



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

February 6, 2009 • Vol. 30 No. 2

Mukwa Giizis
Bear Moon



Appeal dropped in lawsuit over Kewadin Shores

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati recently granted the United States' motion to voluntarily dismiss its appeal in a case concerning whether a parcel of land in St. Ignace taken into trust for Sault Tribe was eligible for gaming operations under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

"The dismissal of the United States' appeal of Judge Edgar's ruling in favor of the tribe comes after a long struggle with the Department of Interior and the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC)," said Bruce Greene, attorney for the Sault Tribe. "It is troubling that the tribe's trustee took such a strident position about the replacement casino located only a few hundred feet from the location of the antiquated casino. Fortunately, Judge Edgar construed the law in a manner consistent with the tribe's interpretation."

Last August, Judge Edgar, sitting in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, ruled against the United States, the Department of the Interior and the NIGC, and in favor of the tribe.

Sault Tribe has been operating in its new casino in St. Ignace since late 2007 under a preliminary injunction issued by the court in August 2007, which restrained the United States from taking any action to close the new casino, pending the outcome of the case.

"We are most gratified to be vindicated by the court regarding the eligibility of lands for gaming under IGRA," said Sault Tribe Chairman Darwin "Joe" McCoy. "The tribe believed it was always operating within the law and was surprised to learn that the Interior Department and the NIGC disagreed back in 2006. After a long court battle, the court agreed with the tribe," continued McCoy. "With the dismissal of the appeal, there is no longer any legal cloud over the new casino in St. Ignace."

IGRA is a comprehensive federal statute that regulates Indian gaming. Under IGRA, gaming may not take place on lands taken into trust after Oct. 17, 1988, unless the land falls within one of the exceptions: if the land is contiguous to the reservation on that date or if the land is restored lands to a restored tribe. On Aug. 29, 2008, Judge Edgar ruled that

We are most gratified to be vindicated by the court regarding the eligibility of lands for gaming under IGRA.

— Sault Tribe
Chairman Joe McCoy

the St. Ignace land underlying the Tribe's new, replacement casino is contiguous to the Tribe's reservation and, therefore, is eligible for casino gaming.

Beginning in 2003, Sault tribe made plans to replace its casino in St. Ignace. The old casino was built in the mid 1980s on a parcel of land taken into trust in 1983 (the 1983 parcel). Over the years, the tribe added to the original casino several times and, as a result, it had developed into a maze like structure with numerous problems, including inadequate heating and ventilating, sewage disposal, restaurant facilities and numerous other problems. The tribe concluded that it was time to replace the Kewadin Shores Casino with a new facility. The new casino was completed in 2006 and includes a hotel, state-of-the-art heating and ventilating equipment, new restaurant and new lounge areas. The casino is located partially on the 1983 parcel and partially on land taken into trust for Sault tribe in 2000 (the 2000 parcel).

The tribe's position has always been that the 2000 parcel is eligible for gaming under IGRA. IGRA allows gaming on land taken into trust after Oct. 17, 1988, if the contiguous parcel was a reservation before that date. Over a period of three years, Sault Tribe attempted to convince the Department of the Interior and the NIGC that the 1983 parcel is a reservation within the meaning of IGRA. The Department of the Interior and the NIGC disagreed. That disagreement resulted in the tribe's suit against the department and the NIGC, which was filed on Nov. 9, 2006.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians owns and operates five Kewadin Casinos in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel, Christmas and Manistique.



Photo by James Garlitz

As seen from Sugar Island, the CCGS Samuel Risley is pictured in the foreground working with the USCGC Mackinaw in background keeping the ice free for the last day of shipping traffic.

Board to host open workshops

Sault Tribe Chairman Joe McCoy and the Sault Tribe Board of Directors previously announced the scheduling of additional workshops of the tribal board of directors on selected Wednesdays each month. Sessions, including updates, will be posted as scheduled in the tribal newspaper, intranet and Web site, www.saulttribe.com.

The first Wednesday workshop was held Jan. 28, at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, with the agenda item being the initial review of membership services divisions' strategic plans. (Please see

chairman's report for a synopsis.)

Upcoming dates and tentative agenda items are as follows. All workshops begin at 9 a.m. at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, unless otherwise posted:

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009: Health Division quarterly review; Health Division – third party billing process; Human Resources quarterly review; Elder Services Division quarterly review

Wednesday, March 4, 2009: Chi Mukwa quarterly review; Housing Division quarterly review.

Wednesday, March 18, 2009:

Kewadin Casinos quarterly review – all departments

These workshops will provide the board a dedicated time to review information submitted by membership services divisions, internal services, enterprises and casinos. Topics will include quarterly report presentations, strategic plan, business plan and personnel policy reviews, tribal code updates/reviews, etc.

We hope to see participation from our membership. Any questions regarding future agenda items and workshop dates, please call Joanne Carr at (906) 635-6050, or visit our Web site, www.saulttribe.com.

Smutek tapped for STAY Project

Michigan's suicide rate is 11.2, higher than the 10.8 national rate. And the rate in the tribe's service area is even higher – 17.4.

Nationwide, 14 percent of youths aged 12 to 17 have experienced at least one major depressive episode in their lifetime, over seven percent have thought about killing themselves and 2.9 percent have tried.

Barb Smutek is reaching out to the community about preventing youth suicide. As the new Sault Tribe Alive Youth (STAY) Project manager, Smutek is aiming to lower youth suicide attempts and suicide deaths among our American Indian youth.

The new STAY manager is working to raise awareness of youth suicide in both the tribal



and non-tribal communities. "The grant came at a perfect time for the community and the Upper Peninsula in general," she said. "Statistics are higher here than the state and national averages. Our community has faced some tough losses lately that we are still trying to deal with."

Smutek, 29, started out with the tribe in 1999 as a YEA student services assistant while she attended college part time. She gained her associate degree in

2003 and became a YEA coordinator. She spent a lot of time working with the tribal youth council and teen court.

In 2006 she moved to Human Resources to take the recruiting position. But she knew she needed more experience and new skills so she ventured out. She loved her job finding tribal members find gainful employment, earned her bachelor's in communications from LSSU and married. She and her husband are expecting a baby girl in April.

Now she has come full circle, working on youth issues again as the STAY project manager. She was interested as soon as she saw the new grant and job description in the tribal newspaper. "I wanted to return to education," she said. "My heart is in working with youth."

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Notice to resident tribal members about tax form

The form, "Tribal 4013 Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit," was mailed to resident tribal members on Jan. 20.

As a cost-cutting measure,

one copy was sent to each tribal household in the agreement area.

Important: Make sure your address is current. If a tribal member's 2008 4013 form is

returned to tax office for having the wrong address, that member's file is flagged as not being in the tax agreement area until the address correction is made.

ACFS asking for public comments on child care

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) operates the Child Care Development Program, more commonly known as CCDF or Child Care Assistance, in all seven counties of the tribal service area. This program is funded by a grant from the Child Care Bureau, which is a division of the federal government's Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families.

In 2009, ACFS intends to apply for continued funding to operate the CCDF program and is seeking public comment

on the current program plan. This is our opportunity to make changes to the way the program operates and we would like to hear from current and previous CCDF parents and child care providers who are licensed by CCDF or receive CCDF funds. ACFS will be accepting public comments from March 6, 2009 through March 27, 2009.

A copy of the current program plan will be available at the following sites from March 6, 2009 through March 27, 2009:

ACFS — Sault office, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie

Sault Tribal Health Center, 2864 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie

ACFS/Lambert Tribal Health Center, 225 Wa Seh Dr., St. Ignace

ACFS/Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698 W. Hwy US 2, Manistique

ACFS/Munising Tribal Health Center, 622 W. Superior St., Munising

Any questions can be directed to Megan Smith, ACFS, 2218 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093, ssmegan@saulttribe.net.

Down payment assistance now available to members

The Down Payment Assistance Program (DPAP) is designed to assist Sault Tribe members in becoming owners of structurally sound homes. The funds are HUD dollars and restricted to low-income members. Eligible applicants receive up to \$5,000 to be applied towards down payment and closing costs. This program is open to Sault Tribe members residing within the seven-county service area: Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta and Marquette counties.

DPAP is open to members with total incomes at or below 80 percent of the area

median income, adjusted for family size. Participants must obtain mortgages with local lenders. The Housing Authority will assist applicants in demonstrating that they have stable income and the ability and willingness to meet financial obligations.

DPAP funds are available to lower the cost of buying a home. Funds will be in the form of a note applied as a lien against the property. No monthly payments apply; the amount depreciates 20 percent each year and is forgiven after five years.

Trained staff will assist

eligible applicants in successfully working through the process of making an application to a bank or lender for a mortgage loan, assist with inspection concerns and aid in the real estate process.

Borrowers are required to participate in home buyer education sessions designed to assist the homebuyer in understanding and fulfilling the responsibility of home ownership.

Please direct questions to Dana Patrick or Ryan Madigan, homeownership specialists, at 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072.

Funeral assistance changes

The Funeral Assistance Program assists tribal members with actual funeral costs, such as headstones, burial, funeral services and so forth, up to \$1,000. The beneficiary or representative must complete the

application and attach a certified copy of the death certificate, itemized statement from the funeral home or receipt showing individual payment and verification of household income for the deceased

tribal member. All information can be sent to Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, 2218 Shunk, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

For further information, please call (906) 632-5250.

Funding available WIA (Workforce Investment Act)



The Sault Tribe's Workforce Investment Act Program currently has funding for on-the-job training. If your program has hired or will be hiring new employees, it may be possible they are eligible for this program.

On-the-job training will reimburse 50 percent of the employee's wages for an initial training period, resulting in a savings to your program and

to the Sault Tribe. Temporary positions are not eligible.

Applicant eligibility requirements for this program are applicants must be American Indian, under-income if employed or unemployed for the last seven days and a resident within Sault Tribe's service area.

If your program is interested, please contact Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.



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THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS
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Sherrie Lucas...Administrative Secretary

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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the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and is published 13 times a year by the Communications Department. Its mission is to inform tribal members and non members about the activities of the tribal government, membership programs and services and cultural, social and spiritual activities of Sault Tribe members.

Our name: Win Awenen Nisitotung, in our native language, means, "One who well or fully understands," pronounced "Win Oh-weh-nin Nis-toe-tuhng"

Visit us online: This issue can be viewed online at www.saulttribe.com beginning on its publishing date.

Subscriptions: The regular rate is \$13 per year, \$10 for senior citizens, \$25 to Canada, and \$35 to other foreign countries. Subscribe by sending your name and mailing address to the address below with your check or money order made out to the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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Appellate judges needed

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Court of Appeals announces vacancies for two appellate judges. Both vacancies are for lay judges (non-attorneys) and the court of appeals seeks to fill one of the vacancies with a tribal elder. Below is a job description:

Job requirements:

— Appellate judges are expected to attend all oral arguments, deliberations and court of appeals meetings. It is anticipated that the court of appeals will meet at least once every two months for oral arguments. Oral arguments last several hours and deliberations immediately follow oral arguments. Additionally, the court of appeals conducts monthly meetings that last at least an hour. All oral arguments and meetings will occur in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

— In addition to being physically present for oral arguments, deliberations and meetings, all appellate judges are expected to prepare for every case by reading the entire case record and any briefs submitted in the matter. This may require several hours of preparation in advance of oral arguments, as case records may be hundreds of pages long.

— All appellate judges are also encouraged to participate in writing opinions of the court of appeals. Additionally, appellate judges may be asked to write court of appeals rules and regulations, as appropriate.

— The elder appellate judge

is expected to take the lead on issues involving tribal culture and tradition. The elder appellate judge should advise the court of appeals on how to incorporate tribal culture and tradition into its procedures and decisions.

In order to be considered for the vacant appellate judge positions, all applicants must be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; a tribal elder (elder appellate judge position only, age 60 or older); and capable of meeting the above-described job requirements.

Additionally, the ideal candidate for the elder appellate judge position will have substantial knowledge of the tribal customs and traditions of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Compensation: Non-attorney appellate judges are paid a \$200 per month stipend. Appellate judges are generally not compensated for their travel costs.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest to Kellie LaVictor, court administrator/magistrate judge, P.O. Box 932, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or send via e-mail to klavictor@saulttribe.net by 5 p.m. on Feb. 27, 2009. The letter of interest should explain how the interested candidate meets the minimum requirements and is prepared to meet the job requirements for this position.

For additional information, please contact Kellie LaVictor at (906) 635-4963.

Elder advisory briefs . . .

SUBMITTED BY BOB MENARD

Vice Chairperson Peterson opened the Oct. 27, 2008, meeting at 12:15 p.m. and Ilene Moses offered a prayer.

Quorum was present with nine regular voting members and six alternate members attending. Robert St. Andrew and Robert Menard were excused as the only regular voting members absent.

Tribal Chairman Joe McCoy, chairman's executive assistant Lona Stewart and Nick Singer, a VistaCorp volunteer for tribal elders' services attended. Ann Miller was the only guest present.

The agenda was approved with no changes as were the draft minutes for the Sept. 22, 2008, meeting.

Chairman McCoy fielded questions from those in attendance. He listened, commented and said he would look into questions concerning the health program, budget cuts, land claims money, the Charlotte Beach issue, Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, Greektown Casino and the use of microphones at board meetings. He said many of the changes experienced by the membership are temporary.

Because Unit V, Munising, wanted more time to discuss its subcommittee by-laws, the agenda item to adopt the revised by-laws and send them to the board of directors for approval, was tabled until the January meeting.

Philip Payment, a Sault Tribe

elder who attended the October meeting of the Michigan Indian Elders Association in Petoskey, gave a report on his evaluation of the meeting. He thought it was an excellent meeting.

The annual election of officers was conducted. Bob Menard was re-elected as chairperson, Philip Payment was elected as vice-chairperson and Joan Karlson was elected secretary.

Nick Singer filled in for Holly Kibble who away attending to her husband, Jack, who was seriously ill.

There were no new unit subcommittee activities to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m. The next regularly was set for 12:30 p.m., Jan. 26, at the Newberry Community Center.

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Country Rat Pack
Tracy Byrd, Tracy Lawrence, and Richie McDonald
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Michael Winslow
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Friday, February 13th
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Kenny Rogers
Saturday, February 21st
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan



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6-10 p.m. on the Gaming Floor!

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Weekly Events

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Live Music starts at 9 p.m. Fri. & Sat. Feb. 6th & 7th Jager 4.0

Northern Pines Entertainment
St. Ignace

Comedy starts at 8 p.m. - Wednesday Feb. 4th - Mike McCarthy & Michael Hoffman

Live Music starts at 9 p.m. Fri. & Sat. Feb. 6th & 7th TBA

Team Spirits Bar Entertainment
Manistique

Live Music starts at 9p.m. Sat.

Reager Brothers - February 7th
Karaoke - February 14th



Gentleman George Show takes to the air

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Gentleman George Snider is back where he belongs at 1230-AM on your radio dial every Saturday morning from 10:05 to 11 a.m. For eight years, Snider hosted the *Sault Tribe This Week* Saturday morning show until it was the victim of cutbacks last year. Snider thought he would enjoy having Saturdays to himself, and he did for a while. But sooner rather than later he began to miss his show, a mix of live music, interviews and announcements.

So, he did what anyone in his position would do — get his own show.

“I woke up one morning and said, ‘I’m gonna see what I can do,’” he recalled. He approached potential sponsors and WSOO. The station was interested, and on Jan. 3, Snider

was back on the air.

The Gentleman George Show is broadcast from Kewadin Casinos — one of his sponsors — in a cozy fire-lit corner by the waterfall, where a live radio audience is welcome to listen to acoustical music with weekly guests and participate in trivia games and contests.

“Sometimes, people stay and watch for a few minutes, others stay for the whole show,” Snider said. “DreamMakers Theater has been donating show tickets for prizes, and the staff at the casino has been wonderful.”

Snider’s radio audience encompasses both sides of the border in the surrounding area. Snider thinks the show is well received. “People stop me and say they listened to the show and it made their day,” he said.

His guests range from all over; many are personal friends. “The show is a great format for local musicians and entertainers,” he said. Recent guests include Susan Askwith, Roy Nason, John Price, Rollie Mayor, Jim Lockhart, Rich Frank, Stephanie Sabatine, Dave Stanaway and Leslie Cook.

“I’m really excited about being back on the air,” Snider said. “I’m comfortable there.” Starting out as a teen, Snider, 63, has been performing for the last 47 years as a musician and entertainer. During the rest of the week, he directs a GED program for the tribe and MichiganWorks through the Consolidated Community School System, a job to which he is very committed.

The show is also an opportu-



Gentleman George Snider broadcasting from the Sault Kewadin Casino and Convention Center.

nity for casino departments to let the public know about casino events — restaurant, shows, dinners — as well as anyone else with an event to promote.

Anyone who is interested in appearing as a musical guest or promoting an event can contact Gentleman George Snider at geohsnider@yahoo.com.

Quinlan is new tribal policeman

MANISTIQUE, Mich. — Sault Tribe member Aaron Quinlan recently joined the Sault Tribe Police Department as a police officer assigned to tribal law enforcement offices in Manistique.

Quinlan was born in Green Bay, Wisc., but grew up in Newberry, Mich. Quinlan graduated from Tahquamenon Area Schools in 2003. In May of 2008, he graduated from Lake Superior State University with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

“It’s a good opportunity for me,” said Quinlan. “It allows me to stay near my family and friends. I very much look for-

ward to the challenges of the position and I appreciate the opportunity.”

Quinlan is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time.



Aaron Quinlan

New manager at St. Ignace hotel

ST. IGNACE, Mich. — Lisa Sawruk was recently selected as the new hotel manager for the Kewadin Shores Casino Hotel. Sawruk comes to this position with an accounting background, having worked within the Sault Tribe Accounting Department for nearly 17 years. As a senior accountant, Sawruk focused on the tribe’s hospitality properties and included work on up to six hotels.

Sawruk started with the casino on Jan. 5. “Working in this beautiful facility has been great,” said Sawruk. “This property has so much potential. I am looking forward to using my experience in hospitality and accounting in order to improve Kewadin’s newest

casino and hotel facility.”

The 81-room hotel opened July 2006 and employs 30 team members.

Kewadin Casinos in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Manistique, Christmas and Hessel, offer Vegas-style gaming together with outdoor recreation in one of Michigan’s most picturesque regions.

All facilities offer gaming excitement with slots, live keno and poker, craps, blackjack, roulette, let it ride and more with attractive dining choices along with two on-site hotel properties in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. Kewadin Casinos are owned and operated by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Victims of violence get legal help

Local attorney Jennifer France is now with Sault Tribe’s Legal Aid Department at the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC). France will provide legal services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual harassment.

Filing divorce complaints, custody parenting time and housing issues are just a few of the many services she offers to victims. “I provide someone to be there and be a friend because it’s a difficult time in their lives,” she said. Someone has to be there and be sensitive to their issues, she added.

Before joining Sault Tribe, France had been doing conflict resolution with Legal Aid since April 2008. “I found my calling,” she said. “You’ll know what you’re supposed to be doing when it comes through your door.”

France, 32, and her husband, Clark, live in the Sault with their Golden Retriever and Yorkie. She was born and raised on Neebish Island. She graduated from Sault High in 1995, from LSSU in December 1998 with a Bachelor’s in Political Science and from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in January 2001. She set out her shingle in private practice in Sault Ste. Marie in 2003 and has since earned a reputation in the community for being trustworthy.

Tribal members who want to access France’s help should contact ARC at (906) 632-1808 and



Local Attorney Jennifer France has joined Advocacy Resource Center’s Legal Aid Department.

make an appointment to see if they are eligible for Legal Aid services.

Totzones under way at Chi Mukwa

Community members have been busy participating in recreational activities at Chi Mukwa. Most recently, Totzone began on Jan. 10 and will continue every other Saturday through April. Totzones allow children ages 0-5 to participate in themed activities with other children their age while parents interact with other parents.

Each event is themed, including a PJ party, cars, sports pals and a dance party, to name a few, and includes a snack. Children are encouraged to bring their ride-one toys, push toys, strollers and so forth to exert some of their energy.

Our next Totzone will be sports pals in which the children will get a chance to play with some of the Soo Eagles hockey team. This year we are working in collaboration with the EUP Great Start Parent Coalition. Come join us on Saturdays for some fun and excitement and to meet some new friends! For more information contact Heather at (906) 635.7465 or hhoward@saulttribe.net.



This youngster enjoys the pajama party theme at the Totzone on Jan. 10.

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Kewadin Casinos help support I-500 business



Photo by Michelle Bouschor

Board members from the I-500 Committee recently accepted \$20,000 from Kewadin Casinos as part of the casino's sponsorship of the annual snowmobile race. Pictured above are (front L-R) Ric Federeau, I-500 Chairman Terry Joss, Tim Leigh and casino COO Tony Goetz, (back row L-R) casino vice president of marketing and sales Alan Bouschor, Dave Thomas, Devon Krueger, Bill Cryderman and casino marketing director Bill Marsh. This is the 16th year Kewadin Casinos has sponsored the I-500.

First Native casino in Michigan to offer automated roulette

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – Customers can now enjoy roulette 24 hours a day at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie with the new interactive server based electronic table game Roulette Evolution™. The games, provided by IGT, have the same betting structure as live roulette but offer more than playing at a real table.

“This new technology gives roulette players – new and experienced – more ways to play,” said Dave Kucharczyk, slot director for the five Kewadin casinos. “New players can learn the game of roulette with an increased comfort level of playing on their own terminal and experienced players can play the game even when the live roulette table is not open.”

The game also has a variety of betting options as low as \$1.

Kewadin is the first Native American casino in the state to receive these games, and the third in the Midwest. They have yet to be released in Nevada.

“We saw these concept games about a year ago and really thought they would add excitement and variety to our gaming floor,” said Kucharczyk. The Sault Ste. Marie site is rolling out eight Roulette Evolution™ machines.

The live action that takes place with Roulette Evolution™ wheel appears in a small viewer window on the player station screen. Players



can touch the on-screen wheel to enlarge the view or close it. In addition to the real-time game play, the game offers drag-the-chip capabilities simulating live game action. Traditional bets and Series bets (also known as “Called” or “Racetrack” bets) are available and game histories are displayed via on-screen Trend buttons and large-screen LCD. Call us at 1-800-KEWADIN or visit Kewadin.com for more information.

Kewadin crews help needy folks during holidays

Kewadin team members stepped up to the plate again this holiday season by giving back to community members and families in a time of need. A heart felt thank you to every single team member for their giving spirit during the holidays and throughout the year.

Kewadin St. Ignace — The giving staff in St. Ignace hosted

a non-perishable food drive and a coat, mitten and hat drive for the St. Ignace food pantry, Hope Chest. The drive was held from Nov. 17 to Dec. 10. The staff also participated in a toy drive for Mackinac County kids.

Kewadin Manistique — The Manistique team partnered with other local businesses and TV6 in Marquette in a can-a-thon

food drive. This event was held for customers and team members alike and celebrated its 26th year. In addition, team members held a hat and coat drive for the Manistique Tribal Center.

Kewadin Sault — The departments at Kewadin opened their hearts to help needy families through an adopt a family program with

Juicy crab, delicious shrimp, tasty fish, I can almost taste it!



Little Alandra Brook from Sault St. Marie, Ont., wrote this bit of prose below about the seafood buffet at DreamCatchers restaurant. Restaurant staff loved it and decided to award her a gift certificate. She is shown above with Janice Fry, food and beverage director.

Honorable judges, teachers, parents and fellow students:

Have you ever been to a seafood buffet? Well, I have and it can be quite an adventure! Once a month, on a Saturday, it starts by picking up Mom from work and heading on the bridge to the United States. When we get to the customs, we're not allowed to talk because the officer has to ask us questions. We also have to give him our identification which is special papers with our pictures on it. When the officer lets us through, we're in the United States and on our way to the buffet!

When we get there, Dad drops us off at the door, then he goes to get a parking spot while we go get a spot in the very long line! Believe it or not, sometimes that line can be half an hour long. That's when me and my brother go up and down the escalator. It keeps us busy until it's time to eat and when we do, wow! You should see all the food! Italian food, seafood, Chinese food, salad bar, desert table and best of all an ice cream dispenser! One time I went up to the buffet five times to fill my plate! I even ate more than daddy! It was so good, especially the crab!

Crabs have an outer shell that protect them from predators. So, when you eat them, you must use a cracker, and I don't mean the kind you eat! It's a special piece of silverware used to crack open a crab's shell. One time, when I didn't know how to use the crackers yet, we had what I call the crab disaster! Juice from the crab was flying everywhere! One piece even landed on the next table! Even my mom, dad and brother got in the action! By the time I was finished, everybody had been hit or splashed with a piece of crab. How embarrassing!

My favorite part of the seafood buffet, besides the crab, is making my own ice cream. There are three flavors — vanilla, chocolate and swirl! I always put in all three. They have special toppings like chocolate and caramel syrups, sprinkles, smarties and oreo cookie pieces. I always fill my bowl to the top with the works! It is so good!

If I'm starting to make you hungry, why not go to the seafood buffet? You may end up having your own adventure! Bon appétit!

— Done by Alandra Rachelle Brooks

the Department of Human Services in Chippewa County. Gift items included food baskets and gifts for eight families. Six departments participated in the program. In addition, a toy drive was held at the casino for local families.

Kewadin Christmas — At Christmas time, employees donated to a tribal family in need through the tribe's Unit V

Anishinabek Community and Family Services. Gift items included toys and clothing for the children.

Kewadin Hessel — Employees collected over 99 gifts for a local children's Christmas party. The party was organized by Hessel community members with staff from the casino volunteering during the event.

NHL'S Zebra Cares visits Sault Tribe powwow

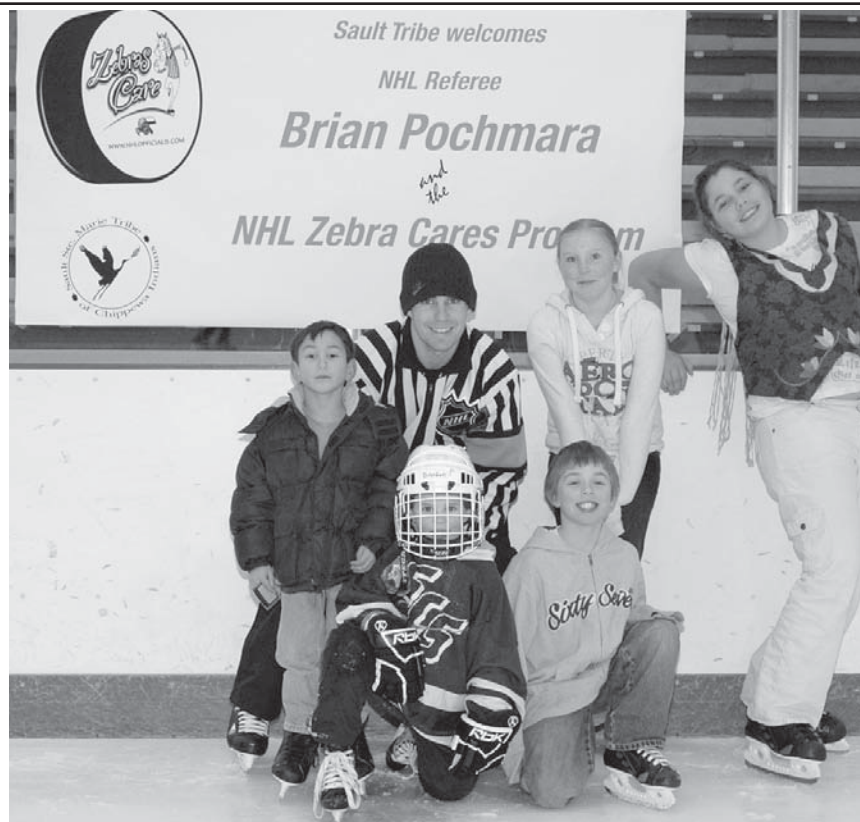
SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. —The National Hockey League Officials Association charity, "Zebras Care," recently paid a visit to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. In the quest to bring joy to children across North America and to grow the great game of hockey, NHL league officials formed Zebras Care in the hopes that it will provide the opportunity for underprivileged and sick children to meet many NHLOA members.

Brian Pochmara, past Sault Ste. Marie resident and LSSU student, is married to Keri (Pavlat) Pochmara and they have two boys Brendan, 6, and Kennedy, 4. The happy couple, now married for 4 years, met during Pochmara's four years at LSSU. They now live in Clinton Twp. Pochmara, 32, started his referee career at 16 officiating amateur games. He is now an NHL ref traveling the country from coast to coast.

When Pochmara's father-in-law, Sault

Tribe member Cecil Pavlat, suggested Pochmara try to schedule an official Zebras Care visit to the 2008 New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow, Pochmara did not hesitate to put the ball — or the puck? — into motion. Through Pochmara's efforts the annual free skate during the New Year's powwow became an officially-sanctioned Zebras Care promotion. Not only did Pochmara, an official NHL referee, skate with the kids, he brought 30 NHL toques and NHL #43 puck stickers to be placed on pucks donated by Jessica Dumbeck of Chi Mukwa Arena, to give to participating kids.

Pochmara, because his wife and children are Sault Tribe members, felt it would be fitting to give back to this community by bringing Zebras Care promotion to the annual Sault Tribe Sobriety Powwow. Pochmara willingly assisted kids of all ages with skating tips and overall interacted positively with as many kids as possible.



NHL Ref Brian Pochmara visits with Sault Tribe kids. (Photo by Brenda Austin.)

92nd District Court selected for jury reform project

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Judge Beth Gibson of the 92nd District Court in St. Ignace has been selected as one of 12 judges in the state of Michigan to participate in a pilot project to provide a better delivery system of information to jurors before and during trials.

The project began August 2008 and is expected to continue through December 2010.

Changes being tried include providing jurors with notebooks containing instructions, differ-

ent sets of pleadings and copies of each exhibit that is admitted into evidence. Attorneys have an opportunity under the pilot program to provide jurors with a written statement that would go into the jury room during deliberation that outlines their position, instead of jurors having to remember everything that was said.

The jury reform changes were implemented in Gibson's court in September allowing jurors to ask questions and participate for the first time. "They

write their question down and I read it. If it is alright to read the question the way it was written, I ask it. If not, I try to rephrase it into a way that is admissible," said Gibson. "The jurors have been very positive about the experience. It was hard for the attorneys at first to have written summations, but they have since gotten used to the idea of making them available to the jury."

"There are special court rules that have been approved that we are operating under that are dif-

ferent from normal jury trials. Some of them are similar and some are in addition to what we already had. The program is designed to make it easier for the jury to handle all the information they get during the trial," said Gibson.

At the end of each trial, court staff, jurors and attorneys are asked to complete an exit survey that is then sent to the Michigan Supreme Court for review.

According to Gibson, some parts of the program will work

in district court but might not in circuit court. "It is something that we need to spend time on once we have the data to decide what will work and what won't," she said.

The proposed jury-reform amendments give jurors a meaningful way to actively participate during trials and work to bring greater confidence to the overall jury system and validity of verdicts. "It is an honor and privilege to be selected as a pilot court and potentially reshape jury trial experi-

Letters to the editor . . .

Thanks for a helping of some pride and joy

The following letter is in reference to the story on the Indian Picture project by seven high school students in Texas in the January edition of this newspaper.

To the editor,

Sorry, we haven't had time to reply after receiving the story you wrote on us. We've been fairly busy, seeing as our community is really interested in what we are doing and how we are developing our site.

First and foremost I would like to say thank you, thank you, thank you for featuring us in your newspaper. It gives us great pride to see that we are bringing joy to people all over.

This Web site has been a great accomplishment in our young lives. It has also inspired not only our small community, but people all over the world to learn more about Native Americans and their history.

However, our Web site would be nothing if it wasn't for our loyal viewers and people, like you, who encourage us to move forward in every aspect of our lives, who push us to be our best and who let us know just how proud they are of our accomplishments.

So, from all of us here at picture-indian.com, thank you again, for believing in us and showing everyone our work. Please continue to spread the word. Keep in touch.

Warmly,
— The warriors@picture-indian.com

Children waiting to join the Imagination Library

To the editor,

The number of children and parents seeking enrollment in the Imagination Library continues to escalate daily. Interest is currently exceeding sponsorship. Community members, business owners and service organizations are needed to provide sponsorship for the children eagerly waiting to be enlisted.

The Imagination Library provides age-appropriate, hardcover books directly to a

child's home free-of-charge every month until their fifth birthday.

A donation of \$30 per year will give a child the opportunity to grow in imagination, provide a greater ability to learn, and create a love of reading. Donations go toward underwriting the cost of providing one book per month for 60 months for a child residing in Chippewa, Luce, or Mackinac County.

To sponsor a child, please contact Becky Davis at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District at (906) 632-3373 ext. 117 or at bdavis@eup.k12.mi.us.

— Ashley Purvis, Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD Early Beginnings Library



American Indians gather for music fest premiere Feb. 13-15

BY RICK SMITH

What is predicted to be an annual event, the premiere American Indian Music Fest is set in southern Arizona at the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. Dubbed *Evoking Prehistory Through Music*, the first festival is scheduled for Feb. 13-15.

The National Park Service invites all to join this event celebrating the connection and continuity of prehistoric and current American Indian cultures through concert and demonstration and to experience a blend of prehistoric and modern American Indian dance, storytelling and poetry.

Those attending the festival will also be able to observe American Indian crafters and artists engaged in authentic production of traditional and contemporary cultural items that will be available for purchase. Authentic American Indian foods will also be available.

On all three days of the festival, demonstrations, arts and crafts booths and traditional food sales are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., performances and concerts are set for noon to 5 p.m. On the first two days, the Casa Grande Ruins will be illuminated for evening concerts from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The American Indian Music Fest enjoys the major sponsorship from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, Western National Parks Association, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, High Spirits Flutes, Canyon Records, NativeRadio.com, Central Arizona College, City of Coolidge, Ariz., Coolidge Chamber of Commerce and others.

Admission fee to the Casa Grande Ruins is \$5 per person 16 years old and over; children 15 and under get in free. All America the Beautiful federal inter-agency passes are accepted and sold, including senior passes, access passes and annual passes.

It might not be possible for some folks to get there this year, but you might want to mark your calendars for next year. It appears this is going to become a monumental annual event for Indian Country.

Ruins Superintendent Jason Lott said his goal is to see 5,000 people attend the premiere festival, and added he thinks there will be more.

Those interested in learning more should call Carol West or Alan Stanz (520) 723-3172, extensions 18 and 11 respectively, or visit www.nps.gov/cagr.

Dealers wanted, opportunity knocking?



By Rick Smith

While it's not exactly the best of times to stage another resurrection of one of the most legendary and romantic symbols in Americana, that's exactly what the Indian Motorcycle Company is doing. And they're looking for some mighty reputable help to reach their goals.

The company is producing its first motorcycles this year in Kings Mountain, N.C., and, so far, has about a dozen dealers ready across the country. Company officials say they want at least 30 more dealers within three years.

Of the dealers listed on the company's Web site, St. Paul, Minn., and Canton, Mich., (near Detroit) are the closest to the Michigan Upper Peninsula. Harley-Davidson, the only other venerable manufacturer of big American touring motorcycles, has six, including one in Marquette, within the same range from the Upper Peninsula as the Indian dealerships.

"First year production will be limited to four variations of the Chief targeting specific requirements of various segments of the heavyweight cruiser market," said Erin Tracy on behalf of the company. "Future models now in the research and development phase will continue to balance classic design with 21st Century engineering and manufacturing excellence. The 2009 Chiefs feature state-of-the-art, Indian engineered and developed, electronically

fuel-injected 105-cubic-inch PowerPlus V-twin motor that fully upholds Indian's legendary reputation for power and durability. The power train components are constructed in-house by skilled engine-builders at our Kings Mountain facility."

The four variations of the model coming out this year are the Chief Standard, Chief Deluxe, Chief Roadmaster and the Chief Vintage. Prices range from \$32,500 for the Chief Standard to \$35,000 for the Chief Vintage.

For anyone interested in diversifying, here's an opportunity. "If you're a world-class businessperson and motorcycle enthusiast interested in championing the most revered brand in the motorcycle industry," Tracy noted. "If you understand the supreme necessity for exceeding customer expectations by offering an exceptional sales environment and outstanding service, if you want to make history as well as money, we'd like to talk to you."

More information about Indian Motorcycles, the Indian Motorcycle Company, joining one of the 35 chapters of the Indian Riders Group or the international Iron Indian Riders Association, is available at www.indianmotorcycle.com. Those interested in a dealership should contact dealer.inquiry@indianmotorcycle.com.

The company and its dealers report customer response is overwhelming.

Pictured above is a 2009 Chief Vintage. Below is a 2009 Chief Standard. (Photos courtesy of Indian Motorcycle Company)



Sault Tribe war-veteran's IT business continues to grow

MT. PLEASANT, S.C. — 2008 was a great year for Ishpi Information Technologies, Inc., owned and operated by tribal member Noah Leask. Ishpi exceeded every single goal in 2008 and is positioned to do the same in 2009.

One of the meanings of "ishpi" in Anishinaabemowin is "advanced." Ishpi's motto is, "advanced technology, native know-how."

Ishpi is a defense contractor and is certified as an American Indian and service-disabled veteran-owned certified 8(a) small disadvantaged business. Leask formed Ishpio after a 10-year stint with the Navy as a cryptologist, returning home as a wartime service-disabled veteran.

Ishpi incorporated in 2006. By the end of 2008, Ishpi had grown to 19 employees and finished the year right at \$1.9 million. By Feb. 2, Ishpi will be at 22 employees and will be poised to surpass its 2008 growth by another 100 percent. Leask attributes Ishpi's continued success to its employees and Ishpi's corporate culture, which strives to innovate and make its clients successful.

In 2008, Ishpi won contracts with the US Air Force, NAVSEA, SPAWAR Systems Center, JIEDDO, USMC, DHS, INSCOM, NGA and DEA, as well as a commercial endeavor, ReadyOne. It added GDIT, Accenture, SAIC, ArrayMax, Parker SCITech Group and Radiance Technologies as partners.

Ishpi recently added capabilities in Information Warfare (IW), Cybersecurity (CS),



Noah Leask, founder of defense contractor Ishpi, is a Sault Tribe member born and raised in Cheboygan.

Acquisition Management (AM), and Logistics Support Services (LSS) and enhanced its benefits package by adding several new benefits and upgrading existing benefits.

"As a US Navy veteran, it's is great to be directly supporting national defense helping to ensure the safety of our nation and having a vital impact on the warfighter and the intelligence community," said Leask. "Our rapid growth is by design and directly attributed to Ishpi having some of the best professionals in our market space

solely focused on delivering the client's missions. We take our work very seriously and will continue to have a greater long-term impact."

Leask, 36, lives in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. with his wife, Lisa, a former naval officer, and their three daughters, Brianna, Logan and Peyton. He was raised in Cheboygan, Mich., by his parents, Chal Leask and Gloria Leask, who have since retired to Mt. Pleasant.

Visit www.ishpi.net for more information.

St. Ignace Family Fun Night scheduled for February 19

ST. IGNACE — A Family Fun Night is slated for Feb. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Lambert Center, 225 WaSeh Drive, St. Ignace. This event is geared for parents of children age 0 to 5 years old and siblings are

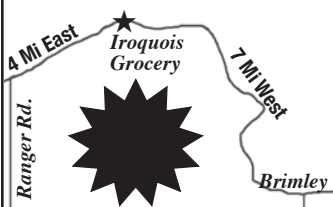
welcome. Children will enjoy activities and receive a free book while parents socialize and discuss parent issues.

You do not need to be a Sault Tribe member or a Head Start participant to be welcome.

For more information call Heather Bird at (906) 643-0096.

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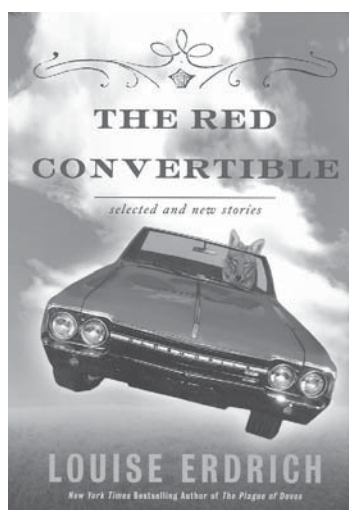
Louise Erdrich releases short story collection

By RICK SMITH

A collection of 36 short stories by prolific Anishinaabe writer Louise Erdrich is now available through HarperCollins Publishers. The book is titled *The Red Convertible, Selected and New Stories* and, according to a review release, the stories were selected by Erdrich herself and demonstrate the writer's extraordinary craft, capturing the full force of her prose and the depths of her literary vision.

The release goes on to note much of Erdrich's fiction is set on and around an Anishinaabe reservation in North Dakota or in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.

Characters sometimes take far-flung excursions such as to Europe to study or Vietnam for military service. They are both American Indian and Caucasian



and their stories histories are often intertwined from one story to another.

Typical of Erdrich's work, realism is blurred by mythicism and tragedy is tempered by humor. Her writing style

is similar to the works of John Steinbeck, author of *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Cannery Row* and other award winning novels. Erdrich is a National Book Critics Circle Award winner and a National Book Award finalist who has been writing for 30 years. Even in her early years, her stories were included in prestigious literary quarterlies as *The North American Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Granta* and later in *The New Yorker Magazine*.

In addition, many of her stories have been chosen for the annual collections, *Best American Short Stories* and *The O. Henry Prize Stories*.

Erdrich is the author of 12 novels, according to the books dust jacket, as well as volumes of poetry, children's books and

a memoir of early motherhood.

Her debut novel, *Love Medicine*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award. *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her most recent novel, *The Plague of Doves*, a *New York Times* bestseller, received high praise from members of the literary world.

"Every time I write a short story, I am certain that I have come to the end," Erdrich tells readers in the books preface. "There is no more. I'm finished. But the stories are rarely finished with me. They gather force and weight and complexity. Set whirling, they exert some centrifugal influence . . . Most of the stories in this volume are those germinal ones that would

not let go of me. Some waited many years to make their way into books. Some were first published in magazines. Others stayed in my notebooks until I decided to finish them for this collection and are published here for the first time."

She adds, "I own a bookstore, or rather, as the drink takes the habitual inebriate, the bookstore owns me. Over the years, the remarkable bookseller who manages the store, Brian Baxter, has insisted that I publish the short stories. When I answer that many of the stories are contained in the novels, he is not satisfied. I like stories as stories, too, so I decided to take his advice."

Erdrich owns Birch Bark Books in Minneapolis, Minn.

American Indian College Fund celebrates 20 years

DENVER, Colo. — The American Indian College Fund, the premier scholarship organization for American Indian students, marks its 20th anniversary in 2009.

The fund was created in 1989 by the tribal colleges and universities and private partners to raise scholarship funds and funding for America's tribal colleges. The first tribal

college was Dine College, founded as Navajo Community College, in 1968. Today there are 32 accredited tribal colleges and universities, which serve college students and provide much-needed services to American Indian communities. Tribal colleges are the conduits of health education and disease prevention, serve as daycare and health centers, provide

libraries and computer centers, provide indigenous research and language preservation classes to the community and are the hub of activities and lifelong learning.

The fund has raised millions of dollars for scholarships and capital funding for campus infrastructure in its mission, and last year awarded nearly 4,000 scholarships to American Indian students to encourage students to remain in college, complete a college degree and build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

To commemorate its milestone and the 40th anniversary of tribal colleges in 2008, the fund, along with the internationally acclaimed and award-winning advertising agency Wieden and Kennedy, is rolling out its new public service announcement campaign, titled Think Indian. The Think Indian campaign tells the story of how trib-



AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

al colleges and American Indian students are using traditional solutions to solve modern-day problems

"The American Indian College Fund is the leading provider of scholarships to American Indian people," Richard B. Williams, President and CEO of the American

Indian College Fund, said. "By providing the means to get an education with the help of our loyal donors, we provide Native people hope for a better future. In these economic times hope is more important than ever to American Indians, who have historically been the poorest Americans and continue to be so."

With its credo "Educating the Mind and Spirit," the Denver-based American Indian College Fund is the nation's largest provider of private scholarships for American Indian students providing more than 6,000 scholarships annually for students seeking to better their lives and communities through education at the nation's 32 accredited tribal colleges and universities.

For more information about the American Indian College Fund or to make a donation, visit www.collegefund.org.

Comes from the Woods

An exhibit by Ron Paquin

Featuring birch bark baskets, tulip baskets, antler carvings, knives, jewelry and more



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Arts Center

219 Ferris, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

February 2009

Ron cordially invites you to his exhibit open house on Saturday, Feb. 7, 1 to 4 p.m. Meet the artist and enjoy light refreshments.



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For more information contact:

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Manistique Employment Office
(906) 341-9561

5968 W. Highway US 2; Manistique, MI

St. Ignace Employment Office
(906) 643-4176

3015 Mackinaw Trail; St. Ignace, MI

Apply on-line at www.saulttribe.com

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

CLARENCE STAFFORD

Clarence "Chuck" Stafford, 73, walked on Nov. 1, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind. Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., he was the son of Tom and Mae Stafford. He was also the beloved son-in-law of Paul and Nellie Grider.

He retired from International Harvester Dept. 42 with 32 years of service, retiring in 1995 at Springfield, Ohio. He was an U.S. Army Veteran and was member of Sol D. Bayless Masonic Lodge. He was proud to be an elder with Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians. He enjoyed baking, cooking, and fishing with his very special nephew, John and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Stafford of Fort Wayne; daughters, Carla Stafford of Albion and Chris Parker; son, Clarence (Robin) Stafford Jr. of Fort Wayne; grandchildren, Malisa (Gideon) Gillman, and Veronica (David) Wagner; great-grandson, Clayton Wagner; brothers, Sammy, Tommy and Raymond Stafford; sisters, Mabell Brooks, Carolyn Thiele and Linda Shepherd.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Pauline Moll; and brother, Charlie Stafford.

Visitation and Services were held Nov. 5 at the D.O. McComb and Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home with Pastor Trent Netherton officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians Elders Assistance Fund or Parkview Home Health Care and Hospice.

HARVEY J. CRISP

Harvey J. Crisp, 63, of Hessel, died Friday, Jan. 2, 2009, at his home after a long bout with cancer surrounded by his two sons. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie on Jan. 12, 1945.

His parents were Howard and Leona (Dutcher) Crisp. He graduated from Cedarville High School and served in the U.S. Army. After service he was in construction for 18 years and a member of General Labor Union 1329. He retired as a law enforcement officer with the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, serving from 1987 to 2005. He loved to hunt and fish and had a passion for sports, especially Cedarville High School and the Detroit Red Wings. He was an avid golfer, playing often at Hessel Ridge and St. Ignace Golf Club. He was a member of the Sault Tribe.

On Aug. 26, 1967, he married Marlene Little in St. Ignace and she survives. Also surviving are two sons, Michael (Amy) of Lansing and Daniel (Claudia) of Thompsonville; his mother, Leona Litzner Brown of Hessel; a brother, Howard of

St. Ignace; step-sisters, Cheryl (Scott) Moser of Grand Rapids and Katie (George) Backus of Harbor Springs; half-brothers, David Crisp of St. Ignace and Stanley Crisp of Cadillac; half-sisters, Carol Ann (Stan) Wright and Donna St. Andrew; and a grandson, Stefan Crisp.

At his request, cremation took place. Visitation and memorial services were held Jan. 10, 2009, at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace followed by a luncheon at Hessel Tribal Center. Burial of his ashes will be in Cedar Cemetery in the spring.

Donations may be directed to LMAS Hospice or American Cancer with envelopes available from Dodson Funeral Home and Cremation Center, who assisted the family with arrangements.

BONNIE MCKERCHIE SPRING

Bonnie McKerchie Spring passed away unexpectedly Jan. 7, 2009.

Bonnie was born Feb. 12, 1951, to the late Ken and Helen McCoy.

Bonnie was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Bonnie will be deeply missed by her loving husband, Greg Spring. Bonnie is survived by the father of her three adoring sons, Russell McKerchie, and sons, Russell (Sheryl), James (Paula), Michael (Christina) McKerchie and step-sons Steven (Lindsay), Jason and Brian Spring, and step-daughter Stephanie Leask. Bonnie leaves her memory to be cherished by her brothers and sisters, Chip (Ruth), Mike (Kim), Danny and the late Barb, Patrick McCoy (Betsy), Cathy (Tony) Abramson, Carol, Sherry McCoy and Lauri Henry.

Bonnie has a very special bond with her 17 grandchildren whom she loved very deeply, Marissa (Charlie), Tyler, Bonnie ("Fuzzy"), Jacob, Dakota ("Cybil"), Logan, Brienna, Trevor, Hailey, Kayla, Myah, Ella, Lucas ("Gus"), Dylan, Jaycee, Bailey and Evan. Bonnie also has one very special great granddaughter, Gracie. Bonnie also leaves behind nieces and nephews, Lisa (Brandon), Laura (Matt), Tony, Amy, Robin (Eric), Jennifer, DJ (Tan-a), Kristi, Vicki, Tom, the late Derrick, Autumn, Jessie, Patrick, Elijah, Austin and Noah. Bonnie leaves behind much extended family and many, many friends, including special friends at the War Memorial Hospital Dialysis Unit.

Bonnie was loved beyond words and was a blessing in the lives of those who knew and loved her. Bonnie will be forever missed.

A family gathering was held on Jan. 9, 2009, at the home of Cathy and Tony Abramson in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. There was a gathering for friends and family on Jan. 10, 2009, at the Niigaanaagiiizhik Ceremonial Building. Donations can be left to the War Memorial Hospital

dialysis. The family was assisted by Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home.



JAMES MASTA

James Masta passed away Jan. 10, 2009, with family by his side at his sister's home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

He was born on Aug. 19, 1939, in Escanaba, Mich., to Lawrence and Marjorie Masta. He was an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He is survived by his children, Rita (Ken), LeAnn (Jim), Joey, Jim and Marie; three brothers, DJ (Cheryl), Dan (Joy) and Ken (Novella); and one sister, Kienna (Ted). He was the special grandfather of Bobby, Shaely, Crystal, Frank, Ryan, Rachael and Ben; and special nephew of Richard and Dolly Masta. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, family and friends of Sugar Island and Garden River, Ont.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Junior and Bobby; one sister, Darlene; and a grandson, Billy.

Special thanks to Dr. Miranda and home health care nurse, Lorraine, with the Chippewa County Health and Hospice Department.

Funeral services were held Jan. 12, 2009, at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home. Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com

EILEEN OBESHAW

Eileen Obeshaw, 57, of St. Ignace, died Jan. 13, 2009, at the Mackinac Straits Hospital.

She was born in Detroit on Sept. 13, 1951, to William and Bernice (nee Potter) Boahbedason.

She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She worked for K Royale Motel for several years.

She is survived by two daughters and their families, Patricia Horn and Cliff Shigwadja of St. Ignace, and Holly and Bryan Davis of Ohio; two brothers, Frances of Sault Ste. Marie, and Russel of Lansing, and five grandchildren.

Eileen was preceded in death by her husband, John Petkus, who died in 1999; her father, who died in 2006, her mother, who died in 1988, and two siblings, Cindy Obeshaw, who died in 1975 and Duane Boahbedason in 1991.

Services were held Monday, Jan. 19 at Dodson Funeral Home with Deacon Thomas McClelland officiating. Burial will be in Wequayoc Cemetery in the spring.

RICHARD MICHAEL LACROSS

Beloved father, son and brother, Richard Michael LaCross, passed away unexpectedly Jan.

17, 2009, at Bay Regional Medical Center at the age of 37 years. Richard was born Jan. 27, 1971, in Bay City, the son of Donald Keith and Joyce Ann (LaPlaut) LaCross Sr. He had a love of music and enjoyed playing his guitar. Richard also enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Most of all he loved spending time with his family and friends.

Left to cherish his memory are three children, Weston and Mariah LaCross and his recently born daughter, Neveah LaCross; fiancée, Nicole Swiben; mother, Joyce Ann LaCross; stepfather, Allen Cato; three brothers, Mark Allen (Ruth) LaCross, Anthony (Lynn) LaCross and Donald Keith LaCross Jr.; mother of his oldest two children, Carla Feinauer; and his best friends, Tony Jankowiak, Crystal Davis and Jerome Goff.

Richard was preceded in death by his father, Donald, in 1978.

Visitation and funeral services were on Jan. 20, 2009, at the Stapish Cederberg Funeral Home East with Pastoral Minister Kathy Madziar officiating. Those planning an expression of sympathy may consider memorials to the wishes of the LaCross family.

SHARON G. POWERS

Sharon G. Powers, 77, of Alpena, passed away at St. Mary's of Michigan in Saginaw on Jan. 19, 2009.

She was born in Newberry on Oct. 4, 1931, to the late Nelson and Thelma (Johnson)



Goudreau and married Evart Powers on Feb. 3, 1951. She taught school in Ohio before her retirement and moving to Alpena, where she taught Spanish at Alpena Community College. She was a member of the Besser Museum Board of Directors, Northland Library, Relay for Life and an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Sharon made and taught classes in Native American Porcupine Quill and Birch Bark Boxes.

Surviving are her husband Evart; one son, Michael, and wife Kathleen; two daughters, Annette Powers and husband Dan Kilburn, Kristin and husband Thomas Tilton; seven grandchildren: Christy, Kyle, Danielle, Cody, Cedar, Taryn and Tory; and one great-grandson, Cooper.

Visitation and Services were held at the Bannan Funeral Home with Rev. Steven Euper officiating.

Memorials may be sent to Friends Choice.

ALVIN J. GAMELIN

Alvin J. Gamelin, 61, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., went home to be with our Lord on Jan. 19, 2009, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 8, 1947, in Sault Ste. Marie.

Alvin graduated from Sault Area High School and was a member of St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church. He worked at the Soo Boat Tours for 22 years and was a religious education teacher to young students who enjoyed working with them in their faith. Alvin loved to walk in the country, draw, and read his Bible. He loved working in and around the house, gardening, landscaping and in his garage. Alvin loved his grandchildren and Jaden, his great grandchild, and he loved to partake in all activities with them.

On April 26, 1969, he married Mary Ruth Brownlee at St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Sault Ste Marie. Alvin is survived by his wife:

See "Walking on ..." page 10



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Continued from page 9

Mary Ruth, and one daughter, Michelle (Gary) Dunkel; three grandchildren, Christin, Amanda and Carrie; and one great grandchild, Jaden. He is also survived by two brothers, Wayne (Ada) Gamelin, Clifford "Kip" (Lisa) Gamelin; two sisters, Lorraine (Bob) Quarrell and Debby (Larry) Wilkins; special sisters-in-law, Nancy (Wayne) Lowes and Kathy LaPraire (Marty); his special nieces and nephews, and his Yorkie, Precious.

Alvin was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Joyce (Chalmers) Gamelin; and four brothers, Clifford, Eugene, Robert and Richard Gamelin.

Visitation and a Funeral Mass were held on Jan. 22, 2009, at St Isaac Jogues Catholic Church, with Brother John Hascall officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the Gamelin family to help with expenses. Condolences may be left on-line at www.csmulder.com.

LEROY ARTHUR SCHELL
LeRoy Arthur Schell, 73,

of Kincheloe, Mich., passed away Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital.

LeRoy was born on Nov. 18, 1935, in Eureka, Calif. He graduated from Eureka High School and went on to earn a bachelor's of science degree as well as a bachelor's in education degree from Humboldt State University. LeRoy served his country in the United States Army and was stationed at Camp Lucas in Sault Ste. Marie. On Aug. 27, 1960, he married Gail Forgrave in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. For years he worked as an elementary school teacher in Eureka and more recently for the Sault Tribe. He attended Fundamental Baptist Church and was a member of the Kincheloe Planning Commission. LeRoy truly enjoyed gardening, reading, writing and studying history, but most of all he enjoyed his family.

LeRoy is survived by his wife, Gail Schell of Kincheloe; two daughters, Brenda Austin and Debra (Mike) Povey, both of Sault Ste. Marie; two sons, Rick (Kathy) Schell

and Richard Schell, both of Kincheloe; seven grandchildren, Travis and Holly Austin, Janine Limonez, Stephanie and Kayce Sprecker, and Elizabeth and Sean Schell; two great grandchildren, Quintin and Olivia Limonez; and a sister, Kandy Walsh of Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, LeRoy and Francis (Amen) Schell; and a brother, Richard Schell.

A memorial service was held Jan. 31, 2009, at Fundamental Baptist Church with Pastor Tim Rader officiating. A luncheon gathering followed the service in the basement of the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Fundamental Baptist Church.

MICHEAL J. JAGO II

Micheal J. Jago II, 23, of Newberry, died Jan. 27, 2009, at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Born Jan. 10, 1986 in Marquette, son of Micheal and Rebecca



(Collins) Jago, Mike was a 2004 graduate of Newberry High School. Mike was employed as a youth care worker at Lakes Area Teaching Family Home in Newberry. He was an active veteran of the Michigan National Guard 1437th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Sault Ste. Marie. Mike was also a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Portage Township and Newberry Fire Departments, the Tahquamenon Sportsmans Club and the Luce County E.M.S. In addition to being a devoted husband and father, his hobbies and interests included going to camp, hunting, fishing, boating the Tahquamenon River, hockey, golf, shooting trap, snowmobiling, hanging out with friends and helping others when in need.

Mike is preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Janet Meeker; aunt, Lorri "Jamie" Clay; and grandparents, Clyde Jago and L.D. Brown.

Survivors include his wife, Lesley, of Newberry; son, Wyatt of home; parents, Mike and Becki Jago of

Newberry; father-in-law, Jim Meeker of Mancelona; sister-in-law, Michelle Meeker (Matt Swisher) of Curtis; siblings, Elisa Jago of Korea, Patty Jago, Michelle (Brad) Huffman and Jayeanne Anderson, all of Newberry; paternal grandparents, Rosann Brown of Newberry and Sirkka "Mikki" Jago of Idaho; maternal grandparents Soupy and Donna Collins of Newberry; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial services were held at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Newberry on Jan. 30, 2009, with Pastor Nancy Barkat officiating.

Through the generosity and consent of Mike's family, Mike was a Gift of Life donor in hope of helping others in need.

Memorial contributions have been respectfully requested to be directed to the family.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.

Tribal elders proud members of VFW Post 1981 Honor Guard

Below is a recent photo of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1981 Honor Guard in Madera, Calif. Of note are two elders of our tribe: Thomas K. Adams, third from the end on the upper right, back row, and George A. Bloch DDS, immediately to Adam's left. Both are natives of St. Ignace, Mich. Dr.

Blach writes, "Ours is a full-sized honor guard well known for its precision and dedication and is, therefore, asked to provide graveside military honors for deceased veterans throughout this large central valley of California, the San Joaquin Valley, as well as a nearby national cemetery.

"Additionally, this Honor Guard is called upon to participate in many community activities. VFW Post 1981 provides the entire Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs for the city of Madera. It is comprised of 356 members and, as such, is the second largest of the 22 VFW posts in this valley."



Belanger is team member of the month

Congratulations to Melody Belanger of the Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie's food and beverage office for earning January's Team Member of the Month! Mel started working for the casino's bar and beverage department in March 1994. Since then, she has worked in the restaurant and now works

in the administrative end of the food and beverage department. She was born in Maine and is married to David. She has two sons, DJ and Mikey. Mel was extremely surprised when she received her award – congratulations, Melody! Keep up the great work.



January's Team Member of the Month Melody Belanger (center) her supervisor, Janice Frye, food and beverage director (left) and Tony Goetz (right) casino chief operating officer pose with plaque.

Chippewa County Animal Shelter offers cold weather reminder

FROM THE CHIPPEWA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Doesn't Dianne have the most interesting face? A shelter volunteer said that Dianne reminded her of the Wookiee in the first Star Wars movie! Dianne is a very huggy girl, with long silver-gray fur. She is spayed and up to date on her shots. Dianne entered the shelter in November and would love to be your Valentine this February.

Bootzy is a white shepherd mix dog about 2 years old and, based on her smile, seems to



be a very happy dog. She may need a little more help with house training. She seems to do well with other dogs and cats. Bootzy has also been spayed and is up to date on her shots.

You can find Dianne, Bootzy and other wonderful animals waiting for a home at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 South Mackinac Trail in Sault Ste. Marie, 632-2519 or look online at www.chippewa.petfinder.com.

Remember that extremely cold weather is hard on pets.



Be sure to provide your dog with adequate shelter. If you keep your dog outside for any amount of time, it needs a doghouse filled with straw for warmth and you should bring it inside when temperatures dip near zero.

Read our online edition at www.saulttribe.com

Lasley~Lyons engagement



William and Donna LaLonde of St. Ignace announce the engagement of their daughter, Kayley Lasley, to Jason Lyons. Both are of Long Island, N.Y.

Miss Lasley is a 2003 graduate of LaSalle High School and a 2007 graduate of Ferris State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She is currently managing a salon in Roslyn, N.Y., while she continues her education. Miss Lasley, a Sault Tribe member, is the granddaughter of Lawrence and Sharron Lasley and the great-granddaughter of

Claris Snyder, all of St. Ignace. Miss Lasley served as a summer intern in St. Ignace in 2007.

Jason Lyons is a 2000 graduate of Big Rapids High School and a 2006 graduate of Ferris State University. He earned a degree in business/marketing and in professional golf management. He is a golf professional at Pine Hollow County Club in East Norwich, N.Y. He is the son of Tom and Wendy Lyons of Big Rapids and Micki Lyons of Vail, Ariz.

A Sept. 5 wedding is planned.

Haynes named to dean's list

Krystle J. (Wagner)

Haynes has been named to the dean's list in the Western Michigan University College of Education for fall semester 2008. Krystle is majoring in early childhood education and will graduate in December 2009. She is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and graduated from Sault Area High School in 2004. She is married to Matthew Haynes and is the daughter of Dennis and Carmen Wagner. She hopes to return to the Sault for her career.



Flute making camp offered

A flute making camp is being offered by the Sault Tribe Culture Department at the Mary Murray Culture Camp Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13-14, from 6 p.m. Friday to 5:15 p.m. Saturday.

Permission slips are required for youth attendance.

Space and supplies are limited and sign up is required! Youth to receive priority on sign up list.

For more information, sign up and permission slips, please contact Josh Homminga, Bud Biron or Laura Porterfield at (906) 635-6050.



Tribal member is installed as National Association of Realtors regional vice president for 2009

Tribal member Cathy Sherman Bittrick was recently installed as the 2009 regional vice president for the National Association of Realtors representing Michigan and Ohio. The inauguration was held in Orlando, Fla., and pictured with Cathy are her husband Barry, and her brother, Pat Howick, also a tribal member from Cocoa, Fla.,

with his wife, Lyn. Cathy lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., where she is a broker/owner of RE/MAX SunQuest Realty. She was the 2006 president of the Michigan Association of Realtors and has been licensed since 1974. Cathy and Pat's parents were Maxine Smith of St. Ignace and James Howick of Alpena, Mich.



Pictured left to right are Barry Bittrick, Cathy Sherman Bittrick, Lyn and Pat Howick

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YEA Unit II Circle of Life summer program



The Circle of Life summer program is four weeks of fun-filled excitement that includes cultural lessons by following the gifts exemplified by the medicine wheel. In 2008, this included camping, crafts, special presentations and lots of exercise.

Participants visited Bay Mills Community College to learn agricultural science with hands on training. Special thanks to Aaron Tadgerson, Larry Dyer and Mike Doyle for providing this wonderful opportunity to our youth.

We look forward to learning through other science activities in the future.



5th annual Youth Empowerment Powwow



At the Youth Empowerment Powwow, our Circle of Life summer participants celebrated teachings learned throughout the summer of 2008. Youth arrived at camp the day before the powwow and set up the arbor and dance arena. They volunteered to shadow some of the lead people, such as the arena director and master of ceremonies, and serve as flag carriers, head dancers and help the cooks and clean up crew. The young ladies learned how to collect cedar and make the final preparations for the powwow.

Chi miigwech to Calvin Burnside for serving as arena director, head veteran and master of ceremonies; Jason Memegos, head male dancer; Lana Causley, head female dancer; Morgan McQuiston, head female youth dancer; Gavin St. Onge, head male youth dancer; Dorothy Currie and Kelly Whitefeather for keeping everyone fed and happy; Bahweting Singers from Sault Ste. Marie and Mukwa Giizhik drum from Hessel; Terry Teeples and Rexton Township for the use of their hall and Garnet Park.

The youth powwow is held on the first Saturday in August at Garnet Park off H-40 in Rexton.



JKL Parent Advisory Council sponsored adult spelling bee, \$700 raised for activities

By LORI JODOIN

On Jan. 27, the JKL Parent Advisory Council sponsored its first adult team spelling bee. The event raised over \$700 to go toward the support of parental involvement and family fun activities.

Nine teams of three to six people made for 40 spellers in all. Sault Tribe elder Rita Dale was the pronouncer, Beckie Palmer was the judge and Katie Heyboer was in charge of definitions.

The classrooms and teams

raised money for their \$50 entry fee. Any leftover money was used to purchase mulligans (free pass to the next round) just in case of a misspelled word.

During the spelling bee, each team was given a word. They were then given 30 seconds to

confer with each other, write the word down and display it to the judges. This continued until only one team was left standing. The winner of this event was "Bee Attitudes," Suzanne Menard, Lisa Roese, Heather Purple, Pam Metivier and Susie

Bawks, sponsored by the JKL Middle School.

It was a great night of fierce and friendly competition that presented the ultimate in family involvement and staff-parent engagement.



The team that called themselves "Winners" were the team with the most family support. Here are team members Suzanne Worden, Lee Worden, Krissie Beamish, Charlotte Zajkowski and Nikki Dowd are shown surrounded by their supporters.



Team "Beelieve," Stephanie Thompson, Brandi Reno and Wendy Beaudoin, was the runner up. They made the Bee Attitudes work hard for their trophies.



Rita Dale, pronouncer, and Katie Heyboer, definitions, have some fun before the competition begins.



The "Bee Adorables" were the team with the best costume. Here are Tracey Knight, Curtis Sikora, Jenna DesRochers, Cheryl Stevens and Susan Solomon proudly displaying their bee themed apparel.



Five Queen Bees and a Drone consisted of Shondra Homminga, Angela Bruni, Mike Cygan, Sherry Mitchell, Sue Soule and Katie Fewchuk.



The Bee Attitudes proudly show off their trophies.



Jarrett, Tyler, Kurtis and Bill Feltis came to support Jodi Feltis who was on the team of "I.E. Bees."



Above is the Kindergarten-sponsored team "MisBeehavin," Jessica Fellows, Vici Clement and Sara Archer.



Donna Kozma and Ken Sherman from team "Stingers" consult on their strategies for spelling success.



The administration-sponsored team "Stingers," Left: Kim Swailes, Becky Aldrich, Eric Gadzinski and Carolyn Dale. Donna Kozma and Ken Sherman are missing from photo.



Team "Hippopotomonstrosesquipedalophobia" was the team with the longest name. Team members Sharon LaJoie, Richelle Baylis, Shari Robertson, Jessica Kuenzer, and Jamie Paquette were very creative in finding an appropriate name for their team. The definition is a fear of long words.



"I.E. Bees," Jodi Feltis, Elfie Schwiderson, Angela Craven and Cathy White were sponsored by special education.

The next deadline for submissions to Win Awenen Nisitotung is Feb. 24. If you are planning to move, call the Enrollment Department to update your new address at 632-8552 or (800) 251-6597.

Let's band together to fight youth suicide

SUBMITTED BY BARB SMUTEK, STAY PROJECT MANAGER

Editor's note — STAY is the Sault Tribe Alive Youth Project.

Preventing youth suicide in our communities requires the support of our communities, both tribal and others. Many local and grassroots organizations have formed to tackle this worthy cause because our children's lives are literally at stake.

Suicide is preventable. Our American Indian community has suffered severe losses at the hands of suicide and it's time

to officially band together and work towards the common goal of preventing suicide before we lose one more valuable life.

Please consider this as my engraved invitation to you and a loud call to order to begin working together and support all of those existing local organizations out there. One of my first goals as the new STAY project manager is to develop a local resource directory and build the "Seven Feathers Partnership," which will be a regional suicide prevention coalition. Let's band together

and fight this issue together.

I encourage you to contact me with current resources and activities, ideas for suicide prevention or if you would like to become involved in the partnership. We need many people to make this project a success. Everyone is invited, the youth, our elders, educators, health staff, cultural leaders, political leaders and you.

Please contact me at Barb Smutek, STAY Project manager, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, (906) 635-8629, bsmutek@saulttribe.net.

Education services update

SUBMITTED BY ANGELINE MATSON, SAULT TRIBE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Overall division news

We prepared a strategic plan for 2009. It is available to any tribal member who requests a copy. Please contact me at (906) 635-4944 to receive a copy of this document.

Early childhood education programs

Our Head Start/Early Head Start Program is scheduled for our annual program review to be conducted by the Office of Head Start. Programs are reviewed every three years. Our goal is to achieve a gold standard, which will demonstrate the model program we are.

The Child Care Center is renovating the toddler room bathroom to install toddler-sized toilet and sink to assist toddlers with potty training.

Early Childhood Program staff attend classes offered through Bay Mills Community College to earn their child development associate credential, a requirement of the Head Start Improvement Act.

Youth Education and Activities Program

The YEA coordinators are working to improve tutoring services provided to students. Specifically, we will obtain parental consent to access student records and then evaluate tutoring services impact upon student grades.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program

Budget cuts have made it necessary to reduce senior employment work hours from 20 hours per week to 15 hours per week, effective January 2009. Beginning Feb. 1, 2009, eight positions will be eliminated.

STAY Project

We completed the first quarter of the Sault Tribe Alive Youth Project, which is our tribal youth suicide prevention project funded through the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act and administered through Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Barb Smutek was hired as project manager for the three-year project. A

team of individuals attended the Michigan suicide prevention conference in Lansing in December and another team attended the required grant training in Phoenix, Ariz., in January. Any community member wanting to be involved in this important project should contact Barb Smutek at (906) 635-8629.

Higher Education programs

We are receiving numerous phone calls from tribal members who are upset with the recent changes announced for the self-sufficiency incentive awards. Students must submit financial need statements to our office in order to demonstrate unmet need. Only students with unmet need will be eligible for the incentive awards (maximum \$500 per semester). Incentive awards will not be processed until the end of the 2008-2009 academic year — the deadline is June 30, 2009. Awards will be issued in July 2009. These changes were necessary in order to save the self-sufficiency investment account principal.

Summer television and film workshop offers learning opportunity for American Indians interested in film

SANTA FE, N.M. — If you are a) Native American b) passionate about film and c) wondering how to get a leg-up in Hollywood, the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, N.M., wants you!

IAIA, in collaboration with the Disney • ABC Television group, is now accepting applications for the 2009 Summer Television and Film Workshop happening June 14 - July 24. Now in its sixth year, the workshop promises to be one of the most demanding and most rewarding yet!

The deadline for applications is March 27, 2009. The summer workshop is structured to assist both experienced and novice Native American screenwriters,

filmmakers, directors and actors alike. The six-week intensive is divided into two separate tracks, a writer's workshop and a production workshop, providing cross-collaboration between both. Writers will create short scripts for the production students in addition to developing and writing "spec" scripts. Production students will focus on production techniques including camera, sound, lighting and all aspects of post-production. Acclaimed executives, producers, screenwriters, directors and actors (both Native and non-Native) visit from the film and television industry to share their expertise in individual and group settings, as well!

All students who complete

the six-week program receive academic credit upon completion. Shawna L. Begay, New Media Arts faculty at IAIA and program director said, "It's been exciting to see students go on to work in the industry or bring skills back to their own communities to teach others after completing the workshop. It has really provided a way for many to jump-start their careers in film production and get noticed."

For more information call Begay at (505) 424-5716 or email sbegay@iaia.edu. To find out more about the program, and to apply, please visit www.iaia.edu/newmedia.

Scholarships and other opportunities

Bureau of Indian Education Loan for Service Program

Deadline: June 1, 2009

The purpose is to promote careers with tribal governments, BIA, and BIE funded organizations, both on and off the reservations. The repayment process is a 1-1 basis.

Eligibility:

- Must be a member of a federally-recognized tribe

- Must have at least a 3.0

GPA

- Must be pursuing a master's, doctorate or professional degree as a full-time student at an accredited school in the U.S.

Website: www.aigcs.org

Accenture American Indian Scholarship

Deadline: June 1, 2009

The purpose is to provide financial assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native students seeking graduate or professional degrees in the high technology and business fields. Accenture LLP will provide summer internships for students who are selected.

Eligibility:

- Must be a member of a federally-recognized tribe (or have CIB)

- Able to demonstrate involvement with Native American activities

- Must have cumulative (overall) GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale

- Must have demonstrated character, personal merit and commitment.

- Must be a full-time, degree-seeking first year graduate student.

Website: www.aigc.com/02scholarships/accenture

Wells Fargo American Indian Scholarship

Deadline: June 1, 2009

The purpose is to promote careers in Indian gaming, tourism, hospitality, and financial industries.

Eligibility:

- Must be an enrolled member of a federally-recognized tribe or have a CIB.

- Must be pursuing a degree in fields relating to banking, resort management, gaming operations (including management, accounting, finance, information technology, and human resources)

- Must be a full-time, degree-seeking student at an accredited school in the U.S.

- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

- Must demonstrate financial need.

Website: www.aigcs.org

Graduate fellowship for American Indians and Alaska Natives

To provide graduate fellowships for the 2009-2010 academic year for American Indian college graduates desiring to continue their education at the master's, doctorate, and professional degree levels. Please visit www.aigcs.org for more information.

Indian Law Summer

Program

Lewis and Clark Law School
Portland, Oregon

May 26-August 3, 2009

Scholarships Available.

Website: www.law.lclark.edu/dept/indianlw

Email: indianlw@lclark.edu

Telephone: (503) 768-6740

Toigo Fellowship

Deadline: Spring 2009

The Robert Toigo Foundation encourages Native Americans to consider an MBA and a career in finance.

www.toigofoundation.org

Graduate fellowship in resource management at Central Washington University

Native Americans may qualify for a monthly stipend and tuition (up to \$15,000 per year) and summer research support. All undergraduate majors are considered but the sciences, engineering, geography, anthropology, economics, biology, geology and political science are most appropriate.

Website: cwu.edu/~geograph/native

Telephone: (509) 9633-1188

Four Directions

Summer Research Program

Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital

Deadline: Feb. 20, 2009

Website: www.fdsrp.org

The Consortium — MBA fellowships

Offering full-tuition, merit-based MBA fellowships for America's best and brightest diverse candidates. Includes schools such as Carnegie Mellon Univ., U of Michigan, Yale University, Dartmouth College and more. Visit www.cgsu.org.

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Web site: www.law.asu.edu

Telephone: (480) 965-1474

Future Faculty

Career Exploration Program

Rochester Institute of

Technology

Sept. 23-27, 2009

Deadline: June 1, 2009

The purpose is to provide an all-expense paid opportunity to explore future faculty careers at RIT in Rochester, New York. The school is also consistently accepting CV's for faculty positions.

Website: www.rit.edu/OFR

Telephone: (585) 475-5775.

Call the tribe's Education Department
at (906) 635-7010 for information about programs,
scholarships and financial aid.

Harvard offers free tuition to low-income students

By RICK SMITH

As if children needed yet another reason to do their level best in school, Harvard University recently announced a sweeping initiative that relieves families in low-income brackets from the burden of paying tuition for their children to attend the prestigious institution.

The new policy has three major components. The primary component is called the Zero to 10 Percent Standard, which directs that undergraduate students from families whose income is \$60,000 or less will not be asked to contribute to the cost of sending their children to Harvard College. Students from families with incomes greater than \$60,000 will pay tuition in increments up to 10 percent for incomes above \$120,000 and below \$180,000 per year.

In addition, students will not be expected to take out loans, but it will remain an option if a student chooses to get a loan.

The final component under the new policy states Harvard will no longer consider home equity in determining a family's ability to pay for college.

"We want all students who might dream of a Harvard education to know that it is a realistic and affordable option," said Harvard President Drew last December. "Education is fundamental to the future of individuals and the nation, and we are determined to do our part to restore its place as an engine of opportunity, rather than a source of financial stress. With no loans, no consideration of home equity and a dramatic increase in grant aid, we are not tinkering at the margins, we are rebuilding the

engine."

Sally Donahue, Harvard's director of financial aid, said, "Our financial aid program, which includes a 'zero to 10 percent' of income expectation of parents' ability to contribute to their students' Harvard costs, is available to all of our students who demonstrate financial need and is not driven by academic achievement, but rather strictly by financial circumstances. If a student is admitted to Harvard College, we will meet the full demonstrated financial need, and for students from families with incomes of \$60,000 or under, that means that we will not expect their parents to contribute at all toward their college expenses. In fact, for these low-income students, their need-based scholarship from Harvard far exceeds the

cost of tuition, and can often cover their room and board expenses as well. While we are a highly selective school, we are also actively seeking talented students from around the world who might not think of Harvard as a financial possibility. This program is only for undergraduates, but all of our graduate schools also offer financial assistance and you can find out about that on their Web sites."

According to a Harvard announcement, the new initiative amplifies Harvard's long-standing commitment to need-based financial aid. Harvard awards neither merit aid nor athletic scholarships. Under the new initiative, the university will continue to consider individual circumstances in assessing a family's financial need. Families with unusually

high medical or sibling educational expenses, for example, may be expected to contribute less than the expected percentage income, while those with substantial wealth that does not show up as income may find that they are expected to contribute a higher percentage.

Factors such as family size, health care costs, sibling educational expenses, and other nondiscretionary expenses that place a drain on family finances are considered carefully in assessing a family's need and there is no income cut-off for need-based scholarship eligibility. Currently there are more than 100 families with incomes greater than \$200,000 who, because of extenuating circumstances, receive need-based financial aid.

For more information, visit www.harvard.edu.

Summer internships available at Sandia National Laboratories

Summer internships are available at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M. Current college upperclassmen and graduate students, who are familiar with Native American culture and tribal issues, are needed to support the Tribal Energy Program efforts

with technical project tasks.

The internships are 12 weeks in duration and a salary and relocation expenses will be paid. Applications must be postmarked Feb. 20, 2009, or earlier.

Students are needed to assist a cross-disciplinary team

to perform specific tasks. Interactions will be with Sandia's renewable energy staff, Native American tribes interested in renewable systems and Sandia's American Indian Outreach Committee. Instant immersion in these activities is offered in working directly with experienced and internationally recognized peers. Travel will be required, including field visits to renewable

energy projects.

As authorized by the Tribal Energy Program, the student applicant must be a US Citizen and be a member of a federally-recognized tribe, Alaska village or Alaska corporation. Specific interest in renewable energy is required. Applicants must pass a pre-employment security check.

The Tribal Energy Program promotes tribal energy self-

sufficiency, economic development and employment on tribal lands through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

To apply, see pps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/internships or contact Sandra K. Begay-Campbell at Sandia National Laboratories, PO Box 5800, MS-1110, Albuquerque NM, 87185-1110, (505) 844-5418, skbegay@sandia.gov.

Hessel tribal center activities



By LISA BURNSIDE, UNIT II YEA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Activities at the Hessel Tribal Center other than youth council meetings include Anishinabe language classes, Mondays, 5 to 7 p.m. and Mukwa Giizhik Drum practice, Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m. These activities are open to the public; please bring a dish to pass if you can.

Chi miigwech to Gene Biron for sharing his knowledge and time with our community; words cannot express how much you are appreciated.

Newberry activities include cultural lessons, creating regalia and moccasins, as well as other activities. Regalia classes are currently offered at the tribal center on Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

Thanks to the ladies who work at the tribal center for

their dedication and support for the YEA program and to the Newberry elders for sharing their wisdom and time with our youth. Special thanks to Michelle Derusha for sharing her knowledge.

The Newberry Powwow Committee did a fantastic job of organizing the second annual powwow. I look forward to helping next year.

We offer in-school tutoring for youth attending the Les Cheneaux Community School. Our tutor Judy Hamel is determined to help our students succeed academically.

If you would like more information on services and activities available, please contact me, Lisa Burnside, Unit II YEA program coordinator, at (906) 484-2298.

College student opportunity available

Up to seven soil conservationist trainee positions are available to college students across Michigan, through the Student Career Experience Program.

The Student Career Experience Program is a planned, progressive education program that provides for the integration of a student's academic studies with target positions in the federal workforce. The SCEP Program allows students to gain real, paid work

experience while pursuing a college degree in a particular career field.

Work locations vary each summer, and the duties and locations are designed to provide hands-on experience and training in the specific discipline for which the student is hired.

At the agency's option, students who successfully complete all work, study, qualifications and other eligibility requirements may be offered

permanent positions with the agency upon graduation.

The student career experience appointment vacancy announcement is on USAJobs at www.usajobs.opm.gov Enter "student trainee" and "Michigan." Please access the vacancy and submit a resume, or OF-612, transcript and the attached questionnaire as requested by the vacancy announcement.

The application deadline is Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009.



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Sault Tribe Housing smoking surveys conducted

SUBMITTED BY SAULT TRIBE COMMUNITY HEALTH

According to a tenant survey conducted by Sault Tribe Housing and Sault Tribe Community Health, 70 percent of tenants would prefer to live in a smoke-free building.

In December, Sault Tribe Community Health in partnership with the Chippewa County Tobacco-Free Living Coalition assisted Sault Tribe Housing to conduct surveys of tenants on their opinions about the dangers of secondhand smoke and their preferences about living in a smoke-free building. The Bahweting Anishnabek tribal youth council from Sault Area High School delivered packets of information to teach about the dangers of secondhand smoke to all tenants in Sault Ste. Marie, and Sault Tribe Housing delivered the packets to the other housing units in the service area.

Surveys were mailed to the tenants and those who returned completed surveys were eligible to compete for four \$25 Wal-

Mart gift cards provided by Sault Tribe Community Health. Winners were Jessica Issacson of Escanaba, Jonas Moses of Kincheloe, Fannie Aslin of Newberry and Lori Tallman of St. Ignace.

Of the 499 surveys mailed, 119 were returned. Ninety-seven percent of housing residents believe secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard and 98 percent believe children should not be exposed to secondhand smoke. Forty-four percent of respondents either smoke or live with someone who smokes.

"These statistics are very interesting," commented Donna Norkoli, Community Health educator. "This survey shows people are very aware of the dangers of breathing in secondhand smoke, especially for children. Even some of the residents who smoke do not want to live in a building where secondhand smoke is seeping into their unit. Comments showed that residents are going outside to smoke, especially if they have children

living in the house."

According to the 2006 surgeon general's report, the home is the place where children are most exposed to secondhand smoke and it is a major location of secondhand smoke exposure for adults. Breathing any amount of secondhand smoke is harmful to smokers and nonsmokers alike. Secondhand smoke is a serious health danger that causes heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory illnesses and it is consistently linked to a significant increase in both heart disease and lung cancer risks among adults. Eliminating smoking is the only way to fully protect people from exposure to secondhand smoke.

Regarding financial burdens, apartment owners understand the high maintenance and replacement costs associated with having units where smoking is allowed, resulting in nicotine and tar-stained walls, cigarette burn marks and carpets and upholstery that are permeated with tobacco smoke. They also

know the dangers of cigarette-caused fires. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, smoking is the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths across the country. A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed can cause a large fire in minutes.

"A smoke-free policy can dramatically reduce maintenance and replacement costs," said Julie Trotter, Chippewa County Health Department Tobacco-Free Projects coordinator. "This cost savings can be over \$2,000 to \$8,000 per unit. Furthermore, the nonsmoking rate for the adult population in Michigan is now almost 80 percent, which makes the market niche for smoke-free apartments enormous."

The Center for Social Gerontology, Inc. in Ann Arbor, Mich., operates the Smoke-Free Environments Law Project. "In 2004 when the Michigan Smoke-Free Apartment Initiative

began as a collaborative effort of the project and 10 local health departments covering 19 counties, it was almost impossible to find apartments that had smoke-free or no-smoking policies," said Jim Bergman, the center's co-director. "In four short years, smoke-free apartments now abound and are the clear trend. Hundreds of thousands of market-rate rental housing units are now covered by no-smoking policies.

Well over 15,000 units of 'affordable' housing are also smoke-free. And, 28 public housing commissions in Michigan have smoke-free policies for some or all their buildings, covering over 3,500 units."

For more information about the dangers of secondhand smoke or for assistance with quitting commercial tobacco, please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210. To access the MISmokeFreeApartment Web site to learn more, go to www.mismokefreeapartment.org.

The beat goes on during American Heart Month

Learning more about living healthy should not be limited to a single month; however, Valentine decorations remind us of American Heart Month in February.

While heart attacks are portrayed dramatically in the movies as the actor clutches his chest and drops to the ground, more often the scenario is less obvious. Many heart attacks start slowly, as a mild pain or discomfort and many victims may not recognize what is happening. Symptoms may even come and go and even those

who have had a heart attack before may not recognize their symptoms, because the next attack can have entirely different ones.

According to the American Heart Association these are symptoms to take seriously:

- Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back. The discomfort can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain.

- Discomfort in other areas

of the upper body. Can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

- Shortness of breath often comes along with chest discomfort. But it also can occur before chest discomfort.

- Other symptoms may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or light-headedness.

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are more likely than men to experience some of

the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, and back or jaw pain. Most people are unaware that heart disease is the number one killer of women.

So, learn the warning signs, but remember this: Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out (tell a doctor about your symptoms). Minutes matter! Fast action can save lives — maybe your own. Don't wait more than 5 minutes to call 9-1-1. If you can't access the emergency medical

services (EMS), have someone drive you to the hospital right away. If you're the one having symptoms, don't drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other option.

Take the time to learn about how to keep your heart healthy this month. Preventing a heart attack may be as easy as ABC: Avoid commercial tobacco, Become more active and Choose good nutrition!

Call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210 for more information and resources.

Through with chew week: a great time to quit the spit

During Through With Chew Week (Feb. 15-21), there is one message for people who use smokeless tobacco: smokeless does not mean harmless.

"There is no safe form of commercial tobacco, it doesn't matter whether you smoke it, dip it, chew it or inhale it. All tobacco products contain nicotine and are addictive," said Lauren Eveleigh, Sault Tribe health educator.

Smokeless tobacco is a concentrated and dangerous form of tobacco commonly known as spit tobacco, chewing tobacco or snuff. These products contain 28 known cancer-causing agents and are associated with cancers of the mouth, tongue, throat and stomach. Spit tobacco is also a known cause of gum recession, permanent tooth staining, and tooth loss. The high levels of nicotine in spit tobacco can also contribute to heart disease and stroke.



Karen McKelvie and Jasmine Williams (L-R), members of the Bahweting Anishnabek tribal youth council from Sault High School pose with the Mr. Dip Lip model and the Teeth in Tobacco Juice jar — educational materials used during the Through With Chew Week activities.

Despite these unsettling facts, spit tobacco remains a serious problem among both adults and young people across the nation and in our area. According to the 2007 Chippewa and Mackinac

County Youth Asset Report, 22 percent of high school students have used smokeless tobacco by grade 12.

"My concern is that some of our youth mistakenly think of smokeless tobacco — especially

some of the newer "spitless" forms that are harder to detect in school — as a safe alternative to smoking," said Rachel Mandelstamm, Sault Tribe YEA coordinator. "It is important for everyone to understand the dangers of smokeless tobacco."

The Sault Tribe Community Health Program will collaborate with the Chippewa County Tobacco Free Living Coalition to participate in the Through With Chew Week tobacco abuse prevention campaign during the week of Feb. 15 - 21. Some of the activities for the week will include community display tables, newspaper articles and radio interviews. Pizza box flyers and payroll stuffers with spit tobacco prevention and educational messages will also be distributed during the campaign.

Members of the Bahweting Anishnabek tribal youth council group from Sault Area High School will help spread the

Through With Chew message by writing and recording a spit tobacco prevention radio commercial at the Radio Eagle radio station in Newberry, Mich. This advertisement will run on Radio Eagle stations out of Newberry, Ishpeming and Escanaba for three weeks during the month of February. The tribal youth council will also be preparing presentations about the dangers of spit tobacco for students in grades four through eight which will be presented in local schools during Through With Chew Week. Watch and listen for Through With Chew messages in your community.

Remember, all commercial tobacco is addictive. If you never start using commercial tobacco products, you will never have to worry about quitting. Please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210 for more information and resources on quitting.

Got the winter blues? Ways to avoid the "blue slump"

CONNIE M. HILL, COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR

The holidays are over and winter is in full force. As the days are shorter and the nights get colder, even the best of us can get a little down. The winter blues are characterized by the mild depression, lack of

motivation and low energy that many people experience during this cold season. Luckily, there's a lot you can do to both prevent the blues from coming on and get yourself back to normal if they're already here.

Exercise

As if we needed another

reason to get fit. Exercise isn't only for maintaining your weight and staying healthy. It's great for relieving the stresses of life. Plus, the effects of a good workout can last for several hours. You'll have more energy throughout the day and sleep better at night. Exercise

also helps your mind by releasing those "feel good chemicals" that improve your mood. Take the opportunity to enjoy winter sports such as sledding, snowshoeing, skating, ice fishing, hunting and trapping. Seeing winter in a positive light, with all the fun activities that it has

to offer, will keep your spirits high.

Eat a healthful diet

What and when you eat has a great affect on your mood and energy. Avoid refined and processed foods (like white breads, rice and sugar). These

— See *Blue slump* on page 17

Making healthy changes for 2009

SUBMITTED BY CHARLA GORDON, RD, HEALTHY HEART PROJECT

Do you want 2009 to be a great year for taking care of yourself and managing your diabetes? Here are seven key areas for you to focus on:

Healthful eating – Are your food choices mostly healthy? Do you understand how portion sizes affect your blood sugar and your weight? Have you noticed that it is important to eat regularly and about the same amount of food every day to keep your blood sugars in the target range for you?

Being active – Did you know that regular daily activity can improve your blood sugar numbers? Physical activity is important for keeping you fit and helping to keep body weight and blood sugar num-

bers down. What can you do to start getting more active today?

Monitoring – Where is your blood sugar meter? Are you using it? When you test your blood sugar it gives you valuable information about how food, physical activity and your medicines affect your blood sugar levels. It is a good idea to keep medical appointments where your blood pressure, weight changes, blood cholesterol, triglycerides and more will also be monitored.

Taking medication – Did you know that diabetes changes over time and that your medicines probably will, too? There are many medicines for diabetes and each has a different job to do in your body; it is important that you know which medicines you are on and how each of those medicines is working in

your body. The medicines can only do their work if you take them every day as prescribed by your health care provider.

How are you at problem solving? – As a person with diabetes, you must keep problem-solving skills sharp so that you can make changes in food, activity and medicines if you are sick or have a change in your usual day.

Reducing risks – This means looking ahead and taking action to prevent diabetes complications and keeping your level of health and quality of life high. You can get started by quitting smoking (if you smoke) and staying away from second-hand smoke; you will also want to get your feet, eyes and dental (yes, even if you have dentures) exams done regularly.

Healthful coping – How do

you handle stress? Who helps you take care of your diabetes? Are you motivated to take care of yourself? Do you have all the tools and information you need to manage your diabetes? If you are struggling with your diabetes, who can you call? Where do you find useful and honest information about caring for your diabetes?

The Sault Tribe's Diabetes Program is here to help you with these seven self-care behaviors. Call us; if we do not know the answer, we know where to find it.

You can reach the Diabetes Program at the Sault Tribe Health Center by calling (877) 256-0009 or 632-5210.

(Source: American Association of Diabetes Educators, AADE7™ Self-Care Behaviors.)

Gratitude from the Anishnaabek Community and Family Services staff

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services extends a very sincere "thank you" to all who have contributed, in one way or another, to the children we have in out-of-home placement.

Through your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity you have helped in making Christmas 2008 a success.

The children greatly appreciate your kindness.

From "Blue slump" on page 16

foods are not only devoid of the nutrients your body craves, but they zap your energy levels and can affect your mood — causing depression, lack of concentration and mood swings. Try to incorporate more traditional foods into your diet. Try new recipes that include fish, venison, squash, corn and beans. Winter is a good time to enjoy crock-pot meals and soups. These healthful foods provide your body and mind with nutrients and stabilize your blood sugar and your energy levels.

Get some sun
Most people know that sunlight provides us with Vitamin D. But did you know that it also improves your mood? Winter days are shorter and darker than other months and because of the cold weather, a lot of people spend less and less time outdoors. Lack of sunlight can cause many people to become depressed without knowing why. Similar to exercise, sunlight exposure releases

neurotransmitters in the brain that affect mood. Try to spend a little more time outdoors. Keep your shades up during the day to let more light in. Sit near windows in restaurants and during class. Try changing the light bulbs in your house to "full spectrum" bulbs. These mimic natural light and actually have the same effects on your mind as the real thing.

Relax
You're busy — work, class, family, friends, appointments, meetings — even if you enjoy being busy, everyone needs some time off. Don't be afraid to say "no" to extra opportunities (covering a shift for a co-worker, bringing food to a school function). Try to spend a few minutes each day doing nothing. Read a book or magazine, sleep in on the weekend, go to bed early or take a yoga class. Relaxation, especially in the form of yoga, can alleviate stress and leave you with a calm energy. Mental exercises like

meditation and positive thinking can help keep depression at bay.

Get social support

Don't underestimate the power of friends, family, mentors, co-workers and neighbors. Who can you turn to when you're down and need a pick-me-up? Keep a mental list of these special people and don't be afraid to ask for help or encouragement when you need it. Something as simple as a phone call, a chat over coffee, or a nice e-mail or letter can brighten your mood.

Get some sleep

People naturally want to sleep a little bit more during the winter. But with all we have going on sometimes sleep is the first thing to go. With a little time management and some self-discipline you can meet your shut-eye needs. Aim for seven to eight hours each night and try to keep your bedtime and waking time consistent. That way, your sleeping patterns can normalize and you'll

have more energy. Try not to oversleep — those 12-hour snoozes on the weekend can actually make you more tired.

Instead of always avoiding the cold and the snow, look for

the best it has to offer. If you would like more information on the winter blues, contact Sault Tribe Community Health, (906) 632-5210.

One vaccination can protect your family from three life-threatening diseases

The Chippewa County Health Department offers vaccine that can help people between ages 10 and 64 from diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis — three serious life-threatening diseases caused by bacterial infection.

Diphtheria mainly affects the airways and sometimes the skin. Generally the airways become inflamed (swollen) causing severe breathing difficulties and sometimes suffocation. The bacteria also release a toxin (poison), which can cause nerve damage, heart problems and death.

Tetanus (lockjaw) bacteria enter the body through wounded skin. Wounds that are especially prone to infection are burns, fractures, deep wounds or wounds contaminated with soil, dust, horse manure or wood splinters. The bacteria release a toxin that can cause muscle stiffness, painful muscle

spasms, fits and death.

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly infectious illness. The disease affects the breathing tract causing severe spells of coughing that may interfere with normal breathing. The coughing is often accompanied by a "whooping" sound. The cough may last for one to two months or longer. Pertussis can also cause inner ear infections, long-lasting bronchitis, pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and death.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against these diseases. The combined diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine works by causing the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against these diseases; a booster is needed every 10 years. The vaccine will not give you or your child the diphtheria, tetanus or pertussis infection, nor will it protect against diseases caused by other types of bacte-

ria or organisms.

Call the Chippewa County Health Department at 635-3572 to schedule an appointment. Most people are eligible for free vaccine with a \$7 administration fee. You can also visit our website at www.chippewahd.com for more information.

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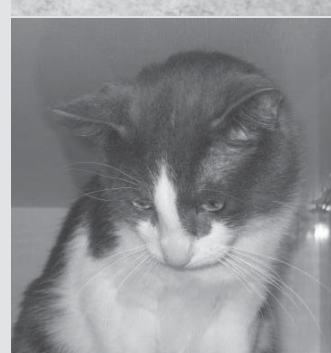
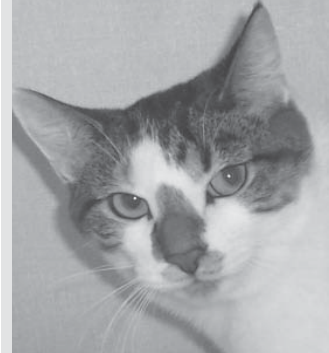
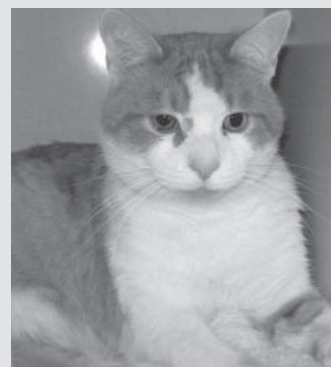
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National Condom Day is February 10

BY DANYALLE M. WYCKOFF, HIV PREVENTION COUNSELOR AND LARRY KLEIN, HIV PREVENTION COUNSELOR

Most people think that the holidays are over as soon as the New Year's Day parade is at its final draw. What most people don't realize is that February is a big month for holidays. There is Groundhog's Day, President's Day and Flag Day. Not to mention, for all of you sweethearts, Valentine's Day on Feb. 14. (Yes, it is that time of year again).

Besides these conventional holidays, there are others to celebrate. For all of you who

are tired of the cold weather, Hula in the Coola Day on Feb. 1 is for you. Anyone who's not happy in their relationship can mark Feb. 7 on their calendar as Dump your Significant Jerk Day. It's a shame that this day is before Valentine's Day. Maybe this is why it's not so popular. Not fond of being a Bob, Bill or a Betty? Feb. 13 is Get A Different Name Day.

A holiday that is near and dear to my heart and is a cause for celebration is National Condom Day on Feb. 10. I know what your thinking, "Why a national condom day?"

According to the latest infor-

mation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are approximately 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases in the United States. Among these cases, about half of all new infections were found in those aged 15-24. The best way to prevent transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is through abstinence. However, for all who have a sexual relationship with their partner, the condom is the best method of protection against STD transmission.

Condoms are not all created equal. Know the facts.

Latex condoms provide better protection than polyurethane and lambskin. Condoms with spermicide (nonoxynol-9) are better at preventing pregnancy, but actually increase your risk of STD transmission. The number one reason condoms are put on incorrectly. Did you know there are 11 steps to putting on a condom properly?

Many individuals with STDs are not aware of the infection. This is where you are at risk. Your partner can unknowingly infect you and then you can give it to someone else and the cycle goes on

and on, yikes!

We can stop this madness by simply using a condom. It will prevent the transmission of fluid, therefore, preventing infection. Condoms are our lifesavers. The question is not, "Why is there a National Condom Day?" but, "Why isn't everyday a condom day?"

If you are interested in more information on sexually transmitted diseases, prevention supplies, educational supplies and free HIV testing, please call Danyalle Wyckoff at (906) 632-5255, Larry Klein at 632-5265 or Community Health at 632-5210.

SCHIP 2008 coverage numbers available

Some 7.4 million children were enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in 2008 — a four percent increase over the previous year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced recently. The announcement comes as Congress is debating reauthorization of SCHIP, which is projected to expand coverage to an additional four million children.

"With unemployment numbers rising and the economy struggling to regain momentum, more and more American families are relying on SCHIP to insure their children get the health coverage they need," said Acting HHS Secretary Charles Johnson. "It is no surprise that SCHIP enrollment went up in 2008 and we expect this trend to continue well into 2009 if the program is reauthorized."

Created in 1997, SCHIP is a state and federal partnership

Tips to keep your resolve going strong

Sticking to those new year's resolutions can be tough, especially if you've put major lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, getting more exercise, or eating better on your list.

A lot of us start out strong on our new healthy path, then lose steam after the first few weeks. If your resolve is faltering, these tips can help you stay on track.

Quitting smoking: Remember that giving up smoking is one of the best things you can do for your own health and that of the people around you. Make a list of the reasons you decided to quit and keep it handy. Pull it out when temptation hits.

Create a non-smoking environment at home and at work, and spend as much free time in non-smoking places (libraries, museums, malls) as possible. Keep toothpicks, carrots, celery sticks, or gum on hand to replace a cigarette in your mouth. Stay away from situations or places you link with smoking. Create new routines.

Exercising: Start out easy, 30 minutes of walking twice a week and 10 minutes of stretching each morning is a great start.

— American Cancer Society

designed to help uninsured children. SCHIP received \$40 billion in federal funds over 10 years through 2007. The Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 extended the program until March 31, 2009, with an appropriation of \$5 billion for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, with fiscal year 2009 funding available only through March 31, 2009. The legislation also provided \$1.6 billion in funding for states with SCHIP budget shortfalls for fiscal year 2008 and \$275 million for state shortfalls through the first two quarters of

fiscal year 2009.

Enrollment data, compiled by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and based on state reports, show that 7.4 million children were enrolled in SCHIP at some point during federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008, compared to 7.1 million for fiscal 2007. During FFY 2008, 334,616 adults were covered with SCHIP funds.

"While more children are relying on the program, we know millions more children need health care coverage and that is why we need a strong SCHIP to meet the nation's

growing need," said Acting Secretary Johnson. "President Obama believes that healthy children are the key to a healthy economy and a healthy future for our country. We look forward to working closely with Congress to reauthorize SCHIP and to working with the States to do every thing we can to enroll every eligible child in the program."

The SCHIP targets uninsured

children who live in families with incomes generally around 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$42,000 for a family of four in 2008), which is too high in most states to qualify for Medicaid, but in many cases, too low to afford private coverage.

Information on SCHIP enrollment numbers by state for 2008 is available at www.cms.hhs.nationalschippolicy/schiper.

Dolly Furr, RN, BSN Chippewa County Health Department



Dolly started with Chippewa County Health Department August 23, 2007 as a Home Health & Hospice Nurse. She graduated from LSSU in May, 2007.

When asked what she likes most about being a Home Health/Hospice nurse Dolly stated, "As a Hospice nurse I have the privilege of being involved in patient care at a truly precious time of life. I also love being a part of another persons life review."

What sets us apart

Our staff: Our dedicated nurses, social workers, counselors and home health aides form a "cocoon of care" around our patients and families.

Our expertise: Because we are one of the largest programs in the county we have specialists in many areas including a nurse certified in Wound Ostomy care. We provide foot care in the home or in a clinic, we have nurses specialized in pain management and specialized children's programs, as well as certified Hospice Nurses.

Our experience: We have been serving our communities for more than 72 years. CCHD is certified through Medicare and accredited by CHAP.

Our location: Wherever you are, we have a team of home health & hospice specialists who can help you.

Our commitment: We care for all who need and seek our care. We are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for our patients, their families, and for admissions.

Our size: We serve nearly 250 patients and their families every day.

Chippewa County Health Department
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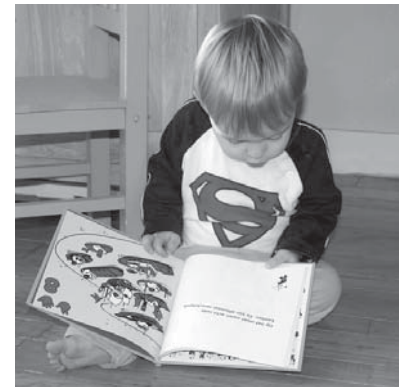


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Sault Tribe Head Start & Early Head Start Now Accepting Applications

for the 2009 – 2010 school year



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Eligibility

- Children need to be 3 years old by Dec. 1.
- Members of a federally recognized tribe.
- Income eligibility requirements

Early Head Start

- Center-Based Full Day, Full Year (Sault)
- Home-Based (Chippewa, Mackinac & Luce Counties)
- Home-Based services available for pregnant women

Eligibility

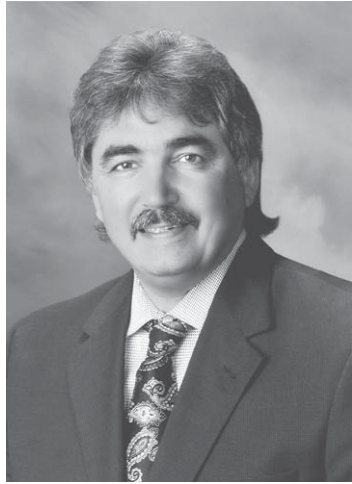
- Children from birth to 3 years old.
- Members of a federally recognized tribe.
- Income eligibility requirements.

Children with Disabilities are Welcome.

For more information or an application,
Please Call

(906) 635-7722

Chairman McCoy reports to the membership



DARWIN "JOE" MCCOY
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aanii. It's a new year, and we are moving forward within the tribe. I am pleased to report that Vice Chairwoman Lana Causley and I have set our first Chair / Vice Chair hours for Feb. 26, 2009, from 3 to 6 p.m. in St. Ignace at our McCann property. Due to the majority of our 2009 board meetings being held in Sault Ste. Marie, we are planning to visit a different outlying area each month. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Lona Stewart at (906) 635-6050. Appointments are not required; however, they will be given priority. We prefer that when holding these hours in our different areas, members from that particular area are given preference, but these hours are open to all tribal members. Members in Unit I have the opportunity to meet with me more often than those who do not reside here.

Board of directors workshops

I am also pleased to announce we are working on scheduling additional open session board workshops for our members who wish to find out more about tribal operations and membership services. We are in the process of setting up the schedule and topics for each workshop so we can publish the agenda for each session in our paper as well as on our Web site at www.saulttribe.com so our members can decide if they would like to attend for different areas. We held the first session on Wednesday, Jan. 28, where we reviewed the membership services short term strategic plans. This session went well, membership services division directors presented their first draft and the board of directors provided great feedback that will be reviewed and incorporated where applicable for a second round review in the near future. The dates and tentative agenda items for February and March will be found in this edition of the newspaper. (Ed. Note: see front page.)

Health services

Our number one priority for membership services is health care. The Health Division has the largest of all membership services budgets due to the ever-increasing need for health care. Members have access to

the wide variety of services our clinics offer, free of charge.

To continue providing quality services, we have to ensure we are operating at maximum efficiency and have the providers needed to provide services to our members. We recently had a recruitment and retention consultant firm at our Sault Ste. Marie health center to conduct a review of our operations to best prepare an attainable recruitment plan for doctors, dentists and other health care professionals. The consultants spent a week gathering information on how we provide and administer services. One thing we hear is we can't fill our open provider positions because the pay we offer isn't competitive enough to recruit quality professionals. We have several vacant provider positions in the Health Division and this is making it difficult to improve the level of health care we can provide our patients. This has been an issue for over two years and a number of different efforts were not successful in filling these vacancies. During the discussion with the board of directors, the consultant firm noted they will provide recommendations for possible implementation while taking into consideration our current financial constraints. We look forward to their final review.

Self-sufficiency programs

As reported in last month's newspaper, changes have been made to how we manage our self-sufficiency fund programs and several more may be forthcoming. These programs include education, elder health and employment, annual payment to our elders as well as funeral assistance. From the inception of these funds, the intent had been to use just the interest off of each to fund that particular membership service for that fiscal year. Unfortunately, in the past, we have been spending, not only the interest, but the tribe's general fund dollars as well as the principal amounts, to sustain the level of services we were providing. We have two choices: we either operate these programs with existing criteria, making any who apply eligible regardless of income and need and when we run out of funds for the programs, we completely close them down for the rest of the year, or we set eligibility criteria to help those members who have a true need.

Communication

Some members have voiced their concerns about lack of communication from our leadership to our membership. Since becoming elected, I've communicated and answered questions as much as the laws allow. By that I mean, I answer every question asked of me, with few exceptions. While some may not be satisfied with all the answers and

explanations, I will always be honest in my actions for our tribe. Some members request proprietary information, like those related to employment matters. We are not at liberty to discuss any employment matters with the general public; this information is protected by federal law. Some business actions are proprietary for purposes of maintaining competitiveness and improving our negotiating ability. We do understand there are some communication issues and we are working to address those deficiencies. If there are particular issues that you would like to know more about, please let us know and we will do our best to address your questions and concerns. We have a newspaper that goes to every member's household and the paper is our best communication tool. I still plan to start an e-mail notification system for those of you who would like to receive more timely information about our tribe. I have received only a handful of e-mail addresses, so if you would like to participate in this in the near future, please be sure to send your name and e-mail address to Lona at lstewart@saulttribe.net.

There have been a number of rumors circulating in our communities, including that the board of directors received a raise in pay. There is no truth to this. We recently took action on the board of directors retirement plan that put us in compliance with the Internal Revenue Code. This was done at no cost to the tribe. We are required to follow federal law and made the change in order to do so. This somehow turned into the rumor that the board gave themselves a raise.

If you have questions, please bring them to us so we can help facilitate the answers. We have many people, including the board of directors, tribal members and long-term dedicated employees who, combined, have years of knowledge and expertise to help us move forward for the betterment of all our tribe. We have to move forward together, past the negativity. We have approximately 40,000 members in our great nation, yet we hear the voices of such a small minority who are not happy with decisions made. We do so many great things with the resources we have and that truth seems to get lost sometimes in the negativity of a few. We have to face reality and adapt to the present living conditions we find ourselves in. We have restrictions and limitations that we must live within and rules and regulations that we must follow. We are a sovereign nation within a sovereign nation. Like every government, we cannot be expected to meet the needs of every member within our nation; but we make every effort to continue to

strengthen our traditions and culture, and protect and preserve our resources. This is what makes it possible to provide so many wonderful membership services, for current generations as well as future, and do what we can to take care of each other. To perpetuate our way of life, we have to plan and planning takes time. The solution to our problems didn't just present itself; we are still working on fixing our problems. I want our members to know that I take my responsibility very seriously, as does everyone that I am working with.

Greektown Casino

I have been dedicating a large portion of my time trying to salvage our investment in the Greektown Casino. Things have been happening at such a rapid pace in Detroit that by the time we could report some action it would have changed. By the time of this report, we will most likely have filed our reorganization plan with the bankruptcy court, unless the court grants an extension on the deadline for submission of said plan. What they end up deciding is anybody's guess. I know since I've been involved we, the Greektown Management Board and our board of directors, have been doing everything we possibly can to salvage this enterprise. I do hope it will be a viable option to retain even a minority ownership interest. Time, and the court, will tell.

Economic stimulus proposal

Tribes throughout the nation received notice in early January that then President-Elect Barack Obama was putting together an economic stimulus proposal for congressional review and potential approval, and that there was a good chance that there would be specific dollars available for tribal governments' needs. The Senate Appropriations Committee did

in fact include approximately \$3 billion for tribes of the total \$900 billion package. We were asked specifically to submit proposals for projects that are ready to go and will boost tribal infrastructure needs (i.e. roads, schools/colleges, health facilities, communication facilities, etc.). Our total proposal equaled a request for an additional \$33,381,494. Our staff did a great job pulling this information together with such a short turn around time. President Obama's plan has moved through the House, and is now moved to the Senate for review and consideration. We will continue to watch the progress and report back any news we receive.

Legislative activities

Finally, February is going to be a very busy month. A delegation of board members, including myself, will be attending the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) meetings in Washington, D.C. We are working with our staff to coordinate the issues we need to address at the federal level. We are not only attending MAST, but will have individual meetings with senators and representatives one-on-one to educate them about who we are and what our needs are. I will also be attending the State of the State Address in Lansing on Feb. 3. We have to strengthen our presence at both the federal and state levels to ensure we have a voice. We need to be sure that with the new leadership at both levels, they understand who we are and why we exist.

As always, please feel free to contact me at jmccoy@saulttribe.net or call my office with any questions. Call toll free (800) 793-0660 or 635-6050.

Miigwech,
Chairman Darwin "Joe"
McCoy

Valentine's Day Dance

Saturday, February 14, 2009
Grand Ballroom at Howadin Casino and Convention Center

**Benefit concert and dance for
Jade Pavlat-Daniels
People to People
Student Ambassador**

Featuring
Erandon Carr - Lead Vocals; Chris
Hubbard - Guitar & Backup
Vocals; Kyle Beaumont - Bass &
Backup Vocals; Jake Lalonde -
Drums & Backup Vocals

TICKETS PER PERSON: \$8 IN ADVANCE OR \$10 AT THE DOOR

SWEET CONCERT AND DANCE FROM 7 TO 11 P.M.
SWEETHEART PORTRAIT STUDIO
HORS D'OEUVRES

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older) and able to prove it!
High School ID's accepted

Security provided by Ke-
wadin Casino
and Sault
Tribe Law
Enforcement

Tickets will be sold first
come first serve basis.
Contact Jade Pavlat-
Daniels at (906) 748-
0820 to find out where
and when tickets will be
sold.

Dress to
the hilt!

Or, come
as you
are!

Seating in the Grand Ballroom is limited! Reserve your tickets today!
Call Jade at (906) 748-0810 or Diane at (906) 632-4014

Tribe's veep reports to tribal membership



LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR, UNIT II

The tribe has been very busy this past month. Staff worked very hard to put together and

submit an economic stimulus package request for consideration by the Obama administration. Many departments had an opportunity to request funding for much needed projects our tribe could benefit from to serve members.

Throughout the recent presidential election, we heard many comments about a real relationship to be developed with tribes. We took a proactive approach and put together a description of items needed for our members. The list is long and includes road improvements throughout the service area, an addition to our local school, funding for additional housing

and increased funding for health projects. If Congress would include our tribe as well as the other tribes in the nation for funding considerations it could be a real boost for the tribes and show the commitment that is owed to us as tribal sovereign nations.

It has also been a busy month for the board, as you will see in other unit reports and as communicated through our network. The board of directors will be holding regular business meetings on Tuesdays. We have added a meeting on Wednesdays for open sessions for members to be involved in updates from departments within the tribe. The Wednesday meetings will

include presentations reporting on the services offered and progress we are making within our businesses, as well as strategic planning and legislative updates.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you have. Baamaapii.
Lana Causley,
(906) 484-2954,
lcausley@saulttribe.com.

Women's recovery/wellness gathering — Biboon 2009

A women's recovery/wellness gathering is set for the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island from 6 p.m. on March 5 to 12 p.m. on March 8.

Enjoy a wonderful time of relaxing, friendship and learning. Featuring cultural lessons, health workshops, stress reduction, talking circles, relationships, relaxation, discovery, music, crafts and so much more.

For more information, contact Cindy Thomas at (906) 635-6075, (800) 726-9105, or sssharrow@saulttribe.net.

Unit I Rep Bouschor reports to membership

Dear tribal members,

We as tribal council have dealt with the governmental deficit, reduced expenditures by \$15 million and approved the budgets estimated at \$72 million for 2009. This was no small task; the elimination of the budget deficit impacted every member services department.

For the government to be successful for you, the membership, it needs to provide leadership with clear directions for the division/departments and staff. The tribal council has begun meeting with all the divisions; reviewing services that are provided in their departments;



BERNARD BOUSCHOR, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

short and long-term plans and resources needs. These plans need tribal council input, feedback and approval.

There was a time when we as leaders, members and staff had a common goal to build the tribe, protect and preserve our assets, expand services and provide employment opportunities in government and businesses. This, unfortunately, is not the case today.

We can do it again; we did it in the late '80s. We identified issues at the community level, employee/staff level and the tribal council level. What

we found is three very different agendas — progress was slowed because we were working against each other. The tribe resolved the differences and established and approved one agenda with common goals. Our success in the '90s is a direct result of having common agenda with goals and objectives.

The action taken in the last few months has stabilized the government budget. The staff meetings are the new beginning of approving an agenda for the tribe that we all support.

One final comment. There

is a referendum on resolution titled "Amending Board Retirement Plan." The resolution that was approved is to amend the plan for compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Services Code Section 409A. The plan was approved in 1998 for retired tribal board members. The changes have no impact on the current tribal board members. I support the change and ask you to do the same.

Thank you,
Bernard Bouschor, Unit I
tribal council member
(906) 440-4407

Shirley Petoskey reports to the membership



SHIRLEY PETOSKY, DIRECTOR, UNIT V

In January, the board of directors met with several different department heads to go

over their goals for 2009.

Some of the things that stick out for me are:

We could use more Native foster care homes for our children.

Our elders are able to stay in their own home by receiving help from our tribe and whatever our counties and state provide.

Our funeral assistance will go down from \$3,000 to \$1,000 and will be based on income guidelines — this will be taking place in February or March.

Our elders' division director mentioned how nice it would be to have a hospitality house for elders being transported to the Sault. Being as they have

to leave home so early and by the time the appointments are done they are done in. And as Holly said, five dental appointments are needed if dentures are required, that alone is exhausting.

Health is our main concern right now. We need providers. We need to fill vacancies and also retain those we have. Please, be on the alert for anyone in the medical field looking to work for people where they can make a difference.

The housing department had great goals to report and grants that are coming in. Our new director is working very hard to make sure all housing sites are addressed. She outlined repairs

that would be taking place and at what sites. All elderly units will be getting new carpet this year.

I don't know what to tell you about Greektown — it's a roller coaster ride. Only time will tell. Our Chairman and many others work 24/7 on this issue.

One of the things I am happy to tell you is this — it did not cost the tribe a penny for our chairman and one of the board members to attend the inauguration.

Last but not least — I am going to have to change my Unit V meetings to the second Saturday of the month. When Marquette can't have their

elders meeting on the first Thursday for various reasons they hold the meeting on the second Thursday. This is a conflict, so I am going to try the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. In December, this might conflict with Christmas parties and/or trips so I will forgo the December meeting.

I hope all of you are well and warm. It's been a three-dog night for a long time now.

God bless all of you; those who take the time to call me, thank you.

Be a blessing to someone and fight nice.

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

Eitrem reports to the membership about change

The tribe is adjusting from the many changes that have had to occur as a result of the budget deficit and the overall economy of the nation. The common theme of 2008 seems to be very fitting for our tribe — Change.

We must change the way that we approach our tribe's finances, operations and structure.

I understand that many of the changes that have occurred have been difficult. In addition, it is clear that we need to be more effective in communicating and clarifying these changes to the membership.



JOSEPH EITREM, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

With that being said, eliminating a \$15 million deficit within a six month time frame is a daunting task. The mere fact that it was successfully dealt with and that we are on a more secure footing financially is actually quite an accomplishment. This does not mean that we are 100 percent financially stable, but we are steadily moving towards that goal.

As tribal leaders we must focus our energies on developing new processes and approaches as well as new revenue streams for the benefit of our tribe. This is something that should've occurred

long ago, however, we must deal with the present and not dwell upon the past. I anxiously anticipate developing our Economic Development Commission and embarking upon diversifying our tribe's economic engine.

Our tribe utilizes federal appropriations and grants, as well as revenues generated by our businesses (including our casinos) to fund all of our services and programs. It is essential that we strive to diversify our economic base to ensure the stability and continuity of our tribal services and programs.

I will be working with members of the board of directors to ensure that we focus our energies on economic development and tapping into all new forms of tribal revenues, including new grant opportunities.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the above or anything else that is going on in our tribe today, please feel free to contact me anytime at (906) 632-8567 (home), (906) 440-5728 (cell), or online via e-mail at josepheitrem@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,
Joe Eitrem
Unit I representative

Massaway reports to tribal membership



KEITH MASSAWAY, DIRECTOR, UNIT III

With the new year, the board of directors has a new calendar of meetings. We have reduced the directors meetings from four times a month to two. The reason for this change is it allows the board to have more and better-structured workshops. These workshops are open to the public with the occasional closure in which we discuss personal

employee issues or sensitive financial information. The board has scheduled in 2009 at least three times as many workshops than they had in 2008.

I had heard some disturbing rumors that our Kewadin Shores restaurant kitchen was not keeping up with our standards of cleanliness. I immediately made a trip out to the casino and did a thorough walk through of the kitchens. I grew up in the restaurant business and understand how such a rumor can devastate a business. I am very pleased to say that nothing was out of order and every area was exceedingly clean and properly maintained. I commend the entire staff for doing a great job.

I had the privilege of being asked to go out to Phoenix, Ariz., on Jan. 5. The tribe was awarded the Garrett Lee Smith grant for suicide prevention. The grant paid for the training and travel in full and no budgeted funds of the tribe were

expended. I have attended many training sessions on various topics but this experience truly changed the way I view suicide and how it affects so many people. Over half of the hundreds of attendees were friends and relatives of suicide victims. Listening to their stories and the grief and sorrow truly moves the soul. The next part of the training showed how to implement the grant and of all the sources of information there are and how it is maintained in many organizations. We were indoctrinated in how to spot possible signs of individuals that could be contemplating suicide and how to help. This program is very important and we are in the beginning stages of implementation so anyone who would like to be involved contact me anytime and I will put you in contact with the proper administrators.

The chairman and I also

went to Washington, D.C., for the inauguration. Some people have said this was a pleasure trip, I would like to report on why we went and what we accomplished. First of all, the trip was paid for by the Greektown Casino in Detroit. The purpose of the trip was to work on both Greektown matters and to seek out relationships with several important politicians and political appointees. The reason for these relationships is to be in the forefront of the economic stimulus package the president is currently putting together.

The chairman and I managed to do something that I don't know if any other board member has been able to accomplish, meeting the secretary of the interior. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar sits on the cabinets of the president and sets the course, along with many other issues, of how the American Indian tribes are

treated. He also presides over the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This alone would have made the trip worth it. Not to belabor the point, I will quickly list some of the other contacts we made: Senator Levin, Senator Stabinow, Congressman Stupak, Governor Granholm, whom we have been trying to have a sit down with since I have been on the board, and many other local politicians. At the National Congress of American Indians conference, we talked to many staffers on Indian affairs, U.S. Housing and Urban Development and countless leaders from tribes. We also met with several members of our own tribe who have made their way up the chain of command in D.C.

We also had the great privilege of witnessing, in person, the president of the United States sworn into office. Thank you for all the letters and phone calls.

DJ Hoffman reports to tribal membership



DJ HOFFMAN, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

"Tick Tock"

This month's report focuses on URGENCY. Within the tribe and its enterprises we have become a reactionary environment. We as a tribal government have worked on the issues that face our tribe in the interim, reacting to the situations at hand such as budget deficits.

WE MUST BECOME PROGRESSIVE AND TAKE AN ACTIVE APPROACH TO ENSURE STABILITY OF MEMBERSHIP SERVICES.

For our tribe to become progressive, we need to change the way we operate. Accountability, profitability and efficiency must be enforced and adhered to. Within the workplace, if individuals are not performing — replace them. If businesses are not performing — restructure them. **WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE TRIBE IS A SERVICE-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP.**

In the past several months, many budgetary cuts have been made to shore up the tribe's financial status. While this process has been successful in saving tribal dollars, it has been at the detriment of areas such as tribal services and communication to the membership. Cutting expenses and reducing efficiency are not an effective approach to moving our tribe progressively forward.

With all of that being said, how can it change? First and foremost, elected officials must realize a sense of URGENCY in getting our house in order. That same sense of URGENCY that seems to appear every election cycle.

TRIBAL OPERATIONS

Operations must be streamlined and policies must be established to require performance benchmarks and efficiency. The statement of "doing more with less" must become the norm, not doing less with less. Customer service policies and practices must be adopted. The sole reason that programs exist is to service their customer base, tribal members. All of our employment positions exist for two purposes, to either generate funding for membership services or to implement/facilitate these services. It's that simple.

NORTHERN CASINO OPERATIONS

Taking a walk through our casino properties during the week, one may find a quite disturbing sight. Most weekdays the absence of a customer base is extremely noticeable. Many

point to the economy for the downturn in customers. In past years there has always been some form of "rational" excuse. In fact, one report even cited tribal politics as a reason for a decline in patronage. I find that rationale to be quite humorous, since it would suggest that our customers are more aware of the politics of our tribe than what entertainers or promotions are occurring within our facilities. A SENSE OF URGENCY IS NEEDED TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES. If revenues are declining and our consumer base is shrinking, **WHAT PROACTIVE ATTEMPTS ARE WE MAKING TO CORRECT IT? URGENCY!**

TRIBAL BUSINESSES

It is essential we remove tribal politics from the businesses of the tribe. The only thing the tribal board should be concerned about related to our businesses is the bottom line. We, as a tribe, need to separate the businesses from the politics to ensure profitability and accountability. The time for a separate economic development branch to oversee and develop tribal business is long overdue. As the United States government sets to embark on the largest economic stimulus package for stimulating business and economic growth — **WE ARE NOT READY! URGENCY!**

COST SAVINGS

We as a tribe must look at all opportunities to reduce tribal expenses without reducing benefits for the membership and in certain areas for the employees

affected. Nearly six months ago, I requested that we solicit a bid on our tribe's health insurance from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. I wanted to see if we could provide a comparable, if not better, service for our employees at a cost savings to the tribe. The initial reaction was, "It will cost more." Six months later, after continually pushing for a pricing comparison, it appears that a change to BC/BS would generate a seven figure savings (over a million dollars) to the tribe. **URGENCY!**

This is not the only area that cost savings may occur and a comparable, if not better, alternative can be utilized. We must focus on these types of savings to ensure that the tribe becomes fiscally efficient and continually bid the processes to maintain accountability in vendor pricing.

GREEKTOWN

This entity is a proverbial nightmare. Our tribe has been bullied, discriminated against, "advised" by literally hundreds of high paid consultants

and driven to nearly a point of no return by management and bankruptcy. A SENSE OF URGENCY IS NEEDED TO RE-STRUCTURE THIS ENTITY SO THAT IT MAY PROVIDE CASH FLOW FOR TRIBAL SERVICES. Can it become a profitable entity for the tribe; YES. Will it?

URGENCY!

I realize that the content of this report is not exactly filled with positive fuzzy feel goods. However, it is important that the membership stress URGENCY to their elected officials. Employees and businesses are not the only areas that must perform, be held accountable and ensure efficiency within the tribe.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me any time.

Sincerely, DJ Hoffman, Unit I Representative, Home (906) 635-6945, Cell (906) 322-3801, e-mail djwhoffman@hotmail.com or dhoffman@saulttribe.net, Web site www.djwhoffman-blog.com.

ST. PETER MONUMENTS

BRONZE MEMORIALS

SUNBURST GRANITE MEMORIALS

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Valentine Sweets Bake Sale

Pick up a sweet treat for your special Valentine at Bayliss Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Located on Library Dr. in the Sault, less than one block away from Sault Tribe's administration building. (by Friends of Bayliss)



Denise Chase reports to tribal membership



**DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV**

First of all I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped plan and hold the annual children's Christmas parties in Escanaba and Manistique. Without your spirit of giving and volunteering of your time the parties would not have happened. I would like to thank the staff at the Manistique casino who put on a bake sale and donated the proceeds to the children's party; also, thanks go out to the people who put donations in the giving jars that were placed at the casino gift shop and the tribal center. The Unit IV and V Marquette elders put on the party for the Marquette area children and

we would like to thank them for their commitment to plan and volunteering for this yearly event. Candy bars and pop are being sold at the tribal center for a fundraising event and the proceeds will be used towards the 2009 children's Christmas party, we hope to plan various fundraising activities throughout the year to help raise the needed funds. If your children missed the party, call 341-6993 to pick up their presents.

The Manistique elders are doing a fundraiser and are planning to hold a craft fair in March, so if you are interested in renting a table from them, call the Manistique Tribal Center, 341-6993, for more information.

The Manistique "Gathering of the Clans" third annual powwow will be held during Fathers' Day weekend on June 20 and 21.

Dental update:

Unfortunately nothing much to update, but I have been getting bombarded by tribal members whose dental needs are still not being met in our facility. The dentist position has still not been filled after a year and a half. There have been individuals who were interested in working at our

facility, but because someone in administration and legal did not follow through and work on the contracts in a timely manner the applicants went to other positions offered to them elsewhere. There needs to be a system set up so that contracts are tracked and taken care of in a timely manner to prevent the loss of needed providers for our facilities. This, unfortunately, causes a hardship on the members in the western end because of the waiting time for appointments at the Sault clinic, not to mention the up to 3-hour drive just one way to get there. I contacted Dr. Anderson, Dental Dept. director, and he stated that he was working with someone just this week who might be interested in filling in a couple of days a week in the Manistique clinic. The Health Division has brought in a team to make recommendations for recruitment of new providers and the retention of current employees. Hopefully next time I will have something positive to report on this issue.

I received several calls from tribal elders because they were told that the concert tickets at the casino's box office were not free anymore and that they

would have to purchase them if they wanted to attend future concerts. That is not so — each Unit will still get the usual number of tickets reserved free-of-charge for tribal elders for any concerts offered by the tribe. (Unit IV gets 54 reserved and if they are not used they are released for other elders.) The casino will be renting out the Dream Makers Theater when they are not using it to other individuals who will be holding concerts or comedian acts there — those are the concerts or acts our elders would not get free tickets.

Last Tuesday, the board met with Legislative staff and division directors and a committee was formed; board members will become more active in testifying on state and federal levels for additional funding or on issues that directly affect our tribe.

At next week's board meeting these resolutions will be considered for action:

Amending Chapter 14:
Permitting Video Conferencing
Amending Tribal Code
Chapter 14: Rules of
Parliamentary Procedure
Ordinance Sergeant At Arms
Amending Chapter Tribal

Code Chapter 14: Rules of Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance

I support the video conferencing resolution because in times of severe winter weather ice and snow storms the outlying area, board members should be allowed to go to their tribal center where we have video conferencing equipment available and be allowed to attend the board meetings via video conferencing. (Especially since the majority of the meetings are held in the Sault during the winter months.) This would only happen, I assume, occasionally but would be much safer for board members to have that option in cases of inclement weather. I support this resolution because I rolled my vehicle driving home one night on icy and treacherous road conditions. By passing this resolution it would also allow our tribal members from the outlying areas to attend the meetings by video conferencing, and allow them to address the board during the issue sessions.

If you would like to contact me call 341-6783 or (888) 667-3809.

Thank you,
Denise Chase

Natural Resources

Obama freezes pending federal rules, wolves may benefit

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In one of his first presidential acts, President Barack Obama has ordered federal agencies to halt all pending regulations until his administration can review them.

White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel issued the memorandum Jan. 20, shortly after Obama took the oath of office at noon on the steps of the Capitol Building.

The freeze halts publication of federal regulations planned under the Bush administration but not yet published in the Federal Register.

President George W. Bush used his executive powers to issue new regulations before leaving office, a usual practice during transitions.

Wildlife conservationists say the freeze will delay and possibly prevent the removal of gray wolves from the federal endangered species list in Montana, Idaho, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, and also in portions of Washington, Oregon, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity says the pause will afford President Obama and his new Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar the opportunity to rethink the previous administration's efforts to remove wolves from the endangered species list.

Salazar, a fifth-generation Coloradan who served as the state's U.S. senator, attorney general and director of natural resources, was confirmed Jan. 20 by a unanimous vote

in the U.S. Senate to head the Department of the Interior, the nation's largest land and wildlife conservation agency. He started work in his new job Jan. 21.

"Rather than remove protections from wolves in a piecemeal fashion, in the isolated locations where they have finally begun to recover from past persecution," Robinson said, "the Obama administration should develop and implement a national gray-wolf recovery plan that will ensure the survival of these magnificent animals."

On Jan. 14, in what conservationists view as a last-ditch effort by the Bush administration to undermine environmental protections, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the Northern Rockies gray wolf will be taken off the Endangered Species List.

Rodger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife, said, "This blatantly political maneuver is hardly surprising. The Bush administration has been trying to strip Endangered Species Act protections from the Northern Rockies wolf since the day it took office — no matter the dire consequences of delisting wolves prematurely and without adequate state protections in place."

Two previous attempts to remove protections from the wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains have been struck down by federal courts.

"The Bush administration is forcing the future of wolves in the region to play out in the courts by finalizing a delisting



Photo by John Mason

rule in its last hours in office," Schlickeisen said. "We intend to challenge this poorly constructed decision in court as soon as the law allows. It is outrageous that the Bush administration has chosen to create this unnecessary legal problem for the new Obama administration to deal with as it takes office."

Announcing the delisting, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett said the success of gray wolf recovery efforts in the northern Rockies has contributed to expanding populations of wolves that no longer require the protection of the Act.

"Wolves have recovered in the Great Lakes and the northern Rocky Mountains because of the hard work, cooperation and flexibility shown by States, tribes, conservation groups, federal agencies and citizens of both regions," said Scarlett. "We can all be proud of our various roles in saving this icon of the American wilderness."

But wildlife conservationists disagree. Gray wolves are gone from over 95 percent of their historic range, including on millions of acres of national forests, national parks and Bureau of Land Management public lands whose ecological health has suffered in the absence of wolves, conservationists contend.

In the northern Rocky Mountains, wolf numbers are too low and populations too fragmented to ensure long-term survival, Robinson says.

The Bush administration intended to delist wolves in Idaho and Montana even though those states are inhabited by only 75 breeding pairs of wolves, far below the hundreds of breeding animals wildlife scientists say are necessary to maintain population viability without debilitating genetic problems.

Even these 75 breeding pairs are not secure since the Idaho

and Montana state wolf management plans allow for killing of wolves, including a majority of the wolves in Idaho.

Schlickeisen said, "If allowed to stand, this rule would mean that the Northern Rockies wolf population could be slashed by as much as two-thirds, placing approximately 1,000 of the region's roughly 1,450 wolves in peril. This is a loss from which they most likely would be unable to recover."

The Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor agency were responsible for the extermination of wolves throughout much of the 20th century on behalf of the livestock industry.

Gray wolves survived in small numbers in the upper Midwest and expanded under the protections of the 1973 Endangered Species Act. Wolves began recolonizing northern Montana and Idaho on their own in the 1980s, and numbers grew significantly after the 1995 and 1996 reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho.

Under an exception to the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Service actions have resulted in the federal killing on behalf of the livestock industry of 931 wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains and at least 1,951 wolves in the Great Lakes region from 1996 through 2008.

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Sault Ste. Marie

Jan. 1-Dec. 17: Ojibwe language classes, Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. at the Niigaanagiizhik Building.

Classes are taught through immersion in the language.

Classes begin with potluck feasts with our Elders Advisory Committee members, so bring your favorite dish.

Nancy Debassige will demonstrate different stories in life and provide language sheets for recognition of words throughout the story.

It's a great time to eat, visit and enjoy living our culture.

Call 635-6050 for more information.

Jan. 5-Dec. 28: Dewege (drumming), 7-9 p.m. every Monday at the Niigaanagiizhik Building.

It's a great time for the family to come and participate by singing, dancing or just listening to the Bahweting Singers.

For more information, call 635-6050.

Jan. 7-Dec. 30: Language classes, Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., 531 Ashmun Street.

No sign up necessary. Please bring your brown bag lunch.

For more information, call Nancy Debassige, language instructor, at 635-6050.

Feb. 17: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m. at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center.

Open community hour, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information, call 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660, extensions 26337 or 26338.

Feb. 24: Unit I elders annual pancake supper, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Nokomis/Mishomis Place 2076 Shunk Road.

Pancakes, sausage, eggs and a beverage.

Cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 5-12 years old and children under 5 are free.

Feb. 25: The Caregiver Support Group meets at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room at the Avery Square Center, 510 Ashmun Street.

For more information, call 632-3363.

March 3: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m. at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center.

Open community hour, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information, call 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660, extensions 26337 or 26338.

March 4: Unit I Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center, 2076 Shunk Road.

For questions, call 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

March 4: Culture Committee meets, 6 p.m. at the Niigaanagiizhik Building.

For more information, call Jackie Minton at 322-4975 cell or 495-5165.

St. Ignace

Jan. 6-Dec. 29: St. Ignace language classes, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., at the Kewadin Shores Casino.

For more information, call (906) 635-6050.

Feb. 25: Unit III Representatives Keith Massaway and Patrick Rickley invite you to a unit meeting at 6 p.m. at the McCann Center, 399 McCann Street.

Please come share your ideas, questions and concerns with your tribal board representatives.

For questions, call Keith Massaway at 643-6981 or Patrick Rickley at 440-5149.

March 13: Unit III Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the McCann Building.

For questions, call 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Hessel

Jan. 5-Dec. 28: Hessel language classes, Mondays, 5-7 p.m., at the tribal center.

For more information, call (906) 635-6050.

Feb. 16: Unit II Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the tribal center.

For questions, call 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Naubinway

Feb. 25: Unit II Elderly Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. at the pavilion.

For questions, call 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Newberry

Feb. 27: Unit II Elderly Committee meets, 11 a.m. at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Munising

Feb. 2&16: Unit V Elderly Committee meets at the tribal center, 4:30 p.m., on the first Monday of the month.

On the third Monday of the month, dinner is at 5:30 p.m.

Entrance to the building is off Munising Avenue (M-28) across from the American Legion.

Please use the west entrance.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Feb. 12: Unit membership meeting, 6 p.m., at the tribal center.

Please use the M-28 entrance of the building.

For more information, call Shirley Petosky at 387-2101.

Escanaba

Feb. 19: Unit IV Elderly Committee meets, 5:30 p.m. at a location to be announced.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Manistique

Feb. 11: Unit IV Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Marquette

March 5: Unit V Elderly Committee meets, 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Announcements

Anishinaabemowin-Teg Language Conference sponsorships available — would you like to attend the Anishinaabemowin Language Conference set for March 26-29, 2009, at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie?

Sault Tribe Cultural Department Anishinaabemowin Language Program has sponsorships available.

The number of sponsorships is limited. Elders, language students and other tribal members receive priority, served on a first come basis and space is limited.

If you do not meet the qualifications for sponsorship, but wish to attend the conference, please visit online at www.anishinaabemowin-teg.org for more information.

If you have any questions, please call Laura Porterfield, assistant camp coordinator, at (906) 635-6050, or send e-mail to lporterfield@saulttribe.net.

Valentine's Day carnation fundraiser — the Advocacy Resource Center will be selling and delivering vases of carnations with baby's breath for your Valentine's Day sweetheart on Friday, Feb. 13.

Prices: Three carnations with vase are \$7, six carnations with vase are \$14 or 12 carnations with vase for \$25.

Order early, limited number available. Payment must be made at time of order.

Free delivery within the Sault city limits.

To place an order, please call the ACR at (906) 632-1808 by Feb. 9.

Attention families of Sault Tribe members — the Youth Education and Activities Department needs your help.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on our Parent Advisory Committee.

The committee is instrumental in developing programming for our Anishinaabek children throughout the tribe's service area. They also help create policy and represent their communities to determine where spending will be most beneficial in providing services to the greatest number of students.

The committee is comprised of volunteers from throughout the seven-county service area and meets monthly on third Wednesdays of each month.

We encourage parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or

anyone close to children attending school to join us.

All meetings are open to the public and we welcome your input.

For more information, please call (906) 635-7010.

Silent Hearts, bereavement support groups — a support group for those who have experienced the loss of a child meets on the first Monday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Chippewa County Health Department, Superior Room, 508 Ashmun Street.

A support group for those who have experienced the loss of an infant meets on the second Monday of each month, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Chippewa County Health Department, Superior Room.

Silent Hearts is a support group for parents who have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death.

Melanie Greenfield and Margaret Swedene run the groups for Hospice at the Chippewa County Health Department.

The groups can become a source of emotional support and help through education and sharing.

Free of charge.

For more information or to register, please call 253-3151.

Hospice of Chippewa County is a United Way Agency.

Sault Youth Education and Activities offers services Mondays through Saturdays to students in kindergarten to grade 12 — Computer lab Monday through Friday, 3:30-6:30 p.m., and on Saturday, 11-4 p.m. Available for after-school help with homework, general computer use or socializing. Free tutoring provided daily for every student.

Students can learn how to animate objects, customize Web sites and other exciting media projects every Monday.

On Tuesdays, students can participate in science experiments that concentrate in core subject areas such as chemistry and physics. Students are likely to get messy as toy rockets launch through the air.

On Wednesdays, art lovers will be up in their elbows with googly eyes and balls of yarn creating masterpieces.

On Thursdays, the tribal youth council works and plays hard coordinating events to help our community members and bring culture to the Sault.

Fridays are party days where kids can come and show off their moves during Dance Dance Revolution tournaments. Game lovers of all ages can enjoy a peaceful afternoon dueling in a fierce game of Scrabble every Saturday.

Come and visit if you want to have a good time and meet new people.

Free drinks and snacks are provided daily.

Join us at 2428 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie, next to the enrollment office.

If you have any questions,

please call Rachel Mandelstamm at 440-4494.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority Rental Assistance Program waiting list opened — First come, first served due to a limited amount of vouchers.

This is a tenant-based program where the tenant is subsidized not the rental unit.

Participants must find their own housing within the seven-county service area. This allows participants to select rental units that meet their needs and program requirements.

Participants will be required to pay 25 percent of their adjusted incomes to landlords and the Housing Authority will pay the remainder up to fair market rent for the areas.

Rental units must pass a housing quality standards inspection prior to leasing.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority recognizes that many needs cannot be met by the existing low-income rental program.

This new program was created to expand housing opportunities while meeting unique needs of families and provide rental assistance off trust land.

The funding for this program is limited. We will be able to assist families for a maximum of two years. During those two years, we will work with families in home ownership counseling and advocacy if they are interested.

For more information or to request an application, call Heather Alstrom at 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072.

Tribal foster homes needed, make a difference in the life of a child, consider being a foster parent.

Call ACFS at 495-1232 or call (800) 347-7137.

General public GED classes meet Monday through Thursday evenings, 6-9 p.m., at the JKL Bahweting PSA, 1301 Marquette Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie.

Call George Snider, Consolidated Community Schools Services, at 632-6098.

Employees can use payroll deduction for purchases at the MidJim convenience stores in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. Must have valid payroll deduction accounts with Kewadin Casinos.

Alcohol can not be purchased using payroll deduction. Minimum purchase of \$5 applies when using payroll deduction option.

For more information or an application, call Jaime MacDonald at 635-4782.

Book your party at the Bear — book your birthday party at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

Skating parties and team parties are also welcome. Rent the ice rink, hospitality room, basketball or volleyball court for your special event.

Call 635-RINK (7465) for scheduling.

KEWADIN ENTERTAINMENT



THE COUNTRY RAT PACK

February

Country Rat Pack - Sault Ste. Marie

12th | 7:00 p.m. Thursday | \$38.50 | On Sale Now

Michael Winslow - Sault Ste. Marie

13th | 7:00 p.m. Friday | \$20.00 | On Sale Now

Kenny Rogers - Sault Ste. Marie

21st | 7:00 p.m. Saturday | \$48.50 | On Sale Now

Box Office Hours

Open five days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
Tuesday-Saturday.

Call 1.800.KEWADIN

or purchase online at www.kewadin.com



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