed written petition stating good cause and requesting a removal hearing against a Legislator of that District. The Trial Court shall decide within fifteen days upon receipt of a petition whether the petition states good cause to conduct a removal hearing.

(b) If the Trial Court finds good cause, the Trial Court shall, within sixty days of receipt of a valid petition, conduct a public removal hearing providing due process and make a final determination whether the accused shall be removed from office, and upon a decision of removal, the seat shall be deemed vacant.

(c) The conviction of a Legislator in any court for the commission of a felony may constitute good cause for purposes of removal. Upon commencement of removal proceedings for a felony conviction, a convicted Legislator shall be suspended until a final determination is made regarding removal.

Section 3. Recall of an Ogema or Vice Ogema.

(a) An Ogema and Vice Ogema shall be subject to recall.

(i) A Recall Election shall be initiated by petition signed by at least ten percent of the total number of eligible voters of the Tribe.

(ii) A recall petition shall be submitted only to the Election Commission. The Election Commission shall determine within fifteen days whether all requirements for the petition are met. If all requirements are met, the Election Commission shall hold a Recall Election after thirty days but no more than sixty days.

(iii) All eligible voters shall be entitled to vote in the Recall Election. The Ogema and Vice Ogema shall not be subject to recall at the same time. The Office of Ogema or Vice Ogema shall be deemed vacant if at a majority of the ballots cast vote in favor of recall.

(iv) A recall petition shall not be initiated until at least six months has passed since the start of the new term. A recall petition shall not be initiated if six months or less remain in the term. The petitioners shall have no more than sixty days to collect the required number of signatures. The Ogema or Vice Ogema shall not be subjected to more than one Recall Election during the term unless the basis for a second Recall Election is a conviction of a felony in any jurisdiction.

(v) An Ogema or Vice Ogema who is successfully recalled from office shall not be eligible to run for any elected office until the original term of the Ogema and Vice Ogema would have expired.

Section 4. Removal of an Ogema or Vice Ogema. An Ogema or Vice Ogema shall be subject to removal for good cause as established by law.

(a) At least one hundred eligible voters may present to the Trial Court a signed written petition stating good cause and requesting a removal hearing against an Ogema or Vice Ogema. The Trial Court shall decide within fifteen days upon receipt of a petition whether the petition states good cause to conduct a removal hearing.

(b) If the Trial Court finds good cause, the Trial Court shall, within sixty days of receipt of a valid petition, conduct a public removal hearing providing due process and make a final determination whether the accused shall be removed from office, and upon a decision of removal, the seat shall be deemed vacant.

(c) The conviction of an Ogema or Vice Ogema in any court for the commission of a felony may constitute good cause for purposes of removal. Upon commencement of removal proceedings for a felony conviction, a convicted Ogema or Vice Ogema shall be suspended until a final determination is made regarding removal.

Section 5. Removal of a Judge or Justice. The Supreme Court, upon recommendation from the Judicial Commission and after providing

due process, shall have the exclusive power to remove a Judge or Justice.

Section 6. Vacancy in the Office of a Legislator. A vacancy in the Office of a Legislator shall be filled by Special Election held after thirty days but no more than one hundred twenty days of the vacancy. If six months or less remain in the term, then the seat shall remain vacant and shall be filled in the next election.

Section 7. Vacancy in the Office of the Ogema or Office of Vice Ogema. A vacancy in the office of Ogema shall be filled by the Vice Ogema for the remainder of the term of office, and the resulting vacancy in the Office of Vice Ogema shall be filled for the remainder of the term by nomination by the newly seated Ogema subject to confirmation by the Legislature. In the event both Offices of Ogema and Vice Ogema are vacated at the same time, the Speaker of the Legislature shall assume the Office of Ogema until a successor shall be seated in a Special Election which shall be held within sixty days of vacancy.

Section 8. Vacancy in the Office of a Judge or Justice. A vacancy in the Office of a Judge or Justice shall be filled by Special Election held after thirty days but no more than one hundred twenty days. If six months or less remain in the term, then the seat shall remain vacant and shall be filled in the next election. In the respective case of a vacancy in the Office of Chief Judge or Justice, the Senior Associate Judge or Justice shall temporarily assume such duties.

ARTICLE X - NEWSPAPER

Section 1. Official Newspaper. The government of the Tribe shall establish and maintain a newspaper which shall be separate and independent from the political branches of government. There shall be a Newspaper Board comprised of three seated elected officials with one official from each Branch selected by each respective Branch. The Board shall have the power to promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of the Newspaper. The Board shall have the power to appoint and remove a Chief Editor of the Newspaper using personnel practices normally used by the Executive Branch. All official actions of the Board shall be by unanimous vote. The Chief Editor shall conduct the day-to-day operations, including subordinate personnel matters, subject to the laws of the Tribe.

ARTICLE XI - ELECTIONS

Section 1. Election Commission. There shall be an Election Commission comprised of thirteen Members to conduct all elections in a fair and impartial manner. Members of the Election Commission shall be chosen by a committee comprised of the Ogema, the Speaker of the Legislature, and the Chief Judge from a pool of self-nominated applicants comprised of eligible voters. The Election Commission shall have the authority to promulgate written rules and regulations governing elections

subject to law.

Section 2. Primary Election, General Election, and Special Election.

(a) The Primary Election shall be held on the 4th Thursday in March.

(b) The General Election shall be held on the 4th Thursday in June.

(c) Special Elections shall be held when called for by the Legislature by law or by this Constitution.

Section 3. Eligible Voters. Members of the Tribe age eighteen or older who are registered to vote shall be considered eligible voters of the Tribe. Once registered to vote, a voter shall be considered registered to vote in all subsequent elections unless the voter changes his or her residence.

Section 4. Election Challenges. The Election Commission shall certify all election results within three days of the election. Any eligible voter may challenge the certified election results in writing to the Election Commission within three days of certification of the election results. The Election Commission shall decide all challenges within seven days of filing. The Election Commission decision shall be final unless appealed. The Election Commission shall administer the oath of office to newly elected officials within three days of the final certification of the election results by the Election Commission or, if appealed, by the Supreme Court.

Section 5. First Election. The First Election under this Constitution shall be held in the first available even-numbered year.

(a) Upon the adoption of this Constitution all persons serving as Members of the Board shall become Legislators for the remainder of their respective terms, except the Chairman who shall become the Ogema. For the First Election under this Constitution, the term of office for the Legislators of the Northern At-large voting District and the Eastern At-large voting District shall be four years, and the term of office for the Legislator of the Western At-large voting District shall be two years and a four year term for each thereafter.

(b) In the First Election for purposes of establishing staggered terms of office, the Chief Judge of the Trial Court shall serve for four years, and one Associate Judge of the Trial Court shall serve for two years. In the First Election for purposes of establishing staggered terms of office, two Justices of the Supreme Court who receive the two highest number of votes shall each serve a term of six years, and two Justices of the Supreme Court who receive the next highest number of votes shall serve a term of four years, and one Justice of the Supreme Court who receives the next highest number of votes shall serve a term of two years.

ARTICLE XII - SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Section 1. Sovereign Immunity. The Tribe shall possess Sovereign Immunity. Nothing in this Consti-

tution shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of Sovereign Immunity from suit unless specifically stated herein, except that the Legislature may authorize a waiver of Sovereign Immunity by law. Any authorization by the Legislature to waive Sovereign Immunity shall be specific and for a limited scope and duration.

Section 2. Immunity from Suit by Parties Outside the Jurisdiction of the Tribe. The Tribe and its executive Officials and Employees acting in their official capacity or within the scope of their authority shall be immune from suit brought by any party not subject to the Jurisdiction of the Tribe except to the extent waived in accordance with law.

Section 3. Immunity from Suit by Parties Within the Jurisdiction of the Tribe. The Tribe and its Executive Officials and Employees acting in their official capacity or within the scope of their authority shall be immune from suit except to the extent waived in accordance with law or except for suits in equity filed exclusively in the Courts of the Tribe by any party subject to the Jurisdiction of the Tribe to enforce rights and duties established by law or this Constitution. Any Member of the Tribe may bring a suit exclusively in the Judicial Branch to enforce the terms of this Constitution. Sovereign Immunity shall not extend to Officials and Employees acting outside their official capacity or beyond the scope of their authority.

Section 4. Suits Against the Legislature and Legislators. The Legislature and individual Legislators acting in their official capacity shall be immune from suit in law and equity. When the Legislature or Legislator is exercising an Executive function specifically authorized by this Constitution, the Legislature or Legislator shall not be immune from suit in equity filed exclusively in the Judicial Branch by any party subject to the Jurisdiction of the Tribe.

Section 5. Suits Against Judges. Judges and Justices shall be immune from suit in law and equity for actions taken in their official capacity.

ARTICLE XIII - REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE

Section 1. Referendum. Eligible voters who reside within the Territory shall have the right to demand a Referendum election on any law the legal incidence of which falls exclusively on residents of the Territory, or on any law which disparately impacts residents of the Territory, by submitting to the Election Commission a petition signed by at least five percent of such voters. Eligible voters of the Tribe, regardless of residence, shall also have the right to demand a Referendum election on any law by submitting to the Election Commission a petition signed by at least five percent of such voters. In either case, a referendum petition must use a form obtained from the Election Commission

and such petition must be returned to the Election Commission within sixty days. Once a petition is submitted to the Election Commission, no new names shall be added, and the Election Commission shall make a determination within fifteen days whether all petitioning requirements have been met. Upon making a finding of a valid petition, the Election Commission shall conduct a Special Election on the Referendum within sixty days.

Section 2. Initiative. Voters of the Tribe shall have the right to enact a law by Initiative. An Initiative shall not be permitted to enact a budget or budget modification. Eligible voters of the Tribe, regardless of their residence, shall have the right to demand an Initiative election to enact a law by submitting a petition signed by at least ten percent of the number of eligible voters of the Tribe to the Election Commission. A petition for an Initiative election shall include the full text of the proposed law. Once a petition is submitted, the Election Commission shall make a determination within fifteen days whether all petitioning requirements have been met. Upon making a finding of a valid petition, the Election Commission shall conduct a Special Election on the Initiative within sixty days.

Section 3. Results of a Special Election. The results of a Special Election for a Referendum or Initiative shall become law immediately unless otherwise specified in the law. Once passed, the results of the Referendum and Initiative shall be binding and shall not be subject to repeal or modification except by a subsequent Special Election or by a three-fourths majority vote of the Legislature.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS**Section 1. Request for an Election.**

(a) The Legislature may by a three-fourths vote of the whole number of seats in the Legislature call for a Special Election to amend the Constitution.

(b) The voters of the Tribe may call for a Special Election to amend the Constitution by submitting a petition signed by at least ten percent of the number of eligible voters of the Tribe to the Election Commission. Once a petition is submitted, the Election Commission shall verify the signatures on the petition within fifteen days, and if valid, the Election Commission shall conduct a Special Election within sixty days thereafter.

Section 2. Requirements For Approval. The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the voters who vote in the Special Election, provided, that the amendment is approved by at least five voting Districts, one of which must be an At-Large District. Any amendment approved by the voters shall become effective immediately unless otherwise stated in the amendment.